

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

MARCH 2020

OUR GOLDEN TOWN COUNCIL

There's a rather special event due to happen at 6.45pm on Monday, March 2nd. Before the Town Council goes about its regular business meeting they will be presented with a Gold Standard certificate for the way they run the town. Rosemary Abbiss, vice chair of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils will be handing it over and may take the opportunity to say how the current Town Council have progressed.

They were recommended to apply for a rating two years ago and got the Silver award. With that experience of the test behind them, they set their target higher, aimed for the top and got there. Let's not forget that this is a group of volunteers, given invaluable help of course by Town Clerk Matt Sheehan.

The Clarion will be there on the 2nd, when the public can also attend and witness our town being acclaimed as a place

that's well run. We'll have a full report for you next month.

STEPPING OUT

We promised you this new feature in last month's issue and you'll find it on Page 53. The response to the idea has been amazing, with this month's page quickly filled and more than half next month's content already sitting and waiting to be published. And this is with only limited contact made in the very local area. I do hope the group walking out of Ditton Priors, who explained they were really only heading for a local pub, will see this and realise that they are welcome to contribute.

There are some notable walking events coming up in 2020. The Pound the Bounds around Rock Parish will be raising funds for the County Air Ambulance again and here in Cleobury we will be remembering Simon Evans, the town's famous postman, and conducting walks over part of his daily route. That's a scenic treat too good miss. Read about it on these pages.

THE CLEOBURY COUNTRY TRADE CARD

What started life as the Chamber of Trade Card many years ago has grown and taken on a far smarter appearance since it was taken over by Cleobury Country. This year it runs to 12 pages, full of local businesses who can cover just about any need that will arise, short of making the trains run on time. Don't mention the buses, please.....

It's being distributed door to door within Cleobury and the Clarion's stockists will all have copies with their March issue delivery. If they run out, we will have back-up supplies when the Clarion goes out in April.

It's a credit to the Cleobury Country team, where Clare Todd and her no-nonsense way of chasing advertisers gets the job done. And we should also mention Sam Dolphin, who's been part of the Centre team until a new job came her way. So a big welcome Sandra Dodd as the new face at the counter.

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The Cleobury Clarion, March 2020

Volume Fourteen - Edition Eleven



Owl Watch. Kit Smith reports as the new owl season opens. Have you heard hooting? See Page 9.



Llewella Harding, a young lady in love with cooking See Page 13.



Walking for Health. A very good way to spend a morning and catch some good scenery. See 'Stepping Out' on Page 53.

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MRS GRUMPY TREADS ON TOES

I must write to take issue with Mrs Grumpy over the implied criticism of charity shop clothes in the comment about her own sartorial standards and those of Dominic Cummings (Clarion February 2020); she obviously isn't one of the many regular customers visiting our own Severn Hospice shop. There, thanks to generous donors and staff and volunteers who carefully sort and prepare the goods, there are many items to choose from; also in generous supply are the compliments received and reported by those wearing items bought from us.

An aggrieved volunteer.

In fairness, Mrs Grumpy did not infer that low standards like her own apply at the Severn Hospice Shop. As the proud wearer of jackets bought there, I know how good they are. JR.

CLOWS TOP GARDEN CLUB

March brings signs of longer days, green shoots and fresh sunny days. It's also Mother's Day this month on the 22nd; for a simple gift add some packets of annual seeds in the cards,

after sowing these flowers will last all summer long.

Jobs to Do This Month:

Plant up a trough of alpines, making sure they have good drainage.

Harvest hazel twigs for plant supports before they leaf up.

Sow peppers, aubergines and tomatoes in a heated propagator.

Drain and clean out water butts; make sure lids fit tightly.

Lift and divide snowdrops and aconites to make new clumps.

Patch-repair lawns where needed by seeding or cutting a section of new turf.

Check ties on young trees to ensure they are not restrictive.

Photograph and note areas where you'd like more bulbs next year.

Move or plant evergreens.
Prune and feed roses.

Our next meeting is on March 25th, when the speaker will be Bill White on Propagation, and it will also be members Spring Show.

Pauline Bowen

LOCAL VALUE BEST

I was driving home from an exhibition at the Bath and West Showground and decided to take a look at the M5 Gloucester Services area, where I'd read it was run as a local farmers and producers outlet. I'd tried one on the M6 in Cumbria and been impressed, so hoped for good things.

Small bottles of local ale at £2.90 a time were worth a try, Shropshire Blue cheese is always a treat and satsumas at 40p each were no sort of bargain. But this is a motorway outlet, so not going to be cheap.

A Green Bean and Potato Curry meal tempted my tastebuds and I didn't notice the price until I got home. At £7.95 it had better be good. Frankly, it lacked flavour and I certainly wouldn't buy it again. The pack said "Authentic Indian Ready Meals" but compared with a vegetable curry from the ever reliable Spice Express it was an overpriced experiment that didn't work for me.

SILLY BIT

If a very old driver doesn't get it right, could you say he's past carring?

Mike Jackson

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

“Taking a stand against SCAMS”. Well, who would not want to do that you might think and with four million people in the UK being scammed a year, this talk was most illuminating.



Our speaker, Jamie Mackaill, of the NatWest bank, gave us an insight into the strategies scammers adopt to hand over our money and once we have given it, the Banks will not reimburse us. Jamie stressed to be less trusting, not to let people into your home, even with identification if you have not arranged to be inspected, do not believe your computer will collapse unless money is paid immediately. Always check with your Bank if asked for a transfer of money and be careful when making friends on social media who may suddenly have a

relative who needs an expensive operation and desperately needs money.

It is wonderful to think so many people want to help and give support and tragic that their kindness is so abused. After a much needed and delicious piece of cake and a cup of tea, we all walked out utterly determined not to fall for any of the SCAMS. Thank you Jamie.

I am sorry I gave the wrong date for our “Winter Warmer Lunch” but luckily we had great support and the soups and desserts were much enjoyed. Thank you to the lovely cooks and the charming servers. We are looking forward to the next meeting on March 10th, 7.30 pm and welcoming Tina Hobin, who will introduce “Belly Dancing for everyone”. I shall definitely wear something comfortable and hope you will join us as a member or our guest.

Gabby Franklin

A CONFESSION

I went to this W.I.meeting, that Gabby reports so well, one of several men admitted as guests. As the editor of the Clarion, I have too frequently warned readers not to trust any approach from a stranger who wants your money. And have lacked sympathy for those who

have been robbed in this way. In one case the victim gave the caller his pin number and had his savings account emptied. In my complacency I believed I would never fall for such a trick.

Until an email from a local man I know and respect asked if I could help him, as he wanted to send an Amazon gift card to his grand daughter for her birthday and could not get a decent connection on his mobile as he was travelling. He promised to pay me back as soon as he was home.

I fell for it, trusting what I thought was a friend in need, and sent the gift card off. Then came an apology from the same man, saying his granddaughter actually wanted slightly more than he had asked for. At last, an alarm bell rang in my head.

I emailed my friend, asking if he was at home or away travelling. He confirmed he was at home and well, but not happy that his computer had been raided the week before.

This was an experience dearly bought. I could afford the modest amount lost, but the dent in my ego will take a long time to mend.

If you called me a fool before this happened I would have ignored the taunt.

Not now. JR

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OWL WATCH



A barn owl, doing what comes naturally with a rat to feed its hungry chicks.

The 2020 owl season is under way. Having found a mate, a territory and a nesting hole or owl box, our owls are now starting to nest, some even sitting on eggs. They seem from reports of increased hoots to be telling other owls to keep off their territories as they prepare for the busy time bringing up their owlets by summer time.

Cleobury Owl Watch did manage to put up three new nesting boxes along Hobson's Wildlife Corridor - one Barn owl and two Tawny. Another seven (two barn, five tawny) are due to be put up in the parish but not until May so as not to disturb existing territories. That will cover and hopefully expand the areas of available nesting sites

identified by owl watchers in 2000.

If anyone hears hootings at different areas from last year please do tell me so placing the new boxes will be easier, and if you hear or see owlets in the next few months please do tell me. Kit Smith worthpack@aol.co. Information is power to help our owls.

Kit Smith

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

On Thursday March 5th at 7.00 in The Market Hall we have our AGM. Members and non-members are invited to attend to meet the committee and ask questions and/or make suggestions to help us with our work. We will have a vacancy on our committee and welcome nominations or volunteers to join us.

On Friday March 13th, starting at 7.30 in the Sports and Social Club we have a Quiz Night with Fish and Chip supper. You are invited to form a team of four. Tickets £10, each person, are now available from members of the committee or from Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Pharmacy and Spire Hairdressing.

We look forward to seeing you.
Alec Osbaldiston

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

Following the success of our sold-out Burns lunches, and St George's lunch last year, we thought we'd do a "mash-up" of St David & St Patrick and hold a lunch to celebrate Wales and Ireland. A two-course meal and entertainment for £7! Saturday 21st March at Doddington Village Hall. Tickets from church members and Celia. Our April Event is the Great Doddington Bake Off - open to all-comers, so gather your best bakes and bring them along on Saturday 11th April to compete for prizes in one or more of the categories - look out for more details.

In our project to improve and repair the church, news of an encouraging step along the way: we now have permissions for all the works from the relevant authorities - thanks to a National Lottery Awards for All grant which has helped us to develop our project. With some other grants in place towards running the project and doing the works, we now need the remainder of that funding. If you would like to know more, call Celia on 01584 318036 or email stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com.

People of Cleobury, can you help us again by gifting us more teddies and soft toys. We are mounting a big push, so we need your help. With your help we have sent soft toys to deprived children all over the world, and even sent them to less fortunate children in the UK. Please help by dropping your treasured soft toys off at the Market Hall in Cleobury.
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CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

As the nights are drawing out and the days are getting warmer (well soon anyway!) we can look forward to spring. Catherton Common is a particularly important area for ground nesting birds at this time of year and one of its iconic species is the Curlew, also known as the 'Herald of Spring'. Unfortunately the success of nesting curlew on the common has declined hugely in recent years reflecting a nationwide decline in the species but is also partly due to the increasing numbers of people, dogs and predators forced onto smaller and smaller areas of green space. Curlew numbers have declined 77% in the last 20 years

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has been working with the 'Curlew Country' Project and the local Community Wildlife Group in an attempt to reverse this lack of breeding success. In the Cleve Hills, including Catherton, we are looking to identify nest sites and protect them from predators with temporary electric fencing. To find out more visit the Curlew Country website.

To help protect our curlews we need dog walkers to observe the legal restrictions on open access land and keep dogs on a lead.

The Skylarks and Stonechats are very busy too and vocal at this early stage, these are also ground nesting birds easily disturbed if dogs are quartering the ground off the lead.

In order to protect our ground nesting birds and avoid any disturbance please act responsibly:

Do not let dogs off the lead roaming across the common between 1st March and 31st July.

Reduce to a minimum driving vehicles off-road onto the common, do not take vehicles where you do not have a right of access.

Keep to rights of way and well worn paths as much as possible when you access the common.

Clive Dean - SWT Reserves Officer South

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND!

Early in February, I arrived for work at the Severn Hospice Shop and to my disgust, was met by a very large parcel, left behind from obviously a very large dog.

This package was left right in the middle of the pavement outside the shop, unlike other donations left outside the door, which on numerous occasions have been taken in!

So I am asking dog owners to clear up after our canine friends. It is not a difficult or costly job -

the £1.00 shops sell a variety of poo bags at a bargain price. Surprise, surprise - £1.00

It is not cool

To leave your dog's stool

Please be polite and scoop

Your pet dog's poop

Jayne Leach

Assistant Manager, Severn Hospice Shop

THE PARISH HALL

This very lively asset offers so much more than the popular 'Flicks in the Sticks' that shows a good movie every month for a mere £4.00.

Building a following for her weekly exercise classes that help to ease aches and pains is Sarah Poole, who travels in from Halesowen every Wednesday to offer an hour of Seated Exercise for the less mobile from 11.00am. Then at 12.30 she offers a Pilates class to cater for the more active amongst us, a service that's gaining a lot of support as people discover a world of relaxation and less pain.

A special evening to look forward to is the return of the highly acclaimed Military Wives Choir on Saturday April 11th. 7.30 is the starting time and £10.00 the very reasonable price of tickets.

You can see why the Hall is so heavily booked with such a range of attractions on offer.

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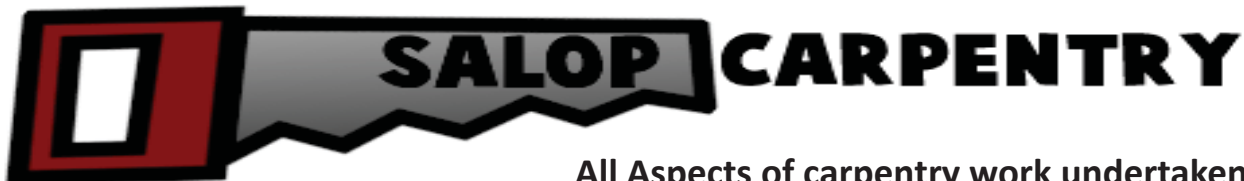
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IN LOVE WITH COOKING



Llewella Harding. You say what you want on your party menu and she'll present it with style.

She bubbles with enthusiasm for the work she does. When Llewella left school she wanted to get into catering and that meant starting at the bottom of the scale. She took a job as a pot washer at a pub and kept her eyes and ears open, learning whenever she could. Chefs who recognised her keenness would explain jobs to her and she took it all in.

She also learned humanity. "When you start at the bottom, you learn the value of people under you as you move up," she reasons. "I know what it's

like to work until 2.00 in the morning."

She did break away and try a more conventional career path, working in an office. But that daily repetition just didn't work for this young woman with an imagination and ambition. She took a job that really appealed; sous chef at the Gainsborough Hotel, working under head chef Phil. "An incredible chef, he really inspired me," she says. But Phil moved on and suddenly she was acting head chef in her early 20s. "Everything from 50 or 60 covers a day to 250 for a wedding. 14 to 16 hours a day."

She stood that for six months before looking for less stress and finding it in the King's Arms here in Cleobury. Five years there established her style and at the end of last year she opted to go self employed. She was already doing little jobs for friends' parties and loving it.

She has a wide variety of work coming her way because she's so flexible. "I'll ask you to write out the menu and I'll do it." All the cooking is by her, using the customer's kitchen ("It's easier serving if you're cooking on the premises.") or if it's big job she'll rent a local facility.

She uses local suppliers whenever possible, drawing on the experience acquired in her work in pubs. Take a look at her Facebook page on Llewella Mays Event Catering to see what customers think of her. You can call her on 0796 322 1673 or Llewella.harding@outlook.com

She's starting out in a very competitive business, but just look at her track record and you can see that she can cope with just about any challenge. We wish her every success.

DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Just a reminder that the club starts on March 10th then we meet again on the 24th. The start time is 2.00 o'clock ending at 4.00pm in Doddington Village Hall. We have a varied programme that will include music, games, strawberry tea and talks by funny and interesting speakers. We would love you to come as our guest.

Ann Belcher

SILLY BIT

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Anonymous, but you can it was written by a woman.....

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Turn to Page 37 for details of a further job vacancy

Job Title/Company	Job Requirements	How to Apply
Horse Treks Motivated person to join the riding school team, possibly as apprentice	BHS/UKCC Qualified, varied stable duties at yard on Shropshire/Worcestershire borders	Send CV to enquiries@horsetreks.co.uk
Cleobury Mortimer Market Hall Manager	Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage bookings & finances • Oversea maintenance • Promotion of the venue 	Send CV and covering letter to: markethall@cleobury.org.uk by 18th march 2020
Ever After Nursery Qualified Nursery Practitioner	Full and part time positions available in this busy Cleobury Mortimer based nursery	Contact Details: everafternursery@hotmail.co.uk



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MET AT THE MARKET

A brief visit to the Cleobury Country Farmers' Market in February, but as always there were interesting things to see and clever people to talk to.

A regular stop for me is the Good Game stall, where there are always sausages of an unusual blend. Venison is often part of it, so never a disappointment. And the Bennett and Dunn's rapeseed oil is a standard part of my kitchen stock, despite my inability as a cook. Rupert Bennett was on duty and told that they have recently bought out Spilsbury's, the only rape seed oil manufacturer in Herefordshire. So a fair distance between the established base in Shropshire and the new addition.

A chat with Karen Clutton, better known in her Clarion advert as Clara, revealed her habit of taking old Barbour waxed cotton jackets and remaking into a variety of handy items. She has a remarkable skill for adapting both garments and materials to provide something entirely different, recycling of a high degree far beyond the average idea of the concept.

Fi Nicholls had the neighbouring stall, showing a range of pretty figures hand

made from alpaca fleece taken from her own and friends's animals. There's a growing interest in these gentle natives of Peru, sometimes confused with the larger llama. Google tells me the alpaca is descended from the vicuna, a very rare goat whose fleece was spun into a yarn to produce one of the most expensive cloths I ever saw in my brief time in the fabric trade. I view the alpaca with a greater respect now. Fi Nicholls is at fiona.nicholls321@hotmail.co.uk

Market regulars will have noticed the circular wooden signs giving the name of each trader. A good rural touch that adds to the event's character. I asked manager Clare Todd who made them and she admitted it was her. "Just scrounged some wood and painted them," as she put it. That woman is too darned modest.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Branch's next social event will be our Annual Luncheon, to be held at the Sports and Social Club on March 15th, meeting at 12.30 for 1.00. Lt Col Mark Jacks, OBE, of the Mercian Regiment, will be speaking about his tours of duty in Northern Ireland. Tickets cost £16 each, and are obtainable from Branch

President Ron Breakwell (01299 270830) or Mark Baldwin (01299 270110).

The first coach outing of the year will be to RAF Cosford on April 23rd. Tickets at £14 each will be available as above.

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

Mark Baldwin

THE LACON LOTTERY

The school's lottery is up and running again, open to anyone who enjoys a little flutter with half the proceeds going to the school and the other half to the monthly winners. Full details on line at lacon-childe.org.uk/parents/parent-teacher-association, where you can download an entry form and hand it and your stake in at the school office. That website address is almost an English exam in itself!

The lottery runs from March to December, with a prize each month. For a tenner, it's good value.

SILLY BIT

I changed my Ipod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.



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THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

William Scott gave us an interesting talk on the history of the walled garden. He and his wife have worked tirelessly to restore the walled garden at Worcester, an ongoing task. Walled gardens were first developed in Persia as a place of sanctuary. They are always a regular shape with four garden areas and a central feature to collect water for irrigation. The first English garden was designed and built around 1577. A garden labyrinth for sensitive and rare plants, it provided a micro climate for them to thrive. Most such gardens in England were developed for growing fruit and vegetables; a glass house would be placed on the south side for exotic fruits and sensitive vegetables and the remainder divided up into regular shapes often bordered by fruit trees that were trained along wires. Fruit trees would also be trained along the walls where they would benefit from the heat absorbed by the walls. All plants cultivated in a walled garden benefit from the shelter of the walls. Will went on to show us pictures of many English gardens worth a visit.

Our next meeting is on March 9th in the Community Hub; it is also our Spring Flower Competition, entries in a standard 12 oz. jam jar. It is also

Members' Question Time so please come with any gardening questions that you think members will be able to help you with. *Liz Smurthwaite*

THE READING GROUP

Something of a change this time as we all had a different book of contemporary poetry from the Shropshire Library Reading Group sets. Only two people appreciated the content of their books, the rest of us found it hard going; however, the meeting went well. Poetry in general was discussed, plus several people brought their own favourite verses along to read to us. We also enjoyed a reading of items from the Poetry Group, a nice melding of two local groups.

As an experiment the books were not a great experience but a pleasant evening developed. Back to normal this month, we all have a copy of 'Norwegian By Night', a debut thriller by Derek B. Miller. The next meeting will be on March 16th where we will express our opinions, good, bad or indifferent. It's always good to hear the wide range of views.

Deana Kimber 271754

CHOCOLATE BINGO!

We don't know who thought this idea up, but it sounds good and should taste better. Lacon Childe School are giving the concept its Cleobury Mortimer debut on Friday March 27th,

with a 7.00 o'clock start and the promise of chocolate prizes for a line, two lines and a full house. As if that wasn't enough, they'll have a raffle, a licensed bar and refreshments. Prepare for excess if you're heading that way.

PIE AND PINT NIGHT

A tasty night for the Severn Hospice Pie and Pint event. Mark Baldwin went down memory lane for his audience in the "Love Codes" on early 1900s post cards when the world of courtship was very different. Some were simple but others very much more intricate as our postal systems developed and offered more space for messages.

Pete Edwards' pies were delicious and the varied flavours, especially the game ones, all vanished. Many thanks to Pete of Wyre Pies for his donation and Andy Gould for his Samaritan act of delivering them to the Club.

The Sports and Social Club did us proud, thank you Alison for juggling with the Pint part of the ticket and help with blowing up the balloons. Severn Hospice gained £300 - thank you all. Glad you enjoyed it.

Madge Shineton

SILLY BIT

"We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat. They do not exist."

Queen Victoria in fine patriotic mood about the Boer War. History was not kind to her on this occasion.

The Clarion is available on the World Wide Web on the fourth of the month, complete with all advertisements.

www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

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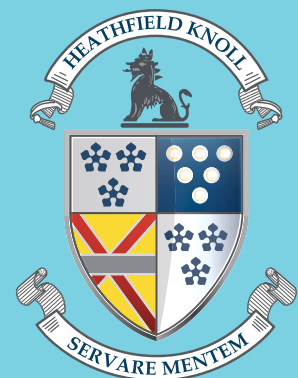
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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

We met at Lacon Childe on February 11th to hear about a very successful business - Olwen Sales on 'In the Saddle'.

The subtitle 'Making Dreams Come True' provides an insight into what Olwen and her team achieve with their highly specialist travel firm, which sells horse-riding holidays in locations all round the world, except in the UK. Having worked as an accountant, Olwen was well placed to expand a personal interest into a thriving business. 'In the Saddle' was launched in 1995, when Olwen was in London, but as the business grew, she and husband James wanted a property, away from London, with enough room for family, business, and their own horses.

James was no stranger to Shropshire, having been to school in Ludlow, and felt they could find the perfect property here. He was right and they discovered Reaside Farm in Neen Savage in 2003, and this now serves them well as a place to live and work, despite initial worries about the speed and reliability of internet access, essential for a business

such as this. They now employ nine staff to process the huge number of enquiries generated. Their customers have dreams - of riding along empty beaches, tasting cowboy life in the Mid-West, or getting right away from the modern world, exploring places which can only be accessed by horse. 'In the Saddle' can make such dreams come true. Each year, they match about 2,500 customers to foreign riding holidays, and one measure of success is the high volume of repeat business. Their highest-scoring customer has already been on 117 of their holidays - and hasn't finished yet.

Most of their customers are women in their 50s, but age is no bar, as their oldest is over 90. 'In the Saddle' is the biggest riding business in the UK, and one of the biggest in the world, offering over 100 different holidays, all which have been personally assessed, so if you're looking for an unusual holiday and can already ride you know where to turn.

The next meeting of the Club takes place on March 10th at the Golf Club, when our speaker will be Phil Howl, talking about the restoration of Neen Sollars station. Those

wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

MEMORY WALK

Cleobury CoCo are organising a Memory Walk in collaboration with CMFA/Walking for Health and the CM Beavers on Wednesday April 8th, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon at the Market Hall.

Join Walking for Health for a walk around Cleobury, reminiscing about the buildings and way of life in years gone by. Walks will be lead by members of the Walking for Health team and locals who will share their memories. The walks will be suitable for all, including those with scooters and take place in small groups. Afterwards everyone will meet upstairs at the Market Hall for coffee and cakes served by the CoCo ladies and Beavers, where we will also be joined by members of Laugh, Sing, Breathe for a few songs. £1.50 per person, proceeds to be shared between CoCo and MIND.



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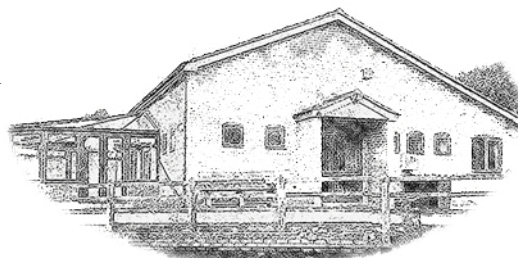
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice
Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice.
March 2020

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 1st-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock.

8th,15th, 22nd & 29th -8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

World Day of Prayer– Service at 7.30pm.

Wholeness Service– Service at 7.00pm. All welcome.

Drop in at St Mary's– Thursday 19th, 10.30am-11.30am. Hosted by the Pastoral Care Group-a confidential listening service for the whole of the Cleobury Community. All welcome.

Prayers for Lent– Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Mothering Sunday Service– Sunday 22nd March, all welcome at the 9.45am service.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 1st-10.00am Eucharist, 8th-6.30pm Evensong, 15th-10.00am Matins, 22nd-6.30pm Evensong, 29th-No service.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-6.30pm Evensong, 22nd-9.00am Eucharist, 29th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 1st-10.00am Eucharist, 8th-10.00am Eucharist, 15th- 10.00am Family service, 22nd-10.00am Eucharist, 29th-10.00am Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Kidderminster Male Choir– Saturday 7th. Tickets £10.00 to include a glass of wine. Please contact Marilyn for more information (513212)

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-3.00pm Evening prayer, 29th-No service.

Events/Activities:

St David's & St Patrick's Day lunch-Tickets £ 7.00, 1.00pm at Doddington Village Hall. Contact 01584 318036 for tickets. A Welsh & Irish themed lunch.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-11.00am Village Worship, 29th-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-11.00am Eucharist, 23rd-No service, 29th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday & Thursday from 9.00am-2.00pm
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CLEE HILL WILDLIFE

If you are interested in wildlife in the local area the Clee Hill Community Wildlife group invites you to attend an evening of short talks to be held on Wednesday March 18th, at 7.30pm in Clee Hill Village Hall. This event is free and will provide an opportunity to find out the results from the work undertaken in 2019 and discuss projects in 2020. Projects include, Birds of the Hill Survey, Save our Curlews Campaign, Wild Flower Monitoring, Butterflies and Moths, Novers Wood and Reptile and Amphibian Surveys. Refreshments will be available as well as a raffle. Everyone welcome, please feel free just to come along.

The Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group is one of 11 such groups across Shropshire which aim to: bring together people interested in wildlife, undertake survey work to establish the status of key wildlife species and their habitats, encourage and enhance local interest in wildlife and actively promote conservation. Involvement with the group is free and open to anyone. There is no need to be

an expert or skilled in identification, just an interest in our local area and its wildlife.

For more information about the groups visit the Shropshire Community Wildlife Groups website at www.shropscwgs.org.uk, or webmaster@shropscwgs.org.uk

Chris Bargman

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

In February we welcomed member Mary Warrilow, to talk about Lipoedema, a debilitating disorder where there is an abnormal build up of fat and fluids mainly on the lower parts of the body. It is a chronic, long term condition that primarily affects women and generally develops at times of hormonal change – puberty, pregnancy and menopause. There is also a genetic link and the condition can run in families, more research is needed to identify those at risk and reasons for the occurrence. Women with the condition are told they are obese and to lose weight; they suffer from poor mental health and low self esteem, limited mobility, skin sensitivity, joint pain and the financial impact of not being able to work. Symptoms can be helped with

compression garments or bandages, exercise and skincare, diet and psychological support, however only 5% of sufferers are identified by their GP and 44% by specialist nurses, leaving many women undiagnosed. It is suggested over 10% of women may have the condition so this leaves many suffering in silence. Lipoedema UK was formed in 2012, dedicated to raising awareness amongst health care professionals and others and calling for more research and better funding of treatments by the NHS. If anyone wants more information please contact Catherine on the number below and we can help.

Neen Savage WI are determined to continue campaigning for the National Federation of WIs to adopt Lipoedema Awareness as a Resolution to spread the word to a larger audience.

On Wednesday, March 11th Lucy Shier from Bee Biotic will talk on everything Bee related. Visitors always welcome, £4 to include refreshments and raffle ticket. For more information please contact me on 01299 270647. *Catherine Evans*



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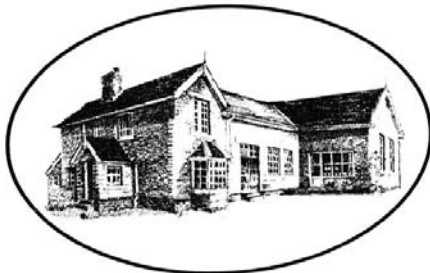
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CLEE HILL BIRD GROUP

The Bird Group has been looking for Curlews and Lapwings around Clee Hill since 2012, and working with the SOS "Save our Curlews" campaign to find and protect nests with electric fences for the last two years. We found seven pairs, and fenced four nests last year.

We are repeating both parts of this work in 2020, and need more helpers for the Bird Survey. Without the survey locating the Curlews in April, the nest finders' job is much more difficult. The survey is easy, and only involves half a day at the beginning of April, beginning of May and mid-June, about nine hours in all. Simple instructions are provided, and there's a practical training session on the hill for anyone that wants it.

If you can help, or want to find out more about it, please come to the Bird Group meeting at 7.30pm on Monday, 23rd March at the Recreation rooms, 22a Clee Hill High Street, or contact Chris Bargman on 01299 270514, emailchcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk

Curlews start arriving back during March, and landowners and everyone one else are

requested to report the locations of any that you see or hear to Chris as soon as possible. These reports are very important, as they help us find where the Curlews are breeding. Please don't assume we already know about any you come across.

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

March sees the continuation of Six Nations Rugby, with hot pork or beef rolls being served in the Club for the England matches on Saturdays March 7th and 14th, both kick-off times 4.45pm. The hot beef/pulled pork rolls have proved popular for the last three England matches, but be warned, once they're gone, they're gone!

On Friday, March 13th, the Friends of St Mary's Church are holding a Quiz Night, register at 7pm for 7.30pm start.

The Royal British Legion are holding their annual lunch in the Club on Sunday, March 15th. Tickets are £16 each.

CM Rugby Club are at home to Uttoxeter on Saturday, March 21st, Veseyans on Saturday the 28th and Wednesbury on Saturday, April 4th. All matches kick-off at 2.15pm.

After a dismal, wet Winter, the clocks go forward on Sunday,

March 29th and we can look forward to warmer, sunnier days - fingers crossed. Keep the kids occupied at the Family Bingo to be held in the late afternoon that day between 4.00 and 6.00pm.

For more information please call in at the Club, or contact us on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page *Glenys Turpin*

SEVERN HOSPICE BIRTHDAY

The Severn Hospice Community Shop will be celebrating its 10th Birthday in Cleobury Mortimer at the beginning of April.

We will be holding four days of fun, including a daily raffle with lovely prizes, and on Saturday 4th April, we will be serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes from 11.00 to 4.00 and will also have a fabulous Tombola.

On the Saturday, there will be a pop-up Craft Shop, selling fabric, haberdashery and other crafty items. Please come down and join in the fun as we celebrate.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your support and friendship over the past 10 years. Here's to the next 10 years and beyond.

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BUSY HOPTON WAFERS

Hopton Wafers church are endeavouring to raise funds to have toilet facilities installed at the back of the church. With this in mind, two social events have been arranged.

On Saturday March 7th we are delighted to have the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir giving a concert in the church at 7.00. Tickets are £10.00, which includes a complementary drink in the interval.

On Saturday April 25th the Annual Spring Supper will be at Doddington Village Hall, with a two course meal provided by The Clock House, Tenbury Wells. Please provide your own drinks and glasses. Tickets are £12.50, and for children under 12 £6.25.

Tickets for both events are available from Marilyn Wood on 01299 513212 or Posy Davies on 270547. *Marilyn Wood*

THE GIN WALK

All in aid of Severn Hospice, Shaunah Murrell is organising a Gin Walk on Friday the 13th of April. That's an ideal day to sip a drop of Mother's Ruin and tell yourself that Friday the 13th

is never really unlucky. Just please take care crossing the road if you're taking part - we do not want to lose Clarion readers.

Tickets cost £18.00, there are three venues named and include four premium gins complemented by Fever Free tonics and each venue will offer free nibbles and snacks. Soft drinks, beer or wine can also be provided if you arrange it before the day with an email to cleobury.ginwalk@btconnect.com.

Tickets are available from the Hospice Shop, Cleobury Pharmacy, Swift's Tea Room and the Larch Barn Cafe. Enjoy!

THE KITE FESTIVAL IS BACK

Good news for anyone who's been drawn to the sports field at Lacon Childe School when the sun is high in the summer sky and full of interesting shapes and colours. That's when the annual Shropshire Kite Festival is back in town.

Helene and Paul Morgan of Sky Bums in Wem are the driving force behind the event and this year are featuring their Rhombox kite in carbon fibre as the latest development using modern materials.

They are looking forward to greeting kite enthusiasts from Kent, London, Wales and most parts of the UK, all out to show off their designs and skills. If you fancy trying this attractive and silent way of flight, they'll have kites or do it yourself kits, all with help and encouragement for newcomers. Great family stuff, from primary school age to grandparents.

More details from Sky Bums on 01939 234486 but don't forget to put the dates in your diary - July 18th and 19th.

CANCER CAMPAIGN

Cancer Research UK have a campaign to persuade Prime Minister Boris Johnson to support the NHS with more funding for cancer tests. Their logic is simple - one in every two people in the UK will get cancer in their lifetime. So the facilities to test everyone will mean early treatment and less pressure on the treatment of serious cancers in hospitals. We should all know that prevention is better than cure, and it's lot less expensive too.

Google up Cancer Research UK and sign their petition. It only takes a few minutes and could save a life.

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In January I was fortunate to be drawn seventh in the ballot for Private Member’s Bills – a very rare opportunity, since there are 650 MPs and all but Ministers, the Speaker and Deputy Speakers can apply for the ballot. This was the first time I have had such luck since first elected in 2005.

A Private Member’s Bill is one not introduced by government, as it says on the label, but still aims to change the law, on a subject of my choice this session. I was doubly fortunate to be drawn seventh, since it is the lowest place on the ballot that is guaranteed an opportunity for the Bill to be discussed, with enough time remaining in the Parliamentary session to have a chance of becoming law.

I was keen to use this opportunity to make a difference on a health or environmental issue. I had several potential ideas, but was not fixed on any one, so I asked constituents to suggest potential changes they would like to see become law. I am very grateful to the many people who got in touch to put forward proposals. Some were either too general or too substantial in terms of legislative complexity or scope to be suitable for a PMB. But there were several good suggestions.

Since asking constituents for suggestions, I am also delighted to say I was elected by the House of Commons to become Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee. This is a Committee on which I have sat for the last two years, helping to scrutinise the government’s record on climate change and the environment, taking a particularly keen interest in water, air and soil quality.

Given my new role as Chairman of the EAC, I decided an environmental measure would be the most appropriate use of my Private Member’s Bill. So in early February, I decided to propose a Bill, suggested by a constituent, with the intention to help materially to clean up Britain’s rivers and watercourses. The Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill will seek to place a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters.

At present, treatment of waste water is required to different standards according to the area and population it serves. But given that an Environment Agency report found 86% of our rivers do not meet current environmental standards, it is clear the current system is not working. So my Bill aims to clamp down on raw sewage entering rivers from overflowing or poorly functioning sewage treatment works.

Work has now begun with the Parliamentary Clerks to find the best way of drafting this Bill to make it effective. I am engaging with government to seek their support, as well as many interested experts and organisations, to have the best chance of my Bill passing and becoming law. I will formally introduce it on the floor of the House on Friday July 10th, my first opportunity to do so in the Parliamentary calendar. I will update constituents from time to time about its progress.

Philip Dunne



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Sun 1st	10.00	The Parish Walk starts at the Parish Church. It will be wet... PAGE 53		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at The Kings Arms, Church Street, acoustic only		
Mon 2nd	8.00	Bingo Night at the Sports and Social Club. £1 admission; £4.30 eight games		
Tues 3rd	2.00	Hearing Aid support clinic, St Mary's Place Community Room		
Wed 4th	10.30	Rhyme Time with Ever After Nursery tots at the Library on Love Lane		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 5th		BLACK WHEELIE RUBBISH BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00	AGM of St Mary's Friends. All welcome. PAGE 9		
Sat 7th	8.00am	Sale of Household Goods, Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
Mon 9th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group gather at the Library, Love Lane		
	7.30	Horticultural Society Spring Flower Competition, St Mary's Hub PAGE 19		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Sports and Social club, Love Lane		
Tues 10th	7.30	The Breakfast Club gather at the Golf Club. PAGE 21		
	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club meet at the Village Hall PAGE 13		
Wed 11th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at The Market Hall, Church Street		
	10.00	Walking for Health step out for tour of the town from the Market Hall PAGE 53		
	12.30	Soup Lunch at the Meville Chapel in Oretton		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI listen to Lucy Shier from Bee Biotic at the Village Hall		
Thurs 12th		GREEN WHEELIE GARDEN BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 13th	7.30	Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper, Sports and Social Club PAGE 9		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sun 15th	12.30/1pm	British Legion Lunch at the Sports and Social Club. PAGE 17		
Mon 16th	7.30	The Reading Group gather at the Library, Love Lane for a friendly meeting. PAGE 19		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Sports and Social Club		
Wed 18th	09.30	Footpath Association work party		
	10.30	Rhyme Time with CM Gateway Nursery tots at the Library, Love Lane		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
	7.30	Clee Hill Wildlife annual meeting in the Village Hall. PAGE 25		

The Royal British Legion's Annual Luncheon will be held at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane again, on Sunday, March 15th. Members and Guest will gather at 12.30 to dine at 1.00.

Mrs Gregory, who runs a programme of coach trips from her home at 17 High Street, Clee Hill, has a busy year coming. On March 14th she has an outing to Gloucester and looking ahead to April, on the 11th there's one to Bury Market. Mrs Gregory is on 01584 891464.



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Thurs 19 th		BLACK WHEELIE RUBBISH BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders step out from the Colliers Arms shop, Clows Top PAGE 53		
Sat 21 st	12.30	Saints Day Lunch at Doddington Village Hall		
Sun 22 nd		ITS MOTHERS DAY. SPOIL HER – SHE’S WORTH IT		
	10.30	A celebration service of Mothers at Melville Chapel, Oreton		
Mon 23 rd	7.30	Clee Hill Bird Group meeting, Recreation Rooms, Clee Hill High Street. PAGE 27		
	8.00	Bingo Night at the Sports and Social Club		
Tues 24 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club meet at the Village Hall. PAGE 13		
Wed 25 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, Church Street		
	10.00	Walking for Health get active from the Market Hall. PAGE 53		
	7.30	Clows Top Garden Club welcome Bill White, to talk about propagation. PAGE 5		
Thurs 26 th		GREEN WHEELIE GARDEN BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 27 th	7.00	Chocolate Bingo at Lacon Childe School. Do you dare to try it? PAGE 19		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 28 th	10.00	Coffee Morning at the Melville Chapel, Oreton		
	10.00	CMFA Social Walk. PAGE 53		
Sun 29 th		The clocks go forward one hour. Let’s hope we have a good summer!		
Mon 30 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet’s Society meets at the Library for another friendly evening		
	8.00	Bingo Night at the Sports and Social Club		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL.....		
Wed 1 st	10.30	Rhyme Time with Ever After Nursery tots at the Library, Love Lane		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 2 nd		BLACK WHEELIE RUBBISH BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

CLEE HILL AND DISTRICT WILD LIFE

The range of animal wild life and plant species makes the Clee Hill district a fascinating place to explore. The Wild Life Group meeting in Clee Hill Village Hall at 7.30 n the 18th brings together a collection of interests reporting on their work. On Monday the 23rd, the Bird Group meets in the Recreation Room just up the High Street at 7.30 to confirm interest in this treasure of an area.

INDIAN TIPIS JUST UP THE HILL

The Golf Club have a Spring Open Weekend on March 28th and 29th. They’re cooperating with Shire Tipis to put on a show of American Redskin style tipis that look very traditional but offer a touch of glamping that should appeal to the individual in you. They’d look great with a classic VW Camper or an Indian motorcycle.



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The Cleobury Mortimer Plastic Reduction Group visited all Cleobury Country schools and nurseries to get them to pledge to reduce their single use plastic. With the expert staff to guide them, these children hold the future in their hands. What an inspiration those staff and children were! They are already doing so much to reduce plastic but were also really keen to pledge to do even more. We had a great day, feeding off the enthusiasm they all show for helping to look after our environment. All the establishments were given a Cleobury Mortimer Plastic Reduction Group pledge certificate to display. And we will go back and visit again in a few months to see what they have achieved.

Here are the pledges made:

Farlow C of E Primary School- have pledged to start an Eco Club after half term and will work to reduce plastic in lunchboxes.

Kinlet C of E Primary School - will continue to recycle crisp packets in Bewdley, and will work to further reduce plastic in lunch boxes. Have also pledged to only laminate display work when necessary.

Ever After Day nursery- will continue with their ban on plastic bags. Will continue to recycle plastic milk bottles (staff take them home) They have pledged to contact carers to encourage them to further reduce plastic in what they send in to nursery with their child.

Abkats nursery will continue to recycle everything they can and reuse plastic pots that come in with lunchboxes. Have also

pledged to start recycling crisp packets in Bewdley.

Stottesdon C of E Primary School will continue to recycle as much waste as possible from staff with Terracycle and have pledged to try to extend this to students' waste too.

Bayton Primary School will continue with their toast club at break (reducing the need for children to bring in plastic wrapped snacks). The Eco Club have pledged to introduce a recycling bin in the lunch hall and will try to start recycling crisp packets.

Little Learners nursery in Bayton- have stopped using plastic aprons. They will contact carers to encourage them to further reduce plastic in lunchboxes and will continue to recycle as much as possible. They have also pledged to buy more wooden and other natural toys.

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School have pledged to recycle crisp packets and research milk companies to find one who can supply with less plastic. A Year 3-4 class is going to do a project looking at the use of plastic around the school and how it can be reduced.

Lacon Childe School- have already introduced a plastic bottle recycling scheme and reduced plastic in the canteen (no plastic cutlery, no plastic straws and no plastic takeaway boxes). The enthusiastic Eco Group have pledged to deliver an assembly to Year 7's encouraging them to give up single use plastic for Lent.

Louise Francis



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GOVERNOR'S CLERK VACANCY IN KIDDERMINSTER

With a school community continuing to grow, Holy Trinity School and Sixth Form centre in Kidderminster is looking to appoint a clerk to the school's governing body.

Headteacher, Mrs Pamela Leek-Wright explained: "As an expanding and successful school we're keen to hear from any experienced individuals.

"The governing body of any school is key to its success, and assisting them is the clerk, the person who provides guidance and advice on governance, constitutional and procedural matters, and administrative support to the governors and its committees."

Holy Trinity enjoys close links with the local and business communities and has a long tradition of academic excellence and pastoral care, with an emphasis on aspiration for all pupils.

Added Mrs Leek-Wright: "We are a warm and friendly school excited to meet and appoint the right person to support our growing school community."

For further information about the role and to apply, please contact the Head's PA, Mrs

Karen Roth on 01562 822929 or email: karen.roth@holytrinity.co.uk

MUSIC IN SAINT LAURENCE'S

A good crowd gathered in the principal church in Ludlow on February 15th, ages ranging from babes in arms to ancients in their 80s. The rain doesn't put of music lovers when an event as promising as this comes with free admission.

Ulrich von Hecker opened the afternoon with Stravinsky's 'Suite Italienne', his fine violin work accompanied by David Gaukroger. Some interesting notes on the performers were available, from which we learned that Herr von Hecker is a lecturer at Cardiff University and a violinist purely as a lover of that instrument. His obvious enthusiasm for the performance drew warm applause before the debut of David Gaukroger's 'Shropshire Journey', with Kim Begley offering briefs extracts from Housman between each movement. Kim has a very fine voice, and his clear diction added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

I am not in the least qualified to judge this professional pianists's technique, but his composition skill in capturing

the rural atmosphere was very impressive. There was prolonged applause for both player and narrator before Ulrich von Hecker closed the concert with Schubert's 'Sonatina in A Minor'. A lovely, gentle performance that the dignified present of Saint Laurence's simply enhanced.

I could not get near David after the event, he was surrounded by friends and happy admirers. But correspondence later revealed that he had not given a recital for more than 20 years, so he sat and devoted four to five hours of practice a day for six months before this appearance. To sit and listen to such a competent player gives pleasure, but few of us realise just how much effort is made before we hear the result.

David is concerned that music is not being widely taught in Shropshire schools and has plans to raise funds to address this shortcoming; his target is £20,000 this year. I hope to sit and learn more about this selfless plan when details are finalised, and will report in full when I have done so.

We will bring you details of any events he organises for this campaign. JR



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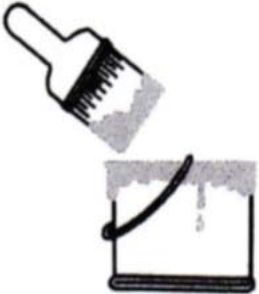
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March in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

The Wyre Forest is drained from west to east by the Dowles Brook, which in turn is fed by its smaller tributaries such as Dell Brook, running from its source near the A456 northwards through Unclyls Farm then on down a delightful little valley. (The photograph by Mick Farmer shows the waterfall on the brook.) Dotted around the nearby forest are freshwater pools sitting on impermeable clay and draining into the nearest downhill watercourse. Recently I have written about the 'Slow the Flow' scheme which delays the water in these upper catchments from joining the Dowles and Severn to help avoid destructive flooding.

I am one of the volunteers who wander the forest from February to April making note of the amount of frogspawn in these large and small pools. I was recruited to the team by Rosemary Winnall of the Wyre Forest Study Group, present organisers of the survey which began in 1988 under the auspices of the Nature Conservancy Council. Long term studies of this kind are extremely valuable, especially in view of likely climate change. The frogs are, in general, breeding successfully but we do notice that the pools gradually change over time, responding to local conditions, and can become less attractive to frogs and their tadpoles. To help this situation some of the ponds on Forestry Commission and Natural England (i.e. public) land will be managed by cutting back vegetation around their edges and also taking out some excess water plants. The wildlife in each pool will be monitored to see if these actions have the desired effect. As I am the kind of person who enjoys getting wet and muddy (but not cold) I hope I'll

be able to lend a hand with the work later in the year when the water warms up!

The other survey in which I will be involved this month is the deer census. On a couple of consecutive Saturdays about 30 volunteers will arrive in their allocated sections of forest before dawn and will comb the woodland noting any deer they encounter. The majority will be Fallow Deer but the little Muntjacss have shown a steady increase in numbers, to the annoyance of foresters whose young trees they like to chew. They are the size of a dog and bark like one too, and breed all year round unlike the Fallow does, who produce a single fawn in June. At the collection point our survey results are rewarded with a hot cup of tea and a bacon sandwich. The privilege of experiencing a spring dawn in one of the best woodlands in England may only occur to me once I've enjoyed a hot bath at home.

Linda Iles



The waterfall at Dell Brook, captured by Mick Farmer.

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More joy from Diamond with sporadic requests for payment on the 8.54 to Kiddy although this should have been sorted by now (again!). This particular service also seems to arrive spot on – 15 minutes late - most mornings although I'm not sure why they should already be running late so early in the day. One morning it was 30 minutes late which we thought would not bode well for the 10.06 to Ludlow but that was spot on time so they must be using at least one bus on occasions. I did risk a trip both ways in the last week. The Kiddy journey was spot on time going in and about 15 minutes adrift on the way back so not too bad. The Ludlow trip was even better, being on time both ways. Diamond do appear to be using better buses now – these look to be some of those inherited from Central Buses and only about 3 or 4 years old. The climb up over the hill was handled without any problems and they seem to be quite lively vehicles although there was a fair amount of crashing and banging. This, I suspect was mostly down to the dire state of the roads in the area – until you get to the Worcestershire border when they magically smooth out. Shropshire Council make great play of the fact that their budgets have been cut, but no doubt Worcestershire are in the same position and they haven't forgotten their border areas. Perhaps Shropshire could ask them how they do it ...

My next trip to Kiddy didn't go so well. On time on the way there but on the return, the 292 duly appeared 25 minutes late – only to drive right past us and disappear! As you will appreciate, this caused some consternation amongst the waiting crowd who had already been there for over 30 minutes in a cold wind. I spoke to another driver who pointed out an Inspector. She told me that our bus had a brake warning light showing and had been told to go straight back to the garage. It would return as soon as it had been checked. Sure enough, a few minutes later, it appeared and we finally got home about 45 minutes late. Why the driver or any of the Diamond staff present couldn't have told us this straight away is a sad reflection of Diamond's service standards.

Shropshire Council get yet another mention in the 'Rotten Boroughs' column of 'Private Eye' This is the third edition running in which they have starred (which may be a record). The piece included a reference to photos of a line of vehicles, all suffering from burst tyres or worse, having been savaged by a single pothole near Bridgnorth. The chasm by the Larch Barn Cafe just up the Bridgnorth Road has also claimed three victims in as many days, including a Police car... To add insult to injury, they are now employing a 'Pothole Consultant' at a cost of £1000 a day for six months! As we already have loads of potholes, I would have thought that a 'Pothole Repair Consultant' would have been more useful. An estimate of the total cost comes out at about £130,000, so the inmates have truly taken over the asylum that is Shire Hall. I had a week in Lancashire using the buses most days. All were on time give or take a couple of minutes and were operated by different companies, both small and large, so it can be done. Another revelation was the roads. Even the back lanes were in better condition than the main road through Cleobury. There was only one place where there were potholes and beside them was a notice apologising and saying they were scheduled for repair in three days time....

Just to get an idea how Diamond are doing, Bruce Webster and I lurked in the High Street and noted the times of all arrivals for a day. The results: of the 13 scheduled services, 3 were on time (two of which were the 292s) and the rest late. This gives an on time score of about 23%. Compare this with the fact that Northern Trains were given the shove with a success rate of nearly three times this figure, it makes you wonder about nationalisation... I have great sympathy for the large number of passengers trapped on a cruise ship in Japan because of an outbreak of coronavirus. The name of the vessel? 'Diamond Princess'. It brings to mind a variation of the old Carlsberg advert: 'Diamond Buses don't do cruises, but if they did'....

Steve Todd

The Clarion is on the World Wide Web

From the fourth day of the month, on www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk complete with all the adverts, but somehow we don't think that foodies from New Zealand will be tempted to try the excellent tapas at the Royal Fountain Inn.



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Thanks to the incredible efforts of many volunteers and young people, Cleobury Community Hub opened in September 2019. St Mary's Youth Project has converted the Methodist Church into a café style environment open to everyone in the community. Our hope is to work alongside the Neighbourhood Plan to create a space for people of all ages from our fantastic community to meet and spend time together.

We would love to welcome you to come along and see the CCH for yourself. Further information is available on our website (www.smyp.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.

St Mary's Youth Project is founded in a Christian ethos, but all are welcome regardless of faith or belief.

News and Events

We believe chatting about belief and spirituality is a healthy thing to do. The *Alpha Course* that started on Thursday 27th February is a safe place to share, and to explore Christianity. Everyone welcome, **1-3pm, every Thursday** in the Hub, childcare available.


'Shared Space' – An opportunity to bring a hobby and share with others every **Tuesday 11:30-2:30pm**

Friday, 5th March SMYP will be raising money for **Dementia UK - "Time for a Cuppa"**

Everything sold on the 5th will go to Dementia UK.

Bring your friends to the warm and friendly Community Hub and support this fantastic charity. Dementia UK will use all money raised to train more specialist Admiral nurses who give life-changing support to families facing dementia. More details from Jayne Brown -271880

"Community Climbing" – St Mary's Youth Project are aiming to raise £25,000 to install a custom built Bouldering/ climbing wall in the CCH. The wall will be open to public use as well as clubs and used for personal development interventions. We have secured grants and funding but we need the final community push in order to receive match funding. We need to raise £1000 to secure matched funding! Please consider donating towards this future community asset at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/cch youth.



CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB - WEEKLY CALENDAR

Café open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-6pm

- 🕒 Mondays - Kids Club 3:20pm-5pm
- GKY Dance 5:30pm onwards
- Climbing Club 5:45pm-9pm
- 🕒 Tuesdays - Nippers (parent/toddler) 10-11:30am
- Shared Space* 11:30-2:30pm
- GKY Dance 3:45pm onwards
- 🕒 Wednesdays - GKY Dance 5:30pm onwards
- 🕒 Fridays - Soft Play 11:30am -6pm

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Who would be Jewish these days? Right wing Tories (still suffering from 'Lawrence of Arabia' syndrome) dislike them because they aren't Arabs and left wing Labourites dislike them because they er... aren't Arabs. In my view, the Jewish community is a shining example of how a minority group can integrate into mainstream society and make a major contribution whilst maintaining their own faith and practices. Other similar ethnic groups please note...

Housing developers have been warned about the poor quality of their products and that the Government is reviewing their 'Help to Buy' scheme which has increased profits considerably. They have threatened dodgy builders with expulsion but given the sums they donate to Party funds, I'm not holding my breath. Still, the scheme has helped building company directors to buy cars, mansions, yachts, islands etc so it has been a success for some. It's a sad fact that most new houses are badly designed and shoddily built to very poor environmental standards (and in the case of Bovis, possibly not even finished).

For those who aren't too enamoured of the taxman, I have seen an interesting snippet concerning 'Mortons Fork'. This was a tax gathering scheme named after Archbishop John Morton who was Henry VII's lord chancellor. He despatched tax collectors around England with the following tactic: If a person was found living frugally, they had clearly saved their money and could afford to give generously to the King from their savings. If, on the other hand, they were living extravagantly, they could obviously afford to pay substantial sums in tax too. Result! I haven't seen this approach being used recently, but don't tell HMRC just in case. Still, if they have time to spare, they could look at reviewing council tax. Apparently, a Chinese 'tycoon' has recently paid £210 million (yes, that's 210 followed by lots of noughts) for a house in Knightsbridge. The annual council tax liability? £1507.70. I bet there are a fair few people in Cleobury paying more than that.

I see that the BBC has been criticised for

'dumbing down' explanations in their search for a younger audience. The reason given for this is they think that young people don't know anything and therefore have to have stuff explained in words of one syllable. I am on the Beeb's side in this case, as I don't think that young people do know much. Because they have the massive resources of the internet at their fingertips, they don't bother to take an active approach to learning. Their performance in various quiz shows bears this out, and these are presumably the brighter examples as they haven't yet walked under a bus whilst texting. Fortunately, I am too old to have been blighted by a modern education so should be grateful for small mercies.

As male pre-wedding events are called Stag Nights, why are the female equivalents called Hen Nights? As a female stag is called a doe why are these events not called Doe nights? Alternatively, why aren't Stag nights called Co..... On reflection, it's probably best left as it is...

Great lies of our time #4: 'Lessons will be learned'. We all know that this won't happen and the same problem will reoccur a few years down the line. The other certainty is that the guilty won't be punished, especially in the case of NHS scandals where the brave whistleblower is likely to be harassed or driven out and the miscreants allowed to move to other jobs, usually with even higher salaries.

I see my name is missing from the New Years Honours list again and can only imagine that the invite must have got lost in the post. However, little seems to have changed. Alongside those who really deserve it, is the usual list of failed politicians and their cronies, some with very dodgy backgrounds, who have done favours for their ex school chums etc. In many cases, they have been rewarded for doing mediocre jobs at best and this reminds me of the time, many years ago, when I started a new job. The first thing the cynical old hands told me was that if I wanted promotion, I would have to do either really well or really badly. I see that nothing has changed.

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See the Social Club's Facebook page for each weekend's activities

Sunday 1 March

The BIG Quiz 7pm for 7.30pm start

Pub Aid's Annual National Quiz has come round again already. Teams of 6 £15. All welcome



Also launching...

Grand Easter Egg Raffle Tickets £1

Get your tickets for the Grand Raffle from the Monday Bingo ladies or from the bar. 30 Easter prizes to be won Will be drawn on Good Friday 10 April, 8pm.



Monday 2 March

Bingo 8pm

Every Monday at the Social Club. Eyes down 8pm. Cash prizes; over 18 only please.



Saturday 7 March

Six Nations: England v Wales 4.45pm

Watch the match at the Club with a pint and a pork roll.



Friday 13 March

Quiz with Fish & Chip Supper 7pm for 7.30pm start £10pp

Friends of St Mary's are hosting this fundraising evening. Teams of 4. Tickets from Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Pharmacy. Advance booking requested so fish & chips can be ordered.

Saturday 14 March

Six Nations Super Saturday

All three final matches: Wales v Scotland 2.15pm – Italy v England 4.45pm – France v Ireland 8pm

Beef rolls will be served from 4pm. Raffle ticket with every pint bought to win a jug of beer.



Sunday 15 March

12.30pm

Tickets £16

Royal British Legion Annual Lunch

Guest Speaker: Lt Col Mark Jackson MBE. Tickets from Ron Breakwell (270830) & Mark Baldwin (270110)



Saturday 21 March

CMRFC v Uttoxeter

2.15pm



Saturday 28 March

Fundraising Race Night

7pm

£2pp

Lisa Stokes is running the London Marathon on 26 April. She is raising funds for Make a Wish – supporting children with critical illness.



Sunday 29 March

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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

THE FOUNDING FATHER

I heard Doctor William Bird MBE talk about setting up the first Health Walk at the Festival of Ageing in Shrewsbury last year. He was a GP, practising in Reading in 1996, when he started the scheme and was named 'Innovation Doctor of the Year' in recognition of that breakthrough in getting people actively involved in exercise.

"Our bodies are meant to be active and we're designed to be connected to nature," he says. "We are hunter gatherers and our bodies currently exist in an alien environment of being indoors all the time and living under artificial lights and so on." So he got people walking and exercising, socialising along the way. He has been acclaimed by 'The Independent' as one of the top 100 people making Britain a happier place. We have a great deal to thank him for. JR

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Cleobury's own Walking for Health movement is eleven years old and runs under the umbrella of the Ramblers' Association and Shropshire Council, with local support from CMFA. To see how it works, I joined their February 12th outing, when they met at the Sports Centre car park and drove to the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre. Mazella Witts-Hewison was the day's leader, who explained the two routes available and the terrain we would find. She and other trained helpers all wore yellow reflective jackets and were easily picked out at a distance. Alan Kimber was the back marker, there to see that nobody was stranded.



The pace was dictated by the slower members of the party, the fitter walkers waiting at

intervals for the rest to catch up. No sign of competition; it was a stroll through the forest on a bright morning - what a privilege that is - and a pleasant chat along the way until we slowly made our way up the final long climb and back to the Centre. Alan Kimber explained that on a run through the area, that final test was known as Cardiac Hill.

This was a good experience for a Walking for Health novice. Kind but cool weather, excellent company and a pleasant place to sit and take in a hot drink and a slice of fruit cake to round the morning off. Two and a bit miles of hilly terrain was no hardship on a good path surface and while proper walking boots were recommended, a decent pair everyday boots or shoes would have been fine. I must do this again; good people, well organised and very welcoming. JR

WHO'S WALKING IN MARCH

Sunday March 1st. CM Footpath Association's Parish Walk starts at 10.00 from Saint Mary's church. Be prepared for a wet and muddy one.

Thursday March 5th: The Rock Pathfinders, one of the most experienced local groups, step out from Abberley Village Hall at 10.30 to explore local paths. Sat Nav WR6 6AZ or SO reference SO745678. Detail: Alan on 01299 400304

Thursday March 19th: Rock Pathfinders are out again, with a 10.30 start from The Colliers Arms, Tenbury Road, Clows Top DY14 9HA. SO reference SO725723. Details: Alan on 01299 400304

Saturday March 28th. 10.00. CMFA Social Walk. Contact: feedback@cmfa.co.uk

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

From now until December we have monthly work parties, usually on the third Wednesday from 9:30. This month that's the 18th.

We plan repairs to the footbridge North of the Glen Caravan park; The handrails are rotting. We will also work on the path along the riverside between Papermills and Newbridge, at risk of being engulfed by bracken. A determined effort is needed for a long term solution; details our meeting place on footpaths@cmha.uk. If you come across something which needs attention, please let us know on footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

ROCK PATHFINDERS CONTACT

This popular group has a new website address: www.rockpathfinders.uk

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Important Notice to our readers. This exclusive report is embargoed until next month and should not be read until the day after March 31st, unless you wish to experience stress and concern for your sanity.

As you will be aware, there have been a number of recent revelations regarding A&E delays and other healthcare issues in Shropshire. However, a leaked NHS document contains a number of radical proposals for addressing these problems. It is thought that this may be one of the first efforts by Dominic Cummings 'Misfits and Weirdos' team.

Firstly, the document tries to identify the root cause of these issues and has identified that the main reason is the fact that people are living longer (who knew?) and that, as they age and become more infirm, 'they are a barrier to an efficient and economical healthcare system'. Secondly it explores possible solutions to the problem, starting with local healthcare provision by GP's. Apparently, statistics show that around 10% of patients do not turn up for their appointments thus wasting the doctor's time. As result, the document suggests that surgery times are reduced by a similar amount which will relieve the pressure on doctors and stem the current exodus from General Practice. A more radical suggestion to reduce delays in obtaining appointments is to ration the number that an individual is entitled to by giving them an annual allowance of, say, three consultations. This would discourage frivolous use of GP's time as many conditions will clear up by themselves and would enable those in real need to be seen much more promptly. To provide extra flexibility, patients would be able to 'Bank' one years allowance until the next year if the appointments were not needed. They could also do the opposite and bring one years allowance forward. Prescription costs could also be greatly reduced as such products as paracetamol are regularly prescribed (at an admin cost of around £10 per item in addition to the cost of the medication) when they can be purchased at a chemist for pence.

Another area for consideration is a reorganisation of Accident and Emergency (A&E) provision. Encouragingly, this would not involve any closures, just a redrawing of

boundaries and catchment areas. Less encouragingly, the effect will depend on the locations of the patient population and their designated A&E. In the case of Cleobury residents, their A&E would be Norwich which you might feel is an extreme but have a thought for Truro residents who would have to travel to Newcastle upon Tyne. A quick look at the annexe to the document reveals the thinking behind this proposal which runs along the following lines: Many people (around 30%) attending A&E are not sick enough to warrant attendance and just get in the way. Another substantial number (estimated at 35%) are really sick and will die in any case, no matter what treatment they receive. In the former case, they will be put off by the journey and not bother to attend and in the latter, they will be unable to survive long enough to arrive. Thus, the remaining 35% who need to attend and will benefit from the treatment they receive will be able to access this much more swiftly, thus improving their chances of making a full recovery. This, the authors claim, will solve the current A&E crisis at a stroke. Apparently, objections were raised by environmentalists who felt that pollution caused by the higher mileage covered by ambulances would endanger national carbon emission targets. As a result, the initial proposals were modified by requiring the journeys to the designated A&E to be made by public transport. In the case of Cleobury residents, this should not take more than about 7 hours, assuming a suitably early start and not missing any connections, so not a problem.

It must be emphasised that this is only a discussion paper at present, so people should not become too alarmed. Having said this, a couple of items in an annexe showing aspects that had influenced thinking are concerning, including a reference to 'Coffin Dodgers who don't have the good taste and decency to die at a sufficiently early age' in a document produced by a right wing healthcare privatisation pressure group and a mention of 'Logan's Run' a 1970's film starring Michael York and Jenny Agutter where everyone is killed when they reach the age of 30 to prevent overpopulation.

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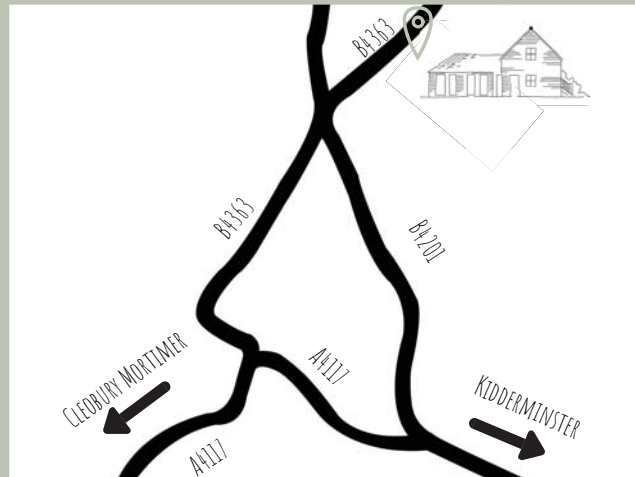
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THE GREAT RHYMING COMPETITION

It wasn't really great, just a bit of fun when Andrew Austen offered a prize for the best suggestion of a word that rhymed with Cleobury. We gather he wasn't exactly buried by the pile of mail in response.

Janet Dickinson, who lived in Cleobury before moving away to Chaddesley Corbett, used to come to the monthly gatherings of the Nearly Dead Poets Society. She's quite a bit over 21 and her son would drive her, but she thinks that's not fair to him, so we don't see her any more. But she hasn't lost her interest in rhyming and was declared the winner with this neat little poem:

*You wanted a rhyme for Cleobury?
You should come for a walk with me.
Where the New Bridge spans the
River Rea
Now that does rhyme, you must
agree.
There's not much chance, but if I
win*

*I really don't like beer or gin.
But I would enjoy a cup of tea
Next time I come to Cleobury*

As we didn't have Janet's address, an appeal in the Clarion brought a card with a friendly message:

"I was very surprised to read I had won the poetry competition. Don't worry about the prize, my reward is having the 'Clarion' to read. My friend on Clee Hill sends it to me.

I have enjoyed Cyril Breakwell's 'Old Times'. I remember him driving the buses. The young girls all had a crush on him, handsome man!

I loved coming to the poetry meetings, but found the distance too far. At 83 years old the night driving is not for me."

When we asked Andrew for the winning poem, he admitted he couldn't find it. The only alternative was to call Janet and ask if she had a copy. Better than that, she recited the winning entry down the phone for the editor to write it down. As we suggested, she is a bit over 21, but clearly in possession of all her marbles.

She has been added to our circulation list.

BRITISH LEGION

DATE CHANGE

With their move to the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane following the closure of The Bell Inn, the Legion have changed their monthly meeting date. They now gather on the second

Wednesday of the month, at 7.30. So this month it's on the 12th.

MARKET HALL VACANCY

Life on the main street never stays the same for long. Who will move into London House at No 18 High Street when the repairs are completed? Cleobury Cafe have said they'd like to be back in that distinctive building one day, but will time convince them that life is easier in a better maintained home?

Further down the road, just a month after we featured the Market Hall and Ali Sheffield's management of the place, she has decided to give more time to her two children and given notice. Her smiling face will be missed, but who would argue with her feeling that family must come first, particularly one as young as hers and Jon's.

So a glimpse at Page 15 will show the vacancy, part of the Cleobury Country Centre's offering. An interesting position for someone looking for part time work with a variety of responsibilities to watch over. You certainly wouldn't be bored.

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March 2020 Clarion Report

We are proud to report that we have been awarded **GOLD** Quality status for the Town council. This is in recognition of the way we run the Town council, deliver projects for the community and work with local groups, especially those that volunteer to help in our community. So, this award is as much yours as ours and with all the hard work we all put in together we all deserve it, **WELL DONE!!**

The trees in the Skate park area have now gone through tree management and everyone is commenting as to the new look as a nice park to walk around, more light into the trees and hopefully some nice flowers will grow amongst the trees, snowdrops and bluebells would be nice. The next project there is to look at getting some lighting.

The new play area is near completion and it is open as all equipment has passed inspection. There are a few remedial works still to be done, but we could not keep it closed for half term and deny the little ones of some enjoyment. We do ask that the muddy areas and seeded areas are avoided to allow the grass to grow. We will be having an opening ceremony, which we would like parents and children to come along and celebrate with us. As with the other projects, please enjoy and help look after it for us, as we want it to provide much enjoyment for our young ones, and parents, grand parents to create good memories. Also, the parent child swing has had a donation towards it from Chrissie Woodhouse in memory of Jack, so thank you to her and look forward to seeing the plaque in place.

The final concrete lampposts are now complete with the next step to change all existing old lamps to LED. This will be done over time due to cost and the scale of the changeover.

Dog mess is getting bad again and we really need to report anyone seen not picking it up as it annoys the responsible dog owners just as much as anyone. We are fed up with it so please keep your eyes open and report to Shropshire council if you see anyone. We are also looking to produce a leaflet to hand out about the dangers of not picking up the dog mess, plus some other ideas. We can only try new ideas.

REMINDER

The Cleobury Festival will soon be on us so please make a note in your Diary for **Saturday 27th June**, where we have already looked at some new items which will provide some interest when we put out what will be around. We are looking for volunteers to help us on the day, so if you can spare a little time, please contact the Town council office.

REMINDER

Annual Town Meeting and Community Champion Nominations

As last year there will be an overall **Community Champion Award, Business/Organisational Champion** and an **Environmental Champion Award**. New for 2020 is an **Unsung Hero award**. (**For an individual who helps others without any public recognition or reward**)

Once again there will be a coin token vote for community groups for the chance to apply for **2 x £1,000 council grants**, this allows all to be part of **resident consultations** and is your chance to be a part of Town Council's priorities in the coming year

To exhibit please contact the Town Clerk to secure one of the limited number of places.

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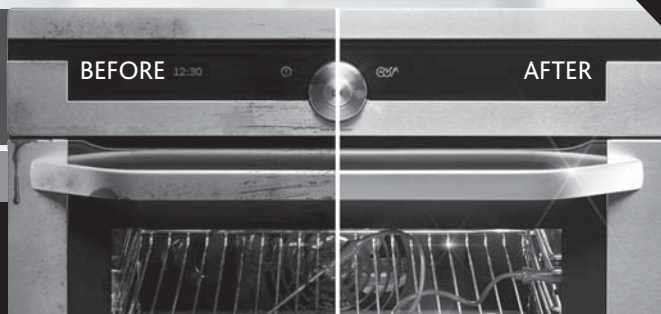
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FROM THE BANDROOM

Katie Griffiths brings us the latest news on the town's superb Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass band:

During January and February the band are busy rehearsing for the Area competition in March.

Due to good results we are now promoted to the second section, the first time in the band's history and testament to the dedication and talent of the players.

We will be making the trip to Bedworth Civic Hall, leaving very early morning on Sunday 8th March. We have a great piece to play entitled 'The Golden Sabre,' composed by Kit Turnbull, a new piece commissioned especially for this competition.

Quite a few bands enlist irregular players to help get them through competitions, not true for CMCB. All of our players are active and current members of the band. I hope to report good results in the next issue.

Donations are always very gratefully received towards the costs of taking the band to competition level. Do please get in touch if you would like to make such a donation.

The first engagement on our calendar will be our annual Spring Concert, an evening of popular music with a fish and chip supper. This year to be held on 25th April in the Parish Hall, please look out for further details in the next edition. If you would like to pre-order tickets, please contact Amanda on 01584 891199.

Our website lists all contact details www.CMCB.org.uk, please also find us on Facebook
Katie Griffiths



Cleobury Town Juniors Under12 football club have had an excellent start to the season. Having played a total of 14 games so far in this miserable weather they are sitting in a comfortable second place in the Stourport league. The lads have been training extremely hard with an excellent turn out in this very wet and cold weather.

They had their first fund raising day at Tesco in Kidderminster organized by one of the club's parents Jody Lilwall (thank you Jody) and managed to raise a total of £205.99 which will help towards our planned trip to the UK's EFS biggest youth football festival. This is at Butlins Minehead and is funded by the club.

We would not have been able to achieve this without the help and support of Cleobury town, a big thank you to: our team strip sponsor this season, Autostores Motor Factors of Kidderminster. A big thank you to the manager Lewis Underhill. The lads also had their winter coats supplied this season by Lisa Henning Chief Operating Officer of Worldchoice Travel Shrewsbury. A big 'thank you' Lisa, these have kept the lads warm and dry during this wet spell. And finally

Mrs Mayfield who lets us use the school field all year round and the Cleobury Youth Partnership for their donation.

Many thanks from us all at Cleobury Town Juniors.

Gary Halpin

JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor lost his fight against cancer last month. People who knew this tough character will appreciate that he didn't lose many fights in his life.

I first remember him soon after we moved to Cleobury in 1978. There was a very bad winter - I can't recall exactly which year it was - when we had big snowfalls and the only vehicles moving on the High Street were tractors and Land Rovers. But down Love Lane came John's horse, fitted with pannier bags for the shopping, John behind him with a long rein to steer the nag. He got through, he was a countryman who knew how to deal with the English climate.

At one time Lacon Childe School kept a goat tethered in the grounds for the Rural Science pupils to tend and milk, as you would in a rural area. The trouble was that one day a Rottweiler was running loose and attacked it. The only person who could step-in and deal with the dog and save the poor goat was John. The RSPCA awarded him a medal for his bravery. It was around that time I was told by man who went on to be a Parish Councillor that I shouldn't be seen drinking with John; I ignored that advice.

He wasn't everyone's mate, but he was a man who did a whole range of jobs and never asked for charity. Our sympathies go to his children and grandchildren.



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**MORE MUSIC AT
CLOWS TOP**

Clows Top Victory Hall is working very hard to build on its reputation for musical shows that please. Coming up this month are The Roving Crows on Sunday the 8th (turn the page for details) and in April they've booked 'Mumbo Jumbo' and their 'New Village Hall Show' for the 12th. £10.00 a head, starts at 7.30, tickets from Roger on 07870 522 567.

This does sound like a good night for folk fans, the band highly acclaimed by Folksy Monthly magazine for their musicianship and great rapport with their audience.

THE FLOODS

We've surely seen and read enough about floods in the area and they are no longer hot news. But we should tell you about the road into Ditton Mill being partly washed away and access for many residents being a major headache. So the family who own the site got their kit together and mended the road themselves. Nice one.

SMART CAFE



Cleobury Cafe's move across the High Street looks to be a great success. When we called recently the better lighting was welcome and although the area is more compact, they have only reduced seating by one table. The Breakfast Club are still booked, we were told, and the atmosphere is just as friendly. It certainly comes across as a busy, bustling place that people are glad to have back in action.

**NEW BUSINESS
SUPPORT**

There's a very active drive to support new and growing businesses in the county and a number of representatives were in Cleobury Country Centre in February to answer questions and offer advice. They naturally tend to be centred in Shrewsbury or Telford, but the service is county wide. In the case of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, they stretch from Whitchurch down to Ross-on-Wye. The Shropshire Growth Hub includes the Marches Centre for Manufacturing Technology in Bridgnorth.

The message I got from talking to every representative and gathering lots of leaflets was that if you're thinking of starting your own business, you are not alone. You can get advice and in some cases, grants for a start-up. If that means you, it's worth chatting to Clare Todd at the Cleobury Country Centre (CM 272300) and gathering contacts.

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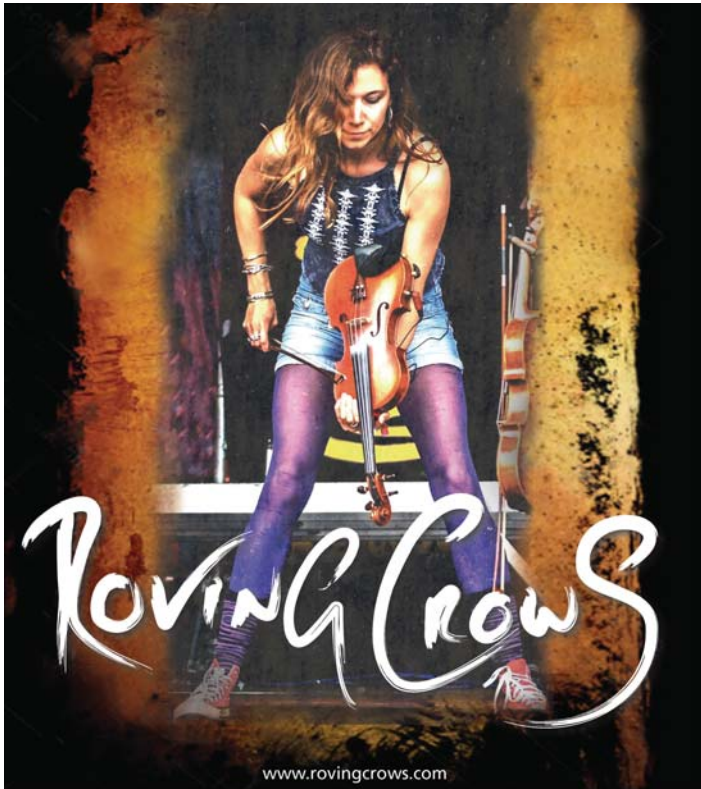
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**CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL
7.30pm, Sunday, March 8th
'ROVING CROWS'**

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'Roving Crows' should keep that reputation up, with a background that includes the Irish Music Association's 2012 Top Celtic Rock Band and Top Fiddle Plater (Caitlin Barrett). Mike Harding on the BBC called them "A really individual Celtic rock band."

This promises to be a really good night.

CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL (DY14 9HG)

Sunday 08 March, 7:30pm

£10.00 (Standard)

BOOK NOW: Carolyne - 07788 604 542 or Roger - 07870 522 567

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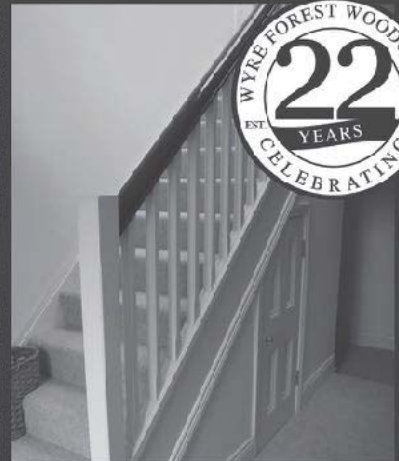
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POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
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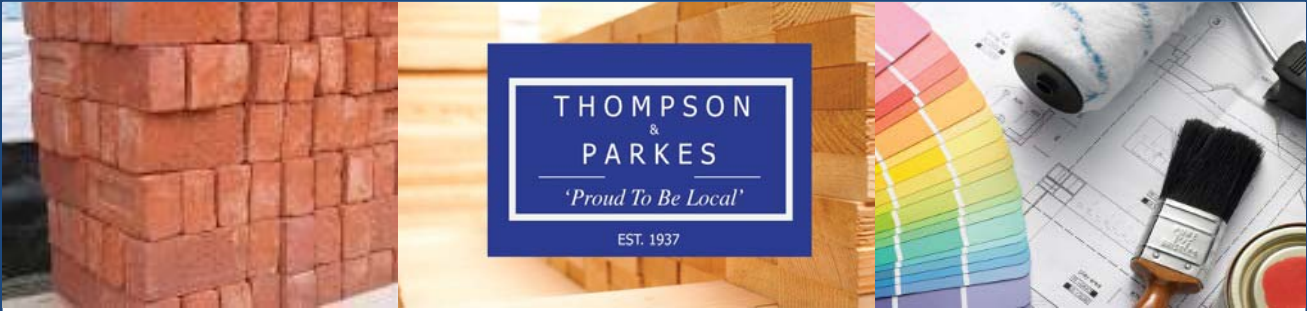
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