Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

November 2017

MRS ELIZABETH GRIFFITHS

Following her appearance before Telford Magistrates' Court on May 26th, when she was served with a restraining order in the matter of harassment of Town Clerk Matthew Sheehan, on May 27th Mrs Griffiths wrote to the Royal British Legion headquarters in London, complaining about the behaviour of the Cleobury Mortimer branch of the Legion and its treasurer, the same Matthew Sheehan.

Mrs Griffiths was later interviewed by West Mercia Police and a report of that interview was passed to the Crown Prosecution Service. Mrs Griffiths was ordered to appear before magistrates on Monday September 25th, but did not do so. A warrant was then issued for her arrest.

On Wednesday September 27th Mrs Griffiths was arrested and appeared before Telford Magistrates' Court. She pleaded guilty to an offence of harassment "in breach of a restraining order on conviction" and was fined £200 plus £185 costs.

MQP SUPPORTS THE LEGION



Hugh McGuigan of Midland
Quarry Products hands a cheque
for £500 to Dave Clarke, vice
president of the Cleobury Mortimer
branch of the Royal British Legion.
In a friendly and informal
gathering at the Market Hall in
October, Hugh McGuigan,
manager of the MQP quarry on
Clee Hill, handed a cheque for
£500 to the local branch of the
Royal British Legion.

It was a contribution to the cost of producing and installing a plaque in memory of the local men and women who served in the 1914-18 Great War. It will be unveiled as part of the 2018 centenary commemoration.

THE CLARION IS AN AWARD WINNER

Full details of the Midland Enterprise Awards 2017, organised by SME News of Burton-on-Trent, have recently been released.

"Each and every one of our deserving winners are selected by a combination of votes gathered from our network of respected industry partners and our own rigorous in-house research," SME announced.

""SME News prides itself on the validity of its awards and winners. The awards are given solely on merit and are awarded to commend those most deserving for their ingenuity and hard work."

And the winner of the Best Local Newspaper Publication -West Midlands was Cleobury Clarion. We were not aware of the competition and our victory came as a complete surprise. We would like to thank our readers, advertisers, distributors printers, contributors for all their support that has helped earn this acclaim.

Bless you all for your help.





TLC Care at Home are a family run business supporting the local community since 2014. Rated as **'Outstanding'** for 'Is the service caring?' by CQC in March 2017. If you, or a family member, need support to remain living at home as your choice, then **TLC Care at Home** can help.

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'Serving the local communities with dignity & understanding'

The Cleobury Clarion, November 2017

Volume Fifteen - Edition Eight



Glamour comes to town
Linda Lusardi cuts the opening
tape at The Wardrobe
See Page 23.



Friendly new face on patrol. Sue Eden is our new PCSO, comes complete with smile See Page 35.



Valerie and Steve Wilson, mine hosts at The Talbot Hotel. See Page 55.

And On Other Pages....

- 5 Women Achieving
- 7 British Legion Auction
- 9 Bayton Church Open Again
- 13 Stay Well and Safe
- 15 The Clarion Jobs Page
- 17 Clarion Motoring
- 19 Severn Edge Vets
- 21 Tenbury Applefest
- 25 The Cleobury Manshed
- 27 Letter from Westminster
- 29 Stroke Awareness

- 31 Cleobury Patients' Voice
- 32 The Social Calendar Part One
- 33 The Social Calendar Part Two
- 37 On the Buses
- 39 The Neighbourhood Plan
- 41 November in the Wyre Forest
- 45 Celebration Day 2018
- 49 Sports and Social Club News
- 53 World War One Heroes
- 55 New Faces at The Talbot Hotel
- 63 Local Information

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ELIZABETH'S BIG DROP



On the way down. Elizabeth Bishop heads for terra firma and a great piece of fund rasing.

Elizabeth Bishop is over 21. Some might suggest she's old enough to know better, but that underestimates her determination and simple bravery.

On September 23rd she abseiled down the huge Arcelor Mittal Orbit tower in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the place where the Olympic Games were held in 2012. The Orbit claims to be the UK's tallest freefall abseil site, at 262 feet. That's 80 metres in round terms.

She did it to raise funds for the Royal Marsden Hospital, where her grandson recently received treatment. "The sum raised was around a thousand pounds, which I hope will go towards others patients' recovery," she told the Clarion. "I would like to thank all the kind people who sponsored me."

AND CHARLOTTE'S BIG SWIM

Charlotte Manley was a front page story in April's Clarion, with her plan to swim the Channel in June as part of a team of six. All to raise money for Aspire, a charity that supports people with spinal injuries.

She was in strict training to match the qualifying standard, which she did. This is her story:

"I still can't believe we have swum the English Channel!

We set off at midnight and swam for 15 hours and 56 minutes as our team 'The Sea Eagles' took it in turns to swim a mile and then change places. There were six in the team and we set off three weeks earlier than planned, due to good weather conditions. Sadly the other teams failed that day, as the water became too choppy to swim. With the jelly fish, small sharks and Mother Nature, we conquered our challenge.

We thank every single person who donated money, which will really help people with spinal injuries, through Aspire.

Your generosity has astonished me. I raised £2,000 and our team raised a total of £22,000.

I was also proud to be the swimmer to land on the French beach to pick up the six pebbles, one for each team member, as is the tradition for Channel swimmers as a lasting memento of their success."

Charlotte Manley

KNOWLE SPORTS' WINTER BREAK

November will see two of those very popular sales at the Knowle Sports' ground on Clee Hill, on the first and last Saturdays of the month. That's the 4th and the 25th.

There will then be no sales during December or January, but you can still make donations of furniture by leaving them at the sports ground. They'll be open again for bargain business on the first Saturday in February.

WISE BIT

"The starting post of all achievement is the desire."

Charlotte Manley. See her story on this page.

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THE BRITISH LEGION HARVEST AUCTION

On September 15th Jim Hulme conducted the Annual Auction Sale of Harvest Produce and other goods at The Bell Inn in Lower Street. A good range of seasonal and other produce was up for sale, and the event raised a record amount - very nearly £1400. An excellent result, which includes donations and the proceeds of a raffle held on the night. In recent years the all-up totals haven't exceeded £1100, so this year has been a great success.

The Branch is grateful to Jim for his auctioneering skills and stamina, to our many supporters who provided items for sale and those who packed The Bell that night, leaving with an array of apples, flowers, cakes, wine, beans, and all sorts of other delights.

The Branch's next event will be Remembrance Day November 11th, followed by Remembrance Sunday on the 12th. There will be a brief gathering around Cleobury's war memorial at 11 a.m. on the Saturday.

Mark Baldwin

ROCK PATHFINDERS

One of the most reliable bodies for information are the Rock Pathfinders, who aways notify us with full details that come in early. The emphasis is that they are covering footpaths bridleways with walks that take two to three hours. The variety of start points they use is proof of their determination to cover as much of the local countryside as possible. As this month's offerings confirm:

Thursday the 2nd. Meet at 10.30 in the Lickey Hills Visitor Centre in Warren Lane, off the B4096. B45 8ER or SO reference 999745.

Thursday the 16th. 10.30 again, to gather at The Chequers, Cutnall Green, Droitwich, WR9 0PJ. So reference 880685.

Everyone welcome. More details from Alan on 01299 400304.

THE ROYAL BRITISH **LEGION**

On October 11th the branch held their Annual General Meeting in the Bell Inn. The most important business was the election of officers for the forthcoming year. The following were re-elected: David Taylor, Chairman; Vanda Kemp, Secretary; Mike Hermolle, Vice-Chairman; Ron

Breakwell, President: Dave Clarke, Vice-President. The Treasurer, Matt Sheehan, stood down, and Ian Smith was elected in his place. Matt will, however, continue to be Branch Membership Secretary.

CM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

26 members of the Friendship Club enjoyed a trip to Dobbies Garden Centre at Shrewsbury on October 10th and enjoyed an afternoon tea with sandwiches and amazing cream cakes. Blow the calories!

Our next event will be a Carol Service by the children of Mortimer Cleobury **Primary** School at 2.00 o'clock Tuesday the 5th of December in the Parish Hall.

Val Breakwell

THE WRITING GROUP

A modest attendance in October, but everyone had tackled the full challenge of a starting phrase and five words in the script. The atmosphere, as ever, was happy and friendly.

For November we can start a piece with "It was midnight, it was raining and he'd missed the last bus" and incorporate the words "disappointment, hilarity and desolation' in the script. On November 13th we'll listen.

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club assembled at the Lacon Childe School in October to hear Jon May explain the need for 'Intergenerational Planning'. Before he spoke, Angela Drennan reminded us that it's now 28 years since the Breakfast Club first met. That first meeting was held in the Royal Fountain Inn, and was addressed by Douglas Redding, retired headmaster of Lacon Childe. The Club still has four members active from original group: Angela herself, Bill Duley, Alec Osbaldiston, and Shaunah Murrell.

After this brief historical introduction, John May expounded his views on the role which wealth (rather money) might play in a future which will be dominated by longer lifespans, new technology, and the need (perhaps) for multiple careers, extending far beyond the traditional retirement age of 65. He stressed that many financial consultants focus on wills, inheritance tax, and trusts for estates - thus on death rather than life.

Some interesting discussion followed: one member

wondered who we could now rely on, given that neither banks nor governments have been consistently trustworthy. Another questioned established view that lifespans will go on increasing. In her view, the lifestyles adopted by younger people will preclude long lives; today's 40- and 50year-olds did not grow up with rationing, outdoor activities, and the minimum of 'fast foods'. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Ron Booker.

The Breakfast Club next meets on November 14 at the Cleobury Café, to hear Sue Brown talk about 'A Chiropractic Career'. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) or Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

BAYTON CHURCH

St. Bartholomew's Church Bayton opened its doors after a major refurbishment on October 7th and the first service was a wedding, a nice way to resume worship. The first scheduled service was on Sunday the 15th and the Church is now back in regular use much to the delight of everyone.

Plans are going well for the big Christmas Concert on December 3rd at 2.30pm when the Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir will be joining us again after their fantastic performance two years ago. In addition we have a special guest: Oliver Hart-Bradford, who will be singing two solo items. Oliver has recently completed a run as the principal lead in Les Miserables and also Spamalot at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton. line up plus a Christmas tea in the interval has to be the recipe for a super afternoon out. If you would like to come to the concert tickets are now on sale priced at £15 including the tea and are available from 01299 832219. 270287 or **Bayton** Church wardens.

Brian Link

HOPTON WAFERS QUIZ

There's a Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper at Hopton Wafers Village Hall on Saturday night, November 18th. Teams of up to six people, entry fee £7.50 a head and it all starts at 7.00.

No licensed bar, so you bring your own drinks and glasses. We have been to this quiz before and it was a really good night, though the editor doesn't feel brave enough to enter a Clarion team again. Marilyn Wood on CM 271245 can tell you more.



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Redcurrants	Mushy Peas	e de	Chicken Korma	Swordfish
Apple Chunks	Baby Onions	6	Prawn Balti	Kippers
Mango Chunks	Baby Carrots	Lucileus - A4117 - Kiddown skov	PLUS	PLUS
Summer Fruits	Asparagus) I was a second	Garlic and	Prawns
Forest Fruits	Stir Fry Mix	- Harrison of	Coriander Naan	Scallops
Rhubarb	Whole Beans	CLEONPY	Garlic Slices	Mussels
		CENTRE		

DECEMBER'S ADVENT LUNCHES

Gayna Woodland of the Severn Hospice Shop with the details:

To celebrate the build-up to Christmas, we're hosting the Advent Lunches for the second year at the Market Hall. They will be on Fridays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of December, from 12.30 pm until 1.30 pm.

Lunch includes home made soup with locally made crusty bread, home made apple pie and cream. Cheap at half the price at £3.50 a head. For further details or any special dietary requests please call in at the Severn Hospice Community Shop or telephone 01299 272795. Proceeds to Severn Hospice and there will be a raffle in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

The 4th annual Music Hall at Neen Sollars was once again a success with capacity audiences on both nights. An evening of laughter and everyone left with smiles on their faces. There was also a splendid supper prepared by the ladies of the Victory Hall. Profits of £1036 were the biggest since the group presented their first show and these will be shared between St. Mary's Cleobury and Neen Sollars & Milson Victory Hall. The group would like to thank everyone for their continued support; see you Trevor Wood next year!

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

October was busy. Firstly 10 members enjoyed an excellent day at Westhope College learning the skill of Enamelling. Westhope is a magical place where it is possible to escape the

troubles of everyday life and just lose oneself in learning a new craft. Our enthusiastic tutor ensured we all came away with at least two different items and we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and afternoon tea.

Everyone was enthralled by our speaker this month, the passionate Ailie Hill. ablv assisted by son Ben, from Pricklebums Hedgehog Rescue in Pipe Aston, Ludlow. Ailie is so knowledgeable and imparted lots of valuable advice on how care for hedgehogs, debunking many myths along Hedgehogs the way. carnivores and in the wild eat earthworms, insects and amphibians and only eat slugs when really hungry – it has been recently discovered that slugs and snails are really high in potassium and this in turn causes calcium deficiency in the hedgehogs. They are also lactose intolerant SO under circumstances feed them bread and milk. The best food for them is dry cat food, not mealworms which they greatly enjoy but are empty calories. If you find a hedgehog out in the day and it isn't scurrying about making a nest then it is probably ill and needs help. The best thing to do is to put it in a high sided box, on a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel, with plenty of drinking water then seek help from a rescue centre. If your dog brings in a hedgehog it is also important to get it checked out, even if you think the dog hasn't harmed it, often a tiny puncture wound can lead to a fatal infection.

The centre is currently housed in and around their home but Ailie's vision is a purpose built unit that includes a separate veterinary room for treatment. Look out for the chance to support Pricklebums in the Ludlow Tesco store in the run up to Christmas by putting your bag tokens in their slot. Please support this native British mammal whose numbers have declined from 30 million in the 1970s to just 1 million today.

Our next meeting on November 8th is the AGM where we review the past year, committee members are decided and we will have an informal discussion about where members have come from and how they have ended up in Neen Savage.

Catherine Evans

CLEOBURY W.I.

Our popular Winter Warmer Soup lunch is back on November 2nd, 12 - 2pm in the Market Hall with home made soups and puddings, fundraising for Nineveh Ridge Care Farm.

October's AGM welcomed lots of visitors, followed by a jolly session of 'drinking games' with plenty of ideas for Christmas parties! November 14th brings a talk from historian Alf Jenkins MBE, who was born Dhustone Inn, Clee Hills and received the MBE for research of the Industrial and Social History of Titterstone Clee Hills and Services to Education. Visitors invited to join members at 7.30pm in the Market Hall to hear him speak on Wagons to Wheelbiers, £4 including refreshments, please contact me CM270983 email judysant10@gmail.com for places. More about Cleobury Mortimer WI on the Facebook page. Judy Sant







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THANK YOU FROM MACMILLANS

We would like to give a tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who came to the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. The support was wonderful, we had people queueing to come in for coffee. We would like to thank them for their patience and donations which amounted to an amazing £608-10.

The lovely people at St Mary's Place Day Centre also held a coffee morning and raised £80. That is £688-10 from Cleobury sent to Macmillan.

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday, November 11th. In the Market Hall, 10am -12noon.

Come and get your pickled onions, chutneys and preserves for Christmas and enjoy a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

Sue Henderson

STAY WELL AND SAFE

This sounds like a good event. It's on November 2nd, at the Severn Centre in Highley, and will be open from 10.00 until 2.00. And it's all about the help and advice that's available in the county.

The Police will be there to advise on Home Security and Scam Awareness. Others will tell you all you need to know about Housing, Debt and Budgeting and Universal Credit.

Carers Trust 4 All can help if you're caring for a friend or relative, as can Compassionate Communities and the online Shropshire Choices.

Shropshire Community Council can tell you about help with Sight or Hearing Loss or Fuel Poverty if you're struggling with fuel bills.

It's a Highley centred event, but it's also a chance to ask one of the local services for help if you need it. No need for an appointment, this is a Drop-In day.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

November can be a damp, raw month. Flowers may be scarce in the garden but there are many berries, evergreen foliage and trees with decorative bark to add interest on the dullest of days. Frosts can be quite frequent at night, especially when it is calm and clear. Cold winds from the east will make it feel much colder than it really is. November is also the perfect time to plant new roses in a well prepared site and don't forget your Spring Flowering Tulips.

At the September meeting, the club had its annual Autumn Show for members only. The winners were 1st Marion Wilson, 2nd Madge Edwards and 3rd Kath Thornton. Best Exhibit: Bob Marriott. Many thanks to Anne for judging the show.

Our next and last meeting of the year will be on November 22nd, and will be the AGM and members' social evening.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 24th. The speaker for the evening will be David Mills with a talk entitled 'Bees'.

Clows Top Gardening Club meet the 4th Wednesday in the month at Victory Hall; Doors open 7.30pm, for the speaker at 8.00 o'clock. Admission Fee: Members £2 or Non-Members £4. Further Details Telephone Marion Wilson 01299 270475.

Or email: clowstopdistrictgardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk.

SILLY BIT

"I have never made a mistake in my life. I've just attempted a few things that went wrong."

John Carter

"Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet." Anon





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

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We are very fortunate to attract such a talent to the village.

He has agreed to appear so that all proceeds will go to Nineveh Ridge Care Farm. Check out his website www.stompindave.com.

Tickets £10 or £12 with hot supper. Booking essential. 01299-832773 or julie@hardenparkhomes.co.uk. Bar available. Doors open 7.30pm on stage at 8pm

IS TWENTY PLENTY?

There is a growing movement in support of having the speed limit on urban roads reduced to 20mph. There was a meeting in Shrewsbury in September, where local and invited guest advocates of the idea spoke at length.

The fundamental logic behind the scheme is that if a car hits a pedestrian at 40mph, there's a 90 percent chance of it being fatal. At 30mph it's 50 percent and at 20mph it's only 10 percent. It was stated that in Shropshire the fatality rate is "significantly worse than the national average", but there was no figure for the number of people hurt or killed on rural roads, so that doesn't necessarily reflect the effect of a 20mph urban limit. The aim of the group is simple: to get Shropshire to adopt a 20mph speed limit on all urban roads. It was stated that there is a growing tendency in Europe to adopt a 30 km/hr limit; Shropshire Council has refused to adopt the idea.

The meeting was told that to adopt the 20mph limit would cost an estimated £1million, which is less than one percent of the cost of road pedestrian/vehicle accidents in the county, which in 2015 was £133million. A telling figure was that

children under 14 cannot differentiate traffic speeds, though you do wonder how such children can tell you that a car was speeding.

Paul Butcher, Director of Public Health in Calderdale, Yorkshire, explained how they introduced the idea in stages, starting in 2014. In 2015, 2,000 people were questioned about the scheme and 89% were in favour. The casualty rate had fallen by 22 %.

Bristol has piloted the idea in 20 areas, with little change in casualties in the busier traffic parts. But they found that adult support for the idea grew after it was imposed. With the aim for their scheme expressed as: "It should be safe for a 10 year old to walk to and from school" you can see why adults would give support.

In the case of Cleobury's 20mph signing on the main street, this is in fact an advisory limit. We believe that means you won't be penalised for exceeding the 20mph figure, but if you were involved in any sort of accident, exceeding the advisory would logically act against you.

We have read some of the objections to the proposal, which like much that is on social media tends to be reactionary

rather than factually based. We do doubt the claim that driving at 20mph means changing down from third to second gear, with a rise in revs, more fuel consumed and more air pollution. That may be true of older cars, but modern engine management systems mean that most cars can be driven at 20mph in third gear if you have a gentle foot on the accelerator.

A chat with a council official who did not want to be identified gave the explanation that Shropshire Council regards the evidence given in support of the lower limit as based on relatively old information. Their view is that a much more people serious problem is talking on their mobiles while walking and being distracted. A valid point, but if those people walk in front of a vehicle doing 20 rather than 30mph, they would suffer less harm.

BE AWARE

It emerged at the recent Crime Reduction Group meeting that three vehicles have been seized on the High Street because they had not been taxed. Just because you don't have to show a tax disc in the old fashioned way doesn't mean it can't be checked. Yes, it does hurt to fork out for the tax, but it's a lot more pain when there's a fine added.

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FIREWORK PHOBIA IN PETS

Bonfire Night is fast approaching, although for us this is an exciting time of year, the same cannot be said of our pets. Many animals will find the noise and flashes from fireworks frightening and very stressful. There are several things that can be done to keep our pets feeling calm and safe during this time. Have a read through our advice and see what you can do to help your pet. After all, it's not just for one evening; fireworks season will continue over Christmas and New Year.

There are some basic things you can do at home, including:

Make sure all dogs and cats are kept inside, lock your cat flaps and keep all windows and doors tightly shut to prevent pets escaping.

Keep curtains drawn and turn on the TV and radio. This will help block out some of the sound and visual effects.

Create a den; our cats and dogs like to hide away to help make themselves feel more secure. Place in some of their favourite toys and something of yours, the familiar smells will help them feel a little more at ease. You can create this den earlier so that your pet gets used to it.

Try to act normally. If they want to pace around and find new new hiding spots, let them. The more you stress around them, the more stressed they will become. If you are relaxed it will help them do so too.

It's also a good time to make sure your pet's identification details are up to date, just in case they escape. Check your microchip details, collar and tags to ensure that all the details are correct. It's not just our cats and dogs that get worried.

This can include our rabbits, guinea pigs, rodents and birds.

Don't forget about your smaller pets too.

If possible, hutches and enclosures should be moved out of the open.

If you are unable to move your pet's hutch or enclosure, cover it over with blankets. This will help deaden the noise and block out the sight of the fireworks. You could also turn the opening of the hutch towards the fence or wall so it's not facing the open garden.

Provide plenty of extra bedding to allow for effective burrowing. This will help them feel a little safer.

Sometimes these general precautions aren't enough for our more nervous animals. There are

lots of products on the market designed to help calm and relieve anxiety. These include Adaptil and Fellway products that come in plug-in diffusers, sprays and collars.

For more advice on which product might be best suited to your pet's needs, please do not hesitate to speak to us at any of our Severn Edge Vet branches.

Also spare a thought for our wildlife this season. If you're building bonfires check them before lighting to make sure there are no little friends hibernating inside. Make sure all firework rubbish is disposed of properly; if left around it can become a hazard.

Kate Williamson RVN







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TENBURY'S APPLEFEST

Apple lovers came together at Applefest 2017 on October 7th ready to enjoy the spectacle of 300+ varieties that were on display in the Apple Marquee. Visitor numbers were up on last year and stall holders reported a good day.

As usual, Frank P Matthews Ltd provided an eyecatching exhibition and were on hand, along with the Marcher Apple Network to help visitors with information and advice about growing, planting, identification and much more.

The juicing team from Appleteme were kept busy throughout the day juicing many kilos of apples into apple juice and reported many returning visitors attending, and more who pledged to come back next year with their own apples.



Too close for comfort? An extreme way of watching the juggler in action. Picture by Ashleigh J Cadet

The crowd enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and the entertainment provided by local schools, the Teme Valley Band, Bandemonium, Royal British Legion Choir, local girl Shannon Flynn and the ever popular Leominster Morris Dancers. This year a juggler entertained the crowds along with demonstrations from blacksmith Al Colebatch and the old art of wheelwrighting with ongoing demonstrations from Ron Robinson.

The animals never fail to attract the attention of the visitors, enthralled by the Temevale Alpacas and Trevor Hill's Animal Encounters.

Next year Applefest is on October 6th and organisers are already investigating new attractions for everyone to enjoy. www.tenburyapplefest.co.uk

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

David Morgan, Worcestershire's County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme, came to answer the question "Is my garden good enough to be included in the N.G.S. 'Gardens to Visit' booklet.

He gave an outline of how the scheme began in 1859. It wasn't until 1970 that it became a charity in its own right. The money that it raises is used to pay a few full time people and the rest is distributed to a group of charities. Last year £3 million went to supporting the five main causes.

As County Organiser he is a volunteer and visits gardens to see if they can be included in the "Gardens to Visit" booklet.

Does size matter? No. He showed pictures of very beautiful small gardens. Is it interesting? He is looking for plants of interest and considers the time it would take to peruse the garden - nothing less than 30-45 minutes.

He also considers the planting scheme, then observes structures such as water features, statues and other models. They especially like quirky things.

If the garden is suitable they then check for accessibility and safety. Finally they have to consider parking: will it block the road for residents, is there a nearby car park? If all these meet the criteria then you may be entered into "The Book".

Members please remember the AGM next month which begins at 7-30 p.m. There are also some vacant allotments; if anyone is interested please contact Steve Todd on CM 271639.

Liz Smurthwaite

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our next Parish Walk is on Sunday November 5th starting at 10.00 from St Mary's. There should still be plenty of autumn colours around.

In October four of us replaced a rotten and dangerous stile with a gate in a very rural and scenic location in Hopton Wafers. On the route of our Walk 15, it was a beautiful place to work. The planned work at Saddlers Barn Farm will be done in November

Walkers may be interested to know that, as well as our walk leaflets, our website contains information on every footpath problem and variance from the OS map in the local area. Essential for planning good walks here. Our Facebook page also contains details of any current problem on any of our leaflet routes. www.cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

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THE WARDROBE IS OPEN



The crowds turned out to watch Linda Lusardi cut the tape and declare The Wardrobe open for business.

It was quite an occasion when The Wardrobe opened its doors at the end of September. There was a good crowd of people, moving in and out of the shop on the corner of Lion Lane as they waited for special guests Sam Kane and Linda Lusardi to arrive.

They were fashionably late, thanks traffic to on the Motorway, not their egos. Linda brought showbiz glamour to the day and charmed people with friendly attitude and willingness to mix and chat. Such a natural person, she made everyone feel at home and really was great.

So congratulations to Sue Clews, the idea and the drive behind the Wardrobe. She and family did the work on the place, including what looks like a professional shop fitting job. Sue's from Stourbridge and the family have had a holiday place

here for some time. They like the place so much they decided it was where they'd like to have a business of their own.

Open Tuesday to Saturday, it has a constantly changing range on show. It is not wedded to a limited number of makers or one brand, but Sue selects the best looking lines available from a range of wholesalers in both Manchester and London and takes in one lot of stock. Next time, it's something different.

Clever thinking for a lady's shop, with little risk of the same outfit appearing twice at the same event. It's a bright and welcoming presence next to Ben's Barbers Shop and we wish Sue every success in her first venture as a shop owner.

HOORAY! THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FETE IS BACK

The Primary School's popular Christmas Fete is back after a year away. Hope they had a note for teacher to say why....

It's a great family event, on Friday December 1st this year. It starts at 4.30 and ends at 6.30, with lots to attract children and parents. Expect a tombola, Christmas carols, fun activities, hot drinks and food, cakes and dear old Santa's Grotto.

It's open to traders, who pay £10 a table. book yours through the School Friends' email at friends@cleoburymortimer.shropshire.sch.uk by November 15th.

MAMBLE MUSIC NIGHT

There's an advert on Page 16 for Mamble Music Night on January 13th. It features the highly acclaimed 'Stompin Dave' from Dorset, who's a dancer, vocalist, instrumentalist and raconteur with a range of musical styles from Bluegrass through Country to Rock n' Roll, He's performed at shows from Glastonbury to the Upton on Severn Festival.

Tickets are £10 for the gig or £12 for the gig plus a hot supper. Booking essential, through 0 1 2 9 9 8 3 2 7 7 3 o r julie@hardenparkhomes.co.uk
The Village Hall doors will open at 7.30 and show kicks off at 8.00.

The real story behind all this is that all proceeds will go to Nineveh Ridge Care Home, who are really in need of help because their grant has been cut. Can you believe it? So many people give their time and effort to help the disabled in this remarkable Care Farm, which must save many thousands of pounds compared with more conventional care, and the grant has been cut. If anyone dares to spout that self righteous stuff about "There isn't a money tree" in response to this, there is danger of blood being spilt. We don't need a money tree, we need more people who can see that the seriously disadvantaged are as entitled to a decent chance in life as the rest of us. Please support this event and any other opportunity to help Nineveh Care Farm. End of rant!

DODDINGTON WINTER FAYRE

The Parish Church of Saint John the Baptist are holding a Winter Fayre in the fine Village Hall at Doddington on November 25th. It starts at 2.30, parking is very good there and if you want to hire a table as a trader, talk to Celia Gibb on 01584 318036.

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THE CLEOBURY MANSHED

I'm told that Mansheds are an idea that started in Australia that has spread around the world, the first British one opening in 2009. They're defined in the manshed flier as "Places where men meet to enjoy their hobbies or learn new ones, make friends and enjoy each other's company. A place for men to provide help and support to themselves and others and to make a contribution to the community.

Cleobury's shed idea started as a meeting on October 5th, with Pete Blackburn nominated as the chairman and a lot of people offering help and support. It was agreed that the group apply for registration as a non trading charity, aiming to make things for the benefit of the community, which would help their case when applying for grants or other help.

At the second meeting two weeks later there was good progress to report. David Robinson of Mawley Farm has offered a 6 metres x 12 site, with parking space plus access to power and water, on the Tenbury Road industrial estate free of charge. Cleobury CoCo

has donated £600 to the cause and will pay for room rent for meetings at the Market Hall.

Architect Stewart Mumford has offered his support and B&Q have pledged help, though details have to be agreed.

So that's a very strong start for a new venture. The starting point will obviously be a decent shed, with woodworking facilities and space for ceramic work the early suggestions. As there is a Manshed Association website, they'll get information from that and obtain a copy of the handbook available in Scotland. In Pete Blackburn's words: "We don't want to reinvent the wheel."

What Pete is asking for now is suggestions from people who would want to use the shed, whether as a gathering point to talk or a place to practise or learn skills. His email is petblack@me.com

There's already support for the idea, with more to come from the community as the idea grows. We'll tell you more in future issues, but this is the time to get involved if you want to see the Manshed grow. *IR*

THE READING GROUP

'After Brock' by Paul Binding Written by a Shropshire author this novel centred round a father

IRENA

and son, their relationship and similar experiences. Both had spent time in the Berwyn mountains, though for rather different reasons, which become apparent during the narrative. Only two people really enjoyed the book, with another couple just managing to read about 70 pages. The rest of us read it all and liked some aspects. We appreciated the well described local landscapes that the author obviously knew well. The story led one of the group to hope for the appearance of aliens from space while a second was hoping they didn't appear. Which one was happy? That would be telling. Badgers only briefly featured and discussed whether the title was relevant.

During the next month we will be reading a vintage title, The L-Shaped Room by Lynne Reid Banks. Not too sure I like the 'vintage' part as I remember it from when it was first published in 1960. It will be interesting to see how well it reads in the present day and to hear what the group think when we meet in Cleobury Library on November 20^{th.}

Any questions, contact me Deana Kimber, CM 271754.

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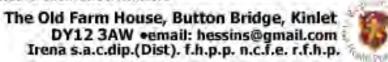
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Housing in Shropshire

For too many young people, the idea of buying their own home now seems like an impossible dream. The average home costs almost eight times average earnings, making it extremely difficult to get on the housing ladder. So last month's two announcements to promote homeownership are welcome.

The first was a significant increase in support for Help to Buy. It is clear that finding a deposit is still one of the biggest problems people face when looking to buy a new home. Help to Buy helps those who can afford monthly mortgage payments, but struggle to save for a deposit, to get a foot on the housing ladder. Help to Buy schemes have helped over 320,000 people across the UK buy a new home, including over 275,000 first time buyers. So the additional £10bn for this scheme will help extend the prospect of homeownership to even more young people and first time buyers.

Of course, this additional support for people buying a home needs to go hand in hand with increasing the supply of housing available. It is common knowledge that successive governments have failed to build enough housing in this country. But there has been some progress in recent years, and last year saw the highest number of residential planning permissions granted on record, and the highest level of net housing additions since the recession.

Ensuring housing is affordable is crucial, and social housing has a vital role to play. The average number of social housing units completed per year has increased steadily since 2010. An additional £2bn for new affordable housing was announced last month, taking the total up to £9bn. This is expected to help build 25,000 affordable homes, a further welcome addition.

These were particularly timely announcements for our area, as Shropshire Council is currently reviewing its Local Development Scheme, to ensure local development keeps up with changes in national policy, and to ensure that future development will meet local needs.

Shropshire Council has opened a public consultation into changes to its plan for future development, and local residents can submit their views up to the deadline of Monday 18th December. More information is available on www.shropshire.gov.uk.

Of course, local development can be controversial and needs to be appropriate in style and scale. But I would urge all those who intend to respond to the consultation to reflect on the challenges we face both locally and nationally.

In Shropshire, we need to boost the supply of housing for families. If we do not, our sons and daughters will be forced to live elsewhere by a spiralling cost of renting or buying a property. Our local businesses and services, including schools (whose pupil numbers continue to fall in South Shropshire overall), rely on working age families either staying here or coming here, to contribute to the local economy.

Locally we know the scale of the challenge – while it is of course important to protect rural areas from overdevelopment - that does not mean we should seek no development at all. I encourage local residents and town and parish councils to have their say, to ensure local development is appropriate, but also to ensure that South Shropshire plays its part in developing sufficient housing for future generations of Salopians.

Philip Dunne

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STROKE AWARENESS EVENT

Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, 10.00 November 8th The CoCo coffee morning on Wednesday November 8th will, for one morning, have an extra element.

There will be the chance to hear from the Stroke Association how to reduce risks of a stroke and to recognise a stroke when it happens (Act FAST) and then living with life changing consequences of having a stroke for the patient and their family. Plus how Stroke Support Groups can help.

Register your interest in becoming a member of a support group if you have had a stroke or are volunteering to help.

Thanks to Cleobury Patients Voice CoCo and the Medical Centre for their support.

Graham Simpson

FROM THE BANDROOM

We played a joint concert with Black Pear Symphonic Winds on October 8th at Kidderminster Town Hall. As expected, it was a great concert and something that we hope to repeat but we are very limited with large venue space in Cleobury

November brings the annual Remembrance Parade in Cleobury, this year on Sunday 12th We will also be playing at the Clee Hill British Legion Service in the evening – something that the band (and some members!) have been doing for around 30 years.

Moving on to December, we hope to play for the switchingon of the Christmas lights in Cleobury, but can't get a confirmed date from anyone at present. We we felt that we added a festive musical element last year.

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday December 17th at the Parish Hall. If you would like to prebook tickets, please contact Katie on 01299 270262 and leave a message.

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands. www.cmcb.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

THE CARERS' GROUP

On October 13th the Group celebrated National Mental Health Week by running a Pamper Room at The Foyer in Ludlow, followed by a tapas lunch. We invited Ludlow Dementia Group to join us and everybody enjoyed reflexology, chiropody, pedicures, manicures and nail painting, preceded by warm, scented footpaths. It was so successful we have already planned another in March.

On Tuesday November 21st the Group are running an Early Christmas Bonanza at St Mary's Community Room, Love Lane, from 1.00 to 4.00pm.

We are having a Christmas Quiz at 2.00 and there will be a Bottle Tombola and a raffle for Christmas hampers. We will also be serving sherry and mince pies, hot sausage rolls, tea, coffee and Christmas cake.

Entry and refreshments are free, but donations will be appreciated. Please support us; the event is open to all Cleobury folk. If you would like to donate bottles or non perishable Christmas Fayre, please telephone Jan Manley on 01299 272841 or kindly drop off at Saint Mary's community room

with Jo Booker We look forward to seeing you there.

Janet Manley

SHROPSHIRE HEALTH DAY

November 18th, 9.00 to -12.00noon, Market Hall Cleobury Mortimer

Come and talk to the people who are organising your future care, explain what you think we need for the future of our large rural area with cross border problems.

For details ring Cllr Madge Shineton 01299 271186 or email Madge.shineton@shropshire.gov .uk

ROAD SAFETY THEME AT LOCAL MEETING

Committee Local **Joint** scheduled Meeting is for Tuesday November 7th Hopton Wafers Village Hall, with Road Safety as its main theme. Guest speakers are the manager of Midland Quarry Products at Clee Hill Quarry and our Dog Warden. Does that mean that dogs are driving dangerously?

Seriously, if you have concerns they'll be listened to and there will be explanations of the measures taken by the quarry to run their fleet safely. All local area citizens are welcome.

SILLY BITS

Did you know that line dancing was started by women queuing to use the bathroom?

Question from Granny for 10-year-old grandson: "Roger, do you know if they deliver Emails on Sundays?"

[&]quot;Doctor, my memory's bad."

[&]quot;How bad?"

[&]quot;How bad is what?"

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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Mark Radford has cause for concern:

Is Ludlow Hospital being closed by stealth? Recent events force one to ask such a guestion. The midwife-led unit closed, remains with suggestions that when (if?) it eventually reopens there will not be 24/7 staffing nor beds for inpatient-based post-natal Shropdoc's funding shortfall means that there will no longer be a doctor stationed at the hospital overnight, while the draft Community Services Review suggests that local GPs (facing a recruitment crisis of their own) should take on more minor injuries work, together call question the survival of the hospital's excellent Minor Injuries Unit. The District Nursing team based at the hospital, most of whom live in Ludlow, where they conduct much of their work, have been relocated to Craven Arms without notice or explanation,

which inevitably increases their travelling time and reduces the number of visits they can make.

Meanwhile, Ludlow's GPs have publicly accused the local health authority (Shropshire CCG) of using statistical data in the Community Services Review in a misleading and biased way to seek the closure of some or all of Shropshire's community hospitals, most of which are in South Shropshire.

So is this death by a thousand cuts? The various bodies responsible for health and social services have been invited to attend a Future Fit (yes, it's still going, four years on) presentation event in Cleobury's Market Hall on the morning (9–12) of Saturday 18th November. Why not come along and try and deduce the answer for yourself: all welcome!

For those that take an interest in such things, October's 'Flu Clinic' vaccinated 1,057 local residents in a single morning, and a further 100 or so shingles or pneumonia jabs were given too. A number of smaller, 'mop-up' clinics have been organised for those eligible/vulnerable (65 or over, pregnant or a carer), including one in the early evening of Tuesday 7th November.

Finally, a plea to all to respect the disabled parking bays at the front of the Medical Centre: please only use them if you need to (and need does not include being in a hurry or not being very confident with narrower spaces elsewhere in the car park).

CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. The objective of the group is to promote positive patient involvement in monitoring, communications improving about, and developing our local health and social care services (so not just what happens within the four walls of the Medical Centre). We always welcome new members so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail .co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area.

Mark Radford

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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 1 st	10.00am	Walking for Health steps out from the Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 2 nd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Stay Well and Safe exhibition at Severn Centre, Highley. Page 13		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Lickey Hills Visitors Centre. Page 7		
	12.00	W.I. Winter Warmers Lunch, Market Hall. Page 11	Judy Sant	01299 270983
Sat 4 th	8.00	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill	Ground, Tenbury Road,	
Sun 5 th	10.00	CMFA Parish Walk. All welcome; good social occasion		
	6.00	Service of Light and Remembrance, Saint Mary's church. Page 35		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only		
Mon 6 th	7.00	Cleobury Town Council meet at Cleobury Country, Love Lane		
Tues 7 th	7.00	Local Joint Committee meet at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. PAGE 29		
Wed 8 th	10.00	Coco Coffee Morning has a special "Living with a Stroke" theme. PAGE 29		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. and general reminiscing. PAGE 11		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street	David Taylor	01299 270793
Thurs 9 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELLIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 11 th		Macmillans Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. PAGE 13		
	11.00	Royal British Legion muster at the War Memorial		
	11.00	Christmas Fayre at Amberley Village Hall		
Sun 12th		Remembrance Sunday. A major event for the town; an impressive occasion		
Mon 13 th	6.30	The Writing Group gather at the Library, Love lane. PAGE 7		
Tues 14 th	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meets and eats at The Cleobury Café. PAGE 7		
	7.30	Cleobury W.I. host Alf Jenkins for stories of Clee Hill. PAGE 11		
Wed 15 th	10.00am	Walking for Health depart from the Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 16 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders, The Chequers, Cutnall Green. PAGE 9		
	+		+	



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Fri 17 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 18 th		Coach Trip to Nottingham	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
	9.00/12	Shropshire Health Day, Market Hall. PAGE 29		
	9.30/12.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, St. Marys Church		
	6.30	Cheese & Port Night at the Sports & Social Club. Cheers! PAGE 35		
	7.00	Quiz & Fish & Chip supper, Hopton Wafers. PAGE 9	Marilyn	01299 271245
	8.00	RBL Prize Bingo at Clee Hill Village Hall, in aid of the Poppy Appeal. PAGE 45		
Mon 20 th	7.00	Cleobury Celebration Day meeting, meeting in Market Hall. PAGE 45		
	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 25		
Tues 21st	1.00	Early Christmas Bonanza at St Mary's Community Room, PAGE 29		
Wed 22 nd	10.00	Cleobury CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club, Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 13		
Thurs 23 rd		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 24 th	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall Sonia Pearsall		01584 890874
Fri-Sun 24- 26		"Aladdin" Pantomime at Clows Top Victory Hall. Tickets 01299 832229		
Sat 25 th	8.00	Last sale of Household Goods this year at Knowle Sports Ground. PAGE 5		
	2.30	Winter Fayre for St John the Baptist Church, Doddington Village Hall. PAGE 23		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks presents "Sully" at the Parish Hall. Heroic stuff!		
Thurs 30 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER		
Fri 1 st	12.30	The Advent Lunches in the Market Hall begin. PAGE 11		
	4.30	Christmas Fete at the Primary School. Great family event! PAGE 23		
	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun 3 rd	2.30	Christmas Concert at Bayton Parish Church. PAGE 9		
Tues 5 th	6.30	Carol Service & Grand Raffle at Hopton wafers Parish Church		
Wed 6 th	2.00	The Friendship Club have a Carol Service in the Parish Hall. PAGE 7		
	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	10584 890874
Thurs 7 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 8 th	12.30	Senior Citizen's Christmas Party, Sports & Social Club. PAGE 49		

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Clarion Coppers - A New Face



Sue Eden, ten years service as a CPSO and now looking after Cleobury Country.

Sue Eden is our new Police Community Support Officer, a lady with ten years in the job and seven years as a Special Constable before that. So why did she sign up all that time ago? "My husband Grenville was a Special Sergeant Constable and I fancied doing it too," she explains.

That meant 12 months training, most of it at weekends, which was a serious test of her devotion to the task. And when she went for the PCSO job, that was another seven weeks of basic training before she was out on patrol. So what is her current job all about?' "I support the

Police. I do more mixing with the community, gathering information, making personal contacts and looking in at the local schools and nurseries. When I go there I'm not Officer or Mrs Eden, I'm Sue. It breaks down barriers."

It's no easy ride, each working day a nine hour shift. There are three shifts on the rota: Day Shift is 8.00 to 5.00, Late Shift is 1.00 to 10.00 and Midnight 3.00 to midnight, spread over a ten week cycle.

She's moved around the area in her time in uniform. Starting 10 years ago she was based in Craven Arms, then moved over to Bridgnorth, followed by a spell in Bewdley and finally to the Cleobury Mortimer and Highley area, covering the same area as WPC Ann O'Leary. That's from Ditton Priors in the north down to Burford in the south. And is this her final posting? "Hopefully," smiles, that friendly face that the kids like.

There's a caravan in Devon for weekends when she and Grenville are not on duty and they have dogs to keep them paying attention."We borrow them from the family. One's a basset hound, there's a spaniel, two Jack Russels and I'm not quite sure about the other one."

Should we call it A N Other? She smiles again- "Yes, that'll do."

Sue will be writing the monthly Clarion Coppers page from December on, mixing crime reports with helpful advice. And does she still enjoy the job after those years looking after people who don't always appreciate what she does? "I wouldn't do it if I didn't. You need to be a people person to do this job and I like people."

And she does know her way around Cleobury, having been part of the force that distributed Smart Water to every household. The signs are all good. Welcome to the patch, Mrs Eden.

REPORTING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

You can report anti-social behaviour to a special number. If you're bothered by unnecessary noise, vandalism, dumping of rubbish, drunkenness, drug taking or selling, fireworks being let off (not on the 5th!) or motorbikes and cars being used illegally off-road, the number to call is 0345 678 9020

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Where to start this month? So many problems, although in response to the complaint about the lady stuck in Ludlow mentioned last month, Rotala management say it's in their interests to improve reliability and provide the best possible service. I think the customers feel that it's in their interests as well. They also say that a 'real time' app for mobile phones will be available shortly. Presumably this will tell you at a glance (if you have a suitable phone), where your bus has broken down. They also say (rightly) that the Hales Park to Ludlow part of the 2L route is the only section that needs subsidising. I wonder if they realise that this is due to the fact that anyone use who can alternative transport has done so due to the dire level of service offered. One piece of good (?) news for Kiddy to Stourport travellers is that the threatened No 1 service has been reprieved until next March.

An indication of staff morale was given by the driver who was eating his lunch whilst standing by the 2L in Kiddy bus station and which was already 20 minutes late departing. When asked when the service might be leaving, he became abusive and said it had to wait until he had finished his scoff. Another driver returning from Ludlow minutes (already 40 late) stopped the bus at Hopton Bank Garage for it to cool down. Then he went into the garage and bought his lunch while the passengers waited. The result

was an arrival in Cleobury over an hour late. I wonder if this be the result of may innovative approach to staff rosters: 'You are entitled to a break so take it when you like as the passengers won't mind. Obviously you can't eat and drive at the same time, so forget the driving until your food has down'. gone Another masterpiece customer of service...

A visitor from Cheshire reads 'Clarion' regularly wondered if some of the events that have featured in past 'On Buses' columns were exaggerated. Then he boarded a Diamond bus. He later sent me details of his trip to Ludlow which involved struggling very slowly up Hopton Bank whilst being overtaken by all manner vehicles including overtaking on double white lines and a cement mixer (!) He took a number of photos to illustrate this and they do look scary. As you can imagine, he was deeply unimpressed with the experience. The bus also stopped at the top to let the queue overtake (and to cool down?) and the students on board were discussing how many lessons they would miss.

More roadworks in Ludlow have resulted in another case of: 'Let's change the location of the bus stop but not tell the passengers'. This was reported by a regular passenger who is, shall we say, 'Over 21' (by about 60 years...) and spent over five hours waiting for buses which

didn't appear. This happened two days running and on the second day, the driver (who was 30 minutes late) was asked why nothing had been done to advise of the changes. He spoke to the office who blamed Shropshire Council (although the driver said nothing when he dropped the passengers off on arrival and must have known what the position was). This is not the first time this has happened and about time that both Diamond and Shropshire Council got their act together how hard can it be as these works have to be approved in advance so it shouldn't be a surprise. There is no truth in the rumour that passengers are to be issued with crystal balls so that they can find out where the stop bus will be travelling.

We recently spent a week in the Lake District using the various bus services every day and they were on time and trouble free with one exception. This involved an overheating bus but at the next stop, a relief vehicle and driver were already waiting and it took just a couple of minutes for everyone to transfer and be on our way. That's how it should be done...

Question: What happens if you oversleep and are worried that you will miss your Diamond bus?

Answer: Just turn over. However late you are, the bus will be even later...

Steve Todd

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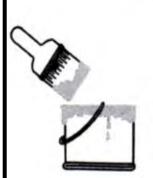
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CLEOBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor John Bodenham explains how you can help with your town's future and possibly your family's future too.

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Iohn Bodenham

CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

The area over the wet flush on Upper Marshes was alive with swallows and house martins recently as they feed up in preparation for flying south for the winter. One of the wider benefits of nature reserves is that they not only provide homes for resident wildlife but their natural habitats provide abundant food sources for visiting species. Hirundines (swallows and house martins) can often be seen flying across fields in the evening collecting insects but in this case the wet flushes are important providing a bountiful supply of insects. Wheatears are another of our resident birds around Catherton Common that will be flying south for the winter.

Starlings can be seen gathering in larger flocks at this time of year and these immense collections of birds (a murmuration with respect to starlings) can be auite spectacular just as the light begins to fail. There are several theories for why they gather together for the winter. They are less territorial as they are not mating and breeding so perhaps gathering in a large flock provides more warmth or protection from predators, or perhaps they are able to share information on food sources which are more scarce at this time in the year. Finches and tits can also be seen gathering in mixed flocks during autumn and winter.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust volunteers will be spending at least one day a month continuing to tackle birch scrub and trees by cutting and treating with a chemical to prevent regrowth. The chemical we use is basically the Roundup you use in your garden and is harmless to people and animals but stops the birch from coppicing. We will also be cutting gorse, but more about that next time.

Clive Dean – Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserves officer south

SILLY (OLD) BITS

"I don't have an attitude, I have a personality you can't handle."

"Don't let ageing get you down. It's too hard to get back up."

"I really think tossing and turning at night should be counted as exercise."

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Another Page of Clarion Smalls





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The large numbers of ladybirds trying to get into our house in recent weeks remind me that many creatures are going into hibernation now. The one which most readily springs to mind is the hedgehog, so familiar but so beleaguered now. Please do remember to check your bonfire piles on firework night for sleeping hogs or, better still, only build your fire just before you light it. Personally I always start a bonfire on clear ground and add material to it, so there's no danger of cooking a spiny friend.

This is a wonderful time of year for woodland walks. Last autumn I had an afternoon visit from some youngsters belonging to the local Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Watch Group, and we set out from Uncllys Farm to look for seedling oaks in the forest and gather acorns to grow the next generation of trees. I potted up the acorns and left them to over-winter in the vegetable garden, hoping for a good showing of little shoots by the spring. On the same day we also collected berries from the Wild Service Tree whose multiple stems guard the gateway from the chicken run into the woods and whose beautiful leaves turn golden yellow at this time of year. The fruits, once used to be used to flavour beer, are like bunches of tiny brown apples and I left them indoors for a few days to ripen and go mushy. Then I was able to squeeze out the seeds (one to three per berry), wash them and mix them with grit. Then they were left out of doors all winter in a container that would allow them to stay damp but not waterlogged.

In the spring I inspected the pot of Wild Service Tree seeds, not expecting much to be happening, but found about 40 of them germinating! I happily potted them all on. Encouraged by their success I went to investigate the acorns but, oh dear, not only was there no growth but there was no sign of the 30 or so acorns at all. Could I hear the squirrels laughing? This autumn I will repeat the exercise, trying to replicate the success of the one and taking precautions to prevent the other becoming an easy meal for my naughty neighbours.

As I go about the woods the bare trees allow me to keep an eye open for deer. The rut is over now and it's time for them to get ready for the colder weather by feeding up on acorns and beech mast and growing their thick winter coats. At the other end of the scale, the cooler and wetter weather makes it a good time to look out for mosses and liverworts, recovering and flourishing after the summer's drier weather. The Bryophyte Group will be coming for a day's exploration of the tiny world of pocket mosses, earworts and pincushions. Last year they recorded over 30 species within a few hundred yards of our door and I look forward to their fearless expedition into Lilliput armed only with notebooks and hand lenses.

Linda Iles



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Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club



Christmas Menu 2017

Starters

Cream of Vegetable Soup with Dinner Roll
Smoked Salmon and Prawns with Lemon Mayo Sauce
Chicken Liver Pate with Crostini
Baby Camembert in Crispy Breadcrumbs with Cranberry Sauce (V)

Main Course

Traditional Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Pigs in Blankets
Poached Salmon in a Lemon and Dill Sauce
Homemade Game Pie, with a Red Wine Gravy
Mushroom, Brie, Hazelnut and Cranberry Wellington (V)

All Main Coursers served with Roast Potatoes, Parsnip Mash, Carrots and Brussels Sprouts

Desserts

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Homemade Chocolate Roulade
Christmas Cheesecake
Cheese and Biscuits

Tea/Coffee & Mince Pie

Two Course £15.95 Three Course £18.95

The Christmas menu is available until the end of January 2018.

Book now to avoid disappointment.

Tel: 01299 271 112. Booking form and menu also available at www.cleoburygolfclub.com



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CLEOBURY CELEBRATION DAY 2018 - GET INVOLVED

Cleobury Celebration Day 2018 will be bigger and better than this year - with your help. The date is Saturday June 23rd 2018.

To make it a day to remember we want to kick off planning early. So if you want to exhibit your art, present your business to the public, run an event on the field, open your garden, or just present your ideas for the day then please attend our planning evening.

It will be an interactive and and creative event. Come armed with ideas and plans and/or to offer yourself as a volunteer for the day.

Monday 20th November 7pm-8.15pm - Market Hall

Drinks, nibbles and enthusiastic company guaranteed.

R S V P : paulfrench143@yahoo.com Or turn up on the night. *John Bodenham*

THE TOWN'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Town Council have been spending carefully to provide a better source of power for the lights that add so much to the

High Street's appeal at Christmas. This year there will be feeder units on either side of the road, in the centre of town. So the Christmas lights will be put up more easily and the supply will be more reliable, plus it will be possible to have celebratory lights for other big occasions. There was a quote to do the job for an eye-watering £40,000, but the Council got local contractors and the bill came down to £5,500. Nice one!

The Rugby Club will be helping set up the lights again, Alan Guest will be out there after he's collected the Christmas tree that Bill White Nurseries have donated and our street lighting contractors will be working on them as well. The result is the Town looking great through the festive period and a lot of compliments paid by visitors.

POPPY APPEAL BINGO NIGHT

The Clee Hill Royal British Legion Bingo Night originally booked for October 14th had to be postponed as the hall was booked for a funeral supper.

So the event has been moved to Saturday the 18th of this month, starting at 8.00 in the Village Hall. All proceeds go to

the Legion's excellent Poppy Appeal.

THE BRITISH LEGION POPPY CONCERT

On October 20th members and friends met in the Parish Hall for an evening's entertainment. The Bridgnorth Ukulele Band have been to Cleobury before, but this must count as their best yet, and the audience the largest for many years. Their repertoire ranged from 'Sweet Valentine', through numbers such as Elvis Presley's 'Teddy Bear', Buddy Holly's 'You Won't Matter Any More', to a token Gorge Formby number - 'Leaning on a Lamp Post'.

Lead singer Barrie Taylor kept an eye open for the arrival of the fish & chips. There was also a serious aim to the evening, organised to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. This was also a success, and the Appeal will benefit by nearly £700 – a record. Our thanks to all concerned!

The Branch's next events are an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11 am on Saturday November 11th, and the Remembrance Parade on November 12th. *Mark Baldwin*

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

Flicks in the Sticks! Saturday, November 25th 'SULLY'

'The Miracle on the Hudson', that is Captain 'Sully' Sullenberger landing his damaged jet plane on the Hudson River and saving all 155 passengers. It was seen as an act of heroism, but the National Transportation Safety Board seeks to ruin Sully's career by claiming his plane had enough altitude and thrust to return to a safe airport.

Will Sully be adored as a hero or a fraud?

Cleobury Mortimer Friendship Club

We are looking for good Samaritans with time to spare on a Tuesday to transport members to and from the hall. No need for a weekly commitment, once a month would help.

Club hours are Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The work done by our volunteers on the front of the Club is now complete and has smartened the appearance considerably. There is still some work to be done to improve the exterior lighting, and there are exterior and interior doors to be replaced.

October 1st saw Gemma Canty taking over as Club Steward from Andy Goold. One of Gemma's first organised events in her new role is a Cheese and Port Night on Saturday, 18th November starting at 6.30pm. Folks attending will be given a card on entrance, and asked to rate a selection of ports on offer. There will be a selection of accompanying cheeses, as well as pork pies and fruit cake. Should be an interesting and entertaining evening with tickets priced at £15 and available from the Social Club.

We're already thinking about Christmas at the time of writing, and the organisation of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, which will take place on Friday, December 8th, 12.30pm arrival onwards for 1pm start. The CM Primary School children will be singing carols and the ever-

popular Trevor Wood will be providing the entertainment.

Whilst we're on the subject of Christmas, the Club will be hosting a Family Christmas Party on Friday, December 15th. Santa will be in attendance with each child receiving a present. Cost £2.50 per child.

For further details please contact our Club Steward, Gemma on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook page Glenys Turpin

THE SOROPTIMISTS

During the first week of October a number of our club members carried out a survey to gauge public awareness of the issue of 'Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery' across the UK. The data collected will be analysed and the results publicised in due course.

Our next fundraising event is on November 12th. at 7.00 pm in Baxter Church Hall, when war historian Dr Mark Baldwin will talk on "The Invasion of the Channel Isles in WWII". Tickets at £8.00 include a glass of wine and nibbles, the proceeds going to charities supporting War Widows and/or injured female soldiers.

The speaker this month's Supper Meeting on November 16th.,at 7.00 pm in La Brasserie, will be Jane Allen, a renowned international leadership developer and coach, who is local and also involved in community projects.

For more details a bout our meetings, the club and its activities, please call 01299 266101 o r email: kidderminstersorop@gmail.com http://sigbi.org/ website: kidderminster-and-district/ Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster Elke Jury

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

This is the annual service in our Parish Church, when all who have lost a loved one are invited to a time of quiet remembrance. It will be on the 5th this month, starting at 6.00 and is open to all who wish to remember someone special, no matter how long ago they left this earth.

And we hardly need to remind you that the 12th is Remembrance Sunday, when the town turns out to watch local associations and clubs parade to the church to observe the two minutes silence and witness the laying of wreaths. It is a very moving demonstration of our community spirit and the depth of love for those who gave.



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A MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

Cleobury Funeral Directors understand that whilst Christmas is a time of celebration for many, it can also be difficult and painful for those who have lost a loved one. To help our clients, and indeed anyone who has lost a loved one, each year a Memorial Christmas Tree is displayed in our Funeral Home.

Everyone is welcome to visit Cleobury Funeral Directors and display a message of remembrance on our Christmas Tree of Remembrance. Our team will be pleased to assist you, we will provide you with a memorial card for you to write a message on and we will offer you refreshments, if you have time.

Messages can also be left in memory of those who you know have lost a loved one too.

This year, we would also like to take this opportunity to raise money for Cleobury First Responders and if you visit us, you are invited to leave a small donation too. Please note that this is optional and you are not obliged to leave a charitable donation when leaving a message of remembrance on our memorial Christmas tree. The tree will be on display from Monday 27th November.

Cleobury Funeral Directors are now the longest serving Funeral Directors that are based in Cleobury Mortimer and have two Chapels of Rest in the town. 'I know how difficult it can be coming to terms with the loss of someone special whether this be the first year without them or if they died many years ago, the pain does not go away' For more information, please feel free to pop into our offices at Talbot Square or telephone 01299 272963.



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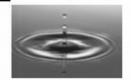
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The Royal Flying Corps was the air arm of the British Army before and during the Great War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service in April 1918 forming the Royal Air Force.

In 1911 a committee was formed to consider the question of military aviation. By 1912 the formation of the flying corps was formally proposed and accepted.

Whilst Britain was at the forefront in developing aircraft, we were behind in numbers. At the start of the war Britain had 113 planes in military service, the French 160 and the Germans 246.

When formed the RFC was seen as a reconnaissance and observation arm of the Army. Early on experiments were made to arm aircraft but this remained awkward because when firing forward the propeller arc had to be avoided.

At the start of the war in 1914 there were four squadrons equipped with aeroplanes and one equipped with balloons. Sixty machines left from Dover on August 13th.

On August 19th the RFC had its first action when two aircraft undertook aerial reconnaissance. This was not an unqualified success; neither plane carried an observer, only a pilot to save weight. Both pilots lost their way and only one completed the task.

On the 22^{nd} the first aircraft was lost, shot down by

German infantry fire. However on the same day a plane made a crucial observation which allowed the BEF Commander in Chief Sir John French to realign the front around Mons. In Sir John's first despatch in September 1914 he writes about the RFC: "Their skill, energy and perseverance has been beyond all praise...they furnished me with complete accurate information, and which was of incalculable value...furthermore by fighting in the they destroyed five of the enemy's machines"

Praise indeed for a unit that had only been at the front for some three weeks.

The first half of the war saw French forces on the ground outnumber British and so it with aircraft. French planes did more of the fighting as they had more planes. Despite British aircraft being primitive, more aggressive leadership from Hugh Trenchard and an offensive stance aimed at pinning the enemy down meant success but at a cost. Losses In 1916 were 700 and it peaked in April 1917 known as "Bloody April."

The RFC undertook various duties including photo reconnaissance, using wireless to help artillery fix on target, dropping bombs, artillery observation and supporting the ground forces. While they did all of this they were subject to fire from the ground and enemy aircraft.

We can get a feel of the time by reading diary entries made at the time. These were written by Captain William Allcock, RFC.

23rd Sept First test flight – practised landings.

26th Sept Observer was Lt Brown. Counter Battery work. Very misty.

(The Lt Brown referred to was the Brown who together with John Alcock (no relation) was the first to fly the Atlantic in 1919)

30th Sept The afternoon...took four photographs over the lines. They came out very well. Nov 8th Bomb dropping practice. Looped the loop three times

The first one was a perfect loop. I put her nose down to 95 mph and then pulled the stick back. The next two I did back to back.

This made me smile when I first read it and continues to do so. Despite the serious nature here is a young man having fun

The RFC probably had the quickest growth of any of the military arms and is a rich subject to investigate. So if time allows we will have a second look in the future.

As is usual we should thank all those who served in the RFC for their commitment and their bravery. Their motto is perhaps the most fitting ever.

"Through Adversity to the Stars"

Paul French

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NEW FACES AT THE TALBOT HOTEL



Valerie and Steve Wilson, now running one of the town's longest established pubs.

The Wilsons bring a long experience of catering and pub work to the Talbot and they've hit the ground running. Taking over a long established town centre pub two months before Christmas is no small task, but their track record shows. Steve was still moving between Cleobury and their previous pub at Bexhill in Sussex when we talked, but he'll be full time here from November 6th.

"The Christmas menu is ready," explained Valerie. "We'll be serving Christmas fayre through to December 23rd." On Christmas Day they'll be serving lunch from 12.00 noon until 3.00.

Steve started his career as an apprentice chef at Claridges in London, then moved back to his native Newcastle and has been in catering even since.

They've moved around quite a bit, including a four year spell for a contractor in Saudi Arabia. They moved back to England only to be head-hunted and moved out to Saudi for another four year term. "We were feeding about 2,000, three meals a day," he recalls with a smile. "I started there as the executive chef and ended up as operations manager."

He's worked for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, covering Scotland, and his experience ranges from banquet catering to the big volume stuff in Saudi. So what will they be offering here in Cleobury?

"The staff and customers have made us very welcome," says Valerie. "What we'll offer is home made food with a friendly atmosphere. And we'll have 'Monday Madness' with cheaper drinks all day, plus there'll be Happy Hours every day except Monday from 3.00to 6.00 and on Sundays we'll do a special deal on real ales." So as well as a very experienced touch in kitchen, the drinkers will be well catered for.

It could be a revival of what used to be a very popular pub, once the busiest place in town. We wish them every success.

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS STIR-UP

Cleobury Country have a seasonal get-together as part of their new style of social gatherings. This one is on the 22nd of this month, when they'll gather at 6.00 o'clock in the Tasting Room at Hobsons Brewery for a Christmas Pud Stir-up.

As you might have guessed, it will be about making puddings with a drop or two of Mr Hobson's fine ales to add to the flavour. The cost is £10 a head, unless you're a full member of CC, and you can bring your own

bowl to take something tasty and sticky home with you, or buy a special bowl on the night. It's due to all be over by 8.00, but the press release doesn't say if that's 8.00 in the am or the pm.

Sounds like a good night in prospect. Book your place on CM 272300.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mike and Shelley Roberts, haulage contractors extraordinaire, on the birth of their daughter Millie Grace. She kept up the family tradition of never being late by arriving two months early!

What do two totally committed truck drivers do for a new arrival? Do Volvo make baby carriages?

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

December 2nd will see the popular Christmas Fair at the Parish Church, but only after Father Christmas has seen to the switching on of the town's Christmas lights at 4.00. With that done, he'll be down the road to open the Fair and take his seat in his grotto.

Stalls in the church, teas in the Market Hall and the feeling that the Christmas season is definitely here. Another great family occasion.

HAVE YOU TRIED?

The biscotti snacks from Cosy Kitchen at the Farmers' Market? Ann Turner was sampling her Cherry, Almond and Amaretto version and we can tell you they are really yummy. We'll buy some next time.

Ann started off selling her lovely cakes and specials as a part-time thing, but has done so well she's gone full time.

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
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MARKET HALL	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
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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 Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 23rd

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Erica Hinwood MARLA MNAEA Office Manager

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