

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

NOVEMBER 2020

THINK OAK TREES AND ACORNS



We are lucky enough to live in a green area, the countryside around us a stunning blend of more shades of green than many city-bound people will ever know. Strongest amongst the growth the oak trees that have been a symbol of solidity and strength for centuries.

But will these most English of trees survive if we simply take them for granted? Kit Smith, himself a symbol of Englishness, has spent time looking at the life prospects of

the oak and the need to invest time and effort now to ensure the longevity of the species.

Please read his words on Page 9 and consider how you as an individual might help oaks to develop now and be ready for planting in years to come. Positive action now will be an investment in our warm and inviting rural idyll. And because a small group of far-sighted people with concern for our future have acted now, it will not cost you a penny. Just your time and a moderate measure of care.

SO WHERE WAS THE OCTOBER CLARION?

In normal times - remember them? - the Clarion, all 60 or more pages of it, is put together and sent off via a piece of electronic magic called We Transfer to the printer.

When the October issue hadn't appeared by noon on September 30th I was on the phone and email, asking when it would arrive. To be fair, I suspect the printers were in even more of a panic. I printed off an explanation and put

posters in premier outlets, but the fact is it didn't arrive until mid afternoon on the first of the month. Apologies, but that damned virus meant less staff at the printer and when they got ill, it was a big problem.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There will not be a Royal British Legion parade through the town on November 8th and the traditional wreath laying will be a much more modest affair than we've known for a long time.

But we cannot let this day of remembering those whose lives were lost in recent wars pass without recognition that offers no risk to us, the rest of the nation. So here in Cleobury Mortimer we offer you three pages of the Clarion devoted to stories of those days, seen as a child in one case and through the eyes of a man who moved here from London as a vital war worker and stayed to celebrate his 100th birthday on November 13th. Roy Burrows, this edition of the newsletter is devoted to you. JR

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The Cleobury Clarion, November 2020
Volume Sixteen - Edition Eight



*Plant an acorn and help to secure the future of the town's Oak trees.
 See Page 9.*

*This is Matt Crump of Cloud Top Technology. No surprise that he's from Clows Top.
 More on Page 21.*

*Hopton Bank Service Station minus one of the recent major improvements. One fuel pump removed by an errant car.
 See Page 35.*

And On Other Pages....

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THE HALF DEAD POETS' SOCIETY

A small but devoted group met on September 28th and were very glad to share both poems and jokes as we caught up after six months without meeting. Just four of us, but Pauline Ray had advised she wouldn't make it after falling over on a camping weekend and breaking her wrist. We wished her well and the Old Cleobury poem she submitted to the Clarion last month was read to open the evening.

Tony Smith was his usual jovial self, with many good works to offer, while fellow out of town visitor Bob Charteris reminded us of school choir days with his reading of 'Who is Sylvia, What is she?' that sounded much better than the sung versions we could remember.

David Walford offered a new poem, capturing the mood of the covid-19 threat and those we have lost. A sobering reminder of the danger we still face. It was a happy occasion, despite the worries of the current situation. We meet this month on the 30th, 7.30pm as

usual in the library, when a sense of humour will be very useful.

Jim Reynolds

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

The Club will resume meetings in January 2021.

Garden Notes - Jobs to Do In November

Spread a deep layer of compost over cleared soil to retain moisture and discourage weeds

Clear unsightly dead foliage, but leave some decaying matter for overwintering creature

Bring in tender succulents, cannas and ginger lilies to overwinter in a frost-free space

Prepare protection, such as fleece, straw and clothes for vulnerable plants

Use bracken or fleece to insulate the growing point of tree ferns

Plant tulip bulbs in pots and borders

Place any remaining half-hardy plants under cover now

Plant new bare-root hedges

Clean, restock and add to your collection of bird feeders

Prune roses lightly to prevent wind rock.

Pauline Bowen

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

There was no problem with the attendance level at our October meeting. The Rule of Six remained intact with just two of us making it. Domestic matters kept the other members, apart from new face Viv Kelly, who suffered a fall. Full credit to her for emailing her words through for the editor to read and Marian Rees to listen.

So home to an early supper and an agreement that the subject for our November 9th gathering will be 'The Unexpected', a title that should stir the imaginations and give us a wide span of stories to listen to when we next gather in the library.

Jim Reynolds

WISE BIT

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Dalai Lama



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IN PRAISE OF....

I would like to share my experience with the Clarion readership of my dealings with Cleobury Opticians.

I have been a customer of a high street chain of opticians who are well-known for their catch phrase of "Should have gone to, etc" for over 20 years both in Stourbridge and Kidderminster and I have been perfectly happy with their services.

I had my eyes tested a few weeks ago in Kidderminster but I didn't have time to choose my new glasses at the time so I decided to wait a while.

Then one day I was walking down the High Street in Cleobury and was close to Cleobury Opticians. I thought "Why the hell am I going all the way to Kidderminster (a round trip of 25 miles) when there's an optician about 200 yards from my front door? I made an appointment and was welcomed by the ever friendly receptionist Jayne, who showed me a large range of spectacle frames covering a wide choice of designs and prices. I decided to buy a pair of mid range frames with no pressure and no "special offers, etc" and gobbledegook.

Jayne said that my specs would be ready by a certain date and true to her word, she contacted me to tell me they were ready. I have to say that they are the best pair of glasses I have ever purchased and in my opinion at a very reasonable price. I cannot recommend Cleobury Opticians enough. "Should

have gone to etc?" No: go to Cleobury High Street.

Phil Westwood

CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

We were all delighted to meet in the Market Hall in September and enjoyed an interesting evening despite all the restrictions and distancing rules that went with it. 'Have a go at Quilling and Origami', led by Amy Bottoms. Members had to book a place beforehand and a risk assessment and measuring exercise regarding social distancing was made. We were introduced to the skills of Origami, a Japanese art of folding paper where accuracy is most important to get a good result. We had a go ourselves and learned first hand how pleasurable the result can be. Amy showed us some of her fascinating quilling pictures where rolled paper is arranged in shapes and colours and we look forward to trying this.

Thanks go to the Town Council for loaning their equipment for our masked, socially distanced litter pick which we plan to repeat every two months, starting in November. If anyone wants to join us, please let us know.

As the October AGM and 'Recipe Swap' had to be cancelled we are inviting members to send their favourite recipes to Clare so that she can put them on our WI Facebook page and produce a recipe book. We were excited to be asked by BBC Shropshire Radio to have

a live interview about how we coped during this Lockdown period. Gabby said it was scary and exciting all at the same time and went as well as hoped, we are so grateful to her. We watch with interest how Covid 19 develops and will plan accordingly in these uncertain times. We keep up our buddy system, emails and our

Facebook page and send members the Shropshire Federation Newsletter. Please stay safe and enjoy life as best you can. Your Cleobury Mortimer WI will always help where possible.

Gabby Franklin

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND

The trustees would like to convey their thanks to the Cleobury Mortimer Masons for their donation of £269.00 to the fund. It will help provide care for local patients at a time of a medical crisis.

We have continued to meet the costs of emergency, short term, medical care during the Covid 19 pandemic but once the crisis is over we will be looking to local communities to help us raise much needed funds to enable us to continue to provide help at such times.

We were organising a tombola stall at the Farmers Market when lockdown started earlier this year and due to the pandemic we will not have a presence at this year's flu clinic.

Stay safe everyone.

Rosemary Abbiss

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OAK TREES

Oak trees can live for over 300 years. If our present oaks do not self-sow or additional trees are not planted, it is a sobering fact that there will be no oak trees by 2320. The success rate of our Oaks self-sowing from acorns is very low indeed. Some trees today are producing up to 15,000 acorns a year, yet there is very little evidence on the ground of sustainable saplings growing and surviving. The safest sites are in, or near to, existing protective hedges. Over time, some hedgerows have been grubbed out and hedges are regularly trimmed with a flail mower.

During the eighteenth century there were periods of Oak mania to plant replacement oaks as huge quantities of oak trees were felled for building ships, houses and for charcoal production. Today, our farmers and landowners continue that tradition of planting trees, mostly under Stewardship Schemes which will change after we have fully left the EU. Wyre Forest and Mawley Hall are fine examples of looking

ahead and planting now. However, it is right to question if that rate of planting will outpace the inevitable death rate of fully mature trees in the future. Time to take stock.

A desk top study was carried out last month using Google Earth, and by on-ground observation. The survey was of the lowland/ open countryside of Cleobury Parish; all of the area, west of the River Rea. It has shown that there are approximately 8,500 trees over 10 years old of which 6500 are over 150 years old. We have a disturbing imbalance of older aged trees. We need to plant now to fill the developing gap, for our future generations.

To start to address this problem a small group, under the banner of the Tree Charter and "Plant a Tree in '23" reporting to the Town Council, have harvested over a thousand English Oak acorns from our Cleobury Oak trees. They have sown them in their allotments, in their own gardens, in greenhouses and in pots for home windowsills. Even if only half that number survive, they should provide a

bank of strong sapling oaks within 3-5 years. The whole community- young, families, older people are welcome to join the project. Free acorns will be available to all for collection from in front of the Market Hall, subject to stringent Covid precautions, for the four Saturday mornings 9am-12noon in November ending Saturday November 28th – international Tree Charter Day. You start them off at home and plant them in your garden or we can grow them on to point of planting.

To supplement our own Cleobury acorn growing, free tree schemes of Shropshire Council and the Woodland Trust will be supplying trees and hedge plants for planting in the next 6 months, to get the project under way. Some more mature trees may be bought in.

If you want to help to sustain the English Oak for the future, why not collect an acorn, pop it into a pot to grow at home and share in securing the future of our Oak tree inheritance? Tall oaks from your little acorns grow.

Kit Smith




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FLU JABS - 1

The revised form of getting the vital flu jabs out to the more vulnerable in the community worked very smoothly. I was given a Sunday appointment and called in at the Medical Centre at the stated time. As I was on my way to another appointment, it was a matter of driving in, showing my appointment booking and parking before walking in to the area described by the car park steward.

In through the regular entrance, take one of the three stations to be greeted with a charming smile and a check on whether I'm left- or right-handed. As I favour the right, it was a quick jab in the upper left arm, another smile in farewell and out and on my way. Less than five minutes taken and not a hint of delay. So much smoother and quicker than I remember from last year. Very efficient. JR

FLU JABS - 2

And Maurice and Dorothy Aston have a similar view:

A very Big Thank You to the staff of Cleobury Medical Centre for their excellent organisation of the 'Flu Jab Clinic' on October 11th. From the moment we entered the car

park there was someone to guide us to our designated area in the car park, then on to Reception, where we found everybody ready to help us. Absolutely brilliant, thank you.

Maurice and Dorothy

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

The editor, showing his naive faith in official bodies being able to overcome problems, felt the potholes were being dealt with and no longer justified exposure. Hah! He was riding his motorcycle along Church Street and this prize example was hidden from view by the vehicles he was following until he rode into and through it.



It's outside the Cleobury Hub, in the centre of the road and the chalked outline hints that it may be due for attention. The

impact felt through a modern suspension system suggests that it's not before time.

A recent weekend drive into Wales revealed the difference between Shropshire and the Principality when it comes to road surfaces. In fact, over one recently resurfaced stretch of Worcestershire road brought the enquiry: "Are we back into Wales?"

MELVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

It's not quite back to normality, but this landmark church is now offering Worship and Prayers time every Wednesday from 11.00 to 12.00. Not that church work has been postponed, with the processing of shoeboxes in hand and a celebratory service scheduled for today, November 1st, to bless the boxes before they are despatched on their journey eastwards, with the number of worshippers restricted.

In September the church held a Harvest Thanksgiving service with the emphasis on donations for the Food Bank, plus the presentation of a Thank You certificate to long term organist Eileen Pearce

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THE GOLF CLUB - A LOCAL ASSET

When Graham and Robert Pain decided to move out of the family tradition of farming and open a golf club in 1993 it was a brave venture. They started off with modest nine holes and a thoughtful design guided by the authority of Ray Baldwin. In 1996 it grew to 18 holes and by 1998 there were 27 holes to choose from. The length of those 27 holes was a total of 9,418 yards, more than five miles of superb Shropshire countryside to walk through as you pursue that damned little ball.

From that strong basis has grown one of the most highly rated courses in the district, with careful investment and the recognition that golfers are people with aspiration, who want quality. Here it is, with greens carefully tended, a club house that has grown to offer a range of services to please the discerning and a setting that makes you want to stop and look with every corner you turn. Ordinary and predictable it is not.

The club has changed hands recently, but the same family team are retained to run the

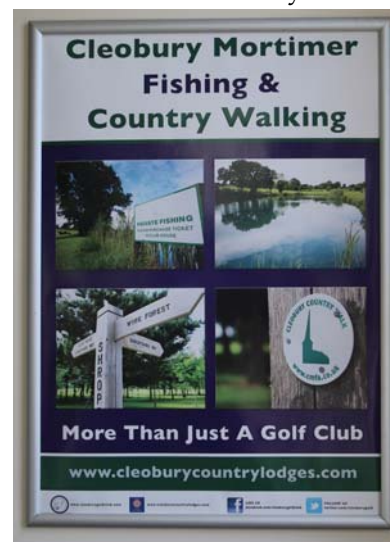
place, with Graham adopting the title of General Manager and still very much in a hands-on role. It was surprising to learn that membership has been growing this year: "Playing golf has not stopped," Graham explained. "And with competitive, fit young men who haven't been able to play football or rugby looking for an outlet for their energy, many of them turned to golf." A marquee has been erected as an annexe to the established lounge area to accommodate members and observe social distancing.



The Wyre Suite on the first floor offers a panoramic view of the course and its well tended grounds, with full

depth windows looking out over a very fine piece of Shropshire countryside. It's a welcoming place for a meal with friends or family, or as a venue for a business meeting. It's worth remembering that the place is more than simply a good golf club, it welcomes families.

I particularly liked the use of the stairway up to the Wyre Suite - there's a lift for the less mobile - with posters that highlight local attractions to draw visitors this way.



Just one of the posters showing local attractions.

In 27 years the place has come a long way, employing 12 full time staff plus a band of part-timers for the big occasions; a strong part of this community. JR



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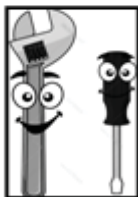
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We are seeking to appoint a motivated and enthusiastic extended schools assistant to provide childcare provision during before and after school clubs for our pupils, under the direction of the extended schools leader and head teacher. The position is for 5.75 hrs per week term time only, fixed term contract. Farlow CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to a Disclosure Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed. For further details please email admin@farlow.shropshire.sch.uk or visit: <https://careers.shropshire.gov.uk/vacancy/extended-schools-assistant-level-2-farlow-ce-school-primary-427929.html>

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MARATHON HEROINES



Sian Powell and Lisa Stokes, with 20 miles covered and just another six to go. And still they were smiling!

The world famous London Marathon didn't amount to much this year, with only the most select runners taking part. But in Cleobury Country we had our own very special event, centred around two young women. Sian Powell and Lisa Stokes had not been lucky in the ballot for a place in the London event, so opted for the charity route. And whose idea was it? "Lisa. She has all the stupid ideas," Sian told us.

They've formed a firm bond over years of running together and decided to raise sponsors to give donations to charity. Sian to Severn Hospice in memory of Pat Williams and Lisa for Make A Wish in memory of Jack Edwards. The idea came late last year, a few weeks after Sian had run 1,000 miles for charity: "And I'd

vowed not to run again!" she admits with a grin.

They started training in January and when coronavirus reared its ugly head they ran separately to observe the official advice. For Sian that meant up and out by 5.00 before starting work. By July they'd got a better system, running together on opposite sides of the road, which must have puzzled early motorists on the Catherton Road. 25 to 30 miles a week as they built strength for the big day on October 4th.

They started from the Clee Hill recreation ground, where Lee Hassan of the Sports Centre had put up a gazebo shelter. They certainly needed it, with a mixture of drizzle, downpours and fog to see them off. They hadn't gone many yards before they met their first cheering crowd ("At the top of Clee Hill in the rain!" says Sian in amazement) and some Running Club friends ran the first half of the journey with them. "At New Road in Oretton there were lots of people, including kids on bikes. It was really lovely to know we'd got people involved."

They stopped at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon for a wee and water bottle top-up. More crowds and a band of cyclists to escort them along the way to Cleobury. There were lots of people waiting at the Cleobury Hub and they stopped there with 20 miles covered and three laps of a two plus a bit miles local course to run three times. By this time they were seriously tired; they'd covered 20 miles

in about four hours, those final six miles took two more hours.

"My legs just gave up on Furlongs Road on the first lap," Sian admits. "Lisa stayed with me, though she could have gone on ahead and clocked a much faster time. I just reminded myself why I was doing it and got on with it."

It was a long haul, six hours in mixed weather from cold and wet to cool and sunny at the end. And looking back on those long months of training, working up sponsorship and just not giving up, what did they think of the day?

I'm in awe of our community. I didn't expect so many people at the finish at the Sports and Social Club - and I was very relieved to finish."

"We had so much support. Sponsors, people running a raffle and cheering us on."

Sian had great support from her employers at The Phoenix Group, who agreed to add £2,500 to what she raised for Severn Hospice - £4733 on October 9th and the funding from Phoenix will make that over £7,000!

Lisa raised £1409 for the Make A Wish fund in young Jack Edwards' name.

And it doesn't end there. You can add to the figures by calling up www.justgiving/sianpowell112 or www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lisa-stokes?utm_id=124

As Lisa said: "Who needs London?"



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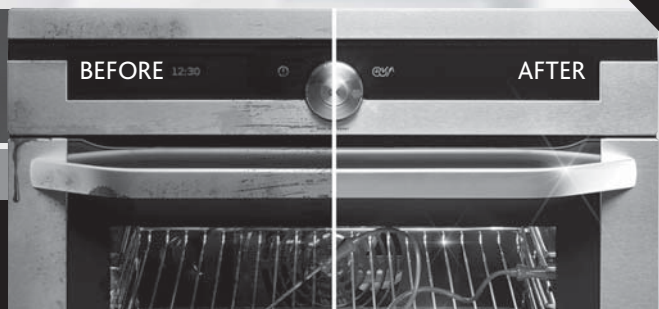
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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

From October the walks on the third Thursday of each month will resume. To maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe we ask that if you would like to join the walk you contact us (see below) and we will ensure we control the numbers and comply with test and trace requirements. When you get in touch we will reply providing you with the details of the walk.

For further details and any other announcements or changes please visit website www.rockpathfinders.uk. Or ring Alan on 01299 400304

Susan Humphries

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Since we were given the go ahead to restart footpath maintenance we have been running weekly work parties to catch up with our backlog, operating in smaller groups than normal of three or four to maintain safe working

At the time of writing the work done is:

Removal of unnecessary stiles (courtesy of the landowner) on the Shakenhurst Estate

Replacement of rotten waymark posts and stile steps on route of our Walk 9

Repairs to Cleanly Seat footbridge

Gate and two plank bridges at Marlbrook, Neen Sollars.

Small stile and dog gate alongside sometimes padlocked gate at Southwood Farm

Repairs to two stile steps and replace fingerpost in Neen Savage.

Weather permitting, work which should be done by the end of October is:

Two stile repairs at Barnsland Farm

Stile repair at Musbatch

Small plank bridge and clearance of overgrown stile, Stockhall lane, Hopton Wafers

Bramble regrowth has been considerable following a rainy August, which has put quite a few paths at risk. If left unchecked it may root across paths during the winter months. If you are out walking can you please look out for that and help to prevent the loss of these paths. Snipping off fronds with secateurs, giving them a bash with a walking stick or even pulling out small roots are all good techniques.

For any footpath issue please contact us via footpaths.cmfa@gmail.com
Graham Simpson

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION IS STILL OUT THERE

With the current controls of numbers on social events, the CMFA cannot accommodate guests. They prebook places on walks and once the limit is reached there's a waiting list in the hope someone will have to drop out and a lucky late applicant will be able to join.

But it's strictly members only so we cannot tell you who has control of this popular service. But we can tell you that the October 24th walk was full up by the 18th. The enthusiasm for our countryside and civilised company is as strong as ever.

SILLY BIT

Anxious caller to the hospital Maternity Ward:

"My wife's expecting and her contractions are coming every two minutes."

Doctor: "Tell me, is this her first child?"

Anxious caller: "No, it's her husband!"

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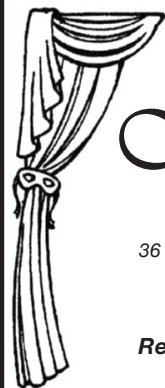


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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

GOOD I.T. ADVICE



Matt Crump has been fascinated by computers since he was a schoolboy with a strong blend of curiosity and a growing passion about the emerging technology. He could see what a powerful tool it could be.

He learned how the machines were built and programmed by watching engineers and asking questions. He left university unimpressed by their leaning towards theory and little or no hands-on work. He worked in the family business for years, covering every aspect of building to order, solution design and

supporting customers and the staff he worked with.

At 33, full of energy and ideas, he took the big step of setting up his own business. As he lives in Clows Top, the title Cloud Top Technology was just right. He has a great respect for the Microsoft 365 service that gives everyone, from a sole trader to a big corporation access to Cloud storage and a huge range of technical information for a modest £10 a month per person. "You don't need to spend thousands on a server when you can have this sort of help for such a modest sum," he reasons. If you are one of the many people setting up to work from home, a man with this blend of knowledge and down to earth logic could make your life much easier.

He's on 01299 887222, mobile 07817 030 963 or email matt@cloudtoptechnology.co.uk

THE READING GROUP

No meetings at present but members have sent in mostly favourable reviews

regarding 'White Houses' by Amy Bloom. This novel, narrated by Lorena Hickok (Hick) a reporter, tells the story of her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt, whose husband Franklin is president of the USA at the time.

The two women, who had very different upbringings, share tales from the past during the development of their love story. It also reflects changes in social attitudes in our lifetime. Partly set in the White House it is a chatty read and although fiction it has a realistic element.

It has sparked my interest to find more factual details about both ladies.

Deana Kimber 01299271754

SILLY BITS

A keen young student sent a text to his uncle, asking CN U RCD GD BK? That translates as 'Can you recommend a good book?' The uncle replied: The Oxford English Dictionary?



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Remembrance Sunday, November 8th

This is always a memorable day in the town and because there will not be a parade we have decided to feature some of the fine people and their contributions to the community at this time.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Following advice from RBL HQ, there will be no parade on Remembrance Sunday this year. We shall be holding a small wreath-laying ceremony and Act of Remembrance at 11.00.

The situation remains fluid and there could be further changes which I will advise on the Cleobury Mortimer Noticeboard Facebook and ask the Council to promulgate on their website. If there are any questions please contact me.

The RBL website has information about Remembrance (<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance?seg=UPDW3B>), including a section on COVID-safe activities.

We are still here to help members of the Service community, which includes serving and ex-serving personnel and dependents. You can

contact me or use the Royal British Legion; call 0808 802 8080 – 8am to 8pm every day.

You can find out more about the Royal British Legion at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>. You can contact me on 01299 271384 or our Membership Secretary Matt Sheehan 272610.

*Mike Hermolle – Branch
Chairman*

THE POPPY APPEAL

As with everything at the moment, the Poppy Appeal has been affected by the dreaded covid. Consequently there will be poppies available at the following places:

Hopton Bank Garage

The Eagle and Serpent

The Live and Let Live

The street collection will take place as usual, by the pedestrian crossing in the middle of town on the mornings of Saturday October 31st and Saturday November 7th. If there are enough volunteers there may be other days as well.

There will be notices in many businesses if you

care to donate via QR Code or Texts. Contactless donations will also be available during street collections. For wreaths, as usual, contact me on 01299 271117 or 07964 327454.

Roger Gittins FAO

DO YOU REMEMBER THE WASPS NEST?

Here's a puzzle to test memories and local history knowledge. It comes from Kevin Burrows, who's been huge help in detailing his dad's memories on Page 9 and lots of Muller details as an addition to the Jim Warren story that we had in the first volume of The Cleobury Chronicles.

Kevin has sent us an extract from the Cleobury Social Football Club fixture card for the 1921-22 season, with a football poem written by the secretary and treasurer, Mr W Waddoups.

The headquarters address is given as The Club and the ground is The Wasps Nest. And that's the mystery - where was the Nest?

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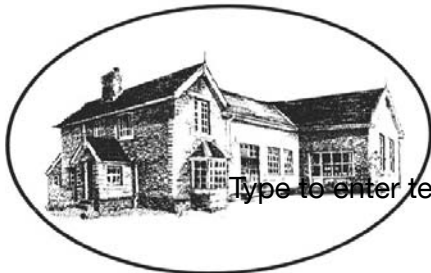
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Remembrance Sunday

Janet Dickinson brought us some special pieces from her days as a child in the area. She explains in her article what they are and the memories they hold.



Remembrance Day coming nearer made me think about the war years.

We lived at Haybridge, Milson, and my dad Bill Boden went off to be a soldier. So did his two brothers, Jack from Paper Mill Cottages and Denis, who lived in High Street, Cleobury. I wrote letters to my dad, addressed to 1780723 Gunner Boden, A.W.

He would send silver threepenny bits for me, in his letters to Mum. When he came home on leave he brought me a necklace he had made

between calls to duty. It was a chain with silver threepenny bits on it, and a cross made from the windscreen of a German airplane they had shot down. This is the necklace in the picture, with his 'dog tags' and Soldier's Paybook.

Several prisoners of war came to work on farms near us. Nice quiet men who hadn't wanted to fight, but like our men they had no choice. They said we children reminded them of their families back home.

Walking home from school at Neen Sollars one day, three Army lorries passed us. They were full of black American soldiers, the first black people we had seen. They threw bars of chocolate to us; we had never had a whole bar of chocolate each before. A lovely treat. We hoped they would come again!

After the war a retired Army colonel came to live at a cottage nearby. When he was having guests for the weekend, he would ask my brother Arnold to stand on our doorstep and play Reveille on his cornet to waken his guests. He always

thanked my brother. Colonel Barnes had started his day with Reveille during his long Army career.

These childhood memories stay with me, especially the happy day when my Dad came home from the war!

Janet Dickinson

COLONEL FREDDIE KEMP OBE

Colonel Kemp, a Bayton resident in his retirement, had a fine military record. Served three times in Northern Ireland and in the Falklands with 9 Parachute Regiment. In the latter he was at Bluff Cove when an Argentine air attack left many casualties and he was a power in getting badly wounded and burnt soldiers evacuated.

He served in Brunei, where the Sultan presented him with the Independence Medal before he moved on to the Gulf and after a brief spell in civvy life he served as a reservist in both Afghanistan and the second Gulf War. A remarkable man with long service in both Parachute and Engineer Regiments, he died on September 18th and is buried in Bayton churchyard.

HEATH FARM MEATS

Due to customer response and demand Heath Farm Meats will now not be closing on September 26th but diversifying our business to keep up with modern times.

As of this date we will be closing the retail part of our shop and after this date we will be doing orders ONLY with time and date for collection to be arranged.

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Remembrance Sunday

ROY BURROWS

Roy Burrows will be 100 years old on November 13th. So expect to see a very special telegram being delivered to Saint Mary's Place as his friends and family gather to celebrate.

He has a special place in Cleobury history as the last survivor of the Muller's factory staff who moved from bomb torn Park Royal in London to Cleobury Mortimer in 1940. Because of the intensity of the German air raids on the capital, the company had been advised to move to a less vulnerable area and the company had been looking at several rural sites. One tale says that when the managing director saw the twisted spire here it reminded him of the similar one at Soleure, the company's Swiss home. It seems that sealed the deal and the government got the job of building started.

Work on the move north was underway when the Park Royal factory was hit, one assumes by incendiary bombs, as the factory burned out and the surviving plant had to be moved out and housed wherever possible in this area. Damaged machines were rebuilt, new ones either supplied by the government or brought in from America on a Lend Lease basis.

One lovely story from Jim Warren's article in the Cleobury Chronicle's first edition. Special machines for making small screws and nuts were destroyed in the raid and as the need for the

product was urgent, drawings of the original were smuggled from neutral Switzerland to England and copies of the machines built in Coventry to keep the urgent supplies flowing.

The wide range of machines, both old and new, were set up in such empty shops as London House on the High Street and in the Alton Glasshouse works at Bewdley.

Roy had joined the company in 1936, travelling to Park Royal from nearby Harlesden, where the editor of the Clarion worked many years ago. As a machine setter in a busy engineering company that was concentrating on vital military work, Roy was in demand and one of those brought up to Cleobury in a convoy of four coaches. Not all of the evacuees wanted to stay in this quiet little Shropshire village - it was hard for chaps from North London to believe that it was actually a town - and opted to go back home. In 1940 they didn't know what they were going to face for the next five years down there.

Accommodating all these people was a big task and young Roy was put into digs in Bewdley, near the Hop Pole pub. Nothing luxurious and with men on shifts it was one out of a bed and another into his place, glad to sleep and to find the sheets already warmed.

Mullers brought more than employment to the town. They built the houses in Curdale Close and bought

others to give the workforce somewhere local to live. They also provided gardens and orchards to provide produce and had a canteen with a dance floor and a stage to help keep the employees happy. In the longer term they bought Sprengdon House on the High Street to provide a social club, where the steward lived. They had coaches to collect the workers from the local area, as Cyril Breakwell well remembers.

This was the company that brought Roy and many young people here, as well as recruiting and training local people, then setting up an apprenticeship school with the Lacon Childe School. And Kevin Burrows reminds us that the workhouse was still open in those days, with 100 refugees housed there from 1939, some of whom were recruited to the company. At the end of the war the company were employing 350 people, a figure that grew to 500 in more prosperous times. Hard to imagine today.

You can see why Roy Burrows, settled in Cleobury after that rather basic lodging in Bewdley, chose to stay with the company. Having joined them in 1936, he proved to be such a good man that he was kept on beyond retirement age and finally left in 1996. 60 years tells you a lot about the company and this fine man that they trained and valued all his working life.

We wish him a very happy 100th as he joins the exclusive Centurions' Club.

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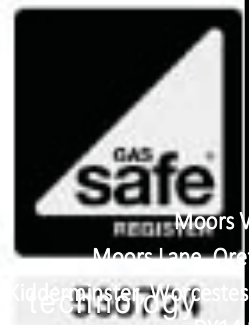
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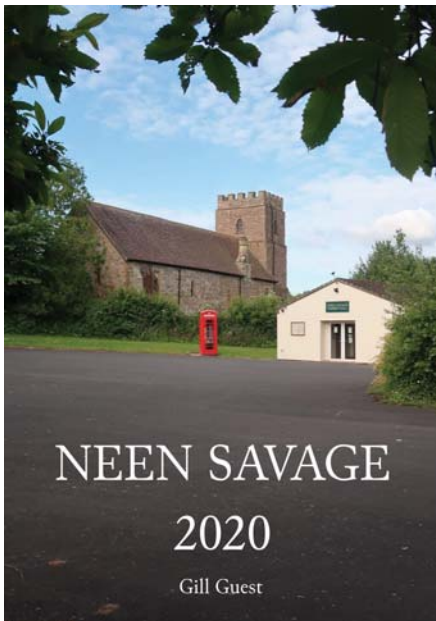
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The November Social Calendar

Wed 4 th	11-12noon	The Melville Methodist Church at Farlow is open for prayers		
Thurs 5 th		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		There will be fireworks tonight, celebrating the birthdays of two ladies who are very special to the Editor. Grand-daughter May, 21 today and Janet Short, a trifle older!		
Sat 7 th	9-12noon	Free acorns at the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
Mon 9 th	6.30pm	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library	Jim Reynolds	CM 270642
Wed 11 th	11-12 noon	Prayer time at Melville Methodist Church		
Thurs 12 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 13 th		A big Happy 100 th Birthday to Roy Burrows		
Sat 14 th	9-12noon	Free acorns at the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
Wed 18 th	11-12noon	Prayer time at Melville Methodist Church		
Thurs 19 th		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 21 st	9-12noon	Free acorns at the Market Hall PAGE 9		
Wed 25 th	11-12noon	Prayer time at Melville Methodist Church		
Thurs 26 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 28 th	9-12noon	Free acorns at the Market Hall PAGE 9		
Mon 30 th	7.30	The Half Dead Poets' Society meet at the Library in Love Lane	Jim Reynolds	CM 270642
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER....		
Thurs 3 rd		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 11 th		CoCo Coffee Morning, in the Kings Arms Hotel, Church Street		



A BRILLIANT WORK!

This is a very fine example of how good a local history cum diary can be. Neen Savage put out a record every decade and this time it's a real treasure.

Its great strength is the friendly way it's written. No stuffy statistics, but told in an interesting way with little anecdotes at regular intervals. A two-page map lists houses by name, every one described in detail later in the pages. But first comes history back 5,000

years and tales of how the name Neen Savage was devised. It works through the years to the arrival of covid-19 and its local effect. Several pages of field maps come with a note how each got its title.

It's over 200 pages, nearly all the illustrations apart from ancient stuff is in full colour and the paper is good quality. At £10 it is outstanding value for money and available from the library, Live & Let Live or Hopton Bank Garage. Great stuff - I bought two! JR



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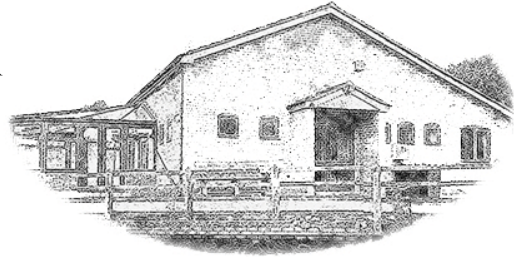
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Marian continues her triple header on life in the Principality in the 1950s:

My Auntie May and Auntie Susie did laborious work beside all the cooking and washing up. Monday was wash day and a fire had to be lit under the boiler in the wash house. All the boilable clothes were put in, including large double bed sheets and tablecloths, etc. There was also a washboard for rubbing more delicate clothes up and down on. The wet, heavy washing had to be put through a mangle, all by hand, then the washing carried across the yard to the washing line in the rickyard. What if it rained!

Tuesday was ironing day. Auntie Susie heated the iron up on the hot plate of the stove and ironed all the sheets, etc, after having help to fold them. The kitchen would have become dirty with all the men coming in and out, so that had to be swept out regularly and the flagstones mopped. The milking equipment had to be washed too; the buckets, milking clusters and the milk cooler in the dairy. A pleasant smell of the detergent used wafted from the dairy.

There was a public road through the farmyard and the milk lorry would arrive at about 8.00am to pick up the churns of milk. One of the men, perhaps at his breakfast, would go out to help lift the churns on to the lorry. The lids of the churns had the name of the farm printed on; the lorry picked up from all the farms in the area and took the milk to a factory near Dollgelly (now called Dolgellau). Another lorry did the rounds weekly, collecting eggs from all the farms, my aunt always kept a few laying hens, ducks and some cockerels for fattening. Some of the poultry she bought came by train from Cyril Basin's shop in Craven Arms - still going today!

I haven't yet mentioned the sheep. Uncle had several hundred - some kept on the fields around the farmhouse, also on the

'marsh' which led down to the river, and a lot up on the fridd (pronounced freeth). That was a sloping area which grew good mushrooms in the summer time and where shelduck nested down rabbit holes. After hatching, the parents led the young down to the river. I walked the freeth and the fields a lot when I was older, helping with the shepherding and lambing. One incident that comes to mind was when I was walking round the sheep 'incomplete'. Another uncle who farmed nearby stopped on the road and said I didn't look right without a stick and a dog. So I was very proud when he saw me the next day - one of the farm dogs called Mot on a piece of string and a shepherd's crook in my hand. I expect he smiled.

Every farm had the right to have sheep on a mountain or part of a mountain. Uncle kept sheep on Talybont mountain during the summer months. They had to be walked there with other flocks of neighbouring farmers, which took a few hours, but a pleasant job with pleasant views as we ascended. These sheep were the younger ones, some producing pure Welsh mountain lambs for flock replacements. In the earlier days all the sheep were washed before shearing, a mountain stream was dammed off to produce a pool deep enough to throw the sheep in. No doubt the same washing place had been used for generations. This was in the time of shearing by hand with hand shears as it was easier to shear them with no grease in the wool. My cousin told me shearers charged 9d (old pennies) to shear a washed sheep, but one shilling to shear an unwashed one. That all died out when mechanisation took over. All the neighbouring farms helped each other, creating a close community atmosphere - surely still the same today. *Marian Rees*



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OUCH!



There's something missing there.

It's one of the new fuel pump units at Hopton Bank Services. It can't have been a gentle way to be woken up, when an errant car runs out of road, takes out one of your used car stock on its way through the forecourt and ends up against one of the stanchions at the front of the shop. All this within a few months of a big investment in new pumps and facilities, 24 hour fuel sales and a special deal on prices that made it the place to stop and top up. Life is not easy for family owned country garages - you only have to drive through Wales to realise how many have closed - and this kind of cruel

blow you can do without, thank you very much.

Next day the place was up and serving customers again, albeit slightly slower. It seems the pumps are custom made for installations like this and it will be about a month before the replacement goes in.

As my son said of the driver when told about the incident: "Good job he wasn't smoking."

NOT WALKING, BUT CERTAINLY STEPPING OUT...



The Cleobury Mortimer Marathon on October 4th saw

the Running Club really fired up. If they weren't out there cheering on the Powell and Stokes star turn, they were running themselves, many of them raising money for a range of charities. Apart from the support all along the route, there was a big gathering at the Cleobury Community Hub where runners could get water, food and moral support to help them make it to the finish.

We were waiting to see Sian Powell and Lisa Stokes arrive and just had to take a picture of a rather tired young lady wrapped in a warming blanket and slowly recovering.

It was Immie Jones, looking much fresher than most of us would if we'd just run the equivalent of Ludlow town centre and back again. She was one of 25 Running Club members, including younger sister Florence, who were running full or half marathons to raise funds for charities. In all they made more than £16,600 for a range of deserving causes and made a donation to the Hub as a thank you for all the help they had given on a very special day.

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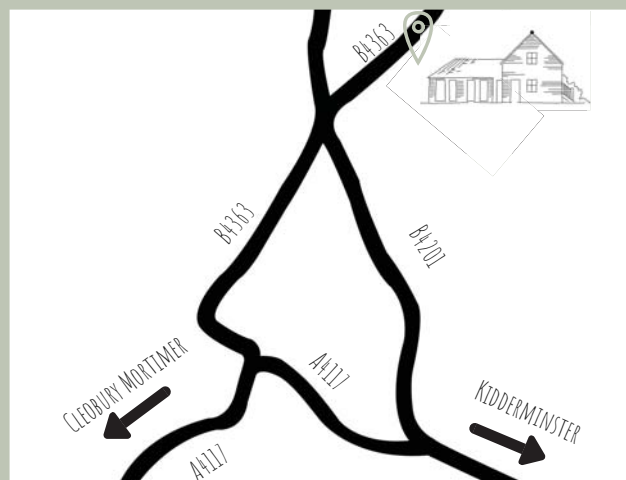
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St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services

Sunday 1st November

10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 8th November

10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 15th November

10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 22nd November

10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 29th November

10.00am Eucharist

3.00pm Act of Worship/Teaching with Sue Barrett

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Sunday 1st November 11.00am Eucharist

Sunday 8th November 10.15am Remembrance Service

Sunday 15th November 11.00am Morning Prayer

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Sunday 8th November 10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday 15th November 9.30am Eucharist

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Sunday 8th November 10.55 Remembrance Service

Sunday 15th November 11.15 Eucharist

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Sunday 8th November 10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday 22nd November 11.00am Eucharist

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Sunday 1st November 11am Eucharist

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Sunday 1st November 6pm Evening prayer

Sunday 8th November 10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday 22nd November 11am BCP Eucharist

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Leaf Peeping and The Endless 'To Do' List

I was half-listening to the radio the other day. On it, Carol from Aberdeen was being expertly calmed by the presenter prior to her launching into a competition. They shared the usual inanities about work, family and hobbies, and in passing, Carol mentioned that she was a proud 'leaf peeper'. So passionate was she about this hobby that the previous year, she'd spent a small fortune visiting New England for the Weekend (incidentally, also a fine Barry Manilow song - trust me on this one).

Leaf peeping, it would seem, is a 'thing'. People journey from across the globe to stare with wonder at one of Mother Nature's most impressive displays - the turning of the Autumn leaves.

I get where Carol is coming from. In our garden, there's a formidable Beech tree that stands proud against the sky. Each time I trundle from the greenhouse (normally in search of tea and a hob nob), it stands before me, resplendent in a mixture of greens, browns and oranges. The thick carpet of leaves rustles as I trudge my way towards it. The dogs (even the ancient one) excitedly dive bomb their way through carefully raked piles and each gust of wind brings down another carefully choreographed cascade of russet red. While it may not be worth jumping on a plane to see, it's jaw-dropping and never fails to stop me in my tracks.

You might think that as the leaves start to fall, aside from a little light raking, that work in the garden is starting to wind down. Gardener's World has finished its run on TV and the days are getting shorter - surely it's time to hang up your wellies, grab a cuppa and put your feet up?

Not on your nelly. November remains a hive of garden activity.

First up, there's the bulb planting. You might be sticking them in the ground or popping them into pots. Whatever the reason, there's something wonderfully optimistic about the whole process of bulb planting. It screams of a long term view - the work you're putting in now will pay dividends in Spring 2021. After the challenges of 2020, I can't think of a better way of mentally preparing for a new start.

Sweetpeas are next on the list. If you're lucky enough to own a greenhouse or cold frame, you can start sowing now. The theory is that this gives the plants the opportunity to grow a strong and deep root system over the winter so that they're fighting fit and ready to fill your garden with blooms next year. In my limited experience, the theory can be a little flawed - the seeds either decide to just sit, sulk and refuse to germinate or get snaffled by the mice that make a beeline for my greenhouse every winter. Or, as was the case last year, the mild winter means that they grow like triflids (the 70s TV show, not the actual plant), get very leggy and then wither and die at the first sign of a Spring frost. Still, for the price of a pack of seeds, it's worth a go.

And then, of course, there's the endless raking of leaves (either pre or post dog dive-bombing). At times, it feels like painting the Forth Bridge, but each swish of the rake waves goodbye to a strange old Summer and welcomes in the wonders of a new Winter. Simple pleasures.

Anyway, enough of the day dreaming... I'll leave you to get back to that lead raking (sorry).

Simon Morton

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The shortening of the days and the colder temperatures seem to be harder to bear this year: maybe because we had such a long and warm summer and I am never satisfied! Of course, in this very strange pandemic year, the future months can look both limiting and threatening. The oncoming winter season need not be gloomy though, it just needs more determination to get out of doors and more imagination to find projects and hobbies (devalued word!) to satisfy our need to create and accomplish.

This time of year is ideal for collecting natural treasures from our forays outside. The last of the autumn leaves are still on the trees or underfoot, still crisp and dry. I can't resist them, and take them home to press under heavy books between sheets of absorbent paper. They can be mounted to make pictures or used to create greetings cards, or if you have access to a laminator there are many possibilities: mobiles, window decorations, table mats....

Evergreen trees begin to take prominence in the forest now. I generally have a preference for 'the natives' but the conifers introduced by the Forestry Commission when they purchased tracts of forest in the 1925 have their place too. The New Parks area of the Wyre is the well-known hub of visitor facilities and has plantations of Douglas Fir, European Larch, Corsican Pine, Scots Pine and Hemlock. All of these are cone bearers, cones being the seed-bearing structures of the tree. Their various shapes and sizes are a key constituent for Christmas wreaths and table decorations but even if you don't intend to make any of those, take time to look at them – they are wonders of practical design! The seeds are tightly-enclosed in cold, wet weather but

fall out (or get eaten) when the woody scales open in the dry.

There is a charming story attached to the cones of the Douglas Fir which, incidentally, helps me to identify the tree. It is attributed to the First Nations of the Pacific Northwest of America and varies slightly in its re-telling, but here goes!



A long time ago there was a great forest fire. The wild creatures ran to escape the flames but the mice were unable to run fast enough and asked the trees of the forest for help. The maple and red cedar were unable to help but the Douglas Fir told the mice to climb its tall, fire-resistant trunks and hide in its fir cones until the danger was past. The mice hid between the scales with only their back feet and tails sticking out, and if you look at a Douglas Fir cone you can still see them today!

Linda Iles

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It is said that the Government is paying £12 billion for our 'World Leading' test and trace system. Apparently, the consultants being used are charging several thousand pounds per day each for the more senior staff and nearly £250 a day even for interns who carry out mundane tasks such as photocopying. Given that it is a disaster, think how much it would cost if it showed any sign of working properly. Perhaps a rethink is needed and consideration could be given to appointing people to senior posts who know what they are doing rather than being chums of Ministers. The situation is not helped by Dominic Cumming's war on the Civil Service which is driving out many with useful experience. Mind you, that isn't all bad news for those concerned as they then pop up as employees of these consultancies and end up being used at far greater cost than if they had remained as they were. Still, who cares as long as someone is making money...

When the Berlin Wall fell, many of the East German secret police (Stasi) were made redundant and some took up taxi driving. The joke doing the rounds at the time said that if you got into one of their cabs, there would be no need to tell them where you lived as they would tell you...

Am I being unsympathetic to the woman who wrote to the papers about the proposal to tax all house sales at a rate of 10% on the difference between what the seller paid for it and the current selling price. She wrote that her house in London had been purchased many years before for around £50,000 and was now worth some £2.5 million. If this tax was introduced she would be liable for a payment of about £250,000. Perhaps, not surprisingly, a number of people pointed out that she would still be trousering a net £2.2 million and it was probably best not to complain too much...

Marcus Rashford, the footballer, seems a nice lad and did well to persuade the Government to extend free school meals over the Summer holidays. His latest attempt to extend the concept seems to have hit a brick wall with the

Government refusing to shift. I have had a thought about this and looked up the cost of Premier League wages which totalled around £2.8 billion in 2018-19. Given that the contracts of many players require clubs to cover their tax liabilities as well, perhaps young Marcus could persuade each of them to donate just 1% of their earnings. This would give him nearly £300 million for his project but, having read this, I realise that it is probably a forlorn hope...

I have written before about the French genius for 'creative interpretation' and another example has just come to light. The French Government is to introduce a weight based tax on 4x4 'off road' vehicles due to the amount of pollution they cause. This follows a report by an environmental panel which recommended such a levy on all such vehicles weighing over 1400 kilos. Perhaps not surprisingly, when the tax comes in to being, it will only apply to vehicles over 1800 kilos which excludes virtually all these vehicle produced by French manufacturers whilst catching those made in Germany, the UK and USA. Must be a different sort of pollution. No doubt they will be using a similar approach from 'Free Trade' day on 1st January to make our exporters' lives difficult whilst expediting their exports.

Why can shopping be such a different experience in two adjacent supermarkets?. I popped into Aldi in Ludlow recently and found the whole experience quite civilised with the normal sanitising stations and screens by the checkouts. Other than that, quite relaxed. Then went across to Tesco and found a different experience. More signs pointing you in a certain direction and having to queue halfway round the shop to be allocated to a till where you were then barked at if you strayed anywhere near the till operator without being invited. There was always the option of the self service checkout but they are an invention of the Devil so no chance. Dear Tesco managers – have a look at the Aldi operation...

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The Mawley Hall Newsletter



As readers of the Cleobury Clarion are aware, the new owners of Mawley Hall have made clear from the start that their intention is not only to restore the fabric of Mawley Hall but to rebuild it as a working estate, managing effectively its agriculture, forestry and country pursuits. In recent weeks, important steps have been taken which bring that ambition within reach.

Mawley Hall alone, with its 700 acres, is too small in scale to be commercially viable as a stand-alone entity. Nevertheless, the Estate's owner, Mawley Hall LLP, has recently made a number of acquisitions which, when combined with Mawley Hall itself, will enable the operation of significant commercial activity.

The acquisitions include the purchase of nearby Kinlet Estate,

Kinlet Hall itself, Birch Farm and the Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club. Excluding the golf club, these acquisitions bring the acreage under the ownership and management of Mawley Hall to approximately 3,750; much closer to the size needed for economic viability. The additional pasture, arable and woodland will generate both income and employment, as will the operation of the Golf Club and Kinlet Hall.

It is too early to provide details as to how the greatly enhanced Mawley Hall Estate will operate, suffice to say that the Mawley Hall teams remains fully committed to meeting all of its objectives.

The Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club will continue to be operated under the first-class management of the Pain family and Kinlet Church, falling as it does outside both Kinlet Hall and Kinlet Estate, is unaffected by the changes in ownership. As plans develop, there will be further news.

Peter Williams

Mawley Hall Estate Manager

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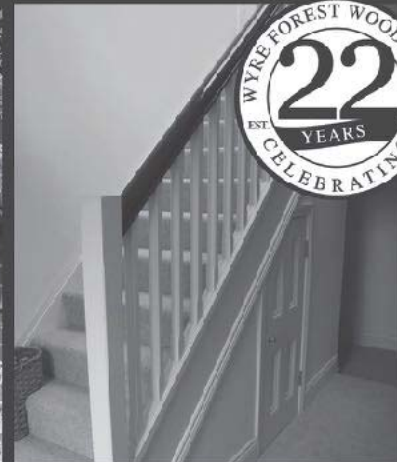
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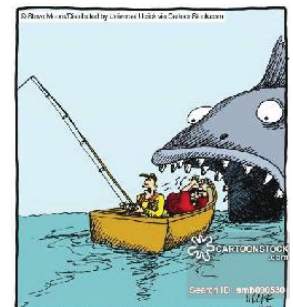
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - November 2020



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



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

November 2020 Clarion Report

We need to start by recognising that this year our normal Remembrance Day parade will not take place, however there will still be wreath laying at the Memorial cross, but we still need to be mindful of our most vulnerable who are some of the ones who would normally be present to remember the fallen.

If you are thinking of being present, then please remember social distancing, wearing masks when needed, otherwise if at home we know you will be with us in mind on the day.

On the Cleobury Community Facebook page the Cleobury Royal British Legion branch have posted templates of poppies that children can colour in and put in their windows for Remembrance. To download an A4 poster go to (rbl.org.uk/donate) and if you cannot why not draw your own. From comments I have seen and been suggested, that they will stand on their doorsteps at 11am to have their silent reflection instead with the poster to show support.

You may have seen a lot of Police cars around on the evening of Friday 16th and into the early hours. This was a joint operation with the Town council to target our concerns over anti-social behaviour and cars racing through, so not just local. It covered out towards Kidderminster and up to Clee Hill and Catherton common. We had sixteen officers and eight cars from as far away as Oswestry to come and help us with a few arrests made too. Any incidents in Cleobury needs reporting on 101 so that these issues can be addressed and with our relationship with the local police and the support of their superiors you will see more over the coming months.

The Town Council are determined that our Christmas lights will shine this year as they have done in past years. There will be no official switch on, but your town will be lit up by the end of November or at the latest early December.

The Xmas trees this year are donated from Frank P Matthews of Tenbury Wells, and Alan Guest Mowing services and we are incredibly grateful to both.

With everything going on and still Covid rules may change, can we ask that over Christmas you keep an eye on your neighbours and especially the isolated ones who are alone, as in winter and without the usual visitors or normal life, they may find it really difficult this year. Let us all pull together and any concerns should be raised, through me if needed to follow up.

The Foodbank is going well thanks to all the generous donations and the volunteers every Friday morning at the Market Hall. It is open from 9.30am to 11.30am and if you find yourself in need we are here to help, also if you know someone struggling of any age then make them aware.

We may need a couple of younger volunteers as time goes on due to Covid, so if you are interested and can spare a few hours on a Friday morning then please get in touch with the Town clerk.

Finally, can everyone support their local businesses as much as possible in the run up to the festive season as our local businesses need as much support as possible at this time of year. Small business weekend is usually the first weekend in December.

M Sheehan Town Clerk
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In the 4th of this series of articles we are going to start looking at electronic scamming.

In previous articles we have focussed on scamming activities that usually involve a personal contact either by phone or at the door step, however with the explosion of the world wide web and in particular social media, criminal elements have developed their activities on an unprecedented scale. So as 2020 starts to draw to a close and we begin to think of Christmas, the scammers will also be thinking of ways to ramp up their efforts to boost their illegal funds before Christmas.

There is a long list of Electronic Fraud Types. We will cover most of them in this and subsequent articles.

Many frauds are based on the cloning of your personal details from credit card details right up to full information about you. This is called identity theft and it is a CRIME!

Effective scamming is based on the criminal knowing something about you and if you are targeted, you may be fooled into thinking a call, email or text is genuine. Confidence is a major element of electronic crime as the contact is not face to face so the opportunity to initially check if the person is genuine is not possible. A voice on the phone can sound very reassuring, warm, calm and inviting.

Let us consider your personal identity, there are some basic components to it. Date of birth (giving your age), gender, first name and surname (including any middle names), address, phone number and details of close relatives. Add to that email details, social media details etc, and a scammer has a pretty full picture of you.

If your identity is going to be cloned, these starting points are useful for the scammer to get more private details such as National Insurance Number and Bank Details etc.

Good sources of data for scammers include public records such as Electoral Register, Telephone Directories and online data sources many of which are bought and sold in the underworld. You may have read in the media about some large companies including Banks whose computer systems have been hacked. The sole purpose of this is to obtain personal and financial details of the customers and this information is traded widely across the criminal world.

Many of the modern electronic scams use quite sophisticated computer systems to target vast numbers of people simultaneously. These systems and the people behind them are often based in countries where the law is somewhat more relaxed and questions are not asked!

The most effective scams are where part of your personal identity is known giving the electronic approach to you more credibility. Sadly, in many cases, we fall for the approach and are drawn into one of the many methods of relieving you of your money.

The speed and volume of these scamming systems ensures that hundreds of thousands of people can be contacted electronically.

In the UK alone in 2018, criminals successfully stole £1.2 billion through fraud and scams from 391,000 reported cases. This represents a staggering average of just over £3000 per case. A recent issue of Which Magazine reported that over £200m was lost to Bank Transfer fraud in the first half of 2020!

Within these numbers are people who have lost life savings of many thousands of pounds.


The message is clear, while you cannot hide from the world, there are some steps that you can take to protect yourself. Always think about how and where your bank details are used. Never give out PIN details on your bank card to anyone. If making a purchase on line or over the phone using your bank details, try to be sure that the vendor is genuine and not imitating someone else. Change your passwords on email and social media identities regularly and avoid simple, easy to hack passwords (more about this next month). If you think you have been hacked, contact your supplier through the number they have given you, not by a number some cold caller might give you.

It's less painful to change your email or bank cards than it is to lose your life savings!

Stay Alert, Be Aware, Stay Safe

Next month we will look in more depth at remote internet-based scams.

Nigel Reid



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Letter from Westminster

Philip Dunne

My Bill to clean up Britain's Rivers

Britain's rivers have historically provided habitats for our wildlife, pleasure to our population, as well as coursing through our culture. They flow throughout South Shropshire, just as they flow through our folklore and literature as well as invigorating our famous green landscapes.

It is frankly shocking that, in the 21st century, 40% of all our rivers in England and Wales are polluted with human sewage, now threatening our own health as well as the aquatic species who live in them. Much of this pollution enters our rivers when wastewater is discharged from the very sewage treatment works whose purpose is to clean it up. In part this is because regulations have not kept up to date with changes in behaviour and pressure from development, so now all too frequently pollutants enter our rivers untreated.

This is simply not good enough. I have always believed we need to leave our own part of the planet in a better condition than we found it. So this is why, when I was successful in the Private Members Bill ballot earlier this year, I decided to table a Bill in Parliament to tackle one of the prime causes of persistent pollution of our rivers.

During periods of 'unusually heavy' rainfall the capacity of the sewer network is widely acknowledged to be incapable of coping. To avoid flooding sewage over farmland, streets or properties, the Environment Agency grants permits for untreated sewage to discharge directly into our rivers.

Shocking as this sounds, it is meant to be for brief periods of time, through the 18,000 treatment plants designated Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). But last year, the water companies have admitted over 200,000 CSO events spilled raw sewage into rivers across England for over 1.5 million hours.

But there is something we can do to avoid this. I applaud the action the government is taking through the landmark Environment Bill. This legislation includes for the first time a requirement for water companies to publish a drainage and sewerage management plan every five years. I have tabled an amendment to this Bill to strengthen these plans explicitly to cover

water quality and the impact of pollution from sewage, to help inform debate around the government's very welcome plans to set a target for water companies to reduce discharge of phosphate.

My Private Member's Bill, published last month, goes further. It contains a suite of measures to address the extensive failings in regulation, enforcement, transparency, investment and infrastructure which drives the contamination of our rivers with wastewater. We need water companies to be more transparent and encouraged to monitor, report and mitigate wastewater discharges better.

We also need to make our rivers fit for recreation, particularly given the renewed enthusiasm for 'wild swimming' during the Covid pandemic. My Bill calls for each water company to reach bathing quality standard on two inland waters a year. By improving the ecological health of our rivers, we could deliver in relatively short timescales, huge benefits for wildlife and biodiversity as well.

The Environment Bill requires the government to set legally binding targets to improve the health of our water bodies. To ensure these targets are delivered promptly the new Office for Environmental Protection must be in place swiftly as we exit the Brexit transition period. It must have the necessary independence and enforcement mechanisms to hold public bodies and Ministers to account. We also need to ensure the Environment Agency has sufficient resources to work with communities in fulfilling its role, and political support to uphold standards where water companies fail to comply.

I accept that these improvements won't be cost free. So I have proposed that Ofwat's objectives should allow capital investment in improving water quality to be eligible under the five yearly pricing review mechanism.

If we are to fulfil our obligation to leave the environment in a better state for future generations, we must act now to clean up our rivers. This is not a partisan issue – it affects us all. So I am hoping to encourage as many colleagues as possible to support my Bill and help make it law. If you would like to know more, or add your support, please visit my website at www.philipdunne.com/sewage_bill.

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Cleobury Community Hub

Believe it or not, the Community Hub has now been open for over a year! A massive thank you must go to all our volunteers, financial supporters, grant giving trusts and with equal importance you, the Community who come and share time (and coffee) with us. 2020 has been a very challenging year, but we are grateful to have shared the year with the fantastic Community of Cleobury Mortimer.

News and Events

Recent visitors will have noticed our move back inside in time for autumn. Thanks to funding from National lottery Community Fund, we have been able to return to a café style environment open to all with Covid secure measures in place. As the weather turns and days become colder, come and enjoy a hot drink at one of our spaced tables, or settle down with a good book in a cosy armchair next to the wood burner.


Even more recent visitors or those walking past will have noticed a brand new decking area appear outside providing a fully accessible area for the coffee shop and creating a great outdoor space for community activities.

The work doesn't stop there, thanks to grants from "All Churches Trust" and "Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust" we are now only £7,000 shy of the total funds to start work on the construction of our bespoke indoor bouldering climbing wall. This will allow us to run climbing sessions in the Hub itself. Please keep an eye on our social media for further updates.

Our plans have always had a fluid nature, responding to needs and opportunities in and around Cleobury, even more so in the current climate. Some restarts of our regular events are back on hold due to the latest restrictions, but please do keep in touch to and continue to be connected and involved. The Hub has always had its roots in community collaboration, therefore any ideas or suggestions are always welcomed.

Thank you once again for your support and involvement with the Hub, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

FB @CleoburyCommunityHub / Insta @saintmarysyouthproject



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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	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net .
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Butler's Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, The Library and Swift's Bakery Tea Room.

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.**

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

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

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE: NOVEMBER 22nd

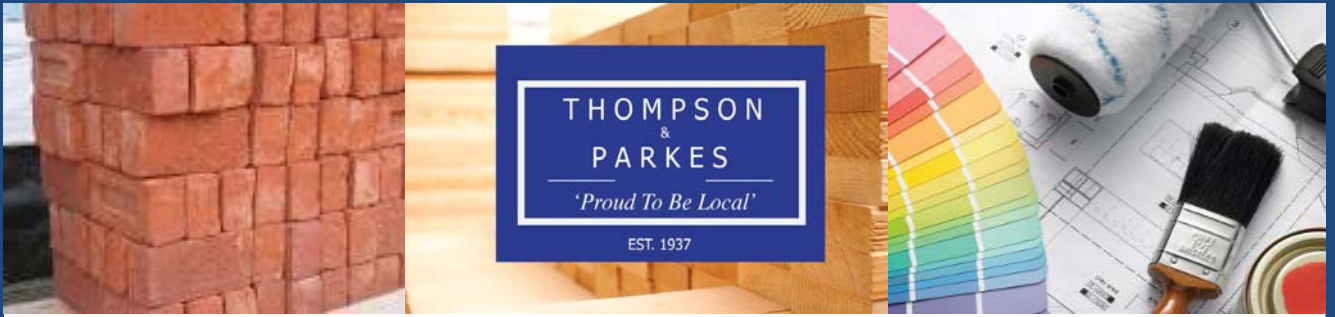
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The Clarion On The Web: www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

Printed by Badger Print and Design of Shifnal, 01952 730511



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