

The Cleobury Clarion

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May 2018

CHANGES BEHIND THE SCENES



The power of Glint Print. New owner Imogen Spencer left and retiring owner Linda Fowler.

The person who has been the prime mover in making the Clarion look like a serious product has retired and sold the business to her step daughter.

I cannot overstate the progress Linda Fowler and partner Mike Spencer have brought to this monthly product. When I first met her, the Clarion was quite literally a cut and paste mess - the stories cut with scissors and stuck to the page with sprayed glue. Enthusiasm ruled over any

attempt at competence and she still made it look half decent.

With the careful guidance of these two, I have progressed to the current point, where 64 pages of stories and adverts are put together on an Apple Mini Mac computer in a template that makes the whole thing look better than I could have dreamed of. And with just a touch on the right buttons, the whole thing is sent to land on a distant computer in less than two minutes.

That distant computer and the printing hardware have all moved to a new home near Much Wenlock and Imogen Spencer is now the power behind the scene. She produced the copy you are holding now and will be guiding the print quality forward in future.

Having to drive up country to collect it every month will be no hardship; travelling through Shropshire is always a pleasure. Saying thanks and farewell to the two who have been so much help in making the Clarion story a good one is not easy, but times change and we move on.

THE CLARION PRINTS 1,000 COPIES

We've come a very long way since the Clarion first appeared in 2005. Back then it was just 28 pages long and we printed 550 copies; this month it's 64 pages long once again, but we've kept the press churning until it had printed one thousand copies. And that's what we'll be producing from now on.

The demand has risen with our agreement to make a page available for the Benefice of Cleobury Mortimer to advertise its programme every month after the Unity parish magazine ceased publication. That has brought requests from surrounding parish churches to make copies available directly to their congregations. We leave a bundle in those church porches on the first of every month, which means more readers and greater reach for the advertisers whose business keeps the whole thing alive.

My thanks to the church and to every reader, wherever they pick up their copies. JR

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'Serving the local communities with dignity & understanding'

The Cleobury Clarion, May 2018

Volume Fifteen - Edition Two



*Family Business Man.
See Page 11.*



*Fred Crowther, veteran butcher,
retires from Heath Farm Meats.
See Page 23.*



*The Bond family, three
generations, reopen the Royal
Fountain. See Page 55.*

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ROCK CHURCH ART AND CRAFTS SHOW



The contrast of Pam French's zebras with David Tedham's abstract works lived happily together in such a traditional setting.

This is a well established exhibition and sale that raises fund for Rock's ancient Saint Peter and Saint Paul parish church. No less than 29 artists brought work for visitors to examine, plus a range of crafts people. All arranged in a sympathetic manner around the church, with lighting to add to the effect and light refreshments served in support.

Entry is free, with a gentle invitation telling you that donations would be much appreciated. Hard to refuse such an approach, and it seemed that everyone added to the large jar of coins.

Local shows like this are interesting because of the range of styles and subjects they offer, plus the revelation of names you don't associate with such fine work unless you know the individual very well. It serves as a reminder that there is a great deal of talent hidden away and too seldom seen.

David Tedham's work in acrylics is well known; paintings that have been described as offering a paradoxical relationships between the figurative and the abstract. His work was next to the beautifully realistic examples of Pam French's love of animals, both attracting strong attention.

A smaller selection of craft products ranged from jewellery through needlework to prints and woodwork. We particularly liked the jewellery and beadwork of Dorothy Broadhurst.



Such a sympathetic setting as this adds to the appeal of the works on show. Far more fitting than the blank walls of a gallery.

The show was opened by local artist Claire Spencer, a charming lady from the same area of what is now known as Greater London as the editor. She attended Harrow Grammar School for Girls, while I was at Harrow Weald Grammar and making less of the opportunity than she did.

This Rock Show is a regular spot in the local social calendar; well worth a visit.

Rain or Shine Theatre Company present

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ROCK POUND THE BOUNDS



They deserve the support of us all. Midlands Air Ambulance simply save lives with their service.

The annual Rock 'Pound the Bounds' has grown to become a major fund raiser for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and their helicopter rescue service. In rural areas, with road journeys never easy, a helicopter airlift to hospital is quite literally a life saver.

You can help them by joining in this year's Pound on May 6th. There are six routes, ranging from a three mile family treasure trail up to a 26 mile marathon, all through local countryside at its spring time best. Entry costs just £3.00 for the family route, £6.00 for the six mile version and £8.00 for the longer alternatives. Register your place on the net at www.poundthebounds.com - simple! You will also find the timetable for the day when you register, with the 26 miles walkers obviously the earliest to sign on and get their instructions for the day.

The day is sponsored by Blacks the outdoor retailers, whose shop in Worcester is a good place to catch up on what's new in the world of outdoor activity. And it's worth remembering that the Air Ambulance averages six missions every day, with 30 percent of those in the three counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, 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 the Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA. Closing date June 24th.

EARLY NOTICE - OPEN GARDENS

Chris Madeley with details of the Stottesdon and Chorley Weekend:

National Gardens Scheme Gardens Open in Stottesdon and Chorley, June 16th and 17th.

Situated in unspoilt South Shropshire countryside, the villages of Stottesdon and Chorley are opening up to 13 gardens in aid of the National Garden Scheme. The Scheme donates the money raised to mainly medical related charities and is a major donor to hospices. Opening hours are from 11.00 to 5.00.

Tickets cost £6.00 and are valid for the two days. Children under 16 free. Dogs are allowed in most of the gardens but must be kept on leads.

Refreshments, including light lunches and traditional afternoon teas, are available on the old bowling green.

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Chris Madeley

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THE SOROPTIMISTS

At our April AGM we welcomed Sue Merrill as our new President. Her first month proved to be quite a busy one: on the first Saturday we had a stand at the Bewdley Community Showcase event and a week later an Afternoon Tea with Henry Sandon in aid of Worcestershire Young Carers. The motto for Sue's year of office is: The Next Generation and the speaker at our first Supper meeting was Ann Becke who gave an informative talk about the 'Chernobyl Children's Lifeline'.

Our annual bridge tournament at Blakedown Parish Rooms was a great success, all profits going to Alzheimer's UK. We ended the month with attendance at Midland Arden Region's Celebration event at Stone Manor.

Our May dates are: Business Meeting, Thursday 3rd, 7.30pm at Baxter Church Rooms; Supper/Speaker Meeting: Thursday 17th, 7.00 pm at La Brasserie, Kidderminster; our regular informal Coffee Morning will hopefully return to the George in Bewdley on Thursday 31st from 10.00.

Elke Jury

For more details regarding the club, contact us: on 01299 266101 or email: kidderminstersorop@gmail.com website link: <http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/>

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

For many gardeners May is one of the best months; the weather is getting warmer, but beware frosts can still strike anytime. Plants that are raised in the greenhouse will need to be hardened off. It's a daily chore, moving young plants in and out of the greenhouse but it is worth it. Now is the time to take softwood cuttings of trees, shrubs, perennials and climbers. and to feed flowering shrubs and roses.

Our March meeting was the Spring Show and the Club would like to express thanks to Derek Walker for judging. The winners were: Joint 3rd Ann Hingley & Bob Marriott, 2nd Chris Cowdell, 1st and Best Exhibit Marion Wilson.

Also on this evening, Clows Top were the hosts for the Annual Inter-Club Quiz for the 'Jim Greenhow' Challenge Shield. Derek Walker was Quiz master, and there were teams representing Astley, Bewdley, Clows Top & Kidderminster. Congratulations were given to the Clows Top team for winning the shield.

Please come along to our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th May, 10 till 12 noon.

Our next meeting will be on May 23rd, when Malcolm Mollart will talk about Creating a Year Round Garden.

Pauline Bowen

SAINT MARY'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

We are holding a flower festival in Saint Mary's Church from May 25th to the 28th. It is titled "Movie Magic" where we will endeavour to recreate floral displays to match our favourite films such as 'Toy Story', 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Ladies in Lavender'.

We will be offering coffee and teas in the afternoon. All monies raised will be divided between the Church, the Friends of St Mary's and the Flower Fund.

Opening hours are 9.30 to 5.00 on Friday and Saturday, 11.30 to 5.00 on Sunday and 9.30 to 4.30 on Monday, the final day.

Angela Drennan

SILLY BIT

My dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was penalised for littering.

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THE FAMILY BUSINESS MAN



Peter Roper - A Man About Business

This is a man with a broad experience of business, from success to failure and the determination to get back again. His favourite phrase is based on old fashioned common sense, as he talks about the need to fill the fridge. After all, that's what people are in business for.

His considerable talent at promoting businesses is concentrated on the family run versions these days. He's seen and talked to a lot of them, and recognises that they are often too busy surviving to step back and see what needs to be done to grow and succeed. To fill the fridge. So six years ago he rebranded as The Family Business Man, to offer his experience and knowledge to such people.

"The Edelman Report questioned people in twelve countries and found that 86 percent of them trust family businesses as people to deal with," he explains. Those are his target market and he concentrates on the Midlands, with a lot of success. He started business meetings at the Stone Manor Hotel in Kidderminster and that is the base

for his expanding operation. He now hosts monthly meeting in Shrewsbury, Solihull and Wolverhampton, to make life easier for busy people in those areas. His aim is to have ten venues opened within a year, venues where business people can drop in and listen, eat, talk and learn; meetings start at 4.30 and end at 8.00. That leaves time to pick up the groceries to fill that fridge again.

He's very keen on social media, and sees too few family businesses using this tool effectively. "They do some marketing, but in hard times you don't try to build a network when you're desperate." His advice removes the desperation and offers guidance.

The meetings begin at 4.30 with a talk by Peter, followed by something to eat before three members talk about their own experience and how they are building their businesses. Then come one-to-one discussions before everyone heads for home at 8.00. The three satellites are growing; there are about 300 businesses from whom they draw support.

He's always worth listening to and has regular Family Business Man spots online on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If you sign up there's a monthly 'Family Business Man' magazine and regular bulletins and blogs to keep you up to date. What he offers is economical business guidance based on a lifetime's experience. That's worth a lot.

Peter's on CM 272000 or you can Google 'Family Business Man' to see how well he uses the social media that too many of us mature citizens overlook.

BINGO NIGHTS

Just a reminder from the Sports and Social Club that they organise a Bingo Night every Monday, except Bank Holidays, starting at 8.00. It's a well established event, where you'll be made welcome.



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FUNDING AVAILABLE

Cleobury Mortimer Crib League have funds available to help any special event or equipment purchase by a group in the town catering for children. Recent examples of the help they've given have been instruments for the training band of Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass and bows for the Archery Club. There has been little or no publicity for the aid in recent months, so there's quite a fund built up.

It's really very simple to get help. A representative of the organising body asks the League for help, explains what the grant will be used for and when the job's done you give the treasurer of the League a receipt for the money you've spent. If you are doing any work that benefits the children in the community, they'd like to hear from you.

The contact is Sarah Barnsley on 07837 126 827, or email sarahbarnsley61@googlemail.com. All you have to do is ask. Over to you.

THE MINISTRY OF BISCUITS!

You must admit. it's a title that makes you sit up and take notice. It was an acclaimed hit musical at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the local Evening News saying it was "Absolutely hilarious....the freshest comedy in years."

Thanks to Shindig, it's coming to Clows Top Victory Hall on Saturday the 19th this month. Starting time is 7.30, tickets are £10.00 from Rachel on 07788 604 542 or Roger on 07870 522 567. That's an acclaimed Edinburgh production brought to your doorstep at a price most of us can afford. Too good a chance to miss?

THE LARCH BARN

A new out-of-town cafe is due to open on May 5th, near Six Ashes on the Bridgnorth road. It's

part of the Landscape Plants development, a family run wholesale plant business supplying trees, shrubs and hardy plants to contractors right across the UK.

The Larch Barn is a new direction, open to the public with a blooming plant centre and a brand new cafe offering freshly baked cakes, scones and lunch time snacks and soft drinks, tea and coffee. All locally sourced wherever possible and open seven days a week.

The location is well thought out, the building set back from the B4363 Bridgnorth road with parking to one side so that the view across country to the Clee Hills won't be blocked. There will be a roaring fire to warm you in the cooler months, with big windows to give the best view, and in summer's warmth you'll be able to sit out and soak up the sun.

There will be room for 60 diners and the place looks lovely. See for yourself on the 5th.

AUNT AGATHA



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

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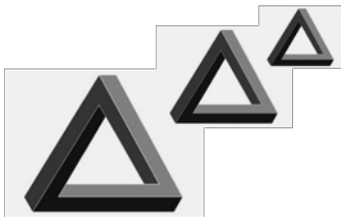
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It must have been 25 years ago that Tony Page, the farthest travelled motorcyclist I've ever known, described the roads in Eastern Europe: "The first thing you learn is that you never ride through a puddle, because you don't know what it hides. It could be just water, but it could be a big pot-hole." Self preservation was a good habit.

I was reminded of that wise advice recently when the MoT for my car came with an advisory that one rear tyre was legal but worn. Solution: replace both rears. Then came the call from Lower Street Garage, saying that one of the alloy wheels had two cracks and they would not fit a new tyre to that until it had been mended.

Enter Eddie Roberts of EJRs Engineering up on Tenbury Road, the man who can weld almost anything and agreed to let me watch the process. The first stage is to cut the cracked part of the wheel rim out, to give a clean edge to work with. A rotary grinder in a skilled pair of hands makes the job look easy; it's not.



Eddie gets the cracked section removed.

Energetic use of a wire brush got the damaged area cleaned up before the serious business of Tig (tungsten inert gas) welding began, Eddie wearing a serious mask and those who know not looking at the bright arc of the work. Using filler rod, he built up the area where he'd cut away the cracked alloy before grinding and shaping back to the original rim profile.



At this stage you look away as Eddie applies filler rod to build the alloy profile back.

I first came across Tig welding in advanced motorcycle chassis construction 20 years ago, when the man to go to was based at Farnborough and had learned his craft in the aircraft industry. The craftsmen who use it today don't seem to see it as special and with the current state of our roads cracked rims are quite common, according to the Lower Street Garage crew. The cure looks quick and easy, like so many skills do when you watch a craftsman at work. Just be glad they'll take on such jobs, because the cost of a new BMW alloy is something I don't want to know about.

Jim Reynolds

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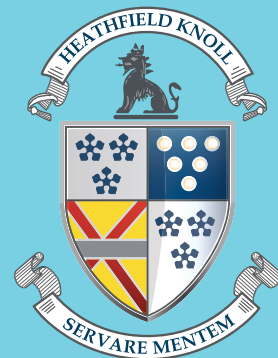
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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

A bright yellow object now adorns the exterior of The King's Arms. It should be housing what has been christened The Town Defibrillator. A year ago CPV realised that Cleobury had three potentially life-saving defibrillators and none of them was publicly accessible on a 24/7 basis. CPV decided to try and resolve this and initiated a project. Wendy Satterley of The King's Arms, kindly agreed to the relocation of the pub's defibrillator and when other outdoor High Street sites proved unsuitable, offered an exterior wall too. A secure cabinet was required and CPV successfully applied to Veolia's Make A Difference fund for a community award to help provide this. Funds were also raised through the efforts of Gill and Brian Davies, with support from Mawley Town Farm and Chrissie Woodhouse, among others. The Town Council stepped in to help with the servicing and term maintenance of the defibrillator and cabinet, for which thanks should go to Matt Sheehan and Andy Goold. The final piece of the project fell into place when local electrician David Taylor offered his services free-of-charge to ensure that all was installed correctly.

Unlike most others in the area, the new Cleobury cabinet only has a simple security tag and a keycode is not required to gain access, making it instantly available. This is the recommendation of the British Heart Foundation and the model used throughout London and Scotland, where ambulance services refuse to recognise public defibrillators if they require codes to access.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of premature death in the UK and the quicker this can be treated by defibrillation, the greater the chance of successful resuscitation. For every

minute a patient is in cardiac arrest, their chance of survival decreases by 10 per cent. It is estimated that each year, around 4,000 people in the West Midlands suffer cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and two-thirds of them do not receive treatment prior to the arrival of an ambulance crew.



Wendy Satterley of The King's Arms and electrician David Taylor, who carried out the installation.

Modern defibrillators guide the user through their application and no special training is needed, but a brief training course is planned to promote awareness and confidence in using the defibrillator, with particular focus on those who live or work in the vicinity of the new installation. Further details soon.

Mark Radford

SILLY BITS

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak felt cold, so lit a fire. The kayak sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it.



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FAREWELL, FRED



Fred Crowther, one of the welcoming faces at Heath Farm Meats.

He's been part of the Heath Farm Meats crew for 15 years, the quiet man with a gentle smile and always a pleasant word for customers. He's also a very knowledgeable and skilled butcher.

He started in the trade as a lad from school, in a shop on Bewdley's Load Street. And when the boss retired, he offered the shop to young Fred, who found himself a shopkeeper with a place to run and all the work of running a business on his plate.

He ran the shop for 25 years, not noticing the hardship of meat stored and butchered in the cellar when he was a young man. But when the 25 year lease came up for renewal and the landlord wanted him to sign for another quarter of a century, he asked himself if he wanted 25 years more of those stairs and opted to close the shop. It was much missed, with lots of local

customers wanting that quiet and friendly way of serving their needs.

A conversation with Clive Gittins from the new butchery at Heath Farm in Bagginswood, who was looking for the right man to help him opened another door and Fred readily moved into a place with no cellar and staffed by people he knew. He proved to be a great asset, bringing customers with him, some of whom still drive out to Heath Farm for quality produce and service. Fred's been here 15 years and has decided that it's time to stand back and spend more time with his wife, maybe travelling a bit. They've certainly earned a rest and change of scene.

THE ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL AT BRIDGNORTH

Early notice of this 25th Festival at Bridgnorth, as serious music followers will want to book seats at such a special event. It is based in St Leonard's church in High Town plus others in the area and runs from June 6th to the 10th. Featuring leading musicians, this year's festival concentrates on works from the 18th century, known as the Age of Enlightenment, when the western world was catching up with longer established cultures in the East.

An excellent flyer is available and should be in the Market Hall and the Library. It gives full dates, venues and prices and also lists the range of hot buffets available before the performances in the Festival Marquee from 6.00 to 7.15.

Ticket prices range from £18.00 to £28.00 and you can book by phone on 07547 289704, by email on forms@englishhaydn.com, online at www.ticketsource/englishhaydnfestival. or by post at Morville Farmhouse, Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4RJ.



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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The May Parish Walk on the 6th will take us south of Cleobury, starting at 10.00 outside St. Mary's. Let's hope for more spring like weather.

By contrast, our April work party was a very soggy affair on a cold day. But five of us managed to put in three waymark posts along a diverted footpath at Little Stepple and two in Neen Savage, as well as clearing a stile in Hopton Wafers.

The season for keeping our footpaths clear of growth starts now and we will be out and about on work parties and individually, walking paths armed with secateurs and slasher. Any readers who would like to get involved, please contact us to discuss: Footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Plans are progressing well for the popular Food and Ale Trail. The event will be held on Saturday, September 1st and the ticket price will include morning and afternoon refreshments, as well as lunch and oriental food at the end. With, of course, ale provided by Hobsons.

The walk route will be between seven and eight miles and tickets (Adults £15, Under 12's £10) will be available from Cleobury Country nearer the time. CMFA would like to thank the local businesses, organisations and volunteers who have already offered their support.

Once we hear the results of the Public Inquiry about footpaths at Glen Caravan Park, we will post them on our website www.cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

PARISH HALL NEWS

The Parish Hall just keeps moving forward and improving its facilities and services. The latest was to accommodate the installation of a new boiler, which meant a new building to

accommodate it and while they were about it, the committee added an updated and accessible disabled toilet plus a new Ladies room.

This costs money, of course. So on Saturday June 9th there will be 'An Evening at the Races' to both entertain and make a few pennies for the Improvement Fund. The doors open at 7.00 and the first race starts at 7.30. Tickets are just £5.00 each, which includes a curry (a bargain or what?) and a lot of laughs, especially if you pick a winner or two. A licensed bar will add to the fun and Under 16s will be allowed only if accompanied by an adult.

Book your place with Sue Griffiths on 07787 899 823 or any Parish Hall committee member.

A WRITING WORKSHOP

A new project under the title 'Does Literature Matter?' is under way with its first meeting at 10.00 in the morning of the 12th of this month at the Darwin Centre, in Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JY. The aim is to produce pieces of writing to be published in a book that will be a resource for the county libraries, to encourage would-be writers to try to get their work published.

Leading the workshop will be author Marion Molteno, whose idea the project is, with Tim Cook co-ordinating the concept. It's free of charge and is scheduled to end at lunch time. Tim would like to know how many are likely to attend, to help planning; he's on cookth4@gmail.com. Contact him if you plan to attend or would just like to know more.

Come on, all you budding authors. This could be the first step on the road to fame.

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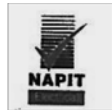
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Confirmation before Easter that the Treasury and Department of Health had approved the funding case for up to £312m investment in our acute hospitals at Shrewsbury and Telford, was really welcome news for all of us who have campaigned for better healthcare in Shropshire.

My colleague Lucy Allan, MP for Telford, stood up in Prime Minister's Questions to say it was the proudest day of her political career, and I felt equally buoyed by the news. I had called for this funding ahead of the Chancellor's Spring Statement, so to see the NHS in Shropshire recognised as the top priority for investment by the NHS nationally, backed by the government, was extremely welcome.

To put this announcement in context, it is the largest ever public sector investment in healthcare in Shropshire. But it also represents the largest new capital commitment anywhere in NHS England this year, and is 40% of the total funding announced for transformational capital projects across the country, to modernise and transform buildings and services in the year of the NHS's 70th birthday. So this is a huge win for Shropshire.

It is crucial to keep up the momentum for local residents from right across Shropshire to get engaged with the public consultation, due to get underway in coming weeks. I know all too well what can happen to investment in Shropshire healthcare if public support is derailed by those resistant to change, even if this is designed by clinicians to improve services – it risks losing its priority within the NHS.

Some specialist services have already been taken out of county. At the moment, if you have a heart attack you are taken by ambulance to the specialist centre in Stoke or Wolverhampton.

Further delays to Future Fit risks losing less specialist existing services. So with £312m at stake, we should not wait any longer and get on with the public consultation as soon as possible.

While either proposal within Future Fit will involve changes to what is provided at each hospital, this new capital funding will deliver for patients across South Shropshire, with a wide range of improved services at the acute hospitals, releasing more services into community settings. Foremost amongst these will be a new Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit, with 50% more capacity than the current A&Es combined, including 32 more hospital beds, and a new Cancer Centre in Telford. There is a lot of information on the options proposed for consultation on the Future Fit website, at nhsfuturefit.org, and I encourage readers to take a look at what the proposals would mean for them.

The reaction from within Shropshire from patients and NHS representatives has been really encouraging, with many constituents getting in touch to say how pleased they are at this news. So I hope sincerely the public support is there to see through this investment and Shropshire healthcare gets this much needed boost.

But I do recognise there will be some concern about change, and that is why ensuring the public consultation is as inclusive as possible is important, especially reaching those of us in rural areas. So I encourage everyone reading this to have your say in the public consultation, to ensure South Shropshire voices play a strong role in shaping the future of acute healthcare provision in the county for decades to come.

Philip Dunne

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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice



Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice—May 2018

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 6th: 8.30 Said Eucharist & 11.00am Service.

13th, 20th & 27th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Mothers Union Lunch-May 17th. 12.00 noon at The Stable. Please contact Gabrielle 270510 for more information.

Christian Aid Week-May 13th-19th. Please help people living in poverty and danger. Together we can build where everyone has a safe place to call home. Give at caweek.org by calling 08080 006006.

Farmers Market- May 19th. Proceeds from the tea/coffee & cakes on the 19th will be going to Christian Aid.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 6th-10.00am Eucharist, 13th-6.30pm Evensong, 20th-10.00am Matins, 27th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 6th-6.30pm Evensong, 13th-No service, 20th-6.30pm Ecumenical service, 27th-9.00am Eucharist.

Events/Activities: 20th—**Ecumenical Service for Pentecost**—6.30pm All welcome!

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 6th-10.00am Eucharist, 13th-10.00am Eucharist, 20th-10.00am Family Service, 27th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington

Services: 6th-No service, 13th-11.00am Eucharist, 20th-No service, 27th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

Events/Activities: 12th-Pop in for Puds, 2.30pm Doddington Village Hall, leave some space after lunch and pop in for some yummy puddings, contact Celia Gibb for more information
Tel: 01584 318036.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars

Services: 6th-No service, 13th-11.00am Eucharist, 20th-No service, 27th-11.00am Family Service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson

Services: 6th-6.30pm Evensong, 13th-No service, 20th-11.00am Eucharist, 27th-No service.

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

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



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Our community lost two major figures recently. Words here can only brush the surface of their character and achievements; families and friends know how much more they gave to the world.

PROFESSOR 'TANK' WADDINGTON



Professor Peter Waddington was 'Tank' to all who met him, a 6' 6" tall ex rugby player with the build of a brick outhouse and total modesty about his great achievements and reputation in the world of academia. Dinner with the Wad Squad was always a delicious and happy occasion, Tank sipping his pint and making points in argument with a hint of his knowledge to back it up. If you didn't know your subject well, you learned to be quiet, listen and learn.

He came to prominence as a lecturer at Reading University before moving north to live in Cleobury and lecture at Wolverhampton and launch their special degree course for police students that raised the standard for West Mercia and other forces. He and Diane spent time in America and he later visited South Africa to advise the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in the early post-Apartheid era.

Friends from academia and the police force spoke of the man at his funeral at Saint Mary's. Diane moved us to both tears and laughter with her memories and his friend Reverend Kelvin

Price made us smile, laugh and stop to think with his personal eulogy. Helen Ferguson read a poem for Tank and Diane, a group of friends spoke of their experience of the man and at the end of a reverent and loving ceremony we walked out to the tune of Arthur Wood's 'Barwick Green', the theme tune of The Archers that added a Billy Connolly moment to a unique farewell to a man whose like we are unlikely to ever see again. He departed as he lived, with humour and thought.

ELIZABETH RATCLIFF

Elizabeth was the founder of Neen Savage's 'Vital Link' magazine and it was that magazine that published edited highlights of the obituary she wrote for herself in 2009. She came from an academic background and it was during World War Two that she earned her degree in French and German at Reading University. She then joined the Intelligence Corps and worked on interception of Japanese naval signals, something she only revealed to husband Eric many years later on a visit to Bletchley Park.

They moved to Neen Savage in the early 1950s, where she joined the Parish Council and worked with chairman Dr Williams to build the splendid Parish Hall. The Vital Link was started to help raise funds for that work and when she wrote the Neen Savage book all the proceeds went to the same cause. She was probably too modest to mention the project taken on to restore the Elizabethan Detton Hall that stands as a memorial to the Ratcliff family name.

She and Eric travelled in later life and she continued the habit as a widow, including two trips around Australia in a camper van and bathing in the Indian Ocean in a wheelchair. If you can borrow a copy of the April-May 'Vital Link' there is much more in there. She really was a quite remarkable lady.

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The May Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 2 nd	10.00am	Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic at St Marys Place, Love Lane		
	10.00am	Waling for Health party steps out from the Sports Centre	Alan	CM 271754
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 5 th	8.00am	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
	10.00am	The Larch Barn at Six Ashes opens its impressive doors. PAGE 13		
Sun 6 th	9.30am	Rock Pound the Bounds for Midland Air Ambulance. PAGE 7		
	10.00am	CMFA Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. PAGE 25		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only		
Mon 7 th	8.00	Bingo Night, sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Tues 8 th	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meet at the Golf Club. PAGE 43		
	9.30am	"Let's Talk Local" at St Marys Close, Love Lane. PAGE 39		
	7.30	The Border Counties Historic Commercial Vehicle Club gather at Ludlow Brewing Company to enjoy a show by David Cassell of classic lorries in classic livery		
Wed 9 th	10.00am	COcO Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Tea or coffee with cake £1.50!		
	10.30am	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall. PAGE 35		
	7.00	An Evening at the Races in the Parish Hall, Church Street. PAGE 25		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street	David Taylor	CM 270793
Sat 12 th		Coach outing to Bristol.	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
	10.00	Clows Top Plant Sale, Victory Hall. PAGE 9		
	10.00	"Does Literature Matter?" writing workshop, Darwin Centre, Shrewsbury. PAGE 25		
Sun 13 th	5.30	Choral Evensong at St. Lawrence, Lindridge. PAGE 35		
Mon 14 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 43		
	7.00	Cleobury Mortimer Town Council meet at Cleobury Country Centre		
	8.00	Bingo Night, Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
	8.00	Poetry in the Pub at the Kings Arms, church Street		
Tues 15 th	9.30am	"Let's Talk Local" social care advice at St Marys Place. PAGE 39		
Wed 16 th	10.00	Walking for Health start out from the Sports Centre	Alan	CM 271754

The Community Room at Saint Mary's Place is attracting more events to add to the list of the established happenings that are aimed solely at the residents there. As well as the Hearing Aid Clinic that we featured last month, there is now the twice monthly 'Let's Talk Local' facility to help those in need of advice, starting on the 8th with another session on the 22nd.

It's good to see this attractive and quiet cul-de-sac getting a little more traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, though it should not be allowed to become an intrusion. There was enough of that when the revised heating work was done, though the reduced cost of heating the bungalows must be a blessing for the residents. They did seem to get along well with the workmen at that time.



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The May Social Calendar Continued

Part Two

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 16 th	10.30am	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall. PAGE 35		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 17 th	7.00	Soroptimists meet at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. PAGE 9		
Fri 18 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 19 th	2.30	"Pop in for Puds" at Doddington Village Hall	Celia Gibb	01584 318036
	7.30	"The Ministry of Biscuits", Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 13		
	8.00	Bump and Grind R & B Disco, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 35		
Mon 21 st	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the library, Love Lane. PAGE 53		
	8.00	Bingo Night, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Tues 22 nd	9.30	"Let's Talk Local" at St Marys Place, Love Lane. PAGE 39		
	2.00	CM Stroke Support Group meet at the Sports & Social Club for a Cream Tea		
Wed 23 rd	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall		
	10.30am	"Sing, Laugh, Breathe" at the Sports & Social Club		
	7.30	Clows top Gardening Club, Victory Hall. PAGE 9		
Fri 25 th		Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Fri 25 th -Mon28 th		"Movie Magic" Flower festival in the Parish Church. PAGE 9		
Sun 27 th	2.00	Family Bingo at the Sports & Social Club		
Mon 28 th	7.30	The nearly Dead Poets' Society gather at the Library, Love Lane		
	8.00	Bingo Night, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 30 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 31 st	10.00	Soroptimists Coffee Morning, George Hotel, Bewdley. PAGE 9		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE.....		
Sun 1 st	3.00	"Much Ado About Nothing" at Kinlet Hall. Advert on PAGE 5		
Wed 6 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Wed 6 th -Sun10 th		Bridgnorth's 25 th Haydn Festival. PAGE 23		

St John's Doddington held the third Event-a-Month in April, a 50s Afternoon Tea. A cheerful crowd, buoyed up by the lively music and a few people bravely donned 50s outfits. Prizes for best were duly awarded to Sonia Pearsall in her bobby socks and Pete Fletcher in his wig; the Fifties Quiz was won by June Adams. Our next Event is Pop in for Puds at the Village Hall on May 12th. Call in from 2.30pm to choose from a

selection of puddings. On 23rd June our Midsummer Music is at the Church at 7.30pm, a new venture for us. The church has lovely acoustics and we have a selection of music to make the most of them: "Take Note", a capella jazz choir will be joined by several soloists on various instruments and the local "Clee Singers"; there will be something to suit everyone, whatever your musical taste. *Celia Gibb*

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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

For many years, the Club has run a regular Bingo session on Monday evenings, except Bank Holidays. The Club is keen to attract new faces to these sessions and anyone wanting to join our regulars would be welcome. Eyes down at 8pm. There will be a Bump and Grind R&B Disco Night on May 19th, starting at 8pm with free entry.

As part of their usual monthly meeting, the CM Stroke Support Group will be hosting a Cream Tea on the afternoon of May 22nd, from 2.00 to 4.00. Everyone is welcome, so if you're passing by, please feel free to drop in for a cuppa and a scone. Who knows, even that yellow shiny thin Support Group meet at the Sports and Social Club in the sky may put in an appearance!

Looking for something to keep the kids entertained over Bank Holiday weekend? On May 27th, there will be a Family Bingo, arrive at 2.00 for a 2.30 start. Tickets are 50p; price for a full game is £2.

There are two Bank Holidays coming up in May. Don't forget, the Social Club has one of the best outside spaces in town for families to come and socialise, whilst enjoying the wonderful view over to Clee Hill. A Head's Up for this year's Clubfest, which will take place on August 18th.

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

CHRISTIAN AID EVENSONG

Saint Lawrence church in Windridge have a rather special choral evensong service planned for

Sunday the 13th this month. The aim is to raise funds for the Christian Aid charity, with each singer chipping £5.00 into the fund and the whole ensemble enjoying the experience of making music together for a good cause.

Singers register at 1.30 on the day, the first rehearsal is at 2.00, followed by tea and cake at 3.30 and the second rehearsal at 4.00 before the full performance at 5.30. Only those who've sung in a choir will know how good it feels to be part of such an occasion, and proper rehearsal makes it even better. Novices need not be afraid - singing brings people together.

Sarah Lupton can tell you more. She's on 01299 832622 or lupton@globalnet.co.uk

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF SINGING...

Kate Jones writes to remind us that her popular Sing, Laugh, Breathe community choir sessions are still welcoming both novice and experienced singers to her Wednesday morning sessions in the Market Hall. They start at 10.30 and end about 12.00 noon, but slight overruns because of the singers' enthusiasm is not unknown.

This summer's dates are May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, June 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th and July 11th, 18th and 25th. The charge is £6.00 a session or £35 for seven. The editor can confirm that you don't have to be a singer to join in and enjoy.

Kate is on kate@sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk.

SILLY BIT

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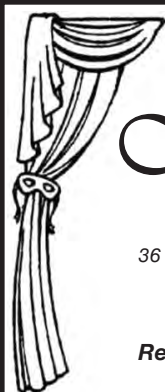
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Q: How many Councils does it take to change a light bulb? **A:** No idea, as they haven't managed it yet. Given this, can you imagine how difficult it would be for them to organise a bus service?. You would imagine correctly – the 2L replacement saga has been an utter shambles, the first problem being that it was entrusted to Worcestershire. Why on earth would anyone think this made sense given their long history of improving services for their residents at Shropshire's expense. In addition, the company involved is based in Shropshire, most of the route is in Shropshire and it is mainly funded by Shropshire so it's a mystery. True to form, they made an absolute Horlicks of it.

Apparently, after negotiations were held with R&B Travel, a draft timetable was produced although it was difficult to get any information from Worcestershire up to that point. After a comprehensive examination of this lasting several seconds, both Madge Shingleton and I asked the same question: Where were the early and late services?. According to R&B, they were only asked to tender for the middle of the day and nothing was mentioned about how students or workers would get to either Kiddy or Ludlow. It may be that no one in Worcestershire travels to College or work early in the morning although I find that hard to believe. It may also have been thought that the Bus Fairy would sort it out but as most readers will be aware, there is no Bus Fairy...

Anyway, after much effort and many phone calls by Madge Shingleton, a revised timetable was produced which gives roughly the same number of services as before although this is still inadequate given the frequency of services to and from similar sized towns in other parts of the UK. Please therefore ignore the times shown in last months column and collect the updated timetable which is available from the Cleobury Country Centre, Market Hall, Cleobury Cafe and other shops. The good news is that the new 292 service

reverts to the original route and goes through the centre of Bewdley and straight into Kiddy thus cutting the travelling time in half to around 30 minutes. The less good news is that Diamond are still operating the 0740 service to Kiddy returning at 1602 and numbered 292S so we are not yet quite free of the Curse of Diamond although all of these arrangements are to be reviewed in August.

As I write this, the revised service has been in operation for several days and seems to have largely operated on time although the 1730 departure from Kiddy didn't turn up on one occasion. I am a little concerned that the schedule as it stands doesn't allow any time for delays due to traffic, roadworks etc so if there is a problem, it may be difficult to catch up. Hopefully any hiccups will be mainly teething troubles but please let either Madge or myself know of any issues. We followed one service towards Cleobury the other day and it went very well, even accelerating uphill which isn't something you saw very often with Diamond... As I have mentioned the 'D' word, there have been the usual no shows – we saw a recovery van speeding up the High Street early one morning last week. Obviously in vain as the 9.14 to Kiddy failed to appear. There was also a collision with a caravan in Lower Street – after all, it's not as if caravans are big and white so they are easily missed.

As we go to press, there is a rumour that Shropshire Council are going to ask people to stop reporting potholes and just report if they find any tarmac. It's not that the roads are bad but some of them don't look like they've been touched since the Romans left... Apparently at the beginning of April, new contractors were appointed to fix the holes but no-one seems to have seen them yet... I understand that this is because it didn't occur to anyone to organise an ordering process with them before the contract started. Another 'lightbulb' moment?....

Steve Todd

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LET'S TALK LOCAL

A new service to Cleobury. Local Co-ordinator Lisa Jones explains what it's about:

'Let's Talk Local' is provided by Shropshire Council and aims to provide an easy and convenient way of accessing information and support relating to your social care needs and priorities. This might include questions or queries about how you can be supported to enjoy independence and contentment within your own home and local community. Additionally, if you look after someone then your caring role can be discussed in order to ensure that you are supported.

Let's Talk Local appointments are provided by a social care practitioner where you will be seen on a one-to-one basis. Further to exploring your social care needs, you will be provided with appropriate guidance and signposting regarding services and organisations within your local area that may be able to provide further help and support.

If you think this would be of value then you can book an appointment at one of our many hubs located across the county. A new location for Let's Talk Local is here in Cleobury Mortimer. The details are: Address: 11 St Mary's Place, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PF. Day: First & third Tuesday of the month. Time: 9:30 – 12:30

To book an appointment, please call 0345 678

9044 or view www.shropshire.gov.uk for more information. What are you waiting for? Let's Talk!

Lisa Jones

CLEOBURY MEN'S SHED

PROGRESS

Last month's feature on the remarkable progress made with setting up the Cleobury Men's Shed brought a good response from Clarion readers. It's

that big hearted Cleobury community feeling coming out again.

First of all the Samaritans in Shrewsbury donated a metal cabinet, with the explanation that they are moving to electronic storage. One trip in a pickup with a roof rack and there's a cabinet in store.

Then came a call from a lady who's downsizing and had a broad assortment of tools she no longer needed. She donated tools, power tools and drill bits. A great start.

And we hear that the matter of registering as a charity is under way, with their submission accepted and being processed. More progress.

CLEOBURY W.I.

We learned so much from the April talk by Charles Hadwell who lives in the house in Abberley which was occupied in the early 1800s by talented clockmaker Samuel Thorp. His work includes Stourport Tontine clock, the clock in Rock church tower as well as the Witley Court clock restored by Charles, which we visited as part of our trip to Abberley last summer. It can be seen in the crypt at Great Witley church and is well worth a visit. At the Annual Town meeting display Cleobury WI members were raising awareness of the problem of 'plastic soup' and how to avoid contributing to the millions of microplastic fibres shed in laundry that end up in our seas. On May 8th visitors are welcome to the Market Hall at 7.30pm to join with Holly in dancing for health and wellbeing, £4 including refreshments. There is a visit to the AO Recycling facility on 5th June at 9.30am and all are welcome to see this in action on World Environment Day, book a place by email judysant10@gmail.com or call 01299 270983. More information on our Facebook page.

Judy Sant

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May in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

At this time of year everything is growing quickly but some plants take this to extremes. You'll probably be familiar with Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), an enormous relative of the 'busy lizzie' (a colourful occupant of bedding schemes and hanging baskets) from the Western Himalayas. It has a pretty pink flower which is why it charmed its way into British gardens in 1839, but this is followed by seed pods which explode when touched, scattering seeds 5 metres from the plant. It favours damp areas and is steadily spreading up British rivers including the Severn and its tributaries. You won't have to go far to see masses of it, e.g. on the river bank beside the Bewdley School.



Although it can be said to provide nectar for insects (and can be used by bees to produce a very respectable honey) its ability to spread quickly and form dense stands is very harmful to our native flora. A broken-off plant can root from the nodes of the stem and the root can regrow to branch and produce even more flowers than before. For this reason, uprooted plants or pieces

of stem have to be crushed and disposed of carefully. If there are only a few plants they can be hung over branches to stop them taking root again.

The Forestry Commission's Wildlife Ranger, Phil Rudlin, has been doing battle with it at Shrawley Wood for about 16 years and seems to be winning, using an ATV- drawn roller to crush the stems and then finishing off by hand weeding with the help of volunteers. In various locations alongside the river and brooks in the main forest there have been concerted efforts to remove the plant by hand pulling wherever it has appeared, but in every case it has proved to be a mistake to assume that it can be completely eradicated: balsam is a tireless invader and its reappearance needs to be dealt with quickly.

The Environment Agency are trialling biological control using a variety of rust fungus which is specific to Himalayan Balsam. After four years of research it was approved to be released into the wild in 2014 and although its use is at a very early stage, it appears to damage the leaves and weaken growth of the plant. Locally the River Stour is going to be used for a trial this year.

You can do your bit for our native flora and fauna while having a lot of fun (legitimate destruction is always to be relished) by joining one of the work parties being organised by Steve Bent in late July and early August – contact him at stevenclivebent1@aol.com. And when you're out walking, keep an eye open for those big, succulent stems so that you can pull them up and hang them up!

Linda Iles

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club met at the Cleobury Café on April 10th to hear Paul French talk about his work for the Samaritans. In a brief historical introduction, Paul told us that the organisation was founded in 1953 by an Anglican vicar in London, the Reverend Chad Varah, whose work experience had convinced him that there was a need for a free, unbiased, listening service to help people in distress. The iconic name by which his organisation is now known was coined by a writer in the Daily Mirror.

Varah started with a single local group of telephone listeners, but there are now 201 groups, supported by over 20,000 unpaid volunteers. The necessary funds are raised solely by donation or bequest - no Government money is provided. Groups operate in a wide range of settings – schools, prisons, universities, railway stations, etc. (By training railway staff, the Samaritans have brought about a noticeable drop in the number of rail suicides in the UK.)

Although many of us associate the work of the Samaritans with providing comfort and support for anyone feeling suicidal, Paul stressed that most calls are about other problems – financial, social, family, relationships and much more. Although prepared to listen to anyone with a problem, the Samaritans do not offer advice or judgement. They are specifically trained in the skills needed to provide an empathetic ear, without giving their own opinions. The discussions are totally confidential unless it transpires that someone (caller or otherwise) is at risk from abuse in which case there are specific protocols that must be adhered to.

Paul himself does one shift per week (in Telford), and ended by giving us some

interesting figures of the work the Samaritans did on Christmas Day. They handled about 7,500 phone calls, 500 text messages, and 1,000 emails. We should all be grateful to the Samaritans for the valuable work they do, still needed even in an age when Social Services have expanded way beyond what was available when Chad Varah founded the Samaritans 65 years ago.

The Breakfast Club next meets on May 8th at the Golf Club to hear Claire Hadwell tell us something of her experiences teaching the children of those serving in Britain's armed forces. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (CM 271913) or Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Our April gathering produced a wide range of responses to the use of three key words and including some dialogue. We have broken away from a fixed structure and now use a number of set words - there are four for the next work - and a theme or context to observe. Typical creative people, not prepared to be governed forever by a fixed formula.

So on May 14th we will gather in the library at our usual civilised starting time of 6.30 and hear what a range of imaginations and styles have produced from the formula of four words: reunion, inheritance, scramble and perambulation, to be presented in a political context.

It was agreed that we might produce a bottle of wine that day, in an effort to lessen any inhibitions about experimenting with the words. In view of the context, perhaps we should have agreed that whoever uses the word Brexit foots the bill? We'll see.



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 44 - May 2018

STEPH THE CHEF'S CAFE



Stephanie Morrison outside the latest food outlet on the town's main street.

Stephanie Morrison is a very active and versatile chef. She works at the Golf Club, oversees catering at a Stourport garden centre, runs the Wyre Forest branch of Women In Rural Employment and now has her very own cafe on Church Street.

It's an attractive place, with the options of seats inside or out and a range of the sort of cakes only a real chef can bake, plus soft drinks including a big range of coffees. I opted for a slice of tempting cake and it went down very well with a coffee as I took a few minutes and watched the world go by. I then took a cake and latte back for my domestic help, who was full of enthusiasm. A good start on Steph's opening day and well worth a visit to sample her talented output.

20 YEARS ON AND A NEW TITLE

She's been in practice as a chiropodist for 20 years and in that time Jan Manley has become very well known locally for doing a careful professional job of looking after people's feet. The editor can say that with some justification, because he's a regular at her Tenbury Road treatment room and knows how much better he walks after each visit. It's a gentle experience, sitting in a big chair with quiet music and an amiable chat as she gets my feet back on form.

The business is expanding with new patients and a growing home visit service, so Janet has decided to use a new title that makes it clear what she does - Cleobury Chiropody. She's also a qualified reflexologist with 15 years experience, so a truly accomplished operator.



Janet in her treatment room at No 2 Tenbury Road.

You can contact Jan on CM 272841 or 07805 268 439.



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James works alongside Sue Brown at Cleobury Chiropractic in the High Street.

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The “trench” and “trench warfare” are synonymous with The Great War but what was a trench exactly and what was it like to serve in them?

By November 1914 there was a continuous line of trenches covering 400 miles from Switzerland to the North Sea. Trenches varied in design according to the conditions but most were reinforced to prevent collapse, sand bags, timber or anything remotely suitable for purpose was used. The process was known as “revetting”. In wet ground trenches were not dug at all but just built up from ground level using sandbags and wood and called “breastworks”

When forward progress was swift during major advances there was little time to dig deep and trenches could be little more than eighteen inches deep.

The elements of a trench system were a main “Fire Trench” which was the front line and had a firing step to allow observation and firing over the top. Trenches followed the ground contours which allowed good observation points and defensive positions. They were not dug in a continuous line but dog legged, allowing bays or ‘traverses’ to be created. If shells exploded in these it meant that damage was confined to this part of the trench only

Behind the front line was a similar support trench which had “dugouts” cut into the wall, large enough to shelter three or four men or a telephone operator. Communication Trenches linked the rear to both front and support trenches. The final element of the system were “saps,” trenches probing forwards from the fire trench into “no man’s land”, they usually contained a listening post manned by infantrymen.

The infantry primarily occupied the trench systems together with mortars, machine guns, forward artillery spotters and medical teams. A typical routine for trench duty was four days in the front line four in close reserve and four at rest.

“We stuck it at all costs if necessary, as long as ordered, but everyone is glad to hand over to someone else. And anyone who says he enjoys this kind of thing is either a liar or a mad man”

Captain Kings Own Rifle Brigade

Conditions in trenches varied according to the theatre of war, the time of the year and weather, but all offered squalid living conditions. Discarded food, empty ration tins and the latrines coupled with the difficulty of washing or changing clothes meant considerable health risks. Vermin were attracted and responsible for spreading disease.

“There were rats as big as cats” Harry Patch.

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AN APPEAL FROM CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

People lead very busy lives and it is sometimes easy to lose sight of appointments we make for ourselves and others.

The Medical Centre analysed appointments taken and attended during the period 1st February to 13th April 2018. Booked appointments were 6516 with 200 who failed to attend. Over the same period 119 Nurse appointments were not kept.

The Practice will confirm appointments to your mobile if they have the number in your details. Perhaps you could check and update your details to make sure they have the mobile number? You could also let the Practice know if you are not able to attend an appointment as soon as you are aware this is the case.

These are small changes but they would help in reducing the level of appointments not attended and create some slack in the system to accommodate the unforeseen.

Thanks for reading this. *Paul French*

THE READING GROUP

A well chosen title. City of Women is a clever and well written first novel by David Gillham. Set in 1943 Berlin, it is an atmospheric, believable story of ordinary folk during World War Two.

An absorbing and convoluted plot, following the life of Sigrid, who lives in a flat with her mother-in-law. Her soldier husband is fighting at the Russian front but returns on leave to recover from a slight injury. Whilst at home he admits to standing up during a battle as he felt he could no longer continue fighting. The marriage at this point was virtually over.

Sigrid gets involved with assisting Jews to escape. We talked about the courage it took to do

this and how difficult it was to know who could be trusted in such a divided community. It makes one glad to be able to speak one's mind in this country, without fear of arrest. We shared various memories and spoke about the differences of life in England and Germany around 1943/45. Concentration camps in Poland and Germany, plus general humanity during wars, came in for discussion. Although a painful tale at times we felt it was worth reading. Most of the group would recommend it.

Perhaps a more uplifting read this month? 'In search of England' by Roy Hattersley. Next meeting to be on 21st May.

Deana Kimber CM 271754

FROM THE BANDROOM

Our Spring Concert went well, the audience particularly enjoying our final piece of the evening, 'You'll Never Walk Alone. I was most surprised to receive the Stella Wilcox Memorial Trophy, it makes all the work that I put in with running the band worthwhile. Thank you to band members who voted for me.

This month brings our first engagement at Malvern Priory Park on the 20th. We usually manage to bring the sunshine to this one and it is a lovely afternoon. Other engagements are July 1st at Mary Stevens Park, July 21st Ironbridge Brass Festival and July 29th at Shrewsbury Quarry. I advertised in the April edition that we were looking for a soprano player, and am pleased to report that this position has now been filled.

Our conductor for the season will be David Maplestone, who will also be starting to think about his rendition of the finals test piece and we can expect to start rehearsals in June.

We have set up a Just Giving page on Facebook. We would be so grateful for any contributions.

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**THE ROYAL FOUNTAIN IS BACK
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The Bond family, now taking over the Royal Fountain. That garden is brilliant.

The Royal Fountain has been something of a mystery in recent month, but it's up and running again as a proper pub. Newly painted, the gardens sorted and the Bond family from next door established. Mum Rosie is the licensee, dad Gilbert has overseen restoration and the choice of beers, daughter Polly brought in Nacho, who used to run a big-time bar in Marbella, and 11 day old Anahata made up the three-generation family group when we called.

They'll be stocking Wye Valley and a Hobsons ale, plus one Green King and a pump reserved

for guest beers. So plenty to please the discerning taste buds at this early stage, and you can expect food to be available as soon as they're happy with the kitchen, craft beers will be on the list and big barbecue occasions in the garden when summer is here.

The Fountain used to be the most charismatic pub in town; it will be in the running again very soon. Welcome back, the Fountain.

The Childe Endowment Trust

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, 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, Lacon Childe School or The Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA. Closing date June 24th.

BRITISH LEGION NEWS

Heavy snow overnight prevented the Branch holding its Annual Luncheon on March 18th. A new date has been chosen – June 3rd – and it is hoped that the weather will not intervene! The venue will be Cleobury Mortimer's Sports & Social Club. Tickets cost £15 each, available from Ron Breakwell (01299 270830).

Clarion Jobs Extra - continued from Page 15.

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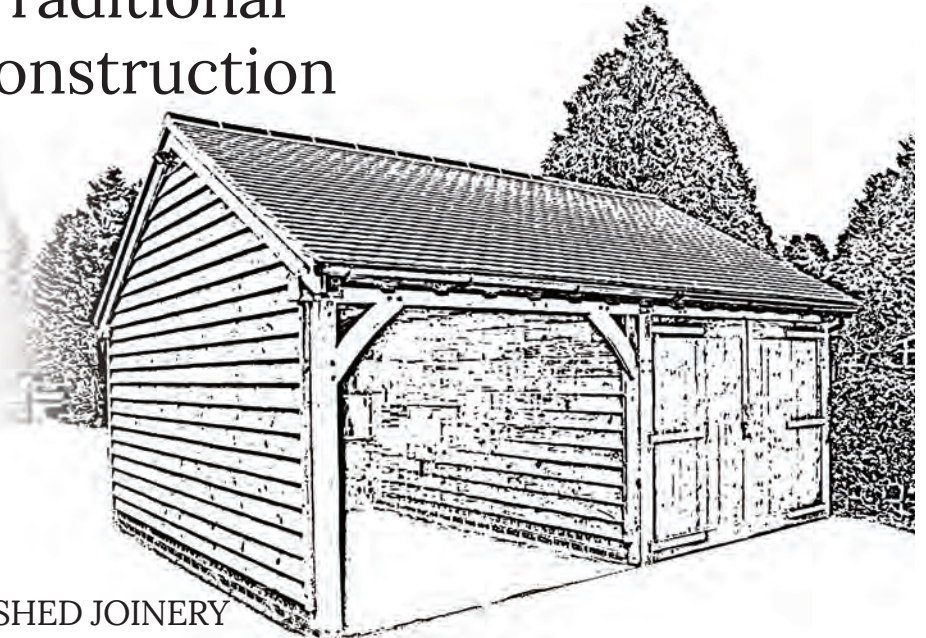
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In Business - Wyre Forest Woodcraft

It's amazing what skills and crafts you can find tucked away in Kidderminster. I'm not talking carpets, it's the less obvious skills that have emerged and adapted to meet the demands of a changing market. In the Wyre Forest the ability to use local timber for building, heating, fencing and protection was a natural path for a craftsman to take, but as buying fashions changed the more canny took note and changed with them.

Like Mark at Wyre Forest Woodcraft, whose business started 22 years ago, making gates and windows for the mass market; we're talking about 36,000 gates a year. When the recession hit in 2009 he felt the effect but also noticed that the quality market suffered less. That's where the business went and it's been steadily growing ever since.

They manufacture windows, doors stairs, conservatories and timber frame buildings with the bulk of their trade coming from restoration work, where a wide range of traditional styles is produced on modern machinery to give the benefit of greater efficiency. Like the recent installation of a four sided planer that stands where the showroom used to be. Not a cheap job at all, but it can handle a planing job in a quarter of the time it took before. Same timber, same operator skill, much lower production time. And they are building another showroom, above one of the processing units.



A staircase in oak takes shape in the workshop. Lovely finish and great natural figure and colour.

Their objective is to use sustainable timber in line with the international movement to reduce use of third world varieties with the attendant damage to the global climate. So they can offer a variety of timbers including Accoya, farmed in New Zealand, processed in Holland and supplied here by an importer. It's easy to work, has

excellent environmental credentials wears exceptionally well and can be painted or sprayed to the customer's chosen shade. There's a big spraying and drying plant, where finished articles are given three coats of water based paint or stain and dried in a booth fired by production off-cuts. Sawdust waste is bagged and dried sold as fuel or processed into small nuggets to feed the burner or to sell on as fuel. A very impressive control of waste.



Sawdust waste being bagged to sell for industrial use or baked into nuggets to feed wood burning stoves.

Martin and a partner since retired started the company and his sister Claire joined to watch over the administration side years later. The other partner is Ross, who joined on an apprenticeship from school 21 years ago and has worked his way up. You'll notice we only use first names in this story, a reflection of the happy atmosphere that shines through. In 22 years the company has grown to employ nine skilled staff and currently appoint a new apprentice every year. They grow because they have high standards that please. Makes sense.



Ross joined straight from school. Now he's a partner.



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Design your own Marketing Strategy—16 March—£ 75.00
Emergency First Aid at Work—20 March—£ 70.00 + vat

Portable Appliance Testing—21 March—£ 195.00
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For more information on courses or if you require a booking form please contact the centre



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**Saturday 19th may we have a Bump & Grind
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**Sunday 27th may we have family bingo. Arrive
at 2pm starts at 2.30pm. 50p a ticket or £2 a
game. Kids and adult raffle as well.**

Cleobury's Got Talent.

**We are doing a talent show in July the age
groups are.**

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7-11 years

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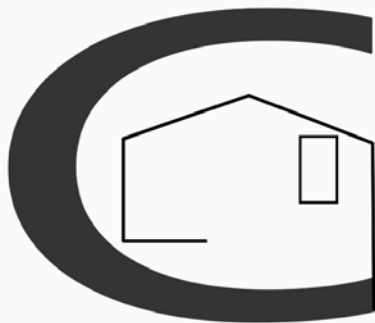
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A RECORD TOWN A.G.M?

You do not expect a town Annual General Meeting to attract a lot of people and generate a buzz of interest. And you wouldn't expect an attempt at running a drop-in meeting with lots of local clubs and bodies to be a success. You'd be wrong.



There's a quiet revolution going on here. It's the Town Annual General Meeting and lots of people are turning up and asking questions. Amazing!

There were two parts, the first at the Primary School, where 85 people were clocked in, and the second at Lacon Childe, where 73 came through the door. There they looked around a range of 25 stalls including the new nursing home development, Cleobury Patients' Voice and our own Concert Brass. There was a two minute interruption for the formal bit, when Cllr Debbie Brown explained what was going on, then it was back to questions, answers and chat.

Edwin Sayers sold five copies of his fine little Coracle Boy books, people learned about activities they'd not heard of before and at 7.15 we all packed up and went home. If this was the Town Council on show, it impressed.

ABOUT PLASTICS

A working group has been formed under the umbrella of the Town Council to see how we recycle and what can be done to reduce the risks of plastics harming our environment.

They are looking at the 3Rs of Recycling, Reducing and Replacing. The town is reasonably good at recycling plastic using Veolia's kerb side collection crates and it looks as if around 40 tons of plastic a year are recycled in this way. There is still some confusion as to which plastic can not be

recycled eg black plastic trays, polythene, cling film and the mixed plastic/card Tetra products.

The Government's scheme to reduce plastic use by charging 5p a polythene bag was successful. More can be done by shoppers reducing buying plastic into the home, such as shopping in plastic free aisles in supermarkets where available, using paper bags, selecting wrap free products, and reusable containers such as lunch boxes.

We shall have to replace plastics within 20-30 years as hydrocarbon oil and gas reserves dwindle and new plastic production ceases. Pressure applied to retailers and manufacturers will create new alternatives to plastic use and its dangers.

National and our local Women's Institute are leading on the End to Plastic Soup. Microplastics fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to microplastic contamination of our oceans.

The working group needs more volunteers. Please contact Cllr. Neil Tysall or Kit Smith if you are interested and do please fill in the Big Cleobury Survey on line or on a hard copy to influence how you want the Neighbourhood Plan to shape the future of our town.

Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk. worthpack@aol.com

A SWIFT NOTE

Our swifts will be back with us by the first week in May. Last year we had 15 pairs nesting; let's hope we have a few more this year. *Kit Smith*

THANK YOU FROM THE TALBOT

The Talbot held an Easter raffle for Cleobury Cattery and raised the grand sum of £400. This would not have been possible had we not had a very generous donation from a Cleobury resident Mrs Yvonne Walton who donated a mountain of chocolate to allow us to make five wonderful prizes. We were shown great support from our customers who bought the tickets and joined in the fun we had finding out who the lucky winners were. We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Yvonne and our customers for helping us raise this amazing amount for a great cause. *Val*

AND FROM COCO

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle and the pubs that hosted it and sold tickets. A total of £210 was raised towards the important work CoCo does in our community. *Catherine Evans*

CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

Flicks In The Sticks this month is at 7.30 on Saturday the 19th, with
“UNDERTAKING BETTY”

Desperate Betty tries to escape her two-timing husband by faking her own funeral, but a rival funeral director is determined to give her a big send-off.

It's a situation tailor-made for laughs, helped by an all-star cast.

Adults: £4.00. Concessions: £3.00. Family of three: £8.00

One to put in your diary: Saturday, June 9th

AN EVENING AT THE RACES

Doors Open at 7.00, First Race 7.30

Tickets £5.00, to include food, from Sue Griffiths 07787 899 823

Licensed Bar. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

New Event: Sit and Be Fit. 11.00 to 12.00 every Wednesday

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, The Londis Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, MidCounties Co-op, Carrot Tops, Purslows, The Library and Simply Fresh. Or, **Out in Cleobury Country at:** Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** Post Office **Clee Hill;** Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** **Doddington** Parish Church; The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** 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.**

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE IS MAY 22nd

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We are delighted to announce that Nock Deighton has joined the Land and New Homes Network (LNHN). Membership of the LNHN gives us access to national land and new homes experts who will be on hand to advise us when needed. This means we are now in an even stronger position to provide land and development consultancy to clients and a specialised new homes sales service. The network's national coverage means we have relationships with builders, developers, investors and estate agents from across the UK. This is good for anyone selling land or new homes with us, as it increases the amount of potential buyers enormously.



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
Office Manager

Lettings

How do you choose the perfect buy-to-let property? Ideally the property needs to be local to you, so it's easy to visit and keep an eye on, and it needs to be in an area which will appeal to the kind of tenants you want. It's important to think long-term and consider the resale value of the property, remember it's an investment, not your own home. Think about the annual rental income compared with your mortgage repayments, at the end of the day, the finances have to add up to it being a sensible investment, otherwise it won't be worth your while. There are plenty of great properties out there which will be ideal buy-to-let investments, and with the right research and advice, there is no reason why you shouldn't become a happy and successful landlord for years to come.



Coral Walrond
MARLA MNAEA
Lettings Negotiator

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