

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

MARCH 2019

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

After the success of last year's Town Meeting, when councillors mixed with visitors and local clubs and associations put on displays to explain their work, the idea will be repeated this year. Friday May 17th is the date and there will be meetings in the Primary School from 4.00 to 5.00pm and then from 6.15 to 7.45 at Lacon Childe School.

This will also see the launch of the Cleobury Community Champion Awards, for people who have made a significant contribution to the community.

There will be three awards at this stage, with the possibility of more if the idea succeeds. The first is for the Community Champion, for the person who has gone the extra mile to promote a sense of community. The next will be the Environmental Champion, for the person or organisation who has done most to protect the local environment and the third will be the Business/Organisation Champion for the body within the local area who has done most to promote business in the Cleobury Country area.

THE REMARKABLE GASKELLS

John and Angie Gaskell are towers of strength in raising money for cancer causes with their Rainbow Foundation. Last year they broke all records, with £20,160 raised at Golf Club events.

On February 16th there was a presentation of cheques to Cancer Research, MacMillan, Midlands Air Ambulance and 4Louis. Kidderminster Prostate Cancer Group had theirs earlier. In the 10 years Rainbow has been operating, they've raised almost £100,000 for a range of cancer charities.

The presentation was by their daughter Kelly, with family friends in support, as John was at home with Angie, who sadly is having her own battle with that dreadful disease. It was a tearful occasion, but the simple determination of the Gaskell family shone through with the announcement that the Rainbow Day will carry on, with this year's tournament booked for Friday July 5th.

Such devotion to a charitable cause is quite remarkable and deserves every support.

A PERSONAL STATEMENT

I will not mention any names in this statement, but hope the person responsible for it needing to be written will take note and act a little more responsibly in future.

Someone has been telling people that I had an affair with a woman in this town; if dates were part of the story, I do not know.


Friends and family with whom I have discussed the matter have mainly laughed at the absurdity of the idea. But some who heard it spread may not know me and realise how simply ridiculous it is.

To make the matter entirely clear, I have not had an affair with any woman in this town and what has been said about me is a complete lie.

If this slander is repeated I will not hesitate to take action. I am not a wealthy man who can lightly do such a thing, but I do have standards and will not tolerate such utter nonsense.

How sad that space on these pages should be wasted on making this statement. But such lies should not go unchallenged.

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The Cleobury Clarion, March 2019

Volume Thirteen - Edition Twelve



Awaiting their Rainbow Foundation cheques. See our front cover.



The Ludford Duo will be in concert in April. See Page 33.




A woman's view of car buying in a man's world. See Page 35.

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FREE HOME ENERGY CHECKS

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin are once again able to offer 100 free and impartial home energy checks for the over 60s, having secured funding to cover the cost for the third year in a row.

The combination of cold weather and rising fuel costs represents significant cause for concern for many older people, who already worry about their ability to pay their energy bills. This can seriously impact both their physical and mental health and well-being, especially during the long winter months.

Heather Osborne, Chief Executive of Age UK STW, said: "It is a sad but real fact that there are many older people in our community who live in poorly insulated houses, who struggle to keep warm and who desperately need some assistance. Together with Marches Energy Agency, a reliable, trusted local company, we are working hard to help people reduce fuel bills wherever possible and an energy check is the first step to achieving this.'

The energy checks have, once again, proved popular this year; a number of appointments are

still available but they need to be booked and undertaken no later than 31 March 2019, so if you would like a free Home Energy Check, please call Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin on 01743 233123.

PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

Pensax Thrift Shop opens its doors again – for the 45th year – at 9am on Wednesday 6 March. So if your aim this year is to declutter your home, why not sort out all those no-longer-needed items and bring them in to sell at Thrift Shop? Just to remind you, we sell new or 'new to you' clothes, household linens, bric-a-brac, toys and books. We welcome clean goods 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, do call in to see what's on offer and, hopefully, pick up some bargains, have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Remember, everything at Thrift Shop is very reasonably priced.

We are open every Wednesday morning 9-11am at Pensax Village Hall on the B4202 and we look forward to seeing you.

Pauline Briggs

ROAD CLOSURE

The B4363 will be closed for resurfacing work at Kinlet during the daytime hours 9.30 to 4.00 from today, March 1st, until the 8th. The work will be on the stretch between the Eagle and Serpent and the Button Oak and Bewdley turning, so expect a diversion down that road and a left turn to get you back to the Eagle if you're heading for Bridgnorth and t'other way round if you're coming home from work early.

THE MYSTERY BUDDHA OF MAWLEY COURT

Here's a mystery to test the memories of anyone who's lived in Cleobury Mortimer for quite a while.

John Carter can remember an elderly lady who lived in a Mawley Court flat 25 or more years ago, who had a stone Buddha that she used as a doorstep. When she moved out (or did she end her days there?) just where the statue went is a mystery that John would like to solve. It is possibly quite valuable, but that have never been established to his knowledge.

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CHANGES AT WALKING FOR HEALTH

For a number of years Lacon Childe School was base to Cleobury Walking for Health summer walks, for which we were very grateful. Throughout that period the school provided accommodation and excellent refreshments. In recent times, the school has found it necessary to increase the security and change its catering policy. Restrictions to access, together with catering difficulties has resulted in the decision to base WfH elsewhere.

We were delighted to accept CoCo's invitation to coincide with their coffee mornings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. We meet in time for a 10.00am walk from the Market Hall, Church Street with lovely post walk refreshments provided by CoCo for a small charge. The exceptions are four 'Awayday' walks at Wyre Forest, Craven Arms, the Golf Club and Arley planned for this summer. For these, we will meet in the Sports Centre Car Park, Love Lane, for a 10.00am departure. Transport available.

These short walks of up to two miles are free and cater for all abilities. No need to book, just

turn up in good time with suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. For further details contact me on 01299 271754, email ajkimber@hotmail.com or visit www.cmfa.co.uk

Alan Kimber

ORCHARD ADVICE

A new venture to advise orchard owners on development and preservation is under way, thanks to Butterfly Conservation and the Wyre Community Land Trust. It's all part of a drive to help landowners manage their land to benefit wildlife and the environment.

Did you realise that since the 1950s, Worcestershire has lost 85 percent of its traditional orchards? That's a lot of local apple varieties no longer to be found in the area. So WCLT have started to map and record details of remaining orchards in the Wyre Forest area and they're looking for volunteers to help with further survey work. They would also like to hear from orchard owners who wish to be involved.

They have a programme of events coming up, covering pruning apple trees, planning and planting an orchard and orchard wildlife and pollinators. Wade Muggleton of Stottesdon, a recognised authority of the

subject who has featured on BBC TV's 'Gardeners' World' recently, will be leading on this aspect.

Further information is on www.wyreclt.org.uk/events and to book a place for the events, call 01299 488083 or email events@wyreclt.org.uk

Pruning Apple Trees Young and Old March 1st, 10am to 3.30pm, Uncllys Farm, Bewdley. Learn the art of pruning, look at the theory and get hands on with pruning of young trees; discuss management of ancient fruit trees, led by Wade Muggleton.

Planning and Planting an Orchard. March 29th, 10am - 3.30pm, Pool Meadow, Stottesdon. Look at all the considerations in creating a new orchard, including fruit tree selection, rootstocks, spacing, planting, aftercare, shaping and formative pruning of very young trees. Led by Wade Muggleton.

Orchard Wildlife and Pollinators. April 26th 10am - 3.30pm, Uncllys Farm, Bewdley. Look at the value of traditional orchards for wildlife of all kinds.

With the current emphasis on pollinators, a look at the role of blossom, its pollination and how we might all do something to contribute. Includes a farm walk in the afternoon. Led by Wade Muggleton.

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GOODBYE TO FEBRUARY

Tony Smith, the Kidderminster Poet, wrote this poem for February. It's in blank verse, his first move away from more traditional rhyming forms, but with his usual fine command of expression. Enjoy:

Now February descends with her damp darkling skies,
to fill the dykes and free the deadened soil from her chill sister's hold.
No welcome now for this grim visaged time,
save that the faltering sun slides later to its rest,
and with faint fading promise of the coming spring,
Cedes its dying glimmer to the cold wet night.

Her drenching, short-lived tenure of the land,
Will surely serve to rid the earth of its pale legacy,
and the lengthened day, bring forth the stirrings of new growth?
So, let us, huddled in the sheltered habit,
yet joy in this gloomed, yearly burden.

For can there be a bright long day
unless there is a dark cold night to know of it?
And could fine seasons be, without the grim processor?
Come February, do what must be done.
Be quick about your business and begone.
We long with all our hearts to greet your kinder siblings.

Tony Smith

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

March is one of the busiest times for seed sowing, use seedling compost to get good results. It's also time to prepare rose bushes for summer flowering and the perfect time to plant your summer

flowering bulbs such as dahlias, begonias, lilies and freesias. Make sure you prepare the soil first by placing a handful of grit at the bottom of the hole to ensure good drainage to prevent the bulbs rotting.

It's Mother's Day this month, on the 31st. For a simple gift add packets of annual seeds in cards, after sowing these flowers will last all summer long.

Gardening is one of the few hobbies that are relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. Club membership at £10 entitles you to a discount at garden centres listed on the card.

Our next meeting will be on March 27th, the speaker for the evening will be Derek Walker and and it is also the club's Spring Show.

Pauline Bowen



MEN'S SHED BOXES

Collection boxes for this project are now on show at the Talbot Hotel, Stable Tavern, Kings Arms, Spice Empire, Royal Fountain, The Bell Inn and the Old Lion. The business of actually building the shed is getting closer and there's a drive on to raise funds. Please be generous.



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BLOOD BIKES HELP CARRY BREAST MILK

A unique partnership means that new mums who are apart from their premature babies being cared for in Shropshire's neonatal unit, can still provide them with their breast milk.

The neonatal team at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust has joined forces with The Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes to give mums the chance to feed their babies their own milk, even though they are apart.

Occasionally pre-term babies in the Neonatal Unit in the Shropshire Women and Children's Centre in the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford may be in a different hospital from their mothers, which means that they are unable to feed them.

However, the new partnership with the Blood Bikes, a charity which normally delivers blood products, means that a mother will be able to express her breast milk, which is then collected and transported by the bikers to the neonatal team.

Gina Powell, Neonatal Sister, said: "We look after babies that have come from hospitals in Stoke or Wolverhampton for example, and those mums may

have had a Caesarean Section and may not be able to visit in the first instance because they are poorly.

"Breast milk, particularly the colostrum, is the best medicine for a pre-term baby as it will have the maternal immunity within it to protect the baby from infections and illnesses that could be life threatening.

"There are also benefits for the mother as she knows that she can meet her baby's needs, even though they are separated. She will be able to give her baby her milk even if she can't visit, which is wonderful for both mother and baby.

"We are absolutely delighted that Blood Bikes, which is a charity run by volunteers, can offer this help to our mums and babies; and we are incredibly grateful to them for their help and support. This will make a huge difference to them."

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

The theme for our February meeting was 'Talk talk' and Gill read a piece from her children's novel, inspired by her work with a local steam railway society. Her material involved an introduction to a variety of colourful characters who were using a railway guard's van as a

play venue. We look forward to updates as Gill's work progresses.

Peter read the opening few paragraphs from his novel entitled, 'Angharad'. It is the second contemporary romance in a series about the lives of characters living on, or around, a sheep farm in mid-Wales.

Vicky did not present any written material, but she did present her seventeen-day-old daughter, Willow. If the session had been a competitive one, the delightful Willow would have won – tiny hands down!

Theme for the next session on Monday 11th March is: newborn (or new born).

Peter Hill

My thanks to Peter for that excellent report, submitted because the editor was hurrying back from business on the far Welsh coast and missed the meeting. JR.

SENSIBLE MOVE

The secretary of the Footpath Association has circulated a letter to all members, asking them to respect any special measures they come across where landowners are protecting their horses from possible infection with equine flu. It's a worrying time and such thoughtful action helps.



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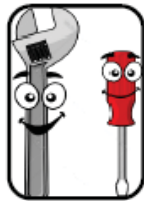
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Nursery and Childcare Leader

(Maternity cover starting from 29th April 2019 - 10th February 2020 (end day tbc with 1 months notice)

36.67 hours a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8am - 5.30pm - 20 min lunch daily)

Annual Salary: £20,000 (overtime rate of £10.37 per hour)

Holiday entitlement: 25 days per year + statutory bank holidays

This is an exciting opportunity to lead our Nursery and 'wrap around' provision while the substantive post holder is on maternity leave. We are a vital, small rural primary school with Nursery and all year round 'wrap around' childcare.

If you are a strong and experienced Early Years Professional with a genuine passion for working in Nursery education and childcare then we would love you to join us. High emotional intelligence, bags of enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children would definitely be an advantage.

Our nursery is a cosy setting offering up to 20 places with a team of 5 (3FTE) staff. The new leader will have a great opportunity to continue to influence the vision and direction of the nursery so that provision continues to improve from good to outstanding.

Nursery and Childcare Leader Essential requirements:

- You must have been either a **Nursery Manager** or a very experienced **Nursery Deputy Manager**, **Qualified Teacher** or very experienced **Early Years Professional**.
- **Qualification: Minimum NVQ Level 3 relevant childcare qualification or equivalent; Early Years Professional Status; Qualified teacher or HLTA. Paediatric First Aid would also be an advantage.**
- Initiative

For further details and an application pack please contact admin@stottesdon.shropshire.sch.uk. Visits to the school are warmly encouraged.

Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School, Cleobury Mortimer, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs. DY14 8UE

Tel: 01746 718617 Email: admin@stottesdon.shropshire.sch.uk Website: www.stottesdon.shropshire.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs. K. Jones Chair Of Governors: Rev. M Daborn



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

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

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

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

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



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With seven brothers and sisters, all of whom are engaged in farming, the Evans family's agricultural interests are extensive and influential. Four of the family, John, Sue, Robert, and Clive are directors of Curdale Farms Limited based at the farm on the Ludlow Road just out of Cleobury Mortimer. They collectively farm 1400 acres in and around the town.

John and his wife Catherine live at Broome Park Farm on the Catherton Road. Catherine runs a cosy and welcoming two bed room B&B business within the farm complex. She makes her own bacon and sausage products from a couple of homegrown pigs and provides much appreciated breakfast and evening meals based on local products. Catherine has been running the business for over **t e n y e a r s** catherine@broomeparkfarm.co.uk

Curdale Farms is a mixed farm of arable and livestock with 700 acres of wheat, barley, oats and fodder beet, which with grass and silage, feeds 1100 sheep and 500 beef cattle. This time of the year is the main lambing season when a further 1500 lambs have to be fed and watered. Some early lambs born just after Christmas provide a chance to be sold for the Easter lamb market. The 500 cattle are fattened up over 15- 24 months, being sold as finished animals, to the supermarkets

The whole of the land of Curdale Farms is under Higher Level Stewardship Schemes designed to improve the environment and biodiversity of farms. The scheme lasts for 10 years and Curdale Farms have

been in the scheme for 7 years. They have carried out a wide range of environmental options which include hedge cutting every other year, outside bird nesting times, hedge planting and maintenance as well as some tree planting. Their arable land provides opportunities for additional biodiversity, with buffer zones around the edge of fields and non drilled corn strips for increasingly rare skylarks. They sow four acre plots of birdseed crops especially for finches which have dropped in numbers over recent years. Some fallow ground and stubble which is left to overwinter provides additional biodiversity and for a wider set of ecosystems to flourish. Access for the public is afforded with a wide range of footpaths.

John points out the continued need for footpath users to observe the Countryside Code and especially to safeguard the livestock by shutting gates and not allowing dogs off the lead where there is a chance of cattle and sheep worrying. In most years there are incidents of such worrying and deaths of ewes and lambs which is distressing for farmers. It puts a strain on relationships between farmers and the general public. There are over 500 dogs in Cleobury Mortimer which need walking and exercise every day. An understanding and a close partnership with farmers, their land, access and the environment of which they are stewards, is important.

We have a beautiful and richly bio diverse countryside of which farmers and landowners such as Curdale Farms are worthy stewards.

OTTERS

Dr Mark Baldwin responded to the news item on otters in the January 'Clarion' with a report from the Parish Magazine of June 1867:

'OTTER HUNT. On Monday the 13th, ten of the Hon. R.C.Hill's pack of Otter Hounds arrived at Shakenhurst and the next day had some excellent sport up the River Rea. The attendance was good, though the meet was at sunrise. We believe that before 4 a.m. there was no complaint on the score of cold, so good was the sport. A fine Otter with her four cubs was secured near Detton, at Titford Bridge.

The party made quite a sensation as they passed through our town on their way home. There are hopes of an early visit from this excellent pack, as it is supposed that other Otters are in the river.'

THE READING GROUP

'Sleeping Giants' by Sylvain Neuval was only enjoyed by two people. Most liked the first part of the story but not the latter, various reasons given. We felt this first book of a trilogy had an unsatisfactory ending. If you read all three or are a keen sci-fi reader, fine, otherwise we would not recommend.

Mystery and horror this month with 'Joyland', a Stephen King novel, will it please more readers? We will see on March 18th at Cleobury Library.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754

SILLY BIT

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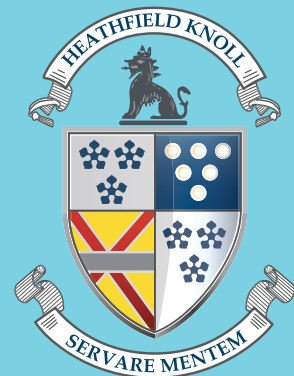
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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Big Quiz on March 3rd starts the social agenda for this month. £15 for teams of six, register at 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Proceeds to St Mary's Youth Project.

Busy day on March 9th. CM Rugby Club at home to Handsworth, kick-off 2.15. The Six Nations continues with Scotland v Wales at 2.15pm and England v Italy at 4.45pm. And Volleyball Club are running a Race Night from 7.00pm.

On March 10th, Ireland play France in the Six Nations. Bacon, Cabbage and Mash lunch served from 1.00pm at £4, book in advance at the Club.

Six Nations Super-Saturday March 16th. All three matches shown in the Function Room and the small bar.

On March 17th, we'll be running an Irish themed Quiz Night (it is St Patrick's Day!) starting at 7.00pm. Proceeds to Club funds.

Stroke Support Group celebrate their First Birthday on March 26th, 2.00-4.00

Live show on March 29th, free entry, starting at 7.00 Artist to be confirmed.

On March 30th, CM Rugby Club will be playing Old Saltleians, kick-off 2.15pm

Don't forget Bingo Night every Monday starting at 8.00 As usual for more information, please contact our Bar Manager, Tony Barker Newton on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page

THANK YOU

Diane Payne would like to thank Paul at the Co-op Store

for the trouble he went to in checking CCTV trying to trace her purse on her 18th birthday night out. It was actually at home.

HOPTON WAFERS VILLAGE HALL

A Spring Supper providing a two course meal by The Clock House at Tenbury Wells is booked for April 6th. There will be a grand raffle as well and if you want to drink alcohol you are asked to bring your own bottles and glasses. 7.00 for a 7.30 start and tickets are £12.50a head from Marion Woods on 01299 513212.

On April 27th, storytelling and musical duo Suzanne and Jake Thomas will star at Hopton Wafers Village Hall, performing 'The Elfin Knight' and other stories. Light supper will be provided.

'The Elfin Knight' is a coming-of-age spring time tale with music inspired by a 16th century ballad, accompanied by other songs and other stories. Suzanne's telling of tales, and Jake's folk-style acoustic guitar playing are a wonderful combination.

For more information and tickets, go to www.hwvh.uk/storytelling, email info@hwvh.uk or call 01299 270047.

Rose Jacks is planning to hold tai chi classes again in Hopton Wafers village hall. Tai chi combines deep breathing and relaxation with flowing movements. Originally developed as a martial art in 13th-century China, it is now practised around the world.

For more information, go to www.hwvh.uk/taichi or call 01299 270047.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Club met on February 12th to learn of the activities of Cleobury Mortimer's Fire Brigade from Andrew Davies, who currently heads up our local Fire Station.

The Service now has a wider remit, and was renamed 'Fire & Rescue Service' about ten years ago. There is a growing integration with the Ambulance Service, and fire crews now do First Responder and Paramedic courses.

Cleobury has never had any full-time firemen – ours are part-time or 'retained'. Don't think that this makes them in any way second-class – the training they get is first-class, and Shropshire is a model for the rest of the country in the way it has modernised its Fire Service and Rescue Services. They typically get 80 to 90 call-outs annually, but last year's total was 130, many triggered by automatic fire alarms.

Prevention is always better than cure, so our firemen carry out risk assessments for business premises, publicise the benefit of smoke alarms, and will soon be doing the same for carbon monoxide detectors, too. The ideal number of firemen for Cleobury is 12, and Andrew is confident that this target will be met for the next few years. Women may be recruited in the near future, on special short-hour contracts, and this will help staff numbers.

Mark Baldwin



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Carolyn & Keith Balmer support a number of people who are involved in charitable activities. So we are always looking for soft toys and teddies for the "Teddy Trust". www.teddytrust.org.uk .

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

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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-March 2019

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 3rd-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

10th, 17th, 24th & 31st -8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Coffee & Chat-Tuesday 5th. All welcome at 4 Eagle Lane, hosted by Steve & Iris Todd.

Ash Wednesday Services-Wednesday 6th. Services at 10.00am & 7.30pm with imposition of ashes.

Prayers for Lent-Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th. All welcome to our Prayers for Lent service at 6.30pm.

Wholeness Service-Thursday 14th. 7.00pm All welcome to our quiet service of reflection.

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

Messy Church-Sunday 24th. All welcome at the Hub at 3.00pm for crafts, stories, games & meal.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-6.30pm Evensong, 17th-10.00am Matins, 24th-6.30pm Evensong, 31st-No service.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-6.30pm Evensong, 24th-9.00am Eucharist, 31st-6.30pm Evensong.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-No service, 17th-10.00am Family service, 24th-10.00am Eucharist, 31st-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-No service, 17th-No service, 24th-3.00pm Evening Prayer, 31st-No service.

Events/Activities:

Pancakes at Doddington-Saturday 9th. 12.00 noon. Soup and bread and/or pancakes with a variety of fillings. All welcome.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-No service, 17th-No service, 24th-11.00am Village Worship, 31st-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-11.00 Eucharist, 24th-No service, 31st-No service.

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

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

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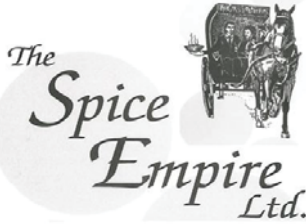
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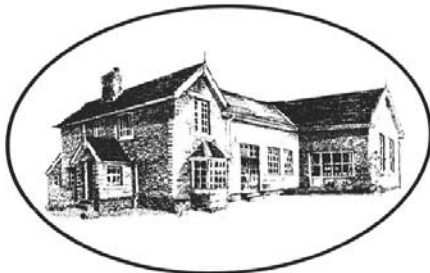
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THE SOROPTIMISTS

The last Business Meeting of our year is on March 7th, as usual 7.30 pm at Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster.

At our March Supper meeting at La Brasserie, on the 21st, we look forward to Helen Timmins from the Rose Theatre Group speaking.

The month's commitments will finish on the 28th March with our regular coffee morning from 10.00 at the George Hotel in Bewdley. Do come along and meet some of us.

Please note two special dates in April: Our AGM is scheduled for the 4th and our annual Bridge Tournament will take place at its customary venue: Blakedown Parish Rooms on Wednesday the 24th, 10.30 with morning coffee for a prompt 11.00 start of play and finishing at 4.00. £12 per player. For further details and to book places call Sue Merrill on 07831487648 or 01562700079 or email: susanmerrill8@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin is looking to recruit more volunteer helpers and drivers, to support its day centres in Bridgnorth, Alveley and Much Wenlock.

Heather Osborne, Chief Executive of Age UK Shropshire, said: "Our day centres can be a lifeline for many older people, especially those who live in relative isolation. Social interaction, a hot meal, interesting activities and outings are all provided by volunteers, who make a real difference to the lives of older people."

The charity operates 38 day centres throughout Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, open

weekly from 10.00am to 2.30pm. If you can spare a few hours one day a week, are considering volunteering and want to visit any of the day centres before you decide, please contact Claire Lewis or Janice Williams on 01743 588 570.

Alternatively, if you wish to find out more about volunteering in general, then please email volunteering@ageukstw.org.uk or visit our website at www.ageukshropshireandtelford.org.uk. Training and support will be provided by Age UK, and out of pocket expenses are paid.

Tina Erskine

POPPY APPEAL SUCCESS

The Far Forest and Rock Branch of the Royal British Legion have good reason to be very grateful for the increase in public support they received which has resulted in a total of £9000.13 being raised in the Poppy Appeal of 2018.

The Branch has worked hard to highlight the work the Legion does with the Service Community and to encourage donations to the Appeal. In 2013 the total was £2170 and in 2017 rose to £6643 which encouraged even more effort for 2018.

Branch Chairman, Martyn Carter, said; "We are very grateful for the public response and for the help from a number of local businesses and organisations that have supported our efforts."

To honour the support a special event is being for Monday, March 11th, when Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded. At the Rock Inn Public House in the village of Rock, commencing at 7.00pm.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The Parish Walk is on Sunday 3rd at 10.00 from St Mary's Church. With this mild February we can expect to enjoy spring wild flowers as we walk.

Our maintenance work starts on the 6th this month. We will have a work party every month, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Top priority for this year is to sort out the closed footpath at Wall Town, because the old bridge is beyond repair and the landowner will not let walkers use the nearby private bridge. We are discussing the way forward with Shropshire Council.

Other work this year is dealing with a number of decrepit or missing stile steps in the area. We are all waiting to hear of the effect of the change of ownership of Sadlers Barn Farm, especially the permissive path along the riverside. We will update you when anything is known.

Graham Simpson

FESTIVAL NEWS

The Festival Group are inviting all traders on the High Street to take part in a Best Dressed Window Competition for the Festival. The theme is 'Summer' and it will be judged on Festival Day, 29th June.

Three independent judges will decide on the winning window. The winner will receive a cheque for £100 to be donated to a local charity or charities of their choice and a cup for display until the next Festival.

Volunteers will be contacting traders very shortly.

Paul French



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As Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Rural Services, last month I hosted a Rural Vulnerability Day in Parliament.

Much discussion was focussed around a research report on the State of Rural Services 2018 compiled by Rural England. This took an in-depth look at eight key areas of rural service provision in contrast with more urban areas. These were: buses and community transport; broadband and mobile connectivity; public library services; hospitals; Public Health services; young people’s services; shops and online shopping; and public advice services.

Having banged the drum for rural issues for almost two decades, I was shocked to hear remarks from one MP who called fairer funding settlements for rural areas “perverse reverse redistribution”, when comparing rural Councils to places like Hackney, which has a core spending power per dwelling 27% higher than Shropshire.

But this reminded me of the importance of having good

data with which we can ensure rural areas like Shropshire continue to be pushed up the government’s agenda.

DEFRA Minister Lord Gardiner, who has responsibility for Rural Affairs, was able to address our meeting. He made clear the government is taking rurality more seriously. For example, 14 government departments now have a dedicated senior civil servant responsible for rural implications of policies. We have also more equitable distribution of funding for important areas such as schools and local government. But this report shows why there is still much more to do.

When it comes to connectivity, rural areas are improving but lag behind urban areas. Given transport difficulties compared to urban areas, it is all the more important for rural connectivity to improve, so business and employment opportunities can open up. The research indicated basic phone calls cannot be made inside 33% of rural buildings on all four mobile networks (EE, Three, O2 and Vodafone),

compared to 3% in urban areas. This needs to improve.

The report also highlighted that while young people in rural areas fare better than their urban peers in education and mental health, they tend to score worse on key public health indicators: alcohol consumption, smoking, being bullied, and risky behaviour.

One of the outcomes from the Day is that the APPG will be taking an in-depth look into why rural children are more likely to have worse public health indicators, and what we can do to help tackle this growing health issue.

The report highlighted growing evidence of services sharing premises at ‘hubs’, enabling rural communities to retain access to services while helping achieve some cost savings and generate footfall. So this is something we should continue to encourage.

There is more work to do. This State of Rural Services report will help add weight to our campaign for greater funding for rural areas, particularly in the context of the next Spending Review from HM Treasury.

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In addition to heating oil we also offer exclusive deals for members on LPG & Wood. Membership to the scheme is £24 per year and enables us to cover the admin costs for running this scheme.

For more information please contact Lizzy Thain on 01743 342167.

Or join online at <http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/services/individuals/oil-buying-scheme>

Next Order Deadlines are Tuesday 5th March and Tuesday 2nd April

Lizzy Thain

THE BINGO CLUB

We need new members at the club, so here's a reminder. We meet weekly on a Monday Night, at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane. Eyes Down at 8.00 pm; over 16's only as we play for small stakes.

More info from the club at CM 271448 *Suzanne France*

THANK YOU NO.1

Too many people to name individually but I would like to thank everyone for their support, offers of help, cards and gifts over the past few weeks. I have been totally overwhelmed by love, kindness and generosity. I feel truly privileged to be bringing my daughter up in such an amazingly supportive community full of such wonderful people. Thank you.

*Vicky (and Willow)
Honeybourne*

THANK YOU NO 2.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to my friends, relatives and especially my children for my surprise 90th birthday party. I was a little emotional and overwhelmed by the presence of so many people, some of whom had travelled over 100 miles to be there.

I would also like thank everyone for the gifts and money received amounting to £210 which I have donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal in memory of my late wife who sold poppies for this cause for many many years. Thank you again. *Albert Mantle (Bert)*

FIRELIGHTERS

Just right for your woodburner and on sale at the Farmers' Market. They are 'Fircone Firelighters', in Large or Medium sizes and made just up the road in Stourport by Mary Eden. I've tried them and they work well, burning with a pleasant fragrance.

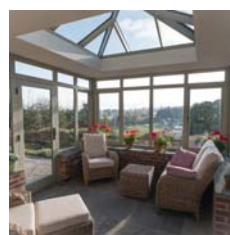
Email Mary on maryeden@sky.com, look in at www.firconeirelighters.co.uk or talk to the lady on 079671 569 792. You can even write to her at 'Havenleigh', Summer way, Wilden, Stourport DY13 9JL.

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Fri 1 st		Road Closure this week of the B4363 Bridgnorth road at Kinlet. PAGE 5		
	10.00	Hurry and you'll catch the Pruning Apple Trees demo at Unclyss Farm, Bewdley. PAGE 7		
Sat 2 nd	08.00	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground. Great bargains!		
Sun 3 rd	6.00	Open Mic Night at KA, Church Street, acoustic only please		
Mon 4 th	8.00	Bingo Club, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane.		CM 271 448
Tues 5 th		Deadline for ordering fuel through the Community Buying Scheme. PAGE 31		
Wed 6 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop opens its doors again for the summer season. PAGE 5		
	10.00	Free Drop-In NHS hearing aid clinic at St Marys Place		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall with Kate Jones. Great fun!		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good parking	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 7 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00	AGM of the Friends of St Mary's Church, in the Market Hall, all welcome. PAGE 51		
Fri 8 th	10.30	Rhyme Time for the youngest children, in the Library		
	7.00	British Legion presentation at The Rock Inn, Rock village. PAGE 25		
	8.00	Bingo Club, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 13 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop open		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, Church Street. Yum! Yum!		
	10.00	Walking for Health stroll out from the Market Hall. PAGE 7		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet in The Bell Inn, Lower Street	Mike Harmolle	CM 271 384
Thurs 14 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 15 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Sat 16 th		Coach trip to Coventry, details: 01584 891 464		
	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market in and around St Mary's Church		
	9.30	Craft Fair in the Market Hall		
Mon 18 th	8.00	Bingo Club, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 20 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop open		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890 874

A DOUBLE MARKET DAY

It's easy to overlook the fact that the town has two markets running on the same day, right next to one another. The Cleobury Country Farmers' Market is well established and the display of flags along the churchyard's roadside boundary is a good landmark that reminds people there's something happening right there in the heart of the town. And next door, in the Market Hall, is the Craft Fair, where you can find a range of goods, foods and services. There you'll find Marion Wilson of the Clows Top and District Gardening Club spreading her display from inside the Hall out onto the pathway to attract the attention of the public to this alternative event. There is rivalry between the two operations, but they are both worth a visit while you're there.



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Thurs 21 st		BLACK WHEELIE BUNS AND RECUCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	The Soroptimists meet at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. PAGE 25		
Sat 23 rd	7.30	Trad Jazz at Rock Village Hall, featuring "New Orleans Bump"	Len Pitman	01299 832294
Sun 24 th	7.30	Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra fill the parish church with wonderful music on their annual visit to the town. PAGE 51		
Mon 25 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet's Society meet at the Library, Love Lane	Jim	CM 270642
	8.00	Bingo Club, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 27 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop open		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	10.00	Walking for Health start at the Market Hall		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 9		
Thurs 28 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 29 th	10.00	Planning and Planting an Orchard demo at Pool Meadow, Stottesdon. PAGE 7		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL.....		
Mon 1 st	8.00	Bingo at Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 3 rd	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 4 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECUCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 5 th	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874



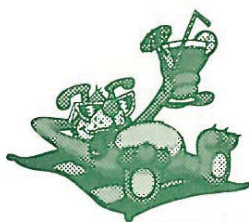
PLAYING TO HELP PEOPLE

The talented cello playing Ludford Duo will team with local pianist Andrew Crabtree to present a concert in the Parish Hall on Sunday April 7th. The programme will include works by Vivaldi, Handel, Saint Saens and Arthur Benjamin, all starting at 3.00pm. Tickets are £7.00, £6.00 for concessions and Under 18s free; available from the Cleobury Country office in Love Lane. Tea and biscuits will be served during the interval.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, that provides special care to cancer sufferers in Shropshire, Telford and Mid Wales.

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CAR BUYING - A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

To be truthful, I have never been that interested in cars. As a young driver if the car started when I turned the key in the ignition and the heater worked well, that was sufficient for me to be a happy bunny. Of course reliability was essential. I did need to get from A to B and back again. Beyond this my interest dwindled. Different makes, engine power, failed to capture my imagination.



Mary looks very happy with her reasonable size Vauxhall.

Things have probably changed now but years ago, my first foray into the new car market proved disappointing. In fact, I found it virtually impossible to attract the attention of a sales person. Keen to make a purchase, I decided to look round and see what the small car market had to offer. Previously, my husband had done all our car buying and I had been quite happy for him to do so. It was with some surprise that I discovered that as a female prospective buyer I was well-nigh invisible. Salesmen looked

up as I entered but then returned to their paper work. I walked around the cars, I opened car doors, I peered inside cars but was completely ignored. In one showroom, four salesmen with no other customers besides me laughed and joked but showed not the slightest interest in me, despite my looking toward them several times. As I was leaving another dealer, the salesman looked up, smiled and asked. "You okay love?" I smiled back and exited.

Things did not improve greatly when I asked my husband to accompany me in the hope of getting a better response. Once my husband had explained what I was looking for, we were shown a couple of models and their various features were highlighted. Sadly, when I asked a question the answer was directed to my husband. The salesman went on to address all further information to him despite my husband's valiant attempts to get him to engage with me. When I attempted to ask my second question I was handed two brochures so that I could have a look at available colours. I was then guided to a seating area with a coffee machine. I told my husband that I would be waiting for him outside in our car. The salesman informed my husband that they could now go into his office and get down to talking some figures. My husband was left to explain that this was not possible because the treasurer had just walked out.

Many years later having completely worn out the family sized car I was then driving, I asked my husband to look out

for a small car. The smaller the better, me being the sole occupant. My husband duly took me to view a car. I was told I would really like it. The small car turned out to be a large Volvo Estate. What is it with blokes and cars?

Fast forward to 2011 and on collecting our new vehicle, Mitsubishi presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. A lovely gesture so long as I didn't contemplate their true cost.

In 2017, at Vauxhall, there are no flowers. This car comes with a myriad of computerised tracking systems. Wow! Wizardry! Who knew cars would get to be so clever?

A function called On Star enables one to contact an operator simply by pressing a button above the dashboard. They can contact emergency services should the need arise and the tracking system means they can pinpoint your exact location. I like this. The time I genuinely needed to use a mobile phone it very helpfully messaged: NO SERVICE. I tentatively press the On Star button. A most attractive male voice fills the car. He introduces himself and asks how he might be of assistance. Stuff of dreams!

The downside - no CD player. This time the salesman has patiently explained music streaming. The car does have a USB port. On a rainy afternoon I transfer parts of our CD collection to two USB sticks. Green for him and pink for me. Happy motoring.

Mary Lamb

SILLY BIT

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It makes for a very multi-cultural and inclusive atmosphere. They are a lovely and rowdy bunch and just what all the school kids need to have an excellent time when they stay here. Most of the trainees are here for a gap year. They get their accommodation, meals and training for free and pocket money in return for hard but rewarding work.

Above is a picture from their trip to the Lake District, gaining some additional skills to utilise

during their sessions here. They go away on an adventure a couple of times a year to learn and enjoy the beautiful British country side. At the start of February, some of our activity team went to meet royalty in Worcester! Hannah, Diego and Sebastian were privileged to meet Princess Anne, who we know is very involved in many voluntary organisations. We are not sure how Brexit will affect our team in the future but we hope and pray that we will be able to maintain the diversity in our teams and learn from the different cultures they introduce, and enjoy the delicacies they bring.

Naomi Thompson

FUNDRAISING BLITZ AT BAYTON

On February 4th Bayton CE Primary School's staff, governors and parents took to their exercise bikes in a bid to raise funds for the school through their crowdfunding page www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/baytonprimary.

The day started at 8.00am and continued with non stop cycling until 3.30pm with each person spending 30 mins at a time in a cycling relay. The combined miles cycled was 627.94,

reaching a selection of possible places in the world including; Toulouse, Berlin, Bilbao, Copenhagen, Switzerland.

So far, the total raised stands at £1050, which will go towards teaching and learning resources as well as maintenance for the school building. This is the first of many future fundraising events for the school's Just Giving page, with the next one being planned by the pupils who have caught the fundraising fever.

Jolanda Simmonds

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Vicky Turner, who has been dynamic secretary and driver of the Partnership, has moved on to bigger job within Shropshire Council. Helen Smith, well known and respected in guiding circles, has agreed to take over the post She's on helen.smith189@gmail.com

SILLY BIT

A chap knocked on my door today, asking for a small donation for the local swimming pool. So I gave him a glass of water.

Anon.

The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.
Spike Milligan



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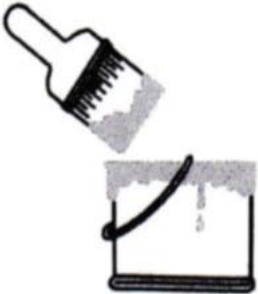
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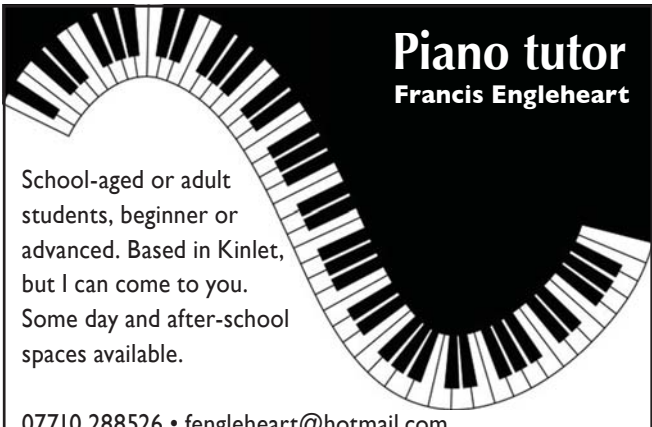
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March in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

This month we anticipate the birth of the first lambs on Uncllys Farm since we moved here. Our grazier has a flock of 16 Kerry, Welsh Mountain and Herdwick ewes who have been consorting with a Kerry ram, so we hope for a good crop of lambs with a mixture of markings but all equally bouncy! On a serious note, we'll have to try and protect them from dog worrying. The forest is very popular with dog walkers and most assume that they can let their pets off the lead here. They also assume that their pet would never chase sheep, but sad experience shows that you can't be sure of this.



There's a connection here with our efforts to conserve woodland birds, which are increasingly disturbed by dogs. Fortunately a number of woodland plots are now surrounded by deer fencing so that trees can regenerate naturally, safe

from hungry Fallow and Muntjac. Volunteers have recently planted little Rowan, Hazel, Wild Cherry, Wild Service and Hawthorn trees in these plots to create a diverse habitat which can better support a wide range of insects, birds and other wildlife. Research shows that many woodland birds including Dunnock, Nightingale, Garden Warbler and Long-Tailed Tit are adversely affected by deer browsing. We intend to do more survey work so that we can see if our efforts produce the beneficial results intended.

This month also sees the opening of a new exhibition at Bewdley Museum. 'Beautiful, Peaceful and Fruitful: Ruskin in Wyre' marks the 200th birthday of the eminent Victorian whose legacy could be said to include public libraries, museums and art galleries, the sympathetic preservation of old buildings and beautiful landscapes, the recognition of Turner, the improvement of factory working conditions... etc.! His acquaintance with our forest inspired a movement (the Guild of St. George) to set up communities where ordinary people could work the land, develop craftsmanship and pursue their own education, in short 'make some piece of England beautiful, peaceful and fruitful'. Ruskin Land is certainly beautiful and peaceful. Its fruitfulness may be measured in many ways: the produce from its orchards and fields, the diversity of its nature, its role in spreading a love of nature, art and craftsmanship, and the health and wellbeing of those who live, visit or work there.

Linda Iles

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A fading LA action star is offered a gig as King Lear playing in Stratford, England. But it's not the one on Avon, it's in wet and muddy Suffolk. An undemanding comedy, chosen for the 2008 Royal Film Performance.

Tickets: £4.00 / £3.00 / £8.00 Family

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JAN ON 01299 271070**

**AIMING TO BE
LUNATICS**

Guy Turpin is leading a bunch of local cyclists on an epic hill climbing fund raiser in Southern France late in May. They will be tackling the three routes up the mighty Mont Ventoux and if they do all three in 24 hours they'll be admitted to the Club of the Lunatics of Ventoux.

This is one of the toughest climbs on the Tour de France route, up the 6175 feet high mountain three times, a total of 88 miles long and 14,600 feet of climbs. Guy will be joined by Dominic Allen, Adam Tillsley and Rich Robertshaw, with Paul Southwell in charge of support.

They'll be raising funds for ASTRIID, an online service matching highly skilled people with long term illness to flexible employment. You can donate via Just Giving/GuyTurpin's Montventouxclimb.

And just as a warm-up to keep the team in trim, they'll be riding the Twisted Spire Velo sportive on May 19th. This is open to all cyclists and it's not a race. It's an event registered with British Cycling and will be a 75 kilometre (45 miles if you prefer) ride through Shropshire, starting from the Leisure Centre in Love Lane.

Richard Robertshaw is the organiser, available on 07779 427 814 or via guy@sunlab.co.uk. This event is also raising funds for ASTRIID, so you can enjoy a scenic ride in good company and help a good cause all on one day.

**PLASTIC: NOT SO
FANTASTIC**

An innocent cup of tea could contain plastic and contribute to the problem of pollution. Because most of us use tea bags but several brands use a sealing plastic, to keep the bags from falling apart.

Companies are working towards eliminating plastic from their bags but while we wait, a switch to loose leaf tea isn't so difficult. Just dig out the teapot and tea strainer and buy a pack of loose leaf tea. Afterwards you can put your used tea in the compost without fear of it leaching plastic into the environment - and the flavour is noticeably better too.

Thanks for the tips you are starting to send in - more details to follow!. Please contact us with other ideas of how to reduce plastic usage in 2019 and beyond; we would love to hear from you. Plastic: Not So Fantastic will promote tips you send us. Email Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

**WHO PAINTED THE
LETTERBOX?**

The Victorian letter box set into the wall in front of the Manor House bungalow has been painted.

Not much of a news item, but Zillah Pain told me that it belongs to her, but Royal Mail said it must not be painted in such a way that it looks as if it's in use.

She thinks it must have been done by the Town Council.

Mark Baldwin

Can anyone confirm, please? Ed

LENT LUNCHESES

These popular community fundraising lunches will be offered again on Thursdays this year through Lent starting on March 7th then 14th, 21st, 28th and April 4th and 11th.

Everyone is welcome to the Market Hall between 12.00 and 2.00pm for soup, bread and apple pie; proceeds to Christian Aid. The charity is committed to ending poverty worldwide working in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, standing up for dignity, equality and justice.

Judy Sant

SILLY BIT

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THE HUB GOES ON GROWING

If you want proof that young people can work together to make a place better, here it is. It's known as The Hub today and for years was the Methodist Hall in Church Street. In 2012 the Saint Mary's Youth Project arranged to take on the lease and convert the building to a youth centre. The project attracted lots of support, from both youngsters and to their families and volunteers who could see what a great idea it was.

B & Q provided paint, Shropshire Housing Group chipped in with both staff and a £5,000 grant and work began. A nice touch was Tom Cowell from Lacon Childe School volunteering, as his grandad built the original hall.

In November 2013 The Hub was opened and today it's a smart place to meet up and to gather before outings to places like climbing walls in Worcester and Kidderminster, with the latest venture a visit to Blackstone Park and on into Bewdley to take in the Museum and other attractions. Young people being shown what is good in this area.

When the Methodist Chapel ceased regular services last September it was a natural place for the Hub to expand its operation and plans were drawn up to establish a cafe, a dance studio and a soft play area, in a new Community Hub All in a form so that the building can be easily converted back to be used for any church ceremony if the Methodist congregation need it. This flexibility means that the building is still active and not

closed up, with the inevitable deterioration that would mean.

The plans were submitted to the Aviva Fund with the hope of getting a £25,000 grant, but that did not come their way. Instead, a consolation £500 will help and they are back writing to any source of funds to seek support.

What has emerged is a groundswell of voluntary help from friends, parents and local trades, asking how they can help. That's already happening, with Shropshire Housing Group funding a wood burning stove.

The young people are designing and driving this Community Hub project and have so impressed with their ideas that the Neighbourhood Plan Team have included provision of a purpose designed Community Hub within future housing development. What the Hub is working so well at is bringing people together.

"What we're building is a healthy, thriving community," explained project trustee Roger Brown. At a time when mental health is a growing concern, that is a clear thinking, long term aim. So much progress shows that it can be done and there are already developments in the pipeline that we will keep you informed. If you would like to get involved, just contact Mark Greaves on 07828 116810 JR

THE FAR FOREST SHOW

It's the big one in this area, with the Far Forest showground full from hedge to hedge and the car parking much the same.

We'll give you more details in next month's issue, but it's worth putting the dates in your diary now - August 10th and 11th.

If you're in business and want to book a stall, get in soon or you might miss out. www.farforestcountrysideshow.btck.co.uk is the address.

CLEOBURY W.I.

A thoroughly enjoyable and informative evening, taking a journey through the evolution of postcard communication by our local historian Dr Mark Baldwin with an additional display of postcards from Glen. After the reform of the post office, a Uniform Penny Post was introduced from 10 January 1840 and by May 1840 post could be pre paid using the famous Penny Black stamp.

Picture postcards did not arrive until 1894. A postcard costing a halfpenny arrived the next day and gives an insight into social history and the lives of ordinary people. By 1902 postcards developed into having a division for the address and messages. Codes and encryptions were used to keep prying eyes from secret messages. In their heydays 600,000,000 postcards were sent annually and the period between 1902 and 1914 was the Golden Age. Today, postcards with famous names can reach £40,000 at auction."

We finished our our February activities with a delicious "Winter warmer soup lunch" and thank our customers for supporting our Charity fundraising and their culinary good taste.

We look forward to our meeting on March 12 where Sian Hawes will introduce "Practising Pilates" and hope you may pop into the Market Hall to share the evening with us. You will be made very welcome.

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Even in the unlikely event of finding a salesperson who actually wants to sell you a car, what to buy?. Chunky pretend off roaders seem to be flavour of the month but I don't know whether this is down to easier access or just the higher ground clearance and softer suspension needed before venturing out on the potholed wasteland laughingly referred to as the Shropshire road network. It's not that it's bad, but it feels like some of these roads haven't been touched since the Romans left... Have you driven up the Bridgnorth road lately? – it's a good place to play 'spot the tarmac'. Perhaps the potholes could be renamed 'Plunge Pools' which is a bit more upmarket. Apparently, Shropshire Council was given just over £6 Million extra by the Government for road repairs and then took £5 Million out for Adult Social Care. Personally, I wouldn't want to sacrifice good handling qualities for more comfort so I'll stick to a conventional hatchback or estate.

There are any number of makes to choose from and it is said that there are no longer any truly bad cars, it's just that some are better than others. A number can be discounted straight away on the grounds of cost so we are looking at the lower end of the price range. There has been a shift in the target population for makers recently which makes things difficult for people watchers as all the old rules regarding driver image have to be revised. Some such as Skoda have gone a bit more up market and have lost their bargain basement image (and price) although many still consider them to be the thinking persons Audi. Their place seems to have been taken by newcomers such as Dacia whilst others such as Kia and Hyundai seem to

be targeting a younger audience with sportier models. Japanese models have a reputation for being worthy but dull (although there are exceptions such as the Mazda MX5).

Italian cars are largely bought with the heart rather than the head with Alfa Romeo constantly on the cusp of producing great cars and then not quite getting there. Fiat seem to have lost their way recently, being kept afloat by the success of the 500 as no one seems to want any of their other models. Ferrari are doing well if you have over £100,000 to spare but have you ever tried getting a bale of hay into one?.

Makes such as Audi, seem to be moving upmarket which is a shame because they look nice but are expensive and mostly driven by psychopaths... It's true! Whenever you notice another vehicle following at a distance of about six inches or attempting a near suicidal overtake, it will almost certainly be an Audi. Their drivers are fast taking on the mantle previously worn by BMW drivers for their 'attitude' but in addition are bitter because they can't afford the Beemer. Back in the day, motor cyclists were always wary of Volvo drivers who were notorious for their poor eyesight, although I am assured that there is no truth in the rumour that prescription windscreens were an option. These days, they seem to be driven by a younger crowd although I always found SAAB drivers more interesting. Sadly the latter are no longer built. Mercedes drivers don't seem to have changed much, mostly being asleep in the middle lane of motorways and Honda Jazz drivers have to be over 80. More next time (possibly).

Steve Todd

David Ward
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Sunday 3 March
The Big Quiz

7pm

Team of Six: £15



Cleobury's participation in the World's Biggest Pub Quiz raising funds for local causes. All proceeds to St Mary's Youth Project.

Monday 4 March
Bingo

8pm



Bingo Mondays at the Club, every Monday evening. Eyes down 8pm. Cash prizes; over 18 only please.

Saturday 9 March
Horse Race Evening

7.30pm – first race

Tickets: £5 incl curry supper



Hosted by Cleobury Mortimer Volleyball Club, this is a great evening of guessing which horses will win the random races on screen. Tickets from Karen Gallagher 07813 050414 or Lyndsey Potter 07896 217910

Sunday 10 March
Six Nations - Ireland v France

3pm

Food 2pm. Only £4



Get ready for the rugby with a traditional Irish meal – bacon, cabbage, mash & gravy. Limited places. Book and pay for your meal in advance at the Club. Or just watch the match in good company.

Saturday 16 March
Six Nations Super Saturday

12.30pm onwards

All three final matches, starting with Italy v France. Look out for the drinks promotions.

Sunday 17 March
Sunday Quiz at the Club

7pm

£2.50pp Teams of four



It's St Patrick's Day! This month's quiz will have an Irish theme to it. Swot up on all things Irish! Come along with your prize-winning team name!

Thursday 21 March
Whist Drive

7.30pm



Whist Drive at the Club, every third Thursday of the month. Come along and join in.

Sunday 24 March
Royal British Legion Lunch

12.30pm

£15



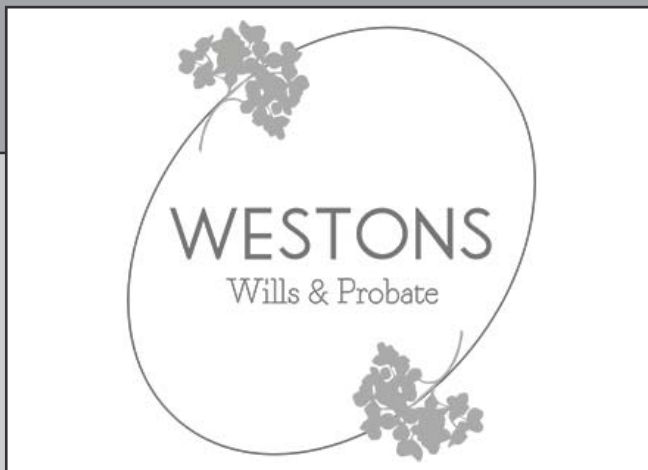
with guest speaker. Tickets available from Ron Breakwell 01299 270830

Tuesday 26 March
Stroke Support Group

2-4pm

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THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Thursday March 7.00. Our AGM at 7.00pm in the Market Hall. Non-members welcome. We have a vacancy on our committee and we do need helpers with our events. If you would like more details of what is involved please contact me or any member of the committee.

On March 24th we have a concert by The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer. The evening is entitled Classic and Romantic and the programme is;

Mendelsohn's Overture: 'Ruy Blas', Opus 95

Stravinsky's Symphony in C. *Moderato alla breve; Larghetto concertante; Allegretto; Largo; Tempo giusto, alla breve*

Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 73. *Allegro non troppo; Adagio non troppo, Allegretto grazioso; Allegro con spirit*

Full details are on our website.

Please note that the Fashion Show, by Edinburgh Woollen Mill, will now be on April 4th at 7.00pm. and not as previously advertised.

Our evening of entertainment and audience participation with the Sea Shanty Singers in February was a sell out and raised £641 for The Friends. Our thanks to

all those who came and supported us.

Don't miss out. Members are given prior notice of our ticket sales and the opportunity to book before the tickets go on general sale.

Alec Osbaldiston

Editor's Note: In a very courteous letter thanking members of the Friends for their support last year, secretary Diane Waddington tells that the programme of events raised £5,000 towards the upkeep and improvement of our lovely parish church. JR.

WELLBEING IN THE WORKPLACE

This is a topical subject, so in an attempt to help those struggling locally we held an event to raise the awareness of wellbeing in the workplace. It was supported by Bromford Homes and Cleobury Mortimer Town Council, and we thank them.

We invited various alternative therapists for public, employers and employees to talk with and to show that there is a lot of support out there that doesn't necessarily require medication.

First was an informative talk by Ollie Welsby from Brightcore Consultancy, showing that mental health pressures are taking a huge toll on society and if it can be caught early, problems can be massively resolved. There were some very scary statistics.

Sue Brown from Cleobury Chiropractic described how important it is to have a well-designed work station and the effects if the place is lacking in any way. Reinforced by Vicky Franklin from Bardley Bowen, showing an image of a young boy with a deformed neck from constantly looking down at his phone.

Caron Rogers of Capulet Care, Lulu West of Yes Vitality, Deana Kimber of Walking For Health, Carl Brooks of Teme Leisure, Kate Byrne of You Can Yoga and Rosemary Jones of You Can Co Crafts. They all chatted through how their skills can help with mental health issues.

Visitors were able to listen to the talks and then chat with the specialists on a one-to-one basis. We'd like to run this event again; if you'd like to come along please contact clare@cleoburycountry.com or call 01299 272300. *Clare Todd*

RAFFLE RESULT

The raffle run by Bev, Kathie, Brett and Indie the hawk was a great success - £683 raised for Newbridge Cat Rescue and Nineveh Care Farm. Loads of prizes, thanks to Servacrane, Hobson's, Tesco and the BBC.

They're planning more of the same and any business that would like to donate a prize can contact bev@panacheadmin.co.uk



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The Town Council average at least one request a week for CCTV footage and to date we understand that it has helped solve three crimes recently, leading to positive convictions. The Police that we deal with are very impressed with the quality of the footage and the system we have in place, also helping residents with insurance claims when damage to cars is reported.

We are looking at quotes at the March meeting, for some projects we are committed to get done this year. The wildflower meadow to add some colour to the skate park area and good for the local insects and wildlife, which came from a suggestion from a local resident and now we are hoping to get the seeds sown in April for all walkers and residents to enjoy. Please look after it and keep your dogs off the area.

The dog training area is another with quotes to look at, as we are a community of many dog walkers, which will provide a safe and secure area to be able to let our dogs run free and help in training. Dog owners will be able to book the area for a fee which allows for uninterrupted training; full details will be publicised.

The other project, the bike trail needs community involvement and we will be working with parents and their children who are interested in a safe area for them to be able to safely ride their bikes. So, if your child is a bike rider and you are interested in joining our group to get your children involved, then please

contact the Council office for more details.

The other big project is the re-vamping of the Childe Road play area, for which we have now received quotes and are going through them to see how we can apply for funding. Not an easy task but one we are determined to push on with. Also, we haven't forgotten the outdoor gym equipment as we got turned down for initial funding but are looking at other ways to apply for grants.

Dementia Friendly Town is coming along really well with local businesses and the schools getting involved. The 10 km road race on 7th July at 10.00am will be supporting the charity this year giving the following commitment from the race organisers.

We've chosen Dementia Friends as something we all believe in, and in support of Cleobury Mortimer's ambitions to become a Dementia Friendly Town - we are hoping our race will help raise awareness of this extremely worthwhile cause. We are planning to use the theme of Dementia Awareness in our race with the forget-me-not flower on the advertising and medals.

Don't forget to put 29th June in your diary for the Cleobury Festival, which we have already started working on with some volunteers, but can always use more.

If you would like to join any local volunteer groups and do not know how or where, please contact us at the Town Council office on 01299 271154 or email matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk.

Next Council meeting is on Monday 4th March, 7.00pm at the Cleobury Country Centre.



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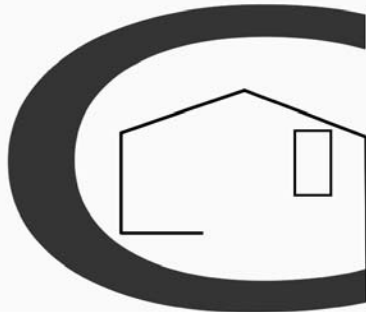
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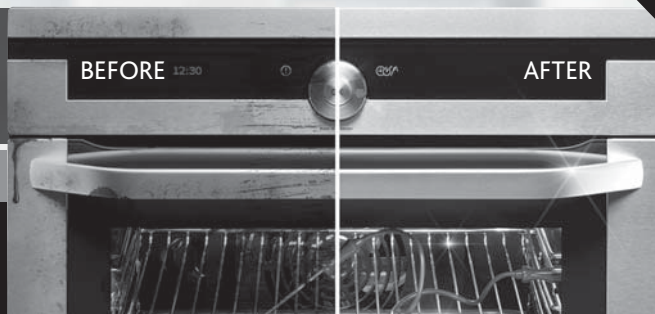
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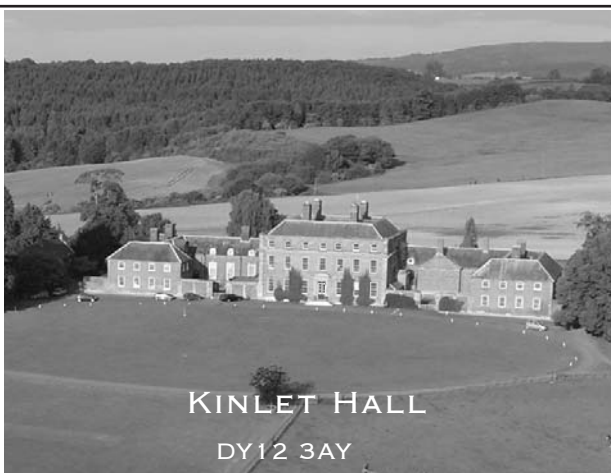


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CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 22nd

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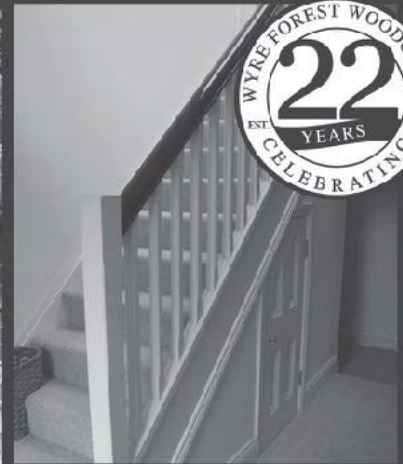
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Lettings

Property landlords are facing a lot of change at the moment, with the latest update being the introduction of mandatory five-year electrical installation checks on private rented housing. The new rules will be phased in with agents and landlords being given at least six months to familiarise themselves with the legislation. Those properties already covered by a valid Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) won't need to replace it until five years after it was granted. All inspectors hired to issue an EICR must have the relevant qualifications and be competent to conduct inspections. Failure to comply with this will result in tough financial penalties.



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