

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

JOB VACANCIES

Good news. We've had an inflow of job vacancies, with the Town Council taking two pages in their search for a Deputy Town Clerk and a new manager for the Market Hall. Turn to Pages 59 and 60 for the full details on those.

And on Page 12 Energy Zone are looking for a Solar PV Installer to join their busy crew since interest in their service has grown as gas and oil look less appealing. Energy Zone is a very interesting company with its growth from home-based local novelty to nationwide service provider and a sizeable unit on the Tenbury Road business estate. A one man band with knowledge and vision showing the way to grow.

CLARION COLOUR?

As the Clarion enters its 19th year of publication, it's appropriate that the editor sits back, looks at what's on offer from other local publications and asks himself: "What should we be doing better?" That's no

more than being business-like, noted landmark as you drive but any change in presentation should be carefully considered.

The obvious move would be the use of colour, which would certainly give our front cover a greater appeal. There's only so long that I can believe that the established cream and black is the best answer. Who am I kidding?

money and I should pay public tribute to our printer at this stage for his efforts to keep the monthly bills within the reach of my poor, weary cheque book.

So what do you, my loyal readers and almost all friends, want to see every month? Sharp colour print can be done, but it will mean I can't expand the number of pages to tell more stories. Local legends and history or colourful stories of today? You tell me what you want. Jim Reynolds

THE BELL AT PENSAX

There's a very serious campaign under way to raise funds and buy The Bell pub at Pensax, a

towards Worcester or are making your way home and stop to take lunch or dinner. Not to mention the opportunity to sip a pint if you're not the driver.

It's a measure of the place's popularity that it was voted 'West Midlands Pub of the Decade' by the Campaign for But colour printing does cost Real Ale a while back. Just consider how many real ale pubs there are in this neck of the country and you'll realise what an achievement that was.

> Far too many pubs have closed in recent years, as the habit of picking up a six-pack (four-pack for the more sober amongst us) to drink at home has developed. But as a place to meet mates for a laugh or chat, to discuss business in a relaxed atmosphere, or to just savour a drop of a good English beer, the natural venue is the pub.

> Read more details on this matter on Page 62 and think seriously about losing the place. And maybe join the drive.



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The Cleobury Clarion, April 2023 Volume Nineteen - Edition One



The Wren. Linda Iles is waxing lyrical about this secretive example of our wildlife on Page 23



It's a Wine Caddy from Norton Woodworking. See Page 27.



Daffodils brightening God's Acre at Bishop's Castle. Page 51.

And On Other Pages....

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THE CHILDE **ENDOWMENT TRUST**

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, and Oreton, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, Stottesdon. Kinlet and Neen Savage are kindly invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies and/or apprenticeships.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Local Shropshire Councillor Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov. uk or the Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the fund at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA, or Lacon Childe school. The Closing Date is 31st May.

THE BOWLING CLUB Only a few weeks until mid-April when the new season begins. Time to dust off and polish "the woods" clean the shoes and look out the rain gear!

The club has teams taking part again in the Ludlow and District league, Highley league, mid . Shropshire Seniors league and of course the popular Sunday morning league will continue.

hope to instigate Taster Sessions for anyone wishing to partake in a roll-up.There is also a suggestion of a Bowls Bash Mike George of Radio Hereford sometime in the future – watch out for dates and details on our website cleooburybowls.org.uk where you will also find details of the club history believed to date back to the 1900's.

and according to Bowls England to 1740. He attended Pershore anyone can realise the joy and College of Horticulture, and has benefit of playing the sport. been involved in several nursery

second highest number of clubs in the country.

Another reason to consider bowls is that clubs are sociable places full of people looking to have fun, improve fitness and general wellbeing. So, if you are interested, why not consider coming along to see what it's all about.

Contact club captain Nick Flatters for further information: the "flower of the month" 07952 296710 o r cleoburybowlsclub@gmail.com

For an overall view check web sites: Bowls.co.uk or Bowls Development Alliance or British Crown Green Bowls Association. Chris Smith

VICTORIA HAS LEFT

Our lovely Boss in Cleobury's Severn Hospice Shop, Victoria Holland, left us for pastures new on Saturday 11th March.

She has worked so hard at the shop and she has been an inspiration to us all. She will be greatly missed by staff and customers alike. Her replacement has not been appointed as yet.

Marilyn Wood

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Also planned this season we This month we will be welcoming Reg Moule to the Victory Hall. This is not Reg's first visit; some years ago he and and Worcester took part in a "Gardeners's Question Time" event here.

It is not surprising that Reg has a career in horticulture, he comes from a family who have a Playing bowls is very doable farming history stretching back the church upkeep and a round

After football, bowls has the and garden centre businesses. He also contributes to magazines and broadcasts on radio.

> There cannot be a gardening question which he cannot answer! Perhaps you can think of a thorny or knotty problem which will give Reg pause for thought.... In any case we are all sure to learn a lot from such an experienced horticulturist.

> As usual we will be running competition and swapping magazines. Gates will be open for parking at the rear of the Hall. New members are always welcome. We will be happy to tell you about our coming speakers and garden visits taking place in the summer.

See you on the 22nd. Judith Lawson

EASTER AT **MELVILLE CHAPEL**

Ruth Downes writes to tell us of the programme of events at Melville Chapel in Oreton over the Easter Holiday.

Easter Sunday, April 9th: Breakfast, including a Treasure Hunt, starting at 9.00

Evening Worship at 6.30

Wednesday, April 12th: Soup Lunch, 12.30 to 2.00

MUSIC TO SAVOUR

The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra February concert in the Parish Church was another triumph for the Friends of the church. It was a sell-out and conductor Michael Llovd was quite a star with his enthusiastic style.

A profit of £2048 went to help of warm applause went to John and Judy Sant for their sponsorship.



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Cleobury Clarion - April 2023

FROM THE BANDROOM

Good News! After securing a brilliant 3rd place at the Area Contest we are off to the National Finals at Cheltenham in September!

Some competing bands never get the chance to play at the National Finals and here we are – the town band going for our 5th time in 13 years.

If you are reading this on 1st April, the band will today be competing in the new ConsTest at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, we will play The Dark Side of the Moon by Paul Lovatt Cooper. I hope to report favourably in the May edition !

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 11th April 7.30pm in Parish Hall

Our next local event will be our Spring Concert in St Marys Church on 13^{th} May, a good variety of music to listen to whilst enjoying a glass of wine, £10 per ticket for adults and £5 for children, tickets available from Amanda on 01584 891199 or from The Wash House (from mid April)

We would very much like to boost our bass section, if you are a player looking to come out of retirement or looking to change band or currently having lessons, we invite you to come along to our friendly practices on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm Parish Hall *Katie Griffiths*

CLEOBURY W.I

Our Annual General Meeting on 14th March began with a 'bring and share' buffet and natter, before moving on to the business part of the evening.

We reflected on activities and events of the past twelve months and Fran gave a preview of what promises to be an interesting programme for the year ahead. The accounts passed a recent audit with flying colours and the official financial statement is available for members to see on request. In the Treasurer's report, Val focused especially on the levels of fundraising, charity donations and costs involved in the centenary year celebrations. Three long-standing committee members, Ann Walker, Moire Vaughan and Gabby Franklin who have stepped down were thanked for their years of service and each presented with a Centenary tea towel. Viv Hollis and Sue Kershaw were voted onto the existing committee, and we are fortunate that Judy is to continue as President. The formal part of the evening concluded with the singing of Jerusalem (not something we do every time!). Members then had the opportunity to play a selection of board games, which was great fun and there was a real buzz around the room!

We look forward to the new programme, beginning on 11th April with Fun with Fimo Clay; a demonstration by Clare McKnight and chance to try out the art (members only). On 14th April we have a combined walk/litter pick, meeting outside the Market Hall at 10am. The next coffee and natter will be on Thursday 27th April at 10.30am at the Larch Barn.

Subscriptions of £36 are now due and members are asked to

pay as soon as possible, preferably on or before the April meeting. As always, new members are welcome. Contact Judy 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com for information on how to join. *Val Sniadowski*

LOOKING AHEAD WITH THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Some very interesting events coming our way thanks to the Friends and their tireless fund raising efforts:

Friday, April 14th: Oompah Evening in co-operation with the Parish Hall.

Friday June 23rd: The Wine Walk. Always a sell-out, it's great fun and you discover more details of the town.

In September, precise date to be confirmed, Dr Mark Baldwin will be giving a talk. He's always very good value.

A CAMERA CLUB?

We've had them in town before, with varied results, but such a picturesque area as this will always make countryside photographers feel welcome. Claire Carter was the outstanding local talent, now living in Scotland, delighting those who see her latest offerings. We are not likely to find such another, but when keen types meet, good things do emerge.

If you have a camera or such a device as a decent phone, Paul Serrell-Cooke would be happy to talk to you on 07791 378 240. If there are enough to get the idea up and rolling, not a crowd, just enough to meet, talk, swap pics and stories, that would be a good start.

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CLEOBURY GARDENERS

In March, retired nurseryman Robin Pearce imparted some of his passion for Dahlias, showing many samples of the styles, shapes and colours of the glamorous blooms developed for today's gardens; colours ranged from Twynings "White Chocolate" to the almost black of "Star Obsidian" and all the rainbow shades in between; the blooms ranged in size from small Pompoms to dinner plates with heights ranging from 5ft+ for the back of the border, to the newer, shorter varieties for the front. If an impressive bank of colour is your plan, these are for vou.

Robin was introduced to Dahlias by a Great Uncle as a teenager; he very soon became National Champion for "Pompom", and for 35 years was Chairman of RHS Dahlia Trials.

Robin expounded his method of propagation. For garden dahlias he recommended lifting the tubers in our heavy clay soil. After cleaning, the trimmed tubers are potted into something like old compost/ sand/vermiculite to keep them dry for the cold season, checking periodically to spot any signs of rot or mildew and removing the infected parts. When the new shoots are about 3" tall, they are separated from the tuber and placed in compost/vermiculite in cell trays. When strong enough, they move to 3.5" pots and then 5" size, placed in a cold frame, and then into the warm ground. They like plenty of water in dry spells, and appreciate BloodFish&Bone for growth. When placed in their growing area, he suggests a surrounding support of three canes before the plants become too tall. Deadheading and removing side shoots will encourage large blooms.

Robin did mention "Irishman's Cuttings" which is the method I use, whereby when the new shoot is cut from the tuber, a small part if the tuber remains attached, and then treated as before. A sure way of achieving repetition of the original host plant in form and colour.

Cleobury Gardeners are planning to develop our own Dahlia stocks for sale at our Plant Sale on 13th May at the Market Hall, and hopefully you will see our work at the Cleobury Festival in June.

Dr Pam Davenport will tell us about "Chilli Zoo" on Monday May 8th at 7.30pm, at our usual meeting venue of St Elizabeth's Hall on Lower Street. Members please note, and visitors always welcome.

So, enjoy your garden. Spring really is coming. If you would like details of Robin's recommended stockists, or August and September Dahlia Display days, please contact <u>edandlinashman@gmail.c</u>om.

Linda Ashman, Sec, Cleobury Gardeners.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

On Saturday 22 April at 7.30, we will be showing Nomadland. Winner of Best Film, Best Actress and Best Director in 2021, this powerfully moving story of hope and resilience stars Frances McDormand as Fern who, following the economic collapse of a town in rural Nevada, packs her van and discovers a resilience and resourcefulness unlike any she's known before. Along the way, she forms unbreakable bonds with other nomads who become mentors in the vast landscape of the American West. Tickets £5. Bar, tea and cake available.





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CLEE HILL WILDLIFE

Have you heard your first Curlew of 2023 yet? If so, we'd like to know about it, please. We've already had several reports.

Our bird survey is now underway, but it's not too late to join in. It's very easy to do. You would make three visits to a survey square, each for about 3 hours, in early and late April, and mid-June. You mark where you see Curlew, Lapwing and other Target Species on a map, and send it in. The map will be sent to you, along with simple survey instructions. If you feel you would benefit from informal on-the-job training for the bird survey, please come on the Bird Walk.

The Bird Walk will be held on Clee Hill, starting at Cleeton St. Mary and lasting about three hours. but it is open to anyone else who wants to come. We expect to see and hear two pairs of Curlew, Red Kite, Kestrel, and several of the other target species. Arrangements have not been finalised at the time of writing, but it is likely to be during Easter weekend (7 - 10 April). You will be able to find details, including time and



nest-box scheme for Kestrels, can learn a lot in Clee Hill, pairs. If you see any of these species, please let us know.

If you see or hear a Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel or Red Kite, or want to join our survey, please contact Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk)

A SAD MATTER

The matter of a young man taking his life one night early in March should be recorded as a sad loss. We understand that the family do not want to reveal details and that should be respected; we can only offer sympathy to those who mourn.

THE READING GROUP

'Less', a satirical novel by American author Andrew Sean Greer. The main character Arthur Less, receives an invitation to the wedding of his former gay lover. He arranges a literary tour to

date, on our website, escape and his experiences are narrated. A variety of opinions In addition to Lapwing and were expressed by our group Curlew, we are also trying to ranging from boring to locate Kestrel and breeding intriguing. Amusing in places, Red Kite. We are starting a though not as funny as the descriptions on the cover. to help with a research project Passages regarding different to try and find out why their countries were of interest to a numbers are going down. We few, reminders of personal trips. Not sure how this book won the which is a County hotspot 2018 Pulitzer prize, was a with probably 8 - 9 breeding frequent comment. Not one of our favourite reads although it was agreed that we're reading books we wouldn't have picked off the shelf. The next read is Science Fiction, The Martian by Andy Weir, discussion at the library on April 17th.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754

CHAMPION ROB

Cleobury resident Rob Powell captains the Highley table tennis team in the Telford League and plays for Bewdley in the Kidderminster one. Their playing season has just ended and Rob was playing for Bewdley with the final standings in the Kidderminster League to be settled. It was a tense evening for Rob, in with a chance of being top individual if he could take victory in his last match. It didn't start well, losing the first two games, but grit and determination worked; he took the match 11-6 and the title.



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Cleobury Clarion - April 2023

REGAL APRIL EVENTS*

14th-16th April Puss in Boots 2 (PG) **Family Film Beatles Fest Tenbu** 1st, 3rd & 4th April (2 PM) before Abbey Road there was Teme Street. Epic Tales (U) **Family Film** A townwide festival celebrating 60 years since the Fab Four came to Tenbury! 7th, 10th & 11th April (2 PM) Gary Delaney: Gary in Punderland FEATURING: Live Comedy Roger McGough 8th April (8 pm - 9.50 pm) LAST TICKETS REMAINING FRIDAY 14TH APRIL, 8 PM **ROH Ballet: Cinderella** Live Broadcast The Mersey Beatles SATURDAY 15TH APRIL, 4 PM & 7.30PM 12th April (7.15 PM) **Beatles Fest Tenbury** Festival **Robin Nolan Presents:** 14th - 16th April The Music of George Harrison SUNDAY 16TH APRIL,6 PM NT Live: Good Live Broadcast 20th April (7 PM) TALKS BY: World Beatles authority 65 (12A) Film Mark Lewisohn FRIDAY 14TH APRIL, 6 PM 21st, 22nd & 24th April (7 PM) Author of new book 'before Abbey Road there was Teme Street...' ROH Opera: The Marriage of Figaro Live Broadcast Andrew Lowe SATURDAY 15TH APRIL, 11 AM 27th April (18.45 PM) Film screenings, theatre performances and more throughout the town... A Good Person (15) Film 28th April, 2nd & 4th May (7 PM) Plus more announcements to come... Whole Lotta Shakin' **Live Music** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: - The Shakin' Stevens Story The alverns <u>REGAL</u> District TENBURY BRIDGE 29th April (7.30 PM)

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Cleobury Clarion - April 2023

CLEOBURY FESTIVAL

The Town Council and the Festival organising committee are pleased to announce that we have a confirmed date for the 2023 festival. It will take place on Saturday 24th June between 12.00 and 7.00pm on the playing field next to the Sports and Social Club.

There will be a host of events running throughout the day with plenty of entertainment. The Birch Hill dog show is back by popular demand and we will also be treated to Twit Twoo Falconry. Many local businesses and organisations will be attending to showcase their produce and skills and we have lots of things going on for the kids, with stalls and games running through the afternoon.

This year, we are delighted to unveil our Performance Marquee, which will be full of local talent, much of it from the youth of Cleobury, including the ever-popular local dance troops and joined this year by Lacon Childe School and Bewdley School who will be putting on a range of entertainment including live music. We are looking forward to seeing you at this year's event. If you're a local business or organisation, it's not too late to reserve a stall space, there are no fees.

We are seeking volunteers to help act as marshals on the day. If you could give up 1 or 2 hours of your time to help the festival run smoothly, we would very much appreciate it. If you have any queries or want to get involved please contact me, Chris Smith, on 07977296335.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Another first for the Breakfast Club – an online presentation! On 14 March, 19 members and guests assembled to be addressed by Joanne Dudley via a video link from her office in Shrewsbury, where she works in Waste Minimisation & Recycling for Shropshire Council, partnered by Veolia.

Joanne gave us an illustrated overview of the domestic side of her work, which involves kerbside collections, the operation of five recycling centres, and an Energy Recovery Facility. This is located at Battlefield and is based on an incinerator, the heat from which is used to raise steam, driving turbines producing electricity. From the incinerator ash some metal is recovered for recycling, and the rest can be used for subbase layers under new roads.

Some of her most interesting points were the statistics. Shropshire covers 1,300 square miles, with a population of 320,000 in 135,000 households. Every year there are 10.5 million refuse collections, bringing in 165,000 tons of waste annually. About half a ton per person per year!

The presentation was followed by the Club's AGM, at which Angela nobly agreed to carry on as secretary, treasurer and chair.

Our next meeting will be held on April 11th and will be addressed by Craig Kershaw. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

Apologies that Pothole has not been seen in recent months. Not that they've all been seen to, as anyone driving towards Far Forest will confirm.

When the editor has got his camera problem sorted, we'll be out there snapping evidence of the sad state of our local highways.

Here in Cleobury the main road is just fine. Out on the country lanes, beware!



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MYSTERIOUS PERSON SPOTTED

Some time ago, there were several articles in the papers about Boris Johnson apparently searching for a new constituency as his current seat (Uxbridge) with a majority of around 7,000 in 2019, is seen as a possible target for Labour at the next General Election. He had been spotted in Oxfordshire and Derbyshire at different times although this motive was always denied. However, in mid March, the BBC reported that he had been reselected for his current seat and considered that this had put an end to speculation about his future intentions.

Or has it? Boris is currently being investigated by the House of Commons privileges committee regarding his part in the 'Partygate' affair and, if found guilty, could be suspended from the Commons. If any suspension were to exceed 10 days, his current constituents could force a by-election so you can see his dilemma. There have been several reports that a man closely resembling BoJo has been spotted at several places in our area and the attraction is clear. This is a lovely part of the country and, more importantly, Philip Dunne had a majority of some 24,000 in 2019 so you can't get a much safer buffer than that, even if there is a substantial swing to Labour next time. Should such a change come to pass, constituency life would never be dull and dinner parties very entertaining although hosts would be advised to keep a close eye on their wives and daughters.

Any further information or sightings should be reported to the 'Clarion' with photos if possible and, don't forget, you read it here first, on the day of publication.

Our Political Correspondent

DODDINGTON DAFFODILS EASTER FESTIVAL

Due to the generosity of "Rambling Charlotte" St John's Doddington is going to be filled with fragrant heritage daffodils over the Easter Weekend and you are invited to drop in or come to one of the events:

Saturday and Sunday, 1.00 to 5.00pm and Monday 10.00am to 5.00: Drop in to see and smell the blooms.

Sunday April 9th 11.00am: Celebration of Easter – Communion Service

Mon 10 April 2pm – 4pm: Cakes and a cuppa

How much do you know about daffodils? Charlotte, who is kindly donating the flowers has a field full and wishes she knew more of the names of these old and fragrant varieties - can you fill that gap? You might recognise them from your youth, or you might have some knowledge about them as a gardener, in which case we would very much like you to come and share what you know! If you know how to manage the land for keeping daffodils at their best year on year, Charlotte would love to hear from you. Not only that, but some locals

have been busy crocheting spring flowers; we'll have a new display on our path handrails. Meanwhile, we were delighted to welcome Alf Jenkins MBE twice recently. With 2 more events at the end of March, we have now completed our series that form part of the development project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We've been amazed at the level of interest from far and wide, and we plan to build on that in the future.

Celia Gibb

POPPY APPEAL FINAL TALLY

Far Forest and Rock Branch of the Royal British Legion were buoyed by the tremendous results achieved during the Poppy Appeal during Autumn of last year. In addition to their local activities, Branch members were involved in arranging collections in a number of areas including Strensham Motorway Services area on the M5. Organiser Jim Wood declared that the final tally for the Branch was £10,042.61. The total included over £300 from the Collection at the Remembrance Service that was led by the Branch Chaplain Rev Sallie Butcher.

Deputy Chairman Martin Fisher had taken up the role of A p p e a l O r g a n i s e r f o r Strensham Services and has confirmed that collections there totalled £18,306.79. Martin said "This particular effort involved a lot of hard work and dedication by a number of people and was a tremendous achievement."

The next Branch Meeting will be at the Rock Cross Inn at 7pm on Monday April 17th. *Nigel Caldicott*



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VANQUISHING VLADIMIR

The nasty little beggar first made his presence felt in the totally ordinary and innocent matter of having a pee. There was blood; not the slightly red colouring I'd had once before and on that occasion had produced no sign of an infection. This was serious enough to get me down to the Medical Centre that morning and a sample given in one of those little cardboard dishes that look like they might come from an unposh sushi bar.

Next step was to wait for a hospital appointment for a further test and examination. An endoscopy, whatever that might be. Not a pleasant experience that I will not detail again, but I did watch the screen with the very helpful and gentle nurses to see the tumour that was Vladimir revealed. I thought it looked rather like cauliflower, but was left in no doubt that it was less friendly.

Tina my lady love drove me quietly home, our mood quite subdued and thoughtful. End of joking? Maybe when you know that you have cancer. But she, bless the woman, hugged me and said "We'll get through it." That sounded much better than just giving in.

I had a letter advising I was booked in for an operation on February 27th. At a time when the NHS is the subject of so much hysteria and criticism, please let me point out that I was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour on December 29th and on February 27th it would be removed! If that doesn't measure up to what wealthy private patients could expect, so be it. But for an old crock dependent on a national freeat-point-of-delivery service I was more than impressed.

Tina made it clear she'd drive me to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch and bring me back. When you're looking to friends and family for support, that was great news.

We arrived in at 10.30am on the 27th and were pointed to Ward 17, where a very business-like staff nurse booked me in and showed me where I'd be sleeping. This was a ward of six beds and Robin in the one next to mine was in for a similar bladder intruder to be removed. He wasn't expecting to stay overnight, but had brought pyjamas and stuff as a precaution. That proved to be a good call, as we were both down for surgery that evening, as surgeon Mr Naidu explained when he made his round. "Who's going down first?" Robin wondered. "Don't know, but I didn't see any mention of a tandem on the schedule." We laughed together, a reflection of the atmosphere in the ward.

We were served the evening meal, details of which I can't remember, but it was much better than I recall suffering in a Northampton clinic years ago, when it was suggested that a rare (in cooking terms) egg was a new experience.

The matter of who went first was decided when Robin, looking like a dapper Roman in his surgery gown, was collected on a trolley and wheeled away. I was prepared with pipes attached, a catheter fitted in the obvious place and checks on blood pressure, pulse and Lord know what else being made at regular intervals. I lost count of the number of times I gave name, address and date of birth; I did wonder at one stage if they would be posting me home via the parcel service.

With more smiles and gentle conversation I was wheeled down to the action front line. More checks and small talk until my memory switched off. Right, Vlad you little horror, this is when you get yours.

I woke at about six, drowsy and rather sore, but feeling happy that the little beggar was no longer sitting down there feeding on me. The catheter was removed at seven, with mild discomfort. Breakfast followed at around eight, with a warm drink to encourage the system to work. We were told we'd need to provide three samples before being allowed home and that number of bottles was issued. No cheating with a quick dribble; proper pees were the order of the day.

At 9.40 Paul, a senior member of the surgical team, looked in to say the operation was successful. Any pain in that area and we should contact our GP or the hospital; we'd get a report in six to eight weeks. The welcome footfall of Tina was heard in the afternoon and once the three samples had been provided I was padded up and pointed towards the exit. I was glad to get out and on the way home, happy to know that of the two Vladimirs that had made life uncomfortable, one was now dealt with. NHS, I am once more in your debt.

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Cleobury Clarion - April 2023

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

Spring at last! As the earth tilts towards the Sun the daylight hours lengthen and temperatures rise. The full moon on 5th April is the Pink Moon. Sadly not named for its colour but after the pink creeping phlox native to parts of North America.

Eight people enjoyed the Country Walk in March. The undulating route through Neen Savage was based on CMFA Walk 21, Dinmore Dally. The view of Clee Hill was a reward on the long climb towards the Pioneer Centre. Sunday April 2nd is the next Country Walk and following tradition will be the Daffodil Walk. Starting at 10.00am outside St Mary's Church the walk will be along the Rea Valley taking about 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace. Let's hope for a fine day and the daffodils in bloom.

March brought heavy snow and regular rain showers. The resulting mud and puddles made the footpaths unsuitable for safe walking. So once again the hardy group who regularly join the twice monthly Walking for Health enjoyed walking closer to the centre of Cleobury. We are so lucky to have an interesting town. If you wish to join the walks this month meet at 10.00am outside the Market Hall on 12th and 24^{th.}

The March work party was divided in two groups with stiles and brambles on the The first group agenda. strengthened three stiles, one at Cleobury Meadows, the second Common Lane and the last one near Lea Farm. The second group were working on the Cleobury/Milson border clearing a lot of brambles and installing a dog The preparatory work gate. for the dog gate was done by one of the work party who is also a member of Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed. A great example of shared expertise and local facilities.

Last month the Social Walkers went to the Rifle Range nature reserve near Bewdley. The route took them past the wonderfully named Devil's Spadeful with lovely views of the Safari Park. There is no walk in April due to the Social Walk group trip to Isle of Wight.

The national parks of UK are an amenity enjoyed by hundreds of thousands each

year. The campaign for countryside access started in 1884 with the failed freedom to roam bill. Conflict arose between people and landowners notably on 24th April 1932 when an estimated 400 people defied the law to walk over the moorland to the plateau of Kinder Scout in Derbyshire. Several were imprisoned for their actions. It took over sixty years of public pressure and lobbying the government until finally on 17th April 1951 The Peak District National Park was established. CMFA activities are on our website www.cmfa.co.uk and also on Facebook.

Veronica Hargreaves

ROCK PATHFINDERS As ever, our neighbours have

plans for the month ahead:

Thursday, April 6th, at 10.00am, a walk starts from Rock Village Hall, Porchbrook Road, Rock. DY14 9SD.

Thursday, April 20th, again at 10.00am, their second walk starts from Astley Village Hall, Ridleys Cross, Astley, Stourport. DY13 0RE

Details and announcements: www.rockpathfinders.uk



Cleobury Clarion March 2023





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Cleobury Clarion April 2023



April in the Wyre Forest

This month the forest's birds will be getting into some serious reproduction. All felling operations and hedge trimming should finish by 15th March so that birds don't come to harm during the nesting season. Weather conditions haven't been very kind to them in the early spring so it's to be hoped that there'll be some warmth and gentle rain this month to encourage growth and food availability.

The Wren is a bird I have a great fondness for. More often than not I see at least one when I walk in the woods darting amongst the brambles, although they live happily in gardens, farmland and heaths as well. They are tiny and secretive and I was surprised when I found out that they are the UK's commonest breeding bird. They give themselves away by their surprisingly loud song (go on www.rspb.org.uk to hear it) and the distinctive cocked-up tail when you catch sight of it perching. Last month we watched a little group by the house gathering at dusk to roost in a bird box but by now they will be nest building in earnest.

Once he has established his territory (using that loud song) the male Wren attracts a mate by building several ball-like 'show nests' of twigs and moss, and when a female moves into one they will line the nest and mate. We have found quite a few show nests in our wood piles! I wish them every success – their numbers will have dropped during the cold weather, especially as they have to forage continually to find enough insects and spiders to energise their tiny little bodies.

Meanwhile we'll hope to see our summer visitors arriving during the month. Swallows, Cuckoos, Redstarts, Wood Warblers, Willow Warblers, Pied Flycatchers and Tree Pipits need good luck to survive the weather and other hazards of the journey from the south, and also need their arrival to coincide with an abundance of caterpillars and other food for their young. *Linda Iles*





Cleobury Clarion March 2023



Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

People go into politics because they want to make their communities better. I believe this is true of virtually everyone I have encountered while representing people in Shropshire in one form or another. MPs have more in common, in terms of their values and seeking to improve the lives of those they represent, than divide them.

There is widespread consensus that we all want to see our rivers and waterways in a healthy state, with clear water providing a healthy habitat and a safe environment for recreation.

This was especially so when I launched a Private Members Bill three years ago to highlight the parlous state of our rivers and the need to clean them up by cutting sewage and other pollutants. I was supported by politicians on all sides. I have been campaigning on the issue of sewage discharges ever since. I have made it my mission to continue to do so.

There has been an attempt by some political parties to weaponise this issue. Unbelievably in our social media age this has led to death threats to MPs! Politicians need to work together rather than making reckless claims.

I have consistently acted, and voted in Parliament, including against my party whip, on measures to improve our rivers. Earlier this year I voted for new and tougher interim targets for water quality to reduce phosphates and nitrates in waterways, which the Opposition voted against.

I led the Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into water quality in our rivers which reported a year ago. It recommended a host of measures, several of which were included in the Environment Act going through Parliament at the same time, including the requirement to increase monitoring. Last month Shrewsbury Town Council discussed what could be done to improve the condition of the River Severn. A start is being made in the catchment by Severn Trent Water's Get River Positive project. This aims to secure bathing water quality status for the River Teme upstream and downstream from South Shropshire, where £4.5m is being spent over the next two years to improve treatment and cut discharges. The first step has been to establish a baseline monitor at 19 points along the Teme to establish the condition of the river.

The BBC last month also highlighted the horrors of sewage discharges to a wider audience. Most of those Paul Whitehouse interviewed had given evidence to our Committee. The greater awareness of the problem has been enabled by the introduction of Event Duration Monitors, which this Government required water companies to install in recent years. These monitors have brought this previously hidden practice into the open since the first data on discharges was published three years ago.

Water companies have now been required to invest £56b in improving treatment over the next 25 years. I am delighted that one of the first places to benefit will be the River Teme here in South Shropshire.

With low rain fall in February and not much rain fall this March at the time of writing. I remain concerned at the low water level of rivers and reservoirs this summer if we experience high temperatures. While drier conditions may mean less sewage discharges due to less run off, I remain concerned if we have flash floods as heavy downpours in hot weather with lower water levels, we may have worse impact from discharges.

Philip Dunne

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WORKING WONDERS **IN WOOD**

Kevin and Julie Yardley have become a prominent feature at the Farmers' Market with their display of the Norton Woodworking wooden products and open, friendly approach to any question a visitor might ask.

They operate from Doddington, having bought part of the bird park older readers may remember just a few yards along from Harold's garage. It was no easy ride to get established, Kevin reckons they shifted 64 cubic metres of concrete. Stand in his workshop and he points to the fence and recalls brambles 12 feet high that had to be cleared. They would like to know more about the bird park; talk to them at the market.

They'd both worked in industry, Kevin heading the roofing team at Sandwell Council with a £4 million budget before moving to a German roofing company and then on to self employment. Julie's talents lie in design and admin; she has her own office and craft room, producing special sale lines as A good team.

here. "We can't say enough pushy selling: "No charge until about Cleobury people. I love the customer's happy," Julie 'em," Kevin explains. He really likes getting feedback from customers and learning just what Farmers' Market. "We tried lots they want, because as Julie puts of markets when we started and it: "We can do anything if it's made of wood."

offer, from beautifully finished items large or small. Kev's off to say how happy they are with a fit a complete office suite about purchase. One of their best now and he'll show you what contacts just three miles away looks like the trunk remains of down the road - you can see why an apple tree and what he they like it. produces to hand on to a local glass artist to complete a piece of family business and it shows in artwork to complement any house interior..

local supplier in Abberley, with and learning what they'd like the simple logic of keeping their before Julie draws it and Kevin suppliers local and quick to respond if they have an urgent or particular job. And the oils used to finish the job are pharmaceutical grade - no allergens.

(www.nortonwoodworking.co.u people clearly do have high <u>k</u>) is well worth a visit to show

well as watching the money side. how big a range they can offer and the quality of the work that They like living and trading goes into making them. And no explains. "We're here to stay."

They're great fans of our nothing comes close to Cleobury for organisation," says Kev. And That shows in the range they they're finding people coming back for more, or just to chat and

This is a very happy little the smiles the Yardleys wear. No pressure from targets to reach, They draw their timber from a more talking to the customers makes it.

> They've put down roots very firmly until the day they retire, when the plan is to build or maybe buy a place on the Pembrokeshire coast and enjoy Their website the fabulous scenery there. These standards in all they do.



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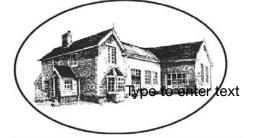
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Cleobury Clarion March 2023

FRIENDS OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Most of us that have had children in Cleobury in recent years will be familiar with Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Primary School, but for those not in the know, let's introduce them. They are a registered charity that support the Primary School with financial investment into extra learning resources, improving the facilities at the school and supporting the children by running events. They are the group that run the ever-popular Halloween Trail, which has proved such a large hit in recent years.

The charity has five trustees and there has recently been a changing of the guard. Christine Smith took over as Chair in Sept 2022 and is committed to continue the hard work put in by her predecessors. Alongside Chris, are Vanessa Highfield (Treasurer), Emily Hawkes (Co-Secretary), SJ Rowlands (Co-Secretary) and Tracey Smith. Together they are proving a dynamic team and have picked up the baton of organising the Halloween Trail and Christmas Fair during the Autumn Term, and have brought back the School Disco at Easter. All were extremely successful events and have provided much needed books for both key stage 1 and key stage 2 libraries. They are also funding a bike shelter, play equipment for the older pupils for a big trip. and flower and vegetable seeds for the gardening club and there which did well. The biggest event are plans afoot to tick off more items from the school's wish list.

It's not all about raising money, cards and flowers were for sale as it's also about doing things for well as the afternoon teas. the children and ensuring that these events are at a price point helped, in particular Kinlet that everyone can afford. important that we support our Padstow Tea Company, Gayle community at the school – and by Yarranton, Emma Haywood, that I mean every child, parent, Sarah Pearson, Mari Williams, guardian and staff member." says Tracy Platt and my mum and Chris. affordable events that everyone enjoys and wants to be part of and there are so many fabulous Village Hall is a Bingo Night on volunteers that help us do this. We are extremely lucky that we have such a supportive group at please call 01299 841032/0771 the school and we'll do everything we can to perpetuate and welcome new members in. The trustees are a volunteer group and so every penny we raise goes towards the children." We look forward to what else "Friends" has in store for Cleobury this year and kids young and old will enjoy them. Please look out for them at the Cleobury Festival on June 24th.

If you have any queries about the Friends or their events, please contact Chris on 07977 296 335. If you would like to make a donation, please do so using the following details:

Lloyds Bank, Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Primary School, 00122669 30-12-20

paypal.me/friendsofcmps

ADAM'S

FUNDRAISING

Great character building from Adam as he works to raise funds

I had two sweet sales at school was the afternoon tea for Mother's Day. With 49 bookings it was a very busy event. Crafts,

Thanks to everyone that "It's Village Hall Committee, The "We want to run fun, dad. I raised £647 so thank you everyone.

> Next event to be held at the April 28th at 7:30

> For details on any of my events 5030 510

Adam Ponsford

FAREWELL KIMBERLY

You'll gather from the advert for a new Market Hall manager on Page 60 that Kimberly Grenfell has moved on to pastures new. I was sorry to see her go, because she did seem to have a good, positive approach to the job and the place looked much brighter and more welcoming. A good starting point for whoever succeeds her.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

The editor is aware of and apologises for the number of errors on the Contacts page. He is making efforts to move into the 21st century and with that should come the ability to update such matters.

It's evident that he is trying hard, as he actually cleaned his shoes last week; no wonder they threw him out of the army.

SILLY BIT

"Old Tom's worried about his missus."

"Why's that? What's up?" "She's got the car."





22 April 7.30pm - Nomadland Following the economic collapse of a town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and explores an unconventional life in the vast landscape of the American West. Along the way, she forms unbreakable bonds with other nomads in this powerfully moving story of hope and resilience

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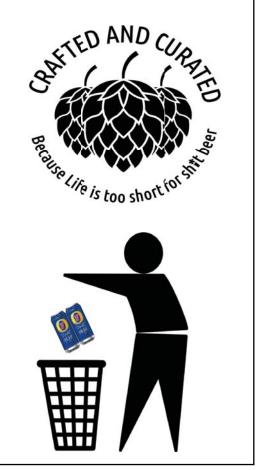
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Cleobury Clarion March 2023



Join us for a warm cup of cheer and plenty of laughs at our monthly Doddington Lodge Coffee Mornings!

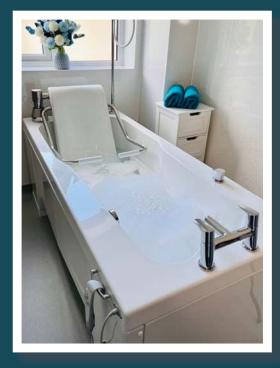
Every 2nd Friday of the month, come together with residents, family & friends over tea or coffee. Enjoy freshly baked cake as well as the Doddington Lodge monthly raffle.

For only £2.50 per person – including your beverage and slice of cake – join us for our first get-together on Friday, April 14th, 2023, from 10 am until midday.

A warm welcome awaits on these frosty mornings - We look forward to seeing you!

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Doddington Lodge is a place where friendships are made and special moments are shared. We organise many fun activities that everyone can get involved with, whether that's a sing along, arts and crafts, collecting fresh veg from the allotment or just simply helping each other with a crossword in our daily newspaper. Each day is different, we certainly have many happy moments...

Our home is a loving community and family, where you can consider Doddington Lodge a home away from home. We will provide you with all the key information, guiding you through every step of the process, whether you are staying with us for a short or long stay.

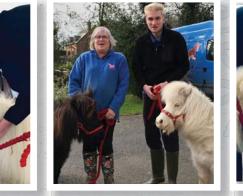








Everyone had a truly a magical day when Sam and Todd from Lollipop Pony Parties came to visit us – bringing two of the cutest ponies you ever did see! Moomin and Lollipop were showered in love, receiving plenty of strokes and cuddles. Their visits sure are something special!





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Cleobury Clarion April 2023

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Sorry to hear that Jenny of Shoe Box fame is pottering off to Hampshire. She will be missed.So I will be doing the Shoe Boxes for the foreseeable future. There's no way I can match Jenny, but I will try. My contact number: 07976 307 889. KEITH BALMER

MORE ABOUT SHOE BOXES For Boys and Girls:

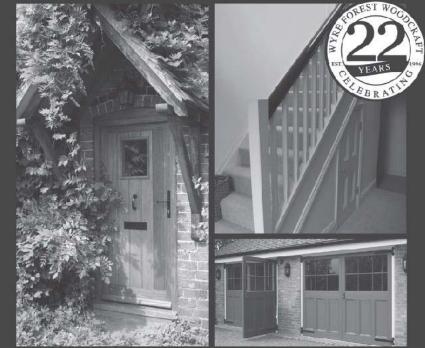
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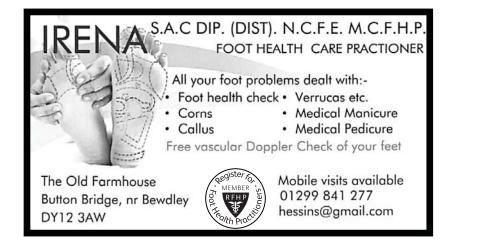
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Cleobury Clarion March 2023



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St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 2nd April – 9.30am Eucharist Sunday 9th April - 9.30am Easter Day Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 2nd April– 11.00am Eucharist Sunday 9th April – 11.00am Easter Day Eucharist

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 2nd April – 11.am Village Worship Sunday 9th April – 11.am Easter Day Service Sunday– 16th April 11.am Village Worship Sunday 23rd April –11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 9th April – 10.00am Easter Day Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 2nd April – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP Sunday 9th April – 10.am Easter Day Eucharist BCP

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 9th April – 11.15am Easter Day Eucharist BCP Sunday 23rd April – 6.pm Evening Prayer BCP

The Church Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am-3.00pm Contact details: Grace Johnson cleoburychurch@hotmail.com Tel: 01299 272916

Clarion Clippings - The Local News



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Simon Morton - In The Garden

I'm a man of a certain age. This means I was brought up on a diet of slightly dodgy foodstuffs (what *did* they put in Crispy Pancakes to make them so molten hot?), questionable parenting techniques (chain-smoking on long car journeys with small children in the back - who knew this was a bad idea?) and listening to comedy records.

The youth of today may struggle with the concept, but the likes of Derek and Clive (filthy and funny), Richard Pryor (filthy, funny and thought-provoking) and Jasper Carrott (just plain funny) had me in stitches through my formative years. I wore those records out, soaking in every word until I could recite them, line by line. What a wonderful way to while away O-level revision time (it explains a lot).

The reason I mention this is, well, *I've got this mole...* (Jasper Carrott, c. 1975). His whole sketch, from the careful cultivation of his prize lawn to the ever more excessive ways to despatch the mole ("Blow its bloody head off!"), are starting to play out in my own life. You see, like most of Shropshire, I can't move for tidy little mounds of beautifully tilled soil dotted across my garden.

It's a problem that's plagued gardeners for years, but 2023 seems to be a particularly bumper year for the little blighters. One theory points to the reduction of agricultural chemical spraying (crazy costs will do that), meaning the soil is now teaming with juicy worms, which happen to be the fuel of choice for a busy mole. But worry not, it's not all work and no play for Mr Mole - his high worm diet also gives him the energy to romance Mrs Mole, leading to a lot of Little Moles.

On average, Mrs Mole will produce four pups a year, all of which will go on to reproduce the following year, and so on. In short, they are bonking their way to build an army of gardendestroying super vermin.

It's our gardens that take the brunt of it, of course. Outside of eating worms and getting jiggy with each other, moles love nothing more than to tunnel. Oh, the fun they have as they tear through the roots of your plants and nibble away at your underground veg. Overground, your lawn or veg patch might look a bit unsightly, but nothing that a rake and breathing deeply while counting to ten won't fix, but underground, it's a real mess. Air pockets, disturbed soil, and nibbled roots can cause your much-loved plants to struggle or give up the ghost completely.

Outside of trapping the odd culprit, there doesn't seem to be much we can do about it. So, dear reader, I recommend taking a more zen approach to the whole infuriating mess - classic literature. Instead of shaking your fist at the moon, why not wallow in Mole's joy at the onset of Spring in 'The Wind In The Willows'?

'Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said "Bother" and "O blow!" and also "Hang spring-cleaning!" and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. Something up above was calling him imperiously.... he scraped and scratched and scrabbled and scrooged and then he scrooged again and scrabbled and scratched and scraped, working busily with his little paws and muttering to himself, "Up we go! Up we go!" till at last, pop! his snout came out into the sunlight, and he found himself rolling in the warm grass of a great meadow.'

And for the briefest of moments, those mountain ranges of molehills scattered across your lawn don't seem too much of a price to pay, do they?

Simon Morton



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PLASTERING, TILING, COVING AND GLAZING CLEOBURY MORTIMER TEL: 01299 272868 MOBILE: 07815 483 029 I overheard a conversation the other day in which someone said that they had to get home as they needed to walk their four Romanian rescue dogs. FOUR? - animal shelters in the UK are currently besieged by dog owners trying to ditch their unwise lockdown purchases and we are bringing in even more from abroad?. I could see the need for this if shelters were closing down due to the lack of animals requiring rehousing. Couple this with the large increase in dog attacks (up from around 15,000 to 22,000 last year) and deaths caused by out of control animals and I would have thought that the last thing we need is to import other people's problems.

Fed up with waiting for call centres to answer? This was neatly encapsulated by Kit Yates: 'I'm sorry, but you can't *always* be experiencing a higher volume of calls than average. That's not how averages work'.

Having trouble getting fruit and veg at present? The shortage has been blamed on bad weather affecting growers in southern Europe and north Africa but this is not the whole picture. The problem has also been caused by UK supermarkets refusing to pay realistic prices for produce, which works OK when there is a surplus and sellers have no choice. However, when there is a shortage of supplies, these will go to the customers paying the best price which is why shelves in Europe are full and ours are not...

So, another hiccup in the omnishambles that is HS2. Already effectively reduced to HS1.25 by the cancellation of the eastern arm to Leeds and the link to the west coast main line, we are now told that the whole northern section will be delayed due to inflation increasing costs. Now to be called HS 0.9?.Not sure how this would work anyway as surely delay will result in an even higher cost due to further inflation... It is also proposed to delay the completion of the line right into Euston so initially, it will only go as far as Old Oak Common, several miles out. This will mean doing those miles on an Elizabeth Line train and then switching to the high speed line. The original boast was that the London to Birmingham journey time would be cut by up to 30 minutes so that saving will have gone out of the window. Scrap it now before more billions are wasted.

I see that the government is now proposing to house asylum seekers in accommodation on disused RAF bases. Given that they can't even provide decent housing for our existing Armed Forces members, how is that going to pan out?

Are you going cashless? If not, tough, as with the departure of Lloyds Bank (Motto: 'By your side') to which I can only say '******!' we are short of cash outlets. There is the Post Office, which may or may not be open on any day (or week ...) and is not resourced to cope with the current level of demand and the Co Op machine which has been the subject of moaning about the number of times it is empty. In their defence, this was only ever designed for their customers and was never intended to serve the whole community on its own. It was originally claimed that the Post Office network would fill the gap but they seem to be shutting even more quickly than the banks as Far Forest, Clee Hill and possibly Clows Top have gone (although there is apparently a cash machine at the old Far Forest site).

It's that time of year when Council Tax bills drop on to the mat. Having looked at mine, I notice that virtually every specific precept has increased: Police up 5.9% (to provide more visible policing)...., Fire 4.6%, Shropshire Council 3% etc. The only area that has stayed the same is our Town Council charge so they, at least, are being careful with our money. It is still shown as a Parish Council so it would appear that details of the change take time to travel as far as Shrewsbury. *Ariadne J Grumpy*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FUNDING FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT Wade Muggleton forwarded this press release as it offers a funding opportunity for

local landowners:

Further funding has been received for a project to try and reduce flooding by using natural flood management techniques. The Dowles Brook, which runs from Cleobury down to Bewdley, has long been subject to flash floods following heavy rainfall.

The project has been worked on for the last three years on a pilot basis, and funding has been now been secured for it to continue for another five years.

Worcestershire County Council have led the project in partnership with the Environment Agency.

The concept is to reduce the flood peak on the Dowles so that it does not coincide with the peak on the River Severn at Bewdley, so aiming to reduce further flood risk as fast moving flood waters cause immense damage, eroding soils, damaging land and property.

Natural flood management techniques help to ensure water moves more slowly through the landscape which can be done by a wide range of measures including ponds, swales, leaky dams, tree and hedge planting and other attenuation measures.

Councillor Richard Morris, Cabinet Member for the Environment a t Worcestershire County Council said. "Natural Flood Management is an area where we have really made significant progress in recent years and this funding allocation is great news for the county. It has many long term benefits other than helping to manage local flood risks, it has benefits for our local communities too, including the local wildlife. Flooding is an area we have had to focus on significantly

in recent years, and I'd like to thank the Environment Agency for their support on this and other projects in this area."

Lucy Wood, Catchment Coordinator at the Environment Agency, said: "The Environment Agency is pleased that the council has secured funding to continue to deliver NFM across the county. This is an important tool in reducing flood risk to many communities. It also has benefits for water quality, drought resilience and wildlife."

The project can fund capital works at 100% for appropriate projects in the Dowles catchment on both the Worcestershire and Shropshire sides of the border.

For more information see <u>h t t p s : / /</u> <u>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/</u> <u>i n f o / 2 0 6 8 5 /</u> <u>natural_flood_management</u>

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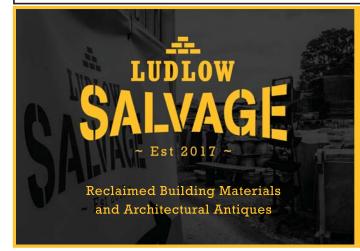
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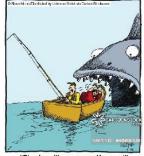
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Opening Times 9am to 4.30pm Mon to Friday. Saturday 9am to 12 Visit our web site www.cleoburyfreezercentre.co.uk



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."



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE



Daffodils at Bishop's Castle

I'll start with all the church stuff - Palm Sunday, the one before Easter Sunday sees processions in our small towns as Christians from different churches come together to wave their palm leaves just like the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem just a week before he was sentenced to death. Holy Week brings us Maundy Thursday, when in many churches, the vicar will have rounded up 12 'willing' volunteers to have their feet washed, emulating the same act Jesus performed at the By Easter Sunday, some hardy Last Supper. church members will be climbing a local hill, carrying, in turns, their wooden cross, then returning to the village church for a service of joy and chocolate!

Some of us will be expecting visitors for the long weekend. Sorting out bedrooms, cleaning spare rooms, preparing for grandchildren, student offspring, in-laws or parents; you could be the ones making the journey! April signals Spring and

so the days are longer, weather is kinder (hopefully) and we all become a bit more sociable. The first event since Christmas is on the village calendar and you could be baking in readiness for the get- together.

As you step outside the door, lulled by the weak April sunshine, the noise will hit you! The birds have found their best voices to attract a mate, keep her happy and sound the alarm should anyone get close to the nest if the hen is sitting on eggs. New birds are arriving from their warm winter sojourn, but are back for breeding. Have you spotted the swallows? Meanwhile the fieldfares are gathering for their trek north, to bring up their chicks in colder climes - the north of Scotland and Shetland for example. The rooks are well established by now and busy feeding young as noisily as they can, protected by their communal rookeries at the top of tall trees, a colony of these big black birds.

Primroses are painting the ground yellow in the local churchyard where they have replaced the snowdrops but are friendly with the daffodils. In woodland, bluebells are opening up the annual debate as to whether they are actually purple or an unusual shade of blue. Just remember not to pick them as they die almost instantly - enjoy them where they are. You may spot a shuffling hedgehog as they wake up from their dozy winter. If you live in a rural area, the cat will be bringing dead mice and the occasional shrew to the doorstep again as these small mammals venture out more obviously! But their offspring will be many more than the cat can catch. New life is here and Spring has Sprung

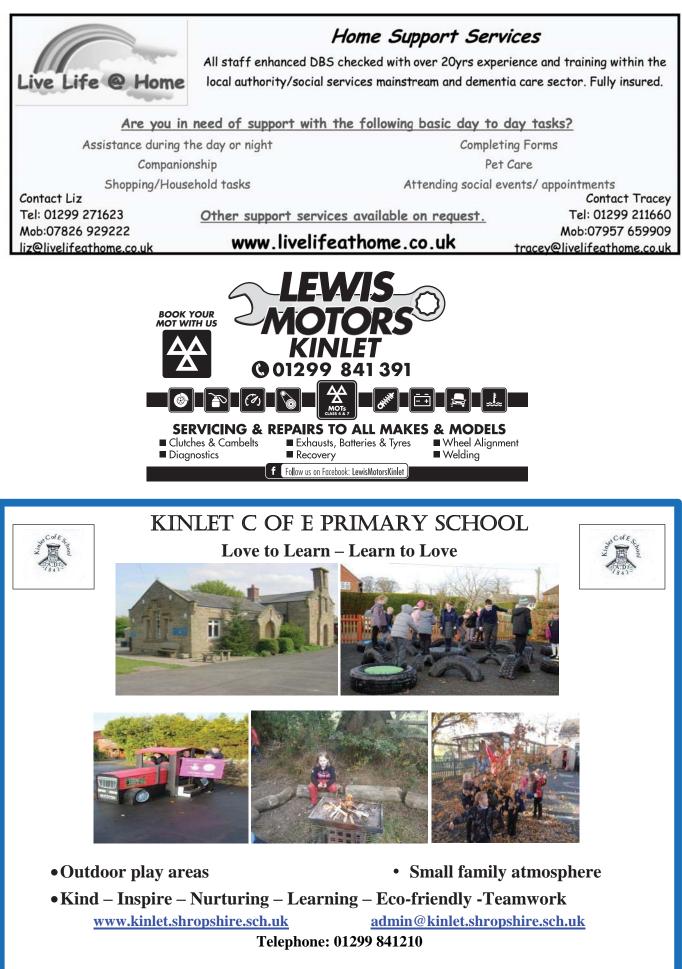
Anni Holden Calver

Trustee of Caring for God's Acre and a member of the Churchyard Task Team

Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group

Visiting the Churchyard Task Team April 11th Bishops Castle, 13th Buildwas, 18th Munslow, 25th Caynham, 26th Bromfield May 2nd Clungunford

Clarion Clippings - The Local News



April 1st, traditionally known in England and elsewhere as April Fool's Day. A time when some tabloid newspapers enjoy giving their readers a light hearted chance to identify a totally false story. In our eyes these are innocent jests and perhaps even your Editor of this Month's Clarion has popped something in to tease and make you smile. But the words of the 1971 song by the group The Who, "Won't get fooled again" resound in this writer's head as I ponder on to what extent the Scammers out there will capitalise on the occasion. There are opportunities that I can envisage, given the April Fools date and the fact that the 5th of April is the end of the financial year for many businesses and ourselves regarding income tax. The start of the New Tax year always is preceded by a letter from the Inland Revenue advising us what our new Tax Code is for the following year. This is for information only and does not ask for any personal details or request that you make any payments. However, this is always sent by mail and scammers do not (usually) use the mail system to initiate any scams.

But they are expert at using electronic means to create and send very authentic looking emails or messages that the unsuspecting person could be taken in by. Talking to my son (who is an IT specialist) a few days ago, he described an email he received that looked very authentic in presentation. It was allegedly from HM Revenue & Customs (the Tax Man) and had all the right logos that the Government uses and the layout was indistinguishable from a real Government document. It was requesting that the recipient click on a specific link to follow instructions. But there were some key differences that his trained eye spotted and you can as well, if you receive any 'official' looking document in your mail. Things to look for, before you click on any request, are these.

First of all, check the sender of the email. Do this by clicking on the name of the sender to expand it. 99 times out of 100 it will probably look nothing like what an official mail sender's address would be.

For example, the email may look like it's from 'accounts@hmrc.gov.uk' but if you click and expand it out might see something totally different such as easygoing@dumbmail.com

I have written before about the format of official email addresses and the above example does not fit the valid criteria. The simple actions you should take if in any doubt about an email that you are not expecting is to check the validity of the sender in the first instance, then contact the organisation the email is supposedly from using a phone number that you know from other official documents you might have to check if what you have been sent is genuine. Never respond to any request that suggests it's so urgent you have to click on a link immediately. Genuine organisations whether Government, Finance or Commercial will never put that pressure on you.

Finally, if you are directed to a web page that looks genuine, check at the bottom of the page. You will usually find the small print (usually underlined) to clicking on for Help, Contact Details, Accessibility statement or other things. Clicking on these in almost every case takes you nowhere. The very sophisticated and carefully built scam web sites may add a page to these links but most scammers don't bother. The final thing to look out for is the use of English. Genuine organisations do not release documents with spelling, grammatical errors or American English words like Color for Colour or Attorney for Lawyer. To the reader it might look innocent, but every little clue helps to identify the genuine from the false.

In the examples I have used today I have focused on Government and Finance, but the same applies to any genuine business operating over the internet. Companies are hit every day with some scammer trying to impersonate them. It's a sad fact of life that the original fun of one day at the beginning of April, has transcended into something evil 365 days of the year. Take heed from The Who: Won't get fooled again.

Stay Safe and have a happy Easter.





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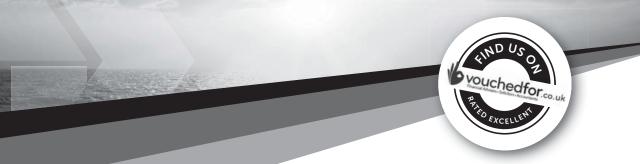
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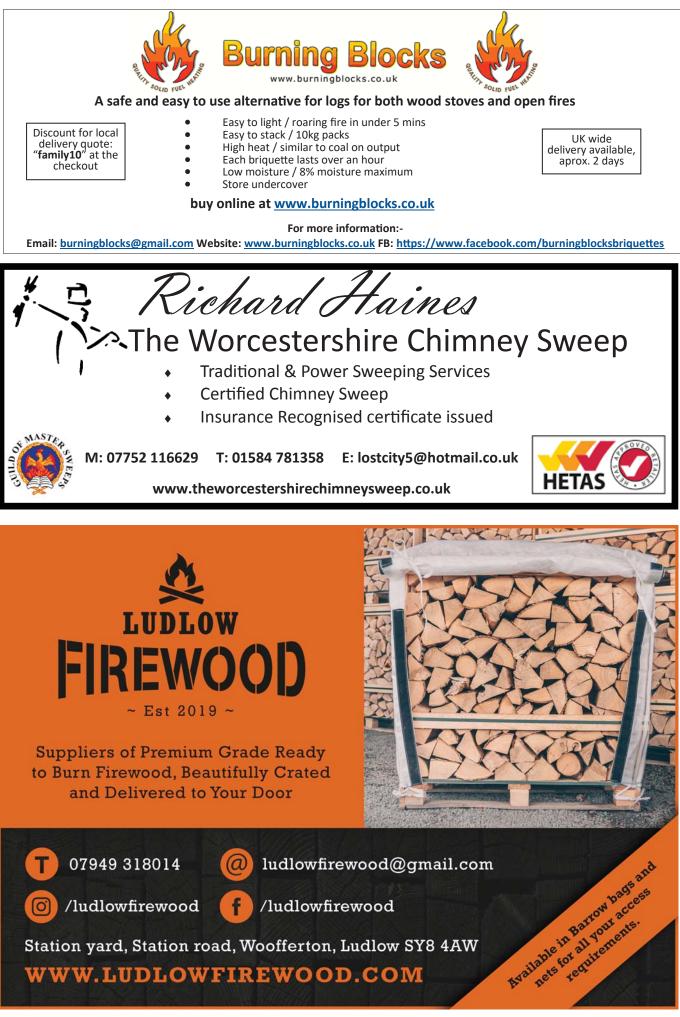
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About us

EnergyZone is one of the largest renewable energy companies in the Midlands, having provided domestic and commercial sustainable energy solutions for over 20 years.

Based next to Hobsons Brewery in Cleobury Mortimer, we are your local experts in renewable and low carbon energy.

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JOB VACANCY

Job title: Deputy Town Clerk

Organisation: Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

Salary: NJC Scale Point 18-23 - £27,344-£30,151 (pro-rata)

Closing date: Monday 3rd April 2023 at 4pm

SUMMARY

Cleobury Mortimer is a medieval market town on the Shropshire/Worcestershire border with a population of around 3,300. It is well-known for its community spirit and the politically independent Town Councillors who serve it. The Town Council has been awarded Quality Gold status under the Local Council Award Scheme. The Town Council is responsible for a number of community assets including the Playing Field, QEII Park, Love Lane Play Area and Cleobury Cemetery.

We have recently appointed a Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and we are now looking for a Deputy Town Clerk who will be available to start as soon as possible. The Deputy Town Clerk will work closely with the Town Clerk and will be under a statutory duty to carry out all the functions of a local authority officer. Working with the Town Clerk your duties will include general correspondence, maintaining the Town Council accounts and records, assisting with projects, putting together reports for Council, managing staff and processing payroll, policy monitoring, supporting Town Council events, attending Council and Committee meetings. The Deputy Town Clerk will also deputise for the Town Clerk when required. The successful candidate will also be required to work with the Town Clerk to ensure we achieve re-accreditation for Quality Gold status under the Local Council Award Scheme in early 2024.

The position is part-time (12 hours per week), with the need to attend evening meetings and occasional weekend events as required and will be subject to a 6-month probationary period.

It is essential that the successful candidate has business management experience including financial skills, staff management, project work and knowledge of working within a local government environment. The successful candidate will have the ability to relate to, and communicate with staff, councillors, members of the public and external agencies, along with the ability to demonstrate creative thinking and good problem-solving skills when faced with challenging situations.

In addition to the above salary, the successful applicant will also benefit from a contributory pension scheme and 28 days (pro-rata) holiday per year.

Interviews will take place in Cleobury Mortimer week commencing 3rd April 2023.

A full job description is available on the Town Council website www.cleobury.org.uk.

Please email your CV and a covering letter to council@cleobury.org.uk no later than 4pm on Monday 3rd April 2023.

Please note we also have a vacancy for a Market Hall Manager. Whilst both roles are independent of each other we are happy for applicants to apply for both roles due to the working relationship between both organisations.



JOB ADVERT DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

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JOB VACANCY

Job title: Market Hall Manager

Organisation: Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

Salary: £27,344-£30,151 (pro-rata)

Closing date: Monday 3rd April 2023 at 4pm

SUMMARY

Cleobury Mortimer Market Hall is a Grade II listed building dating from 1842 which is managed by the Town Council as Trustee of the charity – Cleobury Mortimer Market Hall Trust. We have a vacancy for Manager of the Market Hall reporting to the Town Council as Trustee.

Your duties will include:

- Receiving and managing bookings for the Market Hall including casual hire, regular users and office tenants; raise invoices, collect payments, banking, managing the accounts and preparing them for audit.
- Ensuring all payments for staff, services and supplies are made promptly.
- Effective marketing to maintain and increase bookings; maintain a good working relationship with all tenants and hirers.
- Acting as Line Manager to the Janitor and ensure housekeeping and building maintenance is kept to a high standard, risk assessments are maintained and service contracts are carried out effectively.
- Compliance with policies, licencing and legal requirements including Charity Commission reporting, audit and HMRC requirements.
- Arranging Trustee meetings on a quarterly basis, providing Agendas and financial reports, producing Minutes and actioning resolutions made at Trustee meetings.

The position is part-time (12 hours per week), being flexible with the need to attend the Hall some evenings and weekends for bookings as required and will be subject to a 6-month probationary period.

It is essential that the successful candidate has business management experience including financial skills, staff management, project work and knowledge of working within a charitable trust organisation. The successful candidate will have the ability to relate to, and communicate with staff, Trust members, members of the public and external agencies, along with the ability to demonstrate creative thinking and good problem-solving skills when faced with challenging situations.

In addition to the above salary, the successful applicant will also benefit from a contributory pension scheme and 28 days (pro-rata) holiday per year.

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Please note we also have a vacancy for a Deputy Clerk for the Town Council. Whilst both roles are independent of each other we are happy for applicants to apply for both roles due to the working relationship between both organisations.



JOB ADVERT MARKET HALL MANAGER

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Cleobury Clarion February 2023

THE CLARION SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL

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et Hall.

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

SAVING THE BELL AT PENSAX



These people are serious. It's their lovely, friendly local that's at risk and they don't want to lose it.

Residents of Pensax and the surrounding area have formed a working group to save their local pub The Bell from permanent closure. The traditional country inn closed its doors in October 2022 having served the local community for over 180 years. Pensax has lost its primary school and village hall in recent years, leaving the pub as the only community venue.

Having achieved Asset of Community Value status for the pub in December 2022 the group now plans to sell shares and purchase The Bell through a Community Benefit Society. Anyone a g e d 16 or over can g o t o www.savethebellatpensax.co.uk and pledge their intention to invest between £250 and £25,000.

The Bell is well known for its excellent selection of real ales, warm welcome and beer garden with fantastic views. It has traditionally held a hugely popular summer beer festival and was once voted "West Midlands Pub of the Decade" by CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale).

A public meeting held on March 1st in Abberley Village Hall was standing room only with over 150 local residents present to hear about the proposed community purchase. Also present were David Chambers from Worcestershire County Council, District Councillors Douglas Godwin and Paul Cumming and several members of Pensax Parish Council including Chair, Stu Meese.

Toby Wise, Chair of the working group said: "We were overwhelmed by the support from everyone. We were even receiving pledges to our website before the meeting ended. This is our one chance to buy The Bell and run it for the community. Our thanks to Mark Haslam from The Brewers Arms community pub in West Malvern, and to Nick Comley from Community First in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, for their ongoing support and advice".

Shares will be £250 and each individual can Pledge to buy a minimum of one share (£250) up to a maximum of 100 shares (£25,000).

To find out more, make a Pledge or register for future progress updates, please visit <u>www.savethebellatpensax.co.uk</u> Let's keep the village of Pensax on the map! *Lisa Bailey*

OUR FARMERS' MARKET IS GROWING

It's interesting to visit the market every month and get to know the people who travel some distance to trade; we must be doing something right. In fact, it's Clare Todd who's doing it, with a great crew in support. I can't remember the name of the guy who travels from Lichfield to offer some of the best ham I've ever tasted. There's a queue at his stall every time and if you don't get there early there's a good chance he'll have sold out.

I think the fox-shaped cake of soap from the Soaperstition stall was hand made by Tegan in the Oak Barn somewhere in North Worcestershire, but even with a magnifying glass I struggle to read the box (cardboard, of course!) label. Nice texture feeling in the shower and I wish my sense of smell was good enough to tell you how sweet the Lavender and Rose Geranium oils are, but the feeling is good. One of those treats to consider as an alternative to the BeeSoap I normally choose.

Expensive? It's a special treat, for goodness sake, like the latest offering from Sweet Lady Jayne that I shouldn't be eating but just couldn't resist.

That's the winning essence of the market. They don't compete with supermarkets, they aim to give a special, spoil-yourself feeling. I love it. JR

Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	www.cleoburydental.co.uk
CLEOBURY CARERS	Michelle	01743 341995	carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Jones	07966 080111	Tuesday and Thursday at the Medical Centre
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	
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	Kim	01299 272732	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE MEN'S SHED	Pete Blackburn	07776 243 584	petblack@me.com
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	Angela Flowers	01299 270318	Sunday Mass at 9.00am
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		01584 874922	
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Londis Store, Cleoburrs, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, and The Library.

Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood; Clee Hill Stores; Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble; Hopton Bank Service Station; ; Ludlow Library; Mahorall Cider Farm;** 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.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE: APRIL 22ND

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE LAST POSSIBLE DATE TO RECEIVE REPORTS.

Editor and Advertising Sales: Jim Reynolds, 4 Childe Road Cleobury Mortimer Shropshire, DY14 8PA. Telephone: 01299 270642; Mobile: 07410 977 212

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EMail: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk or uncle.jim@icloud.com

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FRI	7.30am - 10am 3.30pm - 10pm

SAT-SUN 7.30am - 1pm

Pre booking not required for Gym use. Induction or Disclaimer required in advance of use.

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MON	9.15 - 10am 6.30 - 7.15pm	GENTLE AERO BODY PUMP	DBICS		
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WED	5.15 - 6pm 6 - 6.45pm	PILATES CIRCUITS			AR
THU	6 - 6.45pm 7 - 7.45pm	STEP SPIN			
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