

NEW FACE AT THE TOP



Debbie Brown is the new Chair of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council, elected at the council meeting on May 7th following Sean Thorogood's decision to step down. A specialist nurse working in Sandwell, Debbie has been a councillor for some 14 years and vice chair for six.

She is a true local, born and raised in Cleobury before moving away to build her nursing career and moving back when daughter Jessie was born. Learn more about the town's leading lady in our interview on Page 31.

CLEOBURY ON SHOW

Last summer the town put on a new event, designed to show off some of the talents and traditions of the place. It was a brave idea, with some doubts about its feasibility, and it worked. The town buzzed with people finding places previously overlooked, talents they knew little or nothing about. It was something of an awakening.

This year it carries a new title, the Cleobury Festival, and plans have been worked on from long before the event, which will happen on Saturday the 23rd, with most of the attractions open from 11.00 in the morning. The exception is Mawley Town Farm, where the gates open at 12.00 noon and a bus will carry visitors to and from the town centre up to 2.45.

Like all big events, some of the details won't be agreed until late in the preparation. So our guide on Page 57 is just that, a guide and not a full plan because not everything was known when we went to press. But that simply adds a mild element of mystery that should arouse curiosity and encourage you to look in at every involved part of the community. The Town Council website and Facebook page should give you a complete list of what to see, try and maybe even buy as you walk around.

THANK YOU, SEAN

Sean Thorogood has stepped down from the Town Council after seven years as Chairman that have seen the town progress faster than ever before. His contribution has been enormous but never boasted about. We hope to tell you more about the man in our July issue.



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Volume Thirteen - Edition Three



Alfa Romeo's Giulia is the 2018 'What Car?' magazine Car of the Year. Even with flies on.
Page 17.



New Face at the Market Hall. The versatile Ali Sheffield.
Page 25.



She designed the Cleobury Country logo. Dancer and teacher Grace Young. Page 57.

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PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

Pensax Thrift Shop chooses a charity each year to support. Following this tradition, our choice for 2018 is Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester. Any donations – goods to be sold in aid of Acorns, prizes for our Acorns Raffle in July, or money – will all be very gratefully received. Thank you.

This year a cheque for £500 was handed over to the Motor Neurone Disease Association as a result of our fundraising in 2017. This charity was chosen following the death from MND of our friend Gill, a long-standing supporter of Thrift Shop.

The Shop is open every Wednesday morning until early December, 9.00 to 11.00 in Pensax Village Hall on the B4202. We would be really pleased to see you, whether you have goods to sell, or just want to browse around our stalls and meet friends old and new. A warm welcome awaits you.

Pauline Briggs

ENTERTAINER TREVOR

Before moving to Cleobury five years ago, I entertained on the keyboard for coach parties in Harrogate and the North East and played for church groups, W.I's and senior citizen groups. In 13 years I also produced 13 Old Time Music Halls raising some £50k.

Upon moving to Cleobury I decided to devote my time to raise money for churches throughout Shropshire and Worcestershire and I now perform without any fee. If groups feel a donation is appropriate this is for St.Mary's Youth Project. When I arrived in Cleobury I formed a new group, The Country Clangers, to raise funds for St. Mary's Church and Neen Sollars Victory Hall and we will present our 5th Old Time Music Hall in October. This will be the 60th annual show I

have produced and over this period I have raised funds approaching £300,000.

If anyone wishes to have a chat when considering a future event they can call me on 01299 272666. I am getting busier and busier and this was evident last December when I entertained at eight Christmas parties.

Trevor Wood

EARLY NOTICE - LUDLOW DOG DAY

On July 22nd Ludlow Rotary are holding their fifth Dog Day in the grounds of Stokesay Castle, six miles north of Ludlow on the A49.

It's a fun day for all the family, with 20 doggie classes to enter, from the scruffiest mutt to the fastest sausage eater and the best young handler. Lots of demonstrations through the day, from the likes of Burne Bloodhounds, Koomeska Huskies, Paws for Thought and new addition Westglen Heelwork to Music. There will also be range of challenges for your furry friend.

Over the last four years the Days have raised over £70,000 for charities and community organisations. This year they'll be working for Hope House Children's Hospices, Saint Michael's Hospice in Hereford, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Ludlow Rotary Cares.

Everybody will be welcome to what promises to be another great Dog Day, as an owner or just a visitor who wants to admire fine animals in action. More information on www.ludlowdogday.org.uk

Barry Forester

SILLY BITS

A vulture boards a Ryanair flight, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at the vulture and says:

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ROCK PATHFINDERS

An evening walk is part of the month's offering from this keen and active group:

Thursday 7th. Evening Walk starting at 7.00 from the Childe Road West car park in Cleobury Mortimer. DY14 8BQ or SO reference 672758.

Thursday 21st. Back to the normal morning start, 10.30 from the Royal Forester, Callow Hill, DY14 9XW. Or SO reference 745738.

Everyone welcome for these walks lasting two to three hours along footpaths and bridleways. More details from Alan on 01299 400304.

A TEA PARTY AT VICTORY HALL

There will be a Tea Party at Clows Top Victory Hall on Saturday the 16th, starting at 2.00. It's in aid of Pensax Church and will feature a Bottle Tombola, a Chocolate Tombola, plus both a Book and a Cake Stall. And in addition to all that temptation they will be offering refreshments as well.

There will also be a Grand Draw, tickets priced at just £1.00 each and lots of prizes to take home. With teas, music and chat on offer, it sounds rather like a little piece of genteel rural England to savour. More details from Anna Whyment on 01299 832195.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

It's 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 to appreciate the garden, and 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.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 on Wednesday the 27th, when the speaker will be Ian Nex on Cottage Gardens. It will also be the club's Rose and Sweet Pea Show.

Pauline Bowen

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Our Bridge Tournament at Blakedown was another great success, 62 players enjoying a full day of play and raising £535 for Alzheimers Research.

At the Regional Meeting in April, SI Kidderminster won the competition for the most outstanding project under last year's project focus: 'Environmental Sustainability' with our production of 453 birthing sheets, 214 pillowcase dresses and 74 pillowcase shorts for an orphanage in Uganda.

At our last Supper meeting we enjoyed a very informative talk by Sue Beeson on 'Riding for the Disabled'. Our monthly informal Coffee Morning on the last Thursday in the month, took place at The Shambles Café within the Bewdley Museum and will do so until the George Hotel re-opens for business. Do come along and meet some of us from about 10.00 am onwards.

Our next Business Meeting will be on Thursday 7th June at 7.30pm at Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster.

Visitors are always welcome. For more details about the club and its activities and meetings, contact us: Tel. 01299 266101 or email: kidderminstersorop@gmail.com

Website: <http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/> Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Club met at the Golf Club on May 8th to hear Clare Hadwell talk about her career in education, much of which was spent teaching the children of British servicemen stationed abroad.

Clare opened with a brief historical introduction; she had traced the roots of the military educational service as far back as 1762, when a school was set up in the Tower of London. Over the years, the system expanded until by 1946, the Royal Army Educational Corps was formed and also the BFES (British Families Education Service) which later became the SCEA (Service Children's Education Authority). By 1969 there were 147 overseas schools, with 53,000 pupils. Numbers now are much lower, largely due to NATO cutbacks following *glasnost* and the end of the Cold War.

Following her teacher training at King Alfred's College, Winchester, she started work as a teacher in a primary school in Dorset, but after a year or two felt that life should offer something a little more exciting. She applied to join the SCEA, and her first appointment was in the Belgian town of Emblem. As part of the military world, Clare found that there were frequent mess dinners and local outings, so a rewarding job was enhanced by the social events. Emblem was followed by RAF Bruggen, Pullendorf, JHQ Rheindahlen and, finally, a spell at the SHAPE International School, near Mons.

The job had some elements which would rarely be encountered back home in Britain. At RAF stations in particular, there was always a very real risk that some of fathers, who were flying combat missions, might be killed while on duty. Bereaved children needed particularly sensitive care, and so Clare was trained in grief counselling.

Overall, she enjoyed teaching Forces Children, and conveyed something of the adventure and challenge of her 28 years' experiences in this field.

The Club next meets on June 12th at the Cleobury Café to hear Jill Sharp tell of her experiences as a practising physiotherapist. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

LEGION OUTING TO NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Cleobury's Royal British Legion branch will be taking a coach trip to the very impressive National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on June 24th. Departure time is 8.00 am.

For more details and bookings, contact Ron Breakwell on CM 270830 or Mark Baldwin on 270110.

A STRANGE PEELY HABIT

Beverley Gibbons writes:

I regularly walk my dogs in the skateboard park and come across vegetable peelings that someone is dropping in the hedgerows and on the side of the paths. The only reason I can think of is that they are feeding the wildlife - they are not. They are feeding my dogs who will eat all of the peelings and then be ill. I am sure they have the best of intentions but this is not a good or appropriate thing to be doing. Poisoning dogs is not acceptable and I would ask that it stops.

Bev Gibbons

We've passed this on to Town Clerk Matt Sheehan, who is our dog warden and has more powers in doggy matters than the editor. He is investigating and trying to establish who the peel spreader is, as it is established that potato peel can harm dogs *JR*



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KINLET PRIMARY SCHOOL'S SUCCESS

That lovely little Church of England Primary School at Kinlet has another success to add to its list. We'll let them explain:

We are a 'Good School' according to our latest Ofsted report which was inspected on March 20th and 21st. The headteacher and governors are highly ambitious and have a clear vision for the school. Teaching is typically good. Teachers provide challenge and make learning fun and relevant, which captures pupils' interests and engages them in their learning. Lessons are carefully planned to excite and interest pupils. Pupils told the inspector, "It's really fun at our school, we have lots of experiences. We learn in a fun way. That way we remember what we have learned much better." Pupils' books and displays around the school reflect this. The curriculum is supplemented by a wide range of leadership opportunities for the pupils such as the co-committee, the school council and the reading buddy system. Other activities include a range of sports, and all pupils in school learn to play a musical instrument, such as the ukulele, flute and clarinet.

Since September 2017 all pupils have the opportunity to participate in a weekly Forest School session on part of our extensive school grounds. The ethos of an eco-school is embedded in the curriculum and pupils develop gardening skills and chicken husbandry as part of their activities on a regular basis. We have just been re-accredited with the Green Flag and are currently working towards Forest School Accreditation.

We are currently developing a link with a school in Nepal. Pupils have already carried out some fundraising and purchased resources which have

been delivered to the school by headteacher Anita Raymond. Please take a look at our website www.kinlet.shropshire.sch.uk to see the photographs.

We are holding an Open Afternoon on Friday 22nd June 2018 from 1.15pm onwards for current and prospective parents to visit. Everyone is welcome to come and have a look around our school.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

May was a busy month. Summer clearance has started, we replaced a rotten stile at Hillocks farm in Hopton Wafers and also repaired the wooden steps on the footpath from Eagle Lane.

In June, we plan to clear "Jacob's Ladder", the narrow path which goes from half way up Ron Hill along the top of the river bank into The Furlongs. It would become impassible in the summer months without our efforts each year. It is a big job made easier by many hands. If any locals who use that path would like to help us, we would be delighted to hear from you. please contact us on Footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Our June Parish walk is on Sunday the 3rd. We will be walking on Catherton Common – so we do NOT meet outside the church – instead meet at 10.00 on the Common. Take the Catherton Road from Cleobury and immediately after the first cattle grid, turn left for Hopton Wafers. Park after 200 metres before Riddings Gate cattle grid. (Ref SO641782). Anybody requiring a lift should be at Childe Rd (West) Car Park by 9.40am. Alternatively contact Alan Kimber on 01299 271754. The walk is approximately three to four miles long.

SILLY BIT

"I am not an alcoholic, I am a drunk. Alcoholics go to meetings."



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LUDLOW DOG DAY

On July 22nd Ludlow Rotary Club are holding the 5th annual Dog Day in the beautiful grounds of Stokesay Court, six miles north of Ludlow and just off the A49.

The emphasis of the day is on fun for the family, including our furry friends who will have over 20 classes to contest, from the scruffiest mutt, the fastest sausage eater, to the best young handler, up to the best in show. Various demonstrations will take place including past favourite The Burne Bloodhounds, Koomeska Huskies and the Paws for Thought display team. Plus new additions; Westglen Heelwork to Music. There are also a number of Have A Go challenges, including dog agility, gun dog scurry and new for this year, fun dog racing.

There are stalls selling canine related goods, a wide range of food stalls, and the popular tea tent, Pimms tent and the Hobsons Bar. As a result of the money raised over the last four years at the annual Ludlow Dog Day, Ludlow Rotary Club has been able to distribute over £70,000 to a range of charities and community organisations.

This year's charities are Hope House Children's Hospices, who provide care and support to life-limited children, St Michael's Hospice, Hereford is dedicated to the support of patients affected by a terminal illness, Guide Dogs for the Blind, with their Ludlow Supporter Group, is committed to helping people who are blind or partially sighted lead more independent lives and Ludlow Rotary Cares is run by Ludlow Rotary Club and provides grants to help local organisations make a real difference in the community. For example, Neen Savage Parish Hall and Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society have each received grants in the last two years.

Please join us on July 22nd to celebrate our furry friends and enjoy a wonderful day whilst supporting such important charities For more information please go to www.ludlowdogday.org.uk

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Two of the allotment plots next to the school path between Love Lane and Catherton Road are available. They're not too big, ideal for a novice in the matter of growing some of your own food, and cost a very modest £5.00 for the year. More details from Clare or Sam at Cleobury Country Centre on CM 272300, who will be happy to take a small note from you.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the MacMillan Nursing street collection on May 19th. We collected £255.71.

Sue Henderson

FROM THE BANDROOM

Our first engagement of the year at Malvern went very well, with beautiful sunshine and a huge crowd of people enjoying a picnic and listening to the band. The next will involve our training band playing at Neen Sollars fete on June 16th.

We have had some kind donations to our Nationals Fund but still need to raise more.

Unfortunately we won't be able to play at Cleobury Festival this year as we have taken the decision to play at a paid engagement – sorry if that disappoints anybody.

Finally, we are actively seeking bass players, unfortunately three of our players have recently retired from the band for health reasons. If you are interested in joining the band please get in touch – as soon as you can.

Katie Griffiths



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GOOD MOTORING COMPANY

We were in Spain for the Moto GP at Jerez, my older son Iain, Geoff Hainsworth and myself. I was the lucky one, travelling courtesy of my son's generosity. We met at Seville airport, where a hire car had been booked under the heading "VW Golf or similar." EuroCar came up trumps with an Alfa Romeo 'Giulia', 2.2 litre turbo-diesel with eight-speed automatic transmission by German giant ZF. Lucky old Geoff was our nominated driver.

An easy 70 miles autoroute cruise to our apartment in Arcos de la Frontera, where an underground car park was included in the rental. On Saturday morning we found our way to the circuit to watch practise and qualifying, only to be sent down another autoroute by a Guardia Civil patrol and ending up in a huge queue that eventually saw us sent out in the country again. A day wasted.

On Sunday we were up at 5.00, on the road at 6.00 and in the circuit at 6.40. Not a lot to do, but we found our grandstand seats in good time for the 9.00 o'clock warm-up sessions. Racing started at 11.00 with Moto 3 and at 2.00 the Big Bad Moto GP boys lined up to do battle. I won't tell that story in detail - not enough room - but a mighty tussle brought three riders down and allowed Marc Marquez to win by a margin. We waited until most of the crowd had gone before heading back to the Alfa and puzzling when the key failed to open the familiar white car with the registration letters KFR. Until Geoff Hainsworth looked at the paperwork and found this was an identical car with the same letters but a few digits different on the numbers. Doh! Someone else had rented an Alfa from the same outlet and parked near us. Our real car was about 40 metres away....

Out of the circuit, the journey back to Arcos saw the Giulia cruising easily at speeds up to 100 mph

with the engine purring and the ride a smooth and comfortable one. I was well impressed.



Alfa Romeo's turbo diesel Giulia, an impressive and rapid ride with a claimed consumption of 49 mpg.

A few days spent in the Andalusia area before flying home were a good test of comfort and driveability in a variety of situations. The flappy-paddle gear changing was tried just once out of curiosity, while good, smooth progress made with the fully automatic option.



The interior in smart black and chrome was easy on the eye and felt good to the touch. Plastic, but not cheap. To round off a good news story, as we went to press we heard that the Giulia has been named as 'What Car' magazine's Car of the Year 2018. I can see why.

JR

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In practice we are seeing an increasing number of senior (11 to 14 years) and geriatric (15+ years) cats, this is likely due to an improvement in nutrition, veterinary care and home life. Despite being able to provide better care for our cats we still cannot prevent ageing, it gets to us all.

As our cats age their senses become less effective, we may notice changes in their sight, (so no surprise changes in layout of the house please), decreased hearing capabilities, (or selective deafness in some cases!) and reduction in smell and taste (which is an excuse for some premium titbits). Their immune system is also affected by age and they become more susceptible to illness and infection.

We see and treat a number of diseases in older patients but the most common in our opinion are:

Kidney Disease: affects between 20 – 50% of cats aged 15+. It is a very common condition and unfortunately is progressive, as kidney function slowly deteriorates. But with the appropriate treatment they can still enjoy a good quality of life. As the kidneys regulate fluid balance in the body and removal of some waste products many of the signs seen are related to this; these can include, increased thirst, weight loss, decreased appetite, weakness, poor coat and bad breath.

Hyperthyroidism: another very common condition. The thyroid gland is found in the neck and produces hormones that have an effect on your cats' metabolism. A cat with this condition has an over active gland and therefore their metabolism is in overdrive. As a result the following clinical signs can manifest; weight loss despite a ravenous appetite, increased thirst, restlessness, changes in coat condition, vomiting and diarrhoea. The good news is there are a variety of different treatment options available that will manage this condition effectively for a long time.

Arthritis: we know that this is commonly seen in dogs but is also common in cats, but due to their nature it is much harder to diagnosis. Cats are predators by nature and so hide their pain very well, but it has been seen on X-ray that between 60-90% of cats have some degree of arthritis. Things that you may notice at home would include; reduced mobility, this can present as a reluctance to jump on/off high

places, stiffer movement, change in the amount of activity and a change in their grooming habits.

People often worry about administering medication but with modern drugs, most will now be in a palatable formulation. Early diagnosis is often key to maximising quality and length of life allowing our pets to grow old as gracefully (or as disgracefully in some cases!) as possible. Should you be concerned with anything in this article then please contact your vet for some advice.



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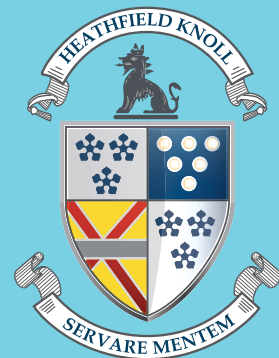
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NOTABLE MEETING AT KINLET

There is a very important consultation, starting at the beginning of June for 14 weeks, on the future of which of the hospitals at Shrewsbury or Telford will have the serious emergency case unit.

The Medical Staff have voiced their preference for the unit to be based at the Shrewsbury site. Now is the opportunity for the public to have their say.

Cleobury and Highley have joined together and invited officers from Future Fit who have put forward these proposals, and representatives from Defend our NHS Group, to a meeting on June 26th at 7.00pm in the Kinlet Village Hall. There will also be a senior officer from Shropshire Highways present, to answer questions with regard to road maintenance. All representatives will put forward their points, then you will be able to ask them questions.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Madge Shineton

NEEN SOLLARS CHURCH FETE

There's a lovely setting for this annual event, at Tetstill Farm, in the scenic Rea Valley. It's on June 16th, starting at 1.00 and finishing at 4.00. The attractions listed include a band, barbecue, teas, games, raffle, pony rides and as you'd expect in a village fete, a dog show. All in aid of All Saints Church.

THE NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND

The Nightingale Nursing Fund's Annual General Meeting is on June 17th, 7.00 p.m. at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane Cleobury Mortimer.

The audited accounts will be presented to the meeting as well as a plan of fund raising for the coming year. This is a silent fund and unless you

are told by a family member that it has helped them in their time of crisis you will not know how much it is appreciated by those it supports. So please give it your support in turn, come along and find out how the fund works. We are always open for questions and suggestions of fund raising.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Rosemary Abbiss

CLEOBURY COUNTRY ON TOUR

The Business Networking Group are on the move again, visiting Mawley Milk from 6.00 to 8.00 on the evening of the 27th this month. It should be a very interesting experience, with the Robinson family addressing the matter of making dairy farming work with their own branding and distribution. Plus great working efficiencies on the farm in both handling the herd and generating electricity.

The family have long been a great community contributor and are generous sponsors of both local events and organisations. Much to be learned from these fine people. You can book a place on the visit by calling CM 272300 and speaking to either Clare or Sam.

CLEOBURY CARERS MEET

The Cleobury Carers Support Group will be celebrating National Carers Week with a Luncheon Garden Party on Tuesday the 19th this month. It will be at 2 Tenbury Road in Cleobury, from 12.30 until 3.00; admission is free and donations for the tea would be appreciated.

There will be a Bottle Tombola and a Cake and Produce stall to tempt a little spending on a good cause. It's good to see the work that carers do being appreciated and anyone who looks after a relative or neighbour will find a welcome here.



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NEWS FROM SAINT JOHN'S, DODDINGTON

St John's Doddington's "Pop in for Puds" in May was blessed with a huge variety of delicious puddings, and luckily a number of people who had saved space for pudding and extras. Thanks to all who provided, helped and came along to eat them.

Our next event is a fundraiser: Midsummer Music, a concert held in the Church on June 23rd at 7.30pm. Taking part in the concert will be "Take Note", an acapella jazz choir, several soloists, duets and trios on various instruments and voices and the local "Clee Singers". There will be something to suit everyone so whatever your musical taste, put it in your diary and come along - you may discover a new taste too. Tickets are £6 (£3 for under 16s) and there will be interval drinks on sale. Tickets are available from church members, 01584 318036 or on the door (subject to availability). Parking will be available at Doddington Village Hall - we will have helpers to assist people up the steps/path to church, so don't be put off by our "altitude" above the road.

Celia Gibb

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Our May meeting brought a sense of calm as Lulu West told us about the importance of sleep and ways in which we can help and improve our sleep habits. Many are common sense – ensure the room isn't too hot or cold and no distractions such as mobile phones. If you are struggling to sleep try the 5:5:5 trick – open your eyes wide and look for 5 things, then close them and listen for 5 things, finally try and feel 5 things. This should clear the mind of all things and help you to relax.

Also in May we hosted the Shropshire Federation of WIs Spring Ramble, with help from CMFA. 74 walkers from as far afield as Oswestry met at the hall on Saturday the 12th, a beautiful spring morning, perfect for walking. Neen Savage WI members served drinks and homemade cookies and shortbread before the walkers headed off. Two walks had been planned of either four or eight miles; we all walked together as far as the Golf Club, where many were relieved to take advantage of the facilities, kindly offered by the Club. From there the short walk returned to the Parish Hall via Dinmore for lunch. The more adventurous headed into the woods, stopping in a clearing along the Elan Valley pipeline for a picnic, where we were lucky enough to see some fallow deer. It was lovely to hear so many complimentary remarks about the beauty of the landscape, the bluebells and the variety of terrain. Some admitted they had never travelled to our corner of the County, despite living in Shropshire all their lives! Many are planning to return in the near future to explore further. We returned to the hall for afternoon tea. Lots of work, but great fun and we were so happy to have put Neen Savage on the WI map. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day, particularly Alan and Deana Kimber who led the walks and Veronica and Mike who helped ensure no one was lost.

Our next meeting is on the 13th, when we will be making photo cards. We are also visiting The Old Forge on Saturday the 16th, by kind invitation of Jenny and Andy Vanderhook.

Everyone is welcome to come along, the meeting starts at 7.30pm in Neen Savage Parish Hall, £4 for visitors. For more information please contact Mrs Sandra Dodd on 01299 271563.

Catherine Evans



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CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

An evening with Holly Joynson took us from the early years, dancing with the Royal Ballet, to her most recent innovation inspiring people with dementia to move to well remembered music. Starting by 'Going On a Summer Holiday' we all smiled and sang our way through seated, then more energetic dances until refreshment time, certainly proving the point that dance is good for health and wellbeing.

The visit to Nineveh Ridge Care Farm to present a cheque from the Winter Warmer lunches was equally inspirational, a wonderful setting providing work, fun and love to special needs adults and children.

There is a trip to the AO Recycling facility on June 5th at 9.30am and all are welcome to see this in action on World Environment Day; more information and book a place by email judysant10@gmail.com or call 01299 270983.

The June meeting on Tuesday 12th will be at 7.30pm in Jenny's garden at The Old Forge, Baveney to learn how to encourage beautiful butterflies. Photos and information on our Facebook page.

Judy Sant

NEW FACE AT THE MARKET HALL

Ali Sheffield is the new face at the Market Hall, taking over from Dot McBride and using the office as the base for a range of work that she manages to fit into a busy life.

She has a national post as a representative for Social Farms and Gardens, helping people to make such businesses sustainable. That takes her all over the country, but not on a regular basis; it will certainly help her new work, as she can see what's going on and what's working in other areas.

She's also a trustee of Frishta, a Hindi charity with an orphanage in the Punjab. There's a lot of compassion in her character when you look at those two posts, but she's also a bright and friendly presence whose smile puts you at ease. We wish her every success.



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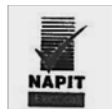
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As you might expect, I hold regular meetings with each of the public bodies in Shropshire to keep up to date on local issues, and to offer feedback and comments provided to me by local constituents. In this capacity I recently met Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, John Campion, to discuss his efforts to improve the effectiveness of policing, and I am encouraged by some of the steps he has taken so far.

Investment in mobile working technology has been a strong step forward in allowing the police to spend more time out patrolling and less time travelling back to stations to undertake admin. Similarly, the delivery of body worn cameras – a key manifesto commitment – has both allowed greater evidence collecting powers for the police, but also more accountability to the public, which is welcome.

The decision to raise the police aspect of the local precept (equivalent to £7.58 to the annual bill in 2018/19 for a band D home) has allowed the protection of police officer numbers while recruitment continues into our local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. This rise is less than the maximum allowed increase in precept, as the PCC believes efficiencies can still be made, to avoid higher taxes at a time when family budgets are tight.

I am very pleased the response team for South Shropshire has returned to Ludlow, having previously been based in Leominster. Bridgnorth Police Station is co-locating with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service at Bridgnorth Fire Station, as the existing building is not fit for purpose and not fully utilised. So this will allow its redevelopment, and return to use back in the community, with any saving going back into frontline policing.

Despite a recent upswing in crime (though the increase in West Mercia is less than the national picture), crime levels in West Mercia are broadly similar to those recorded in 2010. I am particularly encouraged latest figures reveal a 19% reduction in robbery in our area.

For context on latest crime figures, it is important to highlight the fact that we have become better at recording crime, and some crime is now more widely reported – such as incidences of Child Sexual Exploitation, which received much greater public prominence after the revelations of Operation Yewtree, and of course, more recent historical cases in Telford.

This national prominence has led to more victims feeling able quite properly to come forward and talk about their experiences, which is welcome. I am pleased that there will now be an inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Telford, and I commend the pressure brought to bear by my colleague Lucy Allan MP, which has helped shine a spotlight on the appalling prevalence in some areas of CSE both locally and nationally. Telford’s story shows this is not an issue confined to more urban parts of the country, but instead can be found on our own doorstep. So I welcome the inquiry.

Finally, effective community policing also takes account of local views. If you would like to make some suggestions to help improve policing in our area, please get in touch with the local Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion via opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or in writing at OPCC, West Mercia Police, Hindlip Hall, Worcester, WR3 8SP.

Philip Dunne MP

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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice—June 2018

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 3rd-8.30 Said Eucharist & 11.00am Service.

10th, 17th & 24th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

24th-Messy Church 3-5pm at the Hub, crafts, stories, games and a meal. All welcome.

Events/Activities:

Farmers Market-Saturday 16th In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Mothers Union Lunch-Thursday 21st, everybody welcome to a Summer Tea and Bring & Buy.

Please contact Gabrielle 270510 for more information.

Friends of St Mary's Midsummer Wine Walk-Friday 15th 7.30pm-10.30pm. Tickets £12.00 now on sale. Full details in the porch.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-6.30pm Evensong, 17th-10.00am Matins,

24th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-6.30pm Evensong,

24th-9.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-10.00am Eucharist, 17th-10.00am Family Service,

24th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 3rd -No service, 10th-11.00am Eucharist, 17th-No service, 24th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

Events/Activities: Saturday 23rd Midsummer Music, 7.30pm. Come and enjoy the great acoustics with a mix of music to suit all tastes. Tickets £ 6.00 Tel: 01584 318036.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-11.00am Eucharist, 17th-No service, 24th-11.00am Family Service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-11.00am Eucharist, 24th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm

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DEBBIE BROWN

Chair, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

“That is an interesting Council, with a real mixture of new, brand new and experience. The big difference over the last two or three years has been the growth of social media; we’re sharing more information available to people because we’re getting it out there faster.” The lady is clearly up to date on communication.

“It’s very different from the time when I joined. We’ve taken on more work and staff, like Dorothy McBride as Responsible Financial Officer; she relieves the Town Clerk of a lot of work and he’d be spending almost all his time on finance if she wasn’t here.”

“Sean Thorogood as chairman got us through a transition period. As a business man that was probably his target, to get a stable council installed and working, and then step back.” That is what has happened, with Mr Thorogood announcing his resignation as a councillor at May’s Council Annual General Meeting, a job very thoroughly done.

“Our finances are in good order and the Council are aware it’s public money we’re dealing with, so we consider any spending very carefully. We have a finance committee of four, who do a quarterly check and review to make sure we’re within budget.”

So where does she see the Council going from here? “There are a few challenges that will mean a little more work. We all know Shropshire Council is short of money, so we’ll budget for more so that if something hits us we can deal with it.” On the matter of transport she’s waiting like the rest of us to see what develops, but feels that having a local company like R&B running the local service will mean better communication.

Her deputy is Councillor Andy Goold and the two of them did a drive around the Parish to look at the road signs and furniture that are now the Council’s responsibility. “It did me as a councillor a lot good,” she admits. “It’s too easy to see the signs in the town centre and think they’re all fine. There’s a lot more out of town.” And if she’s been driving around the lanes, how were the pot holes? “They do make travel to work difficult, but Shropshire Council have 12 teams out dealing with them..”

Another challenge is the adoption of responsibility for local facilities, the skate park the most recent example. The County Council will be financing that on a sliding scale for three years, then it becomes a town matter. There is a source of extra income from a contribution made by housing developers, the CIL Fund, that local councils have to fully justify before they can draw down funds from it.

So here’s a lady with good experience in public service, motivated by affection for the community to want to contribute and face up to problems. Is she a good fighter? She hesitates and considers before answering: “We’ve learned to challenge effectively instead of shouting.” That alone is a measure of progress we should all be proud of.

And her perception of where the town is going? “It’s possible to have better engagement with the community and keep that momentum going.” No small ambition.

Another measure of how far the Town Council has progressed is its application to be granted Quality Council status. Debbie was leading a team to visit Shirehall for a meeting shortly before the Clarion was published and she expects to hear the verdict this month. Front page news in July?



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|------------------------|--------|---|----------------|--------------|
| Fri 1 st | | BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY | | |
| Sat 2 nd | 8.00am | Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Centre, Clee Hill | | |
| Sun 3 rd | 10.00 | The Footpath Association step out to take in Catherton & Silvington Commons. All Walkers welcome. PAGE 11 | | |
| | 6.00 | Open Mic Night at the King's Arms. All ages & tastes, but acoustic only | | |
| Tues 5 th | 9.30am | Cleobury WI trip to AO Recycling. PAGE 25 | | |
| | 2.00 | Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street | | |
| Wed 6 th | 9.00 | Pensax Thrift Shop is in the village hall, on B4202 Abberley Road. PAGE 5 | | |
| | 10.00 | Walking for Health step out from the Sports Centre for a friendly stroll | | |
| | 10.00 | Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic, St. Mary's Place, Love Lane | | |
| | 11.00 | Sing, Laugh, Breathe at Cleobury Market Hall | Kate | 01584 890284 |
| | 7.30 | Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall | Sonia Pearsall | 01584 890874 |
| Thurs 7 th | | GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY | | |
| | 7.00 | An Evening Walk with Rock Pathfinders, starting from Childe Road West car park in Cleobury. PAGE 7 | | |
| Tues 12 th | 7.30am | The Breakfast club meet at Cleobury Café. PAGE 9 | Angela | CM 270636 |
| | 2.00 | Friendship Club, Parish Hall | | |
| | 7.30 | Cleobury WI visit The Old Forge at Baveney. PAGE 25 | | |
| Wed 13 th | 9.00 | Pensax Thrift Shop, Pensax village hall. On B4202 to Abberley. PAGE 5 | | |
| | 10.00 | CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Coffee and cake for £1.50! | | |
| | 11.00 | Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall | | |
| | 7.30 | Neen Savage WI meet in the Village Hall to hear about Mandy Madden's Handmade Photo Book. PAGE23 | Sandra Dodd | CM 271563 |
| | 8.00 | Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street | David Taylor | CM 270793 |
| Thurs 14 th | | BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY | | |
| Fri 15 th | 8.00 | Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall | Sonia Pearsall | 01584 890874 |
| Sat 16 th | | Coach trip to Llandudno | Mrs Gregory | 01584 891464 |
| | 1.00 | Neen Sollars Church Fete at Tetstill Farm. PAGE 21 | | |
| | 2.00 | Neen Savage WI Social Saturday at The Old Forge. | Sandra Dodd | CM 271563 |
| | 2.00 | Tea Party, Clows Top Victory Hall for Pensax Church. Page 7 | Anna Whyment | 01299 832195 |
| Sun 17 th | 7.00 | Nightingale Nursing Fund AGM, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 21 | | |
| Tues 19 th | 12.30 | Cleobury Carers Support Group Luncheon Garden Party. PAGE 21 | | |

RECYCLING VISIT

John Sant is organising a visit to his very busy recycling plant in Telford on June 5th, leaving Cleobury at 9.30am. He's had a lot of publicity and already WI and Breakfast Club parties have been and come away very impressed. Book your place for the 5th with Judy Sant on CM 270983.



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The June Social Calendar Continued

Part Two

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---|----------------|--------------|
| Tues 19 th | 2.00 | Friendship Club, Parish Hall | | |
| Wed 20 th | 9.00 | Pensax Thrift Shop, Village Hall, Pensax. PAGE 5 | | |
| | 10.00 | Walking for Health are out again, starting from the Sports Centre. | Alan | CM 271754 |
| | 11.00 | Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall | | |
| | 7.30 | Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall | Sonia Pearsall | 01584 890874 |
| Thurs 21 st | | GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY | | |
| | 10.30 | Back to a morning start for Rock Pathfinders at The Royal Forester, Callow Hill. PAGE 7 | | |
| Fri 22 nd | 1.15 | Open Afternoon at Kinlet C of E Primary School. A Good School according to Ofsted. PAGE 11 | | |
| Fri-Sun22-24 th | 10.30 | Jigsaw Festival at Mamble Church. PAGE 43 | | |
| | | Beardy Folk Festival at Hopton Court. PAGE 45 | | |
| Sat 23 rd | 11.00 | CLEOBURY TOWN FESTIVAL. OUR BIG DAY | | |
| | 7.30 | Midsummer Music at St John's Church, Doddington. PAGE 23 | | |
| Sun 24 th | 8.00 | Royal British Legion outing to National Memorial Arboretum. PAGE 9 | | |
| Mon 25 th | 7.30 | The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the Library | | |
| Tues 26 th | 2.00 | Friendship Club, Parish Hall | | |
| | 7.00 | Public Meeting at Kinlet Village Hall about emergency case unit and road maintenance. PAGE 21 | | |
| Wed 27 th | | Neen Savage WI visit Madresfield Court, Malvern | Sandra Dodd | CM271563 |
| | 9.00 | Pensax Thrift Shop, Pensax village hall. PAGE 5 | | |
| | 10.00 | Coco Coffee Morning, Market Hall | | |
| | 11.00 | Sing Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall | | |
| | 7.30 | Clows Top Garden Club, Victory Hall. Ian Nex talks about Cottage Gardens. PAGE 7 | Marion Wilson | CM270475 |
| Thurs 28 th | | BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY | | |
| Fri 29 th | 8.00 | Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall | Sonia Pearsall | 01584 890874 |
| | | AND LOOKING FORWARD TH JULY..... | | |
| Wed 4 th | 9.00 | Pensax Thrift Shop, Pensax village hall. PAGE 5 | | |
| | 11.00 | Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall | | |
| | 7.30 | Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall | Sonia Pearsall | 01584 890874 |
| Thurs 5 th | | GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY | | |

The Beardy Folk Festival at Hopton Court offers music, dance and much more over the long weekend June 22nd to 24th. Good line-up of 30 recognised folk acts performing in a unique secret garden setting, with great food, ales and ciders all ready to hand. Pray for sunshine, don't bother to get too smart, just go and join the crowd to enjoy yourself. Hangovers are allowed.

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BACK PAIN

**April Boardman of The Well Being
with some good advice**

Ever had a bad back? Nearly all of us have at some point in our lives. The Office for National Statistics estimate that bad backs cost the UK 31 million days of work and that was in 2013; goodness knows what it is now. The causes of back pain are mainly due to poor posture and accidents. Many such issues resolve quickly, but some are longer term and I often see people for massage that have been suffering with back pain for a number of years. Some of whom have been taking prescription pain killers for quite some time in order to manage their problem.

Over time, muscles, joints, tendons and ligaments can become overworked if we are moving incorrectly or doing many repetitive moves. Desk work, driving, manual handling, lifting, carrying etc all can take their toll. If your chair at the desk isn't the right height for you, or if you constantly look down at a laptop or mobile phone, your neck and back can become strained and you can experience tension headaches.

If you remain seated or stand for much of the time your muscles become tense and you begin to ache. If you are overweight, that puts tremendous strain upon your joints, as does heavy lifting. The problems can be anywhere in your body, neck and shoulders, middle or lower back, the pain may even refer to your chest or abdomen and down your legs and arms.

Imagine carrying a heavy bag on one shoulder for much of the time. This puts your body out of alignment, causing neck and shoulder pain, but you could also have problems in your mid and lower back and hips because your body tries to

make up for the weight being carried on one shoulder. A good postural assessment by an experienced therapist can help to diagnose what is going on with your body and a remedial or deep tissue massage can help relax the muscles and ease the tension that contributes to back problems. A deep massage can release the knots in muscles so they can function normally and the body can return to its correct alignment. Other therapies such as chiropractic, physiotherapy and acupuncture also help to relieve back pain. I also advise clients to try gentle exercise such as yoga pilates to help muscles to stretch and release.

Many clients say "I wish I had tried massage sooner" as they find their pain eases after a few sessions and they are free to move again. 20% off your first treatment at The Well Being Cleobury Mortimer and during June Reflexology and Indian Head Massage is just £20.

STOTTESDON FETE

Stottesdon C of E Primary School are delighted to continue their association with St.Mary's Church in staging the 2018 Stottesdon Summer Fete on Friday July 6th. Gates open at 5.30pm, admission is free and everyone is welcome.

As always, the fete is full of family fun and the organisers have retained a community feel, enhanced by many of the established attractions from previous years, including sports races, tombola, cake stalls, raffle, ice-creams, pony rides and children's activities.

A licensed bar will operate and there will be a variety of refreshments also available. Youngsters will be kept busy with games and sports events, culminating in the infamous tug o war, as well as tucking into the BBQ.

Sarah Price



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April Boardman

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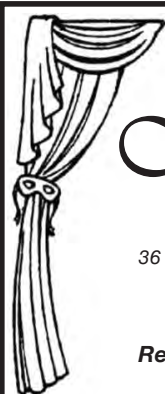


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The new 292 service has now been running for just over a month and apart from a few hiccups, appears to be operating satisfactorily. Most of the buses I have seen appear to have been pretty well on time and the feedback from users is favourable. The timetable is very tight and it might be difficult to make up time if there are delays due to roadworks or other problems. According to R&B, this was the timescale they were given by Worcestershire Council but they say that the bus they are using has the performance to catch up if necessary. The other area of concern is the possible lack of backup in case of breakdown but they say that they have at least one spare vehicle in case of breakdown. In addition, they are not planning to charge the £1 fare on the 08.54 service to Kiddy as this will mirror the approach they take on the 291 Kiddy to Tenbury route and will advise Shropshire Council accordingly. Madge Shingleton will also advise Council staff that this is the case.

Several developments have occurred during the last month, one being a consultation by DfT (Department for Transport) about the possible need for groups running volunteer bus services (such as the Saturday bus to Bridgnorth) to obtain PSV (Public Service Vehicle) licences and have professionally qualified drivers. The cost and work involved if this came to pass would mean the end for most Community Bus groups. Apparently, this is because there may be a lack of compliance with an EU Regulation drafted in 2009 and implemented in 2011. Why it has taken until 2018 to realise this is a mystery, as is why effort is being expended to establish the position when we are about to leave the EU anyway. The other worrying fact is that the consultation document (67 pages...) was published in February and apparently advised to Shropshire Council in late April with responses required by 4th May! Despite this, the Council and various transport groups have responded.

There are exemptions for groups running services which don't directly compete with commercial routes which I imagine would cover most of these as if there was a commercial service, there would be no need for the volunteers. In addition, groups which are non profit making can also be considered exempt as will those providing occasional services for specific groups of people. The consultation document does make reassuring noises about most groups not being affected but if this is the case, why bother with the review?

All in all, I wonder whether this is the usual UK over reaction to EU legislation – can you imagine Town Hall staff in France, Italy, Spain etc poring over the small print just in case someone in Brussels without enough to keep them occupied decides to take this up? I certainly can't. All it needs is a little 'creative interpretation' to solve the problem. If in doubt, ask the French whom I admire greatly for their ability to do just this, thus ensuring minimum disruption to established systems. Sadly, this is something we have never learned to do in 40 years of EU membership...


More news about Diamond (sorry to use the 'D' word). At last the Traffic Commissioners have awakened from their slumbers and convened a Public Enquiry into the Diamond operation. Matters to be considered include consideration of disciplinary action under several pieces of relevant legislation (Section 17 and Schedule 3 of The Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981) and Transport Managers Repute (Section 26 of The Transport Act 1985 for those who want to look it up). It is being held at 10am on Thursday 21st June at the Wyre Forest Council HQ which I think is the new building on the Stourport Road almost opposite the Crematorium. I shall be going as will Madge Shingleton if she can fit it in around her other commitments. All being well, I will be able to get back and dash off a quick report in time to catch the print deadline for the July 'Clarion' so watch this space...
Steve Todd

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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

June is a busy month for the Social Club. On Saturday the 9th there will be a Clothes Swap between 1.00 and 5.00pm. Bring any items you no longer want or wear and swap them for some that you do.

The Football World Cup kicks off on the 14th with England's first game against Tunisia on Monday the 18th at 7.00pm. On Sunday the 24th, England play Panama, kick off 1.00pm, and they are against Belgium on Thursday the 28th, with the kick off at 7.00pm. Matches will be shown on the Club's big TV screens in both bars.

Ascot Ladies Day takes place on Thursday the 21st. Tickets are available from Alison Dunn through the Social Club.

Gemma will be running a Cleobury's Got Talent contest on Sunday, 22nd July to find that talented Cleobury youngster in our community. Applications forms are available from her in the Club, and will also be sent out to local schools and the Grace Young Dance School. Final application date is 24th June.

On Friday, 29th June, there will be a Family Karaoke with Just Charlotte, starting at 7.00.

As usual, for more information or to make a Club booking, please contact our Club Steward, Gemma Canty on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page.

Glenys Turpin

PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

David Attenborough has done a great job raising our awareness of the effects of plastic on our oceans and marine life through his award winning series Blue Planet. Lots of progress has been made recently in trying to reduce plastic in the environment. The Government down to our local WI are all doing their bit.

Here in Cleobury Mortimer we are good at recycling our household plastic. We also now have our own plastic reduction group, introduced to you in last month's Clarion and we would like you to get involved. You are invited to join the group yourself (as an individual or a representative of a local business) Contact: neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk or worthpack@aol.com.

We also want to hear from you if you have any tips on how to reduce, recycle or replace plastic. We will share your ideas every month through the Clarion with our Plastic: Not So Fantastic tips to help inspire others to do the same.

Equally if you are a local business and have taken steps to reduce your use of plastic, we want to hear from you too. We will promote your actions too. Here's the first idea to start us all off:

Instead of buying plastic liquid soap containers for hand washing, try using a bar of soap. That'll be one less plastic container in the recycling bin on a Thursday.

Please tell us what you think of the Tips and how they work for you. You can contact us by email with all your Tips and feedback at: Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

Louise Francis

STANDARDS, STANDARDS

In a world where people sometimes complain loudly about falling educational standards, it was quite a surprise to get an email from Alan Mabbutt at Conservative Party HQ On May 3rd with the heading question "So have you bin to vote?"

Ten years ago I was walking my grand daughter to primary school and suggested if a cat called Whiskers belonged to the Whittaker family he would be called Whiskers Whittaker. To which she replied "That would be alliteration, wouldn't it, Grandad?" No complaints about standards here.

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Guess the creature! Well, the hands are human, but what of the other? Read on to find out.

When the sun climbs and makes its power felt nothing could be happier than the forest's cold-blooded inhabitants. Lacking the ability to regulate their body temperatures using their metabolism, reptiles need to absorb energy from the sun in order to move out of first gear. Finding a warm, safe place to bask can be a problem: the shadow of a buzzard or footsteps of people will send them shooting off for cover. At the farm we have sections of corrugated iron placed on grassy field and wood edges which are ideal basking places. So far this year one of the five sheets is regularly visited by a slow worm and a young grass snake. We still hope to see an adder on one of our inspections but I think we're just a bit too far from their favoured haunts.

We do seem to be prime habitat for newts. I won't claim that it's all due to the completion of my beautiful pond because, as I've said before,

newts don't seem to be bothered with aesthetics. The water is seldom clear, being more akin to pea soup, but the newts love it. What they're eating down there I don't really know but the tadpoles which hatched from some frogspawn soon disappeared. It was exciting to see the long, dark strings of toad spawn around the pond weeds for the first time this year in April and I'm hoping a number will evade the newts and survive to miniature adulthood. If they do they'll leave the pond later this summer and head off among the vegetation in the garden (following my signs saying, 'Slugs this way') or into the forest. Newts, like the toads, can cover quite a distance overland, using ponds for breeding. Some of the forest's ponds don't seem to suit them and others where they have successfully bred in the past have been missed in this or recent years. A lack of tiny aquatic creatures for food would certainly account for this and the effects of shading and water temperature would be factors too. If we are to be able to help provide and maintain the right conditions we need to know where the newts are - what species and how many - and that's why a survey is undertaken by licensed newt handlers each year. This brings me back to my friend Val, whose hands are pictured holding a male Great Crested Newt upside down so that I can photograph its splendidly spotty belly pattern. Each individual can be identified and its reappearances can be monitored. We wish him and the rest of the Great Crested Newt population well and hope to see plenty of the conspicuous white eggs glued to pond vegetation all over the Wyre Forest.

Linda Iles

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SAVE OUR CURLEWS CAMPAIGN

Thirty-five members of the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group, have been out since the beginning of April, in 80 square kilometres centred on Clee Hill, looking for Curlews.

The atrocious spring weather delayed the return of some pairs to their breeding areas, but the nest finding and protection project, described in the April *Clarion*, is now underway. Most of the farmers and landowners who had curlews on their land last year were contacted, and briefed on the project. They all gave their support, which is greatly appreciated.

We are employing a professional nest finder, Martyn Owen of BIOME consulting, and he started work on May 1st. He contacted farmers to seek the necessary access permissions, and by mid-May had found three nests, and all have been protected. When the eggs hatch, the chicks will be radio-tagged, to see where they go, and what happens to them. Martyn too has found the local farmers and landowners to be very supportive. Thank you one and all.

There is at least one more nest to find, so if you have seen or heard a Curlew since the end of April, your record could help and be very important. Please give Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: chwg.birdgroup@gmail.com) the details as soon as possible. If you want to help find the Curlews in future, please tell Chris too.

It will take many years to stop and then reverse the Curlew's long term decline. The work is paid for by a joint Shropshire Wildlife Trust / Shropshire Ornithological Society appeal, and we need to raise enough to keep the campaign going. For more information about the Save our Curlews campaign, see the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/ If you want to donate to the appeal

see www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals

The Clarion has made a donation to the Appeal, and encourages readers to do so. It is up to local residents to save the local Curlews, so their fate rests in our hands. Please donate to help ensure this iconic bird does not disappear from our area for ever. If they are lost, they won't come back.

Leo Smith

A JIGSAW FESTIVAL

St. John the Baptist Church in Mamble are having a Jigsaw Festival to raise vital funds for the restoration and maintenance of their wonderful building. It will be over the weekend of June 22 to 24th, open from 10.30 to 5.00 each day and there will be around 100 made up jigsaws on display for you to enjoy, and lots of jigsaws to buy.

The church will also be decorated with flower displays for your enjoyment. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall where there will also be Art & Craft displays and stalls.

We are located off the A456 between Clows Top and Tenbury Wells. £4 entry fee payable at the Church entrance, under 16's get in free. Please spread the word to your family and friends; everyone will be warmly welcomed.

Jill Sharples

CONGRATULATIONS

To Janet Manley of Cleobury Chiropody on her taste in dogs. Her greyhound Hero came from the Far Forest Rescue kennels just up the road and she took him back to their annual Show to meet his old chums. To Janet's delight and surprise she brought him home with badges and bits including the trophy for Best Dog In Show. A very discerning choice, clearly.



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 44 - June 2018

SEVERN CENTRE POOL IS OPEN



When the sun is up, it's hard to resist the pool.

There is something especially sumptuous about sunshine after rain, and we've had a long winter - and spring - of rain and snow. And when sunshine arrives you want to be outside enjoying it. There's no better way than with a visit to an outdoor pool and there's one at Halo's Severn Centre in Highley.

There aren't many of these outdoor pools around these days. Following the golden age of the lido in the 1930s (read all about them in the box below), outdoor swimming went into decline as everyone headed abroad for holidays. But there has been a revival as people across the country have discovered just how lovely it is to bathe under blue British skies.

Severn Centre's had a pool for over 40 years and is the happiest place in Shropshire when the sun's shining. It was actually created to give local children a safe place to swim, or to learn to, when local rivers proved so dangerous, and has been saved and maintained by people in the area who love it and don't want to lose it. This 25 by

10m heated pool (with picnic area and indoor cafe) has just had a makeover in preparation for the season and is open until September 9th, giving you more than 100 days of opportunity to make the most of every minute of sunshine. Enjoy.

MUSIC IS BACK AT HOPTON COURT

That very special venue at Hopton Court will be ringing out with music again over the weekend of June 22nd to the 24th. It's now the venue for the Beardy Folk Festival, with a really big line-up of 30 artists. Here's what they told us;

"Beardy Folk Festival is a new, beautifully crafted, Midsummer music weekend boasting a brilliant line up of contemporary & traditional folk music with helpings of acoustic, indie, bluegrass, country & Americana. Set in the beautiful grounds of Hopton Court amidst stunning Shropshire countryside, with the music arena hidden inside a secret 19th century walled garden. There's so much to see and do around the festival site with 30 music artists over 2 stages, an artisan food court, real ale, cider & cocktail bars, a small trade village, freestyle fitness yoga, Morris & Appalachian dancing plus heaps of children's entertainment including circus workshops & shows, traditional fairground rides, some enchanted woods hosting family activities, storytelling and a woodland walk. Don't forget under 13's go FREE! There's also three camping areas with amazing views."

Great to have music back in this charismatic setting and we wish the promoters every success so that they keep coming back. Their posters will tell you more, or you can call 07713 147 015 or email beardyfolk@gmail.com



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This month Paul looks at medical innovation during the Great War.

Armed conflict as it changes always means that other disciplines need to keep pace. Medical treatment was no exception and there were many developments over the course of the war. Perhaps the two that were most significant were in the fields of repairing damage by plastic surgery and treatment of the psychological effects of combat.

Fighting in the trench protected the body but the head was above the trench. What put soldiers at most risk was "shrapnel", bullets tend to result in straight line injuries but twisted metal shards destroyed flesh. The effects of such damage could mean loss of life but often men were left with major facial disfiguration. Such damage sometimes meant that soldiers felt unable to return to their families because they were now unrecognisable. Dr Harold Gillies was so shocked at what he saw that he insisted that the Army set up a plastic surgery unit in Sidcup, the first such hospital in the world. Gillies used an old technique to reconstruct faces, the "forehead flap." A section of rib cartilage was implanted in the forehead of the patient where it developed for six months, after which time it was swung down and used to construct a nose.

It was a failure which led to him making a major breakthrough in plastic surgery. Finding no skin on the face that he could use he took it from the chest; all went well but the graft became infected and the patient died. Gillies knew the danger of infection to exposed flesh. Then he stumbled on an obscure concept which involved wrapping all the skin and tissue taken into a tube and the process became known as a "tube pedicle graft". The best way to describe what this looked like is to imagine a handle from a piece of luggage, one end attached to the part requiring reconstruction and the other to the part hosting the pedicle. Once the end attached to the area requiring rebuilding was alive the pedicle could be carefully removed.

Even with this advance the length of time required for healing for some patients meant that they could still not bear to look in a mirror for many years but the risk of infection was much reduced. What Gillies and his fellow surgeons

developed was the beginning of the art of plastic surgery. The techniques that he introduced are still in use today and many fighting men have been set on the difficult road to recovery and acceptance as a result of his work.

On July 7th 1916 Arthur Hubbard was in hospital in Suffolk after being shipped home from France. On that day he wrote to his mother to explain why: "We had strict orders not to take prisoners, no matter if wounded. I witnessed a sight that I shall never forget as long as I live." He came back because he had "shell shock" one of 80,000 soldiers who suffered such trauma in the war. Many who were court martialled and shot for "cowardice" had in fact been suffering from shell shock. In 1917 it was estimated that when wounding was excluded, emotional trauma was responsible for a third of all medical discharges. Records show that a higher proportion of serving officers suffered compared to other ranks, the ratio of officers to others serving was 1:30 but in hospitals treating "shell shock" the ratio was 1:6.

Early in the war 'shell shock' was thought to be a physical injury to the nerves, for instance after being buried alive or subjected to a heavy barrage. The term was coined in 1917 by medical officer Charles Myers but he became unhappy with the term when it became obvious that even those not in the front line suffered as well.

There were several hospitals that dealt with psychological damage and as more became known the treatment got further away from dependency on the reinforcement of male values and little concentration on feelings. One of the most famous hospitals for curing officers of war neuroses was Craiglockhart in Edinburgh. It was here that the soldier and poet Siegfried Sassoon was treated and wrote the poem "Survivors", the last two lines of which are:

"Men who went out to battle, grim and glad.
Children with eyes that hate you, broken and mad"

The treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) today owes much to the steep learning curve experienced by practitioners during the Great War when they called it 'Shell Shock'

Paul French



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LET'S SUPPORT TOM



Tom Redfern when he was playing for Jacarei in Brazil.

Now he's out to help others less fortunate.

Tom Redfern is known locally as an international rugby player and successful coach. He's more than that, as he explains:

I am climbing Kilimanjaro in Tanzania on June 1st for Mens Mental Health. As some of you may know, my family have had some rough times over the last three years and I want to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of speaking out. There is the stigma that we shouldn't talk about how we feel and I have at first hand seen the impact that this can have on individual people and families.

The awareness is more important than the money but if you have a bit of extra cash lying around please do feel free to donate through the line below. Thanks for supporting me and please don't be afraid of speaking out.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tom-redfern1>

Tom Redfern

The Clarion has donated to the fund. It's a good cause and I hope readers will add to the collection.

Jim Reynolds.

MARY ASHLEE

Cleobury lost another great character when Mary passed away on April 23rd. Born in Stourport in 1931, she showed a spirit of adventure as a teenager when she and a friend cycled to Cornwall to tour, then cycled back again. By 1953 she's toured Europe on a Vespa scooter, then paid her money to become a 'Ten Bob Pom' and emigrate to Australia, where she lived for seven years before coming back to England to meet and marry William before heading for Canada, where Caroline and David were born..

In 1971 the family returned to England and settled in Kidderminster, where she encouraged her children to play sports and sing in the Baxter church choir. Mary got involved in public life, serving as a District Councillor for Broadwaters and establishing the Family Help line as well as the Junior Netball League. She also volunteered with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Childline. In 1989 Bill died and much changed in her life.

She moved to Cleobury in 1996, where she soon became a reader at the Primary School and when the library was threatened with closure, she drew support together and formed the Reading Group. That was followed by a Children's Group. She had an individual approach to the matter of reading, ignoring novels and reading only works of fact and history.

She delighted in her family, who were there for the Humanist burial in our cemetery and to talk about a very special lady. As her eulogy included: "A life well lived, a woman well loved."

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This article about fire precautions in the home was passed on to the Clarion by Peter Bill, editor of the Rock and District News. Our thanks to him for sharing such good advice .

HOW A SPRING CLEAN COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

It may officially be the summer, but there's still time to squeeze in a final spring clean. As part of the national fire safety campaign, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to clear clutter that may be blocking escape routes and to make sure their family, guests and loved ones know how to get out, stay out, and call 999 in the event of a fire.

Working smoke alarms are regularly the heroes in a fire, giving people the warning they need to get out of their home. However, blocked exits, locked doors or unfamiliar surroundings can shave vital seconds from your escape time. We all know we need to take time to test our smoke alarms, but this month make time to take some simple steps to help keep your loved ones safe:

Think about how you would all get out in case of a fire, Making an escape plan and practising it will help ensure that everyone can get out, stay out and call 999.

Fit at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home so smoke can reach the alarms quicker giving you more warning time.

Test your smoke alarms regularly. Smoke alarms can save your life, but only if they work.

Clear your escape routes. Make sure you're able to escape without tripping over to ensure a speedy exit.

Keep your door and window keys in a known and accessible place. Make sure everyone knows where the door and window keys are kept so they can reach them easily and get out quicker in case of a fire.

Many of us care for others, children and loved ones. If this is you then consider the following:

How will they get out? Plan an escape route that works for them and think of any difficulties they may have or help they may need getting out. Would they benefit from a torch to light their way or a stair rail?

Where is the best place to go if the worst happens and they can't escape? This is especially important if they have trouble moving around or can't get downstairs on their own.

Who's your 'Escape champ'? Nominate someone in your home (perhaps a child) to be the 'Escape champ'. Role-playing escape routes regularly and giving children the responsibility to keep escape routes clear makes fire safety more fun and engaging.

Through my training with HWFRS, I know every second counts when escaping a fire. Having working smoke alarms and knowing the escape plan in an emergency could make all the difference.

If you have dependants or someone less able to care for, it could take more time to get out, stay out and call 999. Make sure you're always prepared, your exits are clear and everyone knows what to do if the worst should happen.

Rachel Palfrey

*Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service -
Community Volunteer*

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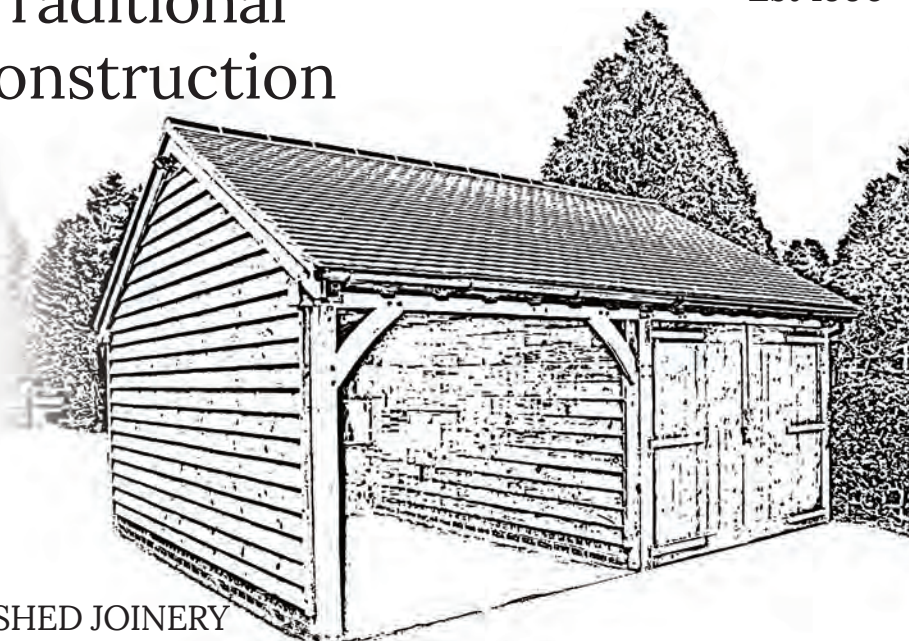
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GRACE YOUNG - BORN TO DANCE



Grace with the Cleobury Country logo she designed at the age of just eleven.

Grace Young has been dancing since she was four years old, she was in her first competition at seven and today divides her time between teaching and dancing in London and Shropshire.

She was born in Cleobury to Gary and Val Young and working in London has seen her on 'East Enders' for Comic Relief amongst many stage events. She still works there two days a week - it's the centre of show business, after all - and the rest of her time here. She bubbles with enthusiasm for the job: "It's so great to pass on your passion to others, to teach your love."

She's starting an After School class on June 5th at Cleobury Primary School and has dance classes at Ludlow on Mondays and then in the Primary School. Multi talented, she's on call at 07939 638 637 or email grace@gkydance.co.uk

THE CLEOBURY FESTIVAL

Cleobury's Festival was a success last year - this year it promises to be even better. The Town will be showing itself off on June 23rd.

It starts at 11.00, with local health and support groups and organisations in the Parish Hall, plus a martial arts demonstration and the Sing, Laugh, Breathe Choir in fine full voice.

Just up the road, the Market Hall will feature local arts and crafts, including photography, writing, poetry and painting, with hand produced items for sale. Next door in the Parish Church there will be refreshments to sit and sample in the cool of the shade, while outside you can watch (and maybe try!) glass blowing and make a flower from non natural materials to add to the display that will cascade down from one of the trees. Lacon Childe pupils have been busy making those, but there will be plenty of room for more.

Mawley Town Farm, home of Mawley Milk, the best in the region, will be open from 12.00 until 3.00 and you can either drive there, get energetic and walk up the hill, or catch the Park and Ride bus that will be running until about 2.45. Live music, barbecue food and lots to see when you get there, like the self-milking parlour where the cows queue to be dealt with and a range of renewable energy initiatives, plus the chance to have a 'Melfie' with their JCB Fastrac Mawley JCB.

Local Young Farmers Clubs, Macmillan Nursing and Abberley Care Farm will be hosting entertainments, including a Teddy Tombola and a Grand Raffle.

Across the road from the Parish Church, the Pump House will be open and from 11.00 until 2.00 you can drop in and try your hands or feet at playing a percussion instrument. Matt French will be in charge, a man who's made his way as a professional drummer after graduating from the Royal School of Music. If you're lucky, you'll get to hear him perform.

Both the schools, Lacon Childe and the Primary, will be open and ready to show off the talent of their pupils. On the Lacon Childe sports field, Cleobury Archers will be giving taster sessions to novices and then showing how it's really done.

From the school you walk on to the Sports Field, where the Sport and Social Club will be open and serving drinks and refreshments and inviting families to join in the fun. You could even get in a late entry for Cleobury's Got Talent.

On the field, Forest Dog Rescue are organising a Dog Show, there's a climbing wall, a demonstration by West Midlands Search and Rescue, more food and refreshments and room for the children to run around and play.

This listing was compiled on May 23rd, one month before the event. To get a more current review of what will be happening, look in at the Town Council's website and Facebook page.



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Training Courses Upcoming:

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Emergency First Aid at Work—18th September—£ 70.00
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Saturday 9th June – Clothes Swap 1pm-5pm
Bring any items you don't want or no longer wear and swap them for some you want.

Saturday 16th June – Cleobury Mortimer Cricket Club are playing home vs Garnons. Come and support your local team.

Thursday 21st June - Ladies Ascot Day- hosted by CMCC doors open at 12.30pm lunch 1pm first race 2.30pm tickets £20. Tickets available from (01299)271351 or (01299)270242

Saturday 23rd June –Cleobury Community Day
11am till 4pm Lots going on bring the family along.

Sunday 24th June – Last day for applications for Cleobury's Got Talent

Friday 29th June – Family karaoke and just charlotte singing. 7pm Anyone welcome.

FIFA World Cup

Monday 18th June - Tunisia vs England 7pm

Sunday 24th June – England vs Panama 1pm

Thursday 28th June – England vs Belgium 7pm

Every Monday night we have bingo at the club from 8pm. Anyone is welcome to join in with the bingo.

Membership Prices

| | |
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| Single adult: | £5 |
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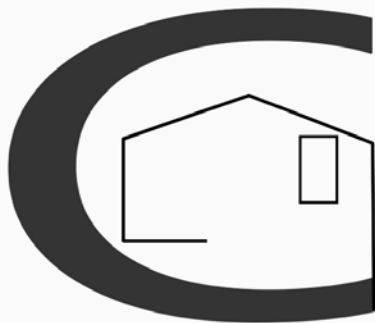


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TWO LADIES FROM LACON CHILDE WENT RUNNING

Congratulations to Lacon Childe staff members Lisa Stokes and Jenny Stacey, who completed the big task that is the London Marathon. As Lisa put it: "Having trained in one of the coldest winters, to run 26.2 miles in the hottest ever London Marathon was very demanding. I would like to thank everyone at Lacon Childe for their support; raising over £700 on a non-uniform day was absolutely incredible."

She was running as part of the Anthony Nolan Trust sponsorship team and raised over £2,500 in memory of Jack Edwards.

Jenny Stacey donated any sponsorship gifts to the Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team and on the run talked to members of the London Fire Brigade who fought the Grenfell Tower fire.

Our thanks to Susan Woodhouse, editor of the school's excellent 'Laconic' magazine for her permission to use this information. She does a great job in producing an attractive all-colour product that makes us quite jealous.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A talk by Mick Poultney on raised beds and no digging gave us all something to think about. No digging sounded good. He had a background in digging, but a back injury made him change his ways. All his allotments now have raised beds measuring 26ft by 4ft and the work is done from the sides. This means that there is no treading down of the soil so there is no need to dig it over.

He lives in a terraced house with a large garden which enabled him to sub divide the area. It is essential to use good materials and surprising what can be found and put to good use. He uses any material available such as compost, manure and top soil. Build a good base and results will come.

His motto is 'Don't feed if plants don't need it and no artificial fertiliser'; he recommends foliar feeding. He has encountered a number of problems over the years including moles; a solution to this is to put a layer of chicken wire at the base of the bed. Let nature do its job but do not be afraid to cover over in the winter as this encourages the worms to do their job. If you have a compost bin don't forget to keep it moist to enable good decomposition; adding a little

rock dust, which is a volcanic by product, will also help. Mick is a great believer in sourcing most of his needs locally and encouraged us to do the same.

Our next meeting will be on June 18th when Una Dunnett will be talking about hostas.

Liz Smurthwaite

THE READING GROUP

In Search of England by Roy Hattersley, a well written personal celebration of England and 'Englishness'. The book comprised a collection of pieces written for various publications over quite a few years. In our group some liked most of the articles and most like some, with one not liking any. Covering an extremely wide variety of subjects, conversations were started on an even wider range, not all related to the book. The pieces on places or people we knew of were perhaps enjoyed best, although our interest was aroused by facts we weren't aware of - always good. Probably a book to dip into rather than be read from start to finish and maybe not for those who dislike short stories. Off to a newly formed Canada in our book for June, with 'Tenderness for Wolves' by Penney Stef, which we will talk about when we meet on June 18th at Cleobury Library.

Several members of the group, started in 2001 by Mary Ashlee, attended her funeral on May 8th.

We have much to thank Mary for and I know she was pleased the group continued after she felt unable to continue leading.

Deana Kimber 271754

POETRY IN THE PUB

The Poetry in the Pub Group had a big surprise at their last meeting when they were joined by a group of enthusiastic poetry fans from Essex. They listened to local poetry and actively participated in recalling and reading poems that had helped them during difficult periods in their lives.

Poetry in the Pub meets in the Kings Arms at 8.00 on the first Monday of each month (Second Monday if there is a Bank Holiday). If you would like to share a poem or listen to others sharing their favourite poems, the Group would love to meet you. The next meeting is on June 4th

George Castledine

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Flicks In The Sticks this month is at 7.30 on Saturday the 16th, with

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| 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 | Iain Smith | 01299 271809 | |
| CRIMESTOPPERS | | 0800 555 111 | Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime. |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE | | 0800 783 1359 | Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: |
| HOME FROM HOSPITAL | | 01584 878046 | Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK |
| MARKET HALL | Ali Sheffield | 07752 542 853 | markethall@cleobury.org.uk |
| MEDICAL CENTRE | | 01299 270209 | Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service. |
| SHROP DOC | | 0333 222 6655 | Service available evenings and weekends |
| THE PHARMACY | | 01299 270219 | Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions |
| NEWLIFE CHURCH | Pastor E Stirrup | 01562 630595 | Sunday services at 10.30 |
| NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND | Rosemary Abbiss | 01746 718451 | |
| TOWN COUNCIL | Clerk Matthew Sheehan | 01299 271154 | Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre 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 |
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS JUNE 22nd

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Residential Sales

Homeowners will spend more than £16 billion on improvements to make their home more environmentally-friendly this spring, according to new figures. The research, by AA Financial Services, shows just how much people value energy-efficient homes. Realising value is a key motivation of such improvements, and while green additions cut domestic energy bills in the short term, they can also be a benefit at point of sale. Over the last year properties sold with an A or B energy efficiency rating have obtained a 9% premium (per square foot) compared to those rated F or G, which is certainly something to think about.



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
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Lettings

What is the best strategy to quickly improving a property ready for the rental market? People often ask me the best way to add value to a property, and while every case is different, I would generally recommend going for a quality refurbishment. If you start working on extensions or adding a conservatory then you are talking about spending more money over and above what you have already paid on the sale. For the rental market, the property needs to be smart and ready for tenants to move in, and a newly decorated home which is in perfect working order will always be popular. Of course, each situation is different and the best thing is to have a plan, then work out if it is best for you and your property before making an informed decision on the way forward.



Coral Walrond
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Lettings Negotiator

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