

The Cleobury Clarion

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JUNE 2019

COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS



Rector Ashley Buck handed over the Community Champion Awards at the May 17th meeting and sisters Sarah Barnsley (left) and Kate Pearce were acclaimed Community Champions.

On a busy May 17th night the Town Council hosted its Annual Open Meeting and the new Community Champions Awards were handed over to the winners. Top of the public poll for their stunning success in dressing the Parish Church

steeple in red knitted poppies were sisters Sarah Barnsley and Kate Pearce, while Kit Smith was Environmental Champion and the Robinson family's Mawley Town Farm took home two runners-up prizes. The whole idea and the supporting evening was a great success.

THE MEN'S SHED - MORE SUCCESS

The Cleobury Men's Shed project that saw the foundations laid on their shed site on Tenbury Road Trading Estate was topped by the best news possible. Their application for a £10,000 grant from Awards for All (aka The National Lottery) was successful and they are now in a position to get the building under way.

It's been an extraordinary journey from the seed of an idea in late 2017 to a situation that could see the Shed up, open and running in 2019. And what a fine example of community spirit it is, with many local businesses giving time, advice and in some cases materials, for free. That generosity deserves support and we have it.

THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES

After Ashley Buck's excellent telling of the tale of Abelard and Heloise on May 23rd, there are two more lectures to look forward to.

Both will be delivered or chaired by Robert Hodge, a man with a great interest in local history. On June 6th he will relate the history of Bessie Blount of Kinlet. The lady was mistress to King Henry the Eighth and bore him the son his six wives did not.

On June 20th the History Society will raise questions over the trial in 1833 of William Handley of Bayton. Could such a fine village community as Bayton have ever harboured a criminal? You may find the answer in the Parish Church, where both promising events will start at 7.30. Admission is a mere £5.00 on the door and all proceeds will go to the Saint Mary's Youth Project to further that body's excellent work for the community.

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It's not called the Tasting Room any more. It's the Kitchen Tap. See Page 5.



The Community Awards. See Page 37



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HOBSON'S KITCHEN TAP

It's a new title for an established place that is building a reputation for good foodie events and great surroundings for tasting local brews. It's the Kitchen Tap at Hobson's famous brewery and was officially launched on May 2nd with a happy gathering and a hint to the quality food it will be offering.

The Taproom will be open from 10.00 until 8.00, from Wednesday to Saturday; those hours will vary on public holidays. They'll be serving food and as a sample we tried the local rolled lamb breast with Austrian potato salad; very nice, too. The Thai fishcakes with Asian slaw had run out early, but we did manage to get a very tasty chocolate brownie to complement the glass of Oldfield's cider we were sipping.

Nick Davies was naturally there to meet and greet, just back from a business meeting in London where he was discussing the development of the iSpaniel system of checking the movement of the brewery's beer barrels and its use by other brewers. A check that can tell you where an expensive barrel is

can be a great money saver and there's a lot of interest in the idea.



Been in London for a business meeting, then back to the brewery for an evening event. Nick Davies does seem to have boundless energy.

The Kitchen Tap is managed by Duncan Turner, who sees the Tap as the place people can drop in and taste a pint of local beer or cider with a small plate of food to complement, the actual dishes depending upon the best available local produce.

The established habit of Foodie Nights will continue, with Brewery Nights added to the programme. The Brewery Nights will feature the cooking talents of CSONS, using local fare to produce dishes like cauliflower, cashew and Manor Ale humous, Old Henry

Springfield chicken sharkaseya or rare Ludlow Farm skirt steak with salsa verde, salad and Town Crier dressing.

For the Foodie Nights there's a range of talents booked to serve up their speciality. Like Adam Purnell's smoky fire cooking; Atia from Zainz Catering with traditional Punjabi cuisine; the Bakewell Ducks farmed at Charlton Farm, Hartlebury for a special Duck Night and in November there's a Beefy Night courtesy of Matt and the team from Shropshire Hills Catering. And to round out all that, three days later there's the established Stir Up Sunday, where you stir up the pudding.

Looks like an interesting year to savour.



Duncan explains what's on offer and in the background Charlie gets ready to serve it up.

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LIFE CLASSES

Hilary Baker of Foundry Artists is organising a Life Class on Saturday the 15th this month. It will be in the Ruskin Studio at Uncllys Farm, Tanners Hill, Bewdley, DY12 2LS, which regular readers will recognise as the home address of Linda Iles, our highly valued Wyre Forest correspondent. It is an interesting place to visit

The charge is £15.00 a head, which will cover all materials and refreshments. The class starts at 1.30 and will end at 3.30. Book your place with Hilary on 077976 092262

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Our monthly supper evening is on June 20th, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. We will welcome Elaine Barbour, who will be telling us about her 'Life with Traidcraft'.

The coffee morning will be held on June 27th at the George Hotel, Bewdley, 10.00 until 12.00 noon. Do come along and meet us.

We have organised a conference about Female Genital Mutilation at St George's Hall, Load Street, 9.30 – 13.00. Tickets at £7.50 each include tea and coffee. The speakers are from the fields of Police, Health Professionals and Safeguarding. To book a place
e m a i l :

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or telephone 07817 808320

Susan Partridge

ROCK PATHFINDERS

Once again, two walks this month. The first is on Thursday the 6th, starting from the Memorial Hall Car Park in Clun at 10.30. SY7 8LE on your satnav or 302811 if you prefer Ordnance Survey maps.

The second will be on the 20th, 10.30 again, with St John the Baptist Church in Kinlet the starting point. DY12 3BL or SO 715811. More details on their new
w e b a d d r e s s :
www.rockpathfinders.uk or call Alan on 01299 400304.

IN PRAISE OF...

The Borders Classic Bike Club, a fairly harmless group of mature motorcyclists, gather at the Blount Arms every month for a social evening. A feature is the raffle, the proceeds from which are handed over to the Midland Air Ambulance at the end of the year.

Finding unusual prizes for the raffle can be a trifle difficult at times, as the secretary searches for something outside the usual. In May he struck gold, picking up a very rare book at the Severn Hospice charity shop for a mere £1.99 and donating it to the

cause. We won't tell you who won it, for security reasons.

But we will tell you that it was a copy of 'The Dictionary of Hammond Organ Stops', a very rare volume that only ran to one printing, and very hard to find today. And it takes a shop whose manager has a sense of humour to put such a title on sale.

THE CHILDE

ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, Stottesdon, Kinlet and Neen Savage are invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies. Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, Lacon Childe School, or the Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA. Closing date June 24th.

SILLY BIT

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Anon.

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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our May work party was very small, with two people each working in different locations. The old rickety gate at Papermills Bridge has been repaired and rotten stile steps replaced on the route between Mawley Hall and Bayton. Our June work party on the 19th will be, as usual, our two biggest annual clearances. Firstly, Jacobs Ladder, the path from Ron Hill above the river to the Furlongs. Depending on numbers and weather we will then do the riverside path at Neen Sollars.

Many hands make light work, so if anyone would like to join us for either of these jobs, please get in touch. Footpaths@cmfa.co.uk.

It's very satisfying to note that we are getting positive feedback from visiting walkers on the state of our footpaths and on the usefulness of the walk guides on the website.

In recent years CMFA members have gone on a week's walking holiday. This time 23 of us went "abroad" to Jersey – a few even making a complete route round the island's coast. Photos on our Facebook page.

Next Parish Walk is on Sunday June 2nd starting at 10.00 from outside St Mary's Church. Let's hope the weather holds.

Graham Simpson

STOTTESDON W.I.

A full house at our Open Meeting on 15th May 15th. We were joined by members of the Burwarton, Neen Savage, Clebury Mortimer and Tenbury Wells WI as well as our own members and friends.

Guest Speaker was Phil Evans, Operational Director for the Met Office, the man in charge of our weather forecasting. What a great evening it proved to be. Phil's talk was entitled "Weather Forecasting – Art, Science or Fantasy?". My own verdict at the end of the evening was probably all three.

Phil gave a wide ranging presentation and welcomed questions as he talked. There were many which demonstrated that his audience was very engaged and well informed. We were given a lot of facts and figures as well as weather stories ranging from the Divine Winds of the 13th century in Japan, the D Day weather forecasting heroes to the Volcanic Ash and Cyclones in Mozambique in very recent times. Phil included the history

of the Met Office which was set up to anticipate storms and mitigate against financial losses in shipping in the 19th century, its wide ranging duties, saving lives by forecasting severe weather warnings, as well as the close work with military, environmental agencies and the international global weather community. Reassuringly this community work closely even at times of conflict.

The big issue facing us now is Food Security, we are dependent on small areas of the world who provide 50% of world production. This as well as climate change are our challenges in the 21st century. Thanks Phil, we hope you will come again to inform and inspire us.

Helena Hale

ART CLASS COMING

Chris Smith, whose art we showed in the April Clarion, is running a Beginners Drawing and Pastels Art Class at the Methodist Church Hall on Sunday, September 8th, from 1.00 to 4.00 pm. You can see her work on the walls of Hobson's Brewery Kitchen Tap Room.

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Hello, I'm Pearl and this is my friend Tom. We came to live in Cleobury because our owners love Greyhounds and have had Retired Greyhounds for a number of years. Once we start to lose speed our racing days are over. Fortunately, nationwide there are a number of charitable organisations devoted to rescuing us. These kennels are reliant on fund raising activities, help from volunteers and donations. In the UK, a nation renowned for dog lovers, a greyhound has been found in a ditch with its ears cut off. Tattoos in the ears would have identified the owner. In another European country greyhounds have been found hanging from trees in the woods. There are other unspeakable practices of disposing of us once we are no longer making money. It has to be said that there are responsible greyhound racers who keep their dogs or who pass them to homing kennels.

Despite living in kennels for the greater part of our lives, we make excellent pets. We are just like any society; we have different personalities and characteristics. We tend to love children; some of us even live happily with cats. Re-homing kennels will exert every effort to match the right greyhound to the right owner taking into account potential owners' life style. Females like me are snapped up because we are pretty and we know how to be beguiling. Unfortunately black male greyhounds like Tom are often overlooked and can remain in kennels a long time. Tom was a sorry soul when our owner discovered him. He had given up and lay with his back turned. Murphy, who preceded Tom was a black greyhound whom Monmore Green had struggled to place. To hear our owners talk of him he seemed to be a saint, a gentle giant who allowed grandchildren to fall asleep on top of him.

After kennel life there is some adjustment to be made to living in a lovely home. We usually adapt quickly. Despite starting life in the limitations of an all greyhound community, in Cleobury we now enjoy the riches afforded by a multi-breed neighbourhood.

As has been said before, Cleobury is a community of dog lovers and our owners often comment on the lovely people they meet whilst walking us. At first we were suspicious of Bruce because one of our owners appears to adore him and we felt a bit peeved but we actually like him and when we spend time together we bond as a pack. Hero, who lives with Janet Manley is another friend. I quite fancy Hero. He is rather handsome. He doesn't brag but he did win best looking dog in the Forest Rescue show. He is prepared, for a small fee, to sign paw prints with all proceeds going to Birmingham Greyhound Protection. Sunny and Jojo belong to Jill Parker a very special lady who fosters greyhounds for the Birmingham Greyhound Protection. They place dogs in foster care until their forever home becomes available.

Jill and Janet will be available at a stall during the Cleobury Festival on June 29th. As well as raising awareness of the plight of greyhounds they will be raising money for Birmingham Greyhound Protection and for Candy Kane who work with partners in China to rescue dogs from the meat trade and from illegal greyhound racing. Jill and Janet are also hoping to highlight canine blood donation. Greyhound blood is vitally important as we tend to have a negative blood group, often termed the "universal blood type". In an emergency, our blood can be given to dogs with any blood type. Any large breed of dog (25KG in weight) can give blood. No anaesthetic is needed and the procedure is painless. A single donation can help up to four poorly or injured dogs.

If you are a sight hound you are very welcome to join us on June 22nd for a walk in the Wyre Forest, meeting at 11.30 by the café. There will be a BBQ to follow. Bring your owners who will be charged £5 per adult to cover food costs including sausages for us.

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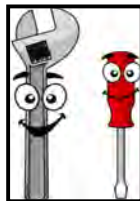
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Larch Barn Plant & Café Café & Plant Centre Supervisor	The main role will be to assist the manager in the day to day running of the Café & Plant Centre.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 270700 Email: hello@thelarchbarn.co.uk



Shropshire
Fire and Rescue Service

**On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer
(Retained Duty System)**

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, **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.



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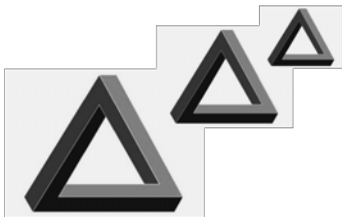
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Stephen and Alison Evans with their daughter, Kathryn moved to Prizeley Farm in 2012. Under their five year plan, now extended to "on going" they made it their home and their living. They have lovingly renovated and restored the 18th century farmhouse and buildings, added a new cattle/fodder shed along with improving the farm land, with a new artesian well providing a reliable water supply and dependable fencing. The 105-acre farm on the B4202 road to Worcester is ideal for rearing cattle along with an additional 125-acre farm rented locally. It is good grass and beef country; they soon settled down to developing a beef fattening herd. Stephen is a natural beef man, knowing instinctively when an animal is 'finished' and ready for market.

Both he and Alison have a saying that their cattle grow from two week old bought-in calves to 24-month old market weight steers/heifers with "dignity, quality of life and with at least one summer on grass"- slow but sure high quality beef production. The specifically designed calf unit carefully rears the bought in calves with computerised fed milk substitute for the first six to eight weeks when they are weaned onto calf nuts and cereals. The 350-strong beef herd are made up of Aberdeen Angus and Wagyu and are all black. The Wagyu are of Japanese origin coming to the UK in the last decade. Their meat is renowned for its quality and excellent fat marbling. In Japan some Wagyu are cosseted by being massaged, fed beer and have classical

music played to them, developing a huge financial premium. Stephen sells his beef to the large supermarket chains without the massaging and music but just with good farming, care and rich Shropshire grass. The farm grows 80-acres of cereals along with silage and are all consumed by the cattle on both farms.

Although a small sized business they do devote time and effort to the care for their farm's future environment. Trees have been planted and they are concerned about soil erosion, soil compaction and quality. They are currently researching direct drilling of crops whereby the land is not ploughed and have undertaken a programme of drainage improvement to protect watercourses.

Stephen and Alison, like so many farmers, work long and hard hours. If there is a job to be done even on Christmas Day, it gets done by the two of them with occasional help.

Thankfully, they both have the ability to switch off for a week every now and then, and have bought a cottage in North Wales to renovate and be a bolt hole for holidays, as well as for self-catering rental. Watch the Clarion for when it is ready for hire later this year.

Stephen is not only good with cattle but also with timber and can turn out planks and robust timber beams from whole trees on his mobile sawmill. He would like to develop this business further and if it looks as good as his beef business he will be on to a good thing.

Kit Smith



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Contacting us:

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e: business@cleoburycountry.com

www.cleoburycountrycentre.com

Training Courses Upcoming 2019:

Emergency first aid at work-10th June-£ 73.00

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Level 2 award in occupational health & safety-20th June-
£70.00

Level 3 award in HACCP-1&2 July-£265.00

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For more information on courses or if you require a booking form
please contact the centre.

The Clarion is on the World Wide Web
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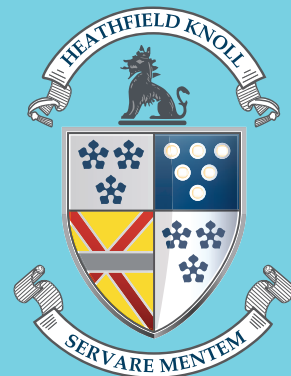
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SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

The entertainment continues

Our events have been coming thick and fast. Our St George's Day Lunch was a great success at the end of April, mid-May we had our Quiz evening; and in June we are delighted to have local band "Almost Acoustic": join us on the 8th at 2.30pm with Sounds of the 60s & 70s at Doddington Village Hall. Tickets are £10 and include tea or coffee and homemade cake. Available from Celia (see below).



'Almost Acoustic' are, from left: Paul Yeomans, Mary-Jane Davies, Jane Harris and Nick Harris.

Then on July 13th it's Strawberry Teas. And a very special extra brought to us by Beautiful Burial Grounds on the 18th: Learn to identify wild flowers and plants with plant expert Rob Rowe 10:30am -

1pm. This friendly and informal session in the churchyard is suitable for beginners and those wishing to dust off or improve their skills. Thanks to the National Heritage Lottery Fund's grant to Caring for God's Acre, the 12 places are free but must be booked. To book your place ring George on 01588 673041 or email george@cfga.org.uk (<http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>)

After our disappointment reported last month, we have been encouraged by receiving a grant from Laslett's Charities towards our project of £4,000! The grant is restricted to use on certain items, and can be used straight away, so you will see us getting on with some works very soon. We still have a long way to go, but it is great to know that we have this support. If you would like to contribute to our fund, please do contact us.

Celia Gibb 01584 318036
eandcgibb@gmail.com or on Facebook @StJohnsDoddington

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. These are sown and germinated in the first year. They are kept over winter for flowering next year when the weather warms up.

The spring bulbs have finished their display, you want to use the pot for summer bedding. No problem, remove them from the pot and plant in a corner of the garden out of the way. Once the foliage has wilted away, lift and store bulbs somewhere dark and cool.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with other members.

Our next meeting will be on June 26th, when the speaker will be Roger Umpelby will talk about 'Useful, Beautiful But Unloved'. It will also be the club's Rose and Sweet Pea Show.

Pauline Bowen

GARDEN PARTY AND BARBECUE

6.00 o'clock, Saturday July 13th

at 'Sproseley', Hopton Wafers.

Tickets £10.00, Under 12s £5.00

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Carolyn & Keith Balmer support a number of people who are involved in charitable activities. So we are always looking for soft toys and teddies for the "Teddy Trust". www.teddytrust.org.uk. Also if possible new, or very good quality, pens, pencils, note books, school bits and pieces, anything that would be useful for deprived children.

Phone 07976 307 889



Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-June 2019

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 2nd-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Coffee & Chat-Tuesday 4th. All welcome at The Old Forge, Baveney Wood, Neen Savage.

Farmers Market-Saturday 15th. In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Mothers Union-Thursday 20th. Tea time with the Robinson's at New House Farm from 2.30pm

Messy Church-Sunday 23rd. All welcome at the Hub at 3.00pm for crafts, stories, games & meal.

Deanery Even Song-Sunday 30th. All welcome at Hereford Cathedral at 3.30pm.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 2nd-10.00am Eucharist, 9th-6.30pm Evensong, 16th-10.00am Matins, 23rd-6.30pm

Evensong & 30th-No service

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 2nd-6.30pm Evensong, 9th-No service, 16th-6.30pm Evensong, 23rd-9.00am Eucharist &

30th-No service.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 2nd -10.00am Eucharist, 9th-10.00am Eucharist, 16th-10.00am Family service,

23rd-10.00am Eucharist & 30th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-11.00am Eucharist, 16th-No service, 23rd-3.00pm Evening Prayer & 30th-No service.

Events/Activities:

Sounds of the 60's & 70's at Doddington Village Hall with local band "Almost Acoustic" 2.30pm

Tickets £10.00 to include tea/coffee and cake. Contact Celia for tickets 01584 318036.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-11.00am Eucharist, 16th-No service, 23rd-11.00am Village

Worship & 30th-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 2nd-6.30pm Evensong, 9th-No service, 16th-11.00 Eucharist, 23rd-No service & 30th-

No service.

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

Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916

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HELPING TO FIGHT SCAMS

This is a very good idea. Cleobury Country are hosting an event presented jointly by the Natwest Bank and Friends Against Scams. The title they give it is 'Taking a Stand Against Scams', which tells you what it's about, like phone, doorstep and online security.

It's on June 19th, in the Cleobury Country Centre on Love Lane, starting at 10.30 and admission is free. If you want to be safer in the digital world, this is too good to miss. The great majority of people in this world are honest and are not out to rob you. But the nasty set are there and they are very plausible, so knowing what to look and listen for and how to avoid being taken for a ride is a sound move for any of us.

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The community turned out in force for Jack's Fun Day on May 12th. A massive £2744 was raised which will be split between Ronald MacDonald House and Post Pals.

41 cyclists took part in the Twisted Spire Velo on Sunday, May 19th. Participants came from as far afield as London and Brighton, and were suitably impressed with our beautiful Shropshire scenery, although not so impressed with the climbs involved! However, at the end, everyone expressed how much they enjoyed the experience and the homemade cakes at the feed station at Pearce Cycles in Ludlow went down especially

well! Praise too for the homemade curry served at the Social Club on their return. A total of approximately £800 was raised for the charity, Astriid. Guy Turpin and Rich Robertshaw would like to thank all those that helped on the day.

CM Cricket Club will be playing at home on Saturdays, June 15th, 22nd and 29th- all starting at 1pm

On Thursday, June 20th, Ascot Ladies Day will take place. Doors open at 12.30pm with Bucks Fizz/Pimms on arrival, with lunch served at 1.00pm. Smart dress is compulsory- just as you would for Ascot. Tickets are £20- contact 01299 271351 or 07785275014.

The Stroke Support Group will be visiting The Red Glass Cone in Stourbridge (with lunch) on June 25th. Please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre if you wish to attend.

As usual for more information please contact our Bar Manager, Tony Barker-Newton on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page *Glenys Turpin*

THE WOODWARD EDUCATIONAL TRUST

When Hopton Wafers village school was closed in 2012, the property was eventually sold to a developer and, whilst maintaining its original appearance, has been beautifully converted into two houses which go on sale shortly.

Thanks to the generosity of Chris Woodward, whose family also provided the school in 1871,

the original sale proceeds have been used to endow a charity, The Woodward Educational Trust. The Trust has been set up to provide educational benefits and is seeking applications from residents of Hopton Wafers and the general Cleobury Mortimer Benefice area. For more information and an application form, go to www.w-e-t.org.uk, or email info@w-e-t.org.uk

Robert Hodge

A SWIFT REPORT

At mid May it was becoming apparent that swallows, house martins and swifts were at least ten days late arriving from Africa and fewer than we might have expected. We do not know what the usual numbers of swallows and martins are, as we have not surveyed them before in any real detail. We do know there are less at this stage than last year. We hope to survey this year so we have a base line to compare with in future years. We do know from two years of swift surveys that we might expect a total of 27 as last year. However, they were ten days late arriving and only 12 in number in mid May this year. The cuckoo has been heard in Cleobury.

Any changes and survey work will be reported in the next Clarion and at a public meeting at the end of the breeding season in the last week of July.

Kit Smith

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Having been a follower of Steve Todd's campaign about bus services, I, too, am a fan of bus travel. And having had a bus pass for over 15 years I decided it was about time we reaped the benefits.

So I set a challenge to get my wife and me to our son's house near the Scottish border entirely on service buses using our bus passes. Additionally, I wanted to make it interesting so I avoided routes through the large northern conurbations like Greater Manchester. It can be done but we had to make two small cheats.

Day 1. This was the first cheat. The buses are so badly organised and coordinated that the bus from Cleobury into Ludlow, arrives about 5 minutes after the connecting bus to Shrewsbury has left. So to avoid a long, boring wait in Ludlow, we started with a lift there. Then it was easy.

Ludlow to Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury to Stoke on Trent where we had time to eat our sandwiches in the huge bus station. It has about 20 bays and was permanently bustling busy. Then Stoke to Buxton across beautiful moorland scenery. A comfortable day's travel and a night in hotel in Buxton.

Day 2. Buxton to Sheffield. Again wonderful scenery across the High Peak but ruined by pouring rain. Now the second cheat. It is possible to get up through the South Yorkshire towns by bus but it's a bit boring so we took the train to Skipton via a change in Leeds. £5.95 each. Then Skipton to Kirby Lonsdale where we spent the night.

Day 3. Kirby Lonsdale to Kendal, Kendal to Windermere; then the bus from Windermere, which after taking a narrow road with passing places, crosses the magnificent Kirkstone Pass and finishes up at Penrith. But you have the option of adding a little over an hour to your journey by leaving the bus at Glenridding at the south end of Ullswater and taking the steamer the length of the lake to Pooley Bridge. It's well

worth it. We spent the night at the Pooley Bridge Inn. Here there was once a beautiful ancient 3 span stone bridge spanning the river as it enters Ullswater which got washed away in the Cumbrian floods of 2016. Now replaced by a steel bridge which the council have on hire whilst they plan a permanent structure

Day 4. Re-boarded the bus to Penrith. Then Penrith to Carlisle and Carlisle to Bardonia Mill. We planned to take the little tourist bus which runs along Hadrian's Wall from Haltwhistle but major road works in Carlisle delayed the bus by nearly ½ an hour. So we finished up 5 miles from our son's house rather than the 3 miles we had hoped.

I can really recommend bus travel. It takes a bit of organising but I wonder if next time we might just go in a general direction and take pot luck with accommodation. All the places we stopped at were about half empty. You can get the timetables on your phone and there's a bus app (which I haven't tried yet). Most of the system is covered by Stagecoach and Arriva but then you also come across little operators like Minsterley Coach Hire and Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches. The bus drivers were universally helpful. Once when we were on the Shrewsbury bus a couple of years ago the driver stopped to allow a passenger to call in at a butchers in one of the villages, buy a pound of sausages and get back on again.

You get to see little villages you never knew existed and occasionally have the luxury of a double-decker. And if you do it's usually possible to nab the prize seats at the front on top as most passengers are old codgers who stay on the ground floor. On one bus we had three old ladies with Zimmer-frames-on-wheels. (One with four wheels, one three-wheeler. I made a study of them. You never know when it's your turn!)

John Barnes

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Support for the Armed Forces

Thursday June 6th marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings – a real turning point in the Second World War and the beginning of the Allied liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny.

To mark the event, there will be a major joint commemoration on Normandy beaches, involving surviving veterans, senior members of the Royal Family, and military chiefs from UK, US, Canada, France and other Commonwealth nations. It will involve the largest Royal Navy flotilla of recent years, with 4,000 personnel and at least 11 Royal Navy vessels, with multiple aircraft from the Red Arrows to the iconic Spitfire.

For me, such momentous anniversaries in our history take on a new significance, since joining the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a Commissioner earlier this year.

Soldiers from across the Commonwealth played a crucial role in defeating fascism, and defending Britain and the values for which it stands. Without the significant support of Commonwealth nations, Britain's war effort may have ended very differently. So it is important to remember the service of all who played their part in the Second World War, especially those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

The service of Commonwealth personnel continues to play a vital role in sustaining our Armed Forces. There are today some 4,000 regular and reserves personnel from the Commonwealth in our Armed Forces.

I have recently supported calls in Parliament to scrap visa fees for Commonwealth veterans who wish to stay in the UK after leaving military service. Current legislation exempts Commonwealth personnel from immigration controls while serving in the Armed Forces, who become

eligible for Indefinite Leave to Remain following a minimum of four years' service. But application costs for Indefinite Leave to Remain mean a service leaver with a spouse and two children could face a bill of almost £10,000 to remain in the UK.

As a result, many Commonwealth service leavers rely on financial support from charities such as the Royal British Legion to meet the cost of visa fees to remain in the UK. Approximately 400 Commonwealth service leavers apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain each year.

It does not seem right to me that those who come to this country volunteering to serve in our Armed Forces, can be presented with a hefty bill if they wish to remain here once their duty is done. So I have joined calls on the Home Secretary to do the right thing, and waive these fees for good.

This month also marks Armed Forces Day, on Saturday 29th June, with events taking place in Shrewsbury and Telford. I encourage residents to show their support for the Armed Forces and those local organisation and businesses who have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant. This pledge recognises that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve.

As a former Defence Minister, and local Royal British Legion member, I feel strongly that we must ensure that current generations recognise and respect the service of those who wear the Queen's uniform and defend the freedoms we hold dear – just as previous generations have done.

Philip Dunne

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PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

So many food products are wrapped in single use plastic. One way of reducing this is to take containers to the shops and ask shops to fill them so you avoid the plastic packaging.

In Ludlow, The Broad Bean has a range of unpackaged loose foods and deli items. In Worcester, there is Pack It In in the Shambles which sells a range of food items by weight-take in your own containers and get them weighed before and after you fill them.

And here in Cleobury, you can buy your fruit and veg in paper bags at Cleobury Fruit and Veg. At the Cleobury Country Market each month, you can meet Lynn who, as well as selling products from her small holding in Wem (wackleybrook.co.uk), also brings Ecolaf Laundry Liquid, Fabric Conditioner, Washing Up Liquid and Multi Surface Cleaner in bulk. She will refill any container, any size, that you bring to her. She is also open to suggestions for other products you want to buy as refills. A great way to start refilling locally.

If you're a local business or organisation who is doing

something to reduce plastic, we would love to hear from you and will promote what you do. Or if you as an individual have any other ideas of how to reduce our single use plastic usage, please contact us, Plastic:Not So Fantastic, by email: neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

Look out for the Cleobury Plastic Reduction Group stall at the Cleobury Mortimer Summer Festival on Saturday 29th June. We look forward to meeting you and hearing about all your ideas of how to reduce single use plastic.

Louise Francis

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE GOLF CLUB

Organisers Marilyn and Mike Wood report a busy evening at the Golf Club on April 26th, when the clear quiz winners were The Caticoms with 73 points, well ahead of Universally Challenged on 66. The result was £500 raised for local charities.

Big thanks to Graham Pain for making the Match Room available for the occasion free of charge and to all who donated quiz and auction prizes and gave donations.

The next Quiz Night will be on July 12th. Same place, same time, same good work for local causes.

NEEN SOLLARS FETE

Do put this one in your diaries, as it's such a friendly, welcoming event in a lovely setting. It's the Neen Sollars Village Fete, outside the village at Tetstill Farm on Saturday, June 15th. Starts at 1.00 and ends at 4.00, with lots to attract and entertain you. Recommended.

DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On April 30th Mrs Rosemary Winnall took members on a tour around the beautiful islands of Britain's lovely scenery including birds and wildlife. On May 7th members had a trip to Llangollen Aqueduct Canal; a great success, helped by wonderful weather.

On May 24th we heard the most interesting story of a world famous music hall star born in Worcester - 'The Amazing Vesta Tilly. Told by Mr Ray Sturdy together with a slide show.

Next meetings: June 11th and 25th at Doddington Village Hall, starting at 2.00.

SILLY BIT

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Radio presenter Mary Somerville in 1948.

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Sat 1 st	08.00	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
Sun 2 nd	10.00	The Footpath Association step out from the Parish Church for their monthly walk PAGE 9		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the King's Arms welcomes all musical types, but acoustic only		
Wed 5 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop, in the Village Hall on the B4202		
	10.00	NHS Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic at Community Room in St Marys Place, Love Lane, for service and advice		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Wed 5 th - 8 th		The noted Haydn Festival fills Bridgnorth with wonderful music		
Thurs 6 th		The 75 th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders step out from the Memorial Hall Car Park, Clun. PAGE 7		
Fri 7 th	7.00	Drop-In Revival Meeting at Nineveh Care Farm, Bayton. PAGE 45		
	7.30	"Flock of Words" at St Paul's Church, Knowbury. PAGE 35		
Sat 8 th	2.30	Sounds of the 60s and 70s in Doddington Village Hall. PAGE 19		
Mon 10 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group gather at the Library, Love Lane	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
Tues 11 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club meet at the Village Hall. PAGE 31		
	7.30	Cleobury WI meet for a workshop on "Making Felt Brooches" PAGE 53		
Wed 12 th		Neen Savage WI pay a garden visit to Stone House Cottage		
	10.00	Walking for Health step sprightly out from the Market Hall.		
	10.00	The CoCo Coffee Morning graces the Market Hall		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thurs 13 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 14 th	10.30	Rhyme Time for tots at the town Library		
	7.30	It's the Annual Wine Walk. Lots of merry people on foot! PAGE 45		
Sat 15 th	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in and around St Marys Church. PAGE 21		
	10.00	Craft Fair in the Market Hall		

MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

We should all know the value of the Midlands Air Ambulance rescue service by now. Their ability to get to a serious case quickly and to hospital even quicker is a true life saver. And they are supported solely by contributions from the public.

It was quite a surprise to be approached at a recent event and be asked to take up a place in their lottery, which is their biggest contributor in the vital matter of keeping the helicopters in the air. It doesn't have to be a lot, just one pound a week helps to make a difference if that's all you can afford, and there's a draw every week, with up to £1,000 on offer. A tempting figure to attract support.

Try a call to 0844 567 0844 for more details.

LATE NOTICE! C.M.CARERS'SUPPORT GROUP ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY, 12.00 to 3.00 on Tuesday the 18th June will be in the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 38



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Sat 15 th	1.00	Neen Sollar Village Fete at Tetshill Farm. PAGE 31		
	1.30	Poundry Artists Life Class at Uncllys Farm, Bewdley. PAGE 7		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks in the Parish Hall presents "Grand Theft OAP", which might give hard up pensioners inspiration..... PAGE 10		
Mon 17 th	7.30	The Reading Group gather at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 51		
Wed 19 th	10.30	"Take a Stand Against Scams" talk & advice in Cleobury Country Centre. PAGE 23		
		The Footpath Associations work party sets about some important tasks. Volunteer to help at footpaths@cmfg.co.uk . PAGE 9		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 20 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at St John the Baptist church, Kinlet for a walk. PAGE 7		
	12.30	Ladies Ascot Day at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 23		
	7.30	The Soroptimists supper evening at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. PAGE 7		
Fri 21 st	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 22 nd		Coach Outing to Llandudno, starting from Clee Hill		01584 891464
	09.30	Soroptimists' meeting on Female Genital Mutilation, St Georges Hall, Bewdley PAGE 7		
Mon 24 th		Closing Date for applications for the Child Endowment Fund. PAGE 7		
	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet's Society meet in the Library, Love Lane		
Tues 25 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club meet at the Village Hall		
	7.00	Cleobury WI pay a visit to industrial sites on Clee Hill. PAGE 53		
Wed 26 th	10.00	Walking for Health walk from Craven Arms Discovery Centre	Alan Kimber	01299 271754
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall		
	7.30	Crows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 19		
Thurs 27 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Soroptimists Coffee morning, George Hotel, Bewdley. PAGE 7		
Frid 28 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 29 th		The Cleobury Town Summer Festival. So much to celebrate... PAGE 51		
Sun 30 th		Horticultural Society's Summer Social at Peppercorn Cottage, Lower Street AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY.....		
Wed 3 rd	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 4 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 7 th	10.00	Cleobury Running Club's big event, The 10km Race. PAGE 45		

The Joy of Music

The Mary Webb Society presents an evening of gentle classical music in St Laurence's Church Ludlow, at 7.30 on June 22nd, to celebrate the Shropshire landscape of local author Mary Webb, on the weekend of the summer equinox, interspersed with readings from her work. It will include works by Beethoven, Schumann, Stanford, Vintner and Berkeley, plus the UK premiere of Rob Northcott's 'Green Pulse', inspired by Mary Webb's Shropshire.

Tickets £12 from Rachel Davenhill on 01584 892198, Castle Bookshop, or online from www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk

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A MUSIC AND POETRY EVENING

This sounds fascinating. Saint Paul's church in Knowbury is hosting 'Flock of Words' on Friday, June 7th. It features award winning poetry from Kate Innes and music from local favourites Whalebone and the evening will be raising funds for the church.

Tickets are £10 each, bookable with Judith Roele on 01584 890349 or 07754 947 175.

PIONEER CENTRE NEWS

April and May have been great months at the Centre. The weather has been up and down, but that is to be expected in this beautiful country. We started with snow at the beginning of April and we were making preparations in case the snow came down heavy, like last year, and prepare for the possibility of being snowed in again. But the weather has definitely taken a sunnier turn and it has allowed lots of repairs and improvements all over the site. We have planted 100 trees and the success of this venture has inspired us to plant some more soon.

Even reception has had a make over! Not only was it painted

but there is now a spacious, stylish new desk which looks a lot more inviting to the many people that walk through the door. There is now a quote on the wall for all to see; "Little by little, one travels far." By J.R.R. Tolkien, to encourage all who come and stay with us.



Staff member Tanya Tomanek in the new reception area.

We might be a small part in their journey of life, but we can make a big difference to the young people that stay here. We received a letter from a parent of a boy on the Autistic Spectrum who stayed with us this month, to thank us for the amazing job

we did in supporting him throughout his stay. She said that he was very anxious prior to his stay, but that he has had the best time. Our kitchen team got an extra special mention for the extra care provided in offering him meals outside the menu to reassure him during his visit. It is always encouraging to receive those kind of letters and an appreciable reminder of why we do what we do.

We will have a stall and activity space at the Cleobury Festival at the end of the month and look forward to meeting you all again on the playing field.

A BRIEF GHOSTIE STORY

By Terry Pottinger

"Sir James Qillquest, Historian & Occultist 1764 - 1837" was carved on the broken door of the large, crumbling tomb in the deserted graveyard. Worth a look inside I thought. I was only five yards in when the door slammed shut behind me.

Total darkness.

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THE COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Town Council's excellent idea of a series of Community Awards saw the first awards handed over at the Council's Annual Meeting on May 17th. The first part of the public meeting was held in the Primary School, to give those with younger children a chance to meet and question councillors and a number of organisations that work on the town.

The whole show then moved on to Lacon Childe School's Performing Arts Centre for an evening meet-the-public session and the awards presentation. Council Chair Debbie Brown explained that the idea behind the concept was to acknowledge and celebrate those who have helped to make this town a community, with three titles to be recognised.

The first was the Environmental Champion, where runner-up was Mawley Town Farm, with Rector Ashley Buck presenting the trophy to Rachel Robinson. The Champion's award went to Kit Smith in recognition of his work for the town's bird population and both trees and wildlife.

The second category was the Business or Organisation Champion who had done most to promote business locally and employ local people. Runner-up was Mawley Milk, with Adrian Robinson collecting the trophy. The winner this time was Hobson's Brewery and with Nick Davis not present - he was probably negotiating another deal to benefit the town - he got a round of applause.

The Cleobury Community Award for 2019 went to the First Responders and then came the big one: Overall Winner.



Big winners at the Community Awards evening were sisters Sarah (left) and Kate, with Rector Ashley Buck.

It went to sisters Sarah Barnsley and Kate Pearce for their inspired drive to get so many people knitting red poppies to decorate the spire of the Parish Church as the showcase feature at the town's World War One remembrance ceremony.

A good event, well attended and the right place to make the first presentations of the new Community Awards.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

'A chance to help shape the future of your parish' is the invitation to join in a survey by Shropshire Council to establish what's needed in our parish. The title the drive is 'Right Home, Right Place.'

Every household will get a survey through the letterbox and the council would like everyone to give an opinion. But if you're short of time and want to do the job online, go to www.righthomerightplace.co.uk and complete it there.

The information we all give will be shared by Shropshire Council with our own Town Council in planning future housing development. Good to see the county asking local people.



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C M CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

12.00 to 3.00 Tuesday June 18th

Join us at our Annual Garden Party, which has grown so much that we've moved it to the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane. Free Lunch is provided, but donations are accepted with thanks.

We will also be holding a raffle and there will be cake, craft and produce stalls plus Jumble Jars for sale. Everyone is welcome, and do bring your friends!

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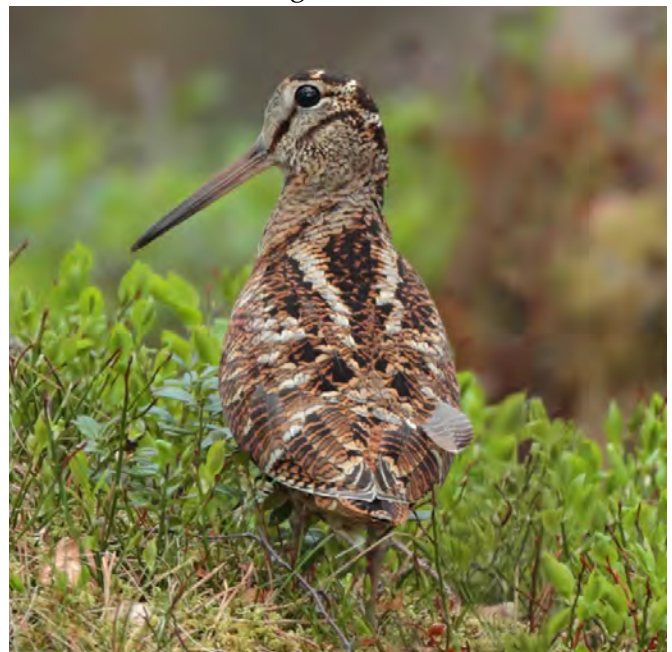


I try not to be too gloomy in my articles even though the overall picture regarding our wildlife is inescapably bad, so it's wonderful that I can bring some good news. Following last month's article which mentioned the disappearance of Nightjars from the Wyre Forest a friend got in touch with me to say that he had heard a Nightjar 'churring' behind his house on the edge of Ribbesford Woods last summer. Let's hope that it returns this summer, bringing some friends with it!

I have waited to hear the Cuckoo with some anxiety in recent years. It's a huge change from earlier days: an elderly lady who used to live along Tanners Hill told me that the noise of Cuckoos calling incessantly in the late spring and summer in her youth was maddening (enough to send anyone 'cuckoo'). The precarious state of the bird species such as Meadow Pipit, whose nests they invade, combine with the dangers of migration from sub-Saharan Africa to threaten the continued presence of this iconic bird in our forest. However I was relieved to hear my first Cuckoo on 24th April and have since heard the distinctive call, sometimes distant, sometimes loud and nearby, many times during May.

Another chance encounter was with a Woodcock, which flew over us as we walked back to the farm at dusk recently. It was flying low and uttering a squeak, much like a child's or dog's toy when trodden on, at regular intervals. I checked that I hadn't trodden on a frog then concluded it was a rare sighting of this heavily camouflaged woodland bird which looks much like a Snipe, with a long beak for probing soft ground. At this time of the year the males

perform a courtship flight known as 'roding'. They fly a circular track at dusk, uttering a strange croak or groan followed by the squeak I've described. The sound we heard lacked the croak, or at least we didn't hear it, so it may have been a male or a female. Norman Hickin records that this goes on for about an hour, usually from March until August. The wonders of a dusk walk are arguably as rewarding as those of the dawn walk I was advocating last month!



The woodcock, one of the most distinctive sounds to be heard in the Wyre.

Now that the forest has closed up and new leaves block the long views it is harder to see Fallow Deer. This applies even to the white deer, which make up a small but increasing percentage of the Wyre herd. This is the month when fawns are born, hidden among undergrowth by their mothers in the very quietest parts of the forest. Let's try not to disturb their peace.

Linda Iles

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THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thank you to all members who contributed plants our Plant Sale. We had a good range and there were not many to take home at the end.

At our meeting on May 13th we heard from Neil Cook how he has developed the gardens at Hanbury Hall after he was asked by the National Trust to revive them. The Hall and the gardens had been neglected for some time and much research was needed to refurbish the inside as well as the grounds. Neil found original plans by George London, an inspired formal gardener. When Neil began his task in 1993 all the gardens had been grassed over and there was no sign of any previous structures.

Following George London's plans they have now created beautiful formal gardens, a vegetable area, orchards and woodland, all just as in years gone by. Neil had wonderful pictures to share and the aerial shots showed the real beauty of the formal gardens. An enormous task which Neil and his team are continuing to work on.

Liz Smurthwaite

LUDLOW DOG DAY EXPANDS

Ludlow Rotary Club is planning another Dog Day on Sunday July 21st at Stokesay Court, about 5 miles North of Ludlow just off the A49. Gates open 10.00am; ample free parking.

The Club aims to better last year's result, when over 3500 people turned up to the event which was acknowledged by all as an outstanding success.

Beneficiaries this year are Hope House Hospice, Guide Dogs for the Blind and St Michael's Hospice. Other organisations located within 15 miles of Ludlow will receive grants up to £500 under the Ludlow Rotary Cares Scheme.

Once again we thank Caroline Magnus for allowing us to use the beautiful grounds of Stokesay Court as the venue. For an event of this size we are reliant upon sponsors Hatfields Jaguar Land Rover Shrewsbury, Teme Vets, Hobsons Brewery and Ludlow Homecare.

There will be competitions for all types of dog. Plus a full programme of special events with dog display teams and demonstrations including flyball, dog agility and dog obedience. There will also be stalls offering a wide variety of countryside fare and doggy

accessories, and a children's activity area.

We are incorporating our annual Health Awareness Day into Dog Day. This free service is offered over the Rotary District and is supported by the Stroke Association. Many people do not realise that many risk factors for stroke and heart disease are without symptoms. We will be offering blood pressure checks and body mass index measurements at the event. Participants will be given their results and advised whether they should consult another health professional for possible treatment.

Blood pressure rarely causes symptoms, so you may be totally unaware that you have it. A simple test can put your mind at rest, or give you an opportunity to seek appropriate help. For more information and advance ticket purchase visit www.ludlowdogday.org.uk.

Barry Treves

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A date for your diary! A Grand Summer Barbecue will be held on 13 July. For more information and tickets www.hoptonwafersvillagehall.uk/barbecue.html or call 01299 270047.

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CLEOBURY'S BIG 10km RACE

Following the success of last year, Cleobury Mortimer Running Club is organising their second 10km race this year.

This will be held on Sunday July 7th with a start time of 10:00am and will follow the same route. We are also looking to support the Dementia Friends charity with entrants given the chance to donate at time of entry and there will also be a stall on the playing field on the day.

Last year's event was well supported and we received lots of positive feedback from the entrants. The support received from local residents along the way was really appreciated, particularly as it was such a hot day and cooling hosepipes were welcomed.

For the safety of the entrants and the public, we will be applying road closures on a rolling basis across the course again but keeping them to a minimum to avoid disruption.

THE WINE WALK

On Friday June 14th, from 7.30 to 10.30, enjoy a stroll around the town on your own or as a group and visit the four venues

for a glass of wine or refreshing soft drink.

There will be a different wine or soft drink at each venue for you to enjoy. An opportunity for you to meet old friends, make new friends and enjoy the hosts' gardens.

Programmes at £12 each include tickets for 4 glasses of wine and details of the venues.

Obtainable from Cleobury Library, Cleobury Pharmacy, Spire Hairdressing, or Alec Osbaldiston Tel 01584 891351.

REVIVAL MEETINGS

Something new at Nineveh Ridge Care Farm, on the outskirts of Bayton, on the narrow Cleobury road. It's on June 7th, from 7.00 to 9.00 in the evening and it welcomes anyone with anxiety or depression who is looking for a drop-in group. Barbecue and soft drinks provided, or you can bring your own drinks.

It's free of charge, too. Just look for the Nineveh Ridge Care Farm signs. Pippa Bannister on 01299 832864 can tell you more.

THE BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

You should be able to collect a flyer with details of this year's Festival from your usual Clarion distributor. Not in Cleobury, as

there's a separate arrangement for distribution there.

It's another glittering array of stars heading our way in October and if you want to be sure of a ticket, you can book at www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk.

Eliza and Martin Carthy open the week on October 11th at the Mercure Hotel. Two of folk music's most renowned family, they'll be great to hear. And on Sunday the 13th, the organisers' ambition is realised with the appearance of Birmingham poet Benjamin Zephaniah, one of the greatest figures in that discipline and many others.

An Evening with Kate Humble brings that popular naturalist to the stage on Monday 14th and the next night Adrian Chiles in in the spotlight. For ageing rockers, having Bob Harris and Danny Baker together on the 16th will be a delight and on the 17th chart toppers The Horne Section will be here.

Friday the 18th will see Los Pacaminos feature Paul Young in a Tex-Mex night and the finale night sees Pete Williams of Dexy's Midnight Runners with his new band HOLLAND, followed by Orphan Colours, riding high with their album 'All Is Red'. Book now - it will be a busy week.

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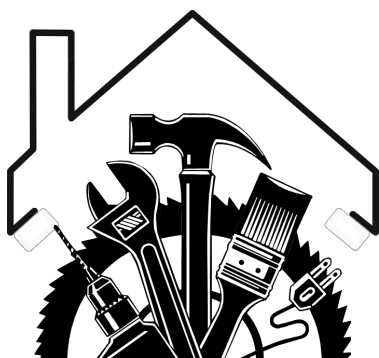
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BT bother continues. One user in Hampshire wanted his system moved to his new office in the garden. You would think that this would be fairly straightforward but at one point, there were no less than seven Openreach vans parked in the lane!. His system is now reconnected but the phone doesn't ring when someone calls which is useful when it is needed for business... Better news regarding the Broadband problems a resident has had for 17 months and which were mentioned last month as they appear to have finally been resolved. An engineer spent a good part of a day working on various bits of copper cable and fibre and seems to have sorted the problem as all has been well for about three weeks. To be fair, he has received some compensation (after a struggle) and eventually had a personal case manager who actually answered the phone when he called, so that is progress of a sort. Shame it took so long when you can get to the Moon in less than three days. He deliberately stayed with BT for all his services so that they couldn't use the usual ploy of blaming the independent service provider but this has only proved partially successful as they did anyway...

The Audi saga continues with a number of owners taking me to task (in the nicest possible way) for casting aspersions on their mental state. I would like to make it clear that none of the responses has been along the lines of: 'If you call me a psychopath again, I'll kill you!' so that's all right then. Apropos this, have you seen the latest Audi TV ad? It consists almost entirely of two Audis racing round in a partially filled swimming pool. Why?. No idea, but could it be because Audi drivers already think they can walk on water and driving on it merely takes this to the next level?. Just saying...On the same subject, I see that Audi have put next years advertising contract out to tender after 37 years with the same company (BBH,

the people who invented the 'Vorsprung durch Technik' line). It's probably due to the above advert being mentioned in the Clarion; I can't think of any other reason.

The Shropshire Council review of public transport mentioned last month has raised tensions in Bishops Castle already as some 70 residents blocked the A488 to protest at plans to cut their service to Shrewsbury from five times a day to two. No further news yet about any conclusions from the review but these are due to be put before the Council next month. Still no news of developments regarding the 292 but there is still a whole month to run on the current contract so no rush...Madge Shinton has written to Worcester Council but has received no response as all attempts to communicate seem to be sucked into the black hole that is County Hall.

Having just returned from a week in the Lake District where we went everywhere by bus, I normally wax lyrical about their frequency and reliability. Sadly, they have now blotted their copybook with two breakdowns in two days. Overheating apparently, which sounds familiar. Perhaps the Curse of Diamond has now spread to Stagecoach... Fortunately, we were on our way within about 45 minutes so no great delay.

I see the recycling facilities at Lacon Childe have now been removed. To be fair, notices were pasted on the the containers saying this would happen, although they didn't say when. Most of the items are those collected from the roadside apart from fruit juice and soup cartons. Apparently these now have to be taken to Bridgnorth or Craven arms which means a trip of a few hundred metres has 'improved' to one of about 28 miles there and back. Seems a funny way to encourage recycling, apart from the fact that as the facility was well used, how much will end up being fly tipped?.

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A SPRING MORNING IN NOVERS WOOD

7.30 on a misty morning and the lower slopes of Clee Hill do not offer any recognisable sign of where the Novers Wood car park is. Satnav is not in a friendly mood and the Google map just shows an area next to the road down to Tenbury. I stop and ask a man in a parked car; it's Bob Clarke from Cleobury, another lost soul. We're joined by a third and it looks like becoming a crowd puzzle when Glyn Barratt arrives and rescues us.

Clue for the future. Turn in by the Knowle Sports ground and carry on straight ahead.

We join a gaggle of parked cars and hurry to get walking boots on and join the party. They are on the edge of the wood, standing silent as walk leader Gareth Thomas talks quietly before stopping to listen for a bird call. Was it a whinchat? Difficult to hear what he says from the end of the queue and this ignoramus would not know.



Tracing birdsong is naturally a quiet and gentle process.

We move on slowly, Glyn Barratt taking time to explain the history of Novers, once a

busy lime quarrying area that was abandoned to nature long ago and bought with some generous grants to be rescued as a nature reserve. 30 acres of uneven terrain with no easy access limited its market appeal.

Regular trekking by local (wild life) enthusiasts has marked paths, which deer now follow. The ground has been hollowed out as miners long ago dug out limestone, in places not very deeply, in the biggest instance close to 80 feet deep with a mine shaft branching further into the earth. All that soil removed by hand labour, the lime stone moved on sleds from less productive areas and on rail carts from prime sources.

The wood has been used for school parties and the South Shropshire Youth Group, the latter building natural shelters from the abundant young trees and bushes and spending what must have been a demanding night camped out.

The simple paths have needed some landscaping work to make access slightly easier and on one long climb there are steps with timber facings to prolong their life. Glyn and other volunteers did that - not that you'd know unless you walk through this secluded area and ask questions of the right person.

Gareth Thomas is a great leader, with sharp hearing and a broad knowledge to identify the range of songs we hear. He can analyse the character of the calls, explains the repetition and what that can mean in some of them. He carries a recorder with a good storage range and plays some recordings to illustrate the subtle differences in what the untutored might think the same calls. Nature is always subtle.



One of the youth camps built this basic shelter for a demanding overnight stay.

Gareth admits that some of his recordings were made in earlier hours than we experienced. The task of carrying recording equipment in the pre-dawn hours along rough, steep paths must have been seriously demanding, but enthusiasm for the subject does tend to drive the determined on.

At the end of the walk we gathered around one of the tepees that serve as accommodation and storage, as coffee and biscuits were served.



End of the walk - social time.

A fascinating and eye opening experience. Would I go again? Yes please. *Jim Reynolds*

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Friday 14 June
Quoits

8pm



Social v The Bell

Saturday 15 June
CMCC v Alvechurch

1pm



Tuesday 18 June
Carers Support Group Summer Garden Party

12-3pm



Thursday 20 June
CMCC Ascot Ladies Day

12pm onwards

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Saturday 22 June
CMCC v Claverley

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Friday 28 June
Quoits

8pm



Social v The Eagle

Saturday 29 June
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THE READING GROUP

'The Invisible Woman' by Clare Tomalin, a biography of Nelly Ternant and her 13 year relationship with Charles Dickens.

Our evening started with seeing how many people noticed the complete page printing error; we hoped this wasn't to be the highlight of the book. Only one person really loved this story, a couple of others enjoyed it but the majority found it hard going, although interesting at times. It was agreed the author had done a great deal of research but maybe too much information and conjecture included for most of us. Some of the social history was fascinating, with Nelly coming from a theatrical family. They often toured in the north of England but all travelled widely, both in Great Britain and further afield. The book was widely praised by critics but not sure we would recommend. Our next read, a slimmer volume, is Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey, opinions to be exchanged on June 17th.

Deana Kimber

THE CLEOBURY FESTIVAL

Here are some tasters of what you can expect this year on June 29th:

The Health and Wellbeing Hub is being held in Lacon Childe School and the theme is Staying Healthy. Local groups and organisations will be there including Alzheimers Research UK, Dementia Friends, Walking for Health and local Caring Organisations.

We are especially pleased to welcome Dr James Brown, Director of the Aston Research Centre for Healthy Ageing. James was one of the experts on the Channel 4 TV programme "Old Peoples Home for 4 Year Olds."

On the Sports Field we have the usual mix of Blue Light Services on display, stalls, entertainment and of course Fun Dog Show and Dog Agility Exhibitions.

For anyone who would like to learn some circus skills you can do because there will be a professional on site to teach you between 12.30 and 2.00. The Market Hall has two floors of crafters, makers, artists, illustrators and child friendly experiences for all to enjoy.

We have three dance groups performing in and around the Hall and on the field during the day so do try to catch at least one of them.

There will be a Best Dressed Window Competition on the theme of "Summer " which will be judged on the day.

Refreshments will be available in the Church, Lacon Childe and on the Sports Field.

See Cleobury Facebook and Council Website for more details www.cleobury.org.uk/festival

Brought to you by the Festival Volunteers Group

STEVE GRIFFITHS

Renowned Ludlow poet Steve has a new book out: 'Weathereye. Selected Poems'. It's the best of his works from seven books over some 40 years, from youth to maturity and covering a lot of places he's seen and lived in.

We'll be reading from it at the Half Dead Poets' Society meet in Cleobury library on the 24th, when all are welcome to attend. Or you can order a copy from Castle Bookshop in Ludlow or directly from Steve at www.stevegriffithspoet.com at £9.99 a copy plus postage and packing.

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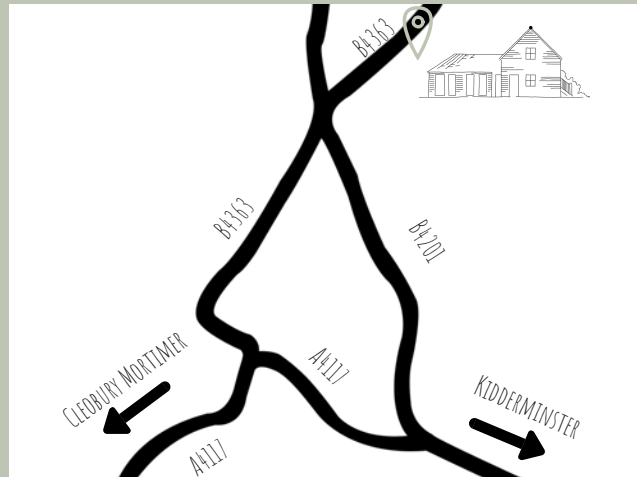
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FROM THE BANDROOM

Our Brass for Africa Concert went really well and we were able to give a generous donation to the charity. Our audience enjoyed our programme and the fish and chips, when they eventually arrived! We have also performed at Sutton Maddock Church for a fundraising concert.

We are all very pleased for our baritone player Amy Webb and husband Dan on the arrival of baby Elsie. Amy had been coming to band up to a week before Elsie arrived and I thought I might be announcing that the baby had arrived during band practice. Thankfully not and all is well with both mum and baby.

Our next engagement will be at Neen Sollars Fete on 15th June with our training band performing, always a lovely day and traditional garden fete – really worth an afternoon out. We have been asked to return to Harvington for another fete on Saturday 29th

July will soon be with us and we kick start the Brass Band Festival season at Pershore on Saturday 6th, playing in the

Abbey at 10:10 followed by a performance at The Star at 11:40.

If you like Brass Bands this is a day not to be missed with music from 10am to 10pm at six venues, you can turn up on the day and buy a wrist band from one of the kiosks. Our website lists all contact details www.CMCB.org.uk, please also find us on Facebook.

Katie Griffiths

THANK YOU

Carole and Keith Evans would like to thank neighbours at Mortimer Gardens, also friends in Cleobury, who have enquired about Keith's health during this very difficult time. Also many thanks to those who have looked after Alfie, enabling Carole to travel to Redditch to visit Keith. Also many thanks to the District Nurses and the Medical Centre, who were most helpful.

CLEOBURY W.I.

From serious business to an exciting visit – May's WI experience. We discussed two resolutions and decided to send our delegate to the National WI Conference with a mandate to modify our decision and our first summer outing took us to Ralph Gardens near Bromyard.

Delicious coffee, cakes, lunch and a walk through gardens around the world pleased all the WI members and guests. It was a delightfully quirky experience and well worth another visit.

We are looking forward to a workshop on June 11th, "Making Felted Brooches" and to our visit on the 25th, to Clee Hill, looking at the industrial sites.

We always welcome visitors. Join in the fun and please have a look at our Facebook page.

Gabby Franklin

EMILY PRICE

We've featured the remarkable Emily in the past, when she was winning golf tournaments as a pupil at Lacon Childe School.

She's now a student at Carolina University in America and has recently been named the South Eastern Conference Freshman of the Year in her first year over there. SEC is the official state college sports organisation website. According to the press news out of the university, she is the highest ranked freshman in the country.

SILLY BIT

'Politicians are like babies' nappies. They both need changing regularly, for the same reason."

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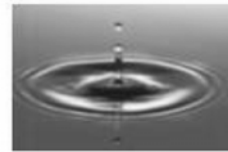


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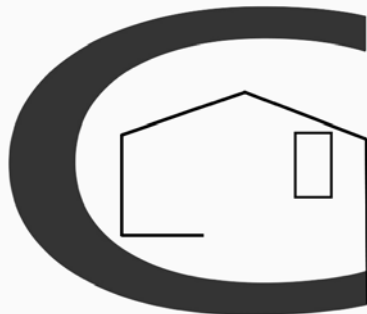
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KINLET HALL'S WEDDING AND CRAFT FAIR

A interesting experience. A chance to see what changes had been made to present the elegant Kinlet Hall as an event venue as its life as a private school had come to an end.

The Hall's great advantage in putting visitors in a relaxed frame of mind is the journey up that impressive drive. There were a lot of vehicles there when we arrived, but a courteous sign asked us to turn right and park on the lawns. A good start, getting away from the more prohibitive style of 'Keep Off The Grass', which does make you wonder what's with the place.

Waiting at the front door was Bertie, a gleaming white 1926 Ford Model T updated with more modern engine and running gear to add safety and comfort. A J Vintage Car Services - a name to remember. Nearby was the the Haywood family's trailer, smartly converted to offer Haywood's Bar and a welcome to impress any guest. A good start.



The sort of car to make anyone smile, this is Bertie, AJ Vintage Cars' 1926 Ford Model T.

Through a side door and upstairs to rooms full of a range of special services; it does seem that the old fashioned way of a fine dress for her and a formal suit for him is very old hat today. Steph's Finishing Touches seems to brim with good ideas, from big (BIG!) love letters to greet the happy couple to traditional cart hire and a range of traditional games back in time should keep the guests amused and amazed.

Dick Skilton's Bespoke Designs can come up with wedding stationery out of the ordinary, including invitations showing the venue for the day. Archie's Mobile Bars can fit into any venue, from a tipi to the market hall, presenting drink dispensers to blend with the surroundings. Properly trained and courteous bar staff, too.



Hand crafted Salt Dough decorative piece? Beech House Crafts can produce them to fit any theme.

Downstairs to the man entrance and first sight of the entrance hall after a makeover. Very smart with its gleaming paintwork and subtle decor, smiling and polite staff there to meet and greet. On into the depth of the house and for the first time I actually reached the rear of the Hall. The sort of trimmed lawns and neat

flower beds you'd want for the big day.

Back into the Hall to the sound of ex Moffatts pupil Abi Kelsey with piano accompaniment from Paul Riley. Many good comments heard about that duo.



Abi Kelsey - singer and teacher.

A wedding fair naturally means glamorous dresses for a bride. The Heavenly Wedding Belles stall was busy you could see why they've won awards. Especially when the lady in charge told us about the reception some clients had elsewhere; like the lady who wanted a larger size dress and when she gave the size was told by an amazed assistant that she's never get through the door! She found a Heavenly and friendly reception elsewhere...



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SALUTE THE LADIES' SUCCESS



Jo Watson and Andie Ford toast another notable success.

Cleobury Running Club coaches Jo Watson and Andie Ford, successfully ran the 123rd Boston Marathon last month after achieving 'Good for Age' places. The Boston is not only one of the oldest marathons but also one of the most challenging races, they both qualified by running excellent marathon times during the year. To get a 'Boston Qualifying' time is such a fantastic achievement for any runner let alone both to get one in the same year.

Despite the day starting off with torrential rain, thunder and lightning, they ran extremely well, completing the race in incredibly quick times, with Jo managing yet another Personal Best in an incredible 3hrs 13mins and Andie coming in with an excellent sub 4 hour time.

To top it off, under two weeks later, they both also ran again in the London Marathon! They are both so committed to their running and the club, and put a lot of their own time into creating what CMRC is today – a fun and friendly group.

AND THERE'S MORE...

The remarkable Vicki Hulme, who has 100 marathons in her running CV, just doesn't stop. She was off to Cumbria recently, where she ran ten marathons in ten days. Amazing.

MAN IN A BIG JOB



Tony Barker-Newton taking in the sun outside the Club.

This is man who's found his ideal job: Bar Steward at Cleobury's Sports and Social Club. He's lived in Cleobury for 11 years and left a position as Clearance Sales Manager for a national company, with long spells away from home, to being able to walk to work. And he can see his family every day.

Responsible for the day to day running of a successful club, he has a clear idea of where he's going: "To build on the work of previous managers and carry on growing a family oriented club." His little touches show in the poster announcing This Week's Guest Ale and a bigger touch in the coming August weekend when there will be a Comedy Night on the 9th, A Real Ale and Gin Festival on the 10th and a Family Fun Day on the 11th.

He's warm in his praise of others, like Alison Dunn's work on both the Facebook site and the advert here in the Clarion. Not one to leave a job undone, you can find him towing the mower to keep the grass short and when the cleaner's away he'll do that too.

He's impressed by the support for the charity events in the club, like the recent Jack Edwards Evening, when 350 people were in and around. So is he happy in his work? "Oh yes" is the reply.

Paul Harding



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June 2019 Clarion Report

Almost half way through the year and the Town council has done a lot already. The wildflower garden is now starting to sprout and we await the flowers and colours it will produce. The Dog training area will start being constructed at the beginning of June and the Bike trail is getting its final going over before it can open up for the summer.

We had our annual Town Meeting on 17th May with a crowd of 95 people gathered to see Kate Pearce and Sarah Barnsley pick up the new Community Champion Award the very popular and deserving runner up was Cleobury and District First Responders Voting for this award was via a public vote from a shortlist

Two other awards were also presented, this time nominated, researched and judged by the awards committee. - Environment Champion went to Kit Smith for inspiring others to get involved in Owl and swift watches, conservation projects and wildlife protection as well as plastics reduction. Runner up was Mawley Farm whose onsite green energy production and environmentally friendly farming practices impressed.

Winner of the Business Champion Award was Hobsons Brewery for not only its award-winning beers but its innovative environmentally friendly production and local sourcing processes. It is a business that supports the community and its charities and is a true champion for Cleobury. Runner up was Mawley Milk, with its milking system that allows cows milking on demand, a farm that grows and sources locally and is environmentally sensitive in a vital industry. Next year nominations for the awards will be open to the public earlier in the year, so we can throw the net wider and discover more community minded people and organisations.

DATE FOR THE DIARY Saturday 29th June is the Cleobury Festival, with so much going on around the Town with the Dog Show, Fire engine, police, Army, Pioneer Centre and many more to see and do with different choices of food to keep you going. . Lacon School is the venue for Health and Wellbeing, the emphasis this year is on Healthy Ageing including the benefits of physical activity and being involved with others in joining with others to have fun to demonstrate these there is a demonstration by the Nifty Fifties dance group and Live Laugh Breathe Choir. The Market Hall is the venue for Arts, Crafts and performance, there will be three local dance groups and a circus entertainer showing us what they do outside the Hall. Inside there are artists, crafters, children's activities, demonstrations and much more. Finally, the Youth Hub at the Methodist Church is opening to showcase what they do now and what they wish to create in the future Finally all the shops, businesses and public houses would welcome a visit from you. We have plenty of free parking with the two car parks and part of the Field, weather permitting, so no need to block the pavements.

The CCTV continues to provide good evidence for the Police, especially thefts around the Town, and Insurance claims. We do have the odd ones that we can't help due to locations, but we will be addressing those locations with better coverage.

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"All our own work!" Gina Basker in the shining stainless steel kitchen and storage unit in Burford's Aspire Centre, installed by her and her partner.

Gina Basker has been involved in catering and cooking for 35 years. She started out helping part time in a local Italian restaurant and worked her way through all aspects of the industry to today's happy position of her own business.

After moving to Cleobury she worked in the kitchen at the Primary School, then at Casa Mia in Far Forest. With friends asking her to cater for their special occasions once they'd tasted her cooking skills, demand for her service grew. So she had to make a decision to take on premises with room to do the job easily. After all, holding down a chef's position and running a part-time business out of her home kitchen was no easy life.

She found the solution in Burford's Aspire Centre, where she and her partner cleaned and decorated the place before installing cookers and extractor units with the capacity to prepare, cook and despatch food for 100 or more guests at whatever the event is. Like canapé parties, hot and cold buffets and big pan food. Latest acquisitions are a hog roast and a pop-up kitchen for when there aren't facilities available.

With about 48 square metres of space there's a limit to the amount of crockery and cutlery she can supply off the shelf, and the answer is a Worcester based hire service that she knows and trusts.

What you will not find here are big freezers and refrigerators stuffed with ready-made food. Gina's proud boast is that Platters and Plates serves fresh hand-made food. And if that means something special in the way of bread, she'll make it; if the customer just wants good quality bread and rolls, she uses Swift's up on Clee Hill. Meat comes from Heath Farm at Baginswood and fruit and vegetables from Bewdley Farm Shop or Cleobury's Co-op store if she has to work late. The customer states what they want, how much a head they want to spend and Gina comes up with the answer.

Hygiene at all stages of preparation is strictly observed. Food Hygiene Level 3 certified, Hygiene Level 5 (the highest there is) and she's a member of the National Catering Association. The whole process from cooking to serving is recorded as approved practice dictates; the temperature when delivered is recorded and if it's a buffet where the guests will serve themselves, there's a clear note of the maximum time it can be on display before being removed from the table. Each dish is labelled with details of any allergens; this is 21st century catering and standards are high.

She has a co-operative agreement with a Kidderminster caterer to share part-time staff that they know and can trust. She does have a strong sense of presentation for buffets and is used to guests wanting to photograph the spread before they eat, because it looks so good.

The matter of delivering food to an event is dealt with by large insulated containers that fit into her estate car and the newly acquired trailer if more space is needed. All carefully temperature controlled.

Gina works hard and if you call and don't get her it's because she's out working. She's putting in about 50 hours a week at this stage, but what some of her customers say suggests that may grow.

Gayna at the Severn Hospice shop in Cleobury has used Gina and is a great fan: "Marvellous, I've never seen anything like it before. Just wonderful to look at and delicious to eat."

Her own down to earth approach, an ability to listen to what her customers want and a smiling manner all add to the service. You can see why she's so successful.



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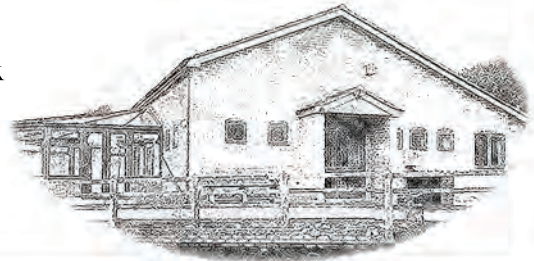
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CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 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
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
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