

The Cleobury Clarion



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A ROTTEN TRICK

The Severn Hospice Shop in the High Street is a real asset to the town. It's run by a hard working and enthusiastic manager who cannot speak too highly of the volunteers who staff the shop day by day. The place buzzes with a friendly atmosphere.

So it was a shock to all who heard the news that two items had been stolen in July. One was a bottle of YSL perfume and later a gold ladies watch, that had been on show just minutes before it was missed.

Manager Gayna Woodland was hurt and angry: "It upset all the volunteers who were here. It's not the charity who were robbed, it's their patients." You can't get much lower than shoplifting a place that raises funds to support cancer sufferers. Despicable.

Gayna is certain the shop was targeted by the thief, who she feels is not a local person. The CCTV cameras just cover that area, so there is hope of the low life being identified, but let's not think our fine town is safe from such scum.

GOLD MEDALS FOR TOM



Tom Keeley, back home from the Special Olympics with his medals. Cleobury's Tom Keeley was in Los Angeles in July as one of Great Britain squad in the Special Olympics. He came back with a haul of medals: two Gold, three Bronze in a range of disciplines and a Silver for his overall performance. He was the best British competitor in his level of Artistic Gymnastics, covering floor exercises, pommel, rings, parallel bars and high bars. His proud family were there to support him. See Page 33.

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUPER SIMON EVANS WEEKEND

The Simon Evans Weekend early in August surpassed even the hopes of the organising Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Library, with the exhibition in the library so busy that at times it was difficult to get in.

One of the star attractions was the Simon Evans Walk photo competition, judged by professional Claire Carter and won by Don Thompson in the adult class and Katie Sales the Under 16s. The range of pictures will produce a classy calendar, and there is a strong feeling that all the Simon Evans memorabilia acquired should be on permanent show. Watch this space. **Weekend Report on Page 17.**



Photo competition winner Don Thompson with Claire Carter



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page September 2015 - Volume Thirteen - Edition Six

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; Clee Hill Post Office; Cleobury North Village Store; The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank** Service Station; Ludlow Library; Mawley Oak Garage; The Colliers Arms Farmers Market 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** and McCartneys Estate Agents, Tenbury Wells.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Vicki Alexander is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - Constable Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: 0800 783 1359

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

JOB VACANCIES - 01299 272300. See the local list in Cleobury Country Centre.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM272717, 07761 976650 mobile, or dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. Out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

SHROP DOC - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

THE PHARMACY - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND - 01746 718210. Rosemary Abbiss is the contact.

PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. Now 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 - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator.

WASTE DISPOSAL - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. September 2015



*Lisa Marshall -
Hypnotherapy up on the Hill.
See Page 19.*



*A new smiling face at the
Dental Practice -
Doctor Laura Wood.
See Page 23.*



*She listens and then helps you
listen more clearly.
Charmain Leek at Hearclear.
See Page 55.*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

TONY SHELDON

Shirley Sheldon, along with Debbie and Donald and their family, would like to thank everyone who offered help and sympathy and attended Tony's funeral at the Wyre Forest Crematorium on June 26th.

With an estimated 200 people gathering to show their respect and recall a local man who worked at Muller's for 49 years, there was no doubt about his standing in the community. He and Shirley were married for 57 years and our sympathies go out to her at this sad loss.

A total of £850 was raised for the collection, which has been presented to the Cleobury Medical Centre with thanks for the support and help they gave both Tony and the family.

A CORRECTION

The email address for Virgin Just Giving that we gave with the August news item about Sarita Smith climbing Kilimanjaro this month seems to be wrong. We've just made a donation on <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SaritaSmith1> and got through.

WHOOPS

In the August Clarion we reported the great success of the first Ludlow Fun Dog Day, saying that the event was organised by the Ludlow

Round Table, which was wrong. In fact it was the Ludlow Rotary Club who did such a great job in getting this novel idea off the ground. Our apologies to the Rotary Club.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

September is a time to be gathering in the harvest and autumn colours begin to appear with a distinct chill in the morning air. The effects of the shortening days are now quite noticeable, so it's time to move frost-tender plants indoors. Summer seems to be barely over before thoughts of next spring begin. Buy spring bulbs for the garden early to get the best choice of varieties. Many jobs still to be done, deadhead roses, cut back perennials and fork over your beds and borders for one good round of thorough weeding. This should keep them mostly tidy until the following spring. Clean out cold frames and greenhouses ready for Autumn use.

At our July meeting, food historian Nick Tristram-Eve, dressed in Georgian Costume, gave an interesting talk on 'Chocolate through Time'. He went through the historic events of chocolate through the centuries to the modern day chocolate bar we eat today. He

also brought along some 18th century chocolate drinks for us to sample. This fascinating subject was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday September 23rd, when Patrick Clements will talk about Wildlife, Nature and Conservation. It will also be the club's Autumn Show. Schedules available from garden club or email a request.

Pauline Bowden

CLEE HILL SINGERS

This is a friendly and informal group who get together to share the simple joy of uniting voices in harmony. They are about to start their winter season of weekly gatherings at Doddington Village Hall, at 2.00 o'clock on September 10th and new members will be very welcome. George Cummings on 01584 891635 can tell you more.

SILLY BITS

Q: What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying?

A: The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

"I'm not saying let's kill all the stupid people. Let's remove all the warning labels and let the problem sort itself out."

Anon.





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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

The meeting on July 28th was too late for a report to be included in the August issue and the matter of Diamond will be dealt with by Steve Todd in his own incisive way. Over 80 people crowded into the Market Hall to hear a range of reports and ask questions.

WPC Ann O'Leary reported a wave of burglaries from sheds and advised the use of alarms to deter the thieves. She also explained that the Land Rover Defender is a particularly favourite target and owners should be very careful to have security in place and switched on.

The architect from Cox's Homes had answered many questions before the meeting started and promised that the plans for the proposed development on the land behind The Old Lion would be on show in the Market Hall for all to see. One resident warned that the land is becoming a fly tipping target.

Councillor Gwilym Butler reported that the county's planning policy document now states that there will be no cap on the outlined development numbers published already. The target number for Cleobury

for the period from 2009 to 15 was 350 new homes and 261 have been built, while others are in the planning or other final stages.

He advised that the Village Development Statement in the Parish Plan would affect the overall plan, and surmised that the current Plan would possibly be repeated in its current form.

THE TOWN'S SEWAGE PLANT

Officers from Severn Trent Water were present at the August Parish Council meeting to explain plans for the town's sewage plant. With the growth of population, it is near its capacity and as it ages it also needs work. So the water company have been looking at alternatives and talking to landowners whose properties front the river.

They have been looking on both sides of the river, bearing in mind future growth in demand, the need to maintain a decent standard and to accommodate the output from Hobson's Brewery. Nothing has been decided yet, but they hope to make an announcement by Christmas.

When the possible new site has been finalised - remember that it would be possible to stay with the present site, although

the impression given was that would not be the company's choice - they would hope to start work within 12 months. The work would then take up to 14 months to complete. One parishioner asked what would happen to the old works and did it have potential for development? Nothing firm on that point, but they would be looking to "pass it on".

So nothing definite at this time, but clearly there are plans to improve.

FUN DOG SHOW

Severn Edge Vets have an Open Day and Fun Dog Show at Hollybush Road, Bridgnorth (WV16 4AR on your satnav) on the 19th this month. It's free, starts at 2.00 and ends at 6.00. Lots of classes and awards for your pride and joy to compete for.

The hospital will also be open and you can see just how good the facilities are. I say that with some feeling because they saved my dog's life last year, after he swallowed a peach stone that lodged in his intestine. I still have that stone on the fridge door and he wears a muzzle to control his habit of scavenging when we walk out. It's an impressive place to walk around and see the range of care available. JR

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY IN BLOOM

As part of Cleobury in Bloom, the Horticultural Society sets a gardening challenge for children in the pre-school and primary school. This year we changed the emphasis to growing green vegetables, focusing on peas. They were invited to grow pea seeds, keep a log of their activities and record what they had learned about growing their own food.

Four schools and seven nurseries entered. They were also given growing containers and a bag of compost, donated by Mark and Tess Link of Farlow Farm Nursery. The late frosts and cold temperatures were a challenge, too much for those in the Clee Hill area where their plants gave up. Despite that, the rest persevered and their efforts were judged in July by John and Jane Barnes, and two members of the Society.

On July 12th over fifty people turned up at the Methodist Hall to find out who had won. Cleobury Mortimer Nursery scooped the winner's prize in the pre-school setting category, with Abkats Day Nursery the runners-up, showing that even the very young can start early to grow their own. Cleobury and

Kinlet Playgroups were highly commended; Chorley Family Playgroup and Ever After Day Nursery were commended. Stottesdon Church of England Primary won the school category, followed by Kinlet Church of England. Bayton Primary School was highly commended.

As always, the judges were amazed at the activities that the children had been involved in as part of the pea project. The quality was variable, but some were more successful than those plants struggling to grow in some of the Society's members' gardens.

The Society was awarded a *Making a Difference Locally* grant from Nisa through Harry Tuffins. So the prizes could really support the children by ensuring they had equipment to sustain their activities in the longer term. We are very grateful for the award, which has made a significant difference.

Flo Hadley

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Cleobury Patients Voice now has a private line which patients can ring if they have any non-medical concerns connected

with the Medical Centre: 01299 407224.

This is connected to an answer phone and CPV will endeavour to listen to it within seven days.

AN INVITATION TO A TEA PARTY

On Sunday, September 6th, at 4.00pm, we are holding a Tea Party at St Mary's, Neen Savage, to celebrate the successful completion of the restoration works and to view the Creation Tapestries which have been made by members of the Parish.

There will be tea, sandwiches, scones and cakes and a chance to discover one of the prettiest Norman churches in the area. Do come and celebrate with us.

Sue Del Mar

MIDLAND AIR

AMBULANCE AUCTION

The friendly local Rock Cross Inn is holding a special auction on Sunday the 27th, in aid of the Midland Air Ambulance. All proceeds to that very important service.

It all starts at 4.00 and as well as bidding for what you fancy, you can donate goods to the auction from 2.00. All enquiries to Sarah on 01299 832533. You might also care to down a drop of Vimto and treat yourself to a meal while you're there.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC

Following the success of last year we had many requests for another concert by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra.

I am pleased to tell you that The Friends of Saint Mary's Church have managed to arrange another concert for you on October 11th, which we are certain will be as enjoyable as last year.

The proposed programme is: Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides Overture' (aka Fingal's Cave) Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No 1, featuring soloist Tim Stidwill, and two works by Beethoven: 'The Creatures of Prometheus' and Symphony No 7 in A major. The conductor will be Michael Lloyd.

Tickets will be £15, to include a drink during the interval, available from the 1st September and can be purchased from Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Pharmacy, Spire Hairdressing, or telephone me on 01584 891351.

Don't be disappointed by waiting too long to book your place, last year we sold all the tickets and the church was filled to capacity.

Alec Osbaldiston

BEWARE THESE SCAMS

Citizens Advice Wyre Forest warn that pensioners are being approached by less than honest operators. They offer to invest pension funds in more lucrative sources and disappear with the money. Isn't it sad that whatever new measure is introduced that might help people who need some cash from their fund, there are the less than scrupulous who will try to rob them.

If you have an approach, no matter how plausible the story, don't fall for it. If you want to know more, Citizens Advice Wyre Forest are on 01562 61094.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The summer months have been spent preparing (clearance and waymarking) for our major walks. The Simon Evans Way attracted 27 walkers and next up is the Food and Ale trail on September 5th. There will be no Parish Walk on September 6th because of the Trail.

Regular work parties return this month, on Wednesday the 16th. In the autumn we are planning to work with the council to install a new footbridge in Neen Sollars. It replaces one that was swept away in the 2012 flooding

A record number of people (29) joined the Walking for Health walk on Clee Hill on August 19th when we also celebrated Deana and Alan Kimber's Golden Wedding before the rain made us dive for cover.

Graham Simpson

MACMILLAN'S BIG COFFEE MORNING

Once again it is time for the Macmillan Cancer Care 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning.' It will be held in the Market Hall on Friday September 25th from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. I hope everyone will be able to come along and make it the most successful ever.

Sue Henderson

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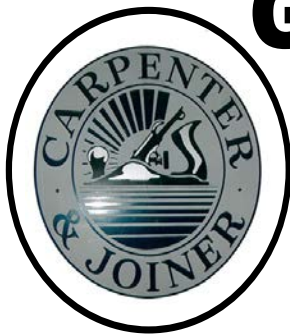
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



THE SIMON EVANS SUCCESS

August's celebration of the life of Simon Evans, Shropshire's Postman Poet, was a runaway success.

'At one stage people simply couldn't get into the exhibition, the room was so packed,' organiser Gill Guest explained. 'Val Simpson's 'Simon Evans: In the footsteps of a survivor' walk, one of twenty 'Walks on the Home Front' was massively oversubscribed, and the concert by folk band 'Whalebone' was absolutely full. We couldn't have been more pleased.'

Vintage teas in the sunshine provided by Cleobury Compassionate Communities in the unexpected setting of the library 'garden', were extremely popular, the ginger cake with icing an inch thick earning a thumbs up from Whalebone lead guitarist Steve Downs, who couldn't resist giving it a special mention in the concert.

Over 80 entries were received for the 'My Simon Evans Way' photographic competition. They made a wonderful display and really captured the countryside Evans loved and walked in every day. Judge was prizewinning photographer Claire Carter and the winners were Don Thompson (adult class) and Katie Sales (under 16's).

The celebration concluded with a rather damp hike to the summit of Abdon Burf, where Evans' ashes are scattered, to mark the 120th anniversary of his birth. Fittingly, the walk was led by Suzanne Thomas, the originator of the whole idea, and Evans' 'Abdon Burfday' was celebrated at the summit with cake and candles.

Simon Evan's biographer, Dr Mark Baldwin, described the event as 'a triumph', while visitors quickly upgraded the event from a simple celebration and began referring to it instead as a fully fledged 'Simon Evans Festival'.

And to round off the success story, some emailed comments:

Keith Pybus who co-wrote the War Walk leaflet with Val Simpson:

'Since the creation of the Simon Evans Way, Cleobury Mortimer has set the rest of the county an example. **Round about the**

Crooked Steeple their Celebration of the Life and Works of Simon Evans was just as pioneering.

The Friends of the Cleobury Mortimer Library found imaginative ways of harnessing Simon Evans' love of the local landscape into the photographic competition and calendar and the programme of guided walks.'

Jim Stabler, from the Council, who made the bid for the series of 20 Shropshire War walks:

'Many thanks to you and the others for a really wonderful walk, you must have done so much research and I thought you imparted it to us brilliantly! What an amazing man Simon was and what lovely stories, made so much better by having locals on board who told us their own stories, brilliant! I so enjoyed myself!'

And finally, some statistics:

11 walkers up Titterstone
110+ visitors to the exhibition
27 walkers on Simon Evans Way
57 at Whalebone Concert
15 on Abdon Burfday

So well done the Friends of the Library and all who were part of the weekend. At a time when libraries are under much pressure, this was a real boost.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LISA'S AMBITION ACHIEVED

Lisa Marshall had a good job, working with the Occupational Psychologists at Heathrow Airport's Number Two terminal. Surrounded by highly qualified people and confessing she know nothing about engineering, she was someone out of the ordinary. But she was harboured a deep wish to work for herself, doing good for others.

She signed up for a course in hypnotherapy in her native Birmingham. And when her dad said "I've never seen you so happy," she knew she'd found her natural direction. She volunteered to be treated in a lecture and admits she feared confessing a death phobia. "It was completely solved," she recalls with a smile. "Never a problem since."

So now she's a qualified hypnotherapist who's building a reputation for helping. "One client had been in pain for 20 years, and he's been successfully treated," she explains.

So what does hypnotherapy do? "Puts you into deep relaxation, so that you're suggestible. The mind is so powerful and the only reason people feel they can't achieve something is because they believe they can't."



Lisa Marshall, happy in a job that helps other people.

Her normal approach is to chat to a client on the phone, to assess what problems they may have, before meeting face to face. She is clear in what she wants as a meeting place: quiet and not open to interruption. Which is why she has chosen to work two evenings a week at the Estivals Centre, a beautiful setting with a view across to the Malvern Hills. She's bookable from 6.30 to 9.30 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The treatment involves no physical content and the setting will have you in the right frame of mind to start with. What Lisa is trained to do is realise what you can do if you really want to. Call her on 07725 144 079 or visit her website www.my-amazinglife.co.uk. Could make your life better.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On a pleasantly sunny day, eight members set off to visit the Dorothy Clive Garden on the Shropshire and Cheshire border, a few miles from Market Drayton.

The woodland garden was created in the 1940s by Colonel Harry Clive from a disused gravel quarry for his wife, Dorothy, who was suffering from Parkinson's disease. The objective was to create a beautiful garden where Dorothy could enjoy her daily walks. He certainly achieved that.

The garden features a woodland area and waterfall with a large collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, a hillside alpine scree and pool, 30 metres long laburnum arch, flowering rose walk, vibrant seasonal borders, and a diverse collection of plants, including magnolias and camellias. The garden is well worth a visit at any time of the year, not least for the tea room – always an attraction for Horticultural Society members!

Our next meeting takes us back indoors for a talk on allotment plot management – September 14th at 8.00 in the Methodist Hall. All welcome.

Liz Smurthwaite

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Doctor Caroline MacMillan writes:

My two beautiful Manx cats rule the household – I adore them so much that my husband calls me “the mad cat lady”. I have always thought this was just a term of endearment, but is it possible that something has infected my brain and I now have no choice but to be mad for my two girls?

A parasite called *Toxoplasma Gondii*, which is carried by cats, can infect humans and can actually enter our brains. Could this parasite be making the human population “cat crazy”?

It sounds very unlikely, but research looking at the effects of *T.gondii* on rodents found that those rats infected with the parasite were actually more attracted to their predator, the cat, than those that were not infected. These rodents showed slowed reaction times, lethargy, a reduction in fear, and attraction to cat urine. Is it possible that this parasite is actually manipulating the rodents so they are more attracted to their prey? If this is the case, could a human infected with *T. gondii* become more attracted to the felines in their lives?

Toxoplasmosis is caused by the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. Cats are the definitive host for the organism (meaning that the parasite can reproduce in this species). Many warm-blooded animal species, including humans, can be infected by this parasite. Furthermore, the resistant oocysts excreted by cats can remain viable in the environment for many months. Humans can become infected with *T. gondii* by 4 major routes:

- Ingesting oocysts from water, food or soil contaminated with the faeces of infected cats
- Ingesting or handling undercooked or raw meat (mainly pork or lamb) that contains tissue cysts
- Transmission from a newly infected mother to the foetus
- Receiving organ transplants or blood products from donors with toxoplasmosis, although this is rare

Luckily, for the vast majority of humans, infection with *T. gondii* doesn't cause any

symptoms, and most people are not even aware that they have been exposed to it, or infected. This is because the immune system of healthy adults and children is strong enough to prevent *T gondii* from causing serious illness. However, some infected people can suffer from flu like symptoms, such as a high temperature, aching muscles, tiredness, a sore throat and a general feeling of malaise.

The treatment of *T gondii* in cats is a combination of clindamycin and pyrimethamine. Prevention:

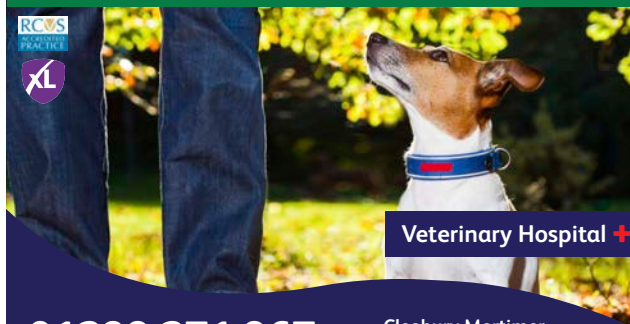
- Do not allow cats to hunt rodents and birds (keep pets indoors).
- Feed cats only cooked meat or processed food from commercial sources.
- At present there is no vaccine for toxoplasmosis in cats.
- Efforts are underway to develop a vaccine to prevent oocyst shedding by cats.

So... in conclusion, can *T gondii* make us crazy cat ladies? The jury is still out, but my personal view is that there's a possibility that it could change our personality, but an increase in affection for our four legged furry friends would be the least of my worries!

Caroline MacMillan

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Happening on High Street

DENTAL ADVANCES

This part is just off High Street in fact, but the Cleobury Dental Practice has been a great asset to the town since its establishment. Not only has it made NHS dentistry available, but it is making further advances and expanding its services.

In September 2014 it was awarded Foundation Training Status with Doctor Ann Marie Bard appointed a Trainer, enabling her to pass on the skills for which she has become so well respected in the area. She has completed her post graduate certificate in Dental Education and now sets out on further studies, starting with a Master of Science degree in Advanced General Dental Practice at Birmingham University. All this and a family to look after; you wonder where she gets the energy from.

Dr Bard is very keen to get the need for good dental hygiene over to children, and the practice has funded a visit to Cleobury Primary School to show the pupils how to best keep their teeth healthy. This work used to be government funded, but cutbacks stopped that, so the Dental Practice dug deep and funded itself.

They also have a Children's Day on October 27th, designed

to remove any doubts children may have about going to the dentist. It's open to all children, whether they are registered with the practice or new patients. Expect face painting, quizzes and competitions to help the young ones understand the need for good dental health. If you want to book an appointment for your child to have a check-up, the number is CM 271747.



A new happy face at the Dental Centre - Doctor Laura Wood.

The practice is expanding, offering Saturday and evening surgeries and a new preventative membership scheme. Doctor Laura Wood, who has a specialist interest in orthodontics, has also recently been appointed. Dr Wood has practiced for many years in the Wyre Forest area and offers a range of treatments, including metal or ceramic braces, as well

as Invisalign and lingual braces that are invisible.

It's a happy place to visit, where the staff smile, the seats in the waiting room are comfortable and the dentistry is painless. Another advantage of living in Cleobury Mortimer.

THE ROYAL

FOUNTAIN INN

The agent's sign says 'Under Offer' which is good news for Al and Helen, who are still opening on Fridays. Even better news is that if the place is sold, they intend to stay in Cleobury.

The Royal Fountain Runners have moved up the hill to the Sports and Social Club, where they meet every Thursday evening. And they had great success with their first Couch to Five K session, that persuades people to get out and try a little gentle running that progresses through nine weeks. The Five K is kilometres, or about three miles in Olde English, and they had such a good reception that another session starts this month.

Full details from Al on Thursday at the Sports and Social Club, where you might be tempted to fall off the wagon if you're on a sobriety drive. If you want to get to that Five K level, maybe a J20?

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

JO JUMPS FOR KEMP

Doctor Jo Stanley is a highly regarded local medic, well respected in the community and clearly very sober and respectable. Or so we thought until we got this message:

Having turned 50 this year I have decided to get on and do some of those things on my bucket list.

I am pleased to be doing a tandem skydive on September 26th to raise funds for Kemp Hospice. This local organisation does great work for our community. If you can help with a small donation, please either ask me for a sponsorship form or visit the site below. All proceeds go to Kemp and I will pay for my own parachute jump.

Many thanks *Jo Stanley*
<http://www.doitforcharity.com/jjumpsforkemp>

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion will be holding their annual Harvest Auction at the Bell Inn on Friday 11th September.

Mr Jim Hulme will be the Auctioneer for the evening which starts at 8.00. Anybody is welcome to donate produce for us to sell and of course come to the Bell and bid on the goods. All the money raised goes to

the branch for local welfare issues.

Tickets will soon be on sale for the Fish and Chip Supper which will be held on October 23rd at the Parish Hall. This year by popular request, musical entertainment will be by the Ukulele Band.

The Annual General Meeting will be taking place at the October meeting. This year the County Chairman and County Secretary will be attending as part of their Meet the Branch Programme. All members are welcome to attend.

David Taylor

COUNTY CHAMPION JACK



Jack Severn at Habberley with his Under 14s Champion trophy
Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club's Jack Severn was one of a select group of Under 14s to contest

the Worcestershire Under 14s title at a very wet Habberley Golf Club. Despite the conditions, Jack kept his head and his score down to take the title.

BEWDLEY BOOK WEEK

In its fifth year, this year's event runs from September 6th to the 13th and welcomes Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy on the 11th to offer readings of her work with traditional music from Worcester band Bitterroots.

Other special guests include BBC World Affairs editor John Simpson, romantic novelists Katie Fjorde and Jo Thomas with Heart FM's Rachel New on stage to talk and cartoonist Geoff Tristram talking about JB's, the live music venue in Dudley.

More details on the website bewdleybookweek.org.uk.

AND A REMINDER ABOUT BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

It really is a super piece of organisation to get so many acts and spread them around the town at a wide variety of venues for this week. Pick up one of their leaflets to check who's coming, and if you're very lucky they won't all be sold out. It all starts on October 9th.



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

An ageing population

Earlier this summer I attended a fascinating series of lectures organised by my constituent, the High Sheriff of Shropshire. The topic was the consequences of an ageing population.

The Office for National Statistics reports that over the past 40 years, the median age of the UK population (the age at which half the population is younger and half older) has increased from 33.9 to 40 years old – a six year increase. At present, there are roughly 3.5 people of working age for every retired person. But by 2034, current predictions indicate there will be two working people for every retiree.

This growth in the number of older people is fuelled by increased longevity. Thanks to dramatic advances in medicine, average life expectancies in the past half century have soared. In 1951, a man aged 65 could expect on average to live to the age of 77. Today, he can expect to live to 86, and by 2050 to 91. Even in the last ten years, greater longevity's effect on our population is clear to see.

When I was first elected MP in 2005, the most recent census data showed that about 17% of people living here were over 65 years old. Today, this figure is over 25%. There has also been a 40% increase in the number of people aged over 85 in the Ludlow Constituency.

Putting aside the fact we are enjoying longer lives, an ageing population presents difficult challenges for policy makers, which must be addressed in coming years. Healthcare and welfare models are built on systems where today's population profile was not contemplated.

There is cross-party recognition that we need to remodel these services to ensure their long term viability. This includes raising the state pension age, and equalising state pension ages for men and women.

But there is also a need to allow older people to continue to make a contribution to society. Retirement should be an increasingly active phase of life, where people have opportunities to continue working and volunteering, as well as saving and looking after their health.

To that end, we have abolished the default retirement age, so employers can no longer force employees to retire just because they reach 65. Older people have a wealth of skills and experience, which these changes should unlock. One of the speakers at the lecture series was Baroness Warnock, now in her early nineties, who used the occasion to launch her campaign for Teach Last, a programme to encourage older people to use their experience to teach the young. Teaching skills like modern languages, engineering, music and science could give children the chance to learn from retirees with a lifetime of real experience.

This is an excellent initiative and could provide a pool of full or part-time talent to supplement teachers in our schools.

The impact of an ageing society has widespread ramifications for much of how we plan and lead our lives. But one thing is certain, we must ensure that the retirees of today and tomorrow have more opportunities to contribute fully to life in Shropshire.

Philip Dunne

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The September Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Tue 1st	7.00	Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Meet in the Market Hall		
Wed 2nd	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearson	01584 890874
Thurs 3rd	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at the Brown Clee Picnic Area for a day in the Shropshire countryside. WV16 6TB for sat Nav. OS ref.607873		
Fri 4th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 5th	8.00	Sale of household good at Knowle Sports Club, super bargains to be had.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.30	Food & Ale Trail dominates the day, drawing walkers to the town and surrounding countryside. A big day.		
	2.00	Rock Village Show in the Village Hall & Millennium Green		
Sun 6th	4.00	Tea Party at St Mary's Church, Neen Savage to celebrate completion of the restoration work at this lovely old building. SEE PAGE 11		
Tue 8th		The Clows Top Gardening Club visit Hobson's Brewery		
Wed 9th	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the Village Hall to hear Jenny Vanderhook talk about Conservation IN Mexico.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	8.00	Royal British Legion gather at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Tylor	CM 270793
Thurs 10th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00	Clee Hill Singers gather at Doddington Village Hall to begin their winter season	George Cummings	01584 891635 PAGE7
Fri 11th	8.00	The Royal British Legion's Harvest Auction at the Bell Inn. Auctioneer Jim Hulme will be in fine voice from 8pm	PAGE 25	
	8.00	Bingo Night at Cleeton St. Mary Village Hall		
Sat 12th	3.00	Cleobury Mortimer Rugby Club vs Ludlow Rugby Club, @ Cleobury Mortimer		
	8.00	Dance the night away at Cleeton St. Mary Village Hall to the sound of Alan Williams £5.00 on the door.		
Sat/Sun 12&13th	10.00	The Borders Classic Bike Show at Lacon Childe School, a host of older and older bikes to remind you of youth and granddads memories. Admission £4.00. two halls of bikes plus jumble & raffle with cash prizes.		

The Food and Ale Trail on September 5th has become something of a Cleobury tradition, combining a good walk through stunning countryside with a chance to sample locally brewed Hobsons Beers and foods at feeding stations along the way. It attracts people from far away as its reputation grows and is a good value way of spending the day. Tickets are available from Cleobury Country Centre, 01299 272300 or on line at www.cleoburycountry.com. Adults £15, Under 12s £10.



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The September Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Tue 15th	8.00	Horticultural Society meets in the Methodist Hall for a talk on Allotment Plot Management PAGE 19		
Wed 16th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Tues 17th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock pathfinders meet at The Dog Inn, Dunley. DY13 0UE or OS ref. 787690		
Fri 18th		Big Sky Sports Nights at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane PAGE 43		
	7.00	Bayton School Charity Auction at Stourport Manor Hotel. £10 ticket inc. Fist & Chip supper PAGE 50		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 19th	2.00	Open Day and Fun Dog Show at Severn Edge Vets in Bridgenorth, PAGE 9		
Wed 23rd	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall to hear Patrick Clements talk about wildlife, nature & conservation and for the club's Autumn Show. Non-members welcome.		
Thu 24th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 25th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington village hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 26th	10.00	MacMillian Cancer Care Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning includes the gathering at the Market Hall. Good buzz, friendly chat, great cause PAGE 13		
	3.00	Cleobury Mortimer Rugby Club vs Tamworth, VP's Day @ Cleobury Mortimer		
Sun 27th	4.00	Auction in aid of Midland Air Ambulance at the Rock Cross Inn, Which is in rock PAGE 11		
LOOKING FORWARD TO OCTOBER				
Thu 1st		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 3rd	11.00	Kinlet Primary School Autumn Fayre and Open Day, all in gentle rural setting		
Wed 7th	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearson	01584 890874

SMARTWATER TOWN

There's a report on Page 51 about a Crime Reduction Group meeting on September 3rd, in the Market Hall and starting at 7.00. It will mark a major achievement in making the town less attractive to criminals, because we will be the first small town to make the Smartwater marking system available to every household, free of charge thanks to some very generous grants. Business premises can also get a supply, at a reduced price. There will be an appeal for more members to join the Group, to help distribute the Smartwater smoothly. If you can find just a little time, please join in and help.

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BAVENEY WOOD

A traditional cottage set in a wonderful secluded position with far reaching views. Accommodation consisting of lounge, dining room, snug, kitchen, utility, four bedrooms and first floor bathroom. Requiring some updating works, set in 2/3 acre of gardens, Energy Rating TBC.

Guide Price £250,000

Tenbury Wells Office - 01584 811999

DODDINGTON

Detached bungalow requiring some updating and modernisation, located in an elevated position with uninterrupted views over the surrounding countryside. Accommodation consisting of: three bedrooms, conservatory, lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Set on a generous plot with mature gardens surrounding, including lawned areas, outbuildings and tarmaced driveway. Further area of land to the rear amounting to just over a third of an acre. Energy Rating G.

Guide Price £200,000

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NEEN SOLLARS

Detached character property set in approximately 2.38 acres of formal gardens and woodland area with picturesque trout stream. Accommodation includes: open plan lounge/dining room, study, family room, large breakfast kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite and dressing room, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Energy Rating D.

Guide Price £380,000

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OLDWOOD

Delightful semi-detached cottage located on a no-through-road just before Oldwood Common. With good sized accommodation including: kitchen, dining room, living room, three double bedrooms and family bathroom. Having good outside space to the front, side and rear of the property with lawned areas and various seating areas overlooking the stunning countryside that surrounds. Energy Rating D.

£269,950

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MAMBLE

Modern detached house set in a desirable village setting with glorious views over the surrounding countryside. Having the added benefit of a garage conversion to make it suitable for multi-generational living. This lovely property consists of 4 good sized bedrooms (master with dressing area and ensuite with Jacuzzi bath) and 4 reception rooms. Manageable gardens to the rear backing onto open fields. Energy Rating E.

OIRO £265,000

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BROADHEATH

A modern semi-detached property with well presented accommodation to include: dining kitchen with solid fuel rayburn, dining room with log burner, lounge, downstairs shower room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, utility and rear porch. Ample parking to the front and generous gardens to the rear, mainly laid to lawn with timber sheds and a paved seating area. Energy Rating D.

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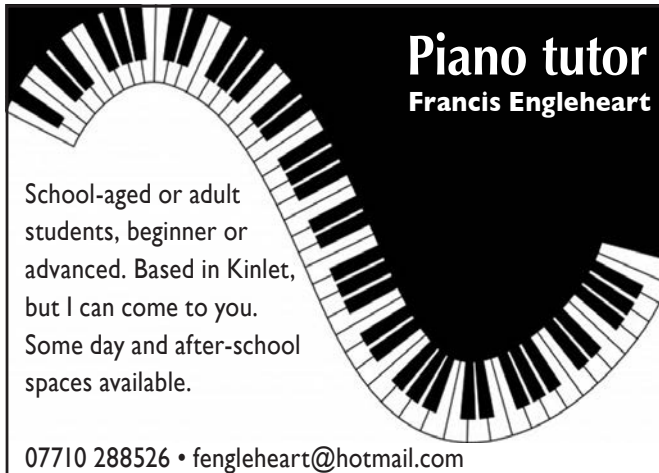
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE FAMILY BEHIND

THE HERO

Tom Keeley's journey to America to represent Britain in the Special Olympics was paid for by government support. His family had to find the cost of flying out there and their hotel stay. Tom was there before them, with a few days to acclimatise to the Californian temperature.

Dad and mum Andrew and Becky were surprised and full of pride when Tom was chosen to respond to the formal judges' vow of impartiality. He read the traditional promise on behalf of all the competitors: "If I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Andrew admits: "We didn't know the points the judges gave until the prize giving. A medal would have done me, but a Gold! I just welled up." He knows how much work had gone into Tom's success, with a limited amount of time available in local gyms for his speciality. It amounts to seven and a half hours a week.

"We're used to the place being quiet when he competes here." says Andrew. "But over there it really noisy with cheering - the Norwegians were the worst. But Tom wasn't affected, he just got on with each exercise."

Tom's slim build isn't what people expect in a gymnast, but in the rings exercise that younger brother Ben captured on his iPad, the coach lifted Tom up to grasp the rings, then walked away. Tom slowly lifted himself to the standard crouched position and did his routine, people around asking how this kid with little visible muscle could do that.

He does have very sharp powers of concentration on the task, unaffected by the noise from the onlookers: "I just switch off and ignore them," he explains.

What comes next for an Olympics Gold Medal winner? He has a college place and is looking for a work placement in a local hotel or pub kitchen. And he's working out his next routine.

Final thought from proud dad: "Doesn't this mean we could have a gold painted letter box?"

That's a thought. Not that we deserve it, but Tom does.

DRAMA AT ORETON

Oreton Village Hall has a special evening on October 23rd, with a presentation of the play 'Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain'. There was a special leaflet of that title issued to troops arriving here in

1942, an event that triggered the phrase, 'Over paid, over sexed and over here.' It promises to be a very funny night, with a professional company touring with the play.

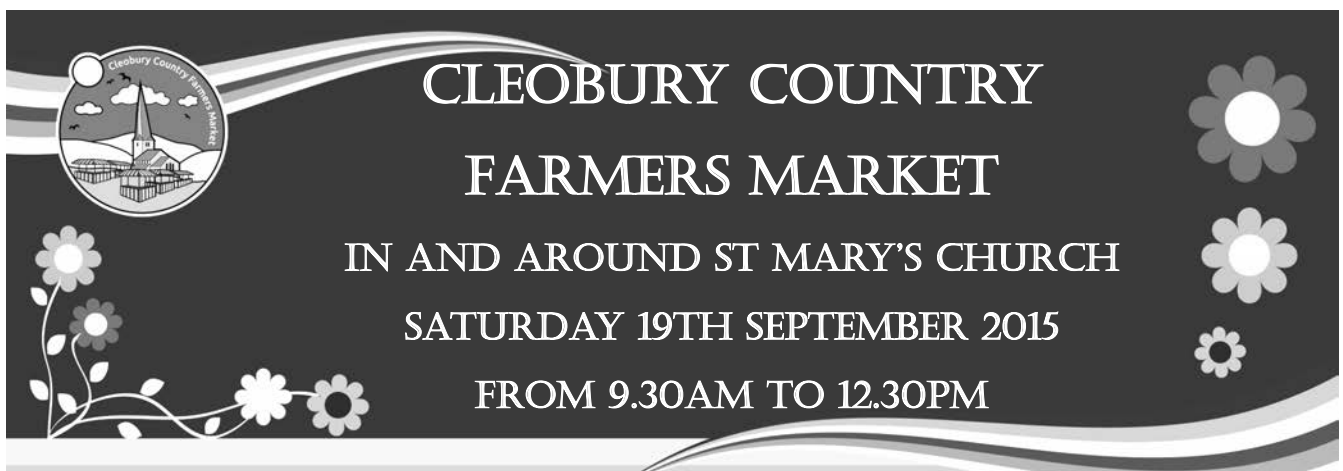
October 23rd is the date, tickets are £8 for adults and £5 children; call 01746 718642 or look in at www.artsalive.co.uk

THANK YOU

Staff and volunteers of the Severn Hospice Shop in Cleobury Mortimer are delighted with the supplies of bubble plastic and other wrapping materials they have received following the appeal in the July Clarion. Thank you everyone. Please keep it coming, a constant, steady supply is required.

While raising money for the charity we also pride ourselves on being an excellent recycling centre. We don't like anything to go to waste if it can be sold. Please note, we can also make money out of broken jewellery and watches. If you are unsure about whether an item is acceptable please ask at the shop or ring 01299 271391. Thank you.

Margaret Booker



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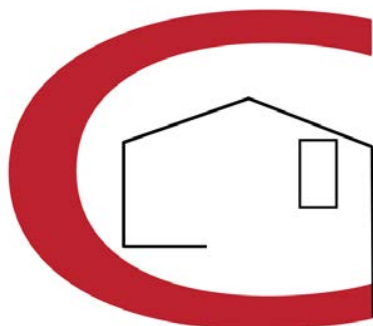
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Farming - Rachel Robinson writes about weather, milk prices and one very game young lady.

At the beginning of the August the Robinson family enjoyed a day out at Burwarton Show. We took nine cattle, whose ages ranged from four weeks old up to four years. Margaret Robinson with her band of merry volunteers ran the busy Mawley Milk stand on the Village Green where all the £554 profits from the show were donated to charity 'Send a Cow'. The charity is close to David and Margaret's hearts as they were involved with it in its early days and visited Uganda, where they saw first-hand what the work does to assist the local farmers.

As I write this at the end of August, looking out of the window all I can see are dark clouds threatening another downpour. Without a good stint of warm sunny weather, the harvest is now way behind – there will be a lot of catching up to do when the weather comes right. However the maize we grow for cattle feed has enjoyed the weather this year and it looks like a bumper crop which will be ready in September. We will soon be starting to get the cattle sheds ready for when they all come home for the winter.

To briefly touch upon the milk price that has been in the press so much recently, we don't see any price increase on the horizon, and continue to sell the majority of our milk at a loss. The percentage of milk we sell from our little dairy helps to keep the business sustainable. We have lots of very loyal customers and we thank each and every one of you who continue to support Mawley Milk.

And on a personal note, I would like to thank the very generous people who so kindly sponsored Jemima's Big Hearted Swim – she completed the 22 miles 13 days ahead of schedule and so far has raised over £1400 for Little Hearts Matter. We are very proud of her achievements – she is one determined 10 year old! Anyone who would still like to sponsor her can do so by visiting her Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/JemimaRobinson1 or by sending a cheque, payable to 'Little Hearts Matter' to me at Mawley Town Farm.

Rachel Robinson



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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



The crimes for our area during the last month are as follows.

A car parked outside The Royal Fountain had a line scored along the nearside some time between July 14th -16th. £300 worth of damage was caused. Five advertising boards around the rugby pitch were damaged between July 10th and 20th. Two were recovered from the skateboard park. This incurred a cost of £720. During daylight hours on July 22nd electric fencing and associated equipment worth £140 was stolen from a field at Button Bridge. Between 11:00pm and 11:50pm on July 22nd a Landrover Defender was stolen from the car park of The Peacock Inn at Boraston. Between 10:00pm and midnight on July 22nd stables at a farm in Stottesdon were broken into and CCTV equipment worth £400 was stolen from an adjacent building. A side window of a parked vehicle at the location was smashed but there was nothing inside to steal. Between 8:30pm and 11:30pm on July 24th the two nearside tyres of a vehicle parked just off Cleobury High Street were slashed. At 1:30pm on July 29th an unknown male described as being of Mediterranean origin in his 40s with a stocky build and wearing black and white clothing was thought to have stolen a ladies' watch from Severn Hospice Shop in High Street. At about 7:15pm on July 29th a Cleobury resident was knocked down by a car on the zebra crossing. The driver failed to stop, but a witness noted the reg number, but this number did not tally with the black Ford Ka involved. Sometime during July 20th/21st at a farm in Kinlet, the poisoned carcass of a pheasant was pegged out, it is suspected to lure a buzzard, a protected species, which was found dead nearby. The investigation is ongoing. The window of a car parked on a driveway in Cleobury Meadows was smashed overnight on August 1st/2nd. A large bag of sand was stolen from a driveway in New Road between 3:00am - 3:30am on August 3rd. The

attempted theft of a trailer containing six quad bikes occurred at a farm at Prescott at 1:00am on August 4th. The owner's daughter disturbed two male offenders in the act, who managed to make off in a Land Rover. A burglary took place in the early hours of August 17th at The Golden Cross in Clee Hill where cash and a laptop computer worth £700 were stolen. A cat in Barbrook was found to have been shot by an airgun in each leg when it returned home on August 18th after having been absent for a week; it also had a fractured pelvis. The fire brigade was called out to extinguish a fire in a 40ft conifer tree at Lacon Childe School on August 17th. They stated that they had already attended to two other fires in the area earlier. It seems likely that this could be arson.

During the Spring and Summer there has been a multi- agency operation involving Bridgnorth and South Shropshire areas of West Mercia Police, in conjunction with Staffordshire and Dyfed and Powys Police. The aim is to reduce the number of traffic collisions and other incidents especially involving motorcycles. Police have been deployed for this, which includes offering advice to motorcyclists and car drivers who are seen to make mistakes or appear not to be aware of certain dangers. To date in the local area several motorcyclists have been reported for offences such as overtaking on double white lines and speeding. One motorcyclist overtook an unmarked police car at 104 mph in a 40mph area! Many drivers have been reported for various offences, and there have been a few vehicle seizures for offences such as having no tax. One driver who only had a provisional licence was eventually arrested after failing to stop for police, failing to display L plates, for having no insurance and for careless driving. His car was also seized. The operation is ongoing.

Nick Morris



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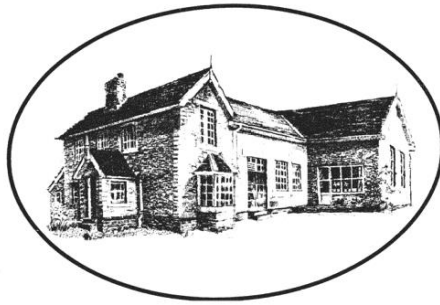
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Bayton C of E Primary School, where our mission is

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Fundraising is important in any small primary school, and we at Bayton C of E Primary School are lucky to have such a hard-working, dedicated PTA. Fundraising this school year has been in the form of regular Family Bingo evenings at Clows Top Village Hall, refreshments after school performances and fairs.

Recently our PTA arranged a sponsored Tech Trek to raise money for technology equipment. The trek took place in a field in the village that is roughly one mile to walk around. I accompanied our year 1 class, and after walking around the field once I was pleased to arrive at the end with the same number of children that we started out with. Our older children set themselves challenges to walk or run around the field many times, the record being three children who ran around it no less than 8 times. After completing the course, the children were welcomed back into school with juice and biscuits, all supplied by the PTA. I am pleased to say that, at the time of writing this, our children have raised over £1,700 from this event which, together with a donation from Bewdley Rotary Club has covered the cost of a new interactive whiteboard for one of our classrooms.

Our summer fair took place sports day. Our children always look forward to this event as they enjoy the bouncy castle and face painting almost as much as the sports day itself. My year 2 literacy group had been learning about communication this term and part of the programme is to plan a stall for a school fair. To bring it to life, they planned their own stall, wrote letters to both Mrs Pounder (Head Teacher) and the PTA to ask their permission, produced posters and manned the stall themselves. They were pleased to raise over £50 doing Lucky Dip and Name the Bear stalls.

Finally, our PTA are planning a Promises Auction to be held at Stourport Manor on Friday, 18th September 2015 from 7pm. The promises are still be compiled but I'm told that they include family days out, weekend breaks and local shooting days at popular venues. To enquire about tickets to this fantastic event, please contact our school office on the number below.

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Linda Iles

September In The Wyre Forest



A comma butterfly shares Linda's enthusiasm for the rich flavour of the blackberry.

Yum yum, it's time for the blackberry harvest. The bramble is probably the commonest plant in the forest: annoyingly so. Its rampant new growth in summer soon covers paths and forms loops anchored by roots at both ends which trip unwary walkers, sometimes leaving a welt on the ankle in the process. Its ability to form a tangled thicket is a challenge to gardeners and land managers – I immediately visualise the orchard in Button Oak which has been cleared by the Wyre Community Land Trust's volunteers for grazing by the Dexter cattle and can vouch for the many hours spent with slashers, loppers and bonfires to push back the bounds of its domain. Having said that, it does form cover for all kinds of creatures including rabbits, adders and lizards. It can also protect tree stumps in felled areas so that coppice regrowth escapes the attentions of deer.

Bramble flowers best in sunny spots, and attracts butterflies, bees and many kinds of

flies. Caterpillars of the grizzled skipper and green hairstreak butterflies also feed on the leaves of the plant.

The berries follow the flowers, again in the sunnier places. I was surprised to learn that there are at least 7 species of bramble in Britain and over 400 microspecies, varying in the ripening, size, texture and taste of the fruit. I had thought that sweetness, juiciness and pippiness were determined by the amount of sun, rain and soil (environmental factors) each plant had but I stand corrected. According to Richard Mabey's 'Flora Britannica', quoting Dave Earl, the best berries for flavour are the small-fruited *Rubus dasyphyllus* which grows on the hills, *R. bertramii* of Cheshire, and *R. nemoralis*, common on acid soils. I'm afraid I don't know which species are present in Wyre – perhaps that is something you could discover in the pages of 'The Nature of Wyre' - a comprehensive natural history of the Wyre Forest written and illustrated by members of the Wyre Forest Study Group and due to be published this autumn. You can order a copy at the pre-publication price of £25 plus £5 packing and postage by going online at www.naturebureau.co.uk/bookshop/ or by using a leaflet/order form available from Bewdley Museum or Uncllys Farm.

Make the most of the flying displays of swallows and house martins feeding on insects above our roof tops as they will probably be gone by the end of the month. I'll miss their squealing and chattering – part of the soundtrack of a Wyre summer.

Linda Iles

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On The Buses - The Saga Continues

The Local Joint Committee meeting in the Market Hall on July 28th was packed, so thank you to all who attended and asked questions. Diamond Buses sent three representatives and two stood at the front to take the flak. The first question set the tone of the discussion nicely: "Are you proud of the service you provide?" at which point they had to admit they were not. A number of aspects of the service were then brought up including reliability, routing, the £1 charge and the lack of timetables and I think they were left in no doubt as to the views of the audience. However, there may be some good news as we are promised newer (and possibly more reliable) buses on the route and this does now seem to be happening at least on some journeys. I have also put the Diamond Traffic Manager in touch with the relevant person in Shropshire Council to discuss the £1 charge so if/when they manage to speak, this might yet be sorted. I was promised a box of the new timetables (effective September 1st) by the middle of August and as I write this on the 25th I have just been told that I can collect these. They should be available in the Cleobury Country Centre, Crusty Cob, Market Hall and Cleobury Cafe by the time you read this. It appears that the only change will be that return journeys from Kidderminster will now start from the Bus Station not the Town Hall so hooray for that rare outbreak of common sense. Diamond are to be invited back to a further LJC meeting in about six months for a progress report.

I mentioned last month that I had not received answers from Shropshire Council to various questions I had put to them. In fact they had provided answers and sent them to Councillors but not to me... This seems a little odd as I asked the questions in the first place. Never mind. I am now

looking at these as there are several interesting assertions. One is that the changes to the route in Worcestershire are a matter for Worcestershire Council and have not had any undue impact on users in Shropshire although those using the 2L might feel that a near doubling of journey times to Kidderminster is an undue impact. I asked what the current subsidy costs were and was told that the total is £54,000 of which Shropshire pay £43,000. Apparently this split reflects the mileage within the two Counties. Following the route changes, my rough estimate shows that around 50% of the mileage is now in Worcestershire so if that is the case, why do Shropshire pay 80% of the total?

There have been a number of reports of breakdowns although they do not seem as frequent as before. Still, to misquote Oscar Wilde, "To lose one bus may be regarded as a misfortune, to lose more looks like carelessness". I have also just heard a recording of a terrible screeching noise on the 2L from Kiddy. No, it wasn't the passengers trying to get off but the sound the brakes made every time they were applied. Very scary, especially as amongst the reasons for the fine mentioned last month were various safety issues including one case of a steering wheel coming adrift... I have still not received any response from the Traffic Commissioners. They are not an easy organisation to contact as there is no E Mail address. There is a phone number, but no one ever answers it so I shall write again.

As my Wife says: "Diamonds are not always a girl's best friend"

Steve Todd

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

SHANNON A STAR FOR ENGLAND

Shannon Smith, a student at Lacon Childe School, has been chosen to play for the England Junior volleyball team at the Sainsburys School Games in Manchester this month. This is her story in her own words:

I've been playing volleyball since I was 9 and my dream has always been to play for my country. The first week in September sees this dream come true, less than two weeks to go and the countdown has begun! I have been selected to represent the England Juniors in the Sainsbury's School Games, a UK wide competition aiming to offer action on an international level and act as a platform to the Olympics.

I've had a fairly successful year having represented the Black Country in the National Volleyball League, the Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18 National Championships and culminated in winning the Under 16 Inter Regional Championships for West Midlands. I have also taken part this year in the Volleyball England Beach Tour travelling around the country to locations such as Weston Super Mare and Skegness in the national event.

Having trained three times a week as well as school and match commitments I'm elated that my hard work is paying off. Volleyball is vitally important to me and I'm proud to follow in some incredible players' footsteps. Wearing the England kit will be an amazing experience and I can't wait to get on the court and show what I am capable of.

Shannon Smith

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP INVITATION

The Cleobury Area Youth Partnership has its AGM at Lacon Childe School on the 14th and invites other youth groups who would like to join the partnership to attend.

They meet every six weeks, there's an action plan to work to and amongst the members are the Police, Lacon Childe, the Parish and County Councils and youth workers. The aim is to see that local youth does not miss out on opportunities. The meeting starts at 10.00 and you can book your place with Vicky Turner on 07790 085 265 or at vicky.turner@shropshire.gov.uk or just arrange to be kept up to date with the partnership's work. Isn't it good to see people cooperating in this way? All strength to them.

LACON CHILDE RESULTS

Once again Lacon Childe's students had some brilliant news when the GCSE results were received. They seem to have carried on the five year habit of topping the county figures for progress in English, and 84 percent achieved a C grade or above for two science subjects.

The top six students were Shauna Pearce O'Reilly with eight A* grades and one A, Claudia Minkin with six A* and three As, Orla O'Hagan with seven A*, one A and one B, Lydi Bond with four A* and six As, Topaz Cartilage with two A* and seven As and Victoria Williams also with two A* and seven As. Congratulations to all of them.



They have every right to be happy and proud. Orla O'Hagan, left, and Topaz Cartilage were amongst the top performers for the school

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

SMARTWATER TOWN

There's an important meeting at the Market Hall on the 3rd, starting at 7.00. The Crime Reduction Group will be announcing their plan to make Smartwater property marking available to every house in the town, free of charge.

A lot of work has been done to secure funding for this and there will be signs announcing that we are a Smartwater Town. It's a big deterrent to criminals looking to steal your property, as this system means that anything from a watch to a car can be given an individual identity and be traced back to its owner. The thieves of this world look for easy pickings, and this has been proved to put them off.

A representative of the company will be there to

answer questions and the Group will be trying to recruit more members, to make distribution of the Smartwater packs run smoothly.

This is all part of the Police driven 'We Don't Buy Crime' campaign, which discourages people from buying that super bargain in the pub, strictly cash and don't ask where it came from. Nudge nudge. If it proves to be stolen goods - and Smartwater can prove it - that bargain could cost you a lot more. Some bargain.

This is a real boost for the town, as we will be the first small community to carry the Smartwater Town title. And it's free. Congratulations are due to Matt Sheehan, Vicky Turner and Inspector Rob Thomas for their work in making it possible and our town safer as a result.

NEW CASH AND CARRY

Katerfresh, the Cuckson family business that has grown as a supplier to catering outlets, has expanded its operation on the Newhouse Farm industrial area. They now offer a Cash and Carry facility open to the public.

They're tucked away at the back of the complex, but assure us that what was the track up there is now a surfaced road.

BEWDLEY W.I.

An interesting evening is promised on September 7th, when Bewdley W.I. gather at Saint George's Hall on Load Street. The speaker will be Worcestershire Coroner Gerraint Williams, talking about his work. 7.30 start.

Visitors are welcome and pay £3.00 for the evening. A modest price to hear a professional of this standing.

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The Borders Classic Bike Show



It's almost part of the town furniture after 28 shows over the last 30 years, that weekend when motorbikes of all sorts turn up Childe Road from the High Street and head for Lacon Childe School. This year it's on the 12th and 13th and you will see a fresh approach to signposting to guide the crowd through the town. Those yellow and black signs were paid for by the Parish Council, bless them.

It's organised with the Parent Teacher Association of the school and all the profits go to them. But for the enthusiasts who run the event, the reward is people smiling and saying 'Thank you' as they leave.

They come to see a range of machines from early years to the Japanese that dominate the scene in more modern days. And some of the quirky machines can

make you shake your head in wonder. Like the 1950 French-built 98cc Dorny motorised tandem that its owners say has been timed at 45mph "with a little light pedal assistance." A modest speed today, but pretty frightening if you're on board. Or the 1951 Mini Motor that cost £21 back then and was clipped into an ordinary pedal cycle and could cruise at about 20mph; it could put 1950s brakes and tyres to the test if you weren't careful.

Contrast that with the racing Norton that won the 1936 500cc Manx Grand Prix at an average speed of more than 80mph, or the Czech Jawa Speedway bike bought from world champion Barry Briggs, or the ice speedway bike with spikes in the tyres to give a little grip as it raced over frozen lakes. Or the gleaming little 50cc Yamaha Fizzy whose buzzing we cursed in the noisy 1970s and today is a collector's item worth thousands of pounds. It's a wide range of machinery on show, and it includes something to evoke memories of summer days or wet morning rides to work amongst most of us.

There's something about this involvement with the hobby that keeps people young at heart. Like Guest of Honour Les Trotter, all the way from Barrow

in Furness to show off his record of 52 years racing and two of the bikes he still rides. The Suzuki he built himself and rode to win the 1976 500cc Manx Grand Prix will be here, now in retirement but still paraded around at gentler speeds to jog memories.



Veteran racer Les Trotter still has speed and style. He has plenty of good stories to tell as well.

There is a lot of local interest and some of the machines will be ridden by people you know. On Saturday evening a lot of them will gather at the Balti Bar for the Curry Evening that's part of the show's appeal. Lots of buzz and good humour.

A new award this year is in memory of Valerie Reynolds, and will be won by the machine making the most appealing noise when fired up on Sunday. She loved that.

The show is open from 10.00 until 5.00 both days and admission is £4.00. You'll meet lots of friendly people who just like to talk and share memories, happy to support our school.



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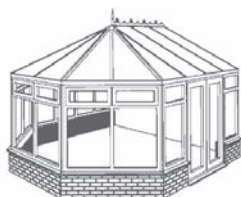
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IN BUSINESS: Charmain Leek at Clearhear



Charmain Leek is one of the first health professionals to move into Cleobury Mortimer's new Medical Centre after the General Practice was accommodated. It was a stated aim of the partnership that other services would be part of the Centre and an audiologist is an obvious need in this world with an ageing population.

Charmain has been looking after people's hearing for 29 years, after training with the NHS in Worcester and at college in Birmingham, then working in Worcester and Cheltenham. From that experience comes a strong work ethic, and she's happy to meet and treat in her Medical Centre office or in the patient's home.

She's proudly independent, with no grand plans to expand

and become a big business. "When a patient comes to see me, they know they'll see me, not someone else on duty," she reasons. It's a logical way of building the patients' confidence, and they are happy that she knows and understands their problems.

A further benefit of being a one woman band is that she can draw her supply of hearing aids from a wide spread of manufacturers, picking out the best for each patient's need. Big outfits tend to offer a narrower range, preferring those who give them the best profit margin.

She happily does home calls: "It takes the stress out of treatment," and will follow up to see that the patient is entirely happy and comfortable. That includes checking and cleaning the hearing aid for best effect.

Her office in the Medical Centre is small, but adequate for the talk and check every patient gets. I have a problem with hearing and find it difficult to follow a conversation if there's a lot of extraneous noise, so the call to interview Charmain was also my chance of a free test.

She put a set of headphones on me and played a series of sounds to each ear in turn, of varying pitch and volume. I had to press a hand button when the noise

was uncomfortable or, at another stage, when I could hear a gradually reducing sound. The results come on a print-out and the analysis was that my loss of hearing at the higher pitch was typical of the ageing process.

She made another appointment for me, when I'll be fitted with an aid to try out and be entirely satisfied with before we talk money. It's certainly not a high pressure selling job, more a friendly chat and explanation of where my hearing has deteriorated and why. I'll report on the result in a later issue, but the first experience of this service looks very promising.

As you'd expect of someone with this much experience, Charmain is on the Register of Hearing Aid Dispensers and is governed by the Health Care Professionals Council's Code of Conduct. That require keeping up to date with technological developments and legal requirements.

She's new in Cleobury as a business, but certainly likes the place: "People are so friendly," she says. Clearhear's way of looking after patients and making sure they are entirely happy with their hearing aid fits in with the style you find here. No pushy selling habits, just the ability to listen and help.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



CLEOBURY TOWN JUNIORS

It is perhaps not widely known that Cleobury has an 'Alive and Kicking' Junior Football Club. This has been running for years, and will have teams this season in the Under 16's (September's School Years 10 & 11) Mercian League, Under 12's (Years 6 & 7) Stourport League, and Under 8's (Years 3 & 4). Whilst all these teams have healthy sized squads, we are always looking for players to boost our teams, so would love to hear if you or your child fit into one of the above age groups.

As with any volunteer group, we tend to struggle getting enough help from adult volunteers. This is especially true in the Under 8's section where we have a really enthusiastic group of boys, and sometimes girls, who all love to come training and to play matches. But what we don't have is a parent who is willing to take on the coaching role.

Unfortunately if a coach cannot be found, the team cannot continue. Local Young leaders have been helping run coaching sessions which has been invaluable to us, but we need a willing volunteer or small group

of volunteers who can commit to the role.

In a town the size of Cleobury, it is not difficult for us to find enough players to create a football team in any age group, and we would love to do this, as we have great facilities and support from the owners of the playing fields. The stumbling block is finding a coach for a team. This is invariably a parent who wants their child to play local football, but it is also sometimes a grandparent or another relative. Obviously a police check is necessary at first, but once done, the club can offer support and guidance, and pay for FA coaching courses if required.

The club is a valuable resource in the town, which has seen hundreds of youngsters go through its squads. Many have gone on to higher standards of football, and many more have enjoyed the competition that the local football leagues provide. As with any team game, football develops a great team spirit, and can provide exercise and outdoor occupation in an increasingly indoor technology driven world. Regular social events are also held for the club's players and parents.

If you feel that you can help, or would like to discuss the idea before committing to anything, please contact me on 01299 272945. We would love to hear from you.

Steve Barnes

REALLY LIVING THE ADVENTURE

The cycling experiences that Live the Adventure of Stottesdon can offer have attracted the attention of a major

cycling magazine. Two of their contributors rode through Bhutan with Anthony Eddies-Davies and the result was an 11-page feature that urged readers to put the adventure on their bucket list.

The idea was to publicise the daunting Tour of the Dragon one-day race through the remote and mountainous country, which Live the Adventure is the promotional partner for this year. It's a just reward for some hard work getting to know the place from both canoes and bicycles. If you feel fit, brave, and adventurous, they're on 01746 718436.

GREAT TASTE AWARDS FOR HOBSONS

Great Taste Awards are granted to food and drink that impresses a panel of 400 judges who blind taste the entries. There were 10,000 entries this year, so maybe every judge didn't try every one, but those figures are impressive. Out of that 10,000 just 130 got the Great Taste stamp of approval.

And two of them were local drinks. Hobson's well established Manor Ale and its recent addition to the range, Oldfield's Orchard Medium Dry Cider. Alison Chadwick, Cider Manager at Hobsons was obviously well pleased at the award, and to be told by the judges that they wanted to go back for a second taste.

You do wonder who managed to get 400 individual opinions to actually agree on the outstanding tastes; it must be a huge task. Maybe the judges deserve an award for actually coming up with a result?

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