



NURSING HOME PLANS REVEALED



Details of 'Cleobury Hills', the nursing home being built on the old site of Cleobury Precision Engineering at Ludlow Road, have been revealed. Work has been delayed by the need to rehouse a badger sett, but is due to finish by April 2018.

The home will accommodate 60 beds and will cater for over-50s suffering from mental illness as well as those needing palliative care. That will mean the employment of specialist nurses and carers amongst the estimated 150 jobs the home will provide. It is being developed by Capulet Care, who own similar homes in Perton and Trysull in neighbouring Staffordshire and the

named owner in the press release is Juliet Briggs. She is quoted as saying "I am thrilled that work is now under way...the focus at Cleobury Hills will be to not only provide the highest standard and level of nursing care, but to give residents the life they want. Well-being plays a major part in daily life at our homes."

A £4.4 million funding has been arranged with the Royal Bank of Scotland, whose Darren Vander said "The plans for the new property are very impressive and we are looking forward to working with the team and aiding its completion next year."

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The Cleobury Clarion, September 2017

Volume Fifteen - Edition Six



*This is a Zorbe. It's great fun, as you could see at the Far Forest Countryside Show.
See Page 11.*



*Cleobury Country Archers.
Producing County Winners
See Page 29.*



*Paul Evans Finance. Looking far too happy to be a money man.
In Business.
See Page 63.*

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from the 4th of every month.**

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All 68 pages



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CLEOBURY AND WYRE FOREST READING CHAMPIONS WANTED

If you're reading this without difficulty, you're probably someone who gives little thought to what life would be like if you couldn't read.

Can you imagine the effect it would have on your life if you were not able to read? Not road signs, labels on goods, application forms, letters, texts, emails, bus timetables, instructions on medicines, a bed-time story for your child or grandchild.

A survey of 16-65 years olds in 2011 found that 5% of adults in England and Wales could only recognise a few common words, with a further 2.1% barely able to read simple health and safety notices at work; hundreds of thousands of people.

It's been shown that adults who struggle to read are five times more likely to be unemployed and more likely to experience long-term unemployment. They may develop coping strategies, but are unlikely to reach their potential, will struggle to help their children with learning and are less likely to vote, or take part in community life

Help is at hand. A pioneering, charity called Read Easy UK, was set up in 2011 to tackle this problem and has already helped hundreds of people learn to

read. It is now on a mission to set up a branch in the Wyre Forest and Cleobury Mortimer area – but needs volunteers to make it a reality.

To get things off the ground, Read Easy is looking for people who are interested in supporting the group by helping to set up a managing committee, fund-raise or assist with possible venues. There may also be organisations or individuals who can support by referring people who struggle with their reading. There will also be a need for volunteer reading coaches.

Kris Ventris-Field, Regional Adviser, said: "We are looking for volunteers with a few spare hours a week to take this forward. Under the scheme, volunteer reading coaches guide the new readers through a phonic-based approach in two half-hour sessions per week at local venues. Many coaches find the experience rewarding, as lives are changed as a result of their coaching, so it's very much a win-win scheme."

A public meeting to explain how the Read Easy scheme works and people can get involved will be held at Kidderminster Library, Market Street, at 5.15 p.m. on Tuesday October 3rd.

If you think you could help, come to the meeting or find out more by contacting Steve Peckham on 08444 722 979 or email wyreforest@readeasy.org.uk. Further information: www.readeasy.org.uk

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

September is a good time to cut back or lift and divide established perennials. But if you're too busy, or it's too wet, don't panic, leave them until spring.

Life in the garden is starting to slow down, but there is still plenty to do. Dead heading, weeding and removing fallen leaves will keep borders looking good.

To brighten the patio, plant up a winter container with cyclamen, pansies or bellis for colour.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th September, the speaker for the evening will be Bill White, plus it's the club's **A u t u m n S h o w**.
Pauline Bowden

CLASSES WITH KAS

Kas Rowley, whose Masquerade Fabrics shop is such a pleasure to visit, is looking to run classes in soft furnishing and upholstery work. With 30 years experience, she's well qualified.

The classes will be in the shop, evening or daytime according to demand, and if you don't have a project of your own, she can provide materials. Numbers will be limited to a maximum of four people, because there's not a lot of spare room in the workshop, and the cost will be £15 for two hours.

Contact Kas at the shop on High Street, or call her on 01299 271 680.

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NHS HEARING AID SUPPORT

Shropshire RCC are delighted to announce a new Drop In repair clinic at St Mary's Place Community Room Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PF. Information, help and advice is available to all NHS hearing aid users and in addition simple hearing aid repairs, retubing and maintenance is available for wearers of NHS hearing aids supplied by Shrewsbury or Telford hospital Audiology department.

The first Drop In will take place on Wednesday October 4th, from 10.00 to 12.00 and will be held monthly on the 1st Wednesday thereafter.

Shropshire RCC works closely with NHS Audiology to comprehensively train the volunteers who staff this clinic. Vicky Sadler, Deputy Head of Audiology at Shrewsbury and Telford hospital, said "We can thoroughly recommend the Drop In clinic for patients who need retubing, advice or support with their hearing aids".

As most of the trained volunteers are hearing aid wearers themselves, they know from personal experience about adjusting to hearing loss. If there are multiple or more complex

issues then you will be advised to contact NHS Audiology for an appointment.

COUNTRY CLANGERS MUSIC HALL

The Country Clangers will present their 4th Annual Music Hall on Friday and Saturday October 13/14th in Neen Sollars Victory Hall. Tickets are £10 including supper which will be served from 7.00pm and can be obtained by phoning 01299 272666 or 272628.

As usual the show, which is always a sell-out, will be an evening of laughter and you are advised to get your tickets early.

Trevor Wood

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This month's walks are:

Thursday 7th. 10.30 from Black Pool Forestry Car Park, Mortimer Forest, SY8 4DZ or SO Reference 497716. Bring a packed lunch

Thursady 21st. 10.30 from The Crown Inn, Hopton Wafers. DY14 0NB or SO Ref 637762

Everyone welcome for a two to three hours walk along footpaths and bridleways. More info: Alan 01299 400304.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

This summer's treat was the Afternoon Tea Party organised by Dr Pat Martin in her

beautiful garden in Cradley Heath. A huge success, it raised £355 in aid of the 'Meru Women's Garden Project'.

Our next event is a Fun Casino Night in aid of Worcestershire Young Carers, at Bewdley Pines Golf Club on Sunday 8th October - gaming begins at 7.00 pm - £10 p.p. including a light supper. For more information and tickets contact Cindy Black on 07971 191 512 or email cindybk28@hotmail.com.

Our regular meetings will resume with the Business Meeting at 7.30 on Thursday September 7th, followed by our Supper Meeting at 7.00 on the 21st at La Brasserie. Our speaker will be Jane Allen, an international leadership developer and coach, who is local and involved in community projects.

Elke Jury

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillors Madge Shineton and Gwilym Butler will be holding a joint Surgery in the Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer on Saturday, September 9th, from 9.00 to 11.00am.

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CLEOBURY MEN'S SHEDS

Katja Jones has a progress report:

On August 8th a group of interested men got together at the Market Hall to listen to a very interesting talk from Tony Wilson of Men in Sheds in Shropshire (<http://www.misis.org.uk>). Tony had many fascinating tales to tell to highlight the breadth and depth of Men's Sheds from his own experience in both Australia and the UK. While the ethos of all sheds is to bring older men together to enjoy their hobbies, share their skills and socialise side by side, what is produced inside is as varied as carpentry and metalwork projects for the community, to art work or even highly bespoke disability apparatus. The 'Shed' itself might be an outbuilding, a barn conversion or a static premises on rented land. The point is, the members of the shed choose what they do and how it happens, so the creation of the Cleobury Men's Shed is really at a very exciting stage.

There is sufficient funding to get the project off the ground and a small group of men wanting to make it a reality. But

we will be seeking further support from anyone able to help us to find a 'shed', gather tools, publicise the project, or just join in.

If you have equipment or materials you would like to donate, ideas for a shed or would like to get involved, please come along to the next meeting at the Market Hall on Tuesday September 19th at 7.00pm or get in touch with at **K a t j a J o n e s** cleoburycoco@hotmail.com or call 07966 080111.

KIDDERMINSTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

Kidderminster Male Choir together with harp soloist Hannah Coleman, will be in concert on Friday evening September 22nd at 7.30pm in Saint Mary's Church.

The Choir's standard of musical performance has grown to become one of the finest and most respected male choirs in the UK. They bring to the stage a reputation for musical excellence and variety. They have an extensive range of male choir musical arrangements with over 130 items in their library, from which they select about 30 songs for a performance.

Their programme will include elements of the Last Night of The Proms with the audience invited to join with the choir in singing some of the songs. Don't forget to bring your Union flags and hats.

Tickets will be on sale at our usual outlets: Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library and Spire Hairdressers.

Alec Osbaldiston

SING-LAUGH- BREATHE IS BACK

Kate Jones will be back in vocal action on September 6th as her Sing-Laugh-Breathe choir gather in the Market Hall to learn new songs and enjoy blending their voices in harmony. They were part of the Big Sing at Ludlow in June, when lots of local amateur choirs met and sang together and to one another.

The sessions will continue at 11.00 every Wednesday, with complete novices made welcome, at a cost of £6.00 a head. Kate is a great tutor, with a gentle manner that just makes people feel relaxed and happy to sing.

She's on Kate@sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk or you can simply call in on the 6th and meet a group of friendly people with a common interest.



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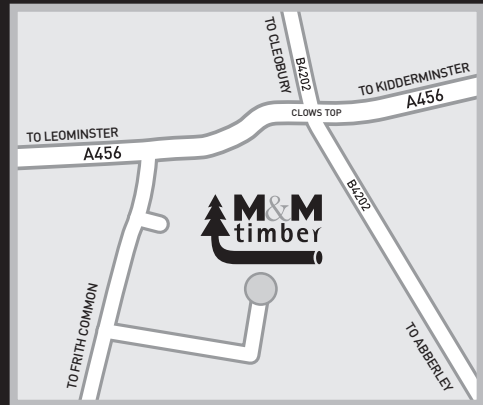
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THE FAR FOREST SHOW

The Far Forest Countryside Show seems to get better each year. This time they had a clear programme with an easily understood map of the site and timetables for just about every happening. And as ever, the car parking was handled by people with a smile and clear signals.



You'll always find classic tractors at a country show, like these contrasting Massey Fergusons. One a gleaming restoration, the other still a working vehicle at 62 years old.

Pony rides are a firm favourite, with nervous youngsters gently led by a trained stable helper plus parents and stable people holding the novice in the saddle and giving encouragement. They were busy all the time, the children nervous at first and ending with a big smile.



One great hit was the pool with a selection of Zorbes for children to move around in. Zorbes are big plastic spheres that will roll along if you have room or just bounce around and get their passengers falling over. One young man had got the whole idea well sorted out and was doing a series of forward rolls to make his one move along. It was no surprise to see a queue waiting for the next session. Great fun.



The weather was kind, overcast but dry, making it a warm day for walking comfortably around. There was music all day long and on Saturday evening a late session and food available in the giant tipi for overnight campers.

Fun Dog Shows were much in evidence, AMICII running the Saturday session and Forest Dog Rescue the Sunday one. Both came up with a range of competitions to meet all tastes and types of dogs. These displays always attract a crowd, some to admire and others to look on and laugh at the antics out on the field. Elsewhere Birch Hill Dog Rescue had a stand and were happy to talk about their continuing success. We'll visit them soon.

The Main Arena (they had three) offered a range of shows, including perennial favourite the Falconry Centre, Zennor's Dance and Musical Theatre and the Medieval Combat Society. The selection of weapons for the Combat people could get you worried if they weren't so friendly looking, but when the knight defeated a rogue after a sword fight, the rogue had an illegal swing at the knight. Swift reaction from the medieval stewards, one rogue banned from the arena and a selection of boos and hisses as he threw down his gauntlets and stalked off.



Another good day out and it was no surprise to hear that it had been one of the most successful shows ever. They do work very hard to make this one of the best shows in the area, and one of the most secure with its own show ground. Cannily, we know that the following weekend the ground was rented out to a classic motorcycle club, who attract support from Europe to enjoy this site. And they pay for the privilege, which helps boost the show's profits. A good example of clear thinking and organisation.

AT LAST

It's been going on for years and at last it's happened. Crusty Cob was on the market a long time ago and the Swift family's interest was widely known. On August 1st there were new faces in the shop and the old facade was soon to come down. Welcome to Cleobury Mortimer, Swift's Bakery.

Beryl and Bob have taken retirement and day to day control of the shop is in the hands of Lindsay Booton. Much of the bread is known to regular customers and we can expect a bigger range on offer.

There will be an official opening ceremony at the end of this month. In the meantime, Jon and Jayne Swift are to be seen in the shop and the new title is up there for all to see. Another asset on the main street.

THE BORDERS

CLASSIC BIKE SHOW

As usual, the second weekend in September means the Borders Classic Bike Show is back at Lacon Childe School. It draws visitors from all over the Midlands and all profits go to the school's Parent teacher Association, for the community's children's benefit.

Entries this year include a 1903 award winner from the International Classic MotorCycle Show at Stafford. Plus a quartet of historic racing Norton from 1933 through to the 1950s and a collection of off-road trials bike from the 1950s through to last year. A chance to recognise the advances that engineering has made through the years.

On Sunday there will be quite a noise as racing machines are

fired up to see which makes the fruitiest noise and wins the She Would Appreciate That Sound trophy, donated in memory of Valerie Reynolds, for 25 years the cashier on the gate.

Mums and dads will be baking cakes for the kitchen and giving up time to help the event run smoothly. The All Day Breakfast is another popular attraction - cooked on the day.

There will be trade stalls offering bits and bobs and books and even bikes for sale and two halls of classic machinery to gaze at and wonder. Even the editor's 57 year old Norton, back from its visit to Scotland.

Admission is £5.00 with children getting in free if they come with an adult. Opening time on both days is 9.00 and by 5.00 on Sunday they'll all be on the way home. See you there?



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CONCERN AT CLOWS TOP

Recently residents of Clows Top and area became aware of a proposal in the Preferred Options Consultation of the Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review that a site in the Village is regarded by the Council as a Potential Site for Travelling Showpeople.

This led to local residents attending the Rock Parish Council Meeting where several people made the Councillors aware of the range of local concerns there are about a number of the nominated development sites in the Rock Parish area, including the Clows Top site. The Councillors noted the concerns but declared that as the plan is a District Council matter they were not in a position to take any active part in the ongoing process.

Following this a Public Meeting was called, with invitations issued to District and County Councillors. Those who attended the meeting were told the Village is quite unusual because it falls within three different District Council areas. It became apparent that Wyre Forest District Council did not appear to have informed the

other two Councils of the proposal for Clows Top and a number of people only became aware of the matter when a flyer advertising the Public Meeting was delivered to their homes. Concerns were expressed about the apparent inaccuracy of the site mapping in the proposal and the difficulties several people experienced whilst attempting to gain access to the signposted Council website.

The proposed site is in the main part of the village, privately owned and is primarily more designated for housing, so several people raised worries about dangers associated with large vehicles entering and leaving the site, because access is at the top of a steep hill, off a busy main road, with restricted visibility. A previous attempt to designate the piece of land as a travellers site was shelved following the concerted efforts of local people to persuade the District Council to reconsider.

As a result of the detailed briefing that was given at the meeting a large number of people were supplied with copies of the documentation for them to provide the Council with their responses to the proposals. The public

consultation period ends very soon and local people are eager to receive feedback from the District Council once their deliberations are complete.

Roger Dyer.
01299 832044

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

It's all in aid of the excellent Macmillan Cancer Support movement and our local part of it will be happening in the Market Hall on Friday the 29th this month. Open from 10.00 until 12.00 noon, with coffee and cake on offer, it's simply about raising funds to make the basic matter of support for cancer sufferers more readily available.

Sue Henderson and her band of workers will be there, ready to serve and collect a little cash for one of the most worthy charities. Please give as generously as you can.

HOW TO BE TERRIFIC WITH TWITTER

There's a course coming up at the Cleobury Country Centre on October 16th that will help you master Twitter. Could be good for both business and pleasure.

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Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.

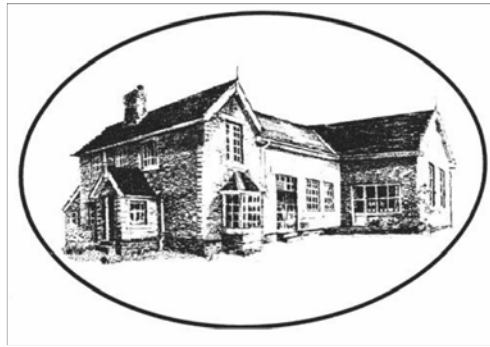


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TO SCOTLAND, TO FIND A GOOD STORY

I've been a fan of motoring in Scotland since my wife and I got up there in 1966 in a Ford Anglia with very few Motorway miles to make it easy. Since then it's become much easier and we enjoyed towing my ageing Norton motorcycle there to ride through the hills with the local Vintage Motor Cycle Club. The roads are very quiet and the gravel on many corners encourages a gentle riding style.

Our favourite venue was Crieff and this year I dusted the Norton off, loaded it on the new trailer and left on Friday morning. Seven and half hours and 345 miles later I pulled into the new venue for the weekend rally - Cultybraggan Camp. What a story that place turned out to have.

It was a prison camp during the 1939-45 World War and the Nissen huts are still there, most of them occupied by local businesses these days. A few are available to accommodate events like this rally, with the bikes parked on the old parade ground and the Saturday night buffet and social in one of the huts. It was a fine event, the keener riders trying to keep to a modest schedule as they competed for an award; I just

wanted to ride some great roads and get the odd glimpse of the magnificent scenery.



The editor and his faithful 1960 Norton await the signal to leave the camp. Note genuine Nissen huts in the background.

Picture by Dougie Cowie

Over two days, the Norton clocked up 195 miles and didn't miss a beat. Saturday's lunch stop was at a welcoming hotel, the food good value for money. On Sunday there was no competition, just a social ride out and lunch at a truck stop.

Back at the camp, its story emerged. It was Camp 21, where German submariners, officers and others thought to be a security threat were detained. One of the officers, Heinrich Steinmeier, was from the Waffen SS, which meant he was a member of the Nazi party, and he expected harsh treatment.

In fact he was treated like any other prisoner of war, by both the soldiers running the camp and any of the locals he met.

Herr Steinmeier eventually returned to Germany and seems to have built a successful business. When he died, in his will he had left all his savings, £384,000 to the older people of Comrie, the village where the camp is. The camp is owned by the community, bought from the government when the military moved out.

It's certainly well used. As we moved out, there were big wagons and caravans pulling in to occupy the parade square. It was a film company, there to work with Julie Walters and Eddie Izzard, making a film with scenes shot in the nearby woods. No, I didn't see either of them.

The story of an enemy officer treated civilly and him leaving such a lump sum to the community is good to hear. That people who were once at war can appreciate the standards of others and remember them with a generous gift is even better.

I drove happily home after a good weekend with old friends. I live in hope that the police on the M74 and other Motorways will be as kind about my rather illegal cruising speed. JR

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Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), now known as equine asthma, is the most common cause of the chronic cough and respiratory disease affecting 5-7% of horses in the UK. It is caused by the inhalation of an allergen, often dust and irritants which horses are most commonly exposed to when stabled, particularly if bedded on straw or fed dry hay. When hay and straw are baled with moisture content of 20% this encourages the growth of moulds as the bales warm up. Moulds act as allergens and include *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Faenia rectivirgula* and *Thermoactinomyces vulgaris*. Horses can also get 'pasture associated' equine asthma where they are allergic to certain types of pollen.

Clinical signs will initially include a raised resting respiratory rate and poor performance. Horses may go on to develop a milky white nasal discharge, occasional cough at rest or during exercise and increased expiratory effort when the abdominal muscles are used to force the air out of the lungs. In chronic cases the abdominal muscles become overdeveloped and the more classic 'heave line' is observed.

Diagnosis is made based on the presenting history and clinical signs. In mild cases audible changes within the lungs may not be detected, in more severe cases crackles and wheezes may be audible throughout the lung field. In some cases endoscopy is useful to visualise the trachea and enable a sample from the lungs to be taken. Samples can then be used to identify the cells present in the mucus secretions. Horses with equine asthma often have higher number of neutrophils when compared with a normal horse.

Treatment: Management Changes

The mainstay of treatment for horses suffering from equine asthma is to minimise their exposure to the environmental contaminants that cause the hypersensitivity. Stables should be kept as dust free as reasonably possible using a dust free bedding and rubber matting. Feeding haylage or steamed hay can significantly reduce the exposure to fungal spores. Please ensure your horse's stable has as much ventilation as possible, either with the addition of an extra window or additional inlets and outlets at the level of the eaves. Horses with allergies to dust benefit from as much turn out as possible.

Medication: a) Bronchodilators

Bronchodilators are used to dilate the small airways and reduce the bronchospasm enabling

the horse to breathe more easily. These can either be administered orally or intravenously by a vet at times of acute illness. They can be given orally for several weeks but we try to avoid constant long term medication as they can become tolerant. However, inhaled options are also available and require the horse to breathe through a spacer device.

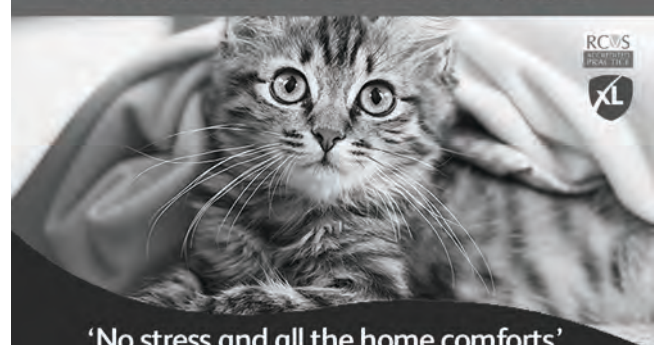
b) Corticosteroids

Corticosteroids are effective drugs for treating horses suffering from RAO. They can be administered orally or intravenously like the bronchodilators, however the oral versions are not as effective for use in respiratory disease. Often horses are treated initially with injectable or oral steroids to treat the acute disease and then moved onto an inhaled version. There are several varieties of inhaled corticosteroids including beclamethasone and fluticasone. They require a spacer device as well either an 'Aeromask' or an 'Equine Haler'. Inhaled steroids have the advantage of going directly to the site needed and reduce the risk of laminitis that is associated with steroids.



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SCOUTS APPEAL

We are currently looking for volunteers to help run activities to enable us to take more of the town's young people on adventurous activities. Scouting in the UK has lists in excess of 50,000 young people waiting to join and we are no exception. Without Leaders we cannot run Scouts.

The positions available are:-
Beavers (6-8 years) - Assistant leaders and helpers
Cubs (8-10.5 years) - Leaders, Assistants and helpers
Scouts (10.5-14 years) - Leaders, Assistants and helpers, Group Scout Leader and Hut Bookings Secretary

It is urgent we fill the Scout Section posts as soon as possible. We are able to provide experienced support while new Leaders find their feet and the Scout Association has a full and extensive training programme. We are flexible how many hours you wish to commit and flexible which section you want to support, so come and see what we can do for you and you will be surprised what you can do for Scouting and the Young People in the Town.

Contact Jeff Williams on - jeffswilliams@btinternet.com or 01584 861849

THE WRITING GROUP

Tradition ruled at our August meeting, when every submission was the established style of four words used in a maximum of 1,000 in script. But we are not really that fixed in the past and our target for September is with a piece beginning with the phrase "What the bells rang out..." or including the words melancholy, musical, impregnable and forthright.

As you can see, the members do not opt for an easy route. Maybe someone will be brave enough to combine the two demands. On Monday the 11th, at 6.30 in the library, we'll find out. JR

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING, PART 2

As you can imagine, an event as big as this reaches out to many small venues, where people gather to raise money to help others who need a little loving care and attention. This is Kinlet's contribution, bless them:

Kinlet are promoting their Macmillan Cancer Support event under the slogan "Have your Cake and Eat It." Which you can do at the Eagle and Serpent on the 29th, from 10.30 to 12.30. On offer will be cake, coffee, tea, raffle prizes, a knick-knack stall and a convivial atmosphere in which to chat and meet people with a similar view of cancer support to your own.

Lis Roberts on 01299 841882 or lis.roberts46@gmail.com can tell you more or welcome your offer to help.

PENSAX TEA PARTY

Pensax Church are holding a Tea Party at Clows Top Victory Hall on September 23rd, between 2.00 and 4.30pm.

This replaces the Summer Fayre, which they are finding very difficult to run with so few helpers. What sad news that is, are people giving up on simple volunteering?

At this event, you'll find a Tombola, a Cake Stall and a Hamper Raffle to tempt the pennies from your pocket. It does sound like a fine social occasion. And of course, for the benefit of the Pensax parish church.



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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our work party in August removed a tree which was blocking a stile and repaired two other stiles.

In September, we are assisting a local farmer by putting a pedestrian gate alongside a farm gate. Sadly, vandalism and dumping has meant that gate needs to be padlocked.

We have an offer of help to repair the bench near Saddlers Barn Farm. Our grateful thanks, as this is a valued resting place with a great view.

We have changed the way we sell our walk leaflets in the town. You can still get the full set of 24 walks from Butlers for £9.99 but in Cleobury Cafe they are now sold as packs of 10 graded by difficulty of walk for £3.49. The up to date Simon Evans Way guide will be available at the Library -it costs £2. All our walks can also be downloaded for free from our website www.cmfa.co.uk for free.

Why not join us for the next Parish Walk on on Sunday September 3rd starting at 10.00 o'clock from St. Mary's church.

Graham Simpson

CLEOBURY W.I.

It was a great evening for the WI cheese and wine event; thank you to everyone who came along. £170 has been forwarded to Denman College, the WI centre of excellence where anyone can visit and there is a range of courses. Have a look at www.denmancollege.org.uk or check out trip advisor; it comes highly recommended from anyone lucky enough to have attended.

On September 12th Jam and Jerusalem will be celebrated with a session on making jam, marmalade and lemon curd. All welcome to the Market Hall at 7.30pm. Tasting assured.

More information on Cleobury Mortimer WI's Facebook page or contact me on [01299 270983](tel:01299270983) or email judysant10@gmail.com.

Judy Sant

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club sees a familiar face, Gemma Canty, taking over as Club Steward at the end of September as we say goodbye to current Steward, Andy Goold. With his larger-than-life personality, Andy played a huge part in reviving the fortunes of the Club, putting it back firmly

at the centre of the community as a place for all generations to meet and socialise. The Committee wishes him and Julie the very best for the future and their forthcoming wedding, and offers Gemma help and support as she takes on her new role.

Starting this month, a group of local tradesmen will be donating time and skills to improve access for disabled Club users, plus enhancing the exterior appearance. The Club is always grateful for offers of voluntary help, no matter how big or small. If you would like to be a 'Friend of the Club,' then please let Andy or Gemma know.

The weather was kind to our annual Clubfest, with revellers enjoying music and The Fabulous Bordellos as the headline act. Thanks to Andy, Melissa Romeo and all the Club staff for great organisation and smooth operation on the day.

At the time of writing, the fund raising Tapas Night on 1st September has sold out of tickets. We're planning a great evening of Spanish food, sangria and fun for our guests- Spanish dress is optional! *Glenys Turpin*

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FROM THE BANDROOM

August was a much quieter month for the band, although we did have the pleasure of playing at the wedding of our baritone player Amy Clarke to Dan Webb. We wish them every happiness for their future together.

The contest players are busy preparing for the National Finals in Cheltenham on 16th September. The music we are playing is called 'Petit Suite for Ballet' and is quite an old composition by Eric Ball; the other 23 bands will be playing the same piece.

Our conductor asks us to imagine what it would be like to dance to and recreate the style in our playing – as yet he hasn't asked us to dance – but who knows what he might request? I'm not sure our bass players will be game for dressing up in tutu's. Wish us luck.

We will be playing at Rock Show on September 2nd and we do hope the weather will be kinder than last year. Our training band will play at Farlow School Fete on September 9th, always an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next main concert will be on October 8th at Kidderminster Town Hall. This will be a joint concert with Black Pear Symphonic Winds and promises to be a great evening. Ticket enquiries can be made via me on 01299 270262 – please leave a message on the answer phone and I will get back to you.

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands. www.cmcb.org.uk

DAVID UNDERHILL

In Memory of David Harry Underhill 4th July 1930- 26th June 2017

The wife and family of David Underhill would like to thank the Vicar and Cleobury Funeral Directors for their very caring attention and overall kindness to us. I'd also like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their kind words and flowers.

We have only been here for ten and half years to be with our loving family. David was a huge fan of Speedway, Snooker, Golf and Bowls which he joined when he first came here. He had been unwell for two years with asbestosis after serving 51 years as maintenance, carpenter and joiner. He was also a lifelong member of the Scout movement

having joined at the age of 8 and retired at 73. He became Assistant District Commissioner in Lichfield, gaining respect not by bullying or an overbearing authoritarian approach but by calmly giving the youth club in his charge guidance by reflecting on their actions.

Once again thank you all from the Underhill family - so many memories. *Beryl.*

THOSE BOTTLE TOPS

An update about the plastic bottle tops which you so kindly donate to the Emily Jordan Foundation, which helps people with learning difficulties.

You will be pleased to know that since 2004 over 250 tons of plastic have been recycled, rather than going to landfill.

The plastic is sold to a factory in the Black Country, and the money raised used to finance a hands-on project in which people with learning difficulties make wooden garden equipment like planters, bird boxes, and garden furniture. Some of these can be seen in Brinton's Park in Kidderminster.

The plastic itself can't be used for new food containers, but is ideal for heavy-duty items like wheelie bins, and garden furniture. *Les Hall*

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This month marks the start of the new academic year, with many parents welcoming the return to normality after the long summer holidays; children perhaps less so. But over the summer we have had good news for schools in Shropshire, with the announcement that all schools will share in the additional investment of £1.3bn for schools across the country to help transition to a new National Funding Formula.

I have long supported the need for a new National Funding Formula. While funding for schools nationally is at a record high, since schools funding has been protected from austerity, for too long schools in South Shropshire and other rural areas have received much lower levels of funding compared to urban areas, due to outdated formulae.

Overall, this means core funding for schools and high needs will rise from nearly £41bn for this academic year (2017/18) to £42.4bn next year, and £43.5bn in 2019/20. The new formula will increase the amount per pupil by a minimum of 0.5% for every pupil for each of the next two years; allow for increases of up to 3% per pupil for underfunded schools for the next two years; and continue to protect funding for pupils with additional needs, as proposed in the consultation published last December.

This is really welcome news for schools in South Shropshire, who will find out from this month what the new national funding formula will mean for them individually. We had already secured a 7.2% increase in per pupil funding for Shropshire in recent years, but some schools had been facing reductions in funding under the draft new formula, while several face declining school rolls as the birth rate locally has fallen.

So this additional funding for every pupil will help to ensure every child in South Shropshire has the chance for a good education. Across the UK, 2 million more children are now being taught in schools rated by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding compared to 2010, and this funding will help build on that record.

I am also encouraged that, in addition to the investment boost through the national funding formula, funding for physical education and the sports premium will be doubled for primary schools. As a result, all primary schools will receive an increase in the PE and sports premium funding in the next academic year. With childhood obesity a growing concern, this is good news for schools in Shropshire, helping to encourage children to be more active and get involved in sport from a young age.

Of course, it is not just school pupils who return in September but also students. Higher education became a divisive topic in the General Election, but we should all welcome the fact that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are going to university in record numbers. The cap on student numbers has been removed, and the number of students in higher education has passed half a million for the first time.

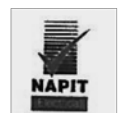
I recently had a presentation from the new University Centre Shrewsbury, which is steadily growing and plans to benefit from this increase in higher education participation. More students will help secure the facility for the future, contribute to the local economy, but also help foster a new cohort of graduates with ties to Shropshire – hopefully developing our economy in the long run.



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CLEOBURY COUNTRY ARCHERS

Another local success story



Left is 10 year old Jack Turner, winner of the Junior Championship at the recent County Novices contest, with Mike Cleeton, Senior Championship winner.

Cleobury Country Archers are on a roll. Their membership has doubled this year and proof of the talent they're bringing are two County novice championship winners, as you can see above.

Mike Cleeton has been a member for a year and winning a County title is a measure of his progress. Jack Turner has been actively practising the sport for a little more than three months, following in his dad's footsteps. Mike is full of praise for Jack's prowess, regularly improving

his personal best score and hitting a total of 612 out of a maximum possible 640.

The club meet every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, shooting in the sports field behind Lacon Childe School in the summer season. "We've got some of the best facilities, but really could do with an additional venue for midweek practice," explained club secretary Ian Walker.

They have a new six weeks training course starting soon, at a very reasonable £30. Start date and venue to be confirmed. If you'd like to know more, club secretary Ian is on 07882 029 560 or look in on their Facebook page - Cleobury Country Archers.

BASIL BROWN

Celia, Paul, Andrea, Michelle and Stewart would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for attending Basil's funeral and the wonderful support, kindness and messages of sympathy received at this very sad time. Also, for the help given during Basil's illness and in the days that followed his death. We really appreciated it.

All donations received in memory of Basil will be divided between The British Lung Foundation, Cleobury Mortimer

Medical Centre and Laurel 2 Ward at Worcester Hospital.

Special thanks to Dr. P. Thompson, Tammy Greenaway (Respiratory Nurse) and the C.M. Bespoke Carers.

Celia Brown

THE LACON LOTTERY

Winner of the August draw was Sarah Lupton, whose investment of £10 won her a very handy £88.50.

A TRIP WITH THE LEGION

The Royal British Legion have an outing to the Hack Green underground bunker site in Cheshire booked for Thursday the 7th of this month. Hack Green was originally a Starburst site, where drums of oil were ignited to fool the incoming World War II Luftwaffe bombers that this was the target. It is now a museum, covering quite a complex period of both hostilities and threat.

Departure time is to be agreed, subject to people wanting to take up the option of being dropped in Chester for the day. The cost for the Hack Green visit is £24 per head including admission, while the commute to Chester and its excellent shopping facilities is just £14. Mark Balwin on CM 270110 can tell you more.



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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Have you ever considered what happens when you are discharged from hospital after a life-changing illness or operation? Most of us would rather not think about it, particularly if we have always been comparatively fit and well beforehand. Val Simpson, former coordinator of the local voluntary car scheme, recently found herself in this situation after experiencing a sudden stroke last October. Val returned home in March after several months' rehabilitation in Worcester's specialist stroke unit (since closed after 'rationalisation' saw the county's stroke services 'centralised' in Evesham) and, despite all the local connections that she and husband Graham had established over many years, found it quite bewildering what support would be provided and by whom. "We were desperate", Val admitted.

The key to all of this is supposed to be the Discharge Letter, sent to your GP by the hospital at the time of your discharge. However, you can't assume that GPs regard this as a trigger for action; they wait for the patient to make contact. The

discharge process is also supposed to involve preparatory contact between the hospital and local community health services, but these connections don't seem to work well, especially across county boundaries. After a tip-off from a member of CPV, a direct call to Shropshire's Integrated Community Services team in Craven Arms saw our excellent community nursing team swing into action in support of Val, and visits from an occupational therapist, physiotherapist and social worker followed. For future reference, there is also Cleobury's very own (part-time) Community and Care Coordinator, Katja Jones, at the Medical Centre who can assist with identifying what help can be provided and how to access it.

Val and Graham are now keen to join with others, especially fellow stroke sufferers (around 200 in this area), to share experiences in the form of practical information and mutual support and advice through a Cleobury Stroke Support Group. To this end, September's CPV meeting will focus on the subject. All with an interest, be it as a support group member or a volunteer, are

invited to come along to the Medical Centre on Monday 18th September at 6:30 pm when we expect Val and Graham to be joined by a representative from the Stroke Association, the UK's leading charity dedicated to conquering strokes, as well as volunteers from existing stroke support groups from neighbouring areas.

Alternatively, you can contact Val through CPV: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area. CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month and we always welcome new members. *Mark Radford*

HARVEST AUCTION

The Royal British Legion's Harvest Auction will be raising funds for the branch on Friday the 15th this month. 7.30 in The Bell Inn, Lower Street, with Jim Hulme in fine voice and getting the stuff sold.

It's a big social occasion, with goodwill for the work of the Legion and the odd drop of ale combining with Jim's jovial style to make the evening go well. And all for a very good cause. Too good to miss.



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The September Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Fri 1 st		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 2 nd	8.00am	Knowle Sports Sale, Knowle Football Ground, near Clee Hill village		
		Rock Show, including Cleobury Concert Brass		
	7.30	Charity Fashion Sale at Cleobury Golf Club, in aid of Save the Children fund. Admission £5 lots of fashion wear at bargain prices		
Sun 3 rd	10.00	The monthly Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. Good social occasion		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at KA, Church Street. Acoustic only, please		
Mon 4 th	7.00	The Town Council meet in the Market Hall for the last time, before moving up the road to the Cleobury Country Centre		
Wed 6 th	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Sports Centre	Alan Kimber	CM 271754
	11.00	Sing – Laugh – Breathe gather at the Market Hall to share singing fun		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 7 th		Royal British Legion outing to Hack Green, Cheshire	Mark Baldwin	CM 270011
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders, Black Pool Forestry Car Park, Mortimer Forest. PAGE 7		
	7.30	The Soroptimists meet again after the summer break. PAGE 7		
		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLED BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 9 th	9.00am	County Councillors Butler and Shingleton have a surgery at the Market Hall, church St. No appointment necessary		CM 271186
Mon 11 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet in the Library, Love Lane.	Jim	CM 270642
	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet in the Methodist Hall, Lower Street		
Tues 12 th	7.30	Cleobury W.I. meet at the Market Hall. Jam and Jerusalem Plus! PAGE 23		
Wed 13 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Coffee and cake just £1.50		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the Village Hall to hear about "My World with Willow"		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at the Bell Inn, Lower Street	David	CM 270793
Thurs 14 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 15 th	7.30	Royal British Legion Harvest Auction, the Bell Inn, Lower Street. PAGE 31		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 16 th		Cleobury Concert Brass compete at the National Band Finals in Cheltenham. PAGE 25		
		Coach outing to Blackpool	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464



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The September Social Calendar Continued

Part Two

Mon 18 th	6.30	Cleobury Patients Voice meet at the Medical Centre to talk about forming a Stroke Support Group. Details CM 407224. PAGE 31		
	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library, Love Lane.		
Tues 19 th	7.00	Men in the Shed meet at the Market Hall, church Street. PAGE 9		
Wed 20 th	10.00	Walking for Health start their stroll at the Sports Centre	Alan Kimber	CM 271754
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.00	"Les Miserables" at Stourbridge Town Hall stars Local Ollie Hart-Bradford		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 21 st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walking from Crown Inn, Hopton Wafers. PAGE 7		
	7.00	The Soroptimists meet at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. PAGE 7		
Fri 22 nd	7.30	Kidderminster Male Voice Choir in full, fine voice at the Parish Church. PAGE 9		
Sat 23 rd	2.00	Pensax Church Tea Party at Clows Top Victory Hall. Page 21		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks is back, showing HackShaw Ridge at the Parish Hall		
Wed 27 th	10.00	Coco Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.45	Clows top Gardening club meet at victory Hall. PAGE 5		
Thurs 28 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 28 th	10.00	World's Biggest Coffee Morning! Our part in it is at the Market Hall. PAGE 13		
	10.30	Or there's the Kinlet version at the Eagle and Serpent pub. PAGE 21		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 30 th		Baldwin's Bookshop in the High Street, closes its doors for the last time		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO OCTOBER		
Mon 2 nd	7.00	The Town Council meet at Cleobury Country Centre	Matt Sheehan	CM 271154
Tues 3 rd	5.15	Read Easy Scheme launch meeting at Kidderminster Library. PAGE 5		
Wed 4 th	10.00	NHS Hearing Aid Support drop-in clinic at St Mary's Place, Love Lane. PAGE 7		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 5 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

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AND FACT**

This month it's from Robyn Painter, 2nd Year Apprentice:

FACT:

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An Ombré has a stronger contrast between the ends and the roots of the hair for more of a statement look.

There are many options with both and inbetween so make sure to have a consultation with your stylist to be sure of your expected outcome.

TIP:

Keep your Balayage/Ombré from going brassy by using a silver/purple shampoo, and/or conditioner. For extra toning put straight onto dry hair and leave on for 5-10 mins. This is also fab for darker hair to rid unwanted warmth.

Also try a non silicone shine spray, this will refract the light

making your blonde look blonder.

**CATHERTON
COMMON UPDATE**

Clive Dean of Shropshire Wildlife Trust has offered to keep us aware of what is happening on the wonderfully peaceful Catherton Common. We are happy to welcome him to our band of contributors.

We are fast approaching autumn so I hope you have enjoyed the magnificent display of purple heather and all the other wildlife highlights that Catherton Common has to offer through the summer!

Over the course of autumn watch out for the flowering of the Western gorse which unlike common gorse flowers in autumn rather than through the summer.

Curlew have been seen and heard across parts of the common but there was no sign of successful nesting by any of our ground nesting birds, including tree pipits and skylarks. There are strong concerns that the numbers of dogs being exercised across the common off the lead, with some people specifically training dogs

to quarter the ground for game, is causing too much disturbance for any successful nesting. We will be putting up signs next year to inform locals and visitors that dogs must be kept on a short lead between 1st March and 1st August to protect our wildlife from disturbance.

SWT volunteers have spent at least one day a month carrying out work across the common this year continuing to tackle birch scrub and gorse regrowth as well as replacing damaged signage and clearing fly-tipped rubbish. Some of the brick and stone dumped on the common was used to fill holes on a car park.

A new section of boardwalk has recently been built by one of our local youth groups, Clee Young Rangers. This should be a big help to people using this path from Riddings Gate heading west to Crumpsbrook. A big thankyou to the group and Rich the Youth Manager.

Clive Dean – SWT reserves officer south

SILLY BIT

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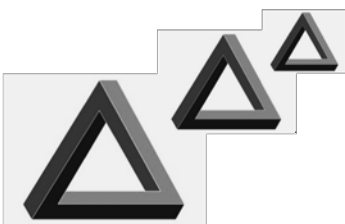
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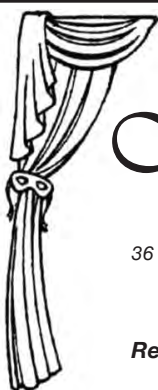


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The delayed meeting with Shropshire Council has now taken place with little to report. The current 2L contract expires at the end of December and Worcestershire Council are preparing to issue a tender document for the renewal. Shropshire Council have expressed their dissatisfaction with the current set up and are asking for details of the document. You may remember that, in the past, Worcs have always gone for the company offering the lowest price, even though they are not obliged to. We are hoping that this approach will not be applied to the latest exercise because – as the old saying goes – rubbish is expensive at any price. The Callow Hill bus fire was apparently reported to the DVSA who decided 'no further action' so that's all right then... I raised the issue (again!) of the £1 charge on the 9.14 which seemed to be a surprise to the Council rep although to be fair, he hasn't been in the post long. He will investigate and will also chase Worcs for the results and conclusions of their recent on board survey. A further meeting has been suggested for October. Madge was still waiting for a response to her complaint to the West Midland Traffic Commissioners and after much effort ringing discontinued phone numbers, has now managed to speak to one in person. She put all the points and problems across at some length but only time will tell if it has any effect.

The usual rash of breakdowns continues. One service to Kiddy stopped near Wyre Forest due to overheating (again) and the driver was told to go straight to the depot saving passengers valuable time. On the flip side, the early Ludlow service expired at Doddington and the passengers were told there would be no relief bus so had to wait nearly two hours for the next service. That's time they will never get back. I was rung by a friend the other evening and told that there was a bus on fire by the cemetery. I rushed up there to find that this was true although it was a coach belonging to a totally different company. This shows that it does happen to other people – just not as often. They had obviously reacted quickly as a relief

vehicle had already arrived to take the passengers onward. Diamond please note that it can be done... Another friend complained about the poor service and in response was rewarded with... Diamond travel vouchers! He was so pleased he gave them away. Not sure to whom – probably someone he didn't like... One luckless Diamond driver was seen in Cleobury vainly trying to start his vehicle and another was seen coming through followed by a fire engine – perhaps this was an experiment to reduce the damage when a blaze does break out.

There was a full page article in the Kiddy Shuttle about Diamond threatening to axe the 1 service which runs on a circular route between Kiddy and Stourport. The stated reason is lack of passengers. Cue a number of outraged comments from locals pointing out, quite rightly, that if the service wasn't rubbish more people would use it. The article also included a photo of the Callow Hill bus warming so that will probably upset Diamond even more. A director of Bus Users England said that 'We need to get the people of Kidderminster out of their cars and back on board'. She is obviously braver than me. Road closures in Bewdley mean that the 2L has to use the bypass. We were coming back along it the other day when we saw a heavily laden cement lorry struggling up the hill. As we got closer, I was astonished to see it pull out to overtake. What could be slower, I thought – a tractor? No, you guessed it, 'twas the 2L smoking and clattering along although at least it was still moving.

Talking about smoking, there is apparently a telephone number that people can ring if they see a bus causing pollution with a smoky exhaust or similar. The information required is date, time, location and company. The number in question is: **0800 0304 1033** so you might want to make a note of it. I imagine it is just for exhaust fumes and similar problems rather than if the bus is a blazing inferno, so you can put your phones down now...

Steve Todd

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Martyn Perkins looks back on work and the local bus service a long time ago:

I started work at Mullers on 12 August 1957, The Glorious Twelfth. We worked from 8.00am until 6.00pm with one hour for dinner. My job as youngest apprentice was to run down the road to Onions the bakers for two loaves, back to Barrats (next to the butchers) for one pound of cheese and the same of butter, then back to the Fox Pub where we had bread and cheese for our lunch and a pint of Mild. One shilling and two pence.

The buses were operated by Midland Red, who had the monopoly all over the West Midlands. They had their own bus factory at Wolverhampton at the old Bean car plant. Quite often there were chassis only buses coming through Cleobury on test to take on the Clee Hill, drivers stopping at the Cafe for a rest.

I lived at Buckeridge then and caught the twenty to eight to Cleobury each morning at the Wheatsheaf pub. The bus was never late; 20 to the hour to Cleobury, 20 past the hour to Bewdley. They were double deckers as well.

When I was 16 I was allowed to do overtime, which boosted my pay from the £ 2 -11-6 a little bit. This was on the production machines in A Shop for Les Boddey and Doug Teague. The crafty monkeys never came in till 8.00am, so little Martyn pushed their bonus though the roof. Bob Burki the works manager soon cottoned on to this and it was back into the Toolroom for overtime.

When starting at 7.00 I naturally caught the 20 to 7. Things happened then that would never happen now. If I was late running up Ranters Bank the conductor's head would appear over the top and shout to me to come on. The fare to Cleobury was 5 old pence, or 2p in today's money.

Jack the old postman would wait for the 10 past 6 bus outside the Talbot and get on and chain a post bag to the luggage rack with the days post to go to Kidderminster. He would then hold on to the luggage rack and ride the bus down to the Post Office at the bottom of the Hurst. The driver would tease Jack and drive straight past and Jack would really throw a wobble as they would take him down to Pinkham.

During the winter the buses still came on time. As soon as it snowed out came the roadmen and gritted the roads. In those days Stourport Power station was operating, so ashes were used to grit the roads and Ted Patrick the council length man made sure Lem Brook Bank was done. While Alf "Bidy" Bytheway did Ranters.

The main bus stop west from Kiddy was Corporation Street and the buses were crowded as soon as the carpet firms turned out . People were terrible, they would get on the bus and only go as far as the outskirts of Kiddy, so an Inspector would shout "This bus is direct to Cleobury Mortimer and will not stop till Cleobury." This stopped the locals getting a short ride. at the expense of longer travellers.

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- 292 Kidderminster to Ludlow
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This summer I have had many hours of enjoyment sitting by my garden pond, watching and noting the varied wild plants and animals that live there or make visits. The pond was made with plenty of hard work: hours of digging, placing the liner, planting aquatic and marginal plants and finally softening the edges with rocks and pebbles. I am heartily grateful to all those who've helped with this 9-year project!

There have been successes and failures. On the positive side, we had creatures such as newts, backswimmers and pond skaters almost from day one. There had been a sheep dip at the farm which had filled up with water and turned into quite a nice little pond in its own right, so when the big new pond was filled we scooped out its residents and relocated them. Dragonflies and damselflies visited, as did frogs and toads. Birds came to drink and bathe in the shallows; pied wagtails being the most frequent bathers.

The establishment of pond plants was more troublesome. Submerged plants such as hornwort and even the usually rampant Canadian pond weed just refused to get going for years. This didn't help the water quality, which often resembled pea soup. Now things are rather better, but my attempts to transplant the three kinds of pond snails have still come to nothing, so keeping the water clean is a struggle. This year I've had a new visitor. It's a caterpillar of a china-mark moth: a pretty

brown and white-mottled moth named presumably for the resemblance to china makers' marks. The larva makes itself a little raft with oval pieces chewed out of leaves, lying snugly between the 2 and drifting about on the pond surface. The unfortunate thing is that I have so many and the plants have taken quite a hit! Late September is the best time to carry out any pond work such as thinning out over-exuberant vegetation. I shall try to scoop out some of the slime lying on the bottom without disturbing too many beasties, which won't be hibernating yet.

Of course the 'natural' ponds in the forest don't get cleared out and seldom get any attention at all unless they are damaged, for instance in the case of the 2007 floods when at least 2 of the larger water bodies overtopped their dams. They do have a natural progression; a life cycle of colonisation and growth that takes them towards damp scrub and woodland. Left to their own devices they would cease to be water bodies at all. This would not concern us if enough new ponds were being formed by natural or artificial means to take their place, but this habitat is scarce and the populations of creatures which rely on it are in a precarious state. So long live the garden pond!

Linda Iles

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AIMING HIGH

Goodness, but the standing of the Town Council is good. So good that Clerk to the Council Matt Sheehan has submitted an entry for the National Association of Local Councils' Star Council Awards. This is not a little local affair, it's a national event attracting entries from all over the country. And Cleobury Mortimer is on the final list from which the top three councils will be chosen by a panel of judges on the 14th of this month.

Fingers crossed, everyone!

THE BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

Festival Director Dave Collins reports:

It is the women who are proving popular. Jenni Murray and Sara Pascoe are very nearly sold out, impressionist Jan Ravens is selling very well and, only 10 days after tickets went on sale, Lesley Smith is sold out. Lesley is a Festival favourite and her scheduled appearance as 'Boudica' has proven to be a sure fire hit, even outselling fellow favourite Max Keen.

Tickets are selling well both online and from Bewdley Tourist Information Centre.

Some of the first to sell were for Pete Waterman's appearance, replacing the Rev Richard Coles.

For music lovers there is a rare treat with 10cc's Graham Gouldman's 'Heart Full of Songs' touring for the first time since 2013, plus The Tom Robinson Band visiting Bewdley as part of a short exclusive tour, T'pau appearing in full concert mode and a Classical concert of celebratory music in St Anne's Church.

Architecture features with TV historian Dan Cruickshank. Elsewhere there is an award winning one-man show as the Festival's WWI commemoration, a compiler's guide to cryptic crosswords and a nostalgic film of when railway travel was romantic.

Don't forget Roger McGough and Little Machine on opening night - poetry and music in a great mix - finishing with a rousing chorus of Lily the Pink!

And don't forget the exhibition of Keith Turley's great paintings in the Museum Gallery throughout October and the invitation to take part in this year's Community Art Project creating a photo album of 24 hours in the life of Bewdley.

Hope to see you all in October.

Dave Collins

NEW TOUR ORGANISER

Carl Phillips has worked in the travel business for a long time and has decided to branch out and build his own business.

His 2018 offering sounds interesting, starting with a six night tour of the Loire Valley, also known as the Garden of France. It's based on Tours and Rouen and includes visits to chateaux, vineyards and Monet's garden at Giverny. Travel by coach, local pickup of course. £749 per head covering B&B and evening meal.

Then in October there's a five nights tour covering Ypres and the Great War Battlefields, using a P&O crossing to Zeebrugge and based on the Ypres Centrum in the centre of that lovely city. A tour of the Great War battlefields with your own guide, including visits to Flanders Field Museum and the Passchendaele Museum. And there will be time to watch the evening Last Post ceremony at Menin Gare. All this for £549 a head. Contact Carl or Sandra on 01584 811424 or 07967667691.

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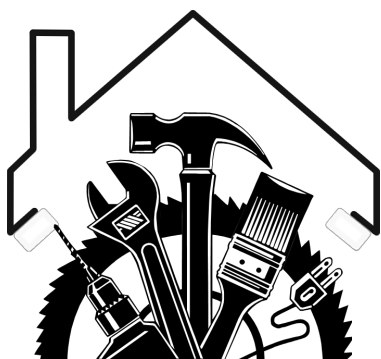
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OLLIE'S HEADING FOR STARDOM



Ollie Hart-Bradford, a young man with a blend of talent and determination.

Ollie Hart-Bradford leads an extraordinarily busy life. He's 16, been sitting his GCSE 'O'Levels at Lacon Childe school, playing cricket at County level and he's just achieved his Grade 8 singing certificate. To add to this, on September 20th the curtain goes up at Stourbridge Town Hall on the Quarry Bank Musical Society's youth production of 'Les Miserables', with young Mr Hart-Bradford in the leading role as Jean Valjean.

With all this achieved at such an early age, it's a refreshing

surprise to sit and talk and find him entirely modest and unassuming.

His love of singing and musicals dates from the age of four, when he was introduced to Stagecoach in Kidderminster. His ability was spotted early and with Stagecoach he's sung in 'We Will Rock You' at both the Grand Theatre at Blackpool and at Birmingham's renowned Symphony Hall. He's played in London's West End too, singing in 'High School Musical' at Her Majesty's Theatre.

He played The Artful Dodger in the Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company's 2013 production of 'Oliver' and was good enough to be chosen to do the same the next year for the South Staffs Musical Theatre Company's production at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Ask him about fame and the effect of being up there on stage, in the spotlight, and he's quite relaxed. It's clearly what he wants to do - he's going onto study A Level drama and dance at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge - and quietly gets on learning parts, studying music and playing cricket in the summer months. If devotion to the task counts for anything, he'll be a star one day.

THE CRIME REDUCTION GROUP

The Group met on August 21st, with managers from Midland Quarry Products in attendance. They had come to discuss the matter of reported speeding of trucks through the town and explained the high standards applied to their control.

The question was asked, is there any positive record of trucks speeding and chair Matt Sheehan confirmed there was none. The company agreed to cooperate and checks will be carried out when measuring equipment and operatives are available.

A further number of CCTV cameras is to be installed, with cover of every route into the town. It was agreed that recorded information would be available to the Police on request; they had not been made aware of the CCTV already working in the town.

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Paul tells the story of Thomas Pickett:

Thomas Henry Pickett was born in Neen Savage in 1895 to John and Emma Pickett. At the 1911 census the family had moved to Cleobury Mortimer, where Thomas was recorded as a general farm worker aged 15 years probably working at Barnslands.

On the Cleobury Mortimer Roll of Honour is a record of a T.H. Pickard (Pickett) M4/1039727 Battalion 24th Reserve ASC (Army Service Corps) There is also a record of him in the 1st Indian Army GHQT so he probably served at some time in India. He died in Mesopotamia, now Iraq, on January 24th 1919 and is recorded on the Baghdad War Cemetery (North Gate). We will leave the details for Thomas there for the moment and explore the Army Service Corps.

The Army needed food, equipment, ammunition and weapons They moved these with horses, motor vehicles, rail, water and manpower. Supplies came from Britain to all theatres using these basic steps:

Britain via sea to a Base Port,

Rail from here to a Divisional Railhead or Advanced Supply Depot

Motor Transport from either to a Divisional Refilling Point

Horse transport to forward dumps at which point the unit quartermaster would take over.

Unit moves supplies by horse or manpower to the front line.

It is easy to underestimate the importance of the ASC in the war effort so it would perhaps be useful to have some idea of the scale of activities.

At its peak ASC numbered 10000 officers and 300000 other ranks. By November 1918 it was responsible for feeding over 5 million men and nearly 1 million horses. The ASC did just about everything required to keep the front line working.

Soldiers serving in the ASC all had a prefix in their service number which denoted in what branch they served. Thomas served in motor transport hence the M in his number. Those serving in Horse Transport had T or HT, the Remounts Service had R in their number, this branch was responsible for supplying horses and mules to all army units.

The British Army was the most mechanised in the world at the start of the conflict. That lead was maintained and by 1918 this became a very

important factor in supply when huge advances were made over difficult terrain. In addition to the specialised units there were the Labour Companies who did exactly what the title suggests - the muscle who moved the supplies around. These companies are unfortunately not well documented.

Mechanical transport is documented to a higher degree and the importance of narrow gauge railways serving the front line trenches deserve a piece on their own. However to give some detail on how branches operated let us examine a typical Horse Transport (HT) Branch.

The principal role of the branch was to deliver supplies from a Divisional Refilling Station to just behind the front line, a distance of perhaps 10 to 15 miles. An HT company consisted of five officers, 185 other ranks, one motor car, seven bicycles, three carts, 22 General Service wagons, 13 riding and 104 draught horses.

The General Service wagon was four wheeled with no springs...imagine driving a wagon for up to 15 miles over a rough terrain with nothing to take up any of the shock coming through the wheels and under heavy shellfire! A typical load for a wagon was 45 boxes of ammunition 400 blankets 20 double circular tents, 4 hospital marquees and anything else that could be accommodated both up to the front line and back to base.

Thomas is in a way a mystery because no information can be found of the 24th Battalion ASC. So we are unable to track him and perhaps fit him into the grand scheme. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is recorded in the Middle East theatre of war.

However a Great War Tribute Medal sold in 2008 has on it a crossed oil can and spanner ...one of the symbols of the ASC. It is inscribed "Somme ,Arras and Ypres 1916-1919 T H Pickett" which would place him in Europe in 1919 and not the Middle East. There are two T H Picketts listed in WW1 medal records !

Which one is our Thomas?

It would be good to know, so watch this space. Meanwhile, thank you Thomas and your colleagues for helping to supply the needs of those who depended on you.

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THE CHORLEY SHOW

This used to be a delight to visit, always with something novel in the main arena. Then the Show faded from sight to apparently reappear last year. That was a well kept secret - publicity by MI5? - but it came back for 2017. We went prepared to be pleased.



Best entertainment in the Main Arena was from K9 Quackers. Man getting sheepdog to drive ducks as he gives a commentary. Great!

Publicity was centred on the dog show element and with owners paying £2 a time to enter their pet, you could see the economic sense. But the doggie area was not well signed and announcements seemed to be made by shouting. Why no portable PA? The result was apparently only the entrants knowing what was going on.



The doggie element included a Cutest Puppy competition, where sizes varied enormously.

The fundraising was for Rupert's Revenge, with a target of £750,000 to finance this young man's cancer treatment in America. So far, a little over £200,000 has been raised and the supporters were all working hard to get more in. We were told that a Harley Street specialist had taken an interest in the case and there might be a solution here in the UK. You can contribute - go to Just Giving and then Rupert's Revenge.

According to the attractive programme there was a display of vintage vehicles. There was just one actually, but it was one

worth a close look. Paul Wallis's 1953 Hodgkiss Jeep, an American built alternative to the Willis version and rather rare. He uses it quite a lot, it's not a pampered pet.



Paul Wallis in his nicely restored Hodgkiss Jeep, complete with spade for digging out of sticky situations.

There was music on stage, with Whalebone entertaining a wide range of ages, which tells you a lot about their appeal. But people who took their dogs along to listen found that the volume did not please the animals' sensitive hearing.

Good to see the show back, but it needs better publicity and attention to details like a small PA for some events. Next year it's on August 20th.

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THANK YOU.

CLEOBURY COUNTRY COMES CALLING

The Cleobury Country Networking evenings break away from home base every quarter for a Jolly. Getting out and about and meeting new people in fact.

In August they and friends gathered at Pippa and Mark Bannister's Nineveh Care Farm, on the outskirts of Bayton, to hear about the farm's remarkable work and see what a transformation you can make with stuff other folks throw away. You'd never realise how interesting pallets can become if you hadn't been to this place.



Old barn painted black, decorated with shapes cut from old pallets and painted. Magic!

You have to listen to Pippa to realise what a great deal of good this place does. They welcome young and old with limited abilities and make them feel wanted. One new venture helps a 17 year old lad with autism to gain work experience. He and a farm tutor are doing odd jobs locally and there's been high praise from his first customers, which makes him feel worthwhile.



This stag's head was made from old pallets. They're selling them well.

The animals that the clients tend need fresh vegetables that have not been processed at all. In Carrot Tops the next morning was an invitation to take free bananas that would not sell

because they were soft. I gathered them all in a box, Julie added some greens and I did a delivery to Nineveh, greeted by happy young people. Many of the Networkers agreed to pass on such fresh food.

Pippa asked if the Clarion would give a mention to young Steve Boyce, a Downs Syndrome man who's a terrific swimmer. I've met and talked to him - super fit and determined. He's trying to raise the funds to get to the Downs Syndrome World Swimming Championships in Paris this October. I do hope you'll join me in supporting him.



If you go to www.gofundme.com and then letsgetstevetoparis you can donate. I already have. JR
The farm is on 01299 832864.



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PRODUCTS WITH PURITY



Sarah Hall with the Neal's Yard Remedies range of products on display at the Market Hall.

Sarah Hall used to be a nurse, but has moved to a self employment way of life as an independent consultant for the Neal's Yard Remedies range of skin care products, essential oils

and health products. "This work fits around the family," explains the mother of two.

Neal's Yard is the address of the company's office in Covent Garden, while the products are made in rural Dorset. It's headed by Peter Kindersley, one of the Dorling Kindersley publishing family who has a passion for making a better, purer way of living and eating available. The company has been trading 36 years and exports all over the world.

There's a great deal of cooperation with other bodies with an interest in this market, so the fact that honey is used there is no surprise to hear there is an active association with the London Beekeepers' Association. No genetically modified products are used, some of the products are suitable for vegans and some are certified by the Soil Association

as organic. Does that sound too fussy to be true? Consider some of the food scares we have known in recent years and you can see why the interest in truly pure and natural products is growing.

This wide range is available in a wide range of sizes, from 2.5 ml in the case of the pure essential oils, to make the first trial affordable.

Sarah started out using Neal's Yard products herself and twelve months ago signed up as a consultant. She's in the Market Hall every Farmers' Market day, selling the products and making contact with future consultants. There's no pressure in her manner, just a friendly chatty style and a willingness to listen, whether you want to buy, become part of the purer life movement, or are simply curious. Well worth stopping and having a word.



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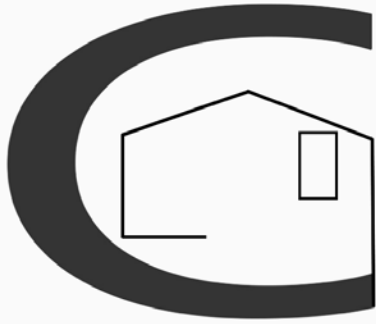
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LACON CHILDE REAPS A HARVEST



Staff and students gather to hear their results. From left, Mrs Yarranton, Lucy Joliffe and Erin Walker

GCSE Results Day at Lacon Childe School is a test of nerves as students, parents and teaching staff gather to hear how they've done. For students their results will confirm which college they will move on to, for parents it's an indication of how the future may pan out and for the teaching staff proof of their ability to get the best out of their charges.

To add to the tension, the marking system for Maths and English has been changed, with exam results expressed as a score out of 9, while other subjects are still expressed in letter form. Full credit to the English department, with 75 percent of students getting a 5

level good pass and 87 percent a 4+.

In Science, Geography and French no less than 100 percent of students achieved a pass in the established A*-C measure. In all, another great year for our highly rated community school.

Before we list the highest scorers, we must mention Eartha Kruft-Welton, a Year 9 pupil, who sat the Maths exam and achieved a Level 9 pass. Other high scorers included Holly Rennel with two Level 9 passes plus five at A* and one A; Abi Griffiths with two at Level 9, three A9 and one A and Maisie Porter with one at Level 9, two at A*, three As and one at Level 7.

Congratulations to everyone on another great year's work and results to match.

TOM KEELEY -MORE MEDALS!

Tom Keeley, multi medal winner in the last Special Olympics, is still out there competing and winning. In August the Keeley family of mum and dad Rebecca and Andy, plus younger brother Ben and athlete Tom himself all decamped to Sheffield for the Special Olympic National Games. The family all volunteered as Helpers and were able to contribute as well as cheering Tom on.

He's almost a veteran now, with lots of competition and much success behind him. This year he's gone up to Level Two, where competition is tougher than he experienced at Level 1 in the world games in America.

As ever, determination and class shone through. Tom came home with four more Gold Medals to add to his collection, this time for the Vault, High Bar, Parallel Bars and Rings. And he added a Bronze for the Floor Exercises, took fourth place in the All Round standings and was fifth in the testing Pommell Horse.

Mum Rebecca was naturally proud: "This was the third National Games Tom has competed in," she explained. "They give fabulous opportunities for individuals with intellectual difficulties to take part in sport, no matter what your age or disability. Not as well known as the Para Olympics, but our hope is that one day it will be."

Once more, congratulations to Tom for a great result.

SILLY BIT

AT&T fired company president John Walter, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Who lacked intellectual ability?



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Paul Evans. He looks far too happy to be a conventional money man.

Paul Evans plc is more than a local businessman, he's a native of the town, born in Cleobury.

He qualified at Birmingham University with a BA Honours in Accountancy and Finance, his first job working for the Mullers Group. From there he moved up the scale a bit with a move into visual aids in Telford and then on to microwave marketing. If that doesn't sound like a typical careful accountant who does his nine to five duties until a vacancy a little way up the company ladder means promotion, it's because he's applied his financial knowledge and skills in a variety of business fields, gaining experience all the time.

That experience showed when he combined with others to get a grant from the old government Business Expansion Scheme and set up Fast Forward Inns plc. That consortium then bought out the Slug and Lettuce pub and restaurant chain (don't you just love that title for a food brand?).

From there he worked as a contracted financial consultant, registered as a plc and finding

much work in the Wolverhampton area until a very tempting offer came along.

He was recruited by Express Reinforcement as a temporary measure, then moved down to Chertsey in Surrey as Finance Director. Big job. But his restive style saw him buying a small pub restaurant in Farnham, where he was playing the Front of House role seven days a week ("I had to, people expect it") five of them after a busy day as a director at the factory. He must have had quite phenomenal levels of energy.

The illness that brought him down and ended both his role as landlord and as a director was inevitable. He was a highly qualified financial accountant with 30 years behind him and a wide range of hands-on experience in industry, but he was burned out.

He came back to the Midlands, initially living with his sister and doing accounting tasks free of charge for people, who asked him when he was going to set up as a paid professional. A post as assistant to Paul Harbach at the Stepple Hall Business Centre eased him back into the work habit until he was ready to set up in business.

So, Mr Evans, with all your experience over more than 30 years, just what do you offer to local businesses?

"Tax advice, help with Self Assessment, setting up a Limited Company, Accounting, Book Keeping, Business Finance, Business Planning and Insolvency Advice."

Fine, but that range of services is available from a number of local professionals. What makes you so special?

"A competitive price for a start. I'm not VAT registered, so you haven't got that extra 20 percent to pay. And I specialise in pub restaurants with my own background in that business, plus my experience in the construction industry means I can help sub-contractors to building companies." There's an important point there - the man speaks the language of the people he's dealing with; no need for extra explanation.

In addition, he's a recently approved contractor to the West Midland NHS, which has some 100,000 staff. No small company there. And the latest addition to his list is as an approved contractor to the National Association of Retired Firefighters.

That's beginning to sound like a lot of work for a man operating from home with a plan to serve businesses within a 15 mile radius of Cleobury. That does get stretched a little with the custom coming out of the West Midlands.

"I'm a one man band, but I have an association with Crowe Clark Whitehall, who are a global organisation I can access for advice if I need it. I have used them, and they were good."

"I don't have a fancy car and normally I don't wear a suit unless it's really necessary," he says. His current staff is one man, George Poyner, working an apprenticeship and learning about business. So does Paul have any great ambitions?

"Not now. I've got about another ten years left and all I need is enough to make life easy." A man content with an affordable service. Unique?

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**DUKE OF EDINBURGH
GOLD AWARD FOR
EDWARD PURSLOW**



Proud moment for Edward at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh.

Ed Purslow had a very special day in July. He and a very proud mum and dad travelled up to Edinburgh, where he was presented with a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by the Earl of Essex.

These awards don't come easily. Volunteers start with the Bronze and graduate via Silver to the top level. It took Ed four years to get there, earning points as he acquired skills and tackled a range of jobs in the community.

It started when he was at Lacon Childe School, when he took up bell ringing, something he still practices at university as well as Worcester Cathedral and our Parish Church. His skills include a knowledge of both medieval and Roman military history and at the Old Vicarage Centre in Stottesdon he earned kayak and canoe coaching qualifications. He's also qualified in Karate martial art.

He's led expeditions to Church Stretton, the Brecon Beacons and Windermere in the Lake District. It's a considerable achievement that he is very modest about, telling mum Ingrid that you shouldn't brag about such things. Her view is that it's not bragging when you've worked so hard to do so much.

He had a pleasant surprise on August 6th, when the Saint Mary's bell ringers did a Quarter Peel to commemorate the award. He was completely surprised by that.

Ed and family would like to thank everyone who has helped him, from staff at Lacon Childe School, through Bridgnorth Endowed (where he was Deputy Head Boy) to start the Old Vicarage Centre.

He's a young man who has proved he can work at a task and achieve a lot. Well done.

**WELL DONE,
ANTHONY**

Anthony Draper is one of those quiet, modest chaps who say little and just get on with whatever they're asked to do.

He's probably the town's longest established paper boy, having worked for 40 years for High Street shops like Jones's through to Simply Fresh in Talbot Square. Always reliable, and if someone else didn't turn up, Anthony could be relied upon to step in and cover that round as well.

He's just reached the grand old age - for a paper boy - of 60 and has decided to retire. It's a service to many people that should not be ignored, so on behalf of the community the Clarion presumes to say "Thank you, Anthony, for a job well done."

SILLY BIT

Police in Oakland, California, spent two hours trying to subdue a gunman barricaded in his own home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers found the man standing beside them in the police line, shouting "Please come out and give yourself up."



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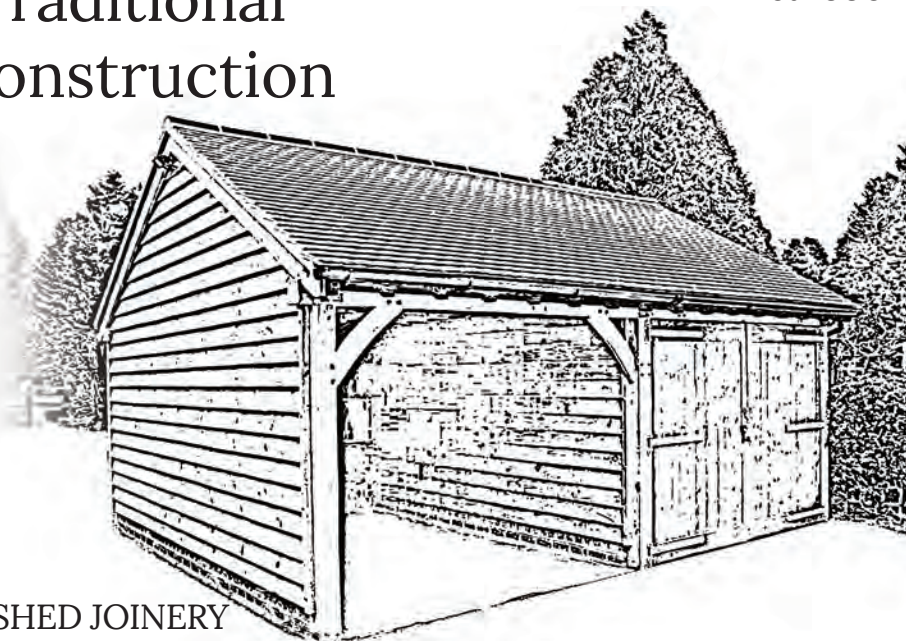
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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 23rd

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**THE CLARION IS ON THE WEB FROM THE 4TH OF EVERY MONTH.
EVERY PAGE, INCLUDING THE ADVERTS**

The Clarion is published by Cleobury Clarion Media Ltd and printed by Glint Print (01299 266657)



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DY10 2BS

01299 271477



Vaughan Road
Cleobury Mortimer **£140,000**

A sought after two bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated at the end of a cul-de-sac, ideal for first time buyers or people looking to downsize. **EPC**

Residential Sales

One of the most important things to get right when putting your house up for sale is the asking price.

A top-heavy asking price will put viewers off during the crucial days and weeks after its launch. The vast majority of interest comes within the first three weeks of marketing, and you risk wasting that spike of interest if your price is too high.

If a couple of months later you decide to lower the price, there is a danger your potential buyers will have noticed that your property has been stagnating on the market - what's wrong with that house to make it stick on the market for so long, people may think.



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
Office Manager



Rockley Bank
Cleobury Mortimer **£450 pcm**

A spacious one bedroom apartment on the first floor, within walking distance of Cleobury Mortimer town centre **EPC C**

Lettings

If you are a landlord, getting the wrong tenant can prove to be a costly mistake. Asking the right kinds of questions when interviewing potential tenants is a great way of ensuring you make the right decision. Here are some good questions to ask... "Why are you moving?" It's a simple enough question but one which can yield a lot of useful information about the circumstances of your potential tenant. "What is your income?" It may be personal, but you need to know they will be able to pay the rent every month. "Do you have any questions?" Giving your potential tenant the opportunity to ask questions themselves can be a great way of establishing exactly what kind of property they want - and whether or not yours is suitable.



Coral Walrond
MARLA MNAEA
Lettings Negotiator