

## SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

**MAY 2022**

### AN APOLOGY

In April's Clarion we carried the news that the Food Bank would be offering an evening opening once a month, to help those who could not make the regular Friday morning. But we got it wrong and said that it would open on the first Friday in the month. Doh!

In fact the evening sessions will be from 6.00 until 7.00 on the first Wednesday. That means on the 4th this month and then the first day of June. We will also include the evening dates in the Social Calendar.

### GREEN LIVING DAY

Next month we'll be doubly busy with Her Majesty's 70th anniversary as our monarch to celebrate, with the town's festival playing a supporting role. This month there's a

new concept to attract your attention on the 7th - Green Living Day.

It's a joint venture by Town Councillors Debbie Brown and John Greaves, with a wide range of businesses and interests there to talk about cleaner living and helping to lengthen the healthy life of our planet. And please don't think there's nothing each of us can do - talk to people at this event and you'll learn more. Open from 10.00 to 3.00 in the Market Hall.

### ARMED FORCES OUTREACH

The Armed Forces Outreach will be in Cleobury Community Hub on 24 May from 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Come along for a coffee and chat.

This body is designed to provide help and support to all military personnel,

veterans, and their families. Working with the service charities and organisations the outreach assists and facilitates to ensure that current and former military personnel have access to the right support. We have also formed close links with several businesses, charities, and organisations across Shropshire, many of whom have signed the Armed Forces Covenant to demonstrate their support. A veteran is anyone who has served for one day and has a service number. This will be required to access support from the service charities. If the service number cannot be confirmed it can be traced but it will take time.

*Mike Hermolle  
Royal British Legion branch chairman*



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**The Cleobury Clarion, May 2022**  
**Volume Eighteen - Edition Two**



*The Spice Empire sponsors  
a golf fund raiser.  
See Page 7.*



*Looking very fit, the Teme  
Leisure gym is all new.  
See Page 27.*



*You want warmth?  
Ludlow Logs deliver.  
In Business, Page 61.*

**And On Other Pages...**

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 - Clows Top Gardening Club        | 37 - Neen Savage Sunflowers     |
| 9 - Another Kudos Blends<br>Success | 39 - Cleobury Mortimer Benefice |
| 11 - Super Cycling Sportive         | 41 - Simon Morton on Gardening  |
| 13 - 'A Century of Flowers'         | 43 - Save Our Curlews           |
| 15 - A Touch of Romance             | 45 - Mrs Grumpy                 |
| 17 - Nearly Dead Poets Society      | 47 - The Social Calendar        |
| 19 - From The Bandroom              | 51 - A Jubilee Beacon           |
| 21 - Stepping Out! Walking News     | 53 - Cleobury Hub               |
| 23 - May in the Wyre Forest         | 57 - Let's Beat the Scammers    |
| 25 - Philip Dunne MP                | 59 - The Town Council Report    |
| 31 - Caring for God's Acre          | 63 - Local Information          |



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### THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, from 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.

### CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Two events to tell you about. On Saturday, May 21st we will be holding our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at Clows Top Victory Hall, -the date carefully chosen because this is the time of year to buy your bedding plants. Other plants will also be on offer, together with a "garden jumble" stall, tombola and of course some delicious cakes to go with your tea or coffee. 10am to 12 noon.

May 25th is the date of our first garden visit, instead of the indoor meeting at the Village Hall. We will be returning to Moors Meadow Garden, Collington, on the Tenbury to Bromyard road. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30 to share cars. Moors Meadow is a seven acre organic garden; there is a website with more details. If you would like to go, and have not already booked, please let Elva know on 01299 832288.

May is such a wonderful time in the garden and we hope to see you at these events. Remember, the more you put into something, the more you get

out of it! Come along and chat to like-minded people about your own special space.

*Judith.Lawson*

### MAY 14th CAR BOOT SALE VENUE

Ahem! We got that wrong in the April issue, didn't we? The Car Boot Sale on May 14th will be in the grounds of St Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Lower Street, with car parking for visitors at the bottom of the next door lane. Access for booters from 8.30 and the public get in from 9.00. If you want to sell there, the cost is just a fiver for your car and the contact is Yvonne Colquitt on 07790 890 040.

Toilets on site and light refreshments will be available.

### LUDLOW FLOWER FESTIVAL

Early notice of the Future Flower Festival, sponsored by McConnells, from July 9th to 15th, centred around St Laurence's church in the town centre, with support from other churches in the area. The idea is to celebrate all the positives that 2020 and 2021 realised.

You can expect very special floral displays, a community art exhibition and musical events every lunchtime. Live music at lunch time has a special appeal and they do it very well in Ludlow. Contact for the event is Sue Thornley on 01584 872292.

### SILLY BIT

**The nicest part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else always does.**

**Lisa Steward**



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## SPICE PRIZES



*Wazim Kabir of The Spice Empire hands over the winners' vouchers to Alan Bullock, captain of the Seniors Section at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club.*

The Race to Dubai is a competition played by the world's top golfers in which they play a series of rounds with the top finishers competing in a final round in Dubai for big prize money. The Seniors section of Cleobury Mortimer Golf

Club thought it would be a good idea to have their own version of this to make a long wet winter more interesting. Wazim Kabir of the Spice Empire restaurant kindly offered to support the event and so the "Race to the Spice Empire" was born. Six rounds were played with points awarded according to players' finishing places, with the winner taking a £50 voucher and the runner up £30, to spend at either the Spice Empire or its sister restaurant, Gauthama in Cleobury.

Alan Bullock, captain of the Seniors section, accepted the vouchers from Wazim on behalf of the winners Rob Pinner and Yoshi Oyama.

We are very grateful to Wazim for his support and sponsorship of the event..

### **BROOME PARK B&B**

Catherine and John Evans' very highly rated B&B is in the awards again. In March

they won the Silver Award as the second best B&B in the West Midlands.

Organisers Visit England Awards for Excellence wrote to tell them: "We're delighted to inform you that as a local awards winner you have been entered into the national Visit England Awards for Excellence 2022 competition." That's on June 8th in Birmingham Library and let's all keep our fingers crossed for this quite outstanding local business.

### **THE MEN'S SHED**

Until the Shed itself is open, there's an informal arrangement to meet at the Communal Hub on Lower Street from 2.30 to about 4.00 on Fridays for those who want to have a chat and a cuppa with others involved. Find out more about it, or just enjoy a brew and a chat with others. It is an informal flexible meet up where any one can pop in and out anytime.

*Peter Blackburn*

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## KUDOS BLENDS WIN MAJOR BAKING INDUSTRY AWARD



Kudos MD Dinnie Jordan holds the trophy as the team accept the applause of the industry audience. Kudos Blends has been named WINNER of the 'Ingredients Manufacturing Company of the Year' at the Food Manufacture Excellence Awards 2022, in London.

This awards programme celebrates the UK food and drink manufacturing market's innovative approach to food development, high-tech manufacturing, and high-quality raw materials, providing a platform to celebrate and recognise this hard work and the boundaries pushed forwards in the past 12 months.

Dinnie Jordan, MD and Founder of Kudos Blends, said; "As a global supplier of leavening agents to the bakery industry, we're delighted to win this award in recognition of the quality and excellence of our range of products, especially as our goal is to help our customers deliver healthier and perfectly baked goods.

With our team of in-house chemists and bakery experts, and our patented leavening technology, we have worked closely with our customers to develop innovative solutions to some of their most pressing challenges, ranging from increasing shelf life, to reducing waste, to removing sodium, phosphate, and aluminium.

This award is acknowledgement for all that ground-breaking work we've been undertaking over the past 12 months and is confirmation that we're living our mission to revolutionise the industry by challenging the status quo. I couldn't be prouder."

### SWIFT WATCH

Swifts should be on their way across Europe from Africa. They usually arrive in the first week in May and are with us for June and July before they head off again on the four thousand mile round trip back to winter in Africa. Despite adverse weather, storms, cold and wind, we have been very fortunate to be able to host around 12-14 breeding pairs of swifts breeding in our taller buildings in the town and have been entertained by their ariel antics for the three months. Let's hope they can continue to do so . *Kit Smith*



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April Boardman

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## People when thinking of having Home Care often ask who are your staff? What sort of company are they?

TLC are a family run care provider supporting people with Disabilities, Dementia, Aging Population and Acquired Brain Injury to remain living at home for as long as it is safe to do so. Clients when considering home care will often find it difficult to accept and wonder about who are the staff and what qualifications they have? I cannot speak for other companies, however in our company it is made up from many sectors of our society and when these are put together, we have an Outstanding Team. 

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

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

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

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

### Our Training

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

### Contact us

For further enquiries please regarding Care or employment please ring TLC Care at Home 01299 272897 for an informal chat. Visit [www.tlccareathome.com](http://www.tlccareathome.com) or [wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk](mailto:wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk)

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### COVID-19 Update

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

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

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

## CYCLING SPORTIVE

Guy Turpin and Rich Robertshaw are leading a fund raising Twisted Spire Cycling Sportive on Sunday, May 29th. They'll start from Cleobury Teme Leisure at 9.00 and there are two routes to chose from. Both take in the great scenery you'll find in Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, including the Teme Valley.

If riders choose the 30 mile route, they pay £25.00 and for the really serious 55 mile route it's £30.00. All monies raised go to ASTriiD, a charity offering an on-line match-making service for highly skilled members living with long term and chronic illnesses and finding flexible employment or voluntary opportunities. It's a great concept, using skills too often overlooked and under utilised.

The routes will be clearly signed and marshalled with insurance in place. There will also be medical support and a roving mechanic to help with cycle problems. There will be feed stations and at the end of the ride at the Sports and Social Club there will be a hot meal, a goody bag and a bottle sponsor Hobson's Twisted Spire Ale.

It sounds like a great event and for more details you can contact Rich Robertshaw on

07962 428 418 or email him on [rich\\_robertshaw@live.co.uk](mailto:rich_robertshaw@live.co.uk), or talk to Guy Turpin on 07779 427 814 or email him on [guy@sunlab.co.uk](mailto:guy@sunlab.co.uk)

## THE SEVERN HOSPICE SHOP

The Severn Hospice charity shop in Cleobury is at the heart of the community. It has just celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is one of the charity's most successful shops – in the past 12 months it has brought in more than £100,000 of much needed funds thanks to the incredible generosity of its supporters.

Known as the town's 'department store' the shop, the only charity shop in the town, sells everything you can imagine, all donated from the local community.

Manager Victoria Holland said: "It really is down to our supporters and volunteers that the shop is such a success. Our clothing area is great as is the homewares section and we have had some remarkably interesting donations over the years, including a model galleon and a machine for smoking fish.

"The shop is stocked solely with donations from the local community and to have their support is fantastic. Every day is different here: we have 30

volunteers and along with the staff they make it fun."

Victoria has been manager for six months, having previously been assistant manager of the Severn Hospice shop in Bridgnorth.

"I moved here last October and the welcome and support I have received has been wonderful. I love working here in Cleobury and working for Severn Hospice.

"I am proud that the shop is so popular and has such great support. It is down to the volunteers and staff that the local community want to support us. I am incredibly grateful to everyone."

Severn Hospice has a network of 29 shops across the region and was named Charity Retailer of the Year for 2021 in a national award. Each year, the charity cared for 3,000 families in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid Wales, living with incurable illness.

## SILLY BIT

**I'm glad I learned about parallelograms at college instead of how to do my taxes. It comes in so handy during the parallelogram season.**  
**Suzanne France**

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## 'FLICKS IN THE STICKS'

7.30 Saturday May 21st

Kenneth Branagh's masterpiece: "BELFAST"

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

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We met in April to hear Rosemary Winnall talk on the Power of Plants. Rosemary is co-editor of the wonderful "The Nature of Wyre".

Using analogies and old wives tales, Rosemary illustrated how these became the stuff of folklore and still colour our conversation; phrases like 'sturdy as an oak'. The dock leaf or goosegrass to treat nettle stings and the claim to fame of the oak gall which produced black ink to sign the Magna Carta.

We considered herbal preparations as medicines, such as rosehips for colds and chest treatments; poisons are part of this group, and the ladies who used their herbal knowledge to treat the sick did run the risk of accusations of witchcraft.

Today science has taken botanic plants and isolated their active ingredients

giving us dose and duration control. The refinement of digitalis from foxglove and aspirin from Salix has been known for some time, and we now have a cancer treatment from yew. We hybridise and cross fertilise to increase vigour and yield and we have modern Industries which tap tree plantations for palm oil and latex for rubber.

Ingenuity has enabled us to manipulate plants. Our use of natural fibres like cotton and linen has led to the development of weaving, knitting and embroidery techniques, and the use of natural dyes for decoration.

*Linda Ashman*

## 'A CENTURY OF FLOWERS'

The flower arrangers of St Mary's Church will be organising a Jubilee flower festival called "A Century in Flowers" from June 2nd onwards from Thursday to Sunday the 5th.

It will contain two arrangements of important

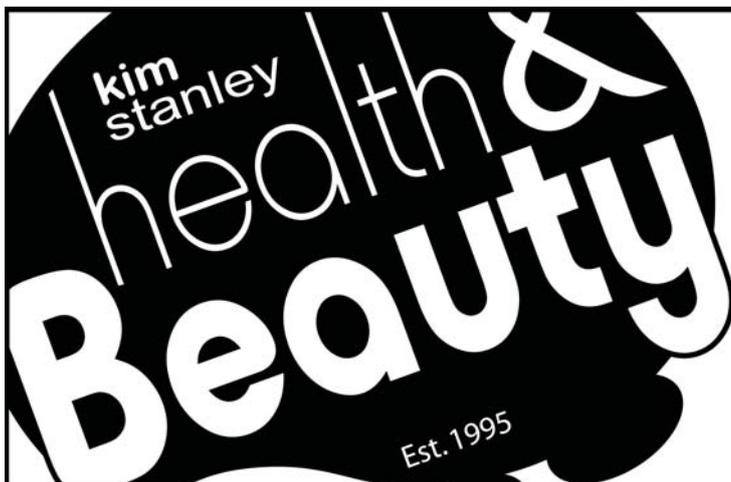
occasions from every decade from 1922 to 2022 with special items during HM the Queen's lifetime. Tea and cakes will be available during those days in church.

*Angela Drennan*

## FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, BELFAST is a movie straight from Branagh's own experience. A nine-year-old boy must chart a path towards adulthood through a world that has suddenly turned upside down. His stable and loving community and everything he thought he understood about life is changed forever but joy, laughter, music and the formative magic of the movies remain. Eleven year-old Jude Hill won an Oscar as Best Newcomer for his role and the movie also stars Judi Dench, Ciaran Hinds, Jamie Dornan and Catriona Balfe. Saturday May 21st at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

*Robert Hodge*



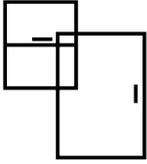
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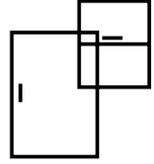
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### CLEOBURY W.I.

Cleobury WI is thriving, with new members joining us. We have a full programme of meetings for the year, with a varied range of talks and activities. In addition, we continue to enjoy getting together for regular walks and coffee mornings.

In April, Amy Bottoms introduced the art of quilling, demonstrating how it is possible to make intricate shapes and patterns from simple paper strips and glue. The only specialist piece of equipment needed is a small quilling tool. Amy provided the materials for us to practise the technique, before encouraging us to get creative with our own designs. It was good fun, but everyone agreed not as easy as it looks.

Planning is ongoing for special future events during this, our centenary year. Members have been invited to help with the design of a commemorative garden to be created in front of St Mary's Church. And members will contribute to making a centenary tablecloth during weekly craft sessions, or at home.

On May 10th we will be welcoming Alison Wall for a

presentation on Tai Chi, learning some gentle movements to help calm and connect the mind and body. In the Market Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome to join us by paying £5 to include tea or coffee and biscuits/cake.

For further information or to join WI, contact Clare 01299 271905 or Judy 01299 270983  
or email  
[judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com)

*Val Sniadowski*

### THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is at the centre of the community and is very well used; it relies heavily on the work and effort of a small group of volunteers.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday May 18th and invite you to come along to hear what we do – and how you could play an important part in the life of our town and help keep our hall safe and fit for all to use and enjoy. We need your support, with ideas and suggestions – you might even think about joining the committee. Cheese and wine will be served, always a good excuse for turning up.

*Gabby Franklin*

### A TOUCH OF ROMANCE

This message came in recently and hit the spot for the editor's liking for romance:

"My best friend and I have read your newspaper with great interest for the last 8 months or so ever since we learned about it on Twitter. Neither one of us is from the UK, he is American and I am German but reading the Clarion together has been a very fun pastime activity we can do together over the internet in times where a global pandemic keeps us from meeting in person. Cleobury is a little bit like a place out of a book for us but a place that maybe one day we'll get to visit.

His birthday is coming up in May and I would love to gift him something fun and meaningful. Would it be possible to take out a personal ad in the Clarion?  
*Sarah Kay*"

Who could resist such a request that brings together two people so far apart from one another? Happy to oblige Sarah, and hope you make it here one day. Drinks on me.

SEE BELOW

*Jim Reynolds*





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April started with a concert by Bill Lennon; all proceeds donated to the 'Raise the Roof' Appeal. The replacement of the roof is aimed to complete in mid May.

The A G M is at 7.30pm on May 16th and will give a chance to view the new roof.. Nominations for new committee should be forwarded to the Committee via CTVH Mobile or e mail.

To book the Hall, please ring the CTVH Mobile 07379 959895, visit Clows Top Victory Hall Facebook page or e-mail [contact@clowstopvictoryhall.co.uk](mailto:contact@clowstopvictoryhall.co.uk) *Nigel Caldicott*

**CREATIVE WRITING**

'Wonder' was the focus for our April gathering, which produced praise for the wonders of nature that we all enjoy in this lovely corner of England. Marian broke away to tell of a sleepless night and the sad awareness that brought of others unable to sleep under a bombardment in a Ukraine cellar.

For this month we have a wide potential with the word 'Crime'. That should stretch some of the imaginations

when we meet in the library at 6.30 on May 9th

**NEARLY DEAD  
POETS SOCIETY**

David Walford had chosen 'Orange' as our poetic subject for March, being a difficult word to find a rhyme for. So he opened proceedings with two fine works but no real match. Tony Smith wandered from the subject and had us laughing and Steve did likewise before the editor revealed an old chum Roger Gorringer - a rhyme at last!

Tony read us his epic Gornal Gourmet Evening, which was enough to put you off drinking and Steve presented a touching piece by an old friend clearly not well. Tears and laughter - quite an achievement. We'll try to laugh over 'Happiness' when we meet on April 25th.

**HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

Things are looking up for the Spring season! We have a members-only visit to Henley Hall at Ludlow on May 6th. Meet at the Talbot Car Park in time for departure at 1.30.

To follow that, we have a visit to Westonbury Water Gardens at Pembridge on

May 21st. Again, depart from the Talbot car park at 1.30.

Finally, we would like to remind all keen gardeners that on May 14th we hold our annual Plant Sale at the Market Hall at 9.30. Part of the monies raised will be donated to the fund for the annual Lime Pleaching of the trees on High Street. *Linda Ashman*

**ALISON OSBORNE**

A lovely lady, who worked so hard as attendance officer at local schools with a firm but gentle touch and cooked such splendid meals with a variety of courses on just a domestic oven, passed away on April 3rd. She and Peter were two of the best hosts in the area, with a touch of humour that made crowded evenings at The Yett truly memorable. They are together again, probably in charge of hospitality to help Saint Peter at the gates of Heaven.

Her funeral will be held at Wyre Forest crematorium at 12.30 on May 9th, with a family request for no black dress and no flowers. She would want to be remembered as a friend who made people smile, not one to darken her departure with mourning. Donations if you wish to the Air Ambulance.

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### GROUPS JOIN UP

The Stroke Support and Carers groups are now meeting together on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at St. Mary's Place. Our next meeting is at 1pm on May 24<sup>th</sup> when we are promised a light hearted music quiz along with tea and a piece of cake. If you care for somebody and would appreciate a couple of hours social time with other carers or if you have had a stroke and would like the companionship, then please do join us.

We are planning social activities in the coming months but we always leave room for members to share experiences and learn from each other. We are supported by Katja Jones from the Medical Centre and Michele Lee from Shropshire Social Services with local volunteers – more volunteers are most welcome to come and share the load of planning/organising our programme.

If you want to know more or would like to join us please contact Katja on 01299 270209 or email [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com) or Michele at

[michele.lee.carers@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:michele.lee.carers@shropshire.gov.uk)

Graham Simpson

### FROM THE BANDROOM

Our first performance of the year was on a very sunny Easter Saturday at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank. We were able to air some of the pieces that we shall play at our concert on May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall, tickets at £10 per person are still available from Amanda Wilcox on 01584 891199 or any band member.

This concert will have something to please everyone, from Bond to Mission Impossible. Please join us for some popcorn and sit back to enjoy 'Music from the Movies'

Moving into June, the Band are in demand, playing for Jubilee celebrations in both Cleobury and Abberley, we are pleased to be playing for a local wedding and a couple of fetes, how nice to be back!

We are looking for a couple of bass players and also a bass trombone player to complete our line up. We practise at the Parish Hall on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm.

Please do get in touch with Amanda if you would like a Brass Band to perform at your event.

Katie Griffiths

### READING GROUP

Bonkers, said one of our readers. Yes, totally bizarre our latest book, 'The Eyre Affair' by Jasper Fforde. Good to have something we probably wouldn't have picked from the shelves. You need to be prepared to suspend belief when reading this light hearted tale of fantasy bur what a joy to have a book which makes you laugh out loud in places. One or two of the group either gave up on the read or just didn't like the idea of the book. The rest of us enjoyed the unusual names of the characters, the literary quips and even the puns. The author obviously has a vast and vivid imagination plus the talent to put it all in a novel. The next read, probably more sedate, is The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton, set in 1686 Amsterdam. We gather at the library on May 16<sup>th</sup> to exchange views.

Deana Kimber. 271754



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

## ROCK PATHFINDERS

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May 19th. 10.00am start from the Cat Inn, Bridgnorth Road, Enville, Stourbridge DY7 5HA.

Information at [www.rockpathfinders.uk](http://www.rockpathfinders.uk), or phone Alan on 01299 400304

## THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Work on the footpaths continued despite the unpredictable weather April often brings. A new dog gate along with repairs to a stile and nearby bridge were completed last month. The work was made easier thanks to the land owner who had already strengthened a very wobbly stile. Susan Sharp, the footpath officer for CMFA, has reported that in the last

few years, the footpaths of Neen Sollars and Milson have been transformed. The parish council has been the driving force assisted by ourselves together with the co-operation and help of landowners. Nearly all stiles have been, or shortly will be, replaced with gates and the remainder have nearby opening gates or dog gates.

The Parish Walk on April 3rd was our traditional Daffodil Walk and we were not disappointed. The route followed the CMFA leaflet No 18 "Rea Valley Amble". A 4.5 mile circular walk north of Cleobury alongside the River Rea. The track to Musbatch had an extensive display and another on the opposite bank further upstream. We crossed the river on the footbridge below Reaside returning via Chilton and Neen Savage. The weather was fine and the paths firm underfoot, a perfect walking day.

On Sunday 5th June as part of the Cleobury Festival the Parish Walk is based on CMFA Walk 21 "Dinmore Dally". It will start from outside St Mary's Church at

10.00 am. The route, of about five miles, will be via the Golf Club, then loop round to Neen Savage and back to Cleobury. There are a few stiles. Wear stout footwear and be prepared for changeable weather. Our Parish Walks are free with no prior notice required. Just turn up and enjoy a few hours in our local countryside.

Walking for Health on May 11th is the first 'Awayday' of the year. We will be going to Cleobury Golf Club so please meet at the Social Club car park in time for a 10.00 am start. Transport is provided if required and refreshments will be available at the Golf Club. The walk on May 25th will start at 10.00 outside the Market Hall as usual. Walking for Health continues to be popular with over 20 people meeting to walk and socialise.

*Veronica Hargreaves*

## SILLY BIT

**When you're dead you don't feel anything and nobody notices except other people. The same thing applies when you're stupid.**

**Suzanne France**



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It's a bit late in the year to be talking about winter visitors but some of ours don't seem to want to leave. Last month we saw a small flock of Bramblings under the garden bird feeders on several occasions, clearing up the spillage from the Great and Blue Tits, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Nuthatches. They like to feed in beech woodlands from September to March or April, but when the beech mast is finished (and the area of beech trees in the Wyre Forest is pretty limited) they visit nearby fields to eat weed seeds and grain. Sometimes they join flocks of Chaffinches, which is very confusing as they look alike. The individual in the photo seemed to have missed her flight home to the breeding grounds of the Scandinavian birch woods, and hung about the farm for a bit longer. Perhaps she was looking for a Place in the Sun.



In the last few weeks we have also had visits from a 'pair' of Mandarin Ducks. (I write 'pair' because the lady was definitely a Mallard). Mandarins are interesting: although they are native to the far-east they have made themselves at home in the British Isles and large numbers can be seen

on the Severn during the winter, particularly near Trimley Reservoir. They have a diet very similar to the Brambling and, rather surprisingly, can perch in trees and like to nest in large tree holes. We discovered this fact when our only old apple tree at Unclyls was chosen as a nest site in 2008. We watched fascinated as they came and went, building the nest, and wondered how the ducklings would negotiate the ascent of the hollow trunk to reach water. Maybe the mother realised her mistake – at any rate the nest was abandoned.

I've been reading 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree: the story of the re-wilding of the Knepp Estate in Sussex. One of their earliest success stories was of the Turtle Dove. Threatened with extinction in Britain, the estate saw numbers of singing males rise from one or two in 2001 to 16 by 2017. I had to resort to the RSPB website to find out what a Turtle Dove would sound like, but its throaty, purring call would have been a common sound in the Wyre Forest up until the mid-seventies when numbers here and in the rest of the nation went into a steep decline. They used to be found in tall scrub and young plantations, often nesting in older conifers, and feed in weedy arable fields. Now that grain harvests are followed so quickly by winter crops there is little quantity or time for the birds to feed or raise second broods and they are almost literally squeezed out. (Thanks to 'The Nature of Wyre' for this information). What would it take for our forest, the Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve, to see the Turtle Dove return?

*Linda Iles*

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## Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

I know there has been considerable concern locally about delays to ambulance responses to emergency calls from South Shropshire. I assure you I am also very anxious about ambulance response times.

West Midlands Ambulance Service do acknowledge ambulance response times are not at all near to where they need to be for Shropshire. From their own statistics, which I have requested and seen, the reason behind this is clear - the issue has been exacerbated by long delays to handovers at hospital, which prevents crews from getting back out on the road.

This has been building since last July when many covid restrictions were lifted. I have been engaging with WMAS and NHS leaders in Shropshire since then, and have met WMAS senior leaders to discuss response times across South Shropshire. I have also raised cases where constituents have suffered delays for ambulances (mostly in non life-threatening emergencies, it must be stressed).

Following my conversations with the WMAS Chief Executive, I am calling on Shropshire CCG for support to recruit and train more ambulance crews, so we can put more ambulances on the road in Shropshire, while patients wait to be handed over at hospitals. I am also engaging with our acute hospitals, to ensure they do all they can to speed up handovers, to return as soon as possible to the efficiency they have managed previously.

I know they move directly from call to call, with around half of their attendances in Shropshire currently leading to conveyance of a patient to hospital. Crews start and end their day in an ambulance hub to collect and return their vehicle, but are otherwise on the road attending

calls. So a return to localised hubs won't fix this issue. I am also working with WMAS to encourage more community first responders.

Community First Responders act as a rapid first point of contact in emergencies, before an ambulance can arrive. They are trained to provide basic lifesaving care, and work as volunteers in the community around their schedules. In incidences of cardiac arrest, CFRs and members of the public trained in CPR and the use of the defibrillators can be the difference between life and death, particularly in rural locations, as after a cardiac arrest, for every minute that no-one is doing CPR, the chance of survival drops by 10%.

When I spoke to the Chief Executive of WMAS in March, I raised my concern that there were no live adverts to recruit Community First Responders in the West Midlands. He put this right rapidly, and applications for the next course went live the next day. If you or anyone you know are interested, please visit [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) and search for "WMAS".

I also suggested a programme of engagement by WMAS with the public in South Shropshire. WMAS arranged for staff to be on hand at Ludlow Market Square on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, to exhibit their vehicles and answer questions from the public about the process of joining as a Community First Responder. I was really pleased with the response from WMAS and the public, so will be looking to repeat this pilot in other towns in South Shropshire.

I shall continue to work with WMAS and SaTH to do all I can to see ambulance response times improve in South Shropshire.

*Philip Dunne*



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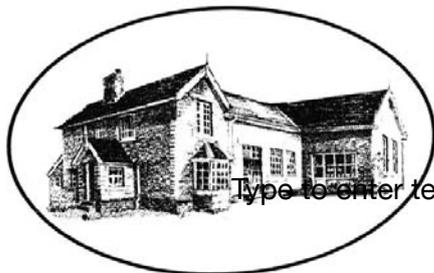
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*Ms. Jolanda Simmonds  
Head Teacher*

*\*Spaces currently in Years 4, 5 & 6, and we are also welcoming Parents & Carers of September 2019 intake.  
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Rated "Outstanding" in our latest SIAMs inspection (March 2018).

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Our school vision: We aim for everyone to be a part of our community, be life-long learners who are confident, enthusiastic, valued and reach their God given full potential.



**TEME LEISURE -  
BUILDING A BETTER  
FUTURE**



*Deana Edwards, one of the instructors at Teme Leisure*

The Teme Leisure fitness suites have had a complete refurbishment of both the Cleobury and Ludlow facilities. A visit to the Cleobury branch was a real eye-opener, with the whole range of equipment updated and the place looking like it's brand new. It may be the same building, but the rest of it is new - a place we should all be proud of.

Modern equipment impresses, shiny new even if it does the same job that early users of the place will remember. This is a serious investment of about £400,000 in encouraging all ages to get fitter, from athletes to the

senior citizens who just want to move without feeling it's too much for ageing limbs.

For the more mature amongst us, there's a GP Scheme where your doctor refers you to the gym and you have a consultation with an instructor like Deana Edwards or Carl Brookes, who show you the range of equipment and how to use it. If you're happy and want to go ahead, you start with a three month pass that lets you come along when it suits and gradually build up your strength. Not body building, but just agility and ease of movement. The result is better health, possibly weight loss if you're carrying too much and better mental health. Look in at [www.teme-leisure.co.uk](http://www.teme-leisure.co.uk) to learn more.

**THE BRITISH LEGION**

On March 20th, the Branch held its Annual Luncheon. Over 40 members and guests enjoyed the meal, and were then entertained by Clare Hadwell, recalling some of her experiences of the thirty years she spent as a teacher of the children of UK service personnel in Germany and Belgium.

Our next event is a Branch outing to Wormelow on July 10, to take part in the 2022 Violette

Szabo Day. This commemorates one of the only three women winners of the George Cross in World War Two. Violette was an agent of the Special Operations Executive, working behind enemy lines in Occupied France. In 1944, during her second mission, she was captured and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she was shot in early 1945. In 2000, Rosemary Rigby established a small Violette Szabo museum at Wormelow, and has held a celebration of Violette's life every summer since then.

The Legion is organising a coach trip there for the day, and all are welcome to join. The day will include a short commemorative service and a tea. The coach will leave the Talbot Hotel at noon, and tickets cost £15 each. Please apply to Mark Baldwin (270110), Mike Hermolle (271384) or Ron Breakwell (270830).

The Cleobury Branch of the Legion (not 'Royal' until 1971) was formed in 1921, less than two months after the new national body had been created on to represent the interests of ex-servicemen. Our branch is one of the oldest in the country.

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# Jubilee Afternoon Tea

Cleobury Mortimer Festival Celebrations

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 2:00pm

Lacon Childe School



We are celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee  
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This is a limited Ticket event with proceeds going to Charity

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## CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

I always like to be the bearer of good news. This month I can tell you that Opening the Ark, a project for churchyards within the AONB or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is coming to a church near you this summer. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund it's focussing on 26 specific churchyards and surrounding communities.

The aim is to work with lots of *you* to improve the biodiversity within burial grounds and to extend that biodiversity out to the wider community. Plans for discovery days in and around eight churches are already under way with six already identified. Work has started on planning those days, to make them fascinating for all age groups. Kirsty Stevens and her assistant Megan Gallant are already working in some local schools, providing educational opportunities for children.



*Volunteers hard at work in Hope Bagot churchyard, bringing a little order to a very beautiful setting.*

So what might you discover going on in your local or nearby churchyard? Well you might find yourself putting up boxes for swifts to live in or making bug hotels. You could be improving habitats in your local school. You would love creating areas of wild flowers in your village, because flowers always cheer us all up (and a variation on dandelions on our verges would make a better display).

Out of the Ark (OtA) will be in Clun churchyard on 26<sup>th</sup> June coinciding with Clun Open gardens. In Stoke St. Milborough, OtA will be running a session with Bitterley School pupils to coincide with their Bell Festival on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Before all of these, Kirsty will be talking to

the WI in Caynham on 11<sup>th</sup> May, so they will know all about it this month.

If you have never thought of your churchyard as a place with lots going on, you could find more happening than anywhere else in the last two years (that is a COVID joke!). The other thing to remember is that all these activities and more are free. If you have children they could have a great time at any one of these events, gaining more knowledge and making some fascinating things too. All adults are equally welcome – the more the merrier.

The list below will give you more of the places signed up to the project, and planning events this Summer. If you want more information email Kirsty Stevens, [kirsty@cfga.org.uk](mailto:kirsty@cfga.org.uk). You should not have to travel far to learn things that could make our communities richer in nature and better places to live. All the events run from 2-00 to 5.00pm. Hope to see you there.

Bromfield –22<sup>nd</sup> May; Hope Bagot - 3<sup>rd</sup> July; .

Norbury – 16<sup>th</sup> July; Clungunford –29<sup>th</sup> July;

Bishop's Castle –19<sup>th</sup> August; Buildwas –10<sup>th</sup> September.

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

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

[www.discovershropshirechurches.c.uk](http://www.discovershropshirechurches.c.uk)

## BEWARE - ANOTHER SCAM

I received a letter today, with the heading 'Consumer Rights' with an EPC document attached. It looks official and makes reference to government insulation schemes and refers to a statement of intent from Ceredigion Council which it claims 'can be found online at [shropshire.gov.uk](http://shropshire.gov.uk)'. I certainly could not find the document. The letter (in both Welsh and English) states that government funded upgrades are available 'at no cost to you' with ECO funding.

It lists a range of people who 'could' be eligible to have things paid for.

Overall, the letter gives the impression that it has been sent by a government organisation. It asks the recipient to 'please call us regarding your EPC', etc. An internet search reveals that this is a private company, Consumer Rights Energy Limited. However, nowhere on the letter do the words 'Energy Limited' appear. This is obviously a scam (a crafty one - given that the person being scammed pays for the call!), and I can't help wondering how many people might get sucked into their scheme. *Peter Hill*



Doddington Lodge

Residential Care Home



Remember to follow us

# Doddington Lodge Post

## HILDA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



It's been a wonderful time celebrating such a special birthday. Champagne, live music, dancing and singing. Lots of cards, flowers and presents. Family & friends made Hilda's day one to remember. And of course a show stopper birthday cake creation by Rachel. A 3 tier cake as Hilda was know for her beautiful wedding cakes. Thank you to everyone that sent Birthday messages and cards, especially the one from the Queen. A special thank you to the children in Year 2 Leopards from Tenbury Primary School and children from the Learning Zone in Dubai English Speaking School who sent beautiful cards for Hilda's 100th Birthday.



## SUMMER FETE

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

To find out more or to confirm you would like to book please contact: [reception@doddingtonlodge.com](mailto:reception@doddingtonlodge.com)

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We hope you have a wonderful Easter holiday, with lots of Easter Eggs and time with family & friends. A few of our Residents had lovely Easter portraits taken.

**CHILDREN OF LACON CHILDE SCHOOL  
& CLEE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT  
DODDINGTON LODGE**

What a wonderful visit we had from the children of Lacon Childe School and Clee Hill Primary School. A poetry recital with lots of happy smiling children and residents, it was lovely to see and hear fun and laughter here at Doddington Lodge. The residents really enjoyed hearing poetry that was familiar to them, such as *The Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen, *The Locomotive* by Julian Tuwin and *The Smile* by Spike Milligan.

Our residents absolutely loved meeting the pupils and the pupils engaged so openly that it was a pleasure to see. Eileen and Joan met the children that they write to regularly which was lovely. Thank you to everyone. We hope we can arrange more visits on a regular basis.



★ **TEAM SPOTLIGHT** ★  
*Leanne Pipe*

Leanne has been with us at Doddington Lodge for just over 12 months as Senior Night Carer. Leanne lives in Stottesdon with her Labrador and crazy parrot. She has grown up sons, loves to have lunches and drinks with friends, going camping and exercising at the gym.

Leanne loves working nights at Doddington Lodge as the atmosphere is calm and relaxed and she enjoys the company and working with the other team members. Everyone is happy to see Leanne, she always has a smile, even when handing over after a 12-hour shift. She's bubbly with a really great sense of humour. A very popular member of staff. We are very lucky to have Leanne as part of the Doddington Lodge Team.

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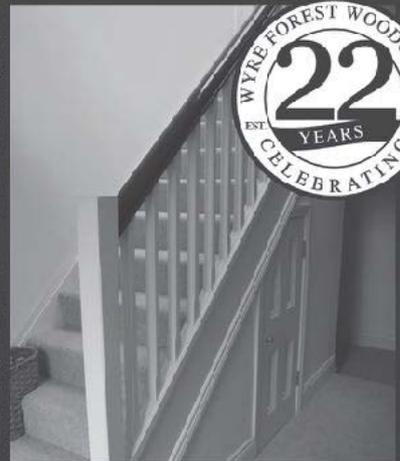
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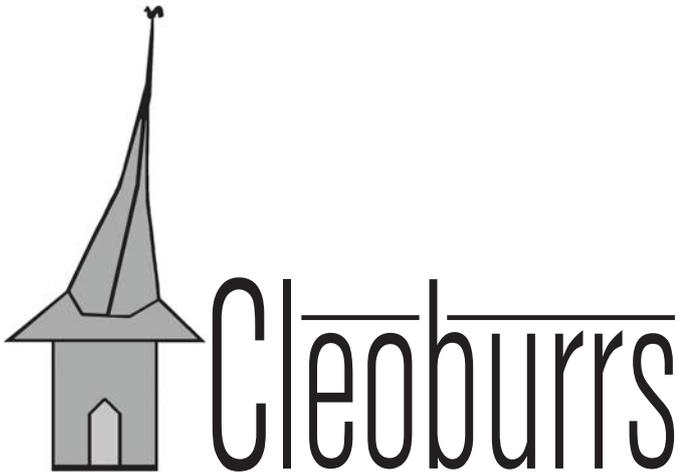
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## DODDINGTON

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, an exhibition will share local stories about the people and the area over the last 70 years. Open daily from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in St John's Church Drop in any time between 10am and 5pm to learn how the community has changed over the years, read and hear local people's memories, some recorded for the first time. And what would a visit to St John's be without a cuppa and refreshments? Park at the Village Hall or the nearby cattle grid, but please keep the bus stop clear If you have anything you would like to contribute to the exhibition, there is still time – please contact us as below.

Our new path has been well used since completion and we need to update thanks to grant funders: Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation together covered the cost of the path; we are very grateful to both. Church Walking Pilgrimages' grant can be put towards the toilet we will be installing. For up to date news follow us on Facebook: @StJohnsDoddington, or check our website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/)

[church/10505/](http://church/10505/) Email: [stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com)  
Celia Gibb 01584 318036

## NEEN SAVAGE

### SUNFLOWERS

What a colourful idea. Neen Savage have a Sunflower Growing Competition, open to everyone within a 15 mile radius of the village. Seeds and entry forms are available at the Cleobury Farmers Market or from Cleobury Country Centre, Gallaghers, Neen Savage church after services there, or you can contact organiser Emma Haywood on 07748 131 486 or [ghaywood137@btinternet.com](mailto:ghaywood137@btinternet.com).

The entry fee is £5.00 per family and for that you get ten seeds to plant, nurture and maybe win one of a range of prizes. Proceeds go to St Mary's church in Neen and the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Ukraine. Judging will be at entrants' homes around the end of August, date to be confirmed. And the idea should bring another splash of colour to the summer. Good luck!

## CHRISTINE PRICE

Christine passed away on March 23rd after 18 years of fighting progressive multiple sclerosis with berecellar ataxia. Through the 12 years she and husband Stuart lived in Ditton Mill Park,

she was cared for by him and carers and nurses. She and Stuart had been married almost 37 years and she was assistant ,manager at a restaurant in Belbroughton before they moved to Ditton Mill and a quiet country life. She enjoyed occasional trips across the Welsh border to Saundersfoot, plus visits to local shops and to the hairdresser. She may have been ill, but still cared about her appearance

Sympathies of all who knew her go to Stuart, her brothers Peter and Brian and all who knew her.

## POTHOLE OF THE MONTH



This is an old friend, the reason your car gives a 'cerlunk' as you drive down Childe Road and on into Back Lane. Overlooked in a recent drive to repair our roads and still there when we looked on April 22nd.



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Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – 8.30am and 10am Eucharist  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May– 10am Eucharist  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May- 10am Eucharist  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Benefice Eucharist

**St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May- 9.30am Eucharist  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May - 9.30am Eucharist

**St John the Baptist, Doddington**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 3pm Archdeacon Reopening of Newly Accessible Path  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 3pm Evening Prayer

**All Saints', Neen Sollars**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May– 11.am Village Worship  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May– 11.am Eucharist  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May– 11.am Village Worship  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 11.00am Village Worship

**St George's, Milson**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May– 11.15am Eucharist

**St Mary's, Neen Savage**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May– 6pm Evening Prayer BCP

**St John the Baptist, Kinlet**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May– 11.15am Eucharist BCP  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6.00pm Evening Prayer BCP

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## Simon Morton in the Garden.

### Two Sides of the Same Coin

The garden is back...and it's blooming lovely.

After a seemingly endless winter of soginess, winds and general meh-ness, a sunny Easter Bank Holiday Weekend prompted a major push by flora and fauna. And when the plants are happy, the gardeners are too.

Positivity abounds. My beds of tulips - long term readers of this column will be aware of the stress-induced headaches they have brought to the Morton potting shed - have burst forth and are looking pretty ruddy marvellous. Granted, the colour scheme is a little wonky - all the red ones came up first, followed by pink and then yellow - and their success *has* highlighted some major bare patches in parts of the scheme, but I'm a very happy chappy.

Also, some weird white daffodil hybrid bulbs I planted in the Autumn have (finally) made an appearance and are lighting up a path like an airport runway. They're cracking and already on the shopping list for later in the year.

Even a mysterious pack of seeds I bought on a whim labelled 'Greenhouse Lucky Dip' seem to be putting in a shift and germinating. This really will be a voyage of discovery as the pack contained a real smorgasbord of seeds - some were the size of a particularly juicy grape, others absolutely minuscule (I'm actually a little worried that the tiny seeds weren't actually seeds at all, but dust and debris in the bottom of the packet - have I been sowing dust?!) Either way, a patchy tray

of green shoots of God-only-knows-what is slowly making an appearance in a greenhouse near you.

So, in short, my current gardening status: Giddy as a kipper.

However, it's not all been sunshine and tulip displays. I'm also in trouble.

I innocently/stupidly (delete as applicable) left a pair of secateurs in my trouser pockets, and they somehow made it into our washing machine. I'll spare you the details, but it's safe to say that the noise the washing machine made when building up to the spin cycle will haunt me for weeks.

Sadly, this is not my first offence. Far from it. Baling twine (the most indestructible material known to man) is a regular visitor to the washing machine filter. Same goes for soggy seed packets, pens and those little white label thingies. While ours is a strong marriage, and I have every confidence we'll weather the 'secateur-gate' storm, I have been checking to see if I can fit a camp bed into the greenhouse (just in case).

Here, dear reader, are the two sides of the gardening coin in microcosm. The positive - verdant tulip displays, freshly mown lawns - and the negative - costly washing machine repairs. Sounds like a fair trade-off to me, but what do you think?

No matter how you spend the next month, I hope you get the chance to enjoy the many positives of a garden at this time of year. Oh, and check your pockets before sticking them in the laundry basket.

*Simon Morton*

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**THE BREAKFAST CLUB**

There was another good turn-out of members at the Cleobury Golf Club in April to hear Councillor John Greaves tackle the weighty subject of Energy and Climate Change. John is particularly well fitted to speak on this subject as he is Technical Lead at the Energy Research Partnership, a public-private partnership seeking to foster innovation in the energy sector, with the aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions nationally.

John gave out some well-produced factsheets, showing our current energy use, how it is generated, and future trends. The UK government stated last year that no energy would be generated from fossil fuels in the UK by 2035. This is not actually achievable, given the variability of wind and solar power, our very slow progress towards increasing our nuclear capacity, and the increasing demand from electric vehicle charging. In fact, with the necessary decommissioning of some of our older nuclear power stations, the contribution of nuclear will probably fall over the next few years.

Quite rightly, John emphasised that careful use of energy, even at household level, could make a useful contribution to reducing our overall carbon emissions. The cheapest low-carbon energy is the energy we do not use! John will be back at the Club in July to explore other aspects of the Climate Change Challenge and the impact we are already witnessing.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 10th at the Golf Club, when our speaker will be Mark 'Jock' Brown, whose subject will be 'The Myth-burdened Electric Car'. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

*Mark Baldwin*

**SAVE OUR CURLEWS  
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Over 40 local people are helping with the Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey this year, the most since we started 11 years ago. It's not too late to help, if you want to join in. There was an increase in the local Curlew population from 8 to 10 breeding pairs in 2021, so that's two pieces of excellent news to start our 2022 fieldwork season!!!

We are also continuing to work with the Shropshire Ornithological Society, to find as many Curlew nests as we can, to put an electric fence around them to protect the eggs from predation, and then attach radio tags to the chicks that fledge, to track them and see what happens to them. Before we can fence their nests, we need to find all the breeding pairs of Curlews. We need your help. If you see or hear a Curlew, please tell us.

We would also like to know if you see or hear any Lapwing, Kestrel or Cuckoo, or see evidence of breeding Red Kite, or just want to join our survey, please contact Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: [chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk](mailto:chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk))

*Leo Smith*

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The much delayed process of recruiting new Police officers following the panic stricken and botched 'Austerity' cuts of 2010 seems to have hit problems. You might recall that up to 20,000 experienced officers were 'let go' and are being replaced with new recruits. The Police Federation have expressed doubts over the quality of many of the candidates who are 'surprised' that they have to work weekends and lack confidence when dealing with people. Up to 19% of recruits are leaving before they qualify and potential officers get anxious when speaking to the public, can't speak to people on the telephone and run away from physical violence leaving their tutor at risk.

One knocked on a door and ran away before it was answered and, in one instance, a tutor supported a group of eight trainees. One was dismissed, two resigned, two were on long term sick leave and one was under investigation for gross misconduct. Just what the service needs to cope with increasing crime...One problem seems to be the priority given to academic learning rather than people skills, all tied in with the requirement to have or obtain a university degree. This goes back to the policy of universities shielding students from any reference to wickedness and issuing health warnings for works by Shakespeare and other classics. As in the case of social workers, these candidates appear to be unsuited to the work they are expected to perform so should you see a policeman (or woman) on the street, don't be surprised if they ask you to see them across the road...

On a related subject, going back several months, you may recall the case of a terminally ill man who was wrestled to the ground by six police officers after 'mooning' at a speed camera. He is now due to appear in court charged with, amongst other things, 'causing harassment, alarm or distress' presumably to all the officers involved in flattening him. Still, this must be good news because if West Mercia Police have the time

and energy to pursue a case like this, it means that they have fixed all the more serious stuff such as assault, burglary, drug dealing etc. Oh, hang on a minute.....

So the damning report on the Shrewsbury maternity scandal has now been made public and no punches have been pulled. There was a toxic regime in place for nearly two decades with a number of senior managers coming and going – often to better (paid) jobs without sorting things out. Matters were not helped by a policy of encouraging 'natural' births which was pushed by both the NHS and the Royal College of Midwives and included criticism of trusts with a higher than average number of Caesarian births. It would appear that at Shrewsbury, this principle was taken to extremes with intervention being delayed far too long in many cases. No news yet of any of the senior staff involved being brought to account but if the Post Office scandal is any guide, don't hold your breath...

I read with interest the case of the swimmer in the USA who was not a star performer as a man but 'changed horses' as it were to wipe the floor with his/her/their competitors in a womens event a few weeks later. I didn't think too much about this until I saw a photo of the first three finishers. The winner was about a foot taller than the second and third placed entrants and built like the proverbial brick outhouse compared with them. Time for a separate class in these cases?.

Astronomers have discovered a galaxy that was created earlier than any previously found and dating back to a few hundred million years after the 'Big Bang'. Scientists have still to confirm the age but if true, it could be even older than some of the potholes around Cleobury.

Cricket does have its uses. The author George Bernard Shaw once said that 'The English are not a very spiritual people so they invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity'.

*Ariadne J Grumpy*

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# THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	6-7pm	Evening Opening of the Foodbank		
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders stride out from the Button Oak Inn. PAGE 21		
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Creative Writing Group meet at the Library. PAGE 17		
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Cleobury WI meet at the Market Hall to hear about Tai Chi. PAGE 15		
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health have an Away Day at the Golf Club. PAGE 21		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Royal British Legion meet at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Fun Quiz at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon. £5 per head entry.		
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	Car Boot Sale at St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street. PAGE 5		
	09.30	Plant Sale at the Market Hall. PAGE 17		
	7.30	Cleobury Concert Brass concert at the Parish Hall. PAGE 19		01584 891199
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Clows Top Victory Hall AGM, guess where? PAGE 17		
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Parish Hall Annual General Meeting. PAGE 15		
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders walk out from The Cat Inn, Stourbridge. PAGE 21		
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>		"Everything But The Band" provide live music at the Fighting Cocks		
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30/12.30	The Cleobury Country Farmers Market in and around St Marys Church		
	10.00	Clows Top Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at Victory Hall. PAGE 5		
	7.30	"Flicks in the Sticks" at the Parish Hall. Kenneth Branagh "Belfast" PAGE 13		
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	1.00	Stroke Support and Carets Groups meet at St Mary's Place. PAGE 19		
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Market Hall. PAGE 21		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	6.30	Clows Top Garden Club leave for visit to Moors Meadow Garden. PAGE 5		
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Bingo at The Fighting Cocks pub, Stottesdon. Basket meals available.		
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	The Cycling Sportive rides out from the Leisure Centre. PAGE 11		
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets meet at the Library. PAGE 17		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE.....		
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> /sun 5 <sup>th</sup>		"A Century of Flowers" display in the Parish Church. PAGE 13		
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>		CMFA special walk from the Parish Church. PAGE 21		
	2.00	Jubilee Afternoon Tea at Lacon Childe School. PAGE 28		
		JUST A REMINDER OF THESE REGULAR EVENTS.....		
		Every Monday, except Bank Holidays, Bingo in the Market Hall at 8.00		

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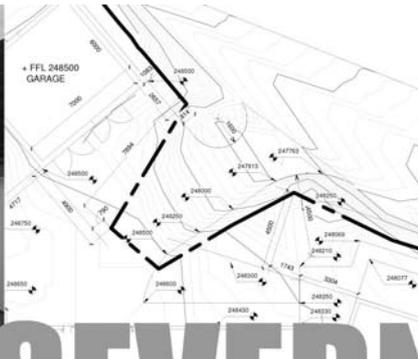
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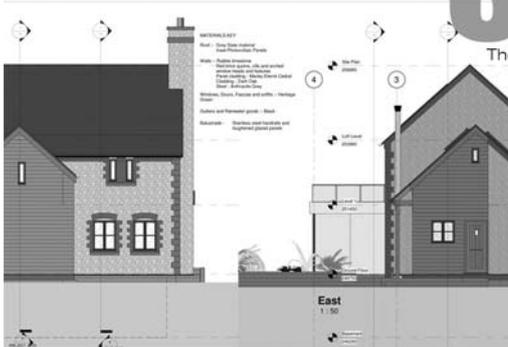


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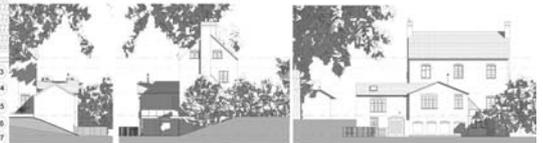
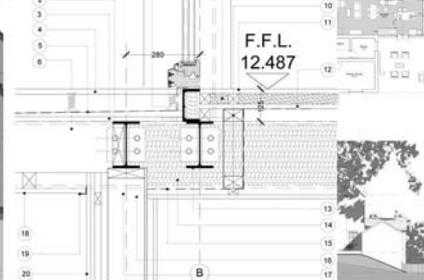


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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### THE TOWN FESTIVAL IS BACK

June the 4<sup>th</sup> sees the Festival back after two years and the Volunteer Group look forward to seeing you there.

We are happy to have for the first time two new attractions for children, which are free.

The "Slackline School" will be there all day with two instructors to teach all ages how to walk a very low elevated wire in a safe and fully supervised manner.

Peter Chand, Story Teller, will be bringing two story tellers who will entertain and captivate children and maybe perhaps grown ups? They will be on site all day offering sessions hourly from noon to 4.30 pm. Regularly seen at Hopton Court and further afield they offer genuine "telling" rather than just reading ... not to be missed.

With us again is Anthony Arnold who will be greeting visitors as they arrive, with circus skills and offering to teach anyone who wants to try to learn some over a two hour period in the afternoon. Again, this is free.

There will be a range of makers, designers and artisans both inside Lacon Childe School

and out on the field. Local groups, organisations and business will be represented. Games and entertainment will be offered by local youth organisations.

Always popular is the Dog Show with classes to suit every type of dog and handler organised by Birch Hill Dog Rescue. Cleobury Concert Brass will close things with an hour's concert at 3.00pm

There will be a wide range of meals, snacks and drinks available to suit all budgets, including Speciality coffee and soft drinks and of course ice cream.

The Festival Volunteers Group pack as much in as they can so by the day I am sure there will be much more to see and do. Please come and join us.

*Paul French*

### A JUBILEE BEACON IN THE QE 11 PARK

Not yet but there will be very shortly, because the Council commissioned and have had built a custom made beacon which will be placed in the Park and will remain there permanently.

This really will be the "Cleobury Beacon" as all those involved in its design, production and placing are makers, craft people and

volunteers from our community. The siting for the beacon is close to the newly installed steps in the park.

The intention is to light the beacon at sunset on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.09pm and join with other such events around the UK and the Commonwealth.

The Sports and Social Club will be open serving drinks and discussions are taking place to discover what else may be possible on the evening.

Further information will follow.

*Paul French*

### TAYLORS REUNITED

Those lovely ladies the Taylor Twins, Vanessa and Lisa -yes, they're married but that's how most people know them - had a big birthday in March. And a great, friendly party at the Sports and Social Club. Amongst the honoured guests was Eric, their dad, who they made extra welcome.



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**Cleobury Clarion May 2022**



"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."



## **CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB**

### Coffee Shop, Climb61, Youth Events

Mondays - 9:30am - 8pm

Tuesdays - 9:30am - 9pm

Fridays - 9:30am - 5:30pm

We had a wonderful time at our Shropshire HAF Holiday Club on the first three days of the Easter Holidays, we played games, climbed, did crafts, had hot lunches (including home made pizza) and had a lot of fun!! Thank you so much to those who volunteered and donated food and cakes.

The Community Hub was then open during the second week of half term for people to enjoy milkshakes, coffees and cakes as well as have a climb or relax with friends.

#### **FOCUS ON: May Ladies Night @ Climb61**

**An evening for all ladies, whether you have climbed before or have never tried and would like to have a go. We can guarantee a friendly welcome with tea / coffee and biscuits as well as the opportunity to climb in a supportive and fun environment.**

*Don't forget our regular activities:*

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

*Tuesdays - Climb61 Bouldering, Soft Play, Coffee Shop*

*Wednesdays - Hub Youth - Wed 11th first one of May (alternate weeks)*

*Thursdays - Hub Youth - Thurs 5th first one of May (alternate weeks)*

*Fridays - Climb61 Bouldering, Soft Play, Coffee Shop*

#### **Climb61 Session Times - To book: [www.smypp.org.uk](http://www.smypp.org.uk)**

**Mondays** 1:15pm-2:45pm, 6:30pm-8pm

**Tuesdays** - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm,  
5:45pm-7:15pm,

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



@cleoburycommunityhub

@saintmarysyouthproject @cleoburycommunityhub

## NINEVEH RIDGE CARE FARM

Nineveh Ridge is a not for profit care farm for learning disability adults of all ages. We are on the back road between Cleobury Mortimer, and Bayton (only 2 miles from Clows Top). We pride ourselves on putting our service users first, and providing activities that suit all ages, capabilities, and interests. Nineveh Ridge Care Farm was established in 2008 with around 20 service users. Now in 2022, we have more than 50 that have regular visits every week.

We provide activities such as, farm animal care, craft, cooking, music, drama and much more. There is never a dull day at the farm, with joking, laughing, and fooling about, what's not to like! If you think Nineveh is something that you, or someone you know would be interested in, Feel free to contact Martin, Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 3.30pm on, 01299 832864. Or email [ninevehridge@gmail.com](mailto:ninevehridge@gmail.com). Alternatively, visit our website [www.ninevehridgecarefarm.org.uk](http://www.ninevehridgecarefarm.org.uk) or visit our Facebook page.

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Page 55



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Welcome to the April edition of my series of Beating the Scammers. I was gratified to hear from a reader of the Clarion that this person was recently targeted for the so called 'family member in distress' scam. The reader received a social media message. Fortunately, the reader was wise to the scam and reacted totally appropriately and avoided a significant loss. This was what the reader sent. *"I recently had a what's app message which I presumed, at first, was from my daughter. It said that she had dropped her phone and broke it and needed to make a couple of payments. I then remembered the piece in the Clarion regarding a similar message that had been received by one of your readers. So immediately rang my daughter on the landline to ask if she had made this request. As I thought, she hadn't. The first payment they asked for was £941.82; they gave the account name, account number and sort code number for me to transfer the money to. Of course, I immediately deleted the message but first of all I sent all the details to the Action Fraud line."*

Well done that reader, the sum asked for was very significant which suggests to me that these scammers are upping the game somewhat. There is no indication that losses to scammers are reducing. Not so long ago, loss to members of the public was generally through residential burglary and in 2020/2021 it was around £9 million over 267,000 offences. In the same period 412,553 scam offences were reported to the authorities, representing a staggering £2.3 billion. An incredible 5583% increase. Much of this activity has been reported as the increased use of social media including the advertising of goods and services which is increasing with social media such as Facebook. Online shopping scams topped the table as criminals took advantage of the fact that locked-down consumers were buying more items via the internet. These scams – which included people unknowingly buying from fake websites and then finding that the goods never arrive – surged by 65% over the year, with more than 103,000 reports from victims. The total amount lost to this scam was £69m, equating to an average of £674 per reported incident. This underlines the simple warnings that we read such as 'If something looks too good to be true, it probably is' Checking the source of an advert that looks

attractive is not easy, but to give one example, a recent post on a Facebook Community group advertised a service that looked very attractive. But after a few simple checks it was established, the advertiser was fictitious, the face of a mid-30's woman and the name of a very mature US Congress person. Clearly this was one to avoid, with some of the comments from others suggested that this was very much a fake advert. Investment fraud accounted for the most money reported lost overall, at £535m. That works out as an average of £25,489 for each of the 20,989 reported incidents. This type of fraud – incidence of which rose by 50% in a year – typically involves people being tricked into thinking they are making a genuine investment with the prospect of lucrative returns. Some locked-down consumers have ended up losing money after using search engines to research investments, while others were tricked by adverts on social media sites. Many scams involve cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin or schemes that claim to offer early access to pension pots, and some ads carry fake celebrity endorsements. Loneliness has always been a serious issue in our communities and the impact of the internet and social media has led to a significant increase in people looking for love and long-term relationships. Last year Dating scams increased by 40%. These typically involve individuals being tricked into transferring money to people they have met online and not yet face to face. When the scammer has been successful, he or she suddenly disappears (with the money of course). I read recently of one very sad case where a single person was scammed out of an astounding £35,000 in a dating scam. This type of activity and all other scams where people love money is horrific and leaves individuals scarred emotionally, sometimes for life. Please don't be one of these people. Take a moment to **STOP! THINK! CHECK!** If in any doubt don't proceed, report to the authorities if you are suspicious. **STAY SAFE.**

*Nigel*



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## The Town Council Report

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### Dog Mess

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

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

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

### Trees

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

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

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

Enforcement action may be taken by the planning authority where the six weeks notice is not given and trees refelled or pruned. Those who damage or carry out work without permission on a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or in a Conservation Area may be fined up to £20,000,

prosecuted for felling without a licence, or served a notice to replace any protected trees that have been destroyed. Serious offences may be escalated to Crown Court trial and result in an unlimited fine.

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

Make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to protect the trees if justified in the interests of amenity. Any future works proposals would then have to be the subject of a formal complaint under the TPO regulations, or

decide not to make a TPO and allow a six week period to expire and make no formal reply, at which point the applicant has de facto permission to carry out the proposed work as long as it is carried out within two years of the date of the notice, or

decide not to make a TPO and inform the applicant that the work can go ahead.

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

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



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# Richard Haines

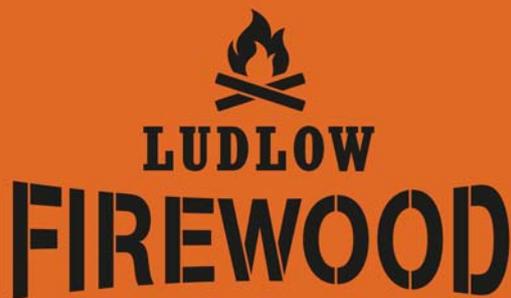
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## In Business - Ludlow Firewood

This is a business built on good, solid common sense foundations. Kevin and Kai Smart were trading as Ludlow Salvage and noticed how many slabs they were supplying for local stove installers to use as a firm base for stoves. Wood burning stoves, a logical choice where mains gas supply is rare. If stoves were so popular - Kevin reckoned about 300 a year were being installed - then supplying logs would be logical extension of the business.

They talked to stove installers and realised that decent quality wood was the obvious choice, not just any old oddments you might find in the woods that could be rotten or damp. For the best heat output and rapid warm up times, thoroughly dry wood is the answer. I can write about that with some feeling, having had a log burner installed 30 plus years ago and finding dry wood a very rare commodity. And if it's not properly dried, you get poor heat output and a very mucky chimney that needs sweeping frequently.

They searched the internet, realised that log supply in some other countries was a vital part of a comfortable winter in cold climates and began to ask questions. A long winded job? Certainly not an overnight one, but the

Smarts were determined that if they were going to go into the log business, they'd do it as well as possible.

Their questioning and searching found the answer with the importer of kiln-dried logs from a major timber company in Latvia who had just what they wanted.



*Kevin Smart and a stock of clean, kiln-dried logs in wooden crates, ready for delivery.*

They come packed in a cubic metre sized crate, very tightly packed and held together by wooden laths with a supporting steel band. Kevin favours the birch as the best burner and in common with most of Europe, ash is no longer processed because of the danger from ash die-back disease.

Delivery is by small truck with a modest size stacking trolley to unload and deliver to wherever you want it. If

you want to leave your cube outside, they'll supply a fitted woven plastic cover with easy access to the logs by lifting the cover away from its Velcro fastening. It really is as easy as it sounds. The logs are 10 inches long (25 centimetres if you prefer) so easily fit into any stove.

The current requirement that logs are kiln dried so that the moisture content is no more than 20 percent is easily met - it's a lot less than that. So clean burning, easy to start and rapid warmth to make life comfortable.

I have personally bought one of these cubes and it's a revelation how easy it is to get the place warm. One firelighter, a handful of kindling, a match and off you go. Quick and very clean; I'm very happy I chose one.

The Smarts and their crew are easy to deal with and give advice if you want it. Easy peasy warmth .



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*Jim Reynolds*



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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.
CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	<a href="http://www.cleoburydental.co.uk">www.cleoburydental.co.uk</a>
CLEOBURY CARERS	Michelle	01743 341995	<a href="mailto:carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk">carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk</a>
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Jones	07966 080111	Tuesday and Thursday at the Medical Centre
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	<a href="mailto:wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		<a href="mailto:cleoburybeavers@gmail.com">cleoburybeavers@gmail.com</a>
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TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. <a href="http://www.cleobury.org.uk">www.cleobury.org.uk</a> . 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	<a href="mailto:mark.stmarys@live.co.uk">mark.stmarys@live.co.uk</a>
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM		01584 874922	
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**Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in:** Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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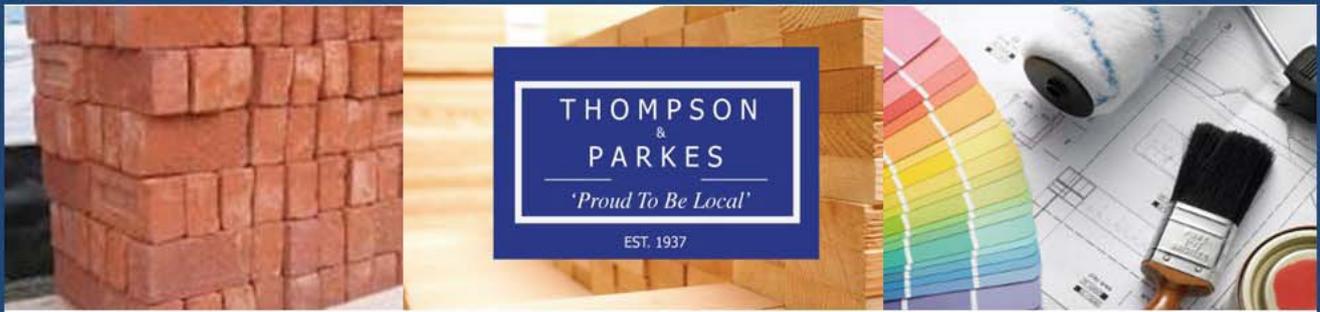
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