

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

MARCH 2022

THE MANOR HOUSE
Too late to remove the Page 27 details of a voluntary movement to tidy up and smarten the front garden of the Manor House - rewriting that whole feature so late before the web version goes live. But thanks to webmaster Robert Hodge, we can explain to you here on the front page that there has been a change of heart on the matter of making that once proud building look less like a lost cause. But let's take heart that there is a strong wish to put the matter right. Not right now, but hopefully one day.

THE CLEOBURY HILLS DEMOLITION
The Clarion's cover of the big demolition job at Cleobury Hills Care Home in February's issue provoked a

letter of protest from one of the neighbouring residents. It was not unexpected.

We also had a comment from a local councillor that he thought the leader got it right. No other response was received and it seems that on balance we were fair.

SCAMS

The 'Which' scam service tells us that in November Ofcom reported 45 million had received a scam call in the last year. 45 million! The scam scum don't have to have a very high success rate to take a lot of money out of our pockets or bank accounts. Which confirms how useful Nigel Reid's monthly column is to our community. It keeps us fairly up to date with a fast moving threat that can change long before the next copy is in

your hands. But it does keep reminding us of the threat, to be careful with the information we give out and to just beware of the threat from thieves.

I was asked by Peter Bill, editor of the Rock and District News, if I minded him approaching Nigel; of course I didn't. It was quite a compliment to Nigel and a useful spread of the valuable information he has at his fingertips. And mentioned twice on the front page of a Clarion issue!

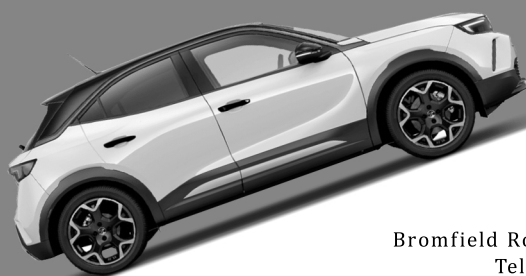
AMAZING

The German Brabus company, who specialise in building performance boosted cars, decided to build an uprated Austrian KTM motorcycle. Production limited to 154 units and the batch sold in two minutes!



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The Cleobury Clarion, March 2022

Volume Seventeen - Edition Eleven



*Clows Top Wildlife Club
with talons and beak on show.
See Page 19.*



*White Fallow Deer in the Wyre
Forest.
See Linda Iles on Page 23.*



*A new local author appears.
Amanda Humphries' first book.
See Page 51*

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CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker on March 23rd will be local nurseryman Bill White, from Far Forest. He is going to talk to us about propagation; always a popular subject with us thrifty gardeners! Whether you collect seed, take cuttings, divide plants or perhaps even try root cuttings, layering or grafting, Bill will be able to advise on the best techniques for all these tasks.

The March meeting is also our Spring Show. It is always a joy to walk into the village hall at 8.45pm and see all the cheery spring flowers waiting to be judged.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Judith Lawson

NEW NOTES PROGRESS

The group is going from strength to strength with new members swelling numbers since Christmas.

For a good fun afternoon to really raise your spirits now that spring is on the way, why not come and join in with a very varied selection of songs.

Newcomers are always made most welcome. No need to read music - just enthusiasm. Every Thursday 2.15 to 4.00 at Cle Hill Recreation Room (next to the shop). For further details speak to Barbara Hall on 0780 1924035.

Jane Barnes

MARKET HALL CONTACT

Contact details for Kimberly at the Market Hall have changed. As the editor is struggling to find out where much of the info normally available has disappeared to, here's the update. We hope to restore the normal service some time, but do not offer a promise at this stage.

Kimberly's phone is now 07385 698 574 and the email is cleoburymarkethall1@gmail.com

BAYTON JUMBLE CUM TABLETOP SALE

The sale has been arranged for Saturday March 5th at 14.30 at Bayton Village Hall. Offers of help, jumble, cakes and to book a table (£5.00) please contact Rosi on 01299 832619 or Mary on 01299 832816.

Proceeds will be divided between the Church Heating Fund and the Recreation Ground Children's Play Area. Jumble may be left under the village hall porch on Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th up to midday.

Keith Weller



UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS

Q: What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?

A: Mechanical engineers build weapons.

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**ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
'BEDROOM FARCE' AT
THE REGAL**

Aykourn is a great favourite with theatre audiences, thanks to his ability to make them laugh. So to have Concord Theatricals presenting his "Bedroom Farce" for three nights this month confirms that our local theatre is getting ambitious and aiming high.

This play has been a hit in both London and New York, with its madcap story of four couples, three bedrooms and a night to remember, even though they probably wish to forget it.

It's on for three nights, with a 7.30 start on Thursday the 24th, Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th, plus a 2.30 matinee on Saturday. Tickets are £11.50 for adults and £5.00 for Under 16s.

**THE BREAKFAST
CLUB**

On 8 February, Kit Smith gave us a summary of the status of raptors in the Cleobury area. There are about 19 species in Britain, with the Golden Eagle being one of the best known. There are six species which nest locally at present: Buzzard,

Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, and three owls – Barn, Tawny, and Little. In the near future, they may well be joined by a seventh – the Red Kite. Many of us will have visited the kite feeding centre near Rhayader, and kites have spread from this centre in recent years.

Kit then gave us a run-down on these six local species, and provided clues to help identify them. Some have extraordinary powers of hearing or sight, and the Kestrel can additionally see ultra-violet radiation, which allows it to track down field voles, whose urine (unfortunately for them) shows up in UV light. The Little Owl, only about the size of a starling, is not a 'native' species, but a successful 19th-century introduction from mainland Europe.

Finally, Kit described the steps that he and his colleagues are taking to log evidence of these raptors, and how they can be helped by providing suitable conditions for nesting and feeding. Most raptors are avid consumers of voles, so retaining conditions amenable to voles (e.g. open pasture) will be good for our raptors as well.

Cllr John Greaves will speak in April, and we hope the March slot will be filled by Phil Howl, to update the history of his restoration of the old Neen Sollars station house. He first spoke to us about this in March 2020. To attend either meeting, please contact Angela Drennan on 270636.

Mark Baldwin

**LACON CHILDE RACE
NIGHT**

This sounds like a good family fun evening. It's on Friday the 11th, starting at 7.15 and entry is just £2.50 - that's a whole lot less than getting into Ascot would cost you!

There will be a licensed bar, a raffle, a Tri Cast Square (what's that?) and you can own a horse if you feel brave enough. If not, you can just bet to win. All the proceeds from the evening will go to the school's Parent Teacher Association.

The organisers are looking for local businesses to sponsor a race at £25 a time and in return you'll get your business advertised, particularly during your race. You might even get a mention in the Clarion. Contact laconchilde_pta@outlook.com for more details.

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THE WELL BEING IS BACK

I am pleased to tell you I am back offering Massage Therapies, Reiki , Reflexology and Hypnotherapy. I had no option but to put my business on hold during the pandemic but now things are settling down I am offering my therapies once again. There is nothing more important to me than helping people feel better.

March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness month and is a subject that is very important to me because I lost my mother to ovarian cancer back in the 1970's, she was just 50 years old. Her cancer symptoms were put down to the menopause and by the time she was diagnosed the cancer had spread too far for it to be treated effectively. I would like to say diagnosis has got better for this cancer but apparently it is still one of the most commonly misdiagnosed. Many women think ovarian cancer will be detected by smears but they are mistaken as smears detect changes in cells in the cervix not the ovaries. So to help raise awareness, the most common symptoms of ovarian cancer are: bloating, stomach pain, weeing more, and struggling to eat. Ladies, if you

have any of these symptoms, please do not ignore them, see your GP. The sooner you are seen and diagnosed the sooner you can be treated and I can tell you that treatment has developed considerably since my beautiful mom was diagnosed.

We have all had a fraught couple of years and I am very aware that many people are suffering with mental health issues since the pandemic stress, depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorders and a fear of going out have escalated. I offer a range of therapies to help you whatever your issues. Whatever you need help with I aim to help if I can and if I can't I probably know someone else to refer you to. Local home visits are available for some treatments too. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

April Boardman

FOOD BANK

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Councillor Debbie Brown writes to ask if we can put out a call for more volunteers to help with the Food Bank. Of course we can, a talk we had with Debbie last year made it clear what a valuable service this is.

The job involves being free on a Friday morning from 9.00 to

11.30, about every three weeks, working on a rota. It's all about helping to give out food parcels to those in need.

If you'd like know more and discuss the duties in detail, please email Councillor Brown on debgailbrown@gamil.com or Beth Gadd on beth.mcfadyen@gamil.com. If you don't do email, you can call the food bank mobile on 07519 885 943.

A NEW BINGO CLUB

Thanks to Suzanne France, who's got the necessary licence after clearance with the County Council, a new bingo club will be operating in the Market Hall starting on Monday March 7th. Start time is 7.00, with "eyes down" at 8.00.

It will run under equal chance game rules and will nominate a charity to benefit from any profit. A limited entry fee of £8 per person is also applicable and this will include tea or coffee with biscuits. Suzanne is on 01299 270003 or email

suzannefrance14@gmail.com

UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS

To the optimist the glass is half full. To the pessimist the glass is half empty. To the engineer the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



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April Boardman

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One of those sectors are the future NHS professional, we have Daisy who is in her last year of her training to be a midwife, Lucy who is working towards the end of her training to be a Physiotherapist. Christina and Aila about to start their journey into nursing. We have further staff who have just been accepted into the NHS. These lovely kind young adults not only study many hours both in university, on hospital wards, they also give to us and have helped us support our clients for many years! Most joined us while still at college.

TLC have ex-nurses that come to us after raising their family and some, in recent times have re-joined their colleagues in the NHS.

We have staff who have raised their kids and now want a career, TLC will train or retrain people to help people reach their full potential and become one of our Outstanding Team.

We encourage kind caring and honest people of all ages and backgrounds who want to make a difference to people's lives to join our team. TLC invest heavily in people with ongoing support and training to help our new colleagues achieve their goals and reach their full potential. Once initial training is complete and they have been assessed as competent, TLC Induction Manager and our Training Manager will support staff through to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care

Our Training

TLC's Training Team offers full free training on site and support staff through their Care Certificate. We have strong connection with an outside Training Provision who help our staff to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care. Currently we have 32 members of staff that have already achieved Level 2/3 in Health and Social Care. We have qualifications at level 4 and five of our Senior Managers have Level 5. All staff that are new to care are required to achieve Level 2 within the first two years of their employment.

Contact us

For further enquiries please regarding Care or employment please ring TLC Care at Home 01299 272897 for an informal chat. Visit www.tlccareathome.com or wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk

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COVID-19 Update

All our staff are provided with full PPE's including Gloves, Full Aprons, Sleeves, Visors, Gloves Surgical Masks.

Video training on Donning and Doffing PPE's sent out regularly.

Staff sign health declarations daily, Staff have weekly Covid-19 test. Most of our staff have now been vaccinated against Covid-19. TLC work closely with government regulation and update our risks assessment accordingly.

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

I have an invitation for you this month, an offer you cannot refuse! Caring for God's Acre has a brand new project and it is coming to a churchyard near you now. 'Opening the Ark' is based in the South Shropshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and between now and next March is hoping to lure you into a local churchyard to enjoy yourselves whatever your age. It will help you to learn more about the amazing places that are our burial grounds and to take part in one of the many activities planned by the Opening the Ark Team in the 26 chosen places.

Just to whet your appetite here's a few facts about that land around our Shropshire churches. They have many yew trees locally that are more than 1000 years old (and the odd one that is even older!). The white and yellow spots on gravestones are not made by messy birds, they are in fact lichens, many of which are only ever found in graveyards. Toadstools and mushrooms enjoy the environment too, undisturbed for hundreds of years, and many are home to a plethora of wildflowers.

Kirsty Stevens (kirsty@cfga.org.uk) is leading the project, ably assisted by

Megan Gallant (megan@cfga.org.uk) and they are planning a programme of activities and events focused on on nature-based volunteer involvement and participation, which they hope will help reverse the loss of habitats and species decline. This will include discovery days with environmental art, bug hunts, nature walks and activities. Children will be encouraged and entertained - and educated - with some schools already aboard this Ark. Conservation is also on the agenda with a chance to try a variety of skills, including learning to scythe with the Churchyard Task Team.

It is not all physical stuff as you will get the opportunity to go on a nature walk, hear some great speakers at a series of talks and the planned "Hay Days" in June could give you some good ideas for your own garden, take away hay to help create your own meadow and a chance to just enjoy the peace that is a churchyard.

To find out more and keep informed go to the emails above or:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/?s=Opening+the+Ark>

If on Facebook search for Opening the Ark

Anni Holden Calver, CfGA trustee & member of The Churchyard Task Team.

CLEOBURY FESTIVAL

The Festival is back, scheduled for Saturday June 4th and centred around Lacon Childe School and the neighbouring facilities. Food supplies, businesses and organisations will be on the Sports Field, crafts in the school hall and musicians and performers will also have their own area out on the field. If you are a speaker, there will be space for you in the school. We don't know yet where the proposed Simon Evans play will be housed, but we suspect it will be in the library.

On Sunday there will be a ticketed afternoon tea event, one assumes on the sports field but that's not definite yet. If you have a business and would like to attend you haven't heard directly from the organisers, the contact is Christine Smith on 07977 296 335 or clsart@gmail.com

It's a lovely family event and the fact that it coincides with Her Majesty the Queen's 70th anniversary of her ascension to the throne just adds to the special atmosphere.

MORE ENGINEERS

Normal people believe if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.



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Afternoon Session	12:30am - 3:00pm	£10.00
After School Club	3:00pm - 5:30pm	£10.00

ANOTHER CLOWS TOP SUCCESS

The new Wildlife Club in the Victory Hall got under way with a strong attendance.

The first meeting of the club was a great success. The meeting included an hour's talk by Twit Twoo falconry and detailed information on the subject of keeping owls and falcons. The 36 attendees were treated to a stunning display of three owls and a falcon of which two members were able to handle a tawny owl and a white faced owl.



Who's the most scary? Steve Woodison or Zoe the gyrsaker falcon?

Steve Woodison, Village Hall chair said the hard work put in advertising the event was well worth it. We were expecting 15 to 20 people but after receiving

lots of enquiries it was clear we were going to get a good turn out. The evening also included a discussion on future speaker subjects, meetings out and about and possibly starting up a junior wildlife club. It was also decided that the annual fee would be thirty pounds.

There will be no meetings in August and December so ten meetings a year works out at just three pounds per meeting. The well stocked bar and refreshments were also well received. Future meetings will be on February 25th with a talk by Gordon Forest on the wildlife at the Upton Warren sanctuary run by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Then March 25th with Peter Siviter talking on a photographer's view on nature. Enquiries on any of the above to Steve Woodison 07738014884.

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Ambition was the subject of work read at our January meeting and Marian got the ball rolling with the tale of an Indian girl who suffered an unpleasant stepmother. An arranged marriage at 12, a mother at just 13 and a demanding older husband saw

her run away and make her way as a successful writer - her ambition achieved.

Vivian described Trevor, who was accepted into Edinburgh University and is working for his PhD with a move to Silicone his eventual aim. A man with an ambitious plan.

Sylvia asked the question "What's in a name?" and told the story of Clare, who fell for the man who became her husband without knowing his name at first. She then offered an alternative story about ambitious women and her looking at Margaret Thatcher and thinking "I can do that." Now that is ambitious.

This month we meet on Monday the 14th at 6.30 in the Town Library on Love Lane. Our subject will be 'Gardens' and no doubt the ladies down from Doddington will have much of interest to tell us about. Our meetings are not restricted to active members; if you would like to know more about our joint writing and assessing work, feel free to come along to listen and maybe learn.

SILLY BIT

**I'm getting so old that my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it.
Anon.**

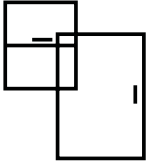


Kim Stanley
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Cleobury Mortimer
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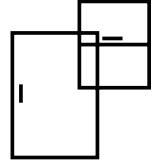


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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

BRIAN GADD

Saint Mary's was a very crowded church on February 3rd, when Cleobury Mortimer gathered to say goodbye to Brian Gadd. Such a decent man deserved the attention of the many families he'd helped, whether as a school teacher or a member of the clergy.

In the manner of the man, this was the quiet and dignified service Brian had asked for. Rector Ashley Buck had tested positive to a Covid test and could not conduct the service, so Rev David Eve took his place. He spoke with feeling about the man he'd known for years and he did it with not a sign of a hurry; we had time to remember and to think about the man.

I have been to funerals where the duty priest clearly had basic notes on the deceased and the result was a lack of warmth and an atmosphere of haste. Such an occasion lacks the respect due to both the

departed and their family. The simple display of good manners the congregation saw in Saint Mary's was a credit to everyone involved.

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH



Wouldn't it be really good if we didn't have to keep on reminding ourselves - and possibly even Shropshire Council - of the parlous state of our roads?

This pothole is on the corner of High Street and Tenbury Road, where heavy vehicles turning towards the various works on that route add a twisting motion to the grip of their tyres and the result is what you see here. In truth almost all the

A4117 through the town is in what looks like a state of gradual disintegration, with long areas showing the top surface missing and the next one down being spread along by the passage of traffic. It really does give the wrong message to visitors, or is the overall state of Britain's roads this bad? That's not the impression one gets when crossing the border into Worcestershire.

I read in February that the government are going to cut back on road expenditure, which doesn't suggest that we drivers and passengers have a lot to look forward to when it's a matter of comfort and safety. Will this idea of Pothole of the Month turn into a permanent feature? We did have a vain hope that a bit of stirring would provoke positive action. No hope.

SILLY BIT

"There's one thing I must get off my mind before I marry Mary."

"What's that?"

"The word Jean."



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CLEOBURY W.I.

This year, we celebrate our centenary, and have planned several special events to be enjoyed throughout 2022. The first of which was on February 8th, an evening on the 'Dialects of the Clee Hill' given by Alf Jenkins MBE and his wife Ann.

The meeting attracted a lot of interest from local people, in addition to WI members, and the Market Hall was packed. Several guests expressed an interest in joining the WI.

Particular moments enjoyed included Alf reading excerpts from a nativity play once performed by pupils at Clee Hill Primary School, all in local dialect. Alf and Ann held a conversation, also in dialect, followed by a quiz where we were invited to 'translate' some words and phrases.

Our next meeting, on March 8th, is our AGM (members only) with a Beetle Drive and a shared buffet to follow.

Updates are posted on the Cleobury WI Facebook page, or contact Judy Sant on 01299 270983.

Maggie James

**ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION**

The Cleobury branch Annual Lunch will be in the Parish Hall

on Sunday, March 20th, gathering at 12.30 and eating at 1.00. Tickets are £16, available from Ron Breakwell on CM 270830, Mike Hermolle on 271384 or Mark Baldwin on 270110. The speaker is Sarah Kerr, Shropshire County Armed Forces Outreach support coordinator.

The Armed Forces Outreach will be in the Cleobury Community Hub on March 22nd, from 1.30 to 3.30. Come along for a coffee and chat.

Armed Forces Outreach is designed to provide help and support to military personnel, veterans and families. Working with service charities, the Outreach works to ensure military personnel have access to the right support. We have also formed close links with several businesses, charities and organisations across Shropshire, many of whom have signed the Armed Forces Covenant to demonstrate their support. A veteran is anyone who has served and has a service number; this will be required to access support from service charities.

Cleobury branch of the Legion meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 in the Sports and Social Club.

Mike Hermolle

MARY CLARKE



Mary Clarke, long term Cleobury resident and a popular face in our town, lost her valiant fight with cancer in February. The sympathies of all who know the Clarke family, will go to Dave, Lisa and Tracy on their sad loss. Dave and Mary had been married 56 years.

The family would like to thank their friends, neighbours and the carers who helped look after Mary, for all they have done to make her final days as peaceful as possible.

The funeral will be on March 9th at Kidderminster Crematorium at 1.30. Family flowers only; a collection of donations to Severn Hospice will be made on the day.

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CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP

Have you heard your first Curlew of the year yet? If so, please tell us. They usually start returning to the area in late February, and continue to arrive throughout March.

Our Annual Lapwing and Curlew Survey re-starts at the end of March. If you care about what's happening to these birds, or just enjoy walks in the countryside, we'd like your help, please.

We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them. We located 8 pairs of Curlew last year. We need to know if they all come back, and if there are more.

The group is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee and Clee Hill and Catherton Commons, extending approximately as far as Knowlegate and Knowbury to the south, Bitterley to the west, Cleedownton and Bromdon to the north, and Doddington to the east. The bird survey has been carried out every year since 2012, and we are doing it again this year.

The survey is easy to do, and only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June. Simple

instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a practical fieldwork training session if you want to come.

Whether you join in or not, please let us know if you see Curlew, Lapwing or Kestrel anywhere in the area.

Locating Curlews is particularly important, because we will be working again with the Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) *Save our Curlews* nest-finding and protection project. You can read more about what has been done on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/.

The Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group public meeting is on Tuesday, March 8th at 7.30 in Clee Hill Village Hall. There will be short presentations refreshments and a raffle.

A Bird Group meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday March 21st, at the Recreation Rooms, 22A, Clee Hill High Street, to present the results of our work in previous years, and plans for 2022. All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Clee Hill pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website <https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/clee-hill-wildlife-group/>

If you want to help, but can't get to the meeting, or if you want more information, or you have a report for us, please contact Chris Bargman on 01299 270514, or email: chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk

Leo Smith, Bird Group Organiser

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

February promised a treat with Daniel Craig starring in the latest of the James Bond series. Dinner at Ghautama in good company was a fine start and we settled down in a modest audience to enjoy thrills and spills.

My impression was that the great Bond legend has run out of plots by the man behind the legend, Ian Fleming, and his grasp of what makes a thriller work has been lost. At the usual Flicks half way break I reached for my coat and left - it just had not grasped my attention. And I was not the only one to leave early.

Flicks have given us some true quality evenings and I live in hope that Anthony Hopkins in the acclaimed "The Father" will restore my faith in them. I'm told this is not an easy film to watch, but that's no deterrent, as I want to be gripped by a strong script and acting that justifies people visiting the Hall wanting a moving experience. Mr Hopkins has never let me down so far and March 19th should be good. JR



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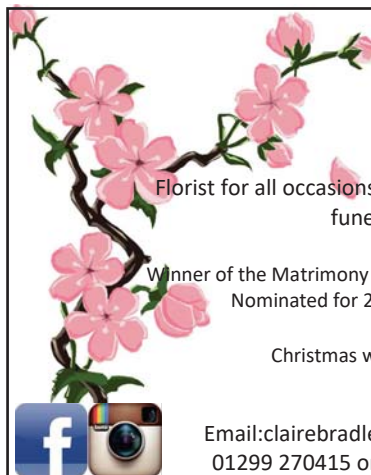
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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

March walk dates with this popular group:

Thursday 3rd,. 10.00am start from the Childe Road West car park. DY14 8GH

Thursday, 17th, 10.30 start from Rock Village Hall, Porchbrook Road, Rock. DY14 9SD.

For more details, email mdskey@rockpathfinders.uk or call Alan on 01299 400304.

CMFA

The CMFA was started by a group of enthusiastic walkers, initially to help maintain the footpaths in the local area. The work parties restart this month after a Winter break. On Wednesday March 16th we are hoping to replace two stiles between the brewery and Barnsland farm. They are both rather tricky jobs so we would appreciate a number of volunteers to help. No special skills are required just a willingness to get stuck in and work as a team. If you fancy a morning of fresh air and exercise while helping improve the footpaths please get in touch with our Footpath Officer for more information footpaths.cmfa@gmail.co.uk

During the milder Winter days we assisted Neen Sollars PC to install two gates. One by Birch Hill Kennels on our Walk 10, Neen Sollars Walkabout and the second on the path from Barnsland to Neen Sollars near the River Rea.

The Parish Walk last month was the very popular Snowdrop Walk. The hedgerows and banks are full of wonderful displays, a sign

that Spring is on its way. A couple visiting from Dorset joined us. They gave a small donation to CMFA after they had enjoyed both a warm welcome and the pleasant walk. The next walk will be on Sunday March 6th meeting outside the Market Hall.

For the Social Walk on Saturday February 26th the route started near Pensax Common and Worles Common before returning near Penn Hall. We had great views of the Malvern Hills and Clee Hill. After that there was an opportunity for lunch at the nearby pub.

Walking for Health is very popular. At least twenty people brave the weather twice a month for a walk around Cleobury Mortimer. The friendly chat continues over a drink and cake at the Coco coffee morning in the Market Hall. Open to all and the distance can be varied depending on ability. We will meet on March 9th and 23rd at 10.00am outside the Market Hall. No need to book.

After a dry January the rain reappeared last month. The resulting puddles, mud and clay made some footpaths slippery and unpleasant. We enjoyed several walks along the paths and alleyways of Cleobury. CMFA leaflet 1 A Wander Round Cleobury and leaflet 8 The Cleobury Wiggle give plenty of ideas to avoid the mud.

Information about all the CMFA activities are on our website www.cmfa.co.uk and also on Facebook.

Veronica Hargreaves

ROUND AND ABOUT WALKS

2022 Bishops Castle May 17th to 30th. Walk in our beautiful Shropshire hills and raise money for blood cancer research. "A great route and a great cause" This circular Ramble (23 miles) runs between Bishops Castle and Clun, taking in Bury Ditches, the Walcot Estate and bits of the Shropshire Way and Offa's Dyke. There's a fairly gentle Amble (10 miles), more challenging Scramble (13 miles) and shorter distances if you choose. We mark the routes with arrows, and send maps with full directions in 3-mile sections to your email address. Enter by donating £10 per person to Blood Cancer UK via: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jeanshirley> then `c o n t a c t i n g` jeanshirley@btinternet.com for your pack and further information.

Apply between March 1 and May 16. After that, decide when to walk between May 17 & 30, which route and with whom. Provide your own refreshments and you are responsible for your own safety. Our first aim is for you to enjoy the walking and the scenery. If you want to get sponsorship or make a donation to support vital life-saving work, that achieves our second aim to help beat blood cancer, and makes us very happy. Please give your friends the link. FACEBOOK: <https://fb.me/e/26St57KRA>

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Two dates that get written down in my diary straight away are the two Saturdays of the deer census. The census is a snapshot of deer populations, a measure of the status quo which is needed to make decisions about future management of the Fallow, Roe and Muntjac in the forest. Like the Garden Bird Survey and the Farmland Bird Survey, it relies on the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers to gather the information but unlike them it requires an element of stealthy stalking in the half light of dawn.



Of the three deer species mentioned only the Roe are likely to be native to Britain. There are a small number in the Wyre Forest but they seem to be increasing year on year so we assume some manage to breed! More successful are the Muntjac, which are the size of a Labrador dog and, appropriately enough, make a loud bark that penetrates the forest. They don't often co-operate by standing in view so this call is the surest way of knowing they are present, along with their tracks or 'slots' and droppings which are tiny compared to the other two deer species. They are adept at slipping or digging their way under fences and will eat a wide range of vegetation, including bark, which makes them no friend of the forester. They have established themselves widely in the south and east of England since escaping from Woburn Park in Bedfordshire in the 1920s and arrived in Wyre in the 1980s. Muntjac does will come into season straight after giving birth to their fauns and so they are able to breed quickly and are probably here to stay.

It's not easy to spot the deer among the dull brown trunks and fallen leaves of the winter forest, especially if they stay still, and they always see me before I see them. In the Wyre Forest there is a mixture of colours of Fallow Deer from black, through brown to white. The white ones are, of course, the easiest to spot, in fact very easy indeed, often leading the eye to a group of darker companions. They have a particular beauty and more than a touch of mystery, having a place in Celtic and other cultures as symbols of the otherworld and of purity. The 'White Hart' was used as an emblem by Richard II, Henry V and Edward IV (and more prosaically by a large number of pubs!)

We have many excellent wildlife photographers locally and some have managed to take stunning pictures of deer, but I have borrowed the accompanying photo of white Fallow does from the British Deer Society because of its obvious charm.

Linda Iles



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Last month marked 70 years since the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the throne, following the death of her father, King George VI.

As Britain's longest serving monarch, the Queen's remarkable seven decades of public service are a source of pride and inspiration to people not just in the UK, but across the Commonwealth and the wider world.

The official celebrations will take place in early June over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend, with an extra Bank Holiday to mark this unique occasion. There will be an extensive programme of national events, including the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour), a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, and a Platinum Party at Buckingham Palace.

Locally, I know that many towns and villages have already begun to plan street parties and celebrations, as I am already receiving kind invitations to join communities to celebrate. I shall try to join as many as I can, so if you are having an event locally over the Jubilee weekend, please do let me know at philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk. I shall be lighting a beacon on Thursday 2nd June as part of a national chain of light.

Like many, I recall fondly the post-Golden Jubilee visit of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to Shropshire in 2003. Having arrived by train at Telford, the royal couple visited Much Wenlock to take in the Wenlock Olympic Games, the inspiration for the

modern Olympic Games as we know them today, before moving to the Discovery Centre in Craven Arms for lunch. They then arrived at Ludlow, where Her Majesty formally opened the new Library and Museum Resource Centre before doing a walkabout among thousands of people in Market Square.

This Jubilee is the first where Her Majesty has not had the steadfast presence of Prince Philip at her side. But she remains just as committed to continuing her service now as when she took her pledge in 1947. It was telling that Her Majesty signed off her official Jubilee message with "Your Servant".

I am pleased that, in keeping with tradition, a Platinum Jubilee medal will be awarded to people who work in public service including representatives of the Armed Forces, the emergency services and the prison services. This tradition stretches back to the reign of Queen Victoria when an official medal was designed to mark her 50th anniversary on the throne.

I am also encouraging people across South Shropshire to get involved with the Queen's Green Canopy – where individuals and communities 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'. This offers a chance to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will also benefit future generations.

I look forward to joining celebrations in towns and villages across South Shropshire in June, and encourage everyone to come together and celebrate the Queen's remarkable reign.

Philip Dunne





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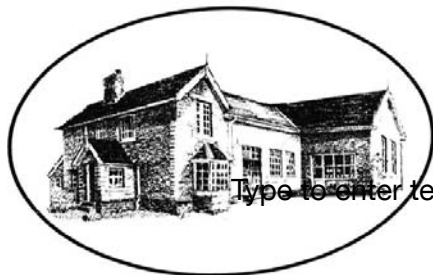
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All of us who use the High Street, either by foot or car, will not have failed to notice the Manor House behind the locked gates. Residents who have lived in Cleobury for many years will remember the Manor House as a nursing home which closed its doors over 12 years ago. Sadly the house which is Grade II* listed has missed the loving care and attention it deserves since then. It is not for the author to speculate or discuss the circumstances surrounding its life for the last 12 years or so, but there is a growing feeling in the community that at the very least the house would benefit from a facelift in the front grounds. To that end a small group has been formed to raise awareness of the house and hopefully find a way to present the frontage in a nicer way.

We have been in contact with the current owner of the Manor House and put forward a proposition to clean up the front grounds. We are pleased to announce that the owner has agreed that a volunteer party can enter the grounds and spend a few hours clearing weeds, undergrowth and any rubbish from the front. There is no intention to do any work on the actual fabric of the building, but we feel that if at least the grounds are tidy, this will make a big improvement. The owner has proposed that we carry out this work when the days

are brighter and warmer, so probably around late March, early April time.

We have a strong following of over 50 people who have expressed interest in the Manor House and we publish a short news update from time to time when we have anything to report. If any readers in Cleobury or further afield are interested in helping out we would love to hear from you. We have several volunteers who have 'signed up' already, but the old saying about 'Many hands making light work' would ensure that we can do whatever is needed without only one or two people ending up with backache! We are hoping to get support from local businesses for this activity and anyone who would like to be involved is asked to contact us. You can see the information we have on a web site www.themanorhouse.info and you can also sign up to help or just get the newsletter from this web site as well. We will also publish information on the Cleobury Mortimer Community Facebook groups from where you can contact us by direct message. When we finally agree a date for the volunteering party, we will publish this as well. We hope to hear from as many people as possible. The Manor House is an important feature of our town and deserves to be seen in all its splendour.

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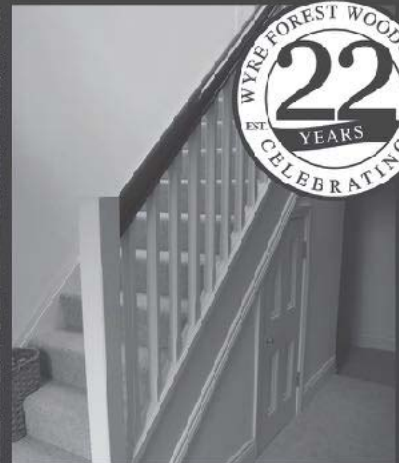
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Church services throughout the Benefice in March

St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday 10.00 Imposition of Ashes and 7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.

Sunday 6th March– 10am Eucharist

Sunday 13th March – 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

Sunday 20th March – 10am Eucharist

Sunday 27th March – Mothering Sunday 10am Eucharist

During Lent there will be a Compline every Thursday at 6.00pm and a service of the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 10.30 after the morning Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 6th March- 9.30am Eucharist

Sunday 20th March - 9.30am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 6th March – 11.00am Eucharist

Sunday 20th March – 3.pm Evening Prayer

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 6th March – 11.am Village Worship

Sunday 13th March – 11.am Eucharist

Sunday 20th March – 11.am Village Worship

Saturday 27th March – Mother Sunday 11am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 6th March – 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 20th March – 10.00am Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 6th March – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP

Sunday 20th March – 11.am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 13th March – 11.15am Eucharist BCP

Sunday 27th March – 11.15 Morning Prayer

The Church Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am-3.00pm

Contact details: Grace Johnson cleoburychurch@hotmail.com

Tel: 01299 272916



Remember to follow us

Doddington Lodge Post



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

As part of our Random Act of Kindness Day, Rachel & Rachel were out & about in the local area delivering home baked cupcakes to some very special people in the community that our carers had nominated to receive a random act of kindness gift.

They also placed daffodils around the local area for people to find and take home in loving memory of Warwick.

A big thank you to the Co-op in Cleobury for donating their unsold valentines flowers. Everyone has been so kind & thoughtful. We hope you enjoy them. From all of us at Doddington Lodge.



SUMMER FETE

On Saturday 23rd July 2022 we will be hosting our annual Summer Fete. We are calling all stall holders, entertainers and face painters who would like to come and join us and to be a part of this wonderful community day of celebrations.

To find out more or to confirm you would like to book please contact: reception@doddingtonlodge.com

www.doddingtonlodge.com | [E: enquiries@doddingtonlodge.com](mailto:enquiries@doddingtonlodge.com) | [T: 01584 707084](tel:01584707084)



DODDINGTON LODGE WELL-BEING ACTIVITIES



Rachel, our Activities Co-ordinator always has lots of lovely things planned each day for our Residents to enjoy. Games, reading, baking and arts & crafts. Taking walks in our lovely gardens in the fresh countryside air. Every day is different, we make sure there is something for everyone to get involved

with and enjoy time with the Doddington Lodge activities team. We are always baking, and we especially love days that celebrate cakes and we made the most of National Carrot Cake Day, making delicious cupcakes and coming together afterwards to enjoy a scrummy afternoon tea.



DODDINGTON WELCOMES DAISY

We had a very special & very cute visitor called Daisy, who came and spent time with our residents, as part of our on-going well-being animal therapy plan to have animal visits on a regular basis. Thank you to Pat for bringing Daisy along to visit us Doddington Lodge.

Join our team *and make a real difference...*

Becoming part of the Doddington Lodge family is really something special. Our team is built on a shared purpose, to provide outstanding care for our residents and support loved ones. We invest in our team members, helping them to progress and develop within their roles and career path. More than ever we are looking for the right individuals who can really make a difference. If you believe you would be an asset to our team we would love to hear from you. If you believe you have the right skills please email your CV to: cassie@doddingtonlodge.com or visit www.doddingtonlodge.com/careers.

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CLEOBURY BOWLS CLUB

As club captain for the coming season, one of my goals is to encourage new members to join our well established club. Membership is open to young and old and family groups are most welcome.

The club is located in Ron Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, overlooking the Shropshire countryside. It has a well kept full size green with plenty of seating areas and even a well tended garden area. There is a modern club house, where tea and coffee are always on tap. In addition there is an Honesty Bar, where members can purchase alcoholic or non alcoholic drinks and snacks. All can be seen on our website www.cleoburybowls.uk

If you would like to come along for a taster session, please contact me and a convenient time can be arranged; the club has a selection of bowls for use during these sessions. There is no dress code as such and smart casual wear with flattish soled shoes or trainers is all that is required. You will find help always on hand from members and you will be

assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

During the April to September season the green is open daily, with social bowling in the afternoons of Monday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays. In addition the club holds competitions throughout the season on Saturday afternoons, open to all members of all abilities; these are very enjoyable and a great way to socialise. The club also runs a Sunday morning league of teams mostly from within club membership.

On a more serious note the club also enters teams in the Highley League, the Ludlow League, the Ladies League and the Mid Shropshire Seniors League and new members will always be encouraged to participate.

On a final note, please do come along and give it a go. As the old adage says: 'Don't knock it until you've tried it.'
Colin McMurray, Club Captain.
Tel: 01299 832127 Mob: 07871 564 975

AN INVITATION TO LUNCH

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THE READING GROUP

A modest but select group gathered in February to discuss 'Kim' by Rudyard Kipling. One objection to the size of print and another unable to settle with the story were the only views outside of praise. The writing style and details of life in India were much appreciated. The overall opinion was that we would recommend the read; its status as a classic was justified by this experience.

This month we are taking on a story about life in London during the World War II blitz, with undercurrents of emotion for a child to deal with. Life is never boring with a good range of books. We meet on Monday March 21st at 7.30 to discuss Brian Thompson's "Keeping Mum".

JR



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EFAW—22nd March—£75

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With bruised and brown bananas
I make banana bread.
A bit of this, a bit of that
And the whole family is fed.

If I find some broken biscuits
It's base for something sweet
Like millionaire's shortbread or cheesecake,
The things I like to eat

A few stale crusts are just the job
For a bread and butter pud
It's amazing how such boring stuff
Can be made into something so good

Just half a stale white cabbage
Will make a steamy slaw
Add sultanas, nuts, some mayonnaise
And I'm left wanting more.

And when I find, in the fridge drawer
A selection of sad looking fodder
My soup maker comes down from off the shelf
So that's lunch without any bother.

And if there's Christmas cake or pud
When through my tins I rifle.
I add a glug of sherry
For a tasty Christmas trifle

But sometimes I think it might have been best
To bin all that sad looking stuff
Cause instead, all those things are in my tum
And I'm starting to feel quite rough.

So there's a moral to this story
Which I've realised too late
I hate to admit, like the things in my fridge,
I've passed my best before date.

Sylvia Cameron

Sylvia is a recent recruit to the Nearly Dead
Poets Society, who helps to keep us laughing.
JR



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Simon Morton in the Garden.

Bored, bored, bored

You know that fallow period between Christmas and New Year? The (almost) week where nothing happens, but everyone walks around with a bemused sense that we really should be doing *something*; we just don't know quite what.

The months of February and March are pretty much like that for gardeners. We're itching to do something, but weather, soil conditions and temperature all conspire against us, leaving us aimlessly wandering around the potting shed or the greenhouse. This lack of purpose doesn't sit well with me - all play and no work makes Simon a pain to live with.

It's one of the reasons I love a list (and I don't think I'm on my own). I wager that most of us gardeners thrive on a decent 'to-do' list. In the absence of things to do, we get antsy and start things prematurely, the sowing of seeds being a perfect case in point. For years, I have chanced my arm and gone early. I'll plonk sweet peas into cold and wet seed trays in late January and then watch them like a hawk for any sign of growth. When something does finally appear, it's more out of contractual obligation than horticultural miracle.

Of course, it's not just sweet peas. The information on the back of seed packets lure you in and play to the gardener's love of a job - they urge you to get the seeds into pots as soon as possible so that you can luxuriate in their gorgeous blooms earlier in the season. For example, the seed packets state that you can plant sweet peas in late January. While this might apply if you live in The Azores, it doesn't work in cold and soggy Shropshire. So, with depressing regularity, the seeds either rot, sulk and decide not to play or produce spindly sprouts that never amount to much. So what

does the gardener do at this point? Ditch the first batch and go out and buy another packet of seeds. Oh, those clever seed marketing people...

It's funny how support for my 'to-do' list addiction comes in different guises. As I write, Storm Eunice is (quite literally) blowing a gale outside. My typing is accompanied by the sound of terracotta pots being toppled and then smashed, furniture sliding across the patio, and the squawks of some very discombobulated chickens (I'm guessing egg production will be down for the next few days). There is an upside, though - I've managed to add shopping around for replacement pots, recovering furniture from the hedge and researching therapies for chickens suffering from PTSD to my 'to-do' list.

Update - I've just braved the elements and flying debris to check on my beloved greenhouse. Thus far, it looks to have escaped unscathed, although the deluge over the last 48 hours means that the floor is under 6 inches of water (God bless you, clay soil). On closer inspection, the glass needs a damned good clean - green algae can't be a good sign, right? - so that gets also added to my 'to-do' list.

My advice? If possible, step away from the to-do list and the temptation to start things that really aren't ready to be started. Instead, add something like 'Enjoy the amazing show of snowdrops this year' or 'Lift the heads of hellebores - they're always a joy' to your mental list (and wait a few weeks before commencing the sowing).

Simon Morton

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CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

After perhaps the driest January on record I am now in the middle of some incredibly stormy weather. The River Severn might have one of its biggest flood events for a long time according to the Environment Agency. So what are the implications of all this wet weather for Catherton Common?

Well, it's all good news! Catherton Common is a place with many diverse habitats and this is one of its unique features. It has some areas that are quite dry acid grassland, the heathland areas are a mix of dry and wet heathland, in many places the two exist as an intricate mosaic with Common heather and Cross Leaved Heath (an indicator of wet heath and bog) next to each other. However, probably the most environmentally rich and

valuable habitat is the wet flush and marsh close to Cramer Gutter and there are also other low lying areas of bog and marshy ground very rich in wildlife across the common which benefit from wet winter weather.

Over many recent years we have had less rainfall than usual and many of these wet areas showed signs of drying out. If that continued it might significantly reduce the variety of plants and animals on the reserve and also increase the amount of bracken and gorse, which thrive on drier ground and are also favoured by the warmer conditions we are experiencing with climate change. This could lead in the long term to a much less diverse range of wildlife on Catherton Common.

So keep doing your rain dances, and feel free to send the water flooding your garden back onto the common! But a bit of sunny

weather in the summer would be nice.

Clive Dean

*Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Reserves Officer South*

A BRIEF MEETING IS PROMISED...

The Friends of Saint Mary's Church's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.00 p m on Thursday 10th March in the Church and it will be a very brief meeting! The Committee hopes you'll come along.

Kind regards and many thanks for your continuing support.

Diane Waddington

THEATRE SEVERN

Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury do have ambitions. They booked the noted songwriter Newton Faulkner to appear on September 28th and Talon, the very successful Eagles tribute band for November 17th. The Box Office number is 01743 281281.

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As if things weren't bad enough on our roads, funding for road repairs has been slashed and Councils outside England's major urban areas estimate that 11 million potholes will go unfilled. Given Shropshire Council's performance with the original level of funding, where will that leave us? Will they start digging potholes instead of filling them? As I write this, there has been some progress in surrounding areas but little within Cleobury itself. This reminds me of a recent programme describing driving in Russia which included a warning never to drive through a puddle as there is no way of knowing how deep it is. There was also the fact that although the roads were OK in larger towns, they deteriorated badly in more rural areas. Sounds familiar? Still, there is some good news for Shropshire Council as this year, for a change, they have not featured in 'Private Eye's' 'Rotten Borough' awards. Does this mean they are doing things better or just not doing them?

Yet more tales of 'Trigger warnings' given to students before they study classic books. I wonder if this policy of shielding young adults from any depictions of harm or evil might have contributed to the fact that modern social workers seem to have difficulty accepting that people can be bad and/or tell lies. In one recent case where a child was murdered, there had been a number of concerns expressed by friends, relatives and neighbours but these were all dismissed as 'malicious' following one pre-arranged (!) visit. Clearly social workers have a very difficult job and, whatever they do, someone will come out of the woodwork and criticise their actions but surely a healthy dose of cynicism could be useful in these cases.

A six year old child expressed confusion when a fellow pupil who was biologically male but identified as gender fluid wore a dress to school. His parents then received a stern letter from the head teacher and chairwoman of governors warning that children would be viewed as transphobic – and by implication

undesirable pupils – if they demonstrated an “inability to believe a transgender person is actually a 'real' female or male”. Ye Gods, the child was six years old! – what planet do these people live on? Perhaps the head and chairwoman had been to Universities where trigger warnings were rife...

Boris is still awaiting further action on the large numbers of parties held during lockdown with the Police sending letters to a substantial number of staff asking for an explanation of their involvement. Not sure how far that will go as I don't imagine that the Home Secretary will be keen on seeing her boss charged. One wag has suggested that his address be changed to 'Downing 10 Street'...

Thames Water, faced with the cost of building the new London 'Supersewer' claimed they could not afford it. This would have been better received if they hadn't paid some £3 billion to their Australian owners in dividends. As a result, customers are having to cover the cost via surcharges on their bills. The same excuse was also given for their failure to reduce the incidence of putting untreated or partly treated sewage into rivers (4000 times a year at present and not going to reduce any time soon...)

A video of the footballer Kurt Zouma kicking his cat has created a great furore. He has been fined two weeks wages (around £250,000), has been booed by his own fans when playing and various official bodies are investigating the incident. We do love our animals but the cynic in me wonders whether the same rumpus would have been caused if it had been one of his kids. We have Royal Societies for the protection of animals and birds but only a National Society for children...I have also seen a cartoon of two lads wearing West Ham shirts asking a neighbour over the wall 'Can we please have our cat back?'. Well, I thought it was funny...

Ariadne J. Grumpy

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THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 3 rd - April 7 th	1pm- 2pm	Market Hall lunch supporting Christian Aid. PAGE 35		
		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Thurs 3 rd	10.00	Rock Pathfinders walk from Childe Road here in Cleobury. PAGE 21		
Sat 5 th	2.30	Jumble cum Tabletop Sale, Bayton Village Hall		
Sun 6 th	10.00	The Footpath Association meet at the Market Hall for the Parish Walk. PAGE 21		
Mon 7 th	7.00	New Bingo Club at the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
Tues 8 th	7.30	Cleobury WI have their AGM. Members only. PAGE 17		
	7.30	Clee Hill Wildlife Group meet at the Village Hall. PAGE 19		
Wed 9 th	10.00	Walking for Health starts a tour of local parish at the Market Hall. PAGE 21		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Lovely cakes, too!		
	7.30	CM Royal British Legion meets at the Sports & Social Club		
Thurs 10 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00	Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's Church. PAGE 41		
Fri 11 th	7.15	Race Night at Lacon Childe School. Fun for all the family. PAGE 7		
Mon 14 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library in Love Lane. PAGE 13		
Thurs 17 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders step out from Rock Village Hall. PAGE 21		
Sat 19 th	9.30- 12.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market in and around St Marys Church		
	1.30	Jumble Sale, Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 51		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks offer Anthony Hopkins in "The Father". PAGE 19		
Sun 20 th		Clows Top Victory Hall hosts the Mad March Hare Cycle Ride. PAGE 51		
	12.30	CM Royal British Legion annual lunch. PAGE 17		
Mon 21 st	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library, Love Lane		
	7.30	Clee Hill Bird Group meet at Recreation Rooms, 22A Clee Hill High Street. PAGE 19		
Tues 22 nd	1.30	Armed Forces Outreach at the Community Hub. PAGE 17		
Wed 23 rd	10.00	Walking for Health take another healthy tour from the Market Hall. PAGE 21		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Great Value		
	7.45	Clows Top Gardening Club AGM and talk by Bill White. PAGE 5		
Thurs 24 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Aykbour'n's "Bedroom Farce" starts a 3 day run at Tenbury's Regal Theatre. PAGE 7		
Fri 25 th	7.30	Clows Top Wildlife Club meet at the Victory Hall. PAGE 13		
Mon 28 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet, rhyme and laugh at the Library.		
Thurs 31 st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL.....		
Thurs 7 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Library need keen younger blood to revive the group. The aim is to organise events that encourage people to discover and use this fine facility. If you're willing to help, please contact:

Jim Reynolds 01299 270642 or uncle,jim@icloud.com

Deana Kimber 01299 271754 or geraldine.kimber@btinternet.com

Steve Peckham 01299 272719 or s.j.peckham@btinternet.com

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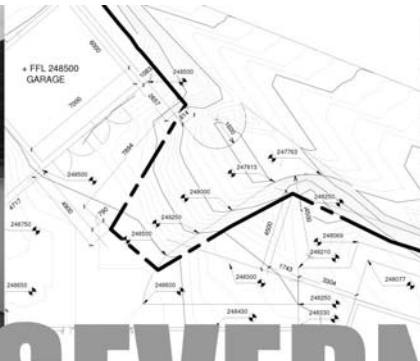
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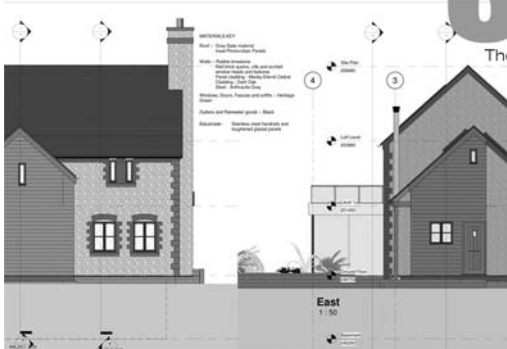


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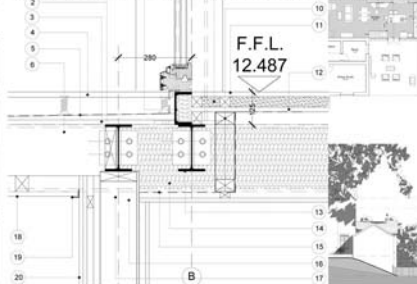


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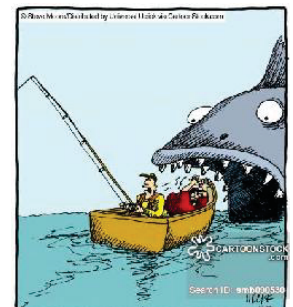
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Cleobury Clarion March 2022

Page 50



"We tried artificial flies. We tried lures. We tried live bait. Nothing works ... it's like they're psychic!"



"Blood-curdling screams. Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL

2022 has started very well for the Hall with new activities such as the popular Wildlife Club which meets at 7.00pm every fourth Friday with meetings scheduled for 25th March and 29th April.

There will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday 19th March starting at 1.30pm and the following day the Hall and its grounds will provide the venue for the half way refreshment break for all those taking part in the Mad March Hare 2022 cycle ride.

Storm Eunice caused the postponement of the planned concert by Bill Lennon which will now take place on Friday 8th April with tickets available at £5 each.

The replacement of the Hall roof will be happening in April which will mean that normal activities will be suspended whilst this essential work is carried out. The Hall Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 16th May at the Hall which will give local people the chance to view the new roof and hear about the plans for future events.

For details of how to book the Hall or to find out what is happening, including the Gardening Club, Craft

group, Zumba and Yoga Groups, then please ring the CTVH Mobile 07379 959895, visit Clows Top Victory Hall Facebook page, or e mail contact@clowstopvictoryhall.co.uk

Nigel Caldicott

A NEW LOCAL AUTHOR



Amanda Humphries is a new name amongst local authors. She's a Shropshire lass, born and bred in the county and until recently a teacher at Stottesdon Primary School. Always a keen writer, she's realised a long held ambition by opting to be an author.


"Joe and the Kite" is her first book with, we understand, a sequel under way. This first work is about a lad who takes off with his kite on a windy day and finds himself lifted above the clouds to Cloud Land. There he meets Ellie, another surprised visitor to

the mysterious place who also got there with the kite she has with her. The two meet ruler Mr Iam and are given a set of riddles to solve before they can return to earth. No small task for two young children and they met both good and not so good citizens as they set about the challenge, with some setbacks along the way.

Amanda's time as a teacher shows in her subtle way of making Cloud Land a place where you can leave if you show that you are well behaved and think of others. You naturally want Joe and Ellie to complete their tasks and get back and here they are, setting a good example and succeeding. The illustrations by Dave Hill help to keep interest in the excitement. And at a suggested price of £6.99, an affordable way to entertain children or grandchildren; it's available on Amazon, of course.

The sample copy we had will be offered to the library to add to the Local Authors section there. Another good reason for looking in and realising what a good range of reading, both educational and entertaining, is to be found there.

Jim Reynolds



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Mondays - 9:30am - 8pm

Tuesdays - 9:30am - 9pm

Fridays - 9:30am - 5:30pm

Thank you to everyone that supported the running of the half-term holiday club. It was really well attended with our highest attendance of the week having 29 children on Monday. We crafted, played games and climbed from Monday to Wednesday. We're also very grateful to our regular CCH users who gave up their great coffee for a few days so that local children could have a crazy time with our team of youth workers and volunteers. We will be holding our next holiday club in the first week of the Easter holidays.

FOCUS ON: The Sunday Session - Sundays 2:30pm-5:45pm

The Sunday Session is an expression of faith exploration for all ages. We open the doors at 2:30pm with climbing, coffee and a sweet treat. At 4pm we start the "service", streaming Christian worship and a talk on our big screen. We then spend time together discussing the talk, sharing stories and how we feel about following Jesus.

Everyone is welcome and we have 'Sunday Session Kids' too. This is aimed at 7 years and up but all kids are welcome.

Don't forget our regular activities:

Mondays - Coffee Shop, Rock Tots, Kids Climbing Club, Youth Climbing Club, Climb61 Bouldering.

Tuesdays - Climb61 Bouldering, Coffee Shop

Wednesdays - Hub Youth - Wed 2nd first one of Feb (alternate weeks)

Thursdays - Hub Youth - Thurs 10th first one of Feb (alternate weeks)

Fridays - Climb61 Bouldering, Coffee Shop

Climb61 Session Times - To book: www.smyproject.org.uk

Tuesdays - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm, 5:45pm-7:15pm, **(Mondays too)** 6:30pm-8pm

Fridays - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm

LADIES NIGHT - Thursday 24th February 6pm-8pm



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It's March and two months of the year have passed already. But while this time of the year heralds the start of Spring, there is no Spring for scammers. They would like to think that every day is Christmas Day for them. But the more we build up awareness of their schemes and the more they try to come up with more ways of thieving from us, the fewer victims will fall to their evil ways.

This month I would like to outline some of the scams that have come our way and how we can avoid them. Local residents report receiving calls on their mobiles, from a Leicester number starting 0116 300 xxx, where the last three numbers can be different. An Asian voice suggests it is from a call centre not based in the UK, but the caller tries to offer 30% more mobile usage and extra data. If the victim falls for this and gives out Bank details then the scam reaps rewards. These have been verified as scam calls purporting to be from O2, Three, Carphone Warehouse etc. You will be asked to stay on the line to supply details. Please don't fall for this and never give out personal or financial details over the phone. Shropshire Council are advising people that, following the very recent Government announcement of possible council tax rebates to offset the National Insurance and Energy price rises, residents are receiving calls from scammers posing as Council Officials and asking for Bank Details in order to make refunds directly to their bank. This is a scam and residents are advised not to pay any fees or provide any other information such as bank details if asked. If you receive one of these calls, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or if you have access to the internet, report it here on <https://orlo.uk/WrpFO>. Phone calls are being received about roof insulation. The scammers can be very persuasive convincing the victim that roof insulation will reduce their energy bills and of course save money. You may be asked for a deposit before work starts and of course you will never see the money again or the workmen. Be aware, don't let a cold caller convince you that any work needs doing on your property. If in doubt hang up and talk to a reputable local trades person about any work you think you might need. Social Media scams continue to flood users with Facebook and Whatsapp being favourite platforms. This is despite the Governments claiming to be coming down on these providers and stopping it happening. You notice a new friend requests and you realise that it's someone who is an existing friend on Facebook. The first thing to do in this instance – before accepting the request – is to determine if it is genuine by contacting your friend by other means than the social media platform. It might be genuine. After all, sometimes people lose access to their

accounts and have to start again. We recommend contacting the friend outside of Facebook. Over the phone, by text or in person is best. You can also contact them via another social media channel or if all else fails their original Facebook account. (Tip: If you choose the latter options, try verifying their identity by asking them a question only your friend would know.) If your friend claims they did not send you a friend request then it is likely a cloning scam. This means a crook has created a new account with your friend's picture and name in a bid to trick you into accepting a request from the cloned account.

The WhatsApp Scam continues to be a source of serious concern and even though this has been outlined in previous issues, the problem remains and the public are warned to be vigilant. The basic format used is this: The suspect will send the victim a message via WhatsApp claiming to be their son/daughter/friend and that they have had to change their number, having lost or damaged their phone. The Scammer will then say they are now using a new phone number. As a result of this, the Scammers will claim they are getting in touch in order to borrow money to purchase the new device, or pay off a debt. After this, the Scammer will give their bank details so a payment can be made to them, with some coming back with further demands for money. Other scams over the phone recently reported are impersonations of Police Officers asking for some form of payment. Police Officers will NEVER do that. If in doubt hang up and call your local Police Number 101 from another phone.

Finally, a new one came up very recently. The caller claims to be from an investment firm and claims that you have deposited a sum of money in an investment and the caller asks if you wish to withdraw the money. If you are fooled into thinking you are about to receive some money. You won't. The caller will try to extract your bank details saying that they need them to make the transfer. Again, hang up. But beware these scammers will call back immediately if you hang up and persist with their scam routine. The best way to stop this is to block the number. In the recent case the number was 020 8077 1647, but the scammers use many variations of these numbers. Stay safe, Protect your money, Think! Does this call or request make sense? Are they asking for money? Remember that scammers prey on people's kindness, trust and willingness to help. If in doubt say no or hang up.

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Dog Mess

A regular complaint about our town is the amount of dog mess which is not picked up. It looks terrible and gives a bad impression that people do not care about their town, their fellow residents and visitors. There are so many incidents of people treading in this and walking the mess into cars, schools and homes causing justifiable annoyance at the smell and inconvenience to clean shoes and carpets.

The Town Council asked the Primary School children to design a poster to be displayed around town to highlight the issues and encourage people to pick up their dog's mess. We are pleased to announce two winners, a pupil from Year 4 and a pupil from Year 6. The winning designs are being made into 60 notices to be placed all around town to send a message and help inform everyone of the need to pick up dog mess.

There are plenty of bins around town and bagged dog mess can be placed in any bin. Please support your community and help keep Cleobury Mortimer a clean and tidy place to be proud of. If you notice any bins which are full or feel that there should be additional bins in any area please contact the Town Council on 01299 271154 or email cleobury.council@gmail.com.

Trees

Whilst some of us have to tidy up after the recent storms please be mindful that trees should be maintained by landowners and inspected on a regular basis. If you do need to do any work on trees please consider that the work should be done preferably when the trees are dormant ie mid-late winter.

For general tree maintenance, Shropshire Council has sent the following advice for those people who live in the Conservation Area:

If you live in the Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area and wish to remove or prune established trees you are required to give the local planning authority (Shropshire Council) six weeks' notice before carrying out work, this is called a section 211 notice. There is no fee for submitting a notice. You do not need to give notice if you want to work on trees less than 7.5 centimetres in diameter, measured 1.5 metres above the ground (or 10 centimetres if thinning to help the growth of other trees). If in doubt, check with the planning authority.

Enforcement action may be taken by the planning authority where the six week notice is not given and trees are felled or pruned. Those who damage or carry out work without permission on a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or in a Conservation Area may be:

- * fined up to £20,000
- * prosecuted for felling without a licence
- * served a notice to replace any protected trees that have been destroyed.

Serious offences may be escalated to Crown Court trial and result in an unlimited fine.

Upon receipt of a notice to work on or fell trees by local planning authority The Town and Country Planning Act gives the authority three options, they can either:

- * make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to protect the trees if justified in the interests of amenity. Any future works proposals would then have to be the subject of a formal application under the TPO regulations, or
- * decide not to make a TPO and allow a six week period to expire and make no formal reply, at which point the applicant has de facto permission to carry out the proposed work as long as it is carried out within two years of the date of the notice, or
- * decide not to make a TPO and inform the applicant that the work can go ahead.

When making a decision on the merits for raising a TPO a tree's condition, longevity and public visibility are all taken into consideration.

Information and advice is posted on the Shropshire Council web site under Trees, woodlands and hedges <https://shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-woodlands-and-hedges/>



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**SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH.
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We are delighted that we have a new noticeboard! Have you spotted the bright red board? We hope more people will now spot the church as they drive past (we've heard people say "Is there a church there? I never noticed it.") and maybe decide to pay a visit to enjoy the simple but peaceful building and its views. Plus it allows us to post notices that will stay dry and not blow away!



As I write, the path is not quite finished, but it should be soon, so more on this next month with details of the Grand Opening

which we are saving for warmer weather – put 1 May in your diary!

We're planning to serve tea & cakes at church on Saturday 26th March to welcome those laying flowers on graves for Mothering Sunday, but of course anyone can pop up for refreshment. And on Wednesday 30th March it is our Annual Meeting – everyone in the parish is invited to join us from 1.30pm for a cuppa with the meeting starting at 2pm in St John's.

We are also planning an event as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend – look out for more on this. For up to date news follow us on Facebook: @StJohnsDoddington, or check our website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/ Email: stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com Celia Gibb 01584 318036

THANK YOU, DEGGIE

Like many people around here who don't have an expense account or a new car with service requirements to keep it within the warranty, I use Lower Street Garage. And amongst the skills I've called upon is the matter of welding repairs to alloy wheels in these days of champion potholes.

But the last such repair I asked for couldn't be done, because it had been done before and there's a simple safety standard to be observed. That left me stuck without transport, until Deggie took a wheel off a BMW of similar vintage and said I could use it until he found a replacement. I delivered the February issue - which means about 75 miles around the area - without a worry. And a week or two later came a call saying that he'd found a replacement wheel, I could carry on with the one I'd borrowed. They'd even fitted my Dunlop Runflat tyre to that loaned wheel. This was service beyond expectation; no wonder I use them, they're so good.



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www.energyzone.co.uk sales@energyzone.co.uk



Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	www.cleoburydental.co.uk
CLEOBURY CARERS	Michelle	01743 341995	carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Jones	07966 080111	Tuesday and Thursday at the Medical Centre
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Kim	01299 272732	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE MEN'S SHED	Pete Blackburn	07776 243 584	petblack@me.com
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	Angela Flowers	01299 270318	Sunday Mass at 9.00am
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM		01584 874922	
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Londis Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, The Library, Swift's Bakery Tea Room and Tracey's Kreation..

Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** **Clee Hill Stores;** **Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mahorall Cider Farm;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.** **Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in:** Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

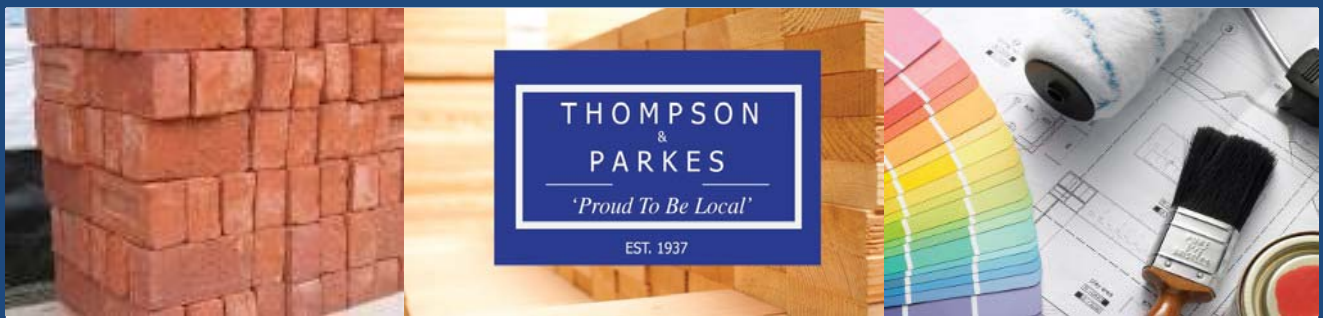
DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE: MARCH 22nd. CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS LAST POSSIBLE DATE TO RECEIVE REPORTS.

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