Cleobury Clarion

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MARCH 2016

HORRIFIC!

On Page 53 of this issue is an appeal from Fay Vass, asking for donations of food and clothing to help homeless people on the streets of Wolverhampton. One sentence left me stunned: "Just before Christmas a young lady named Hayley perished in the cold in a shop doorway in Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton is a city with a proud history, a university that enjoys a good reputation, it's a bustling, lively place. Like any city it has its problems, but I've known it as a visitor on business, for pleasure and as a patient at the New Cross Hospital and I have an affection for it.

What is wrong with British society that this young woman should die in a shop doorway? Were there no Police patrols in operation? No charity out there looking for those who fall through the ever weakening net of support for those who cannot cope, for whatever reason?

Please give generously to Fay's appeal. Thank Heaven that we have such people who do care.



Callum with an absolute armful of badges earned in two years.

Callum Bayliss is a remarkable young man. Aged just seven, he has earned all the six challenge awards and 20 activity badges available to a Beaver like him.

Beaver leader Collette said: "The first Beaver in his colony to have achieved this feat. We're all really proud of what he has done. He worked really hard and showed great dedication."

His next move is up to the Cubs, where new challenges await. And no doubt new achievements too.

TREVOR BURTON

Trevor Burton, for many years a significant figure in the Cleobury Mortimer community, sadly lost his fight with cancer on February 22nd. He succeeded his father as the town's undertaker, combining that delicate job with work as an insurance agent.

Leading a funeral cortege with quiet dignity, he was a fine example of that traditional craft. His quiet manner and readiness to help people at a time of great grief earned him respect, and he was also a regular presence in Parish Church ceremonies as a Reader and as a member of the Parochial Church Council. Yet Rector Robert Horsfield would tell of quiet evenings telling tales of his trade, to the delight and surprise of other dinner guests who found a deep sense of humour below his sober appearance.

The sympathies of all who knew him, as friends or simply found his quiet manner a great comfort, will go to Elizabeth and their children Philip and Katherine at their sad loss.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page March 2016 - Volume Thirteen - Edition Twelve

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, Bagginswood; Clee Hill Post Office; Cleobury North Village Store; Clows Top Stores; The Sun and Slipper at Mamble; Hopton Bank Service Station; Ludlow Library; Mawley Oak Garage; The Colliers Arms Farmers Market Shop, Rock; The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon; The Duck Inn, Chorley; The Live and Let Live, Neen Sollars; The Eagle and Serpent, Kinlet; Parker Motors, Ditton Priors. Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri. CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday. CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - Constable Anne O'Leary; <u>ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</u>

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE** - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: **0800 783 1359**

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM 272717, 07761 976610 mobile, or dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. Out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

SHROP DOC - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

THE PHARMACY - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

NEWLIFE CHURCH - Pastor E Stirrup 01562 630595. Sunday services at 10.30

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. <u>www.cleobury.org.uk</u>. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month. POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street.

SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, mark.stmarys@live.co.uk SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

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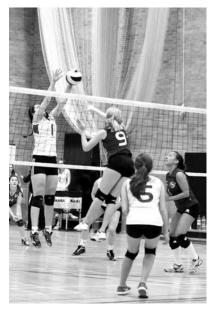
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The Cleobury Clarion. March 2016



William Henry of Simply Fresh in Talbot Yard has moved on, having transformed this local store into a success story. See Page 7.



Reaching high, Cleobury volleyball. See Page 23.



Some businesses do have a good sense of humour. Cleobury Wash House. Page 55.

And On Other Pages....

- **3: Local Information**
- 9: In Praise Of...The Pharmacy
- 11: Mark Greaves
- 13: Walking for Health
- **15: The Clarion Jobs Page**
- 17: The Writing Group
- **19: The Crime Reduction Group**
- 21: The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page
- 25: The Fun Run Forks Out
- 27: Philip Dunne MP
- 30: The Social Calendar Part One...
- 31: ...and Part Two

- 33: Clarion Coppers
- **37: On the Buses**
- 41: March in the Wyre Forest
- 43: Shropshire Rural Housing
- 45: Security on the Farm
- 47: On the Market Beans & Leaves
- 49: Madge-ic
- 53: Fay Vass Charity Appeal
- **57: The Final Picture Quiz**
- 58: Library Update
- 59: Bayton Primary School

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FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, WILLIAM



William with his A Team. From left Helen Smith, Bridget Webb and Steve Knott.

Eight and a half years after taking over an ailing grocery store in Talbot Square, William Henry has sold the business and is taking a well earned holiday. His impact on the town has been far more than anyone expected, as he built up a great team to help run the place and expanded the range on offer. Today it's one of the best shops in town, a real credit to his vision and ability to recruit good people.

He has always been warm in praise of others. "I couldn't do it without my excellent staff,: he told us years ago. When he kept Bridget Webb and her home deliveries on from the first day, you realised that this man is no fool. When the deli on the High Street folded and went, he picked up the idea and it's a major feature of the shop today. Fresh French bread baked on the premises, Mawley Milk in support of another local business and in the summer plants out in the back yard. Not to mention kindling and logs in the winter months. His adoption of the Simply Fresh franchise has broadened the stock range further and every month there are tempting special offers.

William resisted the temptation to move here, his roots in the West Midlands meaning he drove in six days most weeks, sometimes with the van loaded after a visit to the wholesalers. He won't admit how many hours a week he put in, but it would frighten the average nine-to-five time server rigid. He's earned his success the hard way and well deserves а break before deciding what will be his next career move.

William is succeeded as the face behind the counter by Cary Shergill, who is getting to know people and learning how to cut cheese and meats in the deli section. He has a big learning curve to climb and we wish him all the best.

A THANK YOU FROM THE HALL FAMILY Money raised in memory of

Christopher Hall Anne, Matthew and family and Nicola and family would like to say a big 'Thank You' for all the generous donations received in Chris's memory.

Money raised came to £706, which will be split between the Medical Centre and Hospice at Home. Thank you once again.

Anne

PHILIP DUNNE SURGERY Mr Dunne will be holding an advice surgery in the Market Hall on Friday March 11th, from 4.30 until 6.00. You can make an appointment to speak to our MP on 01584 872187.

GOOD NEWS FOR LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, who do put on some cracking shows, have been given a grant of £350,000 by the Arts Council to get the place refurbished. Philip Dunne has been supporting the Board in its efforts to get an asset transfer from Shropshire Council and says: "This grant provides the key boost to get the project off ground." Secures the the venue's future, too.





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TOMMY WAKEMAN

The town lost one of its real characters on January 18th with the passing of Thomas Henry Wakeman, the man who everybody knew as Tommy. The smiling, dapper chap who never seemed to scowl or be upset. He worked at The Ludlow Advertiser for years, selling advertising and making friends with his easy manner. took up a post with Then Gardner-Shaw Soft Drinks of Brierley Hill and made another set of contacts.

He was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and the Legion Royal British and members the of Legion provided a Guard of Honour at his funeral. Our sympathies go to Joyce and the family in their sad loss. They would like to say: 'Joyce and family of Tom Wakeman wish to thank the Royal British Legion, Masonic Brethren and everyone in church for their kind condolences, donations and lovely reminiscences.'

UNIVERSAL CREDIT NOT MEETING ITS PROMISE

A worrying report from the local Citizens Advice Bureau : Wyre Forest CAB says the new benefit replacing many income based benefits is not living up to its promise.

Universal Credit is replacing Allowance, Job Seekers Employment Support & Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits, and Housing Benefit and is being rolled out over the country. The CAB is finding there are difficulties in applying for the new benefit, delays and errors in payments.

Kate Bennett, Manager of Wyre Forest CAB said: "The principles are good, as it will simplify the welfare system and make every hour that someone works pay for them, so they don't lose benefits when they work. We deal with 16 complex benefit queries a week and see queries about the introduction of the new benefit".

"Our charity in Wyre Forest is unique as we deal with 'phone enquiries from all over the county, from people facing many problems. We find people are struggling with the on-line claiming system. One client could not complete her application, as the software did not recognise her post code and the system closed down. There is no way to save an application and return to it. Many people do not realise they can wait up to six weeks for their money as the benefit is now paid monthly.

In addition, staff are not always properly prepared so applicants are becoming confused about the complexity of the application process and worried that they may lose out on benefits to which they are entirely entitled."

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Herbaceous perennials was the topic for our February evening. Ingrid Millington , who has a nursery business, had brought a small selection of plants for us to see. She took us through the year with colourful slides, pointing out the plants strengths and weaknesses. She also gave tips for propagating, feeding and nurturing. Her photos showed us how attractive their foliage was before blooming and their seed heads afterwards. They also gave a view of how the plants looked at different times of the year and how they might look beside one another. Our next meeting is on March 14th when Kath Thornton will talk about the plight of the bumble bee. We meet in the Methodist Hall and visitors are very welcome. Liz Smurthwaite



Page 9

Robert Bradley Logs 07794 798616



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MARK GREAVES - A PARENT'S VIEW

The writer chose not to sign this letter, but we know who it is. So not an anonymous letter, just a tribute . Editor.

As a parent I would like to thank Mark Greaves for the support he is giving to the young people of our community. It is very reassuring that we have such a role model for our children.

For those who aren't aware, Mark supports pupils at Lacon Childe and the Primary school; invaluable for all pupils, but especially those who are having a difficult time. As a Head Teacher I am very aware of the difficulties many children face and how important it is that they have somebody that they trust to talk to. Mark is that person. If he is unable to help, he clearly signposts children to the places where they can find the support they need.

Whilst not at school, Mark organises the local Youth Group that is extremely popular with 11 to 16 year olds. My son, who is not easily to please, believe me, thinks it's brilliant. The Hub provides a place for the young to chill, keeping them off the street and out of trouble. Mark seems to have the knack of being 'sic'. Don't worry, he's not poorly, this is the new word for being cool whilst being extremely wise. I really wish as a parent I had those talents!

There seems to be no end to this young man's skills. I recently had the privilege of attending the Community Carol Service, which was organised by Mark; it can only be described as awe inspiring. The community came together to celebrate a magical time of year, with many of the young people present.

I hope the people of Cleobury Mortimer realise what a gem they have in Mark. With continual cuts in funding we need to ensure he continues to carry out his excellent work. We are extremely lucky to have Mark and more importantly so are the young people of this town.

Thank you, Mark, from us all, young and old.

FROM THE BANDROOM

In the middle of January, as a treat for our younger training band members, 25 of us travelled to Symphony Hall to a concert performance by the Black Dyke Band, where we were also lucky enough to have a private audience at their rehearsal. We had a lovely day and hopefully it left everyone feeling inspired.

Our main band rehearsals are currently focussed on the Area Competition which is held at Bedworth in the middle of March – I hope to report well in the April edition of the Clarion. Our banding engagement calendar is booking up fast with several bandstand dates already in place, please take a look at our website for details.

One date to note is our Spring Concert which will be held on Saturday 7th May at the Parish Hall, we will be playing a popular music programme and fish and chips will be served in the interval.

Please look out for posters around the town or if you would like to reserve tickets please contact me on 01299 270262

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands. www.cmcb.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

Contacting us: t: 01299 272 300



Training Courses Upcoming:

-Emergency First Aid at work: Wed 16th Mar, £70.00+VAT

-PAT Testing: Mon 14th Mar, £185.00+VAT

-3 Day First Aid at Work: 9,10&11th Mar, £180.00 +VAT

Business Networking this month:

e: business@cleoburycountry.com www.cleoburycountrycentre.com

Wednesday 16th March 2016

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CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Gardeners all love March as the garden springs into life. The weather is warming up and the days are getting longer and brighter. The days and nights can still be a little chilly with biting winds and rain but March can also deliver glorious blue skies at times. Hedges are starting to bud with fresh, green leaves and new growth is throughout showing the garden. The snowdrops are beginning to be replaced with daffodils.

March 20th is the official start of spring. When the hours of light equal the hours of dark and from here on the evenings extend and we gardeners can start to enjoy our gardens in full.

At the January meeting Jo Roche, gave an interesting talk and power point presentation on 'Abberley Hall & Clock Tower'. This was an interesting talk on a very visual landmark in the area. The clock tower can be seen from miles around and its history was fascinating. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd March, members 'Spring Show' and 'Gardner's Questions' hosted by Derek Walker.

Pauline Bowen

LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a public meeting of the Cleobury and Rural Local Joint Committee on March 23rd at 7.00pm in the Market Hall

Chris Blyth, Director of Operations for Diamond Buses, will update on improvements to the service since the last meeting and take questions from the public. James Willocks (Shropshire Council's Transport Commissioning Manager) will speak about Shropshire Council's perspective and expectations of the 2L service.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Cleobury Walking for Health begins its summer season on March 2nd, starting from the Sports and Fitness Centre at 10am every first and third Wednesday. Our walks of between 30 & 60 minutes are led by friendly trained people, are free, sociable and open to all abilities. There is no need to

book, just turn up in good time with suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. The walks are a good opportunity for a chat with the bonus of post walk refreshments kindly supplied by Lacon Childe School.

Experts recommend 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week for adults; about a third of us achieve this. A small amount of regular exercise can significantly improve a person's physical and mental health. It will also reduce the risk and effects of many health conditions.

WfH is popular with the over 55s and people with lower than average levels of physical activity. However, do seek advice from your GP or nursing staff if you have a medical condition that is affected by physical exercise.

Local support is given by Shropshire Council and Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association who by improving the condition and access to footpaths has helped Cleobury WfH to use a network of routes that avoid stiles.

More details: Mandy Smith 01299 270312 or Alan Kimber 01299 271754.

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The Clarion Jobs Page

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After three months employment your contracted hours will include Saturdays. Apprentice wages will be dependent on age. Deadline for applications is April.

Enquiries in writing to our Compliance Manager Nicola Atherage or email

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CLOSING DATE FRIDAY MARCH 4TH



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.

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ROCK PATHFINDERS

Dates and starting points for the March walks are:

10.30 Thursday 3rd, from The Lenchford Inn, in the lay-by next to the B4196 Scrawly Road. WR6 6TD or Ordnance Survey reference 813643.

10.30 Thursday 17th, Annual General Meeting at Rock Village Hall. DY14 9SD or OS 735712, followed by a short walk.

More details from Alan on 01299 400304 or visit the website www.rockpathfinders.webspace. virginmedia.com

BEWDLEY W.I.

Bill White will be the speaker at the March meeting, at 7.30 in Saint George's Hall, Load Street, talking about Hanging Baskets, Pots and Tubs. Visitors are welcome and are asked to pay £3.00 for the evening.

THE WRITING GROUP

The idea behind this small and friendly group is to encourage people who want to write to try it in an easy going atmosphere where all you get is encouragement. There's no air of competition, just people with similar ambitions listening and encouraging.

To give newcomers an easy start, every month there's a selection of three words to include in a piece of writing. Preferably no more than 1,000 words long, but it can be shorter or longer and nobody complains; this month's words are: hat, serendipity and spice. If poetry is your choice, then write a piece of verse and share it with us; you don't have to follow the three word discipline.

The members include professional writers, some with books to their name, other who are simply building their word skills. The age range is very wide, from 19 to the 90s and the different styles of writing reflect very different teaching styles over the ages.

Membership is free, the group meet at 6.30 on the second Monday of the month, in the library. They make newcomers very welcome. More details from Jim Reynolds on CM 270642.

THE HOPTON WAFERS QUIZ EVENING

Marilyn Wood reports:

I am delighted to report that we made a net profit of £410, which will be split equally between Cleobury Mortimer First Responders and George Mutter's Fund for riding lessons. The quiz was very hard fought, with the eventual winners gambling all on the final round to double up their score and edge home by three points. So exciting and very brave of them!

Many thanks to all who supported the quiz on such a wet evening, donated raffle prizes and bought tickets. It is appreciated.

The results were:

1st. Universally Challenged 69 points

2nd The Cleeberries 66

3rd The Facetious Friends 65.5

4th The Clueless Clarion Correspondents 62.5

EASTER FAMILY FUN AT NEEN SAVAGE

This does sound like good fun. It's at Neen Savage Village Hall and offers four hours of assorted attractions for all. It's on Easter Saturday, the 19th and offers a children's craft tent, lucky dip, hook-a-duck, face painting, a cake stall, bouncy castle, a chocolate tombola and refreshments as well. Even better, admission is free. All to raise funds for the local Trust Lewis charity.



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THE CRIME REDUCTION GROUP

There was a very positive meeting on February 8th. Parish clerk Matt Sheehan reported other parishes seeking his advice on the SmartWater campaign that has worked so well, with more than 80 percent of households taking up the free supply. There are kits still available, and if you haven't had one yet, Matt will be happy to help at his office in the Market Hall. Mike Simpson of West Mercia Police advised that there have been no reported burglaries in the area covered by the campaign since the SmartWater was first handed out.

If you see We Don't Buy Crime signs and wonder what they're all about, they are designed to remind people that buying what you think is a real bargain from someone you don't know can be a risky deal. If you actually buy stolen goods, you can be prosecuted, with all the nasty results that can mean. Not just having a criminal record, but possibly of going to jail. Not such a bargain in the long run.

The installation of a good standard Closed Circuit TV camera system is being actively pursued, with visits to other Shropshire towns to see how they do it. The idea is to cover the High Street and other areas with high definition cameras capable of showing faces and registration numbers. The town does have funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for this purpose.

The Police mobile station will be in town on Farmers' Market days and will also visit the Sports and Social Club car park, where parents of young children will be advised of the Stranger Danger campaign that warns youngsters not to respond to any approach from an adult they don't know.

The problem of traffic moving through the town at speed was discussed and the possibility of a police speed check unit visiting will be pursued. On the matter of selfish and obstructive parking, there is a link on the Parish Council website for this to be reported, or you can call 101 to report such an offence.

Reports on the time taken for a Police officer to arrive on the scene of the bank robbery varied from 15 to 45 minutes. An officer explained that the urgent matter was checking traffic on main routes out of the town, not to arrive at the scene of the crime when the criminals had already gone.

The Group is making progress with crime prevention measures and chairman Matt Sheehan wants to see more parishioners involved. If you would like to be involved, talk to Matt on CM 271154 or come along to the next meeting, in the Market Hall, at 11.00 on April 18th.

Following that meeting, there was another with the Police and Crime Commissioner's men and a walk around the town to discuss the best type of cameras and locations. Advances in technology mean that we will have a much better setup at a lower cost than the present equipment. Recommendations are to be put to the Parish Council and a decision made by them, with better cover through the darker parts of town.

WHAT A NIGHT!

On February 7th the Sports & Social Club held a quiz night, as part of a nationwide attempt to break a Guinness record, by entering the most people into an identical quiz at the same time across the country, while fund raising. The Club were hoping for 16 teams, but on the night the building was packed with the 22 teams that actually entered, creating a fun and buzzing atmosphere. To say the questions were hard would be an understatement, but the beer went down, the raffle tickets sold and a staggering £700 was raised for Cleobury Compassionate Communities. CoCo has yet again been bowled over by the support and generosity of this community and extends thanks to all involved in putting on the event, which took the club's total fund raising since December to an extraordinairy £25,000! In March CoCo will be using some funds from other events to host a 'Dementia Awareness' session for the community and has interesting plans for the coming year.

Katja Jones

SILLY BITS

"I don't like making plans for the day, because then the word 'premeditated' gets thrown around in the courtroom."

"Those who say there is no such thing as a stupid question have never worked in Customer Service."



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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Why every pet should be microchipped

Becky Robinson ,Veterinary Surgeon, Severn Edge Vets, Cleobury Mortimer



Last summer I adopted a Basset Hound called Daisy. She'd been rehomed unsuccessfully a couple of times, and as I'd seen her for various procedures, I thought I couldn't really say no. So Daisy joined our little menagerie.

Bassets are known for following their noses. When on to a scent, they are deaf to their owners' calls, which is why you don't often see them off the lead. And so it happened: three weeks ago, early on a Saturday morning, Daisy escaped from our garden and took off over the hills.

Anybody who has lost a dog in the past will understand the panic that sets in. We desperately called round local farmers and gamekeepers, and my husband set off through fields, woods and ditches looking for her.

Daisy is microchipped. This means she has a metal capsule the size of a grain of rice injected under her skin. Any vet can quickly scan her and see who she is and how to contact her owners.

From April, all dogs legally must be chipped and the information on it kept up to date. As well as making it easy to get runaways home, this helps deal with irresponsible breeders and dangerous animals. But it's not just a good idea for dogs. Cats are the most frequent runaways, and are often taken in by people who have no way of finding where Moggy came from.

So if you have a cat or a dog, come and see us and we'll get them chipped for you. It is a simple injection that most pets don't even notice.

Daisy had been missing for four hours when we got the call. She'd been rounded up on a 60mph stretch of road near Kinlet. It could have very easily ended up much worse for her – and for that we will be forever grateful to the kind people who stopped traffic and gathered her up.

They took her to Severn Edge Vets in Cleobury (not knowing that her owner worked there!) and the team scanned her. 20 minutes later my husband had been called and was there to pick her up. All because of the microchip.

So what have we learned? You can rely on the kindness of strangers to save your pets, but only a microchip will guarantee they actually get home. So get one, and keep your information up to date.

And if you have a Basset Hound you need a very good fence. *Becky Robinson*



Page 21

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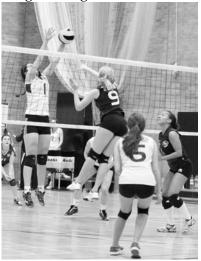
THE QUIET SUCCESS -VOLLEYBALL

Can you remember when Cleobury's rugby team won through to a junior league title at Twickenham? The town was almost empty on that day, as over a thousand supporters headed south in support. The publicity was huge, even though we lost to one of the strongest teams.

But that was the year our volleyball team won their first national title at Kettering; the publicity was minimal. At the 2012 London Olympics, volleyball team member Rachel Bragg was a player here in Cleobury. There is clearly a need for some good PR here and it looks as if Laura Edwards is out to put that right. Hence this feature.

It's physically demanding , a game of five sets lasting up to two and a half hours and six players a side in action. With that much exertion, it's natural that substitutes are allowed. It has a good following, a recent competition here attracting 31 Cleobury players spread across the 12 teams.

Cleobury's current star is Shannon Smith, still at Lacon Childe and playing in the National Junior squad, which means a lot of travel at weekends to Kettering or Loughborough.



Shannon Smith, wearing No 1, uses height and good anticipation to block an opposing team's strike.

Here in Cleobury, where Carl Brookes is both club secretary and coach, he works on an entirely voluntary basis to look after two women's teams and one from the men. The Juniors can start to train and play from eight years of age, but the teams cover an age range from teens into the 30s. Our leading ladies' team is at the top of the Fifth Tier in the National League, while the men are at the top of their Sixth Tier. Cleobury has good history in the Nationals, the ladies at one time being ranked 12th best team in the

whole country. For a small town of 3,000 people, that's a really good rating.

Laura Edwards is an active player, training on Wednesday nights during the August to May playing season. What's the appeal of the game? "The competition, the social side is strong and it's a good way of keeping fit." For her, the aim is for the team to make its mark in the local West Midlands League and for the club to build its membership.

In a sport where sponsorship is not big and membership costs are £300 for a National League member and £80 in the likes of Cleobury's Juniors, it's a matter of relying upon parents (nothing new there) and local fund raising. A recent horse racing evening raised £1900 that will go to help with membership costs and you can expect more of that as new blood like Laura look at the game's local history and set out to get back to that level. It's a good, clean sport that's worth a closer look from any keen type, junior or adult. Carl Brookes can be contacted at the Sports and Fitness Centre on 01299 271317.



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THE FUN RUN FORKS OUT

In a very relaxed and friendly get together at the Sports and Social Club, the organisers of the annual Fun Run handed over donations to a number of local good causes.

This was after £2,600 had been sent to the BBC TV Children in Need fund. The local groups benefiting were Tiny Tots, Cubs, Guides, St Mary's Youth Project and Kidderminster Children's Diabetic Care, all of them very happy to see their work helped.

Picking out one person from those those involved in a such a wide ranging event may lack balance, but credit should go to Caroline Bills for the years of work she has put into this quite riotous evening that is done for the best of reasons.

THE READING GROUP

"1356" is Bernard Cornwell's fourth novel in the Grail Quest series, though it works well as an independent narrative. Set during the 100 Years War, it culminates in the Battle of Poitiers, a complex military encounter.

Our group was quite divided in opinions, about a third enjoyed the story, two opted out and the rest appreciated some parts of the book. The historical facts at the end were especially interesting. "Was it written with television in mind?" was one question asked and it would certainly provide plenty of action on screen. Although several characters seemed stereotyped, much research had obviously taken place and we learned several facts regarding bows and bowmen.

A rollicking adventure story with incredibly vivid descriptions, too much so at times. Overall not a book to be recommended to everyone but may make a good holiday read if you don't mind the gore. What will our next read be like? "Crooked Letter. Crooked Letter" is an intriguing title and we meet to mull it over on March 21^{st.} . Further information from me on 271754.

Deana Kimber

THANK YOU The family of the late Edna Hodges would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy at our sad loss and all those who attended her funeral. Special thanks to the Reverend Richard Mutter, Adrian Satterly of Cleobury Funeral Services and Gill and Brian Davies for their kind support and efficiency. Donations will be given to the Salvation Army to help in their work.

HOPTON WAFERS VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting of Hopton Wafers Village Hall will take place on Thursday March 24th at 7.00pm in the village hall. All residents of Hopton Wafers village and immediate neighbourhood, over the age of 18, are entitled to vote at the meeting.

John Watkins,

Secretary (01299 270974)

THE HIGH STREET

LIME TREES

Lewis Arborcare are again pleaching the lime trees in High Street. Not only do these splendid trees enhance the town, but they really came into their own when dressed with our fantastic Christmas lights recently. We are asking the contractor to pleach the trees next November rather than leaving it to late winter 2017 since it will make the work of putting up the Christmas lights very much easier.

The funding to pleach the trees comes from three sources. Shropshire Council pays half the cost to show its commitment and support for this community project that is managed by Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society. However, the project has always been a sound three-way partnership, with Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council and local residents also making their contributions. We are very grateful to the two local businesses that very kindly responded to our last request for more donors - and it's not too late for any others to offer.

Several residents have said that they would like to make a contribution, so we shall be placing collecting boxes in the Day Centre in St Mary's Close and in the library during March, so pop in and give what you can. You will also be doing your bit to conserve and nurture these gracious trees. Thank you in anticipation.

Flo Hadley

Chair, The Horticultural Society

THE LEGION LUNCH

The Cleobury Royal British Legion Annual Luncheon will be held in the Sports and Social Club at 1.00 o'clock on Sunday March 13th.

The speaker will be Sue Brown, our High Street chiropractitioner and the RAF's first operational female pilot. Tickets are £15 each, available from Dr Mark Baldwin. Sounds like an interesting event.

Another Page of Clarion Smalls

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Page 26



Letter from Westminster -Philip Dunne MP

It was ironic that the appalling ram raid on the ATM cash machine recently should have taken Cleobury Mortimer, since place in this community has been at the forefront of an impressive town-wide effort to curb crime. Led by the Town Council, there has been huge public support for West Mercia Police's 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative and the rollout of Smartwater to households around town, which should make a positive difference in the local fight against crime. Indeed, readers may have seen that Smartwater was instrumental in bringing a repeat burglar to justice last year, after a spate of breakins to business premises in the Ludlow area.

Inspired by your example, I have been in contact with West Mercia Police to explore the idea of implementing the We Don't Buy Crime initiative on a wider scale across the Ludlow Constituency, to expand on the impressive community engagement we have seen here in Cleobury Mortimer.

The experience here has indicated sufficient support from the town/parish council, the police and local businesses will be crucial in promoting wider rollout of this technology. I have arranged with the police and town council a crime reduction event for local businesses in Ludlow this month. If successful I shall support similar events in other towns across South Shropshire. Cleobury Mortimer's initiative will I hope inspire others to help cut crime in our communities.

Of course, proactive crime prevention initiatives must work hand in glove with efficient policing. It is encouraging to note crime overall has fallen significantly since 2010. The independent Crime Survey of England and Wales shows crime last year fell to its lowest level since the survey was first conducted in 1981, with West Mercia's crime rate falling 14% since 2010. The Chancellor's decision in the autumn Spending Review to protect police budgets for coming years is also a welcome help.

Governance and accountability for our police is now provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and I would like to put on record my thanks to Bill Longmore, the inaugural PCC for West Mercia, who retires this May. His successor will be chosen by election on 5th May.

Rehabilitation of offenders is another crucial element in cutting crime. Last month, the Prime Minister outlined plans to give greater freedom to prison governors, including plans for six 'reform prisons' this year, to pilot this higher level of autonomy. In the Spending Review, the Chancellor also announced plans to fund nine new fit for purpose prisons, with five built before 2020, to replace tired Victorian prisons.

Our prison system needs to work for the public purse, victims, prison staff, and prisoners themselves. Effective rehabilitation reduces repeat offending, giving offenders a stake in society and making our streets safer.

No society is free of crime, but we must do all we can to prevent it. Supporting police initiatives and reforming prisons, coupled with proactive efforts from the community, can reduce risks of crime and help keep us safe.

Philip Dunne



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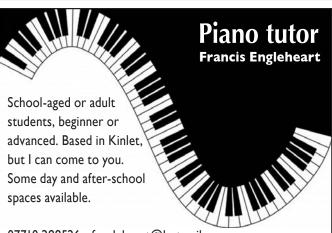
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Her love of horses goes back to infant days: "I was known to have slept in my riding hat at the age of four," she admits. She has a competition record in dressage, show jumping and cross country, so knows what an active rider can expect of a mount. "Equine massage is a proven therapy and assists a horse's wellbeing and recovery from injury," she explains. So you can see why it is an obvious part of any owner's care programme.

She's working from Moorfield Barn Farm. Telephone 07855 526 559 email <u>laura@moorfieldequinemassag</u> <u>e.co.uk</u> or look in at <u>www.moorfieldequinemassag</u> <u>e.co.uk</u>

IN PRAISE OF....

A few weekends ago we picked our granddaughter up from school, about an hour drive from Cleobury, to come and stay with us for the weekend. We collected her bag from home, did the usual checks, have you boring remembered your phone etc. and most importantly your medication (she has а condition that requires her to inject herself daily).

Arriving home and unpacking, she did have the medication and the injector pen but no needles! By this time it was getting close to 6.00 p.m. so back in the car and off to the pharmacy. The help we received there was outstanding, phone calls made to help ascertain which needles were required, and temporary registration with the Medical Centre in order to obtain the prescription. All done cheerfully and with good grace.

We cannot thank them enough and we appreciate what an asset they are to our community. *Philip Jones*

STOTTESDON W.I.

'Climate Change- Fact or Fiction' was the theme of a highly topical presentation by Richard Bubb, who talked us through a million years of global warming, and its escalation within our own life times. The evidence over the more populated northern hemisphere proves a case for human responsibility with which it is hard to argue. But with humour and optimism, Richard assured us we can all adjust behaviour to slow the damage, reducing our impact on our fragile planet and saving lives at risk from rising temperatures and sea levels.

We have more great evenings planned for this year, beginning with:

March 16th: 'Alzheimers Research', Anthony Eddies-Davies, Farlow Village Hall. April 20th: 'Second World War Codebreakers', Dr Mark Baldwin, Chorley VH .



The March Clarion Social Calendar - Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 2nd	10.00	Walking for Health is back, starting from the Sport & Fitness Centre in Love Lane		SEE PAGE 13
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 3rd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk out from The Lenchford Inn		SEE PAGE 17
Fri 4th	8.00	'Locust Honey' Present an evening of American Folk Roots music at Clows Top's Victory Hall. The £12 ticket includes supper-great value. PAGE 49	Judith	01299 832020
Sat 5th	8.00	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road, Knowle, Clee Hill.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
Sun 6th	10.00	Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church and Cleans for The Queen along the way		PAGE 49
Mon 7th	7.00	Poetry Evening at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		PAGE 45
	7.30	Bill White speaks about Hanging baskets, Pots and Tubs at Bewdley W.I.		PAGE 17
Tue 8th	7.30	Cleobury W.I. meet in the Market Hall to hear James Smith talk about Osteopathy. Visitors welcome.		PAGE 46
Wed 9th	7.00	The Friends of St Mary's Church hold their AGM in the Market Hall.		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I meet in the Village Hall to hear Judy Beckett report on her visit to Buckingham Palace and Angela Flowers on the W.I. Centenary AGM at the Royal Albert Hall.		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street	David Taylor	01299 270793
Thu 10th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		1
Fri 11th	4.30	Philip Dunne MP has an advice surgery in the Market Hall. Book your appointment on 01584 872187		PAGE 7
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Mon 14th	6.30	The Writers Group meet in the Library		PAGE 17
	7.30	The Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Hall to hear wisdom from Kath Thornton on the Plight of the Bumblebee.		PAGE 9

MALCOLM UPHILL

Malcolm is an Isle of Man TT legend, the first man to lap that 37.7 mile circuit at 100mph on a production road-going motorcycle. That was in 1969, on a Triumph Bonneville, and his achievement passed into history. His great friend David Hollyman is travelling up from South Wales to talk about the man at the Borders Classic Bike Club night at the Blount Arms on Thursday, March 10th, starting at 8.00. Admission is free and everyone with an interest in motorcycles will be very welcome.



The March Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 16th	10.00	Walking for Health are out again. See Wednesday 2nd above.		0 K-
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe gather at the Market Hall to do what their title suggests.	Kate Jones	01584 890284
	7.30	Stottesdon W.I meet at Farlow Village Hall to hear Anthony Eddis-Davis talk about Alzheimer's Research.		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 17th	1	GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Path Finders AGM at Rock Village Hall		PAGE 17
	7.00	Hobson's Cheesy Night. Brewery Tour, lots of cheese dishes and beer or cider to match. £25.00 a head. Call 01299 270837 to book.		
Fri 18th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 19th	9.30	Cleobury Farmers' Market in and around the Parish Church		
	12.00	Easter Family Fun at Neen Savage Village Hall. In aid of the Trust Lewis charity.	1	PAGE 17
Mon 21st	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the library to swap views on their latest read.	Deana Kimber	01299 271754
Wed 23rd	7.00	Local Joint Committee public meeting in the Market Hall. Listen to Diamond Buses' directors and the County Council's representative and ask questions.		PAGE 13 & 37
	7.15	The Clows Top Gardening Club meets at Victory Hall for the members' Spring Show and Gardeners' Question Time. PAGE 13	Marion Wilson	01299 270475
Thu 24th	1	BLACK WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		PAGE 25
	7.00	Hopton Wafers Village Hall AGM		
Wed 30th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe are in the Market Hall again. Lots of Smiles, Laughter and pleasant harmony		
Looking ah	ead to Ap	ril		
Thu 1st		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 6th	8.00	Whish Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

CLEOBURY YARNERS

This is a new group, catering for knitting, crochet and all things wool. Their first meting will be in the Market Hall on March 31st, starting at 7.30, and they welcome everyone, from beginners to the experienced. The charge of £4.00 per session covers the hire of the hall and the essential teas, and they can even provide needles and wool if you don't have them.



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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris

There have been five incidents of theft from motor vehicles, mostly where power tools have been stolen. These occurred in Lark's Rise on January 25th/26th, in Cleobury Meadows on January 26th/27th, in Betjemen Way on the same date, in Clee Vantage, Clee Hill between January 22nd and 27th and in Old School Lane, Burford on February 10th/11th. Also in Old School Lane, about the same time, a parked vehicle had its back window smashed. Nothing was stolen which may have been because the owner went out to investigate a loud noise that he had heard. On January 22nd, a male was arrested for drink driving and taking the car he was driving without consent after he collided with a parked car at Hopton Bank. He had left the scene but was found by police not too far away on foot. On January 24th a sheep was discovered in a field at Nash which had been skinned and butchered by unknown person/s. Between 9:30pm and 10:00pm on January 24th, CCTV footage showed four males stealing two chainsaws from a locked workshop at a farm in Ludlow Road. This was probably linked to the theft of a quad bike and a non-powered go-kart from a property in Catherton Road. Sometime between last September and January 25th, a gas powered bird scarer and battery pack worth £450 in total was stolen from a field at Nash. On January 28th there were two burglaries near Far Forest which appear to be linked. A few hand tools were stolen from a shed at one property, but from the other, several Ipads, a computer, jewellery and cash were stolen. The thieves came back for a safe but were disturbed by the homeowners returning. They were driving an old style silver Ford Fiesta.In the early hours of February 1st, three



males broke into a shed at a property in Button Oak and stole power tools. Between January 31st and February 1st, £3000 worth of damage was done to the ground floor windows of an unoccupied house in Kinlet. Late on February 6th, criminal damage was caused to two window panes of The Old Lion, Lower Street. On February 12th, three industrial units in Burford were attacked by burglars. At one, a member of staff approached two unknown males before they could steal anything. At the second one, a night shift supervisor confronted two males, but it was later discovered that they had opened a safe and stolen £245. At the third, an office block was broken into. Two Iphones, a camera, a small amount of cash and documents were stolen. A window was smashed at a property in The Hurst sometime in the evening of February 13th which could have been a failed burglary attempt. Between 9:00pm and 9:30pm on February 12th, CCTV caught on camera three males stealing a trailer worth £3000 from a unit on the Newhouse Farm Industrial Site in Tenbury Road. Between 11:00am and 1:15pm on February 15th, a house in Milson was broken into. £125 in cash and two cheque books were stolen. Between 6:00pm and 8:00pm on February 15th there was an attempted burglary at a house in Grove Meadow. A double glazed patio door was smashed but no entry was gained.

Nick Morris

There's more from Nick on Page 45 about security on farm premises......



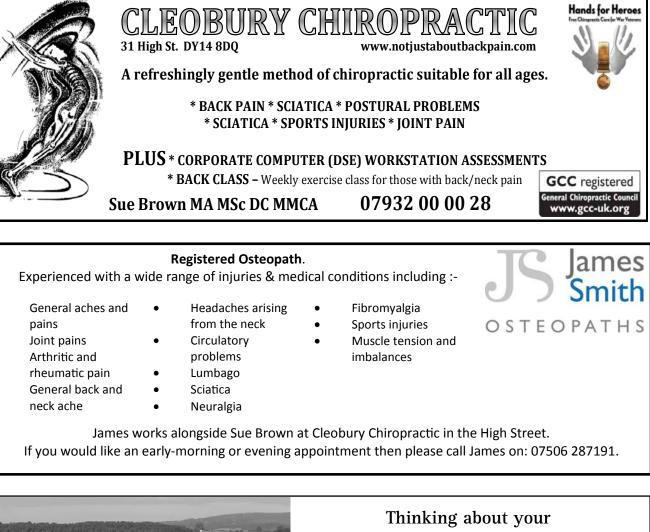


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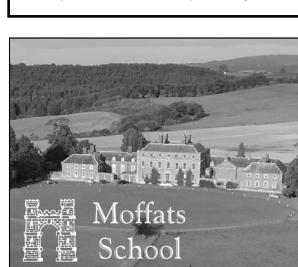
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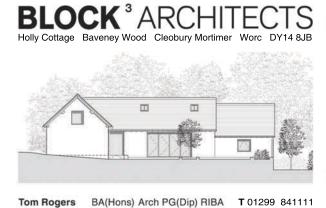




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THE BRIDGE GROUP meets every Thursday afternoon to play in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Lessons are available, to book in call Pat Smith 01299 270592.

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On the Buses - Steve Todd reports

Just as you thought it was safe to go back into the water... The other Friday, the 9.38 to Ludlow arrived on but time was smoking Passers ominously. by wondered how far it would get in that state and sure enough at 10.30 it was seen stopped just short of the Medical with Centre Diamond employees trying to pour fluids into it. Obviously this didn't work as at 11.30 it was still there abandoned and empty

, awaiting rescue and at 12.30 it was towed slowly away. I don't know whether a replacement was put on or whether the luckless passengers had to wait for the 11.38. There have been other incidents including a flat battery at Kiddy and other breakdowns between Kiddy and Bewdley. Still, at least users here don't get their bus passes confiscated happened as on а Stagecoach bus in Gloucester. The holder was a disabled woman and the driver accused her of fake (it having а pass wasn't) and took it, leaving roadside. her by the Stagecoach later apologised and said that the matter was being investigated with the driver'. Not sure if that included fingernail removal...

Apart from those,

reliability does seem to have improved and there is a sprinkling of newer buses on the route. Diamond do seem to finally be making an effort although only a cynical person would think this had anything to do with the contract being due for renewal shortly... Talking of contracts, any effort will be too late for the Redditch schools contract which has just been terminated by Worcestershire Council due dire Diamond's to performance including making students late for exams and some services not running at all. Shropshire Council please note - it CAN be done. It's not as though our Council can't run contracts as I gather that the 125 service from Kiddy to Bridgnorth, which is administered by Shropshire and operated by Central Buses seems to work well. And there is a bus every hour on that route!

The LJC (Local Joint Committee) meeting to discuss the 2L service has confirmed been for Wednesday 23 March and will be held at Cleobury Market Hall starting at 7pm. Ι told that am а representative from Diamond Buses will attend as well as the person from Shropshire Council

responsible for transport contracts. Please get there if you can as unless it is made clear to those responsible how fed up we are with the current set up, they will carry on regardless. I intend to raise several points:

1.Why has the service been rerouted four times with no consultation and little notice?

2. Why is the route so convoluted purely for the c o n v e n i e n c e o f Worcestershire residents who have other buses on the same route?

3. Why does Shropshire Council pay 80% of the subsidy whilst receiving far less than 80% of the service?

4. Why does it take on average 2 months to change to timetables on the bus stops?

No doubt you will have your own questions and this will be a rare opportunity to have them answered.

On another matter, the seat of the former leader of Shropshire Council whose resignation was mentioned a couple of months ago has gone to the first Green Councillor to be elected to the Council. Another case of disillusionment with the existing players?

Steve Todd

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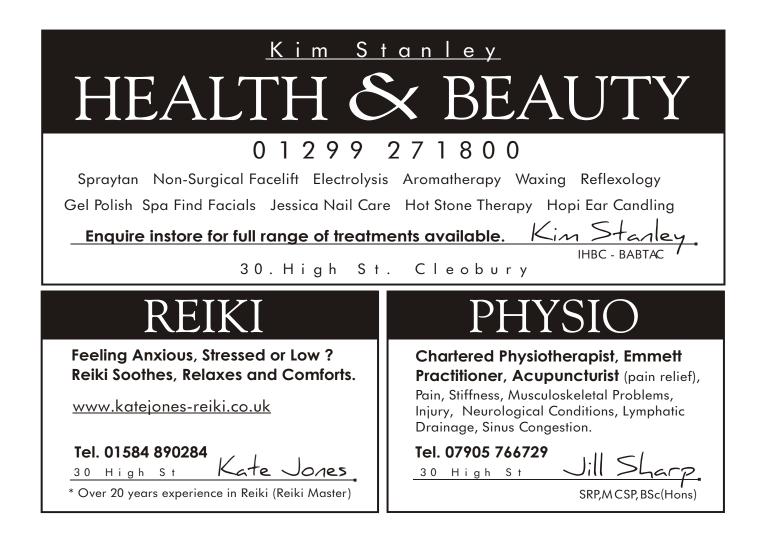


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Linda Iles March In The Wyre Forest

When we look round our houses there's an awful lot of wood in them - furniture, window frames, doors, beams and structural timber but where does it all come from? Say you have a nice new kitchen in oak; does it come from a woodland somewhere near you? I have to say that's very unlikely. The UK imports 80% of its timber and that smart oak beamed extension next door is almost certainly made from European-grown oak.

Where does that leave the home grown product? Well, sadly most of the broadleaved (deciduous) woodland in this country is unmanaged or undermanaged, mainly because of a huge dip in timber prices in the last 20 years. As a result, 95% of sawmills dealing with non-coniferous timber have gone in that time, taking the supply chains and timber skills with them. In our area about 18 small sawmills are still operating but only a couple would have any capacity to increase their use of locally-sourced oak.

Timber prices are now recovering so this could be the time to get the market going again. Apart from job creation, reduced reliance on imports and lower transport costs there are huge benefits to wildlife if we start to take out more timber from our woods. This may seem counter-intuitive but the RSPB put a 70% loss in numbers of the nation's woodland birds over the last 15 years down to lack of management. With no harvesting, the forest becomes dark, and loses the variety of tree



species and ages that provide rich habitats. Continuous cover, with selective felling and the right light levels for seedling establishment, would seem to be the most beneficial approach.

You may be surprised to learn that 2/3rds of the woodland in the Wyre Forest is privately owned. Differences in management between the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the various trusts and individuals involved include forestry practices, habitat management and public access and, as like as not, there will be no signs or fences on the ground to let you know when you're crossing a boundary. Recent initiatives such as the Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership have made some progress in drawing owners together in a less fragmented approach to sustainable forestry and wildlife conservation. There could be opportunities for communities to become involved in schemes such as 'Logs for labour' now that wood burners of various kinds are more popular, benefiting people and nature!

I'll just invest a little of my labour to fetch another wheelbarrow of logs, which should see this chilly late winter evening out. A female tawny owl 'whit-whits' in the big oak tree beyond the barn and a male hoots back, at home in this particular corner of Wyre. *Linda Iles*



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Attractive New Affordable Houses at Kinlet

It was a fitting way for the Shropshire Rural Housing Association to celebrate its 30th vear. There was certainly much to see at Kinlet's latest affordable housing development at Little Stocks Close, where residents happily talked about their new homes and some welcomed visitors to take a look around.

We talked to a young man recently moved in from Oreton, delighted with the roomy, warm house with low heating costs. A two bedroom house costs a basic £105 a week, with heating mainly from a ground pump to keep operating costs low. The houses are system built timber frame construction, delivered to site in sections to make the build time minimal, with no delays in the factory where they're made if the winter turns Such good common nasty. sense.

The time on site was kept to a minimum as the biting wind made the speeches seem longer than they really were. Photos were taken of new residents, the children from the neighbouring primary school and the houses themselves before the party hurried back to the warmth of the Parish Hall.



Country views, room to swing a large cat and a smart new house at an affordable rent. What we need more of.

Richardson, Chief Ian Executive Office of the county's Housing Association, described its history since it took over 10 cottages for renting in 1985. The driver then was the need for affordable housing for retired farm workers. He also revealed that the earliest share certificate holder present was Madge Shineton, with No 12. Thanks to the efforts of people like Madge (is there anyone like her?) the stock of housing is now 280 and there are more due to be finished this summer. The possibility of the government's policy of residents having the right to buy will mean money in

the buying pot but prices rising will mean less building land is available. Little Stocks was built because the Childe family agreed to sell part of their estate.

David Orr, chair of the National Housing Association, gave a rousing speech, praising the work done and the need for it to continue, whatever obstacles are put in the way. He got a big round of applause for giving the atmosphere of the meeting a lift with his obvious enthusiasm for the cause of affordable housing in rural areas.



David Orr, inspirational speaker.

There was one other notable event, but we didn't have room in this report, so turn to Page 49 to learn about that. It was a very impressive occasion.

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Page 43



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MORE FROM NICK MORRIS ABOUT FARMYARD SECURITY Incidents of theft from farm buildings continue to occur here are a few tips for farmers to consider.

Ensure that all valuable equipment is stored in a secure using building locks that comply with British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks. Protect windows with metal bars or grilles. Consider installing alarms at key points around your farmyard, good quality CCTV and security lighting. Do not leave keys in unattended vehicles, and if possible store them in a secure building when not in use.

Display warning notices that inform thieves what measures are in place, which is likely to deter them if they've got any sense. Inverting hinges on access gates and locking them will also thieves. hinder Another deterrent which may help is to paint your postcode in large letters on your trailers and horseboxes. Although some of these measures may be costly, it may not be as costly as having valuable stuff nicked. Nick Morris

HOLE IN THE WALL FESTIVAL IS BACK

Its back. For 2016 the famous Hole In The Wall Festival is on track for a great year over the weekend of July 30th/31st.

Artistes and bands are still being confirmed but we already have a great line up so far. Here's a little taster: we have tributes to Rod Stewart, The Spice Girls. Elton John, Take That, Olly Murs. Taylor Swift, Blondie, Katy Perry, Freddie Mercury, Madness & more to be confirmed.

As usual you will also be able to camp from Friday 29th through till Monday 1st August. Tickets are on sale now from www.LiveMusicEvent.co.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

What an inspiring February evening Claire Carter gave to our members and visitors. The atmospheric pictures of mists from Clee Hill and other local views as well as stunning images of the Northern Lights were enhanced by musical accompaniment. Our attempts at photography will certainly benefit from her helpful advice.

The winter warmer soup lunch was again well supported and raised a total of £141 to be

shared between Cleobury First Responders and our funds.

Anyone interested in finding out about Osteopathy should join us at the next meeting on Tuesday March 8th in the Market Hall at 7.30pm when James Smith has promised us a light and interesting talk with opportunity plenty of for questions! Visitors are most welcome and the small charge includes refreshments. More information from me on CM 270983 or the Facebook page.

Judy Sant

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The Sports and Social Club are hosting a poetry evening on March 7th, starting at 7.00. It will feature David Walford, reading from the newly published volumes of his work. He is a very accomplished practitioner of the art and will be worth hearing.

David also invites any budding poets to come along and read their own work, or those who have a particular favourite to bring it along and share it with others. Admission free and a friendly atmosphere that should overcome any shyness at reading in public. An Open Mike Night for poets great idea.

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#### **On The Market - Andy at Beans and Leaves**



Andy Evans of Beans and Leaves with just a selection from his huge range of teas and coffees.

Andy Evans and his wife nursed an ambition to run a market stall at weekends, so they took over a book business. But that was not a growing market and when they were offered a coffee supply they swapped over to the better prospect. Then came another change when Mrs Evans got a full time job and Andy carried on the market stall as a hobby.

Quite some hobby. He now carries 42 different coffees and has added teas as well - 48 varieties of them. This is a man working five days a week as an electrical design engineer, his garage converted to an office and store, who also stacks stock in the hallway. Keen or what?

His main coffee supplier is an importer and roaster in Stafford, a man who's been to Ethiopia and Guatemala to check out the conditions of the workers, brings back samples to try and then commits to buying а farmer's crop for the next three He's man vears. with а conscience who pays a fair price for quality and decent working conditions.

Andy's stall is one of the most aromatic in the market, where he's happy to have the bags of coffee beans and loose tea open, giving off a variety of sweet scents. Have you ever sniffed the aroma of butterscotch flavoured coffee? It's lovely. To my palate, better than the taste.

Andy brings the coffees to the market in bean form, as delivered from his roaster, but if you want your brew from a filter machine, he'll grind it for you on the spot. If you fancy trying something different, he has small bags that hold just 100 grammes that will make a few cups.

That's the whole point of this huge range of types and flavours of both tea and coffee. You can experiment without spending a lot of money, until you find exactly what you want. All that choice, right here in the Parish Church once a month. The flavoured versions come from Devon and include chocolate caramel and Swiss chocolate.

Cleobury is one of his regular markets, along with Kings Heath, Kings Norton, Moseley and Edgbaston in Birmingham. Plus some special Sunday events when he can fit them in, because as well as his regular job and the coffee and tea business, he leads a Scout Group. The man clearly thrives on work.

If you miss him at the market, he's 07810 203259 or www.beansandleaveswolves.co.uk



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#### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

#### 'IT'S A KIND OF MADGE-IC'

She'll probably blush to read this, but Madge Shineton was one of the stars of the Shropshire Rural Housing Association's 30th birthday celebration at the Little Stocks Close official opening ceremony at Kinlet. Membership number 12 of the SRHA was by far the earliest one at the gathering and to acknowledge all the work Madge has done for the basic matter of local housing, there was a 'This Is Your Life' style presentation.

Somebody had worked hard to information gather and clippings from old TV news bulletins with one pretty fiery lady explaining the need to affordable make housing available for people earning low wages. The very same down-toearth manner that you see when she's in full flow today was evident then. No over-emotional shouting, no wandering off into jargon that few can understand, it's her well established style of calmly telling it like it is. And the background music to all this was Queen's "It's a Kind of Magic" before chairman Heather Kidd handed over the big blue book to a standing ovation.

#### SHINDIG ARE BACK

Shindig is a promotional group working to build interest in the local live music and performance arts scene. Their official area is Worcestershire, and the benefit to us is that they bring some fine entertainment to Clows Top's Victory Hall.

The latest offering is an evening with American Folk Roots duo 'Locust Honey' on March 4th. This is part of their UK and Ireland tour and in the usual Shindig way you can pay £10 for an evening of music or £12 for the music plus a supper. There's a licensed bar, a table layout like a restaurant to make the atmosphere more sociable and the supper is served at 7.15 before the music starts at 8.00. Book your tickets with Judith on 01299 832020 or 07788 604542.

#### THE LACON LOTTERY

The Parent Teacher Association at Lacon Childe really are a keen bunch. They were out in force at February's Farmers' Market, recruiting supports for their annual Lacon Lottery.

Like all good ideas, it's very simple. You pay £10 and your name is in the monthly draw; the more people who sign up, the bigger the monthly prize and last year it was £70. All profits go to the PTA funds, which in turn help to finance extra stuff for the children.

You can download a form at <u>www.lacon-childe.org.uk</u> or call in at the school and collect one from reception. The prizes are never going to impress a National Lottery winner, but the chances of winning are very, very much better. The first draw is at the end of this month and it carries on until December.

#### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The CMFA held their 25th anniversary dinner at The Live and Let Live on February 9th, when 27 people enjoyed talking about the early days and the characters they met. The founding members were each given honorary life membership.

We have a Parish Walk on March 6th - as usual, a 10.00 o'clock start from outside St Mary's Church. It's "Clean for the Queen" weekend and we will be doing our bit in picking up litter as we walk the paths. *Graham Simpson* 

#### SILLY BIT

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

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#### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

#### A VERY SPECIAL APPEAL FROM FAY VASS

I am collecting for Help the Homeless people of Wolverhampton and calling on Clee Hill and other Shropshire folk to help if you can. There is wonderful soup kitchen а linked with the Good Shepherd Ministry in Wolverhampton who offer a warm meal and clothing to those who have nothing. If you have any coats, jumpers, sleeping bags for the homeless to use, or nonperishable, in-date food for the kitchen to use, please drop them off at 7 The Crescent, Clee Hill as I am making regular trips to the group with donations.

Also, donations of any other clothing or saleable goods for them to raise money through a charity shop they run in Bilston are welcome, this helps them to fund the kitchen.

Just before Christmas a young lady named Hayley perished in the cold in a shop doorway in Wolverhampton, this charity is doing all it can to prevent another tragedy. If you can help, please do.

Thank you,

Fay Vass.

#### KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

This half term we are reading lots of our favourite stories and doing activities based on them. We have chosen stories that we love to look at and hear in Playgroup, stories we love to read at home and also our teachers have been bringing in their favourites children's books. We've really enjoyed 'Peely Wally', 'The Dinosaur That Pooped the Bed' and 'The Gruffalo' to name a few.

Toward the end of term we will be celebrating Easter and doing loads of fun crafts and games. We are hoping to do an Easter Egg hunt and a sponsored walk to Kinlet Church. Zoe Pearson

#### YOUR OLD FILMS WANTED

Arts Alive, the people behind Flicks in the Sticks, are asking anyone who has home movies from before 1980 to contact them, as they want to build up a record of rural life before the films are lost. Too much historic material has been lost and to have professionals copying film to put events on record is a really good move. So do please have a look for those old films that Dad and Grandad took when you were a kid. Flickering 8mm film does have an atmosphere all its own, you know, and it could become part of our local history. The c o n t a c t s a r e biggerpicture@artsalive.co.uk or 0779 6687 134

#### FAREWELL MARTIN AND STEPH

March 17th sees the end of an era at the Talbot Hotel, when Martin and Steph retire from managing the place and take a well earned rest before deciding what to do next. They're not moving away, having bought a house here in Cleobury where they intend to stay.

They've run a good orderly pub, putting on special events and encouraging local people to use the social area out on the street to do some charity fund raising. We'd like to thank them both for making the hotel such a welcoming place and wish them all the best for the future.

We understand that the new residents will be a family, and we wish them continuing success in one of the High Street's most prominent pubs.



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#### **In Business: Cleobury Wash House**

The Cleobury Wash House is coming up to its second birthday. That's a short time span to become a well known part of the High Street, but what originally seemed a brave move that might not find enough customers to make it pay, has quickly become a highly valued service.

It's run as you'd want a service to be run, open from 7.30 in the morning until 7.30 in the evening from Monday to Friday. On Saturday the door is open from 9.00 until 5.00 and on Sunday from 10.00 until 4.00. If you need to wash your clothes or even just dry them, they are there at times to suit most of the population.

What the public sees is an array of big machines, six washers and five dryers, all of them installed brand new and representing a serious level of investment. And leading the way in making people feel welcome is the staff's habit of smiling. Serena Williams is the manager and recognises the value of the happy atmosphere: "It's not like work," she explains. "You get to know everybody and have a laugh with them." As we talked, a customer walked by and happily waved.



The Wash House smile, as practised by Rosie Rudd (left) and manager Serena Williams.

The range of services is much more than the title suggests. The shop is an agent for Mister Cleancall's dry cleaning service in Stourport, the machines are big enough to cope with Super King Size duvets and there's a washer reserved only for pet work, like horse blankets and cat and dog beds. Out of sight behind the washing area is the ironing room, part of a complete shirt washing service. In sight in the shop is a unit full of washing and grooming accessories. And there's that Lost Socks board near the door, telling you that these sad and

lonely single socks are looking for a sole partner. You can see why it's such a smiley place.

Most of the business is done with B&Bs and hotels in the area, with customers coming in from as far as Stoke St Milborough and Tenbury Wells. And there's a lot of enthusiasm for the service, with people saying "I don't know how we managed before you were here."

The place employs six people, a mix of full and part time, and there's very little turnover of staff. That's a sure sign of a well run place where people are glad to come to work.

There's a coffee machine, charging a very reasonable 40p for a cup and seating for the comfort of those who want to get the whole washing thing over and done with in one go. The alternative is to leave your load with the staff and collect it thoroughly dried and carefully folded. I've done that more than once and the folding is so neat that there's very little ironing needed. They can turn a load around in three hours if there's not a queue for the machines, while you go and do some shopping or maybe get a bite to eat. The place is there to help people and it does it very well indeed.



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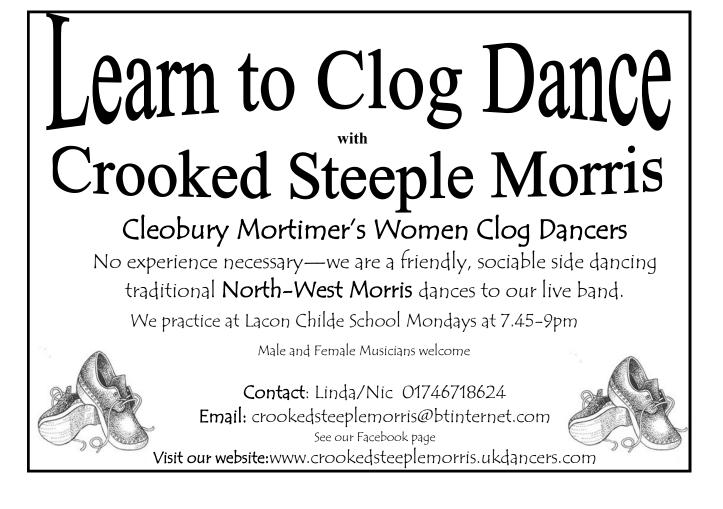
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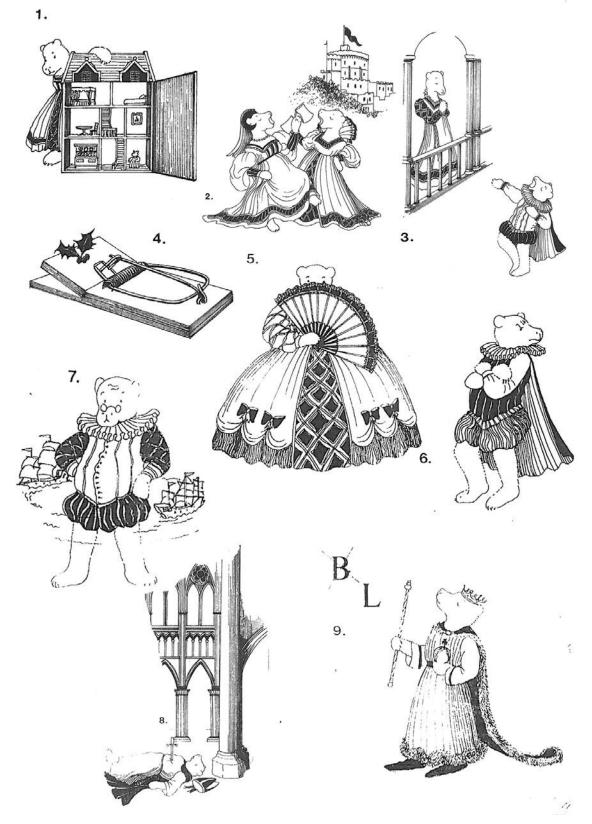
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#### THE FINAL PICTURE QUIZ

Times are hard and as the cost of living reaches £18.00 a bottle, the Editor has to look hard at his spending. So this is the last of the Picture Quizzes, with the theme of Plays. You need to name the play and its author, then send your answers by letter, post or email to the Editor to win his £10.00 prize. The address is 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PA or uncle.jim@icloud.com AND FINALLY, MY THANKS TO PAT SMITH FOR HER ARTWORK THAT MADE THESE QUIZZES POSSIBLE. MAYBE ANOTHER AT CHRISTMAS?

#### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

#### CHANGES AT THE LIBRARY



The office unit in the corner does not intrude. The layout of the library has

been changed and the result has met with general approval. Shelf space has not been lost to accommodate a small office unit in the corner furthest from the door and it has already been let, which helps to finance the Cleobury Country Centre operation. Seating has been moved to the same area, leaving space in the entrance for a unit with a display of the library's Top Titles.

I borrowed 'Hard Twisted' by C Joseph Greaves, a story of a young girl's slip into criminality as she pairs up with a violent drifter in the hard times of the 1930s. Good gripping stuff, its 250plus pages were read in just a week. Take a look at Top Titles when you call in.

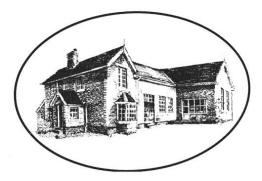
A neat St Valentine's idea came from Vicki Harris, one of the Cleobury Country team who double as library staff. She wrapped books in untitled parcels and invited visitors to try their luck in borrowing an unknown work. A novel idea that deserves another go; who doesn't like risking a surprise?

The Friends of the Library have had a good first two years, with growing interest in events and the finances looking very healthy. They are working on new ideas for this summer and plan to have a General Meeting in the coming months to report to the public. If you want to join the Friends, you can pick up a membership form in the library.

There were misgivings when the cutbacks and changes were first announced. But the Centre team have adapted well; even though they are not trained librarians they are keen to see the place succeed. Look

in and see for yourself. Jim





## Bayton C of E Primary School, where our mission is

## TO BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE!

When choosing a topic for the children to study here at Bayton C of E Primary School our teachers look for a theme which incorporates all the subsidiary subjects such as history, geography, DT and art, as well as topics that will stimulate their imagination and encourage them to initiate their own learning journey. Following on from the hugely popular World War 2 topic that the whole

of our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed last term, our teacher have chosen the topic of Earth Matters with an emphasis on Rainforests in years 3 and 4. Mountains and Volcanoes in Years 5 and 6. Children will be creating a range of artefacts including mountain models, a class world map and a freezeframe drama that will culminate in a Mountain Exhibition for the rest of the school to experience.



Our Key Stage 1 children are currently enjoying the topic of 'Changes within Living memory' with the central theme of music, which will provide lots of lovely opportunities for the children to listen to music from 1939-present day, with focusses on Glenn Miller(1940s), Bill Haley and Chubby Checker (1950s-60s) and The Beatles. The children will learn verses and choruses from popular songs and design a poster or album cover (once they have learned what a vinyl record is, of course!) based on the iconic creative designs for 'Yellow Submarine' and 'Here comes the Sun' (little darlin'...) by The Beatles, moving onto 'Abba mania' to bring them into the 1970's before finally finishing with Pharrell Williams(2014) 'The Happy Song' looking at how we listen to music today (MP3 players, computers, tablets) and finally creating a simple rhythmic football rap! I'm not sure who is more excited about this topic, the children or the teaching staff!



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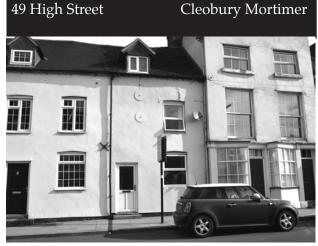
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