

The Cleobury Clarion

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May 2016

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY



A Royal birthday is always something to celebrate, and when the Queen reached her 90th it was a wonderful opportunity for the children at Kinlet Family Playgroup to wish Her Majesty a really happy day.

OUCH! CUTS ARE BITING

Mark Radford of Cleobury Patients's Voice reports: The local health authority, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, is in Special Measures as a result of its inability to accurately forecast the size of the deficit in its healthcare budget for Shropshire. Since then, despite withholding £8.7m of Shropshire's 'fair share' funding, NHS England has placed Shropshire CCG under 'Direction' - effectively, Special 'Special Measures' - as the hole in Shropshire's healthcare funding has become even more

apparent. The CCG had intercommunity hospitals in Ludlow and Bridgnorth calling for mediation after rejecting the reduction to its budget from the CCG for what the latter described as 'particularly expensive inpatient services'. Five of South Shropshire's GP practices have publicly called into doubt the safety of the associated plans to reduce community hospital beds and care for people in their homes instead. Other GPs have criticised the proposed reconfiguration of the acute hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford, which would see the closure of A&E at one of them, as 'naïve to the point of being dangerous', while the CCG's own board has so far refused to give authority for sign-off of the proposals.

Is this financial mismanagement as some have implied, or is it austerity really starting to bite? Will patient care suffer in consequence, or are those who highlight the situation merely 'scaremongers'? I'll leave the readers to draw their own conclusions. Regardless, Cleobury Mortimer might consider itself fortunate, on this occasion, to be close to the border with Worcestershire and to have already negotiated some of the many difficulties that arise when local hospital services are withdrawn or reconfigured.

Also closer to home, the Cleobury practice underwent its first Care Quality Commission inspection. Staff and patients were interviewed and informal feedback from the inspectors at the end of the day was positive. However, it will be several weeks before the formal report is published so more details in the next edition...

Mark Radford

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The Cleobury Clarion, May 2016.

Volume Fourteen, Edition Two



*Jack Price - a Neen Savage man is honoured.
See Page 29*



*New face in charge at
The Talbot Hotel.
See Page 53*



*Pete at PA Electrical.
He's not really this solemn.
See Page 57*

And On Other Pages....

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5 - Outraged Reaction | 31 - ...and Part Two |
| 7 - Hedgehog Awareness | 33 - Clarion Coppers |
| 9 - Bewdley Bike Week | 37 - On the Buses |
| 11 - Building a 1916 Biplane | 39 - Jim Smith |
| 13 - From the Bandroom | 41 - May in the Wyre Forest |
| 15 - The Clarion Jobs Page | 43 - The Cleobury Mortimer Lectures |
| 19 - Severn Edge Vets | 45 - Remarkable Emily Price |
| 21 - Newbridge Nursery | 47 - George Morgan |
| 23 - My Trip to Nepal -
Jenny Vanderhook | 49 - On the Market |
| 25 - New Faces in Pinkham | 51 - Stephanie's New Venture |
| 27 - Philip Dunne MP | 53 - Happening on High Street |
| 29 - Neen Savage Hero | 57 - In Business |
| 30 - Social Calendar - Part One | 59 - Local Information |

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LOCAL PEOPLE REACT IN OUTRAGE

The deeply unpleasant and unjust criticism of our Town Clerk on display in a shop window in Church Street has provoked an angry response in Matt Sheehan's defence. We are proud to offer some balance in the matter with these two letters, both published with the authors' consent. JR

Firstly, Paul French:

It has been a privilege to live in Cleobury Mortimer for some thirty years. During this time there have been many changes for the better in our community and I feel proud of what has been achieved by us all. It is therefore sad to see events unfold since the recent court ruling with regard to our Parish Hall. It may be helpful to stand back and consider some key points and to clarify certain procedures.

Parish Clerks are paid officers of the Parish Council. They have no voting rights on any motion put before the Council.

As qualified professionals their duty is to act on instruction from the Council, to provide advice on legal, protocol and other background matters on issues as required by Council.

The Council makes decisions based upon this and their joint discussions and votes on the motion.

With regard to the matter of the decision taken by the Council on the Parish Hall, correct protocol was followed. All residents in the parish are free to ask for items to be included on agendas for Council meetings.

They are also free if they wish to express any views they may have on any subject during "public time" at the start of all meetings. To date no one has used this opportunity to suggest any negative contribution on the part of the Parish Clerk in respect of this matter or any other. Anyone with concerns about the outcome of the case should direct their disappointment towards the judge who ruled in favour of the town. We have a dedicated, hard working, committed and forward thinking Parish Clerk who deserves all our thanks and support for his service to and on behalf of this community. We should value his contribution not seek publicly to undermine it.

Paul French

Secondly, Mrs Zillah Pain:

Dear Matthew

I was horrified to see the offensive notices and photographs in a certain shop window a few days ago, about you and several other hard-working members of the community.

Everyone I have spoken to is equally shocked, and we all know the reputation this particular person has for stirring up trouble. I am sure that everyone with any sense is on your side and that of the others involved.

From my own personal experience of you, I have found you most helpful, conscientious, and very efficient in your duties as Parish Clerk.

Whatever you do, don't let it all get you down. Just carry on doing a good job as always, and ignore this awful person's actions - like we all have to do.

Very best wishes

Zilla Pain

As ever, the calm voice of reason and sanity is there to be heard. This is a tolerant and warm hearted community that works together and has little time for such nonsense. Long may it remain so. JR

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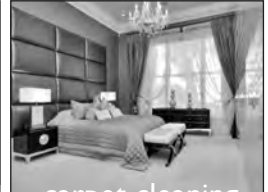
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HEDGEHOG AWARENESS WEEK

Fay Vass writes:

Hedgehog Awareness Week runs from 1st – 7th May and hedgehoggy events are being organised all around the country.

The Week is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and takes place every year. It aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them.

This year efforts are focussed on strimmers and cutting machines – every year we hear of many terrible injuries and deaths caused by garden machinery. BHPS is asking people to check areas carefully before using any machinery. They have produced a sticker to be placed onto machines and are asking councils and tool hire companies to get in touch and request the free stickers for their machines.

As well as ensuring checking areas before we cut, there are other things we can do to help:

1. Make sure there are CD case sized gaps in boundary fences and walls to allow easy passage.

2. Move piles of rubbish to a new site before burning it.
3. Ensure netting is kept at a safe height.
4. Check compost heaps before digging the fork in.
5. Stop or reduce the amount of pesticides and poisons used.
6. Cover drains or deep holes.
7. Ensure there is an easy route out of ponds and pools.

BHPS is hoping to raise £2,000 during Hedgehog Awareness Week. Texting HHOG16 £3 to 70070 will donate £3.00 to their appeal. You can change the amount to £1, £2, £4 or £10 to donate those amounts.

Fay Vass

THE READING GROUP GIVES

The members of the Group were asked to donate towards Book Aid International, a charity that sends books to sub-Saharan Africa to encourage reading and send a message of goodwill. The recent donation was £78 and the letter of thanks from the charity explained that last year they were able to send more than a million books to the area. As each is read by a number of people, it means a wide impact and great goodwill for the money raised.

ROAD CLOSURE

There will be resurfacing work in Childe Road this month, starting on the 3rd. If you use that road, you'll have seen the warning signs.

Contractors Ringway advise that the road will be closed from 9.30 until 2.45 for the work to be carried out, so if you normally park your car there, please don't on this day. Mind you, if you fancy a coat of protective tarmac it might be your big chance.....

Pedestrian access will be maintained, but vehicle access will be limited, as you'd expect. Not a good place to walk your dog during the works, either.

DOING THE MOONWALK

Julia Goodison writes:

Julia and Laura from Clows Top are doing their 8th Moonwalk marathon (26.2miles) in aid of breast cancer on May 14th. Walking through the night in the streets of London in their bras. Sponsors greatly appreciated. Our Just Giving web page is:

www.justgiving.com/juliawoodisonlauracripps

Many thanks

Julia and Laura



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BEWDLEY BIKE WEEK



The expression says it all. That moment when you think you're on a bike alone and in charge.

Overspoke Bikes and Bewdley Outdoors are presenting a week of cycling activities for you to enjoy over the May half term holiday, May 30th to June 5th.

You, and your family can take part in...

Bewdley Bike Jam at Jubilee Gardens featuring activities for everyone including challenges for children and adults alike.

Bikeability classes to get everyone riding safely and confidently on the road.

Learn to ride sessions for anyone that would like to learn how to ride.

Evening mountain bike and road rides

A fun day of racing at the Frank Chapman Centre including balance bike races for children and adults, fat bike race, and child and adult specific mountain bike race.

For more information see our website www.bewdleybikeweek.info or ask Hannah on hannah@overspoke.com

PLAYERS NEEDED

Wanted - you! To join us in our annual Clows Top pantomime. This will be our 13th year, but we are short of cast. So for us to carry on we have come to you, our audience, to see if you will join us on stage.

Everyone is welcome, age between 13 and 113! There is no fee and costumes will be provided. If you want to have fun and make new friends, then come along and join us. We start rehearsals in September.

Don't throw this away yet, Keep it and think about it. And if you would like to join us or have any questions, then phone us on 01299 832229.

Don't say 'No'. Give it a go!
Carolyne Sutcliffe.

HUMPHREY CONINGSBY


Humphrey was the MP for Herefordshire in the 17th century, but lost his seat when he declared loyalty to the King in the English Civil War that brought Cromwell to the throne. The family seat was Hampton Court.

Something of an enigma, his story will be told at an evening in the South Transept of Neen Sollars parish church on Friday, May 13th, starting at 7.30. There Jonathan Davidson and Duncan Law will explain some of the mystery surrounding Humphrey's life and death in an unfolding of a significant piece of local history.

Tickets are £10 each, including nibbles and a drink on arrival. You can pay on the door, or order from Emma on emma@thehoustons.me.

THE LACON LOTTERY

Winner of the March draw was Mrs Jean Boddey with ticket number 35. She gets £100 for her £10 investment, which is quite a handy return in these low interest days.



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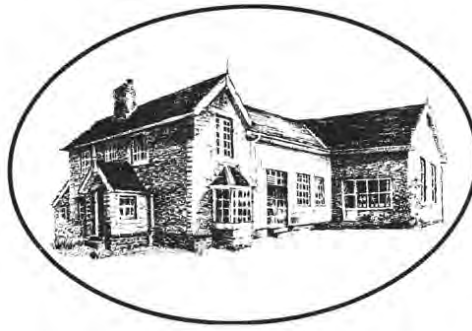
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Rebuilding old vehicles is a very popular pastime, and there have been some remarkable stories told about them. But this replica of a 1916 Bristol Scout fighter plane must rank as the biggest rebuild story of all.

It began when Rick and David Bremner found a few parts of an old aircraft in their grandad's workshop in 1983. He had told them many tales of his piloting a variety of planes in the 1914-18 First World War and fired their enthusiasm for flying. 'Bunnie' Bremner flew out of an airfield on the Gallipoli peninsula and his favourite craft was a Bristol Scout, Number 1264. What Rick and David found was a control stick, a rudder bar and a magneto, which they assumed Grandad had brought home from his favourite plane as

keepsakes. With that minimal start and an overdose of optimism, they decided to build a replica of 1264 around those three parts. They were joined by Theo Wilford, another early aircraft enthusiast and in 2008 the trio set about the task.

We won't go into detail here about the process of finding and making parts, because they will be telling the story in their own words on May 28th, at Neen Sollars' Victory Hall. What we can tell you is that each man has put in about 1,000 hours between the 2008 start and the day in July 2015 when the plane took off and flew from their Milson airfield base. The three had all built and flown microlights, but to take drawings from 100 years ago and build a full size replica was

the biggest test they could give themselves.

They now have the only fully working Bristol Scout in the world, sitting in their hangar at Milson but due to travel quite a bit. The first ambition is to take the plane out to Gallipoli and fly from the same airfield that was the base for Grandad's first experience of active aerial combat. Then they want to fly over the Somme in France, where Grandad's brother was fatally wounded on the first day of the huge battle that raged through that valley.

Interviewed in BBC TV, the Bremner brothers did not want to say how much it all cost. Good for them, because this was a labour of love to honour their grandfather and all the other brave pilots in those open cockpit minimalist aircraft.

Rick and David will be talking about the project at Neen Sollars Victory Hall on May 28th, starting at 7.30. Admission is £7.50 a head, which includes a ploughman's supper and sounds like remarkable value for money. The contact is Chris Jones on 01584 890486 or email chris@milsonairstrip.co.uk

The story of Grandad and the rebuild of the plane is at www.BristolScout.Wordpress.com



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COCO NEWS

The Market Hall has been home to the Cleobury Compassionate Communities office for four and a half years and in this time has gratefully received on-going help and support from its trustees. But after juggling her role as Community Care Coordinator at the Medical Practice with coordinating CoCo, Katja Jones has decided to tie her different strings together and carry out both roles under one roof. From May onwards CoCo will no longer have an office or phone line at the Market Hall and Katja will instead be contactable for CoCo at the Medical Practice on Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 4.00pm, on her mobile 07966 080 111, or at cleoburycoco@hotmail.com.

The lovely thing that is the CoCo coffee morning, will carry on at the Market Hall, on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of every month.

And watch this space for an Old Tyme Tea Dance and Afternoon Tea being planned for the summer. Free of charge for the older Cleobury community, having been fully funded by a donation from the Stourport pantomime 'Monday Night Group.' CoCo have also received further generous donations of £200 in the last few months and £150 was raised through the raffle of a massive Easter Egg by the Bell Inn which was kindly donated by Shaunah Murrell.

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND

Yet again Roger Gittins and the Sunday League have forwarded a large donation from their

funds towards the Nightingale Nursing Fund. This is very generous of them for which we offer a huge thank you.

The fund quietly pays for nursing care at times of a medical crisis in the home. You probably do not hear a lot about its uses, unless a patient or their family let it be known that the fund has helped them. The committee keep names and details completely confidential. I can tell you that it is definitely being used to help people within the local community.

The annual accounts have now been completed and are going to be audited after which an annual meeting will be called which we would like as many of you as possible to attend. We are a small informal friendly group working for the good of locals. All monies raised go straight back into the community and are not top sliced.

Rosemary Abbiss

FROM THE BANDROOM

The power of the Clarion! Since last month's front page feature, we have received a most generous donation from Mr John Sant which will go a considerable way towards getting the band to the National Finals in September – we are all extremely grateful.

We also have a sell out Spring Concert on May 7th (all tickets were sold within a week) proceeds of which will also go towards our 'Nationals Fund'

Our summer engagements are looming, the first will be at Malvern bandstand on May 22nd. Our training band will be playing at Neen Sollars Fete on

June 11th and the main band will be playing at the Queen's 90th birthday celebration tea party in Cleobury on Sunday June 12th.

If you fancy joining our thriving training band, please get in touch. Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands. www.cmcb.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

FAR FOREST TENNIS CLUB

We are a friendly tennis club who welcome players of all abilities, from beginners and returners to the competitive who can join one of our league teams if they wish. We offer special rates for juniors and students.

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We hold club mix-in sessions three times a week and all are welcome to come and join in. Tea and coffee always available and sometimes cake. Why not pop in sometime and give us a try? These are held on Tuesday evenings from 6.00, Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 and Sunday morning from 10.00.

Our membership year runs from April and details can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Mrs Chris Amies at chris.amies@hotmail.com, or 0789 6799 649; or Joyce Nott at joyce.gorsthillfarm@tiscali.co.uk

Judy Sant



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Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterell, Stottesdon, Kinlet and Neen Savage are invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, Lacon Childe School or Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA. The closure date is June 24th.

IAN NEATH

Or 'Foo' to those who knew him well, died in February. A local lad, he will be best remembered as the landlord of the Eagle and Serpent in Kinlet, where the family worked up a great reputation for good food and friendly atmosphere. Just what a small village pub should be.

I didn't know this quiet, likeable man well enough to write an obituary, but The Kinlet News did him proud with more than a page of his life story. I laughed out loud at the part about his missing school one

week and being summoned to the head's office when he got back, to explain his absence. He'd been working on the family farm, where the priorities were very clear. It ended up with the headmaster asking if he could have a sack of the potatoes Foo had been picking.

A thoroughly decent, hard working man, who will be much missed. JR

CAN YOU HELP?

"Good morning, how are you?" This is the way people in Bangladesh greet their neighbours.

Morsheda lives with her children on an island in the Brahmaputra river, but her home is not a safe place. The river floods, destroying all she owns and putting her children's lives at risk.

Christian Aid helps by working to raise her house, by planting different crops and by giving her a few animals so that she can work her way out of poverty, growing food for her family and saving for school fees.

From May 15th to 21st there will be a house to house collection for Christian Aid in Cleobury. You are invited to give a donation if you are able and wish to help in this way.

CONCERT COMING

The concert in St Mary's Church on May 7th at 7.30 promises to be a lively evening with Teme Spirit Choir and the accompanying Hereford based orchestra giving a rendering of the Christian musical 'Two Sisters and a Funeral'. Tickets are available in the Market Hall or on the night £5 with funds going to St Mary's and Charity. More info from Bernard Morgan on 01981 251598

Jane Barnes

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

This is just an early reminder of the annual Pets' Service in Saint Mary's church, Neen Savage. This year it will be on June 12th, starting at 11.00, and any pet, from a chinchilla to a full grown pony will be blessed. More details in the June Clarion.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to my aid and helped me when I had a fall on February 10th. I greatly appreciated their help and I would also like to thank every one for the lovely cards and flowers I received. I am pleased to say I am getting better.

Pat Morgan



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This year we have been busier than ever with the lambing season. We have delivered more lambs and had more problem lambings than in previous years. We've also seen disease causing problems in young lambs that are struggling with the wet conditions outside, or exposed to infection inside farm sheds due to lack of space.

We tend to have sheep brought into the surgery for ewe dystocia (difficult lambing) as it means we can have clean conditions should a Caesarean need to be carried out. Generally the issue is mal-presentation, i.e. the lamb has a head or leg back and therefore cannot be passed through the birth canal. This usually can be corrected and a good outcome is the norm. However, this year the majority of lambings have been due to large lambs. Farmers are very careful not to over feed the ewes prior to lambing to avoid this situation but we think they're been caught out this year with the warm wet winter allowing early grass growth. Large lambs result in more Caesareans being carried out especially as lambs and ewes are valued a bit better this year.

The disease issues usually relate to either metabolic disease in ewes or lambs picking up infections. The metabolic problems can be calcium, magnesium or energy related and once again can be countered with good management. Blood samples or a post mortem will reveal the cause and allow

treatment and management changes to be made. The lamb infections are usually due to infection building up as the season progresses. It enters the body through the wet navel or orally via soiled teats so management to keep the lambing pens clean and ewes in good condition is vital to avoid it. It's the same as all infections, a battle of pathogen load versus immunity levels, so a healthy lamb with lots of good colostrum from its mother will fight off infections, especially if it has iodine on its navel and is kept in a warm dry environment. Unfortunately this spring has been neither warm nor dry...

Once the lambs are outside they usually forge ahead and can be seen gambolling in the fields. They still need to be monitored for worms and respiratory infections as this can be fatal in a short space of time. Farmers are adept at noticing the signs and we are advising vaccinations and Faecal Egg Count to aid in the matter.



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THANK YOU

Elizabeth Burton writes:

Elizabeth and family wish to thank all who sent cards, flowers and messages of sympathy at the time of their bereavement. Also thanks to all whose help and support during Trevor's illness was immensely valuable. We would also like to acknowledge with thanks the donations to Saint Mary's Church, given in Trevor's memory, which stand at £1152.68 *Elizabeth Burton*

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

May for many gardeners is one of the best months, with the freshness of spring and the promise of an even better summer full of colour. A wide selection of summer bedding plants will be on show at the nurseries and garden centres. But, as in April, resist buying too early unless you have a frost free greenhouse, conservatory or cold frame to keep them in, as the majority of these plants are still quite tender.

As the temperatures rise your prized plants will spring to life, but unfortunately so will any unwanted weeds. Pull up any seedlings and dig out perennial weeds with a fork to try to get

rid of any roots. Time and effort spent on these perennial weeds will benefit not only your borders but also your lawn, as May is the ideal time to identify those nasty dandelions and deal with them.

If you have a pond, pond weed is equally important to deal with and should be removed regularly before it becomes too difficult to manage and harmful to pond life. Make sure you leave any weeds by the side of the pond for a good while before removing just in case any pond life is hiding there! May is a great time to begin stocking ponds with fish, just make sure any aquatic plants have established first.

You may find you need to clip any hedging and topiary now to keep its shape neat and tidy. The warmer weather will also mean regular mowing of the lawn will be a necessity now and throughout the summer.

The March meeting was the Spring Show and Gardeners Questions. The Club would like to thank Derek Walker for judging the show and answering the many questions from the members. The winners were 3rd Chris

Cowdell, 2nd Bob Marriott, 1st and Best Exhibit Marion Wilson.

Please come along to our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on May 14th, 10.00 till 12 noon. Our next meeting will be on May 25th and the speaker will be Bill White. *Pauline Bowen*

NEWBRIDGE NURSERY

Marion Parsons has been running the popular Newbridge Nursery for 29 years, making lots of friends along the way. Recently her compassion for lost and unwanted cats has taken over more of the space on the Reaside site and that interest has now taken over.

So the nursery will open only on specific Sales Days, which will be advertised. The proceeds from those days will go to help her work, which has seen more and more felines given shelter and a new home.

Marion would like to thank everyone who has supported her over the years and she hopes to see you whenever the plant sales are on. We will be very happy to publicise them in the Clarion, knowing what a good job she has done to help animals who in some cases had been cruelly mistreated.






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The finished school, with painted and decorated walls, attracts a lot of enthusiastic attention from the locals. Picture by Nick Davis.

It really is amazing how good can come out of something as bad as an earthquake, but that is what is happening in a part of Nepal at the moment.

A year ago there were a couple of bad earthquakes, which destroyed houses and schools over a large area in a week, just before the monsoon started.

The charity 'Nepal Appeal' was started at Stottesdon Old Vicarage by Anthony Eddies-Davis, and at first houses were built, but now he organises building schools. When we arrived the second one had just been erected, in a little village really high up in the mountains, on an incredible track only Jeeps would be able to tackle.

The school was five classrooms in a row with a blue corrugated roof; no windows, just shutters. All fourteen of us set to with a will and painted the concrete block with white paint - not easy as it was not a smooth surface. We had

quite an audience, as the whole village came to see what was going on. Our younger members soon had quite a fan club and as we'd all things to give to the children, it all got very happy and exciting. I noticed the best they brought were footballs; there were several games going on most of the day.

The next day we all returned to our friends and they watched as pictures were drawn on the white walls. One sun, two bees, three butterflies, four fish and five flowers. On the end wall we painted the logo of the Nepal Appeal.

On our final day we brought a feast of fish and chips up with us for the whole village, finished our painting and were thanked by the children for our efforts. We were all given garlands to wear and we sang and danced with them until it was time to go.

So ended the first part of our time in Nepal. I then went to Chitwan National Park for two wonderful days, going on elephant safaris, swimming with elephants and exploring a very different side of this wonderful country.

Then it was the third, very exciting, part of the trip - white water rafting. I was quite nervous about this, but found I really enjoyed it. We camped on the river bank for two nights and were very well cared for by the eight 'boys'. One thing I liked was that any food that was left over was given to local children. We rafted 30 miles over the three days and I was glad I was surrounded by young, strong men.

So ended another very different trip. Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. It will all go to building another school that was destroyed in the earthquake.

Jenny Vanderhook

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NEW FACES IN PINKHAM



Peter and Lisa Mace outside their new business premises.

The old Medical Centre in Pinkham has been let to a couple with plans to start a small and very special school to tutor children with Asberger's Syndrome. Perhaps better known as Autism.

Peter and Lisa Mace know all about the problem of special education for such children, as two of their own family have the syndrome. So these are not people looking to exploit any special funding to their own advantage, they are driven by the need to get such young people the best possible education.

"Asberger's Syndrome is a neurological condition," says Peter. "It affects the way the person reacts in social situations and what their perception is." Lisa has experience of delivering Autism Awareness training to organisations including West Mercia Police and the Forensic Science Service.

The Mace family currently live in West Birmingham, but are

looking to move into this area, where they feel it will be better for all their children.

They plan to get the Valley School, as it will be known, open late in the autumn. They will be recruiting specialist staff to deliver a one-to-one or one-to-two teaching experience.

Their first acquaintance with Cleobury Mortimer has been a very positive one, with friendly and helpful people. They would like their future neighbours to know that the erection of a fence around the school site is not to keep the pupils in, more to show what the boundary of their movement is.

It's a welcome and positive development of a site where people were concerned that development might encroach on the space. Instead, the building will be little changed and continue its history of helping people.

AIR AMBULANCE



Steve Todd hands over a cheque from the Borders Classic Bike Club to Anny Roper for the County Air Ambulance Service.

In a quiet ceremony with no fuss or noise, Steve Todd recently

handed over a cheque for £250 to Anny Roper for the County Air Ambulance Service.

It's an annual habit, with the proceeds from the club's monthly raffles handed over to this vital service. At their Annual General Meeting before the Long After Christmas Dinner, held at the Live and Let Live in Neen Sollars, club members voted to round up the proceeds to £250. It didn't take long to agree that, as the whole AGM lasted no more than two minutes, if only all meetings could deal with business that quickly....

The Borders Classic Bike Club welcomes anyone with an interest in older motorcycles, wherever they were made. They meet on the second Thursday in the month at the Blount Arms. More details from Jim Reynolds on CM 270642.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

Last month we welcomed Rose Jacks who practices the ancient martial art of T'ai Chi. After a brief history of the Art and her involvement with it, she introduced us to some of the moves, ending with a relaxation exercise. A fascinating evening enjoyed by all.

For our next meeting we are going to visit Jenny Vanderhook to "plant a pot".

We spent some time on a Tuesday evening doing our bit to "Clean for the Queen" litter picking around the town and collected several bags, purple of course.

Gillian Senior

SILLY BIT

'A good thing about egotists: the don't talk about each other.'

'Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?'



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

After some weeks of shadow boxing, the formal EU referendum campaign finally kicked off last month and we have what will seem like a long haul until the vote takes place on 23rd June.

The Prime Minister is delivering on his manifesto pledge to negotiate improved terms for British membership of the EU and then put this to the British people to decide whether to stay on these terms or to leave the EU.

I encourage all constituents over 18 on 23rd June to register to vote by 5th June at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Whatever the outcome, a high turnout will settle our relationship with the EU for a generation or more. It is after all our children and grandchildren who will be most affected by this decision.

There are plenty of opinions, but few facts to rely on. Having been a member for over 40 years, the Remain case starts from the position of the 'devil you know'. The PM's negotiation has secured a special status within the EU, through excluding the UK from moves by other member states towards 'ever closer union'. This will give us the ability to decide for ourselves whether to accept or reject steps towards closer integration.

Important as the political and constitutional arguments are, in today's inter-connected world, the UK benefits more than it loses from pooling aspects of our sovereignty with other EU states. This applies in standing up to Russia with EU sanctions or sharing information to keep our country safe. But key for me are the economic and trade issues. The Treasury has been joined by most independent commentators who suggest

the country will be better off remaining within the EU.

If the UK leaves, we do not know the terms of access to the EU free market. There is little precedent to go on, other than existing trade relationships with non-member countries, and the Leave campaign has not settled on a preferred model.

Our economy and the jobs that go with it, depend on trading with other nations. The EU is our largest trading partner. Those who say the balance of trade is to the advantage of the EU, so the 27 nations will have to negotiate favourable terms with us post-Brexit miss three vital points.

First, the UK accounts for 7% of EU exports, while the EU accounts for 44% of UK exports, so the negotiating advantage is not with the UK.

Second, a vote to Leave will be unwelcome in other member states' Governments, which are likely to seek tougher conditions for UK access to the EU market in the event of Brexit. France and Germany have said as much.

Third, countries not in the EU either pay significant contributions to EU budgets (like Norway at 60% of the UK contribution per capita) or accept EU laws and regulations (like Switzerland) with no influence over how they are set. Canada has been negotiating a trade agreement for seven years, without securing access for its financial services sector.

As I write the vote could go either way. I urge readers to vote. Voting to Remain secures a brighter and safer future.

Philip Dunne

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Jack Price was born in Field House, Neen Savage, in 1884 and after leaving school found work as a labourer. But wanting more reliable employment he packed his belongings and set off to walk to Halesowen, where work in the growing metals industry was better paid. For a 17 year old lad from the country, it was a brave step.

In 1904 he was persuaded to enter a walking race and showed good stamina by passing rivals in the second half of the course to win. He soon joined a local club and started training and winning. When the Midland Olympic Marathon Trial was arranged before the 1908 London Olympics, starting at Coventry football ground and ending at the West Bromwich Hawthorns ground, 25 miles later. Jack entered and beat the strong favourite to finish first. He was naturally selected for the England Olympic team.

His normal race tactic was to pace himself carefully and call on his great stamina to put in a fast finish. But team orders were to stay with the highly rated Canadian favourite, who set an unrealistic pace from the start and soon Jack Price and the Canadian "lost their legs" as Jack put it and dropped out. He learned a lot from that mistake, and turned professional as a

runner as well as his regular job at the Stewart and Lloyds steel works.

In 1910 he won the Powderhall Marathon in Edinburgh, his time 14 minutes better than the Olympics winner, despite very bad weather including snow storms. Later that year he set a world best time of one hour and twenty-one minutes for 15 miles, in Newcastle.



Jack Price, a lean, clean living man who devoted his life to sport.

The 1914-18 Great War ended his professional racing career, when he volunteered and served with the Royal Garrison Artillery's 27th Siege Battery. He survived that awful conflict, including Passchendaele where more than 500,000 Allied troops were lost. As a soldier he kept up his training and took up

boxing, becoming Divisional Heavyweight Champion.

Back in civvy life, he formed the Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club in 1922 and gave his time to coaching. One of those he brought on was Eddie Webster, International Cross Country champion in 1925. He was also a driving force in the club establishing its headquarters that you can see to your left as you drive down from the M5 junction towards Kidderminster. That access road is now known as Jack Price Way in honour of their founder.

On April 16th a plaque in his memory was unveiled in Halesowen town centre, when the strength of the club was out in force. It says that he was born in Neen Sollars, an unfortunate slip but forgivable in honouring his name.



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The May Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sun 1st	2.00	Berrington Hall offers a guided tour of the grounds, which are 'Capability' Brown's final grand project. It's on the A49, near Leominster		01584 615721
Mon 2nd	2.00	Daily walks around the Capability Brown grounds of Berrington Hall on offer.		01584 615721
Tue 3rd	9.30	Road works start in Childe Road, Please do not park there between 9.30am-2.45pm.		
Wed 4th	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Sports Centre for a sociable morning exercise.		
	7.30	The History Society meets at Neen Savage Village Hall		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 5th		Green Wheelie Bins emptied Today		
Sat 7th	8.00	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road, Knowle.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	9.30	Spring Plant Sale at Market Hall		PAGE 33
	10.00	Guided geology walk with the Crof Castle champions through Fishpool Valley, taking in the summit of Croft Amber, an Iron Age fort.		01568 780246
	7.30	Teme Spirit Choir perform 'Two Sisters and a Funeral' in the Parish Church, with accompanying orchestra. Tickets £5.00 from the market Hall or on the door.		PAGE 7
Tue 10th	7.30	Cleobury W.I meet at Jenny Vanderhook's place for a demonstration of 'How to Plant a Pot'.		
Wed 11th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Coffee and Cake for £1.50, all to raise funds for the cause.		
	11.00	Sing-Laugh-Breathe gather at the Market Hall to share light hearted music and enjoy themselves	Kate Jones	01584 890284
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I meet at Landscape Plants on the Bridgnorth Road for a tour of the nursery.		
	7.30	Tenuto are in concert at Kidderminster Town Hall, all in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.	Box Office	01562 732158
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at the Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 732158
Thu 12th		Black Wheelie Bins & Recycle Boxes Emptied Today		
Fri 13th	7.30	An evening on the Life of Humphrey Coningsby, in Neen Sollars parish church.		PAGE 9
	8.00	Bingo Nights at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall, in aid of Silvington Church		
Sat 14th	1.00	Clows Top Gardening Club Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, in the Victory Hall.		

THIS MONTH'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Please note that the date of this month's meeting has been changed from Monday the 9th to Wednesday the 4th.

It will start at 7.00. as usual. in the Market Hall.



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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sun 15th		Beginning of Christian Aid Week, with door to door collection. Runs until the 21st.		PAGE 7
Mon 16th	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library to assess 'Narrow Road North'		PAGE 23
Wed 18th	10.00	Walking for Health, Sports Centre, all welcome.		
	7.30	History Society meet at Neen Savage Village Hall.		
	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Hall, Church Street.		
Tues 17th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	
Thu 19th		Green Wheelie Bins Emptied Today		
	7.30	The first of the Cleobury Mortimer Lectures is on locally born early poet William Langland, revealed in detail in the Parish Church. Free Entry.		PAGE 23
Fri 20th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 21st	9.00	Collection for MacMillan Cancer Support on the High Street. Please give generously to this vital service		
	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmer's Market is in & Around the Parish Church.	Clare Todd	01299 272300
Wed 25th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning. See 11th Above.		
	11.00	Sing-laugh-Breathe are at the Market Hall again. Singing and laughing in great harmony. A happy gathering.		
	7.45	Bill White will be speaking to the Clows Top Garden Club at the Victory Hall.	Marion Wilson	01299 270475
Thu 26th		Black Wheelie Bins & Recycle Boxes Emptied Today		
Fri 27th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 28th	7.30	How to rebuild a 1916 Bristol fighter plane. Promises to be a fascinating evening at Neen Sollars Victory Hall, by the men who did it and then flew it! £7.50 includes a ploughman's supper & licensed bar.		PAGE 28
Mon 30th		Bewdley Bike Week gets underway.		PAGE 9
Tue 31st	7.30	Natia Douglas and Remi Harris Project make good jazz sounds at the Clows Top Victory Hall. Tickets £12	Yardbird Arts	01584 881564

CLEOBURY PLAYERS IN CRISIS?

The announcement that the Cleobury Players are looking to the wider Cleobury community to keep them from closing is an alarming piece of news. Will we really let this source of amusement, education and entertainment just fade away because they can't recruit new members? Please read the notice on Page 47 and do your best to be at the meeting.

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Clarion Coppers

PCSO Nick Morris

The first five reported crimes since last issue were in Rock. In the early hours of March 23rd, CCTV captured footage of seven people in their late teens or twenties dressed in track-suits, on a building site at Bliss Gate. They were disturbed before they could steal anything, but £700 worth of damage was caused. On March 23rd/24th, a shed in a back garden in Rock was broken into and power tools stolen. And at 10:50am on March 27th, a caravan was stolen from a driveway in the village. At Gorst Hill burglary of a shed took place on March 25th/26th. Nothing stolen but damage done to windows and locks. Between March 23rd and April 4th, an outbuilding at a house in Rock was broken into; a mower and brush cutter were stolen. Between April 1st and April 12th, twenty heavy duty batteries were stolen from a secure portacabin in a compound in the Mawley area of Cleobury. Between April 5th and April 12th, a shed was broken into at Hopton Bank and tools and a fuel can stolen. An attempted burglary took place at a garage in Clee Hill on April 11th/12th, but there was nothing stolen. A single axle trailer worth £1000 was stolen from a field at Catherton on April 12th/13th. In the early evening of April 10th, poaching took place on the river at Detton Mill and two males ran off when they were disturbed. Enquiries are ongoing and it is expected that they will be identified and prosecuted. On April 18th/19th at a farm in Kinlet, a burglary took place in an outbuilding and power tools were stolen, and a garage at Gorst Hill was broken into where a lawn mower was stolen. A stable block in Burford was attacked by thieves on April 19th, but nothing was

stolen thanks to robust security. On April 20th around 4:00am, thieves with two stolen pick-up trucks entered a caravan site near Mawley Oak and stole two caravans. Although police patrols were able to intercept them, the four offenders managed to make good their escape on foot. The caravans were recovered.

Operations have been taking place across the country to disrupt rogue trading criminals and to raise public awareness of them. Rogue traders are criminals who take advantage of householders by using high pressure, forceful sales techniques and provide low quality service at very high cost. These criminals often use cold calling methods and tell residents that they need work to be done on their home or in their garden. The work is usually badly done and often other work has been 'helpfully' found that needs to be dealt with. It is advised that you never have work done by anyone who cold calls. No reputable trader ever approaches customers in this way. Also, do not succumb to pressure and agree to have work done, nor ever sign anything. Never pay cash 'up front' or go to the bank or cash point with a 'trader'. Only have work done by reputable traders who can provide references, who are members of the Consumer Codes Approved Scheme, or the Government Trust Mark scheme. If work needs doing on your house or in your garden you can contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 to find a trusted local trader approved by Trading Standards. If you suspect a rogue trader is at your door then call 999.



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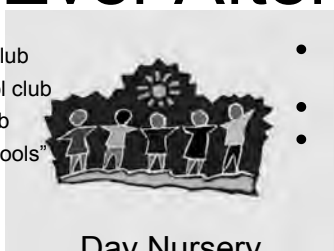
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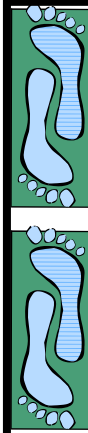
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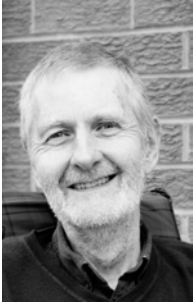
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On The Buses

Steve Todd

More problems with the Ludlow roadworks which were only supposed to affect services until 4 pm. One day, passengers were waiting for the 4.25 departure and spotted that a notice had been put on the Corve Street stop with a 'helpline' number for Diamond queries presumably following the comments made at the LJC meeting in March. Just to be sure they were at the right place, they rang the number only to be told that it might pick up at Corve Street or it might pick up at the Co-op. As neither of these places are visible from the other, this proved to be a no help whatsoever line as the bus didn't appear and they had to wait until 5.55 anyway.

At least timetable holders have now appeared on the bus stops in Cleobury complete with timetables. Not that they are necessarily a great help as when the Ludlow bus failed to turn up one morning, Diamond were contacted only to say that they weren't going to put on a replacement and the customer would just have to wait for the next service. Given this was two hours away, she didn't bother and went home. Another fine example of customer service...

You don't realise just how bad things are here until you see the level of services provided elsewhere. We recently spent a week in Kent in an old house a mile from the nearest village (although it was on the road between Folkestone and Canterbury). At the bottom of the drive was a bus stop on each side of the road with a bus every 15 minutes in each direction all which were equipped with leather seats and free WiFi. They always arrived within 1 or 2 minutes of their scheduled times although with that frequency it didn't really matter. When running to the coast, this service stops for five minutes or so at Folkestone bus station before carrying on to Hythe. As soon as the wheels stopped turning, a cleaner leaped on board, picked up any rubbish and wiped down empty seats and all handrails and other surfaces with a disinfectant cloth then leaping off again before

the bus continued its journey. Not a sight I have ever seen at Kiddy...

One day we decided to go to Whitstable which is a town on the North Kent Coast about half the size of Kidderminster and well known for oysters and other sea food. We had to go via Canterbury and didn't have a bus timetable but assumed that there would be a service of some kind, perhaps every half hour or so. When we got to Canterbury, we got a timetable and studied it. There was indeed a bus service to Whitstable. There are 14 – that is **fourteen** – buses every hour from Canterbury to Whitstable and 14 back via three different routes. Just to remind you, this is not Central London but rural North Kent (albeit perhaps not quite as rural as South East Shropshire).

However, before you start to weep too much, things may be about to change closer to home. James Willocks, Director of Transport at Shropshire Council who attended the LJC meeting, has issued an invitation to run a Ludlow to Kidderminster bus service routing directly to the Swan Centre via the Hospital and then on to the Station and is inviting interested parties to tender for the operation of this service. The requirements include low floor buses which should not be over five years old (!). There is no guarantee that any tenders received will be affordable but it does appear that at last someone from Shropshire Council is taking this matter seriously and James and Madge Shingleton should both be thanked for their efforts in moving this forward.

I see Diamond have just scrapped the X3 route meaning that Stourport residents now have to catch two buses to get to Kiddy hospital. When asked why, Diamond said that congestion on the Stourport road meant the buses were running late and inconveniencing passengers elsewhere on the route – just don't tell them about the 2L...

Steve Todd

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JIM SMITH

From the Smith family:

Ann, Kevin and Colin Smith would like to say a big 'Thank you' for all the generous donations received in Jim's memory. Money raised came to £820, which will go to Parkinson's UK.

Thank you once again.

Ann

Jim was a quiet, smiling man who'd help anyone if he could. He did an enormous amount of work coaching young football players, served a spell as Treasurer of the British Legion, ran the Sports and Social Club and did a term as a Parish Councillor. He worked for Mawley Oak Garage for many years, always willing to give advice. The British Legion formed a Guard of Honour at his funeral, a sign of their respect for a departed comrade.

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Before the Easter holidays the staff, children and their parents took part in a sponsored Easter walk from Playgroup to Kinlet Church and back. The children had a fantastic time, walking with enthusiasm and wearing their specially decorated

bonnets. We also had a great Easter hunt inside the church.

We are still collecting money from this, however we have so far received over £350. A fantastic amount and we are overwhelmed with the support from families, friends and the local people. We have already purchased some new bikes/trikes and are setting up a mud kitchen over the Summer Term. We also raised £70 in an Easter Raffle - thank you to Aldi and to Tuffins in Cleobury for their kind donations that made it possible.

On April 21st we celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday. The children had a day packed with activities; making and decorating birthday fairy cakes, painting a birthday banner, and having a birthday picnic in the sunshine. They also planted our seeds for this year's Cleobury In Bloom competition, a slight change this year as we are growing Sweet Peas. We look forward to seeing how they grow in the next few months.

Zoe Pearson

MRS BETTY STEAD

Older readers will remember Mr and Mrs Stead, who lived in Steeple Close. Harry Stead was the groundsman at Lacon Childe

School, who did his job with great diligence and knowledge, like knowing where the ground was prone to flood. He moved on to become caretaker at the Primary School before retiring.

Mrs Stead is now living in Somerset with her daughter Pauline, who has arranged to have the Clarion posted to her every month. We do hope she enjoys staying in touch with a community where she was held in high regard.

BOWEL CANCER

April was Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. It is the second-largest cause of cancer deaths in the UK, 40,000 new cases diagnosed every year, yet 90% can be cured if spotted early enough. It affects mostly those aged 60 and over, but can hit any age group. Screening can save lives but only a third of those who receive a test complete it, meaning that thousands are missing out on the chance to detect the cancer at an early stage when it is easiest to treat. A screening test kit is sent out every two years to people aged between 60 and 74. If you receive one, please complete it. *Mark Radford*

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May In The Wyre Forest

Linda Iles



Female sparrowhawk by Meneer Zjeroen

www.flickr.com/photos/nuskyn/4028311597/

I'm looking forward to the leaves. Winter lasts a long time, it seems, around here. The excitement of lengthening daylight misleads us into thinking that we'll soon be in tee shirts and seeking out the shade, but here I am in April looking out at woods still bare and brown. The hedgerow hawthorns have obliged with their perfect sap green leaves, anticipating the scented white may blossom by several weeks, and the ubiquitous birch has started to turn colour so that the thickets are greenish rather than red-brown: each bud revealing two triangular leaves and a tiny green catkin.

While out walking yesterday we spoke to two birdwatchers and compared notes on sightings of newly-returned house martins and swallows. I'll soon find out whether the 'nesting ledge' that I added above my bedroom window attracts any lodgers. The walkers alerted us to the peregrine falcon they had seen and, sure enough, it was soon soaring above our heads. They had also had reports of ospreys making their way along the Severn Valley. In the area of the Wyre Forest you are more likely to see buzzards crying over the trees or swooping between them, and if you attract small birds into your garden with birdfeeders you may well witness the sudden attack of a grey-striped sparrowhawk. Blue tit fledging season is bonanza time for this raptor.

May is the usual month for dawn chorus walks and although I can't find any details of organised walks in the Wyre Forest this year (making a mental note to get one organised next year), you could set your alarm for 6.00am and get yourself to some woodland for about 6.30 to experience one of the natural world's most delightful performances. I know there are 'apps' to help with identification of different songs but I'd be more likely myself to take a look at (and listen to) the website www.songbird-survival.org.uk. All of them are so much nicer than the 4.00am start-up by our two resident cockerels. Any takers for an unusual pet?

Linda



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THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES

May 19th – William Langland
and the “Vision of Piers
Plowman”

*‘In someres seyson when soft
was the sonne’*

So opens the Vision of Piers Plowman, one of the masterpieces of fourteenth-century English literature, along with The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Many will have heard of Chaucer, yet despite its being widely read and imitated in the late fourteenth century, many fewer have heard of the *Vision*, or its author, William Langland. He is commemorated in the east window of St Mary’s church in Cleobury Mortimer; for Langland may very well have been born and educated in the area.

He is a mysterious figure. We do not know for certain who he was, nor do we even know for certain that he was the author of the *Vision*. Building a possible picture of his life requires a good deal of detective work and careful reading of the poem. Connected, unintentionally perhaps, with the Peasants’ Revolt and containing the first known mention of Robin Hood, the *Vision of Piers Plowman* is an allegory and a social satire.

Its Middle English style, harking back to an Anglo-Saxon tradition, is alliterative rather than relying on rhyme, and is some of the most sublime poetry of the English Middle Ages.

Under the Langland window in St Mary’s Church, Peter Sutton will talk about Langland, his connections to the area and

the Vision. This tribute to the area’s most famous son is a fitting introduction to the Cleobury Mortimer Lectures 2016.

About the speaker

Peter Sutton is a playwright, translator and editor and has lectured on translation and English language at several universities in different countries. He has recently published a modern translation of the *Vision - Piers Plowman: a Modern Verse Translation* and is a noted speaker.

The Cleobury Mortimer Lectures 2016 are in aid of the St Mary’s Youth Project – History making a contribution to the future

The next lectures are on June 9th (The Workhouse at Cleobury Mortimer) and 30th (On the Trail of the Mortimers) – more in next month’s Clarion or see www.cleoburymortimerlectures.co.uk

Robert Hodge

THE READING GROUP

‘The Child That Books Built’ by Francis Spufford. “Too many words”, an odd comment to make about a book but it suited this one. Not all readers finished our latest choice, most being disappointed as it wasn’t quite what we expected. There were some well described fascinating facts hidden in the text but sentences too long to hold attention. Some felt it was devoid of emotion, more a thesis than a memoir and consequently rather a chore to read. A great pity with books being a good subject for us avid readers.

This month we will be reading ‘Narrow Road to the Deep

North’ by Richard Flanagan. We will see what people think of this at our next meeting at Cleobury Library on Monday May 16th.

Further information from Deana Kimber CM 271754

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

At our April open meeting, Clare Carter was the guest speaker and inspired everyone with her photographic talent. We were privileged to listen to her story and not surprised she has won many prizes and accolades. It was also interesting to hear exactly how much effort and time is employed to capture each landscape photograph. After the meeting we all had the opportunity to purchase some of her work.

At our meeting on Wednesday May 11th we will be visiting Landscape Plants on the Bridgnorth Road, who will be showing us around their nursery.

Save The Date - Saturday August 20th for an Afternoon Tea event at Neen Savage Village Hall.

Julie Hobin

OPEN GARDENS - EARLY NOTICE

The lovely treat of an Open Gardens Weekend in Chorley and Stottesdon will be back again on July 2nd/3rd. There will be at least 12 gardens open to the public, ranging from top award winning vegetable plants to gentle country cottage style to examples of how to utilise almost anything to keep the cost to a minimum and still provide both food and colour. A very friendly occasion and an eye-opener; put it in your diary.

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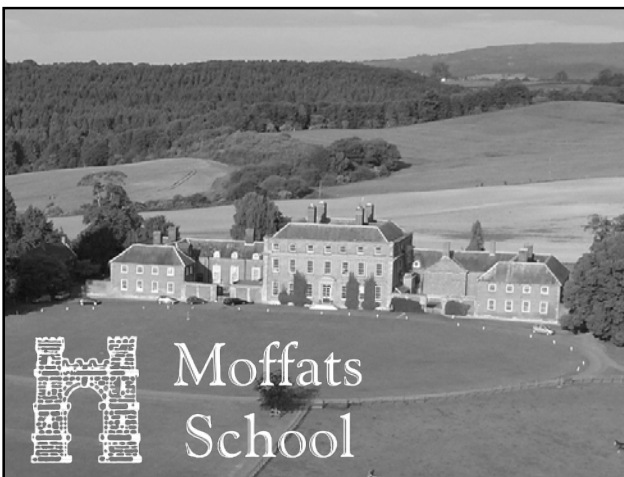
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THE REMARKABLE EMILY PRICE



This is not a fairy tale, even though it may read like one. This 16 year old pupil at Lacon Childe School, who is also a member of the Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club, played in three national golf tournaments before taking time off from the game to sit her GCSE exams.

The first was the Whittington Ladies Trophy at Whittington Heath in Staffordshire. On a day marred by gusty wind and rain, this young lady was the only player to finish below par, to be declared the clear winner. For a 16 year old, it was a remarkable result.

The next competition was The Leveret, played at the Formby Ladies Club in Lancashire. It was another wet and windy occasion, but Emily kept her mind on her play and finished one stroke ahead of Curtis Cup player Rochelle Morris, with a 72 stroke first round and then a convincing 69 round to win her second tournament of the year.

The final test was a journey north to play in the Scottish Girls Open Championship. On the final day Emily went round in 69 strokes to tie for the lead. To settle the draw there was a sudden death play-off and she won the first hole played. In a few short but very busy weeks, this remarkable young lady won every tournament she had

entered. She then announced that she would not be playing for a while as she had to sit her vital GCSE exams.

She may be a teenager, but she's a fine sportswoman with the capacity to concentrate on improving her game through the winter as well as coping with school work and revision. With the possibility of a professional golfing career before her, she still pays attention to academic matters as part of her future. Awesome is an overused word today, all too often applied wrongly, but Emily Price can wear that label with pride.

STOTTESDON W.I. OPEN MEETING

Around 40 people attended our April 20th meeting to hear Guest Speaker Dr Mark Baldwin give an illustrated talk entitled "Codebreakers - The True Story of the Enigma Machine and Alan Turing". Dr Baldwin is the authority on the subject and gave us a fascinating insight into the development of wireless technology and the need for ciphers and coding and decoding machines to be invented.

As well as tributes to the genius and dedication of the codebreakers, he also recognised the three Polish mathematicians who passed on their findings to the British and French, knowing that they were to be invaded by the Germans and would not be able to develop knowledge. Dr Baldwin's excellent narrative gave us an authentic outline of the strategic importance of the codebreakers in the Second World War. As well as Alan Turing and his colleagues, there was a huge workforce of around 9,000, working shifts

around the clock, 75% of whom were women. He could have blinded us with technology and mathematics, the size of the numbers were pretty awesome, however his clear presentation and explanations helped us all to understand a little of how the machines worked and we even had the opportunity to have a go on one, the Enigma Machine which was the the one used in the film The Imitation Game.

The audience showed their enthusiastic appreciation in the usual manner and a vote of thanks was given to Dr Baldwin on behalf of us all by Clare Tibbets.

Helen Hales

MANAGING STRESS

Cleobury Country are holding a free seminar on the management of stress on the 24th. It starts at 7.00, finishes at 9.00 and promises to be a useful guide to making life a little more relaxed.

Run in cooperation with ISO Enigma, it will cover a great range:

What is stress? Reaction to it. Fight or flight? General Adaptation Syndrome. Stress and the way we think. Signs of stress and consequences. How to manage it. Managing your time. Other people. Stress avoidance. Management and relief.

Places are limited, so early booking is advised. CM 272300 is the phone number and business@cleoburycountry.com the e-address.

SILLY BIT

'If one synchronised swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?'

'Whose cruel idea was it for the word 'lisp' to have an 's' in it?'

'Why is there an expiry date on sour cream?'

Paul Harding



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GEORGE MORGAN

There's a big gap in the old Cleobury community with the passing of George Morgan. A local man, he seemed to know everyone by name and pass a kind word, often with a touch of weather forecasting added. For many years the keeper of the Parish church yard, he was a keen gardener. He and his little dog Pepe were inseparable as he took an evening stroll down to the Stable Tavern to sit and quietly sip, speaking when he had something to say, not to waste breath on empty words.

He and Dorothy were married for 64 years and the sympathy of us all goes to her in her loss. She would like to thank family, friends and neighbours who have all been so kind, and to the Stable, who gave him a good send off with a gathering that celebrated a life well lived.

Next time you raise a glass, do it in memory of this good man.

CLEOBURY PLAYERS

A sad and disturbing message from Annabel Gemmill:

This is a "Call to Arms" to everyone in Cleobury Mortimer and surrounding area to save your amateur dramatic group The Cleobury Players. The Players have been entertaining the community with productions such as "Fur Coat & No Knickers, and most recently "Journeys End" for the last 40 years. During that that time, everyone who has taken part, either on stage or in a supporting role, have demonstrated what amazing results can be achieved, whilst

having a lot of fun in the process. However, with great regret it seems this will come to an end in May if the community is no longer willing to offer their support. We are having our AGM on May 12th at St Elizabeth's Catholic Church at 8pm to make a final decision as to whether the Group will continue or be wound up. All are welcome to attend. Please don't let this fantastic amateur dramatic group be the next community asset to fold due to apathy. I look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

Annabel Gemmill

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Have you been to the Chelsea Flower Show? We've all seen the wonderful displays on television and wondered how they came about. We heard about the road to Chelsea from Leila Jackson of T3 Plants Wall End Nursery. She started her nursery at Stoke Prior when her children were small and needed her attention, she could be there to support them when needed. Her father was also involved and they have built up a national collection of abutilons.

Her enthusiasm was obvious as she spoke and the need to sell her plants led to visits to shows. They became well known and Leila enjoyed making displays and selling plants. She gained recognition through awards at various shows and received an invitation from Chelsea. A careful plan was made and with the help of her Mum and Dad a theme was selected. They made

props and selected the abutilons they thought would be best, grown to come into their best form at the time of the show.

The time arrived and a van was hired. There is even a restriction of the size of van as the aisles at the show are only a certain width. You have three days to assemble your display and it took all their time to be satisfied. You have to take young plants to sell but these have to be kept discretely under your exhibit, not visible but accessible. The days of the show are long and you have to be available to the visiting public at all times. Leaflets and literature have to be approved by the Show committee, to keep standards high.

Leila's hard work was rewarded with a Silver Gilt which was beyond dreams. She has been invited back and been awarded a scholarship to help, which means more reporting back to the committee.

May 7th sees our Spring plant sale at the Market Hall and our next meeting is on May 16th in the Methodist Hall. Everyone is welcome. *Liz Smurthwaite*

SILLY BITS

1. **One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.**
2. **'I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman "Where's the self help section?" She said if she told me it would defeat the purpose.'**
3. **Can an atheist get insurance against Acts of God?**
4. **If you spin an Oriental man in a circle three times, does he become disoriented?**

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

**'Flicks In The Sticks' will be back at the Parish Hall on
Saturday May 14th at 7.30pm. This month's offering is:**

'What We Did On Our Holiday'

**starring Rosamund Pike, David Tennant, Billy Connolly and Ben
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You can't put Marion Wilson into any predictable slot when trying to describe what she does. Farmer's wife, prodigious jam maker, plant seller, chair of the Clows Top Gardening Club and one time cake baker. She doesn't sell cakes any more: "Not a good idea. What do you do if you don't sell them all?" A pity; they were very good indeed.

She has a regular Market Day spot in the Market Hall, her table spread with jams and preserves. Do try her utterly delicious Blackcurrant Jam, its hand written label stating that its contents are just blackcurrants and sugar. Proper jam, in fact, using blackcurrants from her own garden. Nearby is a selection of plants, all from her own garden, and she seems to be busy with them every time I look in on Market Day.

Where did she learn these traditional country household skills? "I went to Bayton

Primary and we used to have a garden there, where we learned to plant and tend our own plants. It just grew from there. I used to go to Clows Top Gardening Club meetings to learn more, and now I'm the chairman!"



Marion on her regular Market Hall spot, with an array of jams made from her garden produce.

One assumes the cooking came from the same good start in life, plus the practice that bringing up a family has given her. The combination of keen gardener and experienced cook is typical traditional country stuff, with nothing added to her jams that doesn't have a place in a good recipe. She admits that the lemons in her curd are not from her garden, as you'd expect. Must try a jar of that at this month's visit.

The Market Hall offering is quite separately organised from the Cleobury Country event in the Parish Church, but it's well worth a visit. Not as busy as the neighbours are, but some good stuff to be seen and tried. And every month another seasonal offering from the chair of the Clows Top Gardening Club, which must be a recommendation in itself. Should we call her a pillar of the community?

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STEPHANIE'S NEW VENTURE



*Busy, capable and ambitious.
Stephanie Morrison.*

Stephanie Morrison is a new face at the Golf Club, where she's joined the staff as a chef. On top of that she runs Cookery Magic, selling cake decorating supplies and running cake decorating and cookery workshops, including a small shop at De Beers Garden Centre near Stourport. All that and being a mum sounds like a very full life, but there's more.

She also runs a Small Business Clinic, in conjunction with Nepeta Consulting of Malvern, helping small businesses start up and present themselves in

the best possible way. We've had a look at www.nepetaconsulting and were relieved to find that one of their promises is to talk to people in plain English without jargon. Hooray!

Stephanie will be organising some of the business workshops at the Golf Club, as part of a wider programme around the area. We sat in on the first one on April 20th and heard a lot of good advice and common sense imparted and on that basis can recommend people new in their own business to give it a try. It is not expensive, considering the presence of professional advisers who take questions as well as handing out knowledge. Stephanie is on 07895 623048 or delicia@cookerymagic.co.uk

DOROTHY'S WAR

Not at all as violent as the title suggests, it's a musical show about Dorothy Lawrence, the only known woman soldier on the front line in the 1914-18 World War One. She was refused access to the front line as a journalist, so disguised herself as a woman and got through.

The story will be told by The Harmonettes at 8.00 in Clows Top Victory Hall on Friday the 20th. It's another Shindig promotion, so a £12.00 ticket includes supper or for just the

show the price is £10.00. Judith on 01299 832020 or 07788 604 542 can help you with those. If you're having supper, please arrive at 7.15. And do enjoy another Shindig evening at the Hall.

HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY

Plans are at an early stage for the Queen's Birthday Tea Party around the Parish Church and Market Hall on Sunday, June 12th. It will coincide with the big bash in London on The Mall.

Start time is 3.00, there will be a brass band in attendance and tickets are £4.00 each or £\$12.00 for a family. It being a church event, it would be safe to say that sunshine will be arranged.

Sarah Wilde on CM 272628 can help with tickets and information.

NICE GESTURE

The Library Easter Quiz, run by Ceri Little with much family aid, was won by Gary Dale, whose correct entry was first out of the hat.

A true gent, he asked that his cash prize - 50 percent of the takings - be donated equally to the Friends of the Library and the Library itself. Thank you, Mr Dale.

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TALBOT CHANGES

Walk into the Talbot Hotel today and the changes hit you in the eye. It's lighter, it's more spacious and it's carpeted through the seating areas. New furniture throughout and some wall decorations that will grab your imagination.



She's the landlady, so expect to see her behind the bar. Lesley Coop.

It's now in the experienced hands of Lesley and Mike Coop. She explains with a smile: "We've got a landlady and a maintenance man. I run the pub and Mike does all the work on the place." What looks like a professional refurb is all his work; the man clearly knows his stuff.

They've been in the pub and restaurant trade for a long time

and have a clear idea just what they want. "This is not a restaurant, it's a pub that serves good food," Lesley explained. "We just want it to be part of the town, with a relaxed atmosphere. Dogs are welcome on the hard surfaced areas and there's a family room at the back for the children."

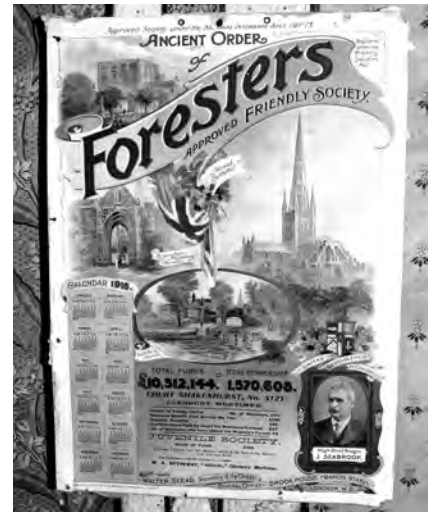
They moved here from the Lake District and looked at a lot of available places before coming to Cleobury Mortimer and finding just what they wanted. Brewery owners Greene King are footing the bills for electrical work and lighting, but the rest of it Lesley and Mike are paying for. That's commitment, what you need for people taking over a town centre pub that goes back centuries as a place to take in a pint and satisfy your appetite.

Son Jason is the chef, with part timer Steve on back-up. The whole standard of presentation is impressive. We wish them every success.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

There will be a collection for MacMillan Cancer Support in the High Street on May 21st. Let's make this another notable demonstration of Cleobury's big hearted generosity.

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HISTORY**



1916 and the Ancient Order of Foresters Court Shakenhurst boasted 234 members and funds worth £3174.

Andrew Wakeman was working on the old flat above Cleobury Washhouse, making the place habitable. As he started to clean down a wall he realised there were boards nailed to the timber uprights and removing one discovered a poster on the reverse. It was from the Ancient Order of Foresters, posted in his granddad's newspaper shop of the time. And there was a parcel wrapper with a label from W D & H O Wills, cigarette makers of Bristol, to the same address. He's planning to put a couple of posters in the shop in the future.

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Pete Andrewjski, really not as solemn as his picture suggests.

Let's explain that daunting surname: "My dad was from the Ukraine," says Peter with a quiet grin. He's obviously used to spelling it out to the mere English.

He's an electrician in demand, returning to his native Stoke-on-Trent to deal with a problem, installing the lighting and electrics on a frozen food warehouse Birmingham ("My biggest job. I had ten blokes doing the labouring side of it") and for twelve months he's been on call to a site in Oldbury, where a big warehouse is being spilt into small units and he wires up what the client wants.

He was originally a surface worker at a large colliery in Stoke, watching over the winding engines that lowered and raised the cages that carried the miners to the working surface far below. But he could see what was going to happen to the pits and booked himself into college to train and qualify as an electrician. Then set up in business installing alarm systems, working with an NIC professional registration. He's fussy about registrations like that, which confirm his standing as man who knows his stuff.

He has actually retired once, he and wife Janis settling in Spain. He winces at the memory: "Think of everything that could go wrong and it did," he admits. "So we cut our losses and came back." Janis set up the hairdressing business she still has in Wall Heath and Pete went back to the electrical business that the earlier list we quoted suggests he does very well.

He's turned his back on the alarm business, fed up with calls asking him to sort out a system someone else had got wrong. Calls late on weekends and Bank Holidays somehow did not appeal and when he quoted

a call out charge the callers went elsewhere; he didn't miss them.

What keeps him busy today is domestic and commercial work, plus some light industry stuff. "I'm supposed to be taking it easy, but the work just keeps coming," he says with a gentle grin.

They were living in Kingswinford, in a flat above the shop he rented for the business. Then he tells you what the rent was and you're not surprised that they decided to move out to Ditton Mill. "We had a caravan at Cleobury Mortimer and liked it," he remembers. "Then a lodge came up and we moved here." From the new base he travels into the industrial Midlands and to more southerly cities like Hereford. And does local jobs, like the lighting and electrical work in the newly refurbished Talbot Hotel.

Retirement plans? "When I can't do the job. I just can't sit about doing nothing. I try not to work on Mondays, because Janis doesn't work then, but if somebody called with a problem, I'd go out." It's the determination to do a job well that drives him, the refusal to let people down. You can see why he's still a busy man.



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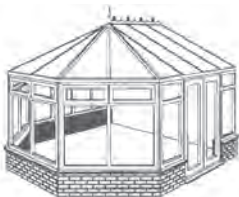
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Editor and Advertising Sales: Jim Reynolds, 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer,
Shropshire DY14 8PA. Telephone: 01299 270642 Mobile: 07410 977 212

E-Mail: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk or uncle.jim@icloud.com

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE IS MAY 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

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CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

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CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

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

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

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

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

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month.

POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street.

SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, mark.stmarys@live.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

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