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MAY 2023

AN HISTORIC OCCASION

The coronation of His Majesty King Charles this month will be truly historic as he succeeds his quite remarkable mother as our sovereign. That great lady gave him and his wife her blessing in suggesting Camilla be addressed as our Queen.

Whether you agree with the position of the Royal family or not, it is difficult to ignore the time they give to serving the interest of the country. The welcome shown to them when they visit countries that were part of the British Empire reflects the affection and respect they have earned by their kindness and gentle acceptance of a fast world that has changed their lives.

His Majesty as a young man with a strong love of nature was sometimes the subject of mockery as he advocated more awareness of the need to treat our world with respect. He proved to be ahead of his time and a farsighted man.

EATING CAKE FOR THE KING

In a wonderful way of adding to the celebration of King Charles's coronation, Cleobury W.I. will be hosting a fund raising event at the Market Hall on Friday, May 5th, with plenty of tea, home made cakes and scones on offer. Open 3.00 to 5.00, adults eat and sip for just £3.00 and the children for £1.00. All proceeds will go to local charity.

MULLERS TO CLOSE

After much rumour the simple fact is here. The Muller England engineering works closed its operation here in Cleobury Mortimer on April 21st. It continues work at other sites.

The company moved here in the early years of the 1939-45 World War. This was a much safer place than its factory in Park Royal in North West London, where air raids were a great threat. The company has been an asset to the town and we will tell more in June.

NEW FACES IN LOCAL BUSINESS



theagencyuk.com local representatives Tom Jackson and Coralie Walrond.

Two experienced estate agents have combined to represent theagencyuk.com, a fresh approach to the matter of selling houses. Coral Walrond is local, with roots in Oreton, while Tom Jackson hails from just across the county boundary in Hallow. They are both time served in the business and wanted to establish a presence in this area. Read more on Page 12.

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The Cleobury Clarion, May 2023

Volume Nineteen - Edition Two



*It's Back! Pothole of the Month.
See Page 5*



*Jackie Handy's off on a big walk
- across Northern Spain.
See Page 17*



*Bluebells in the woods, one of
spring's finest sights.
Linda Iles writes on Page 23*

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POTHOLE OF THE MONTH RETURNS



*Earls Ditton Lane, Doddington.
The longest pothole in the area?*

Derek Handy has a resident's view of potholes in Earls Ditton Lane;

Might I suggest when your camera is fixed you try travelling down Earls Ditton Lane in Doddington. To be fair there isn't one pothole, the whole road is a pothole. I can understand that some of the single lane roads may not have many residents living along them except for farmers; this road however is home to sixty to seventy residents living at Doddington Heights Park most of whom are elderly, plus the fact that new homes are being built and quite a few existing residents making the road reasonably busy with delivery drivers, tractors, refuse collections etc. The excuse for a road is collapsing at the edges and so badly dented with holes that it is impossible to drive along it without shaking the vehicle from side to side, This is a lovely area to live in spoiled by the difficult approach to the park, the council have said it will be repaired in the next financial year, is that an April

fool or could it be real? Let's believe it when we see it.

Derek Handy

You can't deny that the man says it like it is. So much effort being put into Doddington to attract visitors and learn some of its history and a drive down this lane could put them off for life. JR.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Two events to tell you about this month. On Saturday the 13th, the Plant Sale from 10.00 to 12 noon. We will be part of a Tabletop Sale in the Clows Top Victory Hall. All donations of plants gratefully accepted, up until 10.00 on the morning of the 13th.

Wednesday 24th is the date of our first garden visit. We meet at 6.00 at the Victory Hall to share cars to "Byecroft", situated at Bircher near Leominster.

Byecroft opens for the National Gardens Scheme. It is described as "quiet and intimate, with unusual and interesting plants." Of particular interest this month are early peonies, the Banksia rose, and the orchard with fruit tree blossom, carpeted with wild flowers below. They have plants for sale and offer teas and cakes using the eggs from their own hens. To book a place please contact Elva, on 01299 832288.

New members and visitors are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th and the 24th.

Judith Lawson

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Creation was strictly limited when the editor's computer

refused to let him finish the half written story about 'Looking Forward'. Told verbally from memory, it was a poor offering.

Marian Rees reflected on past changes of scene with time and the need to look ahead. Ever the optimist, her own ambitions for looking ahead were a new dog with good manners and an end to war. Who could argue with that?

Sylvia reflected on matters she once looked forward to and now long in the past. In a life of much change and excitement she had savoured new challenges that seemed to occur roughly every three to four years. After four years in Doddington and the house on the market she summed it up perfectly with 'I think it's time.'

This month we meet in the library at 6.30 on the 8th, to offer ideas on 'Reflection', single or plural. JR

THOSE COLOURFUL KITES ARE COMING BACK

The Shropshire Kite Festival will be back on the Lacon Childe School playing fields on the weekend of July 15th and 16th.

Organisers Helene and Paul will be in charge again, promising lots of colour and a range of activities that fill the local sky with colour and movement - so long as there's a breeze. If you want to know more, early contact with them is at Sky Bums in Wem on 01939 234486 or look in at www.kites@skybums.com

It's a friendly event, with visitors welcome and admission free.



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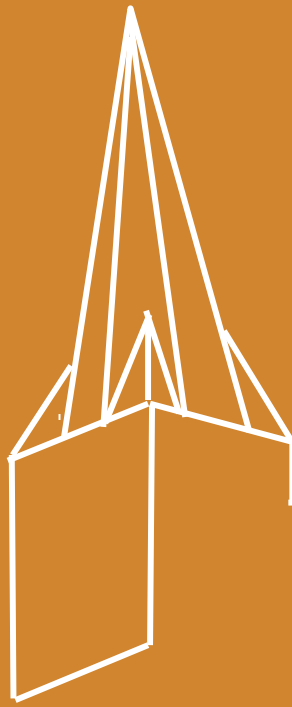
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CLEOBURY GARDENERS

May has arrived When we were worrying winter was set forever, Spring has sneaked in.

I have come across a splendid concept "NoMowMay" an initiative developed by the charity "Plantlife". Leave your lawn uncut for the month of May, and this will increase diversity of food and habitat for a wide range of creatures, allowing the flora within the lawn to grow and flourish. This is not just an excuse to take it easy, but will let you give yourself that extra little breathing space to get on with more pressing jobs.

Prepare the soil for planting out, remove weeds and apply fertiliser. Fix supports for perennials before they have grown too tall Plant out sweet peas by the netting or sticks; prune spring-blooming shrubs after flowering, eg forsythias or currants. And there is always the deadheading.

It will soon be safe to start hardening off our tender plants, a gradual process over one or two weeks of putting them outside during the day, and back under cover at night, being wary of sudden warm days (drying) and chilling winds (also drying). It's also an

opportunity to inspect for slugs, snails and anything which has taken a fancy to your tender charges; look out for lily beetle; if you have a hosta which is not thriving check for vine weevil. It's always sad when we lose plants, but it happens to us all no matter how diligent we are.

Here at Cleobury Gardeners HQ we are looking forward to a busy month. On May 8th we host Dr Pam Davenport talking about "Chillies - Propagating and Eating": on May 22nd Roger Umpelby discusses "Buying-v-Growing Fruit and Vegetables". Visitors always welcome.

And our very important Fund Raising Plant Sale is on May 13th at the Market Hall, where we hope to have our usual array of excellent plants, allotment produce and cakes for sale to raise funds to support our range of activities. This includes pleaching the lime trees in town, planting and maintaining the flower trough outside The Talbot and engaging the children in our local primary schools and pre-school settings in an annual competition focused on Learning to Grow Food . If you have plants to contribute, please contact me.

As ever, enjoy your garden.
Linda Ashman, Secretary
edandlinashman@gmail.com

THE CAMERA CLUB

Paul Serrell-Cooke reports the response to the mention of a camera club in April's Clarion was strong enough for him to arrange an initial meeting. It will be in the Talbot Hotel, at 7.30 on Thursday May 4th

All those with an interest will be welcome and a regular date and venue will be arranged. As the beer at The Talbot does go down well, that could be one of the hostelries to be considered.

If you want to know more of what's planned, Paul is on 07791 378 240. The signs are good, with about ten people expressing an interest and the surrounding countryside and a range of rural industries and interests to picture, making this a good place to practise and develop your skills.



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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

On April 11th, members were entertained by Craig Kershaw with his presentation 'Saudi Arabia through my camera'. Craig had for ten years been leadership development manager at the King Abdullah University of Science & Technology in Saudi Arabia and, as a keen photographer, had taken advantage of the opportunities offered, in particular trips through the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

In the south of the country lies the 'Empty Quarter' – a huge expanse of sandy desert, whose 225,000 square miles covers more than twice the area of the UK. No European had crossed this huge area until Bertram Thomas in 1931. Craig's photo club decided in 2017 to do something similar, so engaged local guides for the memorable four-day journey across the desert in five vehicles. Good planning was essential, as apart from the awkward terrain, there is a dramatic daily temperature change from near-freezing conditions at night to 50° C or higher in the day.

The journey offered some splendid photo

opportunities, with wind-sculpted sands of various colours, striking sunsets, and brilliant starry skies. Occasional camel trains were encountered, with up to 500 camels being driven across the desert to market.

Craig also described a trip he undertook into a volcanic region to the north, amongst old volcanoes and jagged hills. Sharp rock fragments litter the ground, so careful driving was essential to reduce the chance of tyre bursts. One heartening characteristic is that if a traveller is in trouble a Saudi and his vehicle will appear as if out of nowhere, and be ready to provide whatever assistance is required, without expecting any reward.

Camel racing occupied Craig's last few minutes, as he told us of the modern version, in which boy jockeys are illegal. Instead, robotic jockeys, with radio communication, to carry the owner's encouraging words to the camel, but also to allow the owner to operate an electrically-driven crop to give encouragement of a more direct kind as well!

The next meeting of the club will be held on May 11th at The Talbot, and will be addressed by Sue Brown. Those

wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

WOOD WORDS

News from Cleobury Bowls Club

Our first taster session for anyone wishing to give bowls a go will be held on Monday May 15th at our Ronhill Lane HQ starting at 7.00pm. The event is intended for all abilities, ages and gender. There is no charge and free tea/coffee/biscuits will be available. There is also a cash bar. Club bowls will be provided. The only requirement is that flat soled footwear (no heels) should be worn on the bowling green.

On other news, team league matches have commenced and fixtures are listed on the club website - cleoburybowls.org.uk ~ Anyone is welcome to come along and support the teams. The green is usually available for play – members and guests – on days of away fixtures.

Club captain Nick Flatters is happy to speak to anyone interested in further information about playing on 07952 296710 or through email cleoburybowlsclub@gmail.com

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THE LATEST FROM CORAL & TOM...

The market right now is still busy and while the number of houses available to purchase is higher than the last couple of years, the overall inventory of houses on the market is still 43% lower than they were 5 years ago in a “normal market” pre-pandemic. The national average timeframe to sale agreed is now between 8-12 weeks, this is much slower than the last couple of years where some areas were between 2 – 4 weeks.

Nationally, a normal market usually sees about 1.1 million transactions per year. In 2023, the data indications show we are on track to have 500,000 transactions for the first half of the year, and it's expected to improve in the second half.

If you have been reading the headlines recently, you may be surprised to hear this given all the doom and gloom the leading media outlets have been reporting. On a local level, we have certainly seen a jump in activity this year compared to the end of 2022. Mortgage rates have been more stable and plenty of buyers and sellers are actively looking to move, with a raft of sales being agreed in and around the Easter period.

Our overall assessment is that the housing market is neither bursting or crashing and while prices have dipped slightly (on average 2-3% in our area), we saw growth in the last 2 years between 20-25% (according to Nationwide data).

If you have any questions about your own home value or the current market, we would be delighted to help!

Coralie Walrond MNAEA MARLA

Tom Jackson MNAEA



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EUROVISION REVEALED

Gill Guest really ought to know better, but her new son-in-law Joe is part of the Eurovision team and she just wanted to help....

Roller skating jellyfish, giant manta ray puppets and a blue and yellow submarine – I’m well out of my depth and feel pretty certain I’m going to be sinking or swimming on an epic scale. But this is Eurovision, and foolishly I’ve agreed to help.

So here I am, on the ‘mum’s crew’ at The Wind Factory in Liverpool. It’s an ex-turbine works just a seagull swoop from the Mersey, the creative hub for a tight-knit crowd of artists and musicians including my new son-in-law, Joe. The vast turbine halls now house ‘aquatopiaaaa’ or, to you and me, the Eurovision undersea parade workshops. Bright-painted sprigs of coral sprout like Buddleia bushes all over the huge space. Shipping containers are scattered like shoe boxes. There are benches of tools, the smell of hot metal and welding, and stacks of sheet timber. A globe made of wire, like a skeletal moon,

perches watchfully on the top of one such stack: I suspect it is the beginnings of a giant octopus puppet that will, somehow or other, play drums with every one of its eight yet-to-be-made legs.

It’s a bit like falling down a rabbit hole and finding yourself somewhere weird, where the improbable becomes not only probable, but possible. I’m reassured to bump into Laurie Crombie, whom I last saw in Cleobury battling with wedding bunting at the top of a very long ladder at Cleanlyseat. It’s his fault we’re all here, since it was his brain that first came up with the idea of twinning Liverpool and the Beatles’ iconic yellow submarine with the blue of the sea, to honour Ukraine whose flag is of course blue and yellow. Liverpool, hosting the contest on behalf of that war-torn country, is determined to ‘do Ukraine proud’. No pressure for Laurie and the team at the Wind Factory then.

We shimmy past a chestnut-haired girl welding in a forest of sparks, and an airport luggage lorry being repurposed as a parade float where a guy with a dark beard and curly hair is attacking a

thick sheet of polystyrene with a hot knife. Paradoxically his T-shirt says ‘Ice Sculptor’. And stone the seagulls, he is one. His name is Matt Foster and he carved the White Walker’s Ice Altar in Game of Thrones. Curiouser and curiouser.

Dispatched to the sewing workshop to work with costume designer Ellie, soon I’m machining tentacles for roller-skating jellyfish like it’s completely normal. Twenty-four hours later, the overlocker disagrees, throws a hissy fit and breaks down, so after that I work with Kathy, another Mum, on fish-on-sticks. We complete our first two in double quick time ready for a Eurovision press shoot and that evening I watch my fish and tentacles on the evening news. Next day they’re in the Guardian. They look fine. Who said anything about sinking? I’m swimming. Along with my fish. Deep in the improbable world of Eurovision 2023.

Gill Guest

All this work and unlimited imagination for the Eurovision parade on May 5th. Watch out for it.

JR

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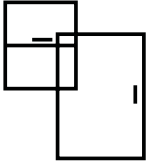
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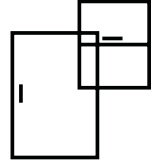
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JACKIE'S BIG TRIP



On April 25th, Cleobury's Jackie Handy set out to walk about 500 miles on the Camino de Santiago. That's across northern Spain to the Atlantic coast.

"I turned 50 in November 2022," Jackie tells us, "I had been fascinated by the Camino de Santiago for some time. I have a couple of friends who have walked it and said it is an incredible journey. Then I watched the film *The Way* and just knew it was something I had to do."

"My Mum was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2019 and I became aware of the need for support services such as those provided by Dementia UK. Whether for nursing care or simply a person to talk to at the end of the phone, people living with dementia and Alzheimer's and their families should be able to access the support they need."

She contacted Dementia UK and enquired whether there was a specially trained dementia nurse in Shropshire; there wasn't. That was when she decided to try to raise as much as possible of the £30,000 needed to make it happen.

She'll self-fund her walk but welcomes donations from anyone who can afford to support the charity in continuing their vital work. Cleobury Co-op have a poster with some collection tins in the store and the Golf Club also has posters with the link to Jackie's Justgiving page. "Everyone has been so kind" she says, "our community always seems to pull together and it's wonderful to experience that first-hand"

Jackie is a self-employed leadership trainer and professional speaker and has needed the support of her clients as she prepares to disappear off the radar for two months. "This walk is too important to me to be checking emails and social media every five minutes – especially now I'm fundraising for such an important cause", she says. "My clients have been brilliant, so I'm very lucky".

She's due home at the start of June. "I have factored in some rest days on route, so I anticipate being away for five to six. I'll let you know how it goes!"

To read Jackie's story or donate online, click here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jackie-handycamino2023>

FROM THE BANDROOM

More Good News ! On April 1st, the band competed at the inaugural ConsTest at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, we were placed 1st in our section and 7th

overall – actually beating some higher ranked bands!

It has been a hefty schedule of practices over the last three months, and the results for both recent competitions are testament to the dedication of players in our band.

Our AGM was held on April 11th– our new chairperson is Hazel Barnes and our secretary Amanda Wilcox has kindly decided to continue the position. We all gave hearty thanks to Donna Tracy for her years of commitment as chairperson.

Some of us enjoyed a social at the Bavarian Evening in the Parish Hall on 14th April. With our bass player Eddie part of the entertainment.

Our Spring Concert is in St Marys Church on May 13th, themed 'Best of British'. There will be a good variety of music to listen to whilst enjoying a glass of wine; £10 per ticket for adults and £5 for children, tickets available from Amanda on 01584 891199 or The Wash House.

We are still on the look out for some bass players ! If there is anyone out there interested, we invite you to come along to our friendly practices on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Katie Griffiths

A CORRECTION

We reported in the April Clarion that the concert given by the Birmingham Philharmonic raised £2048 to help with the church funds. A call from Angela Drennan advised that the published figure was wrong. The event made £3047!



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We welcomed Clare McKnight to our April meeting for an evening of 'Fun with Fimo Clay'. Clare displayed a selection of amazing ornaments she has made and demonstrated the art of making flowers and intricate designs with coloured clay. There was an unusual level of quietness as we tried our hand at decorating brooches and pendants to be taken home and baked in the oven.

Maria Jones from the Midlands Air Ambulance gratefully accepted a cheque from last year's fundraising and explained the importance of such contributions in supporting this vital service.

There was a good turnout for our organised walk in April, which included a litter pick around town, followed by coffee at the Community hub. Many thanks to all those who made the effort, despite the inclement weather!

'Eat Cake for the King' is our first event in May. Members of the community are invited to join us for tea and home-made cakes and scones to start off the Coronation weekend celebrations. This will take place on Friday 5th May between 3-5pm in the Market Hall, for a cost of £3 for adults and £1 for children. Proceeds will go towards fundraising for our chosen charity for the coming year, Cleobury and District First Responders.

Our regular meeting on 9th May will be a demonstration of flower arranging when Claire Bradley will show us how to

display a selection of Spring flowers from the garden.

We have an organised visit to Neen View Gardens in Neen Sollars on Tuesday 16th May at 6.00pm, followed by buffet food at the Live and Let Live. The cost will be £15. Members are asked to sign up on or before the May meeting.

On Monday 22nd May we will be meeting at a new venue for tea and cake and a natter. Members are invited to join us from 3pm.

As always, new members are welcome. Contact Judy 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com for information on how to join.

Val Sniadowski

THE READING GROUP

'The Martian' By Andy Weir - a semi sci-fi story about an American astronaut who gets left behind on Mars when a mission goes wrong and the rest of the crew think he has died. Unusually, the reading group were unanimous in praising the book. It has been filmed with Matt Damon but all four who had seen the film felt the book was better.

The story rattles along nicely building tension with detailed explanations of the problems encountered in trying to survive when the next mission is not expected to arrive until four years later. It is not difficult to imagine that in the future this could be reality not sci-fi. If you want to learn about setting up a potato farm on Mars go to the library and take out the book! The next read is 'Other Minds' by Peter

Godfrey-Smith to be discussed on 15th May.

HOPTON WAFERS AGM

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be on Saturday May 20th at 6.00 o'clock in the Village Hall.

Parishioners are invited to join us for tea and cakes from 5.00, with the Meeting beginning at 6.00. You can meet and speak with your Parish Councillors and learn what the Parish Council is doing for our local community. We also hope to have representatives from several other organisations and information on other important issues such as speeding on our roads and help with cost-of-living pressures.

Mark Humpage

Parish Council Chairman

MELVILLE CHAPEL

The May 7th service at Melville is cancelled and we will be joining with St Giles Church in Farlow to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. Service at 10.00 and following that the Church will be open for light refreshments until 4.00. The Church will be decorated by various organisations in the area.

On May 10th we will have a Soup Lunch at Melville 12.30 to- 2.00. Our last Soup Lunch of the season.

May 20th from 10.00 until 12.00 there will be Morning Coffee at Melville

On 24th June there will be an afternoon tea at Melville. Time to be confirmed

Everyone welcome at these events.

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

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May Dates:

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Thursday the 18th. 10.00am start from the Community Hall, Pound Green, Arley, Bewdley, DY12 3RU.

For further details and any other announcements or changes please visit website www.rockpathfinder.s.uk

Susan Humphries
CMFA

As Spring gets into its stride many cultures name May's full moon the flower moon, an obvious reference to the abundant seasonal blooms. It is also called the hare moon which is evocative of the magnificent sight of 'boxing' hares during their mating season.

May 10th is the first Walking for Health Awayday. Starting at Doddington Village Hall, where there is ample parking and toilet facilities, we will walk to the Church. After a short talk on plans the church has for facilities to improve the experience for visitors, the

circular walk of about 1¼ miles is on gravel track and will be taken at a leisurely pace. We finish with cake and coffee back at the Village Hall. Payment is by donation, we suggest £3pp but there is no obligation. The walk has some short inclines and is stony near the start so please wear sturdy footwear. There are outstanding views along the way and we are never too far from the hall if you would like a shorter walk. Please meet as usual on Cleobury Sports Centre Car Park for a 10am departure where transport will be available. Alternatively meet in Doddington at the Village Hall by 10:15am. If the weather is too bad for walking we will visit the church and then take refreshments.

Walking for Health on Wednesday 24th May will start as usual outside the Market Hall at 10.00am.

Eleven people enjoyed the Country Walk on April 2nd. We followed CMFA leaflet no 18 'Rea Valley Amble' in search of daffodils. There was a lovely display on the farm track towards Musbatch as can be seen on two photographs on the CMFA Facebook page. The

northerly route went past Keeper's Cottage crossing the river near Reaside to return via Chilton, Neen Savage and Walford Bridge. A slippery bridge over a stream required a group effort to successfully get people across. Notes were made to pass on to our maintenance group for possible improvements to the crossing.

The Country Walk on Sunday May 7th will be CMFA leaflet no 23 'Three Coppices' Please note that this walk starts at 10.00am at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club.

Last month the work party installed a kissing gate in woodland on Barnsland Farm off the Tenbury Road. It was a rather remote location with access across two fields. Thank goodness for four wheel drive vehicles and we are grateful to the landowner for getting the gate to the work site. If you would like to get involved this year please contact us via the website.

CMFA activities are on our website www.cmfa.co.uk and also on Facebook.

Veronica Hargreaves

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Photo of bluebells in Symond's Stool by Mick Farmer

May is Bluebell time and perhaps you have a favourite place to enjoy this feast of scent and colour? Shrawley Wood (south of Stourport on the B4196) is locally famous for its spectacular Bluebell display but smaller patches of the flower can also be seen in many parts of the Wyre if they haven't been swamped by Brambles and Bracken or shaded out by trees. Damp valleys will also have swathes of Wild Garlic (or Ramsons) announcing their presence by their strong scent, echoed by the tall stems of Garlic Mustard which are sought out by Orange Tip butterflies for egg-laying. There should be plenty to see with other butterflies such as Holly Blue, Large White, Green-veined White and Pearl-bordered Fritillary all flying and the Painted Lady arriving from warmer climes later in the month. So too with the migrating birds such as Spotted Flycatchers and Pied Flycatchers.

In the past you would have been able to welcome the return of the Turtle Dove and hear its distinctive gentle, purring call but, like the

Nightjar and so many other birds which used to animate the summer forest, this visitor has declined to near-extinction levels. It is quite a small bird: about half the size of a Wood Pigeon. It feeds on seeds, especially chickweed, oilseed rape and cereals and frequents hedges, woodland edges, scrub and areas of conifers managed to maintain an open and varied structure. These habitats have largely disappeared from the wider landscape: this, plus the over-use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers, drainage and pollution of watercourses, is the legacy of the last 8 decades of 'agricultural progress' which have deprived so many species of their living.

Fortunately we understand their ecology better now and, where there is sufficient will, the tables can be turned. In 'Wilding' Isabella Tree (her real name, I assume) documents the return of many wild species to the Knepp estate in West Sussex and for them the Turtle Dove became a symbol of the recovery of the land. When conventional (and unprofitable) farming ceased in 2002 there were no Turtle Doves but by 2017 there were 17 male territories and hopefully as many breeding pairs. 'Re-wilding' is in part letting things go, but recognises the need for large grazing animals to counter the unrestricted growth of vegetation and, in the absence of their predators, for human intervention to keep a check on their numbers. This approach is on-going and experimental but I'm sure it has many lessons for the management of the forest and other land used for food production, recreation and conservation in our crowded island.

Linda Iles

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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

As you know, I have focussed my campaigning efforts in Westminster to make a real difference in improving the water quality of our rivers. So last month I welcomed a significant set of measures announced in a comprehensive Plan for Water, which pulled together a wide range of policy initiatives across Government to create a fresh strategy to improve water quality of our rivers and sustainability of water supply.

The new Secretary of State for DEFRA is determined to tackle the long-term challenges posed by under-investment in our drainage and supply networks underground, which have not kept pace with development above ground for 60 years. The need to do so was graphically illustrated again at the end of March by publication of the latest sewage discharge stats for 2022. While these showed a 19% reduction in the frequency of discharges from treatment works and combined storm overflows across England and a 34% reduction in duration compared with 2021, this was primarily due to reduced rainfall during the year. So the pressure remains on water companies to get to grips with preventing these wholly unacceptable routine sewage discharges.

I believe these new measures will make a material difference and have given this Plan a broad welcome - not least since these proposals accept many of the recommendations from the Environmental Audit Committee in our seminal report last year into Water Quality of our Rivers. The Plan also reflects several campaign themes of the Conservative Environment Network contained in their Water Manifesto which I endorsed late last year.

These include giving greater power to regulators, the Environment Agency and Ofwat, to issue unlimited fines on water companies for breaching their permits; and for those fines to be ring-fenced in new Water Restoration Funds to improve water quality. There are currently over 2,000 cases of such breaches by six water companies being investigated by regulators which could lead to fines or criminal prosecution. Regulators will also have the power, which we had also called for, to link senior executives' remuneration and shareholder dividends to environmental performance.

It is not all about water companies either, farmers have a role to play, both reducing nutrient leakage

and managing supply of water. So, I welcome further funding for slurry storage and encouragement for buffer zones for pollinators and tree planting along waterways, as well as the consultation on reducing planning barriers for on-farm reservoirs and creating wetlands to help integrate flood planning.

Locally I am encouraged by Severn Trent's engagement with local communities, businesses, and farmers to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and improving the ecosystem of our rivers. It's vital that we work together to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources for future generations. By partnering with local groups, Severn Trent is seeking to work with local community groups in improving the health of our rivers.

Advice and some financial support is becoming available for farmers to help them reduce their impact on waterways. Farmers have a vital role to play in managing pesticide and fertilizer use and improving soil management practices. STWs "Get River Positive" campaign aims to fix its own discharges and encourage sustainable agriculture practice in its catchment.

STW plans to invest £1.2 billion over the next five years to improve water quality, reduce leakage, and increase resilience to climate change. Locally £4.5 million of this is being invested in the next two years in improving treatment works and Combined Sewer Overflows along 12 miles of the River Teme between Leintwardine and Tenbury Wells to get the river to high water quality standard.

We as consumers can also play our part by stopping flushing wet wipes down the loo and putting filters in washing machines to stop microfibres from our clothes being flushed out. There will be a consultation on banning plastic in wet wipes to reduce the risk of blocking sewers.

There is still much more to do to clean up our rivers and coastlines, including reducing surface water runoff from roads and developments, designating more bathing waters, and tackling nutrient pollution. But the measures set out in the Plan for Water represent a credible and wide-ranging strategy to tackle the scourges of pollution and underinvestment that have blighted England's waterways for too long.

Philip Dunne

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Nick – The Talbot Hotel

- that's right, **anyone** can join!
- For 2023, new members join free for the first year (normally £14.00 per year)*
- The Branch meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month, at 7.00pm in the Sports and Social Club.
- In addition, other social activities are arranged and publicised for members to attend throughout the year.

* New members pay for the second year's membership on joining.

2023 Programme

Month	Date/Day	Meeting	Venue	Event
January	Wed 11th	Branch	Sports & Social Club	Formal
February	Wed 08th	Committee	Talbot Hotel	Social
March	Wed 08th	Branch	Sports & Social Club	Formal
	Sun 21st	Social	Parish Hall	Annual Lunch
April	Wed 12th	Committee	Sports & Social Club	Social
May	Wed 10th	Branch	Sports & Social Club	Social
	Fri 26th Evening	Social	Worcester	Night at the races
June	Wed 14th	Committee	Sports & Social Club	Social
July	Wed 12th TBA	Quarterly Branch RBL Sponsored Trip	Sports & Social Club Lacon Primary School	Formal TBA
August	Wed 09th	Committee	Sports & Social Club	Social
	TBA	Social	Seaside Trip	TBA
September	Wed 13th	AGM	Sports & Social Club	Formal
	Fri 15th	Harvest Auction	Sports & Social Club	N/A
October	Wed 11th	Committee	Sports & Social Club	Social
	Fri 20th	Poppy Concert	TBA	N/A
November	3rd-05th	RBL Sponsored event	TBA	Bonfire Spectacular
	Wed 08th	Branch	Sports & Social Club	Formal
	Sat 11th	Membership	Memorial Garden	Remembrance Day
	Sun 12th	Membership	High Street	Remembrance Parade
December	Wed 13th	Committee	Sports & Social Club	Social

May events




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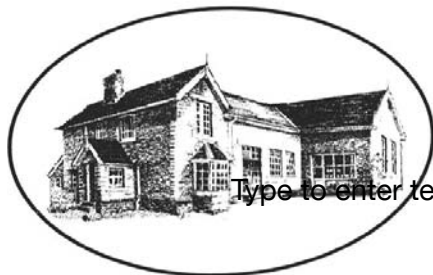
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Thank you.

David and Gabrielle Eve

SAINT JOHN'S DODDINGTON

After a lovely display of daffodils inside St John's, the churchyard is coming into its own with a good variety of wildflowers – do visit and have a wander round and enjoy a sit on one of our benches. The zig-zag path provides a perfect route to amble up and down, and we are delighted that so many flowers are colonising the areas disturbed when the path was installed. There are always refreshments available in church. Did you spot our crocheted flowers on the handrail? Thank you to the ladies who crafted those – and they've got the bug! There will

be a new one appearing soon, so look out for that! Our first service in May (11am Sunday 7th) will celebrate the Coronation, so if you are in our neck of the woods, please join us to mark this special occasion then either dash to your Big Lunch, or stay for a cuppa and a chat.

Celia Gibb

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in my university research on energy efficiency in old buildings. A very healthy response rate of over 70% was attained and the returned questionnaires will enable me to complete the last part of my Building Surveying degree. We are lucky to have many fine old buildings in and around Cleobury, many of which are not listed or protected by conservation legislation, nonetheless the questionnaire feedback shows they are in very safe hands.

Many thanks and kind regards,
Sam Lloyd

PARISH HALL AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall will be held on Wednesday 17 May at 7.00pm, in the Hall.

Please join us for cheese and wine. The Trustees will report on the previous year and outline their plans for the future.

If you would like to serve as a Trustee, or would be willing to volunteer to help us with events and the upkeep of the hall, please contact Gabby Franklin on 01299 271713.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

On Saturday May 20th at 7.30 pm, we will be showing *Ad Astra*. Astronaut Roy McBride (Brad Pitt) travels to the outer edges of the solar system to find his missing father and unravel a mystery that threatens the survival of our planet. His journey will uncover secrets that challenge the nature of human existence and our place in the cosmos.

Bar, tea and cake. Tickets £5.00 at the door.

VACANCY ADVERTS

The vacancy for the position of Clerk to the Hopton Wafers Parish Council resulted in an appointment made. We know because chairman of the council Mark Humpage had the courtesy to say how well it had worked. It's what a community newsletter should do; serve the needs of its readers.

Which is a way of reminding all employers in the area that job vacancies in these pages are free. And may I remind those prospective employers that our circulation of 1,000 printed copies and something like 750 visits to our website each month means a wide reach through your target area.

Localised concentration does help small traders too. I talked to a local trader years ago, who explained that a quarter page in here served him well, while a well known advertising sheet had big circulation and much higher prices and he was getting enquiries from people needing him an hour's journey away! You can't beat staying local.

REGAL MAY EVENTS*

TENBURY WELLS *programme as of 12/04/23



A Good Person (15)

28 April, 2 & 4 May at 7 PM

Allison (Florence Pugh) forms an unlikely friendship with her would-be father-in-law (**Morgan Freeman**) that gives her a fighting chance to put her life back together and move forward.

Film

Rye Lane (15)

5 & 9 May at 7 PM

Dom (David Jonsson) and Yas (Vivian Oparah), meet awkwardly in a gender-neutral restroom at an art exhibit. What begins as a thorny meet-cute turns into the longest unofficial first date ever. "Rye Lane" is a playful rom-com for the modern age.

Film

Allelujah (12A)

12, 13, 15 & 16 May at 7 PM & 15 May **monday matinee** 2pm

When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, it fights back by galvanizing the local community.

Stars: **Jennifer Saunders**, Bally Gill, Russell Tovey, David Bradley, **Derek Jacobi** and **Judi Dench**.

Film

The Fureys

18 May at 7.30 PM

Legends of Irish music & song The FUREYS, renowned for their hit songs 'I will love you', 'When you were sweet 16', 'The Green fields of France' and more, return to the Regal.

Live Music

Champions (12)

19, 22 & 23 May at 7 PM & 22 May **monday matinee** 2pm

A former minor-league basketball coach receives a court order to manage a team of players with intellectual disabilities. Together they can go further than they ever imagined. Stars: **Woody Harrelson**, Kaitlin Olson and Matt Cook

Film

Tenbury Town Band - 40th anniversary

20 May at 7 PM

Join Tenbury Town Band for an evening of music, fun and laughter in celebration of our 40th Anniversary. Welcoming guests and friends from the regiment of the "Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters", we will be playing some of the bands favourite music from the last 40 years, with a couple of our infamous sketches thrown in. **Not to be missed!**

Live Music

ROH Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty

24 May at 6.45 PM

Be swept away by Tchaikovsky's ravishing music and Oliver Messel's sumptuous fairytale designs with this true gem from the classical ballet repertory.

Live Broadcast

Talon - The Acoustic Collection - In The Raw

26 May at 7.30 PM

Following the massive success of their critically acclaimed acoustic album, 'Talon - The Acoustic Collection' is back. Armed with no more than their trademark four part vocal harmony, acoustic instruments and laid back banter, Jonny, Chris, Peter and Keith will leave you simply spellbound.

Live Music

The Fleetwood Mac Songbook

27 May at 7.30 PM **LAST TICKETS REMAINING**

'The Fleetwood Mac Songbook', perform an exciting, hit packed concert that encompasses all eras of Fleetwood Mac's stellar 50+ year career.

Live Music

Shazam! Fury Of The Gods (12)

29 May **monday matinee** 2pm & 29 & 30 May at 7 PM

When a vengeful trio of ancient gods arrives on Earth in search of the magic stolen from them long ago, Shazam and his allies get thrust into a battle for their superpowers, their lives, and the fate of the world.

Film

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TIRED OF THE SAME OLD BEER?

We've all been there, you've just got home and there is no beer in the fridge. You contemplate popping to the nearest shop* and then you remember all they stock is Fosters, Carlsberg and some manky looking white cider that hasn't even seen an apple.

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BECAUSE Life is too short for Sh*t Beer

*Please note this is not implying any of your local shops have a poor range of beer. Its is a generic statement used for marketing purposes. I imagine your shop probably has nice beer.



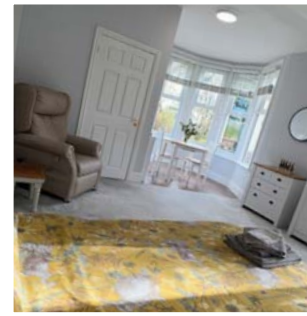
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Doddington Lodge

Residential Care Home



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Care and Warmth at its Heart

Would you like to welcome you and your family to Doddington Lodge, our newly renovated, privately owned residential and dementia care home in this historic, tranquil hamlet of Doddington, Nr Clebury Mortimer. Located on the beautiful Shropshire & Shropshire border, providing picturesque views from every aspect of our home.

Our home features a modern bistro dining room and bar with a delicious daily menu created by our accomplished chefs. We have individually designed spacious double rooms, perfect for couples to stay together or beautiful single rooms, all with en-suites and stunning countryside views. Even a hairdressing salon for a little pampering to provide a place of well-being.

Doddington Lodge is a place where friendships are made and special moments are shared. We organise many fun activities that everyone can get involved with, whether that's a sing along, arts and crafts, collecting fresh veg from the allotment or just simply helping each other with a crossword in our daily newspaper. Each day is different, we certainly have many happy moments...

Our home is a loving community and family, where you can consider Doddington Lodge a home away from home. We will provide you with all the key information, guiding you through every step of the process, whether you are staying with us for a short or long stay.



CELEBRATIONS GALORE AT DODDINGTON LODGE

It's been celebrations galore here at Doddington Lodge! Hilda marked her remarkable milestone 101st birthday! Lots of heartfelt cards and gifts from family and friends and a fabulous birthday cake that everyone enjoyed.

We celebrated Olive's birthday, a lovely day of celebrations for a very special lady. Sunshine, laughter and cake all round!



We also had very special visitors, Rachel's daughter, Freya and her baby, Primrose stopped by to visit us. Freya is currently on maternity leave as a carer here at Doddington Lodge. Primrose melted our hearts, with lots of smiles & cuddles. Everyone was so happy to see them both.

Follow us on Facebook to find out more.

www.doddingtonlodge.com | E: enquiries@doddingtonlodge.com | T: 01584 707084

Doddington Lodge, Residential Care Home, Doddington, Nr Clebury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 0HL



Come along!
Coffee morning
on Friday 12th
May 2023



Join us for a warm cup of cheer and plenty of laughs at our monthly **Doddington Lodge Coffee Mornings!**

Every 2nd Friday of the month, come together with residents, family & friends over tea or coffee. Enjoy freshly baked cake as well as the Doddington Lodge monthly raffle.

For only £2.50 per person – including your beverage and slice of cake – join us for our next get-together on Friday, May 12th, 2023, from 10 am until midday.

A warm welcome awaits
- We look forward to seeing you!

DODDINGTON LODGE SUPPORT LOCAL APPRENTICESHIPS IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Our Home Manager, Shavaughne, had the pleasure of visiting Lacon Childe School along with Danny Pardoe from The Point, Kidderminster College, to talk careers in Health and Social Care. It was fantastic to talk to the Year 10 pupils about a variety of subjects and opportunities within the care profession and how Doddington Lodge provides support and opportunities for apprenticeships.



Gerald

★ **TEAM SPOTLIGHT** ★

Introducing our Maintenance Manager, Gerald. Gerald will be a familiar face to many locals as he used to drive the Lacon Childe school bus along with his dad Mike. He lives at Doddington Heights Park which backs on to Doddington Lodge, which makes his daily walk to work through his garden even more lovely.

Gerald, along with his apprentice Reace, are responsible for the upkeep of Doddington Lodge and all its wonderful gardens, as you can imagine, this is quite a big job especially at this time of year when everything is starting to grow. I think everyone that drives past will agree, they do a great job as the gardens always look so beautiful and colourful!

Gerald lives with his fiancé Shelly, after 12 years together they have finally set a date to get married, the big day is in June this year! Everyone at Doddington Lodge wishes them all the very best and is incredibly excited for them both!

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Sorry to hear that Jenny of Shoe Box fame is pottering off to Hampshire. She will be missed. So I will be doing the Shoe Boxes for the foreseeable future. There's no way I can match Jenny, but I will try. My contact number: 07976 307 889. KEITH BALMER

MORE ABOUT SHOE BOXES

For Boys and Girls:

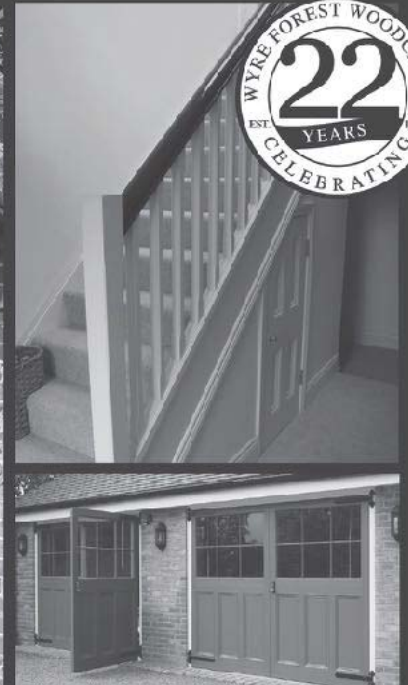
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Church services throughout the Benefice in May

St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 7th May – 10am Family Eucharist
Sunday 14th May – 10am Eucharist
Sunday 21st May – 10am Eucharist
Sunday 28th May – 10am Eucharist

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 7th May – 9.30am Eucharist
Sunday 21st May – 9.30am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 7th May – 11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 21st May – 3pm Evening Prayer

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 7th May – 11.am Village Worship
Sunday 14th May – 11.am Village Worship
Sunday 21st May - 11.am Village Worship
Sunday 28th May – 11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 14th May – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP
Sunday 28th May – 9.00am Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 7th May – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP
Sunday 21st May – 11.00am Eucharist BCP

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 7th May – 6pm Coronation Service
Sunday 14th May – 11.15am Eucharist BCP
Sunday 28th May – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP

The Church Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am-3.00pm
Contact details: Grace Johnson cleoburychurch@hotmail.com Tel: 01299 272916

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Simon Morton - In The Garden

Sowing the Seeds of Summer

Despite my protestations at the time, my school reports had it right. No matter which school I attended (and, let the record state, there were quite a few) nor which stage of my academic journey I was battling through, they all came to the same conclusion - '*Simon lacks patience*' (they all also happened to mention that I viewed school as more of a social occasion than a place of education, but that's not important right now).

Patience is not a virtue I have ever possessed. And while this zest for trying new stuff might be charming in a child, it's a major character flaw in adulthood. My poor wife has to put up with my giddy excitement for every new hobby or passion - playing a wide variety of musical instruments, countless DIY projects, taking up golf, there's quite a list - and then deal with the subsequent

detritus as I realise that I don't have the time, tenacity and talent to get any of them over the line.

I simply don't have the patience for it. Never had. Never will.

This impatience has played havoc in the garden for many years, most notably in the greenhouse and, more specifically, in the lines of carefully labelled and symmetrically placed sowing trays. The thing is, I LOVE sowing. It's by far my favourite gardening job. There is something incredibly calming about the whole process of standing in a warming greenhouse, with a sleeping dog by your feet, radio on, a flask of coffee on the go and packets of seeds that need decanting into trays. Each step of the process, from mixing the compost (a cunning 1:3 mix of potting and regular peat-free compost seems to perform well) to sieving a light covering over the seeds, is an exercise in mindfulness. It's no wonder the NHS has started to prescribe 'gardening' as a treatment for depression and loneliness.

Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey

It's not too late to help with the Bird Survey, if you want to join in. We found seven pairs of Curlew last year, and we hope they have all come back. We need to count the breeding population, and monitor the outcome of nesting attempts, to see if any young fledge.

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, please.

If you've seen or heard any of these species, please don't assume we know about them.

Please report all your observations, especially any Curlew
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So, Donald Trump has finally appeared in court to answer charges of falsifying business records with the main topic of interest the \$130,000 payment to an 'Adult' film actress. Given that this sum was allegedly paid as 'hush' money to conceal an affair, perhaps rather than claiming it as a 'Business' expense, it should have been shown as a 'Doing the Business' expense...

What is happening to the blood donation service? They used to have local events where donors could turn up without an appointment to have an armful removed. No longer. Now volunteers have to go to Kiddy or Stourport having booked a timed appointment and are turned away if all appointments for a session are filled. Once, during the Pandemic, at least they were allowed free parking but the next time around fines were issued. So, apart from the time and transport costs required to attend, there were parking penalties as well. That'll encourage people to come forward... This would be less of a problem if the blood banks were overflowing but we are being told that supplies are desperately short so why make it so difficult to donate? A cynic (me?) might wonder whether the blood isn't needed as so many operations are being delayed or cancelled.

If you walk down the main road approaching New Bridge, you might spy a small notice on the fence to your left. It is a planning application for a new sewage treatment plant by Severn Trent. This appears to be a well kept secret although there was talk of the need for more capacity some years ago. Looking at the plans on the Shropshire Council website (ref 23/00908/MAW if you are interested) reveals that ST are planning to build a new plant in the field just the Cleobury side of the river to the north of the A4117. There are 40 documents attached to the application and not all of them have been included in full so, given that the last date for comments was 21st April, this seems a little tardy. I understand that a request

is being made to extend this date so it might change.

From my examination of what is there, it appears that the actual plant would be well away from the road with an access road from the A4117. The site won't be fully self contained as sludge would need to be exported by truck 2 or 3 times a month. Any storm overflow pipework would be joined with that of the existing plant and the site would not normally be staffed so let's hope nothing goes wrong... Still, if it does what it says on the tin, it might reduce the amount of effluent discharged into the Rea. Some time ago, Severn Trent were asked by Fish Legal, a campaign group, to give detailed figures for discharges into the Severn from their Worcester sewage treatment works which involved 81 spills totalling 3000 hours in 2021. This is the equivalent of discharging 24 hours a day for 125 days.... They declined to provide them saying that the records sought do not constitute environmental information (why not?), a decision which is being examined by the UK's data watchdog.

In a further development, the Shrewsbury River Classic fishing competition has been cancelled this year as the organisers felt that, due to levels of pollution in the river, competitors would be more likely to catch sanitary products than fish. ST say that the local sewage plant is due to be upgraded by 2025 but given that ST plants discharged sewage into rivers for nearly 250,000 hours in 2022, I wonder how much difference this will make. so nothing to see here....

And nothing to see in relation to the SNP accounts and the vanishing £600,000. Oh, apparently there is, with the arrest of the recently resigned Chief Executive, Peter Murrell who is also the husband of Nicola Sturgeon and the seizure of a nearly new and virtually unused £100,000 motorhome from his mother's house. He has now been released without charge pending further investigation so we will see what happens.



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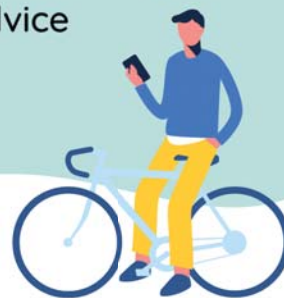
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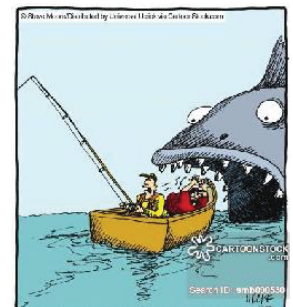
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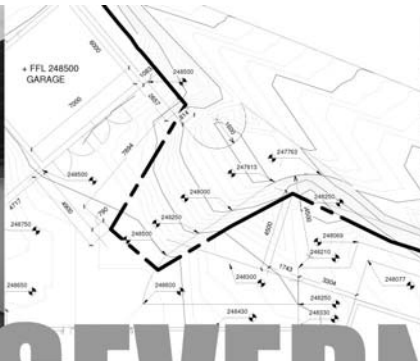
Page 49



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

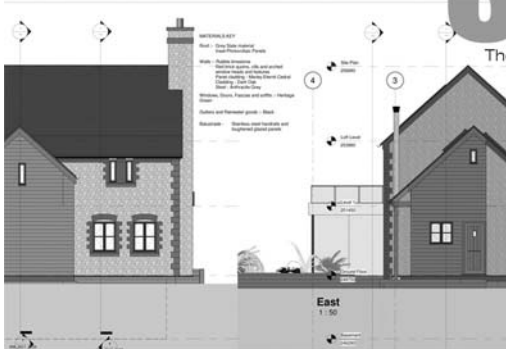


"Blood-curdling screams. Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

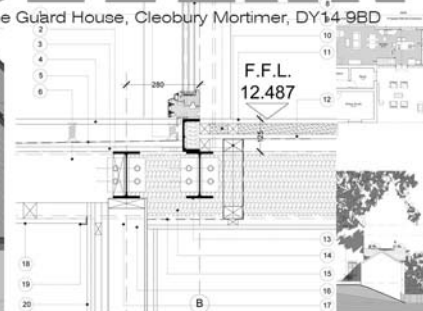


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Fridays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

Others first... That was the theme for our 3-day trip to the Pioneer Centre with 24 young people in the Easter Holidays. We had a blast on the outdoor adventurous activities as well as the activities that focused on team work, nature and our surroundings. We are blessed to be able to call this area home and we hope that it has inspired our youth to explore and look after their surroundings more. In the evenings we had discussions that made us all think and challenged the way we view life. Others First came out of those discussions and we aim to bring this theme in all we do. Just think, if you and everyone else chose others first in all we do, what would your life be like... making that drink for your loved ones before they get up in the morning? Holding the door open for others? Maybe the question is "What does love require of you in each and every moment?" Let's try to out submit to one another and see what happens?!

FOCUS ON: King Charles III Coronation live streamed and Bank Holiday Monday (1st & 8th May) openings.

Saturday 6th May - Open 10am-4pm

We are open for the King's Coronation from 10am on Saturday 6th with coronation crafts for the kids, climb61 bouldering and the soft play will be open too. The main focus for the day will be the coronation of King Charles III with the coronation streamed on our big screen from 10:30am.

Note the Coffee change... Since we opened in 2019 we have partnered with Karuna Coffee. A charity that roast their coffee beans, selling wholesale dark roasts in order to serve the communities to which they buy them from. We have now run out of Karuna Coffee and are now testing your tastebuds with new dark roasts.

Keep an eye out for our "Coffee of the Week" on social media and in the CCH but make sure you come and sample it too!

Don't forget that the CCH is for the whole community, whatever age or stage of life you find yourself. We are here for you with a really warm welcome.

Climb61 Session Times - To book climbing and events: www.smypp.org.uk

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Welcome to the Month of May, a bridge between spring and summer, hinting at warmer weather for those still stuck in Spring's cooler grasp. This month for many will be the upcoming celebrations of the crowning of a new King, but for others the cause for some celebration of results in a darker side of life. For the last two years I have tried to highlight the scourge of the "con man" known today as "Scammers". These people take many forms and rarely have worked alone, often in what the Police refer to Organised Crime Groups (OCG for short). While much is read about the impact they can have on people's lives, little is heard about the successes in identifying them and shutting them down.

However in March and April this year, two significant announcements were made regarding coordinated efforts across the Globe to identify and arrest suspected scammers. The first was a huge alleged global fraud syndicate which has been smashed and its suspected British mastermind arrested. Law enforcers say the gang operated out of Malaysia, placing adverts on Facebook targeting savers, mainly in Britain and Australia.

One of the ringleaders was a 54 year old man from Birmingham along with his son and two other British Nationals. The gang had been operating since 2019 using promises that their money would be kept safe in escrow accounts and further reassured by professional-looking websites, which only lasted a few months before disappearing, with new ones taking their place.

A private cyber security firm estimated that the 20 individuals they represented had lost the equivalent of £35 billion. But don't be fooled into thinking that this is the sort of scam that does not target someone living in sleepy Shropshire. No one is safe from highly professional approaches using glossy convincing websites and techniques.

Follow the guidance I have been giving over these pages and you will stand a far better chance of keeping your money safe.

Also in March the National Crime Agency in Operation Henhouse made hundreds of arrests and millions in assets seized in tackling fraudsters.

The month-long activity, which resulted in 290 arrests by police forces, ROCUs and the NCA,

included high-value seizures, such as a BMW M5 Competition worth £96,000, and multiple luxury items including Rolex watches and jewellery. In total more than £6.2 million in assets was also seized or restrained.

Crime really does not pay!

But you may ask what happens to anything seized in the detection of crime. Criminal money is usually funnelled back into the relevant police force so as to aid in future crime prevention – reinvestment in police forces is paramount when fighting crime, especially in the current climate.

Assets are usually split between the police, the Crown Prosecution and the Home Office. High value items such as cars, jewellery and other significant assets will be auctioned off with the resulting money going to the public purse in many forms. In the case where an individual can be identified as having lost goods or money to a specific conviction this can be reimbursed directly. It just goes to show that some good might just come out of it in the long run when the illegal assets of flashy criminals are recycled back into our local communities

However, the DVLA, TV Licence and PayPal scams still go on, a recent scam email with a link to a Government web site went one step further with many links on the fake web site going to genuine pages of the real web site. This is upping the game from the scammers point of view, but the acid test as I have frequently advised is to check the source of the email by clicking on the sender. Expanding it to show the real sender will help to identify whether or not it is genuine.

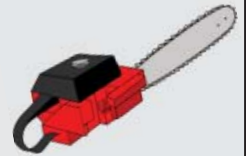
Beware also there is an increase in Twitter and Instagram messages usually with a link to either a fake YouTube video or some other web page. At best it's just a harmless advert (although this is rare), at worst it's an attempt to infiltrate your mobile, tablet or computer to access your contacts or leave a nasty little hidden program to record all your keystrokes.

Follow the simple guidance, if you are not expecting it, be very careful how you handle it. If it's from someone you know, check by a different means that they really sent it and it's ok. Otherwise DELETE it!

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Since the last Clarion issue our Annual Lunch was held at the Parish Hall. Numbers were down but those who did come had an enjoyable carvery provided by Clock House. We also had another interesting and illuminating talk by Mark Baldwin, this time on the Great Zeppelin Raid of 1916, which resulted in bombing in the West Midlands although the target of the raid by nine Zeppelins was Liverpool. The talk was an eye-opener for most of us.

We are looking towards the Coronation and, for the Monday Public Holiday, are planning an environment event, as suggested by His Majesty, after which we plan to meet for a social get together.

Our next event is social – an evening at Worcester Races on 26 May; details of which will be available soon but all are welcome. We need as many people as possible to reduce the cost of transport.

We are still in need of more members, keep your eyes open for information posters around Cleobury. Please remember that you don't have to have served in the military to join and everyone can play a part. You will find an advert in this and other Clarion issues later in the year.

Following a discussion with members, Branch meetings will revert to the second Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the Sports and Social Club. We are also

planning to hold social meetings elsewhere on another evening in the month. If you would like to know more please get in touch and come along to a meeting

*Mike Hermolle – Branch
Chairman 01299 271384*

THE NAUGHTY BOYS CLUB

An official looking envelope arrived in February, opened in anticipation of it being to do with the removal of that nasty little Vladimir from my stomach. Oh no, it was to advise I'd been caught on camera doing 35 in a 30mph area and how I could pay up £100 and get points on my licence, or attended a Speed Awareness Course by paying £87 and not getting those points. It was either driving pride or just male ego that made me opt for the course and keep my licence clean.

I booked my course for April 18th, at Himley Hall near Dudley. A lovely setting, but not clearly signed if you wanted to get a free ticket and avoid another fine. I opted for paying - it does become a habit of you drive a car - and put £3.00 in the machine. Not very expensive if you compare it with parking to shop at the Weaver's Wharf in Kiddy.

24 guilty parties, men and women, were spread around the course room, with two friendly chaps there to make us aware of what speed can do if have a collision. Or, Heaven forbid, hit a cyclist or pedestrian. The need to keep a reasonable distance from the vehicle in front was clear, but

it was observed only in the breach when I last drove on the Swindon by-pass and had cars coming into the 50mph procession in the outside lane if more than one car length was available. I've stopped going to Swindon.

There were lots of pictures on a large screen, which I couldn't see because the lecturer was in the way. And the acoustics and a strong echo made hearing difficult. We all got signed off as attending the course, with the police records notified. You don't learn much, but do get reminded of the limits of both drivers and their vehicles.

I've come to accept cameras that record speeds, but will only respect them completely when they can detect drunken drivers that are a far greater threat to safety than the minor offences that provide an easy income for those who govern us.

Jim Reynolds

TAKE CARE - COVID!

It is not hot news, but Covid is still here and a threat to us all. My brother and his partner took a once-in-a-lifetime cruise in the West Indies and fell ill on the fifth day. Confined to their cabin for the rest of the 15 days, with even a request for a thermometer to test her temperature refused, bliss became a bitter experience.

Of course the risk here is less, but there are people ill with the same nasty little bug. With the Spring Covid-19 Booster jab available, it does make sense to be cautious and book up for free treatment that can save you such discomfort.



Thank you to Debbie Brown

Debbie Brown retired from the Town Council in April after fifteen years of service to the community as a Councillor and in recent years as Council Chair. Debbie served on various working groups and committees; has been a driving force behind improving Council policies and procedures; has updated and continues to maintain the Council's website and social media page and worked on numerous Council and community projects including the WWI events and Cleobury Festival and was especially driven to help set up and will continue to lead Cleobury Food Bank with our community partners.



Vacancies

The Town Council currently has three Councillor vacancies. If you have a good knowledge of, and interest in our community, have good communication skills, are keen to work with community partners and can attend monthly Town Council meetings then please consider joining us. For more information, please contact us 01299 271154 or email council@cleobury.org.uk.

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Cleobury Country Centre on Friday 19th May 2023 commencing at 6.30pm. Representatives from community groups and organisations will be present at this public meeting. This is an opportunity to find out more about what is going on in our local community and meet your councillors. Refreshments will be provided.

Bus Shelters

We have replaced the bus shelters on the High Street recently. The old ones were not cost effective to refurbish but, thanks to some Men's Shed and Council volunteers, we have managed to salvage some panels for spare parts for our other bus shelter. The new bus shelters are part of the ongoing improvements to our High Street.

The Coronation

As a temporary enhancement to the High Street and Church Street we have been pleased to put up Union Jack bunting and flags in readiness for the Coronation. Thanks to our councillors and volunteers for giving their time to do this. We are also encouraging residents and businesses to decorate their property with some bunting, hanging baskets and flower displays. We will award a prize of an Afternoon Tea for two for the winners of the Best-Dressed Coronation-themed window display!

Grants available to community groups

The Town Council has some funding available to support local community groups based in Cleobury Mortimer. Grants are available for activities or for equipment. If you have a project or activity which would benefit from some financial support, please contact the Town Council on 01299 271154 or email council@cleobury.org.uk for further information and an application form.

CLEOBURY CLARION SOCIAL CALENDAR MAY 2023

Wed 3rd	6.00 to 7.00 Late Night at the Food Bank, Market Hall.	
	7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Sonia Pearsall 01584 890874	
Thu 4th	10.00 Rock Pathfinders step out from Heightington Village Hall.	PAGE 21
	7.30 Camera Club inaugural meeting, Talbot Hotel.	PAGE 9
Fri 5th	3.00 Eat Cake for the King at the Market Hall. A W.I. charity fund raiser.	PAGE 19
Sat 6th	10.00 Community Hub open for the coronation.	PAGE 51
Sun 7th	10.00 CMFA Country Walk starts from the Golf Club.	
	11.00 Service to celebrate the King's coronation at Doddington church	PAGE 29
Mon 8th	6.30 Creative Writing Group, Library, Love Lane.	PAGE 5
	7.30 Cleobury Gardeners welcome Dr Pam Davenport to Market Hall	PAGE 9
Tue 9th	7.30 Cleobury W.I. Claire Bradley talks on flower arranging.	PAGE 19
Wed 10th	10.00 Walking for Health AwayDay from Doddington Village Hall.	PAGE 21
	10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall	
	12.30 Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel, Oretton.	PAGE 19
	7.00 Royal British Legion meet at the Sports and Social Club	
Thu 11th	7.30am Breakfast Club meet at The Talbot Hotel, a new venue.	PAGE 11
Fri 12th	8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall. Sonia Pearsall 01584 890874	
Sat 13th	10.00 Garden Club Plant Sale, Victory Hall, Clows Top	PAGE 5
	7.30 Cleobury Concert Brass spring concert at St Mary's.	PAGE 17
Mon 15th	7.00 Bowling Club 'Taster Session'. Ronhill Lane.	PAGE 11
	7.30 The Reading Group meet at the library.	PAGE 19
Tue 16th	6.00 Cleobury W.I. visit to Neen View Gardens, Neen Sollars.	PAGE 19
Wed 17th	7.00 Cleobury Parish Hall AGM in the Hall.	PAGE 29
	7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	
Thu 18th	10.00 Rock Pathfinders walk out from Arley Community Hall.	PAGE 21
Fri 19th	09.00 Community Morning at Cleobury Country Centre	PAGE 45
Sat 20th	10.00 Morning Coffe at Melville Chapel, Oregon	PAGE 19
	6.00 Hopton Wafers Annual Parish Meeting, in the Village Hall.	PAGE 19
	7.30 Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall	PAGE 29
Mon 22nd	Cleobury Gardeners welcome Roger Umpelby.	PAGE 9
Wed 24th	10.00 Walking for Health starts from the Market Hall.	PAGE 21
	10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall.	
	Clows Top Garden Club visit to Byecroft, Bircher, nr Leominster.	PAGE 4
Fri 26th	Royal British Legion have an Evening at the Races at Worcester	
	8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	
Mon 29th	7.30 The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet and drink at the library	
Wed 31st	7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	
AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE:		
Wed 7th	7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	
REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST		
Monday	8.00 Suzanne's Bingo Night at the Market Hall	
Tuesday	2.00 The Friendship Club meet in the Parish Hall	
Thurs	10.00 Drop In at St Mary's to chat and perhaps share a problem.	
	Tina Hobin gives lessons in the Birth Dance and good health in the Market Hall.	

We're turning 30



30

30

25

14

23

55

Style: IPA
ABV: 5.5%
Cask: 9 gallon
Bottle: 500ml

LIMITED EDITION

Hobsons birthday beer is a punchy IPA, brewed with intense British Target and tropical Harlequin hops. Why Dirty Gertie you ask? A simple Bingo call for the magic 30 Bingo Ball, because that's how many years Hobsons has been brewing for!

P.S Save the date Saturday 1st July for a special party, see our website for details

Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Londis Store, Cleoburrs, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, and The Library.

Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; **Clee Hill Stores**; **Clows Top Stores**; The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank Service Station**; ; **Ludlow Library**; **Mahorall Cider Farm**; The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock**; The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon**; The Duck Inn, **Chorley**; The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars**; The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet**; Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors**.

Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE: MAY 22ND

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE LAST POSSIBLE DATE TO RECEIVE REPORTS.

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eme CLEOBURY



FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Gym 
- Exercise Classes 
- Sports Hall 
- Outside Astro Pitch 
- Netball 
- Tennis Courts 

OPENING TIMES

MON	7.30am - 10am 10am-12.30pm GP Referral 3.30pm - 10pm
TUE	3.30pm - 10pm
WED	7.30am - 10am 4.30pm - 10pm
THU	4.30pm - 10pm
FRI	7.30am - 10am 3.30pm - 10pm
SAT-SUN	7.30am - 1pm

Pre booking not required for Gym use.
Induction or Disclaimer required
in advance of use.

CLASS TIMETABLE

MON	9.15 - 10am 6.30 - 7.15pm	GENTLE AEROBICS BODY PUMP
TUES	9.15 - 10am 10.15 - 11am 6.15 - 7pm	YOGA YOGA TRX
WED	5.15 - 6pm 6 - 6.45pm	PILATES CIRCUITS
THU	6 - 6.45pm 7 - 7.45pm	STEP SPIN
FRI	6 - 6.45pm	STRETCH & RELAX

Pre-Booking required for Exercise classes
Book online or at the Centre



TEME CLEOBURY
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CLEOBURY MORTIMER
DY14 8PE
☎ 01299 271317



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