

'FLICKS IN THE STICKS' IS BACK

They've been missing for too long, but Flicks in the Sticks is back this month. At 7.30 on Saturday the 16th we can pay a very modest £4.00 and sit down to enjoy "23 Walks" starring Alison Steadman.

Because of Covid-19 there will be changes in the way the hall is run, but the volunteers who run the show will no doubt have it all sorted on the night. Expect the bar to be open too. Enjoy!

ADRIAN SATTERLY

Mr Satterly was scheduled to appear in Shrewsbury Crown Court on September 22nd, but this has now been adjourned until October 4th.

We understand that the reason for this further delay is that the judge to whom the trial is assigned cannot be in Shrewsbury until this latest date.

EVER AFTER NURSERY IS TEN



There to greet children and parents as they passed through the balloon door were Mortimer Nursery Bear and friends Mister Potatohead and IgglePiggle.

Ever After Day Nursery is ten years old. It seems much less time than that when Serina Smith got a grant from the Town Council and the Smith family set about getting the place in good shape. Since then it's grown in size and reputation. See Page 47.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As previously explained on these pages, the Neighbourhood Development Plan in its early stage was withdrawn when one of the sites offered for development was withdrawn. The Town Council then asked for other land owners to offer sites available.

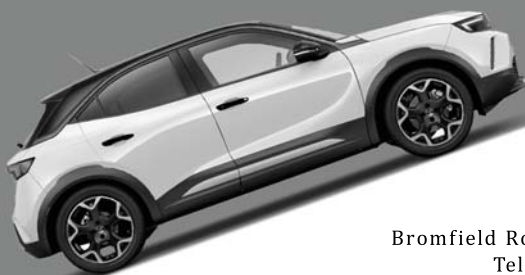
That appeal closed on September 17th and the four alternative sites offered have been presented on the two maps you will find on pages 40 and 41. Details of the process that follows are given there.

This is a matter that fully deserves the trouble being taken to get it right, with the committee responsible a mix of councillors and local citizens with an interest in the community's future. They have all given time and thought to the business of our and our children's future. Our thanks to them.



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The Cleobury Clarion, October 2021



*In an English country garden,
with sunshine
The Neen Sollars Church Fete.
See Page 7.*



*Surviving lockdowns and still
smiling, that's Jane Weaver.
See Page 27.*



*In Business and building a
reputation for smiling help.
See Page 61.*

And On Other Pages....

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| 5 - New Notes Singers | 37 - The Breakfast Club |
| 9 - Rural Charities Support | 39 - Simon Morton on Gardening |
| 11 - Musical Talent. | 40/41 - The Neighbourhood Plan |
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COCO COFFEE MORNINGS

Catherine Evans writes to remind us that the popular CoCo Coffee Mornings are back in action on the upper floor of the Market Hall, where there's more space. This month's dates are the 13th and 27th and the time is from 10.00 until 12.00 noon. We'll keep reminding you in the Social Calendar, and for your early information we can confirm that they will maintain their habit of opening to welcome you on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the month.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Reg Chapman writes about his way of avoiding scammers.

Some time ago I gave up my landline and changed to mobile only. It turns out to be another complication; my landline had to stay as it was needed for my computer. Calls could come in, but I could not make calls out. I now find the scammers don't know this and as this line is still connected to an answer phone which I

don't answer live I feel a small pleasure. On occasions they leave a message, but it always gives one time to check. I think the price of an answerphone could be a good investment. *Reg Chapman*

FAR FOREST LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club is held in the Far Forest Pavilion on the second Thursday of each month, from 12.45 to 2.45. We are a friendly club and have space for anyone who would like to make new friends or are on their own.

The charge is £4.00 and you will have a two course meal freshly cooked, plus juice and tea or coffee afterwards. We also have a table selling home made preserves, chutneys, pickled onions and red cabbage. If you would like more information, please call me on 01299 272748.

Carole Evans

NEW NOTES SINGERS

We are a small friendly group of males and females of all ages who just enjoy coming together once a week to sing a

wide variety of songs and would love others to join us. The more the merrier!!

Do come and meet us for an introductory singing afternoon on Thursday October 14th at 2.30 pm at the Recreational Rooms in Clee Hill (next to the Premier Shop). If you would like more information please contact Barbara Hall 07801924035. *Jane Barnes*

THE SHOE BOXES

It's that time of year again, when so many of you kindly fill a shoe box or two for the children of Eastern Europe. Can we make it our usual thousand? With your help, we can.

There are piles of empty shoe boxes in St Mary's church, the Parish Hall and the Market Hall. Leaflets are by them or in them. Please remember to use the envelope for the transport money.

Return to St Mary's church on or before November 27th. My usual big box is there for your filled boxes.

Thank you for your help. I couldn't do it without you all.

Jenny Vanderhook

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NEEN SOLLARS CHURCH FETE



The long row of neatly parked cars on the approach to Tetstill Farm made it clear this was a success. Sunshine helped and a friendly atmosphere in the garden setting added English rural charm to the day. The musical interludes from Cleobury Concert Brass were all traditional tunes. It was a good day to just breathe in the air and enjoy.

As a church event it was natural that Rector Ashley Buck would be there, as was curate Joe Simons. He's a very interesting man, who moved from industry to take up a place in the church and devote his life to serving others. I hope to talk to him at length in the future and tell his story. Neen Sollars church warden Sue Painter was busy running a

stall and I didn't get a chance to speak apart from a quick hello as she dealt with a crowd around her. Sue later advised that the day had raised an impressive £2501.89 for the church



Limited time meant I couldn't wait to see if here was a dog show of any sort, but this gentleman with a slow labrador and a cute Shetland pony suggested there was plenty of interest for children.

Just driving to Tetstill Farm is not for the faint hearted, as an ominous scraping sound under the car suggested when I left the tarmac highway and took to the narrow loose surfaced lane. This one is a real test of courtesy, where meeting an oncoming vehicle means one finding a gateway to pull over and the other driver to judge his car's width.



I hadn't had a chance to see Cindy Fido's 'Country Crafts' stall before, with an interesting range of decorated crockery. You may be able to find her at the Farmers' Market if you missed this chance.

A short visit to keep another appointment, but a very enjoyable one. We do have a talent for reminding one another of the pleasure of living in the English countryside and this was a prize example. JR

HAVE YOU TRIED?

The six-packs of Jack's Spicy Hot Cross Buns from the Londis store on the High Street? Lots of fruit and flavour and at £1.30 for six they're good value. The best of the type I've tried in a long time, but not at all slimming! JR

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RURAL CHARITIES SUPPORT

Shropshire Rural Charities Support are offering advice and support for the county's village halls, community buildings and charity trustees. Julia Baron, CEO of the charity, sums it up:

"We can help with grant funding, governance, recruiting volunteers and trustees and more. We want to see village halls and community buildings thrive again, following the tough times we've all just been through."

To all those hard working volunteers who have had to step back and not see established local events happen, that sounds like very good news. And the RCC has just launched a new networking service for all charity trustees. The idea is to attract more people from a wide range of charities across the county.

Another aspect of the help they can give is to people considering becoming a charity trustee, advising them what the work involves. This is simple common sense at work, people with experience helping those new to the charity work that is

such a vital part of what makes rural communities strong. If you want more details on any aspect of this voluntary work, the contact is Phil Gillam, who's on Philip.Gillam@shropshire-rcc.org.uk or 01743 342172

THE CLARION ON THE WEB

The Clarion's website is well used, with webmaster Robert Hodge advising quite recently that the average monthly visits figure was 350. That's quite an impressive number for an extra facility that the editor has regarded as a minor boost to our reach out into the minds of the Shropshire public.

But early in September Robert reported that the accessed figures had taken a big leap upwards to 729. That's an increase of over 100 percent, which does amaze me. Whatever it was that drew so many more people to these pages, may I bid them welcome and hope that they find a visit to these pages of interest. Nice to have you aboard.

Jim Reynolds

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

October brings a richness of colour to the garden with displays of autumn foliage. The autumn colours are at their best this month. Make the most of them as they pass very quickly. The night frosts and clear sunny days bring out the intensity of 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 from now until the end of November.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday October 27th, the speaker will be Duncan Coombes with a talk entitled 'Climbers & Wall Shrubs'.

Diary Date:
Wednesday 27th November,
AGM & Social Evening

Further Details Telephone Elva 01299 832288, or email: clostopdistrictgardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk

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One of those sectors are the future NHS professional, we have Daisy who is in her last year of her training to be a midwife, Lucy who is working towards the end of her training to be a Physiotherapist. Christina and Aila about to start their journey into nursing. We have further staff who have just been accepted into the NHS. These lovely kind young adults not only study many hours both in university, on hospital wards, they also give to us and have helped us support our clients for many years! Most joined us while still at college.

TLC have ex-nurses that come to us after raising their family and some, in recent times have re-joined their colleagues in the NHS.

We have staff who have raised their kids and now want a career, TLC will train or retrain people to help people reach their full potential and become one of our Outstanding Team.

We encourage kind caring and honest people of all ages and backgrounds who want to make a difference to people's lives to join our team. TLC invest heavily in people with ongoing support and training to help our new colleagues achieve their goals and reach their full potential. Once initial training is complete and they have been assessed as competent, TLC Induction Manager and our Training Manager will support staff through to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care

Our Training

TLC's Training Team offers full free training on site and support staff through their Care Certificate. We have strong connection with an outside Training Provision who help our staff to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care. Currently we have 32 members of staff that have already achieved Level 2/3 in Health and Social Care. We have qualifications at level 4 and five of our Senior Managers have Level 5. All staff that are new to care are required to achieve Level 2 within the first two years of their employment.

Contact us

For further enquiries please regarding Care or employment please ring TLC Care at Home 01299 272897 for an informal chat. Visit www.tlccareathome.com or wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk

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COVID-19 Update

All our staff are provided with full PPE's including Gloves, Full Aprons, Sleeves, Visors, Gloves Surgical Masks.

Video training on Donning and Doffing PPE's sent out regularly.

Staff sign health declarations daily, Staff have weekly Covid-19 test. Most of our staff have now been vaccinated against Covid-19. TLC work closely with government regulation and update our risks assessment accordingly.

MUSICAL TALENT

Expression through music is an ability that covers all ages, from primary school youngsters to OAPs who just want to sing or learn to play an instrument. Rarely do widely differing age groups find a common interest that sees them working to develop an idea and blend disparate abilities into one musical whole.

Danielle Andrews started song writing at 14 and performed her own work and others' at open mic nights before taking up the chance to work with new neighbour David Coleman. David used to play guitar in a band and has a studio at his place, plus contacts who can provide backing tracks and lighting and sound equipment to support the work of two keen amateurs. Their common interest made working together a simple choice, she as the writer and vocalist, he as the instrumentalist and backing vocalist. A blend of youthful enthusiasm and mature experience.

Their recording together has resulted in the CD "Heart Left on the Floor" that they launched at an evening gathering in the courtyard of the Royal Fountain on August 28th. It was a brave move for the performers and the management of the pub, with the evening eaters and drinkers

mixing with followers and family members, there to listen and give encouragement.

The set was colourful without going over the top - a sign of a careful eye and limited budget. The lighting was well done too, with spotlights on the performers and the rest of the set gently colourful without intruding. The whole transformation of the area promised a quality evening.



And so it proved, even if the backing track unit did have a wobble or two; maybe three. The ability of Danielle to keep the songs going and not be flustered won people's hearts and the duo got a lot of warm applause. They sang through a selection and then the audience got their hands together and asked for more. The CD is available at £10, not a fat price for such quality. Danielle is at Manchester University right now, working for further success.

UNA'S SURPRISE

The editor admits he didn't know she'd gone, until....

I left Cleobury in a cloud of dust. The house move was most stressful, the first time I moved house alone compounded by a massive downsizing.

I want to say sorry to all the friends and colleagues that I didn't explain to. I have left my Cleobury home the truth is I shall never leave Cleobury behind and many happy memories.

I need to express my gratitude for all the support and help that I had from friends. Dare not try to mention names and some I have thanked personally but need to thank the team from The Mens Shed and Robinson family from Mawley Town Farm. I offered help in a small way and they more than repayed with help and support. I would also like to thank Mandy Smith for some administration support.

I shall miss the Footpath Association and WfH, the Horticultural Society and CMWI but will keep contact.

Happy times with Nifty Fifties, Ballet, The Hub and lots more. So much to do and so little time. I will say Farewell but not Goodbye.

Una Widdett.

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Afternoon Session	12:30am - 3:00pm	£10.00
After School Club	3:00pm - 5:30pm	£10.00

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF LOCAL DEPOT

Bridgnorth councillor Julia Buckley writes to tell us that the protest about the local depot closure was very strong, with 2112 signatures in before the deadline. That means Shropshire Council had to hold a full debate on the matter on September 23rd and we hope to get news of that before we go to press on the 24th. Meanwhile, we thought you'd like to know that once again people power counts.

Councillor Buckley is also asking for an environmental assessment of the extra carbon consumption needed to travel twice the distance if the depot is closed and crews drive in from Craven Arms.



The Mens' Shed met face to face for the first time in many months on September 7th. Chairman Pete Blackburn reminded us that the Shed was just four years old and remarked on the growth from concept to the reality of

opening this year. The current position is impressive, with insurance arranged for indoor activity only, a Test and Trace diary in place and the storage unit moved to a more convenient place on better standing, thanks to Mawley Town Farm.

Fire safety in the shed is established and approved and the Belfast sink is sitting on a counter made by Pineland at a very special price. Window shutters have been made, painted and installed by Colin Tolley, while table tops made redundant by changes in the layout at the Parish Church have been remade by Mike into worktops - double recycling! We were given a shredder, which Mike sold on and bought wood for the internal work stations with the proceeds. It's an impressive catalogue of effective use of old and new(ish) materials.

Members were notified of the retirement of treasurer Bill Duley, who took over from Keith Martin and continued to raise funds in a thorough and quiet way. Bill will be missed.

We have to establish a hot water supply in the mobile home and attend to various small jobs as we move

towards a firm date for our official opening. It's not far away and most of the work still to do is administrative.

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Quality comes in small quantities, it's said, so September's was a quality quartet to offer words about country. Living here, the emphasis was predictable but still varied; we do seem to like this place. And it was good to welcome Marian back after her hip job.

The subject word for this month is 'Surprise' and we'll see if any of that comes when we meet in the library at 6.30 on the 11th.

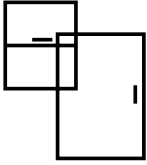
ADVENT LUNCHES

Neen Savage W.I. have taken over running these, with dates set at December 2nd, 9th, 16th and the 23rd. They'll be upstairs in the Market Hall, between 12.30 and 1.30, offering a bowl of homemade soup, crusty bread and a traditional winter pudding served with cream, all for just £5.00. There will also be a raffle at every lunch and all proceeds will go the Severn Hospice.

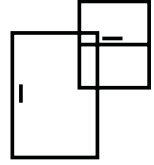
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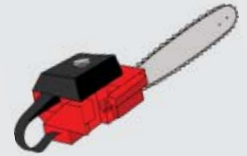


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GREAT NEWS FOR CLOWS TOP

Nigel Caldicott reports:

For some time the committee at Clows Top Victory Hall have been fundraising to replace the hall roof. Following many fundraising events and unsuccessful grant applications, the Committee are extremely pleased to announce that the National Lottery Community Fund have made a grant of £10,000 to assist with funding the replacement of the roof which is well over 60 years old. This will serve to improve the aesthetics of the Hall whilst making it a drier and cosier venue for the numerous events that take place. Treasurer Chris Gennard said "We are very grateful for this grant which goes a long way towards our goal of making our facilities better and more sustainable. Victory Hall is the only public entertainment venue available to the local community, therefore it is important to make sure it is ready for everyone to use. We still need to find further funding but we are feeling confident that we will be able to commit to the work being done in the very near future."

On 21st August, with the generous support of Bayton Parish Council, the delayed VE/VJ Day Celebrations were held at the Hall and, although the weather was rather damp, there was considerable public support on the day. The Royal British Legion is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year and the event began with a short Remembrance Service in the Hall conducted by Rev Sallie Butcher with the Far Forest and Rock Legion Branch Standards in attendance. Further music events are being planned for the next few months details of which will be available on the Clows Top Victory Hall Facebook Page.

The committee are also looking forward to welcoming local people to the Family Evenings that are being held on the first and third Fridays of each month between 6.00 and 9.00pm. There will be a range of games and activities for all ages and a licensed bar. Dates for October are Friday 1st and 15th.

Anyone wishing to know more, wanting to get involved or make a donation towards the new roof can

make contact by e-mail: clowstopvictoryhall@gmail.com or by ringing 07379 959895
Nigel Caldicott

AND LOOKING AHEAD

Clows Top Victory Hall has a good reputation for musical evening, sometimes featuring the best of local talents. They have an outstanding example of this booked for November 26th, when guitarist Remi Harris will be on stage to amaze us with his virtuosity. He has been featured before, under the description of "gypsy jazz guitarist", but he's much more than that, as an evening listening to him will show.

If you appreciate the guitar, put this one in your diary and prepare to be impressed.

MYSTERY VIDEO MAN

A reader is trying to trace a video film operator who took footage of a funeral at Bridgnorth on May 28th, but she does not have the man's contact details. If you can help her, please make contact with the editor in the first instance, on uncle.jim@icloud.com or 01299 270642.

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FROM THE BANDROOM

It has been a long 18 months but the band has survived!

Although not able to rehearse from April 20 to June 21, we still got together on zoom for a quiz every Tuesday night and also the occasional pub meet up.

When we started back, we all had to sit 2m apart, put bell covers on our instruments, wear face masks when moving about and kept windows open. Some of these restrictions are now reduced, not completely back to the normal but getting there. Restrictions are governed by Brass Band England and our committee have made an excellent job of making everyone feel safe.

We also have been lucky to secure Matt Ludford King as our new MD, currently studying at the Conservatoire in Birmingham and a trombone player with Tredegar Band, we look forward to performing with him and for further competition success.

We have performed at Neen Savage Fete, Shrewsbury Quarry and Neen Sollars fete this summer and now are looking ahead to getting new music out and before long,

dare I say, we will be organising our annual Christmas concert! Date to follow in next issue.

At long last Annabelle and Martyn Pattinson have fulfilled their dream and have made a house move to Cleobury, much shorter journey time to the band room, with added bonus that they happen to be on my route home after our weekly pint after band practice!

Most of our players have returned, but we would welcome cornet players and in particular a soprano cornet player, please get in touch if you would like to join our band.

We have come through it all and now look forward to our banding calendar for 2022 (and the socialising that goes with it – there is much to catch up on)

Katie Griffiths

CLEOBURY W.I.

What a fascinating evening we had in September, our first indoors for ages. We had Paul French talking about the work of the Samaritans. Paul has been a volunteer at Telford for several years.

A lot of what goes on is strictly confidential, but he did make us think, which was the whole idea. Thank you

Paul for a thought provoking evening, one I shall long remember.

Our next meeting will be very different, as we shall have Gillian McAllister talking about how she became a best selling author. On October 12th in the Market Hall at 7.30.

Our very popular 'Winter Warmer' Lunch is on October 21st at the Market Hall, 12.00 noon until 2.00. We hope to see you there.

Jenny Vanderhook

CHRISTMAS!

Severn Hospice Crafters jump the gun to be first with a Christmas plug. They'll be holding a Christmas Fair at Broome Park Farm on November 27th from 11.00 until 3.00, handmade gifts, bunting aprons and masks. Plus Severn Hospice Christmas cards and you'll find tea, coffee, mulled apple juice and light refreshments on sale. There will be other stalls in attendance as well, to swell the festive range on offer. Naturally proceeds go to the hospice to support its vital work that is needed even more at a time when patients are away from their families.

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

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Kidderminster Stride and Stroll is a walking group that aims to help health by walking safely and within a happy atmosphere. We are one of the largest walking groups in the Midlands, renowned for our sociable approach.

Our walks are generally held in the Wyre Forest area or nearby areas in North Worcestershire, Staffordshire or Shropshire. We hold four guided walks each Saturday and a short walk on Thursday. All walks are graded so that walkers from novices to experienced can take part.

All walkers walk at their own risk. There are no weekly fees or annual subscriptions to join our group and all are welcome. Well behaved dogs on a short lead are also welcome.

For general enquiries about Stride and Stroll, please call 07871 599 863 or visit our website (www.strideandstroll.org.uk)

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The October walks for this keen band of walkers in our neighbouring parish are:

Thursday 7th, 10.00 am start from Abberley Avenue, Astley Cross, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0LG

Thursday 21st, 10.00am start from Kinver Sports Centre, Legion Drive, Kinver DY7 6ET
e m a i l
mdsskey@rockpathfinders.uk
or call Ian on 01299 400304.

Susan Humphries

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

In September a dozen people enjoyed a visit to the Wyre Forest with Walking for Health. The morning was rather warm and the forest offered some welcome shade. We finished with refreshments at the café before returning to Cleobury. On 13th October the second Awayday of the year will be to Bewdley. Anyone interested should meet at the Sports Centre Car Park, Love Lane, in time for a 10.00am departure. There will be a gentle stroll along the River Severn with a stop for refreshments in Bewdley. Shared transport is available.

The very popular monthly Parish Walk returned in September after an 18 month Covid break. 16 walkers enjoyed a leisurely walk around the Mawley Estate. A similar walk named Walk 3 The Mawley Hall Tour can be found on the CMFA website. Our October Walk is on Sunday 3rd October at 10am, starting from Cleobury Market Hall.

Last month our work parties replaced a stile with a kissing gate at Barnsland Farm. They also installed a dog gate in the same area. These are popular with dog owners particularly those with larger breeds! The brambles and nettles are still a nuisance along many paths in the area. So don't forget your secateurs when you are out and about. If you see any problems along your route

please notify CMFA through our website or Facebook page.

One of my favourite walks in the local area is the Simon Evans Way. A long distance path of about 22 kms tracing a rough figure of eight north of Cleobury Mortimer along the River Rea Valley. It can be either a day's hike for the more energetic or two leisurely circular walks. The route is a moderate hike along field paths with a few stiles, quiet lanes and bridleways which can be muddy after heavy rain. There are some steep sections but many places to stop and admire the lovely views with the Clee Hills in the distance. It was developed by CMFA as a Millennium project to celebrate the life of Simon Evans who was a postman, author and poet in Cleobury Mortimer between the two World Wars. The walk follows the essence of his round rather than the actual route. CMFA produced a booklet with narrative by Bill Duley, maps and lovely illustrations by John Tuck with the route plan research by Dr Mark Baldwin. It gives interesting information about his life, his books and the area of the walk. A walking leaflet was produced when the route was updated. It is easier to use as a walk guide but still contains some details of Simon Evans' life and the history of the area. In 2014 the revised route was included in a series of War Walks. There were plans for a walking festival in 2020 to mark the 20th anniversary but were shelved due to Covid restrictions. Copies of the War Walks leaflet, the original booklet and walk leaflet are available from CMFA.

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At the end of this month the world's most affluent nations and largest global businesses meet in Glasgow for COP26 (the 26th Conference of Parties or, in other words, the UN 2021 Climate Change Conference). The parties need to reach some brave and far-reaching decisions to avert the worst effects of climate change.

I'm guessing that I'm not the only one who can experience despair in the face of reports of ever-worsening environmental damage, extinction threats and freak weather events but at least I have the wildlife of the Wyre Forest on my doorstep to reassure me that things are still fine in our own ancient English woodland.

Or are they? Is the absence of nesting House Martins this year due to their migration from Africa being disrupted by unusually bad weather? Oak trees are dying of diseases not known before; can they recover and still dominate the forest in years to come? Should I be pleased that Gooseberry Sawfly and Raspberry Beetle have failed to attack my fruit crops this year or is this another sign of crashing insect populations? There are a number of other Wyre Forest residents that are causing concern. The number of Cuckoos has been dropping each year, and this year I never heard one calling. The adder population seems to be in decline despite efforts to provide them with ideal habitat. Ash trees aren't a major constituent of the forest but are succumbing to Ash Dieback as it sweeps through the nation.

Rather than dwelling on these examples, which for the most part have causes that are not fully understood, let me tell you about some of the things being done to help the situation. Firstly, we are understanding more about the natural systems that control the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and beginning to appreciate the role of forests, peat bogs, soils and aquatic habitats in locking up carbon. The patchwork of habitats in the landscape, whether woodland, heathland, wetland or pasture, is precious and needs to be carefully managed. Erosion needs to be repaired, smothering vegetation cut back or grazed, and silted-up ponds restored. The forest needs to be more varied to provide food and shelter for large numbers of species even though new tree diseases are taking their toll, so this winter another 2000 native berry and nut-bearing trees will be planted in the oak woods.

The 'Slow the Flow' project is making good progress with many leaky dams having been constructed locally to reduce the peak flow in the Dowles Brook and River Severn after heavy rain, and landowners are being encouraged to increase woodland cover and create new lakes and ponds. There are no 're-wilding' schemes that I know of locally, but maybe that is the key to it: that we all do our bit to re-wild those little pieces of the world where we have the chance and power to do so.

Linda Iles



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Winter, with receding daylight hours, always tends to put more pressure on bandwidth in a family household – whether that's due to online shopping, streaming services for films and TV, or connecting online with family and friends.

Fortunately, the government is determined to get to grips with delivering improved broadband, especially to rural and hard to reach areas, which is set out in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

More than a third of UK premises now have access to gigabit-capable connections, up from 9% in July 2019 (when Boris Johnson became Prime Minister). But here in South Shropshire, a mere 5.5% of us can access such speeds.

While gigabit broadband, with download speeds of up to 1,000Mbps, is not necessarily needed by every household, it does show we have a long way to go to meet the government's target of a minimum of 85% gigabit capable coverage across the UK by 2025, with a rollout of as close to 100% as soon as possible after that.

That is not to say broadband in South Shropshire has not improved. Superfast broadband is now available to 80% of households and businesses here, and the average download speed for the constituency is 38.6mbps. But we lag behind the UK average, thanks to faster commercial rollout and gigabit speeds in urban areas. So we need to see a step change improvement.

The good news is that the government committed to target rural areas for better broadband, when announcing earlier this year that Shropshire and Telford would be within the first phase of the national Gigabit Programme. This is being delivered by BDUK, who are consulting regularly with Connecting Shropshire on what needs to be done to start the roll-out to ensure this upgrade work progresses as quickly as possible.

For some users, their experience of broadband at home does not match the speeds they were led to believe they would receive when

purchasing their contract. Ofcom recognised this as a problem, and have taken steps to ensure broadband providers advertise realistic speeds. If your service doesn't deliver the speeds you were promised by your provider, get in touch with them. If the problem is on their network and they can't fix it within 30 days, they must let you leave your contract without having to pay an early exit fee. Ofcom's guidance for switching can be found here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/switching/switching-broadband-provider>.

I am also aware of some persistent issues of poor mobile signal in South Shropshire, which prove doubly frustrating, given it is now possible to access home broadband via a 4G or 5G hub, if your signal is good enough – potentially eliminating the need for a fibre broadband contract altogether, depending on your usage and speed requirements.

The government has signed a £1bn deal with Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to deliver a Shared Rural Network – sharing investment costs to increase 4G mobile coverage throughout the UK to 95 per cent by the end of 2025, irrespective of what network provider people use. Operators have already announced the first 333 upgrades and 54 new sites in England – with 8 more masts in South Shropshire from EE. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will shortly be announcing the next stage of the programme.

The pandemic has proved the need for good mobile and broadband coverage, irrespective of whether we live in rural or urban areas. So this investment in South Shropshire's digital infrastructure is extremely welcome. It will transform the ability for many of us to work where we live. I shall continue to press our case for rural roll-out

Philip Dunne

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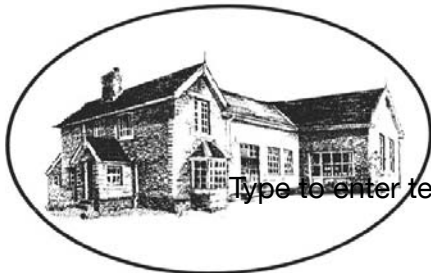
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SURVIVING LOCKDOWNS AND STILL SMILING

Jane Weaver is a local girl who lived in the Bennett's End Inn as a child ("We weren't allowed to even touch the bowling green!") and then the Fighting Cocks at Stottesdon. She trained as a beautician, works as a swimming instructor and combines the two whenever Covid-19 and lockdowns allow. She's feisty and has a great sense of humour plus determination. "Fear has never stopped me," she explains with a smile.

With the arrival of Covid-19 and the lockdown, the leisure centre where she was working closed - they had no choice. She was looking around, wondering how to apply her beautician's skills when a friend said: "Go mobile."

Before she could get that set up and under way, friend Claire asked if Jane would paint her nails. Of course she could and left the children with another friend as she got out the kit and did the job. It provoked another Eureka moment when Claire asked "Why don't you do that here?"

Why not? Husband Neville runs his highly regarded Number 19 Denture Repairs business from an extension of Rose Cottage, 19 Lower Street, and there was an unused bedroom upstairs. The two of them discussed the idea and Neville's prompt response was "Go for it!" The room was already half way through being decorated and it didn't take a lot of work to adapt it to provide The Beauty Room where Jane can make life good for her clients.



Jane in her Beauty Room at Rose Cottage. She smiles a lot - you can see why people like her. She took her mask off just for the photo

She can offer Swedish or Hot Stone Massage, a range of manicures and pedicures, plus waxing, tinting and facials. All of this just a walk down the

main street so you don't have to find and pay for a parking space. It's no surprise that she gets a lot of local support.

And if a client cannot travel, for whatever reason, Jayne can pack all her equipment, including that impressive massage couch (she's a fit girl, the couch weighs 17 kilos) into the car to bring the same skill and attention into the client's own home.

After one year of trading that included two lockdowns, when she took time to train as a lifeguard, she's happily busy and very glad that she took the advice of friends and support of Neville. With two sources of work and children to look after she's very careful about Covid-19 precautions, wearing a mask when she meets clients and conducting two lateral flow tests every week.

Jane's a lively, hard working and cheerful example of how to deal with setbacks and just get on with life. In a world where we get too much gloom and doom thrown at us, she's still looking forwards.

Not a bad life plan and her cheerful manner puts that across to people she meets and treats. Another notable local asset. JR

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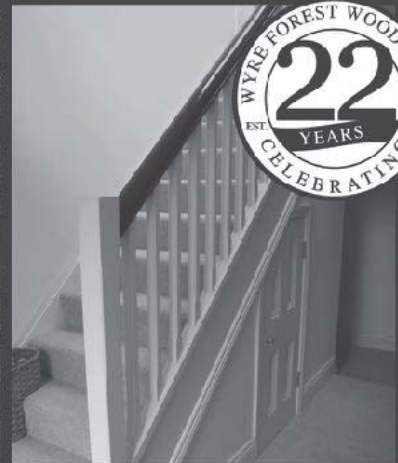
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St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 3rd October – 10.00am Harvest Festival

Sunday 10th October – 8.30am and 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 17th October – 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 24th October – 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 31st October – 10.00am Benefice Eucharist and 6pm All Souls Service

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 3rd October – 9.30am Eucharist

Sunday 17th October – 9.30am Harvest Festival

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 3rd October – 11.15am Eucharist

Sunday 17th October – 3.00pm Evening Prayer

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 3rd October – 11.00am Village Worship

Sunday 10th October – 11.00am Eucharist

Sunday 17th October – 11.00am Village Worship

Sunday 24th October – 11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 17th October – 11.15am Harvest Festival (E)

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 3rd October – 6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 17th October – 6.00pm Eucharist (BCP)

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 10th October – 11.15am Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 24th October – 6pm Harvest Evensong

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We are looking for people who can sing to join the church choir. This means committing to a practice on a Wednesday night (7.30 – 8.30 pm) and the service on a Sunday morning when possible but brings the joy of singing in a group and the fellowship that brings. If you are interested do come and see what we do or have a word with a member of the choir, Ashley or Philip Engleheart.

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Tel: 01299 272916



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Doddington Lodge is a place where friendships are made and special moments are shared. We organise many fun activities that everyone can get involved with, whether that's a sing along, arts and crafts, collecting fresh veg from the allotment or just simply helping each other with a crossword in our daily newspaper. Each day is different, we certainly have many happy moments...

Our home is a loving community and family, where you can consider Doddington Lodge a home away from home. We will provide you with all the key information, guiding you through every step of the process, whether you are staying with us for a short or long stay.



Rachel & Pat spending time with the residents to collect flowers & vegetables from the gardens



A very special visit from DML Racing, Worcester



"I began working at Doddington Lodge two years ago & what an amazing place to work, a beautiful home with great carers and management, lots of investment has gone into making it into such a wonderful place. Doddington is like my family and I will be forever grateful for having an opportunity to work here x."
Georgie - Carer



Welcome to Bob, staying with us for a short respite stay

"There is such a lovely atmosphere & many friendships made. Every step is taken to make each day enjoyable and for everyone to get involved with the activities."



"As receptionist at Doddington Lodge I really get to know everyone that walks through the door. It's such a fulfilling career. I feel I can really make a difference, spending time with our residents and families. I love my job and working with such a great team."
Lorraine - Receptionist

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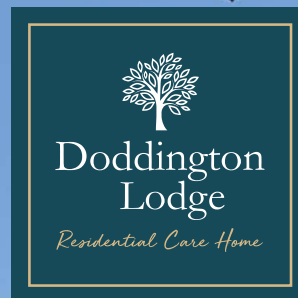
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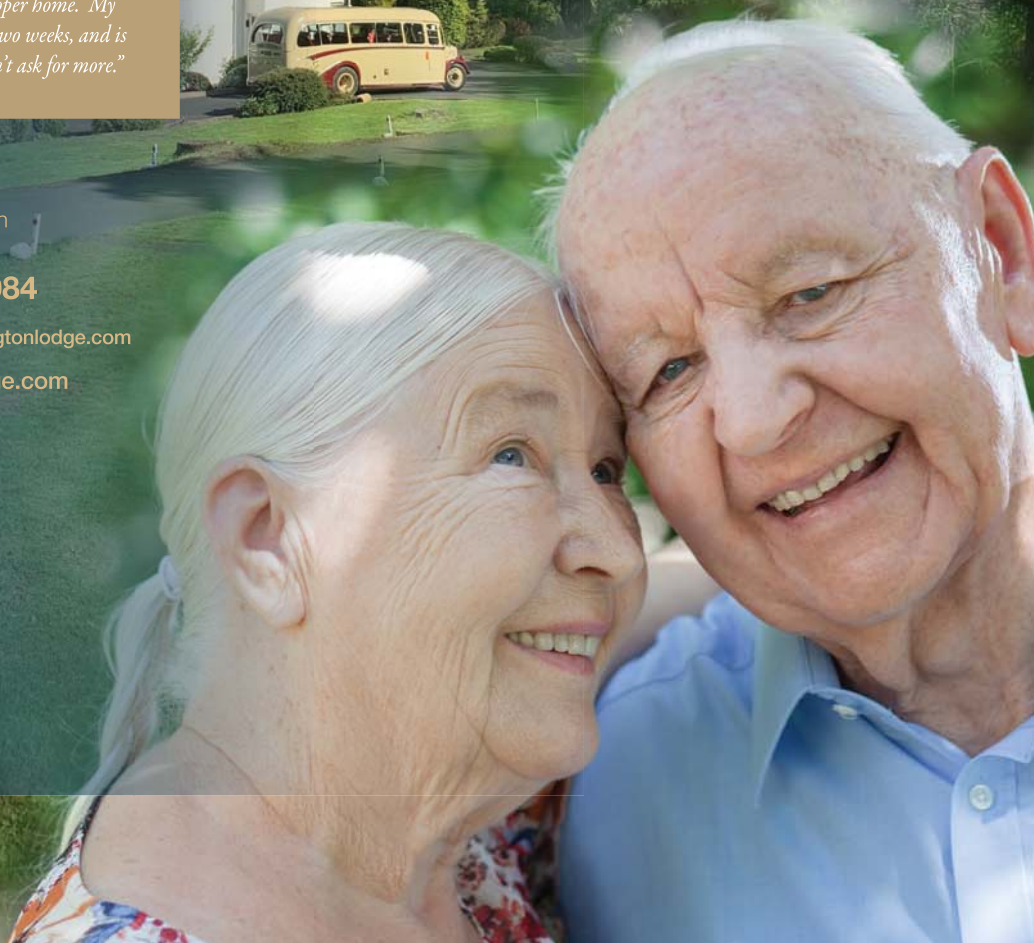
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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Members of the Club arrived with their own suggestions as to who 'The Most Hated Man in Britain' – the title of Chris Kippin's talk – could possibly be. Chris opened his talk by reassuring that no-one present, and no-one in Cleobury Mortimer, was 'The Most Hated Man'.

Speculations came to naught as Chris contended that the firm favourite for the title was Dr Richard Beeching – he of 'axing the railways' fame. Contrary to popular belief, Beeching was not a politician and therefore did not have the power to make drastic changes. He was by training a physicist with no pre-conceptions or knowledge of railways but had a keen analytical mind and it was precisely because of this that he was commissioned by the Conservative government of the day to conduct research into the economic viability of the railways and to make recommendations as to their structure and feasibility.

The railway network was developed piecemeal all over the country by numerous

industrialists and no data was available, so Beeching's first task was to establish which lines were cost effective. Inevitably, politics came into play and not all his recommendations were implemented, particularly those in marginal seats and areas owned by wealthy businessmen. In many ways he had foresight, realising as he did that the most efficient and cost effective way to move heavy industrial goods – coal, aggregates and iron for instance – was definitely by rail.

Chris suggested that perhaps the nation's vitriol should instead have been directed towards the then Minister for Transport, Ernest Marples who quite clearly allowed his own business interests to influence his decisions and could even be accused of corruption.

It was a very enlightening and entertaining talk aided by a superb breakfast provided by the Golf Club. The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th October. For further information, contact Angela Drennan on 01299 270636.

Diane Waddington

SCARECROW AND PUMPKIN TRAIL

The Friends of the Primary School will be holding their Halloween Trail again this year, over the weekend of October 30th and 31st.

It starts at 10.00 on Saturday morning in the Sports Field, where each child picks their pumpkin for just £4.00 each. There'll be pumpkin carving, Halloween crafts and a photo station for pictures.

Then comes the Scarecrow and Pumpkin Trail from 5.00 to 8.00pm Saturday and Sunday, Goody bags for the children doing the trail and prizes for the houses taking part. If you don't have a garden, there will be room to display your pumpkin in the Market Hall. £2.50 per child for the trail and £5.00 to enter your house in the competition. Hot chocolate, biscuits and cake available to warm you up as you go around on the trail.

Sounds like a great fun weekend for the children. Go out there and laugh and enjoy. More details on the Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Primary School Facebook page.



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PAT Testing Course—10th November £205 + VAT

EFAW/Paediatric First Aid—1 & 2 November £145 + VAT

Cleobury Country Farmers Market

Saturday 16th October 2021

The Social Calendar for October

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Fri 1 st	6.00	Family Evening at Clows Top Victory Hall. PAGE 17		
Sun 3 rd	10.00	The Parish Walk starts from St Mary's, the parish church. PAGE 21		
		Ludlow Rotary Club Prize Draw today, Winners will be notified.		
Thurs 7 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders step out from Astley Cross. PAGE 21		
Mon 11 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the library.		
Tues 12 th	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meet at the Golf Club. PAGE 37		
	7.30pm	Clebury WI meet in the Market Hall. PAGE 19		
Wed 13 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
	10.00	Walking for Health starts from the Sports Centre for an Away Day. PAGE 21		
Thurs 14 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	12.45	Far Forest Lunch Club, Far Forest Pavilion. PAGE 5	Carole	CM 272 748
Fri 15 th	6.00	Family Evening at Clows Top Victory Hall. PAGE 17		
Sat 16 th	9.30-12.30	Clebury Farmers Market, in and around St Mary's Church! Lots of your favourite traders!		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks is back at the Parish Hall with "23 Walks"		
Thurs 21 st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders step out again, from Kinver Sports Centre. PAGE 21		
	12.00	Clebury WI Winter Warmer Lunch, Market Hall. PAGE 19		
Mon 25 th	7.30	Nearly Dead Poets' Society meet at the library.		
Wed 27 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
	10.00	Walking for Health starts from the Market Hall		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 9		
Thurs 28 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat/Sun 30/31		The Scarecrow & Pumpkin Trail is designed for family fun. PAGE 37		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER.....		
Thurs 4 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELING BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

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Simon Morton in the Garden.

The Hairy Helpers

We've got two dogs: both chocolate Labradors, both overweight and both polar opposites of each other. While Toby is adorable in his own inimitable ways, from his maddening enthusiasm for literally everything ("*Woohoo! You're putting out the recycling?! Brilliant news!! Can I join you? Wow...this is going to be AMAZING*") to possessing the largest and most destructive paws this side of Brum, this article is dedicated to the beautiful Katy Dog.

Katy was our first family dog and quickly took up the official role of 'Furry Matriarch'. Both our kids were little more than toddlers when she made her butter-wouldn't-melt entrance into our lives, and she didn't hang about in setting out her stall. Nothing much has changed in the last 12 years.

While still growing into her paws, Katy ensured that she got what she wanted, usually food (like all Labradors, she has a prodigious capacity for consuming anything edible...and sometimes inedible). She achieved this by employing a proven combination of canine guile and hypnotic deep brown eyes that turn me and the rest of the family to mush with a simple glance. This, coupled with her willingness to be clumsily stroked by inexperienced toddlers while in deep slumber or being turned into a makeshift pillow for snoozy children, meant that she more than earned the occasional treat sneaked under the table.

Beyond being a reliable source of illicit treats, I like to think my personal bond with Katy came through walking. Not for us a quick stroll around the block - no, we had bigger adventures to tackle. Saturday hikes started before the sun had risen and only concluded after 15-20 miles were under our belts. I realised that these distances were a bit on the optimistic side when stopping for a flask of coffee and looking down to see an adolescent puppy spark out, wrapped

around my muddy hiking boots.

The allure of gardening didn't fully grip me until a few years ago, but when it did, Katy was by my side. In all weathers, my big brown hairy lump companion was there to offer encouragement and issue heartfelt sighs in appreciation of a newly weeded border or a bit of deadheading. She never really took to the concept of lawn maintenance, initially furiously barking at the mower, but as time and age took its toll, opting to settle down and sleep in precisely the place I wanted to mow. You'll have seen similar tactics employed by the M25 protesters - just sitting there and stopping the traffic because she could.

Remarkably effective.

Katy is now very old - in dog years, she'd be readying herself for a card from the Queen - but she's still my beautiful brown hairy lump, albeit with a greying and balding snout, two replaced hips and a slight rattle due to the cocktail of tablets she's on for a long list of ailments. Every step is now a study in quiet dignified intent from a failing body but a mind that remains as sharp as a tack. The youthful guile and arresting eyes still come into play every Sunday morning as she waits patiently and politely for her half of a breakfast sausage. Still, we're reluctantly aware that my gardening sidekick may not have many more lazy days in the garden left.

When the inevitable happens, I'll be distraught but won't miss her presence in the garden. I know she'll be there, watching over every weed plucked and blade of grass cut. I'll keep an ear out for the gentle swish of her tail and happy snoring as I move from one job to the next.

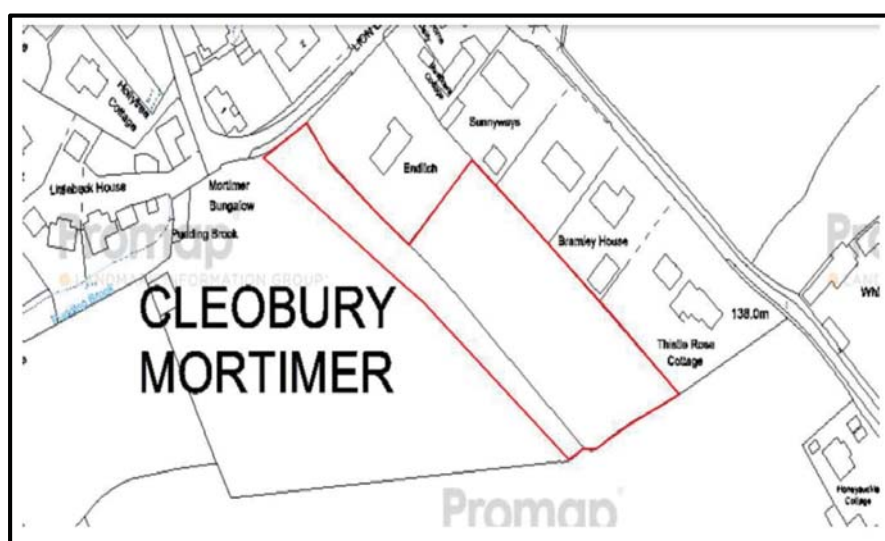
She'll always be a part of the garden... and our lives.

Simon Morton

Call for sites in support of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan

The recent call for sites, in support of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), concluded at midday on Friday 17th September 2021. The Town Council is pleased to confirm that local landowners have submitted four areas of land for consideration in the next phase of the NDP process. Over the coming weeks, an independent consultant will be reviewing the submissions against the assessment methodology and policies which were published on the Cleobury Mortimer Town Council website as part of the process. The consultant will also visit the sites being offered together with members of the Steering Group to ensure a fair and thorough assessment.

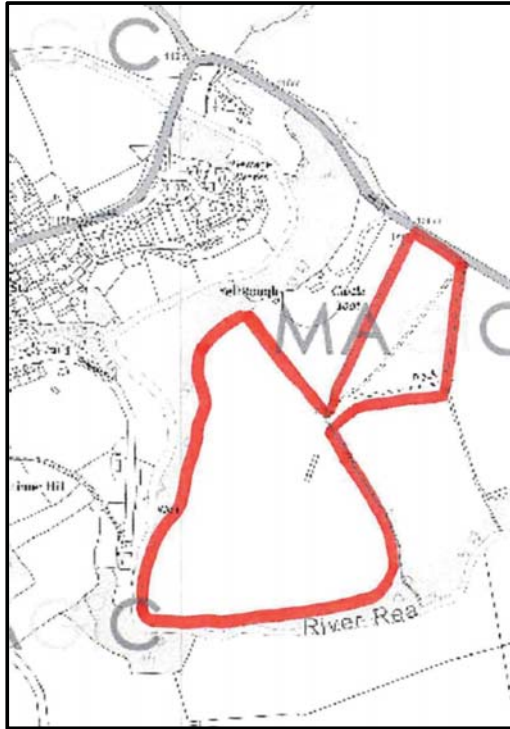
The four sites put forward are shown below.



Land off Lion Lane (0.45 ha)



Land off Tenbury Rd/Larks Rise (5.4 ha)



Land south of A4117 (12.8 ha)



Land north of A4117 (7.9 ha)

[* A hectare (ha) is 10,000 sq meters or an area 100m x 100m]

Next steps

The site assessment process will identify the best site(s) to include in the NDP and will be based upon the assessment methodology and policies published as part of the call for sites process. The Steering Group will then submit the recommendation to the Town Council and, if approved, a public consultation will be held and the community will have the opportunity to comment on the NDP. Once the public consultation has been completed, all comments received will be reviewed by the Steering Group and the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will be updated. The final draft NDP will be submitted to the Town Council for final approval to proceed to the next stage with Shropshire Council.

Why is an NDP needed?

Shropshire Council have identified a need for another 120-130 houses in Cleobury Mortimer over the next 17 years. The Town Council want to ensure that the provision of housing, leisure and employment meets the needs of the community. The site(s) selected will need to accommodate the housing required plus an additional provision for public open space and wildlife improvements. The Town Council will also require 0.5 ha of additional cemetery space but the employment land remains unchanged from the previous NDP and is still planned to be located at New House Farm. If all goes well, development could commence from early 2023 providing sufficient housing and additional jobs in Cleobury Mortimer through to at least 2038.

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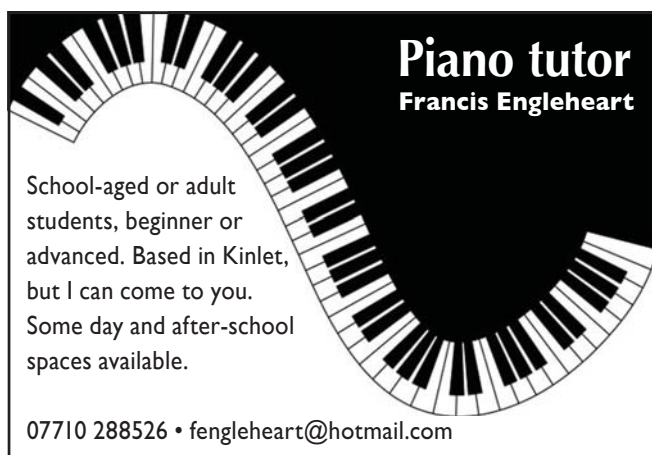
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Aah.... Religion. Probably the cause of more human suffering than any other single factor in history. Since the emergence of our species, it has been used as a means of control and mass murder across the planet. And things aren't getting any better – look at Afganistan and the return to the dark ages under the Taliban, especially for women, despite the soothing words being spouted by the leadership. There is also the ongoing genocide being carried out against the Muslim Uighurs in China and the expulsion of the Rohingyas from Myanmar. Even within religions, there are still struggles and violence between different interpretations of the same faith – think Sunni and Shia or Protestant and Catholic. And all this because the tribal leaders of early man needed an entity to blame when things went wrong...

The UK based German comedian, Henning Wehn says that he never takes much interest when England and Germany meet in the early stages of football tournaments as Germany will have more important matches afterwards....

Beer, as the great philosopher Homer Simpson said, is the cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems. This seems to have been taken on board by the British Ambassador's residence in Brussels where guests are being offered cans of a strong Belfast brewed brown ale labelled 'a practical guide to the NI protocol'. As no-one seems to understand this when sober, think how interesting interpretation could be after a couple of those.

Is there no end to the inventive ways Councils can think up to waste taxpayer's money? The much criticised Marble Arch Mound in London (basically a pile of earth) is now likely to cost around £6 million. The fiasco has resulted in the deputy leader of Westminster City Council resigning with immediate effect. Interestingly, the contract for its design was awarded to a firm of Dutch architects. Perhaps no-one realised that Holland is flat...

In the same vein, I have yet to see whether

the substantial sums spent by Shropshire Council on a 'Pothole Consultant' have borne fruit. If the objective was to speed up pothole repair then it has failed as there is little sign of the 'Cleobury Chasms' being fixed. I would give them 8 out of 10 for marking faults but sadly only 1 out of 10 for fixing them. There has now been a little progress as a number of potholes in the area have been repaired quite well, but why have they left similar craters situated a few inches away? Presumably because they weren't marked and therefore 'not my job mate' but they are still potholes which will require another two visits to mark and repair them. In some cases there will have been a total of five separate visits. First to mark them, then to mark them again when the original markings wore off because they hadn't been fixed. A third visit to repair those marked, then a fourth visit to mark the remainder and, finally a fifth to complete the repairs. I wonder who thought up this genius system? Could it have been the £1000 per day Pothole Consultant? I think we should be told.

Still, some people can see the positive side of things even when disaster strikes. A traffic policeman in the USA returned from a shift to be told by his wife that his brand new garage had been blown away when a hurricane hit and had totally vanished. 'Don't worry' he replied. 'I locked it'.

Do you use online comparison sites to renew insurances, utilities etc.? If so, be aware that quotations you receive are no longer valid for 30 days as before but sometimes only for a day or two or, in some cases, change daily. I found out the hard way as, reverting to a saved quote for insurance a week or so later, I discovered that the price had increased by about 10%. This matters at present, especially for electricity, as wholesale prices are rising fast. 'Strike whilst the iron is hot' would be a good approach to take...

Ariadne J Grumpy

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SCAMS EXTRA

I was recently asked by a reader about how safe the NEXTDOOR application was? Here is my take on it. I can confirm that NEXTDOOR is a bona-fide app available for both Apple and Android mobile platforms and desktops. It was started in the USA in 2008 to give people the chance to focus in community groups and share any information they wish to. If you Google it, eg. "What is Nextdoor," you will get a lot of info such as the following:

"Neighbours around the world turn to Nextdoor daily to receive trusted information, give and get help, get things done, and build real-world connections with those nearby – neighbours, businesses, and public services. We believe connecting with others is a universal human need."

As an Administrator for a local NEXTDOOR group here in Cleobury, I recall being asked if I would invite 100 neighbours to join. I felt our group was effective enough and so declined. The process involved a postal mailshot sent at random to 100 neighbours.

I can confirm that if you receive such a letter, it is not a scam in the current sense of the word and if you click on www.nextdoor.uk, you can read much more about the application. You don't need to reply or be pressured by "a time limited offer". You can sign up anytime you want by going to NEXTDOOR on the web. You are asked for some personal detail, but it is held

securely and it's one App I am happy to endorse.

Nigel Reid

This is an extra piece of news we thought should be published in view of a reader's enquiry. Nigel's regular column is on Page 55, bringing more good advice to we innocents of the online world. JR

ST JOHN'S, DODDINGTON

Our Afternoon Tea saw familiar and new faces in the Village Hall to enjoy teas and cakes plus stalls. But the real joy was for people to meet up again after so long. And it was good to add the £310 raised to our fundraising pot. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

We were delighted to have a good turnout for our Harvest Celebration and raise £75 for British Red Cross to help refugees. Work in the churchyard started on 20th September to make the path accessible for all – some areas will be restricted while the work continues into November; services will continue as advertised on the Benefice page. We continue to work on repairing the church: we have several grants in place but we need more funds to reach our target – if you would like to help you can donate in church (using our contactless point is easy!), contact us, or make a donation via our homepage: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/ Email: stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com FB: @StJohnsDodddington
Celia Gibb 01584 318036

LOCKDOWN LEFTOVERS

Lacon Childe school have produced a community recipe book to commemorate a challenging year and to raise money for the charity Action Aid. 'Lockdown Leftovers' is a tantalizingly tasty collection of simple suppers, favourite bakes and special occasion cakes from students and staff at the school.

Comprising of recipes that helped families through the lockdown experience and contributed to making some special memories this will be a great addition to your kitchen shelf. This recipe book, beautifully illustrated by some of Lacon's budding artists, will undoubtedly help us through the autumn ahead and encourage us all to remember that simple time at home and sharing a meal together at the end of a busy day, or making a special treat to enjoy at the weekend, is such a valuable experience.

Profits made from the sale of the recipe book will be donated to 'Action Aid,' a charity with an established reputation for supporting women and children in need, currently making humanitarian aid in Afghanistan a priority. Copies can be ordered from school at a cost of £5.00 with cash or cheque payment acceptable if parentmail access is unavailable to you.

Emma Hennessy

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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - October 2021



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



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

The Town Council still has a vacancy for a Town Councillor. It is a voluntary position but working as part of a team to help our community grow and address issues we have in the Town. If interested then please contact the Town Clerk for further details. cleobury.clerk.matt.sheehan@gmail.com

The months seem to fly by with still a lot going on. The drainage at the bottom end of the QEII park is to be completed before winter and we get more rain so we are keeping on top of that with the contractors and there may be some disruptions in that area while they work.

October the bulb planting will be started with Cllr Paul French, so please contact the office or him directly if you would like to help. We have also applied for another Grant from the Police and Crime commissioner to have two speed activated signs at either end of the town, Curdale and before the Fire station, to try and slow the speeding vehicles into Cleobury, while also working with the police.

We are slowly getting potholes and issues sorted with Highways, but encourage you all to still keep reporting on Fix my Street app or directly to Shropshire council. We are also putting together a letter with photos of issues throughout the town of bad markings on the Zebra crossing, disabled bays etc and highlighting the traffic issues with areas of concern, which will be sent to West Mercia Police and Shropshire council Highways to get a stage 3 audit done because of our concerns before someone gets hurt.

Another item we are looking at with Shropshire council are the things they used to do regularly that rarely gets done now. Cutting back grass and bramble from pavements, sweeping pavements etc. We are looking at taking on some of these duties but only if we have some of our council tax back to do the job. It is an ongoing discussion but we hope that we can work with Shropshire council to address the issues and will keep you updated.

Thoughtless bad parking on pavements and around the town is an issue that causes big problems for those in the community who are having to go on the road to get past. This is being looked at with the police as it targets mothers with prams and small children, mobility scooters and the visually impaired, so please think when parking as I usually see empty spaces nearby. Plus we have two free car parks!

We are later than normal this year to get all the Christmas lights checked and ready and we are also looking to enhance what we have with some additions we are looking at. We will be working with St Mary's church for the switch on to make it a pleasant experience for all. If you would like to volunteer to help put them up and take down, then please contact the council office.

Another item we are starting to look at is the Cleobury Festival for June next year and the Royal Jubilee celebrations, so if you would like to help and be a part of it, then please contact the Town council office.

Finally please be kind to each other and help when you can, but most of all stay safe!

M Sheehan Town Clerk
Cleobury Mortimer Town Council
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Tuesdays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-9pm
Fridays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

September has been a really positive month for St Mary's Youth Project (SMYP) and the CCH. We welcomed Naomi Cornell as our new Youth Worker and looked forward to how we can connect with local young people with Naomi in charge of the new direction of the project. It didn't take long to see the impact as SMYP held its first major youth event since the pandemic began and welcomed 39 young people to a pizza making, climbing, pool, table tennis and games night. It was a great time together, meeting new people and developing old relationships. Naomi coordinated the event with the help of our committed team of volunteers and it was a great success. We will be hosting a launch event on the 7th October (7pm-9pm) and then a weekly youth club will start the following week. The Youth Club will alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays as the feedback we received from young people meant not everyone could attend on a specific night of the week. To book a place for the 7th October go to: www.smyp.org.uk

Please follow our social media channels or pop into the CCH for more information on regular and ad hoc activities.

We host a number of community groups including the Good Grief Café, the Stroke Support group and the new meeting place for a coffee and chat group for parents/carers of children (any age) with autism. Please get in touch for specific dates and times.

Thank you for supporting this community facility and thank you to our incredible team of growing volunteers. We are so grateful to be part of this community.

Climb61 Session Times - To book: www.smyp.org.uk

Tuesdays - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm, 5:45pm-7:15pm, **(Mondays too)** 7:30pm-9pm

Fridays - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm

LADIES NIGHT - Thursday 28th October



@cleoburycommunityhub

@saintmarysyoungproject @cleoburycommunityhub

Bewdley Festival 2021

Tickets from www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk

Friday 8th October

Police Dog Hogan in Concert

8:00pm – Tree Tops, West Midland Safari Park - £28.50

Saturday 9th October

Aardman Animation – Model Making Workshop and Film

10:30am & 2:30pm, St. George's Hall - £10 (£5 child)

Dom Joly's Holiday Snaps:

'Travel and Comedy in The Danger Zone'

8:00pm - St. George's Hall, Bewdley - £25

Lemn Sissay: 'Something Dark'.

The venerated poet talks about his life

8:00pm - St. George's Hall - £25

Monday 11th October

Michael Pennington: 'Sweet William'

The award winning actor brings Shakespeare to life

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £15

Tom Watson: 'The Journey back to Worcestershire'

8:00pm - St. George's Hall - £20

Tuesday 12th October

Stephen Moss: 'The Secrets of Songbirds'

Brett Westwood collaborator reveals facts about songbirds

10:30am - St. George's Hall - £12

Lesley Smith: 'Peggy Knight'

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £15

Miranda Krestovnikoff: 'The Sea around Me - Encounters with Marine Life'

The BBC "Coast" favourite talks about her diving experiences

8:00pm - St. George's Hall - £20

Wednesday 13th October

Carole Boyd: aka Lynda Snell 'Life's a Soap Opera'

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £15

Ronnie Scott's Allstars: 'The Soho Songbook'

8:00pm - Baxter College, Kidderminster - £28

Thursday 14th October

Art on Film: 'Vincent Van Gogh - Sunflowers'

10:30am - St. George's Hall - £12

'Hymn and Her' (A New Play with Jonathan Darby & Claire Worboys)

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £12

Cerys Matthews: Exploring poetry with renowned local poet Liz Berry

8:00pm - St. George's Hall - £25

Friday 15th October:

Tom Holland: 'Dominion – Making of the Western Mind'

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £15

Greg Foot: 'The Future of Food'

4:30pm - St. George's Hall - £10 (£5 child)

Fairport Convention in Concert

8:00pm - Tree Tops, West Midland Safari Park - £30

Saturday 16th October:

Max Keen, 'Sir William Marshall (1146 – 1219)'

2:30pm - Bewdley Baptist Church - £15

Cookies! What's it all about? Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm not going to talk about those lovely things your mum, grand mum or your wife used to bake. These are far more invasive having a direct impact on you every time you open a browser or look up something on the internet. The main purpose of a cookie is **to identify users and possibly prepare customized Web pages or to save site login information for you**. When you enter a website using cookies, files are saved on your phone, tablet or computer when you visit a website. Almost every web site you access asks you to accept cookies, and therefore in many cases, stores information about you. On the surface this might not seem such a problem and it's so easy to just click on the 'Accept' button so you can get on with looking at the web pages. It also makes it easier for the owner of the web pages to 'personalise' what you see based on your browsing history with them.

When we were part of the European Union, we were required to accept an edict known as General Data Protection Register (GDPR). This required EVERY organisation that collected personal information (even just a name and phone number) to put specific controls in place to protect that data and ensure it did not fall into the hands of criminals. Every organisation, whether commercial or not, perhaps a Charity, had to appoint a GDPR Officer, who was held to account in the protection of whatever data the organisation collected.

How does this relate to cookies? Many web sites require you to ACCEPT cookies before you can continue browsing, but also give you an option to decline certain types of information that the web site will gather. Typically, when you accept cookies, you are agreeing to information gathering.

There are 4 basic types of cookie & you should be allowed to choose which cookies you're happy for the owner of the website to use. The basic types of COOKIES fall into 4 categories.

1. Cookies that measure website use.

The website uses monitoring software from specialist vendors to measure how you use the website and your web performance experience while visiting so they can improve it based on user needs. The vendors are not allowed to share your data with others. But they collect data on how you got to the site, the pages you visit on their web site

and how long you spend on each page and finally, what you click on while you're visiting the site. Other software can store information on how well pages performed on your device (including JavaScript errors).

2. Cookies that help with communications and marketing

These cookies may be set by third party vendors on behalf of the web site owner to measure for example how you view YouTube videos from the web, what products you might have shown interest in or ordered etc. This info is passed back to enable the web owner to target marketing campaigns more effectively.

3. Cookies that remember your settings

These cookies do things like remember your preferences and the choices you make, to personalise your experience of using the site. When you open a web browser on any device you have the option of setting preferences. This cookie remembers those settings and restores them every time you visit the same site.

4. Strictly necessary cookies

These essential cookies do things like remember your progress through a form (for example a licence application). This is probably the most useful one of all but cannot be turned off. It always needs to be on.

So, what do you do next?

When you open a web page for the first time, you are invariably presented with a requirement to ACCEPT or Decline cookies. The ACCEPT button is more prominent and it's easy to just click and move on. But if you don't want to be monitored on everything you do, you can deselect the non-essential cookies. Usually, you may have to click on an 'Options' button and deselect the cookies you don't want, but you must SAVE your selection before continuing. Beware that you may also see a button named 'ACCEPT ALL'. Don't select that, as the web owners are just trying one final time to persuade you to use their cookies. So, once you have made your decision, you should not be asked again next time you visit the same site as your basic preferences have been saved.

Highly reputable web site owners will not knowingly breach GDPR rules or sell on data sent by you. However, no organisation can claim to be so secure that they can't be hacked. Even the best security can be breached by the smartest criminal.

**LAUGH OUT LOUD
AT HOPTON WAFERS**

After being closed for the last eighteen months, Hopton Wafers Village Hall is now fully open. To celebrate, we are hosting a function, co-

sponsored by the Hopton Court Estate, on Saturday evening 27 November (7.00pm). Well-known local comedian, Max Keen, will give a hilarious account of the life of Horatio, Lord Nelson. Come with friends and enjoy

an evening with good food provided (wine and beer at the bar). Tickets are £12 each and can be obtained from Robert Hodge, treasurer@hoptonwafersvillagehall.uk, or by calling 012989 270047.



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BUSY BAYTON

Bayton Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee invite you to the first service at New Memorial, to be held on Friday November 5th at 10.45am at Coronation Corner, Bayton

The service will be led by Rev Sallie Butcher, supported by Royal British Legion, MP Harriet Baldwin and Bayton School Children. The names of those listed on Bayton Memorials will be read out.

Wreaths will be laid, you are welcome to lay your own wreath if you wish.

It is time to remember and give thanks to all those who gave their lives in War, especially those from our own community and give thanks to all those who have served and continue to serve, whether in the Armed Forces or more recently in the NHS.

We look forward to seeing you at the service and hope you will be able to join us for light refreshments in Bayton Village Hall after the event.

There's more. We said they were busy....

Bayton Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. This is a call to arms for Bayton Bulb Bonanza on Sunday November 7th at 11.00am. Meet at Bayton Church car park. Bulbs will be

provided, please bring your own tools. A display of bulbs on the Recreation Ground will be wonderful in the Spring.

Work to improve the surface of the car park and footpath will be completed by the end of October ready for Bayton Bulb Bonanza.

Refreshments will be served in Bayton Village Hall, we look forward to seeing you.

CLEOBURY

PATIENTS' VOICE

This is the group that represents all patients and helps develop services with our Medical Practice. The role includes advising on patient views of services provided, encouraging patients to take responsibility for their own health, researching the views of practice users, participating in health promotion events and finally, communicating regularly with patients so the community knows what is going on.

Due to Covid the group has been limited in its activities but intends to be active and represent patients with a meeting soon. If you are interested, please get in touch with either me or secretary Mandy Smith. We are interested in attracting young

families so their needs can be supported.

Paul French, Email: paulfrench143@yahoo.com
Telephone: 07808 682715

Mandy Smith Email: Mandy.smith_family@btinternet.com Telephone: 07971 373679

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND A.G.M.

Is being held on Sunday 17th October at the Sports and Social Club, Cleobury Mortimer at 7.00 p.m, covering the last two years as we didn't hold one during Covid lockdown. Everyone is welcome. We will be electing trustees for the coming year, together with discussing ways to raise additional funds. We continue to pay for nursing care when families are in a medical crisis and needing additional care.

Rosemary Abbiss

PICTURE FRAMING

The advertisement for a new picture framing business in town came in too late to make this issue, but The Framing Studio will be on these pages in November. It's the venture of Paul Serrell-Cooke of Lacon House and will cater for photos artwork and canvases. Paul is on 07791 378 240.

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THE READING GROUP

'Being Mortal' by Atul Gawande provided a longer than usual discussion on our September evening. The author, a surgeon, confessed he has not always asked patients the right questions regarding treatment. Several of us, being senior citizens, almost stopped reading during the first chapter about ageing. A powerful and moving book, it debates the difficulties of dealing with ageing and death in our society. Mainly concerned with assisted living and quality of life, as defined by individuals.

One member gave us a short history of hospices and how home hospice can play its part.

For a subject which confronts us all, we do lack the ability to talk about death and the process of dying. Prolonging life is not always good and dying with dignity is the aim of many and this book is a useful tool to start a conversation. Though a serious subject, the book is not depressing and we still managed a few laughs during the evening.

We meet again on Monday October the 18th with this month's choice, The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath.

Deana Kimber
CM 271754

THE GREYHOUND WALK

On September 19th the first Cleobury Mortimer Great Global Greyhound Walk took place at the Sports & Social Club. At 10.30 am on a glorious day 22 beautiful Sighthounds met up. A mix of Greyhounds, Lurchers and Whippets including the elderly States Lady Tess Tess at seventeen and a half; she arrived in her very own chariot but did manage a little totter around the sports field and ate a large number of sausages!!

A leisurely walk was had as the day was hot but anybody who saw the 12 dogs in the Training Pen would have seen the really gentle side of these dogs. No barking or yapping, all happily mooching playing or running with no squabbles. They are a very laid back breed, so laid back they're often called the 45mph couch potato! They are elegant and polite and their only wants are a sofa, their own or your bed, cuddles and plenty of sausages!!

This will become an annual event that I hope will grow each year, attracting fellow sighthound owners from across the county and beyond. This year we had visitors from

Shrewsbury, Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

The Global Walk this year hit a new record with 7509 Sighthounds (467 looking for homes), of which 3965 were in the UK, 343 walks globally in 54 countries.

Jill Parker



That's Jill in the middle of the pack, sorting out the leads

Editor's Note:

There was a raffle for the day and I was lucky enough to win a bottle of whisky. None of your cheap old stuff, this was a litre of Canadian Club and definitely one of my luckiest wins. I'm told something like £300 was raised for the two charities that do a great deal to make the life of these graceful dogs safe and comfortable.

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requirements.

I was intrigued when Stephanie Cope approached me about taking an advert on these pages, because I'd had a very good experience of another mortgage advisor some years ago. Good enough to make a new mortgage very affordable. So welcome aboard, Stephanie.

Her proper title is a Mortgage and Protection Advisor, working with Midas Financial Planning. Her route to this serious and responsible position started when she was working with her father on computer services, including mortgage services, where she discovered a world of strict control. It's a reflection of the 2016-17 financial crises that anyone offering advice on mortgage or business finance has to conform with very strict guidelines. Like giving a client a full and detailed report of what is available to them.

"It depends on what the customer is looking for and what they can afford," she explains. "I can access every finance source and insurance company." There are names in there I'd never heard of, but if they can offer a service that is

a complete fit with your needs, that will be offered.

Stephanie's early days were centred around writing wills, a vital aspect of her business to this day, but she met a finance advisor and realised there was another area where she could offer advice. She had to have qualifications, which came with a year of evening classes and plain old hard work, only to find that she had to prove experience in the field to be accepted to work. It was a period of frustration until she met Marcus of Midas Financial Planning, who recognised her as someone with determination and ability. She worked under his guidance and became one of his team of self employed professionals. And that's where she is today.

She trades under the Midas name, self employed and able to publicise her business as well being one of the names the company's national advertising lists as a regional representative. So how far does her service stretch? "I've got connections in Manchester through friends there and then add the broad West Midlands and any English enquiry. Her emphasis is on

the local area, with less travel costs and the matter of looking after newly born Arthur.



At her desk with access to all the financial information a customer could ask for.

If you get the impression that this well qualified and very independent young woman is tough enough to be hard bitten, think again. She has a love of animals and humanity that comes through when she talks and success of her face-to-face talking tells you she can listen to just what a client needs. She operates in a competitive business sphere but straightforward honesty and understanding shines through.

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CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	www.cleoburydental.co.uk
CLEOBURY CARERS	Shaz Malins	01743 341995	carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Kim	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
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THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	Angela Flowers	01299 270318	Sunday Mass at 9.00am
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM		01584 874922	
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Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE: OCTOBER 22nd. WOULD CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS LAST POSSIBLE DATE TO RECEIVE REPORTS.

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THE NEARLY DEAD POETS' SOCIETY

A our September meeting the new formula of each member writing a poem to include a particular word was tried out. In this instance the word was "Air" and all had done their homework.

We moved on to offer personal selections and soon found that two had chosen works by Lord Alfred Tennyson, two had Rudyard Kipling and for the final choice a reading of Christina Rossetti's 'Remember' saw a book of her work produced and another of her works read. Does this mean that good taste prevails in the group?

The subject word for October was "Autumn", which we will hear applied to works on Monday the 25th. As ever, in the library.

THANK YOU

Valerie Carter and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, condolences, donations and cards sent in our sad loss.

Special thanks go to Victoria Allen and also to the Royal British Legion for their escort. Donations amounting to £500 were split between the Air

Ambulance and Forest Dog Rescue. God Bless everyone.

BORDERS CLASSIC BIKE SHOW

The number of bikes riding into town and heading for Lacon Childe School confirmed that enthusiasm for this annual event has not slipped. Classic machines from the wider Midlands and from North and South Wales pleased them and amongst the traders was a display of 400 club badges of all ages.



