



## CLEOBURY ELECTION - LITTLE CHANGE

The local elections in May saw no great change, with Madge Shingleton and Gwilym Butler returned as our Shropshire Councillors. Good to see new blood challenging and good to see a well proven pairing still in place to give continuity.

With only seven candidates standing, there was no Parish Council election, Andy Goold the only new face. Betty Davies, Mike Reiner and Jack opted not to stand for re-election. At their first meeting, the council opted to become known as the Town Council and we cover that in this issue on Page 57.

In neighbouring Neen Savage the refusal of the three remaining councillors to co-opt replacements for the four who resigned some years ago excited resistance, with the three opposed by seven new faces. All seven were elected, the old incumbents recording very low voting levels. A lesson learned about upsetting the electorate? One can only hope so.

## BUS SERVICE HOTTING UP



*Picture by Paran Todd*

The L2 was heading for Ludlow on May 23rd, but smoke was intruding when it reached Callow Hill. The driver pulled onto the playing field entrance and advised the passengers to get out.

The smoke turned into flames and the bus was soon properly alight. Fire and Rescue did their normal efficient job to put the blaze out, the ambulance that attended wasn't needed and the passengers got on the next bus.

Our thanks to Paran Todd for the picture and details of the event. But should a public service vehicle catch light like this? Are the transport authorities taking any notice?

## BRITISH JUSTICE AT WORK

On Page 61 you'll find our report on the prosecution of Mrs Elizabeth Griffiths on May 26th. It was a day to remember and celebrate as it brought to an end the totally unnecessary and cruel harassment of Matt Sheehan, Clerk to the Town Council.

This is not the place to speculate why anyone should want to act in this way towards a man almost everyone in this community recognises as a hard working and conscientious asset to the place. A man who has served with Her Majesty's Forces in Northern Ireland, including patrolling the Falls Road in Belfast at the times of The Troubles. No man who has faced the possibility of a sniper's bullet in that situation deserves to be stabbed in the back.

We should just be glad that British justice has properly defended him. And that the town's reputation will no longer be damaged by unnecessarily offensive notices in any shop window. JR



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# The Cleobury Clarion, June 2017

Volume Fifteen - Edition Three



*New Faces at The Talbot.  
Stewart and Diane are settling in a  
totally refurbished hotel.  
Page 11.*



*Errol Dyer, well known as a money  
adviser, but there's a lot more to the  
man than people would ever guess.  
Page 25.*



*Up on Clee Hill, there's a real  
haven for small animals while  
you're on holiday.  
In Business - Page 55*

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## **A SPECIAL AFTERNOON**

Ian and Janet Ludford have lived here in Cleobury for two years now, and as if to celebrate that residency they staged a concert for two cellos at the Parish Hall on April 9th, where they performed as the 'Ludford Duo'. They are more than capable of doing so, and brought the delights of marvellous music to a most appreciative audience.

For 39 years Ian was a mainstay of the world renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and played with that orchestra around the world and under the baton of the most celebrated conductors. After periods playing with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and the BBC Midlands Radio Orchestra, Janet's career absorbed the demands of motherhood by freelancing. This led her not only to play with a dazzling array of the world's orchestral talent, but also expanding her repertoire accompanying such luminaries as Chris de Burgh, Barry Manilow and Roger Daltrey. She also toured with shows like Les Miserables, My Fair Lady and the Sound of Music, latterly returning to perform with the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

With such accomplished performers in our midst we settled down on a surprisingly warm and sunny afternoon and bathed in musical pleasure. This was a classical concert; pieces

composed by Haydn, Bartok, Offenbach and Boccherini filled the air. There were lighter works too: Albeniz's Suite Espanole, originally composed for solo guitar, was rearranged by Janet for two cellos and was sublime. Aaron Minsky's 'American Duets' folded classical and popular themes together to create a humorous brew that brought smiles of recognition to many lips. The afternoon concluded with the familiar and well-loved strains of Paganini's 'the Pearl Fishers'.

Thank you, the Ludford Duo, for blessing this community with such wonderful music. Let us all hope they do so again . . . soon!

*P.A.J. Waddington*

## **AND A GREAT MUSICAL EVENING AT NEEN SOLLARS**



*Erika Madi Jones was the Neen Sollars attraction. Here presenting Benjamin Britten's folk songs.* Milson and Neen Sollars' Victory Hall welcomed a special musical event on April 23rd.

Erika Madi Jones, an award winning soprano who earned a Distinction with her Master of Music degree, joined with harp virtuosi Ieuan Jones and David Lloyd Williams to present an evening with some of Benjamin Britten's collection of traditional folk airs. It must have been a very moving experience to listen to an acclaimed vocalist working with the accompaniment from two renowned harpists.

The event was organised to help raise funds to build a viewing terrace around the village hall and the result was close to £1500 towards the aim.

## **THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP**

Education author Victoria Honeybourne joined the discussion on May 8th and soon exchanged information with novelist Edwin Sayers. That's what the group is about - talking, listening and learning.

We heard a variety of stories based around the four words tiger, tact, disciplinarian and aerial; a really wide variety of interpretations.

We meet again on June 12th, at 6.30, when those who are simply curious will be very welcome. The challenge for writers this time will be to use the five words yoga, downhearted, sketchy, forthright and finale in no more than 1,000 words. Lots of other things will be talked and laughed about as stories bring out members' memories of life.

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## HOSPICE APPEAL

The Severn Hospice Community Charity Shop is an interesting and exhilarating place to work. We currently have two vacancies for volunteers on a Saturday afternoon, which would enable volunteers to spend their time meeting new people and helping to raise funds for our wonderful hospice. If you would like further details, please contact Gayna on 01299 272795.

## HIGHLEY'S HISTORIC BAND

Susan Osborne tells us that there's been a brass band in Highley since the turn of the 20th century, right up until the pit closed in 1969. It was reformed in 1993 and in 2000 had a new uniform, with a new badge with a Pit Head Wheel emblem and a new name. It also became the Highly Colliery Band in recognition of the village's history. A good traditional idea for a friendly, sociable group.

They are currently looking for new members, experienced or novice, all ages and abilities. If you fancy learning to play they can provide instruments free of charge. The current vacancies are for cornets, horns,

trombones, bass, euphonium and percussion. The band is non-contesting, so there will be no pressure to measure up to rival bands.

Rehearsals are held at Kinlet Village Hall on Sundays, from 7.00 to 9.00pm. For more details, c o n t a c t [secretary@highleybrassband.co.uk](mailto:secretary@highleybrassband.co.uk) or telephone Lisa on 07740 292153

## THE NEEN SOLLARS FETE

An annual fundraiser for the Parish Church, the fete will once again be held at Tetstill, opening at 1.00 and carrying on until 4.00 on the 17th of this month. It's a great family event, offering games, lots of prizes, a band, teas and a variety of stalls.

If you would like more information, Sue Painter at [scpainter18@gmail.com](mailto:scpainter18@gmail.com) is the contact.

## JOSS CARTER'S 'SALVATION'

You may remember Joss Carter's debut presentation of his remarkable dance work 'Salvation' here in Cleobury's Parish Church. It's essentially a solo performance with no commentary to guide your thinking about what it portrays; he leaves that to the audience to

interpret as they will. What you can expect to do is be intrigued, possibly frightened or shocked and certainly impressed.

Now he's bringing the show back to Shropshire, to perform in Ludlow's Saint Laurence's Church on June 13th. Tickets are £10 each, available from [www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk) and the show starts at 7.30.

Do not go expecting a light hearted showbiz experience. Do go if you're broad minded and want to see a professional dancer and choreographer in his prime. He's very good.

## CORRECTION

Keith and Mary Blackburn drew the editor's attention to an error in our May issue's Page 23 'Silly Bit' about money being the root of all evil. The correct quote is in fact "Love of money is the root of all evil." Quite right.

They also proudly point out that their church never asks for money, but does provide it wherever it is needed. Which sounds just like Christianity at work.

## SILLY BIT

**"I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years. If my wife finds out, she'll kill me."**

**"Just got back from a pleasure trip. Took mother in law to the airport."**

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## THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Alison Dunn, Chair of Cleobury Cricket Club, reports that Monday, June 5th at 5.00pm sees the Club as the venue for the start of an exciting new season of cricket coaching programme. It's for 5-8 year olds, called Allstars. Children from all local primary schools are welcome to join by visiting the website ([www.allstarscricket.co.uk](http://www.allstarscricket.co.uk)) to sign up. Cost is £40 for eight weekly one hour sessions and participants receive a free kit bag containing some great goodies. Alison will be starting junior cricket coaching for 9yrs and over on the same day, 5.30-7pm, join by meeting her at the Club.

Saturday, June 10th is Community Day, with the Club hosting a Junior Disco with Kerry Poole from 1.00 to 6.00pm. From 8.00 onwards, the older generations will be entertained by Ruth singing Through The Decades. Free entry for both events.

June sees the start of the British Lions Rugby Tour to New Zealand with the provincial match against the Maori All Blacks being shown on the Club's TVs at 8.35am on Saturday 17th. The British Lions

test matches are on Saturdays, 24th June, 1st and 8th July also being shown – breakfast sandwiches will be on the menu.

June 17th sees the Cricket Club at home to Ross-on-Wye and at home to Canon Frome on Saturday 24th June. On Saturday 1st July, they will be at home to Colwall, all matches starting at 1.00pm. Come and support them outside the Club with a glass of our guest ale and some of the finest views in Cleobury Mortimer.

There will be no Open Mic Night in June, however there will be one on Thursday 27th July.

For further details, see our outside notice boards, our Facebook page, or telephone Club Steward Andy Goad on 271488. *Glenys Turpin*

## THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

**Celebration of Cleobury Saturday June 10th, 10am to 4pm.** The Friends will have a stall in the church to welcome new members and show details of the events we have held to raise funds to help maintain the fabric of our historic church.

We almost have 100 members and we will offer a bottle of wine to our 100th. Why not join us?

Membership costs from £10 per year. Members are given prior notice of our ticket sales and the opportunity to book before the tickets go on general sale.

**Friday evening June 16th** sees the return of the ever 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.

Tickets/programmes with list of the venues and including four glasses of wine, cost £12.

*Alec Osbaldiston*

## A LOVELY IDEA

You probably noticed the advert on the front cover for the Cream Tea Company. Such a lovely idea if you're having friends around and want to spoil them a little.

It's run by Shirley Wheeler and Tessa Morrison from their base in Cleobury, and offers to deliver a cream tea for however many people you tell them you are entertaining. No worries about getting everything ready, no washing up to do afterwards and the chance to just sit back and enjoy. It's a great idea and we do wish them well.



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## THE TALBOT IS BACK



*Stewart and Diane Seery, mine hosts at The Talbot Hotel.*

It's one of the dominant buildings on the town's main street. Its black-and-white traditional frontage makes it stand out from the rest, a true landmark.

The recent change of ownership, with South Coast Inns taking the place over and giving it a total refurbishment reflects a big commitment. That's a good thing for the town, a stand-out hostelry back in business with all the detail work done properly. We've seen the rooms, all eight of them properly en suite and immaculate. It's a credit to the town.

Neat little touches highlight the building's history, like a patch of the wattle and daub internal wall, protected now by a plastic screen so you can see but not touch. There has been a shortage of accommodation in the town, but with eight twin- or double-bedded rooms in the Talbot that problem is solved.

Hosts Stewart and Diane Seery have moved up from rural

Somerset, happy to be in a small and friendly community.

The restaurant is going to be a feature, its decor warm and welcoming in a traditional style with a variety of old and new pictures brightening the wall. The place gives off an air of quality, but the prices look down to earth. A welcome return for what used to be the best pub in town, which Stewart says is his aim for the place.

### EARLY RISER GAVIN

Gavin Athwol is the new owner of what we'd just got used to calling Butler's Store before Gwilym sold it. But it's still the local Londis franchise, a handy early morning stop for those on their way to work.



*Big welcoming smile from Gavin, who likes the town and the welcome he's had.*

This man is an early riser, up before 4.30 to drive over from Shifnal and open up at 6.00. The store has the best selection of greetings cards in town, a range of stationery, food and drink and a cash machine. It's a very busy place, the biggest outlet for the monthly Clarion, with something close to 130 names of

people who've reserved a copy. You can see why the editor likes the place.

So, having opened up at 6.00, how late would Gavin be staying, we asked. "Tonight I'll be here until 8.00, but I have a good staff and it's not always as long a day as that." Just don't mention the Working Time Directive to him.

"I'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to the local people, they've really made me feel at home," he added as we left him to deal with more customers.

He's certainly proved to be very cooperative with local people, and Clee Hill historian Alf Jenkins was very happy when Dr Mark Baldwin suggested that he offer his popular tapes and books to the Londis store when his own bookshop operation closed. Alf was given a warm welcome and you can find a selection of his works available, handily next door to what used to be Baldwin's Book Shop.

### RED HARE TIPS

**This month from Style Director Katy Hazlewood:**

#### Tip:

Whenever you are swimming, either at home or on holiday, try saturating your hair with clean water from the shower before you get in. Hair will soak up the fresh water rather than the chlorinated water from the pool and is far less likely to turn green or become damaged.

#### Fact:

The 'Beehive' hairstyle was nicknamed the B-52 in the 1950's after the B-52 bomber because of its resemblance to the plane's bulbous nose.

*Katy*

## **CLEOBURY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

**10.00 until 4.00, Saturday June 10th**

**This is a follow-on from the first event last year. Lessons have been learned and the programme on offer this year is looking very widespread and impressive. It will spread around the town and put on show local talent and services to be proud of.**

### **At Love Lane Sports Field:**

Forest Dog Rescue are running a Fun Dog Show for all types, ages and sizes of dog. Sign on from 10.30, the judging will start at High Noon and there will be rosettes for the first five in each class. Sounds like you can't go wrong with all that. Dogs must be six months old or more and kept under control. Maureen at 01299 266722 can tell you more.

There's a Fun Run for Under 16s at 3.00, exhibitions by the Scouts, a Fire Engine, the military, a golf experience and possibly an RAF helicopter if one is readily available. Just remember that the military are on alert and have other priorities.

**At the Sports and Social Club,** which is right handy for the Sports Field, they have a Junior Disco starting at 1.00 and there will be the bar and refreshments available most of the day. In the

evening it's Open House with a singer to entertain and admission free. A good way to round off a great day.

**Methodist Church Hall, Church Street:** The Methodists' very successful Art Show moves its dates to fit in with this weekend of the town showing off its best talents and showpieces. Expect to see some unexpected names who you would never associate with artistic talent. A place for revelations.

**The Parish Church** will be busy again, with bell ringing, our own Cleobury Concert Brass, a music quartet, the choir in full fine voice and refreshments available all day before an organ recital brings a busy day to a close. Take this chance to look around a very fine old building that is still a very active centre of the community.

**The Primary School** will open its doors to show off the talent of both staff and pupils, while some of the painted walls are a real wonder. Lots happening, including an exhibition of the children's work, games, face painting and lots of fun activities. You are welcome to walk around and the staff will be there to chat from 10.00 through until 2.00

**Lacon Childe School** is open all day, with the Archery Club inviting you to have a go out on the school sports field. Also in the school will be part of the Cleobury Creatives exhibition, showing off more local talent, plus a selection of ex pupils' CVs to illustrate what success an education here can bring to you.

**The Medical Centre,** that very impressive facility on Ludlow Road, will be proudly showing off what it offers us, its patients, while health and well being groups will be there to talk and explain their work. Walking for Health plan two outings during the day, but we do not have times or details at the time of going to press.

**The Severn Hospice Shop** on the High Street will naturally be open and will feature the work of the Severn Crafters group as well as the usual fine array of bargains.

**The Market Hall** will feature the second half of Cleobury Creatives on the first floor. The fact that the Creatives fill two venues tells you a lot about how keen our local enthusiasts are. The Clarion will have a few issues to hand out as we share a stall with Edwin Sayers and his excellent Coracle Boy books.

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**The Fun Town Trail** starts from the Love Lane Playing Field, where you can collect a free map that helps you find all the places where things are happening. It lists 20 questions about the day and its attractions and you can fill the answers in as you progress around Cleobury. When you've finished the tour, take the map back to the starting point and if you've got all 20 answers correct, you pick up a prize of goodies.

It's a good way to learn about the town and its history, because you never stop finding out about this place and its people. There will be Open Gardens you can call in and wonder at - we do those very well around here. All this starts at 10.00 and closes earlier than some at 3.00 because it does take a little time to check answers and announce prize winners.

**Around the Town** you can expect to find local businesses putting on special displays and tastings of their specialist products. The whole place will be making the most of the day to remind us what great place this is to live in. Do go out there and see for your selves.

**On the High Street** one of the Jubilee Trees (planted for Queen Victoria's celebration) will be the centre of display by the Horticultural Society. Talk to them for more background on the trees and the pleaching that has spread their foliage along the pavement. You can also hear about their efforts to raise help with the cost of maintaining the trees every year; a great asset worth looking after properly.

## **THE DAY'S TIMETABLE**

9.00 am to 4.00. Severn Hospice, High Street. Severn Crafters

10.00am to 11.15. St Mary's Church features Bell Ringing.

10.00am to 2.00 Primary School. Art exhibition, refreshments, games, face painting and fun things.

10.00am.to.4.00. Medical Centre, Health and well being groups. Do visit and be surprised what is on offer in the town.

10.00am.to.4.00. Medical Centre. Walking for Health. Two Walks planned.

10.00am to 4.00. The Parish Church will be open and serving refreshments.

10.00am.to.4.00. Lacon Childe School open. See what it has to offer

10.00am.to.4.00. Lacon Childe Archery Club..come and have a go.

10.00am.to.4.00. Lacon Childe. Cleobury Creatives and ex pupils' biographies

10.00am.to.4.00. Catholic Church open.

10.00 am.to.5.00. Methodist Hall, Art Exhibition.

10.00 am.to.4.00. Market Hall, Cleobury Creatives

10.00am.to.2.00. Market Hall, Glass Blowing

10.00am.to 4.00. 11 Church Street, John Carter Gallery

10.00am to 4.00. John Tuck Garden Gallery

10.00am to 3.00. Playing Field, Start point for the Town Trail.

10.00am to 3.00. Playing Field, Love Lane. Have a go Golf

10.00am to 11.45. Playing Field. Dog Show sign up.

11.15am to 12.15. St Mary's Church features a Music Quartet.

12.00noon to 1.00. Playing Field, Dog Judging.

12.00noon to 12.30 Playing Field, Fun Run Registration

1.00pm. Playing Field. Dancing Dogs.

1.00pm to 1.30. St Mary's Church presents Cleobury Concert Brass.

1.00pm to 4.00. Bowling Club. Have a go. Refreshments.

1.00pm to 6.00. Sports and Social Club, Junior Disco, Free Entry

1.45pm to 2.00 St Mary's Church Choir in full voice.

2.15pm to 2.45 St Mary's Church presents Cleobury Concert Brass for a second session.

2.30pm to 3.00. Playing Field Fun Run, warm up and briefing.

3.00pm. Playing Field. Fun Run starts.

3.00pm to 3.15. St Mary's Church Choir again.

3.30pm to 4.00. St Mary's Church rounds off a full day with an organ recital.

8.00pm. Sports and Social Club. Singer, Free Entry.

**WHAT A LOT! MAKE THE MOST OF IT AND TOUR THE TOWN.**



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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.

**TO APPLY YOU MUST LIVE OR WORK WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF CLEOBURY MORTIMER FIRE STATION**

To be a Firefighter requires special skills and qualities, not only do you need to be able to work under pressure as part of a team at operational incidents you need effective communication skills to deal with the public at fire safety events and in their homes. You will work within your local community to support our aim of preventing fire related incidents and road traffic collisions. The Service is looking for people aged 18 or more on their start date who can demonstrate a high level of physical fitness

For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email [HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk), stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer

**Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.**

**Lacon Childe School**

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If you are interested in applying or require further details, please contact Matt Hayes or Sue Broad: 01299 270312 or email [admin@lacon-childe.org.uk](mailto:admin@lacon-childe.org.uk)

**Lacon Childe School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and rigorous child protection procedures are in place.**

**Appointments will be subject to Enhanced DBS checks.**

**SEVERN HOSPICE CHARITY SHOP, CLEOBURY MORTIMER**

The Severn Hospice Community Charity Shop is an interesting and exhilarating place to work. We currently have two vacancies for volunteers on a Saturday afternoon, which would enable volunteers to spend their time meeting new people and helping to raise funds for our wonderful hospice.

If you would like further details please contact Gayna on 01299 272795

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## THE MILLIONTH 911



*Dr Wolfgang Porsche with the millionth 911 Porsche to be made.*

It's been one of the most desirable cars in the world ever since it was launched in 1963. The Porsche 911, with its distinctive sleek shape and renowned build quality, has remained a strong seller and now the 1,000,000th example has rolled off the production line at Zuffenhausen in Germany.

It's a Carrera S, finished in a special 'Irish Green' colour and will not be sold. It will go on a world promotional tour, which will include a visit to the Scottish Highlands, before it takes its place in the Porsche Museum.

I will admit that every time I see one I have to stop and drool. For me it's a long lived dream, probably the main reason behind buying a Lottery ticket every week. Simply beautiful.

## OUCH!

Have you had your insurance renewal yet? If not, expect a shock when the invitation to carry on as before drops on the doormat. Mine came from More Than, and I knew a rise was coming because I had a claim last November. But a jump from £359.31 to £632.52 seemed a wee bit strong. I called the company and they got it down to £583, so still quite a sum to find.

My older son works in that service and explained that the Ogden Ratio, which relates to the reserves insurers must carry to cover projected costs, had been changed quite drastically and the British industry as a whole have to find an extra £5 billion to meet the new demand. Guess where that will come from....

I did shop around, trusting that fat Italian on Go Compare to find something better. Of the 41 alternatives offered, the lowest was in the £800s and top of the pops was Saga, who I'm told are very good at looking after old fogies like me. Their quote was £3,320.83! Good old More Than, they are efficient and friendly to deal with, handled my claim very well and are pretty affordable too.

## A NEW JOB

It was quite an experience, waiting to meet a department head at Bonham's Auctioneers for a job interview. At the ripe old age of 78 I'm probably well past it in most people's eyes, but I realised that they weren't listing a motorcycle consultant for Wales and I know my way around some of that fine country. I asked a friend who is well established with the company if there really was a gap and should I apply? He put in a good word and after a brief correspondence there I was at the International Classic Motorcycle Show in Stafford, about to get a grilling.

It was actually a very amiable chat, James Stensel having read my CV and spoken to people who know me. The result was a handshake and a couple of weeks later an exchange of contracts.

So I am now Bonham's man in the Principality, charged with persuading owners of vintage and classic machines to sell them through the market leader. It doesn't mean I'm giving up the Clarion, but there may be days when you can't get me on the phone. I'll be over the border, trying to earn a living. JR

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### **Improving Rabbit Awareness**

This month Rabbit Awareness Week will spring into action from the 17th to the 25th and Social media will be buzzing with knowledge, advice and tips so we thought we'd share a few of the more interesting facts that we share with our rabbit owning clients.

Did you know that rabbits are "fibrevores"? This means that fibre is essential for their dental, digestive and emotional health. A massive 85% of your rabbit's diet should be grass or good quality hay.

Rabbit teeth grow continuously and the only natural way for them to maintain short and smooth teeth is through chewing grass and hay. A lack of fibre in their diet often means that they are unable to grind their teeth and as a result overgrowths can form, producing painful ulcers on the tongue and cheek. A general anaesthetic and specialist dental surgery usually is needed to resolve this problem.

On the topic of pain, did you know that when rabbits are in pain they can become anorexic and their gut functions can slow down, causing a condition known as Ileus? Ileus causes an imbalance of bacteria, producing excessive gas and severe pain, perpetuating the problem. In severe cases the gut can stop functioning completely, resulting in an untimely death.

Did you know that it's coming up to 'Flystrike' season? Eggs from the

Blowfly are laid in a rabbit's fur and within 12 hours the disease can be severe, with maggots consuming the flesh. Flystrike can occur in any rabbit, but those with intestinal disease or dental disease which result in a 'claggy' bottom are more susceptible.

Did you know? A common misconception is that rabbits that aren't in contact with their wild kin don't need to be vaccinated. Unfortunately diseases such as Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease can spread through many vectors, including midges.

It can be very rewarding to own a rabbit, but they are quite unique in their needs, habits and health needs. By being aware of what your rabbit needs you can ensure they have a long, happy and healthy life.

If you have any concerns or questions about the health of your rabbits and how to care for them, make sure to contact your vet.

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## **LUDLOW GOING TO THE DOGS AGAIN**

Following up on its successful Dog Day event last July that raised nearly £21,000 for a number of local charities, Ludlow Rotary Club is planning another Dog Day on Sunday July 23rd.

The Club is determined to better last year's result, when over 3500 people turned up to the event which was acknowledged an outstanding success and family day out. The main beneficiaries of this year's event are Canine Partners, Hope House Hospice, Forest Dog Rescue, and The Alzheimer's Society.

"We must thank our generous host Caroline Magnus for allowing us to use the beautiful grounds of Stokesay Court as the venue for the event " said Arnoud Roele, this year's event organiser.

" For any event of this size we are heavily reliant on our sponsors Hatfields Jaguar Land Rover Shrewsbury, Teme Vets, Hobsons Brewery, Tuffins and Bromfield Sand and Gravel. We would also like to hear from anybody who feels they could offer to help us on the day as

organising this event requires a lot of people "

Gates will open at 10.00am with competitions for all types of dog , ranging from the best rescue to the scruffiest mutt with much in between. In addition there will be a full programme of special events with display teams, demonstrations including flyball, agility and obedience. For human consumption there will be tasty fare, tea and beer. There will also be stalls offering a wide variety of countryside fare and doggy accessories, and a children's activity area.

For more information visit [www.ludlowdogday.org.uk](http://www.ludlowdogday.org.uk)

## **A GOOD EASTER AT EVER AFTER**

Sarita at Ever After Nursery wrote to tell us:

"We had a lovely treat in the Easter holidays. Not from the Easter bunny, but Ofsted!"

"They arrived on April 19th and we are very pleased to announce that we continue to achieve our 'Good' rating. We are all very pleased, as the requirements and regulations are getting much harder."

This is a big compliment to Sarita and all her staff, who earn praise for their work with all

ages that they cater for. They have a copy of the inspector's report, which is available for parents to read. Congratulations to the whole team.

## **ROCK PATHFINDERS**

The first Rock evening walk this month is today, the first. It starts at 7.00 from the Palmers Meadow Car Park in Tenbury Wells. WR15 8HY on your sat nav or OS reference 598682 if you prefer.

On the 15th they step out from the Running Horse on Long Bank. Start time 7.00 again. DY12 2QP or OS ref. 765745.

More details: 01299 400304.

## **A NOTE FROM MADGE**

Thank you very much for electing me to represent you on Shropshire Council. I hope I can justify your faith in me.

I am on the Planning Committee for the Southern area and have just been elected vice chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, which means I am very involved in discussions for the future provision of all Health Services in Shropshire.

*Madge Shineton*



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## **CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB**

June, let the summer begin. Regular mowing and feeding will keep your lawn in good shape. However, if we have a dry hot summer lawns may go brown. Don't panic and don't waste precious water on grass, save it for your plants. The lawns soon recover when the rain arrives.

Spring and early summer is a good time to sow Biennials. Biennials are sown and germinated in the first year. They are kept over winter for flowering next year when the weather warms up.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday June 28th. The speakers for the evening will be Ray Morris and Mike Watkins on 'Teme Valley Hops'.  
*Pauline Bowen*

## **'TWELFTH NIGHT' AT MOFFATS**

Moffats School will be hosting another performance by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company on July 2nd. As the name suggests, Rain or Shine perform in the open air, regardless of the weather.

Gates will open at 1.00 so that those with a picnic can relax and eat before the performance

begins at 3.00. If you're not familiar with this work by William Shakespeare, we cannot offer a better summary than the one sent by the school:

"Have you ever found yourself in a strange place, surrounded by strange people, taking extraordinary measures to find your way? That's the situation Viola finds herself in when, shipwrecked and separated from her brother, she sets foot upon Illyria's sandy shore. Lost and alone, she disguises herself as a man and sets forth. Before long, chaos ensues as mistaken identity, love, pride and alcohol set a host of much loved characters on a series of hilarious adventures. Hopeless romantics, drunken knights, a pompous steward and fools galore abound in one of Mr. William Shakespeare's most celebrated comedies."

Tickets cost £13 for adults, £11 for concessions and children £6. Available from the school on 01299 841230 or [office@moffats.co.uk](mailto:office@moffats.co.uk). And don't forget that for an open air performance you'll need a low seat or at least a blanket to sit on.

## **READING GROUP**

'An Otter on the Aga' by Rex Harper, a charming book was

the overwhelming verdict. Originally written as memoirs for his family, it is not a difficult read. With a love of animals Rex, working for the post office in Cornwall, started by taking in waifs, strays and injured animals. He gives a very honest account of his experiences with a wide variety, sometimes amusing, sometimes sad. He doesn't pretend to know all the answers but treats all in his care with love and kindness.

Naturally, he learns as he goes along and has help from specialists and vets. Through the chapters, each highlighting a different animal, it is interesting to see how he presents them as being as diverse as humans. Showing true dedication, a real love of animals and with help from his wife Julie we see how eventually they become the first RSPCA centre in Cornwall. It was lovely to read of someone living a modest life and ending up achieving something they really believe in. Uplifting.

Next we move to the USA with 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou.

We meet to talk about this on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Cleobury Library.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

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## HIDDEN TALENT



*Errol Dyer - much more than the money man on Church Street.*

Errol Dyer is best known for the office he ran in Church Street, offering insurance and financial services. Real down-to-earth stuff, with not a hint of the musical and artistic talents deep within the man.

"I was a keyboard player and left home in India when I was 18, to play a job in Aden. Moved on to London from there and played with all sorts of groups and people. Ended up in a group called 'Mixed Fruits' because we were all from different countries and toured France. We played a club in San Tropez, where Brigitte Bardot and Mick Jagger used to come

in. We were having a drink with Mick one day and he asked us what we were doing on Sunday, because he wanted us to play at his wedding!" He tells the story as if playing for one of the giants of rock is an everyday thing. In fact he moved on from music, seeing others with more talent (his words) coming up.

"Came to England, got married and settled down," he says with a grin. And for 40 years he's lived on Bayton Common, building his business until he sold out and headed for retirement and volunteering at Cleobury Country Centre.

Two years ago he took up painting: "I was bored, needed something new to do. I fancied painting, so read up about it and bought materials. I found You Tube really useful for information and help, there are lots of films showing you how to do things."

He chose to work with acrylics on canvas, applying them with a pallet knife after learning that technique through You Tube. You begin to see that outlet in a different light after talking to this energetic man who seems to still have a great thirst for life and learning. His success as a novice artist came as a surprise.



*'Hare with Attitude' is Errol's most successful work to date.*

His 'Hare with Attitude' sold quickly, likewise the only print he'd taken. Then the Society of All Artists contacted him and said they'd selected that work as a finalist in their national competition, and could they borrow the picture to carry it on the front page of their magazine. "I had to trace the chap who'd bought it and he let me take it away." Nice to have trusting clients like that.

He's sold other pictures and is still developing techniques. Like the artist who paints directly onto steel, letting that element shine through as a highlight. Errol gets a similar effect with kitchen foil.

Hidden talent indeed. Find him on [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com), [paintersonline.co.uk](http://paintersonline.co.uk) or [SAA.co.uk](http://SAA.co.uk).

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## BROWN CLEE MEMORIAL SERVICE

There is a little known but very touching tradition acted out on Brown Clee every summer. It's a memorial service for aircrew lost on that slope during the 1939-45 World War.

The 23 lives lost on that hill are not all RAF personnel. During the war a German Junkers, an American Mustang and a Typhoon all made some error of navigation and paid dearly for it. More recently, a Jet Provost crashed in January 1969 and the two crew men perished. The list is a solemn reminder that flying in those distant days was far from an exact process, not to mention that when times were really bad pilots hardly out of training were being sent up.

On the 22nd of this month the ceremony will be repeated. As is customary, there will be a lunch at noon in the Boyne Arms in Burwarton before a convoy heads up the hill, with the consent of the landowner, and standards will be lowered as lost men are remembered.

It is an open ceremony, which all who are concerned may attend. It is expected to start at about 2.00, but timing in this instance is not precise.

## FROM THE BANDROOM

It's not all about playing an instrument, we are a very social band and a little while ago some members went 'on tour' to London.

17 travelled down and had a super weekend, some climbing the O2 before meeting up with others to take a speed boat ride from Tower Bridge to the Thames Barrier, a pit stop for liquid refreshments in the beautiful sunshine and then off to the Theatre to see the fantastic Les Miserables. Sunday morning spent in Covent Garden and then came the train back home. A great time had by all and now planning the next expedition with not a bandstand in sight.

Our Spring concert was a sell out and we had new members of the audience who couldn't believe that they have such a fantastic brass band on the doorstep. Smiles all round as one of our youngest members, Laura Kirkpatrick, was awarded the Stella Wilcox Memorial trophy – secret voting took place before the evening and Laura was presented with the trophy during the concert. Stella would have been so pleased.

Come along and listen to us on 10<sup>th</sup> June in St Mary's Church from 1pm – part of the Cleobury Community Celebration. June is looking fairly busy, playing at Cripplegate Park in Worcester on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Cleobury on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Abbey Park in Evesham on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a private booking in Bewdley at the end of the month.

The training band will be performing at Neen Sollars Fete on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Our website lists our engagements and also has contact numbers for senior and training bands. [www.cmcb.org.uk](http://www.cmcb.org.uk)

*Katie Griffiths*

## THE HIGH STREET LIME TREES

There is a mention in our preview of the Community Celebration of the Horticultural Society having a feature around one of the town's lime trees. Flo Hadley has sent us more details of the maintenance cost, half of which has been paid by Shropshire Council, but their donation has been reduced in the current financial climate. The result is that we need to find a little more than before and the Society are developing a fund raising drive. Have a word with them on the 10<sup>th</sup> and maybe dip in your pocket.



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## **A GARDEN PARTY FOR CARERS**

The Carers' Support Group are holding their annual Garden Party with Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, June 20th. It will be at the established venue in No 2, Tenbury Road and admission is free to all carers. A donation towards the refreshments will of course be appreciated.

It all starts at 2.00 and there will be a Bottle Tombola and a Cake and Produce Stall to tempt you to spend a little more cash for the carer cause. More details and offers of prize donations to Janet Manley on CM 271841 or Wendy Duley on 270562.

## **THE SOROPTIMISTS**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bridge Tournament at Blakedown was another great success. 64 players enjoyed a day's play with morning coffee and lunch in aid of Alzheimer's Society and we are delighted to report that we will be presenting a cheque for £650 to their cause. Our 'extra-curricular' activities for June will be a presence at this year's Bewdley Carnival, 10<sup>th</sup> June, with our popular 'Splat the Rat' stall for the younger visitors. A guided walk in the Wyre Forest followed by brunch has been organised for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Our next regular Business Meeting will be on June 8th, 7.30 pm at Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster and the Supper Meeting at La Brasserie, Kidderminster, on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.0 pm, when we will be celebrating our own non-Soroptimist "stewardship".

For more details about our club and its activities, contact us: tel. 01299 266101 or email: [kidderminstersorop@gmail.com](mailto:kidderminstersorop@gmail.com) website: <http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/> Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster

*Elke Jury*

## **NEEN SAVAGE W.I.**

Our speaker in May was our very talented programme secretary, Cath Evans, who gave us a practical demonstration on two delicious express dinner parties ideas - Asparagus Parma Ham Pastries and Jamaican Cream Pots. It only took her around 20 minutes to prepare both dishes and although they needed cooking, Cath had bought along some others that she had made earlier so we were able to enjoy them as part of our refreshments. The recipes are on our Facebook page - Neen Savage WI - if you would like to have a go yourself. We can personally recommend them.

Our next meeting will be on June 14th, when our speaker will be Maxine Smith, who will be demonstrating how to make felt pansy brooches. Everyone welcome.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our recent coffee morning in May at Broome Farm Park in aid of Rupert's Revenge. We are so pleased to announce that we raised £416.00 towards helping Rupert get his treatment. Thank you so much for your support.

*Julie Tobin*

## **RON SAYS THANK YOU**

Ron Breakwell would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who came to the Parish Hall on May 6th to celebrate his 80th birthday. He certainly doesn't look it.

He asked his guests not to bring gifts, but to make a donation to the Motor Neurone Disease fund. The result was a resounding success with £380 raised for the cause. A thoroughly generous gesture from him and an equally generous response from his friends produced a good result. What a good idea that was.



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## WYRE WOODWORKS

Our Wyre Woodworks volunteer team at Wyre Community Land Trust (WCLT) have been working hard to build a community workshop at our base in the beautiful surroundings of the Wyre forest. Starting life as a rundown barn our volunteers have used their skills to renovate it and build a workshop within. The workshop is built with the help of a generous aid grant from Bewdley Town Council.

Once the workshop is up and running our volunteer team will be working to turn sustainably harvested oak from the Wyre forest into useful and practical products. They have made a beautiful, wheelchair accessible, oak picnic bench which they installed at Shropshire Hills Discovery centre.

We are looking for new volunteers to join our Wednesday Wyre woodworks volunteers. This involves one day a week of your time and will provide an opportunity to learn new skills or use those you already have, while enjoying good company. If you have recently retired or have time available and enjoy practical work we would like to talk to you.

If you are interested, please get in touch by emailing

[kate@wyreclt.org.uk](mailto:kate@wyreclt.org.uk) or call 01299 488083. We also have other volunteer opportunities available including work experience placements for those looking to start a career in conservation.

## CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

A last minute change of speaker was needed in May as Charles Hadwell, who had been due to tell us about Samuel Thorpe, Abberley clockmaker, prior to our tour of Abberley Hall and the clock tower is unfortunately in hospital with a broken hip. We are pleased to hear that he is doing well and look forward to his talk after our visit!

Instead, members and visitors learnt about the recycling of white goods at Telford, Gill Guest sent the following:

"I greatly enjoyed John's unexpected talk about the business. I'd only ever been told he did 'something to do with fridges' so to find out what, and to appreciate the scale of it, was fascinating. Count me in if the WI get to visit the fearsome 'shredder.'"

Claire Bradley, local florist, is leading a practical evening in June when we will be celebrating the beauty of flowers before an evening visit to the amazing secret garden in Ludlow on June 27th. All are

welcome to the Market Hall on 13th June at 7.30pm, more information on Cleobury Mortimer WI's Facebook page or contact me, Judy Sant 01299 270983 email [judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com).

## ALF'S A BUSY MAN

Clee Hill and Ludlow historian Alf Jenkins is a busy man, even though he's officially retired. For this month's Ludlow Fringe Festival he's giving two lectures at The Feathers Hotel. On Monday the 19th at 7.30 he'll be talking about the industrial history of Titterstone Clee Hill and on the 26th will recall his childhood on the Clee.

He'll follow this up on June 25th with a 10.00am start for a tour of the summit of Titterstone, where there is evidence of a peripheral wall, before walking down to examine the remains of a 19th century hydro electric scheme near Bitterley.

A week later, on July 2nd it's another 10.00am start when he'll be touring again, taking in early coal mining history, plus brick and lime kilns.

No great hurry on these tours; they include a lunch break and plenty of time for questions and chat. There can be few better people to lead such a tour, as Alf is rather like a walking, talking encyclopaedia



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## The June Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Rock Pathfinders walk out from Palmers Meadow car park in Tenbury. PAGE 21		
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00	Open Mic Night at KA, Church Street. Acoustic only		
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	5.00	Allstars cricket coaching starts at Sports & Social Club. PAGE 9		
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health steps out from the sports Hall	Alan Kimber	CM 271 754
	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>		Bewdley Carnival, lovely setting by the river, lots going on		
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Open Farm Sunday at Uncles Farm, outside Bewdley. PAGE 41		
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Creative Writing Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 5		
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Joss Carter's stunning "salvation" at St. Lawrence's, Ludlow. PAGE 7		
	7.30	Cleobury W.I. meet in the Market Hall. PAGE 31		
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, Church Street.		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the Village Hall. PAGE 29		
	8.00	The royal British Legion meets at the Bell, Lower Street	David Taylor	Cm 270 793
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00	Rock Pathfinders start from The running Horse, Bewdley. PAGE 21		
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>		The popular Wine Walk is back, a gentle & friendly social occasion. PAGE 9		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>		Coach trip to Llandudno, starting from Clee Hill.	Mrs Gregory	01584 891 464
	1.00	Neen Sollars Fete is at its regular venue in Tetstill. PAGE 7		

### FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

**There will be a brief but notable farewell to ex Parish Councillors Betty Davies and Mike Reiner at the Sports and Social Club on Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>. It is scheduled start at 6.30 and finish at 7.00; a private gathering, for families, friends and members of the Council only.**

**Chairman of the Council Sean Thorogood will be making a presentation on behalf of the members, who have all subscribed to the gifts as a gesture of thanks for the time both Betty and Mike have given.**

**We have used the description Parish Councillors quite deliberately, as this will probably be the last ceremony before we begin to talk about a Town Council, a move that was agreed at the new body's first meeting.**



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## The June Social Calendar Continued

## Part Two

Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Alf Jenkins talks at The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow. PAGE 31		
	7.30	The Reading Group gather in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 23		
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Garden Party and Afternoon Tea for the Carers Group. PAGE 29		
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Walking for Health start at the Sports Hall	Alan Kimber	Cm 271 754
	7.30	Stottesdon W.I. meet at Chorley Village Hall. PAGE 39		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	c.2.00	Memorial Service on Brown Clee for aircrew killed there. PAGE 29		
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Alf Jenkins lead a tour around Titterstone Clee. PAGE 31		
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Alf Jenkins lecture at the Feathers Hotel, Ludlow. PAGE 31		
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>		Cleobury W.I. have an evening outing to the Secret Garden in Ludlow. But sssssh, don't tell anyone!		
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall, Church Street		
	6.30	The Lacon childe Prom moves up the hill to the Golf club. PAGE 39		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club, Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 23		
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JULY....		
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	Alf Jenkins leads a tour of the Clee Hill mining and lime works. PAGE 31		
	3.00	Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" al fresco at Moffats School. PAGE 23		
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Walking for Health walk out from the Sports Hall	Alan Kimber	Cm271 754
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY.		
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Lacon Childe Quiz is back! Should be good. PAGE 39		

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**Doddington is very fortunate in its village hall, updated in recent years and then given a further welcoming touch with a proper car park. If you're going to attract people to such a venue, good parking facilities are essential.**

**Sonia Pearsall is a stalwart user of the hall, with her regular Whist Drive and Bingo Nights running through the year and always well publicised with dates and details sent out to local newsletters like this in good time; a model way of getting good cover for such events.**

**The Doddington Friendship Club meet there and local people with a notable anniversary or birthday book it for their celebrations. The kitchen is a great help on such occasions, of course.**

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Recently new powers were granted to PCSO's by the DVLA. This enables PCSO's to seize untaxed vehicles on a public highway. We used this new power for the first time in Cleobury and had an untaxed vehicle recovered from Childe Road. In the upcoming weeks and months we will be actively seeking to use this power and recover any vehicles found to have no tax. If you are not currently using your vehicle you must apply for a Statutory Off Road Notice and store the vehicle off the public highway or face it not being there when you return.

It's the time of year when we see an increase in garden crime. Shed breaks are common and because sheds are not generally designed for safe storage, it is advised that valuable equipment is not stored in them. If there is no alternative storage place, then fit a closed shackle padlock to the door. Fittings should be bolted through the door, and screws concealed. Fit grilles or mesh to any windows and fit an alarm. Secure valuable items inside the shed by chaining them together or lock them to a secure fixture. Any items stored in a garage would be safer if they were secured in the same way, so that if a thief breaks in they would be difficult to take away. It seems obvious, but never leave an insecure shed or garage. It only takes an opportunist thief seconds to enter and take items. Fortunately there have not been any incidents of this

reported recently.

Car crime in the area is on the rise, though some of this appears to be accidental. There have been incidents of car wing mirrors colliding in the high street causing damage to both parties. If you discover damage to your vehicle and you are unsure of how this occurred please contact us via the 101 service.

Finally a bit of feedback concerning the "We don't buy crime" initiative in Cleobury. Since the distribution of Smartwater around the town, Cleobury's scheme has been recreated with success in several communities across the West Mercia force area. I am informed by Mick Simpson from "We don't buy crime" that to date since the project started there hasn't been a domestic burglary in Cleobury. This was the first project of this kind in the country and thanks to the support of both the townspeople and the town council, hopefully it will continue to deter would be criminals.

We continue to engage with the local crime reduction group, Parish council and other organisations within Cleobury. If there are any events or meetings you would like us to attend please inform us and we will do our best.

If you wish to get in touch please contact [ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk); if you wish to report a crime please use the 101 service or in emergencies 999

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Still no news yet from Shropshire Council about the result of their Bus Strategy or negotiations regarding a replacement operator for the 2L route. It now seems that the current contract with Diamond runs until the end of 2017 so this may explain the lack of response from Worcestershire. The recent election will also have delayed things as responsibilities may change and any new postholders will need time to get up to speed.

More news on Diamond's £600,000 investment in contactless ticket machines which was due to be implemented on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 'Across the whole of the West Midlands and Worcestershire' There is no mention of Shropshire and we haven't used the bus since then so I don't know whether it happened. What they have said is that the associated tracking device will give real time information to passengers about the location of their bus which they can access via the app using their mobile phones.

However, the evidence tends to indicate otherwise as the other day, the early bus from Kiddy failed to appear and after 40 minutes waiting, Diamond were contacted to ask where it was. They replied that it had 'left 10 minutes late'. Obviously not was the response as by this time it was nearly an hour adrift. 'Oh, in that case, it left 20 minutes late' Clearly not correct so what does the tracking device 'Rolled out on 23<sup>rd</sup> April' show? 'Don't know as that bus hasn't got one but the next one will be on time'. I wonder when it is installed whether the system will show not only the location of the vehicle but why it has broken down. It could also incorporate heat sensors so that the Fire Service can be alerted immediately if the vehicle is ablaze...

The usual run of breakdowns continues, dead buses being sighted in various locations including

down by the Fire Station in a pool of water (which was apt), on Hopton Bank, Clee Hill and on the outskirts of Kiddy where one service ground to a halt, being unable to manage an incline. The driver said that the passengers weighed too much so they all got off and the vehicle started to move. It was then suggested to the driver that when he got to the top of the hill, he could pick them back up and carry on. He replied that now he had got moving, he wasn't going to stop again... Cue a wait for the next service.

There was also a letter to the 'Shuttle' about yet another service delayed by multiple breakdowns which incensed one passenger so much that when he finally got off, he picked up a stone and hurled it at the bus. Whilst not condoning violence, you can understand his feelings... Another Ludlow bound service was apparently stuck in first gear and although you might think that all Diamond buses are like that, this was even slower, having to stop several times to allow the engine to cool. It did get there eventually though.

Even when stationary, Diamond can still cause problems. The other day, the 'Cleobury only' service was parked opposite the Co-op and decided to pull off as a minibus came past and a car was coming out of Childe Road. Fortunately, no contact was made but apparently it was a close run thing. Perhaps the driver hadn't been on the 'mirror, signal, manoeuvre' course.

Diamond's problems are not just confined to the 2L. Until recently, they were used as a subcontractor by a larger company for trips the latter didn't really want to do. This arrangement has now been terminated due to the unreliable service that Diamond provided.

*Steve Todd*

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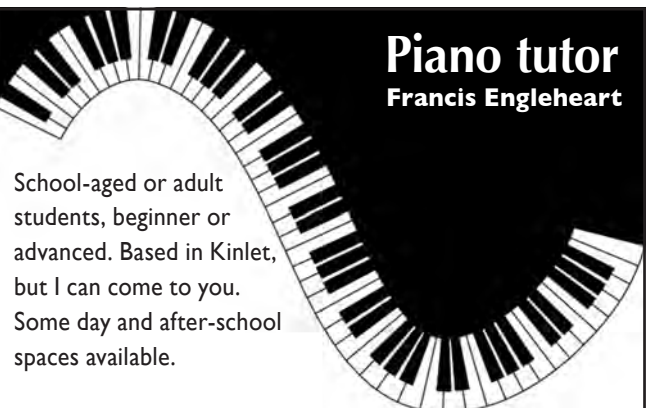
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## **THE MURDER AT DUDLICK MILL**

Cluedo may never seem the same again. Come along to the next talk in the Cleobury Mortimer Lectures, at 7.30pm on June 15<sup>th</sup> in the church, and hear members of the History Society present the evidence in a gruesome murder. The audience will then be asked to decide who, if anyone, should have been prosecuted. The murder was never solved and no-one was tried.

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 1866, Edward Edwards, a seventeen year old lad, was found savagely beaten, with over twenty wounds to his head, in the mill at Dudlick (Duddlewick) near Stottesdon. There was blood all over the mill, with bloody hand- and footprints amid signs of a vicious struggle. First one person was charged, then another. But neither went to trial and the case was never solved, despite the involvement of Sotland Yard. Contemporary newspaper reports from all over the country, inquest records and the original Scotland Yard files provide the drama in this fascinating case.

Tickets from the Cleobury Café, the library or online at [www.cleoburylectures.uk](http://www.cleoburylectures.uk)

## **STOTTESDON W.I.**

Two very different evenings of hands-on activities attracted a

good turn out of members and visitors. It is always a pleasure to meet new faces, amongst our growing band of regulars.

In April Bill Brown & Duncan Turner from Stottesdon's 'Live The Adventure' activity centre demonstrated First Aid skills and mouth to mouth resuscitation. I for one found it hugely useful to update my limited knowledge, and to have a go on the dummy with guidance and expertise on hand. We were also talked through the life saving Defibrillator procedure, and came away feeling more able to deal with the emergency first aid situation that we may be faced with any day.

By way of contrast, Clive & Kate Perryman of K8 Create gave us a demonstration of etching and soldering techniques for decorating glass to make hangings and mobiles, and to personalise vases and tumblers and much more. We all responded to their energy and enthusiasm in learning a new craft, and had fun working on our designs of miniature stained glass windows and finely etched glassware.

Our thanks to both sets of speakers for these evenings. We always like to connect with local organisations, and for next month's topic Rupert Bennett presents: 'Culinary uses of Shropshire's rapeseed oils' 21<sup>st</sup>

June Chorley Village Hall at 7.30  
Come and join us.

*Marian Wootton*

## **LACON CHILDE PROM**

The biggest free fashion and fun show of the year is moving. This year it will be held at the Golf Club and the press release from the school gives comprehensive details of how to watch the show as students parade in their finery and an amazing selection of transport:

"After 15 years of tradition the Lacon Childe Prom will have a change of venue this year. On Wednesday 28th June the year 11 students will make their way up to Cleobury Mortimer Golf club.

As usual the community are welcome to come and support and look at the array of vehicles and outfits. Students will start to arrive at 6.30pm and we ask that those coming to watch kindly park in the Pioneer Centre, who have kindly offered space in their car park. We ask that people park on the immediate right as you enter the centre and on the stone pebbles towards the main gate. There will be signage from here for a path to walk through to the golf club.

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Swallows seem to have arrived early this year, the first being spotted on March 31<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see swifts too: a bigger bird with long, swept back wings suitable for a bird that spends nearly all its life on the wing. Their screaming calls will always evoke summer for me, and earn them the local name 'Jacky squealers'. They like to nest in old buildings, if they can find any these days that aren't renovated and wildlife-proof. I've heard that a group in Cleobury Mortimer are making efforts to protect and encourage swifts in and around the town. Members of the national Swifts Local Network, they share information on sightings and swift conservation, like offering design advice for architects and builders or instructions for building wooden swift boxes to attach to houses. They also give advice to anyone finding birds grounded.

Thank goodness for people like these who really care about the natural world. Official policies and designations can only do so much, and the efforts of those who notice and do what's needed to save the wild and beautiful things around us from destruction are so important. One such is Hannah from Bewdley, who feeds underweight hedgehogs so they survive through the winter. This spring she has been finding homes for her proteges around the Lakes estate. Their needs are fairly simple: some untidy bits of garden in which to forage for invertebrates, ways through the garden boundaries so that they can find enough food and meet a mate, and a bit of consideration so that they don't end their lives on the end of a garden fork, in a bonfire or at the end

of a strimmer. Have a look at [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) for lots of information on what you can do in 'your patch' to help them and also [www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/01/hedgehog-apocalypse-extinction-britain-favourite-mammal](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/01/hedgehog-apocalypse-extinction-britain-favourite-mammal) for a discussion about the complex reasons for their decline.

We belong to an increasingly urban society and need opportunities to get out of our built environment and into the countryside. Open Farm Sunday is on June 11th: an occasion when we will welcome people to participate in guided walks around Unclyls Farm (signed from The Hop Pole) and its surrounding woodland at 10am and 2pm. There will be activities for children along the way and a chance to buy some tea and cake (and maybe some home-reared beef and apple juice) afterwards. The walk will last about two hours and you will need to be ready for uneven and possibly muddy terrain. I'm afraid you won't be able to bring your dog.

*Linda Iles*



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## THE SWIFT WATCH

Cleobury Swifts have arrived a day early. Flying over 5,000 miles from Africa, our Swifts arrived with us on Friday May 5th. Starting with five that day; by mid May numbers have reached approximately 22. There will hopefully be more to arrive by the end of the month. Last year there were a total of 27. However, it is difficult to count black silhouettes in the sky as they race around at 60 mph.

Within two hours of arrival the first swifts were claiming their nest sites in the church eaves as Saint Mary's Youth Project found out when we fitted cameras in and around their last year's nests. The images of activity in and around the nests are transmitted to a screen in the church. We hope to be able to improve the positioning of the small cameras to get a better view of their nesting activity but it is difficult and we will be able to do better next year.

Up to ten new nest boxes made by SMYP are being put up under the eaves of the church for next year's occupancy.

There is a map of Cleobury in the church so please do add

your findings of Swifts, Swallows and House Martins nest sites in the town. Also add your comments, notes and research with Post It Notes next to the TV screen in the church. We need to build a full picture of sites and numbers of all three species. Please help us and our migrating birds. There will be a Swift Watch evening 9.00pm at the Church on Monday June 19th to watch the swift's pre roost 60mph fly past. If you want an occasional newsletter please leave your email address on the notice board.

*Kit Smith*

## VICKY'S NEW TITLE



*Vicky Honeybourne with her latest title: 'Teach Your Digital Native to Read and Write.'*

Vicky Honeybourne is a well established author of educational works, calling on her own experience in the classroom and knowledge of the subjects she covers.

Her latest work is a slightly more tongue-in-cheek offering, encouraging parents to move their children away from the latest electronic novelty and find their own unrealised talents. She's not a Luddite, offering a rant against the technical advances that are all around us. More a reasoned thinker who doesn't want us to forget what the human race is capable of producing and appreciating in a very basic form.

You have to admire an author who can stand back and look at how reading habits are changing, then decide to do something to stop what keen readers would see as the rot of electronic games replacing well told stories. It's an ambitious idea and you will find a copy of the book in the Local Authors shelf of the library soon after this story appears.

Satisfy your curiosity and take it home for a quiet read. Could change your view of reading and enjoying.

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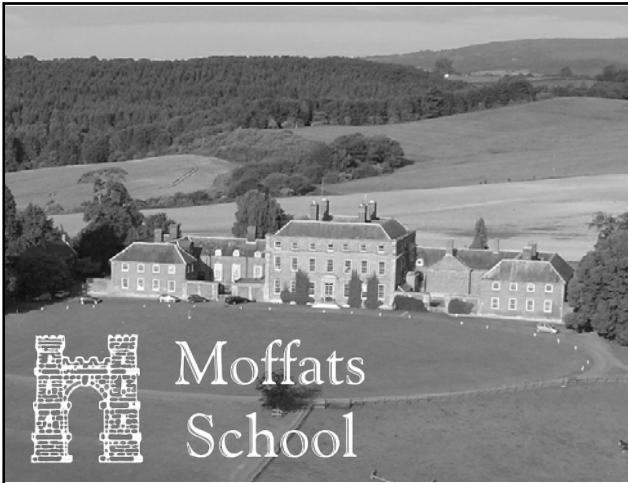
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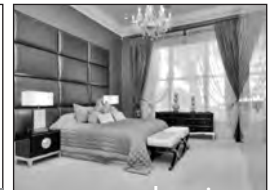
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## Paul French adds to his stories about local men in the 1914 -18 Great War,

I am grateful to Rifleman Percy Herbert Jones first and foremost for his service in the conflict of the Great War but also as a reminder of the fact that pieces written at the front and letters sent from the front enlighten us to how important these documents are as records of feelings, observations and comments from those involved.

Percy aged one is recorded in the 1891 census living in a house which is now Mumfords ironmongers in Cleobury Mortimer. When he enlisted his residence was given as Westminster and in the 1911 census he is twenty one , single and working for Marshal and Snelgrove ,Oxford Street London as a drapers assistant. I wonder what he thought of the change of pace?

He served as a Rifleman in the London Regiment, entered the war on the 25th January 1915 and was killed on the 19th April 1915 on his 26th birthday. He is buried in Armentieres France. He is also recorded on the Cleobury War Memorial and also on a splendid plaque in St Marys church.

The following piece was written by Percy and is called "Practice on Parade" it is both accurate, ironic and a fine example of observation and comment. This is the piece in full.

"We parade in our "front line" and take "enemy trenches" several times a day. Excellent practice, could anything be simpler? It is a fine sight to see 4000 men advancing as if on parade and capturing in half an hour a model of the enemy trenches at Gommecourt. The country chosen is quite different from that of Gommecourt Wood and I honestly believe that the practical value is nil"

There are many pieces of writing like this that stand alone as observation and commentary but there are also the letters written at the front.

These very often are a mixture of comment, observation and chat with loved ones and friends. These days it would probably be via a digital medium but the need to be in contact, to tell someone what goes on in your life, to tell someone they are in your thoughts never changes.

The following extracts are from letters sent by the staff of the Great Western Railway Audit office at Paddington to their colleagues and friends.

### *Serving in the Dardanelles*

Please remember me to all fellows who are left in the office. Mr Miller and Goff and Hills and George Williams, and all the boys generally. I can't write to all separately, also for details of my experiences you must wait until I get back, if ever I do, of which sometimes I despair.

### *Recovering from wounds*

Well old chap, I am glad I am wounded to get out of that hell, and if you ever meet a chap that says he wants to go back call him a liar.

### *Trenches... being under fire*

This show had been occupied by the Germs and then by the French from whom we took over. The filth and stench was too awful for words, one of our batteries striking rather unlucky in coming across Germs buried just under the surface when they started digging their guns in. The air was blue for miles...

The need to share experiences, to communicate in times of stress , anxiety or just to say hello or I love you are common to mankind.

This is just a tiny sample from the period. If you wish to read more, try searching on "Letters from the First World War".

*Paul French*



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## IN BUSINESS - Noah's Ark Small Animal Boarding

"We encourage people to come and look around. One lady came in and said she was surprised there was no smell. There shouldn't be if you look after the place properly."

Maureen takes a great deal of care of the animals she welcomes to the boarding she and husband Mike have developed on the slopes of Cleve Hill. In 18 months since the business was launched they've built up a very impressive pet hotel and a reputation to match. Customers coming from as far as Liverpool and Coventry hint at the quality of the place.

They've lived here for about ten years and it was when Maureen retired from working with disabled people in Birmingham that Noah's Ark started. A friend was running a similar business and gave advice, while Maureen's long love of animals was the clincher.

They have one and a half acres of garden, with a variety of pens for both animal guests and their own chickens; beyond the hedge are their five sheep, happily grazing. These outside units are part of the accommodation range, with animals moved back under cover in the converted garage overnight. The range of facilities there is impressive.



Your hosts at Noah's Ark, Maureen and Mike. Rosie the chicken is not a member of staff, just a pet.

The hutches in the boarding room were made after Maureen had consulted a number of local vets about the best size and style. They all have a separate area for the pets to sleep and there are toys and climbing facilities to give them exercise.

According to the type of animal, the floor is covered with either a vetbed or washable rug, the latter changed every day when the animal is in an outside hutch and Maureen is cleaning down with Anigene disinfectant, as approved by vets. "The washing machine's always on the go," she admits with a smile. Hygiene extends to all guest

rabbits needing a certified VHD and Myxomatosis injection.

There is a separate kitchen within the boarding room area, used only to prepare the animals' food. Normally owners provide the dry food for their pets, so that they have their known diet, while Noah's Ark provide fruit and vegetables.

They're very proud of the large outside hutch they found for sale by a retired couple who had used it to accommodate their Bengal cats. Mike has adapted it to provide feed for birds, or it will house animals, with ladders to reach the sleeping area and a variety of toys to keep the animals amused. The same rule applies to all the outside hutches - there are animal toys in every one.

It's a small animal and bird hotel, and that includes ferrets and even a corn snake due in the week after we called. The most unusual guest so far is a degu, a rare desert rat.

Will the place change and grow? "I don't want it to get any bigger," explains Maureen. "I feel it's just right as it is." Visit the place and you'd find it hard to argue with that.

Long term plans? "I'll carry on as long as I can," says Maureen. "I just love it."



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## STATEMENT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL Change of name from Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council to Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

In recent years, we have seen many changes to Cleobury Mortimer. We have grown as a community and our Parish Council has had to diversify and change to accommodate roles and functions that were previously undertaken by the old District Council and Unitary Council.

Cleobury Mortimer has had a Market Charter since 1226, and thus our status as a town has been longstanding. Many of our near neighbours have Town Council status, such as Tenbury and Ludlow.

We have had many helpful discussions and taken advice from the Rev. Justin Parker culminating in the following motion that was put forward, and agreed unanimously, at the May 2017 Council meeting:

*"Pursuant to section 245 Local Government Act 1972 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the parish of Cleobury Mortimer shall have the status of a town effective as and from the 8th day of May 2017 and in furtherance thereof the*

*name and style of this council shall on that date be the Town Council of Cleobury Mortimer"*

Many of our surrounding small parishes view Cleobury Mortimer as a 'hub' town, as we provide services and organisations that benefit not just the residents of Cleobury Mortimer.

By changing our name to Cleobury Mortimer Town Council this does not change the area for which the council is responsible, or the people who are the electors.

Looking to the future, however, it does change the status of the council to match the town that it serves.

## SHROPSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS WEEK

Open Studios Week is here again, with only Pauline and Roger Bradley letting us know what is happening. Their roomy workplace in the centre of Bayton will be welcoming all, who will have no less than 50 new pieces of artwork and prints to examine..

They've had a busy year, both showing work in London and throughout the UK, while Pauline also exhibited in Ireland. She has also had a print selected for the National Print

Archive for the Printmakers Council ART Gallery and Museum.

They'll be happy to show their work, describe their methods and if you give them notice they can accommodate groups. One of their great assets is the size of the garden that makes parking easy.

In the workshop is large Columbia printing press with a very interesting history. Ask them about that and they'll tell all and show some of the prints that were so risqué a long time ago that the artist who produced work for the press was dismissed. Examples of that work will be shown on request.

The Bradleys are an interesting couple with many tales to tell and good art to show. You can contact them on [johnrbradley@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrbradley@btinternet.com) or visit [www.baytonstudios.co.uk](http://www.baytonstudios.co.uk).

## AN APOLOGY

Our enthusiastic words in the May issue about John Carter's 1970s band issuing their long lost album contained one major slip: they are called Fair Warning, not Early Warning. Doh!

If you've been looking for them on Amazon, try the correct name. It does help.....



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## **A PLAN FOR CLEOBURY'S FUTURE TO 2036**

**Councillor Jon Bodenham outlines a plan for us all to have a say in the town's future development:**

Cleobury Town Council has agreed that a formal Neighbourhood Plan should be prepared for the Parish. A neighbourhood plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. This is a formal consultation that will go forward to the County Council and will be decided by referendum of the whole of the population of the Town with a legal status.

It is about the use and development of land and will contain a vision for the town, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

The Town Council are proposing to designate the whole of the Parish of Cleobury Mortimer as a Neighbourhood Area. We are seeking residents' and business owners' views on this proposal. If you have any comments, please contact the Town Clerk by 30th June 2017. Shropshire Council will publicise this application on-line and across the neighbourhood for a period of 4 weeks.

### **What happens next?**

The views and involvement of the community are important to the success of preparing any Neighbourhood Plan. Following

the approval of the designated area by Shropshire Council, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council, through a working group will be organising community events and surveys in order to gain insight into what should be in the plan.

### **Volunteers Needed**

To bring the plan to fruition we will need volunteers with skills and or enthusiasm. You can see the volunteer role description on the council website.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) cannot cover strategic issues, for example mining or major development, but can guide local issues. For example the plan should be able to say which important green spaces will be protected, or could identify a small affordable housing development. NDPs could also guide design standards in their area, to make sure that new development is of a high quality.

NDPs have to conform with 'the strategic priorities' of the relevant local county plan, but in planning decisions, if there is a conflict between a neighbourhood policy and a non-strategic local policy, the neighbourhood policy will take precedence E.G.:

The homes and jobs needed in the area.

The provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development.

The provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, energy, the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure.

Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

To have your say, to volunteer to help build the plan, or join a consultation group, send your comments and contact details to the Town Clerk by 30th June. [Matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:Matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk)

*Jon Bodenham*

## **THE LACON CHILDE QUIZ**

This used to be a really good evening, so the Parent Teacher Association are to be thanked for reviving it. It's on Friday July 7th, starting at 7.30. Open to teams up to six people. with a charge of £6.00 a head that includes the food. As you expect with a quiz evening, the intellectual juices will be encouraged to flow thanks to a licensed bar. Expect a good range of subjects to test your knowledge.

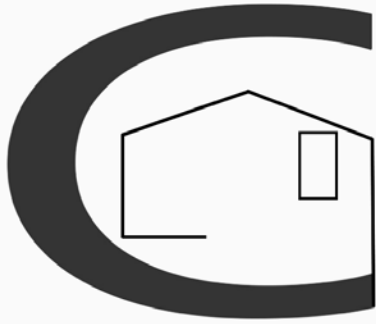
There will be special guest quiz masters, cash prizes to be won and a good, friendly atmosphere to enjoy. Closing time is officially 11.00.

Tickets are on sale at the school office and if you need more details, the contacts are Sarah-Jane Davies on 07843 054342 or Rachel Robinson on 07966 542969

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## **BRITISH JUSTICE AT WORK**

We have reported in recent months the prosecution of Mrs Elizabeth Griffiths by the Crown Prosecution Service for harassment of Matt Sheehan in his capacity as Clerk to the Parish Council. After two preliminary hearings, the trial proper was listed at Telford Magistrates' Court on May 26th.

There was a strong feeling of support for Matt within the community, the local branch of the Royal British Legion being particularly offended by a letter questioning their acceptance of him as a member. He had served as a regular soldier, including periods of duty in Northern Ireland at the times of the troubles.

It was agreed that hiring a mini bus would make sense, to carry several people and minimise parking problems at the Court. At 8.50am the bus arrived at the Parish Hall and 13 passengers filled it to capacity.

At the Court there were several other people who had travelled independently. 20 people in total were there to show support for our Town Clerk, the British Legion members in smart blazers with medals on display making their presence very noticeable.

Court proceedings began at 10.00, when there was a delay as three other cases were also listed for trial in the same courtroom. The trial was moved to another courtroom at one point and there was a lot of movement between courtrooms and the waiting area through the day.

Part of the delay appeared to be a process of negotiation quite outside the courtroom. The first we members of the public were given to understand was for a request for the charge of harassment to be dropped if Mrs Griffiths consented to be the subject of a Restraining Order. The prosecuting team refused to accept the proposal.

Some time later we were told that there was an offer to change Mrs Griffiths' plea to Guilty if the charge was changed to one of a contravention of Section 5 of the Public Order Act. This was also refused.

The time was approaching 1.00, the normal lunch break at the Court and the time for the hearing to begin was revised to 2.00pm. As we public trooped out to find lunch, there was a verbal message that the plea would be changed to Guilty, but no other details were available.

We were back in court in good time, nobody wanting to miss any detail, and the hearing started at 2.00. The defence

barrister advised the magistrates that Mrs Griffiths wanted to change her plea to Guilty, which she then did. He explained that this was on the basis that notices in her shop window had not been intended to harass Mr Sheehan, but simply to draw public attention to the Parish Council's practises. Mrs Griffiths did accept that she had been notified that the notices were offensive.

After much detailed discussion, the magistrates retired to consider the sentence at 2.15, returning to the court at 2.30.

Mrs Griffiths was made the subject of a restraining order for 18 months and was also given a conditional discharge for 18 months. The chairman of the Bench stated that if she was convicted of any further offence in breach of the conditional discharge, she would be liable to be resentenced for the present offence and that if she breached the restraining order she could be sent to prison.

The chairman also directed that any reporting of the hearing must be accurate. With this in mind, the Clarion asked for sight of the Restraining Order in order to publish details, but it was not made available before we went to press. If it does become available in time, details will be published in the July edition.

*Jim Reynolds*



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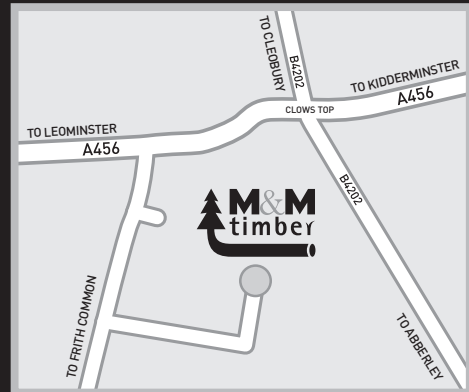
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## Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	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	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Ingrid Purslow	01299 270314	
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	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		08444 068888	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	
PARISH COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. <a href="http://www.cleobury.org.uk">www.cleobury.org.uk</a> . Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar 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	for bookings
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### THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS JUNE 23rd

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**Residential Sales**

The latest figures are in for the Nock Deighton House Price Index, seeing an increase of 1.5% during April, with a year-on-year increase of 4.5%. Our figures show a gradual progression for prices across Shropshire and Worcestershire over the past few months, which is good news because it indicates a stable market. A continued shortage of houses coming onto the market and affordable mortgage rates are keeping prices buoyant - although we have of course got the General Election looming which traditionally causes people to pause. It will be interesting to see what impact that has on the figures, so we will be keeping a close eye on house prices over the coming months.



Erica Hinwood  
MARLA MNAEA  
Office Manager

**Lettings**

This year to date we have seen no reduction in the demand for rental properties in the area, this is likely to be linked to the steady increase in house sale prices as reported, as the prices remain out of reach for many. This is great news for landlords as it means they are likely to have shorter void periods between tenants and also able to command a higher rent, making their investment more profitable. If you are a landlord and would like any advice regarding your investment, please do not hesitate to contact us and our lettings team will be delighted to help.



Coral Walrond  
MARLA MNAEA  
Lettings Negotiator

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