

The Cleobury Clarion

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NOVEMBER 2019

THE GLEN'S IN THE AWARDS AGAIN!

Their message:

Just wanted to update you with some fantastic news we've had. When we spoke to Kit earlier in the year (April issue) we had said that we were hoping to get our first bee hive on the park and wanted to achieve the Gold David Bellamy Conservation award, as we currently held the silver.

We are delighted to say that the lovely Lucy at Bee Biotic, who is a regular at the Farmers Market, kindly provided us with our first hive in June. The bees have settled in well and are busy preparing honey, which we hope to be able to sample next year.

We have also received confirmation this month from the David Bellamy Conservation scheme that we have now achieved the status of a Gold Award park, along with this we have been designated a Honey Bee Friendly Park and in addition, as part of their five habitats in five years campaign we also received the Hedgerow,

Wildflower and Woodland badges too. It's been a lot of hard work but well worth the effort and will hopefully contribute to the Wildlife corridors in Cleobury.

Frank and Sheila Sheeran

BEST CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AWARD

Sponsored by the Cleobury Clarion, the Town Council is launching a window dressing competition for the town's business premises at Christmas.

There will be a permanent cup and each winner will receive a replica to display each year as a reminder of their success.

The idea is to develop interest in the displays that make our main street such an attractive place in the festive season. Too many towns and villages have stopped putting on a special show at Christmas, and as it's the traditional season of goodwill, this competition will increase the efforts that already draw much favourable comment from visitors.

The judging will be by a group of councillors and the editor of the Clarion and the winner will

have the trophy to display in their window over the Christmas and New Year period. More details in the December issue.

AVOIDING FRAUD

Our thanks to Matt Yarranton for his informed advice on how to detect and avoid fraud, be it by internet, telephone, post or face to face. The amount of money stolen in this way is frightening, as you'll see if you read his report on Page 63. It's a sad truth that too many people cannot be trusted today. Please be wary of strangers with tempting promises.

CLARION CHANGES

From December the frequency of Clarion publication will change in one minor way. Because the January issue has to be printed before Christmas to make it available on January 1st, in future we will be publishing one copy to cover December and January.

It will mean the editor having a more relaxed Christmas and New Year, but those who know how ancient he is will realise he may deserve it.



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The Cleobury Clarion, November 2019

Volume Fourteen - Edition Eight



*Cleobury Mortimer went to meet the BBC in Birmingham
See Page 17.*



*A rather special musical evening at Hopton Wafers' very smart Village Hall.
See Page 25.*



*A major refurbishment at Doddington Lodge looks great.
See 'In Business' on Page 61.*

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CARL IS VOLLEYBALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Carl Brookes, manager of the Sports and Fitness Centre in Cleobury, has been named Volleyball England's Volunteer of the Year.'



Carl collects a well deserved award at Volleyball England's annual prize giving.

The words in his nomination tell a big story: "Carl had been the backbone of volleyball in the West Midlands for a few years."

Look at all he does and you realise how true that tribute is. He's head coach for the Cleobury Volleyball Club, chair of the Black Country VB Club, coach of a National VB League team, coach of junior teams and

League Manager of the West Midlands VB Association. And he's worked to help the progress of young players. All this as well as looking after his family and holding down a full time job.

Such a modest man, never given to boasting and always ready to help others. A real credit to his sport and to this community.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

As usual with this very active walking group, there are two dates this month:

Thursday the 7th. 10.30 start from Saunders Park, Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove Park along the A448, B61 7JT or SO Reference 954707.

Thursday the 21st. 10.30 start from The Royal Forester, Callow Hill, Bewdley DY14 9XW or SO Reference 745738. More info from Alan on 01299 400304.

And the Pathfinders have a new website address: www.rockpathfinders.uk

CLOWS TOP GARDEN 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 duller 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 Kath Thornton, 3rd Madge Edwards & Best Exhibit Tracey Webb. Many thanks to Anne for judging the show and to everyone who made an entry.

Our next meeting will be on November 27th and will be the AGM and members' social evening, with a hands-on master class in flower arranging, after the formalities. This is the last event in the year as there is no meeting in December.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 22nd. Speaker for the evening will be 'Rosemary Winnall' with a talk on 'Flower Power'.

DATE CHANGE

The Quiz Night booked for November 1st at the Golf Club has been changed to the 8th. A sensible move, as the original clashed with the British Legion's event in the Parish Hall and two good causes should work together. Well done both on your common sense.

A decorative banner for the Cleobury Country Farmers Market. It features a circular logo on the left showing a church and the text 'Cleobury Country Farmers Market'. The main text is centered and reads: 'CLEOBURY COUNTRY FARMERS MARKET IN AND AROUND ST MARY'S CHURCH SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2019 FROM 9.30AM TO 12.30PM'. The banner is decorated with stylized flowers and a rainbow-like border at the top and bottom.



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HEARING AID CLINIC

Things are changing at the monthly NHS Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic at Saint Mary's Place Community Room.

It had been established on the first Wednesday of the month, but from December it will move to the first Tuesday and the times will then be from 2.00 until 4.00 in the afternoon. There's a reminder in this month's Social Calendar pages and obviously from December on we'll give you the Tuesday date and time. Same place, same helpful people, same good free service.

AGE U.K. LUNCH CLUB

On Mondays from 10:30 to 3.00pm, there is a social gathering at the Day Centre in Cleobury Mortimer, run by Age UK. Those taking part arrive in the morning for coffee, biscuits and conversation. A two course hot meal is served up at lunch time.

The chairs at the centre have all recently been replaced. This means there is now room for more than the 11 regulars who currently attend.

The day is ideal for people who are lonely and would like the chance to have some friendly company. If transport is a problem this may be arranged. If

you are interested or know someone else who might be, then please contact Sarah Wilde on 01299 272628

Susan Sharp

TRACEY'S SWEET TREATS



Tracey, the smiling lady in charge of a shop crowded with sweet treats.

It's just around the corner in Lion Lane, next door to Ben's Barber Shop. A small place, crowded to the ceiling with shelves of sweets. Traditional types in those big jars that have tempted adults and children for more than a century and a range of prices from two-penny chews through to boxes of chocolates. Popular names like Roses and Terry's are there, waiting to tempt taste buds

She'll make up party cups to order and if there's something you'd like to try, just tell Tracey and she'll find it for you.

The shop will be open six days a week, opening at 7.45 "To catch the kids on the way to school," as she explains and normally closing between 4.30 and 5.00, unless there are customers still coming in. "I was going to close the other day, but people kept coming in, so it was about 5.30 when I left," she smiles.

The window was due to be dressed for Halloween, then changed to keep the display fresh. "But not for Christmas - I don't believe in Christmas in August!" she says. Good luck to her with that good seasonal logic.

The telephones are 07376 282 444 for Tracey's mobile and BT have given her a provisional landline number on 01299 488180, but that may change.

We wish her sweet success.

CITIZENS' ADVICE CONTACT

The number we've been showing in the Community Contacts page for Citizens' Advice has changed. Apologies to any reader who has not got through.

The correct number now is 03444 991100. 10.00 through to 4.00, Monday to Friday.

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BARRY'S BACK

Barry Taylor, better known as Mister Bumperscuff, is back in action this month. He's been through a very rough patch, after taking his dog for a walk and being pulled over, breaking his right arm in three places! He does have a reputation for doing things thoroughly, but this was taking it a bit too far, as he's right-handed and couldn't do any of the detailed rubbing down that restores blemishes.

The setting and healing of the bones was straightforward, but then restoring the muscle power made it a long time with no work done. His advert was withdrawn until this month, when he's back in business.

He would like to thank everyone who offered sympathy and if you're waiting to get your pride and joy looking well, hope is on the horizon. His number's at the bottom of this page.

ROAD CLOSURE

The road from Nethercott Farm to the Six Ashes junction with the B4363 Bridgnorth Road is due to be closed from December 2nd to the 6th. Severn Trent will be working on the water mains replacing a section to give access to a new development site. Further information is available

from the Customer Services team on 0345 678 9006.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Inspirational Christmas Floral Art Event, at George's Hall, Bewdley. November 19th at 7.00 p.m. Fantastic flower demonstrations, buffet, puddings and a glass of wine. Supporting West Mercia Women's Aid. £12 per person

Contact: Christine Holloway 01299 402545 or Janet Ince 01299 400055

ADAM'S AIM FOR THE HOMELESS

Adam is a young man in Kinlet, who was so moved by the sight of homeless people in the area that he began to organise events to raise funds for the Wyre Forest Nightstop and Mediation Scheme. His latest venture is a Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale in Kinlet's Village Hall on Saturday November 9th. Open from 10.00 to 12.00noon, it will also offer a charity tombola, raffle, cake stall and 'Lucky Squares' game.

Admission for both buyers and browsers is free. If you fancy taking a table, which costs a mere fiver, contact Adam's mum Rachael on 01299 841032 or 0771 5030 510 if you do want to trade - that's essential.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A small gathering listened to Bob Oliver, a National Vegetable Society Judge, in October. He is Midlands based but travels the country judging at many shows. To become a judge he had to do written and practical exams and has to keep abreast of all new initiatives. He worked his way through the most common vegetables we grow. We nearly all grow runner beans and saw a picture of 12 all exactly the same size. We asked how he kept them so straight; the answer was give them space so the beans go straight down. Plant them at least a foot and a half apart and then they have room and do not get caught up on any other stems or leaves. The evening was full of such useful tips especially for growing long rooted veg like carrots and parsnips, we also received advice on soils and compost. A thoroughly informative evening. The next meeting will be the AGM on 11th November in the Methodist Hall beginning at 8.00 p.m. Also a reminder of our Christmas Social that will be held in St.Elizabeth's Hall on 9th December when we hope to see many of our members.

Liz Smurthwaite



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The kitchen cupboards need sorting out. The grotty ones near floor level with all the cleaning things and such stuff. So, I have gone off to Inertia. This is a strange land. An in-between place. A kind of no-man's land. I am never quite sure how I travel here. I just seem to arrive from time to time. Whilst a familiar place, it hardly generates the buzz of arriving in a traditional holiday destination. There is no delightful liminal scape of sand, sea and sky or promise of anything else for that matter. Neither is it a particularly uncomfortable place. If one can junk the niggling conscience, it is a bit like suspended animation. In Inertia, it's not that you want to do nothing. It is not complete paralysis. Motivation does not completely disappear. I just don't want to do what needs doing. Neither is it that I have something more glamorous in mind. Nor am I facing anything particularly challenging to explain such torpor. No excuse for debunking to Inertia. In the scale of things, this is totally unimportant. No tombstone ever read: 'She kept lovely kitchen cupboards'. I could remind myself how lucky I am to have kitchen cupboards. This whining is vexing, I could be having to fetch and carry water

for miles. If it were different cupboards I might at least tempt myself with the dopamine rush that could come from doing a Marie Kondo. The contents of these kitchen cupboards hardly "spark joy" but neither are they likely to contain much that can be jettisoned with flourish.

Fortunately, such lassitude seems to rear its head only when some menial task comes looming. When in Inertia, I am minded to do all sorts of things, anything in fact bar that which is calling for attention. Problem is Inertia is no fun because of the constant drumming at the back of the head to remind me why I am here. In Inertia there is no proper peace. So what am I doing here and why don't I just bite the bullet and get the blessed cupboard sorted? Mother would say: "Procrastination is the thief of time." But I'm not whiling away time thinking I've got something else more pressing. Our daughter would say: "Just do it." Mmm....

Ironically, when faced with something significant and perhaps slightly daunting, some meaty assignment, guess who has the cleanest cupboards in the kingdom. No clearing off to Inertia when anything major requires tackling. Suddenly, sticking my head in the

cupboards is eminently appealing. Just where I have always wanted to be. Inertia? Where? And the vigour, the energy that now goes into wiping, discarding, arranging. How daft is this? Can anyone explain this bizarre human behaviour? Well, a psychologist once told me that this has the fancy title of Displacement Activity. Sounds good put like that and it is so nice to excel at something. Displacement activity can be hugely satisfying and there is such a sense of achievement to be found in admiring the outstanding results of Displacement Activity. Faced with a sizeable task of some duration, I can really rock the displacement.

Perhaps I might cure these woes if I started breathing. No jest, I read that breathing is the new panacea. How did I get to my ripe old age missing this little gem of wisdom? What I might have achieved if only breathing had been brought to my attention earlier! Apparently, breathing is transformative. Simple then. A few inhalations and excelsior. One thing for certain. It is highly unlikely that I will ever earn the soubriquet of "influencer."

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Job Title/ Company	Job Requirements	How to Apply
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The Royal Fountain Inn Part time Chef	Part time chef required. An amazing opportunity to learn Spanish food. No formal training required, just passion and enthusiasm required.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 272720
Park House Nursing Home Care assistant for the elderly	Full or part time hours will be considered. Accommodation is available on site.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 841262



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Fire and Rescue Service

**On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer
(Retained Duty System)**

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.

TO APPLY YOU MUST LIVE OR WORK WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF CLEOBURY MORTIMER FIRE STATION

To be a Firefighter requires special skills and qualities, not only do you need to be able to work under pressure as part of a team at operational incidents you need effective communication skills to deal with the public at fire safety events and in their homes. You will work within your local community to support our aim of preventing fire related incidents and road traffic collisions. The Service is looking for people aged 18 or more on their start date who can demonstrate a high level of physical fitness

For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk, stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.

CLS ART

Learn to draw and paint with Chris Smith, an established local artist who's work can be seen on the walls of Everafter Nursery and Hobsons' Brewery. To book please call 07977296335 or email clsartcontact@gmail.com

Are you looking for a different Christmas gift? Gift Vouchers are available redeemable against future classes. You can also purchase gift sets for getting started with art, ranging from £25-£60, they come gift wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas. Contact Chris for further details.

Saturday 5 th October 2019 1-4pm £20	Landscapes in Pastels	Community Hub Hall, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Saturday 2 nd November 2019 1-4pm £20	Portraits in Pastels	Community Hub Hall, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Wednesday 13 th November 2019 10am-1pm £30	Beginner's Murals	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Thursday 14 th November 2019 10am-1pm £30	Murals – Building your skills	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Wednesday 15 th January 2020 10am-1pm £30	Beginner's Murals	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Thursday 16 th January 2020 10am-1pm £30	Murals – Building your skills	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Saturday 25 th January 2020 1-4pm £20	Drawing and painting trees (mixed media)	Community Hub Hall, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Sunday 2 nd February 2020 1-4pm £20	Beginner's Drawing and Pastels	Community Hub Hall, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Wednesday 26 th February 2020 10am-1pm £30	Beginner's Murals	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer
Thursday 27 th February 2020 10am-1pm £30	Murals – Building your skills	Maycroft, Barkers Lane, Cleobury Mortimer

CLEOBURY VISITS THE BBC

Big thanks are due to Diane Waddington, who arranged a tour of the BBC's Midlands base at The Mailbox in central Birmingham. Sensible people caught a train from Kidderminster and had just a short walk from New Street station. The editor knowing Brum best from his days as a rep opted for the car and drove in on the A38, following the clear signs and parking in the basement of the building.

We were greeted by Fay and Sue, two guides who also cover other jobs in this, the Beeb's Midlands centre for both TV and radio. There's a strong Archers presence, no surprise when you learn that the oldest radio serial in the world has been produced in Brum for its 70 years.

We walked through both radio and TV studios, with much time given to the details of sound effects used in *The Archers*, who have a fan base that keeps them on their toes.



*On this board is every doorbell used in *The Archers* broadcasts. Get one wrong and the letters and phone calls start. The old box beyond is for the genuine sound of a glass being put down on the pub bar.*

It was impressive to hear how popular BBC TV programmes are shown abroad, with a worldwide market for locally produced game shows and dramas. I know from personal experience how much some Chinese love *The Great British Bake-Off*, though that's longer a BBC production. They are a very effective commercial organisation when it comes to selling their skills.

They have a special room with no echo, its walls dressed with triangular shapes in plastic foam; apparently it's recognised as a world leader. With no echo you can get the effect of someone walking away as they talk or screaming as they fall. In one episode (excuse this non-listener not knowing which one) Nigel fell from a tower and listeners timed his fading scream and complained that he'd had time to fall from a skyscraper. Sue illustrated this by giving a mild scream and walking away, her voice fading fast with no echo to sustain the sound. They do have to do everything thoroughly with such an attentive and keen eared audience.

To get the tour party in the mood, Fay and Sue took volunteers to either read scripts or operate sound effects as a brief *Archers* episode was recorded and will be sent out to all who left their emails. Russell Knapper from the Footpath Association did a good Joe Grundy, Jenny Vanderhook showed her Cleobury Players experience and John Rhymer came over well as a civilised chap. The others were not members of the Cleobury party and we didn't get any names.

But it was a jolly time that certainly got people relaxed.



Facing up to the microphone as others provided sound effects. A big round of applause at the end.

The big hit TV programme from this station is currently *Peaky Blinders* and the corridors carried lots of pictures as we walked down to the studio where the news broadcasts come from. Amazingly small for what looks like a big spread on screen, but clever camera work can give whatever impression the producer chooses. In the neighbouring newsroom were lots of busy people getting news stories in, with Nick Owen on duty and helping prepare the evening programme. He took time to come and talk, asking where we were from and chatting in the same gentle way we see on screen. A very good ambassador for Auntie Beeb.

Our visit over, one and a half hours that passed very quickly, those who'd arrived by train headed for a place to take tea and chat, while the car drivers found the basement and paid up. I guest £7.50 for two hours secure parking in Britain's Second City is good value today, but it makes you grateful for our own free facility.



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BRITISH DEER

Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group laid on another of their very informative evenings last month. Alan Barrell, local representative for the British Deer Group, talked about the six species of deer commonly found in Great Britain.

The Red Deer, rare in this area, is one of the longest established species, with evidence of their existence here back to the Stone Age. They are the biggest deer in the UK.

They rut in the late autumn, through until early November, and the hind gives birth, cleans and feeds the fawn, then walks away. Because the hind gives off a scent and the fawn does not; a predator will follow the mother and not the new born. She returns to her fawn at intervals to feed it, then moves away again. Alan warned that if you find what seems to be an abandoned fawn, move on and do not disturb.

The adult males shed their antlers every year and grow another set within four months.

The Sika is another large species, imported to the UK in the late 19th century; they will interbreed with the red deer. The Sika is dark grey in the

winter and develops a spotted chestnut colour coat in summer. They like woodland shade more than open moorland and can be difficult to find.



The Fallow Deer - the most common species in Britain.

The most common variety in this area, they can be seen on Catherton Common and in the Wyre and Mortimer Forests. They may have been introduced here by the Romans; by Norman times there were established herds. The colour of the does ranges from near white to black.

Much smaller is the roe deer, another long established native that is a very common sight. They are territorial and mark their claimed area with scent. The highland does will produce one or no births a year, depending upon their diet. By contrast, lowland does will give

birth to one or occasionally two fawns because their diet is more consistent.

The Muntjac, common in this area, is an Asian species, about the size of a spaniel, noted for its sharp teeth and tendency to bark. They breed all year round, with a seven month cycle, so the herd spreads quickly. They are known to eat bramble.

The Chinese Water Deer is a very old species, small in stature with no horns, but the males have sharp tusks. It is estimated that the UK population is about 20 percent of the world's survivors.

Deer eat vegetables, which can upset both farmers and foresters when a herd strips bark off lower tree trunks. As they have grown in number, so the problems arise: there are about 70,000 deer/vehicle collisions a year. It makes sense for us to drive more slowly in the September to early November rutting time; if you are unlucky enough to hit an animal, you should report it to the police, who can then advise local gamekeepers. The British Deer Group do recognise the need to manage the population of these gentle, beautiful animals properly.



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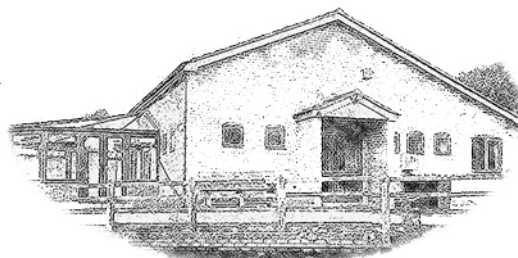
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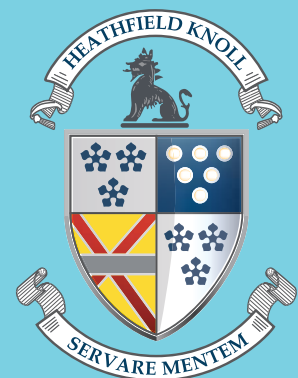
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-November 2019

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 3rd-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock.

10th, 17th, 24th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist

Events/Activities:

Eucharist for All Souls-Sat.2nd at 12.00pm. All welcome

Service of Light & Thanksgiving-Sun.3rd at 6.00pm. A service to remember those we have known and loved who have died. Contact Sam in the Church Office to add any names to the list.

Coffee & Chat-Tues. 5th. All welcome at 5 Tenbury road from 10.30am.

Remembrance-Sun.10th. This year Bishop Richard will be joining us to mark the act of Remembrance. Service from 10.45am

Messy Church-Sun.24th. All welcome in the Hub at 3.00pm for crafts, stories, games & a meal.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-10.15am Remembrance, 17th-10.00am Matins, 24th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-10.50 Remembrance, 17th-6.30pm Evensong, 24th-9.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 3rd -10.00am Eucharist, 10th-10.00am Remembrance, 17th- 10.00am Family service, 24th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-10.50 Remembrance, 17th-No service, 24th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 3rd -No service, 10th-10.50am Remembrance, 17th-No service, 24th-11.00am Village worship.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-10.50am Remembrance, 17th-11.00am Eucharist, 24th-No service.

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

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

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People of Cleobury, can you help us again by gifting us more teddies and soft toys. We are mounting a big push this Autumn, so we need your help.

With your help we have sent soft toys to deprived children all over the world, and even sent them to less fortunate children in the UK. Please help by dropping your treasured soft toys off at the Market Hall in Cleobury.

Keith Balmer
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BREAKFAST CLUB

The Club met at Lacon Childe School in October to hear Eddy Sayers tell about his work on the Elan Valley Aqueduct.

Most people, it would be hard pressed to name any civil engineer. This does great injustice to them, one of whom was James Mansergh, designer of the Elan Valley Scheme, which supplies Birmingham with about 80 million gallons daily (360 million litres).

Eddy described the aqueduct as a masterpiece. 73 miles long, it has supplied water to Birmingham since 1904, achieved without the use of any power except gravity.

The aqueduct is underground for most of its length and is rarely noticed, yet it passes through our parish, crossing the Rea upstream of Walford's Bridge by what was the longest unsupported steel pipe yet made. Driving to Cleobury from Ludlow you may notice small isolated red brick buildings in the fields. Eddy explained they are valve houses, built at the junction between two sections. Pipes can burst, so the valve houses contain an ingenious mechanism which, sensing the increase of flow occasioned by

the burst, automatically closes off that section of pipe.

Eddy's admiration for the engineering shone through, as did his intimate knowledge. Not surprising, as he was Works Controller responsible for the whole aqueduct for 17 years.

The Club next meets on November 12th at Lacon Childe School when Vicky will be speaking. Contact Angela Drennan (CM 270636) to book places. *Mark Baldwin*

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our Parish Walk this month is a little different – we will start from the Golf Club Car Park at 10.00 on November 3rd for about a five mile walk. As we have had more than our share of rain recently, do make sure you have stout shoes or walking boots on. We are nearly at the end of another year, keeping our footpaths in a good state to walk. We have two more work parties on November 6th and December 4th, then we take a break until March.

This year the work has mainly been making stiles easier to get over by replacing rotten stile steps. The weather over the summer has made it a continual

battle to keep paths clear, especially of bramble, which has been rampant. Our small team of eight have put in over 120 hours of clearance this year. Many of our footpaths would have become impassable without that effort.

If you come across problems in or around Cleobury, please **c o n t a c t u s a t** footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

If you are interested in our work or would like to join, why not come to our next Members' Meeting in the Market Hall on November 15th at 7.30 pm – you will get a warm welcome.

Graham Simpson

THANK YOU

The Cleobury Mortimer Macmillan fundraising group would like to thank everyone who supported the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in any way. We raised £590-80, which was a wonderful amount. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

Sue Henderson

SILLY BIT

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Leo Abse on the birth of Tony and Cherie Blair's son, also called Leo.



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QUALITY SHINES THROUGH

It was a brave venture, staging an evening of quality food and local musical talent to launch the first of special events at Hopton Wafers village hall. The place has been refurbished thanks to three trustees and was looking very smart for the ticket-only gig in October.

The featured entertainers were Hopton resident John Watkins, a professional guitarist with quite a list of star names on his CV, and Rachel Abbotts, another professional with an impressive vocal range from ballads to the jazzy blues style of Amy Whitehouse's 'Back to Black'.

The tickets promised a Five Star Buffet to add to the appeal and the place was fully booked when we sat back to listen. Rachel hit the right note from the start with John Mayer's version of 'Free Fallin', but the promise of her voice was rather lost in the din of an audience still greeting and exchanging news and views. John's accomplished guitar work also justified careful attention as the first set worked through, with Rachel's rendition of 'Who Knows Where the Time Goes?' recalling the great Sandy Denny.

There was a break for the first course of the buffet, with chef for the evening Robert Hodge amongst those serving; is there no limit to the range of this man's talents? Chicken in a really tasty sauce went down well with diced salad and sweet potatoes, plus whatever extras you wanted. This was far better catering than guests at a £10-a-head village hall event would normally expect. In the corner, the bar was busy with wines, beers and ciders selling well, plus J2Os and other non-alcoholic drinks for the drivers.

The second music set met with less noise as people recognised familiar songs like Carole King's 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?' and Bruce Springsteen's 'Dancing In the Dark' that got their feet tapping and shoulders moving in time. The applause for each song grew stronger as the duo's talent won more careful listening.

Another break in the music made way for the sweet course, laid out on the buffet tables to tempt the palate. The lemon tart looked too good to miss and was disappearing fast as I managed to get a slice and decline the sauce in order to savour the flavour better. Another good range from Mr Hodge.



The mood was happy and relaxed as the final music session got under way with Fleetwood Mac's 'Rhiannon', followed by a selection that included 'Back to Black' and 'Proud Mary' as the final bottles were opened and two ladies danced gracefully towards the evening's climax. I counted three encores before Rachel and John finally switched off the mics and we began to drift home. The audience had really warmed to the entertainment and long applause for everyone involved in the organisation suggested that there will be more like this.

So the evening progressed from a gentle start to warm applause and requests for more. Yes please.

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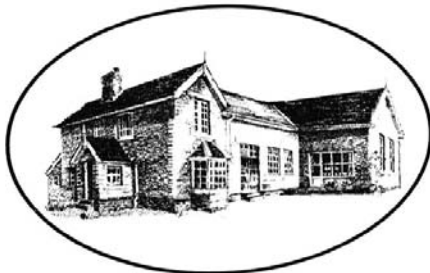
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SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

As the nights are drawing in, thoughts in November are of Harvest Festival and All Saints Day. St Elizabeth's is part of the group helping to organise a new foodbank in Cleobury Mortimer based at the Market Hall. The items donated to our Harvest Festival have been given to the Food Bank, which will be open from 10:00am until 12 noon every Friday. All Saints Day is dedicated to saints who do not have a special day for themselves, and is a time for everyone to reflect upon their own life and hopeful destiny towards the ideal of sainthood. We celebrate this year the Canonisation in Rome of a nineteenth century local man, John Henry Newman.

On 10th October St Elizabeth's hosted a Deanery meeting with 10 priests travelling from many parts of the diocese to discuss Church matters. This was very productive and all who came enjoyed the hospitality of St Elizabeth's throughout the day.

The Stations of the Cross in the nave of St Elizabeth's have all been cleaned and retouched with paint, and looking very much the better for it.

We have to say farewell to our organist Judy Reid. She is leaving us to return to Norfolk, and we had a Mass followed by a get-together with food and drinks in the Church Hall to mark the occasion. Judy has contributed so much over the years, much more than playing the organ at every Mass, and we are so grateful that she has been with us!

Parishioners from St Elizabeth's joined other

churches on 1st October for a day of pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey, and enjoyed the music and wisdom of the monks there. This was to take part in the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the canonisation of St Thomas Cantilupe, also known as St Thomas of Hereford. St Thomas was canonised in 1320 and his relics are in Hereford Cathedral and Belmont Abbey.

If you wish to contact us please ring 07814929788.

Paul Flowers.

BEAVERS CRAFTERNOON

There's a fancy title for a start. What can that be all about?

The 1st Cleobury Mortimer Scout group are holding a children's Crafternoon on November 23rd, 2.00 to 4.00 at the Cleobury Scout Hut, to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health.

The cost of the crafternoon is £3 per child and proceeds will be donated to the mental health charity MIND.

Please bring your little ones to enjoy some arts and crafts and raise money for a great cause (you will need to stay to supervise your children for the event). Drinks will be available as well as a bake sale to raise money for our Scout group.

Any questions, please contact cleoburybeavers@gmail.com

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

A small but select group met in October, to see what ideas the word 'climbing' had inspired.

Gill faced the challenge first, with a character escaping from a castle by climbing, but stepping into the real world

from a game just as danger threatened. A novel approach that had us puzzled at first.

Doris had listed the many applications of the word, once more showing the ambiguity of the English language, while Eddie had a climber discovering a faller and calling in the air ambulance to rescue the man, whose birthday it was.

Vicky and pupil Willow had two options to offer. Willow had a poem of thanks for Alfie the Bean from the nursery, while Vicky gave details of Willow's diary at The Hub. Jim rounded off with a range of climbing we can all face, concluding that those in younger years were much the nicer.

The group meets on Monday the 11th this month, in the library as usual. Until then, we will be puzzling what story to build around 'birthday'.

DON'T WASTE THAT EXTRA HOUR

With the changing of the clocks in October, we gained an extra hour of sleep. And Breast Cancer Haven are suggesting that you shouldn't waste such a precious prize, but we should donate one hour's worth of salary to help them with their work of supporting those affected by breast cancer.

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Last month Extinction Rebellion protestors attempted to shut down parts of the capital due to perceived inaction from the government around climate change. As a believer in preserving our environment and member of the Environmental Audit Committee, I have been examining what the government is doing and what more it can do to tackle climate change.

I was helped by new figures, showing in July, August and September, the UK generated more energy from renewable sources than from fossil fuels. This is the first quarter where renewables outpaced fossil fuels since the UK's first electricity generating station opened in 1882. This shows the rate of change in this country through technology. Our renewable capacity has quadrupled since 2010 and the UK has the largest offshore wind capacity in the world thanks to our investment in this crucial technology – soon to be boosted from the next round of auctions to establish new off shore wind farms. The latest round will deliver clean electricity developed at effectively zero subsidy, as the cost of wind power comes down.

Since 2010, the UK has been the most successful major economy at reducing CO2 emissions: 50% more than any other G20 country. But there is much more we can achieve.

I am keen to play my part, and spoke last month in a Commons debate on net zero emissions in the House of Commons. I have met NFU members here in Shropshire, to learn what more the farming sector intends to do to combat greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon capture and storage through changing land use, while retaining a viable British farming industry. The NFU have endorsed a plan to ensure farming reaches net zero by 2040, which as a farmer, I support.

Technology and productivity will play a key role. UK dairy cattle numbers are now around one million, down from two million 20 years ago, yet producing 30% more milk yield. So greater productivity, from fewer cattle, but also reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The UN estimate there are 278 million dairy cattle worldwide. If they were all as productive as the UK, it would take only 70 million cows to produce the same amount of milk. So agritech can make a huge difference – with specialist feed additions reducing methane emissions, or precision fertilisers that increase yields with fewer chemicals.

In showing we can reduce emissions while feeding the growing global population and growing our economy we can show where the battle against climate change needs to be won, that clean growth is possible. Leading by example is also why the UK committed, as one of Boris Johnson's first acts as PM, to double to £11.6bn the UK's contribution to the International Climate Fund.

I have been engaging with local groups concerned about climate change, and later this month am helping organise a public meeting on *Climate Crisis – Time is Now*. This event will be on November 28th at Craven Arms Community Centre from 6.00 to 9.00pm, and I encourage people to register to attend, (details of which will be available on my website www.philipdunne.com near the time) to learn more about climate change, to raise your concerns and discuss how you can get involved in helping your local community make a difference.

Philip Dunne



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CLEE HILL TO CLEOBURY

"Driver, do you know how many passengers you've got on board?" I must admit I hadn't counted. Seeing them crammed on to the wooden slatted seats like sardines, I realised it was far too many. "One hundred and one! I've counted them as they got off." That didn't surprise me as every time we went around a corner, the tyres met the underside of the wheel arches making quite a noise. The bus conductor stood on the bottom step clutching the two handles that helped passengers mount the bus steps, taking the fares as people got off. This was the last bus from Ludlow to Kidderminster on a Bank holiday in 1945. It was full of day trippers and workers going home. How could I have left any of them behind? My bosses at the time were Fred and Reg Edwards of Hopton Bank who later sold out to Reg Charles of Cleobury whom I am sure some of you will remember. We were based in Lion Lane where Reg kept his garage and coaches. It is now Gallagher's Pet Foods.

My driving career was now in full flow, but before I tell you about my driving adventures, in a later edition of the Clarion, I would like to reminisce and tell you about some of the other jobs I undertook in my younger years. Being a Clee Hill lad you would have thought that I would have worked in the pits or quarry, but having been kicked in the leg whilst playing football, I developed Osteomyelitis- an infection of the bone. Consequently, I had to spend a lot of time in hospital having the bone scraped. This meant that I was unable to go to school in Farlow for two years.

I didn't let my leg get in the way but physically I wasn't up to working in the mine. My first job at fourteen years of age in 1938 was at a bakers in Oreton. I was paid six shillings a week for a six

and a half day week. I lived on the premises and was allowed home on Sunday mornings, taking my washing with me. I had to return that evening. Each day started at 7am. By the time baking had finished and all the deliveries to local villages made, I usually got back at anywhere between 8 to 10 o'clock in the evening. I stood this for one year before my granny got me a job at Bill Pound's, now Banbury Windows, in the Far Forest. We made wooden Look Out posts to be erected on the Scottish coast. Everyone knew that the war was coming. I was paid twelve and six a week. Ten shillings went to my granny for my keep and half a crown into my pocket; this meant I could go to the pictures twice a week. Wonderful! The job lasted until they couldn't get any more timber which was being used for other war time projects. I took up a job with my brother Edwin in a small holding just outside Bewdley. Whilst tending the tomatoes on September 3rd 1939, we were all called to the farmhouse where we stood outside the opened windows to listen to the wireless. The Prime Minister's speech announced that we were now at war with Germany.

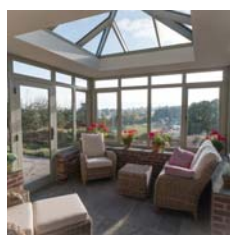
By 1940, I was working as a builder's labourer on a site in Cleobury constructing, yes, you've probably guessed it, Mullers. The original factory was bombed in London so they moved it to the safer environment of rural Shropshire. Two other war time projects that I worked on included the underground factory at Wolverley which was used to build Spitfire engines. The other was working as a dumper truck driver at Burlish Cross at Stourport, building a hospital for injured American soldiers. Oh! I nearly forgot. For you folks living in Curdale Close, I laboured behind the cement mixer, wheelbarrowing the solid concrete for your foundations. You might find the inscription: "C. B. was here 1941."

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Sat 2 nd	08.00	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Club. Great Bargains		
	09.00	Sports & Social Club World Cup breakfast. PAGE 48		
	1.00	CLS Art "Portraits in Pastels" tuition. PAGE 16		
	1.00	Clothes Swap at Sports & Social club. PAGE 48		
	7.30	Kelly Oliver sings at Clows Top Victory Hall. The start of their life music season		
Sun 3 rd	10.00	The Parish Walk starts from the Golf Club. All walkers welcome. PAGE 24		
Wed 6 th	10.00	Final Wednesday Hearing Aid Drop-In. Tuesdays in future!		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 7 th		FREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk out from Saunders Park, Bromsgrove. PAGE 5		
	11.00	CoCo Think Tank at the Market Hall. Ideas welcome. PAGE 54		
Fri 8 th	10.30	Rhyme Time for Tots in the Library		
	7.30	Quiz Night at CM Golf Club		
Sat 9 th	10.00	Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale, Kinlet Village Hall. PAGE 9		
Sun 10 th		Remembrance Sunday. Crowds gather from 10.00 onwards for the parade.		
Mon 11 th	11.00am	Royal British Legion gather at the War Memorial. PAGE 58		
	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library. PAGE 28		
	8.00	Horticultural Society AGM, Methodist Hall. PAGE 9		
Tues 12 th	7,.25am	Breakfast Club meets at Lacon Childe School. PAGE 24	Angela	01299 270636
	7.30pm	Cleobury WI, Market Hall, visitors welcome. PAGE 46		
Wed 13 th	10.00	"Beginners Murals" Art Tuition. PAGE 16		
	10.00	Walking for Health steps out from the Market Hall		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	12.30	Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel, Oretton. PAGE 46		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI AGM plus Speaker. In the Village Hall PAGE 54		
Thurs 14 th		BLACK HOUSEHOLD WASTER BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	"Mural – Building Skills" Art Tuition. PAGE 16		
	7.00	Brewery Night at Hobsons Kitchen Tap		
Fri 15 th	2.30	Doddington Christmas Fayre, in the Village Hall. PAGE 36		
	8.00	Bingo Evening at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 16 th		Coach Trip to Bristol		01584 891464
	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market in St Marys Church		
	9.30	Craft Market in the Market Hall		

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This is a major day in the town’s year, with hundreds of local people and visitors lining the main street to watch the parade pass on their way to gather at the War Memorial for the quiet dignity of the two minutes silence in memory of those fallen in conflict, followed by the laying of wreaths by all major bodies in the community. The Royal British Legion will lead the parade, along with the Cleobury Concert Brass Band and proud citizens of all ages and religious and political persuasions, all there to simply pay respect to those lost.



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Sat 16 th	8.00	Casino Night at Sports & social Club. PAGE 48		
Mon 18 th	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the library. PAGE 58		
Tues 19 th	12.00	CM Carer's Bazaar, Sports & Social Club. PAGE 58		
	7.00	Christmas Floral Art Event, St George's Hall, Bewdley. PAGE 9		
Wed 20 th	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 21 st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Royal Forester, Callow Hill. PAGE 5		
	7.00	Beefy Night at Hobson's Kitchen Tap		
Sat 23 rd	10.00	Christmas Coffee Morning, Melville Chapel, Oretton. PAGE 46		
	10.00	Charity Coffee Morning at Neen Savage Village Hall for Edwards & Hickman Foundations		
	2.00	Beavers' Crafternoon at the Scout Hut. PAGE 28		
	2.30	Christmas Fayre, Doddington Village Hall. PAGE 36		
Sun 24 th	11am/2pm	Stir Up Sunday sessions at Hobsons Kitchen Tap		
Mon 25 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meets at The Library		
Wed 27 th	10.00	Walking for Health steps our from the Market Hall		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall		
	7.30	Clows Top Garden Club meet at the Victory Hall. PAGE 5		
Thurs 28 th		BLACK HOUSEHOLD WASTE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 29 th	8.00	Bingo Evening at Doddington Village Hall		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER.....		
Sun 1 st	2.30	Hereford Police Male Voice Choir in concert at Bayton Parish Church		
Mon 2 nd	To Sat 6 th	Closure of the Nethercott Farm to B4263 road. PAGE 9		
Tues 3 rd	2.00	NHS Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic moves to a new monthly spot. PAGE 7		
Wed 4 th	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 5 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00	Bingo Evening, Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 7 th	7.30	Celtic Christmas Strings in Bitterley Village Hall. PAGE 48		

Severn Hospice will be holding the Advent Lunches every Friday from 29th November 2019 from 1.00 pm until 2.00 pm at the Market Hall in Cleobury Mortimer. Come along and enjoy home made soup with fresh crusty bread followed by Apple Pie and Cream all for a donation of £4.00 per person, funds raised going to Severn Hospice. Make a date in your diary Friday 29th November, 6th December, 13th December and 20th December.



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ROTARY CLUB NEWS

The Ludlow Dog Day held by the Club last July in the grounds of Stokesay Court attracted over 3000 people for a great family day, helping the Club to raise approaching £20,000 for the many charities that it supports.

On November 6th at a lunchtime gathering at Stokesay Court, the Club will present cheques totalling £13000, to the main beneficiaries: Guide Dogs for the Blind, St Michael's Hospice Hereford and Hope House for Children. We hope representatives of sponsors, Hatfield Jaguar, Ludlow Homecare, Hobson's Brewery and Teme Vets will be present.

Early in 2020 the Club will make further grants totalling £5000 to a wide range of local charities and good causes through its 'Ludlow Rotary Cares' initiative. The Club has also supported the building of a school and community centre in a small town in Tanzania and sent funds to recent disasters in the Bahamas and East Africa.

We have a track record of success and now look forward to working for Dog Day 2020 which will be taking place on 19th July. We would be delighted to hear from anyone – potential new members and

sponsors alike – who would like to join the team.

Barry Treeves

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

It's time for our Christmas Fayre again. Saturday 23rd November, 2.30 Doddington Christmas Fayre, in the Village Hall. All sorts of fun: games with great prizes, raffle, tombola, cake stall and stalls with Christmassy items, including holly wreaths, homemade pickles and preserves. Plus some amazing branded gifts and children's toys, mostly one of each – when they are gone, they are gone. There will be refreshments and time to catch up with your friends and meet new ones.. All funds raised will go towards our project to repair and improve the church – and the plans for that will be on display. If you would like to book a table for your stall, contact us by Friday 15th November on stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com or on 01584 318036. And our Carol Service next month will be on December 15th, 3.00 o'clock in St John's Church. Come and join us, Hopton Bank Methodists and Cleobury Country Brass to enjoy singing.

CATHERTON UPDATE

The long summer started early and proved a great one for all of our insects which thrived this year. We have also had a good amount of rain this year, which is important to sustain some of the prime habitats for insects such as ponds, wetlands and flower rich meadows. The Common was looking in good condition when I visited recently; a welcome change from last year.

Volunteers have begun cutting birch on the Upper Marshes area once again. A regular job, to stop the heathland from becoming woodland; the volunteers are doing an excellent job. Our team of monitoring volunteers carried out a condition assessment of that area. The survey showed that it was in 'Good Condition'. All the work and grazing has had noticeable benefits with lots of regenerating heather, and a good mix of shrubs.

There is still plenty of catching up to do with trees and gorse still dominating many areas. Our pedestrian tractor with flail attachment has worked well, combining with volunteers to cut more of the gorse and allow the stock to move into more areas.

Catherton Common is a very special place and very important for our threatened wildlife. Please continue to keep dogs under control, take your litter home with you and please don't tip your garden waste. *Clive Dean*



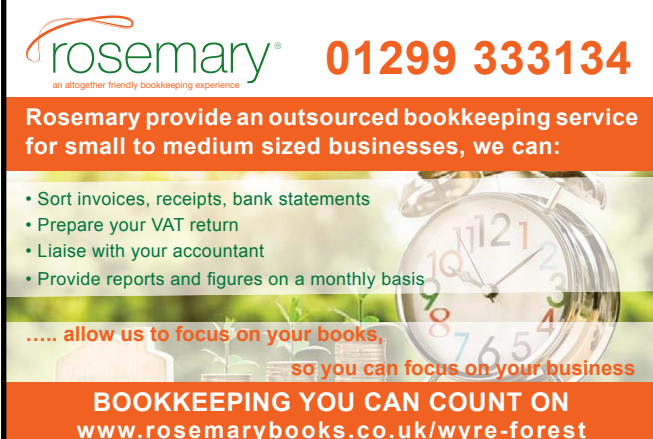
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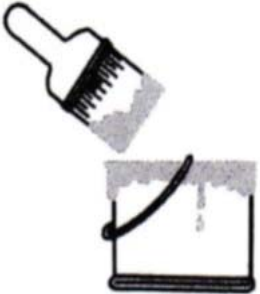
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GLEAMING AND GROWING

We Gleam has been another local success story. Pete and Katie working from home at their cleaning business with Pete building upholstery work as a back-up. All tucked away in the Bewdley countryside and building a good name.

This year things have changed big time, with a move into a unit on the Old Town Station Business Park to accommodate the upholstery and embroidery business. Pete has been doing automotive work for years, expanding into commercial vehicles and adding touches like the embroidery machines that Katie runs. Then came talks with Royal Mail and samples of their work to refurbish and make extra covers for van seats for the post company's van fleet. One of those 'maybe it will happen' jobs that a family business dreams of. Then came an order for 2,000 seat covers.

That many covers when you're working from home was a real test. "We cleared the room and just got on with it," Pete recalls with a smile. "And my mate cleared his garage and just made covers as well." They met the order and are established with Royal Mail. And automotive work is now about 80 percent of

the business, under the new name of Everything Interior Upholstery.



Pete and Katie with the embroidery machine that can put almost any drawing or picture onto fabric.

Pete admits he hadn't been keen to rent a workplace, but when they saw the new units just behind the latest Kudos building he could see life being much easier. On September 1st they moved into an empty unit and after getting professional quotes for putting in an office with floor above, Pete and his dad bought in materials and did the job themselves in three days. That's typical Pete - rolls his sleeves up and gets on with it.

They've recruited people to work with them, Kyle the regular face and Callum coming in the evenings because he

wants to learn about upholstery and this way he earns on top of his daytime job. And they're looking to take on a trainee to learn the trade, probably a school leaver who wants to have a good training. The phone number is on the opposite page.

The embroidery work is growing too, a very clever Brother machine able to copy almost anything onto fabric, and up to banner size if that's what you want. Special little items like safety belt covers with the car maker's logo in the colour of your choice.

The cleaning and upholstery work still flows in. One recent job was the refurbishment of the Live and Let Live interior at Neen Sollars - there's another local success story. New licensee Diane is well pleased: "I think they're great," she told us. "So supportive and helpful and when Pete found it was more difficult than he thought, he stuck to his price. Absolutely super."

The Everything Interior Upholstery title will be appearing in their advertisements, an associate company of We Gleam. Just watch the two brands grow - it's quality at work.

Jim Reynolds



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On a woodland walk recently we followed an avenue through Shelf Held Coppice towards Ruskinland. (As far as I know the origins of the name of 'Shelf Held Coppice' are lost, but if you know anything about that or other colourful names for parts of the Wyre Forest please let me know). Cedric Quayle has told me that the avenue was well-established by the time his uncle moved to Uncllys in 1914, and was probably planted by George Baker of Beaucastle to link up to a halt on the Tenbury and Bewdley Railway (now disused, with no sign of the halt) so it is now about 140 years old. Where it survives, the avenue is made up of conifers but here and there it contains False Acacia trees (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) some of which can also be seen along the track continuing from the cattle grid on Tanners Hill.



This is Robinia pseudoacacia, whose title explains all.

Cedric remembers that the trees were planted to supply wood for making rungs for the tall ladders used to pick cherries in the local orchards. I decided to find out a little more

about this unusual forest introduction and was soon up to my ears in fascinating facts. The tree's other name is Black Locust. 'Aha!' I hear some of you say, as locust crops up in American literature and, to quote Wikipedia, 'As a young man, Abraham Lincoln spent much of his time splitting rails and fence posts from black locust logs' The specimen at Kew is one of the oldest in the gardens, perhaps dating from their original establishment in 1759, but it did not become widespread in this country until the 1820s thanks to the commercial efforts of William Cobbett, who owned locust nurseries in its native eastern USA. He was convinced of the wonderful properties of its wood, which is hard, straight-grained and very resistant to rot. Cobbett overestimated the strength of the timber in larger scale sections, where oak is far superior, but it is true that it is the closest to a tropical timber which can be grown here in the UK. Over a million were sold, bringing Cobbett a considerable income and leaving specimens in parks and gardens all over the country.

The Wyre Forest trees will never be cut to make ladders but their easily-recognisable, deeply-ridged trunks hold up a light canopy of attractive composite leaves and in June lovely, hanging clusters of white flowers decorate and perfume the woods. The bark, leaves and wood of the tree are poisonous but in some parts of the world the flowers are eaten and other parts are used in traditional medicines. It makes good firewood and grows back quickly after being coppiced. I should mention, though, that it can spread by means of suckers and become an invasive nuisance.

Coming back to the present season, the rut of the Fallow Deer will soon be over and the forest will take on its winter quietness. This is a month to enjoy the last of the autumn leaves and colourful fungi.

Linda Iles

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As I mentioned last month, a new 292 timetable will come into use from 4th November. The times are largely unchanged but the route at both ends of the service will be modified. At the Ludlow end, the final drop off point at the top of Upper Galdeford will also be the starting point for the return service as the bus will merely turn round in the coach park and pick up opposite Ludlow Fish Bar. The service will then return directly back to Henley Road and will not pick up in Corve Street. On the trip back to Kidderminster, there will be limited stops between Bewdley and Kidderminster. The service will then turn right at the top of Bewdley Hill into Sutton Park Road and travel to the Bus Station via the Worcester Road roundabout. It will then return via the Swan Centre and the Hospital so if you are going to the Hospital, you will need to stay on board for a few extra minutes but you will be getting off on the right side of the road. It is hoped that these changes will provide some extra breathing space and allow the service to operate more punctually in the event of traffic delays or roadworks. Copies of the new timetable are available at the Talbot bus stops, Library and Market Hall.

The Diamond operated 292S school service will be unchanged and hopefully they will have enough buses left to operate it as another one caught fire recently near the Wyre Forest visitor Centre. And as we go to press, there is news of yet another one

smouldering gently near the old Horse and Jockey. These were not their only fire related problems as their Tividale depot was targeted by arsonists with around 10 vehicles destroyed. Diamond say that this should not disrupt services as the vehicles in question were awaiting disposal. There is no truth in the rumour that West Midlands police want to interview 10,000 suspects. Given the state of the vehicles they are still running, I wonder what condition they were in (Note to WMP: how much were they insured for? - Just a thought...)

Good News: The Chancellor has announced £220 Million of new funding for buses. Less good news: £50 Million is to be used to provide electric buses for two towns and cities. Money will also be spent on low fare high frequency services and contactless payments to be made available on every city bus. Much of the rest will go on road improvements and the only mention of any rural area was a scheme in Cornwall. I wonder how much will eventually find its way to the fair County of Shropshire – answers on a (small) postcard please. The even less good news: There was no mention of the fact that £182 Million has been cut from bus support since 2010 so this announcement does little more than put back what has been taken away... Still, politicians can't be expected to burden themselves with reality.

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FROM THE BANDROOM

November brings a quieter month for the band, with the parade on Remembrance Sunday followed by the British Legion evening service at Clee Hill.

We have recently welcomed a couple more players, who travel from Worcester each week. We have players from all over the place to be in our band: Knighton, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury, Leominster, Droitwich and our conductor commutes from Swansea! We welcome Colin Hogg who has decided to return from a short break to become our conductor again at the beginning of November.

CMCB has a very good name for being a social and friendly band as well as competing at a good level, hence we attract people from miles around. If you are a beginner or starting up playing again, please remember that our door is always open, especially so for our training band group who rehearse from 6.15pm on Tuesday evenings.

We will be having a major music sort before we get out the Christmas season music

(currently 70 pieces in our folders from the summer period). We will have some new repertoire to practice this year, so that brings me nicely on to remind you to advance book your ticket for our annual Christmas Concert. This year it will be on December 14th in the Parish Hall. Tickets are £10 to include mulled wine and mince pies, there will also be a licensed bar. Please contact Donna on 07791 642214 or Amanda on 01584 891199 or any band member.

Our website lists all contact details www.CMCB.org.uk, please also find us on Facebook
Katie Griffiths

CLEOBURY W.I.

WI fundraising this year supports the Men's Shed and invited their representatives to our Annual General meeting to tell us about their journey and the progress made. An illuminating talk, well presented by three men who were enthusiastic and committed. The town will have one more asset to help offer friendship and combat loneliness while providing a space for woodwork or metalwork, cups of tea and a chat. The close proximity of Hobson's Brewery

for the occasional testing of a pint or two might be a draw as well. Our President steered us through the AGM in a swift and elegant fashion. We finished the evening with supper and a Beetle Drive; even though our team did not win, we had the best dressed Beetles in the room, sporting bow ties, waistcoats, and high heels.

We finished the month with a coffee morning at the Larch Barn and serving our 'Winter Warmer Lunch' in the Market Hall. We look forward to November's meeting when Liz Smurthwaite will demonstrate 'Christmas Greenery Decorations' and encourage us to have a go. If you are free on November 12th, please come and join in the fun in the Market Hall. You will be very welcome.

Gabby Franklin

MELVILLE DATES

The Melville Methodist Chapel at Oretton looks like having a busy November:

Wednesday, 13th. 12.30 to 2.00pm: Soup Lunch in the Chapel.

Saturday, 23rd. 10.00 to 12.00noon. Christmas Coffee Morning with various stalls and the opportunity to make a wreath or Christmas decoration.

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Thai Cod and Prawn Fish Cake Served with a Fresh Coriander Thai Salad and Sweet Chilli Sauce (G.F)

Creamy Mushrooms Served on a Toasted Garlic French Bread Slice (V)

Duck Liver Parfait with Orange Zest and Gin Served on a bed of Mixed Leaves Drizzled in Orange Balsamic Glaze with Crostini (G.F)

main Course

Traditional Roast Turkey Crown Served with Pigs in Blankets, Sage and Onion Stuffing and Gravy

Rosemary Baked Seabass Fillet with Lemon Butter (G.F)

Rich Game and Red Wine Casserole Served in a Giant Yorkshire Pudding

Homemade Baked Vegetable and Stilton Oat Crumble (V)

All Main Courses Served with Seasonal Vegetables and Garlic and Rosemary Roast Potatoes

Dessert

Gingerbread Ice Cream in a Brandy Snap Basket

Raspberry and White Chocolate Roulade with Raspberry Coulis (G.F)

Fresh Dairy Cream Filled Profiteroles with Rich Chocolate Sauce

Traditional Christmas Pudding Served with Brandy Cream

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CELTIC CHRISTMAS STRINGS

Quite an intriguing title for what sounds like a very gentle pre Christmas evening at 7.30 in Bitterley Village Hall on December 7th.

It features Chris and Maire on harp and acoustic guitar, offering a range through trad Irish music, swing jazz and bluegrass, plus festive favourites. All in what the publicity material says is their characteristic heart-warming style. Should be just right for putting you in a friendly, relaxed mood.

Tickets are £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children from Ruth or Andrew on 01584 318047.

THE STROKE GROUP

We continue to meet monthly at the Sports and Social Club or on occasional trips, where we have been supported by a generous grant from the Co-op Community Fund. In September we enjoyed a trip on the Droitwich Canal having had a successful first trip to the Red House Glass Cone in Stourbridge. Eleven of us boarded Pamela May2, a brand

new electric powered narrow boat fully equipped for wheelchair users and enjoyed a super afternoon including a picnic made for us by Sarah Wilde. In October we were off to the newly reopened Doddington Lodge to visit two of our members who are having some respite care there. If you could benefit from a couple of hours social contact after having had a stroke or you would like to help, please call Katja at the Medical Centre.

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Rugby World Cup continues, with the final match being held on November 2nd. At the time of writing, England are through to the semi-finals with a good chance of reaching the final. The Club will be open early for the match which starts at 9.00am, and as for previous games, breakfast rolls will be served. Come and enjoy watching a great match with fellow rugby fans!

Also on November 2nd, Emma Ward is organising a Clothes Swap between 1.00 and 4.00pm. Bring along your

unwanted clothes to exchange for some new.

November 9th sees CM Rugby Club play Linley- 2.15pm kick-off.

On November 16th, CM Volleyball Club will be running their popular Casino Night starting at 8.00. Tickets are £10 each including welcome drink, canapes and gaming chips. Tickets are available from Karen 07813050414 or Lyndsey 07896217190.

November 23rd sees CM Rugby Club play Telford Hornets- 2.15pm kick-off.

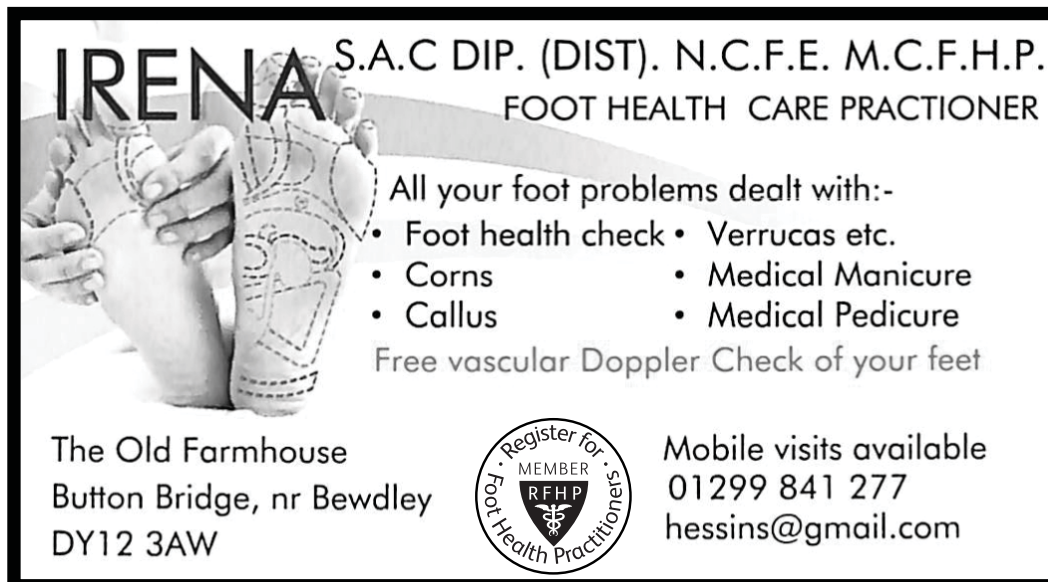
On November 26th the Stroke Support Group are visiting Ashwood Nurseries with lunch included. Please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre if you wish to attend.

For more information please call in at the Club, or contact us on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page.

Glenys Turpin

MADGE'S SURGERY

County Councillor Madge Shingleton has a surgery planned for December 7th, from 9.00 to 11.00am in the Market Hall. No appointment necessary, you may have to sit and wait a while.



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Still no shortage of dog poo around the place. I saw a dog walker allowing his pooch to chase cows the other day. When I pointed out that this wasn't a good idea, he said that the dog was 'only playing' It's a shame no one told the cows that. And lets not forget, dog walkers, farmers have a legal right to shoot dogs found worrying livestock (and there has been an increase in this lately) so unless you want to see Fido or whatever spread across the landscape after a brief interview with Mr 12 Bore, best keep him (or her) on a lead when livestock are about. In the New Forest, a couple of dog walkers have apparently been injured after their animals had aggravated the local cattle. Now, the Verderers Association, who administer the area have asked that cattle owners remove the horns from their beasts. Not surprisingly, this request has met with a spirited response. After all, why should cattle be mutilated just to placate dog walkers?

Parking is another of my (many) gripes. There is a disabled bay outside the Londis shop in Cleobury but from what I have seen, most cars parked there don't display a disabled badge. It may come as a shock to those drivers but disabled spots are there for disabled people and not just those who are too lazy to walk a few yards. It's not that difficult – just put one foot in front of the other and repeat until you reach your destination. It will help with your fitness as well. The same applies to those who go to the gym at the leisure centre and drive there although they only live a short distance away. Why?

Who would be a copper today? They have been emasculated by a toxic combination of dogooders who will complain if they give the crims as much as a severe look coupled with savage funding cuts. I think the rot set in when they renamed themselves 'Services' instead of 'Forces'. After all, they should be out there breaking heads, not acting as surrogate social workers (not that there are many of them left following Chris Grayling's disastrous privatisation which is

belatedly being reversed) The editor's late and much missed wife worked in this area and all the professionals warned Grayling what would happen if his daft scheme went through. It did, and lo and behold, the resulting fiasco has done untold damage including a substantial increase in the number of murders being carried out by those supposedly under supervision.

Whilst our services suffer these cuts, the obscenely bloated International Aid budget continues to hose cash at all kinds of daft schemes. A recent report by the public accounts committee revealed that no one had much idea what had been achieved by these projects as value for money was not evaluated(!). Much of the spending has been delegated to different departments where there is little transparency as to how it has been spent. To make matters worse, when we leave the EU, the 10% (£1.4 billion) that is allocated to EU institutions will have to be reallocated to UK run projects. As there is a legal requirement to spend over £14 billion a year, cue a panic stricken rush to throw the extra about.

Much of this has undoubtedly ended up in the pockets of assorted dictators and corrupt officials. Take the late Robert Mugabe for instance. 'Hero of independence' (*Guardian* readers) 'Mass murderer' (nearly everyone else) 'Mistakes were made' (Jeremy Corbyn). Lest you think that his 'achievements' over some 35 years of rule in Zimbabwe happened without personal pain, it was estimated that shortly before his death, he had as little as £4 billion squirreled away in Swiss bank accounts. See the sacrifice? Given the billions chucked by the UK at Zimbabwe over the years, some of his stash undoubtedly came from your taxes and mine. Still, I'm sure he was very grateful.

I would take £10 billion out of this budget immediately to spend on the NHS and other domestic needs and ensure the remainder was properly spent. It would still be over £12 million a *day* so not exactly peanuts.

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There are a number of private parties booked in the Function Room during September. If you are looking for a venue for your party/meeting/special occasion, Message or call into the Club to check available dates.

Saturday 2 November RUGBY WORLD CUP FINAL 9am kick off

At time of going to press, the final teams are not yet known. Regardless, the Club will be open for the final match of the Rugby World Cup, serving breakfast rolls during the match



Followed by.....

Charity Clothes Swap 1-4pm

Bring your pre-loved clothes to donate, pay £3, select a few new items to refresh your wardrobe – easy!

Monday 4 November 8pm Bingo

Every Monday at the Social Club. Eyes down 8pm. Cash prizes: over 18 only please.



Saturday 9 November 2.30pm

CMRFC v Linley



Wednesday 13 November 8pm

Royal British Legion Meeting

The Social Club is delighted to welcome the Cleobury Branch of RBL for their monthly meetings. Second Wednesday every month. Membership can be made online. All welcome to support this worthy cause. RBL has future events booked at the Club – watch this space.

Saturday 16 November 7pm

CM Volleyball Club Casino Night

Always a great night hosted by the Volleyball Club. Tickets £10 to include drink, canapes and starting chips. Tickets from Karen Gallagher or Lyndsey Potter.



Saturday 23 November 2.30pm

CMRFC v Telford

Match preceded by the VP's Lunch



Tuesday 26 November 12.30 – 3.30pm

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Clarion Farewell - The Bell Inn closes

It's been a pub since at least 1721 - owner Roger Gittins has deeds to confirm that. But he has traced back and found evidence of it trading as long ago as the 1600s. On the wall is a list of the landlords from 1788. And it ceased trading as a pub on October 24th 2019, This is Really Old Cleobury.

The Gittins family, Harry, Dot daughter Ann and son Roger, moved into the place in May 1965 from The Miners' Arms in Bagginswood. Managing a pub in Cleobury was a move up, a busy place serving a bigger population.

Roger had plans for a different career, joining British Telecom in 1969 and training as a test inspector on the quality assurance side. He was leaving home 6.15 in the morning, to drive into Birmingham and spending his day as a technical officer before getting back to Cleobury at about 6.00 in the evening, then helping in the pub in the evening.

Dad Harry wasn't in the best of health. A heavy smoker, he had to have his leg amputated in 1975 and wasn't capable of doing the full job he'd been used to. He and Dot would run the place at lunch time, but in the evenings it was Roger and his mum looking after the place. They bought the pub in 1978, by which time Dot was spending time nursing Harry. Roger was still off early in the morning to Birmingham, putting in a full day and then back serving in the pub in the evening. He reckons he was getting five hours sleep a night through the week, then after 13 years of holding down two jobs, he quit BT in 1984 and took over as landlord of The Bell on Harry's death in 1986. No easy ride to become a landlord.

It's always been a drinker's pub in the 41 years I've known the place. Nothing fancy or flash, just a peaceful place where you could hear yourself think and the landlord looked

after the beer and produced sandwiches for the dominoes and darts players. Lots of room in the place, and it was home to the Bell Inn Band, the Royal British Legion and the Buffs. Elsewhere in this issue you'll find a report of the Legion Autumn Harvest Auction, one of many fund raising events held there. If a pub has a soul, this place had a big, warm one.



Roger Gittins, owner, landlord and charity fund raiser par excellence.

Roger first put the place on the market in 2006, when what looked like a good offer fell through. In 2013 he leased the place to Martin and Jan Wood, who ran it for four years until Martin sadly died. Roger was back in charge and wanting to sell. The Bell has been auctioned three times since then, without a serious bid made. This year it was offered with a pre app to convert use, but no bids. It closed on October 24th, to be offered for sale vacant with outline planning consent. Farewell, very old friend. JR

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NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

In October we were pleased to welcome Rose Jacks to instruct us in the martial art of Tai Chi. The practice originates in China and is particularly popular as an early morning exercise, undertaken by all ages from 9 to 90. The Chinese believe good exercise leads to good health and they look for the root cause of problems, rather than just treating the symptoms. Rose taught her first class in Cleobury over 30 years ago and has been learning and teaching throughout the area ever since. After learning some of theory we were all invited to have a go. Rose finished with demonstrations Tai Chi using a sword and a fan, both requiring a huge amount of precision and control.

Our November meeting, at 7.30pm on the 13th, is the AGM but the business will be swiftly concluded to allow plenty of time for our speaker, Stephanie Morrison, to give us a cookery demonstration. Visitors are always welcome, £4 each to include a raffle ticket and light supper.

Catherine Evans

President

01299 270647 for more information

A HEARTY COCO THANK YOU

It's been a busy few months for CoCo on all fronts. We have been fortunate to take on several new volunteers, with more to train. This takes us to a team of 28, each offering a tailor made, two hour weekly befriending visit, to members of this community.

It has also been a plentiful time for fund-raising. Back in July the CM Ladies Volleyball team held a successful event at the Sports and Social Club, making a generous donation to the project. In September, thanks to kindness of the Engleheart family, Kinlet Hall then opened its doors for a fabulous cheese, wine and music night, with supper by Platters and Plates and musical contributions from Hanz, Two Tone and the Engleheart brothers. A thoroughly enjoyable night, raising over £700.

But by far the greatest achievement has to be that of Stewart Mumford and Gordon Jackson, for their 79 mile unaided hike from Fort William on the west coast of Scotland, up and over to Inverness on the East coast, following the Great Glen Way. Each making the long drive separately, Stewart walked


the first four days alone and kept his fan base happy with regular updates and photos of stunning scenery and wild camping. In turn friends kept him going with daily good wishes. On day four he was joined by Gordon, a very welcome companion for Stewart who was now really struggling with knee pain. Together they strode it out in great spirits and completed the challenge they had set themselves months before, raising a phenomenal £1200.

To you guys especially and to all who have helped and supported us, we truly cannot thank you enough. CoCo continue to support many individuals throughout the year in discreet and varying ways, perhaps helping out with winter fuel, specialist equipment and services, or putting on small, niche courses and training. But it's time to think bigger. On November 7th at 11am at the Market Hall we are holding a Think Tank with volunteers, to brainstorm ideas of how best to serve the community of Cleobury with funds so generously raised. If you have an idea and would like to join us we would love to see you there.

cleoburycoco@hotmail.com

Andrew Jordan (Jordy)
JRD.GROUNDWORK@GMAIL.COM

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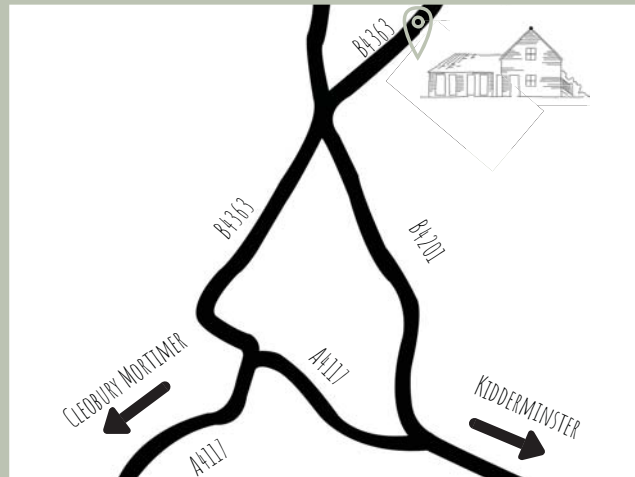
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THE CHURCH HEATING

Many of you will have read in the September Clarion of the impending work to improve the heating in St Mary's Church, and seen contractors' vans parked outside the building and materials being delivered. After the morning service on September 1st, a large working party cleared the church, storing the furniture around the building, and on Monday morning the contractors started work. When the wooden floors were lifted the first problems were uncovered, literally. Whilst the floor on the north side had been rebuilt relatively recently, the south side was considerably older, and the joists and support system were found to be in poor condition. A quickly-convened site meeting and subsequent quotes led us rapidly to the conclusion that a complete rebuild of the floor support structure was the only sensible option. It was also apparent that in a couple of places the main large-diameter steel heating pipes were badly corroded and would need remedial work. There were also some defects in the stone floor in the nave.

The main parts of the work in the church involved installing the

flexible underfloor heating pipework, carried in metal trays secured to insulation panels between the floor joists. Once the south side floor supports had been rebuilt, this work was completed on both sides of the nave, followed by installation of the new hardwood floor which sits immediately above the heating pipes. The underfloor heating is supplied by a new circuit from the existing hot water system, and this required additional pipework to be installed in the tunnels beneath the nave and chancel. In the boiler room the existing boiler, which was near the end of its useful life, has been replaced by a pair of new high-efficiency boilers, together with other improvement work to bring the system up to modern standards.

The work was completed on schedule and the system was handed over on Friday 27 September. The heating will be run continuously to provide a base level of heat, and then boosted for services and other events. Our initial impression is very favourable, and Ashley is now able truthfully to give a warm welcome to the congregation. The whole project has gone very smoothly, despite the various unforeseen problems, and our thanks are due to the

main contractors, Grange Heating, their subcontractors Hereford Oak Buildings who carried out all the carpentry work, and to Darren Sheppard who expertly repaired various defects in the stone floors. We have raised almost all the money needed, and we are enormously grateful to all those in the town and beyond who have given so generously and have supported our various fund-raising activities.

Is this the end of the story? Well, not exactly, as my original article in the July Clarion said that the heating improvement was the first stage in a wider development of the church building. In the next few months we will be considering what else is needed to make the church more comfortable and flexible. Watch this space!

Chris Kippin

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Town Council and the Parish Church have combined to produce Christmas cards. Pictures by local photographers, for sale at the library, church, the Hub at the Methodist church and the Farmers Market.

A pack of six costs £2.50 and they'll be available from November 9th. Proceeds to the church and council's Christmas support of events.

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CARERS' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Cleobury Carers' Christmas Bazaar will be in the Sports and Social Club on the 19th this month, from 12.00 to 3.00. Free admission and festive refreshments, but donations are naturally welcome.

You'll find a tombola, cake and produce stall, Chrissy gifts on sale and loads more. Everyone welcome to this friendly event and feel free to bring your friends with you.

THE BRITISH LEGION

The Branch's Auction Sale of Harvest Produce was on September 20th in The Bell Inn. A good range of items was up for sale, and over £1000 was raised, making the evening a great success. Jim Hulme is to be congratulated on having brought in so many donations, and for carrying out the massive task of being auctioneer. Well done, Jim!

The Cleobury Branch has also raised an impressive amount for the 2018/2019 Poppy Appeal. Roger Gittins, our experienced and hard-working Poppy Appeal Organiser, reported that the year's total will be over £9,500, making it the best year on record.

At the Branch AGM, on October 9th, Mike Hermolle as Chairman, Dave Clarke Vice-Chair, Ron Breakwell President, David Taylor Vice-President, Iain Smith Treasurer, George Print Standard Bearer, and Matt Sheehan Membership Secretary. were re-elected Vanda Kemp tendered her resignation from the post of Secretary, but no replacement has yet come forward.

Remembrance Sunday is on November 10th, followed by Remembrance Day itself on Monday 11th. There will be a brief gathering around Cleobury's war memorial at 11 a.m. on the Monday.

The Branch always welcomes new members - please contact Membership Secretary Matt Sheehan on 01299 271347 for details, or join up on-line.

Mark Baldwin

THE READING GROUP

'The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks', by Rebecca Skloot, the best book we have read this year. The true story of Henrietta, a poor black woman and her cancer cells which were taken without her knowledge. Known as HeLa cells they became a multi-million dollar industry and one of the most important tools

in medicine. Her family were unaware of this for many years and the author spent time both getting to know the family and researching the wide ranging use of the cells. Engaging and very well written, it touches on multiple topics from segregation to biology. Not over dramatised and with the scientific information imparted without too much technical detail. It was a tale which needed telling. It raised a multitude of questions regarding medical ethics, individual rights and the treatment of minorities. A gripping book, it's an absolutely fascinating read.

This month we are reading a novel, 'Nothing But Grass' by Will Cohu. We will meet in Cleobury Library on 18th November to air our opinions.
Deana Kimber 271754

PETROL PRICES

Here's a surprise. We belong to the PetrolPrices.com scheme that keeps us informed about local fuel costs. On October 18th, petrol at Harold's Hopton Bank Service Station was £1.259 a litre and at the Co-op on the 20th it was £1.289 a litre.

According to my calculator that's a difference of 14 pence a gallon, which makes a drive up the hill even more appealing.

Paul Harding



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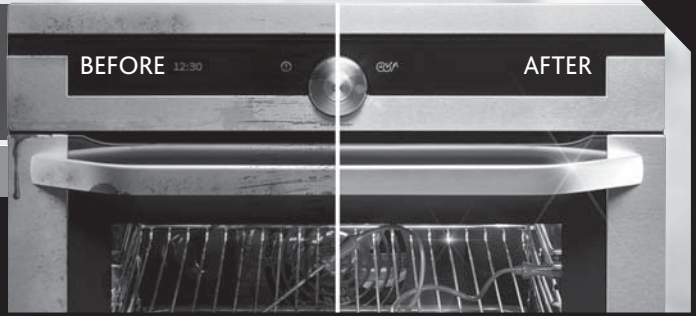
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November 2019 Clarion Report

Still lots going on around the Town to let you know about.

The Town council have agreed the contractors to re vamp the Love lane play area and to install the outdoor gym equipment for the Skate Park at the October meeting. Displays will be available soon at venues around the town to show what will be done, and what it will all look like. Good news for the children for the Spring 2020.

A recent Community Crime reduction meeting has taken place with representatives from the Police, Parking enforcement, Crime commissioner's office, both head teachers from Lacon and the Primary School, Shropshire Star, Cleobury Clarion, councillors from the Town council, surrounding parish councillors and Unitary council and public. It was attended by just under 40 people, who discussed issues we have and a way forward working with the relevant agencies. It proved to be a very worthwhile and productive meeting for all. Lots of positive advice and co-operation came out of the group where It also agreed a new Chairman to guide the group forward. The next meeting will be in the evening to allow for those who work to attend, it is on Thursday January 9th 2020 at 7pm, venue to be agreed.

One important job we are now in the process of, is getting three local companies to quote for is some tree work, especially in the Skate Park area. When we took it over from Shropshire council, we discovered that they did not do any tree management work, so we are rectifying that from a tree safety and management report that we had done. This work will be done in the new year and will enhance the experience of walking around the park. We will be following a woodland management plan for this work to ensure wildlife and habitats are looked after.

The Remembrance Day parade will be on Sunday 10th November, with the march starting from the Talbot car park at around 10.45am. Please come along, as the numbers lining the main street continues to grow and is quite a sight to see. And if anyone would like to join the Cleobury Mortimer British Legion, which is open to anyone, not just ex services, then please either register online on the Royal British Legion website or contact the Town council office for further information.

Finally, the Christmas lights will be put up on Sunday November 24th and if you wish to help the volunteers, then contact the Town council office for details.

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IN BUSINESS - Doddington Lodge Care Home

It's back in business, that very distinctive building in Doddington village. It's been empty too long, after a Care and Quality Commission's visit was followed by closure.

It's now under the control of family business Just Be Care Limited. Linda Patel is manager and a director and the other members of the board are Anita Mares, Luke Wellings and Cassie Brown. They have leased the building and shared the cost and work of restoration.

Problems that they inherited, like the lift not working and the water supply not meeting the needs of residents have been put right. A walk through the place, with an invitation from Linda Patel to find fault, showed evidence of careful planning and investment

It has been redecorated all through, apart from Linda's flat on the third floor. In the main Lodge and the Cottage the lights switch on and off automatically, with emergency lighting and a sprinkler system. Hand rails are installed along the corridors and there are sitting areas with a kitchen for making tea for visitors who don't want to sit in the residents' rooms.

There will be 23 bedrooms, 20 of them with full ensuite and

three with part ensuite. That provision recognises the need for privacy and is much better than the previous use of communal bathrooms and toilets.

The residents' rooms can be furnished or residents can bring their own furniture if they prefer. All the furniture, beds and equipment is new, as are the pictures of the local wildlife of the area. Even the little ornaments that add a homely touch are new. As this is a mature building, built in the 1920s, the room sizes and layouts vary, from a roomy apartment for two to a smaller version for singles.



Manager Linda Patel and the smile that will greet residents.

The Doddington community have really made the family feel welcome. No surprise, as Linda grew up in Knowbury and her

first car came from Harold's Hopton Bank Service Station just down the road. Her own career as a qualified Occupational Therapist included supporting people living with dementia.

"Gerald down the road asked if he could look after the gardens, Celia Gibb from the church has volunteered to come in and chat to residents and some of the local girls came in and helped us clean the place. We can feel the love," she smiles.

Plans include a poly tunnel to grow vegetables for the home, where Gina Basker from Platters and Plates has been recruited as head chef. David Wood of ATTEND, the charity that staffs shops in hospitals is advising and to encourage the residents to move around both home and gardens. There are two alpacas established in the grounds.

It's a pleasure to walk around the lodge and cottage and see how much has been done to make the place welcoming. It's been a long job and a big spend to get it to this pristine state; Linda estimates that the total cost shared by Just Be Care and the property is close to a million pounds. We wish them and their residents a long and happy time.

Doddington Lodge is on 01584 707084 or 319055.

Some of the people making the Lodge a friendly place to work and live in:

Ellie was nervous when she started work as an apprentice, but at her first CPR test scored a very impressive 98 percent. Not so nervous now...

Alisha had worked at the Lodge previously and is enjoying being back, saying it's like a new place. She's studying for her Level 5 in Leadership and

Management for Volunteers, to support future projects at the Lodge.

Yvonne works as a Deputy Manager and enjoys being part of the new team. "It's a beautiful home, making residents and visitors welcome," she says.

Luke and Cassie are partners in the Lodge and are enjoying being back home and part of the Doddington community. They are both ex pupils of Lacon Childe School.

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The amount of online and telephone fraud has increased massively in recent years. The internet has made it easier for criminals to target more people, and they don't even have to get out of their pyjamas to do it.

This has turned fraud into a global business, defrauding UK citizens out of £110 billion a year. As it is so lucrative, the people behind this fraud are well funded, highly organised and very good at what they do. This may sound very scary, but fortunately there are lots of things you can do to ensure you don't fall victim to these people.

RULE NUMBER 1

Before I get onto the specific threats, there is one thing you need to remember: **IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS!**

Email Scams (Phishing)

The principle behind this is that criminals are 'fishing' for your details using email bait. To do this they craft an email claiming to be from an organisation which tricks you into clicking a link to a web page that looks exactly like the real thing. There you will be asked to enter certain personal and/or financial information which will be used to hack or defraud you.

If you get a phishing email, don't click on any of the links; delete it. They can be very hard to spot, so here are ways you can identify one:

If you are requested to confirm your personal information this is a red flag. Genuine organisations will not ask you to do this.

Spelling and grammar mistakes are a tell tale sign of a phishing email.

The email address or links do not look right. If you get an email from an organisation, the email address will reflect the organisation's name; not gmail.com! Also you can hover over a link you will see where it is trying to take you, which should be the organisations real website.

If the email was out of the blue and has an attachment, beware. The attachment may contain a virus.

You can take a Phishing quiz which will see how good you are at spotting these <https://phishingquiz.withgoogle.com/>

Telephone Scams (Vishing)

There are many types of telephone fraud and usually they are easy to spot so you can just hang up. However, some are convincing, so things to be aware of are:

You will never be called by anyone to tell you they have detected a virus or problem on your computer. They will trick you into thinking they have fixed a problem that was never there and then demand money for this 'service'.

Genuine organisations will never contact you and ask for your PIN, password or bank details. They may use fear tactics to trick you into making a payment over the phone to prevent further action.

SMS (text) Scams (Smishing)

Similar in approach to Phishing but using text messages. They usually require 'urgent' attention and have a link for you to click. The same principles apply for spotting these as for email scams.

For all of the above, if in doubt, contact the organisation that claims to have contacted you as they will know if this is legitimate or not. For phone scams, make sure you use another telephone; in some cases the scammer will not hang up so you remain connected to them when you try and dial another number.

Finally, if you do fall victim to fraud then report this to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Matt Yarranton



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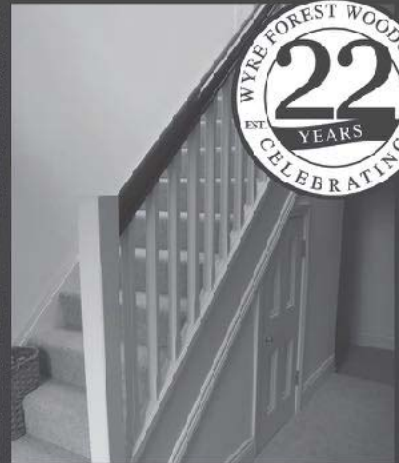
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THE AMAZING ZANZIBARN

This is an astonishing place. An old barn, once threatened with demolition and saved as a place to show off inherited African hunting trophies plus a range of Indian furnishings and collectibles. Charles and Emma Houston have a party venue like no other.

There are 25 African animal species on the walls or draped over the banister rails. An African black buffalo, recognised as a dangerous type to take on, dominates the gallery display, while down below four lions share wall space with a variety of antelopes. Zebra hides abound.

With room for 60 people to sit, dine and then dance it's not

intended for a big crowd, and you can retire to the gallery to relax or just look around in wonder. When they have their annual fund raiser for Homes for Heroes, they have catered for 97 guests, just because it is a charity occasion.

The Houston family are much travelled and the trait comes out in their children. Son Michael was one of a military party that ran ten marathons in ten days across Sierra Leone to raise a six figure sum for a military charity.

Dominating the whole place is a chandelier made by talented friend Huw Kennedy, using a selection of deer antlers. Not African this time, they are mainly from fallow deer, part of a sackful picked up at a Leominster auction.

Zanzibarn sits on a hillside just outside Neen Sollars and the drive there is through stunning Shropshire border country. Just right to put you in the mood for an absolute treat.

MAKING WREATHS

I am running Christmas door wreath making workshops. All materials, tuition and refreshments will be provided. Come and make a stunning door wreath and table arrangement. Wednesday December 11th, at Little Southwood Farm, Cleobury Mortimer. I will be doing more workshops at other venues and dates.

Please contact me for more details: Claire Bradley 01299 270415, 07980 580 770 or clairebradley1@icloud.com



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TELEPHONE FRAUD

For me, the most disturbing part of Matt Yarranton's Page 63 report on telephone and online fraud is the amount involved: £110 billion a year in the UK!

And these people don't stop. I took a phone call on October 23rd from an Eastern sounding female person - I will not refer to a fraudster as a lady. She told me that I owed HMRC money for income tax underpaid in recent years and that I would be getting a visit from my local Police Office. Would that be the Cleobury Police Office, or the sub station at Pinkham, I wondered.

She asked for my date of birth and when I asked why she wanted that, her manner

became aggressive as she asked if I understood English. Better than she did, I suspect, but before I could tell her where to go she told me the police would be calling and rang off. No sign of them so far.

The call came from 01522 398 626, a Lincoln number. No answer in the daytime, but in the evening a polite and clearly English lady explained this was a private number with nobody there in the day. That worried me; I'll accept that fraudulent callers won't pick up the phone if they have left one. But for them to use what sounded like an entirely innocent person's home number was a new level of intrusion upon an innocent.

So I tried called Action Fraud, as Matt Yarranton recommends. Late in the evening there was no answer after ten minutes of repeated messages. At noon the next day I gave up after 15 minutes of the same, including advice not to answer cold calls - how do you know it's a cold calls if you don't pick up the phone?

We should report fraud, even if it's a failed attempt like this, but it seems to me that the service needs better funding or people will just get tired of waiting and put the phone down.

Matt Yarranton's advice is far better than I could ever give, but it bears repeating that you can all too easily be conned if you're not very careful. JR

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Parfitt	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	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
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Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Butler's Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Cleobury Fruit and Veg, Purslows, The Library and Simply Fresh.

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

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 22nd

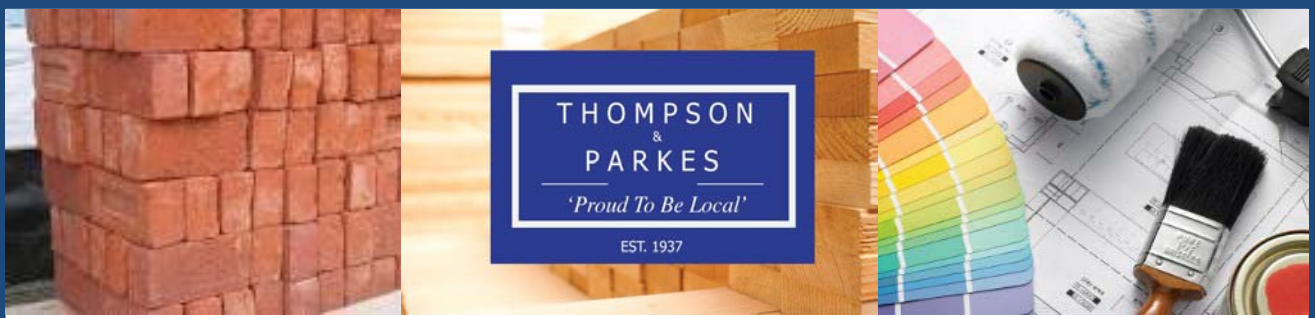
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