

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE LONDON MARATHON COMES TO CLEOBURY!

The mighty London Marathon was scheduled for April 4th this year, but a damned nuisance called Covid-19 got in the way of that. So the event was postponed until October, but that meant problems with an entry of thousands, so the race was restricted to elite athletes. All the others? Come back next year, please.

Two Cleobury runners had qualified and entered and didn't take too kindly to the cancellation of something they loved and had trained for. So they decided to bring their share of the event right here to Cleobury Country. And at 8.30 on the morning of Sunday October 4th they'll be flagged away by Lee Hassan of Teme Leisure to run the standard 26 and a bit miles here in Shropshire.

Meet Sian Powell and Lisa Taylor-Stokes, two young ladies with a remarkable talent to stare a challenge in the face

and come up smiling and laughing. Just don't think these two are in it for laughs, they are serious money raisers working for charity.



Sian (left) and Lisa. Just don't let those winning smiles kid you they aren't serious about raising money for deserving causes.

From the start at Clee Hill's recreation ground they'll run through Hopton Wafers, aiming to reach Oreton at about 9.30, then on to arrive in Stottesdon at about 10.30 and on to Cleobury, where they'll

do some laps of the town before winding up with a finish at the Sports Field on Love Lane.

They'll have supporters collecting money along the way, a raffle running here in Cleobury and if you can't get there to cheer them on to the finish, you can make a donation on line.

Sian is running to raise funds for Severn Hospice in memory of Pat Williams and to help her fund go to www.justgiving.com/sian.powell12

Lisa is doing it for the Make a Wish Foundation in memory of Jack Edwards. Her reference is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lisa-stokes?utm_id=124

That's the compassionate business side of the story. What makes it even more special is the girls' ambition to make it a fun day with lots of laughs at the Sports and Social Club as they take a little something for their thirst and aching limbs. Wish them well.



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The Cleobury Clarion, September 2020

Volume Sixteen - Edition Six



*Chrissie Woodhouse opened the splendid new Play Area and unveiled a dedication to her son.
See Page 25.*



*VJDay 75 was recognised by the British Legion in both Rock and Cleobury.
See page 27.*



*This is Anna from Anna's Barking Barbers with chief of security Buddy
In Business. Page 32.*

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A GOOD STORY TO START THE MONTH

The editor loves good news stories. Here's a fine example:

Joyce Leach phoned to tell us about the springer spaniel she spotted near the sports and Social Club, carrying a plastic bottle in its mouth and trotting over to the waste bin. There he waited until the young lady looking after him took the bottle and put it in the bin.

Then the two of them went back onto the cricket field and collected more rubbish to keep the place looking tidy. Joyce was very impressed and congratulated the young lady, whose name was Maisie, on her thoughtful action. Her dad then explained that she does the same thing every morning when they walk the dog. Magic.

Congratulations Maisie and thank you Joyce for telling us.

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM

Richard Morley writes to say that the Forum has been back

in action since early August, delivering face to face sessions. In Craven Arms on Tuesdays and Ludlow on Fridays. They've also been awarded the contract to support open access youth groups in the south of the county.

Which means that they are recruiting a new officer to set up a new Network in the area. This will be free to any organisation working with young people or will be doing so in the future. More details on the Clarion Jobs Page - turn to Page 15 for more information.

EMILY PRICE - ANOTHER TITLE

Cleobury Golf Club members will remember Emily Price with great pride. The Lacon Childe School pupil who fitted national golf tournaments and titles in with studies and went on to take a golf scholarship in America. At one time the marketing boards on the approach to the club reminded callers of their famous member.

She's back in the UK and in July was competing for the

English Women's Amateur Championship in a hard fought final at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire. Emily defeated Lily May Humphries to come out on top and add another crown to her collection.

As they say in many competitive areas of sport: "Good form is temporary, real class is forever."

KINLET HALL CRAFT FAIR CANCELLED

The Kinlet Hall advert on Page 6 advises that the Craft Fair booked for September 19th is cancelled. As with so many events, it is the covid-19 situation that dictates that sad decision.

This is the last advert you'll see for the Hall, following the sale of the Park in which it stands. We understand that it has been acquired by Mawley Hall Estate and whatever future they plan for it is not clear.

The Engleheart family have been a great asset and faithful servants to the wider South Shropshire community and we do wish them all well.



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Kinlet Hall

Craft Fair

Saturday 19 September

CANCELLED

due to Covid-19 restrictions

BEWDLEY'S ST GEORGE'S HALL

St George's Hall in Bewdley is today a real community hub. Originally the hall belonged to The George Hotel and was used as a ballroom and for functions. When the owners sold the hotel they bequeathed the hall to the town of Bewdley to be managed by the four main churches there.. Trustees were appointed from each church and the hall was run and managed by them for many years. By the late 90's the hall was becoming tired and in need of renovation.

Bewdley Festival, established in 1987, was looking for a venue to hold arts and literature events so the committee approached the trustees and jointly they managed to get funding from the Lottery and others to commence extension and refurbishment of the hall. The hall was extensively modernised and reopened in 2013. Today there is a very successful community cafe, arts exhibition, weekly cinema, monthly music events and many more uses.

All of these events are run entirely by volunteers with one part time paid administrator. The volunteers offer so much to the local community that in 2019 they were nominated for the Queens Award for Volunteers, the highest award for such work. In May this year we heard that the nomination had been successful and they had won this prestigious award.

Due to the pandemic no celebrations can be held but once things get back to normal the Lord Lieutenant of the County will present the award and two volunteers will be invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make the hall the success it is today.

Sue Humphries

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Following the success of the July meeting of the Club at the Larch Barn, Angela Drennan boldly broke with tradition and organised an unprecedented August meeting. For years, the Club has not met in August (well, everyone goes away, don't they?), but Angela sensed that lockdown had on this occasion provided a new opportunity, rather than taking away an old one.

So she arranged a meeting at the Golf Club on Tuesday 11 August, and 14 of us sat out on the patio to have breakfast – Full English or Continental, according to taste. A few golf-playing club members were rather surprised to see us there, but it proved to be a pleasant get-together, with the sun just coming through towards the end. Thank you, Angela!

The September meeting was scheduled for the 8th in the Talbot Hotel, but no firm arrangements can yet be made.

Mark Baldwin

THE SEVERN HOSPICE GIN WALK

It is with much regret that the Gin Walk in aid of The Severn Hospice will once again have to be postponed, due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and associated guidance on social gatherings. It is still our intention that the event should go ahead as originally intended, but we hope you will understand that it should not take place until it is safe to do so. Confirming a revised date now is nigh on impossible, but given the nature of the event and the need for participants to move between the venues, the earliest sensible date will be sometime in or after April 2021. We will place further updates in The Clarion as soon we are able to, based on Government guidance.

On a brighter note, we do hope that you and your families are staying safe and coping with the current heatwave. Finally, you will be pleased to know that the Gin (which has already been put aside for the walk) is maturing well and should be all the nicer when we get to enjoy it!

Thank you for your kind understanding.

Shaunah Murrell

*Treasurer, Cleobury & Stottesdon
Severn Hospice Support Group*

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LOOKING BACK WITH CYRIL BREAKWELL

In the early 1930s I was in primary school in Farlow and our school went on a trip to Cadbury's at Bournville in Birmingham. We started the day walking three miles from home at Hill Houses in Farlow to Detton Station, to get the train to Cleobury Junction, where we boarded the train to Kidderminster and changed again there for Birmingham.

When we boarded the train to Cadbury's, the lad I sat by thought the train was bound to end in a shop window with the rocking of the sideways movement. He really did get frightened.

We were taken around the different operations in the factory, where most of the different jobs were done by hand. I remember most of all going into a large room, full of ladies sat at rows of long tables, just picking up toffees with what looked like a long needle, dipping them in chocolate, thus becoming chocolate toffees. I had never seen so many ladies in one place.

When we came away we all got a little bag of different things they made at that time, various chocolates and cocoa drinks. The return trip was the same as the inward one, ending with the walk from Detton Station.

Cyril Breakwell

AND THERE'S MORE

I met Cyril in his bungalow to collect the handwritten tale that you've just read. Such a welcoming man with a fund of memories to tell.

If you've been following his stories from earlier editions you'll know that he was a coach driver for many years. But he had a broader experience than that and at one time drove for BRS, or British Road Services to give them their full name. I remember them well, having worked for them myself as a driver more than 50 years ago, delivering parcels in a variety of Austin trucks with a carrying capacity up to five tons; heavier loads than that and you had to have a Heavy Service Vehicle or HSV licence.

Cyril's time with BRS saw him working out of their depot on Clee Hill, where his truck had a steel load floor, so able to

move stone from the quarry all over the country. He can still recall his final load of 9 x 5 stones (nine inches long and five inches wide) used to form the bed on which the highway would be built up.

One Friday night the manager asked Cyril to report early next day for a special delivery. It was the tar tank from the old road works, to be transported to Leicester. "It was a Saturday and Wolves were playing at home," he told me. "I left at 4.00, so I'd be back for the match."

The tank had been left with tar still in there, set cold; weight about ten tons. Off he went to Groby in Leicester, where a special framework had been erected to lift the tank, when he'd drive the lorry clear and the tank would be lowered. But that load of cold tar was too much for the crane, which collapsed onto Cyril's lorry.

So the wreckage of the crane had to be cleared before they could drag the heavy tank onto the loading platform and Cyril could head for home. Needless to say, he missed the Wolves game.

A lovely man, it was a privilege to talk to him.....JR



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CLEOBURY

MORTIMER W.I.

The last few months have been rather sad and I am sure a new experience for everyone. Lockdown, isolation and cancellations of just about everything being rather new for everyone.

The committee decided to keep their members informed and introduced a buddy system. We stayed in touch by phone and email, as well as having a competition each month. A big thank you goes to Clare Hadwell for organising the competitions.

Our coffee morning at the Larch Barn was well supported and our summer picnic in Judy and John Sant's delightful and beautiful garden was a great success. Just to sit and talk to your friends brought a piece of normality back into our life and sanitising hands, signing in, bringing your own food and drink and no sharing was a small price to pay for everyone's safety.

The winner of our poetry competition 'Life in Lockdown', Val Sniadowski, was presented with her prize. Hopefully we can have our September meeting in the Market Hall and will inform

everyone by email and on our website. We always welcome visitors and look forward to seeing you all again. Stay safe and best wishes.

Gabby Franklin
And here, for your entertainment is that prize winning poem:

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

'Twas the start of two thousand
and twenty
When loo roll supplies were a
plenty,
Until panic buying
Left so many crying:
"How come the shelves are all
empty?"

Then everyone wanted plain
flour
To bake their own cakes which
would wow her,
Stocking up each cupboard
Not thinking it would've
Meant shelves emptying hour
by hour.

Antibacterial hand-gel
Was needed for hands to be
cleansed well
Or old-fashioned soap,
But stores had no hope
Of hand sanitiser to sell.

Then Boris said home we must
stay
And only go out once a day,
As this would save lives

For husbands and wives.
There seemed to be no other
way.

So, a new way of living was
found
With nobody going around
To each other's homes
But, enough of the moans
At least petrol cost only a
pound!

On each Thursday evening at
eight
Folk stand at their own garden
gate
To clap, shout and cheer
(Then have a cold beer!)
For the end of lockdown to
wait.

COUNTY CARERS' SUPPORT LINE

Shaz Malins, Carer Advisor for Crossroads Together in South West Shropshire, writes to advise us that there is a designated carer support line available.

They can help carers with their own needs and plans, can advise on a range of services to help carers improve their own health and well-being, they'll work to link carers with other sources and can help with an application for an allowance or support. It's 01743 341995.

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The Town Council are about to carry out minor restoration work on the steps and stonework of the well itself to ensure that the area is safe and to repair damage to the stonework joints which has occurred over time. The long term aim is to once again have water and to enhance the appearance for the benefit of the town and visitors.

We would like to involve as many residents as possible in the Wells Project as it develops and there is one major contribution you can make. Many of you can have stories about The Wells and strong memories of what went on there, how things looked and generally what The Wells means to you.

Please could we have in writing any memories, stories or feelings you would like to share about The Wells to start things off.

If you feel you would like to record your memories on tape please let us know and if you have photos or pictures we can scan, please tell us.

The aim would be to create a permanent record of The Wells, a copy of which could be held in the Library and at Shropshire Archives so that part of our Cleobury heritage is preserved on record for others to enjoy in the future.

Eventually we would like to create an audio/visual display about the area which could be available to the community or visitors to the town.

All contributions will be credited to the provider and Council do not seek to make any profit from the project merely to preserve for the future.

If you would like to be a part of this please get in touch and thank you for taking an interest.

paulfrench143@yahoo.com
07808 682715
matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk 07816 827594

CLEOBURY HILLS CARE HOME



Karen Hunter is a young lady with a big responsibility. She is the Care Manager at the Cleobury Hills Care Home that is due to be opened this month. Her task when we talked was the recruitment of experienced staff for the vital job of looking after 61 residents; there will be 150 care staff when the place is fully booked. An overall manager for the home has been appointed, ready for the opening. We will report on this important development next month.

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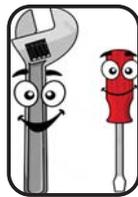
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For much of the time since the previous Mawley Hall Estate newsletter, the world has been operating against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

This has had implications for work everywhere, and Mawley Hall has been no exception. We have, of course, had the advantage in that much of the work currently being carried at Mawley is in the open air and that individuals have been able to work at a distance from each other. Throughout the Estate we have ensured that working practices have been adjusted to protect all concerned from the risk of infection, and we have been able to carry out a good deal of work.

During the period of lockdown, we have been aware that more people than usual have been taking advantage of the footpaths and bridleways which cross the Estate for exercise and enjoyment. They will have seen the continuing work associated with the repair of dry stone walling and with the management of woodlands.

Work is nearing completion on the replanting of seven hectares of woodland on the western side of the Estate using mixed native species including oak, beech, hazel, wild service, hornbeam and lime. Some sweet chestnut saplings have also been included. Although not native, the sweet chestnut has been naturalised in Britain and is common throughout the Estate.

In addition, approximately 100 more specimen parkland trees have been planted in various parts of the estate. These have been protected with tree guards which in materials and design coordinate with the cleft oak and chestnut fencing which is in the process of being erected throughout the entire Estate.

February saw the second of two major flooding incidents of 2019/20, the first

having taken place in October. Amongst other things, these caused significant damage to the Estate's waterfall and surrounding structures, necessitating urgent repair.

The waterfall is, though, the responsibility of the Estate. Thankfully, before the October flooding we had identified a deep scour hole at the base of the waterfall, which we filled. Had we not done so it is probable that the waterfall would have collapsed completely. Mawley has now submitted an application to the planners for the approval of repairs and reconstruction of the waterfall to ensure that it lasts for many more years.

Shropshire County Council, which is responsible for the Upper Forge footbridge over the river which forms part of a footpath, has closed the bridge for the time being for reasons of safety pending a full assessment of any damage it may have sustained as a result of the flooding.

Work has now begun on the construction of an energy centre for the Estate situated close to the North Lodge. This is being built to provide an environmentally sustainable means by which to generate heating and hot water for the principal buildings on the Estate through a central system. The provision of heating is an essential requirement for repair and restoration.

The energy centre will extract geothermal energy from the ground, utilising a network of underground pipes which will be buried in the area known as Parker's Plantation where non-native forestry trees have been felled. The stumps of those trees have been ground out and, once the pipes have been buried, the ground will then be replanted as pasture once again.

Peter Williams
Estate Manager



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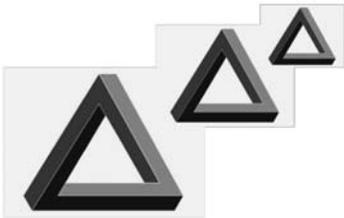
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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

ROCK PATHFINDERS ARE BACK

From October the walks on the third Thursday of each month will resume. To maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe we ask that if you would like to join the walk you contact us (see below) and we will ensure we control the numbers and comply with track and trace requirements. When you get in touch we will reply providing you with the details of the walk.

For further details and any other announcements or changes please visit website www.rockpathfinders.uk. Everyone Welcome.

Please note our new web address . email:mdsskev@rockpathfinders.uk or ring Alan on 01299 400304

Sue Humphries

DOG MESS ON FOOTPATHS

Sadly, one of the side effects of the lockdown and more people going for walks, is an increase in dog mess on footpaths and in farmers fields.

Apart from being a danger to children it can seriously affect wildlife and livestock when

the grass is contaminated. Even worse when bags of it are left; it stay there for years, get caught in cutting equipment or eaten by animals and adds to waste in our countryside.

Please, if you take your dog for walks on public footpaths, take poop bags, pick up any mess and dispose of it in a bin.

Local landowners who are affected by this anti-social behaviour, could help by providing dustbins for people to put their bags in, or contact the town council about getting a proper dog mess bin.

Susan Sharp

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

In mid August we got the go-ahead to restart work parties. Restricted measures, no more than six people per work group, social distancing, hand hygiene, not sharing tools and travelling to sites separately. So work party routine will change: rather than once a month, small groups will be put together to do one task on an agreed date.

September, a month when digging holes and the ground is often too dry. There are a couple of jobs which do not need digging so we will get going with those first.

One pressing job is dealing with the missing footbridge on the Simon Evans Way at Reaside. We are talking to local landowners to come up with a solution as a new bridge from the council is unlikely. A padlocked gate at Southwood farm is no longer an immediate problem as the gate is not locked. But it is a problem.

A stile needs repair at Bank Top Farm and others are in need of attention on the path between New House Farm and Barnsland. There is work to be done on the canal towpath at Marlbrook, a problem at the old Horse and Jockey pub and an overgrown stile off Stockhall lane. Plus wobbly stile steps and fingerposts in need of attention.

Our main challenge is the supply of furniture from Shropshire Council, especially gates. All the volunteer groups in Shropshire are in need of stock.

If you have enjoyed our local footpaths in the lockdown, you may have gained an idea what it takes to keep them open. If so and you have the time to help us, please get in touch.

Footpaths.cmfa@gmail.com

Susan Sharp

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Cleobury Community Hub

Thanks to the incredible efforts of many volunteers and young people, Cleobury Community Hub opened in September 2019. St Mary's Youth Project has converted the Methodist Church into a café style environment open to everyone in the community. Our hope is to work alongside the Neighbourhood Plan to create a space for people of all ages from our fantastic community to meet and spend time together.

St Mary's Youth Project is founded in a Christian ethos, but all are welcome regardless of faith or belief.

News and Events

Hopefully we are becoming a household name again since re-opening in July, with our bright orange canopy making it possible to enjoy barista coffees, tasty muffins and refreshing milkshakes whatever the weather! We're open 11am – 3pm every Tuesday and Friday. Takeaway is always available, and if there is space in a Chatter Box, then you can safely enjoy your drinks with other households. The Hub has always had a knack for keeping you longer than you intended, a space for forging new friendships and discovering new things, and this hasn't changed. Don't forget the self-service Mawley Milk station is also back in action.

We loved celebrating GCSE results on Friday 21th with milkshakes for everyone, recognising how well our young people have coped with all the changes regarding exams and marking. Thanks for everyone who came along – we look forward to seeing before you start your next adventures.

Family Climbing has proved popular. Groups of up to 5 (from the same household) can spend time with a qualified member of staff exploring and enjoying the great outdoors through a day's outdoor climbing. Contact Mark on 07828 116 810 for more details.

Plans are in place to restart some of other activities as Government advice changes. Please keep an eye on our social media for further details on Nippers (adult and toddler group) and Youth Club.

FB @CleoburyCommunityHub / Insta @saintmarysyoungproject

Thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch with your feedback, ideas or just for a general chat!

CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB
Café

Open for takeaway and milk refill Tues/Fri 9-3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Milk Refill (11-3pm) 10-11:30am
Milk Refill* 11:30-2:30pm
Milk Refill Dance 3:45pm onwards
Wednesdays - GKY Dance 5:30pm onwards
Fridays - Soft Play 11:30am -6pm

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THE PLAY AREA OPENS AGAIN

**Chrissie Woodhouse
performs the formal
opening to honour her son.**

There was a big crowd of parents, grand parents and children at the Play Area on July 27th for the official opening. There was a slight delay as we waited for the Shropshire Star photographer to arrive, but he had other calls to make and there were delays. All credit to the man, he did a great job in getting people together and smiling for the pictures in the county's biggest selling paper.



Chrissie cuts the tape to let the crowd in.

The whole area has been transformed, with new safety surfacing laid and lots of new equipment. Like a Toddlers' nursery rhymes multi-play unit, Galaxy and Pixie spring rockers and a Cockerel Rock n Roll springer for the toddlers. For the Juniors there's a surf rider, a swing with basket seat, a castle multi-play unit and an inclusive swirl roundabout. That's a lot of facilities for our youngest citizens, all from

Wicksteed Playgrounds of Kettering, who also saw that the original equipment used was refurbished. Area Sales Manager Adam Brookes took the time to come and see how his new customers liked what they found. Feedback must have been good, because at the end of the day he was wearing a big smile.

All this work and new play things cost about £70,000 and sponsorship for that came from three sources: the European agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the National Lottery Community Fund and good old reliable Cleobury Mortimer Town Council. The belief those three bodies showed in the future of this town is something we should all be grateful for.



The Shropshire Star photographer was a star performer in his own right. This is not his version of The Sermon on the Mount, he's gathering children around him.

Town Clerk Matt Sheehan was there, overseeing the tape cutting to start the afternoon and then just keeping a careful eye and making sure all was

well. Good old Matt in his usual role in fact.



Matt Sheehan, Cleobury Town Clerk, on duty.

An hour after the tape was cut there was still a crowd of happy children playing, with parents and grandparents looking on and smiling.

And over by the swing for less agile children, Chrissie Woodhouse had unveiled a special plaque in memory of her son Jack Edwards, that brave little lad who touched every heart in this town with his smile and a long fight with the leukaemia that eventually took him away far, far too early.

This is a Play Area to be proud of, its cleanliness from dog intrusion helped by stall gates that close electronically so errant parents and children can't take the family pooch in there without a struggle. Good touch. And our two new Town Councillors, Guy James and John Greaves, were there to mix and meet with the people as they say in higher political circles. Welcome gentlemen, this is a hint of the standards this town likes.

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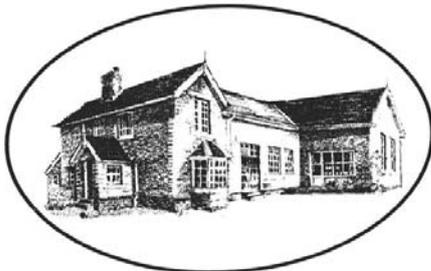
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VICTORY IN JAPAN DAY

Victory over Japan signalled the true end of the 1939-45 World War and is not recognised as widely as the November 11th ceremony. But the Cleobury Mortimer and the Far Forest and Rock branches of the British Legion paid tribute to the occasion.



Ashley Buck led prayers at Cleobury's memorial garden, where two minutes silence was observed.

Observing such a day in the country's history is only right. But did we lose any military personnel in that theatre of war? The Legion do not know of anyone, but would like to hear from anyone who knows otherwise, so that proper tribute can be paid in future.



Poppy Appeal organiser Jim Woods laid the wreath at Far Forest

Despite the restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic the Far Forest Branch Welfare Officer, May Carter, has continued to maintain welfare contact with their members throughout the lockdown. This has been greatly appreciated by the members.

Like a majority of charities the Legion is facing a financial downturn due to the effects of the pandemic. The Branch is awaiting details of the arrangements for the Poppy Appeal this year and hope to publish details in good time for Poppy Appeal 2020. The branch are gearing up to support the Appeal in whatever way will be possible and look forward to the continuing support of local people.

Nigel Caldicott

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately Clows Top Garden Club will not be resuming the monthly meetings for the rest of the year. It has been decided to start again in January 2021.

Garden Notes - Jobs to Do In September

Remove lower leaves of Tomato Plants to help with ripening of fruits

Take cuttings of tender perennials such as Salvias

Plant clematis and climbing roses so roots can establish over winter

Apply nematodes to pots to control Vine Weevil

Sow winter salad leaves

Plant out biennials, Forget-me-Nots, Wallflowers and Foxgloves

Extend flowering in pots by continuing to dead head and liquid feed

Plant Spring-flowering bulbs, particularly Narcissi

Plant new climbers to add height and interest

Begin saving seeds as they ripen, on a dry day

Pauline Bowen

HOPTON TABLE TOP SALE

A big "Thank You" to all the villagers and friends who supported the Table Top Sale at Brook House, Hopton Wafers, on August 6th August.

Ann and Frank Staniland for the use of your drive and patio, it was an ideal venue for us to display all our sale items and have the coffee and cake. And to all the ladies who made the delicious cakes and helped with the setting out of the tables.

We are delighted to announce that we made a fantastic £560.00 which has been shared between Severn Hospice and Hopton Church. A wonderful achievement and a lovely village event during these surreal times.

Marilyn Wood

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We are now able to meet in four churches physically to worship and we are doing this very carefully and following Government Guidelines. Nobody must feel that they should come to Church or do anything that makes them feel unsafe in any way. We will continue to provide prayer and care for those people who are protecting themselves or caring for others in their homes.

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20TH SEPTEMBER 11.15 AM EUCHARIST

ST. GEORGE, MILSON

6TH SEPTEMBER 11.00 AM EUCHARIST

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SERVICES IN EACH CHURCH ARE POSTED LOCALLY

wear face coverings for the service. THANK YOU for helping us all to worship together safely.

Please

Services continuing on Zoom at present:

Our normal services are now being offered on Zoom for anyone who would like to join us.

The Services are:

Evensong every evening at 6.00 pm in modern language

Eucharist every Wednesday at 10.00 am

Eucharist every Thursday at 12.00 noon

Evensong every Sunday at 6.00pm according to the Book of Common Prayer.

If you would like to be part of any or all of these services please access Zoom and request to "join the meeting" then input number 2636386004 which should take you directly to the service. We look forward to seeing you.

SMYP will be starting a Sunday afternoon Praise and Worship event at the Community Hub shortly and details of this will be published shortly



Planning how as a society we decide what buildings get built where, to serve which need, is one of the perennial conundrums of local and national politics. There is no right answer which will satisfy everyone. So devising a system of decision-making which achieves the myriad objectives of those who need to live and work in buildings, during a time of population growth when not enough homes have been built, calls for radical action.

The government has had some success in reforming the planning system since 2010, with the National Planning Policy Framework contributing to more local involvement in deciding how our communities develop, and cutting away red tape. Together, the changes have meant that last year we delivered over 241,000 homes, more new homes than at any point in the last 30 years, all while continuing to protect our environment, heritage and Green Belt.

But frustratingly, the ambition to own your own home remains a distant dream for many young people. There is a significant generational divide, as demand for housing has grown but supply has failed to keep up. Aside from the relative price stability in the mid-1990s, and the financial crash of 2008, house prices have grown consistently over the years.

We cannot ignore the effect our planning system has on the supply of housing. Local authorities take on average seven years to generate a comprehensive housing plan for an area. Developers take on average five years to get permission to build. As we have seen in South Shropshire this can often be followed by very slow delivery of homes with the roads, schools, hospitals and other community infrastructure support their occupants require.

Last month the government launched 'Planning for the Future', setting out proposals to facilitate a more diverse and competitive housing industry, in which smaller builders can thrive alongside the big players, where all pay a fair share of the costs of infrastructure and the affordable housing communities require and where planning permissions are more swiftly turned into homes.

This Green Paper is subject to full public consultation. I would encourage local residents to have their say before the deadline of 29th

October. Full details of the consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>.

In addition to these long-term changes, the government introduced new rules to boost housing density in the short-term, allowing residential blocks of three storeys or more, as well as terrace buildings in certain commercial uses and mixed-use buildings, to extend upward to create new self-contained homes. A new right on demolition and rebuilding will support the regeneration of vacant and redundant buildings that no longer effectively serve their original purpose, support housing delivery and boost housing density.

These changes should help deliver the growing need for housing while also reducing pressure to build on greenfield sites. Exemptions exist for National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and conservation areas.

The reforms come at a crucial time, since a new Future Homes Standard for all new homes is being developed to ensure that housing quality and energy efficiency continues to improve across the country. I shall be keenly holding Government to account (as chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee) to raise energy efficiency standards of all new buildings, including those constructed under Permitted Development Rights.

Locally, Shropshire Council is undertaking its own review of development in the county, with a draft Local Plan which sets out where and how much development should take place in Shropshire to 2038. This too is under public consultation until the end of this month, so I encourage all those concerned to look at the proposals and have your say at <https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/reg-18-pre-submission-draft-local-plan-consultation/>.

My hope is that these changes, taken together, will result in a good supply of housing in Shropshire, that takes into account local views. But this is dependent on as many people as possible having your say through these public consultations, to help frame our communities for the future.

Philip Dunne

DOG GROOMING WITH A DIFFERENCE



Forget the traditional Man with a White Van, this is Anna and her security chief with their version of a working vehicle

A great name for a dog grooming service - Anna's Barking Barbers. It's the idea of Anna Furness, who launched the business in March after spending money on a 15 training course at Hartpur

College to earn her Level 2 qualification, plus a much bigger sum on a large van converted to bring a fully equipped doggie salon to your door.

Starting a new business just when Covid-19 hit the headlines was not a good call. But she didn't know it was coming, just like the rest of us, so just got on looking for dogs who needed her attention.

Probably Anna's greatest asset as a professional dog groomer is her understanding of the animals she deals with and her simple patience. When we agreed to meet for this interview, she mailed to say she'd be late because she was dealing with a nervous puppy and had to spend time getting to know the dog and make it feel at ease with her.

Read some of the comments on her Facebook page and you will realise that not all the people in this business have that approach. Dogs that have been bullied will not come back willingly to repeat such

an experience. Which you would think was an obvious approach to adopt, but some hairy stories make it clear that's not so. Anna gets to know and build a rapport with both dog and owner, so that she understands what the owner wants and how to get the dog to relax and enjoy the luxury of a bath and a trim or whatever is the big treat this time.

She works out of Great Witley and simple economics dictate her limiting travel because of time and costs. 20 minutes is her normal range, but if there is a chance to service a number of dogs in one day - a normal maximum is four - she can travel further. With business growing because of her understanding of the animals she deals with, you can see the demand building.

She works Monday to Friday, is available on the phone from 8.00 until 5.30.

07508 241 628 is Anna's Barking Barbers number.

Extra Clarion Clippings - A little more Local News

FILLING A GAP

This is the last month you'll be able to collect your Clarion from Heath Farm Meats in Baginswood. To fill the gap in our circulation in that area, we'll be leaving extra copies in the Fighting Cocks at Stottesdon, the charismatic Duck Inn at Chorley and the Eagle and Serpent at Kinlet.

And a fond farewell, you Gittins family. I'll miss your kind service, fine meats and the good humour I met at every call. JR

A NEW FACE



This handsome young man is Joshua Coombes, Josh to his friends. He's a native of

Cleobury, the son of roofing specialist Mikey Coombes and a freelance writer, looking to establish himself.

He asked if he could write reports and features for the Clarion. We do like to encourage local talent and took him on as an unpaid roving volunteer reporter. You may want to feed stories to him direct - he's on 07943 569 030 and will be glad to hear from you. Look out for his work in October and beyond. Welcome Josh and good hunting! JR

The September Social Calendar

Thurs 3 rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Tues 8 th	7.30am	Possible Breakfast Club. Check with Angela Drennan	CM 270575	
Wed 9 th	7.00	AGM of the Men's Shed, via Google	Pete Blackburn	07776 243584
Thurs 10 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 14 th	6.30	Creative Writers Group meet at the Library on Love Lane check with this number to be certain	CM 270 642	
Thurs 17 th		Rock Pathfinders are out walking again. PAGE 19		
		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Thurs 24 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 28 th	7.30	Nearly Dead Poets Society will be at the Library on Love Lane, unless Covid-19 spoils their fun! Check with	CM 270 642`	
		And looking forward to October.....		
Thurs 1 st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

And can we just remind you that the Cleobury Community Hub is open for coffee and muffins from 11.00-3.00 on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Social Calendar

This section has actually been one of the most successful parts of the Clarion since it started and we've been used to it spreading across two pages and reminding readers of the many events we enjoy in more normal times. Anyone organising an event is welcome to send brief details to the editor and we'll get it in this space if it's here by the 22nd of the month.

You don't need to stop sending details because of the coronavirus situation. We will remind readers that it's best to check, but we do want to support all organisers and help to tell people about what's going on, or perhaps we should say possibly happening. You can email the editor on uncle.jim@icloud.com



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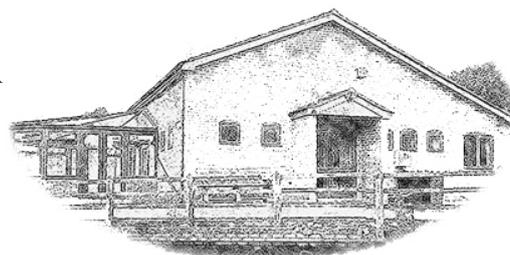
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THE SWIFT WATCH

Kit Smith with news of our summer visitors and many other fascinating species.

Our swifts have been and gone, having entertained us for three months with their antics in the air. They did not arrive from Africa until May 5th and left late, with stragglers still here until August 12th. It has been an odd summer for many animals, who seem to have altered some of their behaviours due to lack of human interference and possibly climate change.

Swift numbers of breeding pairs have held up well at approximately 12 pairs in Cleobury despite national figures for them, Swallows and Martin being down a bit on previous years. By now Swifts will be back in Africa after the long flight there. Let's hope that they prosper there and return to a more normalised UK next year.

Our two main raptors, Owls and Buzzards have been active. The Buzzard pair nesting in the pine trees of Clavers, fledged at least one chick last month. Their nesting so close to the town has been a delight for many people. Owls have been busy as well with adults and owlets making quite a lot of noise at night this summer. The placing of up to eight additional owl boxes should start again this month despite the social distancing required for the nest box team. There have been reports of Red Kites which have spread from the west and maybe in 2021 they will start to nest here.

Kit Smith

ON THE MOVE

Tracey Kidd's friendly little sweet shop has done what your kids do - it's grown a lot and moved out. It's now at Number 28 on the High Street, in what used to be the fruit and veg shop, and it's packed with tempting things for both children and adults.

Like Churchfield's ice cream, milk shakes, fruit ice, helium balloons, piñata filled with sweets, birthday stuff like cards, banners and candies, and pic n mix sweets. That should dent any proud parent or grandparent's purse.

She can also cater for birthday parties and weddings. One very versatile lady, we wish her every success.

CATHERTON COMMON

We must have had one of the hottest and driest summers on record this year. Fantastic if you are out relaxing but a mixed blessing for wildlife. Some species of birds and insects have done very well producing plenty of offspring. I just hope it hasn't had too bad an impact on the wetter parts of Catherton Common where many of our rarer plants and animals rely on the constant wet conditions and do not cope well with drying out.

On a positive note cuckoos seem to have done well around the common. They have all gone now but earlier in the summer we had four on the common being shouted at by the meadow pipits, one of the birds whose nests are targeted by the cuckoo for

their eggs. The meadow pipits also seem to be doing well.

I'm sure we have all been driving with our windows down most of the time trying to keep cool but please take care not to drop cigarettes, so far we have been lucky enough to avoid serious fires. Talking of driving I have noticed there seem to be more cars travelling on the roads across the common since lockdown eased. My Volunteer Reserve Wardens have reported a number of near misses with sheep and couple of fatalities. The sheep and cattle can be unpredictable, particularly the lambs and calves. They are a critical part of the common and need to be respected by drivers so please drive carefully.

Clive Dean

Reserves Officer South

CLEOBURY BRITISH LEGION

A decision on our next branch meeting, which should be on September 9th, will be made once lifting of restrictions permit meetings, but I am not optimistic. The only event still planned is the Poppy Concert with the Bluebird Belles in the Parish Hall on October 30th. They were planned for a concert on VJ75 but have agreed to postpone until then if restrictions allow.

We are still here to help members of the Service community, which includes serving and ex-serving personnel and dependents. You can contact me or use the Royal British Legion; call 0808 802 8080 – 8am to 8pm every day.

Mike Hermolle



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A friend hinted that he would like to hear more of my experiences as a shepherd/lamber, so here goes...

Did you know sheep can count? I remember on our farm when a ewe had triplets. We had the family penned in an enclosure for perhaps two or three days, then we ended a lamb for another ewe and took one off her. She called and called for this lamb for ages. In most cases ewes are better off with just two lambs, a ewe rearing three or four can develop sore teats, perhaps painful mastitis when the lambs develop teeth. They fight over the milk supply and bite the udder.

My uncle gave me a middle-age sheep once, perhaps five years old; we called her Flop-Ear. She became a well-loved character, a bit spoilt, and every year without fail produced twins until she became very old. We guessed she was well over 20 years old when she walked off to a faraway place on the farm and passed away. I forget if we gave her an official burial; I hope we did.

I was given a pretty, pure white Welsh lamb from another uncle in Wales. We spent many holidays at his farm and I expect I came home with the lamb in a cardboard box. One day before going to school, I was probably doing 'the shed rounds' and found her in a normal sleeping position against a chicken shed but dead. A post mortem revealed she had been struck by lightning, there had been a thunder storm in the night. The only consolation was that she wouldn't have suffered.

I helped to lamb a flock of prize-winning pedigree Southdown sheep near Newmarket for several years. That breed resembles buddy teddy bears with short legs and woolly faces. I can't say I was fond of the breed, they needed a lot of attention, different snacks during the day - but lots of red rosettes was the result from the shows.

Nowadays it is vital that newborn lambs have colostrum containing antibodies. This flock seemed very slow in producing milk after lambing, and the farmer had a stock of tins of evaporated milk for humans to bottle the lambs with, all an extra chore. It must have done the trick though, as this method was used for several years. On our own farm, as on many others years ago, we just fed the lambs cow's milk, perhaps freshly milked from our house

cow, Lucy. Perhaps there were less bugs then for new lambs to pick up. Now it's expensive colostrum powder and lamb's milk. On one farm where I was lambing indoors, we had to inject every lamb born with penicillin to keep away the bugs. I am sure that is not allowed now.

One of the last official lambing jobs was in County Waterford, Ireland. I had heard of Waterford Crystal but saw none, just sheep, horses and local people. The locals on the farm were immensely friendly and kind. Before I left I was invited to one of the farm workers' homes, where he had a delightful family. The wife and their two daughters gave me a demonstration of Irish Dancing - memorable. Understand the accent caused difficulty!

The lambing job was very tough, several hundred sheep in different sheds, some with open sides with just wooden rails to keep the sheep in. I was on night duty, alone, and outside the sheds were foxes waiting to slip in and take a poor new-born lamb. The poor mother too - what a shock for her. I remember the eyes of the foxes shining red in the torchlight - they were like jackals. The farm manager did not try to reduce the foxes, for some unknown reason.

One Sunday the farm became a centre for horse-racing with swarms of people coming to watch and have a bet and a good time. Me being accustomed to going to church on a Sunday found it unusual, but I believe a lot of Catholics would have gone to Saturday night Mass instead. Who am I to judge? I probably caught up on sleep, ready to resume my night duties.

I realised why Ireland is called the Emerald Isle. When we turned the ewes and lambs out to pasture the grass was lush and so green it almost dazzled you. So some happy sheep!

In those days shops in England all shut in the late afternoon, but there they all stayed open until late and people gathered, chatting happily with each other. Another memory I had was the post boxes, all green. I am sure they all are still. I think I summoned up enough energy to write at least one letter home to tell them of life in the Emerald Isle. I kept in touch with the dancing family for a while after leaving and visited them just once later on - but never learned how to tap my feet the Irish way!

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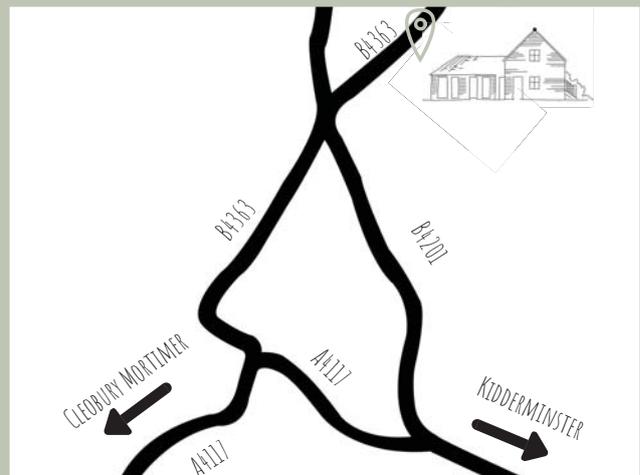
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A BUSY LADY

Fiona McCallum leads a very busy life, holding down a professional job, running a large house with family and volunteering as a District Commissioner in the Guides movement. That covers a range of ages from 5 to 7 years with the Rainbows up to 14 to 18 years with the Rangers.

It's a big organisation of over 500,000 members, 100,000 of them volunteers. When the West Midlands region held this year's Thinking Day celebrations at the NEC, there were 12,000 members of various ages.

Fiona became involved as a volunteer when her daughter joined and she was ferrying her to regular meetings. She could see

what a good influence it was on her own and other children and wanted to help.



Fiona relaxing at home after another busy day.

Having been a keen Guide herself and watched her daughter progress under the careful eyes of fellow volunteers, what does she

see as the benefit in future life?

"It helps build life skills and develop their potential," she explains. "We are not teachers, we are what the title suggests - guides - and having fun."

Looking after young ladies through such a vital time in their lives does require care and understanding. What demands are made upon the volunteers who join to help the process? "A volunteer can do as much as they wish, from helping at unit meetings to training as a leader." Regular training and support is given throughout the year.

All to help develop future members of our community. You can talk to Fiona on her cell phone: 07805 737 555.



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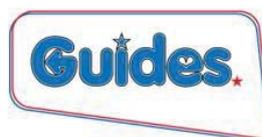
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*'Most people think I'm completely bonkers,
A grown woman stopping to pick up conkers'*

I may not win any poetry prizes for that one. I love the sheen and rich colours of conkers and I suspect they'll be ripening early this year. I'm glad to say that local children still seem to know the locations of good Horse Chestnut trees and I hope still know how to play 'conkers' (after writing their risk assessments). I also note the positions of Sweet Chestnuts in the forest and surrounding woodlands because I enjoy roast chestnuts. There are some on the Iron Age fort in Trimpley Woods – the rest you'll have to find for yourselves!

The bilberries ripened in July, the blackberries and damsons in August and this month we can look forward to rowan berries, sloes, crab apples and perhaps any ripe hazelnuts that have escaped the squirrels. Apple trees are few and far between in the Wyre Forest and most will be 'wildings' which have grown from discarded pips (an interesting connection with travellers of the past). They may have a wide variety of characteristics, while the true wild crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*, is a round-headed tree often with rather spiny twigs and small, tart green fruits. The latter are so rich in pectin that a few added to a fruit jam will ensure a good set.

Apples and other top fruits are enjoyed by a host of wildlife, especially birds such as

Blackbirds, Missel Thrushes and Jays. When they start to rot (perhaps after a peck from one of these) they attract wasps, flies and butterflies.



Probably the best way for most of us to study the hornet is in pictures like this photo from Erik Jorgensen.

Hornets are amongst those enjoying the feast, and are a very good reason to be careful when apple-picking! Although they are huge (up to 3.5cm long) and intimidating-looking, I admire them. They sometimes find their way into the house and I can usually usher them out without any trouble. (The exception was when they built a nest in one of our fireplaces, but that's another story!) Their natural homes are holes in trees and so it's not surprising that they may choose to build in bird boxes or spaces in house walls. Their food consists of nectar, sap and fruit but they catch many invertebrates to feed to their larvae. Unlike the Asian Hornet, which preys on honey bees and other insects, they are almost wholly beneficial – a true friend to gardeners.

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The situation in the jobs market is looking a bit grim at the moment with large numbers being made redundant. Given this and the number of kids who leave school without even basic literacy or numeracy skills, we may end up with a Soviet style job creation scheme where three people fill each vacancy. One who can read, one who can write and the third to keep an eye on the two intellectuals.

Ministers keep banging on about following the scientific advice with regard to the Covid crisis but can scientists advice be relied upon to be accurate? I recall one case where a scientist decides to train a flea. He puts the flea on the table and commands it to jump and it does. He then cuts its legs off and commands it to jump again. This time it doesn't move. So the scientist's conclusion was that if you cut a flea's legs off, it goes deaf...

Given all the hysteria surrounding statues of individuals who may or may not have been bad people, I gather that Dundee Council are denying that they are planning to move the statue of Desperate Dan following a campaign by vegans who are incensed at the number of cattle slaughtered to make his cow pies. And why stop there? The statue of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery will have to be removed given the many millions of people who have died worldwide as a result of the application of his principles. And there is at least one other man who achieved great things but who was previously a convicted terrorist. His name? Nelson Mandela... Interestingly, those in favour of 'Cancelling' history because it is inconvenient, like to portray themselves as liberals. In which case, they join a long line of historical 'liberals' such as Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao Tse Tung etc. who shared their views. If historical figures did regrettable things, this should be recorded and preserved as a warning to future generations, not expunged from the record.

In that context, I see that Oxford University seems to be moving towards the removal of

the statue of Cecil Rhodes. I trust that if this happens, all current and former Rhodes Scholars will immediately repay their bursaries and apologise for taking money from such a dreadful Imperialist. However, I'm not holding my breath...

My friend the Dragon Lady is already fed up with the lemming like rush by organisations determined to out virtue signal everyone else in respect of BLM. Yes, bad things were done in the past and should be recorded as such and regretted but do we have to beat our breasts at every opportunity? It seems that estate agents are now discouraged from using the term 'Master Bedroom' when describing properties because of a connection to slavery. Did you spot it? Nor did we, which is just as well as the term wasn't invented until the 20th Century. I bet there are more victims of modern slavery in the UK today (i.e. Leicester sweatshops etc) than there were in the heyday of 'our' slavery and not much seems to be done about that. The DL supposes that we just have to accept the widely held view that the British - and especially the English - are responsible for every wrong done anywhere to anyone since the dawn of time.

Still, I have had some luck. I have received a letter from a nice banker in Hong Kong called Wai Xi. He tells me that they have \$11,000,000 in an unused account with Shengjing Bank and the account holder has the same surname as me! He says that for just 50%, he can arrange to have this transferred into my name. What a kind chap and how lucky that our surnames are the same. He did tell me not to say anything about this to others but I felt this was too good to keep to myself and I know that I can rely on your discretion. I merely mention this so that if you get a similar letter, there is no need to respond as I have got this one in hand.

Mrs Grumpy

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All work undertaken by a GDC registered technician

Thanks everyone for the soft toys support, sorry to say we always need more at the Market Hall.

We are also collecting sheets, blankets, (not duvets or pillows) and personal items for a local women's refuge, material for face masks and scrubs.

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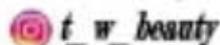
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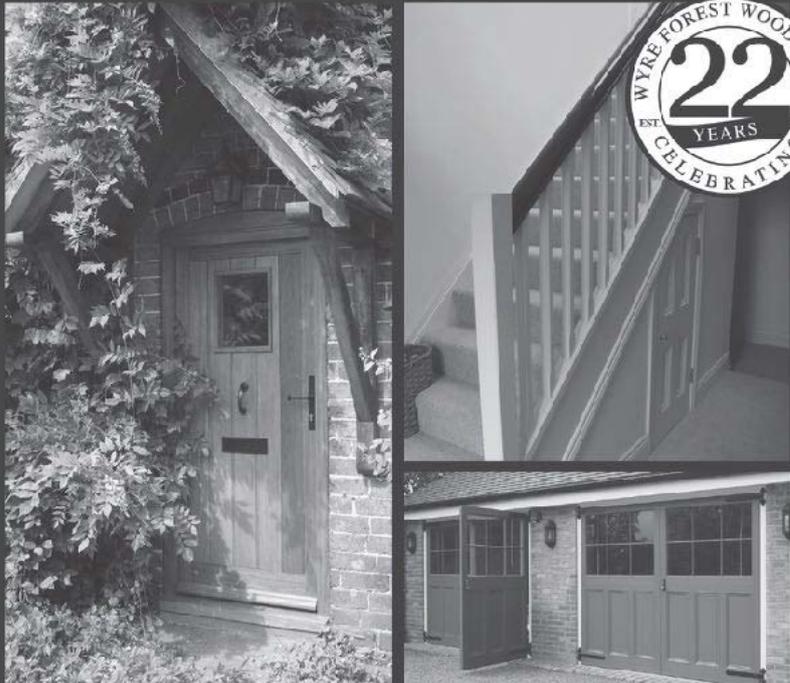
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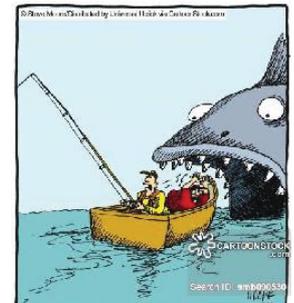
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - September 2020



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



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

September 2020 Clarion Report

The Town council were saddened to hear of the death of Carl Genese, who as many of you know served as a local councillor in the past. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Roseann and family.

The Town council has recognised local businesses and individuals that have made contributions to the community at no cost, with letters and certificates of thanks on all of our behalf. They all deserved a big thank you from us all.

The play area opening went really well and the joy seen by the children and parents is testament to the hard work done to make it a valuable place for memories. Please take care and follow government guidelines to stay safe during this Covid crisis. This also goes for all other equipment provided for community use.

A reminder about the Government grants worth up to £5,000 for improving home insulation.
Vouchers worth up to £5,000 will be issued to homeowners in England to make their homes more energy efficient under a Government scheme being launched in September – here is the latest info we have following an update issued on 4 August. To qualify for any financial support, you will need to be installing at least one of the following "primary" improvements: **Insulation**, including solid wall, cavity wall, underfloor, loft or roof insulation. **Low carbon heating**, such as air-source or ground-source heat pumps, or solar thermal systems, which provide renewable ways of heating your home. All information online at <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/07/homeowners-to-receive-p5-000-vouchers-to-improve-energy-efficien/>

Update received from the Neighbourhood Plan Community Group.

Regulation 14 consultation is now closed and being analysed. There were 96 responses in total. The anonymised responses will now be reviewed by our independent Planning Consultant and all relevant points responded to in a combined response. A recommendation will be made back to the NP Task and Finish group of volunteers by our planning consultant.

The Task and Finish Group will then consider appropriate recommendations to amend the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and Land Allocation documents before submitting them for approval by the Town Council around October early November.

We are so lucky to have the surrounding open spaces, but can we please stick to public footpaths, keep dogs on leads around livestock and not walk through fields with crops and take any litter home. We need to respect the countryside for all of us.

"Finally, can we all continue to support all our local shops, businesses and trades people who looked after us prior to, through the lockdown and are now back serving our community "

M Sheehan Town Clerk
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Beating the Scammers

Do please read this article carefully and take in the advice Nigel Reid offers. Scams are really big business and I know because I've been taken in that we're all vulnerable. JR

This month we are going to lift the lid on Telephone Scams. These are targeted at anyone who has a telephone, landline or mobile, so the elderly and vulnerable who may not have internet access are often seen as easy prey for these criminals. These scams often appear to come from genuine sources and fall into several categories.

BANKING – where someone may call claiming to be from your bank telling you there is a problem with your account or debit/credit card.

ACTION: Hang up, wait a minute or two, and call the number your bank has given you to check if they have actually called you or not. Most likely they have not called you. Warning– do not give out your bank details or PIN number over the phone. A genuine call from the Bank will never ask for your PIN

HMRC – this is usually an automated call advising you that there is a tax payment overdue and if you don't take the action requested, you could face prosecution. You are usually asked to press 1 on your phone to be connected to an 'agent'.

ACTION: Do not press anything, just hang up. HMRC, formerly known as Inland Revenue, will never call you directly, they always write to you and usually quote your National Insurance number on the letter.

ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT such as DWP, DVLA or TV Licencing: These are less common but can still happen, The DVLA and TV Licencing ones tend to come in as emails.

ACTION: See last month's article on dealing with these emails.

POLICE AND OTHER AUTHORITY CALLS - We have become aware of a new telephone scam, usually in the form of an automated voice, purporting to be from the police telling the listener that HMRC have taken out a warrant for their arrest. The message then gives a warrant number and requests the listener to contact HMRC or in some cases a number that the scammer wants you to call back on.

ACTION: Do not respond! Hang up immediately.

FAMILY/FRIEND/IMPOSTER SCAMS - The so-called "grandparent scam" is a popular one targeting older adults, and it's seen an increase lately. In a fairly straightforward plot, the person on the other line will pretend to be the grandson or granddaughter of the older victim. They'll then concoct a story ending with a request for immediate financial assistance. Often, tricked seniors will end up sending money via wire transfer to the scammers as a result. Even more disturbing, criminals who employ this type of scam are successful in part because they already have some of their potential victim's information, including grandchildren's names, phone numbers, and even addresses. These scammers have typically bought or stolen this personal information in order to sound legitimate to potential victims.

ACTION: Unless you are totally convinced this is a genuine family member (check by asking a personal question that only they and you would know). Otherwise hang up and call the known number that you have for the family member to verify.

These are just a sample of the main scams where the telephone is used to try and trick the victim. The main points to remember are:

1. Treat any calls you get from an unknown number or a withheld number with suspicion.
2. If in any doubt hang up and do not respond in any way to the caller.
3. If you suspect it is a scam caller, then block the number from your phone if you have that capability.
4. Call the ACTION FRAUD HOTLINE 0300 123 2040 to report it. The call is free.

If you are interested with keeping up to date with the latest information, you may be interested in the website www.beat-the-scams.info or Facebook Group SCAMS and how to stop them

Be Aware - Don't be a victim - Help to stop the criminals - Protect your money
In the next issue we will discuss Doorstep Scammers.

Nigel Reid



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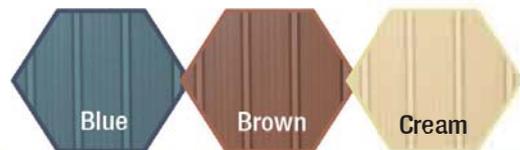
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CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net .
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
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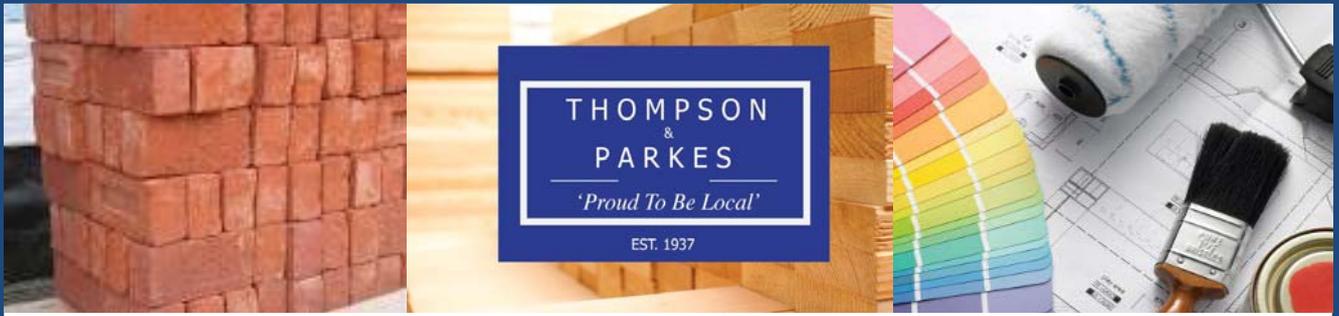
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