

# The Cleobury Clarion

## MAY'S ELECTION

Elections are strange animals, with very little appeal to the general public, great concern for those who want to see things done differently and a mighty feeling of relief when the whole damned business is over.

That's a cynic's view, but we shouldn't overlook that what we are doing when we use our vote is furthering the process of governing the country. That's a grand way of expressing what will happen on May 1st, but there are many countries where people cannot vote. We can.

So go and put your cross on that piece of paper, even if the list of candidates is small. You are helping to preserve a modest but precious right.

With boundary changes this year, I am keeping to Cleobury town as the centre of interest. To my knowledge we have two County Council candidates: veteran Gwilym Butler standing for the Conservative party and new face Ben Williams representing the Liberal Democrats. Both of them decent men. If there are any more in the contest, they have not let this local newsletter know so we can only tell you what a simple choice you appear to have.

## HOORAY! THE KING'S ARMS REOPENS

It's a long time since you could step into the King's Arm and find it buzzing with laughter and friendly chatter. It used to be regarded as the best pub in town, though other landlords won't all agree with that, but its sad recent history was a blot on the drinking landscape.



*The ladies looking after a very busy bar: Jo and Charlotte*

Last month its doors reopened, the crew charged with getting it back into full entertaining order were there already, and the real business began with the first pint ordered and drawn. It was crowded, it was noisy with

friendly chatter and it was the old KA back in action.

Jo and Charlotte, who are running the place, have moved over from the family's other pub, The Eagle at Cookley and quoted an impressive list of cooking equipment coming in, which means they'll be catering as well. Great news!

## A RARE FIND

Dr Mark Baldwin has an original first edition of Simon Evans' first book 'Round About The Crooked Steeple' dating from March 1931. It is in strong basic condition for a book almost 100 years old and as a piece of local history is very rare. Simon Evans served as a postman in the town in the 1930s and you can see evidence of his name in many places here.

Dr Baldwin is offering the book for auction, the winning bid to be donated to the Avoncroft Museum of Building in Bromsgrove, who are working on the removal of a 1920s Rural Postal Shelter Hut from Stottesdon to the Museum. Simon Evans would have taken his midday rest in one. Dr Baldwin is on 01299 270110.



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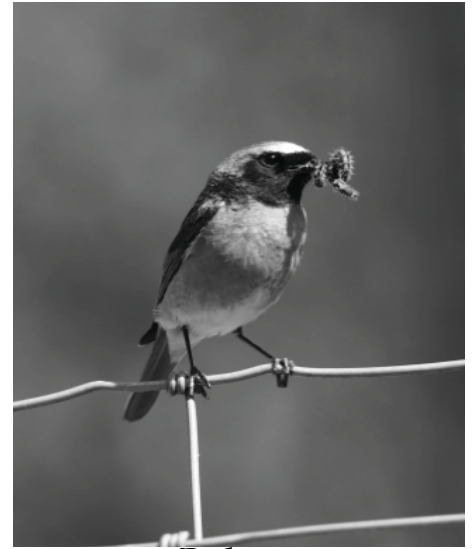
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Adrian T

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## THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Young people between the ages of 16 to 25 who are in further education, apprenticeship, or training are invited to apply for a grant from the fund towards their costs of their courses. They must be residents of Cleobury Mortimer, Milson and Neen Sollars, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow and Oretton, Stottesdon, Neen Savage and or Kinlet. Applications can be obtained from Gwilym. butler@shropshire.gov.uk or SCJordan12@outlook.com

## SUPPORTING AIR AMBULANCE

Here's a generous gesture from Cas at Masquerade, that lovely furnishing shop on the High Street. She will be retiring next year and in looking around at her wide range of fabric samples she realised that there is a use for them that will earn contributions to the Air Ambulance service.

Cas will make very attractive shopping bags from fabric samples or fashion gloves or hats to fit your fingers or head. £10 for a personal hat or gloves and £7.50 for a bag. All monies will go to the Air Ambulance. There's no rush, she's got a whole year to serve you, but this early you'll get the best choice.

## APRIL EVENTS AT HOPTON WAFERS

Friday April 11th 7.00pm, doors open 6.30 Hotdog and Quiz night. £10 per person, teams of four, Raffle and food collection for Cleobury Foodbank on the night;

Saturday April 12th 2.00 to 4.00pm Table Top Sale. £5 per table, pasting table maximum size. A chance to sell your pre loved clothes, accessories and bric-a-brac, or plants, bakes and crafts.

There will be coffee, tea and cakes along with an Easter egg hunt for the children.

Julie Humpage

## HARD TO BELIEVE

A lot of us have a flutter on the National Lottery, with very little hope of becoming a multi millionaire, but at £2.50 a shot it's hardly big time gambling. My excuse is that I dream of owning a Porsche 911 or whatever the latest creation in that line is called, and I'm only going to get there if my numbers all come up.

In Cleobury you can get your tickets at the Co-op or Londis. I favour Londis; I started the habit there years ago and am a creature of habit. But their official issue machine has not been doing its job smoothly for some time and promises of a replacement have not been kept at the time of writing this. There have been people waiting hours for their tickets to come out of that damned electric device and when I bought two tickets for the Friday Euro gamble, it issued one and then stopped. The ever reliable Spud assured me that it would appear next day and I could collect it then. But I forgot to do so - I'm very good at forgetting. When I did remember, he had left both tickets at my home while I was away. Neither was a winner.

Spud has a great sense of humour and we both accept my absence of success as a sign of consistency and have a laugh. But we had a bigger chuckle when he told me he'd taken a phone call from whoever organises the National Lottery these days to say that they'd noticed the ticket sales from Londis had gone down! Surprise surprise with that level of service.

I must ask Mrs Grumpy just who runs the National Lottery today. Could it be the Post Office?

## STUART ANDERSON MP'S NEW CONTACT

Stuart Anderson has a new priority address: 75 High Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DX. 01746 555025

E: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

## THE ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL

This area's musical offerings are a strong part of the appeal of the place and the annual English Haydn Festival is one of the top attractions. Based at Saint Mary's church in Bridgnorth, a notable structure built in 1792 by Thomas Telford, the festival starts midweek on Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup> and closes on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> with a Grand Finale Choral Concert starting at 7.00 and featuring soloists Ana Beard Fernandez, Timothy Langston and Eugene Dillon Hooper, with the English Haydn Orchestra on period instruments and the Phoenix Choir in support. All the performances will be in or around Saint Mary's church and the whole festival promises to be a wonderful experience, with great musical talents filling the air with the gentle Severn kissing the banks of our river in an aquatic applause.

You can book tickets by telephone on 07547 289704, on line at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/haydn-festival-trust](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/haydn-festival-trust) or collect a booking form and post your choice and a cheque, payable to English Haydn Festival and with a stamped, addressed envelope to Morville Farmhouse, Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4RJ.



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## FLOURISH AND NOURISH WITH SEVERN TRENT

Nourish and Flourish are five bright ladies with a love of flowers, vegetables and good food who got together to brighten up our High Street. Natural wooden planters appeared all along the main thoroughfare, looked after by the five, who tended and replanted through the summer and got support from a grateful Town Council as the place looked so much better.

They were a natural entrant when Severn Trent Water also had a bright idea and launched their own drive to bring colour to every county in their whole sphere of operation. These people are seriously Big Boys at attracting and rewarding people with ambition to improve their home towns with their generous funding of the NeighbourGOOD Scheme. The winning team in Shropshire was this town's five ladies: Sandra Dodd, Jackie Percival, Katja Jones, Ali Sheffield and Melissa Hunt of Flourish and Nourish. They had the reward of £2,500 to finance their Community Garden project and the support of 30 volunteers from Severn Trent's staff to help with the hard work of preparing the site.

The first offer of help was from Andrew Wakeman, whose family has title to Workhouse Bank, a place with a name to tell you so much about its origins. He agreed to make space for the Community Garden on the site of the original workhouse that housed the poorest people in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Those were days of little mercy for the poor.

But today that space on the bank, all 855 square meters of it, is the site of the civilised 21<sup>st</sup> century being converted to give Shropshire people and our visitors a place to visit and feel proud of.

I visited the site on February 27<sup>th</sup>, where the original five were busily Flourishing and Nourishing on the ground that Don Griffiths had ploughed to give them a working base. 14 Severn Trent volunteers were labouring at tasks like erecting a fence to mark out the boundary of the Garden and next day there were 11 volunteers booked to do their parts of the essential ground works for the Community Garden, the Memorial Garden and the area where we will all be able to sit, look out across the valley to the west of the town and simply drink in nature's beauty.

The team are naturally looking for local volunteers, to work with the Severn Trent people at this early stage and to help the whole area develop in the long run. David Robinson, that ever helpful supporter of local ventures like this, has offered to bring in machinery to prepare the areas where the surface will be finished to make movement around the gardens easy.



*It will be a very pretty place, but right now it's hard graft.*

This is a great project, led by volunteers with imagination and enthusiasm, supported by a

generous sponsor and in the long term responsible for another gem of nature that we can all enjoy. A lot of people have given time and effort already and Katja Jones has a big list of "Thank Yous" to give us all an idea of the support this venture has brought:

Nick Griffiths and Clive Evans for ploughing and hedge trimming; The Sports and Social Club for use of their facilities; Severn Trent's volunteers and Cleobury's Young Farmers for erecting the cattle fencing; David Robinson and Andrew Price for creating a shed base; The Footpath Association for hanging a gate; Funding from Severn Trent, Cleobury Co-op and Shropshire Organic Gardeners; crucial assistance from Pete Blackburn and Bill and Wendy Duley; Alan Guest for woodchip. And finally many thanks to the volunteers already coming forward with hard efforts and lots of laughter for the material and contributions we have received. Please follow us at Flourish and Nourish on Facebook or call 07966 080 111 if you'd like to get involved.

What a wonderful tribute to the neighbourly atmosphere of the town this report is. When the Flourish and Nourish Community Garden is open to the public, we reckon it will be hard to find space for all the visitors we will attract. Well done Flourish and Nourish, five ladies with ideas and determination that have become something very special.

What this success may bring is a realisation that people with a good idea and a lot of ambition can get things done. Just look back a few years and you can include the Classic Bike Show, Cleobury Rugby Club and the Running Club in the list of ideas that just grew. Over to you all, Cleobury.





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# Kathie Rowbotham's Animal Magic Page

## "OUR TONY"

In 2004 we lived in Peterborough and our family was full of rescued animals. I became known locally, as Dr Do-little! I always researched new animal rescues, to learn how to

give them their best life.

One spring evening, we went to put our rescued pony, Samson to bed. Then I heard the most horrendous screaming noise. I tracked it down to the corner of the feed room. I found a tiny baby hedgehog! Momma Hedgehog must have taken her hoglets out the previous night, but left this little guy behind. He couldn't survive on his own, so I took him home with us.



We set up a cage in our porch and added a water bowl, filled with stones, so he couldn't drown and a little bowl of meaty cat food. He weighed just 30g! For his optimum health, I sprinkled him with hen louse powder. Our sons named him – Tony.

Tony befriended us, as we learned his routine. He awoke at 3pm daily, just as our sons returned from school. We weighed him weekly, knowing the ideal winter hibernation weight is 450g. We were now in early summer and his favourite treat was a complete hardboiled egg, shell included!

Eventually, Tony weighed in at a whopping 800g! I'd already explained 'slow release' to our sons, who were



now aged 5 & 7yrs old. So, they helped me to move his cage out into our back garden, which was fully enclosed, full of plants, bushes and lots of undergrowth – 'hedgehog heaven'! We'd filled up his water & food bowls and added his favourite treat, his hardboiled egg.

We sat beside his cage and opened his cage door. Tony came straight out and walked to Ollie for a stroke, then made his way to me. Finally, he walked to Josh to say his final farewell. We watched, as our Tony marched off down the garden to start his new life. We all cried, it was a bittersweet moment, so sad to see our friend go, but we'd released that beautiful strong animal, back where he belonged.

Every night, the boys filled up Tony's bowls and every morning, his bowls were empty, but he stopped visiting by late July. By August, it was light until 10.30pm. Ollie asked if we could sit outside to see Tony, just one more time?

It was a lovely warm evening, but 'Like mother like sons'- the boys struggled to keep quiet! We waited & waited, then we could hear something coming towards us, it sounded like an elephant! The boys giggled with excitement, as we saw the bushes moving. Then, what a treat, our Tony appeared! He walked to each of us in turn and allowed us to stroke him. He looked amazing and the boys were delighted, but they'd accepted that he had to live his own life.

Tony taught us how to rescue & rehabilitate hedgehogs. We have successfully rescued and released dozens of these beautiful creatures, over the last 20yrs. Priceless memories for us!

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## CLEOBURY W.I

There is an atmosphere of change within CM WI as we enter our end of year, but more of that later! Firstly a quick report on the fun we had at our February meeting when we hosted Tina Hobin and enjoyed a fabulous evening of Eastern Dance. Tina gave us a very informative background to the history of the dance for health and childbirth, before showing us an assortment of beautiful sequinned costumes which all had a story behind them. Then we were all on our feet and moving our hips and torsos; all very exhausting but beneficial.

Late February saw another extremely successful Soup Luncheon organised by Maggie James at the Parish Hall with an excellent turnout from enthusiastic local diners. We thank everyone for attending and all our members for their contributions and hard work on the day.

On 11th March we held our AGM and reflected over a year of social and fundraising events. With emotions high, we said a fond farewell to Judy Sant as President for over 11 years and welcomed in Sue Kershaw as our new President. We would like to publicly thank Judy for the sterling job she has done in bringing CMWI from just a handful of members to the

successful group it is today. We are very grateful to be keeping Judy on the committee to guide us with all her knowledge and expertise.

### Future Events with the WI:

April meeting on Tuesday 8th April @ 7.30pm Saving Animals from Extinction - Open to interested members of the community. £5 entry fee.

Afternoon Tea @ the Community Hub on 14th April @ 3pm.

Stottesdon Open Gardens outing on 26th April @ 12-4pm

Eat Cake for VE Day on Thursday 8th May @ 2-4pm

Please contact Sue Kershaw on 07470896045 or email

[suejkershaw@gmail.com](mailto:suejkershaw@gmail.com) for further information on joining WI. Check out the Cleobury Mortimer WI Facebook page.

## HOBSON'S FOOD NIGHTS

The editor of this quirky little newsletter does like to bring you good news. If it involves food and drink even better, because that is a natural setting for good cheer and happy banter. Like the Hobsons renowned Food Nights and here they are.

Aspril 4<sup>th</sup> : Wild Street Kitchen

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Senor Tigre Mexican

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Fire Cooking and Pizza Girls

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Su Casa - Spanish Paello and Tapas

August 1<sup>st</sup>: Beefy Boys

September 5<sup>th</sup>: Nanny Brown's Jamaican

October 3<sup>rd</sup> German THemed

November 14<sup>th</sup> Pie Oneer Pies

These are great nights, with a happy atmosphere, some amazing food treats and beers for every taste.

## SAINT MARY'S PASTORAL CARE GROUP

This is such a gentle and caring idea, aimed to help anyone who just wants to talk and be listened to, or listen in turn to someone who may share a prpbem or has suffered a bad experience and come through it because another person has helped.

The Group offers a Drop-In morning on the third Thursday of the month. Doors open and a welcome assured from 10.30 to 11.30am. Tea or coffee and a chat if you want to talk. Anyone who has suffered grief will know what a relief a listener can bring if you've been alone and not known who to turn to. They may know who to refer you to in your need.

Feeling lonely and not knowing where to turn is a very hard experience to deal with. Having a Care Group like this who will listen and advise if you want them to is priceless. But this is free.

## SILLY BIT

**Death is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.**

*Dennis Norden*



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## A GOOD SIGN



Seen outside the Primary School

So what don't you understand?

## THE READING GROUP

'Little Egypt' by Lesley Glaister, an author we hadn't previously encountered although she has written sixteen novels. Quite an easy read, a slow start introducing one of the main characters, 93 year old Isis. She lives with her twin brother, Osiris, in the family home, once a grand country house now extremely dilapidated. He lives in the attic and hasn't spoken to his sister for ten years, since she sold part of their land. Isis occupies the lower floor with Mary, the housekeeper, who looked after them when they were young. The story switches to 1920's and their parents who spend most of the time in Egypt, obsessed with discovering a tomb. Moving backwards and forwards in time and filled with eccentric people and bizaare situations. The book has plenty of content and produced different opinions on various topics. It

has some humour but as it progressed turned rather Gothic. Isis wishes to sell the house and spend the rest of her life in comfort in the local rest home but is unable to do this due to a dreadful secret that may be revealed. An interesting book with vivid descriptions, perhaps a little silly at times. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> after we have read 'The Last Good Man' by Thomas McMullan.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754.

## CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP

Have you heard your first Curlew of 2025 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. We need more helpers, please.

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 the first weekend in April (5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>). You will be able to find details, including time and date, on our website, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk)

In addition to Lapwing and Curlew, we are also trying to locate Kestrel, Cuckoo and breeding Red Kite. We are continuing a nest-box scheme for Kestrels, to help with a research project to try and find out why their numbers are going down. We can learn a lot in Clee Hill, which is a County hotspot with probably 8 - 9 breeding pairs. If you see any of these species, please let us know.

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

## FARLOW AND ORETON

It will be no surprise to those who enjoy live comedy that there will be another show that sounds like a good laugh on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30. It will present Victor and Albert, "Purveyors of Fine Comedy" as they like to put it, and acclaimed by people who ought to know. "They were absolutely fantastic" said Michael Wylde of BBC Radio.

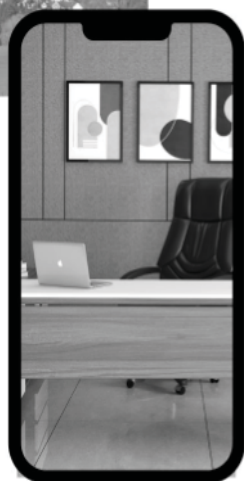
I've reserved my tickets, which cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for what I assume are children. Call 01746 718642 to check that and get your places booked. This show is promoted by Arts Alive, who do a great job keeping us in the area amused and informed.

Later in the year, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Village Hall will have a Big Picnic Party to celebrate the hall's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. There will be an historic display on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, warming people up for the Big Party. We'll tell you more as news comes into Clarion Towers, but put that date in your diary and prepare to enjoy a great day.





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# Letter from Westminster

**Stuart Anderson MP**

Following my operation, I am grateful that I have been able to make a gradual return to activities, holding advice surgeries in Church Stretton, Highley and Bishop's Castle. It has also been excellent to visit many schools across in South Shropshire from Newcastle-on-Clun to Dorrington and to Clee Hill. As a parent, I want to do everything I can to ensure our children get the very best start in life. Our teachers and support staff are amazing role models for young people and must be supported.

When it emerged that the water quality at the River Teme bathing site in Ludlow had been deemed 'poor', I called on Ministers to make urgent improvements. I then met with the Environment Agency and attended an event marking the launch of an innovative, new scheme to improve data available to the community and identify sources of pollution. It is welcome that Ludlow is the centre of this pioneering work. I hope to see a marked improvement as a result. I also raised the proposed 'River Onny Pipeline' project, which I am monitoring closely. I am also in conversation with residents and Severn Trent about this development.

Crime has a devastating impact on lives in South Shropshire. The Police must be equipped with the resources needed to keep our communities safe. This year, West Mercia Police is due to receive an extra £11.9 million compared to last year. However, a huge deficit is left due to inflation, demand, and increased costs from hikes in employer's National Insurance Contributions (NICs). The £4.2 million needed to cover increases to NICs represents the equivalent of over 80 police officers. Under the previous government, the number of police officers rose to 149,769 – the highest number on record. I am worried that September's headcount is already down 883 officers. I hope that these issues are quickly addressed.

I am delighted that Ludlow Train Station now has step-free access, after my predecessor Philip Dunne secured investment from the Department

for Transport for new lifts. It was excellent to attend the opening. Accessibility is a key part of daily life for many residents. If you don't consider it, you're basically saying to them 'you cannot travel this way'. I want to help secure more investment into infrastructure in South Shropshire. I helped secure £6,000 for road safety in Morville. This follows a meeting I convened in November with key partners including Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion. The funding is for new Vehicle Activated Speed signs in Morville. It is part of a wider strategy to improve road safety in the village, which includes an extension of the speed limit and gateway improvements.

I am thrilled that two local businesses have been shortlisted for the Countryside Alliance Awards, known as the 'Rural Oscars'. It is testament to the hard work and dedicated efforts of both Ludlow's 'All the Seasons' and Vine & Co from Church Stretton. I urge everyone to throw their support behind them before public voting closes on 6th April 2025. Pubs like The Queens in Ludlow also play a vital role in the rural economy, supporting hundreds of jobs. Yet, they are deeply concerned about their prospects under this new government following tax hikes which will cost them thousands of pounds. I was glad to nominate Tim and Jane Vaughan to attend a roundtable in Parliament with Shadow Business Secretary Andrew Griffith MP. Their valuable insights will help us to be a strong and effective opposition.

It is also concerning that a record number of councils have had to seek extra financial support from the government. It follows a massive shake up of local government funding, which has stripped rural councils of over £100 million direct funding. I have written to Ministers on four different occasions to request a fairer settlement for rural areas like ours. I will continue to campaign for more equitable funding that recognises the unique challenges of delivering public services in remote communities like South Shropshire.

**Stuart Anderson MP**

**House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**  
**01584 872187** *stuart.anderson.*

# Carer Corner

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# CLEOBURY MORTIMER BENEFICE HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday	<p>The cross will leave Kinlet at 12.30pm, walk to Kinlet School and walk through the Village to The Eagle and Serpent by 1.30pm.</p> <p>Cross goes by road to Neen Savage by 6pm</p>
Monday 14th April	<p>12pm Eucharist at Neen Savage, walk the Cross from the church to the main road and by car to Hopton Wafers at 6pm for an Evening service and address.</p>
Tuesday 15th April	<p>12pm Eucharist at Hopton Wafers followed by a loop around the village.</p> <p>Cross to go by road to Doddington via Hopton Bank Methodist Church at 5.30pm for prayers. 6pm evening service and address at Doddington Church.</p>
Wednesday 16th April	<p>2pm Doddington walk to Park Homes then Doddington Lodge (2.30pm)</p> <p>Cross by car to Milson for 4pm Eucharist. Walk to Neen Sollars for Evening service and address at 6pm.</p>
Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday	<p>Walk around Neen Sollars 12pm with the Cross.</p> <p>Cross goes by road to St Elizabeth at 4pm.</p> <p>Eucharist and Vigil 7.30-9.30pm at St Mary's.</p>
Friday 18th April Good Friday	<p>Meet at St. Elizabeth's at 9.00am for Stations of the Cross, walk to the Hub for 9.30am.</p> <p>10.00am Communion from the reserved sacrament at St Mary's.</p> <p>12.30pm walk around Cleobury to St. Mary's at 2.00pm</p> <p>3pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>6.30pm Compline at Neen Savage.</p>
Saturday 19th April Easter Eve	<p>All ( Fire, Easter Vigil and Eucharist) 8.30pm at St. Mary's.</p>
Sunday 20th April Easter Day	<p>St Mary the Virgin, Cleobury Mortimer: 10.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St Michael &amp; All Angels, Hopton Wafers: 9.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>All Saints, Neen Sollars: 11.00am Village Worship</p> <p>St George's, Milson: 11.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St Mary's, Neen Savage: 9.00am Parish Eucharist &amp; Community Big Breakfast</p> <p>St John the Baptist, Kinlet: 11.15am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St John the Baptist, Doddington: 11.00am Parish Eucharist by extension</p>

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# Stepping Out

## Who's Walking, When and Where

Our Sunday walks will continue to be held the first Sunday of every month. We normally meet at 10.00 am outside St Mary's church and we welcome new participants – adults, children and well-behaved dogs. Please join us if you can.  
*Joy Wilkinson*

### ROCK PATHFINDERS

Free guided walks along our footpaths and bridleways taking 2-3 hours, off the roads and into the countryside. Everyone welcome but sorry no dogs allowed. Before leaving home please check our web site for any changes to the planned walk.

April Thursday 3rd starting at 10.00am  
Bodenham Arboretum, Bodenham Ln,  
Kidderminster DY11 5TB

Thursday 17th starting at 10.00am  
Astley Village Hall,  
Stourport-on-Severn DY13 0RF

For further details and any other announcements or changes please visit new website [www.rockpathfinders.uk](http://www.rockpathfinders.uk)

e mail: [mdsskev@rockpathfinders.uk](mailto:mdsskev@rockpathfinders.uk)  
Alan 01299 400304

### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our Sunday country walk took us to the Golf Course and then back through Mawley. The weather held out for us although there was a fair amount of mud but that is nothing unusual around here. The views, as usual, were spectacular and our new walkers were impressed with the picturesque route.

Our work parties have already started mending and fixing and were busy this month on Rockley Bank and on the riverside between Newbridge and Papermill cottages.

Alan Kimber, Ben Moule and Peter Blackburn also found time to fit a gate for the new 'Flourish and Nourish' community garden. Let's hope the good weather continues so that we can continue our footpath repairs in the coming months.

### WALKING FOR HEALTH

I've walked quite a lot in my time in Cleobury, but until March, not with the Walking for Health organisation. It does make a lot of sense and the doctor who started it, whose name escapes me but spoke at the Festival of the Aged at Shrewsbury some years ago, made a lot of simple sense. Put some sensible shoes or boots on and join your local ban ch.

So I did just that and joined a smiling bunch of mature people outside the Parish Church. A little rain, but nothing to bother us, and we had a brief talk from Alan Kimber, who would be sharing the guidance of the morning with Deana, the other half of the local Kimber Klan. Alan led and Deana was the tail-ender, making sure we all kept the more swift of our number in sight and that nobody would be abandonad. We walked around the town, some of the route fresh to our eyes; hasn't the town grown in the last five or so years!

Crossing roads was a reminder of school days, with our leader keeping us waiting on the kerb until it was clear, but more than one courteous driver stopped and let us across in typical well mannered Cleobury fashion. The majority response was a wave of thanks with the same from the Kimbers, while the drivers just smiled and waved in return.

The walk took just over an hour and we were back at the Market Hall in good time for most to enjoy the CoCo coffee and cake that does make these twice-a-month outings with a welcoming view of our particular corner of Shropshire and good fresh air a real treat. It's not a demanding walk at what was a stroll for most walkers, the company was relaxed and smiling and the very helpful Kimbers their usual helpful selves.



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**Sunday** from 12 noon – 10pm  
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## April in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles considers our springtime visitors

I'm writing this in March, and was surprised to open the curtains to a dusting of snow this morning. Of course, cold weather isn't unusual in spring and I have often been anxious about the pollination and setting of fruit on the apples and cherries in the orchards.



*Redstart*

We can have hot days too, and this month should see the arrival of the birds that visit to breed in the summer. We hope to see our newly cleaned and renovated bird boxes being occupied, and not all by Blue Tits! Over the years we've been delighted to have a number of pairs of Redstarts nesting in our own and neighbours'

farms. We look out for their investigation of nest boxes near the orchards and their appearance on top of fence posts, waiting to dart off to catch insects on the wing. Often our first clue to their presence is hearing a contact call: a short ascending whistle. Next month they will be very busy feeding their nestlings and we hope for the successful appearance of the fledglings. Last year a favourite nest box, which doesn't look as if it would attract the parents, sitting as it does high on a solitary post facing south at the bottom of the vegetable garden, was taken instead by a pair of Pied Flycatchers (the Redstarts were gazumped!). An entry in my diary for May notes, 'Pied Wagtail babies in the garden, being attended by parents. Redstarts shouting at me when I went to net the redcurrants'. (Thanks to Mick Farmer for the photos of the male Redstart with the caterpillar and the male Pied Flycatcher on the nest box.)



*Pied Flycatcher*

We can't assume that we'll see the same this year. Birds which migrate are subject to the difficulties of feeding and coping with bad weather on the way, and when they get here will they find enough insects in our over-tidy and over-sprayed landscape? I'll be listening for the call of the Cuckoo to let me know whether or not there is hope that we'll still be able to enjoy the traditional sights and sounds of spring in the years to come.

*Linda Iles*

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## THANK YOU FROM STEVE TODD

Following my recent accident, can I express my thanks to all those who have sent best wishes, frog related cards, Easter eggs and quips etc as well as offers of help. Special thanks go Wendy, Jill, John, Laura and Kathy who have loaned me various items of washing/walking/living aids which have greatly enhanced my life since returning home. In fact, I think we probably now have a greater selection of such equipment than an average sized hospital. This just confirms my long held belief that Cleobury is a kind and caring community.

Very special thanks must go to Iris, my DLM (Domestic Line Manager) who has worked night and day to make me as comfortable as possible as well as taking on my chores in addition to hers. She is clearly much too good for me as I am sure she will confirm if asked.

*Steve*

## WOOD WORDS

Up, up and away.....The green is now open to start the 2025 bowling season, well done green keepers in preparing for an early start to allow battle to commence.

And for those wishing to try their hand at bowling, taster sessions have been fixed for Monday's 12<sup>th</sup> of May and 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 6 for 6.30pm at the club, free entry, all welcome, come and have a go. (flat soled shoes required please, bowls provided).

The club is also participating in Bowls England promoted Big Bowls Week-end, to take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 11.00am until 4.00pm. everyone welcome, no charge, member

volunteers required to assist in support of visitors.

League fixtures are now available on club website (cleoburybowls.org.com) as are details of in-house Sunday morning league, starting 13<sup>th</sup> April.

A reminder from treasurer Nick Flatters, subscriptions are now due and payable.

For more information readers are able to make contact as below.

Yours in bowls

*Smiffy 07494 016137*

## SAD NEWS

Oh dear. At the Cleobury Farmers' Market on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Rupert Bennett of the Bennett and Dunn Oil Company advised that Adam Carpets of Kidderminster had called in the administrators to handle the affairs of one of the most well known manufacturers in that long established industry.

Their well known premises on the Birmingham Road had long been taken over by solicitors and the operation reduced in size. But David Adam, one of the most decent and honest men in the carpet trade I've ever met, kept the company running with its wilton looms and an excellent Acrilan plain twist pile in the last years that I knew their operation.

Kidderminster has lost so much production of carpets in recent yeats and where the dominant makers are today I cannot say. I simply want to wish the staff of a company I once knew and admired the very best of fortune in a very tough world. JR

## THE BREAKFAST CLUB

On March 11th, 22 members of

the St Mary's Breakfast Club met at the Golf Club for our regular monthly meeting. This started with a respectful silence in memory of member Eddie Humphries who died on 28 February. Then came the 35th AGM of the Club, during which Angela Drennan presented the Chairman's, the Secretary's and the Treasurer's Reports for 2024/25 - all adopted nem con. When it came to the election of officers for 2025/26, there was unanimous support for the proposal that Angela should again take on all three offices. How fortunate the Club is having such a willing organiser!

The AGM over, Angela spoke briefly about her latest USA trip in October.. When trying to pay online for her flight, she was told her credit card had been blocked. Fortunately, while she was trying to work round this, her bank (Barclays) phoned to say this had been an attempted scam - there was no block on the card. (Good to hear of a bank acting so protectively!) The rest of her trip went more smoothly, despite some driving difficulties. Fortune smiled on her, however, when she won \$300 on a gaming machine in the hotel, eclipsed next day by an astonishing win of \$1370. When changing planes coming home, she was assisted by a fellow passenger who, as they boarded the second plane, announced 'This lady is over 80 and has driven in Las Vegas', eliciting a round of applause.

The Club's next meeting will be on 8th April, when Francis Engleheart will speak on 'A Brief Encounter with Emma Hamilton' (1765 - 1815), a great beauty, and close friend of Horatio Nelson. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636)



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# Clarion Clippings the Local News

## MUSIC TO DELIGHT

I have no musical talent at all. As a child I sang in line with other innocents in the chapel to which our parents despatched my sister and I on a Sunday, but there was little or no joy or inspiration in the noise we created. From there I moved to become a choir boy in Saint Peter's Church in suburban Harrow, where the ill tempered Doctor Chantry listened to my warbling and recruited me on a weekly rate of pennies better than some neighbouring boys who had experience of the work but little enthusiasm.

It was when our weekly practice was devoted to the work of Handel that my curiosity was aroused. Who was this Handel and why did he spell his name that foreign way? We were rehearsing a small selection from "The Messiah", with older boys perfecting solo works while we underlings were required to perfect passages like "Suddenly, there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host" that moved me and aroused my juvenile curiosity. I was enjoying singing!

That rehearsal became a private performance at Doctor Chantry's house in Chorley Wood, where I was much impressed by the open fireplace and seats on two sides. We stood and sang, were issued with sandwiches and orange squash before catching the train home. I can still remember those passages we sang and have a disc of the whole work that I play at quiet Christmas moments. It remains a favourite to this day.

When Linda Fowler announced that she would be playing with the Chandos Symphony Orchestra in Malvern on March 16<sup>th</sup> I suggested to my lady love that we should attend. She was full of enthusiasm for the idea and on the day set out in time to take lunch before the concert started at 3.00. Not having a satnav in my current transport, we headed

south full of confidence that we could ask the way once we reached Malvern town centre. Oh, the optimism of two oldies who still haven't learned to take a map book.

Our Grand Tour of Malvern Town was punctuated by stops to ask pedestrians the way to Avenue Road in Malvern St. James. Not many people were out walking, very few of them were local or even English and we realised we'd missed out on lunch by the time we found Avenue Road and the actual venue, which didn't have a single poster advertising the concert.

But the people in the hall were smiling and welcoming, thanking us for coming. We were allowed to sit in the hall in blessed warmth, just a few rows from the front to get the best view and sound. Linda Fowler and partner Mike found us and then Francis and Paul Engelheart joined in the greeting while all around us musicians were tuning and adjusting as the seats began to fill.

At three o'clock the chattering subsided and the full house audience looked towards the entrance through which a lady appeared to greet us, followed by the appearance of the lead violin to enthusiastic applause, followed by greater acclaim for Richard Laing, the afternoon's conductor. He described the works we were to hear, with brief notes on the composers. Arnold Bax was a new name to me, but with a piece entitled 'Tintagel' there was no doubting his original. Next would be Gerald Finzi's 'Concerto for Clarinet' with Tom Porter the soloist and the final work would be Edward Elgar's 'Symphony No. 1' All summarised in brief tales with light-hearted asides; Mr Laing clearly knows his subjects very well.

The programme notes on the composers' lives were detailed

and too shy to tell of romantic backgrounds like Arnold Bax's love affair with pianist Harriet Cohen and their six week visit to Cornwall, where Bax wrote the very work we heard, 'Tintagel', inspired by both place and the passion that saw him leave his wife. A touching story and music to open the concert.

Gerald Finzi's Clarinet Concerto followed, with conductor Richard Laing introducing soloist Tom Porter. In the tall concert hall the opportunity to hear a master of the clarinet illustrate just how expressive that small woodwind instrument could reach out and touch a listening ear with a range from joyful celebration to the whisper of a fading evening breeze was a lesson I won't forget. The instrument may fit in your pocket, but with such a skill as we enjoyed, it can fill the day. Lovely.

The final of the day was Edward Elgar's Symphony No.1, acclaimed by many as one of the greatest British compositions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was first performed in public in 1908 and was acclaimed by press and public. The whole orchestra - my lady love counted 67 - seemed to rise to the occasion and smile or frown in concentration, but not once did they appear to be unaware of the wonderful sound they made. Three recalls to the conductor said all.

My lady admitted she'd never been to a symphony concert and walked down the road to the car as if on a cloud, simply on a high.

The excellent programme tells me the the next Chandos symphony orchestra concert will be at Pershore Abbey (these people choose their venues to fit the quality of their music) at 3.00pm on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

This was Tina's first symphony concert. There will be many more to enjoy.

*Jim Reynolds*

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## THE READING GROUP

'Little Egypt' by Lesley Glaister, an author we hadn't previously encountered although she has written sixteen novels. Quite an easy read, a slow start introducing one of the main characters, 93 year old Isis. She lives with her twin brother, Osiris, in the family home, once a grand country house now extremely dilapidated. He lives in the attic and hasn't spoken to his sister for ten years, since she sold part of their land. Isis occupies the lower floor with Mary, the housekeeper, who looked after them when they were young. The story switches to 1920's and their parents who spend most of the time in Egypt, obsessed with discovering a tomb. Moving backwards and forwards in time and filled with eccentric people and bizarre situations. The book has plenty of content and produced different opinions on various topics. It has some humour but as it progressed turned rather Gothic. Isis wishes to sell the house and spend the rest of her life in comfort in the local rest home but is unable to do this due to a dreadful secret that may be revealed. An interesting book

with vivid descriptions, perhaps a little silly at times. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> after we have read 'The Last Good Man' by Thomas McMullan.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754.

## CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP

Have you heard your first Curlew of 2025 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. We need more helpers, please.

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 the first weekend in April (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>). You will be able to find details, including time and date, on our website, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk)

In addition to Lapwing and Curlew, we are also trying to locate Kestrel, Cuckoo and breeding Red Kite. We are continuing a nest-box scheme for Kestrels, to help with a research project to try and find out why their numbers are going down. We can learn a lot in Clee Hill, which is a County hotspot with probably 8 – 9 breeding pairs. If you see any of these species, please let us know.

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

Leo Smith

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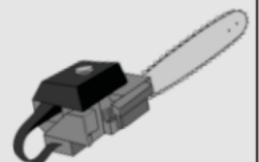
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Our pamper day was a real treat, with relaxing nail sessions that left everyone feeling refreshed and fabulous. It's always wonderful to take time for a little self-care and indulgence!

There was plenty of laughter and friendly competition during our cheerful round of Fish the Balls, A game that never fails to bring out smiles and excitement.

We also enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Regal Cinema, where we sat back, relaxed and immersed ourselves in a great film. Following that, a visit to the Riverside Café in Tenbury Wells for traditional fish and chips made for the perfect day out. Delicious food and good company, What more could we ask for?

With Easter just around the corner, We're looking forward to even more colourful crafts and celebrations. What a fantastic month it has been! As we step into April, We're excited for more wonderful moments, Easter festivities and making cherished memories together.



*Lots of happy moments*



*Enjoyed getting into the spirit of the Brazilian Carnival*



*Pamper Days with Friends*



*A cheerful round of Fish the Balls*



*A fabulous trip to the Regal Cinema*



*The Riverside Cafe in Tenbury Wells for Fish and Chips*



*Busy painting beautiful bright Spring flowers*



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# Simon Morton In The Garden

## The Compost Conspiracy

Every gardener worth their salt will wax lyrical about the joys of making their own compost. They'll tell you—usually at length and with smug superiority—that there's nothing quite like rich, dark, life-giving compost, magically created from a few kitchen scraps and the odd pile of lawn clippings. They make it sound so easy. uspiciously easy. I, for one, had my doubts.

After decades of well-intentioned (but ultimately doomed) gardening and compost preparation, I've never managed to produce anything remotely resembling the gorgeous, crumbly organic matter I'd seen on gardening programmes or in glossy magazine spreads. No, my efforts had consistently resulted in either:

A) A festering, stinking swamp of disappointment or

B) A dry, lifeless heap that bore an uncanny resemblance to brown lawn clippings.

And before you start—yes, I followed the rules. I knew about the golden ratio of green to brown materials. I diligently turned the pile. I even invested in a compost-turning tool (a purchase that felt oddly specific and, frankly, a bit of a scam). And yet, despite all this fiddling about, my compost area steadfastly refused to transform into the rich, fertile matter I'd been promised.

Now, I'm not a cynical man, but there were times when I started to suspect that Monty Don and his kind were either buying their compost in bulk, lying outright, or part of an elaborate nationwide joke at the expense of unsuspecting, ever-hopeful gardeners like me.

But then, this year, something remarkable happened. I mean, genuinely gobsmacking. It was a horticultural miracle.

After years of composting failure, I had accumulated a mountain of garden detritus—a towering heap of lawn clippings, twigs, and assorted plant odds and sods. It was less of a compost pile and more of a sprawling, organic

mound, similar to the mashed potato pile in Close Encounters of the Third Kind. It was starting to cast a shadow over most of the garden and scaring small children.

It was time to deal with it. Enter my mate with a digger.

With all the efficiency and giddiness of a man always looking for an excuse to use heavy machinery, he made short work of shifting the entire lot into a neat corner. And in doing so, he inadvertently revealed something extraordinary: the motherlode of compost.

Beneath the outer layers of failed attempts lay tonnes—yes, tonnes—of the rich, dark, nutrient-packed compost I had been dreaming of. It was a discovery of near-archaeological significance - Indiana Jones would have been chuffed.

Yes, I had unwittingly created gold dust for my garden. COMPOST! Actual useable and rather fine-looking compost!

How had this happened? I have absolutely no idea. Perhaps it was the sheer weight of the pile compressing itself into composting submission. Maybe the deep layers had secretly been doing their thing for years, untouched and unnoticed. Or perhaps the gardening gods had finally taken pity on me.

Whatever the cause, I was not about to waste this miraculous bounty. I embarked on an enthusiastic (some might say frenzied) orgy of mulching. Every bed, every border, every available patch of soil was lovingly blanketed in my newfound treasure. As a result, the garden has never looked so pristine, the soil rejuvenated, and if you listen closely, I swear you can hear the bulbs cheering as they receive their well-earned nutrients.

So, to all those who, like me, are compost sceptics—don't give up. If there's one thing gardening teaches you, it's that perseverance is key.

Well, that and a mate with a digger.



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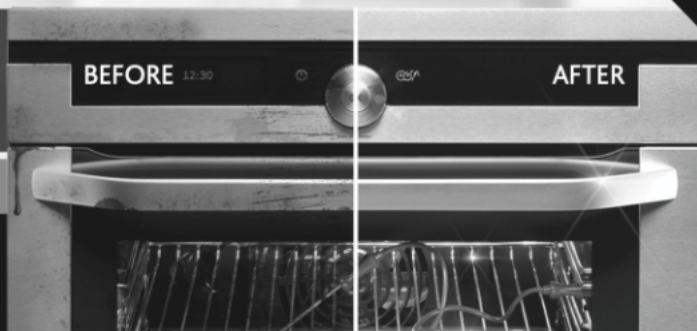
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# Mrs Grumpy

Yet another mention for Shropshire Council in the 'Private Eye Rotten Boroughs' column which listed those councils in the most precarious financial situations. This was probably not the entry they would have preferred.

An interesting letter from a collector: One of his suppliers has written to him as a valued customer to tell him that, in future, they will only take orders on line and not by post. The supplier?- Royal Mail stamps and collectibles.

If you are waiting eagerly to use the projected Lower Thames Crossing, don't hold your breath. Costs so far have reached £1.2 billion just for planning documentation which runs to several thousand pages. All this and no sign of any construction activity. Are we looking at the next HS2 here? (and don't mention the third runway at Heathrow)

Where do you stand in the current avocado wars?. There has been a lot of discussion recently about the merits or otherwise of these fruits including the number of injuries caused by attempts to cut out the stones. Now Alan Titchmarsh has entered the fray, asking that people stop eating them. This is based on environmental concerns as it is estimated that each fruit requires around 320 litres of water to produce and, due to their popularity, forest is being destroyed to increase production. I must say that I am agnostic on this subject as I have tried them and been struck by the absence of any perceptible flavour. Given that the name derives from the Aztec word for testicle, apparently due to its shape and 'danglyness' and that testicles are not generally regarded as things of beauty, I fail to see the attraction. Is the popularity of this odd looking fruit a manifestation of the 'Emperors new clothes' syndrome as its consumption is pushed by 'influencers' and people feel obliged to follow?. But fear not, I have the solution. Just take a cardboard egg box, tear it into small pieces and soak it in sugar water overnight. Mash thoroughly, spread on toast and voila!, a cheap and eco friendly solution to your dilemma. No, don't thank me.

I don't know whether you have seen the advert on TV for the AA breakdown service which involves a group of bank robbers running from the premises only to find their getaway car has broken down. But fear not, the AA is on the job and fixes it in the nick of time so that

they can flee just ahead of the Police. So far so good but at the next ad break, the same thing happens again! To me, this either indicates that they have made a very bad choice of getaway vehicle or that the AA isn't much good at fixing defects given that the problem looks very similar. Apart from this, the AA terms of business include a proviso that they will not respond to repeated calls for the same problem so either way, not a good look for the AA.

More news (and no news) on our vanished Post Office. Gwil Butler and our MP, have started petitions requesting a replacement. However, I wonder how much effect this will have as, given the cost and complexity involved in setting up such an operation, I can't see people queueing up to do so. There has been no more news of the person 'under training' for Cleobury, so I suspect this is confirmation that it always was a fantasy. As I recall, not long ago, we were promised a comprehensive network of Post Offices to fill the gaps left by the closure of Bank branches. I wonder what happened to that?.

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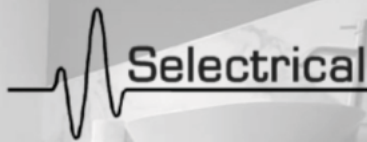
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### CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

The bird nesting season is upon us once again and it seems to start earlier each time! Many birds decided in the last couple of weeks that the weather was good enough. I have also been seeing frogspawn here and there! Signs of spring on the way.

Of course my biggest concern, as always at this time of year, is the struggles of our rare and important ground nesting birds. Curlew, Wheatear and Meadow Pipits, amongst others, must struggle against the ravages of weather, increasing numbers of predators and less, and less wild open spaces. The last thing they need is constant disturbance from people and their dogs!

So please can I ask everyone to help them by keeping dogs on a lead to protect our ground nesting birds and avoid any disturbance. Please act responsibly and do not let dogs off the lead roaming across the common between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July. This is a legal requirement

Reduce to a minimum driving vehicles off-road onto the common, do not take vehicles where you do not have a right of access

Keep to rights of way and well-worn paths as much as possible when you access the common

Another good reason to keep your dog on or close to well used paths is the increasing numbers of adders! These reptiles have been doing well in recent years and indication that the habitat is

in good condition. They will be starting to come out of hibernation and a bite can be very dangerous for a dog

*Clive Dean – SWT reserves officer south*

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New for 2025 are four shorter but scenic loops between 3 and 5 miles in length.

Entry is £15 per person or £25 for a family - to be shared equally between Blood Cancer UK and Friends of Community College Bishop's Castle. Click on our website below to get a full description and to join the walks.

Round and About Walks Website:

<https://ccbcshropshire.com/ccbc-friends-roundandabout/>

### THE LEGION LUNCHEON

On March 9th, Royal British Legion branch members and friends met in the Parish Hall for our traditional Annual Luncheon. A fine three-course meal was prepared and served by Mike and Sarah of Bridgnorth, well-respected caterers and butchers.

Although a serving Army officer had agreed to deliver an after-lunch talk, in the event he was away on active service, so branch member Doctor Mark Baldwin was asked to step in. With the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day coming up

later this year, he was asked to speak about the contribution of Intelligence to bringing the war to an end by giving the Allies an all-important advantage over our enemies. Many of those present were intrigued to learn about the part played by native American Navajo 'code-speakers', who disguised important radio messages by speaking in their own language, which was so obscure that no further coding was required.

The Branch's next events will relate to VE Day (8 May) and VJ Day (15 August). The Legion will be collaborating with the Town Council on these, but plans are not yet finalised..

The Branch always welcomes new members - please ring 01299 270110 for a membership form.

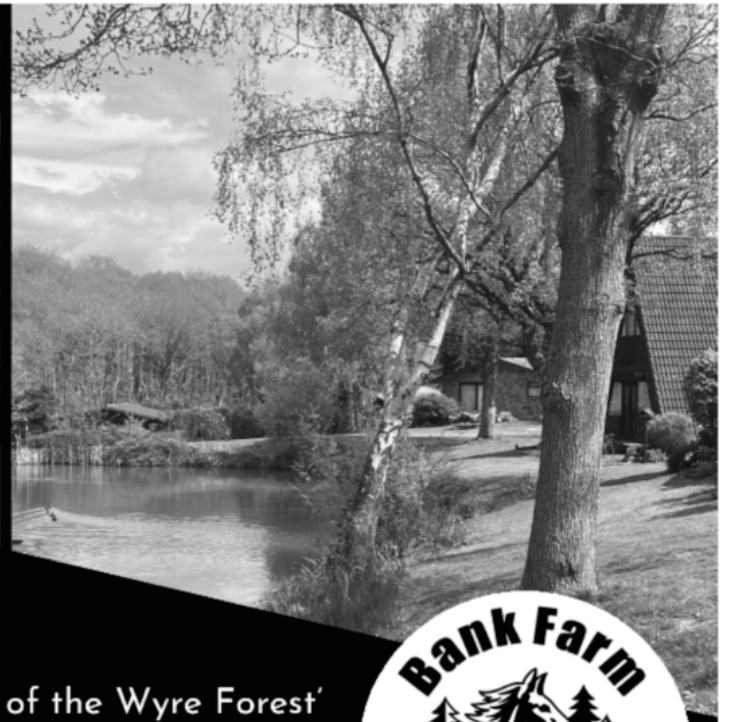
### AND THE LEGION CARES TOO

For those of us not familiar with the work of the Royal British Legion, it's worth a reminder that they cater for members and ex-members of the forces of all ages and nationalities. If they have served in the British forces, they qualify and will be made welcome as members and as visitors who simply want to know more about the Legion's work.

There is an informal gathering at The Talbot Hotel on the last Wednesday of the month, with members meeting from 7.30 for a simple quiet chat, or maybe a few rounds on the dartboard if you care to bring your arrows with you.

The Cleobury branch, one of the oldest Legion groups in the country, meets at the Sports and Social Club at 7.00 on the second Wednesday of the month. Forces personnel young and old most welcome.





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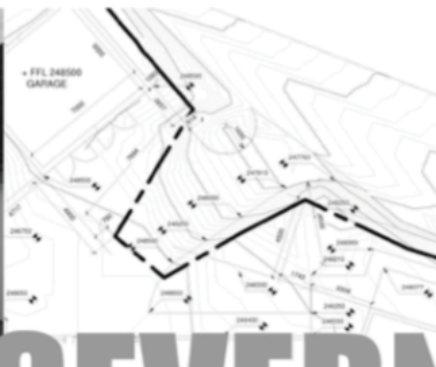


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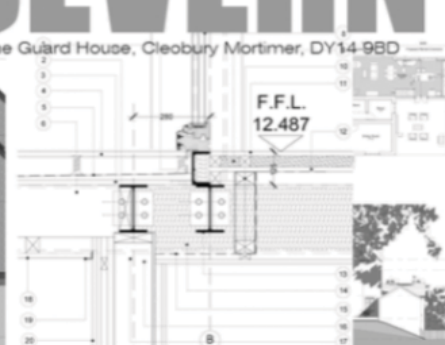
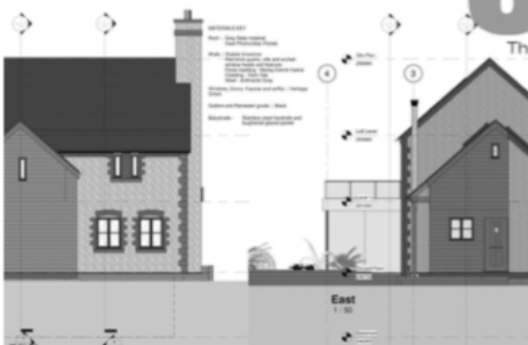
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## THE APRIL SOCIAL CALENDAR

Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rock Pathfinders step out at 10.00	
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 Hobson's Food Night presents Wild Food Kitchen	PAGE 11
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 CMFA Walk starting from the Parish Church.	PAGE 19.
Tue. 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am Breakfast Club meet at the Golf Club	
	7.30 Cleobury W.I. meet at the Market Hall.	PAGE 8
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	WWE meet at the Market Hall.	
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 Doddington Lodge Coffee Morning.	
	7.00 Hotdog and Quiz Night, Hopton Wafers Village Hall.	PAGE 5
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 to 4.00pm Table Top Sale, Hopton Wafers Village Hall.	PAGE 5
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 Afternoon Tea at the Community Hub	
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday. "Stations of the Cross" Walk	
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 to 4.00 Stottesdon Open Gardens	
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 The Reading Group meet at the Library in Love Lane.	PAGE 29
Thu May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Local Elections.	
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 "Victor and Albert" star at Farlow and Oreton village hall.	

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*Seafood Calamari, Whitebait, Scallops, Raw King Prawns, Fish pie mix*

*Bennet Ice Cream*

*Curries and Mr Daves Curries*

*Dairy Cream Cakes Éclair Finger Donut, Scones, Apple Turnovers*

*Frozen Fruit*

*Blueberries, Blackberries, Blackcurrants, Summer Fruits, Raspberries & more*

*Hot Puddings Treacle, Sticky Toffee, Chocolate, Jam*

*Suet Puddings, Steak and Kidney and Steak and Ale*



**Gluten Free, Vegan, Dairy Free, Vegetarian**

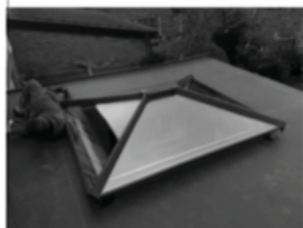
**[www.cleoburyfreezercentre.co.uk](http://www.cleoburyfreezercentre.co.uk)**

**Opening Times** Closed Monday, Tuesday to Friday 9.30 to 4.30 Saturday 9.30 to 12.30

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### **How to contact the Town Council**

Telephone: 01299 271154 or 07483 112290. Email: [council@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:council@cleobury.org.uk)

Speak to us at the Councillor Surgeries held on the third Saturday of every month in the Market Hall.

### **Councillor Surgery**

Cllr Abbatiello, Cllr James and the Clerk attended the monthly Councillor Surgery held in the Market Hall, alongside the Farmers Market, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Items raised included highway maintenance and community events. If you have an issue you want to raise, you can contact the office on the details above or drop into the next monthly Councillor Surgery on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### **Annual Town Meeting**

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Market Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 6.30pm – 8pm. We would like to thank all the representatives from community groups and organisations who took the time to showcase their work, namely South Shropshire Youth Forum, Friends of St Mary's, the Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association, Cleobury Gardeners, Cleobury Community Hub, Flourish and Nourish, Cleobury Mortimer WI, Save the Manor House Group and Neighbourhood Watch as well as representatives from Shropshire Council, the Town Council and the Market Hall.

### **Parish and County Elections**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May it will be Election Day for parish and town councillor roles as well as unitary councillors in Shropshire. We would encourage those who are eligible to vote to make sure they are on the Electoral Register so that they have the opportunity to vote.

Please also consider standing as a councillor for Cleobury Mortimer. Cleobury Mortimer councillors represent the whole parish of Cleobury Mortimer – the town and the rural areas as far and wide as from Ditton Mill to Lem Hill. If you are interested in volunteering at a local government level to help deliver services and improve the quality of life of residents and visitors please do consider this opportunity. You can find more information on the elections through Shropshire Council or [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or for more specific information about the work of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council, please contact us directly.

### **Staff Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a Deputy Town Clerk. More information can be obtained from the Council Office or on our website. The closing date for applications is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April with interviews being held during week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### **Council Office Move**

We are moving our office to the Market Hall from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Our email and telephone contact details will remain the same.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Next Council Meeting – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 6.30pm, at the Cleobury Country Centre.

Councillor Surgery – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025, from 10am – 12noon, at the Market Hall.

Election Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Cleobury Festival – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 on the Playing Field.





# **me** **CLEOBURY**

## FACILITIES INCLUDE:

**Gym**   
**Exercise Classes**   
**Sports Hall**   
**Outside Astro Pitch**   
**Netball**   
**Tennis Courts** 

## CLASS TIMETABLE

MON	9.15 - 10am	CARDIO PILATES & STRENGTH
	6.30 - 7.15pm	BODY PUMP
TUES	9.15 - 10am	YOGA
	10.15 - 11am	YOGA
	6.15 - 7pm	TRX
WED	5.15 - 6pm	PILATES
	6 - 6.45pm	CIRCUITS
THU	6 - 6.45pm	STEP & SCULPT
	7 - 7.45pm	SPIN
FRI	6 - 6.45pm	STRETCH & RELAX

Pre-Booking required for Exercise classes  
Book online or at the Centre

## OPENING TIMES

MON	7.30am - 10am
	10am-12.30pm GP Referral
	3.30pm - 10pm
TUE	3.30pm - 10pm
WED	7.30am - 10am
	4.30pm - 10pm
THU	4.30pm - 10pm
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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