

The Cleobury Clarion



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June 2016

THE CLARION KEEPS ON GROWING

Demand for the Clarion on the town's High Street has dictated an increase in the number we print every month. With effect from this copy, there will be 900 churning out at the Glint Print works. And the number of pages reaches a new record too - 64 of them.

It was requests from both Londis and Simply Fresh that triggered the increase. Londis is our top distributor, who used to have 130 copies every month. Then Gwilliam Butler explained that they didn't put any on the counter, because all 130 were reserved. At Simply Fresh it was almost the same; they had 100 a month and only a handful to hand out. So they will both be getting 20 extra copies each month, which we hope will keep more customers happy. A heart felt 'thank you' to our readers who created such a demand, to all our contributors and to all our distributors.

ZAC'S ON TRACK FOR WOLVES



Football is a Williams family affair. Zac with mum Beverley, dad Dean, brother Charlie and sister Emma


Zac Williams has realised a schoolboy's dream. He's been signed up as a trainee for Wolverhampton Wanderers on a two year contract after a trial with the club.

Not many 14 year olds get such a big chance as this, and it means a lot of work, keeping his school studies up to date

and training at the club's Compton facility from 8.30 to 5.30 on Tuesdays, plus two hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays mornings. Then on Sunday he'll be playing in matches. The aim is to earn a Football Scholarship when he's 16 and then move on to full time education at Thomas Telford College with the club's backing.

It's a tough schedule for a 14 year old, but he's a quietly determined young man with no flash or shouting. He was in a group of Under 14s who travelled to Germany recently to play in a tournament that involved 15 teams. They finished 11th and dad Dean is quick to point out that they won three and only lost three other games by a single goal.


The family's feet are firmly on the ground about the whole business, mum Beverley making it clear that he's got to keep up his education. Of course they have dreams - who wouldn't? - but Team Williams is about support and working for success. **More on Page 59.**




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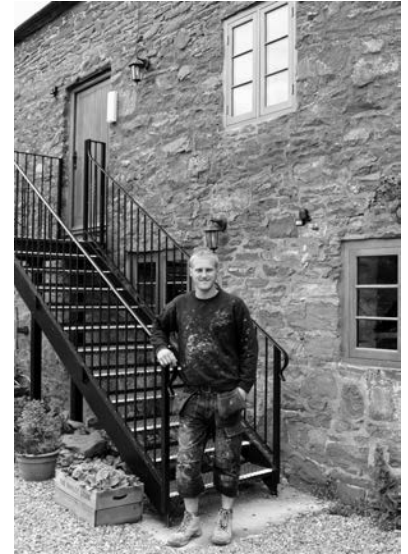
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Watch, cook, speak.
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THANK YOU

Lionel Bishop wishes to thank everyone for their cards, get well wishes and for their visits to see him in Shrewsbury Hospital, where he was looked after really well.

He was admitted urgently on April 2nd with a bowel obstruction and is now recuperating well at home. It will be a slow road to recovery; please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you all once again.

Julie Bishop

IN PRAISE OF...

Philip Jones had read about Pete Andrewjski's electrical services in the May Clarion. And when he had a problem one Sunday (have you noticed how emergencies always seem to wait until Sunday to emerge?) he decided to put that service to the test.

"I phoned him up, he was there in about twenty minutes, and got the problem solved," he explained with a relieved smile. "I promised him I'd tell the Clarion about it."

It's good to be able to record such service, but do please be merciful to the man and only make a Sunday call in a real emergency.

CHARITY PARTY NIGHT

Alison Andrews and Pat Williams, who do know how to put on a good party, are laying on a Charity Party Night at the Sports and Social Club on June 24th. It's all about raising money for the Haven Breast Cancer Support unit in Hereford, a place that local people know does a wonderful job.

Star of the evening will be Wayne Swift with his 'Tribute To Swing', plus a buffet and the bar open to slake your thirst. There will also be a raffle - every one I've seen at the Club has offered a huge range of prizes. If you would like to donate a prize, talk to Pat on 07900 244134 or Alison on CM 270937. They can also sell you tickets, at £12 a head for adults and children under 16 free. Should be a great night.

Martin Clunes did a plug for The Haven on BBC's Life Line Appeal on March 20th. Watch on www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03qy1lf

THE LEGION HAS A TRIP TO BATH

The very active Cleobury branch of the Royal British Legion will be running an all-

day coach trip to Bath on Thursday June 30th. Tickets cost a very affordable £12 and are available from The Bookshop.

Further details from Doctor Mark Baldwin on CM 270110.

POETRY GETS SERIOUS

The Theatre on the Steps at Bridgnorth will be hosting a big time poetry evening on the 24th of this month, as part of the Independent Bookshop Week.

Star name is Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy with three others she admires: Gillian Clarke, Imtiaz Dharker and Jackie Kay, plus lady Liz Leroy from Shrewsbury. With interest in Cleobury fired by David Walford's work, it's interesting to see star names appearing in the area.

Tickets are £15 each, from Anna Dreda's Wenlock Books at www.wenlockbooks.co.uk or www.billettero.o.uk/en/events/shore-to-shore-much-wenlock

SILLY BITS

Did you know that line dancing was invented by women waiting to use the bathroom?

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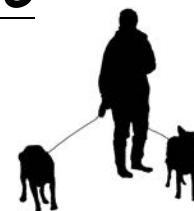
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A NEW APPROACH TO CARE



Sarah Thomas (left) and Claire Gittens, a combination of two valuable skill sets.

CM Bespoke Care is a new name on the local scene, the creation of two people's concern that care for loved ones should be nurse led and not hampered by hours of paperwork.

Sarah Thomas is the public face who will be responsible for the basic business of caring. She has 20 years experience in nursing, starting in a home, then graduating with a nursing degree and working in care from acute hospitals to local homes. Always with patient care her top priority, but finding the

demands of bureaucracy getting in the way: "I was working a five day week and only spending two half days actually looking after patients," she explains.

Talking to Claire Gittens in her family Heath Farm Meats shop in Bagginswood, she found someone with similar views. Claire had cared for her mother until she went into a home, where she felt the time given was not enough. Not the staff's fault; they too were dealing with paperwork more than people.

The result is a cooperation between nursing and care experience with the paperwork burden passed to the backroom lady. It's taken close to nine months to get the business fully recognised and registered with the Care Quality Commission, but it now exists and is recruiting care staff and qualified nurses who want to give their skills to the patient, not to pen pushing.

The range of services they can offer is very wide, catering for adult care at all levels, 24 hours a day if necessary. Too much to list here in detail, but Sarah has a clear capacity for listening to what people want and will tell you more. She also wants to

link with other care providers, to help give cover whenever it's needed. You can contact her on 01746 718816, 07943 834132 or cmbespokecare@btconnect.com

What sums them up? "We aim to support and care for the person in any way we can, enabling them to stay in the comfort of their own home for as long as they wish."

PENSAX CHURCH FAYRE

The annual Fayre will be held in the Victory Hall at Clows Top on Saturday, July 2nd. It starts at 2.00 and runs until 4.30, with a range of attractions including both a raffle and a tombola,, cakes, refreshments and a range of stalls. One of those friendly family occasions that makes people feel welcome.

SOROPTIMISTS' REPORT

Our recent second Bridge Tournament helped us raise £738.14 for the Alzheimer Society. After morning coffee, 92 players enjoyed 4 sets of Bridge before and after lunch. Cash prizes were given to the top three pairs of players as well as a consolation prize for the pair with the lowest score.



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CLOWS TOP GARDEN CLUB

June and summer is here at last. This is a time of year when gardeners can begin to enjoy the fruits of their labours. Take time to stand back and appreciate the garden; don't let it become a chore. The weather is usually quite warm with the occasional thunderstorm. The sun is now quite strong so time to shade the greenhouses to prevent plants getting scorched. Tender plants can now be safely put outside as there should be little fear of night frosts.

Don't forget to water your hanging baskets every day, tackle the weeding, be sure to dead head regularly and mow the lawn at least once a week.

At the May meeting Ross Barbour, gave an interesting talk and powerpoint presentation on Spring Bulbs.

It was in depth information regarding the breeders and breeding behind Snowdrops, Crocus and Daffodils. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

Change to Venue/Programme

The June meeting will be held in Clows Top Village Hall, not as printed in the programme. Due to circumstances beyond

our control the club is unable to visit 'Little Bullockhurst' at this time.

Pauline Bowen

A SPECIAL LUNCH IN BAYTON

There will be a special lunch in Bayton Village Hall on June 12th, part of the national celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. It starts at 12.00 noon and the meal is on a Bring and Share basis, so you may have an unusual treat.

Diners are invited to dress in 'patriotic style' and there will be a prize for the best dressed Prince and Princess, which is designed to attract the children.

The contact to book your seat is Liz Link on 01299 832219. Do note that there will not be a bar, so if your preference is for a wee tippie in the middle of such an important day, the rule is BYOB. Or Bring Your Own Booze, if you prefer.

PICTURE PUZZLE

Jane Davies would like help from Clarion readers in solving a mystery. She can identify most of the faces in this photo from long ago: the lady with her hand on the lad's shoulder is Annie Davies and he is her son Charles, while the front row

from the left are Frances Jennie, Ernest Joseph and Edward John with their mother Fanny Potter.



But who are the other two ladies in the back row?

If you have a clue, you can contact Jane at jmd178@talktalk.net or advise the editor at the usual address.

EARLY NOTICE

If you enjoy the colourful sight of the Shropshire Kite Festival and all those multi coloured and shaped kites hovering over the town, you can look forward to July 23/24th, when they'll be here again. They'll be gathering on the sports field at Lacon Childe School, with access via the path from the Sports Centre. Very friendly people to talk to.



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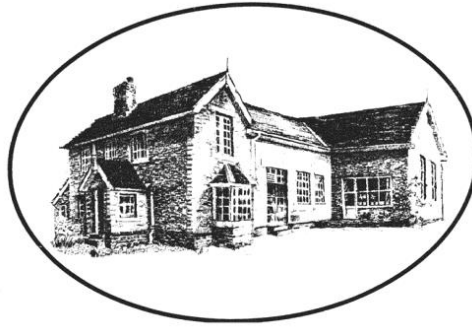
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TRUST WORKS

It's a bit of a mouthful, The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust. But it brings a group of our local schools together to offer a better deal for the children.

At the centre is Lacon Childe School, with Cleobury Primary, Clee Hill Community Academy and Stottesdon Church of England School, plus the Cleobury and Clee Hill nurseries. Everyone within those schools now works for the Trust, and there's a regular exchange of information and ideas between them. As Lacon Childe head teacher Darren Reynolds puts it: "We're using our talent to better effect."

It's a Mixed Multi Academy Trust and is unusual in having a C of E Primary within its ranks, with the blessing of the Diocese. "The Church saw the benefits of our local schools looking after local children being involved in the Trust," Mr Reynolds explains. The alternative would mean a long journey if they were to attend a Church Academy for their secondary education.

A good example of how well its work is teachers from the primary level coming to Lacon Childe to talk to their ex pupils and see how they progress.



Darren Reynolds, a man very happy in a big job.

This Trust is smaller than most and has no ambition to grow beyond its local connection. That reflects Darren Reynolds' determination to keep in close touch with his staff and pupils. "The day I have to stop teaching and spend the day on paperwork is the day I leave," he states. "I love teaching and I work with three brilliant heads and a brilliant business manager."

For a man who heads up a trust that employs 180 staff, it's a very strong feet-on-the-ground attitude, but he doesn't lose sight of the operation's aim: to raise the standard of teaching on offer in the local area. "We have

more buying power and we can share resources and skills. We're not about counting numbers, it's about how well the kids are doing. All the schools are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted."

There are five mini buses on the Lacon Childe vehicle fleet, bringing in children from beyond the traditional catchment area, offering parental choice of secondary education to the wider community.

The Academy status has made money available for capital funding, which has meant a leaking roof repaired, windows replaced and other building work done that the County could not afford.

With 180 staff employed and the possibility of other local primary schools joining in the future, Darren has a big job. He smiles: "Yes, it's my name above the door - but it's exciting."

MOFFATS OPEN DAY
Moffats School has an Open Morning at its picturesque Kinlet Hall location on Saturday July 2nd, starting at 9.30. Tours of the school will be conducted by senior pupils and all are welcome. More details from the school office on 01299 841230.



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KUDOS IN THE NEWS AGAIN



The amazing team at Kudos Blends have done it again. This time they've received the Queen's Award for Enterprise, one of the top prizes for UK businesses who are outstanding in their particular sphere.

Phil Dunne MP was at the works recently to congratulate MD Dinnie Jordan and her team on a success story that keeps on rolling. Also in the awards were near neighbours Orchard Valley Foods of Burford.

Mr Dunne said: "I am delighted that two Ludlow Constituency businesses have been recognised through the highly prestigious Queen's Awards for Enterprise.

I have visited both Kudos Blends and Orchard Valley Foods, and was impressed by their determination to secure export driven growth. So I am very pleased they have received this recognition, and

congratulate them both on this remarkable achievement.

It is particularly welcome to see two growing rural businesses recognised for international growth. This really shows that businesses in the Ludlow Constituency can thrive and create local jobs by developing new overseas markets for their goods, and I hope these awards will encourage other businesses considering exporting to get in touch with UKTI and make use of their advice and support."

WORKSHOP IN THE WYRE

Two interesting workshops are planned at Uncllys Farm in the Wyre Forest, home to our regular correspondent Linda Iles:

Ravishing Ragwork – June 18th
Exploring ways of upcycling old clothing and other textiles into textured rugs, throws and cushions. We will be working with recycled textiles to create simple pieces using rag rugging techniques such as prodding, hooking, knitting and peg loom. The day will be suitable for those wishing to learn the basics of rag rugging and for those wanting to extend their skills. Tutor: Jenny Barnes

Spinning and Wool Crafts - July 9th

This day course will introduce you to carding and spinning fleece and plying yarn. The unspun fleece will be sorted and used for weaving on a peg loom and needle felting. You will be able to take home a small needle-felted figure and some of your spun yarn. Tutors: Jeanette Lock and Linda Iles

Both courses will be held at the Ruskin Studio, Uncllys Farm from 10am to 4pm and will cost £50. Drinks and biscuits provided.

More information and bookings: 0 1 2 9 9 4 8 8 0 8 3 , www.info@uncllys.co.uk

FREE FUN DAY

This sounds good. It's the Party in the Park, at Palmer's Meadow in Tenbury Wells on Sunday June 26th.

Opens at 12.00, closes at 5.00 and includes Bouncy Castles, Quad Bikes, Discodaddy, Magic Show, Birds of Prey display, a Dog Show plus much more. All this for free other than food and drink which naturally you'll pay for. That is a very good deal and worth the journey to take the children there. Enjoy!

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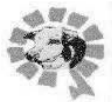
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Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

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THE KINLET NEWSLETTER

Here's a confession: I have subscribed to the Kinlet Newsletter for more years than the Clarion has been in existence. I saw it as a shining example of a good community publication that managed to do more than a simple Parish Magazine aspired to.

So it's good to be able to report that production of this source of news, gossip and local history with humour is to continue with a new editorial team. Congratulations to editors Sue Guest and Julia Haywood and their team of Chris Bate, Sara Jennings and Pat Horsfall on their first edition and a sincere wish that they will carry a good tradition forward. *Jim Reynolds*

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

CCTV to you and me, it's one of the standard ways of keeping an eye on places and people to make sure all is well. We have CCTV on the High Street, but to put it bluntly, it is not very good. Much more blunt words come to mind.

The Parish Council are aware of the problem and some hard

work by clerk Matt Sheehan and members of the Crime Reduction Group has raised finance and found a far better way of keeping a record of what happens around town.

We will see the result on the streets in the near future, with nine new cameras installed, drawing power from the street lights so that we keep control of that cost. Details like where the control centre will be located are still to be sorted, and there will be a call for volunteers to train in checking the cameras and advising the police if there is an incident.

More details when things are more settled, but this is another step forward in a programme of developing crime prevention in the absence of the police cover we once enjoyed.

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

For our May meeting we were pleased to visit Landscape Plants on the Bridgnorth Road.

Founders Jenny and Paul Underhill, made us all very welcome and took us on a very interesting tour of their nursery.

They have a wonderful selection of trees, plants and shrubs which they supply to landscaping contractors, however, they are also open to

the general public Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 4.00pm. We all agreed that it was a pleasure to visit and were inspired by the many varieties available to purchase. If you are looking for something special for your garden you may just find it in this lovely nursery.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th June when Laura Jayne, a creative jewellery maker, will be inspiring us to make our own bangle to take home. There will be a £5 charge for visitors for this meeting to cover the cost of materials.

Julie Hobin

SOROPTIMISTS' GARDEN PARTY

To mark the Queen's 90th Official Birthday we are holding a fundraising Afternoon Garden Party on June 3rd at 69, St. John's Ave, Kidderminster, 2.0 til 4.30 pm Admission £1.00 Refreshments £1.50. Profits in aid of Soroptimist International's Meru Women's Garden Project which supports some of the poorest women-led households in Kenya. Details: Chris Holloway on 01299 402545.



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At Severn Edge Vets Ltd we pride ourselves on continually investing into our facilities, our branches, and being up to date with the latest treatments, for instance a recent addition for female dogs is [key hole neutering](#), a modern approach to spaying which results in less pain, lower risk & faster recovery. Our vet, Daniel Nicholls, talks more here about the method and the extraordinary benefits it can bring to the recovery process of your pet

Key-hole (Laparoscopic) surgery is something that was barely on my radar at university. It was always something that was discussed as possible but not really normal practice. So, when I started at Severn Edge, key-hole surgery wasn't something I had seen much of or have much experience with. It's only since being here I have seen an array of operations that have been done using key-hole methods. My eyes have most definitely been opened to the possibilities.

Key-hole surgery isn't something new in human medicine but it's only in the last decade or so that it has emerged in the veterinary world. It can be used for a variety of operations that were previously done by more invasive methods, often opening the animal up (laparotomy) in the traditional method giving you total access to the abdomen.

Why bother with this new stuff? Well the benefits are mainly seen in the recovery of the animal post operation. Having abdominal surgery for example is a very painful experience and although we try our best to alleviate that pain using medications, often the discomfort from the surgery is there regardless. Key-hole surgery means that instead of a large hole required to access the cavity, a couple of small holes are

used instead. This means there is a lot less trauma to the skin and muscle layers so therefore much less pain and less time needing to be rested. This all means your animal gets back to normal life quicker than ever before.

There are variety of situations and surgical procedures that key-hole is suitable for. At the moment the routine surgery we are doing at Severn Edge is a keyhole ovariectomy (spay). However, we are now using the technique more and more for other things such as taking liver biopsies for patients with liver disease that needs investigating and removing retained testicles (cryptorchid) in male dogs.

In my time seeing and performing key-hole operations, I have already seen the dramatic improvement in recovery times and pain experienced post operatively. I am excited to see what we can use the technique for next, so that we can constantly progress and improve our patient's quality of care.

Dr Dan Nicholls BVMedSci, BMV, BVS, MRVCS



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The Friends are working well with the Cleobury Country staff who have been trained in the business of running our library. That does not make any of them qualified librarians but they are there to help with enquiries and book borrowing, and do show a very positive attitude to some of the ideas we put forward.

The first of these is the establishment of a Local Authors section, which will mean one shelf at this early stage, but we hope it will grow as we try to help local writers publicise and maybe sell their books. It's a simple idea: we write a review of a book and the author donates a copy to the library for you to read and see for yourself how appealing the work is.

The first book is Neil Burns' "Haunted by Neil Armstrong", from JocknDoris Publishers. Neil lives in Kinlet and this is the third book in a series that

reflect his belief in ghosts. Meet him and you realise that he's a down-to-earth mature man with a twinkle in his eye and a good way of telling a tale, so if he's seen a ghost or two, who's going to argue with him?

This book is built around his early career as a chartered accountant and travelling around the world for his company, including a stop in America and playing in a team golf tournament that they won. The others in the team were military men, one called Neil. But Neil Burns had to leave next day, so didn't take up the prize, which was a round of golf at the fabulous Mauna Kea.

In August 2012 Neil Armstrong died and Neil Burns was getting messages to go back to America and take up that prize round he'd missed long ago. He packed his bags and went, where he says he met the ghost of Neil Armstrong, who admitted that the 1969 moon landing was in fact a hoax. Believe it or not, it makes an intriguing tale that he tells with modesty and a lot of amusing asides. Pick up his book in the library and decide for yourself.

Another project at a very early stage is putting on a

display of some of the Simon Evans memorabilia which the special weekend we had last year produced. We have to talk to the owners, not all of whom will want to lend what can be very precious mementoes to them, but we will do our best and keep you posted on progress in a later Clarion.

HISTORIC PARISH RECORDS AVAILABLE

Cleobury Parish Council have bought copies of John Barnes's careful detailing of local Parish Council records around the turn of the last century. Now in the town library are the records for Cleobury itself and surrounding parishes, some 18 books in all.

You will also find single parish records in churches in Neen Sollars, Hopton Wafers and Doddington.

As John himself modestly puts it: "They should be quite a valuable resource for anyone researching their family history."

All there, carefully recorded, for you to examine free of charge. Some seven years of John's work, all done as an intellectual exercise and for the benefit of local people.






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THANK YOU

Cleobury Mortimer and District First Responders would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all the residents of St. Mary's Place for their kind donation of £52.00. At the same time we had an extremely generous donation from one person of £400.00.

This will help to run our scheme car and purchase kit needed. As you might all know, we are self-funded with no salary at all, purely volunteers helping communities in their 999 calls for help.

And to all the who donated, giving us a total of £582.00 on our giving page thank you too for your support.

Liz Vanegas

CONGRATULATIONS

To Don and Brenda Weaver, who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. That's for no less than 60 years of marriage.

They gathered with friends and family at the Fountain Inn in Tenbury Wells, where a good time was had by all and a very impressive £300 was raised for the Severn Hospice. Nice way to mark such a great family landmark.

CARERS' GARDEN PARTY

The CM Carers' Support Group will be celebrating National Carers' Week with a garden party and full afternoon tea. It's something they do every year and a very friendly gathering it is, one of those gentle occasions with little noise and many smiles.

It will be on Tuesday the 7th of this month, at Janet and Chris Manley's home, No 2 Tenbury Road. It starts at 3.00, finishes at 5.00 and local carers and their friends will be made very welcome. Admission is free, a donation towards the cost of the tea would be appreciated and you can buy a ticket or two in the Bottle Raffle or purchase a little treat from the cake and produce stall.

If you are tempted to attend, please let Janet on CM 272841 or Wendy on CM 270562 know, so that they can cater for the right numbers.

LEWIS FASHION SHOW

There's a special Fashion Show for the local Trust Lewis charity on June 26th. It's at M and Co in Lombard Street, Stourport, starting at 3.00 and admission

is £5.00 a head. Manager Heather Whitehouse will be acting as Mistress of Ceremonies and there'll be a chance to buy what you see at a special price.

More details from Rachael, on 01299 841032 or 07715030510

AND A VERY SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE

Neen Savage Parish Church is hosting a Pets Service on Sunday the 12th of this month. It starts at 11.00, all pets are welcome and there is room in the churchyard if your pride and joy gets restive in company.

Such a lovely idea, that must encourage children to give their pets proper loving care.

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

Julie Bishop sent us this touching poem, spotted in the Severn Hospice Shop:

Learn to make the most of life,
lose no happy day.
Life will never give you back
chances swept away.
Leave no tender word unsaid,
love while life shall last.
For the mill can never grind
with water that is past.

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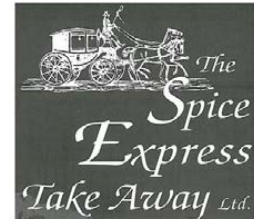
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**FAREWELL AND
THANK YOU, TOM**

Tom Cartwright is retiring at the end of this month and a business that has left its craftsman’s mark on the local area will close down. It’s a sad loss for the town and surrounding villages.

Tom and Mavis moved into Cleobury in the 1970s, taking on a small cottage in Lower Street that has grown into a sizeable house with the quality of work and fittings for which he became famous. They were both a vital part of the Cleobury Players until Mavis’s sad death, since when Tom has been a producer, set builder, lighting technician, you name it and he could do it.

His building work was renowned for its quality, and when he built John and Valerie Cope’s retirement cottage, John was amazed to see the oak beam over the fireplace being shaped with an adze. Not a common tool on building sites today, it’s an ancient chopping tool that needs a very skilled and careful pair of hands to get good results. Tom could do that.

He was the man you turned to when there was an emergency, when he’d turn up promptly and quick sum up what had to be done and got it sorted with no panic or shouting. I saw this

at work when my wife was in hospital and due home the next day. But we woke up to the mess of a drains backwash and the garden flooded with unspeakable stuff. A call to the hospital delayed the return, Tom’s crew were here soon after 8.00 to get the blockage cleared and the place cleaned and disinfected.

Tom admits to being in his 70s and slowing down a little. He has earned the right to do that and to start a new, less urgent life in Wales. Happy days, Tom, and thank you for so much.

**THE SEVERN
HOSPICE SHOP**

Firstly a big thank you to everyone in Cleobury Mortimer and the surrounding area for the donations we are receiving. The donations are of such high quality the shop is looking lovely and raising lots of funds for our Hospice. We are now taking electrical items that are in good condition and working order. A big ‘Thank You’ to John Sant for donating a PAT tester to the Hospice and his son Ian for training volunteers to do the testing. Sales of electrical items are going very well and adding to the variety of items sold in the shop.

Last month the Hospice held an event for volunteers who had worked at the shop for five years. Congratulation to Ralph Walker, Jane Brown, Catherine Evans and Joyce Manning, a marvellous achievement. Well done.

Finally please note that we have changed our telephone number, the new one is 01299 272795.

Gayna Woodland

**LOWER STREET
GARAGE**

The Lower Street Garage premises, that have stood empty since Martin Smith ceased trading there, have been leased to the crew from Cleobury Garage, currently working out of cramped access at 15B High Street. They’ve done a great job, including showing hesitant customers how to reverse up that narrow approach road, and have earned an easier place to operate from.

No opening date known yet, as they are sorting the new location out and we believe installing a new MoT testing station. But they’ll have more room to work, plus a showroom and much easier parking. And a lot of people will be glad to see those premises back offering a good servicing package. We wish them all the best.



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Page 27

On 23rd June the British people will decide whether Britain remains or leaves the European Union. The campaign has dominated the political scene for months, as this is an historic choice for our country. Even those wearied by the claims and counter-claims of each side should reflect that the referendum will be a positive day for our democracy, the people rather than politicians having the final say on our future in Europe.

I encourage all constituents to register to vote 7th June deadline at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Whatever the outcome, a high turnout will settle our relationship with the EU for generations. Our children and grandchildren will be most affected by this decision. Many know how they will vote, evident from the public meetings I have attended so far; many others have yet to make up their mind. I have been asked why I believe that the stronger, safer option for Britain and the Ludlow Constituency, is to remain within the Union. Some readers may have seen my thoughts on this topic before, but given the significance of the vote, I write again with my reasons for supporting Remain.

There are many elements of the EU that can be improved. But the risks of leaving, known and unknown, offer a far from perfect scenario for Britain's future. My decision came down to a judgement call, based on my own experience.

Last month, two Ludlow Constituency businesses were recognised with Queen's Awards for Enterprise due to their thriving exports. (See Page 13 - Ed.) Access to the single market is vital to enable UK businesses to export, creating more jobs. Our economy and the jobs that go with it, depend on trade, and the EU is our largest

trading partner. So we will need to negotiate access to the EU if we vote to Leave. There is no evidence that this will be on as good terms as we enjoy now. France and Germany have indicated that it will not. A vote to Leave would be a leap into the dark, undermining jobs here.

I have visited many countries and companies around the world. There is a consistent message – they all want Britain to remain within the EU. They see us as the gateway to the single market, and invest here because of it. This creates jobs, and brings in revenue to pay for public services. As a Defence Minister I have insight into the role the EU plays in our security. NATO remains the cornerstone of defence, but the EU is increasingly important in complementing our security. Britain in EU provides an effective buffer, with an enduring veto against creation of an 'EU Army'. If we leave, this would risk duplicating NATO structures, undermining its effectiveness.

Shropshire's economy is deeply affected by the health of farming – 86% of the land area supports agriculture. Leaving the EU would risk the future of farm subsidies and European export markets, potentially this vital local industry. The National Farmers Union recently decided to support Remain, as did a clear majority of the farmers who attended the local branch NFU meeting I addressed in April.

But this decision will be made by the British public and my vote will count the same as any other. I encourage all residents in the Ludlow Constituency to use their vote and have their say in this referendum.

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This is not a classroom venture, it will happen in her Bitterly kitchen, with a maximum of four people in each four-week course. A different Spanish dish each week, then the students sample the dish and take home ready prepared

notes to try it for themselves. The language part will be offered in explaining the names of the main ingredients and what you might ask for when shopping in a Spanish market. Next week another dish, as you build up your repertoire. If you like the four week experience, you can sign up for another, adding to language and cooking skills for as long as you like.

The appeal of this approach is enjoying the food and company as you learn week by week. Doing that in a small group in someone's home makes it even better. You can contact Clare at 01746 860887, mobile 07870 671992, or look in at www.spanishfoodclub.co.uk

THE WINE WALK

The evening of Friday the 17th of this month sees the annual Parish Wine Walk. Mature and sober ladies and gentlemen take glasses of wine at a range of stations around the town, as they take in some of the lovely sights Clebury Mortimer provides.

If you should see some town or church notable stagger slightly as they progress, it is entirely the state of the pavements in this age of austerity and nothing at all to do

with wine. Thought you should know that. JR

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY TEA PARTY

Not the big do on The Mall, this is the local affair on June 12th, around the Market Hall and Parish Church. Starts at 3.00, with a brass band in attendance, so a pretty posh event. Tickets are £4.00 a head, or £12 for a family, from Sarah Wilde on CM 272628.

THANK YOU

There was a street collection for MacMillan Cancer Support on May's Market Day, which produced a grand total of £197.10 for one of the most deserving causes.

The editor volunteered to do an hour with the bucket and as usual the people responded with smiles and warmth for the charity. It's not a hardship to chat to people, thank them for their support and simply say that you hope they'll never have to call upon the service.

The volunteers are a happy bunch and enjoy a joke, though that may not have been the case if it was raining. Organiser Sue Henderson would like to thank everybody who helped.



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BIG TIME BEER



Not the usual faces behind the bar at the KA. Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi of Status Quo try the new brew that carries their name.

Photo: Danny Clifford.

Hobson's moves into the big time with the news that they are brewing a special beer for no less a band than Status Quo. Known as 'Dog of Two Head' it will be sold through the Spar chain. Launched at the same time was 'Down Down' Cider from the Celtic Marches company.

Apparently the band have been involved with the brewing process, working with the team at Hobson's Tenbury Road premises and even spending a day picking apples for the cider. 'Dog of Two Head' is a chestnut amber traditional ale, made with a British malting barley and a blend of Fuggles,

Challenger, Goldings and Progress hops. A really British product, rather like the lads from Quo.

BEGINNERS' RUNNING COURSE

The fitness thing is certainly catching on around here. Cleobury Mortimer Running Club have an eight-week course for beginners, starting on Tuesday the 7th this month. It's based at the Sports Hall in Love Lane and will cover the techniques for warm ups, strength and conditioning exercises and stretching.

The cost is £18 and that includes membership of the Club. More information at run@runcleobury.org or look them up on Facebook. Jo Watson is the lady to talk to on 07811 443 438.

LUDLOW DOG DAY

The Rotary Club of Ludlow is organising its 3rd Annual Dog Day at Stokesay Court (just off the A49 about 6 miles north of Ludlow) on July 24th. Gates open at 10.00am and the events and competitions run from 11.00 until 5.00. This is a FUN

day out for all dogs and their owners.

Last year one of the main sponsors was Hobson's Brewery who produced a beer called "Hair of the Dog" especially for the event. It was sold in draught on the day.

This year Hobson's are again a main sponsor and producing this beer, but this time it will be in bottled form to be sold not only at the event but also through another main sponsor, Tuffin's Supermarkets. They have also kindly agreed that a proportion of the profit from sales will be handed to Ludlow Rotary Club to be passed on to the Charities being supported.

Last year the Club raised just under £20,000 and distributed this to over 15 local Charities. Do make a note in your diaries and for more information on all that is taking place see www.ludlowdogday.co.uk

WISE OLD WORDS

Seat belts are not as confining as a wheelchair.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.



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The June Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 1st	10.00am	Walking for Health starts from the Sports Centre		
	7.30pm	The History Society meets at Neen Savage Village Hall.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Fri 3rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS/RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Queen's 90th is celebrated with a garden party at 69 St. John's Avenue, Kidderminster.	Chris Holloway	01299 402 545
Sat 4th	8.00am	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890 644
Tue 7th	3.00pm	Carers' Support Group garden party at; 2 Tenbury Road. Free Admission. PAGE 23	Jane Manley	01299 272 841
Wed 8th	10.00am	CoCo Coffee morning at the Market Hall. Tea or coffee and a slice of cake for just £1.50		
	11.00am	Sing, Laugh and Breathe at the Market Hall. Fun!	Kate Jones	01584 890 284
	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I meet in the Village Hall. Jewellery maker Laura Jayne will lead in the creation of Bangles.		
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 270 793
Thu 9th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS COLLECTED AND EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 10th	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St. Mary Village Hall.		
Sun 12th	12.00pm	Bring and Share Lunch in Bayton Village Hall		
	3.00pm	Queen's Birthday Tea Party around the Market Hall and Parish Church complete with Brass Band. Tickets £4.	Sarah	01299 272 628
Tue 14th	7.30pm	Cleobury W.I. meets in the Market Hall to hear Helen Bootton talk about Sugarcraft.		
Wed 15th	10.00am	Walking for Health, starting again from the Sports Centre.		
	7.30pm	The History Society meet at Neen Savage Village Hall.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thu 16th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS/RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 17th		It's the Friends' of St. Mary's Wine Walk, a convivial evening with alcohol and goodwill.		

SOME LATE DATES TO ADD TO THE LIST

Tuesday 7th: Beginners' Running Course at the Sports Centre. PAGE 33

Monday 20th: 7.30 Reading Group meets at The Library, Live Lane. PAGE 43

Sunday 26th 3.00 Trust Lewis Fashion Show, M & Co, Stourport PAGE 23



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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Sat 18th	9.30am	Cleobury Country Farmers' Market, in the Parish and Market Hall.		
	10.00am	Ravishing Ragwork workshop at Uncles Farm, Bewdley.		
	7.30pm	'Flicks in the Sticks' at the Parish hall features the award winning 'Lad'.		
Sun 19th	10.00am	Ravishing Ragwork workshop at Uncles Farm, Wyre Forest. PAGE 13		
Wed 22nd	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	7.30pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall for the annual Rose and Sweet Pea Show.	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
Thu 23rd		Polling Day for the important matter of Remaining In or Leaving the European Union. Please use your vote and help decide an important phase of the country's history.		
		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 24th	7.30pm	Shore to Shore Poetry Evening at The Theatre on the Steps in Brignotter, starrin Carol Ann Duffy		PAGE 5
	7.30pm	Big Charity Party at the Sports and Social Club in aid of The Haven Centre for Breast Cancer Support.		PAGE 5
	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun 26th	12.00pm	FreeParty in the Park at Palmer's Meadow, Tenbury Wells.		PAGE 13
Thu 30th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		Royal British Legion coach trip to Bath. Tickets £12.00.	Dr Mark Baldwin	CM 270110
And Looking Forward to July				
Sat 2nd	2.00pm	Pensax Church Fayre is in Clows Top Victory Hall.		PAGE 7
Wed 6th	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 7th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

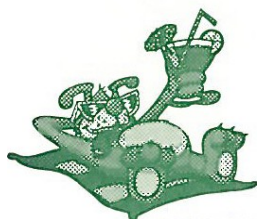
THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES CONTINUE.....

Thursday 9th: 7.30 'The Workhouse in Cleobury Mortimer' takes a close loom at the place where the poor were accommodated in much harder days than today. Free admission, donations to charity appreciated. In the Parish Church.

Thursday 30th: 7.30 'On the Trail of the Mortimers' reveals the history of the family that gave the town its name. Again, free admission with donations to charity appreciated. In the Parish Church.

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Paul French and Toby Kirkby are new faces on the Parish Council, each of them making their mark with effective work. We talked to them about their motivation, vision of the future and asked if they enjoy the job.



Paul French Toby Kirkby

They both come from families with an active community background. Toby's mother is a Chamberlain, with Birmingham Lord Mayor Joseph and British Prime Minister Neville in the family tree; public service is almost an inbred habit with him.

Paul French's mother was born in London's East End and worked her way up to become a very active District Councillor. So the habit's in his blood as well.

Toby came to Cleobury as a child, his father the maintenance engineer at what is now the Pioneer Centre. The man himself has done a variety of jobs, including training as a cabinet maker before, as he puts it "I decided I wanted to do something more than work for the gold watch." He and a partner started Hope Farm in Derby, where they dealt with young offenders referred to them by Social Services or the church. From there he went back into industry and developed the first electrically operated loft ladder; it's still in production, which tells you how good it is. Today he's self employed as a Health and Safety assessor, which means fairly flexible working hours and availability for council work.

Paul has lived in the town for close to 30 years and recently retired from the steel industry after 39 years. He's seen some changes, starting out with British Steel, which became Corus and then Tata before the recent morphing back to British Steel.

Both of them were co-opted to the council when vacancies appeared, going through quite a demanding interview. They both offered their services as a way of putting something back into the community, Paul after he'd worked on the Parish Plan and wanted to be more involved. "One of the best decisions of my adult life, you definitely get out what you put in," he says. Toby could see the need for a businesslike approach and change: "I'm trying to wheedle out the hobby approach," as he puts it.

They both recognise that this is no easy picnic they've taken on, as the town's own council takes on more responsibilities. Paul: "We're going to have to pedal harder to keep up progress next year, and more so later." Toby: "With the demands that will come we've got to hit the ground running if we want to keep up. I'm up for it."

Is this all about the cutbacks we are seeing at all levels, with less money available from the County as they get less from central government? "Yes. We've no clear idea of what's coming," explains Paul. "But we do know we're going to get less."

It's to their credit that neither of them sees this as a reason to get out of a hot seat that is clearly not going to get cooler.

"We could do it," states Toby. "We're managing the cutting of the grass now, why not mend the roads?" He describes the tortuous process of mending a pothole he recently watched, with four men doing one process and then

standing back while another handled the next stage. His logic is that one well motivated and trained man could do the lot.

He cites the working example of Roger Potter, recruited because of his experience and on the spot when needed. "Look at the way he looks after the cemetery and other areas," says Toby. "Does it promptly, at a lower cost for a better job. We should be looking at doing more town maintenance and training people for the long term." Paul agrees: "There are always people out there who want a job." It's good logic - keep jobs local and don't bring in expensive contractors.

They've both seen progress in the way the town is run, the SmartWater and We Don't Buy Crime campaign a good example of what can be done. Toby is overseeing the scheme to instal proper CCTV in the town - at a much lower cost than the current inadequate and expensive service. Paul grasped the nettle of the town's Christmas lights that impressed so many last December, with more efficiencies to come. These two don't just sit and talk, they get out there and get it done.

So who impresses them in their work? Council clerk Matt Sheehan was the obvious choice of them both, so who else would they pick out? Toby: "Paul for his communication and chairman Sean for bringing business knowledge to the job." Paul: "The way the chair and vice chair back each other, even if they don't always agree."

Such optimism is a good sign from two men with experience and intelligence to offer, both of them willing to give time and effort for other people. It's what makes this place work so well.

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On The Buses

Steve Todd

The Ludlow roadworks appear to have finished – at least there do not seem to have been any more problems in that area. We risked a trip into Ludlow the other day and were on time both ways although the tortured sounds coming from the gearbox climbing Hopton Bank on the way there made us wonder whether we might end up pushing. One of the new timetable holders on the bus stops in Cleobury has vanished and the other is empty so that went well.... Our stocks of timetables are also running low and I have been offered more but in the past such offers haven't resulted in any deliveries.

Regular breakdowns continue to be a feature of the route. One pupil hoping to get to Ludlow College spent two and a half hours on the top of Clee Hill which wouldn't be too bad if you didn't have to get anywhere and it was a nice day so you could savour the view. As this isn't normally the situation, it's just inconvenient. There are also tales of groups of passengers standing by the roadside on Long Bank awaiting rescue. Some friends were recently returning from a holiday abroad and said they only realised they were truly back home when they were coming through Blakedown and spotted a Diamond bus broken down....

More drama in Kidderminster as a Diamond bus (not a 2L apparently) was seen somewhat crumpled in the middle of the road with an ambulance and Police cars in attendance. Apparently it had hit the back of a taxi carrying a woman and two children. The taxi driver was taken to hospital and the passengers treated at the scene for minor injuries. Diamond are 'investigating' apparently. And as I was writing this column, news reached me of yet another Diamond bus broken down in the middle of the road by Kiddy Hospital causing traffic chaos. Still,

at least medical help would be close at hand for any stress related illness which resulted.

Coming back through the blind bends as you climb out of Hopton at about 8.30 the other evening, I was confronted with an expired Diamond bus just around one of them. The driver had put a cone out just behind the vehicle but it would have been better on the approach to the bend. I don't know if anyone finished up stuffed in the back of the bus but I wouldn't be surprised. Another bus hit a tree and the kerb between Habberley and Bewdley and carried some of the foliage onwards along the route. I wonder whether it was charged for the journey.

Some of the drivers' skills do leave something to be desired. One individual who shall remain nameless, but who has been christened 'Rick Wakeman' by some younger users due to his hairstyle being similar to that sported by the keyboard legend, is notorious for his heavy handed and erratic manipulation of the controls. This may be partly due to the worn out nature of the vehicles but most of the other drivers seem to cope so it may just be down to a lack of mechanical sympathy. I remember when being taught to fly a plane, the instructor emphasised that all controls should be used gently and that the control column should just be held between finger and thumb 'like when you have a wee'. Not sure what he told the lady pupils...

However, there is some news on the Shropshire Council invitation to run a direct Ludlow to Kidderminster bus service. No company has responded to the initial limited tender invitation for this service so the scope is now being widened to include other possible applicants. More news on this when it is known, but at least things are now moving.

Steve Todd

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A VERY SPECIAL MUSIC LESSON



The Ludford Duo, Ian and Janet, with very enthusiastic Lacon Childe pupils.

In May, Lacon Childe pupils were treated to a recital and workshops with local professional cellists Ian and Janet Ludford. Year 7 and 8 student musicians took part in a workshop with Mr. and Mrs. Ludford during which they learnt about performing in orchestras, responding to each other artistically and the importance of listening during their performance. Each year group separately composed a Romantic-style tone poem based

on works of art, nature and emotional impressions.

In the afternoon, the students were treated to a performance of a selection of classical, modern and popular music that really grabbed their attention. Ian and Janet then answered questions about life as a professional musician. Dan Craig, music teacher, said "It was a delight that the students got so much out of today's workshops. It is important for them to see what options are available to them in music and the performing arts. The Ludfords were able to provide a window into the world of professional classical music."

Ian Ludford is approaching retirement from full time work with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, while Janet is already operating as a freelance player. They were both impressed by their reception, from cellists to guitarists, enthusiastic musicians all appreciating one another's skills.

THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES

The lecture series got off to a good start on May 19th, with an

animated and fascinating talk by Peter Sutton on William Langland and the Vision of Piers Plowman. The audience, who had braved a wet Thursday, was enthralled.

The next two lectures are on June 9th: 'The Workhouse at Cleobury Mortimer' and June 30th: 'On the Trail of the Mortimers.'

Put the dates in your diary, go along and learn about the story of Cleobury Mortimer and at the same time, support the St Mary's Youth Project. History making a contribution to the future.

Robert Hodge

AT THE CENTRE

Cleobury Country Centre does keep a good flow of training courses coming, to help develop people's skills. This month they have Food Hygiene Level 2 on the 13th and Emergency First Aid at Work on the 20th. Plus lots of courses on Health and Safety, which may make you groan when it's used as an excuse for banning things, but in fact is just encouraging the use of common sense to keep people safe at work. And the Business Networking meetings every month are a good place to meet and greet and exchange cards.

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June In The Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

By now most of the Wyre Forest butterflies will be on the wing. The 'cabbage white' you saw in the garden may be more interesting than you suppose. It will actually be a Small White or Large White, but if you saw it at a flowery road verge it would be more likely to be a female Orange Tip and only if you were really lucky and saw your butterfly along a woodland ride would it be a Wood White.



The commonest butterfly in the fields of Uncllys is the Meadow Brown (pictured) – each brown fore wing with one orange-circled eye spot, unlike the two eye spots on both fore and hind wings of the Ringlet. The Meadow Brown loves open grassland and woodland rides, and is one of the species you will be able to see along the Elan Valley pipeline which crosses the forest. The disused railway line is another good spot to see butterflies and other nectar-loving insects.

Meanwhile I found this in the Readers Digest Field Guide to Butterflies, "The word butterfly was probably first used to describe the butter-coloured Brimstone. It is a common species and is

probably the first and last butterfly seen each year, as it can be in flight from February to November. 'Butterfly' eventually came to include all species and Brimstone acquired its present name which relates to the colour of sulphur." In fact you probably won't see this butterfly in June as the individuals which hibernated will have reproduced and died, and the young will only reach adulthood in late July.

If you have some young *Homo sapiens* in your care then you may like to bring them along to **Toddler WildPlay** at the Forestry Commission's Callow Hill centre on the first Wednesday of the month (1st June) from 10am to 11.30am or Fridays both in the morning and afternoon. 'Breath of fresh air' run these sessions for pre-school children and their carers, and promise to include plenty of fun in the woods as well as a warm drink and snack. During school holidays there may be longer sessions to include a camp fire, and older siblings will be welcome. Contact Sarah Tawse for more information via www.abreathoffreshair.education/whats-on-in-the-wyre

And of course, you know what happens on 23rd June, don't you? As nature lovers I hope your referendum vote will take account of the impetus that the EU gives to pollution control, carbon reduction and wildlife conservation. Farmers and other land managers get a lot of help from EU to help wildlife and look after the beauty of the landscape: in our case that includes replanting orchards, maintaining wildflower meadows by grazing and running educational events and training in countryside management skills.

Linda Iles



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THE READING GROUP

"Narrow Road to the Deep North" by Richard Flanagan, is a novel set in Australia, Japan and on the Burma Death Railway. It is an examination of what it is to be a good man and a bad man in the one flesh. Starting with his old age, the stages of the life, loves and problems of the main character, Dorrigo Evans are interwoven with other interesting characters. After the fall of Singapore, Dorrigo being a colonel and surgeon, finds himself the acknowledged leader of the Australian prisoners in the POW camp. This section of narrative is appallingly graphic, telling of savagery, death and survival. Though disturbing, it deserves reading as the human spirit shown was amazing. Much research has obviously taken place, in fact the author's father worked on the Burma railway. A segment dedicated to the Japanese guards after the war was interesting and provoked a discussion on the differences in culture. An excellent book, well crafted, well written, harrowing but not too depressing. We would recommend, though possibly not to anyone with experience of that time.

On a brighter note we were delighted to welcome Gay Grant, an author from Maine USA, as a visitor to our group. She has written a book called "Destination Unknown" about a WW2 evacuee from Portsmouth, Hampshire. Gay, who was staying with a group member, kindly presented us with a signed copy of her book for the Cleobury Library. This is at

present being read by Jim Reynolds our Clarion editor, we look forward to reading his review in July. When processed by the library the book will be available to borrow.



Welcome visitor to the Reading Group, Gay Grant, found a warm welcome for her charming smile.

Our next meeting takes place 7.30pm on Monday June 20th at Cleobury Library, our book this month is "Room" by Emma Donoghue.

Deana Kimber 271754

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

June 17th sees the return of the popular Wine Walk, a sociable and friendly evening event. All the host venues are within walking distance of each other. Tickets are limited and will be on sale at our usual outlets, Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library and Spire Hairdressing. Ticket / programme with list of the venues includes four glasses of wine and costs £10.

The recent Scrabble Drive and afternoon tea was enjoyed by all who came to this new event. Three games of Scrabble, each game consisting of four rounds were played with afternoon tea

served after the first two games and before the final was played. The winner was Mr Cruickshank of Bransley Villa.

The novel Scrabble raffle proved to be challenging and was won by Barrie Treeves with a winning score for *DOZEN*.

Question: When is a dozen not a dozen? Answer: When it's 14 (playing Scrabble)

The feedback we received was very complimentary and constructive and will help us to improve on the idea when we have the next Scrabble Drive. The event raised just over £150.

For more details and updates 'Google' Friends of St. Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Alec Osbaldiston

HATS OFF TO CARL

The competition to name your favourite hat, part of the Hobson's advert showing their new Hat Collection range of canned ales in the April Clarion, was won by Carl Munday. He got six cans of each new flavour, lucky chap, and probably had a party to celebrate. As you would.

BRENDA WINS

Brenda Dolphin was the winner of the April Lacon Lottery draw, getting a handy £100 for her £10 investment.

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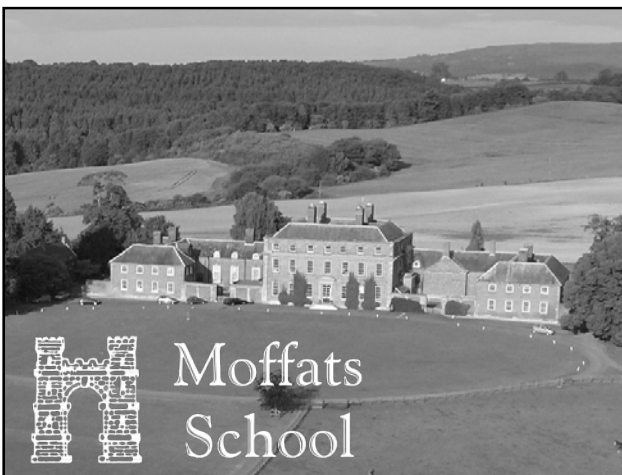
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THE FOUNTAIN FUN RUNNERS

The first preconceived notion fell over when we met in the Sports and Social Club and there were these people in track suits supping their ciders and lagers. Then they explained they'd just had a short run of about four miles and felt thirsty; as you would. They do this for fun, and the regular Thursday night run ends at the Club and gets sociable. So none of that deadly serious stuff here.

I talked to Vicky Hulme, who started running in 2012 "Because I wanted to get fitter and healthier." She's done that with a vengeance and to date has run 40 marathons since her first in June 2014. She aimed to do that before her 40th birthday - she looks ten years younger, so this running is clearly good for you - and plans to do 100. How many miles a week, Vicky? "15 to 20, but it's about 40 if I'm doing another marathon."



Vicky enjoys a drink and chat with Chris Preece.

Chris Preece has been running a long time, starting as part of his training routine for boxing. He was good, rising to be West

Midlands Welterweight champion and runner-up in the wider Midlands contest. Today he finds the social side of running is good - boxing training tends to be a lone effort. His stamina is high, contesting events like the Shropshire Mud Run, which is ten kilometres across wet countryside with assault course obstacles to deal with. His best time to date is 41 very busy minutes.

Sheila Dwerryhouse is the mature presence, persuaded to try running by club mate Ceri Little. Sheila was a very active horsewoman in eventing and racing, still riding for pleasure but also keeping fit enough to run the marathon; that's 26.2 miles. Her time for the distance is about four and a half hours. "Not very good," she says modestly. "But no matter what you're doing, it's better than sitting on the sofa, watching TV."



Dawn Lloyd was running her first half marathon in May, Sheila has done a few. Both smile at the idea.

Dawn Lloyd is the newest recruit to talk. She started running in April last year, on the "Couch to 5KM" scheme that took eight weeks and inspired

her to move on. "It gives you the belief that you can do it," she explained. "I'm doing a half marathon in Chester next week. I went into Kidderminster recently and it suddenly occurred to me that I could run there!"

Charlotte Hewer is super competitive. Played rugby for 14 years, up to Championship One level: "We were five points short of the Premiership in the final game," then swapped to running four years ago. She's done two London Marathons, with best time of 3 hours and 51 minutes, and has tried a half Iron Man competition, moving up to do a full version and another half this year. The full one means a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile cycle ride and the 26.2 marathon run at the end. All within the maximum allowance of 17 hours. And all for fun!



Charlotte Hewer. Full time shift job, cares for two children, runs 25 miles a week. One tough lady.

Anyone wanting to join this happy bunch will be made welcome if you just turn up at the Sports and Social Club at 7.00 on a Thursday evening.

Paul Harding



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BOB COLQUITT

Bob died in May and the packed church at his funeral said it all about the high regard he was held in. Diagnosed with cancer about seven years ago, he was given a year to live. Throughout the illness he remained smiling and cheerful, even when telling you what treatment he was having and the effect it had on him. He was irrepressible, one of the bravest men in the face of illness that I've ever known.

The family moved down from Liverpool in 1970, when Bob took over running the plastics fabrication business based in Shakenhurst. Under his control the place prospered; the Kidderminster branch confirms that.

He was a big hearted man and when the family lived in Tenbury Road their annual party to raise funds for the town Fire Brigade was one of the big events of the year.

But even a man as big as Bob can only fight off cancer for so long. That awful disease finally claimed him and the world is poorer for his passing. All who knew him will join in feeling sympathy for Mary and their family.

CLEOBURY W.I.

Members and friends were invited for the May meeting to visit The Old Forge at Baveney where Jenny Vanderhook demonstrated how to plant a pot and encouraged everyone to plant their own. These many and varied containers will enhance gardens throughout the summer with the addition of water retaining granules and fertiliser.

An outing to the Land of Lost Content museum in Craven Arms for 16 of us also included a ploughman's supper and nostalgia quiz. The next meeting is on June 14th in the Market Hall, when Helen Bootton will be providing 'Hands on Sugarcraft' to which visitors are welcome at 7.30pm. More information on Cleobury Mortimer WI's Facebook page, contact me 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com.

Judy Sant

LADIES IN THE SWIM

Mother and daughter Janet and Charlotte Manley will be taking part in the Great Manchester Swim on July 2nd, both out to raise money for good causes.

Janet will be there for The Cleobury Carers Support Group, of which she's the treasurer. You can hand her cash, post a donation to 2 Tenbury Road, CM DY14 8RB.

Charlotte is supporting our First Responders, who are raising funds to buy a car for their important work. Donate online at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/charlotte-manley>.

Good people, who deserve support.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FETE

The Cleobury Primary School Fete is quite a highlight of the summer season, a happy event that welcomes everyone and raises money to fund summer trips for the children.

It's on Friday the 24th, from 4.30 to 6.30. In the school grounds if it's sunny, in the school itself if it rains. Lots of attractions and a big range of stalls; if you would like to book a place to sell, talk to Helen Rodgers on 07842 417415.

It's organised by the Friends of the School, parents and carers who last year raised close to £5,000 for the benefit of the children.

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

7.30 Saturday June 18th: 'Flicks In The Sticks'

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The Bridge Club continues to meet each Thursday afternoon from 1-45pm, plus we have learning seasons each Tuesday afternoon. Why not come and join us? To book in call Pat Smith

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Many, many years ago I had a girlfriend who liked to wear a lot of perfume. Sadly she didn't have a very sophisticated sense and insisted on buying the cheapest variety that Woolworths had to offer. The result was an odour closer to what you'd find in an air freshener than on an attractive lady. The romance didn't last.

Rhian Gurney knows what I mean. She produces a range of delicate odours under her Magpie Hill Soap title, all hand mixed and made in the kitchen up at Watshill on Clee Hill. It's a skill she learned from her mother and initially she made it just for herself and to share with friends. They liked it so much

they told her she should be selling something this good. And here it is, available at the Farmers' Market every month.

I tried the intriguing Eucalyptus and Spearmint at first. And liked it so much that I bought three bars in May and can tell you that Sandalwood and Cedarwood is just as pleasant. It's not cheap, but goodness me it is good.

She offers nine different scents, all made with essential oils except the Chocolate (!) that comes from cocoa powder. All the colourings are natural and even the water is a good quality - genuine Wenlock Springs. She also offers an extra pure baby soap, which the man on the next stall told me he'd tried and it cleared up his psoriasis. The Honey and Oatmeal uses only Shropshire honey, too.

Rhian is a member of the Guild of Craft Soaps and Toiletries and all her soaps have been tested and passed the European Soap and Cosmetic Suppliers Assessment. Which may sound like another example of bureaucracy invented to make life more complicated, but in fact it makes sure that any soap carrying the label is made to a really high standard. Talk to Rhian about the ingredients that are used in some those soap

dispensers that are so popular and you're in for a bit of a shock. Nothing that you could call dreadful, but in no way sympathetic to the need to avoid pollution of the planet.

Magpie Hill production is limited, about a dozen bars in each batch, which then takes four weeks to cure. It must be a very crowded kitchen up at Watshill on occasions. At this stage it's a hobby that has grown, but when Rhian's youngest child is at school she can see the operation growing. Right now she only does the Cleobury market, but will spread her wings further as the business develops.

She's very particular about the use of materials that are kind to Mother Earth and the packaging is compostable. Ask if she's happy giving so much time and effort to this hobby and her smile breaks out: "I love it! It's so much fun."

She's been working on a website that's up and running this month. Call up www.magpiehillsoap.co.uk and see for yourself.

And she's also on rhian.gurney@yahoo.co.uk, 01584 890326 or mobile 07876 710 838.

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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

For our May meeting, Jane Randell-Smith, from Healthwatch Shropshire gave us a talk. Healthwatch is a national organisation, developed following the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

They are an independent, charitable organisation, which aims to give us an opportunity to voice our opinion on the care we receive. They would like all of us to contact them with our views and experiences, good and bad. They use these to influence the commissioning and development of local health and social services.

HS is also for individuals who have experienced problems with care. They can help the individual complain to the service, acting as their advocate. CPV has agreed to liaise with HS. We receive feedback from patients, which we address working with the individual and our Medical Centre. We have agreed to feedback anonymised information so it can be entered into a wider community. We already work with the Shropshire Patient Group.

If you wish to find out more about this service, there are

leaflets in the reception of our Medical Centre or contact Healthwatch Shropshire direct : Telephone: 01743 237884, E:enquiries@healthwatchshrops-hire.co.uk; www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk, or Freepost H E A L T H W A T C H SHROPSHIRE

Cleobury Patients' Voice meet on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6.30pm in Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre and welcome new members. If you wish to attend just come along to a meeting. If you have any concerns or comments about the care you receive we would be interested to hear. All information is confidential.

You can find out more about Cleobury Patients Voice by T: 01299 407224 (dedicated answerphone answered weekly) E:cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk

W: www.cleobury-patients-voice.co.uk

Facebook: Cleobury Patients' Voice Cpv

THE CLEOBURY CHRONICLES

Volume 12 of this fascinating series is now available, having grown to an impressive 114 pages. Amongst the contents are Nail Making in Cleobury and

District, The Battle in which Leofgar was killed, 17th century boundary disputes with Bewdley and Ribbesford, Crime and Punishment in South Shropshire 1786-1898, the Hyde family of Hopton Wafers, the Cleobury coach builders, census data snippets 1841 1911, Cleanly Seat - the house with a curious name and the execution of William Handley and appeals for clemency.

Plenty of local interest and probably a fair measure of gore in there. Copies available from the History Society at <http://cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk/cc12/>

STOTTESDON OPEN GARDENS

Gardens in Stottesdon and Chorley will be open to the public again on July 2nd and 3rd, as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Loads to see, a huge variety including a new addition developed by wheelchair users.

Open from 11.00 to 5.00 it's a good place to spend the day, with fine pubs in both villages and refreshments, plants and produce on sale. A programme giving you access costs £5.00, children are free and there's a 'Not-A-Pot' contest for you to help judge. Recommended.

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MATT RIDES FOR MARIE CURE

Matt Yarranton has got a very busy month coming up in July. On the 15th he'll be at a Quiz Night at the Sports and Social Club, raising funds for Marie Cure End of Life Care. Then comes the serious stuff.

On the 21st he and friend Trigger will be among 50 cyclists leaving London and pedalling the 60 miles to Newhaven in Sussex, on the first stage of a ride to Paris. Next day they'll ride 54 miles through the hills of northern France to Gournay en Bray for an overnight stop and finally they'll ride 66 miles to reach the mighty Eiffel Tower.

There will be cars and vans in support of the party, including mechanics to deal with any bike problem and doctors for the human side. Matt will be on a 22-speed Cannondale he bought for the occasion and has been out on most days, building up his stamina. At weekends he's building up to 70 miles a day, which on Shropshire's hilly roads should get him more than fit to tackle what lies ahead. His personal target is to raise £1600 for the charity, and as a veteran of the

London Marathon he has a good idea of what he can do.



Matt and Cannondale. Have bike, will travel a long way.

The party will have two days to look around Paris, including a chance to watch the final race to the flag in the Tour de France. After that, it's all back home to recover and think about the next fund raising drive.

You can sponsor Matt and his mate Trigger with your plastic card and a look-in at: <https://www.justgiving.com/Matt> or the same address but with Trigger on the end. Simple.

RUNNING FOR THE RESPONDERS

The Fountain Fun Runners, featured on Page 45, are sending a team of 15 south on July 23rd to contest the Cotswold 24 Hour Relay Race.

Apart from the competition element, they're planning to raise money for Cleobury's First Responders. The Responders have recently bought an ambulance to help them get to emergencies with less delay and need some extra funds to cover running costs like fuel bills, insurance and service costs. They'd also like a navigation device similar to those used by other emergency services, to pinpoint just where they are needed. A vital tool in a thinly populated rural area like this.

You can help the Responders by sponsoring a runner. You can send a cheque payable to Cleobury Mortimer and District CFRs to Sheila Dwerryhouse at The Glasshouse, Hopton Bank, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 0QH or do it online with your card and typing <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/cleoburymortimerfirstresponse> into your computer.

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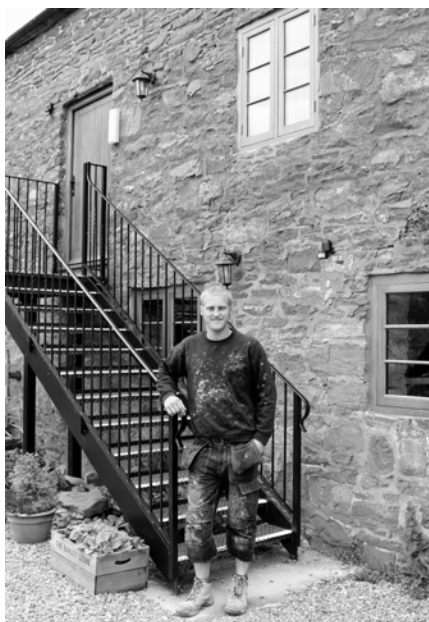
3 0 H i g h S t *Jill Sharp*

SRP,MCSP,BSc(Hons)

Building work is in Chris Stokes' blood. His granddad and dad both worked in the business and when Chris left Lacon Childe School one of the first things he did was a bricklaying course. A sure sign that he knew what he wanted to do and was going to succeed in it.

He's been self employed for at least ten years, building up a reputation for a job well done, most of his work coming through repeat jobs and customer recommendations. His advert says Roofing and Building, but there's very little that he can't do and do well. "I don't touch electrics or plumbing," he explains. Those specialist areas he hands over to known and trusted local people.

It's a measure of his standards that he gets a lot of work putting right what others have done badly. And the cowboys don't always do the job on the cheap; he can tell of one character who took a £30,000 deposit to build an extension that the building inspector said had to come down and start again. The man hasn't been back to attend to the matter yet. "They could have come to me. I'd have given them a price for the job and done it properly from the start," he says with a shrug.



Chris outside what was the partly burned shell of an old

\ malt house. Today it's two lovely holiday flats and ground floor storage.

He employs two men full time and calls in others as work builds up. Dad is available and keeps his hand in when Chris needs his skills, and there are two uncles who add to the family atmosphere when necessary. The strength of this line-up is that he knows every man working on a scheme, and can trust them to do the job right.

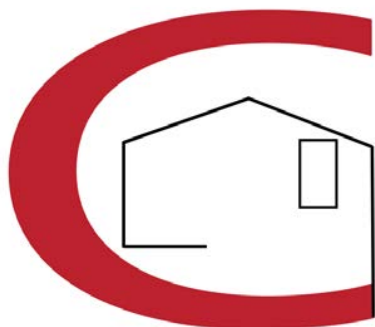
His work is concentrated in the South Shropshire area, with lots of it coming from Craven

Arms. But with his reputation for quality jobs he does get to travel quite a bit. Like installing prebuilt pods for an Oswestry company in London. These are assembled and trimmed out in the factory, then delivered to site ready to be installed.

One of these pods was a test of his thinking, built to sit on the flat roof of a three-storey house. "Got a big crane in and had the street closed for an hour," he says. "That cost £1000." But in the crowded capital it saves time and hassle.

He's an approved installer for the ingenious Firestone rubber sheeting that makes flat roofs a practical proposition. The rubber comes as one big sheet - "The size goes up to 30 metres by 15," he explains. It needs care and skill to handle such a job, but the roof comes with a 20 year warranty from Firestone and the current life expectation of the rubber is about 50 years.

He works long hours. "Five or six days a week, seven if we're really pushed." But he tries to keep Sundays for the family and watching his very sporting children developing their skills at football and gymnastics. Will you let your sons come into the trade, we asked? "If they want to." That would make four



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ZAC'S SOCCER TRACKS

More about Zac Williams's track to a two year contract with Wolverhampton Wanderers:

Zac started playing seriously at the age of just six, with the Cleobury Mortimer Juniors team. His dad recognised a special talent in the young lad and managed him for two years as he progressed to play for Kimbolton, near Leominster, at the age of ten before Kidderminster Harriers took him on when he was 12.

It was at Kidderminster that a scout for West Bromwich Albion picked him out and signed him up. Then the man moved to Wolverhampton and got him his successful trial there.

We should pay tribute to his parents and the support they've given. And to confirm the talent in the family, ten year old Archie has had a trial for Wolves, while six year old Emma says she's going to play football too.

NICK IS MISSING

A well known smiling face is missing from the Clarion this month. Nick Morris's 'Clarion Coppers' is not on the page because he's been in hospital for an operation. We think that all law abiding people in the community will join us in wishing him a speedy recovery and a swift return to these pages. Get well soon, Nick. JR

CHARITY RACE NIGHT

It's that hyper active Matt Yarranton again. The one you've probably read about on Page 53. Well this is another fund raiser for the Marie Cure charity, with a Charity Horse Race Night at

the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane. It's on June 17th, starts at 7.00 and the last race should be over by 11.00 at the latest.

You can spend a few pounds in a variety of ways, like an admission ticket for a fiver. Or you can buy a horse for the same money, be a jockey for just £3.00 or go for the big time and sponsor a race for all of £25. We're not sure what a Tricast square is, but you can buy one of those for a single pound coin.

The cost of admission includes food, the bar will naturally be open and parking the family limousine while the chauffeur takes a fag break is free. It's much better value than a visit to Ascot and there will be no traffic jams on the way home. Top value for a good cause.

RAPID ROAD



The picture was taken late in March, when the west end of Childe Road was due to be closed for some badly needed resurfacing. The approach to the High Street junction was in a bad state and signs said that it would be closed to traffic, for resurfacing that would take one day. As the work was on the bus route to Lacon Childe School,

there were doubters about traffic delays and possibly ensuing chaos as lots of vehicles tried to get through.

In fact, it worked out really well. Just after 9.00 a planing machine moved in and took off the top surface, followed closely by trucks carrying tarmac and rollers to tamp it all down. By 2.00 in the afternoon the site was clear and the road was good. Congratulations to all involved in a job done on time.

LOOKING SMART

The High Street is looking very smart as Spring brings out the greenery of the plane trees that line the North side. And the houses and shops are nearly all looking very spruce.

There's scaffolding up at the Galaxy Takeaway and the neighbouring McCartneys as the building gets a new coating, with Steve and Sue Cao working on the upper floor of their side. Just along the road, Vine House is looking much better for the attention of the Butler family, and in the centre of town Carrot Tops is getting an external makeover that adds to the appeal of the place as visitors drive through.

The only down side to all this is the Manor House, which now has a decent looking roof but the rest is a sad, drab shame. There have been more than enough complaints about what was once a proud building that was a credit to the town becoming an eyesore. We understand that the County Council pursued the owner to get repairs done and that he finally got a settlement from his insurance company to repair water damage. But what was once a source of pride is still a scab on the face of the town.

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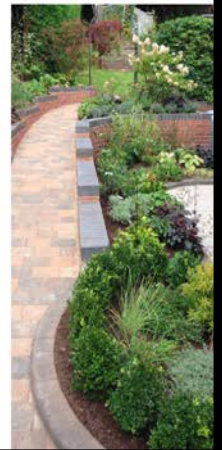
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A PROPERTY VIEW

Ross D’Aniello of Nock Deighton offers a professional view of the market.



Market update:

The property market has seen a marked increase in activity since the beginning of the year. Various unrelated events such as elections, referendums, Stamp Duty Land Tax changes etc inevitably have an impact however it is fair to say that there has been an increase in properties coming to the market, viewings and sales.

That said, it is still a challenging time and the heady days of 2007 are unlikely to return to our region for many years, however we are seeing properties achieve realistic prices and a number of agents are seeing levels of interest not seen for nearly a decade.

Traditionally the market peaks in Spring and Autumn, however there is a constant stream of both sellers and buyers getting in touch which can only bode well for the year to come. Confidence, despite the uncertainty of the referendum, will hopefully continue.

The average asking price for England and Wales jumped a further 0.8% since May with stock of levels edging up further, but

still 10.6% less than in May last year. There are still low levels of quality stock which benefits the seller so now is the time to seek advice if you are considering selling.

At the time of writing, there are just 100 properties for sale in the whole of DY14 with an average asking price of £389,811.

What is the value of a good agent?

It is possible that, unless you’re one of the lucky few, your home is one of the most valuable assets that you own. If so it is logical to appoint an agent whom you trust to achieve the best price for you in the quickest possible timescale, not just the cheapest.

As the old saying goes, if something seems too good to be true it often is!. For their fee, make sure that sure your agent...

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7. How well do you know the agent? A good agent will be prepared to spend time getting to know you and your property, building trust.

As Red Adair famously once said,
“If you think it’s expensive to hire a professional to do the job, wait until you hire an amateur.”
 Ross D’Aniello



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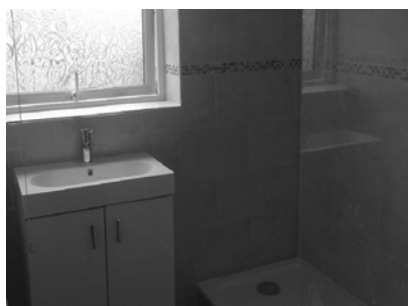
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS JUNE 24th

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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND - 01746 718210. Rosemary Abbiss is the contact.

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month.

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Residential Sales

You may have noticed a few SOLD boards have gone up as you drive through the High Street! We have seen a dramatic increase in property sales in the town, so much so, we are struggling to keep up with demand. The market in general is short of properties for sale; there hasn't been this fewer properties on the market since records began in 1978! This has steered the increase in sales of realistically priced properties that are being marketed well. Partnered with the Spring, which is a notoriously good time to put your house on the market, now really is a great time to sell.



Erica Hinwood MARLA
Office Manager

Residential Lettings

We've had a really busy month for rentals, moving in the largest number of tenants in one month since we came to the area! As such we are crying out for more properties to rent. I have registered several tenants in the last couple of weeks who are looking for rural properties with at least three bedrooms. Good news is the new Right to Rent legislation that came in in February hasn't affected the market negatively in any way, albeit increased our administration, but our referencing company is equipped to verify passports and visas to make sure we are complying with the new law.



Coral Walrond MARLA
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