

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

JULY 2021

A MESSAGE FROM MADGE

May I take this opportunity to thank the many people across our local area for the cards, beautiful flowers and gifts I have received since my retirement as Shropshire Councillor for our eight parishes. I am sincerely overwhelmed and with so many good wishes and should have a riotous retirement! *Madge Shineton*

ADRIAN SATTERLY

Mr Satterly appeared in the Crown Court in Shrewsbury on June 14th and application for a further adjournment to allow time to make application for legal aid was made.

The Shropshire Star reported Judge Peter Barrie as saying; "I'm willing to adjourn it to pursue a legal aid application, but this is the third time I've done so, so the patience of the court is wearing thin."

Mr Satterly will appear in court again in the week commencing July 12th.

The editor has been advised that his statement on the front page of the April Clarion that advertisements for Cleobury Funeral Services had been withdrawn might be seen as an assumption of Mr Satterly's guilt.

That was most certainly not the case; in England a person is innocent until proven guilty in a court of Law. In fact, Mr Satterly's advertisements had run their term and he had not asked for them to be renewed.

OUR MAY MYSTERY QUIZ JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN

In our May issue we did promise to name the person described in a display seen in the window of Mumfords, the Church Street ironmongers, so that the writer of the most amusing correct answer could be presented with a bottle of one of Juckes's fine wines.

Sadly, there were no entries. So the editor disposed of the wine in the most obvious way, and very good it was too. And for those puzzled about it all, the message was about me. *JR*

WARNING

We've been told of two men calling on houses and offering to do whatever work you may need. One lady saw them working at a nearby house and asked if they would relay some paving slabs in her garden. They came to take up the old slabs, asked for some money to buy materials for the job, but she didn't have cash in the house. She asked how much the job would cost and was told about £4,000!

The men left, leaving the slabs lying around and the place in a mess. When we heard about this, they hadn't been back. The answer to anyone looking to get a job done - use someone local who you know. This lady saw the men working down the road and thought her neighbour knew them, which is a normal reaction. But her neighbour didn't know them, they didn't finish his job properly and he's left with a mess to clear up. The answer is simple - only deal with people you know are local and can trust.

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The Cleobury Clarion, July 2021

Volume Seventeen - Edition Four

IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME IN
CLEOBURY MORTIMER



*Remember the Skillipigs?
A local success story.
See Page 7*



*The Farmers' Market is
back - See Page 29*



*The Clarion visits Welsh
Whisky Country.
See Page 47.*

And On Other Pages...

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 - Bewdley Plant Sale | 33 - Cleobury Mortimer Benefice |
| 9 - Fighting Cancer | 35 - The Social Calendar |
| 11 - The Breakfast Club | 37 - St Johns, Doddington |
| 13 - The Men's Shed | 39 - Simon Morton on Gardening |
| 15 - The Clarion Jobs Page | 41 - July in the Wyre Forest |
| 16 - Mahorall Cider Farm | 43 - Mrs Grumpy |
| 17 - The Tetstill Hydro | 51 - The Town Council Report |
| 19 - Pastoral Care Group | 53 - Cleobury Hub |
| 21 - Stepping Out! Walking News | 55 - Let's Beat the Scammers |
| 25 - Philip Dunne MP | 57 - The Refill Box |
| 27 - Neen Savage Garden Safari | 59 - Local Information |
| 31 - Heather Stott | |

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BEWDLEY PLANT SALE

The gradual reduction of the lockdown is happening, with social events being advised. What good news that is.

Dorothy Hughes was one of the earliest voices on the phone, to tell us about the Plant Sale on Sunday July 4th at Coppice Gate Farm, Lye Head, Bewdley. For the satnav savvy it's at DY12 2UY. And it will be open from 12.00 noon until 4.00.

Apart from the plants, there's a raffle, tombola, cake stall and a variety of other stalls. Tea, coffee and cake also available. Entrance is free and all proceeds will go to the Rock Church Fabric Fund, run by the Friends of that lovely old building. If you need more details, speak to Dorothy Hughes on 01299 266235.

OPEN GARDEN AT CATHERTON

Also on July 4th, Chris and Jo Bargman's lovely Upper Marshes stone cottage on the edge of Catherton Common, will be open as part of the National Gardens' Scheme.

Open 12.00 noon until 5.00, admission for adults is £5.00 and children get in free. You can book your tickets online at jo@crumpsbrook.co.uk or pay at the gate.

It's a good place to visit, with the three acre small holding offering a huge variety of interesting corners, including a wildlife pond. You'll find a plant stall and tea and cakes for sale, and vitally out on that common-side site, there will be toilet facilities available.

The National Garden Scheme raises funds for caring and nursing charities, like Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospices UK and Parkinson's UK. With the backlog of treatment for so many poorly people because of treatment for the Covid-19 victims, the help these charities provide becomes even more vital. So enjoying a visit to such a fine place and helping raise funds for such a good cause could make that weekend perfect.

THE COST OF PARKING

I don't like driving into Kidderminster to shop. Head

for Marks & Sparks and you pay £1.40 for an hour. How many of us have that amount ready if we're not regulars? So you put in £1.50 and learn that they don't give change. It's an established habit; the charge used to be 90p and what would you put in? Again, no change for the £1.00 coin that's easy to feed into the slot.

But just wait and consider the cost of parking in other places. Just be glad you don't live in Hong Kong, where the South China Morning Post reports a resident buying a parking spot at luxurious Mount Nicholson for an eye watering US\$1.3 million. I still don't like Kidderminster, but it's almost affordable. JR

ROAD CLOSURE

Daytime resurfacing from The Riddings to Woodhouse from July 1st to the 3rd, then lining work on the 13th. This is the lane from Hopton Wafers out to Catherton Common and the work is subject to suitable weather. Customer Services are on 0345 6789005 if you need more detail.



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SKILLIPIGS SUCCESS

IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME IN
CLEOBURY MORTIMER



It was about two years ago that Dick and Barbara Skilton first showed their cheerful little Skillipig characters to the public at the Cleobury Country Farmers Market. Wee hedgehog-like creatures that wore smiles and got up to tricks and mischief. They made people smile and sold well.

Two years later the growth has been astonishing, not least because the Skiltons are bright people who could see a way to reach a wider public. At first they visited local card and gift shops, but realised that they couldn't cover the country and produce a wider range to print and distribute as well.

So they resorted to Google, looking for small shops and then sending a small selection of Skillipigs with a message for the village and inviting people to stock these friendly little folk. When we talked early in June, they had 120 outlets in the country, stretching from Ullapool in West Scotland to Penzance in Cornwall. That's an exercise in sensible communication at minimal cost.

The light and friendly touch extends to the matter of addressing their first postal contact, with the parcel marked for the attention of "The person with imagination." It obviously works; current sales level is 1500 to 2000 a month.

Dick will draw a special skillipig to your own design if you fancy being different or he'll produce a Skillipig Christmas card. Look up Skillipig on the web and learn more.

And would you believe they don't have a stockist here in Cleobury! I must remind them where the Larch Barn is - they have imaginative people there. JR.

SEVERN EDGE VETS WIN AWARD

Severn Edge Vets have been presented with a Client Service Award by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons after an assessment process in 2020. That covered the Bewdley, Bridgnorth, Broseley, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Donnington, Ludlow, Kinver and Much Wenlock branches. The practice already held accreditation under the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme, and applied for the extra award to confirm their high standards. That meant them demonstrating to an RCVS assessor that they met a range of stringent criteria. They also committed to be reassessed every four years to confirm they meet the award requirements. That's normally called sticking your neck out, but they are clearly confident

that they can do it. More power to their collective elbows.

Hospital Manager Debbie Smith RVN was naturally very happy: "We're delighted that this award recognises the excellence in customer experience we aim to achieve. We would like to thank all our clients and pets for their continued support."

ALAN PRICE RETIRES

Alan Price, that quiet spoken and always courteous taxi driver from up on the hill has decided to retire. Business has not been easy through the pandemic and lockdowns, so he's opted for a quieter life.

The business has been running for 12 years, in which time he's got through ten cars and he estimates he's covered somewhere between 600,000 and 750,000 miles. It's not all local trips that have clocked up that distance, and he's done lots of trips to the South Coast and Dover. He has never seemed in a big hurry, making journeys comfortable for his passengers. And his insurance company must think he's a really good customer, because he's not had a claim on all those high mileage years. Remarkable!

WISE BIT

Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to Hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip.

Sir Winston Churchill

SILLY BIT

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SWIFT WATCH 2021

It was not until the third week of May that our swifts arrived from Africa and even then, the weather was cold with very low levels of flies, their main food source. The delay will probably mean that they will not leave us, after their brief three month breeding season, until well into August. By mid June swift numbers were about 22, which is around the average for the past six years of recording. Just under 30 adults and fledglings left for Africa last year, so let's hope the weather and abundant flies make the round trip of 7,000 miles to Cleobury and back, worthwhile for these remarkable birds.

Sand Martins, in normal numbers, were late arriving as well, but swallow numbers for the second year appear to be reduced with reports of some local nesting sites without swallows at all.

Why not visit the main swift nest site around 9.15 in the evening around the church and enjoy the frolics of adults and youngsters just before they retire for the night? Less than a quarter roost in their nest sites, while the the rest fly all night

in relaxed, semi comatose mode above 1,500 feet.

Kit Smith

FIGHTING CANCER

Pancreatic cancer is one of the worst forms of that dreadful disease and Pancreatic Cancer UK is a charity that works to raise funds to aid the fight against it. I personally subscribe to it, in memory of my late sister-in-law.

They write to say that they are collaborating with the University of Cambridge to fund five PhD students to work on the fight as part of their Future Leaders Academy. Three students have already started this special training: Stela, Catarina and Jonathan, with two more students joining in September. This is possible because of the wonderful generosity of the Ellis Family, in memory of Lesley Ellis. What a generous and selfless gesture for the family to make.

More details of the Fund at - <https://transformlives.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/> -

JR

CREATIVE WRITING

Asking members to come up with a tale or memories based

upon the one word 'shoes' was not difficult for those who gathered in June. Sylvia earned sympathy with her search for a touch of fashion in Size Nine - she found it - while Viv had a wide range reflecting her travels and Marian waxed lyrical about buying her first pair of heeled shoes with her first wage packet.

For July, the subject is simply the word 'wire' in whatever form members choose. Wyre Forest, perhaps? Or Sylvia suggested "Why're you here?" that brought a laugh. More jollity when we next meet, at 6.30 in the library, on July 12th.

HELPING MIDLAND

AIR AMBULANCE

Like many clubs, the Borders Classic Bike Club have not been holding their monthly meetings at the Blount Arms during the lockdown. So no membership income but they haven't been spending anything.

Government regulations and licensing permitting, they should be getting back into action this month on Thursday the 8th at 7.30 or thereabouts. In the meantime, a cheque for £250 is going to Air Ambulance



Claire Bradley
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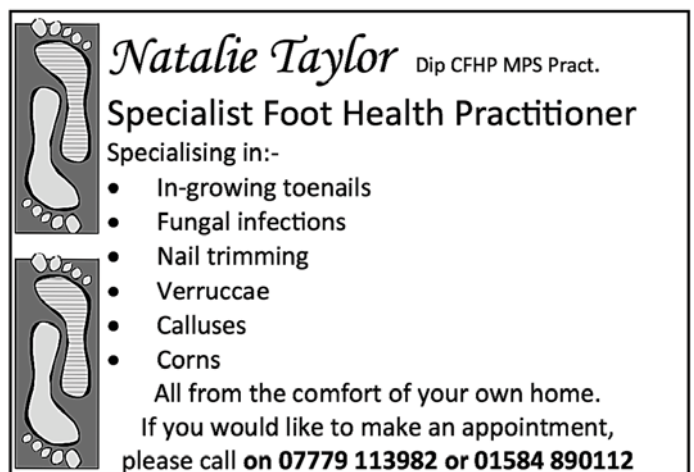
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One of those sectors are the future NHS professional, we have Daisy who is in her last year of her training to be a midwife, Lucy who is working towards the end of her training to be a Physiotherapist. Christina and Aila about to start their journey into nursing. We have further staff who have just been accepted into the NHS. These lovely kind young adults not only study many hours both in university, on hospital wards, they also give to us and have helped us support our clients for many years! Most joined us while still at college.

TLC have ex-nurses that come to us after raising their family and some, in recent times have re-joined their colleagues in the NHS.

We have staff who have raised their kids and now want a career, TLC will train or retrain people to help people reach their full potential and become one of our Outstanding Team.

We encourage kind caring and honest people of all ages and backgrounds who want to make a difference to people's lives to join our team. TLC invest heavily in people with ongoing support and training to help our new colleagues achieve their goals and reach their full potential. Once initial training is complete and they have been assessed as competent, TLC Induction Manager and our Training Manager will support staff through to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care

Our Training

TLC's Training Team offers full free training on site and support staff through their Care Certificate. We have strong connection with an outside Training Provision who help our staff to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care. Currently we have 32 members of staff that have already achieved Level 2/3 in Health and Social Care. We have qualifications at level 4 and five of our Senior Managers have Level 5. All staff that are new to care are required to achieve Level 2 within the first two years of their employment.

Contact us

For further enquiries please regarding Care or employment please ring TLC Care at Home 01299 272897 for an informal chat. Visit www.tlccareathome.com or wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk

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COVID-19 Update

All our staff are provided with full PPE's including Gloves, Full Aprons, Sleeves, Visors, Gloves Surgical Masks.

Video training on Donning and Doffing PPE's sent out regularly.

Staff sign health declarations daily, Staff have weekly Covid-19 test. Most of our staff have now been vaccinated against Covid-19. TLC work closely with government regulation and update our risks assessment accordingly.

ANOTHER SCAM

They just keep coming, these nasty tricks to take away your money if you give them half a chance. This report comes from Madge Shingleton who had a recorded message saying her NHS number was going to be removed and asked who these people were and how they would do such a thing. She knows how to ask an awkward question, does Madge, and was not at all surprised when her caller rang off.

Just be warned. And while we're on the subjected take a look at Nigel Reid's advice on Page 55; he is doing us all a big favour with his informed advice.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

A dozen or so of us met for a lovely and sunny breakfast at the Golf Club in June. It was good to achieve near normality despite Covid.

All praise to Angela Brennan for bridging the gaps between meetings and holding the club together in difficult times.

Future meetings are planned for July and August at the Golf Club and for September at the Larch Barn, hopefully with a speaker. *Kit Smith*

MRS JANET MOSS

Dr Mark Baldwin, who looked after the raising of contributions to Mrs Moss's 'Pound A Round' fund raising efforts and issued proper receipts to those who made a contribution, advises us that the final total was a resounding £1261 for the Cleobury Legion's 'Old Comrades' fund.

Mrs Moss would like to thank everybody who helped by contributing and in particular Dr Baldwin for his assistance and encouragement.

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH



You don't think it's possible that the Pothole People's Army are out to get the editor, do you? This example, not the worst in the area by a long

way, but a month or two old and left to grow, is near the old fool's house in Childe Road. That route may not be seen as a busy thoroughfare, but when it's school time, morning and evening five days a week, you get a totally different impression. Lots of traffic, much of it buses that do tend to be bigger and heavier than cars, so more likely to add to the collapse of holes in the road surface. Ideal conditions for a pothole to blossom and grow. Don't laugh too much - your road could be on the "Let's Give 'Em Grief" list next.

CLOWS TOP GARDEN CLUB

Pauline Bowen advises that the Prime Minister's announcement of the lockdown being extended meant cancellation of the club's June meeting.

The evening as booked, with Robin Pearce talking on 'Daisies' has been provisionally moved to July 28th, at their regular venue, Clows Top Victory Hall, with the doors open at 7.45. If you are in doubt about the evening, Pauline is on 07815 846873



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WANTED

The Parish Hall Committee is looking for a volunteer to fill the post of Secretary to the committee. Duties: to take notes and prepare the minutes at our monthly meetings.

If you can commit to this role please call Val on 01299 270830.

THE MEN'S SHED

Progress Update:

1. The highly professional metal security shutters have all been hand made by member Colin Tolley in his garage in Cleobury Mortimer and delivered to the shed. Colin and Iain Smith have been working hard prepping the external side wall shutter mounting points so the shutters can be fitted one by one. Once Colin is happy they all fit OK then they will be removed ready for painting. Thank you Colin for making them and to Iain for his help.
2. Our insulated 20 foot container is now in use and all the materials which were in the shed are in the container, to free up space for work in the shed. Thanks to Guy James, Iain Smith and Peter Cuthbert for this.
3. Guy, Ian and Peter have also done four coats of PVA on the concrete floor to seal it, having already painted the walls with special fire retardant paint. It looks great!
4. We have had building control sign off for the building and the building regulation compliance certificate has been issued
5. There are plans to start marking out where the machines are best placed to consider the actual machine footprint sizes, to inform the

the best lay out. This will help us do a layout plan which is needed to sort out a dust extraction system.

6 We are in talks with Axminster tools, who have refreshed our quote and we are now seeking the estimated lead time for an order so we can plan the right timing around the completion of the security shutter installation.

7. We continue to receive kind offers of tools and thanks in particular to Mike Patterson for helping with this. Mike has also managed to sell some donated tools we do not need, generating more funds for our charity. We are visiting another property near Worcester to inspect more tools offered to our mens shed. Mike and I picked up some donated guttering last week which is under the mobile home - with an eye on possible use for any roof structure which we may choose to build over the future patio area.

8. More thanks to Bill Duley for his faithful and valued work with funding applications. Bill is working on one for the patio materials made from recycled bottles (in line with the wishes of our late dear friend, secretary, and a founding trustee Keith Martin's (RIP) last wishes).

9. Thanks to the generous donation from NFU

Insurance at Ludlow we are able to keep our momentum going without delays which happen due to lack of funds and waiting for more bid outcomes. I have included Laura Matthews from NFU in the circulation of this update. Thank you Laura and all at NFU Mutual Ludlow.

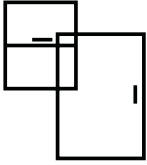
Patio position:

David Robinson, our charity president, has asked if we could place our patio behind the mobile home rather than at the side of the mens shed. This is because the expansion of the industrial estate is in the planning stage and it appears likely the perimeter road will need to be extended south of our shed and it would be helpful if we therefore do not build a patio on that side.

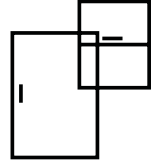
Most of the recent progress is outlined above and it is great to see the passionate enthusiasm and commitment to move the project forward. I hope we can get the shed operational by the autumn and open this year once all safety assessments, policies and training is in place to the satisfaction of the trustees.

We remain vigilant and are committed to following national advice regarding the ongoing Covid Pandemic.

Stay safe *Pete Blackburn*



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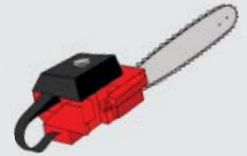


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The Parish Hall Committee is looking for a volunteer to fill the post of Secretary to the committee. Duties: To take notes and prepare the minutes at our monthly meetings. If you can commit to this role please call Val on 01299 270830.

P.A. (Carer) 2 Positions (Self- employed preferred but not essential).

Cleobury Mortimer area.

Would you like to help a young, lively woman with Cerebral Palsy access the community, events, shopping and generally being out and about?

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Talking to Chris then, he told that when he started he'd followed an instruction manual for novices and didn't like the very dry cider that resulted. He started again, just working to his own idea and produced what he wanted - a decent cider made from locally sourced apples and fermented by natural wild yeast.

Today the family pick apples in small local orchards by hand and collected in net bags that allow the fruit to breathe. On bigger orchards they use machines, with the capacity to pick up to six tons

of apples. When the fruit is ripe it's sorted and washed, then milled into a sauce-like mush with the waste sent to compost. The mush is layered into the hydraulic press and gradually pressed up to ten tons to get all the juice out. The juice is poured into tanks and allowed to ferment for four or five months and then transferred to barrels to mature for a few months. There's no hurry about this process, it's a blend of care and patience to get the final product right.

And it is impressive, the range on offer having grown to offer seven options, from a fresh sparkling medium dry in sparkling or still forms, through damson, elderflower or ginger blend to a mulled version produced for the traditional Christmas season. They proudly state "We do not add sulphites to any of our ciders." You want purity in whatever liquid you sip? Here it is.

Remember that this is part of a 150 acre working farm that offers visitors a free nature trail and when you've looked around the rolling countryside you can walk into the small farm shop and

taste a range of flavours before making your choice.



Chris King-Turner, the man in charge, properly dressed to welcome Covid aware visitors.

You can use their mail order if you live far away - would our California readers please note - but a drive out to this part of Clee Hill is a gentle way to pass the day. SY8 3AH on your satnav will get you there, with clear signs along the way to confirm you're in the right place.

Chris asked if I could leave copies of the Clarion for visitors. So beginning with this issue, we have a Mahorall outlet to serve readers in the area. And I came away with a case of 12 bottles, good value at £25.

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THE TETSTILL HYDRO IS ALIVE AND WORKING

Tetstill Mill on the River Rea outside Neen Sollars has a long history of using water power. The Domesday Book records a mill there, owned by Siward the Fat, obviously not a chap with a delicate ego. If they had egos as long ago as 1086, when Siward was paying a 'measure of corn' in rent. The place operated as a corn mill until the early years of the 20th century. Good history to back up the launch of a modern mini hydro, using one of the two mill races to reduce intrusion of noise into what had become a pleasant waterside dwelling.

In 2012 the Neen Sollars Community Hydro Co-op Ltd was launched and a 22-page pamphlet invited investment with the prospect of earning interest over the 20 year agreed lease of the access land and mill structure. The earning was estimated at 4.1% and the investment target was £149,500. It says a lot about the interest in the venture that the total sum was raised. The directors of the group were Bill Duley and Chris Dimond, both from Cleobury Mortimer, Graham Wilkinson of Neen Sollars and Claire Tibbits from Stottesdon. Company Secretary was Jon Halle from Ludlow, a director of Sharenergy.

The turbine installed was an Ampair DRK propeller-type based on a long established design, that had proved reliable over three years service and tests. In the Spring

of 2012 the civil works tender process got under way and in 2013 the turbine was started. Neen Sollars had its own source of generating electricity, which fed into the national grid, but it was another example of what could be achieved with careful planning and local enthusiasm.

The plant was installed by Ampair, but just four months into the operation the company declared itself bankrupt. Bill Duley, who showed us around and provided much background information, says there was very little instruction given about the running and maintenance of the plant. If the company were on the edge of bankruptcy, you can see that there would be gaps in communication.



The mill as it is today, running smoothly and putting out about six kilowatthours, even with low water flow.

The group, left to pick up the pieces, struggled on with just intermittent output. Then severe flood damage last year, when we had record bad weather and rain in this area, saw the plant shut down to

prevent damage. Shropshire County - bless 'em - came up with funding for a business suffering loss due to the flood, plus there were contributions from other sources.

As a result of the rebuild, with guidance for the redesign coming from Shropshire company Sharenergy, the plant started up again on December 7th last year. Since when it has generated over 40,000 kilowatt hours and a conservative estimate is that the rebuild has doubled the capacity of the plant. That has possibly upped the power supply from 20percent to no less than 50percent of the local requirement.

It's an intriguing experience to stand beside the River Rea and look at this historic site and realise that it represents what may be a normal power source in rural areas in future. Rivers won't stop flowing and they do provide a reliable source of energy if we can just get the engineering sorted - not a big problem in the 21st century.

The machinery looks well maintained. Water flow to the turbine is monitored by mill owner Kevin Flook and protected by a screen that prevents harmful material passing through. The upstream passage of salmon to spawning grounds is eased by a ladder that bypasses the weir. It has survived flood and early engineering failure to still be providing electricity. It is not a revolution, it is the product of careful planning and imagination. For some, it is the future.

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A confidential listening service for the whole Cleobury community, run by members of the Pastoral Care Team from St Mary's Church, who are happy to listen, support, sit with you, help by prayer or put you in touch with those who might be able to assist.

Home visits can be arranged by phoning Liz Smith on **01299 489135** or the Parish Office **01299 272916**.

'Drop in at St Mary's' - every 2nd & 4th Thursday, 10-11.30am - for coffee and a chat, if you are bereaved, feeling lonely and confused, have lost the confidence to go out or have no-one to talk to. This opportunity is free and provides a peaceful environment to sit in the company of others and listen and talk if you wish to.

Members of the Group have been working tirelessly throughout the lockdowns together with many others in the town to provide support and what comfort they can to all those struggling with their particular circumstances. We are delighted to announce that our Drop In at St Mary's is able to begin again in July and our first morning back will be on the 8th.

For the last few years we have been working with other organisations in the town to provide help and support and our mornings will complement the Good Grief Café starting at The

Hub on the 1st Thursday afternoon in July.

We hope that in these post Covid times these will all serve a need in our community. *Liz Smith*

COCO COFFEE MORNINGS

CoCo are pleased to announce the return of the popular Coffee Mornings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Our first date for 2021 is on Wednesday July 28th between 10 and 12 noon. We are moving to the upstairs room in the Market Hall where we have more room and a bigger kitchen but still the same friendly service. We have new faces with Clare, Jean and Rachel joining the team and tea or coffee and a slice of homemade cake will now cost £2 of your hard earned cash - no card machine for us!! We hope to see you soon! All funds raised go towards providing the befriending services offered by Cleobury Compassionate Communities.

As advertised in last month's Clarion, Cleobury and Neen Savage WIs are joining forces to host an Afternoon Tea at the Sports and Social Club on Monday July 5th between 4 and 6pm, for just £5. All proceeds to NHS Charities Together and The National Care Association. As Covid restrictions will not have been lifted, we are asking if people could prebook in groups up to six to allow us to manage numbers and avoid crowding. Hopefully

the weather will oblige and people can sit outside! Prebooking via Judy Sant, 01299 270983 or either of the WI facebook pages. Payment will still be on the door.

Catherine Evans

BREAST CANCER HAVEN

An extract from their letter: "Due to the impact of the pandemic on our income, our Board of Trustees made the decision to suspend our services from 30th June 2021. This meant that all our dedicated staff team have been made redundant. During this pause we will keep information about breast cancer, and out 40 plus self-help films and audio files on our website for people to continue to use."

How sad that after 21 years the charity has had make such an announcement. The awful Covid-19 pandemic has hit so many areas of care.

ROAD CLOSURE

Let's not complain at another road closure if it means some attention to the surface, but this one is for BT work on the overhead lines.

This one is due to start on July 13th and end on the 14th, so a temporary measure that won't last an age. It will cover the stretch from Lower Woodend Junction to the SixAshes junction with the B4363 Bridgnorth road.

A Street Works Team project; you can get more information from the Customer Services office on 0345 6789006.



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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The next walk will be on Thursday 15th July starting at 10.30am

However, social distancing will still be in place and therefore if you would like to join the walk please email your request to suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk Sue will then send you details of the walk and start point address.

From August we will be walking on the 1st and the 3rd Thursday each month as we used to!

Sue Humphries

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our June work party was working on replacing a footbridge over the stream in Reaside Pool near Reaside Manor. As we have been successful in recruiting a few new volunteers, we are able to run to work parties in July and August doing both

repairs and clearance work. If you are out walking in the summer please remember to take some secateurs and help keep paths and particularly, stiles and gates clear.

We reported earlier that the Simon Evans Way was blocked by a fallen tree near Oretton - we are grateful to Shropshire Council who sent a team out and have cleared the blockage.

A reminder that Walking for Health has returned every other Wednesday and we are looking into restarting our monthly Sunday morning Parish Walks later in the summer. More news next month.

Graham Simpson

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Many thanks to those members who have already responded to the CMFA 30th AGM email and there's still time for a few more before July 5th!

There are several committee members who undertake more than one role of responsibility and it would be great if we could get a few more interested volunteers involved.

At present we are seeking a volunteer to take on the writing and submission of the CMFA monthly article for The Cleobury Clarion.

If interested please reply to: zellcmfa@gmail.com

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Apologies that the June Social Calendar did not show the revived Walking for Health dates. Blame the editor - everybody else does.

So here we are with the July dates, courtesy of walk leader Bruce Webster. They start at 10.00 from the Market Hall in Church Street on Wednesday the 14th and on Wednesday the 28th. If you have any questions on this matter, the ever helpful Bruce is on 07557 339 141



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Proposed Boundary changes

Last month, the Boundary Commission released their proposals for changes to the borders of the parliamentary constituencies.

Boundary Reviews happen routinely to address demographic changes over time, to ensure that constituency sizes are broadly equal. The last review was based on the number of electors at the 2000 General Election. But clearly, over twenty years on, as the population of the country has grown and areas have become more or less densely populated, this can lead to big discrepancies in the number of electors in each constituency.

To show how diverse this can be, at the 2019 General Election the Bristol West constituency had 99,253 electors, whereas our neighbour Montgomeryshire had only 48,997. Both return one MP – so clearly, not all votes carry the same weight in electing their MP. So this latest review from the Boundary Commission is long coming, and necessary.

The initial proposals involve some change to the Ludlow Constituency – not least a proposed name change, to 'Ludlow and Bridgnorth'. The Shropshire Council wards of Burnell and Severn Valley – currently part of the Shrewsbury & Atcham constituency – would be included in the new Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituency. This would increase its geographic area significantly – by over 100 square miles, to some 700 square miles, which would make it the 5th largest constituency in England by area. It would also increase the number of electors by 7,500, over 10% on current levels, to some 77,000 electors.

This is however markedly less change than the previous iteration of the proposals from

the Boundary Commission, which would have split the Ludlow Constituency in three, part of which would have created a new seat of Ludlow and Leominster in Herefordshire.

The current proposals keep five constituencies in Shropshire and Telford, and do not cross other county boundaries. The rest of Shropshire sees some limited movement of Shropshire Council wards, to ensure all constituencies have between 75,000 and 77,000 electors, with the exception of Telford, which would initially have 70,000, providing some room for this high growth town to increase its electors in years to come.

Across the West Midlands, there are no changes to the number of constituencies in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Coventry, and Birmingham and Solihull. Staffordshire and the Black Country reduces from 25 constituencies to 23. So the West Midlands reduces overall from 57 constituencies to 55.

I stress these are just initial proposals. The Boundary Commission will report with their final recommendations by 1st July 2023, but there will be revisions off the back of feedback from MPs and the public. The public can have their say now through the current consultation, which finishes on 2nd August.

I shall be studying the detail closely, and I would also welcome feedback from constituents on the proposals, in particular the proposed change of name.

You can access my survey on my website www.tellphilip.com to let me know your views.

Philip Dunne

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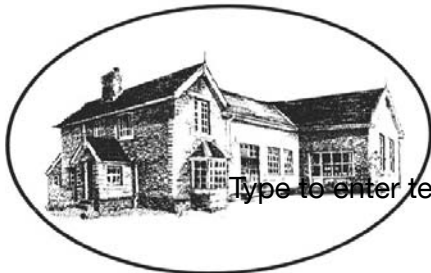
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THANK YOU FROM ZOE GRIFFIN

Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the recent Council elections for Cleobury Mortimer division. I didn't win this time but I received more than 400 votes. The responsibility of standing as a candidate in these elections did scare me – we deserve councillors who will work hard for us, and I had to be sure I could do the job, and you, justice.

I'm really glad I stood and, although I wasn't elected to represent the ward, it is clear there are lots of people locally who feel something needs to change for the Council to serve us better. Thank you to everyone who helped, supported and voted for me: I am so grateful and humbled by your faith in me. It would be a privilege and a responsibility I would take very seriously should I be successful in the future. In the meantime, I intend to carry on doing whatever I can for our community. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months to hear your views about our area.

Zoe Griffin

Editor's Note: Zoe was third in the County Council vote for Cleobury ward, confirming a Liberal Democrat tendency in this area. At one time Philip Dunne and Lib Dem notable Heather Kidd shared a page quite amiably. So I have asked Zoe if she would like to give us a regular report on the Lib Dem view and maybe on her work as a Stottesdon and Sidbury parish councillor.

This will not detract in any way from the report that Philip Dunne kindly sends. As our serving MP, his report is important and will always be welcome. JR

THE BORDERS SHOW IS BACK

The long established Borders Classic Bike Show is booked to return to Lacon Childe School on Sunday September 12th. As ever, there will be a special Guest of Honour and this year it will be local man Mick Boddice, who has nine wins in the Isle of Man Sidecar TT to his credit.

Anyone who has stood at the edge of the public road that is the TT course and watched the three-wheelers drift through between steep banks and sometimes stone walls will know that this is one of the greatest tests of two men working in harmony. I've watched TT races live since 1963 and the first time I saw the Sidecar Race I could not believe the effort and speed right there in front of me. We will be interviewing Mick twice about his remarkable racing career before he hands out the awards at the prize giving that will round off the day.

We expect entries from all over the Midlands and Wales, with machines from the 1930s through to the 80s on show, all of them representing great skill and devotion. At about 1.00 o'clock we'll have racing machines fired up to add to the atmosphere.

Catering by the school's Parent Teacher Association is always good, with an all-day

breakfast served until the bacon runs out. It all starts at 10.00, runs until 4.30 and it will cost you just £5.00 to get in.

THE NEEN SAVAGE GARDEN SAFARI

This sounds like a good afternoon out. It centres around visiting private gardens in Neen Savage and taking tea at The Barn House (DY14 0LF). All to raise funds for the Edwards and Hinksman's Trust that goes to help the education of young people.

Admission to the gardens is by following a map, which together with the tea and cake costs £10 for a family. Quite remarkable value. Collect your map from the Barn House (see above for satnav address) on the day or during the week before the event or you can **c o n t a c t** susie.dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

There is a wide variety of interesting properties in Neen Savage and the terrain should add to the novelty of finding your way around and enjoying gardens at their best.

ROAD CLOSURE

The B4201 that fronts both the Golf Club and the Pioneer Centre will have highway repairs from August 16th to 20th. It will be done in sections, to allow access, one assumes from one end of the lane.

More details from Customer Services on 0345 678006.

SILLY BIT

'Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge, even when there is no river.'

Nikita Khrushchev.



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THE FARMERS' MARKET IS BACK

June 19th was pleasantly mild with a little cloud and no sign of rain. Everybody smiled and greeted old friends as they realised we'd covered another hurdle on the road towards normality. The Farmers' Market was back. Billy Auger had a stall out on the pavement, with freshly picked rhubarb and gooseberries and nearby Clare Todd was clicking her little counter and looking happy with the numbers. She had new faces inside the church both as traders and visitors.



The Halfpenny Green Cider Company attracted our attention - can't imagine why - with a range of tempting bottles. Anthony Lovering was full of enthusiasm for the

product that offers some very refined versions of what can be produced with care. We'll be buying some next month to offer a report; it's good to see a family working together like these three: Anthony, his wife Ina and daughter Rose all happy to chat to potential customers.

Traders were happy to be back in the business of selling. Rupert Bennett of Bennett and Dunn Oils, who supply restaurants as a major part of their business, admitted that two lockdowns had been tough times to survive. I bought a bottle of their excellent cooking oil, knowing there'd be a stir fry on my menu soon.

Lucy Dell of the Teme Valley Times was chatting and snapping. Her husband Chris and I go back a long time in our writing histories and it's good to see their paper coming out again. We'd both heard that The Bridge, the Bewdley newsletter, had just ceased production. Not all of us locals had the determination to get through, or in some cases the money to pay print bills. I said a little prayer of thanks to our faithful advertisers.



It's such a lovely building and the market itself is so welcoming that traders and customers enjoy coming.

I bought chocolate brownies at Ann's Cosy Kitchen to give my granddaughters a treat and the ham man from Lichfield was just about sold out by 11.00.

I liked the look of the Bewdston Preserves on offer from owner Sonia Lloyd, who describes herself as "Chief Stirrer" of the jams and pickles that come out of her kitchen. I'd never seen a Rhubarb and Ginger Jam before, but I'll be buying it again next month. Very nice.

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HEATHER STOTT

Paula Clayton writes in memory of a fine lady:



With great sadness we announce the loss of Heather Ashby Stott, who passed away in the early hours of May 24th, her 76th birthday.

She was the most beautiful, strong, kind and funny person. An absolute pleasure to be around and enjoy a glass of wine with. There will never be a day that goes by that we won't miss her.

Heather loved dancing when she was younger and keeping on dancing all through life up until she was rocking and rolling on Puerto de Mazzaron Pier in Spain. We'll never forget the smile on her face when a good song came on and we'll always miss the extended hand

inviting us to join her and dance our hearts out.

Heather is survived by her husband Ray, her son Stephen, daughter Paula, grandchildren Scott, Adam Britanni and Dan, great granddaughter Tyla.

Ray would like to mention the Colquitt family who welcomed him and Heather to Cleobury by inviting them to Christmas dinner in their first six weeks. An immense thank you to Stuart and Anita Thompson for being priceless over the years, particularly the past few while Heather and Ray both battled cancer and other health issues.

Finally, to the staff of the Stable and Stotties, thank you for your unwavering support over the years.

The funeral was held on June 24th at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer and the wake was at the Stable Tavern, where Heather was the landlady for many years. We all had a drink to Heather to celebrate the beautiful person she was and the wonderful life she led.

Paula Clayton

THE READING GROUP

'The Pleasures of Men' by Kate Williams was our May read. "The print size was good", was the one positive point regarding this book.

The author, an historian, did convey the atmosphere of 1840's London well, unfortunately the story was too convoluted. The style of writing made issues difficult to follow, it covered many subjects.

'A bit of a dog's dinner', was another comment, which summed up our feelings nicely. It's not often our group are in agreement but none of us liked this book, though it still provided a good discussion.

Maybe this month's read, 'The Last Runaway' by Tracy Chevalier will be more to our liking. We meet again on July 19th for an hour or so of conviviality.

Deana Kimber CM 271754

Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Savage Women's Institutes.

Afternoon Tea to Celebrate

NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers Day

Monday 5th July 2021

At: The Sports and Social Club. 4pm to 6pm.

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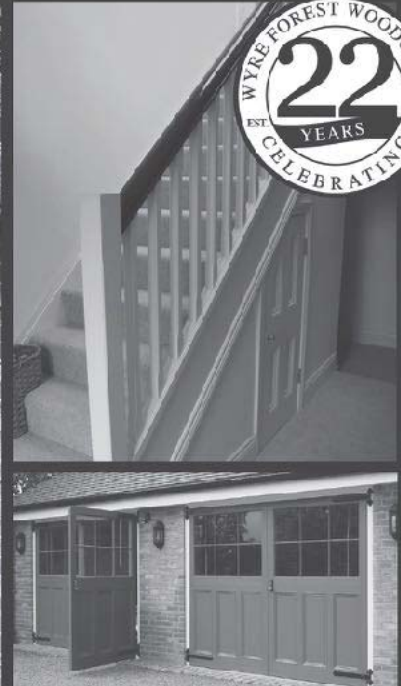
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(Reverend Joe Simons 1st Eucharist)

Sunday 11th July– 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 18th July – 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 25th July – 10.00am Eucharist

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 18th July- 9.30am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 18th July – 3pm Evening Prayer

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 11th July – 11.00am Eucharist

Sunday 18th July - 11.00am Village Worship

Sunday 25th July – 11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 18th July – 11.15am Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 18th July – 11.00am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 11th July – 11.15am Eucharist

Sunday 25th July – 6pm Eucharist

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The Social Calendar for July

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 1 st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 4 th	12.00	Plant Sale at Coppice Gate Farm, Lye Head. SEE PAGE 5		
	12.00	Open Garden at Upper Marshes, Catherton Common. PAGE 5		
Mon 5 th	4.00	Afternoon Tea at Sports & Social Club, in aid of NHS Charities. PAGE 19		
Thurs 8 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Borders Classic Bike Club meets at The Blount Arms		
Mon 12 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the library. PAGE 9		
Tues 13 th	7.30	Cleobury WI welcome Paul French to the Market Hall to talk about Mental Wellbeing. PAGE 37		
Tues 13- Wed 14		Road closure at Six Ashes/B4363 for overhead lines work. PAGE 19		
Wed 14 th	10.00	Walking for Health starts at the Market Hall. PAGE 21		
Thurs 15 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk out observing Social Distancing. PAGE 21		
Fri 16 th - Sun 18 th		The Festival at The Edge comes to Hopton Court with music and story telling for all ages & tastes. Ticket only – www.festivalattheedge.org		
Mon 19 th	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the library. PAGE 31		
Thurs 22 nd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYLCE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 26 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the library to read, listen & laugh		
Wed 28 th	10.00	Walking for Health leave the Market Hall at 10.00. PAGE 21		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	7.45	Clow Top Garden Club gather at Victory Hall to hear Robin Pearce talk about Daisies. PAGE 11		
Thurs 29 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST....		
Thurs 5 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

The Neen Savage Garden Safari has a novel ring about it, with the chance to visit private gardens throughout the village. Proceeds to help young children's education. More details on Page 27.

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

St John's is high up above the road near the cattle grid, so rather a problem for getting to the church: you are confronted with three flights of steep steps – daunting!

Now this difficulty has been recognised and we have been awarded a grant by Garfield Weston Foundation to put in a fully accessible path. We have planning permission in place and a contractor lined up to start in September. The path will zig-zag through the churchyard with a suitable gradient for wheelchairs, those using frames and just anyone who needs to take the climb up to the church more steadily; there will be handrails where needed. We are also going to put up a bright new noticeboard so more people spot the church as they go through Doddington.

Of course, even before the path is in place, please visit if you can. St John's is open 10.00 to 4.00 on Wednesdays and Sundays at the moment with services twice monthly; it's a lovely peaceful place with an interesting history, and on a clear day, stunning

views. It's taken time and hard work to get to this point; our next aim is to put in an accessible toilet and small catering area; Shropshire Historic Churches Trust have kindly promised us a grant towards this, but we need more funds to reach our target – if you would like to help us you can contact us, or make a donation via our homepage: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/ Our email address is: stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com *Celia Gibb 01584 318036*

CLEOBURY W.I.

It was a beautiful evening on June 8th when we visited Flo and Pete Hadley's garden at Catherton House.

We were led round the three acre garden and heard how these two converted the overgrown site from a wilderness into a delightful and surprising garden.

Pete: "We learned which plants did well in our soil on a windy spot 600 metres up. Flo and I work in the garden every day, Flo has the ideas and I do the more manual work, we love it."

Every turning opened a new vista, a collection of pines, an English woodland, a natural or wild woodland, ponds,

with an artist's eye for colour, texture, light and shadows. Their fully stocked vegetable garden was separated from the house by a small secret garden. Thank you Flo and Pete for sharing your beautiful garden with us.

Keep an eye on the WI Facebook page to get more information on our work with Neen Savage WI and the Hospice shop on 'Upcycling children's clothes'

We are taking part in "Celebrating NHS Social Care and Front Line Workers Day" and together with Neen Savage WI offer 'Afternoon Tea' at the Sports and Social Club on July 5th, from 4.00 to 6.00pm, £5 per person. The money raised will go to 'Supporting NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association'. Please would you book a place from 4-5 or 5-6 pm with Judy Sant to help us cope with numbers: 01299 270983 or judysant10@gmail.com

We will welcome Paul French on July 13th at 7.30 pm at the Market Hall to talk about 'Mental Wellbeing and the work of the Samaritans'. We are as always mindful of Covid restrictions.

Gabby Franklin



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In Celebration of 'Good Stuff'

Was it just me, or did but June feel slightly chaotic? Personally, I lay blame at the feet of the usual suspects - work, weather and a way too long list of things to get sorted in the garden. Yet despite its frenetic nature, June was a cracker (at least for me).

It oozed positivity.

Happy, rather than sad.

Fun, rather than glum.

So, armed with a heady sense of *joie de vivre*, this month's column is dedicated to what I will term 'good stuff' (working title, obviously). No room for ugly negativity here, thank you.

Perfect Purchases

I have previously written about my patchy reputation when it comes to buying gardening paraphernalia. The bad certainly outweighs the so-so.

Not so in June - I found a brilliantly simple tool to help me with future planting design planning. 'See How' are a set of plastic strips that illustrate how a plant looks over a 12 month period. Each one shows you when a plant blooms, what it looks like and when they start to go over and look a bit bedraggled. The clever part is that by placing these strips next to each other, you can see where the gaps are over the year, where colour clashes might get migraine-inducing and the height of the plants at each stage. Of course, the fact that they are also pretty damned beautiful to look is a bonus.

It just goes to show that the simple things in life can often be the most helpful (something I repeatedly explain to my wife).

Giving Gardeners

I was lucky enough to be shown around the fantastic garden of one of the larger houses in our area. It's rather uncouth to name names, but what I can say is that the opportunity to spend a morning with a passionate, knowledgeable and modest gardener as they guide you around their

remarkable acres is a joy.

It left me with a daft grin on my face for days after. It's easy to forget that there are some bloody lovely people in and around Cleobury, and this chap was the antithesis of all the mean spirited noise that can sometimes dominate our lives. He and his sort should be made available on the NHS – a real tonic.

Dazzling Dahlias

Dahlias and I have a love-hate relationship. I love them. They hate me. For reasons I will never fathom, dahlias tubers simply won't grow for me, either in pots or in the ground. I might get the odd leaf, but that's your lot.

Until June... That's right, I am now an official 'Dahlia Whisperer', with countless dahlia plants ready to burst into bloom at any minute. 'How did you manage to turn this around, you green-fingered god?' I hear you cry. Simple - I went back to basics and grew them from seed.

That's right. For the cost of a packet of seeds, I have transformed my fortunes by dodging the whole tricky tuber stage. Dead easy, lovely looking blooms (a few have made their presence felt already) and instrumental in making me feel less of a failure in the flower patch. Happy days.

And There's More

Other 'good stuff' topics include the weather (lovely, but we got the rain when we needed it), being able to meet up for a drink with friends (yes, the mask thing is a pain... but worth it short term), and a new fire pit contraption that makes me feel very Bear Grylls (when in reality, I'm more Rupert the Bear).

So, join me in looking ahead in the hope of a similarly upbeat July and celebrating the many things worth smiling about this Summer.

Simon Morton

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Very young Tawny Owl chicks, waiting for their next meal and letting their mother know that they are hungry.

At Uncllys Farm we recently had an encounter with things that go squeak in the night and I realised that I had heard the sound before, in fact I wrote about it in one of my articles. It was just as if someone had trodden on a squeaky toy, or several squeaky toys, and happened at dusk, which turned out to be a bit of a clue. Thanks to the technical wizardry of a smart phone we were able to send a recording to the ever-helpful Rosemary Winnall, who identified the source as a family of Tawny Owl chicks letting their parents know that they wanted feeding! They were a bit bigger than those in the photo, having flown the nest to take up positions around the edge of our hay field. Judging by the number of times I spot a little brown shape scooting across a garden path I think the Field Vole population is plenty big enough to sustain several owl families. While

listening for the owls subsequently we heard the strange call of the Woodcock in the distance – quite different to the sound of the owl fledglings.

Last year I started to keep a diary of the things I was seeing around the farm and the local woods. It's been fascinating to look back, comparing this year to the last. What surprises me most is that the events I noted (flowerings, fledglings etc) have occurred at virtually the same dates this year, despite my recollection being that last spring and early summer were very warm and this year started very cold. Sadly there are things completely missing this year. A couple of House Martins investigated the eaves of the Studio but didn't stay, and we saw no Swallows at all. I haven't heard a Cuckoo yet this year. I watched a lovely, bright-winged Tortoiseshell butterfly in the garden a few days ago and realised that I was hardly seeing any butterflies this year, but maybe things will improve as the good weather goes on.

This month we expect to hear the young Buzzards shrieking for their parents from the woods and field fences. Another feature of July in this part of the woods is the eruption of numbers of tiny Common Toads moving out from their birthplace in the little reservoir. If you get the timing right you can go down to its margins and watch them moving out into the forest, but be careful where you walk!

Linda Iles

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Things go from bad to worse with Boris' flat redecoration. Not only are there multiple enquiries into the cost and where the money came from, he has now discovered that his (or rather Carrie's) £800+ per roll gold wallpaper is er... not remaining on the walls. To add insult to injury, the trading terms of the supplier state that no refunds will be given once the paper is hung. I'm not sure if it could be argued that 'hung' implies more than temporary adhesion so that may be another one for the Lawyers. I have recently spuced up my flat - a few litres of B&Q emulsion (other brands are available), a DFS sofa (other brands are also available) and a Wayfair rug (yes, I know) and still have change from a roll of No 10 wallpaper... Anyway, Boris and Carrie are now wed so congratulations to them. The timing was a bit sudden so could it be a ploy to divert attention from Cummings.D?. However, given his track record, I wonder how long it will last. I am reminded of the approach of the late Sir James Goldsmith who once stated: 'When you marry your mistress, you create a vacancy' so good luck Carrie. Naturally, the jokers had a field day with their wedding photos, my favourite being one captioned 'When your Dad drops you off at Glastonbury'...

The latest wheeze from our leaders is the 'Great British Railway' which will attempt to reduce the shambles that currently passes for the administration of our rail system under Network Rail. A report that took three years to compile concluded that the current fragmented franchise system is a shambles (who knew?) so naturally the much hyped GBR will do little to address that. Gems of the current set up include a whole section of staff whose job is to argue about the size of birds which may have collided with overhead power cables and put them out of action. Apparently, if the bird (which may not have hung around to be interviewed) is over the size of a pheasant, Network Rail is responsible. If smaller, the Rail Operator is liable for the delay and several hundred people are employed to make these decisions.... The cynic in me wonders whether GBR is a similar approach to changing the name of Government Departments when their

reputation sinks to an unacceptable level (not difficult at present). Still, it does provide work for the sign makers.

Back in the day, my ex used to buy (and thought he had hidden) a 'Gentlemen's' magazine which, amongst other things, had a feature entitled 'Readers Wives'. This consisted of a page of blurred Polaroid snaps depicting members of my fair sex, who should really have kept their kit on, in 'sexy' (for which read 'Grotesque') positions. The latest example of this exhibitionism can be found on social media called 'OnlyFans'. This enables individuals to offer pictures of themselves and then negotiate with subscribers as to what these should depict and how much they are worth. Naturally porn features largely in these negotiations and the site takes 20% of any agreed fee. Oh for the simple days when a chap had only to persuade his missus to pose for 'artistic' snaps 'Another glass of wine dear?'....

I don't know if anyone out there has dealt with WeBuyAnyCar who make cash offers for your car. Several months ago, I was idly thinking I might change mine and went on line for a quote. This arrived and didn't look too bad but I decided not to change my (t)rusty vehicle at that point. The other day, a reminder popped into my inbox asking me to view my current valuation. As a matter of interest, I looked at it and it was nearly 20% HIGHER than their original offer... I know the secondhand market is strong at present, but are prices rising that quickly? After all, these are cars not houses - so is it a marketing ploy? Perhaps they make a low initial offer in the hope the punter will accept it and then follow up with a more realistic sum if the first is not accepted (or could it be because I am female and therefore considered an easy target?). I have heard that they will make a reasonable offer and then try and knock this down when the car is presented for inspection by citing any number of real or imagined defects. Perhaps you could let the Editor know of any experiences with them. Thanks.

Ariadne J Grumpy

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The Clarion in Welsh Whisky Country



This trip of discovery was inspired by a birthday present from my son David, a bottle of Penderyn Welsh Whisky. It was a surprise to learn that malt whiskies were being distilled in the Principality and a real pleasure to try one. The unusual bottle with long flutes down each side and long empty, stands on the window ledge in my kitchen as a reminder.

A visit to their website revealed they would be doing tours of the place when the lockdown eased and as soon as I could there were two places booked for my lady and me on June 17th. A relaxed drive to Hereford, then pick up the A465 that becomes the famous Heads of the Valleys road. We were at Penderyn in good time, despite road works where this major westward route is being improved.

We were welcomed by charming staff who explained we were part of a group of eight, the maximum allowed at the time. We wandered around the visitor

centre, where clear drawings and photos showed the processes that turns water into

a very strong wine via malted barley and is then blended with pure water drawn from the surrounding Brecon Beacons to mature in a variety of casks that add to the final flavour.

The original still is a single copper pot that produces a very strong spirit (about 92% abv) that is then blended with the pure water. The still was designed by Dr David Faraday, a descendant of the great Victorian Michael Faraday. So even the production plant has a good



The original Faraday still - there are four altogether now.

Our guide on the tour was Lee, who explained that the place was not working fully, this being one of the regular cleaning periods. As you would expect of a unit producing a drink, the whole place was very clean.

Detailed explanation was difficult to give and to hear with everyone wearing masks, but at regular points there were small public address systems to aid the process. The climbs up and down amid widely varying temperatures

meant this is not a job for the unfit and if the noise did intrude a little the scent of the liquor made up for it.

Back in the visitor centre we had a chance to talk to Lee and I asked if the two pot stills they have are the same as those used in the Writers Tears distillery in Ireland - a favourite of mine. His eyes lit up at the mention of that name; clearly a man who knows his market and appreciates quality.

The range of flavours was detailed and small samples offered to everyone in the party, with small taster bottles the alternative for drivers. So herself had her samples and mine and I brought a small bottle home. I lost a friend to a drunken driver years ago and the memory of that has never left.

From a small company that started distilling in 2003 and now sells this distinctive Welsh whisky to 40 countries, this is a remarkable story. They have also just started a northern distillery in Llandudno as their range of whiskies and other products grows. And the friendly way they treat visitors is well worth the 80 mile drive to try it.

Take a look at www.penderyn.wales; if you fancy a tour of this fascinating place, call them on 01685 813 300. And you make the day complete if you take the route outlined above and head north from Penderyn to Brecon, through hills where sheep and horses persuade you not to hurry. It's a really

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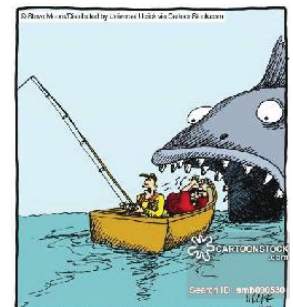
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - July 2021



"We tried artificial flies. We tried lures. We tried live bait. Nothing works ... it's like they're psychic!"



"Blood-curdling screams. Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

JULY 2021 Clarion Report

This month we want to remind residents and visitors to Cleobury Mortimer to stay safe and respect where we live.

The
Countryside
Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- leave gates and property as you find them.
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- be nice, say hello, share the space.
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

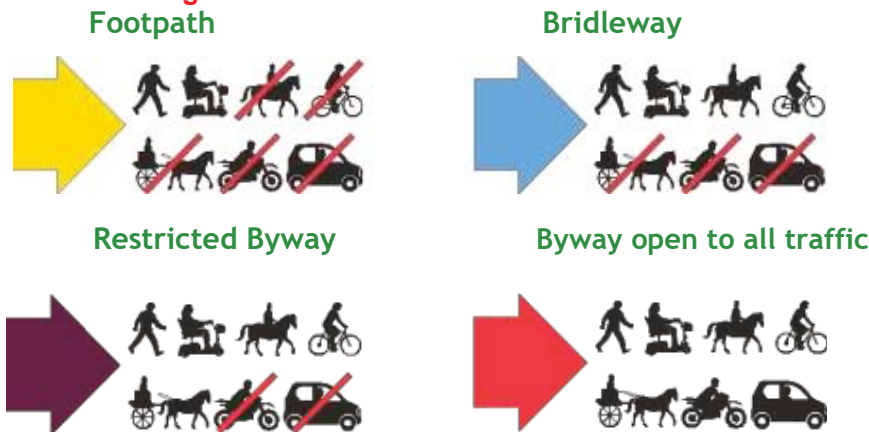
Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit.
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do.
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions.
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do.
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

Follow advice and local signs



For further information visit www.gov.uk/countryside-code

M Sheehan Town Clerk
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Cleobury Community Hub

Come on in!

The Hub is now fully up and running, inside and out, for coffee, cake, Mawley Milk refills and conversation in line with government guidance. Our outside space is covered (so perfect for recent Spring weather) and we are continuing to offer barista takeaway drinks for anyone who prefers a shorter visit.

The Hub is open **9:30 – 13:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.**

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Our amazing new purpose-built climbing/bouldering wall – Climb 61 – has been incredibly busy since we opened up for families, bubbles and individuals to come and give it a go.

Our induction sessions are suitable for all ages and abilities. It's so exciting to see so many local people experiencing the joys of climbing.


Check out our social media for further details of times and clubs available and information about to book.



@CleoburyCommunityHub

@saintmarysyouthproject

As always (and we know we say it every month!) a genuine thanks goes to you all for your understanding, support and shared excitement of the work of the Community Hub. We look forward to becoming a regular fixture in your weekly diaries again.



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All building work undertaken

Welcome to the July Edition of our quest to stay ahead of Scammers. While we thought that June was going to be the month of freedom, it looks like constraints on our freedom remain for a bit longer. This is good news for the scammers who will undoubtedly find ways of using our current slightly restricted freedom to come up with new ways to coerce us into giving up personal details and leading to losing money or our life savings. This month I am going to introduce readers to a term known as Online Social Engineering which is on the rise. Online covers any communications between you and a scammer whether it is through the internet or via a telephone call. In much less frequent instances this can also include cold calling at the door.

Online social engineering is when scammers emotionally manipulate you into handing over some or all of your personal information. They take advantage of human behaviour and trick you into thinking they're the real deal. Here are four tips to prevent a social engineering attack.

1 Never reveal passwords or PINs via email or phone, no matter how legitimate sounding the request seems. No company will ask for these this way.

2 Call back. If you receive a call from a company requesting sensitive info, ask for their full name and call the company from their official website number.

3 Resist the urge to click on suspicious links from anyone. Even if you think you know them. Always double check the web address first.

4 Think twice. If something sounds too good to be true or attractive, then it is most likely a fake. Even if it looks and sounds like it is coming from a reputable source.

Here are some examples of the most recent scam activities. Firstly, the use of the telephone is still high on the scammers list. Current technology enables the scammers to generate hundreds of thousands of outgoing calls every day. They can also manipulate the technology to make the call look like an authorised or official number. Using these techniques if you use call back to the number displayed on your phone, you will find that the call is redirected to the scammer who may sound very plausible and convince you to disclose personal information. Other incoming telephone calls to your home phone or mobile number may come from overseas. If your phone has the capability of showing the incoming number, beware if the number is prefixed with a 2- or 3- digit country code (the first digit will never be a 0 but may be a + sign). If you answer the caller invariably hangs up but they have registered it as a valid number just because you answered it. Your number, along with

other (valid) numbers, will then be sold on to the big-time scammers for future use. This is how it works. The small-time scammers will use technology on a computer to dial a range of numbers, e.g., 01299 270001 to 270999. Many of the interim numbers will be unused but those that are used will produce a ringtone when the computer dials it. If the number is answered the computer disconnects the call but flags the number up as valid. The only numbers the computer rejects are those that produce a solid tone which indicates the line is not in use. As I stated, only the valid numbers are passed on for the real scam. The 2nd scam group is the internet, specifically email, group. This is the highest scam group of all where scammers send emails that appear to be from valid sources, advising that accounts have been suspended or debit/credit card transactions have failed or a subscription is due for renewal etc. Recent examples I have received have been from EE the mobile phone company, Santander the Bank, Lloyds Bank, GOV.UK etc. I don't bank with either of the mentioned banks or have a mobile phone account with EE, so these are easy for me to spot. But if you did have one of these, you may be tempted to click on a link or follow the instructions. DON'T. Do the simple test first. If you are opening the email on a desktop computer, the sender's details may look authentic, such as EE or GOV.UK but look at the real senders address alongside it when you click on the email. It will look like this, name@xx.yy where xx.yy could be .co.uk or gmail.com or something else ending in a 2-character code indicating the user is sending from an address abroad. If the senders address does not compare to a known source from your Bank, Building Society or Phone provider, it is most likely a scam. Do not follow any instructions or links in the email. Just delete it. If you are opening the email on a tablet or mobile device the sender's details may be masked, but if you click on the name, you will see who the sender really is. For example, a recent email from EE showed this.

EE couk@limited-invoice.co.uk Definitely not EE. I hope this has helped to build understanding of how to protect your identify and your money. For more information see www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/scams or contact Action Fraud on www.actionfraudalert.co.uk These organisations keep up with all the latest news so it's good to visit regularly. Stay Alert, Stay Safe. Have a happy July.

Nigel Reid



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REFILL BOX

CLEOBURY MORTIMER



In March 2020 the pandemic scuppered an original plan of a shop in Cleobury Mortimer where you could come and refill your containers with a variety of dry foods and household items to cut down on plastic waste.

Despite this, the idea lived on!

In May 2021 a revised idea was born, called RefillBox. The aim remained the same, however to get round the problem of Covid restrictions and reduce overheads it was decided that creating a website where customers could order and have their items delivered locally in a re-usable box would be much better.

The problem of customers not being able to bring their own containers, was solved by sourcing a fantastic bio-degradable range of plant-based packaging. This packaging disappears within 12 weeks of hitting your compost or green-waste bin. As soon as it has been delivered, it can be de-canted into your own storage jars and bunged in the green bin!

Where they cannot use this innovative packaging (for liquids etc) they will use Mawley Milk containers which are known to be recyclable.

Their range will be growing, but currently consists of:

- Baking, Chocolate**
- Cleaning, Coffee & Tea**
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If you live in the post-code districts of DY14, SY8 and WR15 a £25 order will be delivered for free direct to your door in one of their Re-usable Refill-Boxes. Standard delivery for a box with less than £25 will be just £2.95. You will also be able to Click&Collect from the Cleobury Country Centre during the week.

In an effort to reduce waste further, Leave the box out on delivery day and they will collect and re-use it.

Saturday the 19th saw the return of Cleobury Farmers Market, in St Mary's Church on the High Street. It was packed with new traders and one of which was the RefillBox.

Running the stall was William, one half of the partnership that is RefillBox.

William said..."It is great to be involved in the Market, now we are gradually opening up again. We hope to be here on the 3rd Saturday of every month."

Manning the entrance to the market is Clare, the other half of RefillBox, where she was handing out flyers for RefillBox and recording visitor numbers.

Clare said..."The market's return has been very well attended, with 243 visitors today. Our new website is automatically giving customers 10% off their first order as another incentive to get people to move over to using less plastic, you can find it at www.refillbox.co.uk"



Farmers Market Dates
Sat July 17th, Sat Aug 21st
Sat September 18th, Sat October 16th
Sat November 20th, Sat December 18th

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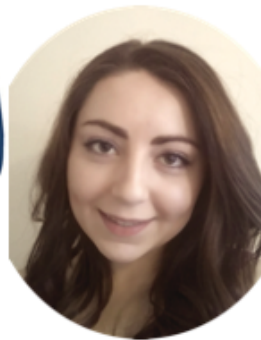
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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Parfitt	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net .
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Butler's Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, The Library and Swift's Bakery Tea Room.

Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** **Clee Hill Stores;** The Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.**

Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE: JUNE 22nd

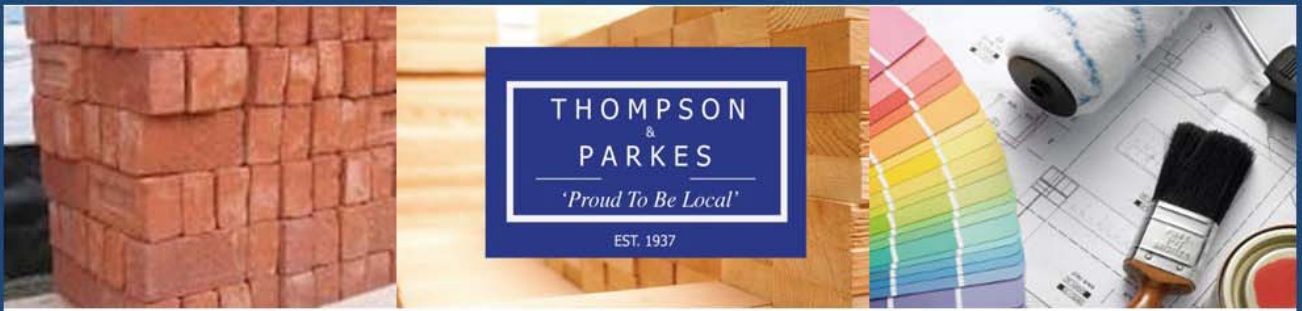
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The Clarion On The Web: www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

Printed by Badger Print and Design of Shifnal, 01952 730511



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