



## CHURCH NEWS IN THE CLARION

This is not a Parish Magazine. It's an independent newsletter that serves the local area, trying to tell you what is going on in the wider community of South Shropshire.

But there is a need for those who support our local churches to have a point of reference, a function that the old 'Unity' magazine performed. As that magazine is no longer produced, we have had an approach from the clergy and benefice staff and they will now have a page in the Clarion every month. We do hope it proves to be useful and keeps members of the various congregations informed.

One development from the new cooperation was a request from Doddington for a supply of Clarions to be made available at the Parish Church, which we will be doing from this month. If other parishes in the Cleobury Mortimer benefice would like a supply, we will be happy to deliver.

The editor's contact details are on page 63.

## THANK YOU

The Blount family would like to thank everyone who helped Angela when she fell on Wednesday the 14th of February on Childe Road. In particular Mr and Mrs Ozols, Mr and Mrs Davies, Anthony Draper, Paul and James Lill and the young lady who was good enough to phone my dad, I don't know her name but I know she works at Pineland, Angela is doing well and is very appreciative of all the help and concern she received. Thank you again.

*Nicky Tovey.*

## THE SAME FRONT PAGE ADVERT TWICE

You might wonder why the Bumperscuff advert is repeated on the front page this month. We haven't done that before.

It's because Andy Taylor came on board as a new customer and only after his ad had appeared did friends call and tell him the phone number was wrong. So as a friendly gesture he's in the same spot, but if you call this number it's the right one.

We have heard some good reports of Andy's service and with immaculate timing, Graham Phillips wrote in praise of Bumperscuff:

"Some nice person scuffed the front bumper of my car, and of course never stopped. I found Andy Taylor of Bumperscuff on the front page of last month's Clarion, contacted him and he agreed to have a look next morning, between 9.30 and 10.00.

True to his word he was dead on time, unusual these days. I said I needed it repairing as soon as possible. "How about tomorrow morning?" Andy replied.

He picked up the car next morning repaired the scuff to a high standard and charged what I thought was a very reasonable price.

Thanks Andy. It was great to have someone turn up on time, and do exactly what we agreed."

*We do love telling people about good local service and value. If you have a similar experience to this, please drop a line to the editor. Lets's support the good guys. JR*



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# The Cleobury Clarion, March 2018

## Volume Fifteen - Edition Twelve



*The Carrivick Sisters were a very popular success at Clows Top Victory Hall. See Page 11.*



*They were all there for just one thing - pancakes. See Page 45.*



*Smiling new faces at Carrot Tops - Jo and Ray Toms. See Page 53.*

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

## **ROCK PATHFINDERS**

The Pathfinders have an unusual starting point for today's (March 1st) walk. It's the Droitwich Canals Gateway, in Hanbury Road, Droitwich. About three quarters of a mile from the town centre, satnav WR9 7EZ and SO reference 916630. Starting time is 10.30, as usual, and the walk will take two to three hours.

The second outing is a short walk after the Club's Annual General Meeting on Thursday the 15th in Rock's splendid Village Hall. More details from Alan on 01299 400304.

## **CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB**

March can be a tricky month with the weather, sunshine one day, hard frost the next and often very windy. However, the daylight hours are getting longer and the ground is warming up; daffodils and spring bulbs are giving fabulous displays. If time and weather permit, try to do some weeding - you will benefit from this early start later in the year.

It's Mother's Day this Month, on the 11th. For a simple gift add some packets of annual seeds in the card; after sowing, these flowers will last all summer long. It's also Easter at the end of the month, the time to get out into our gardens. It's the first bank holiday break since Christmas, it will be lovely to see the kids emerging from the house, enjoying the sunlight and freshness of the days.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 28th, with our Spring Show and Inter-Club Quiz.

*Pauline Bowen*

## **PENSAX THRIFT SHOP**

Spring is just around the corner and Pensax Thrift Shop opens its doors again at 9.00am on Wednesday March 7th. So if you are aiming to

simplify your life by de-cluttering or want to find a new home for no longer needed items, bring them in to sell at the Thrift Shop. Just to remind you, our stalls sell new or 'new to you' clothes, household linens, bric-a-brac, toys and books. We welcome clean items in good condition, and we keep just 10% of the selling price for hall funds. We also sell plants, produce, baked goods and preserves.

A friendly welcome awaits you so, even if you have nothing to sell, why don't you call in to see what's on offer and, hopefully, pick up some bargains. Remember, everything at Thrift Shop is very reasonably priced. Or simply come for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

From March to December we are open every Wednesday morning from 9.00 to 11.15am at Pensax Village Hall on the B4202. We look forward to seeing you.

*Pauline Briggs*

## **ART AT EASTERTIDE**

In the delightful setting of the Norman church at Rock, under the guidance of well known artist John Instance, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Art and Craft Show of the Friends of Rock Church will be held on Easter weekend, March 30th to April 1st.

More than a hundred pictures by local artists and craft work will be on show and available for sale. Throughout the exhibition there will be artists in attendance to discuss their work.

Entrance is free and homemade refreshments will be served throughout the 12.00 noon to 4.30 pm opening hours. Disabled parking and access are provided.

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## STEVE'S TALES OF TWO WHEELS

Steve Foster, one time star of Cleobury Players' productions and raconteur of note, will be telling a load of good tales about his time riding the firm's motorbikes for the Midlands Police on Thursday the 8th this month. It's part of the Borders Classic Bike Club Night at the Blount Arms and promises to be a good evening. He may even tell about the speed camera photo of him in high speed pursuit of a crime suspect that now hangs on the wall of the downstairs loo at his place. 8.00 o'clock start, everyone welcome and do bring your sense of humour.

## THE SOROPTIMISTS

After a busy start to the year we look forward to the last month of our business year with a Business Meeting at Baxter Church Rooms on March 8th and the Supper meeting on March 22nd, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Forthcoming events include a Charity Lunch on March 14th to raise funds for Lucy Clough – the daughter of one of our members – who is going to teach as part of the 'Street Child' project in Sierra Leone. More details on <https://streetchild.everydayhero.com/uk/lucy-ainsleyclough>

Another Afternoon Tea with Henry Sandon in aid of Young Carers is being arranged for April 12th, from 2.00 to 4.00 at Baxter Church Rooms. For more details about the club and its activities and meetings, contact us: 01299 266101 or email: [kidderminstersorop@gmail.com](mailto:kidderminstersorop@gmail.com) Website: <http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/> Facebook: [Soroptimists Kidderminster](https://www.facebook.com/SoroptimistsKidderminster)

Elke Jury

## CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

Slow worms are prolific on the common and are looking for bracken litter to hibernate in over

winter. Bracken is often seen as a major problem on the common, and in many areas it is, but its use by reptiles at this time of year shows that it has its uses and we do not want to eliminate it completely. We have all four of the widespread reptiles at Catherton: slow worm, grass snake, adder and common lizard. This makes it one of the most important sites in the county for amphibians and reptiles.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust volunteers have recently been spending at least one day a month on gorse removal where it becomes tall and dense and begins to take over. Particularly around small pools and damp areas where it can shade the water body and surrounding plants, and on bell pit mounds where it can damage valuable grassland habitat.

We have had a number of problems with garden rubbish and green waste fly-tipped over the autumn and early winter. People often employ a handyman to tidy their gardens before winter sets in and they are not all reliable in disposing of the waste properly. If you see any waste dumped on the common please contact me at SWT so that I can deal with it, and please dispose of your own garden waste properly. Do not leave it on the common where it can damage the local habitat as well as looking unsightly.

Clive Dean, SWT Reserves Officer South

## GETTING IT WRONG

**"Very interesting.....but it will never work."**  
Cambridge University professors' response to Frank Whittle's plans for a jet engine.

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## RECYCLING RUBBISH

**Common sense tips from Suzanne France:**

I always wash my tins and bottles and where I can I squash them too. I put plastic at the bottom of the box, tins and bottles on top. This helps to make space and prevent plastic and bottles blowing away in the wind.

This plea is because I always end up with other people's rubbish in my garden and unwashed items come with smells or maggots. Just a little thought goes a long way to keeping everyone happy.

*Suzanne*

## UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

World Autism Week starts on March 26th and a notable local contribution to understanding the problem comes from Vicky Honeybourne, who has written books on the subject.

Vicky will be giving talks under the title 'Understanding the Autism Spectrum', admission is free and they will be in libraries. On March 28th she'll be in Bridgnorth, starting at 2.00pm. If you don't know the town well, the library is at 67 Listless Street and the telephone is 01746 763358. On April 5th it will start at 11.00am at Castle Gates in Shrewsbury (01743 255308) and on the 6th the final talk will be at 7-9 Parkway Lane in Ludlow, which is an easy walk from the main car park above Tesco's store. Telephone 01743 255030, which is actually a Shrewsbury number.

## FIGHTING COCKS TAKEAWAY

Knowing that they have an appreciation of good flavours at The Fighting Cocks, I asked if they had a strong tin of chilli con carne when I was delivering the February Clarion to the shop. They didn't, but suggested I ask Bre if she'd sell me one of her frozen chillis that she prepared for the restaurant. She had one left and I came home

happy. I melted it gently on a low heat before warming it properly and then enjoyed the warmth of the spices.

What I hadn't realised was that the pub now offers a range of takeaway meals. There are no less than 15 meals, ranging from two sausages with chips and peas for £5.00, through to chicken tikka masala with rice and naan bread at £7.95. On call from 6.30 to 8.30, Tuesday to Saturday, on 01746 718270.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LUNCH

Sunday March 18th sees the Branch hold its Annual Luncheon at the Sports and Social Club. This year, our speaker will be Colonel Christopher Joynson, who is the Recovery Operations Manager at the Legion's most impressive facility – Battle Back at Lilleshall – and he will be describing the admirable work done to re-integrate wounded servicemen and women into everyday life.

Tickets cost £15 each and are available from Ron Breakwell (01299 270830) or Mark Baldwin (01299 270110).

The Branch always welcomes new members - please contact Membership Secretary Matt Sheehan on 01299 271347 for details, or join up on-line.

*Mark Baldwin*

## FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

This is to notify you that the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 5th March in the Market Hall. You are most welcome to come along.

Also, if you'd like to join our small, friendly committee we'd welcome it. If committees aren't your thing, then we would also greatly appreciate input at events on an ad hoc basis.



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**Senior People Services is a new advertiser and proprietor Andrew explains its history:**

Senior People Services began with my great aunt and uncle. Harry looked after Daisy as she had mobility issues. Into his eighties he had been in good health, but suffered a sudden stroke which he sadly succumbed to.

This left my aunt alone, without care, facing a very frightening situation. She decided a residential home was the best way forward for her future quality of life. I had been entrusted with their Powers of Attorney and was now tasked with finding a place Daisy would feel happy and secure, selling the house and managing a number of social service issues that would arise in lieu of the sale of her property.

I sought advice, and after misinformation from various sources and an estate agent who wasn't acting in our best interests, I realised this was a real minefield and was concerned for anyone at the mercy of these processes who had no one to support them, or help establish the best way forward.

I subsequently trained as a bereavement counsellor, became a volunteer Advocate, and found that my greatest desire was to help people overwhelmed by having to face selling, searching for and buying a property, and the various agencies this can involve.

Today my mission is to assist my clients and provide the peace of mind that someone is there to support and make sure they are looked after in a fair way. I can assist with estate agents, solicitors, banks, building societies help complete documents, and accompany to meetings and appointments. I also manage more domestic property matters such as gardening, maintenance and repairs.

Most of my career I have worked in a service providing capacity; I always found satisfaction from helping others. I have experience in dealing with a range of property matters from renovation projects to managing commercial properties and buildings.

*Andrew*

**THE CARRIVICK SISTERS AT CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL**



*Laura and Charlotte, pleasing a full house.*

The weather didn't stop people filling Victory Hall to hear these Devon twin sisters offer an evening of blue grass folk on a wide variety of instruments. Many of the songs were their own, with amusing banter to describe the inspiration, plus a range of traditional numbers. It's a very long time since I last heard 'Wake Up Darling Cory' and it sounded just as good after many years. The audience demanded and got an encore before they'd stop clapping. A good night out. JR



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## **CLEOBURY STROKE SUPPORT GROUP**

**Katja Jones reports on the formation of another important facility to serve the community:**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the Market Hall was venue to the first Cleobury Stroke Support Group meeting. Fourteen local folk attended, including some who've had a stroke, their partners and others simply wanting to help out. Lively discussion was held around what the group would like to do at their monthly meetings and what they could offer those who newly suffer a Stroke. It was a friendly and relaxed session where people were happy to share their personal experience for the benefit of the others.

Many of you will be aware of Val Simpson having a major stroke 15 months ago. Val and her husband Graham felt there was the lack of a local group they could call on for advice and support and, in turn, support others. It was their wish to explore whether there would be sufficient interest in such a group in Cleobury; a wish now coming to fruition, with a little help from Cleobury Compassionate Communities and Cleobury Patients Voice. It is likely that the group will operate under the Stroke Association, although they also heard from a speaker of the independently run Bewdley Group in February.

It was felt that the focus of meetings should be a social one, where relationships can be forged with others of similar experience and support gained from this shared connection. Plans will be made for occasional visiting speakers, trips out and shared meals, but most importantly there will

always be friendship, tea and chat. In terms of newcomers to the group, the Community Care Coordinator at the medical practice, Katja Jones will be happy to signpost people to additional support.

The Sports and Social Club, with their ongoing work to improve the disabled access and toilets, has suggested the group hold their meetings there. So as of February, meetings will be held at the club on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 2.00 until 4.00. Please feel free to come along or contact me, Katja Jones, at the medical practice for more information.

*Katja Jones*

## **CLEOBURY W.I.**

At the February meeting we enjoyed a fascinating evening led by Leigh Griffiths entitled 'History under the soil'. With an excellent presentation and many artefacts to handle, Leigh gave us an insight into the interesting world of metal detecting. The hours of dedicated searching, in all weathers, has produced a vast collection of coins, brooches and buttons, many from the environs of Cleobury, each with its own insight into the social history of the area. Leigh's in depth knowledge and obvious enthusiasm created a wonderful evening that was both educational and entertaining. Our 95th birthday was celebrated in style with members and friends enjoying afternoon tea while reminiscing. A thank you also to everyone involved in another successful Winter Warmer fundraising lunch, we're looking forward to visiting our charity, Nineveh Ridge Care Farm in May.

At our March 13th meeting we will find out all about coracles, visitors welcome to the Market Hall at 7.30pm.

*Judy Sant*



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## The Clarion Jobs Page

Job Title/ Company	Job Requirements	How to Apply
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Café & Plant Centre Manager Landscape Plants Ltd	Hard working enthusiastic individual to manage our new exciting café and plant centre.	Sophie@landscapeplants.co  01299 270700 ask for Sophie.

### **CRICKET CLUB GROUNDSMAN REQUIRED**

**Due to the continued illness of our longstanding groundsman Bill Evans Cleobury Cricket Club is seeking assistance with preparing and maintaining the Cricket square. This would primarily involve mowing and rolling during the week to prepare for Saturday games which are on average every other week. All equipment and fuel is provided, including sit on roller.**

**This would be a part time paid post with flexible hours.**

**Please contact Ben Griffiths on 07966023754, or via @CleoburyCricket**



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## **BIKE SHOW TRIGGERS DONATION TO SEVERN HOSPICE**

Guest of Honour at the Borders Classic Bike Show last September was Colin Seeley. Not a man well known outside motorcycle circles, but a bundle of energy at the age of 82 and a man with a lot of interesting history. He's a sidecar Grand Prix winner, multi British champion, designer and builder of bikes that are still winning races and at one time he ran the Brabham Formula One team for Bernie Ecclestone. Quite a character, who went down very well with the audience at the show.

Colin and wife Eva also run the Joan Seeley Pain Relief Memorial Trust, in memory of his first wife, who died of cancer. Part of the show profits were donated to that cause, Colin's appearance fee went the same way and money from book sales and collections added to the total.

The Seeleys were so impressed at the support that they asked if there was a local hospital or cause in need of donations. Severn Valley Hospice was the obvious choice, and they were recently presented with a cheque for £1607, to purchase pain relief equipment and 'slide sheets' that make moving patients much easier. Our thanks go to Colin and Eva for their kindness for one of our star local charities.

## **PORSCHE LOOK FORWARD**

You may not think of a leading sports car maker as a leader in the move to non polluting vehicles, but Porsche have been using hybrid technology to win the Endurance World Championship recently. Think of races like the 24 Hours of Le Mans, where they've been dominant the last few years. If they are to survive as a manufacturer, they have to overhaul a lot of ideas to keep ahead of the rest.

So they have recently announced that they will double their promised development budget for

electric cars from three billion Euros to six billion, to be spent over the next few years. Serious people.

## **SENSIBLE HIGH STREET MOVE**



Getting a pedestrian crossing established on the High Street was a job that took years, and Betty Davies deserves credit for the long battle she fought. When the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme happened the crossing was part of the deal and it's been well used. With occasional near misses as less attentive drivers don't see the lights, which are sometimes obscured by parked vans.

The solution was to raise the lights to a height where they would be easier to spot as you approach the crossing and they seem to be doing the job. Thank you, Town Council.

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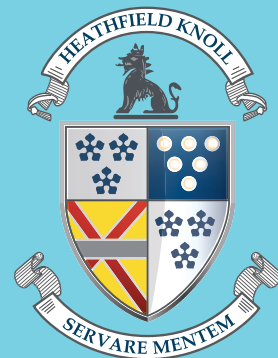
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## **MAWLEY OAK REVISITED**

**Kit Smith has visited a notable local landmark:**

There is an old adage - that an oak tree can take up to 300 years to grow, 300 years to mature and three hundred years to die.

The mighty Mawley Oak on the corner of the A4117 and B4203 was an acorn at the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666. It collapsed at 9.00am Monday 29<sup>th</sup>. October 2001 leaving a small part of its trunk standing. This has since fallen. The remains are spread over a wide area but it is not dead and is likely to remain alive but pretty subdued for several decades to come.

Most of the oaks of the Wyre Forest and surrounding area have been coppiced and harvested for their wood by taking them down to ground level every fifty to a hundred years or so and allowing them to regrow from the base of the trunk. From measurements taken in 1961 it is probable that the maturing Mawley Oak was partially coppiced around 1800 and that repair works were carried out from 1870. The Mawley Oak, probably the most ancient tree in the area, has had a long life. However, it did not reach its full growth potential before it started the long process of decay and eventual death that it is now in. If you know of an old oak tree of 200 years with a trunk diameter of six feet, please do contact me as I am recording such trees.

*Kit Smith [worthpack@aol.com](mailto:worthpack@aol.com)*

## **THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

The Sports and Social Club's calendar of events starts with the Big Quiz on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm registration for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to six people, cost £15 per team. All proceeds going to Cleobury Stroke Support Group.

The Six Nations Rugby produced some great matches and lively atmospheres in the Club through the month of February. The Club will be open for the matches to be shown on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> March culminating in the final matches on 17<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a drinks promotion during these fixtures, so those buying an alcoholic drink before half-time will be entered into the draw to win a jug of beer.

Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup> sees Cleobury's newly formed Stroke Support Group meeting in the Club between 2.00 and 4.00pm. Those who have had a stroke, their partners or folks wishing to help are welcome to come along for a cup of tea, chat and that all important support and friendship. Please

contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre for more information. There will be a Family Karaoke and Disco in the Club on Good Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7pm till late.

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

## **THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION**

Our public rights of way were created back in the 1950s and 60s by an act of parliament. At the time, sadly, many paths were omitted. There is a national project called Lost Ways which aims to get the most valuable of these paths back. To do this, documentary and anecdotal evidence of use needs to be gathered.

In this area, there are two paths which are clearly shown on maps dating back to Victorian times and which would be great to have usable again. They would plug a large gap in our footpath network.

The first in Neen Savage parish, goes through the grounds of Stepple Hall from the lodge on Catherton Road to meet a field path coming from Titford Bridge to the East. The second in Hopton Wafers parish goes from Catherton across fields to The Woodhouse.

If anyone has walked these paths in the past or has any other information which may help, would they kindly get in touch via [footpaths@cmfa.co.uk](mailto:footpaths@cmfa.co.uk)

It so happens that our walk this month on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> (meet at St Mary's Church at 10.00) will in fact visit both of our neighbouring parishes.

One for the diary – the Food and Ale trail is back again – Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>. New route but still good food and Hobson's beer.

*Graham Simpson*

## **THE MINISTRY OF WHAT?**

Farlow and Oretton Village Hall have a special show on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. It's a musical comedy, 'The Ministry of Biscuits', about a move to control unhealthy eating in the 1940s. It's written by award winning Simon Reeve with music by Brian Mitchell, two men with much success behind them. Sounds like a good laugh.

It starts at 8.00, but the bar will be open at 7.30 to get tipplers in the right mood. Tickets are £10 for adults and a mere fiver for young people, from James Shier on 01746 718642 or from [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

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## SAVING SHROPSHIRE'S CURLEWS

We all love to hear the wonderful haunting call of the curlew when they return in spring to breed in farmland and common ground around Clee Hill. Unfortunately monitoring results from several sources has shown a steady decline in breeding pairs in the area over the last five years. Similar results have been recorded by other groups in Shropshire with a decline of around 77% in the last 20 years.

Curlews nest on the ground, so the eggs are vulnerable to predation, trampling by livestock and mowing. Local farmers have told me stories of marking nests in the past, before mowing to avoid them where possible. There is a great deal of affection for curlews amongst local inhabitants.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Ornithological Society have launched a joint *Save our Curlews* campaign. Work has started in the Upper Clun area, in co-operation with local farmers and land-owners to find nests, protect them with electric fencing and monitor the outcome. We would really like to extend this work to the Clee Hill area – to protect our curlews and help them to achieve greater breeding success.

Our survey work has given us an indication of where curlews can be found but the group has not attempted to find the nests before. To do this, we will need access to farmland and common grazed land. The highest concentration of curlew appears to be around Cleeton St Mary and we plan to visit farmers and landowners there between now and late April to explain what is involved and to seek cooperation in locating and protecting nests. If you know you have curlew on your land or would like to get involved, please contact Leo Smith ([leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)). We would welcome

the active involvement of farmers to spread the word within the farming community.

The *Save Our Curlews* project is funded by appeal and more details can be found on-line ([www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews)). Surveys are carried out by volunteers, but funds are needed to pay for experts to locate nests and provide training in nest location and monitoring. Electric fencing and tags for chicks also need to be bought. Please donate if you feel you can.

The Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group are holding a public meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March (Clee Hill Village Hall; 7:30pm) and more details about this project and how to get involved will be available then. You can also find out about the local bird surveys and how to take part this year. Alternatively, join the bird group at our planning meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Recreation Rooms, 22A High Street (next to the supermarket) in Clee Hill at 7:30pm.

*Angela Mackirdy*

## MONTHLY COACH OUTINGS

Mrs Gregory of 17 High Street, Clee Hill, has another series of coach trips laid on for the year. This is not a business, just a lady happy to organise trips to shopping and tourist and holiday destinations, raising money for charity as she does so.

The first outing for 2018 is to Gloucester on Saturday the 17th of this month, booking via Mrs Gregory on 01584 891464. Look out for future dates here in the Clarion.

## SILLY BIT

**One of Senator John Kerry's aides called an airline to enquire about a trip package to Hawaii. After getting details on the costs involved, she asked:**

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## WALKING FOR HEALTH

We had a good turn out, despite inclement weather on most of our short winter walks. One was cancelled due to thick ice. Our hardy walkers were well rewarded for their effort with tea, coffee and home made cake provided by the good ladies at the CoCo coffee mornings.

Cleobury Walking for Health begin their summer season of twice monthly walks on March 7<sup>th</sup> starting from the Sports and Fitness Centre car park at 10.00am. We walk every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at a leisurely pace to cater for all abilities. These walks of between 30 and 60 minutes are led by friendly trained leaders and are a good opportunity to socialise and meet new friends. The walks are free but we do suggest a small donation (£1) towards the cost of refreshments provided by Lacon Childe School Catering Dept.

Walking for Health is particularly popular with retired folk and people recovering from illness. Regular exercise can reduce the risk and effects of many health problems but please seek advice from your GP or nursing staff if you have a medical condition that is affected by physical exercise.

WfH is supported by the County Council and nationally by the Ramblers Association. Local support is given by Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association who continue to improve the local footpath network. Macmillan Cancer Support will end their association with the scheme in April.

For further information, please contact Mandy Smith 01299 270312 or Alan Kimber 01299 271754 or visit [www.cmfa.co.uk](http://www.cmfa.co.uk)

*Alan Kimber*

## THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Malc Mollart gave us a talk on how to create "A Year Round Garden." He described how he and his wife created theirs from a quarter of an acre that had been left to waste. They wanted to have colour and flowers to pick all the year round and began by looking at the space they would have after they had cleared the rubbish. They wanted to have a view from every window and thought about foliage, texture, scent, repeat flowering and some points of interest.

Many visits were made to gardens of note to view plants and arrangements in the beds. It took a lot of time to create their own areas and beds. He advised us to think about taller plants at the back, trees to be the type that grow in a column and have interesting and colourful foliage all year round. In front you need to choose border plants whose foliage and flowers complement each other with smaller plants near the front.

The talk was accompanied by photographs of their garden before, during development and at the end of four years hard work. It is continually evolving as plants get moved to a more suitable spot and new plants sourced. He advised us to visit well managed nurseries that have grown their own plants, not only is the quality better but they are cheaper than Garden centres.

Malc certainly gave us all a lot to contemplate and many of us are thinking about what we can do to improve colour in our gardens all year round .

*Liz Smurthwaite*

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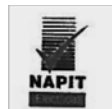
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EMAIL [n.bowden30@gmail.com](mailto:n.bowden30@gmail.com)



Since I became your local MP, I have championed the needs of those who live in rural areas. Over ten years ago I became the inaugural chairman of a cross party group set up to campaign on behalf of rural communities to provide a strong voice in Westminster. At the end of January, I was once again elected as co-Chair of this All Party Parliamentary Group for Rural Services.

The main thrust of our efforts is to ensure that government truly recognises the specific challenges in providing services to rural and sparsely populated areas, and the cost pressure this brings to local authorities and other public services like schools and hospitals.

In 2005 we were in the midst of a deliberate steady shift of funding away from rural areas to more metropolitan areas. Rural counties like Shropshire came under increasing pressure, as the previous government prioritised urban measures of deprivation, without considering sparsity, when it came to allocating national resources.

While that shift in resources has abated, as a result of this unfair funding in the past with limited progress in reversing these allocations, rural areas remain largely worse off than urban authorities. I had the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons on this subject during the Local Government Finance Bill debate last month, to illustrate to senior Ministers the gulf between rural and urban areas, both in their relative ability to raise funds and the costs of providing services.

For example, in terms of councils' spending power, the proportion funded by council tax in rural areas for the coming year, 2018-19, is 69%, while the proportion of spending power funded by council tax in urban areas is 55%. So the burden on council tax payers in rural counties like Shropshire is significantly higher than in a similar sized urban authority. Band D Council Tax payers in Coventry pay broadly the same amount of

Council Tax as those in Shropshire – but Coventry receives £21.5m more than Shropshire through Central Government funding, despite an almost identical number of dwellings.

When it comes to the cost of service delivery, it is self-evident that providing services in sparsely populated areas is more expensive than in densely populated areas. A care worker can visit more people in Coventry in a normal working day than they can in South Shropshire. So clearly, the formulae used to allocate funding from central government to local authorities is not fair.

Prior to the debate, I had been lobbying hard with other MPs, to press for further funding to help meet rising costs of providing social care in Shropshire. So we were pleased that in response to our efforts, Shropshire gained an additional £2.25m, giving it a Core Spending Power of £231.3 million for 2018-19.

But the issue of rising cost pressures, from an increasingly elderly population and associated adult social care costs, is not going away, and we shall be feeding evidence in to the Green Paper on Social Care due this summer. I was surprised to learn ahead of the debate that only 10 constituencies now have a higher percentage of over-65s than the Ludlow Constituency, where over-65s make up 28.2% of the population.

While the additional funding announced last month was welcome, I was particularly pleased to secure confirmation from the Secretary of State that the current consultation looking into what drives cost pressures for local authorities (which closes this month), will feed into the next spending review. If sparsity and rurality are properly factored into the formulae determining local authority spending, Shropshire should stand to benefit over the long term, which is what we need.

*Philip Dunne*

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# Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Timetable for Holy Week

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## **HOLY WEEK 2018**

All are welcome to attend any services or join in the walk – most services will be according to the ordinary style of the relevant parish. The Addresses will form a sequence, and be given by Rev. Preb. Ashley Buck.

### **PALM SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March**

3.00pm Kinlet

BLESSING OF THE CROSS AND PILGRIMS

*Kinlet through Baveney Wood. Approx. 3 miles. Muddy.*

4.30pm Lower Baveney Farmhouse

ALL AGE SERVICE WITH THE CROSS AND TEA

*Baveney Lane on to Neen Savage. Approx. 2 miles. Tarmac.*

6.30pm Neen Savage

PILGRIMAGE SERVICE WITH ADDRESS

### **MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> March**

5.00pm Neen Savage

HOLY COMMUNION

*Neen Savage to Hopton Wafers. 3 miles. Lanes and cross-country*

7.30pm Hopton Wafers

EVENING PRAYER WITH ADDRESS by Rev. Preb. Ashley Buck

### **TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> March**

3.00pm Hopton Wafers

PILGRIMAGE SERVICE

*Hopton Wafers to Doddington. 2 miles. Lane and track, steep climb. Calling at Hopton Bank Methodist Chapel*

7.30pm Doddington

EVENING PRAYER WITH ADDRESS

### **WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March**

2.00pm Doddington

PILGRIMAGE SERVICE

*Doddington to Milson. 3 miles. Lane and cross-country*

4.00pm Milson

EUCCHARIST

*Milson to Neen Sollars. 1 ½ miles. Tarmac*

7.30pm Neen Sollars

VILLAGE WORSHIP WITH ADDRESS - Rev. Preb. Ashley Buck

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March**

3.30pm Neen Sollars

SENDING FORTH OF THE CROSS

*Neen Sollars to Cleobury Mortimer. 3 ½ miles. Very muddy*

5.00pm St Elizabeth's Church CM

RECEPTION OF THE CROSS & TEA

7.30pm St Mary's Church CM

SUNG EUCCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER AND VIGIL

### **GOOD FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March**

9.00am

Stations of the Cross at St Elizabeth's Church, moving on to the Methodist Church.

10.00am St Mary's Church CM

GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY & COMMUNION FROM RESERVED SACRAMENT.

10.00am – 12.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY MESSY CHURCH SPECIAL in the Methodist Hall, Parents also invited.

12 noon from the Methodist Church

ECUMENICAL PROCESSION OF WITNESS.

2.00pm – 3.00pm St Mary's CM

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS – Rev. Preb. Ashley Buck

6.30pm – St Mary's Neen Savage

COMPLINE AND LAYING TO REST OF THE ICON OF CHRIST.

### **EASTER EVE**

8.30pm – St Mary's CM

EASTER VIGIL EUCCHARIST

### **EASTER DAY 1<sup>st</sup> April**

St Marys CM

8.30am – Said Eucharist

9.45am – Parish Eucharist



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## FANCY A GAME OF CRICKET?

The Cricket Club in Cleobury has been going since 1888 and is still run by locals for locals. This year we will be playing on Saturdays in the Marches League Division 1, which involves playing on some classic rural Herefordshire grounds. We also play in an evening league in Ludlow. Home games are at Love Lane, on the pitch outside the Social Club. Enjoying a drink outside the club on a summer's evening takes some beating.

We are largely a social side with varying abilities and enjoy returning the support given to us by one of our sponsors, Oldfields Cider. Anyone interested in joining us for a game is more than welcome (league rules are minimum age 13)

This year we will be touring to Burnham on Sea on July 6-10th; again all welcome.

Indoor nets start 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Sports Hall 8pm, with outdoor nets following that.

Please contact Ben Griffiths on 07966023754, via twitter - @CleoburyCricket, or on the club Facebook site.

*Ben Griffiths*

## THE READING GROUP

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte proved a hit with the majority of our group, quite a surprise for a novel written in 1847. Many readers were impressed with the beautiful descriptions and the eloquent language used. Some commented on what appeared to be an excess of words at times. The contemporary historical insight of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Gothic tale was interesting and probably mirrored parts of Charlotte's life. She was a lady ahead of her time, well read and obviously a spirited character. We discussed the Bronte family, their lives and environment. Several had previously read Jane Eyre so we talked about how ones opinion of a book depended on what age you were when reading it. Various film versions were also mentioned, with the book still coming

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out best. A story for generations to come and deserves to be a Penguin classic. This month we read The Night of the Mi'raj by Zoë Ferraris, and meet on March 19<sup>th</sup> to evaluate it.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

## THE ALPHA COURSE

This series of gatherings and discussions for those who want to look a little deeper into the meaning of life has now established the Parish Hall as its base. To remind you, this month's dates are the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, all starting at 6.45. Barbara on CM 489705 can tell you more.

Barbara also advises that there is a Wholeness and Healing Service in the Methodist Chapel in Church Street on Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7.00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

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## PUBLIC ENQUIRY

A Public Enquiry will be held in the Market Hall on April 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10.00, on alterations to two footpaths on the border of Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Savage parishes. Notices with maps will be posted in the town. Or refer to [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) with reference to ROW/3180973.



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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>		GREEN BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk out from Droitwich Canals Gateway – PAGE 5		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe in the Market Hall with Kate Jones	Kate Jones	
Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00	Morning sale of household goods, Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
Sun.4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CMFA take a walk in three parishes. Starting at the Parish Church		
	18.00	Open Mic. Night at the Kings Arms, acoustic only, all types and ages of music		
	19.30	Biq Quiz at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane, PAGE 21		
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	Friends of St Mary’s AGM, Market Hall, All welcome. PAGE 9	Di. Waddington	01299 272820
	19.00	Town Council meeting at the Cleobury Country Centre		
Weds.7 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	The Thrift Shop, Pensax Village Hall commences its 2018 season PAGE 5		
	10.00	Walking for Health stride gently out from the Sports Centre, Love Lane, PG 25		
	18.45	Alpha Course meets at the Parish Hall, PAGE 31		
Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe in the Market Hall with Kate Jones	Kate Jones	
	19.00	Wholeness and Healing Service in the Methodist Church, PAGE 31		
	20.00	Steve Foster tells a few good tales at the Blount Arms, Admission Free, PG 7		
Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Onside Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, PAGE 43		
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>		Cleobury Concert Brass are at Bedworth in Warwickshire for the Midlands Area Contest. Fingers crossed for another success for our super band		
Sun.11 <sup>th</sup>		Mothers Day, Don’t forget a little treat for her – she’s worth it!		
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Clee Hill Wildlife Group meet at the Village Hall. Much to discuss. PAGE 23		
Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Historic Commercial Vehicle Club meeting at the Ludlow Brewing Company		
	19.30	Cleobury WI gather at the Market Hall to hear about coracles. PAGE 13		
Weds.14 <sup>th</sup>		Kidderminster Soroptimists have a fund raising lunch for a members daughter going to Sierra Leone as part of the ‘Street Child’ project.		01299 266101

**WALKING OUT AND ABOUT IN WINTER**

The Footpath Association were out walking in the Severn Valley Country Park on February 24th, when it was cold but bright - good walking weather. A coffee stop at Hampton Loade, where you can spot steam engines, rounded off a good day. They start March with their usual Parish Walk, leaving from the Parish Church at 10.00 and promising to visit three parishes before retreating to the Kings Arms to satisfy the thirsts they will have worked up. It’s a great way to see the local countryside close up, taking in views you will never spot if you just drive through. Everyone is welcome on these walks, but do wear sensible shoes.



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## The March Social Calendar Continued

## Part Two

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs.15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Rock Pathfinders AGM at Rock Village Hall, with a walk afterwards, PAGE 5		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup>		Six Nations Rugby Finals – special evening at the Sports & Social Club, PG 21		
		Coach Outing to Worcester, PAGE 25	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	The Shropshire Vintage & Classic Motorcycle show is at the lovely Wistanstow village hall, signposted from the A49 of Craven Arms		07736 066373
	13.00	Royal British Legion Annual Lunch, Sports and Social Club. PAGE 9	Ron Breakwell	01299 270830
	19.30	Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra fill the Parish Church with music at their annual concert. A great social occasion. PAGE 39		
Mon. 19 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 31		
Tues.20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Cricket Club Indoor Nets start at the Sports Centre, PAGE 31		
Weds. 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health, Sports Centre Car Park, Love Lane.	Alan Kimber	01299 271754
	18.45	Alpha Course meets at the Parish Hall. PAGE 31		
	19.30	First Night of the Lacon Childe presentation of George Orwell's famous Animal Farm. PAGE 49		
Thurs. 22 <sup>nd</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	18.00	Official launch party of Kinlet Hall as a wedding and events venue. Admission by invitation only		
	19.30	<b>Clee Hill Wildlife Bird Group meet at the Recreation Rooms, 22A High Street, Clee Hill. PAGE 23</b>		
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	'The Ministry of Biscuits' is at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall. PGE 21		
Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup>		World Autism Week and a series of lectures in support. PAGE 9		
	19.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet in the Library, Love Lane		
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	Cleobury Stroke Support Group, Sports and Social Club, PAGE13	Katy Jones	01299 270209
Weds. 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall		
	19.30	Clows Top Gardening Club Spring Show, Victory Hall, Clows Top followed by inter-club Quiz. PAGE 5		
Thurs.29 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
Fri. 30 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	Art and Craft Show at Rock Church, Lovely setting, runs through until April 1 <sup>st</sup> PAGE 5		
	19.00	Family Karaoke and Disco, Sports and Social Club PAGE 21		

### NEVER MIND THE COLD WEATHER

Brave words? Not really, just a suggestion we should remember that Spring is coming, with snowdrops emerging and the Cricket Club beginning to practise in the Sports Hall. Two sure signs of warmer days to come as the countryside stirs from hibernation.

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## HOPTON WAFERS QUIZ

These are always a good night out and at £7.50 a head including a fish and chips supper, quite remarkable value for money. The next one is on Friday April 6th, starting at 7.00 and catering for teams up to six people.

There's no license for the Village Hall in Hopton, so you bring your own glasses and whatever is your favourite tippie to fill them. Marilyn Wood on CM 271245 can tell you more and take your entry for the night.

## CLEOBURY COUNTRY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGMs are not fascinating events, but there was some interesting news coming out at this one. Cleobury Country Centre is something of a quiet gem, doing a good job and not shouting about it, a "not for profit social enterprise company" that stands on its own feet and doesn't get any subsidies or grants. The amount of praise given to the two ladies who run the place and the library day to day, Clare Todd and Sam Adams, was a measure of the job they do. The latest development is talks with the developers of the new nursing home to train staff in the Centre.

Last year the place made a modest profit, this year a slight loss. The offices let out employ a total of 11 people and the Farmers' Market that the team run generates an average footfall of 170 people every month. The income from the County for accommodating and running the library will be trimmed in the future, but the 25 year lease agreed with the County for the library space is a fixture that cannot be altered.

It's a place where ideas are generated and this year the concept of closer working with the Town Council and the possibility of encouraging the

development of training for non-academic 16 plus youngsters who want a more basic approach to making a living was discussed. Not that CC would be involved directly, of course, but it can see the need and would support such a move.

The situation with the Manor House was raised and chairman David Webb suggested that people should be encouraged to write to Shropshire Council and ask why progress is so very slow and what is planned for the building.

Nothing earth shattering and no shouting, but a lot of good ideas and ambitions emerging. This place is good for the community. JR

## FROM THE BANDROOM

Although we don't have any engagements booked during the first three months of the year, the band are busy rehearsing for the Midlands Area Contest at Bedworth on March 10th. We have moved up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> section and so the piece is technically more difficult.

The designated piece for all bands to play is called Napoleon on the Alps, an unusual title but an impressive piece of music and we have put a soundtrack on our website (details below)

The wintry weather in December meant that we missed out on some vital fundraising whilst carol playing. We will bring our Spring concert slightly forward to April 14th this year; more details to follow. We then hope to fit in another concert during the summer in between bandstand engagements, our calendar is starting to fill up nicely for 2018.

If you would like to book the band for any occasion, please get in touch with Katie on 01299 270262. We are very adaptable and can accommodate most requests.

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Also if possible new, or very good quality, pens, pencils, note books, school bits and pieces, anything that would be useful for deprived children.

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A very worrying development has occurred – Central Buses (operator of the 125 service from Kiddy to Bridgnorth) has been purchased by Rotala PLC (owner of Diamond Buses) for £1.95 million. This means that the company that operates frequent and reliable services using modern vehicles is now owned by the company that does none of the above. I wonder how long it will be before the existing excellent levels of service are dragged down to the usual dire Diamond offering currently 'enjoyed' by 2L users. Shropshire Council are aware of this as the operator of the 125 contract and are apparently consulting with Worcestershire Council regarding this and other routes which are due for re-tendering shortly. Madge Shinton has already contacted Philip Dunne but I doubt that anything can be done about a commercial transaction of this nature however unfair it seems.

The usual rash of late arrivals and breakdowns continues with the 9.38 service to Ludlow being particularly tardy – often late by half an hour or more several days running. Still, it can provide a little light relief on occasions. One morning, a regular victim (sorry, customer) of the 2L boarded and made her way to the back of the bus to take her usual seat. She was rather surprised to find a Diamond employee positioned horizontally on the rear seat with his eyes closed. When asked what he was doing, he explained that he was supervising a driver new to the 2L service as this was normal practice for their first couple of trips on a different route in case they got lost (not that that ever happens...) He didn't explain how much control he was able to exercise on the driver whilst lying at the back of the bus supervising the inside of his eyelids...

Another trip back from Kiddy ended prematurely in Bewdley when the bus petered out. Mechanics were summoned and spent 30 minutes trying to fix the problem without success and another vehicle was eventually

summoned getting the less than delighted passengers to their destinations an hour and a half late. Another breakdown on the Worcester Road caused large tailbacks towards Hoo Farm estate. The bus concerned had 'Not in Service' displayed- probably not needed in the circumstances.

A recent report has highlighted the diminishing mileage covered by buses in the last 10 years which totals around 134 million miles reducing current levels to those last seen in the 1980's. This reduction is so great that some observers are likening the situation to the Beeching cuts to the railways in the 1960's. The result in Shropshire has been a reduction of 24% or nearly a quarter and is the third greatest drop in England which shows how the County has suffered. This despite the fact that, nationally, passengers numbers have risen by 8% although the only areas that have shown increased mileage are largely situated in London and the South East. Strangely, this is where subsidies per head are around 10 times the figure for the West Midlands – could there be a connection?. I assume the reduction in mileage figure doesn't include the distance that should have been covered by Diamond buses but wasn't, due to the fact that they break down so often.

This subject was also covered on the local television news and on local radio. I was told by a friend about the programme (thanks Sue) and ended up being interviewed on BBC Radio WM (having first been told that I shouldn't mention Diamond as they would then have to be involved...) This came about mainly because I thought I was listening to BBC Radio Shropshire but had got the wrong station on my ancient radio. Having realised my mistake, I contacted them and did get a brief mention – the broadcaster commenting that I was the second person from Cleobury to complain which wasn't a total surprise.

*Steve Todd*

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The Men's Shed is making quite remarkable progress, with land available on the Tenbury Road industrial park courtesy of David Robinson, a donation to funds from Cleobury CoCo, good advice from other shed groups, notably in Oswestry, and a constitution being drawn up by the Reverend Justin Parker. Pete Blackburn chairs an effective committee and support is coming in from lots of local people.

We will tell you more in the April Clarion, but if you're at the Farmers' Market on the 17th of this month, look in on the Market Hall, where there should be a display and members keen to tell you more.

### POETRY IN THE PUB

This is Prof George Castledine's idea, starting at 8.00pm on Monday the 5th of this month, at the Kings Arms in Church Street. As his flyer states: "Its purpose is to encourage everyone to use poetry in their lives, by reading, speaking, writing or just coming along to listen to others. Poetry is proving to be a significant help to people experiencing and suffering from physical ill health and spiritual issues."

So its form will follow what already happens at the Half Dead Poets' Society and they will also provide refreshments. The alcohol will be optional, but the KA is good place for that anyway. If there are going to be readings, we do hope they can overcome the matter of the new jukebox, which tends to make normal talking very difficult. The spiritual effect of Keats or Milton to that accompaniment could be less than relaxing,

to say the least. We'll be there and we do wish them the best of luck in getting the poetry message out to more people.

### AN ADDITION TO THE MARKET

The Town Council will have a drop-in event in the front lobby of the Market Hall at this month's Farmers' Market on the 17th.

Vicky Turner advises:

Local projects on display in the foyer of the Market Hall for residents to look at, find out more and have their say on Saturday 17th March from 10.00 to 12.00 noon.

Displays from Neighbourhood Plan Group, shaping the future of the town. Ideas for new play equipment at the park. Community Speed Watch. The new road crossing. Local youth projects and groups.

### NEW FACE IN THE MARKET HALL

The office in the Market Hall that Town Clerk Matt Sheehan occupied before he moved up the road to Cleobury Country Centre is now home to architectural surveyors W C Gardner Associates. Corey Lane, managing director of the company is based there and does find the commute from his home in the town much less stressful than his old journey into Birmingham.

Shropshire and its neighbouring counties are a rich source of the historic buildings that are the speciality of Gardner Associates. Corey is an interesting man to talk to about the work the company has handled in the region and we must go back and learn a little more. Watch this space. His telephone number is 07753 127993.

### SILLY SCIENTIFIC BIT

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says "I've lost my electron."

The other atom says "Are you sure?"

The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

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**Another Page of Clarion Smalls**



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## March in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

As the forest wakes up, a band of volunteers moves into place at their allocated locations to begin the annual Deer Census. Each person has a separate tract of woodland to cover and must walk a circuit of paths over the next hour/hour and a half before the strengthening light makes it impossible to watch the deer undetected. For the last 2 years I've walked the northern part of Hawkbatch Wood. It's strange to park up and set off in the dark but (once the grim process of getting out of bed early is behind you) a privilege to be there on your own, before even the earliest dog-walkers. How quickly the light seems to gather as I walk narrow paths through plantations of conifers, broad rides of grass along the Elan Valley pipeline and ancient woodland bordering fields and developments of chalets. A movement alerts me to a small band of Fallow Deer off in the trees to my left: three common does and a black doe, which stop and stare at me, wondering how much of a threat I pose. Soon they are off and I make a note of their numbers, sex, colour and direction of travel as they move away. This will help those who analyse the results to identify groups that may be double-counted by volunteers in adjacent blocks of woodland. I continue, hoping maybe to see a large group, but will I be able to note all the details accurately if they're all moving? I needn't have worried as there don't seem to be many deer in my part of the forest.

Taking a track along the side of a pretty narrow valley I see the small, dog-sized form of a Muntjac taking off up the other side, soon to disappear into a thicket. The total count of these Asian deer for this census will turn out to be 16, but the true number must be higher judging by the frequency of encounters and hearing their 'barking' calls.

When I've completed my 'figure of 8' I return to my car and take my results to the census HQ, where a hot cup of tea and bacon sandwich are my reward and I can share the morning's story with the other volunteers.

The census is held on consecutive Saturday mornings in March to give a measure of the error in the figures, and the agreed totals are used to make decisions on the management of the deer: most importantly the cull to keep the population at a size where the deer themselves are healthy and damage to young trees and surrounding arable land is at an acceptable level. White Fallow Deer are seen fairly often, standing out as they do 'like sore thumbs' in the dark greens and browns of the forest, but there are also numbers of 'menil' deer, which retain their spotted coats in the winter, as well as the blacks. There seem to be a small number of Roe Deer around, and sometimes in, the forest these days, so look carefully next time you spot a deer!

Linda Iles

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## WHAT IS REIKI HEALING?

Reiki (pronounced Ray-Key) is a system of natural healing involving the laying on of hands and is thousands of years old. The ancient healing insights that influence Reiki are likely to have originally come from China, Tibet, Mongolia and India arriving in Japan about 860AD. Similar systems of healing initiations may have links with Scandinavian, Druidic and African teachings and Native Americans and Tibetan healers use the same hand positions as we do in Reiki.

Reiki was rediscovered in the late 1800's by Mikao Usui. The Usui System of Reiki is a very simple, but powerful, healing technique that is easily given and received by anybody and given to anything. It can not only be given to people, but to animals, plants, food and in fact anything.

You do not need to have faith for it to help you and the most cynical of people have been surprised by the benefits of Reiki. It works on all levels, physical, spiritual, mental and emotional, recipients report sensations of deep heat, tingling or cold when receiving healing, but most people feel very deeply relaxed and at peace during healing and re-energised afterwards. A full Reiki treatment normally takes an hour, the recipient remains fully clothed during treatment and the Healer may work with their hands on or above the physical body in the etheric aura or energy field of the recipient.

Reiki always works for the person's highest good or benefit as its healing balances the recipient's energy field to achieve optimum well being. We all have our own energy field surrounding us and it is possible to see this with Electro Magnetic Field photography.

When the body and spirit are healthy our energy field is wide, but in illness our energy field or aura and energy centres, known as chakra become depleted or imbalanced. Reiki helps to restore energy and health and works well alongside conventional therapy.

For those who wish to learn how to heal themselves and others, there are courses available from 1st Degree to Master Teacher level. I am a Master Teacher and Practitioner and I teach the more traditional form of Reiki, known as Usui Shiki Ryoho. If you are interested try a treatment first.

The words 'Rei' and 'Kei' are from the Japanese language. A general interpretation of Reiki is: 'Sacred blessings from the power of the infinite universe rain down upon us, responding to our prayers/ meditations / mantras/ invocations, nourishing the divine seed of life within us all.'

*April Boardman, The Well Being*

## CHARITY COFFEE MORNING AT THE MARKET HALL

There's a new name behind a coffee morning in the Market Hall on Friday March 9th. The event will run from 10.00 to 12.00, with coffee and cake on offer, all raising money for Onside.

This is a Worcester based charity, whose aim is to give a support service to people who may struggle with a wide range of disabilities, from physical to mental. They can provide advocates, trained people who are ready to sit and listen to people who too often are ignored because they are regarded as incapable. Being ignored is a cruel fate and giving such people simple dignity often makes their needs known and easy to find. [www.onside-advocacy.org.uk](http://www.onside-advocacy.org.uk) if you'd like to know more.

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## **STOTTESDON W.I.**

We welcomed Wade Muggleton to our meeting in February. He gave us a presentation on Warden Pears entitled "A Tale of Two or Many Pears." The Warden or Worcester Black is an ancient variety of cooking pear, some speculate that it may have been introduced by the Romans, but more likely it can trace its introduction to the Normans.

The Pear is present in symbols across Worcestershire, a county we usually associate with the apple. It is on the city crest, the cricket club, the Guildhall, in names of streets and businesses. Elizabeth 1st on her visit to the city was so delighted with the pears planted at the entrance of the city in her honour that she bestowed the fruit as a symbol for its coat of arms.

The pear was very popular in ancient times, as a cooking and eating fruit. However over the centuries it has declined in popularity, in contrast with the apple. Wade peppered his presentation with lovely slides and fascinating historical anecdotes. As there is a paucity of literature on the pear, Wade has used the internet to carry out his research from ancient texts available to download. He shared his current research preoccupation to use DNA samples taken from leaves to identify pears.

Wade brought along two variety of pears from his garden which had been picked in November, although both were said to be Wardens we did see that they looked different. He encouraged us to consider growing them in our gardens, although they can be large majestic trees with glorious autumnal colouring, they can be kept as small trees, which are very profuse in fruit production. Clare Tibbits, our programme co-ordinator concluded the presentation with recipe suggestions for Warden Pears, sweets as well as savoury. We were invited to taste of some delicious refreshments, which included a Pear Tart, Poached Pear and Pear and Horseradish chutney on crackers. We look forward to the book to be published detailing Wade's findings on the Pear which will also include a cooking section by Clare on the recipes she has trialled on the fruit from her Warden Pear Tree. A most informative evening.

*Helena Hale*

## **PANCAKES ON THE HILL**

On February 17th, this was the first of the 2018 Events Every Month for Saint John the Baptist, the parish church of Doddington. On offer was the

chance to buy a pancake with the filling of your choice and take a cup of tea or coffee and relax for a while. It sounded too good to miss.



*The idea of sitting, eating pancakes and sipping tea certainly drew people to Doddington.*

Soon after the midday start the car park was almost full and inside the hall was a queue for the food. It was well thought out, the three choices of pancake already cooked and stacked; all you had to do was name your choice and wait while it was warmed, then add your favourite filling. The Nutella jar was already down to the half full mark - you find the stuff all over the world, I declined it in Hong Kong recently - so I opted for squeezing a lemon slice and adding honey. On a pancake made with currants, it was a tasty dish and coming with a mug of tea for just £1.00, good value.

## **BELL RINGING NEWS**

On the afternoon of Saturday March 17th we have a band of visiting ringers coming to attempt a peal on the bells of St. Mary's. A peal involves ringing at least 5000 changes without stopping and if successful will take about 3 hours.

*Alec Osbaldiston*

## **SILLY BIT**

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## NEW FACE ON THE COUNCIL



*Alex Smith, one of our new Town Councillors.*

Alex was one of two new faces co-opted to the Town Council at their February meeting. He's a Brummie by birth, but definitely prefers living here in Cleobury Mortimer: "It's like Utopia," as he puts it.

He works as a teacher of metal and woodwork at Madeley and is married to Michelle, a local girl from Coreley. They've lived in Larks Rise for two years and with their first child on the way are definitely putting down roots here. It was his wish to get more involved in the community that made him stand as a candidate for office, which meant a one hour interview with Town Clerk Matt Sheehan and a second session with three established councillors.

He's clearly committed to life here. "It's a lot better than anywhere else I've ever been," he told us. We wish him and his growing family well

### **THE LACON LOTTERY**

It's certainly good value - a £10 stake gives you ten chances to win a cash prize as it spreads through the season from March to December. And it's very easy to enter: you can download an entry form at [www.lacon-childe.org.uk](http://www.lacon-childe.org.uk) or call in at the school office and collect the ready printed version.

Fill in the form, hand it in at the school, or post it to Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer with your £10 (if you pay by cheque, please make it payable to Lacon Childe School PTA) and you'll be given a number. If you're a winner, they'll let you know by telephone at the end of the month. And the more people who enter, the bigger the monthly prize.

It also raises money for our community academy, with half the total income going to the prize fund and the other half to the school Parent Teacher Association funds. The first draw will take place at the end of this month, so don't wait too long to get in with a chance; you need to be entered by the 25th to take part in this month's draw.

The PTA do advise you to read the rules, as any organiser of such a competition should do, and if you need more information they can be contacted on [laconpta@yahoo.com](mailto:laconpta@yahoo.com).

### **BIG BINGO BENEFITS FOR AIR AMBULANCE**

Doreen Dolphin and her friends and family laid on four bingo evenings, beginning at Cleeton St Mary village hall last September. They followed up with more sessions, with the last one on February 9th. The result was a total of £2,000 raised for the Air Ambulance Service.

"I'd like to thank everyone who helped, including those who gave donations and prizes for the raffles," said Doreen.

### **THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP**

The appeal in the last edition of the Clarion for a simple typewriter for one of our scribes produced an amazing result - six offers. An immaculate one via the Severn Hospice Shop was handed over, with website contact details for the supply of new ribbons. There's irony for you.

The task of producing a piece of work about one common feature and possibly including three words selected by members saw everyone rising to the challenge and doing the lot. That seems to have got our blood up, so this month we have to include an oak tree in the plot and possibly use the words patience, happy and disagreement. That should get the brains working overtime and the 'Delete' button on computers getting hit more than usual. We'll find out on Monday the 5th, in the library, starting at 6.30.

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This piece is dedicated to all of those who worked so very hard often under the most difficult of conditions to make things happen for the war effort. To those who were often out of their comfort zone, in a different culture or involved in a conflict that they did not understand. For the first time it also celebrates the part women played in the Great War. This latter is of the greatest importance because female involvement plus the right of certain categories of women to vote granted in 1918 marked a change in how women were perceived but more importantly how women saw themselves.

In August 1914 there was no formal body of troops designed for the many tasks required to keep the army running. These tasks included road maintenance, building, telephone systems maintenance and many more.

One of the most important was the movement of stores. In France railways, motor transport and canals were all utilised to keep the engine running, horses, mules and humans all played their part. By far the most important was the human element. Early on in the conflict Labour Units were non-existent. Some infantry regiments formed labour companies but this often meant that front line soldiers instead of resting behind the lines ended up working to move stores forward.

Not until the formation of the Labour Corps did the logistics become organised. Labour Units expanded hugely including large numbers from India, Egypt and China but there was never sufficient manpower to do all the labouring work required. The total number of men at the end of the war in France and Flanders engaged on Labour duties was 700,000. This does not include those serving who also had to give up time to augment the Labour Corps. No less than 175,000 of the total involved were serving in the UK.

England signed an agreement with China for the supply of men together with India, South Africa, Egypt and other countries in the British Empire. Whilst happy to recruit and pay such labour Britain was not happy to allow all of them to mix and segregation was employed to ensure that incidents were kept to a minimum.

We now need to look at the part women played in this area of effort. There are many examples but here are two we can use to illustrate the point.

#### **Womens Auxiliary Army Corps.**

A condition was that they did not carry out heavy labour and they enlisted for one year. They carried out a wide variety of tasks, clerical, canteen, motor transport, storehouses, telephone and postal roles. Around 10,000 saw service in France and Flanders.

#### **Womens Forestry Corps**

This arm of supply operated in the UK only and was responsible for ensuring that there was a supply of timber for industrial purposes, paper production, construction at the front and a supply to ensure that the coal mines had sufficient pit props to keep up coal production.

The research on this piece took me to a character who most certainly requires further investigation in a later Clarion edition and so for the first time since these articles appeared the subject for a future edition is already decided.

**Flora Sandes went to Serbia in a non-combatant role in the Ambulance Corps and ended up as a Sergeant Major in the Serbian Army and is acknowledged to be the only English women to have served as a soldier and combatant in the Great War.**

Learn more in April.

*Paul French*

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*New faces at Carrot Tops - Jo and Ray Toms. The 'Welcome' banner above their heads tells you a lot.*

Last month the Clarion carried a front page story that Carrot Tops had closed. Not for long. Two days after we went to press, there was a big display of vegetables on the outside racks and the place looked alive and ready to do business.

The new faces behind the counter are Jo and Ray Toms, who've been in the vegetable and fruit business for 15 years. They're from Devon, where a buoyant business delivering boxes of fruit and veg is still operating. Here in Cleobury Mortimer is a new venture - their first shop.

They are clearly good at what they do, with the place busy and one or the other heading off in the van to get supplies as the stock gets low. Ray has a happy grin as he tells us: "I've never sold so many

oranges as we do here. Oranges, bananas and carrots, they really do sell well."

It's not difficult to see why the place is buzzing. Four good size oranges cost you a pound and on the shop front shelves are bowls of mixed fruit at £1.50 a time - take your choice in, they put the fruit in a bag and fill the bowl with another selection of healthy food to tempt the next customer.

There are cakes for sale as well, but we haven't tried those yet, and we were glad to see they're continuing the supply of fine Llaeth Y Llan yoghurt. And if you're looking for pot plants, they have those as well. Not cut flowers, just pot plants. "There's a florist just over the road, so why should we try selling flowers?" reasons Ray. "If I did, she could be selling oranges and that wouldn't be very clever, would it?" Good logic - they know their business and don't want to tread on anyone else's toes.

The delivered boxes side will grow, but in the meantime the shop is proving they they've got it right. "We're very happy, each week we're doing more than the week before," says Ray. And will they keep the Carrot Tops name? "Oh yes, it's part of the town and we don't want to change that," says Jo.

They're open from 8.30 until 4.00 o'clock six days a week. "4.00 o'clock is the time we should be closing, but if we're busy we'll stay open," is Ray's view. And on Sunday the door will be open from 9.00 until 1.00.

When the Toms are not there, Sue Pearce will be in charge, a familiar friendly face who customers know well. They draw their stock from Bristol market, because Ray knows the people there from 15 years in the business and can trust them for good quality. These people are a real asset.

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## THE REMARKABLE TINA HOBIN



*One very irrepensible lady - Tina*

She first became known in this area as a belly dancer, giving lessons to ladies of all ages, from teens to 80-somethings. The classes she ran in Clows Top Victory Hall were happy, slightly noisy occasions where laughter dominated and supple fitness was the product. She has recently moved into Cleobury Mortimer and has a new passion that she wants to benefit any lady who is expecting or planning the birth of a child.

It's The Birth Dance, which dates from pre-Biblical Egyptian times and exercises the muscles used in the natural process of birth. Tina is already running classes at Birchen Coppice in Kidderminster and here at the Cleobury Golf Club on Friday mornings from 11.30 to 12.30. Her next

move is to run classes in the Market Hall, where she plans to hold a Thursday class, subject to public response.

The logic behind this ancient form of dance and muscle development reflects the time when it was first practised. Natural birth, with all its attendant risks to the mother, was made easier by what we today call toning of the muscles; there was no Caesarian option and preparing the mother's body made the birth easier.

Tina claims that the gentle moves of the Birth Dance will stretch and strengthen the pelvic floor and tone up the muscles that support the bowel, bladder, uterus and anus. She states that this course will prevent prolapse of the womb, ease discomfort during pregnancy, minimise pain during labour and encourage the opening of the pelvis in preparation for the birth.

Goodness me, a mere man writing up all that detail of a natural process feels almost faint. I did witness the birth of my two fine sons and will never forget the respect for my wife that grew from being a frightened spectator to holding a newborn child of our own. Sorry about this emotional break, but the wonder of birth has never left me.

Back to Tina, one very business-like lady who moves with the easy grace of a dancer and proudly tells you: "I'm going to dance until I'm 80 and live to 120." I would think very seriously before betting against that happening.

Her Birth Dance classes are very obviously aimed at ladies, but she insists that men could benefit from the exercises too. Gentlemen, over to you on that one.

The cost of a six week Birth Dance course is £36, payable in advance as she has to commit to renting whichever venue is involved. She's on CM 272882 or email [tina.hobin@uwclub.net](mailto:tina.hobin@uwclub.net).

### **ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYERS!**

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## CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

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**Cosford Military Wives Concert - 8.00pm Friday March 16th**

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## THANK YOU, MIKE

There will be an advert missing from the next issue. Mike Longmore at Newbridge Computer Services is taking life a little easier, he's not out chasing for more customers, so his quarter page presence in these pages will come to an end. And he gets a special place on this page to remind you what he's all about.

He has been a regular supporter of the Clarion since it first appeared. When we moved to sending invoices by email after the cost of postage took a big leap, Mike would reply by the same means to tell us that the bill had been paid. Memory tells me that his quickest payment was 20 minutes after the invoice was sent, Mike making full use of online banking.

It just seems fitting to thank a customer who has supported this newsletter for so long. JR

## A BIG MUSICAL WEEKEND COMING

The middle weekend of this month is going to be very busy in social and musical terms. It starts on Friday the 16th, when the Cosford Military Wives Choir entertain at the Parish Hall. They have a good reputation and the hall committee have very sensibly arranged for car parking to be available at the Catholic Church in Lower Street. Details of the concert are in the Parish Hall advert facing this page.

On Saturday the 17th the Parish Hall will be busy again, with Flicks in the Sticks offering Tom Hanks's latest film 'Inferno'. The usual starting time of 7.30, admission still a mere £3.00 and you can buy a drink as well. Great value.

Sunday the 18th will see the Royal British Legion gathering at the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane for their annual luncheon. The speaker

this year is Colonel Christopher Joynson, talking about the Legion's 'Battle Back' recovery unit at Lilleshall, near Newport. That should be well worth listening to, as few of us realise how much the Legion do to support those wounded in action today.

And the weekend rounds off with one of the biggest social occasions of the year, the concert by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra in the Parish Church. It's organised by the Friends of St Mary's Church and is normally a sell-out as people want to savour the experience of some wonderful music in an ancient building that has fine acoustics.

The programme offers Dvorak's 'Slavonic Dances', Prokofiev's 'Violin Concerto No 2 in G Minor' and Tchaikovsky's 'Symphony No 5 in E Minor, Opus 64'. Tickets are £17 and include the concert programme and a drink during the interval. Available from the library, the pharmacy, Spire Hairdressing or you can call Alex Osbaldiston on 01584 891351. Sadly the editor is working at another venue that day, so will miss the evening. If you go, I hope you will enjoy as much as I do whenever I get there.

## ANOTHER THANK YOU

Alan Guest, he of the county wide mowing service, stopped the editor in the street recently and asked us to publish an acknowledgement of the help he got when putting up the Christmas lights that make the town look so welcoming over the festive season.

Alan provides much of the facilities that make the job go well, in particular his 'cherry picker' platform that he couldn't use because of a recent operation. So Kirk Williams and David 'Tinker'

Taylor came forward and did the job for him. A big 'thank you' to those gentlemen.

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> march** we have our annual big quiz. The proceeds go to a local charity this year it's for Cleobury stroke support group. £15 per team, maximum 6 people in a team. Register at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Throughout March we will be showing the rugby six nations.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** Ireland vs Scotland 2.15pm kick off

France vs England 4.45pm kick off

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** Wales vs Italy 3pm kick off

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** Italy vs Scotland 12.30pm kick off

England vs Ireland 2.45pm kick off

Wales vs France 5pm kick off

Throughout these games we will be doing a drink promotion. If you come in before half time and purchase an alcoholic drink you will be entered in to a draw to win a jug of beer. We will announce the winner at half time. Why not bring the kids with you and they will be entered in to a separate draw when you purchase a soft drink. The winner will win a can of pop, a packet of walker's crisps and a Cadburys freddo.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> march** We have our Family Karaoke & Disco night. Starting at 7pm-till late. Why not bring the kids to our family karaoke night and have a sing song together.

We now have a new EPOS till which has enabled us to give something back to you.

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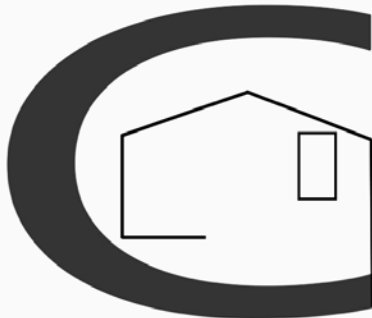
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**IT HAPPENED TO ME**

**This is a true tale, told by a local farmer with a lot of experience. Please read it, especially if you're a dog owner. There is a lesson for all of us in these words. JR.**

Living in Cleobury Mortimer is a privilege. We have the luxury of being able to walk up the street to the shops and pubs while not being too far from major shopping and entertainment hubs. We are also very fortunate to have acres of countryside on our doorstep across which there are many footpaths and bridlepaths. Of these, parts are through enclosed paths and tracks and parts across open farmland. In appropriate areas, it is possible to let dogs off the lead to allow them to burn natural energy. However, at this time of year particularly, it is VERY important to keep them on a lead or at the very least, be in total control, while walking through farmland and fields of sheep.

I run a beef and arable farm at Hopton Wafers but recently invested in a few lambs. Also recently on the scene, a young black Labrador. Full of energy, the dog loves the farm life but initially thought all the space was his and turned tone deaf when left to his own devices. I thought the training was going well, keeping him with me at all times while working with the animals (both sheep and cattle). However, one day back in January, I was distracted for five minutes talking to a visitor.... dog disappeared. He was wearing a zapper but obviously out of range by this time. Fast forward the search detail..... he had been picked up about half a mile away across the fields about 20 minutes later. He had chased sheep around the field and cornered one that was brave enough to stand-off to him. He was barking and snarling, baiting the sheep. There is video footage, but I have chosen not to see it – too distressing. Fortunately, as soon as the farmer that found him called him, the dog went straight to him, calm as you like.

Unfortunately, this was a field of in-lamb ewes. To the untrained eye (including me), sheep are

sheep, pregnant or not. All sheep have a delicate constitution and can die just because they feel like it, but pregnant ewes up that ante. Being chased by dogs stresses their hearts, can break their legs, can cause abortion or birth of dead lambs, and death. Who knows how quickly he had got that far and how long he had thought it fun to chase them around? He was used to sheep, they recognised him..... not these sheep, they didn't know him, so they ran. Oh, this is fun, I can chase these.

Fortunately, if there is anything fortunate about this incident, he did not draw blood. Drawing blood would have been a whole different ball game, that day and in the future. Once a dog experiences blood, it will do it again and again. As it was, the farmer would have been within his rights to have shot the dog; absolutely no decision if the dog had attacked or killed any sheep. That said, there have been a couple of fatalities as a result of this incident. I am responsible for these and I will pay (financially) for the losses.

The point of the story is this. I am a farmer. I was not in control of my dog for a few minutes and off he went. Most folk walking dogs around Cleobury have 'town' dogs. Anything in the countryside that moves is fair game, no matter how well trained or domesticated the dog is. Already this Spring, there have been several local incidents of sheep, and now lambs, being attacked by dogs and being left injured or dead for the farmer to find. I will spare you the distress of photos showing the damage a dog can do to a sheep or new born lamb, though I am sure you may have seen them on Facebook.

Please take care when walking your dogs in the countryside. It is your responsibility to be in control of your dog at all times; the farmer can protect his stock if it is being worried by dogs. If, like me, you are unfortunate enough to experience such an incident, be big enough to own up to it and take the consequences.

*Alison Dunn*



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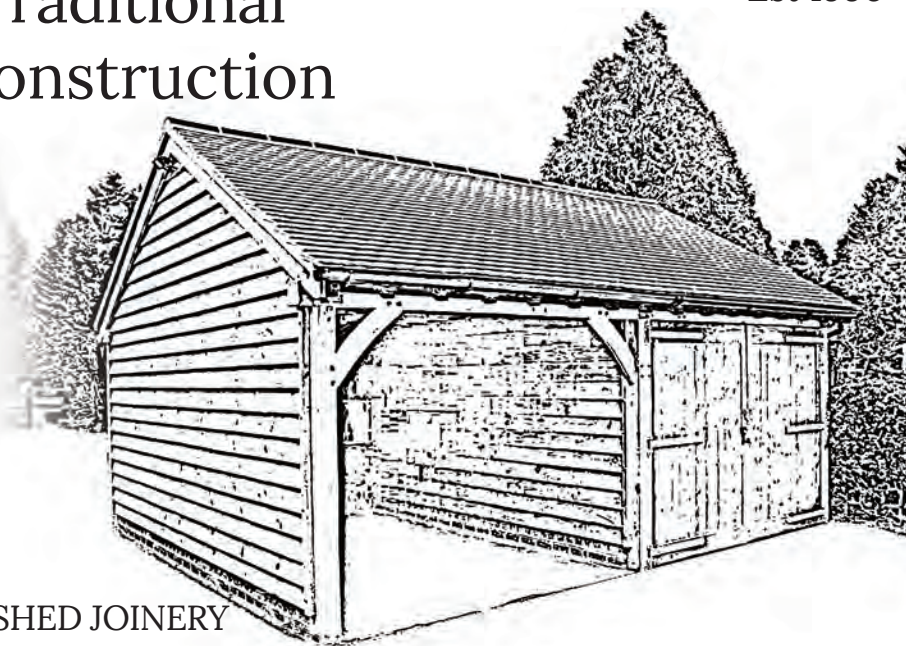
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## Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	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	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@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	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
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### THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 23rd

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### **Residential Sales**

When you put your property on the market, the first two weeks are absolutely crucial. Make sure you agree with your agent exactly when your property will be launched – we would advise a Wednesday or Thursday so you can hit the weekend searches at the top of the list. Now when it comes to viewings, it's a great idea to arrange a series of block bookings all on the same day. Make sure they are booked back-to-back so each viewer is likely to see the next visitors on the doorstep, or at least as they have a look at your property from the outside – there's absolutely nothing wrong with creating a bit of gentle competition.



Erica Hinwood  
MARLA MNAEA  
Office Manager



**Stable Cottage  
Wall Town Farm** **£700 pcm**

A delightful three bedroom barn conversion boasting idyllic countryside views, located near the town of Cleobury Mortimer. **EPC D**

### **Lettings**

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard, or MEES as it is known, being introduced in April, will make it illegal for anyone to let property with an Energy Performance Certificate rating lower than an E. So that means if any of your properties currently rate below this, you will need to do some work pretty quickly to improve their energy efficiency or you risk being landed with a rather hefty fine. It's important to understand that the regulations apply to new tenancies or the renewal of existing tenancies. So, if your tenancy is on a fixed term which is due for renewal after 1st April 2018, you will have until the renewal date to carry out the necessary improvements. However, if your tenancy has rolled over onto a periodic tenancy before 1st April 2018, you will have until 2020 to get your property up to standard.



Coral Walrond  
MARLA MNAEA  
Lettings Negotiator

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