

The Cleobury Clarion

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OCTOBER 2019

LOCAL B&B AWARD FINALIST

Catherine Evans' highly regarded Broome Park Farm Bed and Breakfast is in the final of the Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards for Excellence. It's one of four on the short list in the B&B/Guesthouse category and the results will be announced on October 29th.

Read more on Page 17.

LET'S SUPPORT SIAN



Sian Powell, one ambitious and determined young lady.

As December approaches and we begin to think of Christmas,

Sian Powell has something very different on her mind. She heard that people living on the street have an average life expectancy of just 46 years; she is 46 in December.

So she's aiming to run 1,000 miles this year before her birthday, raising sponsorship money for the SIFA Fireside charity that helps the homeless. With winter not far away, they need all the help they can get.

See Page 45 for more details and Sian's fundraising link.

GREAT LATE NEWS!

Just as we go to press with this edition of the Clarion comes some great news. The Town Council's grant applications to fund work on the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area next to the Primary School and to provide outside exercise equipment for adults have been approved.

The LEADER Programme, a Rural Development Programme for England project that has been funded by the EU, has agreed a grant of £50,000. And following that super achievement came advice from

the National Lottery 'Awards for All' that they have agreed a grant of £10,000 for the same two projects that will be there to benefit the community.

More details in Town Clerk Matt Sheehan's monthly report on Page 59. What great news for the town as we approach the end of a turbulent year, just when we could all do with a big positive to lift our spirits.

The Clarion has written in praise of the Town Council on a number of occasions, and we should all be grateful that we have such hard working and capable volunteers giving their time and effort for us.

THE CLARION GROWS LARGER

Thanks to our team of quality contributors and traders who want to advertise in these pages, the Clarion grows to 68 pages with this edition.

We are fortunate that new partners Badger Print and Design have up to date machinery that can cope with this and produce a more bulky Clarion with no problems. And thank you all for reading it. JR

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The Cleobury Clarion, October 2019

Volume Fourteen - Edition Seven



*The Glen Caravan Site were award winners at the Stourport Carnival.
See Page 25.*



*You need timber? Thompson & Parkes' new outlet has a lot.
See Page 35.*



*Her gentle manner can help you through a difficult time
See Page 61.*

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TELEPHONE AND COMPUTER SCAMS

This stuff just doesn't stop trying, from which I conclude that they manage to rob the innocent in enough numbers to make it worth their rotten efforts.

I have personally had a number of emails from kokura@patrick-osaka.jp, all telling me that they're having trouble taking payment for my TV license. Even worse, they're trying to take £154.50. I ignore them, but they pop up with annoying frequency.

As I was working on this edition of the Clarion, I took a telephone call from a message machine telling me that someone abroad was trying to take £600 from my account and to press 1 on the dial for more information. My first reaction was "Good luck if you can find that much," but then remembered the overdraft that Lloyds Bank let me have and called their fraud line. I gave them the number that had called me, they assured me it was a scam and not to worry as it was dealt with by me putting the phone down. I did note the number that called, pretending to be Master Card: 017749 7977. When I called it back, it was not recognised.

There are a lot of thieves out there trying to cheat you and me; they can be very plausible if you get them talking. If it's someone you don't know, put the phone down and then call your bank's fraud line JR

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our October Parish Walk is on Sunday October 6th from outside St Mary's Church at 10.00.

We were surprised and delighted to discover that a local resident has put a lot of effort into clearing the triangle of paths between Ditton and Withypool farm via the fruit farm. These paths are now open and make a good circular route using the lane back down the hill. However it is not a stroll, with some steep and uneven ground to cover and needs map reading skills. But if you live near Ditton and would like a different and slightly challenging walk this is a delightful one. Take some secateurs as continued clearance will help, especially of the bramble. If you would like more information see the "problem page" on our website or contact us at footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

THE BRITISH LEGION

The Branch's next social event

will be a Fish and Chip Concert (with entertainment by the Shropshire Strummers Ukulele Band) on November 1st. Tickets, at £10 each, are available from Ron Breakwell (270830) or Mark Baldwin (270110).

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

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

Mark Baldwin

STOTTESDON APPLE DAY

Sunday, October 6th will be a very special day in Stottesdon, when they celebrate Apple Day in the Parish Church. Special because Stottie was possibly the first local village to purchase an apple press for the community to use to produce apple juice from their garden windfalls.

The move to the church is an unusual one, but a good reason to go and see what's on offer. It's open from 12.00 noon until 4.00pm.

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SAINT ELIZABETH'S NEWS

A busy time of the year, as usual in the summertime, when we welcome visitors from far and wide for Mass on Sunday. We have had visitors from Perth in Australia, Texas in the U S and from the Philippines. It is always interesting to speak to them after the service when we find out about their different way of life and culture. The visitors from Perth couldn't believe how green and lush it is here.

Much good work is being completed by our committees. With the Buildings and Maintenance group electrical work has been undertaken to ensure that health and safety is kept up to a high standard, and handrails are to be fixed to outside steps to make it a safer environment. The Social and Welfare group are busy planning for a social event. On October 25th we have a skittles evening and are inviting members of the congregation of St Peter's Ludlow to join us with anyone else who would like to find out more about us. The Liturgy committee are busy every week, and one task is to clean and rejuvenate our Stations of The Cross. We are invited to a Faith

Café, based at St Peter's Ludlow, when Canon Chris Walsh makes a presentation, which gives an opportunity to learn more about our faith and practices. The topic this time is 'Know your Mass', and the sessions are informative and reflective.

One important facility of St Elizabeth's is the Church Hall. It has a kitchen, male and female toilets and a good sized hall. There is disabled access and the Hall is open to anyone in the community to hire for £5 per hour. If you are interested please phone Yvonne on 07790 890 040.

If you are interested in any of the above please ring 07814929788.

Paul Flowers.

ARTSALIVE AT FARLOW & ORETON

Coming to Farlow and Oretton Village Hall on November 9th is another Artsalive presentation. This time it's Kevin Tomlinson and Abi Hood, a comedy duo with a big reputation, presenting 'Whose Story is it Anyway?'

They start by asking the audience for objects and suggestions, then ad lib an evening built around those suggestions. These two have appeared in the Edinburgh Fringe with strong ratings and have performed in 14 countries.

The doors open at 7.30 and there's a bar to keep you in the cheerful mood of the evening.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 children and £25 for a family, available from 01746 718642 or www.artsalive.co.uk. It's suitable for children over 11, so a great chance to treat the family and laugh together.

LEFTOVERS

I'm passing this on because it worked for me today. A doctor on TV said that in order to have inner peace in our lives, we should always finish things that we start.

Since we could all use more calm in our lives, I looked around my house to find things I'd started and didn't finish. I finished a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of a Valiumin prescriptins an a box a choclutz. Yu has no idr how fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all ur frenz who need inner piss. An telum u luvum.

Anon

It won't surprise more mature readers that when I first read this, I thought it was simply a long text message. JR.

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT BAYTON

The Christmas Concert at Bayton's fine parish church will feature the Hereford Police Male Voice Choir this year. They will appear on December 1st to fill the church with fine sounds and please the usual capacity audience who travel from far and wide for the occasion.

It is an afternoon of music and not a church service, with all proceeds going to the Church Heating Fund. Tickets are £15 and include a big Christmas tea with some extra surprises thrown in and a big raffle to add to the occasion. Tickets have seat numbers and advance booking is strongly advised, as a lot of seats have already been booked.

For more information or booking tickets, contact 01299 832219 or 270287, or you can email brianlink@btinternet.com or write to Concert Tickets, The Bramleys, Bayton, Kidderminster DY14 9LP

This excellent afternoon with its friendly atmosphere and a full programme of entertainment has a growing reputation and is an ideal event to please the family or entertain visitors.

COFFEE MORNING COMING

Alison Andrews is organising a Coffee Morning at Neen Savage Village Hall on November 23rd. The doors will be open from 10.00 until 12.30 and all proceeds will go to the Edwards and Hinckesman Foundation, a charity that supports young people in our community.

Alison could do with some help on the day and welcomes any donation of cakes to make the morning go well and swell the funds. There will be local small business stalls there as well. Sounds like a good event that will become a busy day.

Alison is on CM 270937.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

On November 19th at 7.00 we are holding a Floral Art Demonstration at St George's Hall, Bewdley. Tickets are £12 to include supper and a glass of wine, available on 01299 40254 or [pccsandholloway@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pcsandholloway@tiscali.co.uk) Come and enjoy a relaxing evening before the pre-Christmas rush. The floral arrangements will be raffled.

The speaker at our supper meeting, 7.30 p.m. at La Brasserie, Kidderminster will be Kate Spohrer from Transition Kidderminster, an organisation

aiming to fight the challenges of global warming, economic hardship and expensive energy supplies.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more details about activities and meetings contact us via Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster
Susan Partridge

SING, LAUGH, BREATHE AGAIN

Kate Jones' friendly group are meeting in the Market Hall after a summer break. You'll know they're there by the harmonious sound on Wednesday mornings from 11.00 to 12.30. This month's dates are the 2nd, 9th, 16th 2nd and 30th and each session costs a modest £6.00.

Kate has been busy during the break: "At the end of last term I asked what sort of songs they would like to sing in the coming weeks. Here is what they said:

Sea shanties, traditional songs, Eastern European songs, Gregorian/Taize chants, Gospel, African and the occasional sad song. Classical songs (such as Kirie Eleison) and songs from musicals were also requested. So that gives me quite a bit to go on for the new term! Come along and find out what I've been able to dig up!"



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Marv's Page Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I wish to refute the barmy notion that I might gaze into the eyes of my owner with murderous intent. I was close to death when rescued. Vet's verdict: "If she gets through the night we may be in with a chance". It was touch and go for weeks. I have a warm and caring home and when I look at my generous owner it is with the utmost gratitude.

Much Maligned Moggie of the Meadows.

With reference to the article (September Issue), pooing is not and never has been exclusive to us animals. Humans poo too. Yes, some use special repositories for their waste but some unscrupulous humans send their poo into rivers which then pollutes the seas. Also, we do not strew plastic around the planet. Mrs Grumpy's argument smacks of the pot calling the kettle black. People need to clean up their act before calling out us animals.

Disgusted Doris Dog (Address withheld)

Mrs Grumpy's comments have caused me considerable concern and not insignificant distress. I don't wish to complain but feel that someone needs to point out that we cats go to some length to ensure that our unmentionables are well hidden. Earth is scraped into a hollow and when all is completed, care is taken to cover any matter of a scatological nature. A final sniff serves as a check for our exemplary toilet habits.

Perturbed Prissy Pussy. Pensax.

We are outraged at the recent attacks on our reputations. Such accusations are totally unwarranted and unjustified. If Grumpy cared to do her homework she would see that it is not us cats but the squirrels who are dumping in local gardens. The squirrels are the culprits - NOT US CATS! Blame the squirrels and stop vilifying us.

Cross Collegiate Cats of Cleobury.

PS. Join our Campaign for Cattyquality.

Don't know what all the fuss is about. I agree with Mrs Grumpy. You put it in one end and it comes out the other. Simple circuitry. It's how we're wired. Mind you, no self-respecting dog would do it in their own garden. Only humans do it on their own doorstep. Surprising what I see and hear when out reading my peemail!

Proud Prince of Poos. (The dog formally known as Dennis Doberman)

We would be most grateful if you would print this appeal (not the first of its kind) on behalf of Rufus Responsible Dog Society. Dogs are politely requested to ensure that their owners are properly trained and equipped with bags, scoops or whatever prior to outings. Helpful information and advice can be obtained from our website Dealsfordogs.com. All dogs are kindly thanked for their attention to this matter.

I must protest about the besmirching of cat character in your September issue. My brother and I are companions to someone who lives alone. The human with whom we share a home frequently calls us her family. We were both saddened to read such sourpuss sentiments.

Disappointed of the Wells.
Sir, I write to ask why Poo was mentioned so many times last month. Is it the latest hot topic? And, what has the Co Op got to do with anything?

Confused Kitty, Catherton.

Why do humans think they can cast aspersions on the animal kingdom with such reprehensible remarks? Please do not tar us all with the same brush. We are individuals not some amorphous mass.

Furious Felix of the Furlongs.
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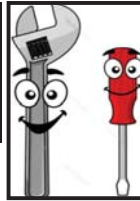


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Mawley Oak Travel Part time minibus driver	Minimum of 20 hours per week available. D/D1 Licence required if possible, free CPC training.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 270207
Cheeky Chicks Woodworker	Skills in wood work required for this position and also a knowledge of power tools. Duties include moving, lifting and packing barrels	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 841104
The Hopton Crown Front of House Staff	We're looking for enthusiastic team members to join the front of house team.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 270372



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Fire and Rescue Service

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

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

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

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A CHALLENGE IN RHYME

Andrew Austen is a very sensible man, who's moved from London to live in Cleobury Mortimer. But he's found a problem and would like your help to solve it - there's a reward if you can get him out of his quandary.

It's the smallest town in the county, it's lovely all the time.

The own drawback to this paradise is it hasn't got a rhyme.

Its name is Cleobury tho the first bit's spoken "Klib"

It's truly God's own country. I don't lie nor do I fib.

It's really just a village, spread out these past few years

It's just the place to contemplate and sink some Hobsons beers

But to communicate in poetry it baffles all the time
How can you truly state its case when "Klibree"s got no rhyme?!

If drink you want, you'll always find a pub.

And if you're banned from all of them there's a sports and social club.

If serenity, peace and holiness is just what you require

Take a walk to the parish church and look up at its spire.

You'll see that it is twisted there's many tales why
Some naughty, some prosaic but do not pass it by.

The locals are so wonderful there's never a hint of crime

But the biggest offence to common sense is that Klibree's got no rhyme.

Two chip shops in the high street to suit your post pub need

But Chinese, kebab and pizza too if you like that kind of feed.

Not one but three from India with a takeaway thrown in

To suit the needs of spicy tastes for food it's win win win.

But still I feel frustrated and still the walls I climb

It's tops for food but still I brood that Klibrees got no rhyme.

You need a trim? short back and sides to go out on the town?

For women and men it feels like ten, hairdressers up and down.

If walking is your passion up hill then down again.

Then this is the place whatever your pace to cause your feet some pain.

Fantastic sights both days and nights to set your heart a racing.

There's wild life still but beware the chill as winters can be bracing!

I've not lived here for that long, I'm from London's dirt and grime.

So forgive me my frustration that Klibree's got no rhyme.

I offer you a challenge, I've thrown the gauntlet down.

Can anyone find a word or phrase that rhymes with this fair town

There's a prize to win such as beer or gin so wisely use your time

And make a new boy happy cos Klibree needs a rhyme!

P.S. I can't find one for orange either.

Any advice or help you can offer to Andrew can be passed through the editor. With the offer of beer or gin, we don't want a queue stretching from his front door. JR.

BROOME PARK IN AWARDS SHORTLIST

Catherine Evans' Broome Park Farm Bed and Breakfast, located on the Catherton Road, has been named as one of four finalists in the Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards for Excellence in the B&B/Guesthouse category.

The organising Worcestershire Chamber of Trade describes Broome Park as "A spacious B&B on a working farm. With only two rooms they offer guests a home from home experience. The guest accommodation has a separate entrance and there is a spacious lounge and dining room for the exclusive use of guests."

The winners in this prestigious competition will be announced at an awards evening at Chateau Impney, in Droitwich, on October 29th, sponsored by Hursty.

We wish the Evans family the very best of luck in the final draw, but anyone who has had guests stay at Broome Park will know that they deserve the highest praise, whatever the judges' decision. The editor has experience of the Broome Park hospitality when a particularly important guest at the Borders Classic Bike Show arrived at a local hotel to find the room hadn't been cleaned. A move to Broome Park saved the situation.

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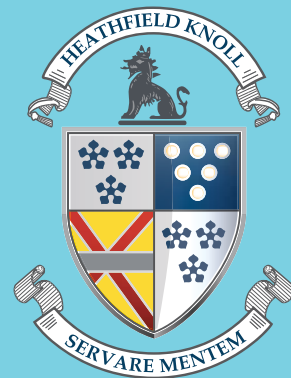
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CLOWS TOP MUSIC SEASON OPENS

The Clows Top Victory Hall have an established habit of good musical acts offering a mix of quality and rarity. I haven't seen a bad gig there in years; in fact I don't remember anything other than a good evening at a sensible price.

So it's good to welcome the return of their autumn season, with singer-songwriter Kelly Oliver on stage on November 2nd. This lady was given a four star rating by the Daily Telegraph and Bob Harris on BBC2 called her "A vital voice in British Folk." It's all part of the Live and Local season, with the Arts Council amongst the backers.

Tickets are £10, from Carolyn on 07788 604 542 or Roger on 07870 522 567. As ever, there will be a licensed bar to add to the relaxed atmosphere.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

October 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 colours. Fruits and berries are an added attraction, not only for 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.

August 2019 Summer Show, Results were as follows: Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Cups won by T. Bore, R. Nightingale, and V. Nightingale Cookery Cup: C. Jones, Handicraft Cup: M. Cox, Floral Art Cup won by M. Wilson Children's Shield: L. McDonald.

Notice

Please can a cup and shield from last year's show be returned to the Garden Club or Marion Wilson.

2018, Handicraft Cup Winner, S. Carseledge

2018, Children's Shield Winner, F. Morris

Our next meeting will be on October 23rd, when the speaker will be Ray Sturdy on 'The Rise & Fall of Witley Court'.

Pauline Bowen

WORK GOING ON IN THE WYRE

There's a lot of work going on in the Wyre Forest, both on projects

and in training volunteers for future help. On October 15th there's a Leaf Carving Workshop at Saint George's Farm in Ruskin Land, running from 6.00 to 8.00pm. You pick your favourite leaf shape and carve it into a piece of oak that you then take home. That's quite a lot for £20.00; call 01299 488083 or book on-line at www.wyreclt.org.uk

Later this month, on Sunday the 27th, it's Apple Day from 10.00 to 3.00, with lots of artistic games and drawing for children. They get in for free, adults have to find a fiver. Same numbers to book a place.

And the Community Land Trust are looking for community groups to help their plan to plant 1,800 native trees in an area to be restored to coppice management. Contact Kate Quinton at kate@wyreclt.org.uk or call her on 01299 488083.

More dates for this important work in the next Clarion. How good to see such development of this precious resource as an ongoing project. It will benefit the wildlife and in turn charm and entertain future generations. Just what this rather weary planet needs. JR



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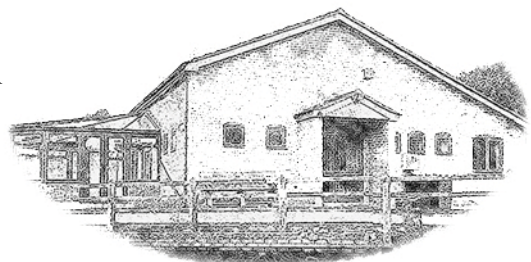
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People of Cleobury, can you help us again by gifting us more teddies and soft toys. We are mounting a big push this Autumn, so we need your help. With your help we have sent soft toys to deprived children all over the world, and even sent them to less fortunate children in the UK. Please help by dropping your treasured soft toys off at the Market Hall in Cleobury.

Keith Balmer
balmeruk@gmail.com 07976207889



Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-October

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 6th -8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock with Harvest celebrations.
13th, 20th, 27th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist

Events/Activities:

Coffee & Chat-Tues. 1st. All welcome at 14 Orchard End from 10.30am.

Harvest supper-Thurs. 3rd. 7.00pm Tickets £7.00, bring your own drink & glasses.

Quiz evening with fish & chip supper-Sat. 5th. 7.30pm in the Market Hall. Tickets 10.00

Mothers Union Harvest communion & lunch-Tues. 8th. All welcome at St Mary's Place from 12.00pm.

Brass & Buns-Sun. 20th. 3.00pm-5.00pm. Delicious afternoon tea listening to Cleobury Brass Band. Tickets £12.50.

Messy Church-Sun.27th.All welcome in the Hub at 3.00pm for crafts, stories, games & a meal.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 6th-10.00am Eucharist, 13th-6.30pm Harvest, 20th-No service, 27th-6.30pm Evensong,

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 6th-6.30pm Evensong, 13th-No service, 20th-6.30pm Evensong, 27th-9.00am Eucharist,

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 6th -10.00am Eucharist, 13th-10.00am Eucharist, 20th-No service, 27th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 6th-No service, 13th-Eucharist, 20th-No service, 27th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 6th -No service, 13th-11.00am Harvest, 20th-No service, 27th-11.00am Village worship.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 6th -6.30pm Harvest, 13th-No service, 20th-No service, 27th-No service.

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

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

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Mawley Hall - Information Update

Cleobury Mortimer residents using the public footpaths and bridleways which cross the Mawley Hall Estate will in recent weeks have observed the continuing activity with repair and restoration, as work continues to bring Mawley back to life as both a working estate and a private family home.

Amongst the most visible activity has been the management of woodland, featuring extensive tree planting and the erection of tree guards. More planting of trees is planned through the months ahead, much of which to replace forestry plantations within the Estate. The existing plantations contain largely non-native species, and their comparatively recent introduction has proved damaging both to the landscape and to biodiversity. Licences have been granted for the removal of a largely homogenous conifer plantation, and this will be replaced by nine hectares of new woodland containing a diverse variety of indigenous broad-leaved trees. This will provide an attractive habitat, encouraging a much greater diversity of both flora and fauna.

Throughout the estate, every effort is being made to protect, improve and guarantee habitats, ecological improvements to Mawley being amongst the owners' highest priorities. Equally visible in recent weeks has been the renewal of fencing, and repairs to dry-stone walls, footpaths and bridleways. These works will continue.

The work at Lenches Pond is all but complete, with the specialist bio-engineering

firm which successfully restored the pond to its original size moving on to carry out much-needed repairs to the structures and weir alongside the ancient iron foundry. In due course, the team's attention will turn to restoring the rich habitat alongside the River Rea, more of which in future information bulletins.

Work is about to commence on a recreation of Mawley Hall's Walled Garden. Considerable historical research has indicated the original geometry of pathways within the garden, and this pattern will be reflected in the creation of terraces within the garden. During the necessary works, it is likely that earth moving equipment will be visible from footpaths. Once the garden has been recreated, this equipment will be removed, leaving the views from public footpaths unchanged.

Restoration of Mawley Hall's Coach House and C18th Barn are fully underway, as is the construction of a summerhouse and the restoration of the Fountain Gardens. In all cases, the work is being carried out to the highest conservation standards.

Finally, work is commencing on the installation of retractable security bollards at the entrance to the Estate. These will prevent unauthorised vehicular access, particularly important out-of-hours. Their installation will have no implications for access to public footpaths and to bridleways.

Alan Kilkenny

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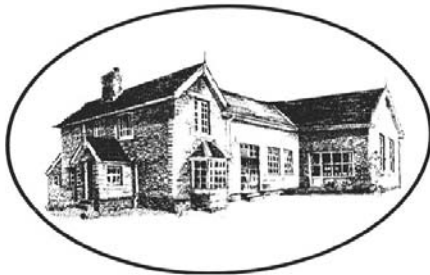
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THE GLEN WINS

The Glen Caravan Park are regular supporters of the Stourport Carnival, which raises lots of funds for local charities. This year they really hit the jackpot in the fancy dress competition, when they entered the best dressed golf buggy class decked out as the cast of Walt Disney's film "UP". Stella Sheeran was Russell the Scout, Frank Sheeran was Mr Fredrickson and Michelle Hill could hardly see a thing through the big beak of her Kevin the Bird outfit. Driving one extremely well dressed buggy was Karl Hill.



Would you dare argue with this 'UP' bunch?

The Glen Crew not only won Best Dressed Buggy, but they were judged best in the overall

fancy dress contest. That meant a cheque for £100, which they promptly handed over to the Cleobury Men's Shed.

Good people: hard work on the outfits and the buggy, a good laugh on the day and a donation to a good cause.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Oxo have launched a new version of their famous cube? It's called The Brexit and it's very good if you want to make a laughing stock.

A CURRY EVENING

On November 2nd at the Parish Hall, 6.30 for 7.00, a group of friends are organising a Curry Evening – six different ones actually and lots of delicious puddings to follow. Non Curry eaters can have a treat as well The Bar will be open and a Raffle will be held.

Tickets at £10 each can be bought at the Severn Hospice shop, Cleobury Country and Spire Hairdressers. All proceeds will go to the Parish Church heating project.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Vanderhook

ABOUT MUSHROOMS

I discovered a small leaflet with the title 'Mushrooms In The Kitchen' with a range of menu

ideas, including suggesting that they can be stewed gently in cream, like this:

'Put a round of toast half an inch thick into each of two shallow fireproof dishes. Spread the toast with a thick coating of double cream. On top of each round a quarter of a punt of mushrooms, preferably small buttons, washed and with the stalks removed. Into each mushroom put salt and pepper and a teaspoon of cream. Cover with a lid and cook in a slow oven, 325 degrees Fahrenheit (Mark 3) for 30 minutes.' If you dare to try it, do let us know how good it was, but avoid the scales for a day or two.

The leaflet is published by The Mushroom Information Bureau of Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, London S.W.1. An impressive address for such a humble vegetable.

NEW CLUB CAPTAIN

Congratulations to Paul Judge, recently elected the new Golf Club Captain. He's a keen player, contesting 32 competitions this year and has been a member of the club for four years.

It's not a pushover job he's taken, with the club busy every day and membership growing. We wish him the best of luck in the new post.

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CLEOBURY W.I.

We enjoyed the hospitality of President Judy Sant and husband John at our Summer Garden Party in August. We looked forward to a talk by John Swift about his experience as a Victorian Baker in a BBC2 TV programme. John is a baker through and through, it is in his blood as he told us and he is very proud to be the 5th Generation of bakers. He has a real passion for baking bread and told us the fascinating story of its evolution as a dietary staple.

John Swift and his company are Craft Bakers. They use the best ingredients, locally sourced when possible and prove their bread for 16 hours while a factory loaf is produced in 12 minutes as well as having unpronounceable chemical ingredients included. Bakers all over the country are going out of business as they find it hard to compete with the big boys and John appealed to the audience to support local bakers as they produce a much healthier and better loaf of bread. John is a very good speaker and brought his subject to life. Thank you John for such an interesting evening.

Our WI summer outing took us on a boat trip from Upton on Severn to Tewkesbury, a beautiful sunny day and very relaxing. A visit to The Cathedral, a spot of shopping and lunch made the day perfect. The sail back to Upton was enjoyable, a lovely day in all.

Our October meeting will be the AGM and a Beetle drive. Please have a look at our Facebook page and see how much fun we have. You might want to join the WI. All meetings are open to visitors at £4 per person. You are welcome to come and give us a try, you will be very welcome.

Gabby Franklin

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Many thanks to Judith Beckett and family for hosting our summer fete. Despite the lack of attendees, we raised £322.50 and those that did attend enjoyed delicious cake and scones and hopefully won a prize either on the tombola or raffle!

Finally the weather was kind to us when we visited Wade Muggleton's permaculture garden in Stottesdon in September. We were all amazed to see how much he is able to produce in a relatively small plot – 40 x 40' front garden and 40 x 80' rear garden, at a height of 600 feet on Shropshire clay. The rear garden is 1/3 grass for the guinea pigs; 1/3 vegetables in no dig raised beds and 1/3 orchard/chicken run. Wade's really specialism is heritage apples, with several varieties in the front garden, including a step over hedge and one root with 7 different varieties grafted on. In all he has 30 different types here and in a nearby orchard. With the amazing variety of 2000 different British apples available to shoppers it was shocking to learn that half

of all apples eaten in this country are Gala with another quarter being Braeburn! Let's all try and search out the more unusual varieties. Wade featured on Gardener's World last year, unfortunately Monty Don didn't put in an appearance but it took four people and 11 hours to produce six minutes of TV. Before we left for the Fighting Cocks we enjoyed a sample of Wade's home pressed apple juice. Sandwiches and chips at the pub rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

Our resolution has been accepted by Shropshire Federation and now goes to the National Executive where hopefully it will be chosen to go on a shortlist to be debated by all WIs throughout the Country. Lipoedema is a chronic and debilitating condition, which almost exclusively affects women. Our resolution calls on the NFWI to work with others in the sector to raise awareness of the condition and campaign for improvements in care, including creating a team of WI ambassadors.

Our next meeting is on October 9th, when Rose Jacks will be guiding us in the gentle art of Tai Chi. 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, visitors welcome.

Catherine Evans

SILLY BIT

'Everything that can be invented, has been invented.'

Chas Buell, US Patent Office, 1899

**The Clarion is on the worldwide web from the 4th of the month
www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk**

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Education and school funding

I have, since first elected in 2005, campaigned for fairer funding for rural schools, and have achieved some success – with changes to the national funding formula to include some provisions for the additional cost rural areas face.

But we have such a patchwork of small rural schools in South Shropshire that they will always benefit from increased funding given low pupil numbers. So I was very pleased the Prime Minister announced plans to ensure every secondary school receives at least £5,000 per pupil, and every primary school at least £3,750 next year – putting primary schools on the path to receiving at least £4,000 per pupil the following year. There is also £700 million extra for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in 2020/21, to help ensure every child can access the education support they need.

This is part of an overall package in which schools in England will receive a significant cash boost, with over £14bn invested in primary and secondary schools between now and 2022/23. This will bring the schools budget to £52.2bn in 2022/23.

We are fortunate that most of our schools in South Shropshire continue to perform very well. I have been visiting schools around the constituency in recent months, with particular focus on those who improved significantly their Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 3 results, to see where best practice can be learned from.

Further education and sixth form colleges are also set for a £400m boost in funding, of

particular help to Ludlow College. This is the single biggest annual uplift since 2010, with specific funding to help colleges deliver expensive but crucial subjects like engineering, which lead to higher wages and, ultimately, a more productive economy.

I am also very pleased that the Government is enacting Jeremy Hunt’s plan to increase the starting salaries for teachers. Subject to the School Teachers’ Review Body process, the government plans to increase teachers’ starting salaries by up to £6,000 - with the aim of reaching £30,000 by 2022-23. This would make starting salaries for teachers amongst the most competitive in the graduate labour market, encouraging more people into the profession.

The Teacher’s Pension Scheme is also one of the most generous on offer, and from last month, the government is fully funding increased contributions into the scheme, so that school leaders can focus as much of their resources as possible on the front line. It means teachers will get an employer contribution of 23.6% on top of their salary towards their pension every year to ensure the scheme is fully funded.

These steps are welcome, and taken together will help build on the record of improving educational standards since 2010. As at March 2019, 85 per cent of schools have been judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, compared to just 68 per cent in August 2010. So things are moving in the right direction. But this new funding will help us go even further in ensuring every child has the best possible start in life.

Philip Dunne



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Clee Hill to Cleobury - More of Cyril Breakwell's memories

Snow and slush was bouncing off the luggage rack having come through a hole in the coach floor caused by a snow chain working its way loose on the rear wheel. The year 1947 was one of the worst winters on record, snow blocking roads for weeks on end. I had gained my Public service Vehicle License in 1945 and was about to take a Dance Band and Dance Troop from Kidderminster to Abberley. Arriving at the pick-up point, I pointed out the problem but they were all undaunted. "Don't worry driver. We'll keep out of the way of the snow, just get us there." People just got on with it in those days usually with a smile on their faces.

Quite a year 1947, because I met the number one love of my life, Winnie, a Cleobury girl who worked at Cordon's the Draper (now the Balti). We married in 1948 at St Mary's and had our reception at the Parish Hall, all put on by our neighbours who provided an abundance of homemade food and drink. I always remember Mum cooking a huge ham and we had a lovely cake made by Onions the local baker. Winnie's aunties waited at tables looking after the guests.

So married life started in 1948 as did my life in Cleobury. Initially, we lived with parents at the Wells and I can remember

looking out of the window watching the cattle quenching their thirst from the plentiful supply of water that never dried up in those days. In the background I could hear the wireless, a brown, polished box with two knobs. One knob was for on/off and volume and the other to tune in on either the Home Service for up to date news and current affairs or the Light Service for entertainment. The TV soon replaced the Radio, as it later became. When we moved to New Road we were lucky enough to have one. I can remember neighbours and friends coming in to watch special events such as the F.A. Cup Final and the Coronation, all unfolding on this magical screen. When it went wrong, as they often did, Tommy Boddey from Corbetts the Ironmongers would come and fix it.

New Road was not all mod cons. In the early days, there was no inside tap, just one cold tap outside together with one outside toilet. There was an outside wash house for the four cottages. This meant you had to do the washing on an allotted day. It wasn't until we moved to Furlongs Road that we had hot and cold running water, a bathroom and inside toilet. Bliss!

We had a big garden at New Road and being used to helping

Dad grow vegetables on the Hill, I soon had a productive vegetable patch. On one occasion when I was gardening, a neighbour spotted a very long runner bean and asked if they could take it to a competition being run at the Bell Pub. I agreed and when the beans were hung up mine was 23 inches long and it won. What a claim to fame!

The Bell was a great pub. We had some lovely times there. People were able to relax particularly on a Saturday night after the rigours of a hard working week. Singing was popular. The old war songs were favourites.

Cleobury to this day has a great community spirit but in the 40s and 50s it was a self-contained community because people didn't travel very far. Very few owned a car. Horse and Traps were still in evidence on the roads. The needs of every day shopping were met in the High Street. We had three bakers (Potters, Jones and Onions), three butchers, paper/tobacconists, two ironmongers, leather shop, and drapers. There was a livestock market on Wednesdays. Perhaps I have forgotten some of them? Can you remember? What I have not forgotten is how happy Winnie and I were at this time. We've always loved Cleobury – a very special place.

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Wed 2 nd	10.00	NHS Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic, Community Room, St Mary's Place, Love Lane		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe is back at the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs/Sat	3 rd -5 th	Autumn Diesel Gala at Severn Valley Railway		01562 757900
Fri/Sat	4 th -5 th	Shrewsbury Oktoberfest. Big party, much drinking~ PAGE 63		
Sat 5 th	08.00	Knowle Sports Club Monthly Sale, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill		
	09.00	Breakfast at the Sports & Social club, with World Cup Rugby accompaniment. PAGE 37		
	10.00	Horticultural Society Winter Plant Sale, in the Market Hall. PAGE 53		
Sun 6 th	10.00	The monthly Parish Walk sets out from Parish Church. All welcome but do wear sensible shoes! PAGE 5		
	12.00	Apple Day at Stottesdon Parish Church. PAGE 5		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only.		
Tues 8 th	7.25am	The Breakfast Club meets a Lacon Childe School. PAGE 39		
Wed 9 th	10.00	Walking for Health starts from the Market Hall and returns for coffee & cake.		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Amazing Value!		
	12.30	Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel in Oreton. PAGE 63		
	7.30	Clee Hill Wildlife Group free meeting at the Village Hall. PAGE 45		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell, Lower Street	Mike Hermolle	01299 271384
Fri 11 th	10.30	Rhyme Time for tots at Cleobury Library, Cleobury Country Centre		
	7.30	Vocal Entertainment Evening at the Parish Church. PAGE 37		
	7.30	Curry and Quiz Night at Melville Chapel, Oreton. PAGE 63		
	8.00	Bingo Evening at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. PAGE 57	Doreen	01584 891035
	8.00	The Bewdley Festival opens at Mercure Hotel starring Martin & Eliza Carthy		
Fri/Sat	11 th -12 th	7.00pm The Country Clangers' Music Hall at Neen Sollar Victory Hall. Tickets:	Trevor Wood	01299 272666
Sat 12 th		Coach outing to Blackpool – see those wonderful lights!		01584 891464
	09.15	England v France and breakfast at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 37		
	12.00	Pop in for a Soup at Doddington Village Hall. PAGE 57		
		Cleobury Concert Brass in a joint performance with Bridgnorth Male Voice Choir in Castle Hall Bridgnorth. PAGE 53		
Mon 14 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group gather at the Library, Love Lane		

BEWDLEY GOES ALL AMERICAN

As a special pre-Festival event in Bewdley, Saturday the 5th will see Load Street dominate by American cars, trucks and bikes on parade, plus a lot of talented Stateside singers and musicians.

Robert Plant has been heading the drive to get the visitors, including the American Epic film team, across the Atlantic to entertain us. Local Indian motorcycle dealers Midwest Moto will have customers out on a variety of big Yank bikes to add to the atmosphere.



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Tues 15 th	6.00	Leaf Carving Workshop at St George's Farm, Bewdley .PAGE 19	
Wed 16 th	6.00	Evening Sale at Knowle Sports Club, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill.	
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall, good parking	
Fri 18 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	
Sat 19 th	09.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in & around St Marys church!	
Sun 20 th	3.00	Brass and Buns Concert in Parish Church. PAGE 53	
Mon 21 st	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 47	
Wed 23 rd	9.00	A sad occasion, the final day of the Pensax thrift Shop after 45 years!	
	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Market Hall for the 2 nd time this month!	
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Chat, chew cake, sip coffee!	
	7.30	Clows Top Garden Club meet at the Victory Hall. PAGE 19	
Thurs 24 th	7.00	Duck Night at Hobson's Kitchen Tap. Book on...	01299 270837
	7.30	Owl Watch Meeting in the Market Hall. PAGE 57	
Fri 25 th		Skittles Evening at St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Hall. PAGE 7	
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	
Sat 26 th	8.00	Prize Bingo for the Poppy Appeal at Knowbury Memorial Hall. PAGE 57	
Sun 27 th	10.00	Bewdley Apple Day. Lots of fun for all the family. PAGE 19	
Mon 28 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the Library, Love Lane	
Wed 30 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER.....	
Fri 1 st	7.00	Quiz Evening at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club. PAGE 47	
	7.30	Royal British Legion Fish & Chip Concert in the Parish Hall. PAGE 5	
Sat 2 nd	7.00	Curry Evening in the Parish Hall, in aid of the church heating fund. PAGE 25	
	7.30	Clows Top Victory Hall presents singer/songwriter Kelly Oliver. PAGE 19	
Wed 6 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	
Sat 9 th	7.30	Artsalive present "Whose Story Is It Anyway?" at Farlow Village Hall. PAGE 7	

FAREWELL PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

Wednesday the 23rd sees the final day of the Pensax Thrift Shop after 45 years.
Open from 9.00 to 11.00 before the goodbye tears start to flow.

THE BIGGEST LOCAL EVENT, OCTOBER 11TH TO 19TH

It's the Bewdley Festival, based around the Mercure Hotel for the main events, but with loads going on around the town, there's something for everyone. If you haven't picked up one of their leaflets that we distributed earlier this year, take a look at www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk for details.



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SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

Thompson and Parkes are known as builders' merchants, with branches in Oreton and Kidderminster. And now they're in the DIY market, with a really big retail store in Stourport's Minster Road that opened on September 14th. It's by the traffic lights at the Bewdley Road junction and the premises used to be a bridal shop, but you have to call in to realise how big the place is. And there's bags of parking space in front and behind the store.

We got talking to Tom Walker, who used to work in these premises when they housed a farm machinery merchant's business. Tractors and balers were moved into the showroom through the front door then.



Before you enter, you can see the range of gravels they stock.

Managing the store will be Nikki Shipton, experienced in many aspects of the building and landscape gardening sectors. Joining her as supervisor is Harry Dowling-Bingle, with a background in engineering and manufacturing.

The store caters for every aspect of DIY and gardening, with the T&P huge stock to call upon and delivery vehicles if you buy more than the family car can manage.

There's a Dulux paint mixing and colour match service on site and the range of timber and tools caters for anything the handy man or woman could ask for. The editor knows that's true, as he found the extending branch trimmer in the Draper tools display and got it at a good price on the opening day deal.



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Mayor of Stourport, Councillor Ken Henderson, did the honours to open the store officially. The Thompson and Parkes trading slogan is 'Proud to be local' and they employ local people at their branches. Director Jean Morris was proud of the effort that had turned the premises around to this sparkling place with smiling staff in two months - quite an achievement. But if anyone is equipped to get a place sorted quickly, it must be a builders' merchant.

And the timber stock and garden gravels and furniture are enough to meet any house owner's need. The place is open seven days a week, 7.45 to 5.30 Monday to Friday, 8.00 to 6.00 Saturday and 10.00 to 4.00 Sunday. The telephone number is 01299 534545.



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FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

The Friends are offering an evening of vocal entertainment in the parish church on October 11th, starting at 7.30.

The ladies of Bella Acapella are all from this area and offer a range of songs from Coldplay through to Gershwin. They'll be joined by the Ludlow Male Voice Choir, whose repertoire is even wider. Managing both these choirs is Amy Evans, an accomplished vocalist, who will be wielding the baton on the night.

Tickets are £10 and include the interval refreshment. Available from Cleobury Library, the Pharmacy or Spire Hairdressing.

VOLUNTEERING

A note on the downside. Oh dear, does this mean we'll see volunteers disappearing?

I recently helped (briefly and not very ably) the Town Councillors who have been cleaning and painting the railings by the Wells.

Any number of people passing made comments which can be summarised as follows: 'You've missed a bit!' - lots and lots. This is midly funny on the first occasion but begins to pall after the

tenth. 'You're doing a good job' - a few. 'That looks like a big job - can I help' - none at all. Given that the Town Councillors are all volunteers doing this work in what little spare time they have, a little more support would be welcome I'm sure.

Perhaps the Council could have some Hi Vis jackets made with 'VIOLENT OFFENDER DOING COMMUNITY SERVICE' on the back to be worn on these occasions as that might reduce the number of humorous comments. Having said that, there was one brighter note as one local resident kept me fed and watered with sweets and a drink. Thanks Paul.

Puzzled Pensioner

DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

With our first meeting in September we were entertained by Sue Butler and her son Joe who were singer and guitarist. They gave a good choice of all kinds of music and songs and the afternoon was a real success with members enjoying themselves a great deal. Thank

you Sue and Joe. This was followed on the 11th September with a day trip to Weston-Super-Mare. The weather was kind to us and the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Going forward we have many more interesting things to come. Our meeting dates for October are 1st then the 15th and the 29th. Come as a guest and see us.

Ann Belcher

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club will be serving breakfast before and during England's World Cup matches against Argentina on October, 5th starting at 9.00 and October 12th, when they play France, starting at 9.15.

After their successful gig at the Social Club's Big Weekend in August, the band Radio Rumours returns on October 11th, starting at 9.00pm.

On October 19th, Cleobury Rugby Club are at home to Handsworth, kick-off 3pm.

The Stroke Support Group will meet on October 22nd between 2.00 and 4.00. Please contact Katja Jones in the Medical Centre for more information.

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



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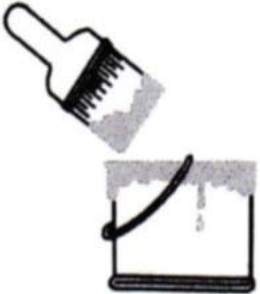
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Autumn sees the culmination of all the work we have put into the apple trees in our orchards over the years. The planting and formative pruning of the new trees, protection from large herbivores (sheep, cattle and deer), subsequent pruning, not to mention watering in times of drought and helpful feeding with potash from the wood stove amount to a good many 'person hours'. What is it all for? The obvious answer is a crop of lovely apples to pick, cook and eat, make into juice and attempt to make into cider. Despite all our efforts, however, the outcome is a very chancy business. This year is a case in point – there was a very mild winter which allowed many pest species to survive in large numbers, then the spring blossom was hit by late frosts. Some of our trees just look horrible, with diseased and sparse foliage and small, blighted fruit. The Scotch Bridgets, which have served us so well for years, have hardly any apples on them. Others look fine, having escaped both frosts and pests, while some are so laden that their branches are bending down to the ground and in some cases have torn off.

We have been harvesting apples for several weeks now. The earliest 'eaters': the Bardseys, Red Falstaff and little Pitmaston Pineapples have virtually all gone and the remaining big Captain Toms, which can be eaten raw or cooked to make a lovely apple puree, are beginning to go soft. Buckets-full of windfalls have gone to the cattle at St George's Farm where they were greeted with great enthusiasm. Now the later varieties: the Worcester Pearmain, Bramleys, Ribston Pippins, Orleans Reinettes and Herefordshire Russets are being gathered. Crates of fruit are going to Blackstone Farm to be juiced, pasteurised and bottled for us in a blend governed by chance.



Cox's Pomona, a fine eating English apple.

Most people seem to enjoy participating in some smaller-scale juicing on the farm. There's plenty of action and opportunities to help with loading the 'scratter', which minces the fruit into a sloppy pulp, shovelling the pulp or 'pomace' into the cloths to make the 'cheeses', and turning the screw on the press to extract the juice. The process even has its own vocabulary! Even sceptical, fruit-shy children are surprised and delighted by the delicious results.

It's not only people who enjoy the fruits of the season. Flies, wasps and hornets are feeding on apples still on the trees and well as bruised or squashy windfalls. Butterflies are also attracted to the sugary fruits: in fact I was picking plums last month with friends amongst a flurry of Red Admirals. With about 150 fruit trees at Uncllys there's plenty for everyone.

Linda Iles

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BREAKFAST CLUB

The Club met at the Talbot Hotel in September to hear something of Gabby Franklin's life in Germany and England.

Born in what was to become East Germany, Gabby lived in central Berlin, close to the border between the Russian and Western Allies (USA, UK and France) zones. This border, was in 1961 to become the site of the Berlin Wall, a heavily guarded structure, designed to prevent East Germans escaping into West Berlin.

West Berlin was completely surrounded by communist-controlled territory. Despite this, Gabby had a happy childhood, although there was a real shortage of food and clothing. As the years went by, the machinations of a communist state became increasingly obvious, and the uprising in June 1953 was ruthlessly crushed by Russian tanks. Fear and suspicion reigned, and some people disappeared without trace.

In 1958, Gabby's parents decided the time had come to leave, and they fled to West Berlin, to be classified as refugees. They were unable to take much with them, and Gabby still regrets having to leave behind her diary, in which she had recorded all the

injustices which she and her family suffered. As refugees, they were accommodated in a makeshift camp, where they had to live until Gabby's father got a job and a flat near Stuttgart. Gabby's education in East Berlin had been very restricted, and she found it difficult to gain acceptance in West Germany, but persevered, passed A Levels, and trained to become a teacher. During a holiday in England, she met her future husband, and they married in 1967; she has lived in England ever since.

When her own children were five and three, Gabby embarked on a career in education. She start a nursery school near Watford, and worked there for 44 years, also acting as a governor in a Junior Mixed Infants School for over 40 years, and running evening courses at a local college. When not working, she sailed, skied, danced, and travelled. Now in retirement, Gabby is enjoying life in Cleobury, to which she moved two years ago.

The Breakfast Club next meets on October 8th at Lacon Childe School when Edwin Sayers will speak about the Elan Aqueduct. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

FIXING POTHOLES

Philip Dunne writes to tell us that after trials in Whitchurch and Market Drayton, Shropshire Council will be using a new system to repair potholes overnight.

It uses a material called Texpatch and the hole is cleaned out and then filled. The anticipated increase in urban repairs jumps from 20 a week to 40 in a night! If that proves to be the case, there will be repair crews able to move out to rural areas like ours to deal with the local problems. Another bonus with the Texpatch system is much quieter operation, no a night shift won't disturb people's slumbers as the jobs get done. Hooray!

Cleobury is one of the towns scheduled to benefit. The works will be carried out by Shropshire's highways contractor Kier and L&R Roadlines. If this system works as well as the description suggests, it's a major advance in getting the pothole problem solved. And less bills for the editor for having his car's alloy wheels welded. Double hooray!

SILLY BIT

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General Galtieri, 1982

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

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

main Course

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

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

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

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HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY

Angela Drennan writes:

Maybe you have a little space in October's Clarion for the Breakfast Club's 30th anniversary? We started in the Fountain in October 1989 with 19 members including Alec Osbaldiston, Shaunah Murrell, Bill Duley and myself still members! Robert Horsfield (Chairman) and Jim Drennan were the instigators of St Mary's Breakfast Club.

We had Douglas Reading (retired Head of Lacon Childe School) as our first speaker. In fact the editor of the Clarion was our second speaker and then became a member. We are now 27 members with three on the waiting list. We meet 10 times during the year at Lacon Childe School, Cleobury Cafe, the Talbot Hotel and Cleobury Golf Club. We also have "an away" breakfast, this year going to the Larch Barn. Having been the Treasurer and Secretary at the beginning I am now all three, and the eighth Chairman. And they said it wouldn't last!

Angela Drennan

The Club lasts because of the hard work by Angela and others. Happy birthday.

Ed.

CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP

Free Talk on British Deer. Learn all about the six species of deer that can now be found running wild in the UK. On Wednesday October 9th starting at 7:30 pm an illustrated talk by a leading expert from the British Deer Society will be held at Clee Hill Village Hall.

This free event has been organised by the Clee Hill Community Wildlife group. Tea, cakes and raffle. All welcome. email chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk

Chris Bargman

SIAN'S AIMING HIGH

This is Sian Powell's story:

Last Christmas SIFA Fireside, a homeless centre where I volunteer in Digbeth, ran a campaign stating that the average life expectancy on the streets is 46. I am 46 this December and I'm just growing up, never mind clocking out.

Last year I ran a marathon to raise funds for SIFA and knew I had to do something bigger if I wanted people to sponsor me. So I decided to run 1000 miles in 2019 by my 46th birthday. This is 22 miles every week for eleven and a half months and as we near the end of September I

am coming up to 800 miles and I'll be honest it's hard work and I'm exhausted.

It's starting to get cold outside and in the run up to Christmas people will start thinking of the homeless again.

Our fundraising tends to be really seasonal even though we're issuing sun cream and bottles of water in August - so here's my fundraising link: www.justgiving.com/sian-powell11

Sian's birthday is actually on December 13th. The Clarion has already made a donation. Let's give her a boost by backing her effort and helping reach her target.

GETTING THINGS DONE

You can read on Page 51 about the editor visiting Shedfest 2019 in Worcester, to learn about the Men's Sheds movement. Amongst the stuff he brought back was a flyer from Mens Shed Insurance, which was handed over to chairman Pete Blackburn on Wednesday evening, September 18th.

By 11.00 on Thursday morning the 19th, Pete had an insurance quote and circulated it to the committee. Action Man!

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GOODBYE AL PASS

Alan Watts has been a Clarion advertiser for years. He's decided to opt for retirement and wrote to the editor:

I remember the day you came to visit me when I lived at Furlongs and interviewed me for my introduction feature to appear in the Clarion. I am pleased to say since then I have helped many pupils in Cleobury and the surrounding areas to pass their theory and practical driving tests, and most of all made many friends.

I really did enjoy my job as a driving instructor and felt part of the community. My enthusiasm never waned even in recent times and I still have a few pupils who I would like to complete the journey with tests in the coming weeks. After this I have decided to go down the retirement path and hopefully do things to stimulate my brain and be a happier and caring person.

Thank you for all your help and best wishes for the future.

Kind regards

Alan

AL Pass Driving School

Thank you for that friendly gesture and for your support through the

years, Alan. Have a long, active and happy retirement. JR

THE READING GROUP

'Private Life' by Jane Smiley was this month's choice. The tale of Margaret Mayfield and her dysfunctional marriage spans the years 1883 to 1942, moving from Missouri to California. Several found they were unable to get involved in the book. Perhaps the third person narrative was a problem, as not all found empathy with the characters.

There were plenty of comments however: delightful language, a sad book, thoughtful, personal tragedies movingly described and a dramatic end. For others it was too long, tedious, disappointing, dull, with no real plot. The husband, Captain Early seemed an awkward, annoying man, he was certainly strange.

A chain of history ran alongside the marriage, including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, problems regarding Japanese internment, the influenza epidemic and two World Wars. This was

welcomed and provided extra interest. We agreed this is a good book for reading groups although we wouldn't recommend to all.

Back to true life next month with 'The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks' by Rebecca Skloot. I'm sure we will have a variety of facts to consider on October 21st, our next meeting.

Deana Kimber 271754

HAPPENING IN HOPTON


Social events coming up to raise funds for Hopton Wafers Church Fabric Fund:

November 1st: Another Quiz Evening at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club. Teams of four, £20 per team, 7.00 o'clock start. Please book your tables

November 15th: Cheese and Wine Tasting at Hopton House, by kind invitation of Sarah and David Smith 7.00 o'clock (Tickets will be limited for this event so get them early please)

We are also arranging a concert with Kidderminster Male Choir singing in church. Date to be confirmed.

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Dear Moggie, Doris, Prissy, Collegiate Cats, Prince, Kitty and Felix.

Thanks for your comments on the last column. I like your style. You have realised that you are brighter than your human family or owners as they laughingly like to style themselves and you have them fooled into thinking you like them. You will no doubt be aware that during the siege of Leningrad, it was the pets that went into the pot first so in the event of a no deal Brexit and the resultant food shortages, just make sure you go for them before they come for you. If they are vegetarians or vegans you might be OK, but watch out for the neighbours. Have you heard how you can find out if someone is vegan? No need - they'll let you know.

Perhaps you know the cat that is still poeing on our lawn (and yes it is a cat so, my feline friends, don't try and shift the blame on to innocent wildlife). If you do, just let them know that if I spot the guilty party, it will cop at least two lace holes worth of my Docs. I'll be right where the sun doesn't shine. (In case you are wondering yes I was a punk – still got the haircut and Docs if nothing else). And that's if I am in a good mood, which isn't often as the former Mr G would say before he sashayed off into the sunset with a much younger woman. Not long after our divorce the cheeky cow rang me and said they were going to get married so was there anything she should know about her hubby to be. I said 'Yes, lots but I'm not going to tell you'. She'll have plenty of time to find out about his funny habits for herself. Talking cats, when a woman gets to a certain age and starts collecting lots of cats is this known as the Manypaws?

The dog poo infestation seems to be multiplying with a large dollop in the middle of the playing field. I recall that some time back, the Town Council were considering banning dogs there. Time to have another look at this?. They have put notices on the footpath round by the rugby pitch and skatepark asking owners to clear up after their dogs but it's best to stand still while you read them in case you step in the poo on the footpath nearby. That's bad enough but eclipsed by those who bother to pick up the mess and then dump the bags in the hedge.

Someone I know was recently clearing nettles from outside his garden when this work revealed a multi coloured collection of poo bags. As there was a bin within 100 metres, this bears out my comment above about pet owners not being very bright.

Perhaps the answer lies in 'puppypads' or something similar. These appear to be readily available so just pop one on your pooch before you go walkies. This will make walking your animal more pleasant – at least for other people, as you can clean it up when you get home just as you would with a small child. And whilst on the subject of annoying dogs, they are pack animals and are happiest in company so why get one and then go out to work all day leaving it to bark/howl/whine at any sound or movement?. This does nothing for the dog and even less for the neighbours sanity. Better to borrow one when you need it and then everyone's happy.

On another subject, every minority group no matter how small or bonkers now seems to be demanding changes to the way things are done. Many organisations promptly give in to these demands as they like to show how 'Woke' they are but this has resulted in the minority tail wagging the majority dog. The latest wheeze is allowing blokes to use the female facilities provided that they say they are thinking of transitioning. I have every sympathy for those who are genuinely unsure of their sexuality but the next time you girls find yourself sharing the showers with someone who looks like Arnie Schwarzenegger just because they claim to be transitioning, don't say I didn't warn you.

Editor's Note: Readers should note that Mrs Grumpy's agent forwarded this month's column with a note to explain that she had put her foot through her computer, something about her not understanding the term 'Reboot'. She added that if she hasn't insulted enough people this month, there are plenty more out there. Go in fear, you innocents of Cleobury Country. JR.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

This month we're going big on the Rugby World Cup, with a breakfast served for you to watch the big games on the big screen and get a good meal down you at the same time:

9.00am Saturday, October 5th: England v. Argentina.

9.15am Saturday, October 12th: England v. France

9.00pm Friday, October 11th: The return of that great band 'Radio Rumours', stars of this year's Big Weekend

3.00pm kick-off, Saturday, October 19th. Cleobury Mortimer RFC take on Handsworth here at home. Come and cheer the lads on.

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SHED NEWS AND SHEDFEST

The first phase of building the Men's Shed on the Tenbury Road business park is complete, with the walls up and the roof work waiting for the trusses to be built and delivered to site. The Shropshire Star, with an increased interest in local news, sent their photographer along to picture some of the committee to accompany their report. And a fine looking party they were, particularly the dog.....



Some of the guilty parties. From left: Guy James, Keith Martin, Peter Cuthbert, Ruth the Dog and chairman Pete Blackburn

Proof of the flourishing interest in Men's Sheds was on show at Shedfest 2019, held at the University of Worcester

Arena on the city's Hylton Road, with representatives of hundreds of Sheds attending. At the beginning of September there were 510 known Men's Sheds listed and lots more in development.

I attended the Sustainability discussion group, where the talk was mainly about the basics of setting up a group and recruiting the right people for the committee. Basic common business sense, in fact, but I was slightly alarmed that some time was given to what action should be planned for the shed failing. Too much of negative thinking there for me, particularly when the failure rate is currently about two percent.



Star performer and speaker was blind woodturner Chris Fisher.

I didn't get the chance to hear Chris Fisher (see pic) speak, as I made my way around the exhibitors, who included an insurance company specialising in Men's Sheds.

So much of the work catered for in the sheds is wood based, it was a change to find the Metalcraft stand, where steel was being worked without any of the fire risk that worries many shed people.



Metalcraft, working steel without any fire risk.

It was a busy place, with almost too much to see if you wanted to join in the discussion groups. A real eye-opener to look beyond what's happening in Cleobury and realising what a positive contribution to keeping men occupied this is.

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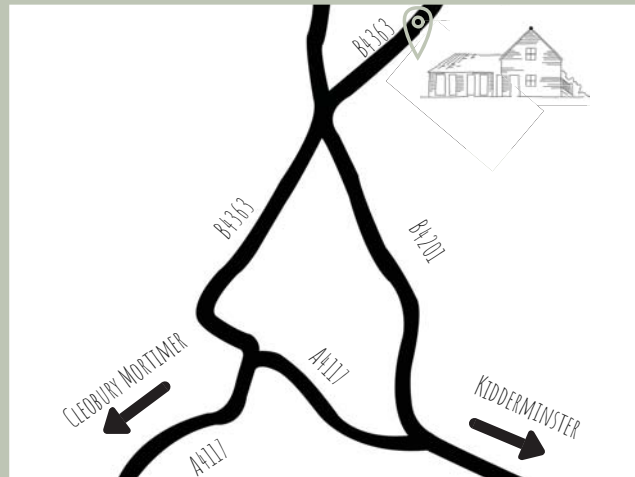
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Sally Burns is a NMC registered midwife and is a professionally qualified aesthetic practitioner and is very experienced, working in the NHS for 35 years.



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THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After several pleasant visits we found ourselves back indoors in September, when David Cropp came to talk on "Gardening and Climate Change". His opening statement was "Leave weeds!" which produced a gasp from the members. He went on to explain that they make excellent ground cover and help to prevent soil erosion. Next we were advised not to clear stones as they help irrigation and are continually rising from the bedrock. Many of us buy gardening magazines but they often give you jobs to do and plants need to be left to do what they like, they will even shift themselves. Slugs and snails are doing well, collect slugs and put them in the compost heap where they will find plenty of nourishment. If you try to collect snails and take them away they will soon find their way back unless you take them miles.

The temperature line is rising and we are able to grow Mediterranean plants and vegetables in this country. It is time to experiment with plants and seeds from other countries, you can already buy some seeds,

so scour the catalogues. With the warmth come other insects e.g. the Asian hornet. We can't stop them and they prey on each other so if you kill one you also kill another.

Peat was used for fuel and is now sold to raise plants and seeds in as is peat substitute, but nothing beats home made compost from all your garden waste. Fallen leaves placed on the soil will replace some trace elements; spread over your garden and cover with a layer of soil to stop them blowing away. A last tip: when watering, spray up into the air and let it fall like rain. This was a thought provoking evening.

May I take this opportunity to remind members of the Winter Plant Sale on October 5th in the Market Hall. We need your support.

Liz Smurthwaite

FROM THE BANDROOM

Some members of the band attended the British Open at Symphony Hall Birmingham on September 7th, just in a listening capacity. This is a major competition in the brass banding world, featuring the best bands, including Cory Band who played in Ludlow at the

end of August. It was indeed Cory who were the adjudicators' favourite and they were once again crowned the British Open Champions.

We will be taking part in a joint Brass and Voices concert with Bridgnorth Male Voice Choir on October 12th in Castle Hall, Bridgnorth. If you would like further information, please phone Terry on 07793 725854, or £8 per ticket on the door.

St Marys Church will be holding a "Brass and Buns" concert on October 20th from 3.00 till 5.00, tickets are £12.50, to include a plate of afternoon tea. Contact Liz Smith for more details on 01299 489135.

Very advanced note for your diaries: our Christmas Concert will this year be held on December 14th in the Parish Hall. More details to follow in next issue.

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

SILLY BITS

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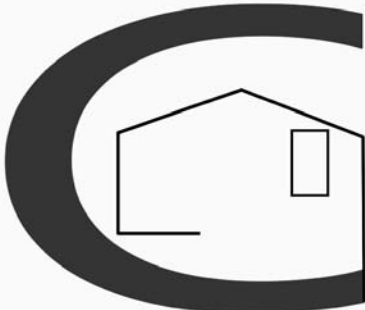
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WELCOME BACK

It's been a part of the landscape for a long time, that attractive 16th century coaching inn that greets you as you drop down into the valley in Hopton Wafers. I've lived here for 41 years and have seen it move into and out of fashion as ownership changed and standards with them.

Expansion in recent years seemed to bring problems and The Crown closed in 2017 to stand empty for a long time. With so many pubs closing all over the country, what was the future for this one? It came with the announcement in January of 2018 that established local hotel owners Andrew Cornthwaite and his wife Kate had taken the place over.

Work began on refurbishment and it took quite a lot longer than originally forecast to get the place up to standard and ready to trade. But it's been open for some months and the feedback has been good. So I decided to give the place a try and report to Clarion readers how it's looking.

For a second opinion on the matter I turned to a friend whose dinner parties are something of a legend. Diane Waddington has the ability to produce a choice of excellent dishes out of her quite splendid domestic kitchen that leave you wondering how to try

every one without being downright greedy. Eating at her place is a rare treat.

The first thing that catches your eye at the Hopton Crown is how tidy the car park looks, always a good start. Up the steps across the terrace and into the familiar entrance lobby.



A welcoming smile as we walked into the bar from Maddie, who walked us to our table and left us with menus to scan while she fetched the drinks. Sparkling water for the chauffeur, of course.

Diane's thoughts at this stage: "The decor is really well done and the restaurant is very comfortable. Thankfully, there was no music playing!" (I should explain that Mrs Waddington is not a lover of music of any sort when dining as she prefers the old fashioned business of talking.

And I can't argue with the logic of that. JR)

"The service was good - just the right amount of attention and speed."

We both ordered chicken, Diane as a pie and me a breast, both opting for seasonal vegetables.

Diane again: "My pie was packed full of chicken and the seasonal vegetables were perfectly cooked."

My chicken breast was similarly cooked as you'd like it, with corn on the cob in the bed of the plate and on the side another dish of seasonal vegetables cooked as they should be. Peas and beans that have been processed to emerge as a soggy mess are a bad sign for any eating establishment. The crisp crunch of the beans and slender pea pods was just right.

Neither of us proved to be a big eater at the middle of the day and just a main course was fine.

The Crown is open all day from Tuesdays to Sundays and from 4.00 on Mondays. They are serving food for lunches and dinners from Tuesday through to Sunday. It's now part of a local group including The Baiting House at Upper Sapey, an award winning restaurant with an AA 2 Rosette award, and The Admiral Rodney at Berrow Green. Sounds like a good family. JR

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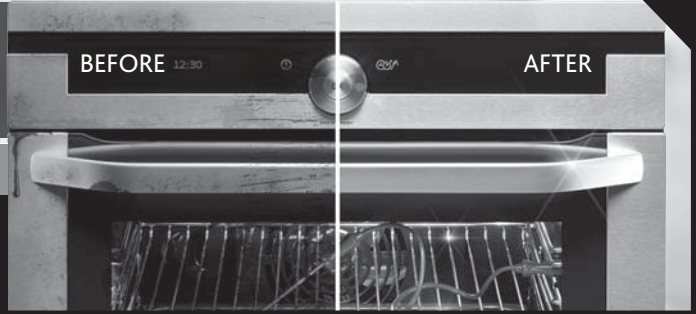
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OWL WATCH

There will be a Cleobury Owl Watch meeting at 7.30 pm on October 24th in the Market Hall.

It will be an open meeting with a presentation on our Owls and Raptors, with plans for nest boxes and reports on their habitats and on owl hooting records earlier this year. Come and see what you can do to help our Owls.

Kit Smith

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

Our project to improve the church – we thought we'd bring you up to date. Repair the windows, add kitchen facilities and a toilet inside the church, and install an information area about the local and natural history of Titterstone Clee Hill and the local community.

Our architect has devised a path up one side of the graveyard, avoiding graves, with a gradient suitable for those using wheelchairs or pushchairs. There is a plan in the porch– do go and look and let us know your thoughts. If you have family graves in that area, we would like to keep you up to date with progress of the project. We can be contacted by email on stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com

or on 01584 318036, or by post to St John the Baptist, Doddington, DY14 0HL.

We need funding for this. We have some in place, and have submitted applications to grant bodies from whom we hope to hear and we continue to fundraise through events. The next one is October's Pop in for Soup, from 12.00 on 12th October at Doddington Village Hall. Enjoy home-made soups with bread; at least one gluten-free and dairy-free option available.

Celia Gibb

RAISING FUNDS FOR KIDDERMINSTER CANCER UNIT

There's a fund raising Bingo Evening for the Millbrook Suite in Kidderminster General Hospital on October 11th. It's at Cleeton Saint Mary's Village Hall, starting at 8.00

Donations of cash or prizes will be most welcome. The Contact is Doreen on 01584 891035.

THE CRAFT MARKET

No Cleobury Country Farmers' Market in September, with all the work under way to install better heating in the Parish Church. But the Market Hall offered its usual range of friendly craft stalls, plus the popular Whey More cheese range all the way from Stroud in

Gloucestershire, where I had to take advantage of their fine Spanish Cabalera blue cheese. Not cheap, but oh so rich in flavour.

I must confess to spending a little, adding some more Skillipig greeting cards to my collection to send to friends with a sense of humour..Marion Wilson of Clows Top Gardening Club had her usual selection of plants and goodies, so it was natural to pick up a jar of her lovely Orange Marmalade, a personal favourite.

A modest spend, so I was an obvious customer for two young lads, Matt and Spencer, offering a range of toys from a stall set up on the bench at the top of Talbot Yard. Top marks to them for the initiative and I brought two Horrid Henry books and a Hearing Things electronic game for my grand daughters. I just hope they enjoy them.

ROYAL LEGION PRESENTS A PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

The Clee Hill branch of the Legion has a Prize Bingo night on October 26th at Knowbury Memorial Hall. Eyes down at 8.00 o'clock and all proceeds will go to the Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Sounds like a good evening.

Paul Harding



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October 2019 Clarion Report

GREAT NEWS! £60,000 of Grant funding secured.

The Town council have secured **£50,000** of European funding from a Rural Development Programme for England (2014 – 2020) The **LEADER** Programme, which will be towards new equipment in the Play area in Love lane, by the Primary school, and also the adult gym equipment to be sited near the Skate park. We have also been successful for **£10,000** from the Community lottery fund which is such great news for our community.

This means that another project that has been requested, and needs doing desperately, can be at last delivered to the community after a lot of hard work. The total cost is around £75,000 which we will have secured from grants and other sources and hope to get the project finished at the latest by the end of March 2020. We have also included equipment to allow for disabilities so the equipment is open for all to use, catering for wheelchairs too.

A contractor and designs will be decided at the October council meeting to keep things moving on for children and families to enjoy in spring 2020.

More Good News is that the Town Council are working with St Mary's church, St Elizabeth's church, youth Hub and the Market Hall, to start a much-needed Food bank in Cleobury Mortimer. This was brought about by an investigation by the Town council led by Cllr Brown, visiting Ludlow and Bridgnorth food banks which confirmed the need in Cleobury Mortimer. Subsequently meetings have taken place with all parties interested to support the Food bank and can announce that it will be open every Friday morning in the Market Hall upstairs from 10am to 12 noon, starting on Friday 25th October 2019.

Food collection points will be at Severn Hospice, Entrance to Library, St Mary's church, St Elizabeth's church and the Market Hall for now.

Volunteers from both churches, Town council and the Youth hub will be helping at the Market Hall and if you are interested in helping or donating please let the Town council know.

On another note, you may have noticed, some of our Town councillors have been very busy giving the railings at the Wells a makeover and making a proper job of it. A lot of time and effort has been put into it, with the surrounding area also being tidied up by local residents so a big **THANK YOU** to all of them. As well as residents we are also concerned about the lack of water and it is a project being looked at for the future as to what can be done.

Just a reminder that the next Crime Group meeting will be at the Cleobury Country centre on Monday 21st October at 11am, where we will be looking at parking and speeding issues, dog fouling and an update from the Police. All welcome to attend, but please remember we are there to work together to address any issues.

M Sheehan Town Clerk
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IN BUSINESS - Westons Wills and Probate

If you know anyone who has faced the trial of dealing with a loved one's estate when they have not left a will, you will realise that it is an extra burden that could be easily avoided. Far better to consult a professional and remove all doubt about your wishes.

A will writer like Mandy Weston will have a background of legal work and a long process of training before they can offer their service with the backing of a professional body. She was working in the legal department of West Mercia Police and spent four years studying to qualify as a legal executive. She is now a Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and after extra training was accepted as an Affiliate Member of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners. That's a lot of time and effort to have big titles, but what it amounts to is someone who knows the business in great detail.

She set up her own business in January 2014, working from home initially and then moving into a small office in Bewdley's Park Lane. Nothing pretentious or overwhelming to greet a client, just a smile and the personal attention of the head of the business.

In five years her growing list of clients has spread as far as Cleobury, Worcester, Stourbridge and Blakedown, some through advertising but mostly through recommendations. She has families returning to her after an earlier experience of her quiet and confident manner.

If you decide to use her service, the initial contact can be in her office or your own home, or even in a nursing home. She will go through an official questionnaire, explaining any points that are not clear and outlining her legal

responsibilities and duties. Once the whole situation is clear, she will prepare a draft version of the will, carefully using plain English wherever possible. That first draft is then presented to the client and after two or three weeks to consider the detail, she will discuss the matter and make sure the client understands it fully and is happy.

Only then is the will signed, a copy going to the client or wherever they choose for safe keeping. Mandy recommends the Principal Registry's Family Division in London, where a fee of £20 sees it safely stored.



The lady herself. She has a quiet, no nonsense and friendly manner to put you completely at ease.

She explains the logic behind having your own will, where you choose your executors from trusted family members or friends. If you decide not to and die intestate (without a will) the law will decide who deals with your estate and if you leave young children, the court will select guardians to look after them. Far better that such a personal responsibility is overseen by you.

Talking to Mandy about a will and the changes in one's own life that can affect it opens up some

surprising revelations. Mandy has a whole page of matters that should make you consider revising your will, because what was right for your circumstances years ago may no longer suit your life today. The profession as a whole recommends that a will be reviewed every five years; you may not need to change it, but it is better to be sure it still reflects what you want.

Mandy also deals with the delicate matter of lasting power of attorney, when an ageing relative may wish to appoint a trusted relative or friend to act on their behalf because they cannot travel or have physical, mental or capacity impairments. Such matters can be very difficult to deal with if left too long; far better to address the matter when all those involved are in good health, mental and physical well being.

Another service she provides is administration when someone passes away. She offers fixed fees and different levels of service, from merely assisting with getting a grant of probate to a full administration service.

When you meet Mandy, it comes as no surprise that she does not have ambitions to grow the business and move into much larger premises. She intends to stay in Park Lane and deliver her very personal service to her growing number of clients herself, not operate from a remote office. She writes the wills and takes pride in handing them over to the client personally. Westons Wills will remain small and personal - it's what people appreciate.

Mandy's office is open 9.00 to 4.00, five days a week and she can be flexible as to appointments, including evenings if required. A truly complete service.



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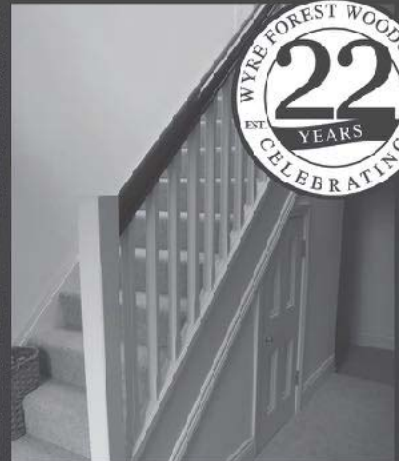
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**AN ABBREVIATED
'ON THE BUSES'**

For my sins, I have been appointed 'Bus Champion' for South East Shropshire by the Foundation for Integrated Transport, following their launch in June. The duties, such as they are, involve what I have been trying to do for the last five years or so which is to talk to users and operators and provide feed back to the various Local Authorities (even if they don't want to hear it). Naturally, this is unpaid – I don't even get a badge! But I will continue to pass on concerns to Shropshire Council via our hard working County Councillor Madge Shingleton. This is more easily said than done as last time she wanted to speak to her bus contacts in Shire Hall, she discovered that they had moved to a different building. Naturally they hadn't let her know, which is a brilliant wheeze – don't tell anyone where you are and they won't bother you...

There are developments afoot involving the 292 route. As you know, it is very difficult to keep to the existing timetable as it was designed to be run by more than one vehicle and there is no slack to make up time lost to roadworks or other delays. Proposals have been submitted for slight changes to both ends of the route to save a few minutes and make it easier to keep to the scheduled times. The 292S school service will be unchanged. This should not make a great difference to the timetable and it is hoped that, if approved, the revised route will come into use from 4th November. As I said above, this

is still a proposal and awaits approval. If this is received, there should be more in the next 'Clarion'. Having said this, every time I have seen a bus passing through Cleobury recently, it has been more or less on time so R&B are doing their best despite the tight timescale.

Steve Todd

**LOOKING A LONG
WAY AHEAD**

Busy lady Madge Shingleton would like you to put these dates in your 2020 diaries, please:

Cleobury and Stottesdon Support Group for Severn Hospice have two fund raising and fun events fixed for next year. The first is a repeat of the popular Speaker with Pie and Pint at the Sports and Social Club on February 14th.

Mark Baldwin's amusing talk on Holiday Post Cards of the past coupled with Wyre game pies and a pint. Got to be a winner.

A second treat is a chance to sample some very interesting gins on April 5th at various venues. More information in the New Year. Contact Shaunah on 01299 270386 or Madge 271186..

EVENTS AT ORETON

October 9th at 12.30 is the date for our monthly Soup Lunch. at the Melville Chapel in Oretton Enjoy a bowl of warm soup and a delicious dessert followed by tea or coffee

11th October 11th at 7.00pm is our Curry and Quiz night.,again at the Melville Chapel. Please contact me on 07706171668 for more details.

Ruth Downes

**SHROPSHIRE
OKTOBERFEST**

This is scheduled for the weekend of October the 4th and 5th, at Shrewsbury's Quarry Park. If they are borrowing the title of the renowned Munich Oktoberfest, we'd guess that it will not be an entirely sober event.

There's a huge beer tent promised, and a range of 180 drinks including local ales, lagers, ciders and perries,, wines, cocktails, a prosecco parlour, a rum shack and a gin den. No, definitely not a sober gathering. There's food, too.

Open 5.00 until 10.00 on Friday the 4th, Tickets are £6.00 in advance and £8.00 on the door for this day.

Saturday the 5th sees the gates open from 1.00 until 10.00, when advance tickets are £12.50 or £15.00 on the door. That includes a Comedy Club and a Silent Disco - that's where you get a headset and play your choice of music that only you can hear. If you're moved by the rhythm and dance, it could worry those who've not seen this before.

There'll be trade stalls, including Nick Jones Wealth Planning, who if they join in the party, should be in a very hospitable mood. There were 12,000 people at the 2018 gig, so booking in advance does make sense. Go to www.shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk.

Sounds like a great idea, with people coming along just to have a good time. Just one piece of Uncle Jim advice, if we may. If you're drinking, keep away from the river. JR

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A NEW ART GALLERY, ALMOST IN LUDLOW

This is a brave venture, led by artist Shelly Perkins from Neen Sollars. She wanted somewhere distinctive to show off her work, maybe in a prime retail site if it was possible. Where she could talk one to one with potential clients and explain her work.

As she said: "Artists like working on their own projects and aren't natural salespeople. That is why we have a range of galleries which do the job so well for us. Could we do it equally well?"

She looked at Ludlow Farm, which showcases the work of the best local artisans. And after a long campaign found seven other artists in various fields who would work with her, creative people who could see what an artist-run gallery might do for them.

Ludlow Farm had a space they would let for a short term and at 10.00 o'clock on October 5th the Artists' Gallery at Ludlow Farm will open its doors. They will be there until the end of December, young artists full of enthusiasm and inspiration. It's just across from the cafe and will be at least one artist there every day, happy

to talk. You can talk to Shelly on 07974 652 866 or email her at artbyshelly@mail.com

We wish them all the very best of success with such a novel and brave move. And we'll try to bring you a picture in the November issue.

THE PARISH CHURCH WAS CLOSED

A most unusual event, the Parish Church closing its doors to worshippers. But the task of simply making the place more warm and welcoming had to be faced and most of September was given over to the work.



We photographed the operation early in the month, when the old wooden floor had

been taken up and steel sheeting laid, to carry the heating elements that will warm the seating area to keep future congregations happy. In one corner the men were already cutting and fitting the new boards.



It's been a big job and as well as contributions from the Friends of Saint Mary's and others, there are a number of events planned to help raise [funds.to](#) pay the bill. Like Chris Kippin, who rode his bicycle from Cleobury to Land End, all of 305 miles, in five days. He is estimating sponsorship so far will realise about £6,000 plus Gift Aid. You can add to this with a call to CM 272961



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 64 - October - 2019

PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

In September Cleobury Mortimer Plastics Reduction Group joined the Plastic Pollution Coalition <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/>. We share their vision of a world free of plastic pollution and we will work towards eliminating single-use disposable plastics and support initiatives to reduce our plastic footprint in our community.

The Coalition website has plenty of ideas of how. Take a look at their website and consider signing yourself or your business up to the coalition.

The Group would like to challenge everyone to take a pledge to reduce plastic waste in our community. We aim to visit as many local businesses as possible to find out what you are doing.

And finally a reminder that a plastic plant pot recycling scheme is being trialled in Cleobury Mortimer this autumn. If you have a significant amount of unwanted plant pots and would like to take part, please **c o n t a c t** neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk who will provide you with details.

Louise Francis

GORDON'S SCHOOL IS GROWING

Gordon Winters has been taking learner drivers through the demanding business of an official exam to the point of getting a licence for a few years now.

It's a business he came into almost by accident, when a neighbour asked him to coach her and he took her through to pass the test. Encouraging people and nurturing them to develop confidence in a new area comes naturally to this quiet spoken, gentle man.

So he qualified as a DVA Approved Driving Instructor and Gordon's Motoring School was born. He started with a second hand Suzuki Swift and found it ideal for the job, a popular choice with young drivers. Inevitably, covering something over 200 miles a day meant he has had to replace the car and he now has a smart Ford Fiesta, one of the best selling cars on the market, and reports that his pupils love it.



Gordon and Ford Fiesta, captured before he'd had time to get it sign written.

He has a broad approach to driving tuition, patient enough to help the most nervous take on the task of coping with traffic. And if the pupil has a learning difficulty like dyslexia he gently builds their confidence to deal with it.

There are drivers in rural areas who are too nervous to drive on Motorways. Gordon will take them out and gently show them how to manage what many thousands already do. It's not impossible to learn, but it is difficult to find someone who has thought carefully about the best way of teaching it.

He's available seven days a week between 9.00am and 6.00pm and if he's out you can leave a message. His is quite an unusual approach to what some nervous people think is a huge task. Not with his gentle style.

HONESTY IS STILL ALIVE HERE

No names will be given in this minor report, it's simply to record honesty at work.

Someone walking along High Street one September Saturday saw a car move out from the kerb and scrape the wing of the car parked in front. The driver did not stop and the witness took down his number and left a note on the damaged car windscreen.

Next morning a friend called the witness and asked if he'd seen him scrape a car, as he'd got home to find his car scratched and knew nothing about it. He was concerned and wanted to put the damage right.

Next day the damaged car's owner called the witness and his number was passed on to the driver who'd hit his car. He contacted the owner and after he'd apologised arranged to have the damage put right. We do have honest people here.

THE MUDDLED TOWN PLAN

The concept of a Town Plan that has the approval of local inhabitants is basically a sound idea. It was well presented with the Big Cleobury Survey getting a strong response and a clear idea of where the majority wanted housing and other developments to go.

But the good intentions rather stumbled when the offer to sell the proposed development land off the A4117 was withdrawn and a rapid adjustment was required. We understand that in the meantime, a parcel of land off the Tenbury Road was offered and the Neighbourhood Plan Group drew that site into the revised plan, but did not want to add another cost to the overheads by repeating the survey with the new land offers outlined. A decision made in good faith, it seems, but not a wise one when the matter of housing development on green fields is such a contentious matter.

The reaction to this change of plan naturally was one of shock at first. In fairness, not helped by a rather hysterical element that seemed to think the fault lay with people quite outside the community. The Plan Group arranged open evenings to hear comments and offer explanations with not even a sniff of outside influence. The Group consists of some Town Councillors and members of the public, with the responsibility of drawing up the Plan.

The official word is that the Group will look at the many comments they've had and try to accommodate the overall

feeling in a revised Plan, which will again be offered for approval. Once the Plan has been accepted by the community it will pass into the possession of the Town Council, whose adoption of it will make the Plan law. This is a serious business, undertaken by people with the town's future at heart and quite above any outbreak of NIMBYism.

THE BORDERS CLASSIC BIKE SHOW

The Show was blessed with decent Sunday weather that had a steady stream of bikes up Love Lane for the first Borders Show organised by the Lacon Childe PTA. And a good job they made of it, with a range of 60 fine machines on show and happy owners glad to be here.

The traditional Saturday Night Curry at the Balti Bar was a bit thinner than previous years, but the food was good. On Sunday there were bikes galore in the park and when the racing machines were fired up they each got a round of applause. The fruitiest sound was the 500cc Seeley Matchless that Stuart Shannon brought up from Cardiff.

The Visitors' Favourite was the splendid 1926 Indian of Brian Glover. A fine example of this old American company's products, enjoying a revival at the moment, as the parade of the 2019 models outside confirmed.

It's a measure of success that people went home smiling and when the pennies were counted and the bills paid the result was a profit of £3150, with ten percent of that being paid to the County Air Ambulance, the show's chosen charity.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to another successful event.

CLEOBURY CRIME REDUCTION GROUP

We have been advised that the next meeting of this group will be in the Cleobury Country Centre at 11.00 on Monday the 21st.

Subject to other demands upon the editor's time, he hopes to be there and report in the next issue.

CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB

Mark Greaves advises us that the Hub is now open on Tuesday and Friday, with a range of happenings to attract young and old.

From 10.00 to 11.30 on Tuesday the coffee shop is open, along with the Nippers parent and toddler group. From 3.45 GKY Dance runs dance lessons, with the coffee shop still open.

On Friday the coffee shop is open and from 12.00 until 6.00 they have a soft play facility.

Great to hear that such a place for the younger members of the community is moving forward. We must get the editor and his camera down there to tell you a little more about another Cleobury Mortimer success.

USEFUL CONTACT

Paul Barrett has suggested some updates to the Information Page that will be dealt with when the editor's learned how to do it. But you may like to know that the contact for the Men's Shed is Pete Blackburn on 07776 243 584 and his email address is petblack@me.com.

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	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Butler's Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Cleobury Fruit and Veg, Purslows, The Library and Simply Fresh.

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

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

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

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 22nd

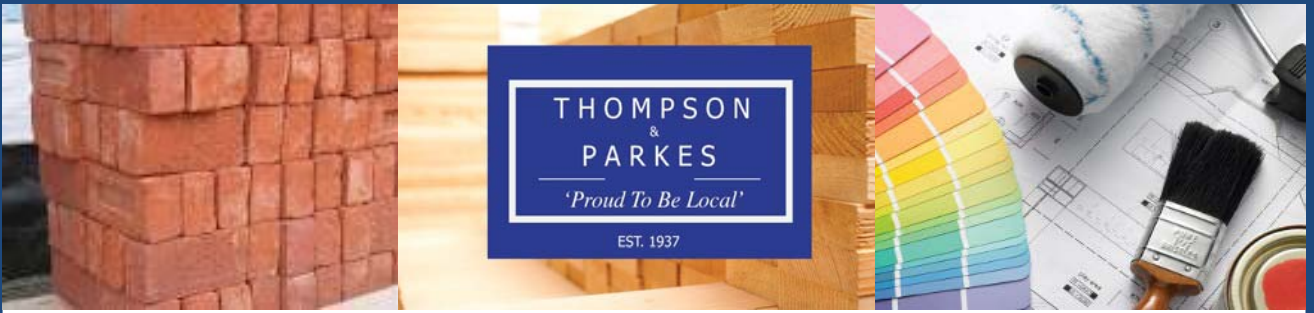
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The Clarion On The Web: www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

Printed by Badger Print and Design of Shifnal, 01952 730511



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