Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

October 2018

QUALITY PEOPLE

The acknowledgement of Cleobury Town Council as a quality body has already been well covered on these pages. We should be proud of a council that reaches that standard; even more of the people who live in this area.

Like nine years old Adam Ponsford of Kinlet, who has made the commitment to run a charity that will aid people older than himself who need help. What a future that young man has with such motivation to help others.

And the continuing success of the Cleobury Men's Shed project is a measure of the simple decency that is so strong in this community. Both money donated and skills offered for little or no reward, to provide a place for older men to relax and keep their minds and hands active and in practise. And the response to a proposal to work make this a Dementia Friendly town was strong and positive.

Do I go too far in praising such a community spirit? I think it's simply stating the truth. The reports of such good habits reach out beyond just Shropshire and its neighbours. A copy of the Clarion is posted to Los Angeles every month, to my sister in the Self Realisation Fellowship, where she is an ordained priest.

When we talk on the phone, she often passes on compliments from her colleagues in that movement, who obviously enjoy reading about this place and its events and characters. I don't see any prospect of Cleobury Mortimer twinning with Los Angeles as a result of this, but it's good to know we have friends 6,000 miles away who we will probably never meet, but who feel goodwill towards us. ΙR

MOVEMENT ON MAIN STREET

There's an almost constant flow of businesses starting up or moving base along the town's main street. On Page 51 of this issue you can read about Stephanie Morrison's plans to expand as she takes up what used to be Bowkett's Food Emporium and turns it into what sounds like a cafe plus meeting place for those who want to learn about cooking and business skills, plus lots of other plans. It's good to see her making room for local craftspeople to show off their handiwork.

Just across the road, Sam Fido has taken on the shop unit at the old Hem's Butchers and looks busy with his Goodwill Cutting barber's shop. His aim seems to be the younger set, who probably don't want to mix with ancients who want their bushy eyebrows trimmed. We wish him every success.

But isn't it amazing how many barbers and hairdressers we have in this small town? They are outnumbered only by the Closed Circuit Television cameras that watch over nearly everything that goes on and do inhibit some of the naughtiness that used to prevail late in the evening. That was nothing to do with the pubs closing, of course.

We will try to find out how the cameras work in keeping crime levels down. If we can get some sensible answers, we'll tell you about it in the next issue.

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The Cleobury Clarion, October 2018

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THOSE SHOE BOXES

After a busy year, we're all set for the shoe box season. There have been some changes, one that we've changed the charity that the boxes go to. This one does a 'Home' box as well.

Shoe boxes are already in the Parish Hall, for you to take with leaflets and a list of suggestions for Home boxes.

The other really important change is that because of the importance of Remembrance Sunday this year, we've been asked not to have any boxes in Saint Mary's Church until after Remembrance Day on November 11th.

So it will all be a lot later than usual. Shoe boxes will be in Saint Mary's from November 12th and we hope to send the filled boxes to the Evesham warehouse on Monday November 19th, from where they will go on to Bosnia or Belarus.

Any offers of help or questions to me on 01299 841379.

Jenny Vanderhook

FROM THE BAND ROOM

I have to report disappointing news in that we weren't very successful at the National Finals this year. It is a shame when so

Facebook: Luxure Aesthetics

many hours have gone in rehearsing a piece, but on the day ours wasn't the winning performance.

There are fors and against for competing. The band is sometimes split on whether we should enter a competition or not, but generally it raises the level of the band, it makes people practice to perfect the part and it is good for team building.

The area competition in March will soon come around and we will again make the group decision whether to enter or not, unfortunately in the brass band world, once you are on the ladder you need to keep competing to retain your ranking.

We took the decision to start competing in 2012 when we won an entertainment contest. We decided to try our luck at the area contest and were thrilled to come 3rd which then gave us an invitation to attend the finals and the contesting has snowballed from there.

To have a band from South Shropshire who have qualified for National Finals four times in six years is something for us all to be proud of. We are a group of people, varying in age and ability, who come together to make music and have an enjoyable time doing so and that is the most important thing.

We are going to enjoy a quieter couple of months before the Christmas engagements start. We will be there to front the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 11th and also to play at the Royal British Legion evening service at St Peters, Clee Hill.

Remembrance is the only parade of the year that we do and we pull out all the stops to get a band together to honour our local war veterans. Due to various ailments, a few players are unable to march and play at the same time. This does cause me a headache trying to get a band together for the parade, but we seem to manage it every year. Fingers crossed that we can find a couple of bass players very soon.

If you are looking for a new hobby for the winter months and beyond, our training band rehearsals are held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday evenings starting at 6.30. If you are learning or starting up again, please come along – you will have a very warm welcome - our training band conductor is lack Martin.

Katie Griffiths

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THE RIVER REA

Is 2019 going to be the year of the Rea? The omens look good for our somewhat neglected river that flows for two kilometres from north to south at the eastern end of the parish.

The Severn Rivers Trust reports that the quality of the river is poor at present with high nitrogen levels from farm runoff, high levels of sediment restricting the biodiversity and overgrown trees and saplings preventing good clear water flow.

Two major structural changes have been achieved in the last vear or two. The Environment Agency built the migratory fish ladder at Lower Forge and the Severn Rivers Trust reduced the height of two weirs further upstream. The new owner of Mawley Hall and Estate appears be preparing plans rejuvenate the portion of the river that runs through the estate by proper management of the banks and vegetation. The Rivers Trust is about to appoint a new catchment officer and the Wyre Forest Facilitation Group is helping farmers and landowners with stewardship grants to install new fencing along the river and prevent cattle breaking down the banks, adding to the sediment levels. The

Neighbourhood Plan working group is looking at policies and action to help the regeneration to 2035, including nomination of the River Rea as an important wildlife corridor.

Concerted effort by all the agencies, owners and farmers could mean that by the end of 2019 we have a rejuvenating river which eventually should be a breeding ground for a wide range of wild life including migratory salmon and trout even with a foot path along all of its length.

Kit Smith

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Saturday, October 6th sees Cleobury Rugby Club playing Cannock at home with a 3.00pm kick-off. Chinny's Mobile Fish and Chip Van should be present outside the Club; please check his Facebook Page for details.

Calling all you fans of Whist! Are you aware that the Club holds a regular Whist Drive every 3rd Thursday in the month starting at 7.30pm? October's Drive will be held on Thursday, 18th.

Cleobury Stroke Support Group has its October meeting on Tuesday 23rd between 2.00 and 4.00pm, with Anna Hughes leading the group in seated yoga. Please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre for further details.

On Friday, October 26th, there will be a Family Halloween Party between 6.00 and 9.00. Lots of party games and of course, come in Fancy Dress (adults too). Charge is £3, with each child getting a bag of sweets.

On Sunday, October 28th there will be a Family Bingo/Karaoke Disco starting at 4.00pm. Bingo is only 50p per game or £3 for 6.

As usual, for further details please contact the Club Steward Gemma Canty on 271448 or via our Facebook Page.

Glenys Turpin

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NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

August is always our fundraising month, this year taking the form of a Cheese and Wine Party at the home of Jayne and Gareth Leach. What a fantastic night! Approximately 70 people joined us to support Neen Savage WI and the Cleobury Stroke Support group. Friends old and new enjoyed excellent wines and delicious cheeses, resulting in £392 being raised for the Stroke Group and a similar amount for the WI. Javne and Sandra were on hand on August 28th to present the cheque at the monthly Stroke group meeting, held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at CM Sports and Social Club.

Our meeting in September was certainly a first for us – a Drumming Workshop. I know many members were a bit apprehensive but leader Tim Scarborough from Rhythmicity made us all feel at ease and we had a wonderful evening, trying our hand with a mixture of drums, shakers and cow bells. Anyone passing the hall that Wednesday evening may have wondered what on earth was happening but we felt we were making sweet music.

On September 15th we were thrilled to collaborate with

Cleobury Mortimer WI to put on a very successful Vintage Tea following the dedication of the new Great War memorial plaque on the wall of the Market Hall. It was wonderful to see guests of all ages coming together to pay their respects to those who came before us and then enjoy homemade cakes and lashings of tea.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday October 10th, when we will be holding a mini Craft and Produce Show. Anyone requiring a schedule of further information should contact our President, Mrs Sandra Dodd, on 01299 271563.

Catherine Evans

CLEOBURY W.I.

In September members and visitors were treated to a talk from Annie Hutchison about homeopathy, system a alternative medicine created in 1796. It is based on a doctrine of like cures like, a claim that a that substance causes the symptoms of a disease in healthy people would cure symptoms similar sick people. Homeopathy is a holistic medicine which uses highly diluted substances with the aim of triggering the body's own healing mechanisms. A well known example of

homeopathic remedy is Arnica which is recommended to relieve bruising.

The Vintage Tea **Party** organised by the Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Savage WIs to celebrate the dedication of the Armistice Plaque at the Market Hall was a great success with over 70 guests treated to tea and cake, scones, tiffin, rock cakes and jam tarts in the spirit of 100 years ago. Many thanks for all the help received and generous donations to the Poppy Appeal. Our October meeting on 9th in the Market Hall is the AGM, with a bring and share supper, 7.30pm as usual.

More information from me on <u>01299 270983</u> or on the WI Facebook page.

Judy Sant

JUST A REMINDER

Did you know that there's a regular Prize Bingo session at Clows Top's Victory Hall? Nor did we, but as we've now been told about it, we'll let you know whenever we get a date.

This month it's on Friday the 12th, with eyes down at 7.30. All proceeds go to the maintenance of this very busy village hall. If you'd like more details. a call to 01299 832903 should be all you need.



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THE FOOD AND ALE TRAIL

On September 1st 125 walkers enjoyed a seven mile country walk, with four refreshment through the local stops, countryside in wonderful sunny weather. The organisers, members of CMFA, wish to gratitude to a express their number people of and organisations.

Several farmers and landowners for their cooperation; numerous volunteers and marshals for their help; local people, CoCo and The Spice Empire, who all excellent provided food; Cleobury Co-op for the fresh juices and Hobsons fruit Brewery for the beer.

Meres and Mosses Housing Association; Bromford Housing Association and Midland Quarry Products Ltd for their invaluable financial support.

There have been many very positive comments made by participants, both verbally and on Facebook, for example:

"It was a fantastic day out, thank you, lovely food and fabulous marshals. We did our first one 12 years ago, and have been on every one since. I think this year was the best yet." We hope that their enjoyment will

prompt local people to use the walking paths in our beautiful area.

To this end, the CMFA run free monthly 'Parish Walks', the next one on October 7th at 10.00 from the church. For the less mobile, 'Walking for Health' walks on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 10.00 from the Sports Centre car park on Love Lane.

The association also welcomes new members who may be interested in the maintenance of local footpaths, or those who just enjoy walking and wish to take part in the regular social walks and other events. Visit www.cmfa.co.uk for more details on all our activities.

Graham Simpson

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After a summer of visits we reconvened at the Methodist Hall for September. One of our newer members, Jackie Percival, is a garden designer and she outlined the history of design which can be traced back to the Arabs. Islamic design was very rectangular, almost always involving water with geometric beds. The Romans continued the theme and the pattern spread the world. across In 1720 William Kent tried a more

naturalistic look and his ideas really took off during the Arts And Craft movement. Now lawns have replaced water in the geometric designs.

Jackie has been designing gardens for about twenty years and continued by explaining the many steps involved when she has been commissioned. Too many to recall here, but it involves many meetings to find exactly what the client likes, wants to achieve and desires for the end product. A thoroughly interesting talk.

Next meeting is October 15th but before that on the 6th we have our Autumn Plant Sale at the Market Hall where you will find many interesting plants for very little outlay.

Liz Smurthwaite

ROAD CLOSURE

The B4363 road to Bridgnorth requires work in the Baveney Wood area and will be closed from there to Baginswood from November 19th to the 23rd. This is an early notice from the Street Works Team and there may be changes if more urgent matters demand attention. If we are advised of any changes in the schedule, we'll let you know as soon as possible. Queries to 0345 678 9006.



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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Not a great deal to share this month but there are two things that we would like to mention.

Please remember that the Flu Clinic in Cleobury is on October 20th at the Medical Centre; do ensure that you go along and get the jab. It really is important for all of us to take advantage of any safeguards that we can to reduce the chance of influenza. It is especially important for the older and more vulnerable members of our community to be as protected as they can be.

For those who were not able to attend the public meeting on the September 3rd on becoming a Dementia Friendly Town we can report that this was well attended with great interest shown by individuals and business.

This is such a worthwhile project to support, as it involves integration of those who have dementia with the community in which they live. We all share the same environment so let us try and do all we can to ensure others feel accepted and part of what goes on.

We understand the group will be organising training for anyone who wishes to take it. CPV members are keen, so please consider if you would like to take it yourself.

Knowing how supportive a community we live in, it should not take us long to achieve Dementia Friendly Town status. What do you think?

Paul French

EARLY NOTICE OF A CHRISTMAS EVENT

Ali Sheffield, manager at the Market Hall, writes to tell us:

Our regular market that takes place on third Saturday of each month will have a Christmassy theme on Saturday November. 17th. Join us for a mince pie and a chance to find the perfect unique gift from one of our traders. If you have wares to sell, get in touch with me at markethall@cleobury.org.uk or call 07752 542 853.

Ali Sheffield

BAGS TO SCHOOL

School Childe Lacon are 'Bags2School', collecting recycling scheme that takes your good quality second hand clothing and textiles, and selling them to importers and wholesalers across the world.

We would appreciate donations of:

Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing, paired shoes (tied

together or elastic band around), handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, household curtains, household towels and household bedding, like bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers.

Bags can be dropped off at the sports hall over the weekend of 10th and 11th November, for collection on the 12th (any bag can be used). The money raised goes straight back to the school for the benefit of all students. A full list of what you can donate can be found at www.bag2school.com

Rachel Robinson

CONFIRMATIONS

An invitation from the Parish Church to all the young people of our community:

On Sunday 2nd December at 11.00am Bishop Alistair will be coming to perform our annual service of baptism and confirmation at St Marys Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

If any young people or adults feel they might be interested in exploring this please contact the Church office on 01299 272916, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com. Sam Adams





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On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

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

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

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VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS WANTED

Cleobury Mortimer Volleyball Club bosses are inviting new players to get involved for the coming season.

The club holds training sessions every Wednesday evening from 8.00 to 10.00pm at Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre.

Pre-season training sessions have already commenced but new members are always welcome to come and get involved.

The Club has three successful adult teams, along with a strong junior section which also train on Wednesday evenings 7.00 to 8.00pm but only during school term times.

The Junior section caters for players aged from five and are also looking for new members.

We are a warm and welcoming club who are looking for people to get involved with a fantastic club and to help promote volleyball as a whole.

Sip Gallagher

lemsip_8@hotmail.co.uk

THE READING GROUP

'H is for Hawk' by Helen Macdonald produced a range of reactions from Group members, from praise for her power of description and bravery in baring her soul after her father's death, to accusations of self indulgence and over wordiness. Seldom have we seen such a wide difference in views, with some simply refusing to finish the book.

Unlikely to calm emotions is this month's read, Enchanted' by Rene Denfeld, which promises to be a dark read as it explores the work of a death row investigator and the great conflicts within convicted killers and the relatives she meets. There can be no criticism of this work on the grounds of lacking realism, as the author is a death row investigator herself. Perhaps we should be supplying Valium when we meet to discuss the work on October 15th.

Jim Reynolds

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Canapés and Collectibles is a sort of antiques roadshow, with auctioneer and valuer John Carter of Carters Auctioneers. You are invited to bring your own collectible for an estimate of its worth.

Thursday October 25th 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Kinlet Hall, one of the most magnificent houses in south Shropshire. Located at the end of a one mile drive, the Hall is a Grade 1 listed Georgian manor situated in a stunning

location and with elegant reception rooms.

Ticket / Programme are £10 each and include canapes and a complimentary drink during the interval. These are on sale at our usual outlets: Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library, Spire Hairdressing, members of the committee or telephone Alec Osbaldiston on 01584 891351.

Cleobury Mortimer 100 years ago and WW1 soldier Simon Evans. An illustrated talk on this will be given in Saint Mary's Church by Mark Baldwin on Friday November 9th, starting at 7.30pm.

Why not join us? Membership costs from £10 per year. Life membership is also available. Please contact our membership secretary Mrs Diane Waddington Tel. 01299 272820. Members are given prior notice of our ticket sales and the opportunity to book before the tickets go on general sale.

Alec Osbaldiston

EARLY ADVICE

Clare Carter and Vicky Honeybourne are on the ball with planning for next year's Cleobury Festival.

If you're a keen diary keeper, you may want to make a note that the town's big event will be on June 29th.

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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-October

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 7th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

14th,21st & 28th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Harvest Festival with Bring & Share Lunch-Sunday 7th,11.00am. All welcome.

Harvest Service with Supper-Thursday 11th-Tickets £7.00, available from Angela 270636.

All welcome to give thanks for the Harvest.

Farmers Market-Saturday 20th. In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 7th-10.00am Eucharist, 14th-6.30pm Evensong, 21st-10.00am Matins,

28th-6.30pm Evensong.

Events/Activities: Harvest Service, Sunday 14th at 6.30pm

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 7th-6.30pm Evensong, 14th-No service, 21st-6.30pm Evensong,

28th-9.00am Eucharist.

Events/Activities: Harvest Service, Supper & Auction-Friday 26th at 6.30pm

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 7th-10.00am Eucharist, 14th-10.00am Eucharist, 21st-10.00am Family service,

28th-10.00am Eucharist.

Events/Activities: Harvest Supper Friday 5th at 7.00pm.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 7th-No service, 14th-11.00 Eucharist, 21st-No service, 28th-3.00pm Evening Prayer **Events/Activities**: **Promises Auction**. Doddington Village Hall at 6.30pm. All welcome to bid for a

variety of items, experiences and offers of help.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 7th-No service, 14th-11.00 Harvest Service, 21st-No service, 28th-11.00am Family service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 7th-6.30pm-Harvest Service, 14th-No service, 21st-11.00am Eucharist, 28th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916

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SAVE OUR CURLEWS

Chris Bargman reports on the campaign that has occupied most of the past year:

We all love to hear the wonderful haunting call of the curlews when they return in spring to breed in farmland and common ground around Clee Hill. Sadly, monitoring by the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group has shown a steady decline in breeding pairs since 2012, from an estimated 13 pairs down to 8-9 in 2017. A decline of around 77% has been seen in 20 last vears across Shropshire as a whole.

To try to save our local curlews the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Ornithological Society launched a *Save our Curlews* campaign, and joint work with the Community Wildlife Group and landowners and farmers started in the Clee Hill area in 2018.

Project work involves finding nests, protecting them with a small area of electric fencing and monitoring the outcome. Landowners who had Curlews on their land in 2017 were contacted to brief them on what was involved, and gain their support and trust.

Locating and Nest Protection

35 local residents, all members of the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group, were out from the beginning of April and into May, looking for curlews. Using this information a professional nest finder located three nests and all were fenced.

Nest 1 had five eggs. Two chicks hatched two eggs disappeared and one did not hatch.

Nest 2 had four eggs, and they all hatched.

Nest 3 had four eggs, and they all hatched.

A fourth pair was located at a regularly used site. Unfortunately a tractor destroyed any eggs before the nest could be found.

Radio-tagging

A total of nine chicks were successfully fitted with a radio tag and BTO metal ring. The radio tags are very reliable and are designed to fall off before the chick fledges.

The radio tagged chick from Nest 1 disappeared but judging from the behaviour of the adult, a second untagged chick was still alive. Unfortunately all the chicks from Nest 2 died through a combination of starvation and dehydration, due the extremely hot dry weather in June. One of the chicks from Nest 3 disappeared, and another radio tag was tracked to a buzzard nest, but at least one, and possibly a second, fledged successfully.

Other pairs

There were around five other pairs in the area that for a variety of reasons did not nest or the team were not able to protect. Unfortunately indications are that these did not manage to successfully breed. The articles in the Clarion earlier in the year produced a report of regular another pair Stottesdon and other reports were received of a pair near Hayton's Bent. Attempts will be made to include them next year.

Conclusion

The electric fencing worked, as none of the nests found and protected were predated.

At one site the chicks were hatched in a grass field to be mown for silage. As they were radio-tagged we could check the chicks had moved away before mowing.

At least one, and possibly two, radio-tagged chicks fledged. These birds were colour-ringed, can be identified each individually wintering on grounds over the next two years, and in this area if they return to breed in two years' time (they are believed to spend their first year on the coast). Although this may not seem to be a high success rate, curlews are long-lived birds and each pair only needs to fledge one chick every other year to produce sustainable a population.

Farmers and landowners have been very supportive and they now have a better understanding of how the curlews use their land.

We need to increase our understanding of curlews' breeding behaviour, and the risks they face. Adults sitting on nests, eggs on the ground, and chicks moving about to feed, are all vulnerable to a succession of land management and predation risks. While we undoubtedly wanted a better outcome, we have learned a lot and it is hoped the project will continue next year. Visit the Shropshire Community Wildlife Groups e b S www.shropscwgs.org.uk for more information and if you would like to help or be involved in any way.

Chris Bargman

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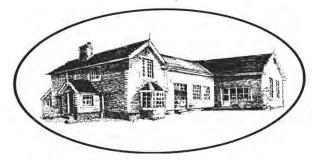
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BEAVERS

In June 2018, a simple email asking if there was a Beaver colony in Cleobury for my son, opened a new world. Three months on, the new 1st Cleobury Beaver Colony was Standing in front of nine brighteyed and bushy-tailed 6-8 year olds as a Beaver Scout Leader was not in my life plan, I'll be honest. With our first birthday however, iust days away reflecting on the craziness of the past year makes me smile. I am so proud of the achievements of this new leadership team and even prouder of the passionate and caring young people we have the pleasure of leading.

As leaders, all we wanted was to deliver a fun programme, allowing beavers to develop new skills and friendships. What we discovered, is what the beavers enjoy most is engaging in their local community and helping others, which has become our focus. In the past year we have collected bears for the teddy trust, packed boxes for the Samaritans purse and raised over £300 for water aid. They

have also been working on a huge variety of badges including Teamwork, Animal Care, Camp Craft, Community Global Impact, Issues, Emergency Aid, Hiking and Safety. We owe a huge thank you to volunteers from the Cleobury Fire station, Veolia, Cleobury British Legion, Broome Farm, Cleobury Golf Club and many more for helping to enrich our programme and introducing the beavers to their local community.

Cleobury Beavers love adventures to new places and have visited Pets at Home, Tesco, Wyre Forest, Broome Farm and Kingswood. personal highlight was seeing our beavers snoring soundly while seaturtle swam а overhead at a Sealife Centre sleepover. These once in a lifetime experiences are what Scouting is all about. Where else could you learn sign-language, morris dancing and camping skills, tackle a zip-wire, bake bread at Tesco and sleep in a shark tunnel? All the while learning the importance of integrity, trying your best,

challenging yourself, being helpful and respecting others.

If these values align with your own, maybe you'd like to try volunteering with us? With everyone's busy lives we are struggling to continue to deliver these amazing experiences to the young people of Cleobury. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team in whatever capacity you can please email DDC_South@shropshireseverna ndtemescouts.org.uk and take your first step into the Scouting family. I took this step 15 months ago and haven't looked back.

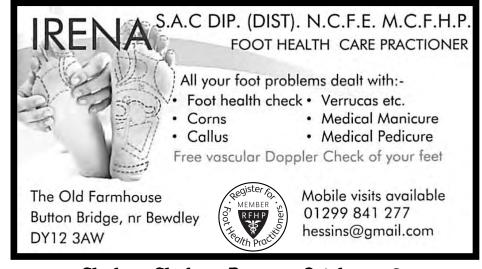
Lowri Hughes

(aka Rainbow 1st Cleobury Mortimer Beaver Scout Leader)

A SPECIAL SERVICE

There's a Wholeness Service planned for Tuesday the 18th this month at Saint Mary's Church.

It will start at 7.00pm and will have a theme of healing, a quiet time of worship through music, readings, meditation and prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend, whatever your belief. The aim is for people who need a time of peace and quiet to find it here.



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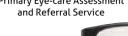
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PLASTIC: NOT SO FANTASTIC

The tip for October is to carry a shopping bag with wherever you go so you can avoid plastic carrier bags. Since the introduction of the 5p plastic bag tax a lot more of us are remembering our reusable shopping bags when we go to the supermarket. But, as with many of these tips, it's all about being prepared and remembering to take the bags with us when we go to the shopping centre or nip into the local shop.

One of our plastic reduction group recently did some research into fruit and veg and found that the cost of loose items was often cheaper compared to prepackaged items wrapped in plastic bags or cartons (even though the pricing may be deceptive) so it might pay to do a few quick calculations. Shopping for fruit and veg at a local market or green grocers where paper bags are used is, of course, plastic free.

Update: You can now also refill your reusable water bottle at the Severn Hospice shop in Cleobury Mortimer.

If you have any tips on how to remember to take your bags with you when shopping, or any other ideas on how to reduce our single use plastic usage, we would love to hear from you. Plastic: Not So Fantastic will promote tips you send us.

You can contact us by email at: Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

The idea of setting a background theme for a story, which then has to include words chosen at random by members of the group proved to be quite a test, but most rose to the occasion and met the demand.

So we continued with that type of structure and will be meeting at the library on the 15th to see how well we all coped. We start at 6.30 and anyone with an interest in writing will be made welcome.

It emerged at our September gathering that recent recruit Peter Hill had not heard of the Poetry Club and and will probably be looking in to see what that happy band has to offer. It's all about love of words.



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Syria and the refugee crisis

As I write ahead of publication, events may have altered the situation in Syria by the time you read this. But after 8 long years of bloody and tragic conflict, it seems the civil war in Syria may be reaching the end.

Regime forces supported by Russia have encircled the city of Idlib, the last major stronghold to hold out against President Assad. Tensions run high, given the regime's previous use of chemical weapons. Turkey has bolstered its military presence in the area, determined not to let the humanitarian situation on their border worsen.

This tragic civil war has touched the lives of millions, killing hundreds of thousands and displacing over 6 million civilians, around half of the country's population. Earlier this year, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group with a network of sources in the country, indicated it had documented the death of 353,900 people, including 106,000 civilians. This figure did not include 56,900 people who it categorised as missing and presumed dead. The group also estimated an additional 100,000 deaths had not been documented.

For those of us in the House of Commons who voted, whether for or against the decision to intervene in Syria following the use of chemical weapons, when David Cameron was Prime Minister, the effects of the war are a stark reminder of the consequences of inaction.

The accounts of behind the scenes negotiation and efforts to build international consensus at the time make for interesting reading – but it was clear the lack of majority for action in Syria in the

House Commons international ramifications, including within the United States. the civil war has raged, significant international action has provided a massive humanitarian response to this crisis. The United Nations Office for the Coordination Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates over 13 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the crisis, of whom 5.3 million are thought to be children. A further 5.6 million refugees have fled the country due to the civil war, almost exclusively to neighbouring countries. Most have fled to Turkey, followed by Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

I am travelling to neighbouring Lebanon this week to see for myself the impact of this displacement on the lives of those who have had to flee, and the impact on countries providing shelter.

I am encouraged the British government has been so proactive in providing support on the ground to the region, where aid has the greatest impact. Since 2012, across Syria and the region, UK aid has delivered over 27 million food rations that feed a person for a month.

But there is every likelihood that much of this aid to support the refugees will continue for years to come. Britain's aid in the region is playing a vital role in alleviating the extreme suffering, and we will continue to be at the forefront of the global humanitarian response.

The only way to establish lasting peace in Syria is through a credible political transition away from the Assad regime, but the reality is hope of a political settlement in the region at present looks like a distant dream.

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ADAM'S MISSION

I have been concerned about homelessness for some time now and have decided to set up my own charity, "Adam's Aid for the Homeless" where I will be fundraising for Wyre Forest Nightstop.

I have chosen to support Nightstop because it is a local community support project, it focuses on helping young people between the ages of 16 and 25, it provides emergency accommodation and family mediation and aftercare.

It also teaches life skills to vulnerable people who need help and it has supported a friend of mine

My first fundraiser is going to be a Coffee Morning on Saturday, October 13th at Kinlet Parish Hall from 11.00 onwards. There will also be a cake stall, a tombola and children's stalls.

I am also collecting items such as hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, toiletries, biscuits, and sweets, to fill gift bags which I will personally distribute over the Christmas period. Any donations would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Adam Ponsford, aged 9 years.

Dinglebatch, Kinlet Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, Worcs., DY14 8HU If you wish to find out more please contact me via my mum, R a c h a e l a t ponsford50@gmail.com or 07715030510. Thank you.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY CONCERT

Cleobury's Royal British Legion are hosting a Poppy Concert in the Parish Hall on Friday, October 26th. Tickets are £10 each, which includes a Fish and Chip Supper and music will be provided by the wonderfully titled Dharma Bums. That title will draw people, if only out of curiosity.

Ron Breakwell on CM 270830 can supply your tickets.

FUND RAISING FASHION SHOW

Putting the "fun" back into "fundraising" and promoting our local ladies' fashion shop at The Wardrobe, there will be a fashion show held at Lacon Childe school on Friday, October 26th at 7.30.

This is the brainchild of some of the students at the school, headed up by Josh Brown and Tom O'Leary, who are fundraising their way to Tanzania to join an expedition next summer.

Tickets are £5, available from The Wardrobe, Cleobury Chiropractic or Lacon Childe School office and available on the door. There will be wine, a chance to purchase some of the clothes, jewellery and bags and a Michael Buble tribute act to finish off the night. Who could possibly ask for more?

149 MPH ON A BICYCLE!

Englishman Neil Campbell rode his very special bicycle to a European record of 149mph last month. His bicycle was built by Moss Cycles in Cheshire and he rode in the slipstream of a Porsche Cayenne Turbo, behind a specially built aerodynamic cocoon.

In fact Neil was towed up to 110mph by the car before letting go and accelerating to just under 150mph by pedal power. The tow was necessary because the runway at Elvington Airfield in Yorkshire was just two miles long, so not long enough for pure pedal power to get to that speed. Stopping a bicycle from 150mph must have been quite exciting.

Neil's next target is the World Paced Bicycle Speed Record, which currently stands at 183.9 mph.

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				1
Tues 2 nd	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club, talk on "Mosquito in the Second War"		
Wed 3 rd	10.00	Hearing Aid Drop in Clinic, St Mary's Place, Love Lane		
	10.00	Walking for Health steps out from the Sports Centre	Alan Kimber	271754
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 4 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 6th	8.30	Morning Sale of Household Good at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
	3.00	Cleobury RFC play at home to Cannock		
	10.00	Autumn Plant Sale, Market Hall, Church Street. PAGE11		
Sun.7 th	10.00	CMFA Parish Walk starts at the Parish Church. All Welcome. PAGE 11		
	6.00	Open Mic night at the KA. Acoustic only, all types of music, all ages		
Mon 8 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meets at the Library, Love Lane		
Tues 9th	7.30	Cleobury WI hold their AGM, followed by supper. PAGE 9	Judy	270983
Wed 10 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI Craft and produce Show. PAGE 9		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at the Bell Inn, Lower street	David Taylor	270793
Thur 11 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 12 th	7.30	Prize bingo at Clows Top Victory Hall		832903
Fri/Sat 12/13 th	7.00	Old Time Music Hall, Neen Sollars Victory Hall	Trevor	272666
Sat 13 th	11.00	Adam's Aid for the Homeless Coffee Morning, Kinlet Village Hall. PAGE 29		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks in the parish Hall, "Victoria and Abdul"		
Mon 15 th	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 17		
Tues.16 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club, talk by Roy Sturdy on "Dad's Army"		
Wed 17 th	10.00	Walking for Health leave from the Sports Centre	Alan	271754
	6.30	Evening Sale of household Goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thur 18 th		BLACK BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 7		
Fri 19 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 20 th		Coach Trip to Liverpool	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464

Promoters Yardbird Arts have Clows Top Victory Hall on their list for some special musical evenings this autumn. They start on October 16th, with saxophonist Alan Barnes starring and Remi Harris, Tom Moore and Simon Smith in support on guitar and bass. 7.30 start.

Then on October 30th, guitarist John Etheridge, ex Soft Machine and Hawkwind, returns to Clows Top in a repeat of his very popular performance last time around. 7.30 start.

Tickets for both gigs are £12, available from 01584 881 564 or 07814 986 868



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The October Social Calendar Continued

Part Two

Sat 20 th		Flu Jab morning at the Medical Centre. Have you made your appointment?		
		Promises Auction at Doddington Village Hall, No time advised		
Tue 23 rd	2.00	Stroke Support Group, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 7		
Wed 24 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club, Victory Hall, "Flowers of the Teme Valley"		
Thu 25 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00	Canapes and Collectibles at the lovely Kinlet Hall. PAGE 17		
Fri 26 th	6.00	Family Halloween Party, Sports & Social Club. PAGE 7		
	7.30	British Legion Poppy Concert in the Parish Hall. PAGE 29		
	7.30	Fund Raising Fashion Show at Lacon Childe School. PAGE 29		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun.28 th	4.00	Family Bingo/Karaoke Bingo, Sports & Sports Social. PAGE 7		
Mon. 29th	7.30	The Half Dead Poets Society meet in the Library, Love Lane. All welcome		
Tue 30 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club, David Eve talks about "Steamships"		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER		
Thur 1st		BLACK BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 2 nd		Clows Top Victory Hall presents "Brilliance" PAGE 7	Booking	07788 604542
Wed 7 th	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

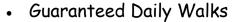
Just a reminder that it's Flu Jab time and that you should make an appointment with the Medical Centre on CM 270209, when they'll tell you what times the Centre will be open on Saturday October 20th. If you're an Old Age Pensioner that puts you in the vulnerable category and it's in your best interest to have a simple jab as insurance.

DON'T FORGET HALLOWEEN. GET A FEW TREATS IN, LIKE SWEETS OR BISCUITS, TO HAND OUT TO THE CHILDREN WHO COME 'TRICK OR TREATING' IN CELEBRATION

The Sports and Social Club's attractions this month include a Family Bingo and Karaoke Bingo (!), all starting at 4.00 on Sunday the 28th. The bar will be open to help the parents survive.....

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A VERY SPECIAL PLAQUE

September 15th was the day the WW1 Group project to mark the Armistice in 1918 was completed, with the dedication of a new plaque on the Market Hall. It mirrors in design the existing one honouring those who fought in the Boer War but this addition was erected for all of those who served in the Great War.



The dedication was the final step in a truly local initiative as the idea was conceived, planned funded and completed by our community.

No public money was used as sponsorship was sourced together with grant funding. A small plaque funded by our local Royal British Legion branch records the sponsors together with the masons who produced the plaque and the consultants for design and planning.



The dedication was well attended and carried out by Revd Ashley Buck in a short but evocative blessing and thanks. The inclusion of a bugler and flag bearer completed the atmosphere of quiet thought, respect and thanks.

Immediately after the dedication some seventy residents and guests enjoyed a splendid afternoon chatting, having tea and cake provided in a splendidly decorated Market Hall. The refreshments were provided by Cleobury and Neen Savage WI branches.

This was indeed a perfect afternoon and a fitting conclusion to several years work by many.

The WW1 Group would like one last time to thank all those who helped make the idea a reality.

Paul French

THEY WISH THEY HADN'T SAID THAT

"It will be gone by June."

'Variety' Magazine in 1955, commenting on the rise of rock n' roll.



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It seems that Diamond have gone on the offensive following the Traffic Commissioners verdict on their performance. They appealing against the £9000 fine (although there is no information on their grounds). In addition, they have cut the route of the 2 service by no longer going round Habberley estate leaving the residents with no bus service. They are also threatening withdraw the service completely from 28 September if passenger figures do not improve. Not sure how this is going to happen if you cut part of the route and thus the opportunity for people to use service....

You may recall that when we were told that the 2L was to be routed round the back doubles, this was to make it pay its way by attracting extra passengers. Now we are told that the identical 2 route needs shortening to have the same effect, so no danger of consistency there. I have a feeling that the real reason was included later in their statement. This mentioned that as a loss making service which was unpopular with its users, it would be a commercial decision to axe it. Sounds to me more like revenge against those who rightly felt that the service was poor and attended the Public Enquiry in great numbers to make this point. The latest on this is that Diamond say that axing Habberley has helped but they may still scrap the service altogether leaving just the 125 and 292 connecting Bewdley and Kiddy. I can't see that being popular as this would reduce the number of those services by two thirds from 9 to 3 in a two hour period. Cue standing room only on the 292 for that stretch...

The other reason may be that Shropshire Council have not bunged any subsidy to Worcestershire this year and this has resulted in a lack of a similar cushion for the number 2 service. A cynical person might wonder whether the cash punted their way in previous years on behalf of Shropshire's taxpayers may have been used to cross subsidise a service that didn't come anywhere near Shropshire but clearly there wouldn't be anyone that suspicious in Cleobury...

There have been a few problems with the 292 during the month. One was caused by an accident by the Safari Park which closed the road with the Police diverted everything via Stourport (although I would have thought that Habberley would have been a better option). The service is increasingly popular with passenger figures up to 4319 which shows what happens when you provide a route that makes sense. The route review due in August resulted in an invitiation to tender for its operation. These proposals are now in and are being considered but as this could take some time, it is unlikely that any changes will take place until the New Year.



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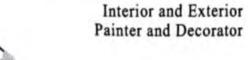
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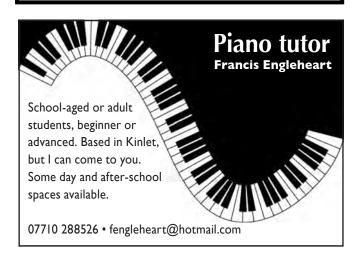
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Just when I thought I had seen the last of the decent blackberries I came across a whole row of 'late developers' growing fat and juicy down by the stream. Such staggered ripening beneficial to all blackberry lovers, including fox, hedgehog and blackbird, and it could be an advantage to the bramble plant (if it is a genetic trait) as the berries are meant to be eaten and the seeds distributed rather than falling on the ground below.

All through the summer there has been a succession of fruit ripening, from strawberry onwards. Last month was the turn of the elderberries and rowan berries but they have been set upon by hungry birds and the trees have lost their colourful decorations. Some of our less common forest trees have also fruited well: the alder buckthorn, selected by brimstone butterflies as a caterpillar food plant, has borne its small, black berries and the wild service tree will keep its bunches of brown fruits until after the first frosts.

For the moment the forest is still full of colour: the gold of the oak, the buttery yellow of birch, red of wild cherry and the orange of Linda Iles

wild service. Looking just for colours, you will probably find the brightest reds on the dying leaves of sorrel, dock and bramble. I love that stage of the autumn when these colours are still evenly mixed with green.

Sloes, the fruit of the blackthorn, are now getting ready to be eaten or picked, benefitting from a frost to soften them. I suppose wild animals do eat them, despite their memorable astringency (once bitten, never forgotten). I know of only one use for them: sloe gin. Here is the recipe to make 1 litre of gin: 450g sloes (frosted or pricked with a pin), 450g sugar, 600ml gin

Put the sloes in a large jar or demijohn with a screw top, add the sugar and then the gin. Invert and give it a good shake to mix, and do the same every day for a week. After that, shake once a week for 10 weeks. Sieve and bottle. Keep in a dark place for at least a year to mellow.

This makes a rather syrupy liqueur. I fancy making a drier version this year by halving the sugar then diluting this with tonic.

Cheers!



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Courtny Jones, enjoying the success that two years at Red Hare has brought.

The A-board outside Red Hare Salon carried a proud message, inviting customers to book an appointment with their newly qualified stylist, Courtny. This had to be worth a photograph.

She insisted that she had to do her make-up and hair before she'd go in front of the Clarion lens, and a great picture she made.

She's been at Red Hare for two years, learning her craft with Jo and working for an NVQ Grade 2 exam pass with tutors from Wolverhampton College calling to watch her at work as her skills grew. Jo has a high regard for the latest protege and is encouraging Courtny to work for her Grade 3. It's great to see local businesses bringing talent along and encouraging them to build their careers.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Our October Business meeting will take place as usual, 7.30 pm Thursday, October 4th at Baxter Church Rooms, Bullring, Kidderminster.

Advance Notice. Our next fundraising event is: "Beside the Seaside" a nostalgic, entertaining and fun evening on memories of the British Seaside Holiday with fact, fiction, songs, music and a heart-warming story presented by the Fold Theatre on Saturday October 20th, 7.30 pm at the Hartlebury Village Hall, DY11 7TQ. All profits will go towards supporting West Mercia Women's Aid. Tickets £9.50, including a free ice cream available from Ruth on 01299 250569

For more details about the club and its activities and meetings contact us: Tel. 01299 266101 or email: kidderminstersorop@gmail.com Website: http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/

Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster

Visitors are always welcome!

Elke Jury

Communications Officer

KUDOS BACKS LOCAL STUDENTS

Kudos Blends, one of Cleobury's greatest success stories, are hosting a baking competition for four Lacon Childe students on October 25th. The students, Harvey and Jessica Locke and Charlie and Thomas Brown, are fundraising to support a trip to Tanzania, where they'll be working on a humanitarian project organised by Camps International. They'll learn about baking batches of cakes and the necessary food hygiene.

The competition will see the two teams out to make the best tasting cakes with texture and decoration all part of the test. Prize money will go towards their travel funds, and they will also be in charge of distributing their cakes for sale both at school and in local outlets. Look out for them!



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Report on the Cleobury Men's Shed Project

Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed is just a year old this month. It was originally presented by Katja Jones, who had heard about the need for retired and unemployed men to fill their time and reduce the risk of depression that enforced idleness can bring.

The idea was taken up by Pete Blackburn, recently retired from a senior role in the West Mercia police and still full of energy and ideas. He set about recruiting a body of men who could see the need and were willing to give their time. He won't like the flattery, but it's a credit to Pete that his disciplined chairman's approach means the committee's fortnightly meetings still only take one hour, unless there's something that requires urgent and detailed attention.

Keith Martin was one of the first recruits and has proved to be a very effective secretary, with every meeting's minutes out promptly as well as following up leads on donations and negotiating deals and purchases with quiet authority. The finances are looked after by Neil Tysall, who has coped with the bureaucracy of opening a business bank account and lots of other tasks that would try any lesser man's patience.

Bill Duley brings knowledge of dealing with local bodies and possible sponsors, like the National Lottery, to the job of getting the project under way. Steve Parker has long business experience to make suggestions and assess ideas, Colin Tolley has engineering experience that copes with almost any task, while Mike Patterson's background as a farmer and wine maker in Africa means he can tackle almost any task. Gwilym Butler offers good advice on dealing with councils and sourcing grants and Andrew Keeley has been a great source of knowledge about buying various supplies. Jon Bodenham has given some great ideas for fund raising, the first of them a select wine tasting evening by invitation only. The editor of The Clarion reports on progress and encourages publicity for what is a fast growing achievement.

It is a refreshing change to work with a group who all, with no exception, take on jobs and get them done. Like getting offers of caravans to buy as a temporary office and newsroom while the shed itself is built. The first one offered was very cheap and would have been a big headache to get sorted, but the next offer from Ditton Mill was a good, sound buy and the cost of transporting it to the Tenbury Road

site was much lower.

The Tenbury Road site for the project is on the industrial development, opposite the EZSolar works and was made available for a peppercorn rent

All of this grand plan needs funding and once more Katja Jones got things moving with a donation of £600 from the Cleobury CoCo funds. In the vote to see who should get the £1,000 the Town Council had for two outstanding local plans, the Men's Shed came out second, which meant they could ask for a grant from the Town Council, which helped the money side no end. Mawley Town Farm donated £350 to help the purchase of the caravan, the cost of having a website domain registered was covered by The Clarion, while Muller Engineering and Kudos Blends have both donated.

When Men In Sheds In Shropshire decided their work was done and closed down, in addition to an earlier contribution from MISIS a further £4,000 was given to CMMS. This donation was arranged by Paul Cronin, former CEO of Severn Hospice and Tony Wilson, former Trustee of MSIS, was from residual funds held for MISIS by the Severn Hospice. It gave the funds an enormous lift.

Local firms have been really generous with their time and materials. Hilton Smith of Specialist Foundations has offered to lay the foundations and provide all the materials at no cost, Andy Perkins at E Z Solar has given advice and help with the installation of the power supply and Andrew Wakeman has agreed to provide the electrical installation for just the cost of materials.

Matt Martin Plumbing of Stourport has offered help with a gas safety check, plumbing and water supply, Clee Hill Quarry have agreed to surface the car parking areas, a local architect has drawn up plans at no charge and Rev Justin Parker has advised on legal matters like the lease at no charge. The Samaritans at Shrewsbury have donated a metal cabinet for storage and local residents have given tools, a window and a BSA bicycle to be sold.

The project has come a long way in one year and there is still a lot to do, with an estimated £15,500 still needed. A Just Giving site (CMMS 2018) is about to be launched and further requests for support will go out to local businesses. It is yet another success for this remarkable community.

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James works alongside Sue Brown at Cleobury Chiropractic in the High Street. If you would like an early-morning or evening appointment then please call James on: 07506 287191.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE

It's ten years to the day since Dr Ann-Marie Bard opened the Cleobury Dental Practice in Talbot Square. And on Wednesday the 10th she and her staff will be hosting an Open Evening, from 6.30 to 8.30.

They have a lot to be proud of, including the recent complete refurbishment of the premises and a reputation for good care that includes a gentle manner with children. Encouraging the young to take care of their teeth is a real investment in their future health.

This state of the art practice will explain the latest range of treatments available. Like

Cerezen, which relieves jaw and facial pain plus tension headaches. Or the latest advances in techniques for implants dental and which orthodontics. will dispel a few myths as they explain how they can help you. The editor can confirm that his experience here has been to discover painless dentistry.

Dr Bard has a great affection for the town and the business of looking after patients: "I've enjoyed 22 years in dentistry and now a decade in the town. I feel blessed to be doing the job I love in a town I love too." That does come over in her gentle way of explaining what she feels is best for you and how she can provide it.

A well as showing visitors around the establishment, Dr Bard and her team will host a raffle in support of the Kemp Hospice, which offers free specialist care and support to people dealing with lifelimiting illness and to their families. If you would like to donate a prize to this excellent cause, you'll be very welcome.

There's also a range of special offers if you book on the night. Like 10 percent discount on dental implant treatment, 10 percent discount on a Cerezen device (not including the audiologist appointment) and free tooth whitening after Invisalign treatment.

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STEPHANIE'S MOVING

Stephanie's Kitchen become a recognised go-to spot in the main street very quickly. It opened at Church Street in March this year, quick refit after a accommodate a cafe, cake and cookery sales and a great range of coffees. Plus super ice creams and a genial atmosphere where you could sit and chat to friends or make new acquaintances. Tables and chairs inside and out on the pavement made for friendly feeling about the place, but you could see that al fresco dining and drinking was not going to survive in the English winter. She really needed more space to make the most of her talent and ambitions.

Stephanie was already running her own Cookery Magic business at De Beers in Kidderminster, but while that succeeded, it didn't fit in with her dreams of a place where she could develop a face-to-face relationship with customers. Not to mention ideas for running workshops and networking groups. She's an active member of the local WIRE - Women in Rural Employment - group, known as Wyre WIRE. She also works as a chef at both the Golf Club and the Kings Arms, which gives you an idea of her energy and drive.

The shock closure of Bowketts Food Emporium on the High Street this summer presented an opportunity for expansion into bigger premises. The move into her new business home is under way right now, with room for all that she manages now from a cramped space and the chance to expand.

There you can see some of her passions on display - like the up-cycling of furniture and household items. If customers like the chairs they're sitting on or the cups they drink from, they have the opportunity to buy them. Some of the chairs already in the High Street shop feature an eye-catching African fabric that you won't see elsewhere in these rural parts. You want something really exclusive? Take a look.

She will also expand the idea of room for local craftspeople to have a little space to show off their wares. And she plans to expand on the workshops she has run in the present small place. The legend in the window referring Cleobury's to Creative Culture gives you an idea of what she finds inspirational here.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This month's walks:

Thursday 4th: Meet at Queenswood Arboretum car park, Dinmore Hill, A49 road. HR6 0PY or SO 507514

Thursday 18th: Robin Hood Inn, Belbroughton, Stourbridge DY9 0BW or SO 904759.

More details from Alan on











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'THE KISSING TREE'

A local author's book, all about mistletoe



Worcestershire writer Helen Wendy Cooper is hoping for a *berry merry* response to her new book release, The Kissing Tree, written for (and sponsored by) Tenbury Mistletoe Association, the UK capital of Mistletoe.

The book is being launched on the 1st of October, which starts off a busy tour of primary schools for Helen and an opening workshop at Kidderminster Library on October 6th at 10:30am. The book will feature as part of the celebrations for Tenbury Wells Mistletoe Festival, on December 1st, with a Christmas workshop from Helen.

The Kissing Tree tells a rhyming story of Jack the Jackdaw, who is searching for love. He finds the perfect tree for Mistletoe to grow on but a Robin eats all his berries. Will Jack ever find his true love and share a mistletoe kiss?

The Kissing Tree is Helen's sixth children's book to be published, her other titles include Rudy the Reindeer, The Vegetarian Vampire series and Shape Land. She was a judge for CITV Share a Story 2017 and BBC Radio 2's 500 words 2018.

Helen says, "I absolutely love writing and illustrating for children. I started writing children's

books when I was 14 years old for my GCSEs and I hope all children enjoy reading my stories."

The former military musician, PCSO and nursery nurse lives in Kidderminster with her fiancé, daughter, two cats and two tortoises.

The Kissing Tree (paperback £5.99 ISBN 978-178456-579-4) is available to order at S.E.N.S.E in Tenbury Wells, all good book shops and internet retailers or directly from www.helenwendycooper.co.uk.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

October brings a richness of colour to the garden with displays of autumn foliage. The autumn colours are at their best this month. Make the most of them as they pass very quickly. The night frosts and clear sunny days bring out the intensity of the colours. Fruits and berries are an added attraction, not only to us but to the birds as well. There is still time to plant winter-flowering plants, such as pansies, Violas and wall flowers. Don't forget to plant your spring flowering bulbs now until the end of November.

Our August Summer Show results were as follows:

Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Cups won by T. Bore. Cookery Cup won by Marion Wilson Handicraft Cup won by S. Carseledge Floral Art Cup won by Marion Wilson. Children's Shields won by F. Morris & L.

McDonald

The Club would like to say 'Thank you' to all

The Club would like to say 'Thank you' to all helpers, judges and exhibitors because without you there would be no show.

If you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, then why not join us at one of our monthly meetings? Our next will be on Wednesday October 24th, when the talk for the evening will be entitled 'Flowers of the Teme Valley' by Stephanie Moscroft.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 28th November, Annul General Meeting and Members' Evening

Pauline Bowen

SURPRISING BIT

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.



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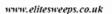
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A NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Councillor Madge Shineton reports:

The new pedestrian crossing on the High Street, which was part of the planning condition on the original application from Tuffins then transferred to the Co-op when they built our new store, will hopefully start on October 29th to put signage and road markings in place.

Apologies for the disruption while the work is done but it will mean a great improvement for safety when complete. There are currently white markings which can be seen on road and pavement where the crossing will be positioned. The current bus stop will move further towards the Vaughn Road junction.

Many thanks to the Co Op for funding this much needed safety facility.

Madge Shineton

THE BRATHAY TRUST QUIZ

This was another busy evening at the Sports and Social Club, in support of Vicki Hulme raising money for the Brathay Trust. It was organised by her friend and running mate Vicky Honeybourne, who reports:

"The quiz went really well and there was a great turn out. I think Vicki raised about £300 for the Brathay Trust which was excellent and I really enjoyed the challenge of putting a quiz together. Though probably I won't be giving up the day job yet - lots of people said it was the hardest quiz they ever attended.

"It would be great if you could squeeze a message of

thanks into the Clarion, just to say 'Thank You' to the Social Club for making the room available and thank you to all of the local businesses who kindly donated prizes. I think it was Red Hare, Fiona's Flowers, the Larch Barn, the Hobson's and Freezer Centre."

Another good result as the community supports someone working for a charity. As we went to press we hadn't heard from Vicki Hulme, but she was busy after the quiz running in yet another marathon. Quite a special young lady.

DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On September 4th Dr Mark Baldwin have a very interesting and informative talk together with colour slides on the occupation of the Channel Islands; the members were intrigued with all the information. This was the second time Dr Baldwin has given the club an interesting talk and we look forward to seeing him again.

On September 18th we again had Trevor Wood to entertain members with his music, quiz and jokes. Trevor has entertained on many occasions.

Future events: we look forward to Kenneth Ballantyne and Elaine, who will give us a talk on 'Mosquito' in World War Two, on October 2nd. On October 10th we have an outing to Oswestry Iron Works.

YARDBIRDS GO BIG TIME

Yardbird Arts Club founded by jazz and blues guitarist Remi Harris and his wife Dani, have announced an exciting new programme of events for music lovers in rural settings.

The events have grown from the club on a country farm near Tenbury, to village halls in the area. World class names such as saxophonist Alan Barnes, guitarist leading **John** Etheridge, vocalist Fleur Stevenson and rising jazz star Amy Roberts will perform at venues between rural September and December.

Dani Harris, Director of Yardbird Arts, said, "We're excited about this new series. The club is going from strength to strength and we've had to expand the music evenings. It began with jazz and we are now branching out into other venues and catering for other genres of music too. The recent 'Rock & Blues' night at Clows Top Victory Hall was a sell out and we often have a waiting list for each event we hold."

Saxophonist Alan Barnes will play on 16th of October at Clows Top Victory Hall and 17th October at Kingsland Coronation Hall.

International guitarist John Etheridge will perform on 30th November at Clows Top Victory Hall and 1st December at Fownhope Memorial Hall. The closing gig for 2018 will welcome Amy Roberts on 18th December at Clows Top Victory Hall.

Guitarist Remi Harris and Double Bassists Tom Moore and Simon Smith will also be performing alongside the visiting artists; concert goers will be in for a truly unique musical experience. If you haven't heard what quality the Harris family can present, you really should catch up.

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THE METHODIST CHURCH CLOSES



Still with welcoming flowers around its entrance, the Methodist church has conducted what may be its last service

A notable building and place for Christian worship on the town's main street closed its doors on Sunday September 16th. Such a sad loss to report, but with its congregation shrinking to single figures, it seems that the Methodist church was no longer viable. And

we have learned since that the Tenbury Wells Methodist church has similarly ceased to operate.

There has been a Methodist place of worship in Cleobury Mortimer since a chapel was built in Childe Road back in 1790. That was taken over by the Primitives in 1861, who continued to worship on that site until the land on which the present church stands was acquired in 1895. What became known as the Iron Chapel was built there and remained the Methodist base until a local drive to raise funds resulted in the present fine brick church being built in 1939.

Methodism flourished in the community and by the 1980s there was enough support justify the building of the popular Methodist Hall behind the church. That is where Mark Greaves and his band of helpers now open The Hub to the town's young people every week.

We understand from Mrs Stroma Lennox, who we would like to thank for her advice on the long history of Methodism in the town, that it is planned that The Hub and its service for youth will expand into the church building.

We also understand that there are no plans for the site to be sold. Services can still be held there, and the building will still be available to serve the people of this community for weddings, baptisms or funerals.





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In the last newsletter I gave an idea of what the Town Council had responsibility for and what our Unitary Council were in charge of; I hope this was helpful. The Town Council has a Quality Award and one of the factors which helped us to achieve this was the fact that we share information

A question often asked is "Do we get any positive benefit from all the new houses that are built in Cleobury because all we see is more parking problems?" Yes in theory we do.

Community Infrastructure Levy (known as CIL) is charged on new developments, with a few exceptions such as affordable housing. Put simply whoever builds new houses in Cleobury Mortimer pays £40 per square metre for each property constructed.

CIL was implemented by Government to enable local authorities to help deliver key infrastructure to support development.

As at 31/12/17 development in Cleobury Mortimer has raised £68,358.02 of which we have been allocated £49,217.78 to spend in our community for critical infrastructure. The balance is used by Shropshire Council for administration and their Strategic Fund.

So we are informed that we have £49,000 we can spend in our community. Not quite so simple! The situation is that we have been waiting a very long time for Shropshire to clarify what projects meet the criteria and we still do not know. For instance we applied for some of these funds to develop the outside adult gym equipment as we were told it met the criteria but then were told it did not. We continue to look at this project funding, along with that of the Love Lane play area.

The Town Council struggles to get clarification on what qualifies and what does not. We still do not know when the decision will be made to confirm if the CIL we have earned will be coming to us or not. We continue to push vigorously for our community money, as do other parish and town councils in Shropshire.

Another source of money is the Neighbourhood Fund which is a proportion of CIL that has been given to us from developments, of which we now have £10,000 for use in local projects, in conjunction with the CIL monies. Still approval from Shropshire council is required.

Please contact your Unitary Councillors Madge Shineton or Gwilym Butler if you wish to clarify the situation, as they represent us at Shire Hall.

CCTV information provided to Police in September concerning one motorcycle theft, one pushbike theft, illegal deer shooting and we await any feedback and outcomes, while still pushing for more police presence in Cleobury, which is seriously lacking.

Our Community Crime Group will be meeting in October with two main issues to be discussed - domestic abuse and parking, with invited guest professionals to talk to us. The WW1 Group are still working hard having already sorted out the benches, Silent Soldiers and now the Commemoration Plaque on the Market Hall. Big thanks to the volunteers who attend the group from the British Legion, Town Council and community members. It just shows what can be done.

If you would like to join any local groups and do not know how or where, please contact us at the Town Council office on 01299 271154 or email matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk.

The next Council meeting is on Monday 5th November, 7.00pm at the Cleobury Country Centre.

Matt Sheehan Town Clerk







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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

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

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 22nd

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