

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

SEPTEMBER 2019

NO SEPTEMBER

FARMERS' MARKET

There will be no Cleobury Country Farmers' Market in the Parish Church this month. The church is having major work done to install a new heating system in the floor, which will mean the ancient tiled floor being raised and replaced after the heating has been installed,

The result will be a much warmer church that will be welcomed by everyone who uses this fine old building, from regular worshippers to casual visitors to the town who are drawn there by simple curiosity.

The Craft Market in the Market Hall will still be held, its regular stall holders filling the lower hall and making you welcome as usual.

TALENTED YOUTH

How old would you expect someone to be to organise a dog show and raise funds for a children's hospital? Twenty or more? Turn to Page 57 and read about Maisie Harman, aged nine, who raised £415!

THE MEN'S SHED

By the time you pick up this copy of the Clarion, probably on September 1st, the building of the Cleobury Men's Shed will be under way. David Chance, who has been a huge help through the whole process from idea to the basic matter of erecting the place, has his team working on the site at the Tenbury Road industrial estate.

It will be a wooden structure and this first stage will be followed by all the internal work to make it a habitable place for men to meet and be able to use skills that may have been idle too long.

The organising committee have worked well together, with the energetic leadership of Peter Blackburn encouraging everyone and never letting the pace of progress slacken. The help from local tradesmen has also been phenomenal.

So The Shed is now a real place. To some it's just a building, but in reality it's a tribute to the strength of this community.

GINA STEPS IN



Gina Basker, busy at the Sports and Social Club's Family Day

The Sports and Social Club's big weekend recovered from a gloomy Saturday morning to bloom into success. A buzzing Saturday evening and a great Family Day on Sunday.

The caterer originally booked had a machinery problem, so Gina Basker of Platters and Plates stepped in at short notice to cover the lunch service.

Manager Tony Barker-Newton and crew had put in a lot of work and must have been glad it all worked out well. Again next year, Tony? "Definitely"



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The Cleobury Clarion, September 2019

Volume Fourteen - Edition Six



*Kieran Mayall, off to the NFL Academy to take up American Football.
See Page 47.*



*Chloe Alexander, a gentle and private way with weight loss on the 1:1 Cambridge Diet
See Page 51.*



*Busy Sean Boden, man with a van and a load of goodwill. He delivers so much.
See Page 61.*

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NEW FRIENDS GROUP

Good friends, a laugh and a joke, an encouraging smile. With people you can really trust – and a good cup of tea and a piece of cake. These are the kind of things that make the world go round.

Well, moves are now under way to set up a friendly social group in Cleobury Mortimer especially for people living with dementia, and also welcoming their friends and carers to pop along too.

The idea is to provide a welcoming venue where people can enjoy each other's company, perhaps exchange ideas, have a cuppa and a piece of cake and just relax. People living with dementia will have the chance to share ideas and experiences, support one another, and enjoy good conversation.

If this sounds like something that might appeal to you, please come along to the very first meeting at the Kings Arms, Cleobury Mortimer, at 11am, on Monday, September 23. You'll be most welcome.

If you would like to find out more, please email Phil Gillam at philoncloudbase@gmail.com or phone 07527 054 143 or contact Wendy Satterley at the Kings Arms – 01299 271954.

Phil Gillam

CLAUDE MAIDMENT

Older members of the community will remember Claude Maidment, a long term resident in the town. Claude died in July, at the Bon Accord Nursing Home in Hove, Sussex, at the age of 99. He would have been 100 in March 2020. His daughter, Ceridwen Byrne, was with him.

Claude was Head Teacher at Farlow Church of England School until 1975, when he left to take up the same position at Kinlet C of E School.

THE NEARLY DEAD POETS' SOCIETY

Our July meeting saw Tony, Pat and Bob travel in from Kidderminster to add to the reading and an atmosphere of good humour. David Walford had given time to compose three works about sunshine, the chosen subject for our scribes, but he was alone in such thoroughness. Tony Smith was forgiven after he read the famous 'Duck Billed Platypus' that was written by an anonymous member of the diplomatic corps, who protected his or her promotion prospects by keeping their identity secret.

The chosen subject for our August meeting was 'Caves' and the response to that demand will be revealed in the next issue of the Clarion. Our meeting this month will be on Monday the 23rd, at 7.30 in the library. All welcome, but do bring your sense of humour.

Jim Reynolds

ROCK PATHFINDERS

Once more, there are two walks planned this month, which non members are welcome to join. Both are off-road and will take two to three hours.

On Thursday the 5th the rendezvous is Lyth Hill Country Park car park, near Bayston Hill at Shrewsbury SY3 0BT. Or SO reference SJ472069 if you prefer the established walkers' maps.

On Thursday the 19th they will gather at The Mare and Colt on Worcester Road, Kidderminster DY11 7RF, SP

reference 840736. Both walks start at 10.30 and Alan on 01299 400304 can help you with more details.

THE CLANGERS ANNUAL MUSIC HALL

The Clangers will present their 6th annual Music Hall at Neen Sollars Victory Hall on October 11th and 12th. Tickets are £10 including supper, which is served from 7.00. There is a licensed bar.

As usual the show is an evening of laughter which attracts full houses and tickets can be obtained from Trevor on CM 272666 or Sarah on 272628.

Trevor Wood

PARACHUTE PALS' SUCCESS

Congratulations to Karen and Sonia, the Cleobury Co-op's High Flying Heroines, who we featured in our August issue.

There's a notice in the store, confirming that they raised a total of £2454.55 for the Kemp Hospice. A tribute to their bravery and the generosity of the many people who supported them.

MUM TO BE? NEW MUM?

Two new exercise classes starting at the Market Hall this month. Pregnancy yoga beginning Thursday 19th September at 6.30pm and post-natal yoga beginning Monday 16th September at 2pm. Both classes will run for six weeks in the first instance and will continue if enough interest. For more information please contact [Vicky on crookedsteepleyoga@gmail.com](mailto:Vicky@crookedsteepleyoga@gmail.com) or via Facebook @CrookedSteepleYoga.



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PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

It is hard to believe that on October 23rd this year it will be 45 years since Pensax Thrift Shop first opened in 1974. Life has certainly changed so much since then and, sadly, the end of October this year will mark our last session. Although the Thrift Shop continues to offer somewhere to buy and sell bargains of many kinds and the mornings still buzz with friendly chat and exchange of news, we are finding it a struggle to keep opening each week. In addition, we are now pretty much the sole users of Pensax Village Hall – we feel that the writing is on the wall.

As a small thank you for your support, we would love to see as many of our customers, past and present, at Pensax Village Hall on October 23rd (we are open from 9.00 to 11.00am) for a glass of something bubbly and the chance to share memories. The scrapbooks that Nerys kept over the years with happy reminders of past events will be available to browse through. We hope very much that we will have the pleasure of seeing you then.

For our current customers who have items entered for sale at the Thrift Shop, please note that you will need to collect any money

owing to you and anything unsold on or before Wednesday October 30th, after which what remains will be passed on to charity shops in the area.

Pauline Briggs

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

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

At the June meeting, it was the club's Rose & Sweet Pea Show. and many thanks to Anne for judging. The results: 1st & Best Exhibit Marion Wilson, Joint 2nd Dot Cowdell and Bob Marriott and 3rd Madge Edwards.

There was a slight change to the July meeting when the

speaker was unwell and unable to attend. However, Elva worked her magic and after several phone calls, she made sure there was something to entertain us. A lovely lady, Bridget Manson, came along with buckets of flowers and foliage from her garden. She showed us some lovely flower arranging displays, which were later raffle prizes.

Gardening is one of the few hobbies that are relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. The Garden Club has a very friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome. It's a great way for exchanging gardening knowledge, learning new ways of doing things and sharing tips.

Our next meeting will be on September 25th and the speaker will be Darren Rudge on 'Tea Bags, Bras and Tights, Part Two.' It will also be our Autumn Show. Darren Rudge, also known as 'the laughing gardener' has been a BBC radio presenter for over 15 years.

Pauline Bowen

SILLY BIT

In 1891 Alexander Graham Benn received the world's first wrong number telephone call.

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BIG THANK YOU

A big Thank You to Michelle Hassan for organising a brilliant evening at Kinlet Village Hall on June 29th. The local band Rebooted excelled themselves again and everyone was up dancing.

The amount raised was fabulous, over £1600, which will be divided between the Air Ambulance and Brain Tumour Research, two charities very close to Michelle's heart. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making the night a great success. Cheers to you all
Jeannie Bull

THE WRITERS' GROUP

August is holiday time, so it was a select band of four who gathered at the library. The chosen subject for our writings was 'Moon' and Gill led the way with a tale reflecting her own experience of a music festival in the rain and mud that helped shed inhibitions and to dance in wellies. By moonlight, of course.

Jim chose the obvious orb in the sky and man's changing concept of what it meant to us. By contrast, Edwin our resident rebel recalled work in a drawing office and customs around Leap Year. Vicky had gathered much information about our lunar neighbour, then ran out of time

to write a story using it. Maybe the fast growing Willow and an inclination to wriggle and crawl demanded her attention.

So it was a brief meeting, and before heading homeward we agreed that the subject for this month's creative thoughts should be 'Back to School'. If not original, at least it's topical. We meet on the 9th to hear what that has inspired.

Jim Reynolds

THE BORDERS

CLASSIC BIKE SHOW

Once again, Lacon Childe School are pleased to host the Borders Classic Bike Show on Sunday September 8th, 10.00 to 4:30. Founded by Jim Reynolds 35 years ago, this unique show has much to offer for the hardened biker and for the budding enthusiast.

Sadly, Jim retired from running this event last year, but we are so pleased that he has agreed to return as our guest of honour, trophy presenter and will be around during the day.

Staged within the school hall, there will be vintage bikes, bike start up sessions and in the food pod, you can experience our delicious all-day breakfast.

At just £5 per ticket, it is definitely worth the trip. All proceeds will be divided equally between the Midlands Air Ambulance and Lacon Childe School.

<http://www.bordersbikeshow.com/>
Sarah Price

Lacon Childe School PTA

WELCOME BACK, JOHN

John Hands is back at his desk in Hands On Printing on the High Street. He's full of praise for his treatment at the Medical Centre, when he thought he had a grumbling appendix and Dr. Dawn Powick arranged a quick appointment at Worcester Royal Hospital.

There an examination revealed a cancer of the bowel, quickly dealt with and an examination whilst under the anaesthetic showed no spread of the infection. John is not strong enough to work full time, but is far too energetic to simply sit at home and do nothing.

He did tell us that he wanted to say how good his treatment at both the Medical Centre and the Worcester Royal hospital was and how grateful he is to both places. Another firm fan of our National Health Service.



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Tracking the Trucking

Sitting having coffee with friends, and one of us is constantly looking at her phone. She is tracking delivery of a new purchase. Every few seconds, the conversation is interjected with something like: "Look, it's now coming down to the crossroads." We laugh and tease her telling her that she needs to get a life.

A few months down the line, hubby and I order one of those lovely light weight, life changing, not shackled to the wall by flex, everything you have ever wanted vacuum cleaner. Forty four years of married life tethered to the wall and now I am going to be cordless. Oooh! The anticipation.

On the day it was ordered and delivery arranged there was nothing whatsoever on the calendar. Now, life with a big "L" has intervened and we have both ended up with commitments. I point out calmly that there is no need to worry because new, snazzy, all singing, all things to all men, (but not necessarily, in this case, all things to all women), vacuum cleaner is arriving before nine o'clock. This is what the firm promised. Nine o'clock arrives and passes. There is no vacuum cleaner. Never mind, I ring the firm with instructions as to where to leave our parcel. I am informed that this is a parcel that cannot be delivered without a signature. Neither can they deliver to the other address in Cleobury where I shall be for the rest of the day because it has a different post code. No possibility whatsoever despite the fact that the alternative address is just around the corner and up the road. They do tell me that I can track the delivery, and they give me a revised, estimated time of arrival.

So, here I am, having laughed at a friend, frantically tracking delivery of a vacuum cleaner. And there it is. Wonder how the driver feels about

having his every move of the working day plotted ad infinitum for all to observe? This is not just Big Brother watching you, this is Big Brothers plural and we are all following your every move. Oh joy! It's at Far Forest, great news, just down the road. All is well with the world, it will soon be here. Soon comes and goes but new cleaner does not grace us with its presence. I look again. It's like watching Line of Duty without the commentary that tells you that the target is now proceeding west. Ah! No! The blessed thing has diverted. It has taken a turn off to the left and is now flagged in a village somewhere. Apparently there is life beyond the main road. So near and yet so far. It seems all singing, all dancing cleaner is going off on a Grand Tour. I don't want to look anymore at this now agonisingly painful progress so I shut down the teasing and tormenting technology that allows for this torture. We contemplate aborting the mission but then realise that this probably means going through it all again at some later date.

New super- duper, life changing, state of the art, scientifically sourced, precision engineered, light as a feather vacuum cleaner enters our home and is solemnly signed for ten minutes before the last man standing is due to exit. Well done that delivery driver! Phew! Whoever told us that retirement would be boring was mightily mistaken.

P.S. Although these new cleaners are clearly a great invention for those of us with wonky legs and arthritic hands and arms, I love that the telly adverts always show athletic looking young people using them to suck up the dirt. The future looks clean and bright; so long as we can remember to charge it.

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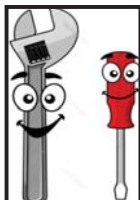


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Worcestershire Marble Receptionist/Office Assistant	Receptionist/office assistant required to cover reception, welcoming visitors to site and assist with the day to day running of a busy office. Full time position.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 841206 Email: martyn.lewis@worcestershire-marble.co.uk
The Hopton Crown Front of House Staff	We're looking for enthusiastic team members to join the front of house team.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 270372



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

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TO APPLY YOU MUST LIVE OR WORK WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF CLEOBURY MORTIMER FIRE STATION

To be a Firefighter requires special skills and qualities, not only do you need to be able to work under pressure as part of a team at operational incidents you need effective communication skills to deal with the public at fire safety events and in their homes. You will work within your local community to support our aim of preventing fire related incidents and road traffic collisions. The Service is looking for people aged 18 or more on their start date who can demonstrate a high level of physical fitness

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

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Kit Smith - Our Wildlife Corridors

We are fortunate in Cleobury to have seven wildlife corridors in and around our town. These ancient natural features provide shelter, security, feeding and breeding grounds for many thousands of animal and plant species as well as enhancing our countryside and urban environment for our enjoyment and pleasure. Without them it would be a barren and sterile environment.

The majority of corridors were formed after the last ice age around the valleys cut by streams, brooks and rivers as they flowed into the River Rea. Over many decades, trees, hedges and scrub have grown and prospered. Some have been planted, but most are natural self sown. We now have matured corridors with their environs which support a sustainable biodiversity. They have survived huge changes of industrial revolution, wars, farming methods and housing developments. We have the chance now at the time of a Neighbourhood Plan to repair, restore and provide new links between them, so we can continue to achieve a sustainable future for this environmentally rich part of South Shropshire.

The seven corridors are all valuably different, with their own character and form. Workhouse wild life corridor starts at Catherton Road, travels through the Skatepark, down to the site of the old Union Workhouse, through the Glen Caravan Park, past Cleanlyseat Farm, then under the road to the river Rea at the bottom of Ron Hill.

School corridor is more urban, starting at the lone oak in Catherton Road, turning left to pass below the school grounds, into Love Lane, Steeple Close, The Hurst, Viol's Walk across Childe Road and into St. Mary's ancient Churchyard.

Pudding Brook (alias Borough and Put In Brook) and its corridor starts at the pond in

Curdale Farm on the Ludlow Rd. It flows as an open brook, or via culverts or back gardens, under the Tenbury Road, through back gardens to the end of Eagle Lane, crosses Eagle Lane, goes under Lion Lane followed by more back gardens to pass under the Old Medical Centre, under Pinkham Lane to Mill Pool and finally into the Rea. Despite travelling as an open brook underground or in culverts through approximately 60 back gardens the brook supports a healthy clearwater biodiversity along its length. In all respects the Brook and its corridor has the widest biodiversity and the greatest threat from change. It supports many important animal and plant habitats which are in delicate balance.

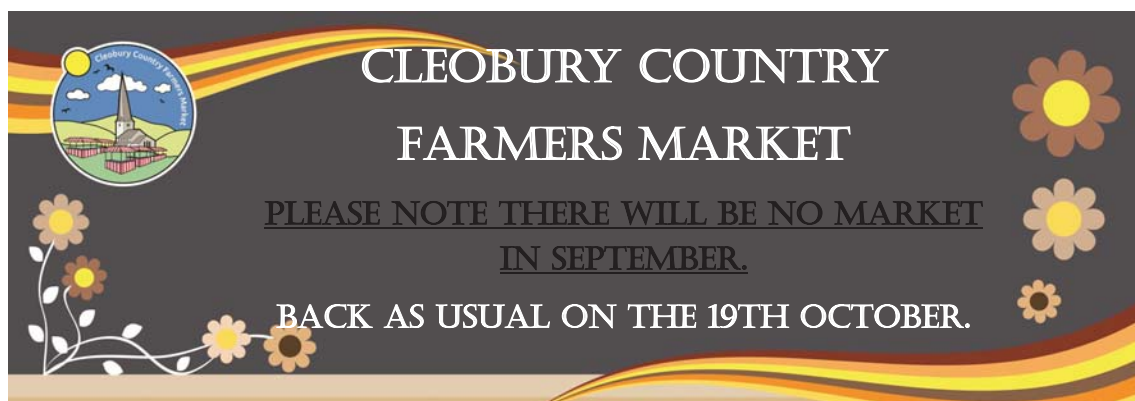
Tenbury Road/Eagle Lane corridor is short but important as it joins Pudding Brook corridor at the end of Eagle Lane via new housing and possible employment land developments

Hobsons Corridor has developed over centuries from an ancient farm track along the ridge starting at Hobson's Brewery and ending downhill at the end of Lion Lane . It has several fine mature oak trees and many mature trees of other species along its length. Each 200yr. old oak is claimed (Woodland Trust) to be host to over 2000 different species of animals and plants, as well as being valuable as a carbon sink.

Rowley Brook rises west of Curdale Farm and runs in its own valley to the south of the town to cross under the Bayton Road and discharge into the Rea.

The final corridor is the river Rea Wildlife Corridor which flows south down to the Teme at Newnham Bridge. A restored river Rea has huge potential for aquatic biodiversity improvement. We need to look after these corridors with their valuable biodiversity, rich trees and hedges.

Kit Smith



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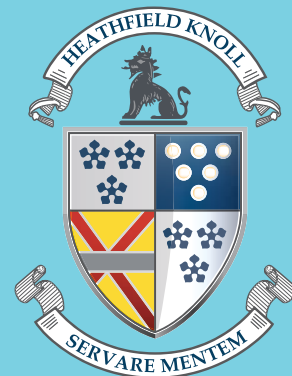
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PETS ON PARADE



Two of the local dog owners who will be using the new exercise area. Jan Manley with her greyhound and Town Clerk Matt Sheehan with whippets.

It was a popular choice when the town's people were asked in the 2018 Big Cleobury Survey to nominate their preferences in a range of extra facilities. Third most popular with 52 percent of the vote was the provision of an area where people could let their dogs run free without any risk or inconvenience to other animals or people.

There was space on the open parkland that connects the sports field with Catherton Park and contractors were

asked to tender for the job. No names given, just an indication of who was local. Jonathan Guest of Kinlet got the job and earlier this year a stout wire fence was erected around a 20 metre square with a lockable gate to keep dogs firmly in there and under their owners' control.

The official opening was on August 13th, with a range of dogs there to enjoy a run. New resident Peter brought along Tillie, a two year old labrador, Jan Manley had Hero, the family greyhound, Matt Sheehan brought along two whippets and Jill arrived later with two more greyhounds.

We did wonder if such athletic dogs as greyhounds could be properly exercised in such a modest space, but once off the lead they ran happily in big circles, clearly enjoying the place. The Sheehan whippets likewise, while Tillie the labrador ran and jumped, but was overwhelmed when the greyhounds became friendly. Not a single bark - all really friendly.

It is estimated that roughly 50 percent of the households in Cleobury have a dog and making such an exercise area available does make sense. As

you would expect of such a facility, there is a bin for any dog waste to be left in.

It's a very new idea and it will be interesting to see how well it is used. Peter and Tillie have been in there every day since it opened; he thinks it's great. The dogs didn't say a word, not one complaint, so we'll put that down as another success for Cleobury.

THE GREAT COFFEE MORNING

That lovely idea from Macmillan Cancer Support, the World's Greatest Coffee Morning, will be on Friday the 27th of this month.

It will be in its established home, the Market Hall on Church Street, with Sue Henderson and her excellent band of friends ready to make it a busy place from the 10.00 o'clock start to the 12.00 noon official end, though we suspect there will be people there long after then.

Last year the Morning raised a record £669.10, a remarkable amount for an event open for just two hours. And a tribute to the generosity of this town. So can we make 2019 another record year? Ambition needs good company!



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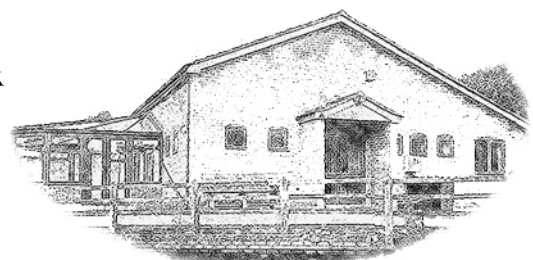
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People of Cleobury, can you help us again by gifting us more teddies and soft toys. We are mounting a big push this Autumn, so we need your help. With your help we have sent soft toys to deprived children all over the world, and even sent them to less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

Keith Balmer
balmeruk@gmail.com 07976207889



Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-September

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 1st-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

Due to the heating works taking place St Mary's will be closed during September.

The following provision has been made:

8th,15th & 22nd September- 8.30am Eucharist will be held in the Market Hall

8th,15th September-10.00am St Michael's Hopton Wafers will be welcoming all.

22nd September- 9.45am worship will be held in the Hub.

St Mary's will be open for Worship on Sunday 29th, 8.30am & 9.45am.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 1st-10.00am Eucharist, 8th-6.30pm Evensong, 15th-10.00am Matins, 22nd-6.30pm Evensong, 29th No service

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-6.30pm Evensong, 22nd-9.00am Eucharist, 29th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 1st -10.00am Eucharist, 8th-10.00am Eucharist, 15th-10.00am Family service, 22nd-10.00am Eucharist, 29th-6.30pm Harvest Service.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-No service, 29th-3.00pm Harvest.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-12.00pm Village Worship, 22nd-No service, 29th-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-11.00 Eucharist, 25th-No service, 29th-No service.

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

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

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GOODBYE, AMY

Oh dear, was it something we said? In the August Clarion we talked to Amy Millward, a very promising young pro player and coach at Cleobury Golf Club. Now we have to tell you that she's leaving, off to take a new step in her career in Dubai. We'll let her explain:

I'm excited and sad to announce that I will be leaving CMGC to take on a Teaching Professional job at the Claude Harmon School of Golf in Dubai as of September 11th.

I have had the most incredible five years at Cleobury that have been so special to me because of the staff, members and visitors that play each week! I have learnt so much while I have been here, growing in confidence, which without all of you I wouldn't be moving to Dubai to work in the golf school I've always wanted to work at! I'm so lucky to take my next career step to Dubai and work alongside some amazing coaches as well as Claude Harmon III!

My last weekend will be the Men's Club Championship Weekend, where I will be checking everyone in and doing the presentation. I will be having some leaving drinks on the Saturday evening the 7th

from 6:00 onwards and it would be great to see as many members there as possible to say goodbye.

Amy Millward

NEWS FROM SAINT ELIZABETH'S

St Elizabeth's is the only Catholic church for miles around. We have a friendly, active congregation and welcome visitors any week to our Sunday Mass and our social events. We have a busy programme of events most months and this monthly article is designed to let you know what is happening and invite you to join us. Our priest is Canon Christopher Walsh and he extends a warm welcome to anyone who would like to experience our services and join us for social events.

Also, if you have children who do not attend a Catholic school we can arrange to give them activities designed to help them understand their faith. This could be before and during Sunday Mass after which they would join the rest of the congregation for the remainder of the service. Mass takes place on Sundays at 9:00am, and refreshments are served at the end of Mass on the last Sunday of the month. If you feel you

would like to take a more active part, we are always looking for new ideas for the liturgy and social events. If you would like more information please phone 01299-270-318.

Paul Flowers

IN PRAISE OF.....BT

It was a Friday afternoon and everything 'went down' – landline, internet, mobile phone. Fortunately, a friend who used to work for BT, was able to report the problem using his phone and when it was established that there was definitely a fault on the line, I was told that it couldn't be dealt with imminently as several engineers had been sent to Scotland to deal with the aftermath of severe storms. My friend pointed out that I had recently returned from hospital, that I wasn't able to drive at the moment, and that I lived alone. The very next day an Open Reach engineer arrived and whilst it took him quite a while to locate and remedy the fault, he assured me he would not leave until it was sorted. After a couple of hours everything was restored and I was once again in contact with the outside world. BT and Open Reach on this occasion provided excellent service.

Diane Waddington



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AN AMAZING STORY

Lots of people in our community know the story of Samuel Robinson and the near miracle that has seen him grow to be a fine young man. This is his mother Rachel's side of the story and an explanation of the family's latest fund raising drive.

In 2006 we had the life-changing news that our third child would be born with a serious complex heart disease. For him to have a chance of life, he has had four open heart surgeries and countless other procedures, the first open heart at just three days old. Due to the complex nature of the condition, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (or in layman's terms, half a heart) the surgery is only palliative. This condition is very rare and at the time of Samuel's diagnosis, the surgery had only been performed at a handful of centres by specialist cardiologists for 15 years in the UK.

Nothing can fully prepare you for the isolation, fear, uncertainty and anxiety this diagnosis brings. Thankfully I discovered a small charity, who wholly specialises in single ventricle heart conditions.

Little Hearts Matter have been by our side every step of our 'half a heart' journey; from the initial diagnosis at 22 weeks pregnancy, through the surgeries, and all aspects of him growing up with the condition. They offer support and advice to anyone affected by single ventricle heart conditions. Being a small charity, they rely heavily on funds raised to continue to develop and support families like ours.

Samuel's eldest sister, Sophia, is away in Africa doing community projects this summer, so his two other sisters, Jemima and Grace have set themselves the challenge of swimming 25 miles to celebrate 25 years of Little Hearts Matter. I do hope you can support them even if in a small way, to show how wonderful they are doing this for their brother and other families like ours around the UK.

Grateful thanks to Teme Leisure in Ludlow for granting the girls free access to the pool to complete their mission.

Anyone who would like to support the girls can do so via their Just Giving page -

justgiving.com/fundraising/jemimagrace
Rachel

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

It's been quiet recently, but behind the scenes it's been very busy. My help and I have been beavering away, getting the shoe boxes ready for you all. We do hope you will be your usual generous selves and fill boxes this autumn, ready to go to Romania. My friend Gabby Franklin and I are going to the Danube delta in Romania in December to give out your boxes, so we need them ready to go by Remembrance Sunday on November 10th.

As you probably know, Saint Mary's Church is closed for most of September for the new heating to be deinstalled, so the shoe boxes will be in there as soon as I can, and as usual in the Parish Hall. I am collecting the goods to go in the boxes as I see them. We hope to pack them in the back of Saint Mary's with the children in October.

My thanks to you all for your wonderful help. I couldn't do it without you.

Jenny Vanderhook

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY PLAYERS

It is with a considerable amount of regret that I have to announce the demise of our talented drama group, Cleobury Players.

Since it was established by a group of staff at Lacon Childe School in the mid 1970s, the group grew in strength that by the turn of the century it was producing plays of excellent quality and quantity for a town the size of Cleobury. Over the last 40 years we have presented an eclectic selection of dozens of plays ranging from 'Allo, 'Allo to Les Liaisons Dangereuses, all complete with excellent sets constructed by our extremely talented back-stage crew and technicians. All through this period we have looked upon Lacon Childe School as our home (apart from the occasional excursions to other venues in our locality) for both rehearsals and productions. For four decades we have relied on and enjoyed an excellent relationship with seven successive Headteachers, members of staff and caretakers; the latter taking the brunt of our seemingly endless requests for help when our only enemy was the clock, to get a production on the stage. To this end, in addition to paying the usual hire charges, the group has over the years enlarged the lighting capabilities, stage equipment and tracking which amounts to well over £5,000, plus an

additional £1,000 for new chairs in the hall, all intended for our mutual benefit.

In addition, many charities were invited to run the obligatory raffle during a production which raised funds for Macmillan Nurses, Little Hearts Matter, Royal British Legion and many others. Some years ago a cheque for £1,000 was presented to Dr. Taylor for Prostate Cancer.

In November 2014, The Players presented R. C. Sherriff's famous play 'Journey's End' in St. Mary's Church to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War and to remember all the men from the Cleobury area who did not return home after the end of hostilities. We were pleased to welcome 3 young students from Lacon Childe School to take significant parts in this moving play; an experience that I am sure they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Little did I know that it was to be 'journey's end' in more ways than one. Since then, despite several attempts by our Chair, Annabel Gemmill, to engender support for the continuation of the group has been without success and consequently it has been decided that reluctantly the group should be disbanded. This decision brings to an end a period in our local history where our community was entertained to high standards that, by the end of the century, we had a membership of 30

plus actors offering at least one production a year.

A lot of this success was the result of the enthusiasm of my late wife Mavis whose love of the theatre and her tenacity and capabilities steered the various chair-persons, committee members and others to ever more ambitious productions.

Disposal of Funds and Assets.

1. All the portable and fixed equipment situated at Lacon Childe School has been donated to the school.
2. Sale of sundry lighting and sound equipment raised £700 for the Air Ambulance.
3. The balance of £4,459.73 was donated to the following registered charities:
Acorns Hospice, £1,114.00
Friends of St. Mary's Church, £1,114.00
Millbrook Suite
Kidderminster Hospital £1,114.00
Severn Hospice £1,114.00
Balance to charity box £ 3.73)

So the above brings to an end 40 plus years of entertaining our community which at times has been hard work for those involved but has always been good fun with plenty of banter and a pint afterwards.

On a personal note I would like to thank everybody who has worked so hard to achieve our objective and also the others who helped the group in so many individual ways.

Thank you so much for the memory.

Tom Cartwright.

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

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Last month I met Inspector Nikki Roberts, who leads South Shropshire policing, to discuss steps being taken to prevent and tackle crime in our communities. In light of the Prime Minister’s pledge to increase police officer numbers by 20,000, I am determined to see rural areas like Shropshire benefit – and was encouraged to hear that the Chief Constable is allocating an additional 10 substantive police constables to South Shropshire. The result of this increase is effectively a 50% increase in the safer neighbourhood teams in Ludlow and Bridgnorth on each shift – a very welcome increase! This follows a record 56 officers joining West Mercia Police in July alone, as part of recruitment of 115 new officers.

West Mercia Police are also taking encouraging steps to help prevent rural crime, an issue which I know West Mercia’s Police and Crime Commissioner John Champion takes seriously. So I was pleased to meet the We Don’t Buy Crime officer, who was promoting use of Smart Water to Craven Arms’ Mayor and Shropshire Councillor, and encouraging adoption across communities in Shropshire following the lead taken in Cleobury Mortimer where domestic burglary was reduced dramatically.

Smart Water individually marks goods of value with a unique identifier which is invisible to the naked eye, but is revealed under Ultra Violet light, and links the goods marked direct to the household of the owner. Each West Mercia officer carries a UV torch so can look for smart water marked goods whenever suspicious of a theft.

This has proven successful in reducing and disrupting the market for stolen goods,

protecting homes and possessions by making them less attractive to the would-be criminal. So West Mercia are also looking to extend this scheme to cover farms, to combat a recent spike east of the A49 in recent months.

I am sure many will also welcome the additional powers being given to Police under stop and search through a nationwide pilot, with more than 8,000 police officers authorised to use enhanced stop and search powers, as part of Government efforts to crack down on violent crime. While knives are used in fewer serious crimes in West Mercia compared to the national average (4% rather than 6%), and indeed is far below the worst hotspots for knife crime like certain parts of London and Birmingham, this is a welcome step to tackle a growing problem in society, particularly for young people.

The new government has also outlined in its first month plans to review sentencing for the most serious offenders, including not letting prisoners out automatically part-way through a sentence and reviewing how to break the cycle of repeat offending. In light of anticipated increase demand for caseloads, the Justice Secretary has announced a further £85 million for the Crown Prosecution Service to build capacity over the next 2 years, with an extra £2.5 billion investment to create 10,000 extra prison places.

I hope this renewed focus on tackling and preventing crime, both nationally and in south Shropshire, will help make streets safer in communities across the UK.

Philip Dunne






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**ST JOHN'S CHURCH,
DODDINGTON**

"Oooh!" was the reaction of wildflower expert, Rob Rowe, as he walked through the church gate – a sign that he had already seen some interesting plants and expected more. You may have seen the long waving grasses at the front of our churchyard, in preparation for the wildflower identification session with Beautiful Burial Grounds in July.

We started at the bottom of the steps, looking at flowers on either side, many of them good habitat indicators. After the first hour, with 44 species recorded, we moved further into the site. By the end, more than 80 species had been recorded.

The significance of burial grounds is that they have been managed in a similar way to traditional hayfields, farming has changed in the last 100 years, reducing species diversity, so burial grounds are now vital habitats for many species. Recording these is important, and it will inform our future management of the churchyard.

The grass got longer than we intended because we didn't manage a late Spring cut due to bad weather. It has now been scythed by a team from Caring for God's Acre. Next year we

will choose certain areas to manage to encourage wild flowers, but cut other areas more often, particularly those regularly visited to tend graves.

Our Skittles Evening in August was enjoyed by all. On to September, when we have a Jumble Sale at 2.30pm on Saturday the 7th and Celebrate Harvest at 3pm on Sunday the 29th, followed by our Fun Auction of produce and a Bring and Share Tea. Do join us.

Celia Gibb

**THE FOOTPATH
ASSOCIATION**

Thanks to those Clarion readers who responded to requests for help in summer path clearance. There's more to do so don't hesitate to take secateurs out with you when walking - helps keep the bramble down.

Our September Parish Walk will be on Sunday the 1st at 10.00; as usual -all welcome.

We carry out repair work on footpaths over a wide area. To do so, we need to talk to the landowners concerned to agree to the work and to arrange access. Tracking down and speaking to the landowners can be the most difficult part of the exercise especially in the more outer reaches of our area.

We would like to carry out some repair work to stiles and gates in Hopton Wafers, on the footpath which crosses the A4117 half way up Hopton Bank on either side. Help in finding and contacting the landowners concerned would be very useful. If you can help please get in touch. footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

**DODDINGTON
FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

August only had one meeting as it is a popular month for holidays, however it was a fun packed one. We had the wonderful Mrs Barbara Branch ,who had a great deal of patience with members, showing and helping us to make a small Bag For Life out of paper, and she then gave us small items to put into the bag and a card with their meaning. There were lots of laughs from members and a great afternoon had by all. Thank you Barbara. Next meeting at Doddington Village Hall is September the 3rd Sptember 2019 starting at 2.00pm. Come as our guest.

Ann Belcher

SILLY BIT

"I used to drink to drown my sorrows, but now they've learned to swim." Anon.

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Sun 1 st	10.00	The Parish Walk starts at Parish Church. New faces welcome. PAGE 31		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the KA. Acoustic only		
	7.00	AGM of the Nightingales Nursing Fund, at the Sports & Social Club		
Tues 3 rd	9.00	Shedfest 2019 is at University of Worcester Severn Campus, Hylton Road		
	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club, The Village Hall. PAGE 5		
Wed 4 th	9.00	Pensax Thrift Shop open every Wednesday, but not for much longer!		
	10.00	Free NHS hearing Aid drop-in at the Community Room, St Mary's Place		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good Parking	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 5 th	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Lyth Hill Country Park, SY13 0BT. PAGE 5		
Sat 7 th	8.00am	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Club, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 899644
	2.30	Jumble Sale at Doddington Village Hall. PAGE 31		
Sun 8 th	10.00	The Borders Classic Bike Show is at Lacon Childe School. PAGE 9		
	1.00	Chris Smith's Art Class starts at the Methodist Church Hall, Barkers Lane		
Mon 9 th	6.30	The Creative Writers Group gather in the Town Library in Love Lane. PAGE 9		
	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Hall		
Tues 10 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club, The Village Hall. PAGE 5		
	7.30	Cleobury W.I. welcome Swift's Bakers and "The Victorian Bakers"		
Wed 11 th		The World of Cleobury Golfing has changed with the departure of Amy Millward for a new career in Dubai. Good Luck, Amy!		
	9.30	Evergreen Pilates starts in the Market Hall. PAGE 47		
	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Market Hall		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Yummy Cake!		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. have a Garden Visit to Wade Muggleton's home.		
	8.00	The British Legion meet at The Bell Inn.	Mike Hermolle	01299 271 384
Fri 13 th	10.30	Rhyme time for toddlers at the Library, lovely to see!		
Sat/sun 14/15th	11.00	Bayton Heritage Weekend in the Parish Church. PAGE 53		
Mon 16 th	2.00	Post Natal Yoga Class at the Market Hall. PAGE 5		

EVENTS OF NOTE

THE NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND A.G.M.

It's one of the outstanding services helping people in this area who are seriously ill and need more attention than the National Health Service can provide as standard. If you are very seriously ill and have no family to look after you, it's the Nightingale Fund that may step in and provide a level of care that you need and cannot find without this local organisation's help. Come to the Sports and Social Club at 7.00 on September 1st to hear what they've done, how much they've spent on helping local people and how they plan to keep on simply helping people in need.

FREE NHS HEARING AID DROP-IN CLINIC

It's in the Community Room at Saint Mary's Place, starting at 10.00 on Wednesday the 4th. Free help with your NHS Hearing Aid and advice if you need it.



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Mon 16 th	7.00	Punjab Night at Hobson's Brewery Tap. Book at...		01299 270 837
	7.30	The Reading Group gather at the Library in Love Lane		
Tues 17 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship club, The Village Hall. PAGE 5		
Wed 18 th	6.00	Evening Sale at Knowle Sports Club, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill	Audrey	01584 890644
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 19 th	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Mare & Colt, Kidderminster, DY11 7RF PAGE 5		
	6.30	Pregnancy Yoga at the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
Fri 20 th	7.30	Sip and Savour at Kinlet Hall. A range of music, nibbles & a glass of wine		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 21 st		Clee Hill Coach Outing to Cardiff		01299 890874
	7.30	Folk Legend Shirley Collins brings her "America Over the Water" show to St George's Hall, Bewdley a preview to the town's Festival. PAGE 53		
Mon 23 rd	11.00	First meeting of a new social group at the King's Arms, Church St. PAGE 5		
	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets' Society meet at the Library in Love Lane. PAGE 5		
Wed 25 th	10.00	Walking for Health leave the Market Hall, but come back for coffee later!		
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning. Great value and super cake		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 7		
Fri 27 th	10.00	Macmillan Cancer Support's World Greatest Coffee Morning hits the Market Hall, Church St. Let's break last year's record! PAGE 19		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 28 th	7.30	"Flicks in the Sticks" is back at the Parish Hall with "Stan and Ollie"		
Sun 29 th	2.00	Scrabble Drive, Market Hall. Tickets £7.00 PAGE 45		
	3.00	Harvest celebration service at Doddington Parish Church. PAGE 31		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD.....		
Wed 2 nd	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	10584 890874

EVENTS OF NOTE

SEPTEMBER IS WORLD ALZHEIMERS MONTH

The first local event to address this growing National problem is in the King's Arms at 11.00 in the morning of Monday the 23rd. It's part of the Town Council's plan to consider becoming a Dementia Friendly Town and how much local people want to support the idea. As part of the need to support our older citizens and make their lives happy and untroubled, plus help them deal with the problem. Let us not forget that medicine is forever working on treatment for illnesses our parents saw as beyond a cure. Not true - where there is life there is hope.

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CURLEW CONSERVATION

Previous editions of the Clarion described the work of Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group monitoring curlew population, and to find nests with landowner support, protect them from predators, and radio tag the chicks as soon as they hatch. That way we can follow them to see how they move about the landscape to feed, and the threats they face. Last year in Clee Hill, three nests were found and fenced, and while two broods perished, at least one, and probably two, of the chicks from the third brood fledged.

This year, both parts of the project were repeated, with less time spent on nest-finding, protection and monitoring because the SWT/SOS appeal has been less successful. It has been a strange year, as curlews arrived on their breeding grounds and settled down later than usual.

The Community Wildlife Group found seven to eight pairs in the area we have been monitoring since 2012, and another one just to the north. The same as last year, but we have lost five out of 13 pairs (38%) in seven years.

We also added four more squares (16 sq.km.) to the survey area to the north, where curlews are known to breed. The Abdon District Community Wildlife Group, which covers the area to our north, extended southwards, so between us we now cover a much bigger continuous area.

In the Clee Hill area, the project found and fenced four nests. One clutch of four eggs went full term, but didn't hatch, and another clutch was destroyed after sheep with thick coats were released in the field and trampled part of the electric fence down; their coats enabled them to withstand the shock.

Two clutches hatched. Radio tags were fitted to six chicks, and they were all tracked. The first pair, on SWT land at Catherton Common, are presumably the pair that used the fenced area nearby in previous years, as they took the chicks there after hatching. Three of the four chicks were tagged. Two were predated. The third lost its tag, which was found, but it appears this one too was predated.

The second pair (at the same site where definitely one, probably two, young fledged last year) had three eggs that all hatched, and all the chicks were

tagged and tracked. All three young were colour-ringed and fledged, an excellent result. These young, and last year's, will help the local population survive longer, while we campaign for landscape-scale changes that enable curlews to breed successfully.

The main aim nest finding this year was to gain more information about how the chicks behave and forage, and the threats they face. We have achieved this on Clee Hill.

Altogether, ten Community Wildlife Groups have been monitoring their local curlew populations. When their results have been analysed, and added to the results of the nest protection and radio-tagging, we will consider how to take the projects forward next year.

If you heard or saw curlews regularly during 2019, and haven't told us, don't assume we've found them all. Please tell Chris Bargman on 01299 270514, or chcwq@shropscwgs.org.uk.

Further information available on the Clee Hill part of the Community Wildlife Groups website www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk and SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/ Leo Smith



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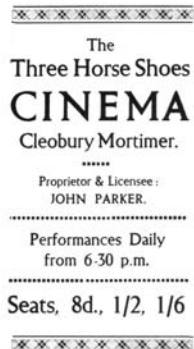
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 36 - September - 2019

LOOKING BACK

A recent discovery of a pack of black and white photos reproduced as postcards by Doctor Mark Baldwin and sold in his renowned book shop, included this surprise. What is now Cinema Court used to be the Three Horse Shoes Cinema.



It's not easy to recognise this humble brick built frontage as the same place that now boasts an impressive entrance into two fine apartments, two storeys high and each with a balcony where the tenants can sit and look down on the world passing by. The editor was lucky enough to be shown around one of these by Bruce Webster, who moved up from the south of the country and sky high rents to live happily in Cleobury Mortimer. A very sensible chap.

Behind this frontage today is a series of apartments, all very attractive and well kept. A far cry from the window factory it was in the 1970s and later Peter Rust's Antique Centre. Those seat prices in today's coinage roughly translate into very few pence: 3p, 6p and 8p.

This picture was reproduced with Dr Baldwin's kind permission and he has agreed to us using his series of cards for more opportunities to take a Look Back. Some fascinating stuff to look forward to, including one ancient view of a local pub.

CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

The nights are starting to draw in already and autumn approaches, but there is still plenty happening out on the Nature Reserve.

Wet and warm conditions throughout much of the spring and summer have provided excellent conditions for insect breeding. Consequently the common has been alive with hirundines (swallows and house martins) and the similar but unrelated swifts as they feed up ready to head south for the winter. There were plenty to be seen above us the other day when we were out clearing gorse.

This is one of the wider benefits of nature reserves, as they not only provide homes and habitat for resident wildlife, but their natural habitats also provide food for other species that may only use the reserve temporarily. The hirundines can often be seen at the top of slopes or higher in the sky where updrafts bring the insects up to them. On Catherton Common it is often the wet flushes, very rich in flying insects, which attract their attention. Many of these wet areas have been lost in the wider countryside either through drainage or, just as damaging for wildlife, deepening into ponds. Along with them go the insects that many creatures need to survive. However we have some very healthy areas of wet flush across Catherton Common rich in both common and rare insects.

Both swift and pine martin are on the orange list of birds of conservation concern due to falling numbers.

Clive Dean

Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserves officer south



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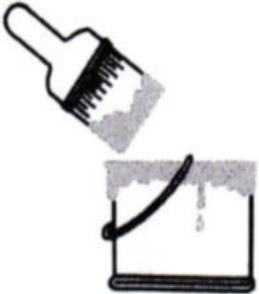
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I thought you might like to see my photo of this rather large snake found tangled in netting in a friend's garden recently. I was called for advice and hurried along, hoping or fearing to find an Adder, which I still haven't seen in the Wyre Forest. The yellow collar and sheer size gave it away as a Grass Snake (probably a female), harmless but still formidable, especially when hissing and emitting a powerful stink in its defence. It was estimated at about 3 feet long, so well short of the record 6 feet according to Stefan Buczacki's 'Fauna Britannica'. It was eventually cut free and soon disappeared, unharmed.



The singing of the Robin heralds the start of autumn and the year's harvest has moved on to blackberries and crab apples, damsons and sloes. The beautiful fruits of the Rowan are attracting Blackbirds and Mistle Thrushes and I wonder how much longer supplies will last.

The wild and dog roses in the hedgerows are beginning to show their red hips, reminding those of us of the war-time and post war generations of delicious rose hip syrup being

spooned into our young mouths to boost our Vitamin C levels. The hips were gathered throughout the countryside: about 450 tons a year between 1943 and 1945 according to Simon Fletcher in 'A Wyre Forest Diary'. The seeds are the source of the irritating country itching powder popped down other schoolchildren's backs, so they must be removed before boiling the pulp with its own weight in sugar and straining the resulting syrup.

Heather and gorse flowers brighten the woodland edges and heaths and provide plenty of early autumn food for bees and other nectar-loving insects. Acorns and beech mast are ripening and the first of the autumn colour is appearing: wild cherry showing red and purple, orange on the deciduous European larch, and yellow on birch and some of the oaks.

It's changeover time, with swallows and martins preparing to leave on their migration flights to Africa. They do this by massing in large groups and juvenile house martins may help their parents to feed the last, late broods of young still in the cup-shaped nests of mud attached under the eaves of houses. Sand martins are brown and white in contrast to the black and white of the house martins and can be seen darting across the river surface in Bewdley. Efforts were made to accommodate them in the quay walls when the flood defences were built and they still breed there. The badgers will be changing over their bedding too, replacing the summer's grass, bracken or straw with a thick layer of fresh material. Even for a badger there must be nothing like a freshly-made bed.

Linda Iles

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THE PIONEER CENTRE

Naomi reports from that fine activity centre that overlooks the town.

Our new trainees have finally arrived, twenty from the UK, Germany and Ecuador. The number from the EU is a bit lower than other years; I wonder if our current Brexit predicament has something to do with that!? It is still nice to see all those new lovely faces and no doubt they will be a valuable addition to our activity team this year.

August has been another full on month. We had groups back to back and quite a few that took over the entire Centre. We have seen all sorts of inflatable games on our fields, a mechanical bull riding machine, numerous water fights and paint powder wars, themed parties and lots of singing. It has been a great month to be part of the Pioneer family to see all this creativity and fun in action.

Our 'Activity Days' were very popular again this summer with lots of kids from the area trying out and perfecting their abilities on our activities. Who knows, we might have inspired a future Olympic champion last month.



The signs for our wild growing meadows have arrived and are looking really good. Here you can see Cindy, one of our trainees from Germany who started last January, holding two of our signs that will be placed throughout the Centre, informing guests why we have decided to let nature take over in various areas. We hope that this little bit of extra information will encourage others to look after our planet as we aim to do here. Now we are preparing ourselves for all the school groups that start coming in with the arrival of term time.

Naomi

A CEILIDH IS COMING

Come and join a fun filled evening of dancing, good music and great company on October 26th at the Cavalier Centre for

our annual Ceilidh, a traditional dance night where everyone joins in, regardless of age or ability.

You will be under the watchful eye of our well known caller Martin Wood (tallest Town Crier in the world) who'll be with you every step of the way – walking you through the moves before each dance and continuing to call out helpful hints throughout the rest of the dances. Our fantastic band are guaranteed to provide a whirling evening of jigs, reels and live entertainment.

The event is a fundraiser for the Cavalier Centre which is home to Perry Riding for the Disabled. The Cavalier Centre provides life changing, inclusive equestrian activities for disabled children and adults.

Don't miss out - £15 food included. Tickets are available from Penny Farthing (Much Wenlock), Cavalier Centre and www.perryrdfundraising.org

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FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

The new heating system for St. Mary's Church is to be installed during September. The Friends has been able to make a donation of £30,000 towards the cost. We were also successful in being awarded a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery, Awards for All.

Scrabble Drive. Sunday 29th September, 2pm to 4pm in the Market Hall. Tables of four playing three games during the afternoon, each game has 5 rounds. Tickets £7 to include tea and cake in the interval.

CHANGE OF DATE. Please note that the evening concert by the choirs of Bella Acapella and Ludlow Male Voice Choir will now be on Friday October 11th at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Tickets £10 to include an interval drink.

Alec Osbaldiston

THE RUGBY CLUB

As we move towards the 2019/20 season the Rugby Club is progressing nicely. We have a new Coach, David Howard and players are training hard as the first home match is on September 14th against Willenhall RFC with a 3.00pm kick off.

The current Rugby Club Committee is fantastic as a group of about 12-15 people, all doing their little bit, which contributes to the overall operation. We are also grateful to all the local businesses who help us, our sponsors and our supporters who pack the touch line on home matches. Thank you all very much indeed.

However, we would like to put out a plea for assistance. We are on the lookout for more help, as current helpers move on to other things. We are keen on attracting enthusiastic people who might be willing to help the club in a wide range of tasks behind the scenes, which might be as part of the wider Committee or could be email/computer based or just as simple as helping us do a weekly after-match raffle. Anyone interested in further details please contact me on 07976 757359.

Dave Hinves

'THE LAMP' HAS ANOTHER AWARD

The Lamp Restaurant on the High Street has been voted the best place in Cleobury Mortimer according to a chatbot poll on the 'Restaurant Guru'. Visitors to the restaurant put it at Number One.

PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

At the Cleobury Festival we decided to put together a plastic free picnic. Went round local shops and managed to find the following: Fresh fruit and veg from Cleobury Fruit and Veg; Strawberries, gooseberries, Appletiser and eggs from the Co-op; Strawberries and butter from Simply Fresh; Bread, sausage roll, pork pie and cakes from Swifts Bakery; Drinks from Select and Save. We'd like to thank the shops, especially those that donated items for free, helping promote plastic free shopping in Cleobury.

The choice of plastic free picnic items available was limited; not all shoppers will have time to search for them. We need them to be readily available and easy to find so people can avoid single use plastic when they buy lunch. A plastic plant pot recycling scheme is being trialled in Cleobury this autumn. If you have unwanted plant pots and would like to take part, please **c o n t a c t** neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk who will provide you with details.

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OFF TO THE NFL ACADEMY



Kieran Mayall, off to the NFL Academy in London this month.

This young man is a pioneer. He's been offered a place in the new NFL Academy in London after he was spotted as a potential for the American National Football League. He was working for his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award when he saw an advert on Facebook from the Birmingham Lions, who were looking for new players.

Kieran went off to Brum last Christmas for a trial and training, where his ability as a future wide receiver was noted

and he was offered a place at the Academy by the Lions, a team good enough to be rated second in the Northern League of the sport here.

Is it strong in the UK yet? It's growing and the special sport has a strong presence in Europe, including Germany, Spain and Finland. It is sponsored by the American body and Nike, and Kieran's two year course will be a resident one in London, when he should emerge with A Levels in place and maybe an offer of a place with an American team. Watch this space.

PILATES CLASSES AT MARKET HALL

Starting at 9.30 on Wednesday September 11th, there will be beginners' pilates classes in the Market Hall.

The man behind this new venture is Ryan Maddox, who came to pilates when his GP recommended the exercise programme to treat his bad back. Ryan was so impressed that he's out to spread the word about this gentle exercise programme. There's no strenuous work involved, it's


mainly simple floor exercises to build strength in the body.



Ryan Maddox, bringing pilates to the Market Hall because he had such a good personal experience.

Ryan trained with Mike King, a well known exponent of the art in London and he wants to talk the course through with his future clients before they start. He'll lead classes or give optional one to one tuition and rather than have people moving in and out of the class, he's asking for block bookings of six lessons after he's met, consulted and assessed the physical state of the applicant.

Contact Ryan on 07984 816 847 or visit www.evergreenpilates.co.uk




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A new contributor joins the Clarion's rank of talent= Mrs Grumpy

I was interested to read the piece about cats in the last 'Clarion' but I wonder how they have time to sit looking so good as they spend most of their time cutting a swathe through the local bird population. That's when they aren't pooping in neighbours gardens. What a lovely surprise to come out of the house in the morning to the scent of fresh and very smelly cat poo on the flower beds or lawn. They may look cuddly, but as someone said once 'When your dog sits and gazes into your eyes, it's because it loves you. When your cat does the same, It's trying to work out how to kill and eat you'. So cat owners beware. If you awake to find your lovely 'tiddles' or whatever, chewing on your arm, they are not playing.

Talking of dogs and poo, is the world (and Cleobury) being overrun by them? Their numbers seem to be increasing by the minute. And not all their owners seem to be acting responsibly as the industrial quantities of dog poo on our streets demonstrate. The following biological principle may have escaped the attention of some owners but as sure as night follows day, if you put food in one end of a dog, poo will come out of the other. You should not be surprised when this happens (as some folk appear to be) and it is your responsibility to clean it up. This will also happen regardless of whatever fancy name your particular variety of cross breed possesses. Why bother? Just call them all mongrels as we used to.

The problem is not just limited to the streets. A walk down the footpath from the top of Workhouse Bank can be a hazardous route as it seems that some dog owners shove them through the gate and leave them to their own devices. Even the Churchyard is not immune. Not only is this unpleasant but dog poo can also harbour the *Toxocara Canis* worm which can

cause blindness if a toddler comes into contact with it. This happened to a neighbours daughter many years ago and she lost the sight in an eye. She would now be in her forties and although the dog concerned will be long dead, she will still only have one working eye. Recent surveys on playing fields (why are dogs allowed on playing fields?) have shown that 10-15% of deposits sampled are infected in this way and children up to the age of about seven are the most vulnerable to the infection.

Wandering through a large supermarket the other day, I was amazed by the amount of space taken up by pet food and other animal requirements – virtually a whole aisle. Whatever happened to throwing them a few scraps and an occasional bone? I bet the pet food industry is rubbing its hands with glee at gullible pet owners lashing out on the latest fad. And don't get me started on dogs having their own prams and pushchairs. The latest development seems to be ice cream for dogs. Ye Gods and little fishes – there are an estimated 2.8 million children in the UK living in poverty and we are feeding ice cream to ≥dogs. I despair.

Talking supermarkets, there have been several instances lately where customers of the Cleobury Co-op have purchased items on special offer and found that they have been charged the full price. This seems to have happened because the shelf labels have not been changed promptly when the offers finish. Most of us don't bother to check our till receipts but it might be worth doing this because if the goods are advertised at the lower price, the retailer must charge that amount regardless of what the till receipt might say. I was in there recently and spotted staff changing shelf labels so this may have been sorted now but your



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11.15am England v Tonga

Monday 23 September Rugby World Cup

11.15am Wales v Georgia



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Chloe Alexander is a new name in the Clarion, an advertiser who wants to reach a wider audience in this area. She's based in Ludlow, working as a self employed consultant for the 1:1 Diet by Cambridge Weight Plan.

Chloe came to this business as a customer and lost three stones to reach her healthy current state. That was a good starting point, as she can talk to customers with personal knowledge and experience. Even better, the 1:1 title tells

you about the company's approach to selling, which is a very personal one. You can talk any points through in complete privacy. No rivalry with other members, no feeling too shy to talk about a problem, just her listening.

We talked in her riverside office in Ludlow, a picturesque setting that puts you at ease. A neat timber building, with shelving to hold stocks of the foods, with a view of the garden and the River Teme beyond.

The diet is planned around each person's needs and you can buy a modest amount of the big range of foods and drinks to feel your way, mixing with your normal meals if you wish. Or you can go into a strict diet if you need to lose a lot of weight quickly for health reasons; it is for adult men and women. It's also medically endorsed and has been shown to help people with Type 2 Diabetes.

I bought a sample of several meals, ranging from mushroom soup - very good - to the macaroni cheese pasta that's next on the tasting list. Each meal costs the same as a cup of coffee and gives you just 200 calories; that makes eating very healthy.

I'm thinking of signing up, because it does make sense to eat sensibly and here is a proven source of that. Chloe is on 07786 936 543. JR

ALZHEIMER'S

September is World Alzheimer's Month, when the campaign to make people more aware of dementia and how it can affect us or our family members.

Zoe Baggott is the fundraising officer in this area and can tell you about the disease. That is what Alzheimer's is, a disease that attacks the brain and reduces its size and capacity to guide the body. If it's advanced, the weight of the brain can be reduced by 140 grammes - about the same as an orange. The effect is frightening.

At the moment there's no cure, but Alzheimer's Research have declared a target of developing a drug to control the disease by 2025. The simple message is that there is hope.

You can support their work with a donation via their web: www.alzheimersresearchuk.org No matter if what you can afford is very little, just giving something encourages these people in their work. Want to talk? Zoe is on 07469 852 501.

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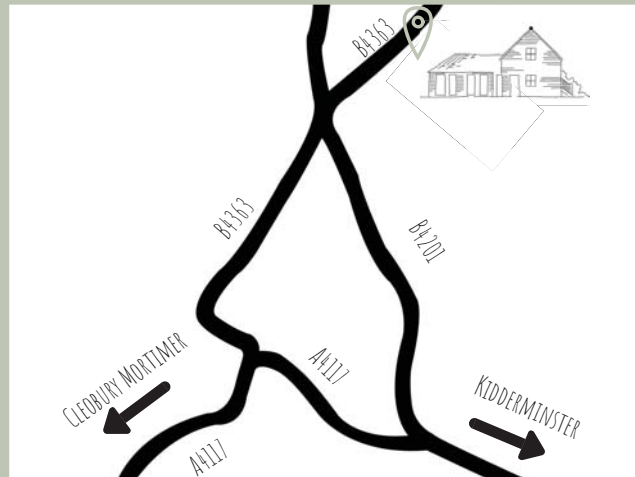
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THE WELLS

You may have noticed that The Wells is looking a little tidier than it used to. Soft planting has been improved with new plants, bark to suppress weeds and general clearance. Achieved through volunteer activity from councillors, residents, and one in particular. Thank you, Ian.

The railings have been cleaned and repainting has started, the aim to complete by the end of September. Four or five people for an hour could make such a difference to our time scale.

If you would like to help with this part of the Wells improvement, please contact Town Clerk Matthew Sheehan at the Council Office or myself on 01299 270010 / 07808 682715. We could then set dates for "Paint the Railings" parties during September, gloves and all other kit provided.

There have been positive comments made how much more attractive the area looks now, but all have asked "can you get the water back?" The Council will seek to achieve this, but it will not be easy. Natural springs have dried up or compromised by development, so we have to look for more creative solutions.

Paul French

BAYTON HERITAGE WEEKEND

An interesting weekend event at Bayton on September 14/15th, based at Saint Bartholomew's, the parish church. Support has come from villagers with old photos and the Cleobury Historical Society with documents. So much of historic value emerges when the memories of a village population are stirred by such an event. A promise that it will give a glimpse of the history from the Domesday Book through to the present day will appeal to a wide audience.

It is based on the Parish Church and will be open from 11.00 to 4.00 both days. Entry to the fine recently restored church is free and light refreshments will be available.

SOMETHING SPECIAL AT BEWDLEY

A folk legend arrives onstage at Bewdley on Saturday the 21st of this month. It's 83 year old Shirley Collins, "The first lady of folk" as those who know talent would have it. This lady is here to present her "America Over the Water" show, just one fragment of a singing career that has taken her all over the world.

With a singing career that took her from 1960s folk to the present day, this is one special lady whose presence in town is just a prelude to those who will follow with the Bewdley Festival.

Tickets for this remarkable lady's performance are available at www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk or from St George's Hall in Bewdley. A bargain at £15.00 to listen to such a legend.

AN APOLOGY

The fool of an editor wrote an 'In Business' feature about Sally at Luxury Aesthetics in last month's Clarion. It's quite a success story, with a welcoming treatment room in her home and a warm personal manner that puts people at ease. To contact her, we advised readers to simply check her number in her advert on the opposite page.

There was no advert! Doh!

No excuses, it was a completely stupid mistake. But if you glance to the left, you'll find the new Luxure advertisement there, complete with telephone number 07376 780 480.

Isn't it amazing what you can do if you make an effort and try to remember things. Must get into that habit in future and avoid looking such a fool. JR

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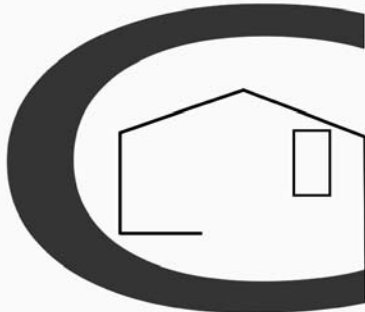
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ST MARY'S CHURCH UPDATE

In the July Clarion we announced our project to improve the heating in St Mary's church. Much has happened in the last couple of months, so we should let you know what we've achieved so far and what is still to do.

Firstly, we have received official permission from the Church of England legal department in London to allow the work to go ahead. The church has to approve the work and ensure that there are no objections to any work to be carried out: luckily there were none in this case.

With the grant from the Friends of St Mary's, and money already earmarked, we were able to pay the deposit to Grange Heating of Leominster, who are carrying out the work, and this allowed us to agree a timescale for the project. Work will start on September 2nd and is expected to take four weeks, three in the main body of the church and another to complete the work in the boiler house. The church will be closed from the afternoon of September 1st; assuming all goes according to plan, services in the church will re-start on Sunday September 29th.

The first stage will be to remove the existing wooden floor, and this will have to be disposed of. We have had expressions of interest in some of the timber: if anyone else is interested please call me on 270601. We'll need to get it moved off site very quickly as storage space in the church during the work will be very limited.

Liz Smith and her committee have been working hard to raise money to complete the work. An appeal letter was delivered to every house in the town, and this has raised over £4000 so far. A cream tea and music recital in church in July raised over £700. Further events are planned for the autumn and are listed below. A further National Lottery grant, made by the Friends of St Mary's on our behalf has achieved another £10,000. Grant applications are also pending for various private trusts. Finally, we've obtained a refund of the VAT on our deposit, which augurs well for doing so for the rest of the cost.

Chris Kippin

Future fund-raising events:

1: September 15 to 19: Chris's sponsored cycle ride from Cleobury to Land's End (300 miles). Sponsorship list in the Benefice Office in the Market Hall.

2: October 5th: quiz evening with fish and chip supper in the Market Hall, 19.30.

3: October 20th: Brass and Buns in the church, 15.00 to 17.00.

4: November 2nd: Curry Evening in the Parish Hall.

5: November 17th: Sing along with the shows, in church, 16.00 to 18.00.

MINDFULNESS

I went along to the free Taster Evening for Mindfulness at the Cleobury Country Centre on August 20th. Six people were there to listen to Ollie Welsby talk about mental health and get to understand something about it.

There's a growing following for this idea of getting your mind clear and able to concentrate better. Some very famous names came up, but I did balk slightly at the mention of 250 British MPs following the belief.

Ollie was gentle in delivery, answered questions patiently and overall got people thinking about the worth of this eight week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction course. If it can help you think clearly under pressure, which is what I saw as its best feature, it could help you a lot in business and social life. I'll look at the bank account and decide. Contact him via Clare at CM 272300

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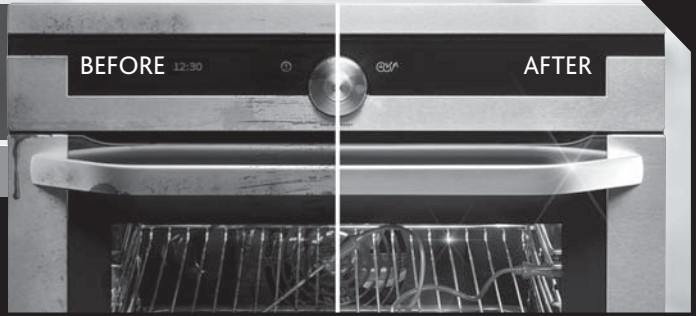
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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

A quieter month for the Club in September after a busy August. The Big Weekend's Saturday Gin and Ale Festival culminated in the band Radio Rumours playing in the Club, whilst the weather gods smiled on the Family Fun Day on Sunday. It started with a dismal morning, Tony looking equally dismal as rain threatened to disrupt his planning and hard work. But he cheered up after lunch, the community turning out in force to support us. Well done to Tony and Team for a successful weekend.

The Cricket Club will be playing at home to Claverley on September 7th and play the last match of the season against Eastor on September 14th. Matches start at 1pm.

Dig out your shoulder pads and big permed hair for The Glam Star Band 80s Experience on September 21st starting at 7pm. Fancy dress is optional!

The Stroke Support Group are aboard the canal boat, Pamela on Droitwich Canal, on September 24th. To join them, please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre.

Are you planning a small wedding reception and looking

for a suitable venue? Why not consider the Social Club? We've got catering facilities, a bar, masses of outdoor space and one of the best views in town.

As usual for more information please contact our Bar Manager, Tony Barker-Newton on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page

THOMPSON AND PARKES GROW

They're best known around here as the Builders' Merchant out at Farlow, where you can find a huge range of all sorts for the building and DIY trades. But as it's primarily a trade outlet, it doesn't open on the weekend.

But that is changing with the opening of the new T&P DIY retail shop on Stourport's Minster Road. DY13 8AB if you're not familiar enough to get there without the sat nav.

The official opening is on September 14th, when the Mayor of Stourport will cut the tape and declare the place ready for business, but we suspect they're not waiting until then to take money if you're in the market. And the store will be open seven days a week, as you may need that pot of paint or a tool on Sunday. We've been invited to the opening and will tell you more in the next edition.

MIGHTY MAISIE

Fay from the Severn Hospice Shop called to tell us about her remarkable granddaughter, Maisie Harman. This young lady - just nine years old - decided to organise a dog show to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital and took over her grandad's field in Farlow on Saturday August 17th.

About 40 dogs were entered, Pam and Mike were recruited as judges and lots of people came on the day. Takings at the show and contributions made at the family celebration when the leftover cakes were given a good home resulted in a very impressive total of £415 made for the hospital.

"I just want Maisie to know how proud we are of her," Fay told us when she called. "And our thanks to everyone who helped or came to the show."

MAYBE NEXT MONTH?

We'll try to get a story about the Lacon Childe visit to Tanzania, where the students worked on an aid programme.

And we have a mammoth poem from Andrew Austen, who wants to find a word that rhymes with Cleobury. There's a reward if you have one.....

Paul Harding



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September 2019 Clarion Report

By now you are probably aware that Shropshire Council have outlined a plan sent to us, to hand over funding for the Library to Cleobury tax payers, via the local precept. This is proposed to be phased in over the next 5 years starting December 2019. The full costs of this would start out as £4,800 for 2020/21 rising to £24,000 by 2024/25. This proposal, if accepted, would represent a £21 p.a. increase for an average Band D property, or a 20% increase in local Council tax by 2024/25, needless to say we have asked for firm proposals before it goes out for public consultation so we all have the full facts.

We will keep you up to date of anything else received about this on our Website or Facebook page.

We are also increasingly concerned about the growing inequality between smaller Town Councils precept (£100/Band D) and surrounding parish councils (£30 Band D) whose residents access our services and Shrewsbury (£45 Band D) who have more residents to share the burden and many more services funded by Shropshire Council. The Town council is very focused on value for money and are looking into this with other Town and parish councils.

The Dog training area has had its official opening and was joined by many dog owners and reported by the Shropshire Star and Clarion.

It is proving very popular and sometimes with queues waiting to use it. It is especially good for those with puppies to train or those with sighthounds who cannot usually let their dogs off the lead. One interesting item to come from a resident that uses it regularly is from Janet Manley, who is a sight hound owner and works hard with her friend Jill to highlight the need for blood donors for dogs, as it is always needed for operations and can save a pet's life. All greyhounds blood is universal, is something we found out, so if you would like to involve your dog in giving blood, please contact the council office and we can pass on your information.

Another good item to report about is the winner of the best dressed window competition, judged by Mrs Bunn, which was won by the Washhouse. As Mrs Bunn was not available for the presentation Mrs Jo Booton, independent living coordinator for Connexus, based at St Marys place presented two cheques for their nominated local Charities of Newbridge cat rescue and Forest dog rescue of £50 each. Worthwhile causes from a worthy winner with a glass trophy to keep.

Please be aware of some unscrupulous people going around knocking on doors and offering to cut back your trees and hedges and then charging a lot of money for doing it.

If you have vulnerable neighbours please make them aware of this and if they do want any work doing or quoted for, they can always call the council office where we can give them details of all the local tradesman.

For those of you that are interested, the next Dementia support group meeting is at 11am 23rd September and will be held at the kings Arms. This will be to see if there is a need for a Cleobury group going forward and what form it should take to meet the needs of People Living with Dementia and their carers. All interested parties are welcome.

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IN BUSINESS - Boden and Son Deliveries



Building a business on some old but sound principles - service and reliability. Sean Boden.

Sean Boden started his business in 2013, moving to self employment after years. Why did he do it? "I just got tired of working for other people and I do enjoy the job I do now." He'd worked as a milkman and in a Clee Hill shop, not far from where he and Nesta live now.

You wouldn't believe the hours that milkmen (and women) work, so we'll just give you Sean's own words: "I'm up at 1.20, in the van by 2.00 and finish the round by about 11.00. Six days a week and on Sunday I do the paperwork." If you feel like telling him about the Working Time Directive, don't waste your time - he does this because he wants to.

From his Clee Hill Village base he covers an area stretching from Bewdley in the East to Knowbury in the West, taking in Mable and Rock along the way. 45 miles a day, 80 miles when he does his Bewdley days; 26,000 miles a year. You need a reliable van for that and when his Peugeot broke a cam belt outside the Medical Centre at 3.00 on a July morning he had to walk up to Mawley Town Farm to borrow a van and get the round done. Mawley Milk is his main business and he does not let a long list of customers down.

He's driving a much newer Peugeot now, courtesy of Harold at Hopton Bank Service Station. "He's brilliant," says Sean. "Told him I needed a van on Monday, had a look at it on Tuesday and drove it away on Wednesday." A 64 plate turbo-diesel at an affordable rental and all he has to find is the insurance cost and fuel.

He started with the Mawley Milk round and has added other services, newspapers the latest one. Nobody would take on the paper round that Simply Fresh were trying to sell for £10,000, which does not sound like a bargain. Sean buys papers from a local distributor and delivers

at the same price that Simply Fresh charged. It's a fast growing part of the business, with about 50 customers signed up in five weeks and enquiries still coming in. He wants to build that business in Cleobury up to the point where he can take on delivery boys and girls. "It would be good for the kids," he reasons. "There's nothing else for them to earn a little money from."

He also delivers Ashley's bread, helping another local trader because Ashley buys all his milk and cream through Sean. Sensible co-operation, two local businesses supporting one another.

He's come a long way in six years, since he started the business with just £20 in the bank and a determination to succeed. He's done that by being helpful and reliable, with respect for his customers: "The customer's the boss," he explains. "They pay my wages."

Future plans? "I'd like to employ someone, So I could have my first holiday in six years." If it gets big enough, would he go for a shop of his own? "No. I like the business as it is." And the many customers of the business seem to like his way of looking after them.

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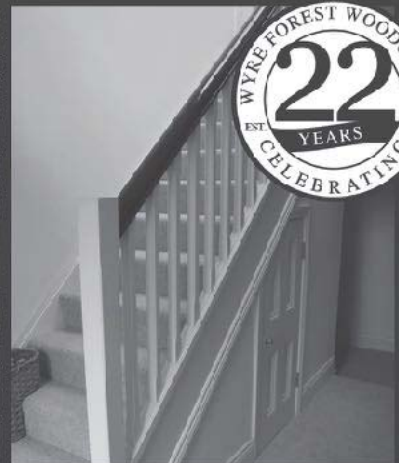
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CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
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CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
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TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
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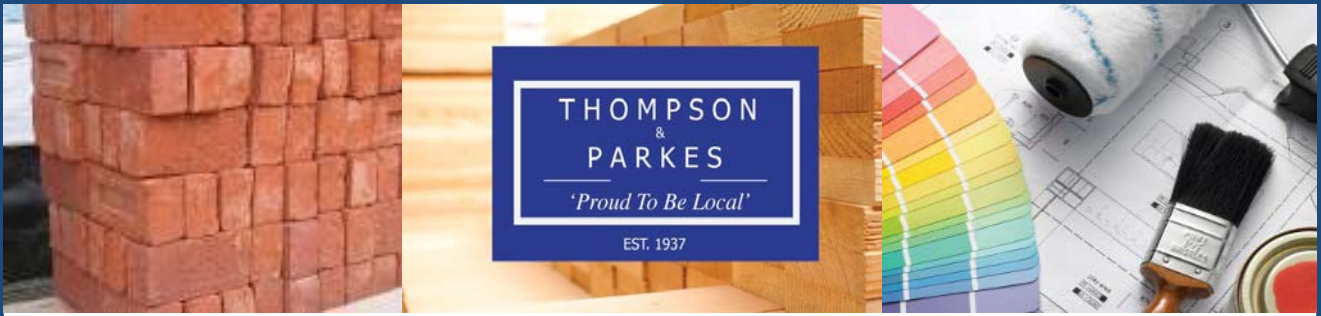
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