

JO GETS THE CUP AT LAST



April is just a little late to be presenting a cup for the Best Dressed Christmas Window. But these have been trying times, with shops closed for lockdown and standing two metres apart making the ceremony rather awkward.

April 14th was the second day Jo Apperly's Red Hare Salon had been open this year. With the editor due to have a much needed haircut and Councillor Paul French happy to hand over the

award he'd been keeping safe for months, it seemed the right moment to deliver it to the deserving winner. As they were both properly dressed for a Covid-dodging meeting, you can't see the big smiles.

The editor then had his flowing hair brought back to order after looking like an Olde English Sheepdog for too long. Offers to enter him for this year's Crufts Dog Show have been withdrawn.

ADRIAN SATTERLY

Mr Satterly appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court on April 12th to answer the charges outlined in our March issue. A plea on his behalf asked for an adjournment to give time to gather records he had not been able to obtain.

An adjournment was then granted until May 7th and an extension of his unconditional bail was also granted. We hope our promised report of the trial proceedings will appear in our June issue.

GRAHAM PAIN

The loss of Graham Pain leaves a big gap in the social structure of this community. A quiet, smiling man with a friendly style that won him many friends, he will be sorely missed by all who knew him at the Golf Club and other areas of interest.

Hundreds of club members and friends gathered there to see his coffin loaded on to a pick-up and driven by brother Rob with widow Sarah in the passenger seat to take him for a final visit around the course. As he passed there was a spontaneous applause from the crowd.

Back from that farewell round, he was transferred to a hearse for the last journey of all, the cortege circling the club car park as the crowd stood in total respectful silence at his passing.

A good local man, who served this town in many ways, taken from us far too early. Our sympathies go to his family.



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The Cleobury Clarion, May 2021
Volume Seventeen - Edition Two



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Madge Shingleton stands down.
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Sallie Shaw Therapy.
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Kevin at Bewdley Ovenclean
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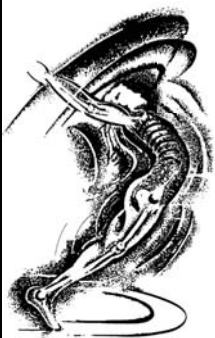
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AN APOLOGY

The editor really ought to know who's who when writing about noted members of the community. So he has no excuse to offer for calling our Rector Ashley Pugh in his report on the service to honour those lost to Covid-19 and many who have worked so hard to look after those ill with the infection.

He should remember that Ashley Pugh is the man behind the successful Ashley's Bakery business, while Ashley Buck is our Rector with overall responsibility for the Cleobury Mortimer Benefice. To put it briefly: Ashley Pugh bakes rolls; Ashley Buck saves souls.

THE CHILDE

ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botteril, 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 in 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. The Closing date is June 24th.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, MAY 10th TO 16th

You are invited to say "thank you" for your vaccination by helping vulnerable, poor people improve their lives.

Christian Aid helps poor communities worldwide, supporting people of all faiths and none.

It helps people survive disasters, deal with the impact of climate change and find shelter from conflict.

Join in making the world a better place; to donate go to Christian-aid.org.

Collections will be held in St Mary's church on the 10th and 16th. Thank you.

David Eve

CLEOBURY W.I.

I am delighted to report that we had our April WI committee meeting, the first in months, of course socially distanced, in our President's garden (Please insert socially distanced into every planned activity from now on!). We started with a draft programme and tried to offer a mixture of craft, wellbeing, educational and social events. Our first coffee morning at the Larch Barn was a great success. We will be walking in groups of six on Tuesday May 4th, starting at the Market Hall at 10.00am. Our 'Welcome Back Buffet' on Tuesday May 18th will take the form of a Picnic at 10 Church Street at 7.30 pm. WI members are invited to bring their own picnic. Please do check the Cleobury Mortimer WI Facebook page. It offers up to date information for last minute changes due to Covid regulations. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming events. Keep well and look after yourselves.

Gabby Franklin



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Farewell and Thank You, Madge



She's been a councillor at different levels since 1978 and has decided to stand down and let the slightly younger set take over. A true Shropshire lady, born in Oakengates in 1935, Madge Shinton moved to Cleobury Mortimer when she was six months old and her father took over the job of town policeman.

"The Police rented a house for us on Castle Hill and it was in a right state. Then they put us in a better place on The Hurst." She was a kid when World War Two brought so many changes and a range of American troop camps in the area. "I was too young to get involved, but I did learn to jitterbug," she admits with a smile. Ask your granny about that dance...

She left school at 15 and found a job at Mr Duerdin's chemist shop, where she learned a lot under his careful instruction. She had no scholastic qualification, having been ill when she would normally have taken exams, but was clearly bright and when she thought she'd like to try nursing, an application to Dudley Road Hospital in Birmingham got her a place.

Progress through her nursing career to become a State Registered Nurse after four years of studying reflected the determination to learn the business; later she was awarded the Diploma in Traumatic Surgery. From Birmingham she moved to Kidderminster General Hospital in Mill Street, where she was promoted to the post of Sister in Charge of the Casualty Department and making it clear that looking after patients was the vital task, not bending to the will of self opinionated specialists. The woman she was reluctant to allow into her department was one who found her hard to deal with.

"Some times you have to do something to wake people up," she explains. After more arguments than she had time for, she quit the job and went off to work nights at the extended Blakebrook Hospital and give a little time to Fred Shinton, the new man in her life. He was building a business at Hollows Nursery outside Stottesdon and that's where they settled after tying the knot. And just talking to local people made Madge aware of the problem of housing for the young; her sense of justice couldn't be kept down and she sums it up neatly today: "We were desperate for housing and support for small businesses. There are three things you need: Health, Housing and Jobs! Education comes next."

In 1978 she stood as a candidate for Stottesdon Parish Council. "Only to make

up the numbers," she insists. "I didn't expect to get elected!" She was and a new purpose in life emerged.

She made her mark as a lady prepared to stand up and fight for local people, which won't surprise anyone who's dealt with her today. She joined the Shropshire Rural Housing Association and before long there were new affordable houses built in Stottesdon.

She pays warm tribute to John Morris-Jones, chair of the Shropshire Rural Housing Association, who heard of a building on the market in the centre of Shrewsbury and suggested they take a look on their way to an RHA meeting. The result was the property bought and still in use as the Association's headquarters.

She became a very active member of the Federation of Small Businesses, acting as the representative for the three counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

That's a lot to cram into a life as well as raising a family and building the nursery business, plus taking on the job of a County Councillor. Those who know her will tell you she'll find time to listen and offer advice and help if it's needed. What she's never had is an air of someone who thinks they are important. She's respected as a straight lady who's given a lot of time and effort to make life better in this area. After 45 years of giving and working for others, she's certainly earned a rest, but she's still Vice President of the Association of Local Councils.

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**CLEOBURY
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UPDATE**

Chairman Mike Hermolle writes:

The RBL is still here and the Branch has been active throughout the pandemic lockdowns, although we have had no events since our annual lunch in March last year. Since then we have managed one face-to-face meeting last November, otherwise we have communicated by online meetings, email and newsletters. According to the government's roadmap, our next meeting will be on July 14th and afterwards we hope to restart our regular events as the lifting of restrictions permits.

This year marks the centenary of the Royal British Legion and the Branch. The Legion's anniversary is on May 15th and the Branch's is on July 19th. During that week we hope to have a number of events and will let you know

about them as soon as possible.

The purpose for which the Royal British Legion was formed is described in our Royal Charter and may be summarised as welfare to the service community. This community is defined as serving and ex-serving personnel and their dependents and is now known as Branch Community Support or BCS. RBL has a wide range of services and organisations to help if required and can be accessed through the contact number 0808 802 8080. Or you can contact me, the Cleobury Mortimer Branch Chairman on 07973 699829.

At the local level we are able to offer Home and Hospital visits (currently suspended) Telephone Buddy support and Bereavement support, which is usually Standard Bearer attendance at a Funeral or arranging representatives to be present, arranged in consultation with the family. RBL support starts after one day of service and

continues through life, long after that service is over.

The Branch welcomes new members to help with these activities and you can join through the RBL website www.britishlegion.org.uk and follow the "get involved" link. You can also contact me at the number above. Ex-service personnel are particularly welcome.

I am aware that there may be ex-service people in the community who I don't know and would be happy to meet you (with no obligation to join). To that end, starting on May 4th I will be at the Cleobury Community Hub every Tuesday from 10.30 to 12.00 for coffee and a chat. Initially we will have to be outside in a group of six or less but as restrictions ease this will improve. Naturally current RBL members are also welcome.

Happy birthday and congratulations to our member Mrs Janet Moss who has been busy fundraising for the branch's Old Comrades Fund.

Mike Hermolle



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

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

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

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

Our Training

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

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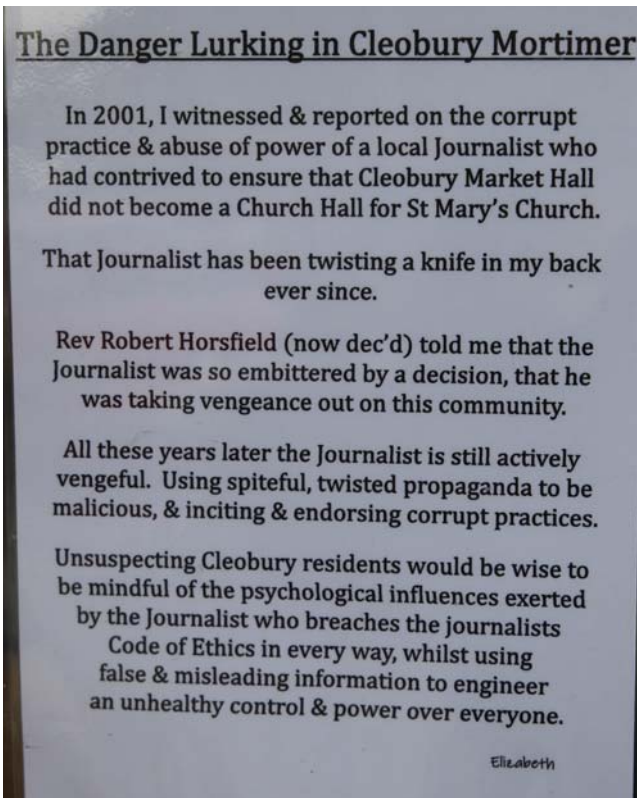
COVID-19 Update

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

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

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

THE CLARION'S MAY MYSTERY QUIZ



This poster appeared in the window of Mumford's ironmonger's shop in early April. As you'd expect from that source, it bears little relation to truth and more to basic inability to establish simple facts. So in these days of trying times, let's have a laugh with the Clarion's May Mystery Quiz.

If you know who this diatribe is aimed at, explain your thinking as funnily as you can and post to The Editor at Cleobury Clarion, 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8PA to arrive by May 20th. The winner will be named in our June issue and a bottle of

wine from Juckles of Worcester delivered to the scribe of the best entry. No swear words please, this is just a piece of simple fun. Though it may not amuse whoever wrote the poster.

Jim Reynolds

BULB PLANTING IN THE PARK

The result of last years planting was a success and the Council hope that all who use the Park have appreciated the changes; comments would indicate that they have. Building on last year, we intend to plant more in the autumn this year; hopefully we will still be in a period of "relaxation" with regard to restrictions.

Last year it was hoped that as many residents as possible could be involved. Accompanied perhaps by children or grandchildren and other family members; a shared experience which would give pleasure the following year.

We will be contacting local groups clubs and organisations to ask if they are interested in being part of the Big Bulb Plant. The involvement can be volunteering, bringing children or older residents along to join in and be a part of the experience, indeed anything which allows people to join in a Community project which will continue to make the park a beautiful and pleasant place for all to share in the future.

Progress and further information will be available on the Council website as the plan takes shape.

All are welcome to join and be a part of the project.

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THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

The most important election for the community this year, with no Town Council election and our County representatives with a vital job to do both in local needs and supporting higher authorities who they believe have the right intentions. Every candidate was given 150 words to tell you why they deserve your support.

John Crowe is standing for the Green Party. Elected Greens would make sure the Council acts for the benefit of the whole county – rather than funnelling resources into Shrewsbury, as evidenced by the North West Road plan.

In a post-pandemic world, Shropshire Green Councillors will pursue a Green Recovery, using the Council's procurement and partnership influence to develop local jobs and skills in making how we live fairer and carbon zero. We will use new measures of success, like improved health and well-being, reduced inequality, and better educational outcomes.

Our approach will make it easier for all voices to be heard so people can have meaningful influence over the decisions that affect them and their communities. This will help secure better outcomes for Shropshire's residents, including future generations.

More details of our Manifesto can be found on the Shropshire Green Party website

<https://greenshropshire.org.uk/news/green-parties-issue-joint-local-election-manifesto>

Janet Humphreys. I am standing as a candidate for the Green Party because I think they are the only political party who incorporate environmental impact on all issues and I think time is running-out for us all and all the other life on earth. In addition, I believe the Green party's economic, social and international policies are realistic and would bring about a fairer world.

While there are many groups trying to help the environment and society, I believe political action is the only way forward and that should be formulated, and where possible delivered, at a local level.

Janet Humphreys.

John Rogers. I have lived in Shropshire since 1992 bringing up two children who were educated locally. I am standing as the Labour Party Candidate as it is my aim to improve what has suffered from neglect over the last decade.

No more wasted investments like the Shrewsbury Shopping Malls which lost us £33.5 million. I will work to ensure the local economy is secure. I believe that many in our community have suffered during lockdown and I see it as a priority that we assign resources to assist them, particularly for mental health. I will do all I can to ensure the council can offer support.

We are all aware of the current problems which I will address ranging from reductions in social care, education, community facilities, conditions of the roads (the ever present pot holes) and a need for improved public transport. I will also fight for genuinely affordable homes. It is my aim to repair and improve our community for the benefit of us all. Spending decisions should be based on fairness and what will best serve all residents.

Simon Harris - Conservative Candidate Cleobury Mortimer

Cleobury is my home. Ever since I stepped back from full time work I have been involved in the life of our community: as a churchwarden, on Kinlet's Parish Council, as a director of Cleobury Country and at the Patients' Voice.

I hope to ensure that Cleobury has decent roads; affordable housing located where we want it; that Cleobury is free from litter and safe for us all.

I want there to be opportunity for our young people; so they can enjoy a quality social life and grow academically. I want an environment where local businesses can thrive and the rural farming economy is respected and developed. I want to see broadband rolled out to all - no one should be excluded by lack of connectivity.

With our Conservative MP's support I believe that I can promote Cleobury's interests at County level. Please vote Conservative.

Gwilym Butler. I am proud to be your Shropshire Councillor and currently Cabinet member for Communities, Planning, Licensing and Rural Affairs. A lot has been achieved over the past decade and you now need continued support which I have helped deliver to see us out of this pandemic safely.

We need to ensure that you and your families whatever age have support and access to all services, employment and the right home in the right place. We need successful local businesses to help our communities thrive and the infrastructure to support this whilst continuing the Councils Climate change agenda.

We need major investment in our roads and we are pledging a minimum extra of £40million over the next 4 years. We need to be included in the Governments levelling up agreement for fairer funding for Shropshire. I already stand as the Councils representative on the national arena.

VOTE BUTLER VOTE CONSERVATIVE.

Zoe Griffin. Hello, I'm Zoe! I'm delighted to be standing as the Lib Dem councillor for our area. Born and brought up in Stottesdon, I went to Lacon Childe (you may remember me as Zoe Mallard). I'm now a teacher in Bridgnorth and I've recently been lucky enough to move back to Stottesdon where my twins attend the village school. I'm pragmatic, compassionate and hard-working. Local government should be driven by councillors who listen to and represent their community and I'd love the opportunity to do this for you. Our roads are obviously in a terrible state of disrepair and must be a priority. Beyond this key issue, the council should make responsible and sustainable budgeting decisions - not just environmentally but socially sustainable: ensuring our communities thrive. I want to help our many fantastic community groups achieve their aims - empowering them to make relevant, positive changes within our town, villages and hamlets. zoemallard@yahoo.com 07980 314 088 Facebook: @Zoe4Cleobury

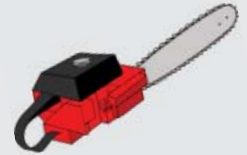
Andrew Sherrington is another Liberal Democrat candidate. Hello, I'm Andrew. Like Zoe, I think your local councillor should listen to you and represent you in Shirehall. I honestly don't think your local Conservative councillors do this for you; otherwise, your concerns about the appalling state of the roads around Cleobury, your local services and value for your council taxes would all have been addressed by now. They would have opposed the ridiculous decision to buy shopping centres in Shrewsbury with your money. They would have supported the local groups who are addressing needs in a rural part of the county. Liberal Democrats are local democrats, determined to represent you among the rest of the county, fairly and responsibly, listening and responding to you, rather than talking to you by issuing a press release. If you look at the record of LibDems in local government (and this is a local election, not a national one) you will see we deliver – with value for taxes at the centre.

Seven candidates standing in an election for two seats is good sign of local interest in simply serving the interests of this community's long term health and prosperity. Whatever your personal political beliefs, you can get a better idea of the other parties' aims by reading what their candidates have to say. It's not likely to change your established outlook on life, but it will make you slightly better informed. And some people say that knowledge is strength.

Whatever the outcome, the Clarion would like to thank everyone who stands for election, because it's a willingness to commit a good proportion of your time to helping this community become an even better place to live.



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For further information and to obtain an application form and full job description, please contact Mrs S Broad, PA to the Headteacher on: Tel: 01299 270312 or email admin@laconchildeschool.co.uk

Closing date for applications: noon Tuesday 4th May. (We reserve the right to close the application deadline early).

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THE READING GROUP

'On Helwig Street' by Richard Russo produced some interesting comments from our readers. Most thought it was a good book for discussion, even if they didn't enjoy all of the narrative. A memoir of Richard's mother Jean and their life together in America. Involving many house moves and plenty of ups and downs, where he went so did Jean, although she never seemed happy. Towards the end we find out, as Richard did, that it appears she was suffering from OCD. He was a lucky man to find a wife who could cope with the situation. It was from his mother that he learned that reading is not a duty but a reward and believes she was his inspiration to become a writer.

It is also a memoir of Gloversville, in up-state New York, the small town where he grew up. A portrait of life in the mid 20th century, it contains some fascinating facts about the glove making industry and its decline. This book covers many questions on relationships and gives an insight into America in the 50's. More non-fiction this month when we read 'River Dog' by Mark Shand. I doubt we will be able to meet on May 17th but we look forward to getting together before long.

Deana Kimber 271754

WHEELING INTO CLOWS TOP

Clows Top Victory Hall's range of inside and outside

facilities have been judged ideal to provide a half way feeding station for over 1000 cyclists taking part in the annual Mad March Hare Cycling Event on Sunday May 23rd, which starts and ends at Longbridge. The Hall will be in use for most of the day for the event.

The Hall Committee have carried out improvements, including measures to comply with Covid 19 requirements, so that everything is ready for when it will open again.

The Mad March Hare Cycling Event normally runs in March each year but moved to May in line with the forecast easing of Covid 19 restrictions. It is a community based event that has run for 12 years and has a very loyal fan base. The course is 107 kms long and Clows Top is perfectly placed at 53km as a halfway feeding station. Project Manager Mark Cox said "Clows Top Victory Hall has the space and all the facilities we need to safely welcome all the riders for a welcome break."

Hall Committee Chairman Roger Dyer is very keen and said "It has been a long time since we had to close the Hall doors so we see this opportunity of helping the Mad March Hare Event as a real boost and makes all our recent efforts worthwhile."

Victory Hall contacts:

email;clowstopvictoryhall@gmail.com

Or telephone Roger Dyer on 01299 832044

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

All potholes are a potential danger, especially when it's dark and visibility depends upon the efficiency of street lighting and your vehicle's lights. Out in the country, where street lighting is rare, the risk is greater. So this month's specimen, in the Wyre Forest as you drive towards Bewdley, is a serious threat.



It's on the rise near the Sports Injury Clinic and it's wide enough to give you a rough ride unless you move out towards the middle of the road, which means crossing the solid white line. If traffic is coming the other way, you wait or stand the thump.

There is a paint mark around it, which suggests work due some time. But it's been a hazard for some time and it hasn't got any better with the passage of traffic. As traffic will be moving faster at this spot than somewhere like our main street, the element of danger is greater. We really are paying for the neglect of our that adds danger to the inconvenience. JR

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In normal times, our Parish Church serves the community more than most of us realise. Apart from the regular Sunday services, it's where weddings, christenings and funerals take place and once a month the whole place gets rearranged to accommodate the Cleobury Country Farmers Market. But in these strange Covid-cursed days the building was locked down and only opened its doors again very recently.

An occasional church goer, I went to the Easter Day service, partly because that is the day when all Christians are expected to attend and also out of curiosity to see how the need to keep social distancing was managed. The provision to sanitize your hands at the entrance was a sign that care was taken.

There were none of the traditional pews in sight and seating was on carefully spaced pairs of chairs. There was no handing out of prayer books as you entered; these were already on the seats so there was no hand contact made. People smiled and chatted in greeting, but again no hand shakes.

Rector Ashley Buck conducted the service along with curate Joe Simons, a new face to me but established and respected for his friendly manner by regular attenders. In the conventional Eucharist service there is a custom of the congregation offering each other a sign of peace with a handshake and a blessing; this time just a blessing.

The ceremonial breaking of the bread and drinking of wine as a symbol of Christ's blood is

very different in the pandemic. The Rector sanitised his hands before handing out the traditional wafer of bread, and no wine was offered. Those who took the bread walked to their seats by a circuitous route, not back down the central aisle.

At the end of the service there was no social gathering in the church, the congregation moving outside and social distancing. I felt better for going - I always do - and was impressed that such a traditional event could be kept with apparent ease. I later learned better.



Social distancing means just 60 chairs carefully spaced out.

I noticed a small group of church goers working through the carefully laid out seating area, spraying the back and seat of each chair and wiping them down. I asked church treasurer Carol Turner if this was normal and she explained that the whole place was cleaned before the doors open and cleaned again at the end of the service. The same on

weekdays; clean before opening and clean before locking up for the night.

Prayer books and hymn books are locked away after the Sunday service and are not touched for a week, when they are safe to be used in the next service.

There is no paperwork allowed - it is a potential source of virus spreading. There are no weddings or christenings permitted and funerals are limited to 30 people attending. Only 30 chairs are put out on such occasions.

This work is led by Wardens Liz Smith and Nigel Hodgson, with Nigel's wife Ina giving vital aid to all this time consuming labour. There is a Track and Trace record book for us to leave names and numbers in case any visitor shows signs of virus infection. The church is open from 10.00 to 4.00 each day, for those who want to offer a quiet prayer or maybe time to sit in the quiet for reflection and undisturbed thinking.

All of this business of housekeeping is handled by a small band of volunteers. All of them devoted to their belief and happy to give time and effort to keep this lovely old building clean, hygienic in the current circumstances and open to the public, whether they are worshippers or simply curious visitors to the town.

Saint Mary's is a renowned landmark, its origins stretching back to Norman times and its life today in the hands of people who care. JR



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

BAYTON NEWS

Seven gates have replaced stiles at Ladyfields, thanks to the landowner. There is now one stile-free route from Bayton to Clows Top. The council are going to replace the remaining difficult stile in the hedgerow; this is in the wrong place so the gate will be at a different point.

With the start of spring growth, it is time for my annual nag about bramble. Because of how long the shoots can grow and their readiness to set root wherever they touch the ground, an apparently clear path can be under threat very quickly and if left unchecked paths can get overgrown to the extent of being unusable in just a few years. At the time I became footpath warden there were five paths, well used but still at serious risk:

From Timberlake south to Mamble

In the dip between the church and the Mamble Road

The north end of the byway from Colliers Hill through to the B4202.

From Teddon Farm to Beach Hay

From the back of Cleobury Lane to Reaside Manor

A lot of work has been done on them but the problem does not go away. If you walk any paths where there is bramble, please be aware of the problem and help to keep them useable. Spend a minute or so with secateurs or even a stick to bash them. Don't tread on

them or let them create new roots. *Susan Sharp*

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Cleobury Walking for Health will resume on May 12th walking twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. There will be no organised post walk refreshments until further notice. As an 'organised physical activities group' Covid regulations allow us to walk in groups larger than six whilst retaining social distancing. However, we will endeavour to split into small groups until Covid regulations ease. Walks will remain local for the time being. Meet by the Market Hall in time for a 10.00am start. Trained leaders carry third party insurance. Walkers are responsible for their own safety and should wear adequate clothing including stout footwear. If you have not joined us in the past but would like a short walk then contact Alan or Deana Kimber on 01299 271754 as we may need to limit numbers if take up is high.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our work parties this month were, amongst other jobs, repairing bridges. A hole had appeared on the bridge near Cleanly Seat and the other was at Picklebatch in Neen Savage. Our thanks to Gill Guest for reporting the first -even with photos!

We are often contacted by members of the public who encounter problems on our

footpaths and these inputs are most helpful. Two ladies have reported on a fallen tree blocking the Simon Evans Way near Oretton and we have posted a recommended temporary diversion. Both ladies who do not live in the immediate area also wrote compliments on our work:

"Thank you for the hard work that you and others obviously do to maintain the pathways and provide instructions. We have thoroughly enjoyed the walks we have done and look forward to repeating them in the future as the seasons change."

"On the whole it (the Simon Evans Way) is perfectly easy to follow and the stiles are OK. I take my secateurs and cut back the foliage wherever I think it's a problem.

The CMFA do great work I have walked a number of your walks. They are always very enjoyable."

Graham Simpson

ROCK PATHFINDERS

Walkers are now allowed to walk in groups of six and we have recommenced from April. Social distancing will still be in place; if you would like to join the walk, please email your request to suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk We will then divide into groups of six, each with its own leader. As we only have a few leaders, it will be a matter of first come, first served.

The next walk will be on Thursday, May 21st.

Sue Humphries 01299 400304

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In Business 1 - Sallie Shaw

Sallie Shaw rather enjoys a challenge, a reflection of her family background that taught her to get on and work if you want a reward. So starting up her therapy and wellbeing business in August 2019, with the pandemic and lockdown around the corner really did test her determination.

She's building a membership of people who want to relax and enjoy life more, by listening to her audio recordings, joining group sessions via Zoom or just with advice in a one-to-one quiet talk. If the client wants a totally private consultation she has a quiet therapy room at her Beach Hay office, or she will travel to your home if you prefer.

I tried one of her journeys via her website and found that I came down from a busy high to the edge of sleep in about 15 minutes. Got back up, feeling refreshed and ready to carry on with whatever the day had brought. It impressed me, who doesn't normally relax easily.

Sallie came to this work as a result of her own anxieties and poor sleeping habits. Today she's a member of the International Practitioners of Holistic Medicine with training in Rapid Pain Elimination Therapy and Mind Meditation. Some of the messages from those who've experienced her treatment of their problems express relief

at finding peace at last from pain or stress.

At present she's happy to see the business build gently, but what does she see as her long term aim? "Building my audio side. I'm keeping the cost of membership down to £3.50 a month to make it easily affordable. That's the price of a fancy coffee."

She's a very interesting talker, with 25 years in Hong Kong to recall and a strong ambition to travel and have adventures, but come back home to her roots and a peaceful place to relax. She knows how to do that and can help others get the same habit to make their lives easier. She clearly fits in with life in this community.



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Last month in the House of Commons I paid my condolences to Her Majesty and other members of the Royal Family, and joined other MPs in paying tribute to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

For anyone under 75, Prince Philip as a key leader in our national life is all we have ever known. So his death marked the end of an era, and has left Her Majesty with an inevitable void, as he has been her rock of support throughout her remarkable reign.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived on our shores as a young boy, lacking immediate family, having been educated initially in France in an American school, before going to Gordonstoun in Scotland. These experiences clearly forged his determination to help other young people to develop the confidence to shape their own futures, as he did as a young man. He did this through establishing the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, from which many young Salopians have benefitted and continue to do so.

His wartime experience (where he was mentioned in dispatches for his service with the Royal Navy) and distinguished military service gave him and others of his generation an abiding sense of duty. It also instilled the importance of remembrance of those who had served their country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As a Commonwealth War Graves Commissioner, I know the many memorials and dedications he attended were deeply appreciated by the Armed Forces community. Perhaps most telling was one of the earliest, when unveiling the Second World War extension to the Chatham Naval Memorial in October 1952, where he pointed out that like all others who served in the Royal Navy during the war, he had

lost many friends and shipmates commemorated there. He could speak to and for veterans in a way that only someone who has served can do.

Prince Philip was always interested in conservation, but his visits to the southern oceans in 1956 sparked his concern about threats to nature, which made him a pioneer of preserving the environment. He was instrumental in establishing the World Wildlife Fund, and his enthusiasm never waned. He visited hundreds of WWF projects across five continents, over five decades. But he also used his position to promote conservation issues, inspiring people, from members of the public to world leaders, to protect nature and wildlife. This passion has been clearly passed on to his children and his grandchildren. It will be an enduring part of his legacy.

Many in Shropshire will have fond memories of seeing the Duke of Edinburgh in 2012 as part of the Diamond Jubilee Tour, when he accompanied Her Majesty attending a pageant at RAF Cosford.

He also visited South Shropshire in 2003, with Her Majesty attending the Wenlock Olympian Games, and choosing perhaps provocatively to have lunch in the Discovery Centre in Craven Arms, in preference to Ludlow, the more obvious food capital of Shropshire, where they concluded their visit.

I am sure we will remember the life of Prince Philip for his dedication to our country and our Queen, and for the wit and candour he brought to his role, challenging all who met him to strive to do better in helping others.

Philip Dunne

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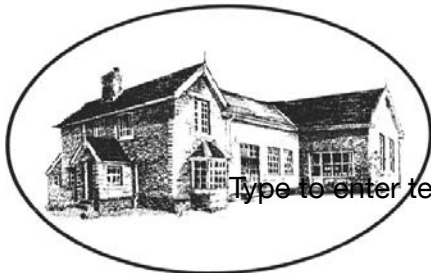
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Newsletter

Cleobury and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team

May 2021

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team for Cleobury and Highley

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PC 2705 Steve MELLOR



PCSO 6413 Shelly HYDE



Missing person

There was an incident in Cleobury within the last month where a person went missing. We would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who gave up their time to come and help search and successfully locate.

The great help from members of the public and all those involved meant that valuable time was saved and we were able to locate the missing person not only quickly but more importantly safely.

Thank you.

Anti Social Behaviour

There have been reports recently of an increase in ASB in various areas that we cover. We as police rely on you reporting the issue so that we can act on it. **Don't suffer in silence.** If you were to report it you might stop the same problem from happening again.

Do you know the whereabouts of your children?

We all know how quickly children grow up. In the blink of an eye they have gone from children to teenagers, looking for their own space and independence. We know that parent and carers all want the best for their children and do everything they possibly can to monitor their behavior. Keeping in touch with them when they are out and about (even if they have a mobile phone) can be difficult. Every parent dreads their teenager being accused of a crime or anti-social behaviour. Teenagers are going to test boundaries and push the rules you have set as far as possible. Making sure you know where they are makes this even more important and helps us in tackling ASB in our areas.

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.



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online submission form. Your submission will be sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of our road traffic police officers.

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BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Lacon Childe School have a Bags 2 School collection day on Friday May 21st. It's just a matter of putting old clothes, toys and haberdashery items in a bag and leaving it by the sports hall wall before 9.00am on the collection day.

The school get paid a donation according to the weight of the material they gather. A very useful arrangement all round.

ALISON'S MILLION STEPS



Alison, well ahead of schedule and still smiling after hundreds of miles. Game girl!

The very determined Alison Andrews wrote on April 19th to tell us that she was on the 50th day of her epic walk with 650,000 steps recorded. That's about 325 miles, or quite a long way in 50 days

"I've been really lucky with the weather and have several friends, mutual friends of Pat Williams, who have walked with me to help. Everyone has been so generous and it's

the donators and supporters that are making a difference by raising the funds," she told us.

She's doing this to raise funds for Severn Hospice, who have been hard pressed during the pandemic with their shops closed. All in memory of her friend Pat Williams, who was an inspirational fund raiser.

CLEE HILL CURLEWS

The Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group has been monitoring local Curlews and other birds since 2012, and the 2021 survey is now underway. The survey area is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee and Clee Hill Common, extending to Knowlegate and Knowbury to the south, Bitterley to the west, Cleedownton and Bromdon to the north, and Catherton Common and Doddington to the east.

If you see or hear Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel or Cuckoo any time between now and mid-July, anywhere in the area, we'd like to know, please. We particularly want Curlew records. If you've time to go out and look for them, that would be a big help, please.

You can find the survey reports from 2020 and previous years on the relevant part of the Community Wildlife Groups website, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

Ours is one of ten Community Wildlife Groups monitoring Curlews in Shropshire. You can see where they operate, and

what they found in 2019 and 2020, on the same website.

Please send your records and offers of help to Chris Bargman on 01299 270514 chcw@shropscwgs.org.uk

Leo Smith

MEETING AGAIN, WE HOPE

With the gentle easing of lockdown, there are some provisional dates for groups to get together once more in the library. But we must emphasise that this is all subject to government controls, so do check with your usual contact nearer the date. Fingers crossed, everybody!

On Monday May 10th the Creative Writing Group have booked a meeting starting at 6.30, to see who remembered to write a piece about 'Normal' from our last gathering. Then on Monday the 24th the Nearly Dead Poets Society hope that enough members have avoided Covid 19 for them to meet at 7.30 and maybe share a glass of wine.

And looking further ahead, the return of the Cleobury Country Farmers Market to the Parish Church is booked for Saturday June 19th, but again it's subject to any restrictions in place at that time.

It just feels good to type that news in the firm hope that if we stay sensible we will be moving back towards normal life as we knew it over a year ago. It's been a long haul and we've lost some good people in that time. Please take care and stay safe.

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SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION

Dear Reader,

We are delighted to invite you to 'Next Steps', the second online conference hosted by South Shropshire Climate Action. It will take place from 9 am to 1 pm on **Saturday 22nd May 2021** on Zoom.

The aim of the conference is to present a Climate Action Plan outlining how to get to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Since our last online conference in September 2020, there have been four sub-groups working on the following themes for the plan:

- Transport (Convened by Professor John Whitelegg)
- Energy & Buildings (Convened by Simon Ross)
- Land & Biodiversity (Convened by Nick Read)
- Community & Schools (Convened by Alison Weeks)

'Next Steps' will present and debate the work

undertaken by over 100 volunteers in these groups, see how they interrelate, and explore ideas on how the plan can be put into action on the ground.

If you would like to attend the Conference, please register on our website: <https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/conference-registration>

We strongly encourage donations if possible. Your registration will be acknowledged and you will be sent further details in due course.

By getting involved with South Shropshire Climate Action you can network, learn and be part of a transformative initiative that is building a grounded, structured outcome for our area. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us at our e-mail address: info@southshropshireclimateaction.org

Hope you can join us !

Best wishes,

South Shropshire Climate Action

NHS WORKERS DAY

Early notice of what could be a really marvellous day in July. It's the inspiration and work of the Cleobury and Neen Savage Women's Institutes, who will be inviting anyone who has worked for the NHS Social Care area and those who were employed in the Front Line. The heroes and heroines of the Pandemic.

It will be at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane, from 4.00 to 6.00pm and cost of admission will be £5.00, payable on the door. The proceeds will go to NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association. Put it in your diary - not far to go, good company and cause and tea or something stronger available as you sit out at the tables and relax.

WISE BIT

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so sure of themselves, and wise people so full of doubt."

Bertrand Russell

Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Savage Women's Institutes.

Afternoon Tea to Celebrate

NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers Day

Monday 5th July 2021

At: The Sports and Social Club. 4pm to 6pm.

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Lunch club	11:30am - 12:30pm	£4.00
Afternoon Session	12:30pm - 3:00pm	£10.00
After School Club	3:00pm - 5:30pm	£10.00

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EXTENSIVE WORK ON THE HALL HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO OPENING OUR DOORS AND WELCOMING YOU, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

To book the Hall, please contact Jan Short
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THE TOWN'S BEST VALUE VENUE

As a professional will writer, Mandy Weston has precautionary advice to offer:

Since 23rd March 2020 life has changed dramatically for lots of us. It is hard to imagine what some families have gone through over this last year and also the NHS staff who have nursed all those who have had to go into hospital.

It's been a time when all of us have had to look to ourselves, discovering new ways to spend our time. Finding ways to spend many hours without social contact in person has been challenging at times for most of us. Isolation is sadly something which many people suffer at the best of times, but lockdown has made it so much worse and for many more people.

There is no better time to check that your wishes are placed in order and that your loved ones will not be left having to deal with unravelling a mess should you die.

If you cohabit with someone and you are not married or in a civil partnership the law does not provide for your cohabitee upon your death. It is very important that you make a Will. Your cohabitee does not even have the right to organise your funeral. This is a responsibility for the personal representative (Executor or Administrator). Neither does your cohabitee have a right to deal with your estate. This is all laid down by law and this may not be what you want. I believe it is much better to make a Will to ensure that the people you would like to arrange your funeral and administer your estate are the people you choose and not let the law dictate what will happen.

Furthermore, if you have children who are under the age of 18 years and you do not decide who is to be the Guardians of your children then it will be up to those left behind to apply to the court to be the Guardians of your children. This may not

be what you want and can cause delay and uncertainty for your children. You can appoint Guardians of your children in your Will in the event that all those who have parental responsibility for your children have died.

It is also important to consider who would be the Executor of your Will and Trustee of any continuing trust holding money for your children. It is recommended that the Trustees are different people to those appointed as Guardians. However, if it is not possible to find another two people to look after any money you leave for your children then it is possible to have your Guardians as Trustees also.

Did you know that if you do not have a Lasting Power of Attorney and you lost capacity, someone would have to apply to be your Deputy? Deputy applications are made to the Court of Protection and are an expensive and a time-consuming exercise. It is recommended that you put in place Lasting Powers of Attorney whilst you are fit and able so that everything is set up and in place should you ever need an Attorney to step in and act on your behalf. Over the last year or so there has never been a franker reminder that none of us know what lies around the corner and being ready for whatever we can is the best option. By putting in place Lasting Powers of Attorney you can rest easy in the knowledge that you have done everything you possibly can to make the job of those having to pick up the reins and support you with finances and health decisions so much easier as it will all be in place ready.

If you would like to discuss your wishes with me please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Mandy Weston

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The Social Calendar for May

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Tues 4 th	10.30	Royal British Legion rep at the Cleobury Hub to tell you about their services. PAGE 9		
Thurs 6 th		LOCAL ELECTION, DO PLEASE VOTE		
Fri 7 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 10 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 29	Jim	CM 270642
Mon 10 th – Sun 16 th		Christian Aid Week. Page 5		
Wed 12 th	10.00	Walking for Health gather at the Market Hall. PAGE 21	Alan	CM 271754
Thurs 13 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 15 th		The Royal British Legion is 100 years old. PAGE 9		
Mon 17 th	7.30	The Reading Group hope to be meeting at the Library	Deena	CM 271754
Thurs 20 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 20 th		Bags to School at Lacon Childe. PAGE 29		
Sun 23 rd		The Mad March Hare cycling event sees lots of keen cyclists passing through the area. They'll stop for lunch at Clows Top. PAGE 17		
Mon 24 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 29	Jim	CM 270642
Wed 26 th	10.00	Walking for Health meet at the Market Hall. PAGE 21	Alan	CM 272754
Thurs 27 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE.....		
Thurs 3 rd		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

A REMINDER OF THE TIMES WE ARE LIVING IN

It is good to have the Social Calendar back on the page, even in this reduced form. In normal times, the way it spreads across two pages is a statement of the strong community spirit and active life we enjoy here in Cleobury Country. But we must still be cautious and follow government guidelines as we progress out of the pandemic; so if you plan to go a meeting advertised here, please check with the organiser that it is definitely going to happen.

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It's a good deal joining those who already have offices in the Centre. You have your own key for 24/7 access if you need it, and the deal includes lighting, heating, cleaning, use of the kitchen and toilet in a very smart building, plus parking on site. It does not

include the phone, internet connection or rates. But at £2,500 a year it's good value.

If you're interested, talk to Clare on CM 272300.

**MARKET HALL
EASTER WINDOW**



Toys and Teddies gathered in the Market Hall window.

Thank you to everyone that took the time to enter our 'Happy Easter' window competition. All of the finalists' artwork is on display at the Market Hall.

A huge thanks to our local businesses who donated: Mimi's Plaice, Tracey's Kreations and Isabelle's Artisan Cheesecakes who provided the winners with amazing prizes. The winners

were: Indira Lane, Henry Sale and Sibylla Lane.

The runners up and all receiving Easter gifts are Purdie, Holly, Bodhi, Leah, Penelope, Jake, Izzy, Willow, Emily, Toby and Harrison.

Kim Grenfell

DOT DAVIS

Another link with Old Cleobury has passed on with the loss of Dot Davis, long term inhabitant of Steeple Close with her late husband Ken.

Dot was a permanently cheerful chatterbox, who would stop and swap news and gossip for as long as you liked. Shopping for her must have been a long experience, as she always wanted to greet her friends and reminisce about the past they shared. A lovely lady with a big heart.

Town Clerk Matt Sheehan knew her well and still called her Mrs Davis out of respect, until she told him she was Dot. "Used to phone me about car parking, but I think she just wanted a chat," he told us.

Our sympathies go to daughters Catherine and Clare, faced with clearing out their old family home and its memories at such a sad time.



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Fists Aloft, Shouting at the Moon

I used to think that weather reports were a bit of a waste of time. Granted, there would be the odd times of the year when you'd watch them like a hawk - during cold snaps for snow (the chance to bunk off school) or during heatwaves (anything above 25°C was worth getting excited about as your Dad reached for the barbecue tongs). But the day-to-day climate that hangs around for 99% of the year was deemed so unremarkable that I'd immediately zone out as soon as a weather map appeared onscreen.

Oh, how things have changed. I now find myself glued to the short and long term forecasts. I've got multiple apps on my phone. And I'll check my knackered barometer when things get particularly tense.

The reason? Plants.

This year, I've embarked on yet another rollercoaster ride in the garden. Like previous years, it's high octane stuff:

- My overwintered collection of Sweet Williams appear to flinch at the merest temperature drop, despite me continually coddling them in the greenhouse.
- My tulips - yes, the saga continues - play silly beggars by playing hide and seek (1 in 5 seem to have shown the fortitude to show their heads, the rest remain nestled underground, where I assume they will now stay until next year).
- And my sweet peas have been in and out of the cold frame so many times that I unconsciously start humming the 'okey-cokey' every time I walk past them.

Much of my obsessive temperature checking is down to my big 'Garden 2021' plans; plans that run the risk of remaining a

well-intentioned doodle in a notebook if I don't get the seeds out of the packet and into some compost pronto.

Of course, I'm not the first gardener to shake my fist at the barometer or mutter obscenities about the weather. It's just that they managed to do it in a slightly more poetic way:

"Don't cast a clout 'til May is out" is both lyrical and prophetic.

"Spring starts when you can put your foot on 12 daisies" is presumably inspired by the current state of my lawn.

*"B****r me, it's cold"* is my own work. Destined to be a classic, I'm sure of it.

All of this said, if there's one thing that growing older and having a few gardening seasons under my belt has taught me, it's that we have little to no control over any of this stuff. I can swear creatively at Carol on BBC Breakfast as she informs us of yet another unseasonal cold front hitting our region, but it won't change a thing.

The seasons will tick over as they always do.

It's happening right now - as I look out my window, the sun is shining, the daffs are starting to drop their heads and retreat, and the tulips are limbering up for their moment of glory. It won't be long until the bluebells kick in, and then, in the blink of an eye, we'll be hurtling towards the end of Summer and thinking about raking up leaves.

So no, I won't wish my time away or pray for an early Summer. I'll go with the flow, happy in the knowledge that nature will take care of the flowers as I crack on with the other jobs in the garden. One final quote, courtesy of Marie Huston, sums it all up rather nicely:

"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st."

I'd best get to work then...

Simon Morton

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This month lends its name to various plants and animals that are conspicuous at this time of year.

Firstly we can look out for the arrival of white hawthorn blossom along the hedgerows. Called simply 'May', the white, five-petalled flowers with dark pink stamens appear after the leaves, unlike the blackthorn which is in a hurry to get its white blossom out first and beats hawthorn by a month. It seems to have been noted as a boundary marker at least from Saxon times but became much more common when it was used extensively as a hedging plant to divide the commons during the enclosures of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. 'Flora Britannica' by Richard Mabey devotes six pages to the hawthorn and its folklore. The superstition that it is unlucky to bring May into a house seems to be pretty widespread across the UK, and this might have something to do with its rather pungent smell, which repels some people (its chemical composition includes a compound produced by decaying flesh) but is certainly attractive to many insects.

This brings us to two insects linked to the month of May. Mayflies are associated with freshwater and fishing. Clouds of the adults, with struggling flight and trailing tails, rise from the water as they hatch from aquatic nymphs (the young stage) this month. They make easy prey for fish and birds and, in any case, they are very short-lived, mating, egg-laying and dying within a day in some species. The name of the mayfly order is

'Ephemeroptera', referring to their brief lives.



The Maybug. Not a friend of gardeners with its habit of leaving grubs to feed on plant roots.

The second insect is the huge beetle often called a Maybug, which flies clumsily around external lights at night in early summer and can often be found, exhausted, on your doorstep in the morning. Also known as Cockchafers, they are well-known and disliked by gardeners. The adults eat fruit and flowers but the larvae are the main objects of wrath: they hatch from eggs laid in grasslands and spend the next three or four years feeding on roots and causing the sudden death of favourite garden plants. You may have found these fat, white grubs with brown heads when digging, and they make a good meal for Rooks and Badgers.

May is the usual month for dawn chorus walks. Set your alarm early and get yourself to some woodland for about 5.30 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.

Linda Iles

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Is the world going mad?. An Extinction Rebellion campaigner in Brighton has put a petition on the local Council website calling on them to introduce two plant based diet days a week in schools. They should also stop offering milk to children as this has 'racist elements' because many in the BAME community are lactose intolerant. I fail to see the logic in this argument as many in all communities suffer in the same way. Another case of the minority tail wagging the majority dog? Well it is Brighton...

Poor old Plod. Got it in the neck over the policing of the Sarah Everard memorial event last month and then, literally, in Bristol the following week. What started as a peaceful, if ill advised, 'Kill the Bill' protest against the proposed extension of police powers to control demonstrations turned into something much darker. As should have been expected, a posse from Thugs R Us turned up with the sole intention of taking the name of the protest literally. Their 'peaceful' protest involved stone throwing, arson and GBH with Plod as the target. 'Not our fault' said the organisers. Yes it was, as without the initial gathering to camouflage their intentions, it would have been much more difficult to mass and infiltrate the proceedings. It also made the job of the Police more difficult in separating the two groups and identify the trouble makers. This was followed by IPCC report on the Everard event which largely exonerated the Police for their handling of the situation and criticised the armchair policing experts for their over enthusiastic calls for heads to roll whilst not letting the facts interfere with a good rant.

Oh Oxfam... As soon as they have been allowed to start bidding for Government money again following their disgraceful behaviour and cover up of events in Haiti, then a further scandal erupted in the Democratic Republic of Congo involving similar transgressions. Apparently, whistleblowers had been voicing concerns about this since 2015 but nothing was done... Still it's good to know our

taxes are helping to provide Oxfam employees with a hobby.

I see that one of the teaching unions has demanded that the curriculum be 'Decolonised' including subjects like maths. I realise that I am not the smartest creature ever to walk upright but how do you decolonise maths? Answers on a postcard please... And more educational insanity: University tutors are being told not to dock points from essays etc which are badly spelled and grammatically poor as being able to spell and use grammar properly is seen as 'white, male and elite'. Words fail me...

I appreciate that the chances of me being offered an Honour are vanishingly small but were this to happen, I wonder whether I would accept it. Looking at the unholy collection of Government cronies, dodgy businessmen and time serving 'Yes' men (and women) that have been honoured in recent years, I feel that the whole system is falling into disrepute. I recall that some 30 years ago, John Major announced that there would be less emphasis on chums and more on those that truly deserved recognition. I appreciate that the latter are still represented but Major's initiative has clearly been forgotten by those now in charge.

Talking about former Tory leaders, David Cameron's (perfectly legal...) lobbying on behalf of his current employer with various Ministers and officials is to be the subject of an investigation. Apparently he was rumoured to make around £60 million if things went well, but they didn't and his shares are now worth nothing. Despite this setback, he is still a rich man but, as Dorothy Parker said: 'If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to'.

At last the pubs are (partly) open and you can meet your drinking buddies. Just don't go overboard and apply the Dylan Thomas definition of an alcoholic as 'someone you dislike who drinks as much as you do'.

Ariadne J Grumpy

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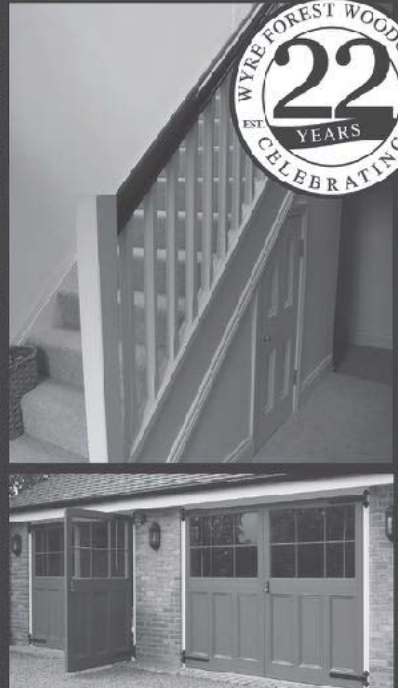
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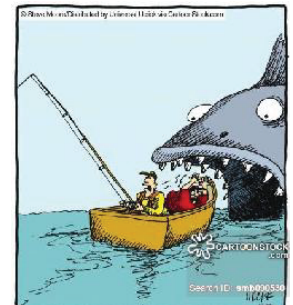
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - May 2021



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



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

May 2021 CMTC Report

The Elections are this month as we go to the Polls to elect our Police and Crime Commissioner and Unitary councillors who represent us with Shropshire Council, and it is so important to vote as we rely on their help and support.

After the election we will be working with whoever are our Unitary Councillors to address all the issues we have with Shropshire Council.

We would also like to formally thank Madge Shingleton who is now stepping down, for all her hard work over the years, representing our community in challenging the powers that be to get things done. Enjoy your retirement Madge from us all.

Our Town Councillors on the other hand are not going to an election, as we have had seven of the nine places filled so they are duly elected. If we had ten or more applications, then we would have had an election. So, as it stands, we will be looking to Co-opt another two councillors over the coming weeks to make it up to the nine required. Look out for the Vacancy notice if you meet the criteria and have the drive and enthusiasm to be part of the team in looking after the community.

The Foodbank continues to make a big difference in helping those in need and we are so grateful to the generosity of those who donate and the volunteers who help. Thank you to Mawley Milk who donate fresh milk weekly, to Doddington Heights park for weekly food donations, to Select and Save for their support, and to Maria and the Hopton community. We are also grateful to those who donate food or cash every week, which helps so much. Please know from us that the food bank users are so grateful for your support. We are looking for more volunteers, so if you can help on a Friday morning, please contact the Town Council Clerk on 07483 112290

We as a Town council are aware of the poor state of the roads in Shropshire and are actively chasing the potholes and the state of the roads and pavements around Cleobury that increased traffic and poor maintenance brings. An increase in housing in surrounding towns has had a knock-on effect with the amount of traffic coming through our parish and we are aware and do what we can to address this with Shropshire council. However, we still need you to report issues to Shropshire Council and have links on our website to do this to keep the pressure on.

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M Sheehan Town Clerk
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St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 16th May – 9.30am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 16th May – 11.15 Eucharist

All Saints', Neen Sollars

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St George's, Milson

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St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 9th May – 18.00pm Evening Prayer


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All building work undertaken

Welcome to May, the month when our world should be reopening for business as we used to know it. Since last March 2020 when the impact of the CoronaVirus started to take effect and impact our daily lives, many of us "took to the hills" figuratively speaking and were fortunate enough to have employment/employers who enabled us to work from home. During these last 13 months, scammers have upped their game as well and we have seen an exponential increase in those who would try to deceive us and rob us. Fortunately, our knowledge of these practices has also increased. Across the world there are still thousands of people who have been tricked and lost a lot of money, in some cases their life savings. The authorities have always been behind in tackling this crime but in fairness the amount of information that is available today does make it difficult for the criminals to conduct business. I regularly get reports from readers who have had calls on home phones, on mobiles and emails all with the common thread that starts with a gentle threat of possible legal action if the respondent does not comply.

As I outlined last month, the advances in technology have made it so much easier to canvas thousands of people a day at little effort from the scammers. A recent example quoted to me suggests it is from what is known as the Government Valuation Office Agency. The email advises the recipient that they are due a tax refund and offers a link to a form that requires your personal details. I have detailed the dangers of responding to any unsolicited request for personal details, so the delete key on your email is the one to use. Interestingly enough there is actually such a department in the Government, but it exists to value property for the benefit of calculation

things like council tax. Nothing to do with personal taxation. Another scam not involving the internet or phones is also doing the rounds. It's more complex for a scammer to set this up as you will see but the rewards can be high for them.

The target unexpectedly receives a new Debit Card from their bank. It was not contactless as most if not all new cards are these days. The enclosed letter had all the normal info on using the card and activating it. For most people, getting a new card that is not contactless is not much use, but in the example I am quoting the recipient went to their bank and asked to change the card. The bank checked and said they had not issued a new card and it was just as well the user had not activated it as their accounts would have been immediately compromised. The bank immediately cancelled all the user's cards and issued new 'real' ones.

Sadly, the list goes on. Thank you for reading the various articles I have presented over the last few months, as we exit our lockdowns and life starts to resemble normal, I wish you all the best and to continued awareness and being alert, it is your money after all. If you are reading this electronically, then there are useful links you can follow the latest news on.

<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/scams> or <https://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk/> and our own Facebook group Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Watch. If you are not a member, please ask to join us. Thanks again for reading. Stay Alert, Stay Safe.

Nigel Reid

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In Business 2 - Bewdley Ovensclean

I'd heard about Ovensclean from Diane Waddington, who wrote a very enthusiastic report in the Clarion about Kevin Woodhouse and his very thorough approach to the job. So when I decided my oven needed a proper clean, Kevin was the choice.

An impressive start was the detailed response via email, explaining the care taken to apply Covid precautions by social distancing and wearing a mask. I left the man to do his job and then sat him down to talk about his history.

He was a milkman at Darbys Dairies for many years and also served as a retained fireman in Bewdley, so knows how to handle equipment and keep it in good working order. Retired from the fire service he decided to have a change from early morning deliveries and hearing of a franchise opportunity with Ovensclean, he and wife Jayne went along to an open day at their Kidderminster headquarters where they made him welcome. He was encouraged to talk to other operators and actually spent a day with one of them. He could see the company had good standards and signed up.



Kevin, dressed properly for these Covid threatening times.

The evening before he was due to visit me, an email confirmed the time and asked if anyone in the household showed signs of Covid 19. No.

At five minutes past 2.00 a white VW van drew up outside and Kevin started to unload his equipment. A brief introduction and I left him to it, just looking in at intervals to find him polishing the extractor hood, later stripping out the oven racks and baking tray and taking them to the van, where a tub of cleaning fluid was warming up. Strictly non caustic, like all the materials he was using.

Later he was lying on his back to clean off the roof of the oven, using a torch to

check all the dark corners. The company's adverts promise a thorough clean and that's what my oven was getting.

When Kevin had finished the oven looked like new, the door window clean and the trays inside all gleaming chrome after their soak and scrub in the tub, where the fluid temperature was up to about 80 degrees C. I was mightily impressed.

Kevin is on a five year contract and a territory that stretches from Kinver up to Bridgnorth and westwards to Ludlow keeps him busy. Jayne is a vital part of the business, with a friendly business-like style on the telephone. She takes details of the job to be done and quotes the time for the job; for three hours work and such a gleaming end product, it was not expensive and I'll be using their service in the future.

It's worth noting that they don't just clean ovens and the extractors. Add barbecues, microwaves, ranges, Agas and Rayburns are all within the skill range of Kevin and other Ovensclean operators. And when they leave, the place is just as clean as when they arrive. Proper professionals.

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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	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
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CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE 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	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net .
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

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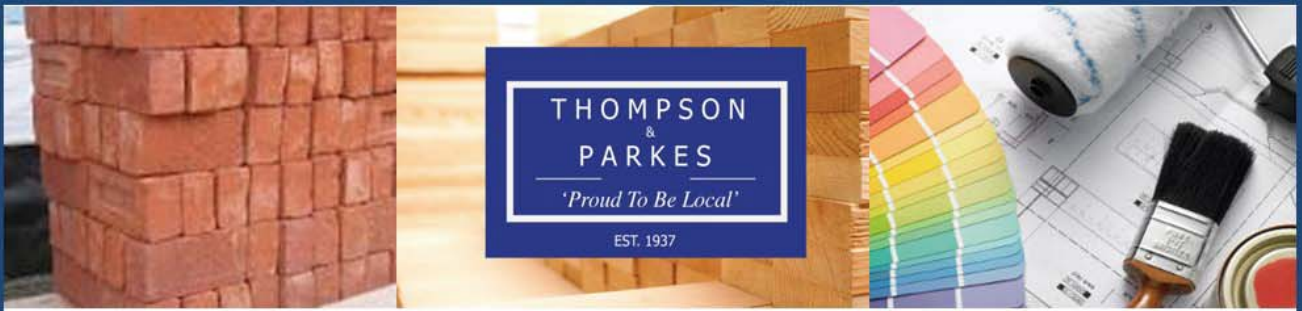
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