

The Cleobury Clarion

RAINBOW CARE HAS ANOTHER GREAT RESULT

Rainbow Cancer Care Foundation is a group of Cleobury Golf Club members and friends who combine talent with plain old fashioned hard work raising money for local cancer care charities. Led by John Gaskell, they seem to have a magic touch that brings in lots of competitors at their events. In 2023 they raised no less than £30,000, which was handed out to local charities to help their work.

That result means that the total raised so far in the short but busy life of Rainbow they've raised close to £200,000. Congratulations and thanks to them.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It's the greatest national expression of loss and respect for all who have fought in defence of this country and our precious belief in freedom. The local branch of the Royal British

Legion will hold a brief ceremony at the War Memorial on Saturday the 11th, as that is the day that marked the end of hostilities in 1918. That enormous conflict left its mark across Europe.

Sunday the 12th is the day that is always a witness to memories of family members and distant friends lost in the futility of a conflict that should not have been seen as necessary by anyone except the extremists. We should spend the time at the town centre service of remembrance with an awareness that war produces no victors, only those glad to survive and those whose loss is mourned. If the day does nothing else, it should remind us that such conflict brings loss to all.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

On Page 60 inside this edition is a report that has real significance for this community. It tells that the Plan submitted to Shropshire Council has been examined in detail and accepted as a proper programme for the future

development of this area and the services that will serve those of us lucky enough to live in such a beautiful landscape. A lot of time has been given to this work by people who will gain nothing of monetary worth, but do want to see Cleobury Mortimer and its rural outskirts serve those who will live here in the future.

We will all have a vote in the matter of acceptance and there will be much debate and argument before the time comes to put your cross on whatever voting may be used. The message that will be repeated, whatever your personal view, is that as many people as possible should vote on the future for ourselves and our children. You'll be asked this many times in the coming month, but it has to be said that we all should be concerned for our future and use this chance to express our opinions on the matter. Not voting is not caring or thinking about the world our families will live in.



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THE CLEOBURY CLARION, NOVEMBER 2023



*A love story with a very special bridesmaid!
See Page 21.*



*The Applefest at the Town In The Orchard.
See Page 37.*



*And who's this raising dust about 50 years ago?
See Page 48.*

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THE MICHAELMAS CONCERT

What a fine idea this was, Francis Engleheart's according to local sources, designed to remind us of the depth of talent this community is home to. Funds raised went to Cleobury Compassionate Communities and something of the order of 100 tickets were sold. Pete Blackburn hosted the evening with a brief outline of Saint Mary's church's history dating back to pre Norman times and still a place of worship.

Erika Madi Jones opened the evening with work from Wagner's "Tanhauser" accompanied by Geoff Weaver, her magnificent voice filling the vaults of the church, then falling to a soft near-whisper when still every syllable could be clearly heard. A wonderful blend of vocal quality and clear diction.

Then came a miscellany of poetry and song, from Celia and Ewan Gibb, a much talented pair with Francis Engleheart accompanying before men in the cast helped Hannah Coleman wheel her harp to centre stage and the solo performance of Purcell's 'Ground in F'. It was something of a revelation for many in the audience to hear the harpist not as an accompanist but as the sole performer and the applause reflected the effect on those for whom this was a new experience.

The Ludford Duo, two professional cellists of note, presented Haydn's Duet in D Hob:X.11 to again show an unusual blend of the instruments' versatility when allowed to break away from the orchestra. And to end the first half of the evening, Erika Madi Jones gave voice to works by Leah and Dvorak.

Back on stage briefly Pete Blackburn, clearly a man who knows how to get a message across with no time wasted, asked the audience to hold their applause back until Celia Gibb had reopened the music feast with 'O Quam Mirabilis' and Hannah Coleman had followed with a solo performance of Einaudi's "I Giorni", the two artists occupying opposite ends of the church. Huge applause greeted this novel presentation.

The Gibb family joined with Francis Engleheart as accompanist to Celia singing works by Weill and Gershwin, with Ewan adding readings. The Ludford Duo then offered Aaron Minsky's "Three American Cello Duets" with a gentle touch of western and blues rhythms. A complete break

from what most would expect of cello players, but beautifully done.

Paul Engleheart then read 'The Feast of Michaelmas', a poetic work written for the occasion by David Walford. The editor has a growing fondness for poetry and David Walford's work in particular, but this reading was quite masterly, the best reading of poetic work since drama teacher Arthur Short read Dylan Thomas's "Do not go gentle into that dark night" at my wife's funeral. Superb.

Erika Jones ended the evening with Puccini's "O mio bambino caro" and many people stayed seated, still hearing the echoes of a very special occasion. The audience left on a gentle autumn evening that seemed to continue the feeling of warmth the event generated. This deserves to become a regular feature in the social calendar.

Jim Reynolds

Published with David Walford's consent, the work he wrote for the occasion:

Golden rays of sunlight
Filtered through the leafy canopies,
...Shadows danced.

The harvest is in, new trees planted.
Goddess of corn captured in corn dollies,
... Awaiting spring.

Blackberries gathered turned to jam.
Spit in the eye of the Devil.

Before the feast a crowd gathered round,
Dancing singing, dancing singing
To the fast-paced beating of a drum,
Sounding like a beating heart.

Faster, faster round and round
Dancing singing, dancing singing
To the fast-paced beating of a drum,
Until exhausted, all fell to ground.

A feast awaited, laid out in full splendour.
Fit for the Arch Angels
... Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Church bells ring nine times, nine times.
All sing in harmony with the nightingale,
Angelic voices fill the air.

The crowd slowly, slowly drifts away,
Fading into the rising mist.

Then the only sound that can be heard
Is the owl's soft deep hooting afterwards.

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CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Our November 22nd meeting is the AGM and Social Evening. The business part will not detain us long; then we will be enjoying the supper provided by our generous members.

This will be our last get together of the year, it will be 2024 when we meet up again.

Looking back over the meetings this year, we have enjoyed some wonderful talks by amazingly knowledgeable speakers. We are so lucky to have access to such a depth of experience, so entertainingly delivered. Just a pity that there are not more people present to enjoy them. We would be thrilled to be signing up some new members in January. Do come and give us a try, it's only £10 a year with £2 on the night to cover the cost of the refreshments.

*"Until November, May The Weather Be With You".
(As said by Peter Gibbs on Gardeners Question Time) Judith Lawson.*

COMING THIS MONTH TO FARLOW AND ORETON VILLAGE HALL

Renowned theatre company Pentabus will be co-operating with Thickskin to bring 'Driftwood', a new play by Tim Foley, to Shropshire on November 17th. It will be at the Farlow and Oretton Village Hall, starting at 7.30.

The work is about two brothers whose dad is dying and they're not sure what to do for him. If you want find out what happens after much agonising and dispute, tickets cost £12 or for Under 25s it's free. Call 01746 718642 or www.artsalive.co.uk

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Mycorrhizal Network – the title of October's talk– was perhaps an unfamiliar term for the non-scientists amongst us but Kit Smith, the speaker, soon enlightened us. He explained that there exists below ground, a complex and huge network of tiny fungi threads which far from being harmful to trees and eighty-five per cent of plants, is absolutely crucial for their survival. There is a miraculous, continuous cycle of symbiosis between plant life and fungi without which trees and the majority of plants would not exist. Indeed neither would we!

Little is known about mycorrhizal networks and very few photos of this underground phenomenon exist but fortunately awareness has been aroused and in recent years, research has started to be carried out. To this end, a worldwide consortium of academics has been established – the Society for the Preservation of Underground Networks or SPUN for short– and is conducting on-going research into this little known phenomenon.

New builds, road construction, pollution wash-off from roads are all affecting essential fungi but all is not lost. We can do our bit! Be aware and maybe consider adding a pinch of mycorrhizal fungi 'rootwise' when planting out. And don't try to get rid of any 'fairy ring' on your lawn!

Diane Waddington

CLEOBURY GARDENERS

Formal Notice of the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 13th November, 2023

At St Elizabeth's Hall, R.C. Church, Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer

Drinks at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.



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CLEOBURY GARDENERS

“Why Apples are Interesting”. This is the title of the presentation by Wade Muggleton, which we hosted on 11 September. It certainly was interesting; also very entertaining and informative. We were given original history; which apples to choose to plant and why; advice on pruning; details of the various classifications, and anecdotes to further explain the derivation of names of apples we know today and how they appeared in today’s fruit bowl.

The oldest record of the sweet apple dates from 2300-2400 years ago in China. The seeds (pips) travelled out on the Silk Roads, eventually arriving in Rome and wider Europe and the Mediterranean. However, when these trade routes became irrelevant due to changing boundaries, countries and allegiances, the history of the apple becomes fragmented: the libraries and written histories and breeding records of not only the type of apple produced, but also the development of root stock for grafting; all this wonderful information having been destroyed in wars and civil unrest.

Apples, whilst they have seeds, do not grow true, having a genetic mix of the host apple and the grafted root stock. There is a whole science attached to mapping the DNA of root stocks to define height of the fully grown tree and type of apple produced, together with matching for suitability to host apple genes. There is an existing gene pool identification system which enables growers like Wade to identify particular orchard finds, and this gene pool is further enhanced every time unidentified trees are introduced for investigation. The existence of this increasing fund of knowledge is also filling in some of the missing histories of the spread of the fruit.

Wade had a display of about sixty different apples, and proceeded to entertain us with how some of the apples had gained their names. Did you know that Dr Bramley did not plant the original famous and ancient Bramley Apple Tree; that there was a Granny Smith; that the Lord Lambourn apple and the Duke of Devonshire apple were probably bred by their gardeners, and the Golden Russet is probably a true English cultivar. (There is a Leathercoat Russet, but I personally think all russets are leathercoated!).

Linda Ashman

THE READING GROUP

A mostly enthusiastic response for this month's book, not 100% but this is not expected. Set in London in the 1980s 'My Name is Leon' is an interesting, emotional story of a nine year old boy who goes to live with Maureen, a foster mother, when his mother can no longer cope. His brother Jake, still a baby, is quickly adopted as he is white and Leon is not. A story of loss and survival despite adverse conditions. Leon narrates his experiences as he tries to make sense of a complicated world which doesn't seem to hear him. Heart breaking and uplifting, this debut novel by Kit de Waal is based on her knowledge of the system. She serves as a magistrate on adoption panels and was a foster child herself. We liked the connection of gardening helping with life. There was much discussion about current fostering and adoption, how it has changed for the better but probably still needs working on. Various opinions about the ending but a well written, clever book. A good read. Next book is quite a change, 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley, written in 1932. We meet on November 20th at the library for our chat.

Deana Kimber 271754

SIMON EVANS' LIFE AND WORK

On Friday November 10th Dr Mark Baldwin will give an illustrated talk on the life of the man probably Cleobury Mortimer's best known inhabitant. In an eventful life, he was a soldier, postman, author and a broadcaster enthralled audiences with his accounts of life in rural Shropshire in the 1930s. He was advised to move to a rural area where the cleaner air would help his lungs, damaged by gas in the trenches during WW1. The 'Simon Evans Way' is named after him as it is based on the route he followed during his time as a local postman, covering over 20 miles every day in all weathers. Those of you who have recently moved to Cleobury may not be familiar with his story and this is an opportunity to learn more. His lungs eventually failed and he died in hospital in Birmingham in 1940, the day before his 45th birthday, his ashes being scattered on Abdon Burf.

The event takes place in St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm and tickets cost £8.00, which includes light refreshments. They are available from Spire Hairdressers, Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library, Diane Waddington 01299 272820, Angela Drennan 01299 270636 or Friends Committee members.

Steve Todd.



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18 November 7.30pm - Juniper

Charlotte Rampling at her best. Seventeen-year-old Sam lives with his father on a farm in New Zealand. After the recent death of his mother, Sam is in a deep crisis and is at high risk of suicide. One day his alcoholic grandmother Ruth from England moves in with them. She is a rowdy but equally courageous and eccentric old lady who is confined to a wheelchair due to a broken leg. After initial arguments, an extraordinary friendship develops between Ruth and her grandson. This enables Sam to embrace life again and Ruth to face her mortality.

Starring Charlotte Rampling, Marton Csokas, George Ferrier

Tickets £5 - Bar, tea, coffee, cake

25 NOVEMBER at 7.00 for 7.30 - CLEOBURY FOLK EVENING

A hugely talented young fingerstyle guitarist and singer, Ben Robertson has performed at Beardy Folk, here in Hopton Wafers, and at Folk on the Farm, Bromyard, Chester and Warwick festivals, as well as appearing regularly in venues around the country. Comments from music pundits describe him as a "... remarkable, remarkable guitar player". "... fine guitarist and singer ...", a "prodigious young britfolk guitarist" whose playing is "absolutely sublime" with "crystalline execution of a wide ranging tune-canon". He performs instrumentals and songs from across the Celtic and European folk traditions. The Parish Hall offers a unique opportunity to hear Ben perform in cabaret, with a two course meal and a bar throughout the evening,



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FROM A LONG ESTABLISHED READER

Una Widdett was a great friend of the Clarion when she lived here and she stays in touch. She writes:

I read the Cleobury Clarion with great interest every month and find all the articles very interesting but I was especially impressed with Lisa Baldwin's "Letter from America " about isolation .

I am keeping that copy for further interest.

Una .

THE MICHAELMAS CONCERT

Co-Co would like to thank everyone who came to the Michaelmas Concert in St Mary's Church on September 29th. It was a wonderful evening, with superb local talent and deservedly well-attended. Thanks to you we raised £2,055.91, which will go towards ensuring that Co-Co can continue to support local people via befriending, facilitating care needs, sponsoring specific amenities and the Good Grief Café.

Giulia Johnson

MELVILLE CHAPEL DATES

Ruth Downes writes to tell us that there will be a Soup Lunch at the Chapel on November 8th between 12.30 and 2.00.

And here's advanced notices of a further Lunch on December 13th and a Living Nativity on December 18th. More details on these events next month.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS – NOVEMBER 18th

On Saturday 18 November, at 7.00 for 7.30, we will be showing *Juniper*, a film starring Charlotte Rampling at her best. Seventeen-year-old Sam lives with his father on a farm in New Zealand. After the recent death of his mother, Sam is in a deep crisis and is at high risk of suicide. One day

his alcoholic grandmother Ruth from England moves in with them. She is a rowdy but equally courageous and eccentric old lady who is confined to a wheelchair due to a broken leg. After initial arguments, an extraordinary friendship develops between Ruth and her grandson. This enables Sam to embrace life again and Ruth to face her mortality. Tickets £5 at the door. Bar, tea, coffee and cake.

Robert Hodge

CLEOBURY FOLK – NOVEMBER 25th

Ben Robertson is a talented young fingerstyle guitarist and singer who has performed at Beardy Folk, here in Hopton Wafers, and at Folk on the Farm, Bromyard, Chester and Warwick festivals, as well as appearing regularly in venues around the country. Comments from music pundits describe him as a "remarkable, remarkable guitar player", "fine guitarist and singer", a "prodigious young britfolk guitarist" whose playing is "absolutely sublime" with "crystalline execution of a wide ranging tune-canon". He performs instrumentals and songs from across the Celtic and European folk traditions.

The Parish Hall offers a unique opportunity to hear Ben perform, with a two course meal and a bar throughout the evening, on November 25th at 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 and are available online at www.cleoburyparishhall.uk or by calling Gabby on 01299 271713. Please come along and support us – you are promised a highly entertaining and enjoyable evening. (For more information see the parish hall website, or go to www.benrobertsonmusic.co.uk).

Robert Hodge

SILLY BIT

Q: What flies and wobbles"

A: A jellycopter



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SAINT JOHN'S, DODDINGTON

After the excitement of last month's delightful wedding (elsewhere in the Clarion) and our Musical Afternoon Tea, we are looking forward to two special moments. First is our Act of Remembrance on November 12th when the poppies that have been knitted or crocheted and sewn into panels will be blessed. Look out for them as they appear leading up to the time of Remembrance. Then we'll be preparing for our popular Christmas Fair to be held on November 25th in the Village Hall at 2.30pm. Cards, gifts and toys, plants and food, a raffle and games, and of course refreshments served. Meanwhile the Beacon on the Hill project is not forgotten - we continue to prepare and will give updates when we can. To find out more about any of the above, or support us in any way, visit our website achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/, follow us on Facebook (@stjohnsdoddington), or contact us: stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com 01584 318036

Celia Gibb

CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP

The Group covers 80 square kilometres, which have been surveyed since 2012. 33 people helped with this year's survey

Curlew results were the most encouraging for some years: 7 – 8 pairs found in the original area, one more than last year. Three nests were found, one a relay by the same pair, but although all three of those nests were predated, a chick fledged from each of two other nests, one on Magpie Hill and one near Coreley. This is great news, the first fledged young for some years!!! A distribution map can be found on our website. For other species, there were two or three pairs of Lapwing: at Hollywaste, the only known

since 2017, and 8-9 pairs of Kestrel: Clee Hill is a county hotspot, and we are supporting a nest box and ringing project. Five nests were found. At least two Cuckoo territories were located, but there must be more, and there were more Barn Owl sightings than for many years. There were probably three pairs, and one nest was found with three fledged young. Two Red Kite nests were also found, in the same places as last year.

If you know of any breeding sites for any of these species, please tell us about them. Don't assume we already know about them. In particular, does anyone know if there were definitely two pairs of Curlew at Hollywaste, and did anyone see any Curlew chicks or fledged young?

In 2024, we need to keep monitoring these species, particularly Curlew and Kestrel, and new helpers are wanted, please.

A full report of the 2023 results will be prepared and distributed early next year to everyone who helped. If you have any information about breeding sites in 2023, want to help or be kept informed about what we are doing, contact Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: chcw@shropscwgs.org.uk).

Also, check our website

www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk for details of future activities.

Leo Smith

CHRISTMAS FAIR

On November 25th, 11.00 'til 2.00pm there will be a Christmas Fair in aid of Severn Hospice at Broome Park Farm, Catherton Road, DY14 0LB. Everyone welcome, we have plenty of parking. Charity Christmas cards, Craft Stall, Cake Stall, Chocolate Tombola, Raffle and Refreshments.

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WOOD WORDS FOR BOWLS FOLK

Well done Mortimer Team and congratulations on gaining promotion to the Highley league for the 2024 season. A convincing home victory over visiting Squirrel in the last match of the season saw the team gain a 7-1 result to clinch promotion. In addition, team member Lauren Burnside came out top of division 2 aggregates, playing 19, won 16, lost 3. Great performance Lauren, well done!

Also, in the Highley league Mortimer reached the final of the Presidents cup held at Bridgnorth, and with a handicap of 60, came in second to Islanders A, shots scored 152 to 172.

To close the season, Club President's Day took place on September 24th when Presidents team came out winners against the Captains with a margin of 42 shots. Highest scoring pair was Dian Green and Andy Pain with 29 shots. The event also raised £200 donated to Midlands Air Ambulance.

At Lacon Childe School the indoor bowling sessions have been popular and well supported, thanks to Jo and Leslie Burnside for organising. A sad note to remember, longstanding club member Les Woodhouse passed away in September. Sympathetic thoughts go to the family.

With winter almost upon us, its good to be able to remember the enjoyable days that we have had on the green this season and to look forward to April 2024 for the restart. Meanwhile, the club AGM is at 7.00 on Monday November 27th, in the clubhouse.

All season results are on the club website cleoburybowls.org.uk

Yours in bowls. *Smiffy (07494 016137)*

CHRISTMAS ONE POT LUNCH

Neen Savage W.I. are having an intriguingly titled 'One Pot Lunch' in aid of the Nineveh Ridge Care Farm. It's on December 14th, 12.00 noon to 2.00 in the Market Hall, when you can enjoy a bowl of beef or vegetable stew with crusty bread followed by a seasonal pudding, all for a modest fiver. Sounds like jolly good value.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Ed Humphries entertained members on October 18th with a talk on composition. To the relief of the less experienced he explained that there are no rules to follow, just a matter of developing one's own knowledge and experience.

He then illustrated a range of disciplines, from the Rule of Thirds (divide vertically and horizontally) through the mysterious Golden Ratio (1:1.618 and calculations beyond the editor's grasp) through Lead Lines to Colour with Texture and Symmetry with Balance. Clearly a subject for the more able, with a noted professional work passed around for outstanding examples.

A less serious session of Show and Tell made the evening complete. Club chairman Paul Serrell-Cooke later explained that membership is steady at 20, the number that can be readily serviced by volunteers with much else to do. There is a waiting list of those wanting to join, which is a measure of success.

NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SALE

There will be a Nearly-New Clothes Sale at Cleeton St. Mary village hall on Saturday morning, 2nd December, from 10.30 - 1pm. A group of parishioners from the area are helping to raise funds for Cleeton Church Roof Repairs and can offer a shopping session with coffee morning with a raffle and good company.

There will be a sale of good quality used clothes and bric-a-brac as well as tea/coffee and cake to help you relax while shopping. All proceeds from the sale will go towards the church roof fund and any left over items will be donated to the Severn Hospice shop in Cleobury, thus helping two charities in one go.

We are asking people who may be able to donate unwanted items to contact us and we will arrange collection during the week before the sale. If you have good quality items looking for a new home, and want to help good causes, please ring or text:- Julie on 07469 930 027 or Clare on 07980 592 314 and we will ring you back the week before the sale to arrange pick up. Many thanks.
Clare Caldicott

HEATHER MORRISS

Members of the Friendship Club and the Bridge Club will be sad to hear of the death, after protracted illness, of Heather Morriss, late of Larks Rise. She leaves her husband Alexander, a daughter, son and four grandchildren.

A non-religious service will take place on Tuesday 7th November at Wyre Forest Crematorium at 2.30 pm.

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THE LATEST FROM CORAL & TOM...

The October market has had mixed results for home movers with the expected wave of new properties coming to the market but sales agreed have not reached the same levels. According to Rightmove, the number of sales are 17% lower than this time last year, highlighting the struggles for sellers to secure a buyer in a tougher market. Rightmove also reported in their latest update that in the West Midlands, the average amount of days for a property to sell is now up to 59 days – again longer than previous months and last year.

On more positive news, the average fixed rate mortgage has decreased for the 11th consecutive week at the time of writing which will help buyers with affordability concerns that have troubled the market across 2023. With higher levels of properties available, as mentioned last month, giving buyers increased choice, it has increased the importance of pricing correctly when going to market and obtaining immediate buyer interest with stats revealing that if a property receives its first buyer enquiry on the first day of marketing rather than after two weeks, then data shows that it is 60% more likely to find a buyer.

This further highlights the need to work closely with your estate agent to give you honest and accurate advice on the market to achieve a timely move.

If you would like to talk about the market and how it's affecting your property value or about an impending move, please do not hesitate to contact us for a chat.

Coralie Walrond MNAEA MARLA

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CLEOBURY CONCERT BRASS

The band will be competing at the Wychavon Festival of Brass, Entertainment Contest in Evesham on November 4th. Our theme is 'LIGHT' and we have a programme of five pieces to win the judges over !

We will lead the annual Remembrance Parade in Cleobury on Sunday 12th November

We have already started advertising our Christmas Concert which will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm, always an entertaining concert, this year including guest vocalists . Tickets £10 per person U16 £5, available at The Wash House mid November, or online via Ticket Source or from any band member

New players are always welcome, so please come along to our friendly practices on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm Parish Hall *Katie Griffiths*

CLEOBURY W.I.

We welcomed April Boardman to our October meeting. April outlined the range of different therapies she offers at The Well Being in Tenbury, but the focus of the evening was the benefits of relaxation to our well-being. You could have heard a pin drop as April talked us through an activity using 'guided imagery', which was truly relaxing.

There were thirteen members (we're not superstitious!) around the table for an afternoon get-together at The Royal Fountain. It was a very enjoyable afternoon of tea, coffee, cake and chatter.

Remembrance Sunday is on November 12th and members are invited to join the parade to church, meeting in the Talbot car park at 10.30am.

On November 14th we have an evening of card-making with Iris Todd. This is for members only. Bringing a small pair of scissors will be useful, but other materials will be provided.

Our first Winter Warmer Lunch takes place on Wednesday 15th November. Due to high demand this will be held in the Parish Hall rather than the Market Hall, so please note the change of venue! Anyone can join us from 12.00-2.00, when you can choose from several home-made soups and a range of delicious desserts, all for £5! Funds raised will support our current charity, Cleobury and District First Responders.

December's meeting is for members only as it is our Christmas party. Please remember this is on the first Tuesday in December (4th), rather than our usual second Tuesday. There will be a Christmas Jumper walk on 14th December, followed by the Advent Lunch run by Neen Savage WI. Timings to be confirmed.

We now have a record number of members! Anyone else interested in becoming a part of our busy and thriving branch of WI should contact Judy on 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com *Val Sniadowski*

FLOOD RISK SENSE

Susan Sharp sent an email out to local walkers about the flood risk that might grow in this area. As Shropshire Council would be stretched, she wanted to know who would be willing to help in clearing up on the footpath network. The Clarion read the message and asked if it should be publicised to a wider audience, but the response was that enough people had offered help and the situation looked controlled. Good news, but it was worth asking as we do provide help readily when asked.

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A LOVE STORY. TWO WEDDINGS AND ONE VERY SPECIAL BRIDESMAID!

I met the love of my life Mark 37 years ago. In 1991, we got married in a formal church service in my hometown of Neston. We had two beautiful boys, Joshua and Oliver. Then sadly in 2004, we lost our way and got divorced, but remained great friends and brought our boys up together.

I've now been disabled for four years. I can't walk or talk and Mark is my carer. In February 32 years on, he proposed to me again and of course I said yes! We agreed we wanted a church wedding, at St John's church in Doddington, to be married by family friend Reverend Kelvin Price. Our Josh would be Mark's Best Man and Ollie would give me away. No invites would be sent out, and no 'after do' for fear of me risking another brain seizure.

We met church warden Celia Gibb and her husband Ewan. They welcomed us into the church with open arms, along with the rest of their lovely regular congregation. Our second banns were read in Cleobury Church. After that, I received messages from friends asking for details of our Wedding Service. I decided I wanted to be surrounded by all my lovely local friends, at our beautiful Church. Without Mark knowing and with lots of help from great friends, we planned my dream wedding that Mark would never forget. It had to be full of love and laughter. I secretly agreed all of my ideas with Celia and our Reverend Kelvin.

On September 28th, 32 years to the day of our first wedding, my groom Mark turned up at our church, to see lots of cars parked outside, the pathway covered in ribbons and beautiful flowers in the church. He was greeted by my friends serving Bucks Fizz, then saw that the church was buzzing, with a full congregation! Then Pete played my

first chosen song 'You're still the one' by Shania Twain.

Mark turned round to see I was wearing my original wedding dress, tiara and veil. Plus our two strong sons had lifted me out of my wheelchair, to hold me up and they walked me down the aisle. My dream come true!

We undertook our vows, then Kelvin asked our boys for the wedding rings. They didn't have them. The congregation then turned around to see my very special bridesmaid, prancing down the aisle, carrying our rings! Our miniature Shetland pony, Little Miss Daisy! Everyone loved that!

While we went to the altar to sign the register, accompanied by Daisy, everyone joined in singing my favourite song by Neil Diamond – Sweet Caroline. The atmosphere in the church, throughout my dream wedding Service, was beyond my expectations – full of love, fun and laughter. Our church collection raised £145 and my charity Newbridge Cat rescue raised £45.

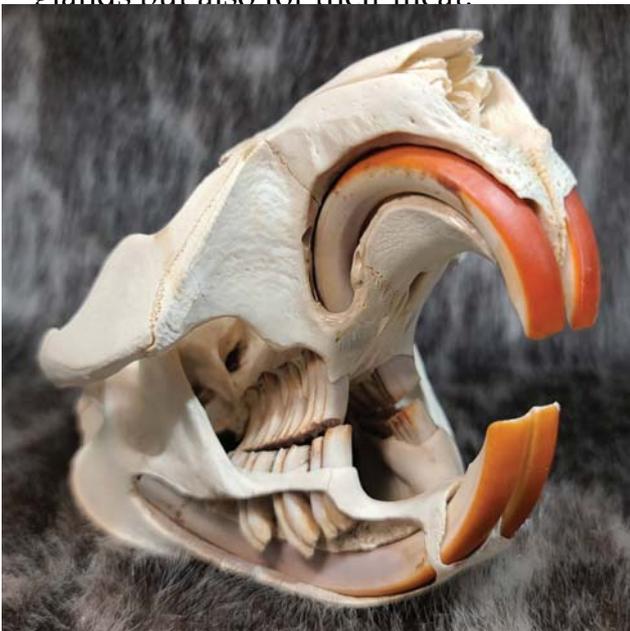
Kathie Rowbotham



Wedding photo of the year? Kathie, Mark, Joshua and Oliver with bridesmaid.



During most of its history the Wyre Forest was home to a number of large mammals that we don't see around anymore, including the 'Three Bs': bear, boar and beaver. I wouldn't be comfortable sharing the forest with the first two, which had a liking for young lambs and could do humans serious damage as well, but beavers are herbivores, living on water plants, bark and leaves. Although they are well known for their ability to fell small trees and can grow to a metre long from nose to tail and weigh 30kg they have never posed a threat to people. In fact the reverse is true and they were hunted to extinction in Britain 500 years ago, mainly for their fur and a product from their scent glands but also for their meat.



Beavers have extremely strong teeth and I've included a photo of an American beaver skull, cut away to show the extent of the long, curved incisors. These have an iron-rich outer enamel which gives them their orange colour and strength. The trees felled are divided up into smaller branches and carried to build dams, restricting water

flow and creating deep pools. Lodges are made in the dams using mud as well as branches – a safe place for the beavers to live and breed. A side-effect of this behaviour is the beneficial impact on the landscape. An area inhabited by beavers will have watercourses, wet woodland, coppiced trees, glades and dead wood: a varied jigsaw of habitats for a whole range of species struggling to survive in our somewhat sterile countryside.

Small numbers of beavers (and we're talking about the Eurasian Beaver, *Castor fiber*, here) now live in several locations in Britain: some as a result of carefully monitored reintroductions, some of more mysterious origin. I've visited Knapdale in Mid-Argyll and been amazed at the pencil-shaped tree stumps (surely produced by a chain saw?) and the beavers' engineering work. It now seems likely that the Wyre Forest will join that list of release sites next year. An announcement by Forestry England and Natural England said, 'Plans are in place to introduce two adult beavers into a fenced enclosure in Spring 2024. This enclosure will be approximately five hectares in size, and will be located along a tributary close to the Dowles Brook, to the north of the disused railway.'

This development will enrich the largest woodland National Nature Reserve in England (now over 1455 hectares) and have direct benefit for those of us living nearby, as the beavers' activity will slow the flow of water heading into Dowles Brook and the Severn in times of heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of flooding. And all without costing the Environment Agency a penny!

Linda Iles

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Church services throughout the Benefice in November 2023.**

St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 5th November – 10.00am Family Eucharist
Sunday 12th November – 8.30am Said Eucharist
Sunday 12th November – 11.00am Remembrance Service
Sunday 19th November – 10.00am Benefice Service with Bishop Richard
Sunday 26th November – 10.00am Eucharist

Every Wednesday – 10.00am Eucharist
Every Thursday – 10.00-11.30am - Drop in at St Mary's with the Pastoral Care Group & Stay and Play.

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 5th November – 9.30am Eucharist
Benefice Sunday 12th November – 10.00am Remembrance Service

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 5th November – 11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 12th November – 10.55am Remembrance Service

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 5th November – 11.00am Village Worship
Sunday 12th November – 10.50am Remembrance Service
Sunday 26th November – 11.00am Village Eucharist

St George's, Milson

Sunday 12th November – 10.50am Remembrance Service

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 5th November – 6.00pm - Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 12th November – 10.50am Remembrance Service

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 12th November – 10.40am Remembrance Service
Sunday 26th November – 6.00pm Evening Prayer BCP

The Church Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 8.00am-2.00pm
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Philip Dunne

Letter from Westminster – November 2023 Remembrance

November always holds special significance for me, as both a former Defence Minister and now Commissioner for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, put into sharper focus this year by the continuing war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The history of Shropshire is intertwined with the sacrifices made by countless men and women who answered the call of duty during times of conflict. Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are marked across the county, as indeed across the country, as we come together to honour the fallen and reflect on the enduring importance of remembrance. These are perhaps felt all the more acutely as we see the different way in which war dead are treated in current conflicts.

Shropshire, like most parts of the UK, bears the scars of war. From the towns of Bridgnorth and Ludlow to the villages dotting the countryside, each corner of this county has a story to tell. The names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice are etched in the local war memorials, reminding us that freedom comes at a price.

Interestingly, South Shropshire is home to the only Thankful Village in our county – the village of Harley, just outside Much Wenlock. Thankful Villages are those who lost no men during the First World War, of which there are only thought to be 53 in the entire country. The fact there are so few shows the scale of the human destruction wrought by the First World War.

The impact of the First World War lives on in our national psyche. Our National Service of Remembrance takes place at the Cenotaph, erected as a temporary monument after the end of the War, only to be left in perpetuity due to its resonance with all those who had served and the wider public at the time.

We also have the most visible reminder of the First World War in November - the red poppy adorning lapels and dresses, serving as a vivid reminder of the bloodshed and sacrifice of those who fought for our liberty. In Shropshire we have excellent volunteers who raise money for the Royal British Legion throughout their poppy appeal, and I encourage local residents to support them and wear their poppy with pride.

I try to attend as many local services as I can to mark remembrance, this year attending four across the constituency. While I cannot make them all, it is a welcome sign of our commitment to the memory of the fallen that we still hold so many services and well supported parades in towns and villages across South Shropshire.

As I mentioned in my last Letter from Westminster, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.org) details locations of local grave sites, including names of those commemorated, for those who wish to pay their respects this month. We are always looking for volunteers to help maintain the more isolated graves, and the website gives details of how to volunteer to look after a grave near you, should you wish to get involved.

Simon Morton In The Garden

Farewell to a Friend: The Beauty of a Natural Burial

Despite the billing, this month's offering has absolutely nothing to do with gardening. It does, however, borrow very heavily from Mother Nature.

I make no apologies for this - it's been quite a month...

A couple of weeks ago, I found myself at the funeral of a friend. Beth was one of those people who effortlessly ticked all the boxes of life. She lit up a room, possessed a marvellous Welsh self-deprecating humour, sang from the top of her lungs at the drop of a hat and packed more adventures into her life than people twice her age. She also had an ability to easily drink you under the table, only to emerge bright as a button the next morning - a characteristic that was both impressive and mildly frustrating. Oh, and she brought untold joy to my friend, David, her husband.

Beth was a remarkable woman.

She had a unique relationship with death. She stared down her tenacious and cruel cancer, treating it like it was an annoying neighbour who played loud music at all hours. To her, it was something you had to live with, but she was determined that it wasn't going to dominate her life or the life of her family. This attitude gave her the chance to meticulously plan her own funeral...and what a farewell it turned out to be. Beth's was one of the most remarkable funerals I've ever attended (which is saying something - at my age, I'm starting to amass quite a collection of 'In Memory Of' Orders of Service).

One of the reasons it was so memorable was that it was my first *natural* burial. Beth was laid to rest in a non-religious setting -

a peaceful field that overlooked the stunning Cotswold countryside. Gorgeous and bucolic doesn't do it justice.

The celebrant summed up the whole concept of natural burials perfectly in her introduction - Beth had not only chosen this place because she loved nature but also because it allowed those left behind to remember her in the most natural way possible. Her boys can bring a ball and play in the field, or pack a picnic and make a day of it. The instructions were clear - bring happy memories and create more while you're there.

Wow. Now *that's* how you celebrate someone's life.

There's a growing trend toward natural burials. There are over 300 of these special and remarkably friendly final resting places across the UK, each offering a more eco-conscious way to bid farewell to our loved ones. Have a Google to find out more - it's definitely worth exploring. I found the stories incredibly moving and uplifting.

Despite the beautiful setting and positivity from everyone attending, Beth's funeral, like all funerals, was tough going. Beth was special, and losing her was just plain unfair. Dragging her away from her devoted husband, beautiful boys, and family was nothing short of cruel. But the setting and celebration of nature, with all its good bits and cruel bits, its beauty and drizzly rain, seemed to be the perfect tribute. It was simple, respectful, and brimming with both laughter and tears.

Cheers, Beth - I'll raise a glass (or two) to you. May your memory continue to blossom like the flowers in that peaceful field.

Simon Morton

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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The clocks were set back an hour on Sunday 29th October as British Summer Time came to an end for another year. The shorter days still give many opportunities for a country walk although a good book by the fire is often preferable on rainy days.

Last month the work party replaced a very rickety stile with a kissing gate on a path between Bransley and Dudnill. It is on the CMFA's Walk 19, The Court Circular. More work on this route is planned for next year. Have a look at the before and after photos on the CMFA Facebook page. This is an interesting walk starting in Hopton Wafers. The circular route goes through Earls Ditton, Dudnill, Bransley before returning past Hopton Court. The leaflet narrative points out several places of historical interest along the way.

So far this year we have had an average of 18 people attending the twice monthly Walking for Health walks, which looking back is the same as last year. Where possible we try to pick a route away from the town footpaths.

Pinkham, the stretch of the River Rea from Papermills to Walford Bridge, Workhouse Bank and the Caravan Park are areas that are popular but rather weather dependent. Wednesday November 8th and 22nd are the two dates for this month. We meet at 10.00am outside St Mary's Church and return for delicious refreshments in the Market Hall provided by CoCo.

The Country Walk on October 1st was based on Rea Valley Amble, CMFA walk 18. We did go this way in April but you can never have too much of a good thing! It was warm for the time of year, humid with little wind. The ground was already getting muddy in places but these were mostly avoided with a slight detour round bad patches. Six CMFA members were joined by nine first timers (plus a dog). Some visitors had travelled quite a distance Kidderminster, Bewdley, Highley, Tenbury Wells and Church Stretton. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the walk, thanked the leader and hopefully will be back.

The full moon on November 27th is the Beaver Moon. There are several theories about the origin of the name. One is that it signals the time when the Native Americans used to set their beaver traps to give them a supply of warm winter fur. Another is that this is when the Beavers are busy preparing for the winter before the rivers freeze.

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

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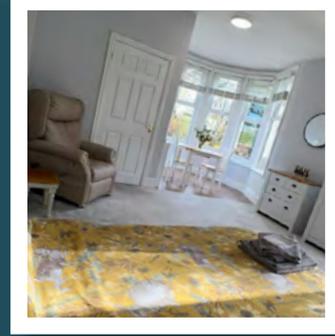
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Wendy Shines Bright - Finalist for Lifetime Achievement in Care at the National Care Awards 2023!



We are thrilled to announce that Wendy, our very own Senior Carer here at Doddington Lodge, has been chosen as a finalist for the National Care Awards 2023 in the category of 'Lifetime Achievement in Care.' This is a huge honour and a testament to Wendy's exceptional commitment to providing compassionate care to our residents and always going above and beyond for the residents as well as their family, friends and the team at Doddington Lodge.

We couldn't be more proud of her and wish her the best of luck at the upcoming London red carpet event on Friday 24th November at the Platinum Suite, Excel, London. Congratulations Wendy!

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

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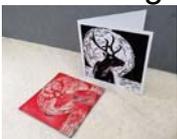
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THE SHOE BOX NEWS

Hi, people who know of Carolyn and me, I'm sorry to say that we shall have to relinquish our role as supporters of the Teddy Trust and the Shoebox appeal. It's been a hard decision, but I have decided to spend more time at home and focus on other issues.

We have met so many fine people during our involvement with these two charities, that it'll be a wrench to stop this work, but needs must. We have decided that this will be our last year, so I will try to find people to take on our various roles. Many thanks to all who have helped the cause.

Regards from Keith and Carolyn Balmer. Happy Christmas and a happy new year.

Ps if you might be interested in helping either of these causes then give me a call via my e mail: mbalmeruk@gmail.com

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TENBURY APPLEFEST

In the 43 years my family has lived here, we had never been to Tenbury's Applefest and whatever title it used before. As a group of people who love apples, that was a sad omission living so near to the "Town in an Orchard". So on October 7th my lady love and I set out to remedy the matter. After all, there had been posters galore to remind us of time, date and place.

There was a slight delay when we arrived in the attractive town of Tenbury Wells to find no clear signs to the event. Fine if you knew just where The Burgage was, but it took a tour of the place before we turned into the car park across the road from the Regal Theatre and there were signs! It's OK if you live in the place, but not so good for visitors.

The Burgage is an open space bordered by the River Teme and it was full of stalls offering a wide range of local produce and other novelties. Steve Goodison's Twitt Twoo was busy showing birds of prey off and not far away was a selection of vintage and classic cars. I was taken by the 1929 Rolls Royce originally supplied to Sir Malcolm Campbell when he was a mere Major in the army. It was obviously designed to impress, sitting on huge wheels with a double dickie seat behind the driver and passenger seats.

Next to it was a real discovery for Tina and I, who spent much time at the National Motor Museum in an unsuccessful search for an Armstrong Siddeley that she remembered from youthful days in Ireland. No luck at Gaydon, but here was a graceful, sleek example in The Burgage!



Jim Davies, father of Nick and co-founder of Hobson's Brewery, was offering a mixture of goods sold under the Chamber of Trade banner to benefit local charities. He reckoned that the Chamber did not have a great effect on the town, which has always impressed me as a place where they can get things done. The Regal Theatre is a good example of that, but listening to Parish Councillors saying there was nothing they could do to control errant school children years ago was a bad one. We moved our chat on, to agree that the family firm has been a great success under Nick's guidance.

Nearby we found a range of cider makers offering a taste or something larger if you weren't driving. Even more people seemed to be offering gins of all flavours, whereas apples in Tenbury Wells seems to mean an apple product; long live that habit. Local product Robinson's was one of the day's sponsors.



Dominating one of the fruit display areas was a large marquee with a show of the apples you could buy on the day, or learn about the range of trees that Frank P Matthews offer. I couldn't resist picking a big bag of different types and carried them home, to savour a couple and then make up a selection on a dish to present to my family. Within less than two hours the dish came back empty, a sure sign of success. Applefest is a great event; pity about the in-town signposting....
Jim Reynolds


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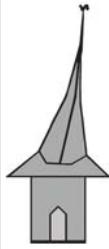
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It's true!. Rishi Sunak reads Mrs G! He has finally taken my advice and scrapped the rest of the HS2 white elephant. The section to Birmingham will go ahead and it is claimed that this will run all the way into Euston although there seems to be some doubt about the funding for that bit. Perhaps there will be a sponsorship deal: 'Welcome to Betfair Euston' or something similar. Still there might be a silver(ish) lining to this cloud as the government has said that they would now 'fully fund' the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road, thus extracting Shropshire Council from the deep financial hole they have dug themselves over this shambolic plan. This is now due to go for planning approval on October 31st but although the Environment Agency has said that no tests for potential effects on water quality were needed 'at present', there may still be 'issues' down the line....All this after Shropshire Council voted in favour of looking at the possibility of a £95 million loan to fund the scheme only to find out it was all a mistake as they had been given an early and incorrect draft of the supporting documentation. Shame nobody noticed until after the vote...

The latest take on the Mullers site says that it is being bought by a company making wooden staircases that is relocating from Wolverhampton. However, as water and wood don't mix too well, they will have to fix the roof first...

The Trans wars seem to have taken a slightly more sensible turn with Rishi stating that 'man is man and woman is woman' which I think that most people suspected all along. Cue predictable outrage from the usual suspects. Interestingly, these groups were well represented in the recent demonstrations urging support for Gaza. This despite the fact that, if they lived there, they would probably have been chucked off a roof in short order because of their sexuality.

Will Keir also get off of the fence and show a bit of leadership on this as well? More news on this subject as the results of the 2021 Census are

being revisited. It appeared that around 0.5% of the population (1 in 200) identified as non binary which did seem a lot. Apparently the relevant question was so badly worded that it confused many recipients, especially those for whom English was not their first language who were statistically over represented in that figure. This has probably resulted in an over estimate of the true number so we shall see if an amended figure appears in due course.

Water companies monitor sewage spills (around 800 per day last year) but refuse to release the figures saying that it might lead to media outlets 'drawing conclusions that the data may or not support'. This sounds like an admission that the data would indeed support the obvious conclusions. They are allowed to release sewage from storm overflows in the case of heavy rain but it would appear that 'dry' spills are occurring even when it isn't raining. Never mind, it hasn't stopped bosses getting bonuses despite failing to meet leakage targets. They are also allowed to increase our bills to cover their costs - £88 million this year in the case of Severn Trent. However, you will be pleased to know that Liv Garfield, the ST Chief Executive, shares our pain about price rises although I suspect she doesn't hurt quite as much as the rest of us given that her salary is nearly £4 million a year (plus bonuses...).

I keep hearing boasts from West Mercia police that they have more officers than ever before. All good stuff but it does beg the question: where are they? Our local policing team should consist of one PC and three PCSO's. At the time of writing, it actually consists of one PCSO... The Sergeant has also moved on so what is going on? Numbers are all very well but what is the life experience of many new recruits? If they are fresh from University, I am worried that they will have fainting fits and need counselling if anyone disagrees with them or is less than polite. After all, you can't just cancel members of the public however much you might want to...

Ariadne J Grumpy

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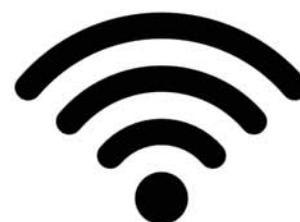
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FESTIVE MARKET

Good neighbourly behaviour fits the season as Farlow and Oreton Hall combine with the nearby Melville Chapel to present their Festive Market on Saturday the 11th. Starts at 10.00 and will run through to 2.00 with crafts, gifts and produce stalls plus refreshments, cakes and a raffle maybe win you a prize. All proceeds will be shared between the two halls.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Our thanks to Paul Serrell-Cooke, chairman of the Cleobury Mortimer branch of the Royal British Legion, for the details for the weekend of Remembrance.

Saturday November 11th:

Members of the Cleobury Mortimer Branch of the Royal British Legion will observe a two minutes silence at the Memorial Garden, St Mary's Church on Saturday 11th November at 11.00 o'clock.

Sunday November 12th:

Members of Royal British Legion will lead the Remembrance Day Parade from the Talbot Car Park, down the High Street to come to rest opposite the Memorial Garden. Those taking part in the parade will be gathering in the Talbot Car Park from 10.30 a.m. to be ready to march at 10.45 a.m..

Mrs Clarissa Daly, Deputy Lieutenant of the County, will be in attendance and will march with the parade before laying the first of the wreaths in the Memorial Garden. Once the wreaths have been laid there will be a Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church.

WEARING IT PINK AT THE PHARMACY

The friendly ladies who run the counter service at the Cleobury Pharmacy got together on Friday October 20th got their heads together and a bright pink range of garments to promote the "Wear It Pink" fund raising in support of cancer research. They had a cake sale and a Guess The Baby competition with a lot of smiles and laughs along the way. The result was £350 raised by the 23rd and the money was still coming in when we last heard from them.

Such a kind thought from them all, and they must know what a number of their customers are going through to be in need of their attention..



What a pity we can only offer a photo in black and white in the printed Clarion to give you the pharmacy staff at their best.

ADAM'S FUNDRAISING

My final fundraiser for my 2024 adventure to Kenya with Camp International is nearly here. I need to raise at least £4,000 to cover the costs to support the valuable project work I will. Be taking part in.

A Family Fun Christmas Fair with craft stalls selling Christmas gifts along with traditional type stalls takes place at Kinlet Village Hall on Sunday December from 11.00 to 5.00pm. The Lucky number will be drawn with a prize of £50 for the winner.

Grand Prize Draw takes place at 4.00, with lots of amazing prizes to be won. If you have not bought your tickets yet, please hurry.

For further details on any of the above, please contact Rachael on 01299 841032 or 07715 030 510.

Thank you everyone for your help in supporting my journey.

Adam Ponsford aged 14

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50 YEARS AND STILL NOT SLOW

John Brazier is best known locally as a notable accountant, currently based at what used to be The Three Horseshoes pub at Number 53 in the High Street. The business title there is now Mortimer Childe Accounting, very professional and smart in their presentation, with a friendly staff who make callers feel welcome.

The man behind this operation has what some might consider a dark side, a long term rally driver with a good record in the 50 years he's been competing. Sitting alongside him as they make a less than gentle progress down forest and mountain tracks is son Damian Bird, an experienced navigator with the capacity to read the notes without getting worried about speed. A man who can do a calm job with the car flying over jumps and sliding sideways down tracks has to be rather special.

On November 23rd they'll be leaving Carmarthen with five days of the Roger Albert Clark Rally ahead of them. This UK Historic Rally event commemorates the career of one of Britain's outstanding drivers, who drove a Ford Escort. The cars must be Pre 1986 and have two wheel drive. John and Damian will be in an Escort, very special with its 2.0 litre Cosworth BDA engine and running gear to match. And they've only driven it once before...

The Rally includes 350 miles of timed stages, the longest of them rounding the week off with a 37 mile timed stretch, having visited Welsh forests, Kielder and the Lake District before ending in Carlisle. It's a very serious event, with 180 crews entered, including the best drivers from the UK classic rally scene and several competitors in the current World Championship.

John's competition career started in 1973 in a Sunbeam Imp Sport that never failed to finish an event. He clearly learned that old competition maxim as a young man: "To finish first, you must first finish." He progressed through a Vauxhall Astra that went well and finished high enough in a series to earn him a drive in the full-blown RAC Rally amongst the professionals. On through a Peugeot 205 to a Subaru Impreza, that he gave me a ride in; my lips are sealed on the matter of how fast the Scoobydoo could accelerate, but I can tell you as a part-time bike journalist who occasionally did

test rides on drag bikes, it was damned quick. His regular competition career reached its peak with a Mitsubishi Evo, a vehicle one local chap bought, enjoyed immensely and sold before temptation managed to cost him his licence.

Does that make John sound like a road hog? He's certainly not and like most drivers with a competition background he's smooth and gentle in his everyday driving. But in 1993 he won his class in the National Championship and at one stage led his class in the RAC Rally when it was a World Championship event. He points out that Damian has a 100 percent finishing record in competition, including the two of them finishing third in class in the Ulster International event. All this with a sense of humour, John suggesting that Damian's record is down to the Iron Bru socks he wears!

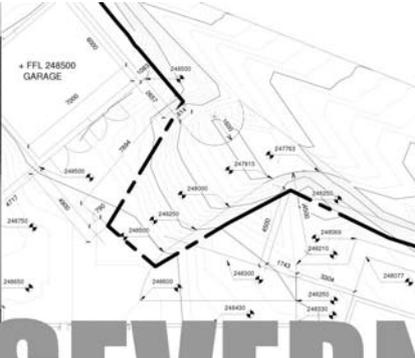


Ready for whatever the weather and British countryside throws at them on the long trek north. Damian on the left, John right.

The Clarion will have gone to print by the time the rally is over, so we won't be able to tell how the adventure ended until next year. But we hope you'll join their families and friends in wishing them a safe, swift and successful drive.

And if anyone dares to tell you that accountants are always boring, tell them about this 70 year old who celebrated his birthday with an extreme reminder of his old rallying habit. And if that doesn't convince them, we'll ask John if he could give them a demonstration at one of the rally training courses.

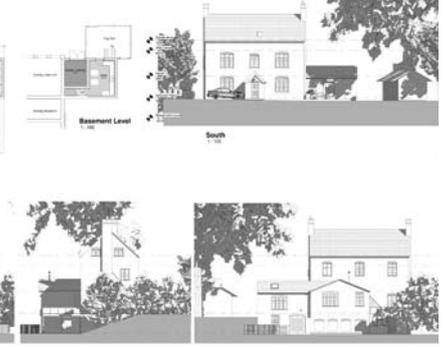
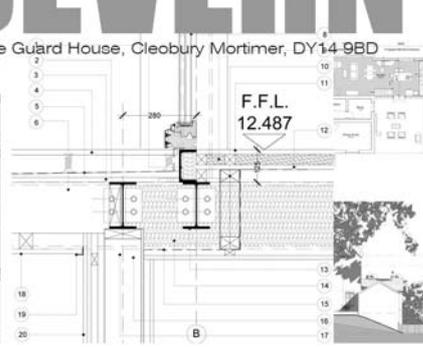
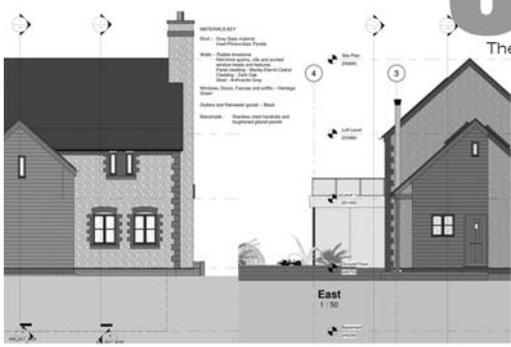
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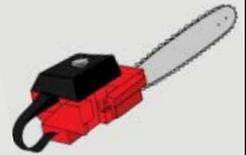
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Richard Haines

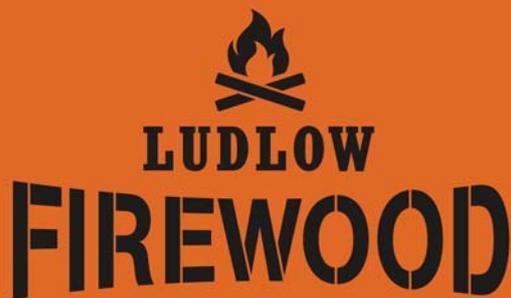
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The current energy crisis has been incredibly eye-opening as we come to realise how reliant we are on other countries for fuel. Wouldn't it be nice to become more independent and less reliant on the volatile energy prices... well, that's where we can help!

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THE NOVEMBER SOCIAL CALENDAR

Wed 1st. **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

6.00 Late Night at the Food Bank in the Market Hall.

7.30. The Photography Club meet at the Market Hall.

7.30. Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.

Thu 2nd 10.00. Rock Pathfinders walk out from Church Lane lay-by, Far Forest, DY14 9TP PAGE 26

Tue. 7th. 2.00 Carer Support Group meet at St Mary's Place, Love Lane. 01743 341995

Wed.8th **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

10.00 Walking for Health start the day from the Market Hall.

10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Good company, great value.

12.30 Soup lunch, Melville Chapel, Farlow.

PAGE 11

Fri 10th 7.30 At the Parish Church, Dr Mark Baldwin tells the life story of Simon Evans. PAGE 9

8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.

Sat 11th 10.00 Festive Market at Farlow and Oretton Hall, combined with Melville Chapel. PAGE 45

11.00 Royal British Legion members gather at the War Memorial for two minutes silence.

Sun.12th Remembrance Sunday, when the town falls silent in memory of those lost.

Wed 15th **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

7.30 The Photography Club meet at the Market Hall.

7.30. Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.

Thu 16th 10.00 Rock Pathfinders walk from Stourport Farm Shop, Dudley Road PAGE 26

Sat. 18th 9.00 Cleobury Country Farmers' Market at the Parish Church.

10.00. Town Councillors present to discuss matters, in the Market Hall PAGE 63

7.30 Flicks In The Sticks presents 'Juniper'. £5 entry. Bar, tea, coffee and cake. PAGE 11

Mon 20th 7.30 The Reading Group gather at the library to discuss 'Brave New World'. PAGE 9

Wed. 22nd **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

10.00 Walking for Health step out once more from the Parish church PAGE 26

10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning, in the Market Hall.

Fri. 24th 8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall

Sat 25th 11.00 Severn Hospice Christmas Fair, Broome Park Farm, Catherton Road PAGE 13

2.30 St Johns Christmas Fair, Village Hall, Doddington. PAGE 13

7.30 Guitarist Ben Robertson performs folk music at the Parish Hall PAGE 9

Mon 27th 7.00. Bowling Club AGM, in the clubhouse.

7.30. The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the library, to listen and laugh.

Wed 29th. **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

7.30 The Photography Club have a Rain Night Photography event. Brave!

AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER...

Sat 2nd. 10.30. Nearly New Clothes Sale, Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. PAGE 15

Mon. 4th The Editor is VERY OLD today. No gifts, just sympathy please.

5.00 Christmas Lights switched on by Father Christmas in the town centre

Wed 6th. **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

7.30 Photography Club Fun Awards Night, in the Market Hall.

7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.

REGULAR EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Monday at 8.00. Bingo Night, in the Market Hall.

Tuesday at 2.00. Friendship Club meet at the Parish Hall.

Thursday at 11.00. Drop-in Morning, Parish Church. Take tea and share a quiet chat.

2.00 Tina Hobin's Exercise for the Mature, St Mary's Place, Love Lane.

7.30. Tina Hobin's Ancient Egyptian Dance and good health. In the Market Hall.

IS YOUR LOCAL EVENT NOT ON THIS BUSY PAGE?

CONTACT THE EDITOR ON 01299 270642

Clarion Clippings. - The Local News

It has been a couple of months since the last edition of Beat The Scammers but naturally it was not 2 months off for the scam that prey on the innocent and the vulnerable. So we are back with the same resolve to inform and educate and if at all possible, save someone from the misery of loss.

For a long time, the focus has been on protection of the more mature community that these pages reach out to. But we must not forget the younger members of our society. They are our children, our grandchildren and in many cases our great grandchildren. In youth we all remember how we liked to experiment, try something new and who does not remember thinking that we knew better than our elders.

There are some aspects of life where failure to heed the warnings can have a catastrophic impact on our future, whatever age we are. This is where we turn to youth to help some of us understand the more complex issues of using modern technology.

We learn that over half of all crime committed these days is online fraud which is growing. The fraudsters sit comfortably behind their computer screens, in many cases in different countries or different continents. Law enforcement in other cultures is maybe not as effective as in our country, so the best way to defeat these criminals is to be aware of the techniques, look out for them and not be drawn into devious webs.

There are measures that can and should be taken to stop most fraud although the very most sophisticated of frauds may still be successful. Worcester University has launched a campaign to raise awareness and have called it **3 Steps to Protect**.

It is recognised that many more mature members of the community find some of the technological changes very challenging, but this is where our younger members of the community, our children

and grandchildren can play a part in helping protect their grandparents.

There are three easy steps to follow that they can help others to enhance their online security. By online, I don't just mean, those who use smart mobile phones or tablets, even if it just for emails or staying in touch. But even the landline phone which is often a lifeline for elderly people can be a target for scammers.

The simple steps apply to anyone who has more than just a landline phone at home, while even the last step applies to anyone in any situation, no matter how they live their lives.

STRONG PASSWORDS

Use strong passwords for any online access. Perhaps 3 random words with numbers and at least one special character. Try not to use the same password for different things.

2 STEP VERIFICATION (2SV)

There is a process that most major suppliers of online services recommend now. It is called 2 Step Verification. When you sign up for a service the provider will ask for an associated mobile number owned by you and send a text to that number every time you log on. You must respond to that text to verify it is you and not someone impersonating you.

STOP AND THINK

Stop and Think. This is something I have encouraged in the past. Do not be bullied into acting if you are unsure of an unsolicited approach. If possible, ask for the caller's number and say you will call back. If you have a number your Bank or someone has given you, use that to call back on. A genuine person will understand your reluctance until you are sure that the person contacting you is as they say. This applies to even a call to your home landline.

Stay Protected, Stay Safe

Nigel Reid

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Plus a range of Vegetarian, Gluten Free and Vegan meals.*

Mr Dave's

*Meat, Chicken, Prawn and Vegetarian Balti, Madras Curry
Mr Dave's extra large naan, plain and garlic & coriander.*

Fish

*Cod, Haddock, Plaice fillets, Sea bass, Lemon sole, Cod Loins, Smoked Haddock.
Battered & breaded fish fillets. Young's Jumbo Cod Fish Fingers.(Very Popular)*

Seafood

*Raw king Prawns, Squid, , whitebait, cooked tiger prawns, scallops, seafood cocktail.
Hot & Spicy Prawns, Breaded Cod & Plaice Goujons*

*New Fish Cakes Thai Style Cod & Prawn, Smoked Haddock, Mozzarella & Spring Onion,
Sea Bass, Cod, Lime & Ginger.*

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Bannister Jacket Potatoes, Oven chips, Sweet Potato Fries Twister Fries, Hash Browns, Spicy Wedges

Chicken Products

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Gateaux for all occasions

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Cleobury Clarion November 2023



"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."

ANCHORS AWAY

Soft-Play, Cafe and Takeaway

Jessica and James Manley along with Dawn Broome and Nigel Williams have worked for the last two years creating 'Anchors Away' which opened its doors in September. A family affair, the place is a nautical theme which has been designed to allow us to offer a stimulating, fun and secure place for children. Soft-play provides a fantastic opportunity for children of any age to challenge their physical, mental and social skills in a secure and enjoyable setting. There is a variety of equipment to use including two soft-play areas, one for toddlers and a larger three-tiered structure including a wavy slide, twister slide, rope bridge and ball pit, along with a small sports area to include football and basketball courts. The theme is enhanced by the wonderful murals painted by Hanah Beth Bailey.

The café and takeaway both sell hot and cold food seven days a week using local produce from Mawley Milk, Ashleys Bread and Andrew Francis butchers.

Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm

Thursday, Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Sunday: 9am – 4pm

SEN sessions on a Sunday morning 9.00 til 10.00am and Wednesday 2-4pm. This is something Jessica is passionate about having worked at The Wyre Forest School, so we hope to be able to offer more facilities/equipment in the future.

Party packages available to suit all budgets including exclusive hire if required.

Find us at Unit 1, Newhouse Farm, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8RD, Email anchorsaway2022@outlook.com, Facebook, Tel: 01299 212514. Booking advisable for weekends and holidays.

<https://BOOKWHEN.COM/ANCHORSAWAY22>

THE BORDERS CLASSIC

BIKE SHOW

It didn't draw the crowds we've seen before and there were only about 40 assorted bikes on display, but there was a good atmosphere about the place, old mates getting together over a breakfast or lunch and remembering old days.

Colin Tolley was there, leading his friends on the AJS and Matchless Owners Club stand, and as the only club present they won the Chamber of Trade 'Chamber Pot' award. Colin collected it. Then a BMW won Best European and it was Colin's posh bike, so he received that award as well. The the AJS and Matchless club, bless them, had donated an award for the best example of that old London-based company's breed and guess who won that as well. We got very close to charging him rent because he spent so much time up on the stage with awards in his hands. To be fair to him, it must be said that he looked embarrassed and did blush quite a lot.

The usually noisy firing up of competition bikes produced a two-stroke Spanish Bultaco racer that gave out much noise and even more smoke in the competition for the SWATS (She Would Appreciate That Sound) trophy. Its only rival was a Honda that simply refused to start, so it was a European win by default. But the owner hadn't entered the show and wasn't about when the awards were announced, so we have one little replica going begging.

The big award is the Visitors' Favourite that the public vote for. It went to a pretty little Italian Campagnola by a big margin, an interesting result in a bike scene where normally the big boys are favourites. Not this time.

By 4.00 o'clock it was all over and the stragglers loaded their vans or put on their helmets and headed for home. They'll be back next year, but plans are afoot for a much bigger event.

When the dust had settled and the pennies counted, the day had produced a profit of £3800 for the pupils of the school. And there's another £30 to add to that for the French VeloSolex moped sold that will pay £30 commission for its sale to a regular visitor.

Jim Reynolds



CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB

Coffee Shop, Climb61, Youth Events

Mondays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-8pm
Tuesdays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-7:30pm
Fridays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

FOCUS ON: HAF - Warm Welcome and Soup Garden lunch

Starting on the **6th November** we will be hosting our soup lunches between 12pm-2pm, every **Monday** throughout November to February 2024. Our soups are made by an amazing group of volunteers and the bread is donated by wonderful people. This allows us to offer our lunches for free. If you would like to make a donation then please pay a drink forward for others to enjoy.

Our Warm Welcome is an offer that we are committed to. The Cleobury Community Hub is a multi-generational space that welcomes every single person that crosses the threshold of our doorway. This space is often used by those wanting to meet with friends, make new friends, finding a new space to “work from home”, enjoy a new sport in Bouldering and/or bring your *little ones* to enjoy our small soft play area. All whilst enjoying the *best coffee and milkshakes in Cleobury. Please stay as long as you want, there is no pressure at all, only opportunity to engage locally and be served by our incredible team of volunteers.

****we're biased!***

Activities

Rock Tots (0-5years):	Mondays: 10am-12pm - Soft Play, Introduction to bouldering and a healthy snack lunch (£6)
Kids Climbing Club (7s-11s):	Mondays: 3:30pm-5pm (£6)
Adult/Family Social Climb:	Mondays: 5:30pm-8pm (£4, £1 shoe hire)
FREE Youth Drop-in:	Tuesdays: 3:30pm-5:30pm
Adult/Family Social Climb:	Tuesdays: 9:30am-7:30pm (£4, £1 shoe hire)
Hub Youth:	Wednesdays: 6:30pm-8pm followed by optional Alpha (faith exploration) 8pm-9pm (£2)
Good Grief Café:	Thursdays: 1st Thurs (2pm), 3rd Thurs (7pm)
Ladies Night Bouldering:	Thursdays: 1st Thurs - 6pm-8pm (£5.50)
Open Bouldering for all ages:	Fridays: 9:30am-5:30pm (£3 child, £4 adult, £1 shoe hire)



@cleoburycommunityhub



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The **Astra 100% Electric**. 114kW Electric motor (158PS) with 54kWh battery. 258 miles of Electric range. 0 grams of CO2 emissions.

Mokka Electric is powered by a next generation 50kWh lithium-ion battery. It'll take you up to 209 miles (preliminary WLTP)1 on a single charge.



Suzuki

Enjoy the power of an 83 HP engine, with a CO2 output as low as 106 g/km (WLTP combined). When you choose a **Swift** with mild hybrid, a little goes a long way.



Designed for all conditions, and we don't just mean the weather. From school runs to weekend getaways, the **Vitara** takes you anywhere you want (or need) to go.

Our latest **S-Cross** comes with the choice of either Mild Hybrid or Full Hybrid technology, supported by a dynamic and responsive petrol engine.



Service

Routine servicing is an important part of keeping your vehicle at its best condition, delivering a top driving experience. Drive confidently knowing your vehicle is working at its best with us.



We service all popular makes & models.

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Motability Scheme

Nothing should stop you living a full life, with independence and freedom. The Motability Scheme opens the doors to those things, with worry free motoring that helps you to keep moving.



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The everyday freedom of having everything included.

Your insurance, servicing, maintenance and full breakdown cover included.

New Councillor

We have great pleasure in welcoming new Councillor Martin Winward to Cleobury Mortimer Town Council.

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

Keeping safe during floods

We were all shocked at the tragic death of a man in his 60's at Furness Mill Fisheries on Friday 20th October, our thoughts are with his family and friends. The storms which lead to these flooding incidents are becoming more frequent and the risks to drivers and walkers near rivers and streams are very high. Please take care during these heavy storms and do not attempt to drive through or walk near fast flowing water. Further information and advice is available through the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council websites.

Councillor Surgery

The Councillor surgery at the Market Hall took place on Saturday 21st October, we had a fairly quiet surgery with only four people dropping by to raise concerns or observations. The main topic of conversation was the flooding around the town which occurred during storm Babet on Friday 20th October with blocked gully drains in the High St, Tenbury Road and Pinkham Lane. Although the Town Council have been flagging this issue with Shropshire Council Highways Dept throughout the summer, very little has been done to fix the problem. We will continue to put pressure on the Highways Dept to carry out the necessary maintenance to reduce the risk of flooding.

If you have any local concerns or would just like to pop by and say hello, we will be at the Market Hall again on **Saturday 18th November from 10:00am to 12:00pm**. We hope to see you there.

Neighbourhood Development Plan.

At the Shropshire Council Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18th October, the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan was given the go ahead to proceed to a public referendum in December which will be organised by Shropshire Council's Electoral Services Dept. Polling cards will be sent to all residents in Cleobury Mortimer in the same way as previous elections and it is important that anyone wishing to vote will now need to produce photo ID at the polling station.

QEII Park redesign

We are looking to redesign the QEII Park. What facilities would you like to see there? What is meaningful to you? Benches, community orchard, flower beds, wildlife corridor, pavilion, croquet court, fairy glen woodland trail? This is a community space, and we would really like you to be involved in the process of redesigning and deciding what facilities the area should offer. Please contact the Town Council on 01299 271154 or email the council, council@cleobury.org.uk to register your interest.

Cleobury Christmas Fayre & Christmas Lights Switch on.

The date has been set for this year's Christmas Fayre and Christmas Lights Switch on. Please keep Saturday 2nd December from 3.00pm-5.30pm free and join us in St Mary's, where we will have some great traders and fun for the children. We will update you with more confirmed information next month.

Next Council Meeting..... Monday 6th November 2023, at the Cleobury Country Centre. All public are warmly invited to attend.



eme CLEOBURY

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

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

OPENING TIMES

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

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

CLASS TIMETABLE

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

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



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