## Cleobury Clarion



#### SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

OCTOBER 2020

### **GOOD NEWS**

What better way to start the pages in the latest edition of the community's newsletter than a drop of really good news.

The Gittens family at Heath Farm Meats in Baginswood have had such a reaction to their announced closure of the shop that they've cancelled the idea. You'll find an advert on Page 25 explaining the changes that will be made and how you can still order your choice and arrange a collection date.

That will reduce the hours in the shop and the weekend queues that did put pressure on Clive and Syd when they had to set to and prepare more meat to order.

Not now. The customer will order what they want and it will be there waiting to be collected. It will be the same fine quality meat from the same friendly, caring people. We wish them every success with the new venture and may it last for many years to come.

### WE HAVE A GARDENING PAGE

We are very happy to welcome a new contributor to the Clarion this month. Simon Morton is a relative newcomer the area, having bought the Stepple Hall out on Catherton Road. He has a thriving business across country in Leicestershire, which must make commuting an interesting experience, but he's integrating with our community. When he can find time in his busy schedule, he's also a member of the Creative Writing Group.

Simon has been penning a gardening column for the Neen Savage 'Vital Link' and offered to do the same for the Clarion, though pressure on space means fewer words for us. No matter, the man is a very experienced scribe and clearly a keen and thinking gardener, so we welcome him to our pages. No transfer fees were involved in this move and no management costs were met.

### LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT

Just because normal movement was restricted in the lockdown, it didn't stop people thinking of ways to contribute and help others. The way some of our local shop and pub keepers made takeaway meals available was clear evidence of that.

Catherine Evans had her own way of using time at home. A very capable lady at any sewing task, she set about making fabric face masks to sell and raise funds to help the Severn Hospice, whose shops were closed and income from that source cut off.

On September 23rd she spent a little time at the CoCo Coffee Morning, collecting the visitors' contributions. She then moved along to call in at the Severn Hospice Shop on the High Street to greet fellow volunteers and hand over the proceeds of her work - a remarkable £800! That was 160 masks made and sold - a great result.



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### The Cleobury Clarion, October 2020

Volume Sixteen - Edition Seven



Toni Walton has an intriguing place in Bewdley called T W Beauty Read more on Page 11.



The Open Art Exhibition will run for three weeks at The Artists' Gallery in Ludlow. Details on Page 37.



In Business. Richard Haines is a rare breed - a white van man with craft and manners. More on Page 45.

### And On Other Pages....

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### IN PRAISE OF....

I first used Peter Handley Stationery on the recommendation of Clare Todd at the Cleobury Country Centre. It was an obvious move to deal with a local company with easy communication, delivery of stock items within two days and a big range at decent prices. What's not to like?

And when I met managing director Paul Liggins he knew the Clarion. "How did you get to see it here in Stourport?" I asked. "I nick it from Spice Empire,"he confessed.

A recent order for copy paper shows how good this company is. There was a query on the card - my fault - and when I called them it was Paul who answered. We sorted the problem and he explained that he'd changed the order to another make of paper that he assured me was just as good, but £10 cheaper. I do like a supplier who's on my side.

Peter Handley are on 01299 871369 and part of the reception team is Max the friendly dog. Good people to deal with.

JR

### THE PRICE OF WHISKY

Once upon less sober time I was negotiating my fee for organising a fair sized portion of the International Motor Cycle Show at the NEC, trying to move the organiser's cheque writing hand by pointing out that the cost of living had just gone up to £18 a bottle. It was long time ago.

I was reminded how long when a news bulletin came through from Bonhams the auctioneers, advising that a new world record had been set for a bottle of Japanese whisky. It was a 55 year old Yamazaki that went for \$795,000 US

in one of their recent sales in Hong Kong.

### CANON PAUL BROTHWELL

Any man in this area who has been diagnosed as suffering from prostate cancer will know about the remarkable work done by the Kidderminster and Worcestershire Support Group. From its formation in 2000 until his death in August,

Canon Paul Brothwell was the Group's chairman. His was the gentlemanly presence that chaired public meetings in a range of activities, a constant presence at events where the Support Group had a stand and a wide range of other church and charity work we in Cleobury Mortimer would not know about.

The success of the Support Group was such that in 2017 it received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Very few voluntary bodies have been as effective as this one and Paul's leadership was a major factor in that award. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife and family on the loss of such a fine man. *IR* 

### **OPEN GARDEN**

Millichope Park, near Munslow on the B4368 Craven Arms to Bridgnorth road, will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday October 11th. Unusually this year, you do not have to book and may pay at the gate. Open hours are 2.00 to 5.00, track and trace applies. All Open Gardens are raising money for a host of deserving charities.





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### CYRIL BREAKWELL LOOKS BACK

In 1948 the August Bank Holiday was on the first Monday in the month, changed to the last in the month a few years ago. At this time I was married to a local girl, Win Edwards, whose family lived at The Wells. I lived there too and drove for Charles's Coaches.

On this day I went to Barry in South Wales with a party from the Rock Tavern in Wilden Lane, Stourport. The pub in those days was run by the Smith family and I drove a lot of parties to different parts of the country from there.

We were expecting our first baby about this time and it came about on this day and me not knowing until I got home late.at night. No mobiles, phone boxes few and far between and only a few homes had them. Win's mother and dad stayed update to tell me the news; I was a dad!

On the Tuesday, another day away driving and no chance of seeing Win and the baby. Work came first in those days, with no spare drivers. On Wednesday, local driving with every intention of seeing Win and the baby, who were in Bridgnorth Hospital, in the afternoon but this did not happen. I had finished driving for the day and was going to get some dinner when Reg Charles came out of the office and said: "Come on, Cyril. We will go and christen the baby."

We went to the King's Arms and started with a few more drivers and some friends buying me drinks and on Wednesday, when pubs stayed open until 5.00, it being Market Day, I got very drunk. One more day gone and I still had not seen wife and new baby.

On Thursday morning I was conveniently down to do the Cleobury to Bridgnorth service. At last I would see wife and baby. Entering the ward I was told by a nurse I could not go in, it was not visiting time. But I was allowed in to find my loving wife Win and a perfect baby. A few tears flowed - I was so happy!

Cyril Breakwell

### 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.

### Jobs to Do In OctoberTHE

Prune and tie on climbing roses to prevent wind rock

Bring in any green tomatoes to ripen indoors or use in chutney

Sow winter lettuce

Move chilli plants into a light frost-free place to overwinter

Weed paths to neaten them

Sow broad beans late in the month for autumn planting outside

Plant autumn onion sets and garlic for harvesting next year

Sow sweet peas and store in a cold frame until next spring

Plant new rhubarb crowns, lift and divide old ones

Pot up amaryllis bulbs to a third of their depth, to give as Christmas presents.

Pauline Bowen

### THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Gill Guest chaired the September meeting, showed off a new Neen Savage book and wrote a report. Busy, capable lady.

A well attended group night! Two people had done their homework, including new lady Viv, ex WRAF and NATO, an interesting life. Another pair, not usually poets, brought poems and surprised us. Peter, on the other hand, earned dismayed groans when his newest romance had a twist we weren't expecting on the first page, which led to us thinking about dialogue.

Accordingly, October's task is to write something and include dialogue if you're feeling extreme, or just a bit. It could be dialogue between fictional characters, or a factual journalism type piece including quotes from an expert or 'the man in the street'. Whatever.

Ever the slacker, I did not bring anything to read, but I did bring the printer's proof of my lockdown project, the Neen Savage 2020 book for people to see. And I chaired the meeting, and locked the door, so I do not feel too slackerish. Gill Guest Thank you Gill, for standing in as chair while the regular one was doing a period of self isolation. IR

### **SILLY BIT**

An Illinois man pretended to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two bank cash points., where the kidnapper proceeded to draw money from his own accounts!

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### THE SHOEBOX APPEAL

New recruit Josh Coombes has been out chasing news stories. His first call was on Jenny Vanderhook.

Jenny is a compassionate local resident who has been volunteering for the Charity Teams4u for more than 30 years. Every Christmas, the charity runs a special appeal and anyone can get involved to help. It is done simply by packing shoeboxes full of acceptable items, they then get handed over by a team that t h e m ships o u t impoverished parts of the world, just the role that Jenny has. She also collects and decorates empty shoeboxes for anyone to collect, just inside the entrance at the Market Hall. This year though there have been fewer expectations on the number of shoeboxes that are going to be filled. The appeal is more pressed than usual, with the pandemic being the culprit.

She has previously been featured in the Clarion, giving a story on one of her expeditions to Romania where she gave out 3,000 shoeboxes over the course of just a week.

In one previous featured article mentioning the economic gap in the rural areas of the country compared to that of the more urban parts - she recalls seeing women in villages wearing colourful dressing gowns throughout the day which was all they had to wear, standing outside derelict orphanage buildings that children were being housed in, Jenny and her team reached out to a group of needy children. With each child that receives a shoebox, it tells them that someone out there cares about them.

This Christmas, Jenny is shipping out boxes to parts of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Every year, in the Cleobury area Jenny expects around 1,000 boxes to be shipped out. However, we're seeing Covid-19 not just tarnishing businesses but charities too. With the closure of Severn Hospice shop in the High Street - a huge source of items that people donate from is keeping the numbers down. Jenny has reported that 500 boxes will be a wishful target this year. Jenny has since attempted to reach out to local institutions for help but has sadly been brushed aside.

There are many shoeboxes to be collected in the Market Hall - don't be afraid to grab as many as you want, as they get re-stocked regularly. The filled boxes are to be dropped off there too and the deadline is the end of October. Let's see if the generosity of the town can come through and make it beyond 500 this year! There are leaflets on display with the boxes, please give them a thorough read before taking them home to be filled. On the leaflets you will find an age group and gender to be the chosen recipient of that box, Jenny would like to mention that boys aged 12+ is currently dropping in inclusion. Good luck Jenny. **Josh Coombes** 

### THE OLD F.A. CUP

The oldest surviving F A Cup, which was presented to the winners from 1896 to 1910, was auctioned by Bonhams

on September 29th, too late for us to tell you what it fetched. But the estimated price was £700,000 to £900,000.

The very first cup was lost and this version was made by Vaughton and Sons of Birmingham, using a mould taken from the original.





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### **BEAUTY - TONI'S DRIVING FORCE**



*The lady is quite a beauty in her* own right.

Toni Walton has her feet firmly on the ground and ambitions clearly defined. She knows what she wants and how to get there.

When she left school she took up a place at Kidderminster College, where four years of study and practice, plus other tuition she paid for separately, saw her graduate with a Level Three degree in Beauty Therapy.

Not for her the more common route through university. "I'm a hands-on sort of person, with an artistic side," she explains. And she

admits that as she learned she practised on family and friends to develop her skills. It must be great to have a friend training like her, who wants to try a newly acquired skill on a willing volunteer.

She launched T W Beauty in September, working from the premises of Salon 4, at Number 4 on Bewdley's Load Street, very close to the busy riverside. The premises are a joy to visit, walking down a passageway with flowering plants in wallside pots and a friendly garden when you reach to back of the premises. A hidden gem.

Her unit is small. tidy and easy on the eye, with plenty of colours on show. She had just added the Premier Gel range to her stock and was waiting for the Glitterbell range of acrylics to arrive and add to the appeal.

She's there from 9.00 until 4.00 on Thursdays and Fridays, a little later if a client needs it. The rest of the week she's on mobile calls, or working at the Co-op store.

A good start for a young business, and where does she see future development taking her? "When I get a house of my own, my ambition is to convert a room to work from."

She's off to a good, beautiful start and we wish her well.

### THE FRIENDS OF **SAINT MARY'S**

A little news and some quite blunt language from the spire that overlooks the town:

The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra concert which was scheduled to take place in St Mary's Church on Sunday October 18th has been cancelled due to Covid 19 and that the Orchestra has been unable to practise since March.

As Basil Fawlty might have said: "Let's play 'State the bleeding obvious'".

### **CLEOBURY MENS SHED**

The Annual General Meeting was well attended with all the trustees taking part via Zoom. All the reports and annual returns were agreed and will be going for official audit. Updates were given on the progress made in the construction of the shed as well as further planned work.

We have set a date for our next meeting: October 7th at 1900 hours. I hope by now you have received an invite to this meeting.

Neil Tysall

\*Beauty Therapist

\*Nail Technician

- \* Contact Toni on:
  - -Facebook/Instagram
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### **CLEOBURY OF OLD**

Once upon a time Cleobury had a castle But that was long ago Once a thriving market town A paper mill that burned Carnival queens have come and gone We had a splendid show Flowers dismayed on every corner Veggies neatly in a row. The River Rea winding A waterfall no longer seen The church with a crooked steeple Which dominates the scene A local bus would come to town Bringing folks from all around To sell their fair in the Market Hall Livestock bought and sold in the Talbot Yard We had two bakery shops Dotted around the town A postman who was a poet Seen walking up and down Simon Evans was his name Who wrote of local people Cleobury a special place to

him

Around the crooked steeple. Photography was popular in those days

Motor sport and sports clubs too

Old time dancing quite a craze

Lots of hobbies for folks to do *Pauline Ray* 

### THE YEAR OF 2020

It's a sad commentary on this year that the T34 printing company is offering a tee shirt with the legend "2020 - Very disappointing. Would give zero stars if I could" accompanied by a single star out of a possible five.

I did not order one, tempting though it was, as I do not believe in spreading depression. Instead, I went for one that declares "Over The Hill? What hill? I don't remember any hill." Much more optimistic. IR

### ABC - ALFRESCO BREAKFAST CLUB

Angela Drennan clocked up another first for the Breakfast Club in September, when members met at the Golf Club (nothing new there) but were addressed by Jenny Vanderhook outside on the patio. Jenny will be known to many for her dedication to the Christmas Shoebox scheme. She has helped with the delivery of the boxes several times, and on this occasion told us something of her 2019 trip to Romania.

For more details of the scheme, please see Josh Coombes' report on Page 9.

If anyone would like to fill a shoe box to be delivered this Christmas, leaflets explaining the system are available. Filled boxes should be returned to the Market Hall by the end of October.

The October meeting of the Breakfast Club was scheduled for the 13th at the Larch Barn, but the new Covid restrictions will make it unlikely to happen.

Mark Baldwin

### AND AN APOLOGY

To Angela Drennan of the Breakfast Club, for giving the wrong telephone number for her in the September Clarion. It is 01299 270636. We got it muddled with 270575, which is Reg Chapman's number. *IR* 

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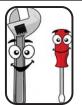
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### THE OWL NEST BOXES

Last month saw the end of the programme of installing eight owl nest boxes around Cleobury. There are many people to thank for this project including all those over the last two years who wrote down at what time and from what direction they heard hoots. Those records allowed us to draw up a hot spot map of owl territories and plan where we could best put up new boxes. Men In Sheds built the new boxes both for Tawny and Barn owls. Land and tree owners gave permission for us to put the boxes up and a small gang, despite weather and Covid, strategically placed in trees three barn owl and five tawny owl boxes to help extend our owls' potential territories and numbers.

Little more can be done to help our owls apart from making sure that their habitats both for feeding and breeding remain safe and protected.

Many people are reporting hearing owls as it is the time of year for pairing up, declaring territories and finding nesting holes. Let's hope some of those holes are square and made by Men in Sheds. There is no guarantee that owls will use our boxes but we can be sure that if they have no boxes, no owls will nest in them.

Kit Smith

### THE READING GROUP

This is not a report, it's Deana Kimber's friendly note to members, inviting them to get reading the selected title once again.

Pleased to say our new set of books have arrived, when you are ready they are available at the library. The box is on floor just past the leaflet table, on the left as you enter; please sign in the blue folder. Still not certain about meeting in October; I will keep you posted. Meanwhile enjoy reading.

Regards, Deana

### CLEOBURY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

At the September 28th AGM, accounts looked in good shape for the year ending March this year with an income of £600 and the only expense £240 for Cleobury Junior Football and a balance of £2979.98.

The Partnership's Chairman Madge Shineton's report stated: "The last seven months have proved very variable where provision of activities for our young people have proved difficult. I'd like to pay tribute to you all, especially our young folk, for your resilience and behaviour during this time.

The future will be different and sometimes difficult, but not insurmountable. We can still work together, indeed I see that as a plus to enhance through our different skills the widest range of activities on offer for our rural young.

May I thank you all for your current efforts and those needed in the future as we feel our way forward into sometimes confusing situations.

We will make the best of it!" *Madge Shineton* 

### **JUST A THOUGHT**

In the current set of rules that guides our lives in this coronavirus dominated world, it's worth noting that if seven children were to gather together to feed the ducks on the village pond, that would be illegal.

But if 30 adults were to gather together to shoot the ducks, that would be legal.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Thompson and Parkes celebrated the first anniversary of their Stourport branch opening on September 14th. I was in there recently, getting advice and some badly needed paints and the brushes to apply them.

Courteous and helpful staff gave advice to this totally out of date amateur decorator and as I begin to plan some refurbishment of my apartment I shall be back for more. But I mustn't forget their Oreton branch, an amazing place with much more stock than you would expect from such a rural facility.

### SYNCHRONISED WHAT?

Peter Howman was walking his three fine dogs on the sports field on their morning exercise. Well trained, they run about but respond to his call, to sit and wait to have their leads back.

When one did the obvious and he had to get the poobag out, the other two were doing the same some way away, I asked if they were trained to do this. "Well, you've heard of synchronised swimming..." he said.



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

The Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association committee met this month to discuss when and how we may restart our led walks, including the Sunday Parish Walks and the Wednesday Walking for Health. Although the current "rule of six" does permit organised walks of more than six people, the requirements on volunteers and leaders of public walks are onerous, particularly in doing risk assessments and other record keeping.

We decided reluctantly that we cannot restart in the near future. We will not be organising walks for the rest of 2020 -including the Christmas and New Year walks. We very much hope that we will be able to start up again in the New Year if the Coronavirus threat is much reduced.

Late News: We've received notice of the temporary closure of Bridleway 15 Cleobury Mortimer which runs alongside The Rookery at Mawley Hall. The closure is from 24th September 2020 until the 8th October to allow works on the track.

Graham Simpson

### WALKING FOR HEALTH

Whatever the restriction the upsurge in coronavirus infection may impose upon us, the simple pleasure of walking out with friends does not stop.

The good logic that has been applied to official gatherings you can read about in Graham Simpson's report above, but without any official sanction or control, a number of walkers who enjoyed their fortnightly social stepping-out are still out there doing it.

Nothing extreme, never a matter to worry the authorities, just friends meeting in small numbers and covering some of the country they've maybe discovered before. At their own risk, which doesn't amount to much when senior members of the community walk down footpaths and pavements at a gentle pace.

### **Clarion Clippings**

### MARKET HALL DRAWING COMPETITION

The winner of the under 16s drawing competition run by

the Market Hall was Ben Hughes, aged 8, with his picture of 'We Love Cleobury Mortimer'. Ben won a family pass to West Midlands Safari Park.

Runners up won prizes from Tracey's Kreations. All pictures are on display at the Market Hall. *Kimberly Grenfell* 

### **DON WEAVER**

Dad died peacefully in his sleep, aged 90, on September 12th, following a short illness. Husband to Brenda and father to Neville, Donna and Michael. The funeral service will be private due to current restrictions, any donations are to go to the 'Alzheimers Society'. Neville Weaver

Don was one of those people who'd been around a long time. Active in the community and a friend to many, his lean and fit looking figure made you think he'd be here forever. A sad loss of a quiet, friendly, good man.

JR

### THOUGHTFUL BIT

Yesterday is gone Tomorrow has not yet come We only have today Let us begin.

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### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

### **BLENDING IN**

Nigel Gill and Clare Chapman don't get many visitors at their cottage at Whatsill, high up on Clee Hill. No problem, the quiet suits them fine. They've lived at Cherry Tree Cottage for four very busy years, starting out with a wilderness and bringing it back to a garden that lives in harmony with the rest of the hillside.

Nigel has done most of the work, with Clare mucking in on mowing and the floral side. They've felled enough trees to fill a big truck with logs, all neatly stacked. There are three ponds in the garden, serving ducks and geese and attracting visits from a huge range of wildlife. Nigel can recite a long list of lizards and newts, butterflies by the half dozen and field inhabitants from field mice to rabbits. Inevitably Mr Reynard comes around at night, looking for a fresh duck for dinner, but Goosey Goosey Gander creates a racket and defends his lady. The noise attracts Nigel, who lets the dogs loose and Mr Reynard

goes looking for easier prey. Hasn't he heard of Just Eat?

They have a little over one acre of land, all of it brought back to its natural style to blend with the countryside. The house they bought was a 200-year-old stone cottage that had lost its upper floor to build surrounding walls, then had a 1970s build to replace it. No, I couldn't understand that either.

Since then they've rebuilt one wing, re-using that same stone from the garden walls and making the building look like an intriguing piece of various architectural styles. It does work and the time Clare has put into the garden give it a homely look.

Nigel works at a motor panel manufacturer in Telford and finds the summer peace and winter's chill winds a welcome change from the pressures of industry. When those winds brought down a tree that in turn took out the power cable, N Power got a crew in to restore the supply and Nigel pointed out that the remaining row of tall trees offered the same threat next

time there was a storm. N-Power, bless them, could see the sense of early action and got a team in to take all the trees down and cut them into logs. The resultant vista is big and Nigel proudly points out the distant Junction 3 on the M5.



Happy man with very unusual house - the garden's great.

To hear more about Nigel's gardening story, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups563373327901698/">https://www.facebook.com/groups563373327901698/</a> or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDBkg-dGN\_gCPU\_G8oAaw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDBkg-dGN\_gCPU\_G8oAaw</a>. He has over 1,000 followers worldwide.



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### SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH, DODDINGTON

What a joy it was to be able to hold our first service since early March! The church was as full as it could be whilst keeping everyone safe, and looked lovely with some harvest flowers to brighten it up.

People kindly gave generously, meaning that we could donate £73 to the local Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. We hope to have another service before too long, so keep an eye out on our notice boards, Facebook page, or on our website: <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10505/</a> for news on that. Celia Gibb

### **BACK IN BUSINESS**

September 23rd was a notable day for the town. The CoCo Coffee Morning had moved across the road to The King's Arms and welcomed a modest crowd to the usual offering of coffee (tea if you prefer) and cake for a very reasonable

£1.75. An element of self service and spacing to make everything properly virus free plus much friendly chat to share.



Congratulations to Wendy at the KA and Catherine Evans for seeing an opportunity and getting it organised. Check the Social Calendar for this month's dates.

A little further up the main street, the Severn Hospice Shop had opened its doors with staff all shielded and lots of two metre markings on the floor. It's ten years since this popular shop opened and Gayna Woodland and Jayne Leach had both received certificates recording their service for that time. It's a measure of the effect the shop's fund raising has to hear that 60 local people have had care funded by the shop's activities since it opened. That's a record to be proud of.

On the till, behind a proper screen, was Carol Morton, a volunteer who's also been working in the shop for a decade - she actually opened it all those years ago.



Happy smiling faces from Gayna and Jayne with their Long Service awards.

It's great to see the shop open again and Gayna tells us that they are looking for more volunteers to help with this valuable work.

### **HEATH FARM MEATS**

Due to customer response and demand Heath Farm Meats will now not be closing on September 26th but diversifying our business to keep up with modern times.

As of this date we will be closing the retail part of our shop and after this date we will be doing orders ONLY with time and date for collection to be arranged.

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### Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice October 2020

### St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer. Services

#### Sunday 4th October

10am Eucharist

#### Sunday 11th October

10am Eucharist

#### Sunday 18th October

10am Licensing Service for Paul Kemp

#### Sunday 25th October

10am Eucharist

#### **Events/Activities**

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival at the 10.00am Eucharist.

Newly ordained Joe Simon will be the Deacon of the Eucharist.

The collection will be for Christian Aid and donations of produce are to be non-perishable items (tins/packets etc) which will be donated to the food bank.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Details will be sent out nearer to the time.

#### St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Sunday 4th October 11am BCP Eucharist

### St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

No service

### Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

No service

#### All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Sunday 11th October 11am Eucharist and Sunday 25th October 11am Morning

#### St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Sunday 4th October 11am Eucharist

#### St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Sunday 4th October 6pmEvensong and Sunday 25th October 11am BCP Eucharist

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SERVICES IN EACH CHURCH ARE POSTED LOCALLY Please wear face coverings for the service. THANK YOU for helping us all to worship together safely.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm Contact details: Grace Johnson cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916



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Village Help is a new local enterprise, designed to give practical, social and emotional support to you at home.

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As I write, the concerning news that cases of COVID19 in the UK are rising is still fresh. This is alarming and possibly disheartening, given how much change we have all had to endure to normal life from this pandemic. But it is not surprising as we cannot afford to be complacent against the threat this virus continues to pose.

The government last month introduced the new 'rule of six', to help stem the rising number of cases. I know the Prime Minister deeply regrets having to implement this restrictive measure, and I have heard from constituents how this will impact their lives, from social activities and family gatherings to business disruption. I can assure readers that this imposition is not lost on me. Having had to shield at home for several months earlier in the year, I am well aware of the difficulty of not seeing people in your community or extended family whom you like to meet to keep in touch. But unfortunately, it has proven necessary to take action to control the virus once more.

I hope that this broad measure, alongside localised lockdowns where there is a clear spike in cases, will avoid the need for any kind of national lockdown once again. I was impressed by the speed of response from Shropshire Council and local health bodies to spring into action when a spike in cases was reported at Craven Arms and Dorrington in recent weeks. So we know that quick and decisive action, combined with an increase in localised testing, can really help shutdown the spread of COVID19 in our communities.

On the issue of testing, I am well aware that increasing numbers of people have had problems in securing a test either at home or at one of the drive in centres. Demand for tests has increased very significantly during September, as those going back to school or work settings, or returning from holidays, have developed symptoms of COVID, or been exposed to someone showing symptoms, or the normal flu/cold/cough which starts to circulate each autumn. This is increasing demand for tests exponentially.

The situation is very fluid. I am aware of people in South Shropshire securing tests last month with only a few hours notice. There is a regional test site in Telford and 2 mobile units, which for some weeks have been based in Oswestry and Craven Arms, all operating at capacity each day last month, before the latter moved to Shrewsbury.

More testing capacity is being added each week, with more sites opening each week in September to take the total to over 400, with 500 testing sites due by the end of October across England. As I write in September laboratory testing capacity has reached 370,000 a day, higher per capita than in Germany, France or Spain. But it is clearly not enough to cope with the demand, so more testing laboratories are needed and the current plan is to get to 500,000 tests a day by the end of this month. I have called for the Government to plan for even more, so that testing does not have to be prioritised as it was during lockdown and is being again now.

Pilot projects for saliva based tests with rapid results were launched last month in Salford, Southampton and Hampshire. If these prove effective then there is the prospect for a vastly increased testing system which should remove the current capacity constraints of the present system which require analysis in laboratories.

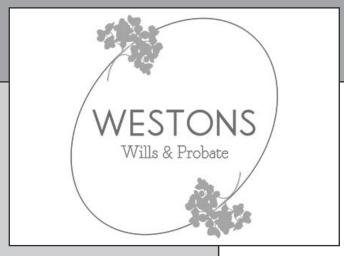
I shall continue to engage with Shropshire public health leads and Health Ministers to secure sufficient accessible testing locally to meet the needs of local residents.

My advice to those seeking tests is to keep applying and consider seeking a home test which is despatched in the post. It is clearly important to maintain social distancing and control measures like regular handwashing, if we are to keep on top of the virus once again this autumn.

Philip Dunne



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 30 - October 2020

### The October Social Calendar

Thurs 1st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00	The Cleobury Men's Shed have a virtual meeting.	Pete Blackburn	07776 243584
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	2pm-	Open Garde at Millichope Park, Munslow. Pay at the gate. PAGE 5		
	5pm			
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Library.	Jim Reynolds	CM 270642
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Kings Arms, Church St		
Thurs 15th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLED BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The nearly Dead Poet's Society meet in the Library	Jim Reynolds	CM 270642
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Kings Arms, Church Street		
Thurs 29th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	The Artists' Gallery next to the Ludlow Food Centre at Bromfield SY8 2JR		
		Opens a 3 week special exhibition of local works. Its aim is to boost support		
		for local talent in these very difficult times.		
		The end of October is the last day to get your Christmas Shoebox filled and into the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
		into the Market Hall. PAGE 9		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER'S CHILLS;		
Th Eth		CREEN CARREN REFLICE MULEFULE BING FAITRIER TODAY		
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN REFUSE WHEELIE BINS EMTPIED TODAY		
		You may hear some bangs & whizzes this evening. Blame poor old Guy Fawkes!		
Wed 11th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Kings Arms, Church Street		

### A SLOW, GENTLE RECOVERY

There are a few more dates to offer you in this month's Social Calendar, a sign of things starting to move back towards normal, but in the unhurried Shropshire way, we must not be too hasty or expect too much. The CoCo coffee mornings that have been a staple of main street social life for some years are there for you to sample, operating from the Kings Arms before licensed opening hours so that there is no crowding with lunch time customers; top marks to Catherine Evans and Wendy at the KA for seeing an opportune and grasping it.

If you prefer your socialising in even quieter style, the National Garden Scheme that does so much good work to raise funds for numerous charities offers an Open Garden at the lovely Millichope Park near Munslow on Sunday the 11th; page 5 for more details. We are notified of these excellent events and will keep you posted of the more local versions. Let's not forget there is a serious threat out there, but life continues.



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Marian, bless the lady, has been writing away into the small hours to produce three instalments of memories of days working in Wales. This is Part One - others in November and, to round off 2020, in December.

### Read, wonder and enjoy.

Sometimes I have difficulty remembering names or even the day of the week it is, but I remember so many things about Talybont Farm I could write a book about it. It was in Merionethshire (now called Gwynedd) and was the farm where my father and his six siblings were brought up. My brother and I were taken there every summer since we were toddlers, and were left there for two or three weeks with my two aunts and uncle, who ran the farm.

There was a strict routine to the day regarding meal times, as it probably was for all the farms in the area. Breakfast was at 8.00am, a hot drink about 10.00, dinner at noon, tea, sandwiches and cakes about 4.00, then believe it or not, another meal - supper after that. The workmen shared these meals and marched into the kitchen, their hobnail boots clattering on the flagstone floor. They sat at a separate long narrow table, on benches and at hay making time or harvest, extra men would be there helping, and all joined in the meals. My aunts were excellent cooks and there was no expense spared to be hospitable. If a man had come to inseminate a cow, if the vet or a passing neighbour called in, they all ended up around the kitchen table if they had time.

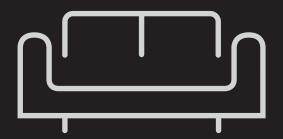
Some of the farm workers lived in, so they were around to do the early morning milking, etc. There were two rooms in the farmhouse called the Barracks, both could be approached by stone steps from the outside. This is where the workmen slept, even my uncle with them. Apparently during and after the war the farm had to look after

prisoners of war, German and Italian, and they slept in the Barracks too. One German returned at a later date and said how happy he had been there. Probably all the good food helped!

The farmhouse was a substantial building, stone painted white and hundreds of years old. Amongst the farm buildings was one called 'The Old House' but in Welsh - Hen Dy. The mind boggles at the thought of how old that building was and what history was attached to it. There were also some stables, used in the times when horses were used to work the land. The was a rickyard where hay and straw were stored, other barns, pig sties, a granary which was the corn store and the cowshed attached to the farmhouse. The cows were kept in there all the time during the winter, just unchained to go out for a drink of water. I remember the lovely smell of cows, the hay and the noise of the chains. Keeping them in caused a lot of work mucking them out every day - no modern machinery in those days. Uncle checked them every night before he went to bed.

I stayed at Talybont for several years when there was still no electricity, which was very late getting to that district. The aunts lit the Aladdin Lamp which was fuelled with oil or paraffin; a glass dome fitted over it and a mantle on the top gave a bright light. We would read or play cards except on a Sunday - no balls games or cards on the Sabbath! We were given a candle to go to bed with, the candles throwing eerie shadows on the walls as we went upstairs. At the bottom of the stairs was the hallway, where there was a stuffed fox with a bird in its mouth in a glass case. The grandfather clock was there too, ticking loudly and chiming on the hour. I inherited the clock and have it beside me as I write this.

Marian Rees



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### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

#### WHITHER SHIREHALL?

Shropshire Council is considering the future of Shirehall, its long established Shrewsbury base, as part of a rethink about the whole operation of running the county. It has applied to Historic England for a Certificate of Immunity to delay any move to have the place registered as a listed building, with all the restrictions on alteration and even demolition that would entail. It seems that the application for immunity was not widely publicised.

The response has been the formation of a group under the title SOS - Save Our Shirehall. Their stated focus is to attract support locally and from national organisations to oppose the perceived threat to the building.

Our information on the council's thinking comes from County Councillor Gwilym Butler. He explained that at the last full council meeting "it was agreed that due to the change in work practices and the dire state that Shirehall is in, that it would be more prudent to create a new, smaller civic hub in part of the shopping centre in Shrewsbury and new hubs across the county to make the council more accessible where needed." Mr Butler is working to have the Cleobury Country building on Love Lane as part of a local hub, possibly on a part time basis.He understands that at its capacity Shirehall accommodated around 3,000 people, but thinks that the need now is for a hub of around 250 people.

Opinions about the viability and state of the building vary widely. SOS say "The Shirehall, besides being Shropshire's civic centre, is a very fine example of post war modern architecture," adding that many staff enjoy working there as teams in "Well designed spacious and light offices."

SOS also quote Royal Institute of British Architects editor Hugh Pearman as saying: "We are at a moment when to demolish a perfectly good and refurbish able large building is highly irresponsible." Mr Pearman has also stated: "Reusing and adapting what exists is acknowledged best practice to reduce carbon emissions and is by any standard less wasteful."

The counter to that positive presentation of the current building naturally sees the problem very differently. "Shirehall .....needs tens of millions of pounds spent on it in the long term in repairs and renewals including all windows, rewiring, flooring, decorating, heating, air conditioning and a new roof. It is big and drafty and no longer fit for purpose.....Before Covid a third of the building lay vacant and was not in use. On the last fire inspection we were told that new regulations mean that upgrades costing in excess of £2million were needed if we intended to stay there."

Read those quotes and you can see how far apart the two groups are, from SOS stating that "...in future years the Shirehall could be seen as a much-treasured example of late twentieth century architecture" while Gwilym Butler writes of "..the building and its brutalist concrete construction."

But the future of the Council's working practice and the best location for that deserves a serious debate and a chance for the public to express their views. The world is changing and the way of working changes with it. What the information we have seen so far does not include is any estimate of costs and long term benefits; this is bound to come before any binding decision is taken.

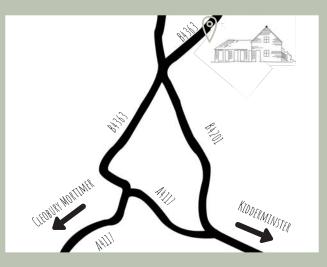
If you want to add your view, our County Councillors are Gwilym Butler on <a href="mailto:gwilym.butler@shropshire.gov.uk">gwilym.butler@shropshire.gov.uk</a> and Madge Shineton on <a href="mailto:gwilym.gov.uk">gwilym.butler@shropshire.gov.uk</a>

Sally Stotes is a founder member of SOS and is on 01743 362126 or 07711 669473 and one of the group is John Crowe on 01588 680443 or 17581 760443.

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#### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**

#### **ART FOR ALL**

The Artists' Gallery, one of the growing number of attractions that surround the Ludlow Farm Shop at Bromfield on the A49, hosts a very special event over a three week period beginning at the end of this month. 21 local artists and creative practitioners (that's a new term to me and it does cover a lot of diverse skills and interests) will be showing off their works from 10.00 in the morning until 5.00 in the afternoon, seven days a week. It sounds like a great opportunity to find Christmas gifts out of the ordinary, or something special to brighten vour home.

The Gallery is an intriguing place to visit, compact but laid out to show off the work of the eight artists who launched the idea last October Happy Birthday, Gallery. The resident artists are aware that many local people working in the arts business have had very few if any local fairs to meet the public and sell their products. For the Open Art Exhibition they will take on the neighbouring hall, almost trebling the show space available.

We were first approached by Shelly Perkins of Neen Sollars, a firmly local lady whose art talent was nurtured at Lacon Childe School before going on to build a career as a wildlife artist and photographer. She also has a passion for travel, which was realised when in 2017 she was appointed Artist in Residence to the Scott Polar Research Institute and spent six weeks in the Antarctic. Her paintings inspired by that wild place are on display,

along with the book she wrote about the visit, copiously illustrated with both drawings and photos.



Shelly with her "North Cove, Antartica" painting that reflects her time in that icy region.

The residents produce a wide range of fine art. Kim Davis works under the title of wood turner, but look at the care that goes into converting a wooden stump into an eye catching vase and you can see he's a lot more than just a man with a lathe. Jan Jay's work on textiles produces wonderful blends of colour and texture far beyond the ordinary.

Pip Jones is a watercolourist, surely one of the most refined of painting styles that can take your breath away with what seems to be simple beauty, but is the product of devoted years. Sarah Billingham's Redland Pottery shows what remarkable effects can be produced with modern ceramics, a place for your imagination to roam free.

Megan Evans offers fascinating collagraph .prints with a clear environmental message, using rubbish collected from the local landscapeMore traditional is Priscilla Hann's work as a bronze sculptor and the samples on show confirm her years of experience and the growth skill that means. She clearly loves animals and these works almost look live.

And the eighth member of the group is Danielle Flowers, who combines a love of wood and making jewellery, with a range of fascinating small pieces that show off the texture and figure of the wood, some pieces with inserted silver and gold details. I've not seen such a creation before and its appeal to younger buyers is obvious.



Danielle's fascinating range of natural woods looked lovely.

These are the people who set up the Artists' Gallery and have proved that such a venture can work, even in these strange times.

The Open Art Exhibition runs from October 31st to November 22nd, from 10.00 to 5.00 seven days a week. And admission is free.

The gallery telephone is 07974 652 866 and they have a new website:

www.theartistsgalleryludlow.c o.uk

A visit there when you're food shopping or stopping for coffee or a lunch is highly recommended. It certainly adds to the attraction of one of Ludlow's growing features. *IR* 

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### **Welcome to these pages, Simon Morton**

#### A SUMMER LIKE NO OTHER

Our relationship with the garden has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last few months.

Data shows that lockdown prompted people to spend more time (and money) gardening than ever before. As the sun provided some respite to the daily dose of bad news, DIY stores and garden centres did a roaring trade in plug plants, fancy patio furniture, and barbecue setups that would put Gordon Ramsay to shame. Inevitably, prime time TV shows were hastily cut and pasted together to keep the country's new green-fingered converts engaged and entertained. Whether it be tending a window box or mowing an expanse of lawn, Britain proudly returned to its roots as a nation of gardeners.

For me, this brought a sense of vindication. For years, friends have ribbed me about my premature middle age obsession with gardening (tending my own, visiting others, reading about 'the classics' like Hidcote and Great Dixter). However, over the last few months, these same friends have not only succumbed to the allure of the trowel but also become equally enraptured by germination, soil testing, and planting schemes. Marvellous news – now we can grow old together.

Such has been the transformation that that when social commentators search for the thinnest of silver linings from COVID-19, the nation's new respect for horticulture will surely make the list. It's a small but significant shift in the right direction.

In my own patch, this Summer has been a bit of a weird one. Despite the bonus time in the garden, my carefully curated plans have failed miserably. Ask any seasoned gardener and they will confidently predict certain things at the start of the growing season - a glut of courgettes, sweetcorn that will grow strongly (and then be eaten in situ by the local wildlife) and, no matter how hard you try, sweet peppers will always be a bitter disappointment (in both senses of the word). I can report that none of the above came to pass. In reality, those crops that have always been a surefire hit (*I mean, who has ever struggled to grow courgettes?*) failed to deliver while we're now awash with exotic fruits that we previously only dared dream of (cucumbers, sweet peppers, and figs to be exact). It's all rather confusing...

If nothing else, it goes to prove that you're always learning when it comes to this gardening lark. Just when you think you've cracked it, Mother Nature decides to throw in a few anomalies to keep you on your toes.

It's probably this game of horticultural roulette that keeps me coming back - you never really get a chance to get bored. There are new adversaries around every corner - unpredictable weather, rampant weeds, and equally rampant rodents - each trying their best to put the kibosh on carefully drawn out plans.

Despite the inevitable onslaught and, acknowledging that any lofty aspirations I have for the garden are guaranteed to be taken down a peg or two by Mother Nature, I can't wait to get cracking with the next phase. Currently up for consideration are spring tulips (size, colour, positioning), winter veg (is it worth the hassle? how excited can/should a man get over an onion set?) and preparing myself, both spiritually and physically, for the inevitable leaf drop.

Who said gardening wasn't high octane stuff..? I hope my friends are ready for the ride...

Simon Morton

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This month is the beginning of the rutting season, when mature males are far from quiet and elusive. The two sexes spend most of the year in separate herds but from late August rising levels of testosterone in the bucks cause a change of behaviour, and they return to their

traditional rutting grounds in the heart of the forest. They trample and urinate on the soil then lie down in it, presumably to enhance their

appeal to the does, which are attracted by their loud, groaning calls. Rival males are seen off and challengers may be taken on in combat to win the right to mate with the assembled harem. Deer are very sensitive to disturbance at this important time and will often wait for nightfall to mate. In November the rutting season will have passed and the two sexes will separate again. The bucks will take some time to recover and need to build themselves up with high energy food such as acorns and beech mast: indeed some of the older bucks will die at this stage of the year.

Deer are frequent visitors to our farm – each morning shows their droppings scattered in the farmyard and the fields unprotected by deer fencing. One of the advantages of my erratic sleeping pattern is that I sometimes indulge in night-time or dawn forays into the garden, and on more than one occasion have heard munching coming from the other side of the fence. Fortunately the days when they could get inside the garden have gone. If you ask me for a list of garden plants that are 'deer proof' the answer is easy - I haven't found one that they Linda Iles aren't willing to try.

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**CLEOBURY MORTIMER** 

TEL: 01299 272868 MOBILE: 07815 483 029 I see that the new boss of the BBC has vowed to sort out the organisation. He could start by axing layers of highly paid managers with non jobs and daft titles. It was noticeable that in a recent drive to streamline and cut costs, the BBC headcount actually increased. He seems to have started by reversing the ridiculous decision to delete the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory' at the Proms which is promising, but we shall see if this continues.

Famously grumpy historian David Starkey (no relation) seems to have lost most of his jobs after saying that slavery was not genocide thus bringing a Twitterstorm down on his head. The fact that his view was right (although not sympathetically expressed) seems not to have registered with those determined to find fault. Yes, slaves were treated appallingly and many did die during their transport and later but a dead slave cannot work so exterminating them would serve no purpose. If an example of genocide is needed, look no further than the treatment of China's Uighur Muslim minority by the authorities. Locked up in prison - sorry -'training' camps and being force fed contraceptives. This has resulted in their birth rate dropping by 90%. Oddly, this hasn't attracted mass demonstrations claiming 'Uighur Lives Matter' and Muslim countries have been strangely silent on this subject. Imagine the uproar if the UK proposed to treat our Muslim minority in the same fashion...

Extinction Rebellion don't seem to have done themselves any favours with their latest stunt involving blockading printing presses etc. This seems to be another case of a movement that started with the highest ideals being taken over by a small group of extremists and thus shedding public support. Still, attacking the Press is a favourite tactic of dictators everywhere so if it works for them..

Is it just me that has shower taps that can't

be operated with a soapy hand? My current set up is totally round and smooth except for a small ridged area covering about a third of the circumference. Note to shower tap designers: Soapy hands are slippery so please incorporate some texture into your designs.

Anyone want a Covid test? Well, bad luck, as they seem to be very difficult to obtain. Apparently the reason is an 'Unexpected increase in demand' which has surprised our leaders as it seems that the modelling didn't predict such an eventuality. Given that there has just been a widespread (and probably very expensive) advertising campaign urging people to go out and get tested, did no-one consider the possibility that the public might actually respond to this urging and do just that? Obviously not. To recycle the old joke about computers, 'To err is human but to really mess things up, you need an algorithm'. With infections soaring and our 'World Class' track and trace system a shambles, I fear it's going to be a bad Winter.

I was watching a documentary the other day which featured a sleepy country town about the size of Cleobury in Western Australia. It showed the local Police Station (remember them?) and said that the town was policed by 'just eight' officers. I have met our new Policeman and he is very nice but a rough estimate indicates that we probably have about 10% of his time as he has such a large area to cover. Perhaps emigration to WA might be an idea...

I do like the German language. They have interesting expressions for all sorts of things. The latest I have seen is 'pantoffelheld' or slipper hero: a man who has to ask his spouse's permission before taking any action. I wish my ex had been like that instead of a controlling psychopath (but no hard feelings...).

Ariadne J Grumpy



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#### In Business - Richard Haines, The Worcestershire Chimney Sweep

Five years ago Richard Haines was a busy wood merchant, with a stock of timber, machinery to handle it and a rented yard to operate from. When he found he had to find another place to accommodate the business, he did not fancy moving everything one little bit, so sold the lot and and took on something rather different. "I had an established customer base, so I decided I'd sweep the chimneys I'd been helping to soot up," he explains.

He looked at various professional bodies for training and advice, opting for the Guild of Master Sweeps and taking their very thorough training course. Days on the technical and legal side of the business, then more days training with experienced men and finally the big exam. Not an easy matter, he had to get it 100% right to be accepted into the Guild.

"You have to have a two million pound public liability insurance cover and go for a refresher course every five years," he told us. Standards are high for the Guild, and he has qualified as a HETAS approved sweep and installer. Getting properly trained and setting up with good equipment was not a cheap matter, about £8,000 before he bought the van and the range of spares and parts he carries to every call. Blocks to cut new fire bricks if the old ones are no longer effective and a range of door sealing ropes to keep them properly sealed. "It's not to try to sell more stuff, it's just an insurance to keep a stove working and warming properly," is his simple logic.

There is a burden of responsibility with the job today and if a chimney system is not properly maintained or installed it has to be reported to HETAS and they report in turn to the housing authorities. It's not bureaucracy for the sake of it, simply a matter of keeping people safe. He has seen some chimneys where the pipe was close to structural timbers and could start a house fire; they've been put right.

He also checks carbon monoxide alarms and carries replacement units of good quality - not the cheapest, but the reliable brands he knows can be trusted. At about £30 for a seven year life is not a lot to keep you safe.



White van man with Guild of Master Sweeps logo prominently displayed.

He's a man very happy with his work, who averages four sweeps a day. "Because you don't know what you're going to find and I won't rush the job," he explains. He doesn't just sweep, he checks the stove and chimney. He'll take phone calls any day of the week and reckons to cover an area up to 50 miles from his Tenbury hase

Would he change the job if another chance came along. "No. I love it, meeting people and doing the job properly."



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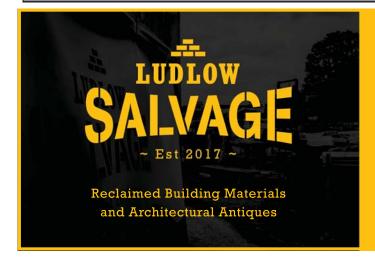




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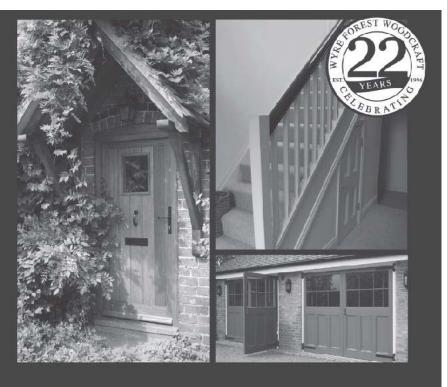
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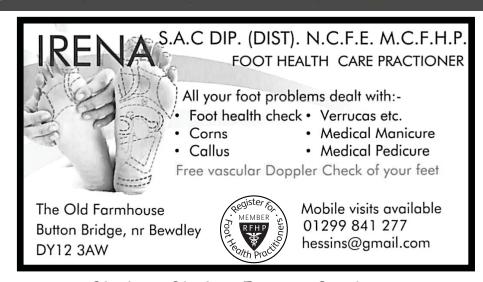
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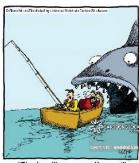
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - October 2020



#### **October 2020 Clarion Report**

We need to start this month's report with a big thank you to all who donate to the Cleobury Food Bank, you are so generous. If you could see the reactions of those in need when coming to us, then you would know that your help is so much appreciated. We also need to thank our bank of volunteers who help every Friday morning at the Market Hall. The Food Bank is open downstairs at the Market Hall from 9.30am to 11.30am every Friday. It is there for anyone in need. If you know someone who is struggling, please tell them about us! Donation points are in St Mary's church, the Market Hall, Lacon Childe and Primary School receptions and the Library entrance. Thank you.

We are glad to see that the refurbished Play Area is being well used and everyone is having such a great time with the new equipment. We have received lots of good feedback, so thank you, enjoy and stay safe! Please ensure social distancing takes place in and around the Play Area especially around school drop-off and collection times.

Articles in many previous issues of the Clarion mention dog mess on footpaths, pavements, in the roads and on fields. There are plenty of dog waste bins around town and if you feel that we need more then please ask us.

Litter has been a more noticeable problem this year, especially on the Playing Field and through the QEII Park. We are grateful to those who do use the bins and also to those who have been litter picking for no reason other than their care of our community. We will be purchasing more litter bins to try and encourage everyone to be more socially responsible and use the bins provided if they cannot take their litter home.

We fully endorse all initiatives for caring for our environment. It isn't just for other people in other parts of the country/world, it starts at home by using bins, recycling etc. We would ask you all to consider if you can do more as an individual but also challenge family and friends and for parents to speak to children about the environment around them and how they would like it to look when they are adults.

As we move towards winter, please have a look at our website <a href="www.cleobury.org.uk">www.cleobury.org.uk</a> to guide you as to reporting issues, as we always encourage people to report directly to Shropshire Council by telephone 0345 678 9000 or on-line at <a href="www.shropshire.gov.uk">www.shropshire.gov.uk</a>. It is not only quicker if done directly but it also adds some weight to our reports of potholes, pavement issues, parking, littering etc. The streetlights around town belong to either Shropshire Council, the Town Council, various Housing Associations or private landlords. You can check the map on Shropshire Council's website when reporting a fault to see if they belong to Shropshire Council. If not theirs please ring the Town Council office on 01299 271154 and we will notify the relevant contractors/organisation.

Also, with any issues at the Play Area, Playing Fields, QEII Park, Toilets, Cemetery, or the Wells please ring the Town Council office.



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In the third of this series of articles we are going to focus on DOOR STEP scams. In the grand scale of things these are lower down the scale in terms of severity but are still never the less in the swindling group of crimes. Most door to door scams involve the selling of goods or services that are either not delivered or are of very poor quality. You don't get value for money and you may get billed for work you didn't want, need or However, doorstep scammers are agree to. not always pushy or overtly persuasive. Indeed, they often seem polite and friendly (a ploy to gain your confidence). So, if you are not expecting someone, its important to be on your guard when you answer the door, especially if you live on your own, or are elderly and potentially vulnerable. It can be very easy to fall victim to Doorstep scams so let's look at some of them and how you can protect yourself. One of the first things that should be on your list is a door chain which you should use every time you open the door. This will prevent an undesirable person opening your door by more than a few inches.

ROGUE TRADERS - A cold caller may offer you a service that you don't really need. The person may claim to have noticed something about your property that needs work or improvement, such as the roof or guttering or chimney, and offer to fix it for cash or at an inflated price. It's not uncommon for the rogue to identify something that you cannot easily see for yourself. Often the person will claim they are already working in the area and can 'do a good deal' for you.

ACTION: Thank the person for their interest but politely decline the offer, asking them to leave. If you are suspicious but not in immediate danger call the Police 101 service. If you feel you are in danger, call 999.

BOGUS OFFICIALS - These scammers claim to be from a utility company or the Local Authority looking to gain access to your home. It's not uncommon for them to work in pairs. One remains out of sight while you open the door while the other persuades you to show them the utility meter for example, and while you are distracted, the second one

enters your property and looks for valuables that can be removed easily.

ACTION: Anyone who claims to represent an official organisation will carry an ID badge for that organisation. Ask to see their ID and if they are genuine they won't have any problem showing you, or waiting while you call that organisation to verify their identity. If they get agitated or refuse, it's time to close the door and in this case call the Police 101 number to report it.

NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS - A version of Rogue Traders who are often ex-convicts claiming to be part of a rehabilitation scheme. Callers offer householders the goods, at inflated prices, but often use the sale as a ruse for checking out a person's home and gullibility. They may engage the person in more conversation, to find out details about them. If they believe there may be an opportunity they note your address and sell to interested parties in prisons, pubs and among certain trades. Unfortunately the elderly are often targeted for these scams, and any suspicious activity should be reported to the police.

ACTION: As with any doorstep caller, never feel obligated to buy something. Close the door and if you feel threatened in any way call the Police.

#### OTHER DOORSTEP SCAMS -

**Fake charity collections -** A fraudster may pretend they're from a charity and ask you to donate money, clothes or goods. Always ask for the charity number of anyone knocking on your door.

Made-up consumer surveys - Some scammers ask you to complete a survey so they can get hold of your personal details or use it as a cover for you to buy something you don't need.

Hard luck stories - People may come to your door and ask you to help them out with cash, or ask to use your telephone and claim they're feeling unwell. The story is made up and intended to con you out of your money or gain access to your home. As with all these forms of scam, the intention is to defraud or steal.

#### Stay Alert, Be Aware, Stay Safe

Next month we will start looking at Internet and Electronic Scams



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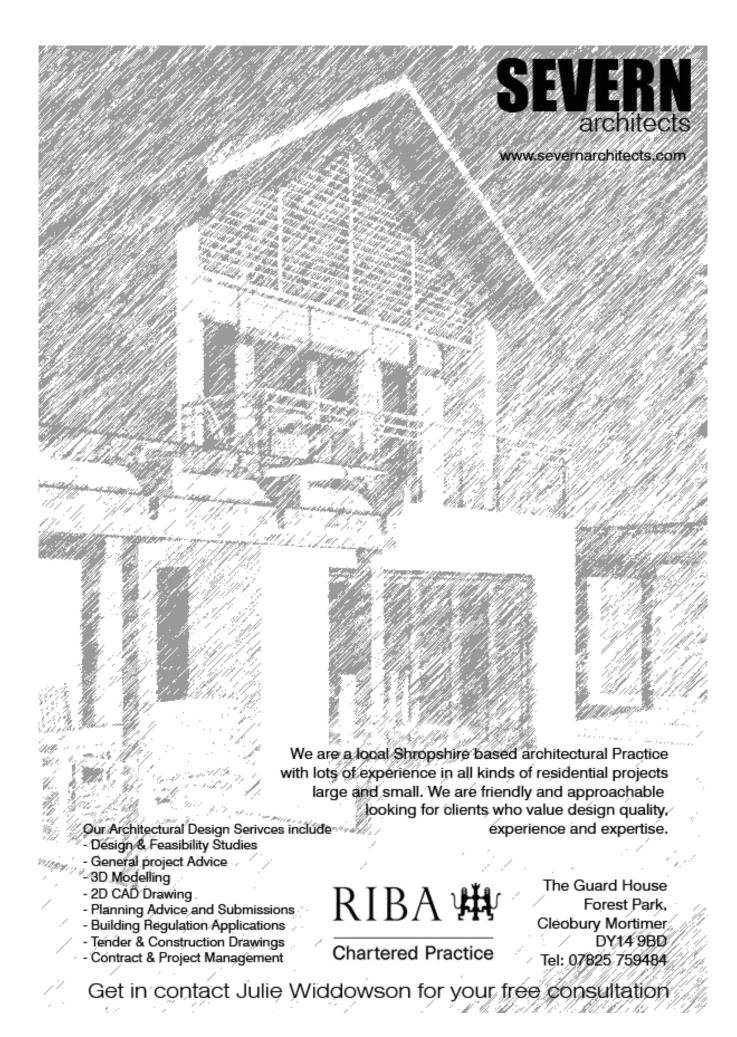
# **Booton Brothers**

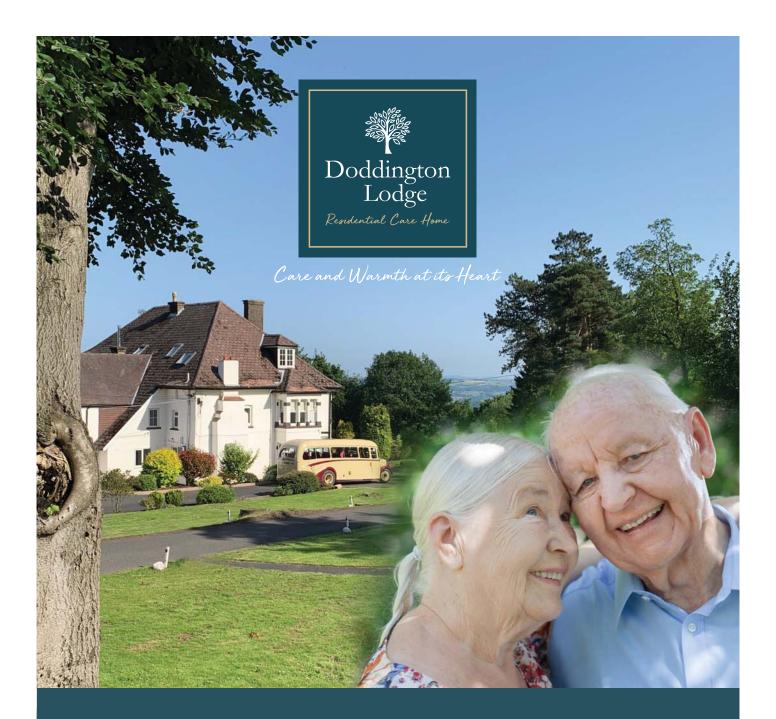


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CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 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.
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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.
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Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, Bagginswood; Clee Hill Stores; The Village Store, Cleobury North; Clows Top Stores; The Sun and Slipper, Mamble; Hopton Bank Service Station; Bennetts End Inn, Knowbury; Ludlow Library; Mawley Oak Garage; The Colliers Cafe & Shop, Rock; The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon; The Duck Inn, Chorley; The Live and Let Live, Neen Sollars; The Eagle and Serpent, Kinlet; Parker Motors, Ditton Priors.

**Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in:** Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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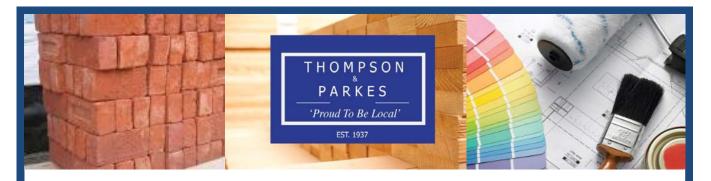
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