

# The Cleobury Clarion

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**December 2017**

## **SELFISH PARKING**

We've all done it. Stopped the car in the wrong place to get some little matter dealt with quickly. No great sin if you get back into the car and move on as quickly as you can. But if you take your time, maybe pop in for some shopping, leaving the car to stop traffic flowing easily, that's selfish.

Even worse is taking up a parking space clearly marked for the use of the disabled or an ambulance. So it's sad to learn from Mark Dodds, practice manager at the Medical Centre, that people are parking in the special disabled driver bays near to the Centre door. The Centre has been designed with plenty of parking space and unless you're really hurting it's not a long walk to the door.

Please read Mark's very polite letter on Page 13 and think just a little before you park there.

## **CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

This annual giving to children in distant countries has become a natural feature of the Christmas season. Coordinator Jenny Vandherhook writes:

"What a marvellous effort by so many of you. Our final total is 1022 boxes; imagine all those happy children.

It took all year to prepare to pack the shoeboxes, but it's so worthwhile. My very grateful thanks to all of you who helped in any way. I couldn't have done it without you.

At least we didn't have rain this year when we were packing the boxes into the vans for their journey to the Hereford warehouse." *Jenny Vanderhook*

## **W.I. BOOSTS PARK HOUSE CHRISTMAS**



*All smiles. From left: Sandra Dodd, Adriana Rabu and Stroma Lennox*

Neen Savage W.I. President Sandra Dodd and long term member Stroma Lennox took a warm gift to Park House in Kinlet in November. Very happy to receive a dozen woollen muffs knitted by the W.I. members was Assistant Manager Adriana Rabu.

The idea came from the W.I. monthly newsletter, and staff at Park House confirmed how their residents would appreciate the tactile experience and the warmth of the muffs. A very pleasant experience as an early Christmas gift changed hands.

## **A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Whether you read the Clarion online, collect it from a local shop or pick it up in the pub, thank you for doing so.

We've had a busy year, with so much news to cover and events to report, plus new advertisers taking space and financing our monthly print bills. Thank you everyone, from our printer through to our distributors; your contribution is very much appreciated. Have a great Christmas. *JR*



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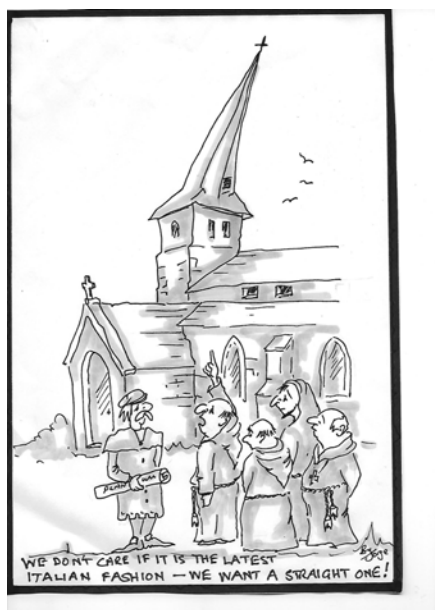
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# The Cleobury Clarion, December 2017

Volume Fifteen - Edition Nine



Introducing By Jorge, whose work will be a feature in future.  
See Page 29



Getting it right, the Cleobury  
Mortimer Running Club  
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Emily, the welcoming face at  
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## **HALLOWEEN - MORE HELPFUL THAN HORRIBLE**



If this terrible trio came knocking at your door, it could give you a nasty shock. But this was on Halloween Night and Grace Jolliffe, Lydia Baggott and Freya Kelly were doing more than trick-or-treating for sweets. They were collecting foodstuffs for the Saint Mary's Food Bank.

They did a great job, ending up with a wheelbarrow groaning under the weight of 41 tins, 16 packets and five jars of all sorts of food. All of it for other people in need of support and nothing for themselves. Top marks for three young ladies from Lacon Childe's Year 7.

## **ROCK PATHFINDERS**

Two walks this month. On the 7th they meet at Habberley Valley Nature Reserve car park, DY11 5RD or SO reference 802774, to stride out and enjoy the countryside. Then on the 21st the rendezvous is at The Bell Inn in Pensax, WR6 6AE or SO reference 802774 to take in a very different landscape and enjoy walking company.

More details from Alan on 01299 400304 or look in at [www.rockpathfinders.16mb.com](http://www.rockpathfinders.16mb.com)

## **WALKING FOR HEALTH**

Our summer season of well attended walks included outings to Cleobury Golf Club, Upper Arley and Clee Hill, where we were joined by the local WfH group. We are very grateful to Lacon Childe School for providing refreshments during term time.

The Winter Programme will again coincide with CoCo coffee mornings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from December through February, excluding December 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Cleobury Market Hall for a 10.00am start, no notice of attendance is required. Please come along whatever the weather, we will decide at the time whether to

walk or just enjoy the coffee and CoCo's delicious cake.

We particularly welcome folk who do not take much exercise or can only manage a short stroll and those uncomfortable with walking alone. These short walks of about 45 mins duration will be mainly on hard surfaces around town. For further information please contact me on CM 271754 or [ajkimber@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkimber@hotmail.com)

Alan Kimber

## **A SPECIAL SERVICE AT SAINT MARY'S**

The Parish Church is hosting a special service at 7.00pm on December 19th. It's listed as "A quiet Advent Service of Wholeness and Healing - Finding comfort at lonely times in our lives.' Everybody is welcome, whether a churchgoer or not.

## **THE WRITING GROUP**

"Small select meeting" as one member put it after November's gathering. We read stories and swapped tales about the bus service, which meant laughter.

For December, the opening phrase of the work is "She turned around, a tear in her eye" and the words to include are: unplugged, sky, dishwasher and ungrateful. We meet on the 11th.

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## HEROIC CYCLE RIDE



*Alan Humphries, out in Bewdley on his high mileage bike.*

Alan Humphries is a retired firefighter who took up cycling as an alternative to leading local walks. The 67 year old has two artificial knees and a reconstructed shoulder, but still took on the challenge of the recent 100 mile Birmingham Velo ride, raising money for the Alzheimer Society because a friend was recently diagnosed with the disease.

Alan got into training back in March, covering two short rides and one long one every week, plus adjusting his diet. He rode in the Velo and it took him ten hours to complete the course, but he did it. With sponsorship through justgiving.com, a raffle

run by a friend and online donations, he's raised £2,500 for the charity so far.

And you can help boost that figure if you go to [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and enter 'Alan Humphries Birmingham Velo' in the search box. Click on his name to get to his page and you can donate. The work this man has put into the campaign is tremendous and every little extra helps the cause he is supporting.

## LUDLOW'S TREE OF LIGHT

Ludlow Rotary Club and the Town Council have been running the Tree of Light since 2008. The Tree provides the opportunity to commemorate loved ones at Christmas time by making a donation of £5 per dedication. Thousands of pounds have been donated to local charities.

The Tree is festooned with lights and is the focus for good wishes. The full list of dedications is featured in the Ludlow Advertiser, recorded on the Ludlow Rotary website and in a Book of Celebration and Remembrance in St Laurence's Church.

Dedications can be made online to <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/ludlowrotarytol>. The

dedication form is also available on the website, [www.ludlowrotaryclub.org](http://www.ludlowrotaryclub.org), or in printed form from St Laurence's Church or Nock Deighton in Ludlow.

Alternatively you can write your dedication and send with a cheque made out to Ludlow Rotary Club to Tree of Light, c/o Nock Deighton, 12 Bull Ring, Ludlow SY8 1AD. If you are enclosing cash please hand deliver to Nock Deighton or the shop in St Laurence's Church, Ludlow.

Please print the dedication and let us know how you would like it alphabetically listed, eg your surname or the surname of the person remembered. We will use your wording so include any family details in your dedication.

The Tree of Light 2017 was switched on in Castle Gardens, on November 25th. Dedications are open until Twelfth Night, January 5th.

Any queries email [suefleetwood64@gmail.com](mailto:suefleetwood64@gmail.com), 07710 761468.

## SILLY BIT

**Lord, give me coffee to change the things I can change, and wine to accept the things I can't.**

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## **THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION**

Our November work party was at Sadlers Barn Farm. We re-installed the lovely seat above the river, made improvements to two stiles and gave Upper Forge Bridge a good tidy up.

The paths concerned feature on three of our walk leaflets, The ever popular Mawley Hall Tour but also A round of Golf and the shorter and easier Upper Forge and Beyond.

Our popular festive walks will be on as usual: Boxing Day morning at 10.00 from outside St Mary's church – a short walk to work up an appetite for lunch and then the ever popular New Years' Day walk -same venue but a 2.00 pm start to allow a lie in plus we offer some warming food afterwards in the Kings Arms.

*Graham Simpson*

## **CLEOBURY'S MEN'S SHED PROGRESSES**

It's in a very early stage of life, but the Men's Shed is making good progress. At the mid November meeting a visit to the Oswestry Shed was reported and the basic business structure was agreed.

The Oswestry unit is about two years old and has 35

members, who pay £4.00 a month to cover running costs and insurance. It started with a piece of land and a basic building free of charge, since when it has built the main workshop and added a smaller unit for welding and metal work. It produces and sells items to help funds and has a wood burning stove for warmth, plus electricity and toilet facilities.

Pete Blackburn and Keith Martin have been putting in a lot of hours and one lesson learned is that the group should register as a charitable incorporated organisation under the agreed title of Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed. Officers of the group were elected: Pete Blackburn is chair, Neil Tysall treasurer and Keith Martin the secretary. There is a need for a board of trustees, which will be those three gentlemen plus Mike Pattison and Gwilym Butler. It was agreed that the group approach a possible president.

The group will need a constitution and professional advice will be sought to advise on this, using the Oswestry group's as a basis for the Cleobury version. All of which sounds about as dry as dust, but

was actually achieved in a friendly way.

It is a credit to both Pete Blackburn and Keith Martin's no-nonsense style that so much had been achieved before this meeting. A lot of basic administration was then laid down in one hour and people went away with the feeling that this is going to happen. There were twelve men present, all willing to work and contribute a range of skills and knowledge.

The December meeting will be on Tuesday the 12th, 7.00 o'clock in the Market Hall and there will be less administration work and more of the practical stuff to talk about and move the project further forward. Any interested man is welcome to attend. Pete Blackburn is the contact on [petblack@me.com](mailto:petblack@me.com)

## **SILLY BITS**

**People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.**

**I only drink little, but when I do I turn into another person and that person drinks a lot.**

**Of course size matters. No one wants a small glass of wine!**



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## **IN PRAISE OF...**

When we saw Jake Hedge's work for the first time the quality of the items he had on his stall at Ludlow Market and his approach to his work impressed us. We offered him the chance to design and make the handrails we needed for the steps to our front door. His acceptance was very enthusiastic.

After his visit to view the situation we received a draft design by email. There were a few modifications that we wanted and Jake was happy to discuss these on a return visit and to adjust his original design while still being careful to explain the limitations and practical requirements to ensure that the result was not only attractive but also practical and structurally sound. The new design was approved and we were promised completion within four to six weeks. The rails were fitted in under four weeks.

The whole process was a pleasure. We are delighted with the result and would not hesitate to recommend Jake to anyone looking for someone to create good quality, well designed iron work.  
[J.H.Blacksmithing@gmail.com](mailto:J.H.Blacksmithing@gmail.com) or 07584436002. Jake's forge is in Ludlow.

*Ron and Margaret Booker*

## **THE SOROPTIMISTS**

Our 83<sup>rd</sup> Federation Conference was held in Cardiff, attended by around 1200 members from around the globe. Over the three days we listened to some inspirational speakers and on the last day heard the views of three young women on how

they see our future. We celebrated SIGBI's Best Practice Awards and were treated to very entertaining talks by two amazing women: Mandy Hickson one of the first RAF female pilots to fly the multi-million-pound fast jets and also led her Tornado GR4 Squadron in action in Iraq. Dame Katherine Grainger OBE then shared with us her compelling tale of her journey to become the only female athlete in any sport to gain medals in four consecutive Olympic Games.

Between the business sessions we also enjoyed musical interludes from Aaron Pryce-Lewis, the Bristol Military Wives Choir and the Phil Dando Band and Singers.

For more details on Soroptimist International, your local club and its activities, please contact us: Tel. 01299 266101 or email: [kidderminstersorop@gmail.com](mailto:kidderminstersorop@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/>  
Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster  
*Elke Jury*

## **HOSPITAL PARKING CHARGES RISE**

The Shropshire and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is proposing increased parking charges at Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals. The new rates would be:

Up to 2 hours: £3.00 (20% rise)  
Up to 3 hours: £4.00 (33% rise)  
Up to 4 hours: £5.00 (66% rise)  
Up to 5 hours: £6.00 (100% rise)  
Up to 24 hours: £8.00 (128% rise)

As you would expect, the reaction to this idea has been very strong, the Telford and Wrekin Council describing it as

"a tax on visiting the sick". The Press Association has reported that hospitals in England took more than £120 million for parking last year.

For some of us, paying for parking is just a pain to be lived with, but there are people who will struggle to pay such a rate to visit a loved one who may be very poorly. The Chair of the Shropshire Patients' Group has already written to the Trust to protest at the new charges and is asking others to do the same. The greater the number of people who write, the bigger the effect.

You can email Healthwatch Shropshire at [enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk), they will then compile all the complaints and send them to the Trust.

It may be you or your family facing these new charges, just at a time when you have greater worries to deal with. For the less well-off amongst us, it is simply not fair.

## **THE ADVENT LUNCHES**

A slight correction of the timetable for the Advent Lunches that we published in November. They will start at 1.00 and end at 2.00, not from 12.30 to 1.30. The dates remain the same: Fridays the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Great value, too. For £3.50 you'll get home made soup with crusty bread plus home made apple pie with cream. Proceeds to Severn Hospice and there will be a raffle in aid of Crisis at Christmas. Special dietary needs? Call the Severn Hospice shop on CM 272795 for friendly advice.

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## **PARKING PROBLEMS**

I am sure many readers will at some point have been frustrated with the traffic problems that regularly occur in Cleobury, equally I am sure many readers will have voiced disgust at some of the less than considerate parking that often adds to the difficulties of driving through town, during busy periods of the day.

I believe those same people will be equally disappointed to know that we are suffering our own parking issues at the Medical Centre. Increasingly we find that our disabled spaces are being used by people who really do not need to be parked right next to our front doors.

We have three disabled spaces at the front of the building and encourage the following groups to make use of them: blue badge holders, ambulance crews and patients who temporarily find themselves with mobility issues, due to illness or recent operations. Unfortunately our able bodied patients sometimes see them as drop off points or somewhere to pull up whilst they "pop" a prescription request in.

I am writing this hoping that as patients read this letter it makes them stop and think, do I

really have a need for a disabled space? If not please use one of the many other parking spaces we have available. After all, would you really want to be someone who may one day have blocked an ambulance, for the sake of a few seconds in your life?

Over the coming weeks we plan to keep a close eye on the parking in these bays, please use your blue badge if you have one. If you do not and have a mobility need, then please do park, but do not be offended if a member of staff runs a spot check on you.

With thanks from all of us here.

*Mark Dodds*

*Practice Manager*

## **REMEMBER THE NIGHTINGALE FUND**

Your local charity the Nightingale Nursing Fund would welcome you thinking of it at Christmas if you are considering donating to a charity instead of sending Christmas cards or just making a donation.

The charity helps patients that are registered with the Cleobury Mortimer, Ditton Priors, Highley and Shropshire patients of the Tenbury Wells Doctors

surgeries, by providing nursing care in special circumstances.

You can find details of the fund on the web site :- [www.nnfund.co.uk](http://www.nnfund.co.uk) where you will find a "my donate" button. If you prefer you could send a cheque to the treasurer Mrs Gill Shorter, 16 Orchard End, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BA Thank you in advance.

*Rosemary Abbiss*

## **THANK YOU**

Just a note to say I will not be posting Christmas cards this year but will be sending a donation to Prostate UK. I would like to wish all my friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would also like to thank everyone for your kindness and support during this year.

*Valerie Cope*

## **WINE TASTING AT BAYTON**

They do know how to enjoy themselves in Bayton village. Hot on the heels of their Christmas celebration will come a wine tasting in the Village Hall on January 26th. That's a Friday, so any enthusiasm for the experience can be slept off on the 27th. Tickets are £10 and include bread and cheese. From David Ogden on 832111.



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## **EMPLOYERS PLEASE NOTE**

**Job Vacancies can be advertised here free of charge, because the page is printed as a service to the community. If you are looking for staff, simply send brief details to the Editor, whose contact details are on Page 63. The normal deadline is the 24th of the month, but to get your advert into the January issue, it is needed by December 18th.**

<b>Job Title/ Company</b>	<b>Job Requirements</b>	<b>How to Apply</b>
Delivery Driver	Applicants must possess License BE ( Able to tow a trailer) Previous experience, good customer relations, no more than 6 points on licence.	Apply to: Martyn at Worcestershire Marble on 01299 841206
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For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email [HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk), **stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer**

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## **MAMBLE MUSIC NIGHT - Saturday January 13th**

Featuring 'Stompin' Dave', vocalist, instrumentalist, dancer and raconteur, he plays bluegrass, blues, country, folk and rock n' roll and has performed at Glastonbury, Bestival, Camp Bestival and Upton on Severn music Festival.

'One of the world's greatest performers' said Maverick Magazine.

He'll be playing in Mamble Village Hall, with all proceeds going to Nineveh Ridge Care Farm.

Tickets £10 or £12 with a hot supper. Booking essential - 01299 832773 or [jukie@hardenparkhomes.co.uk](mailto:jukie@hardenparkhomes.co.uk).

Bar available. Doors open 7.30

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Building cars in Bayton? It must rank amongst the most unlikely businesses in the area. But the Gregory family have been offering three-wheelers in kit or fully built form since 1999. That was when Phil Gregory first built a copy of his Pembleton trike for someone who'd seen it and wanted one. Since then he has built about 500 trikes, mostly Citroen 2CV powered.

That engineering knowledge was handed down to Guy, who worked with his old chap to get the first of the new generation of Pembleton V-Sports built in 2014, using an Italian Moto-Guzzi motorcycle engine. It's a logical choice, adequate power from an engine with a reputation for long life and reliability. And the car is light, very light at 290kg dry. Why the Moto Guzzi engine? "You can't beat them for looks and sound and Guzzi do concentrate on torque," Guy explains.

Buying new engines from an Italian manufacturer for such a minor operation? How did he manage that? "Lots of research and I got through to the Head of Engines in Italy. Sent him pictures and they agreed to cooperate. Sent me one engine, then a batch of three and then a batch of ten!" What do ten Guzzi engines look like? Like this:



*(Photo: Guy Gregory)*

The engine is mated with a four speed and reverse gearbox from Citroen, which provides the front wheel drive most drivers are used to today. But Guy is not standing still in that department and there may be a Pembleton gearbox available in the near future.

The attractive 1920s styling of the aluminium body hides a steel chassis built in Bayton, the louvres in the bonnet hand made with Gregory designed tooling. The bonnet is held in place with custom made leather straps, another period touch. The wheels are traditional spoked style, the rims finished in black as standard, like cars of the 1920s. And the dashboard is also black, unless the customer wants a machine turned alloy at a little extra.

The braking system is serious for such a light vehicle: twin inboard discs for the front wheels and a single drum brake at the rear end. Reassuring in an

open tourer capable of cruising at 80mph on foreign autobahns.

This hand built fun machine is built to each customer's detailed specification and the price starts at a very affordable £17,995. VAT included? "No VAT, I'm not big enough to charge that yet," says Guy.

The options include leather upholstery and there are bucket seats in development. Fancy a period style flyscreen? Of course you can. And the body can come in polished alloy or whatever colour you like.

So is this a weekend plaything, or can it be used seriously? Tours of Europe are known in the owners' group and Arthur and Clair Radcliffe took theirs to New Zealand for a touring holiday. That's serious.

What are Guy's ambitions for such a promising individual car? "I don't want to be too big, maybe have two or three people working with me, making ten or more cars in a year. I'm planning to build a show car to take around to some of the classic events like Prescott and Shelsley hill climbs and the big Silverstone Classic meeting."

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### Dental Disease in Small Animals: the wisdom of checking your pet's mouth

Examining the mouth can tell us a lot about the general health of our pets. As vets we routinely look in and around the mouth every time we examine an animal. The lips, gums, teeth, tongue, and the hard palate can all be quietly brewing some serious problems which may well be related to dental disease. All of these are places that are easily checked in amenable pets, and owners can and should look at them regularly (except in rodents). The most important thing for any of us as pet owners is to be able to safely and gently look in our pet's mouths whenever we're handling them. So don't leave it until you're concerned about a problem; get into the habit of routinely checking for anything which looks abnormal. The sooner we know about a dental or oral problem, the better. Most of the conditions which affect the mouth are painful and will therefore need swift investigation and treatment. Smelly breath is not just a sign of old age, and should not be considered normal. The bad breath is just a symptom of a disease process which will progress if it is not dealt with. It is often due to dental disease, but may be due to a tumour in the mouth, a piece of foreign material stuck in the mouth, or ulceration due to a more generalised disease.

Gingivitis (inflamed gums, possibly bleeding), calculus, tooth root abscesses and ultimately tooth loss are all painful conditions, but often do not cause an animal to stop eating. In many instances these are chronic conditions which progress gradually, and so often they are not perceived to be significant factors in our pet's general health. However, they are genuinely debilitating conditions which we certainly wouldn't ignore in our own mouths, and we ought to learn to appreciate their significance in our pets. Some factors, such as breed, jaw conformation, tooth trauma and viral/bacterial infection can predispose our pets to rapid or severe dental disease. Poor and/or inappropriate diet is a major cause of dental disease in pet rabbits and guinea pigs, who actually only require simple low energy, high fibre food i.e. grass/hay (not concentrated, manufactured pellets). They need to spend long periods of time chewing; otherwise their teeth become too long and irregular in shape. Sharp spurs on the molar teeth dig into the cheeks and

tongue, and the abnormally long teeth prevent normal chewing action.

The best advice I can give you is to check your pet's mouth regularly (i.e. at least weekly, if not daily); look at all the teeth, open the mouth wide and look under the tongue and along the hard palate. Look for swellings, bleeding, plaque, foreign bodies etc. If you see anything abnormal, or which concerns you, get it checked by your vet. Prompt action is always best.

Be aware that insurance policies rarely cover the cost of dental treatment, unless it is for an acute condition which could not have been prevented by good care. It is our responsibility to make the effort to maintain good dental hygiene wherever possible, and therefore minimise the need for veterinary dental treatment. Appropriate food, chews, toothpaste and mouth washes should all be considered part of a good dental care regimen. The vast majority of veterinary dental treatment requires general anaesthesia and so pets usually stay at the vets for the day to receive the care and attention they deserve.

*Dr Penny Yates PgC SAM BVSc MRCVS*



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## **THE BREAKFAST CLUB**

The Club met at the Cleobury Café in November to hear Sue Brown explain the basis of her work as a Chiropractic, working in Cleobury's High Street.

Sue opened by stressing that this is now a regulated profession, and it is illegal for anyone in UK to call themselves 'a chiropractic' without prior registration. She followed up by explaining that much of her work relates to spinal problems, many of which her patients bring on themselves through bad posture. This is often associated with frequent lengthy periods of incorrectly positioned seating, especially at computer work stations, or in cars. If we ignore the optimum alignment of the spine, or adopt unbalanced or asymmetrical stances, we are storing up problems for ourselves. Which a chiropractic may be able to solve.

On a show of hands, about half the members revealed that they had at some time had treatment from a chiropractor, or from an osteopath, and as Sue warmed to her subject, one could see members wriggling on their seats, trying to arrange themselves to provide their spines with the approved curves (lower spine IN, upper spine OUT). Sue's explanations were clarified by her use of an excellent model of a human spine (which could hardly be called life-like, but it certainly was realistic). She also provided some simple tips to reduce likely problems – such as careful choices of seating, cushions, and pillows. All in all, a useful talk.

The Breakfast Club meets on December 12th at the Golf Club to hear Mark Baldwin talk about 'Wish You Were Here'. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) or Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

## **IN PRAISE OF...**

May I, though the pages of the Clarion, sing the praises of Lower Street Garage.

My wife took her car to be checked, as at seven years old and 82,000 miles, various squeaks and bangs are becoming more frequent.

When my wife went to collect her car she asked for the bill. Deggie said that as no faults were found and the tyres were OK for another couple of thousand miles there would be no charge.

When my wife said "But what about your time and labour charges?" Deggie insisted that they still would not charge us any money. What a wonderful gesture!

Can you imagine that happening with the "big" nationwide garages? No, neither can we.

Deggie, Matt and all at Lower Street Garage; take a well deserved bow.

*Philip and Carol Westwood*

## **THE AMAZING FUND RAISING GASKELLS**

John and Ange Gaskell are keen members of the Golf Club and both have big hearts. Through the past year they've worked away at fund raising events to support a range of cancer charities.

In November they hosted a special afternoon tea at the club and handed over a selection of cheques totalling £15,650. The

actual sums were: £3,000 to Cancer Research UK, £3,000 to Midland Air Ambulance, £4,000 to Macmillan Cancer Care, £4,000 to Acorns Children's Hospice and £1,650 to Kidderminster Prostate Cancer Care.

A wonderful effort. Congratulations to the Gaskells and all at the Golf Club who cooperated in the organisation.

## **NHS HEARING AID CLINIC**

There's a drop-in Hearing Aid Clinic at St Mary's Place Community Room, off Love Lane, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon on Wednesday the 6th this month. It's staffed by NHS Audiology trained volunteers, who will help with tube changing, battery collection and general advice on the care of your hearing aid. They can also advise where to go for more complex repairs or problems with your hearing aid.

## **RAIN OR SHINE THEATRE RETURN TO KINLET**

This popular theatre company will be back in Kinlet Village Hall on the 20th of this month to perform 'Dracula - or A Pain In The Neck', a nicely apt title for the story of man who took kissing to a new depth; more than skin deep in fact.

It's a comic reworking of a classic tale, described as something "You can really get your teeth into." It starts at 7.30, tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for children or £25 for a family. A call to Francis Engleheart on 07710 288526 will secure yours and lead to what sounds like a great evening. All proceeds to the Village Hall.

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## **PROPOSED CUTS TO YOUTH PARTNERSHIP FUNDING**

The provision of facilities for youth activities throughout Shropshire is an important matter. It is a well proven fact that keeping young minds involved with interesting activities keeps them from some of the temptations none of us want to see our children or grandchildren following.

At a time of austerity, when money is hard to find, it's easy to cut out such spending. You probably wouldn't see the effect until months or even years from now, so why worry? Because we live in a decent place, with low levels of crime and anti social behaviour. Something we should fight to keep good, not dismiss as someone else's problem.

Apparently Shropshire Council is planning to make no funds available for the Cleobury Mortimer area next year. That's in their plans, which the public can comment upon via this site: <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/changes-to-provision-of-youth-activities/>

You can go on there and let them have your view as a private citizen. The site is open until January 5th, so you have time, but please don't leave it too long. The more voices they hear objecting to this cut the more likely they are to think again. JR

### **CLEOBURY W.I.**

Thanks to all those who came along to the Winter Warmer lunch, it was very busy and over £250 was raised for funds and our charity for this year which is

Nineveh Ridge Care Farm. Please note January 25th for the next lunch.

Also well supported was the November meeting with 23 visitors welcomed to enjoy a talk from well known historian Alf Jenkins who was born at Dhu Stone Inn, Clee Hill. Alf entertained with tales of his childhood, of freezing winters, frost inside the windows and ice in the chamber pots!

In December we will be celebrating at the Kings Arms, not only Christmas but Cleobury Mortimer WI's 95th birthday as the first meeting was on 7th December 1922. The programme for 2018 is looking interesting and fun, we usually meet in the Market Hall on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm. Anyone thinking of joining us get in touch on 01299 270983, email [judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com) or check us out on Facebook.

## **SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK**

The excellent work of Severn Valley Country Park Supporter's Group has been recognised by a national award. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. It is given to recognise outstanding work done by local volunteer groups in their own communities.

The award committee noted the 'continued reclamation of a colliery site to create a country park and wildlife sanctuary'. Work to reclaim the site began in 1986, with the official opening in 1992. Some of their volunteer team have been volunteering since that time.

The award was presented to the chairman of the group, Don

Bannister, by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy. 60 volunteers and their partners attended the presentation during which a champagne toast was made to the Queen.

The volunteers deserve huge congratulations for this well-deserved award. Their constant dedication to the park is what makes it such a beautiful place to visit.

To find out the latest from Severn Valley Country Park visit their Facebook page.

*This story was taken from the Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership Volunteer Supplement. Ed.*

## **CLAIRE CARTER'S WORK ON SHOW**

Claire Carter is an acclaimed and award winning wildlife photographer, whose work has earned her an exhibition at the Photo Space Gallery in Ludlow's Castle Street.

It is scheduled to run from November 25th through to January 27th, under the title 'Where I Stand'. She explains that title: "Where I stand I have felt pure exhilaration. When conditions were tough and I doubted my sanity, suddenly the world exploded with light and colour and I knew I was totally sane and alive.

Where I stand, motion and emotion collide."

You can see the evidence of this at the exhibition, including an audio visual display of the Northern Lights that she has captured in her trips to the near Arctic north. She is a devoted and outstanding professional and we cannot recommend any exhibition more than this. JR

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## ALEX'S DEGREE SUCCESS



*Alex Guest, holder of an Open  
University Open Degree.*

This is a story of devotion and determination, of a young man overcoming a serious illness to realise his ambition to earn a university degree.

Alex Guest was only 12 when he developed Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. It was a devastating blow, leaving him with severe head and joint aches, exhaustion and serious sensitivity to light, sound and touch. Add to that the loss of the ability to read and write and you realise that it was a huge problem to face.

Schooling was one of the problems, Shropshire Education Services unable to provide a tutor or online learning. So his mother Gill approached the Open University, who agreed to take him on at the age of 14, one

of the youngest to undertake their courses. The problems he faced would put most people off the idea, but Alex and his mum are made of stern stuff.

"The first module he did was Maths," Gill recalls. "Alex couldn't tolerate the brightness of white paper, so we used to do ten minutes sessions of sums in felt tip pen on the window panes. Our house looked like a scene from Good Will Hunting!"

His natural intellect was there to be seen if you met him. He came to the Creative Writing Group, shy and hesitant in manner, but able produce some great ideas and express them in good English. He is a talented writer.

His mum is rightly delighted with Alex's achievement. "Graduation Day was very emotional," she admits of the gathering at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, where Baroness Lane-Fox, chancellor of the OU, presented the degrees. "To be among so many Open University students who had been supported by their families. It was lovely to see their tenacity and sheer dogged hard work pay off, and celebrate with them. We were immensely proud." Quite right too, it is a remarkable story.

## THE READING GROUP

Are we more tolerant of race and class now than we were in the mid 1900s? This was our main topic after reading 'The L-Shaped Room' by Lynne Reid Banks, an authentic sounding story set in the 1950s.

Jane is pregnant by a boyfriend she doesn't consider marrying and her father turns her out of the family home. Renting a room in a bug-ridden boarding house she meets an array of colourful characters and tries to ignore her pregnancy. Later, coming to terms with her problems, Jane becomes fond of her L-shaped room and most of her fellow boarders.

The novel, now social history, covers the stigma of unmarried motherhood and class attitudes. The striking casual racism & anti-Semitism feels shocking now but reflects attitudes in the 1950s. These have changed a great deal for the better but there is still a way to go.

Our next read, 'Elizabeth is Missing' by Emma Healey will be chatted about over nibbles and drinks on December 18<sup>th</sup> at Cleobury Library.

*Deana Kimber*  
CM 271754

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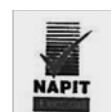
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December, and with it the Christmas season, each year seems to come around more quickly than before, so for those readers who have not yet completed your Christmas shopping (or started it, in my case), there is still plenty of time to look in local shops for your presents this year. The first Saturday in December is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Small Business Saturday' and provides the perfect excuse to shop locally and help grow our local economy. Christmas markets are also increasingly popular in our market towns across South Shropshire in the run up to Christmas, and several have late night shopping events.

While many of us take Christmas as a time to be with family and friends, enjoying some peace of mind away from work, men and women up and down the country go to work to serve the public, in what can be difficult circumstances. I have been fortunate to serve in two government departments, Defence and Health, both of which have given me the chance to meet many public spirited people who spend their days, nights and public holidays ensuring the public are safe and well. At Christmas time, our admiration for their selfless work grows even stronger.

Emergency workers like paramedics, police, and fire services all continue to be ready, in a matter of minutes, to come to our aid over Christmas should we need them. I have been out with emergency ambulance crews, and spent time with hospital emergency clinicians. These are testing jobs, and we should be grateful for their professionalism

year round, but perhaps especially at Christmas. The same goes for all staff in our hospitals and community health settings, both locally and across the UK, who ensure our NHS is there should we need it.

Similarly, members of the police and Armed Forces protect us around the clock, including in Parliament, as we have had tragic cause to be thankful for this year. Those posted overseas must maintain a constant state of alertness, unable to be with their families at Christmas. While bases and ships afford some luxuries, like a Christmas lunch, day to day work remains the priority. We should all be very grateful for their service.

In a slightly different but related vein, I would also like to thank all the posties working in the Ludlow Constituency for their efforts to ensure letters and parcels reach their intended destination before Christmas Day. I visit one of the sorting offices in the constituency ahead of each Christmas to thank the hardworking staff, and am always amazed at the sheer quantity of mail, especially parcels, delivered in South Shropshire at this time of year.

So if you get the chance, please take the time to thank those who you know will be working over Christmas. A kind word goes a long way, and will let them know how much you appreciate what they do.

I wish all my constituents across South Shropshire a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

*Philip Dunne MP*

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## **MADGE SAYS THANK YOU**

Many thanks to everyone who came to talk to the people who provide our health care on November 18th. Our four Young Health Champions did a great job signing visitors in and making drinks.

Early feed back is really useful and helps contribute to the Health meetings I attend on your behalf and as the Vice Chairman of Shropshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee so please e mail [Madge.shineton@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Madge.shineton@shropshire.gov.uk) or knock the door at 2, Ralph Jones Terrace with your comments and suggestions.

It was good to see the Cleobury and Brown Clee surgeries together as they look after most of us in this area. Nice to see the Housing Associations there, because good housing is very important for good health.

There will be a formal Future Fit consultation document in December about the future services provided in the Shropshire hospitals at Telford and Shrewsbury. This research will go through until early March. It really is important and will be part of evidence used for many services provided across the County in the future including transport to access those services. I am happy to provide a paper copy if that will help you.

*Madge Shineton*

## **DODDINGTON NEWS**

St John the Baptist Church in Doddington are delighted that they have been given £10,700 in grant money to do a feasibility study. The major part of this is

from the Big Lottery Fund with additional help from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Faced with major repair works and no means of knowing how much they would cost, the grant allows the church to turn a problem into an opportunity, including consulting the community on how the Church can better serve its needs. "This is fantastic news", said Celia Gibb, Churchwarden. "We rely on donations for our income and to keep the Church and churchyard in use. This grant allows us to assess the cost of repair, which may be tens of thousands of pounds, as well as find out if there are ways we can better serve the community."

Set in a beautiful location on Titterstone Clee, the oldest continuously active industrial area in Europe, the Church was built for quarry and mine workers 170 years ago and has a number of important features that proclaim the importance of its heritage and serving the spiritual needs of the area. "The simple calm of St John's, set in its churchyard with views to Worcestershire and Wales, and its heritage, including unusual use of ironwork in the windows make it a very special and precious place." commented Celia. Once repairs are assessed and the community needs are reviewed, then the real work of raising funds to do the work begins. "Its going to be a long and challenging project. We are a little apprehensive, but very excited!" admitted Celia "But the Big Lottery Fund grant is a great start and we are very grateful that they are helping the Church on the Hill to continue to shine out."

## **HOPTON NEWS**

Quiz Evening, November 18th: We had thirteen teams taking part in all and it was good to see some new faces supporting us from Tenbury Wells, Clee Hill and Cleobury Mortimer.

The Quiz was very hard fought, with at least seven teams in the the running. The results:

1st: Old School, 69.5 points

2nd Formula ! 64.0 points

3rd: Dumb and Dumber 63.5 points.

Many thanks to all the helpers, to all who supported the quiz, donated raffle and auction prizes, including Red Hare Hairdressers and Ashley's Cafe, and bought tickets.

Annual Carol Service and Grand Raffle. Saint Michael and All Angels, Hopton Wafers, Tuesday December 5th at 7.00 o'clock. All are welcome to this service, which will include the Cleobury Church Choir and festive refreshments. All are welcome.

*Marilyn Wood*

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## **ANOTHER CLEOBURY SUCCESS**

The Running Club has grown from a small band of friends to become a strong, lively group with a big following and a growing sense of confidence in their future. Member Lisa Bailey tells about the story so far.

Cleobury Mortimer Running Club started out with around eight keen runners who wanted to create an inclusive running club that would cater for all abilities. They felt there was a real gap in the market with no local club offering this that would suit all types of runner/jogger.

Just over two years later, the club has grown from strength to strength with over 110 members travelling from all around the local area. Having two fully qualified coaches, Joanne Watson and Andie Ford, as well as four run leaders, this has enabled the club to offer professional advice and support to all levels of runner. Their sessions focus on running technique skills, strength and conditioning and endurance as well as just simply 'going for a run'.



The club is looking forward to its first Awards Ceremony this year, to be held at the Christmas Party, which gives the chance to celebrate everyone's achievements. Everyone has achieved something whether it be their first marathon, half marathon or just being able to run without stopping. They have been encouraged by coaches Jo and Andie (shown above) who themselves have had their own amazing achievements. Still regularly competing, they continue to keep achieving personal bests, race after race, and providing real motivation and encouragement to everyone at all levels. Jo and Andie have

both run marathon Good For Age (GFA) times this year, guaranteeing them entry to the London Marathon in 2018. They both also achieved Boston Qualifying Times.

CMRC are operating currently as a UK Athletics registered club, as a satellite club alongside Ludlow Runners. However, they now feel it's time to go alone and are presently applying to be an independent fully affiliated club. The future is very exciting for the club and its members with lots of events planned for 2018, including their first official race - Cleobury 10k - which will be held on July 1st next year. Watch out, you don't know what the team of red will doing next!

Now qualified, coaches Jo and Andie also offer private coaching for individuals ([www.run-well.co.uk](http://www.run-well.co.uk)) and the club will be running another beginners course in January starting on Thursday the 18th at 7.00pm from Cleobury Mortimer Sports Hall. If you have enquiries, then please visit us at [www.runcleobury.org](http://www.runcleobury.org) or email: [info@runcleobury.org](mailto:info@runcleobury.org) or you can follow us on Facebook (@runcleobury). *Lisa Bailey*

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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	1.00	Advent Lunch, Market Hall, great value and all for charity. PAGE 11		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat.2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00pm	Christmas Lights switch on with Father Christmas in attendance and Cleobury Brass in full, fine form at the Christmas Fair		
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Open Mic Night at the kings Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only, all types and ages		
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	The Town Council meet at Cleobury Country Centre to conduct business		
Tues. 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Carol Service and Grand Raffle, St Michael's Parish Church Hopton Wafers – PAGE 29		
Weds.6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00-12.00	NHS Hearing Aid drop in clinic at St Mary's Place – PAGE 21		
	11.00am	Sing, Laugh, Breather meet at the Market Hall	Kate	<a href="mailto:kate@sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk">kate@sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk</a>
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu.7 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPITIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at Habberley Valley Nature Reserve DY11 5RD or SO reference 802774 – SEE PAGE 5		
Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Advent Lunch in the Market Hall		
Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens will be performed in St George's Parish Church Milson. Tickets £10.00	Stephen Webb	01299 271407
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Benefice Service in St Mary's Church Cleobury Mortimer with Bishop Alistair licensing Rev.Sue Barrett to work within the Benefice		
Mon. 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	The Writing Group meet at the Library – PAGE 5		
	7.30pm	The Horticultural Society Meet in Saint Elizabeth's Hall for their Christmas Social Evening – PAGE 31		
Tues.12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meet at the Golf Club to hear Dr Mark Baldwin talk about "Wish you were here"	Jonathan Fair	01299 271913
	7.00pm	Cleobury Men's Shed meet to hear about progress. Market Hall, Church Street – PAGE 9		

### SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be on December 8th. Arrive at 12.30 for a 1.00 o'clock start. Musical entertainment and buffet food provided by the Co-op.**

**Children's Christmas Party on the 15th between 4.00 and 7.00 o'clock. Father Christmas will be visiting, with a gift for every child. Cost just £2.50 per child.**

**New Year's Eve Party, with disco, starting at 7.30. Members free, non-members £5.00 a head. The Club will be closed on New Year's Day.**



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## The December Social Calendar Continued

## Part Two

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
We 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health meet at their winter base, the Market Hall in Church Street, combining with CoCo Coffee Morning. Coffee & Cake for £1.50! PAGE 5		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe meet at the Market Hall to share songs & laughter		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the Village Hall for their Christmas Celebration		
	8.00	Royal British Legion, The Bell Inn, Lower St.	David Taylor	CM270793
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	1.00	Advent Lunch in the Market Hall		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Cleobury Concert Brass entertain with their annual concert in the Parish Hall. Book early – tickets always sell out! PAGE 39		
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Cleobury Patients Voice meet at the Medical Centre. New members welcome. PAGE 45		01299 407 224
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	CM Poetry Club, the Library, Love Lane		CM 270642
	7.00	Cleobury Running Club have another Beginners' Course. At the Sports Centre, Love Lane. PAGE 31		
	7.30	The Reading Group meet in The Library, Love Lane. PAGE 25		
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00	Special Advent Service of Wholeness and Healing' in the Parish Church. PAGE 5		
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe meet at the Market Hall for a Christmas sing-song		
	7.30	Rain or Shine Theatre present "Dracula - or "A Pain in the Neck" at Kinlet Village Hall. PAGE 21		
	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Bell Inn, Pensax. WR6 6AE or SO reference 735690 PAGE 5		
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1.00	The final Advent Lunch of the year, in the Market Hall		
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>		CoCo Coffee Morning and Walking for Health get together at the Market Hall		
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.00	New Year Party at the Kings Arms. Ellis Johnson plus DJ Pie		
Fri Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

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## **CRIME REDUCTION GROUP**



*Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Tracy Onslow. A sharp and concise no-nonsense speaker.*

New faces were on parade at the Crime Reduction Group meeting in November, most notably Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Tracy Onslow. In a sharp, concise way she described the West Mercia Police plans to introduce some new services within their £210 million annual budget.

This includes a Victim's Charter, giving those who have suffered from crime easier access to all the services the force can offer. On the matter of domestic violence there is an addition with the recruitment of a male administrator as well as the established females; there is such violence to males, but it gets little publicity.

The budget for Closed Circuit Television installation has been increased from the £300,000 2016 level to £1 million to ensure that all cameras give a clear image of vehicles and criminals. There was strong support for this

news, the town's own old system being expensive and of little practical use, hence its recent replacement.

Mrs Onslow introduced Mick Simpson, manager of the 'We Don't Buy Crime' scheme, who said Cleobury Mortimer was a flagship operation that has attracted attention from many neighbouring towns and villages. The effect has been a reduction of about 85 percent in burglaries, but break-ins at sheds and barns is a growing problem.

Mrs Onslow then advised that West Mercia Police take about 11,000 phone calls a week and the answering delay to 999 calls has been reduced by half. All officers now have laptops and mobile phones to make crime recording more efficient.

Criminal use of social media is a growing problem and she gave a frightening statistic: if a teenager is given a computer, the average time for them to receive a sexting call is within 30 minutes! This is an area where advice to children and parents is given and the force has extra staff working on the matter.

Steve Loveridge spoke about his work as a Crime Prevention Design Advisor, making life harder for the criminal by overseeing obvious targets like pharmacies, hospitals and homes with control drugs in stock. It's all part of the policy of prevention being better than chasing criminals.

Inspector Nigel Morgan introduced himself, the officer now responsible for an area stretching from Shifnal to Bishops Castle. He has a staff of one sergeant and seven

constables and PCSOs. He said that there was an increase in van and shed break-ins, with tools and machinery the targets. He emphasised his willingness to hear feedback from the public.

Kit Smith spoke as a resident, praising the work of the group and the fact that we are well set up to prevent crime, but do depend upon police cooperation and support. He had persuaded his insurer, NFU, to reduce his premium in the light of the town's forward thinking work.

There was discussion of a Community Speed Watch Group that would be trained to operate speed cameras and report offenders. It was felt it would be wise for such volunteers to always work outside their own home area to prevent risk of intimidation. Volunteers for such work are to be invited to apply.

The next meeting of the group is at 11.00 on January 22nd, in the Sports and Social Club.

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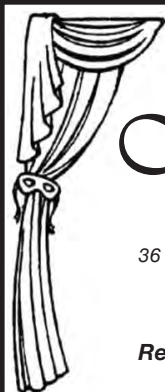


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The meeting with Shropshire Council, due to be held in late October, was postponed as not much is happening. The 2L contract has been extended until April 2018 to tie in with other similar arrangements so that they can all be renewed together and no fresh meeting date has been arranged yet. One problem is that the Worcestershire Council contact keeps changing, resulting in the new occupant having to be brought up to speed – then they move...

The other morning, I noticed a substantial diesel slick running up the High Street and casually wondered if it might have come from a Diamond bus. Later the same day, I heard that much of Kiddy town centre had been affected by a fuel leak from a broken down bus which had left the road surface in a dangerous condition. The Fire service and Police were called out to deal with the resulting chaos which took several hours to resolve. At this point, you may be thinking 'Could the vehicle involved possibly have belonged to my favourite bus company?'. Yes it could! And did! At least it didn't catch fire on this occasion although I gather that at least one elderly cyclist came off as a result of the slippery surface. Apparently the slick started in Bewdley and ran all the way into Kiddy. The Cleobury slick was also said to be the cause of an accident down near Newbridge. Diamond Buses said that the leak was from their 2 service and they couldn't comment further as 'the incident is under investigation'. This is interesting as the 2 doesn't come to Cleobury so I wonder if our problem was caused earlier when that same vehicle may have been used on the 2L route.

As usual, breakdowns have occurred at a number of locations including Far Forest with Hopton being the most common. Perhaps this is a sign of a mysterious phenomenon which we could call 'The Hopton Triangle' which brings vehicles to a halt using supernatural powers. Or perhaps it is just caused by using clapped out and badly maintained vehicles. You choose. Problem: It's

uphill in every direction from there. Solution: Use buses that can go up hills... In one case the bus was stuck on the bridge with a queue of other vehicles unable to get past due to the blind bend. This brings to mind the heavy barriers installed to prevent a terrorist driving a vehicle through the Birmingham Christmas Market. Why go to all that trouble when you could just hire a couple of Diamond buses – they won't ever move...

Further afield, a recent emergency drill at Zurich Airport involved a bus being set on fire to simulate a terrorist attack. Perhaps they should be told we are ahead of them as buses here don't need setting on fire - they do it themselves. And in Tokyo, a train company issued a formal apology for poor timekeeping when one of their services departed 20 seconds early. If only....

Even if the bus gets you to your destination on time, your troubles are not over. Two elderly ladies, one of whom is not in the best of health, wished to alight in Cleobury. Despite repeated ringing of the buzzer, the driver could not be persuaded to stop until they reached Hollywaste. The ladies then had to walk all the way back... At least that driver was on the route – roadworks in Lower Galdeford meant that the bus couldn't get to the last stop in Ludlow and the driver didn't know where to go (or speak much English). Luckily Liz "The Navigator" Bishop was on board and managed to put him right.

Just spent a week in rural North Norfolk and used the buses every day with no problems. A comprehensive and regular service and all on time. When you think that there is only sea on at least two sides, it makes South Shropshire look almost urban. So where are our services?. Perhaps Norfolk Council have ensured fair treatment for residents throughout the whole of their patch and not spent years studiously ignoring the problems as has happened here in remote (?) South Shropshire.

*Steve Todd*

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## **FROM THE BANDROOM**

Christmas is coming and the band will be bringing some festive cheer. Expect to see us outside the Parish Church on afternoon of Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the build up to the switching on of the lights, at the Severn Valley Railway Santa Special at Arley Station on Sunday 10th and Doddington Parish Church carol service on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas season is a good time for us to raise money for band funds and we would be enormously grateful for any small change that you can spare to put into our collecting tins.

The must-have ticket of the season will be for our annual Christmas Concert at the Parish Hall on Sunday the 17th. Tickets available from Carrot Tops at £10 each to include mulled wine and mince pies in the interval. The bar will be open for drinks all evening too. We look forward to seeing you at our concert and wish you all a very Merry and Musical Christmas !

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands. [www.cmcb.org.uk](http://www.cmcb.org.uk)

*Katie Griffiths*

## **ALBERT MANTLE'S MEMORIES OF MULLER'S**

After reading Martin Perkins' story of Muller's I decided that I would like to do a similar thing.

I joined Muller's on 30th March 1943 at the age of 14. My job was to collect work tickets and run errands, like collecting cigarettes and tobacco from the newsagents. In September 1943 my apprenticeship started and I

was paid four and a half pence (less than 2p!) per hour but had to work an hour less per day than everyone else due to being a junior.

'A' shop was my port of call with Mr Guilder as my boss. I moved around different autos including a while working with Roy Burrows who is now in his 90s. In 1946 my apprenticeship ended and I was given a section of machines to run, which I was not familiar with. I was helped along by the new apprentice Ted Cartwright who was a great asset. In 1948 a Swiss lad came and took my place so that I could take over my cousin's section while he was away on National service.

In 1950 I was diagnosed with TB so had 2 years and 3 months off sick. 11 months of that time was spent in the sanatorium at Shirlett Broseley. I returned to my duties in 1953.

In 1958 I helped to run the Muller football team and in 1963 became secretary to the union. In 1965 came an all out strike for better pay which eventually Mr Hartmann awarded.

In 1973 I left for pastures new (Big Mistake!) and returned in 1977, but with the prospect of redundancies in 1980 I took on the security guard job in the gatehouse rather than be unemployed. In 1983 I went back onto the shop floor working as part of a team making parts for a new contract with Parker Pens. I stayed there until I retired in 1995. I was not retired for long as I was asked to return to help out the delivery driver on a part time basis which turned out to be more like full time. There was much amusement between us and we

ended up being named Crashem and Basham.

2001 saw the end of my era with Muller at the age of 72 and after 54 years service.

*Albert Mantle*

## **GILL AND BRIAN'S COFFEE MORNING**

We would like to thank the great Cleobury Mortimer community for attending and donating to our CPV coffee morning on November 11th.

44 people attended and we sold 14 cakes, including Christmas cakes donated by friends. We also received 16 items for the raffle.

Chrissie - Jack Edwards's mum - is donating £250 and Mawley Farm gave £100. The total fund raised is a wonderful £625 that will pay for the casing and fitting of the public use defibrillator on the High Street.

*Brian and Gill Davies*

## **NO FLICKS THIS MONTH**

Missing from the Social Calendar this month is 'Flicks in the Sticks,' but they'll be back again on January 20th with 'A Dog's Purpose'.



*This was as near to the 'On the Buses' page as we could get.*





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Browsing through my copy of the NFU's 'Countryside' magazine (always a good read) I spotted that an Avian Influenza Roadshow – a free event to give poultry keepers the latest advice to avoid an outbreak of the disease and what would happen if that occurred - was coming to Ledbury that very week. My diary told me I could make it and I duly found myself in The Feathers Hotel, a lone backyard poultry keeper in a room full of others with tens of thousands of birds.

Through the presentations of the next few hours I learnt many things, including that out of 13 infections last winter, six were in backyard poultry flocks.

The global picture: How the different strains of AI are spreading worldwide with the associated risk of mutations producing new forms highly pathogenic to humans as well as birds. I hadn't appreciated that my response as a very small scale chicken farmer had a serious part to play in the battle to prevent or delay a dangerous epidemic.

An outbreak or even an infection investigation would severely restrict movements of not only poultry and their products but vehicles too within a 3km radius (Imagine having to apply for a licence to take the kids to school!). I wouldn't want to be the cause of such trouble and economic difficulty if I could help it.

So, how do I stop my birds catching AI? We kept ours indoors for the first 30 days control order a year ago then made a covered run for them so that they could be outside. Our difficulty was in stopping wild birds, especially those cheeky robins, from getting into the run and hen

house through the tiniest holes. Now I have picked up some good, practical ideas and have a 'to do' list which includes making a better run, blocking access holes in the hen house and dealing effectively with rats. I also picked up a bunch of AI posters to pass on to fellow keepers. All in all a day well spent.



With the chickens tucked up safe and well I can spend the shortest days of the year enjoying whatever sunshine we get and collecting natural materials for some Christmas decorations. A handful of long (5' to 7') prunings of wisteria, willow or vine can easily be wound into a ring that can have cones and seedheads attached by wire or glue gun. Some gold spray, glitter and ribbon will add colour and sparkle and your front door will gain a seasonal creation all of your own!

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# Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club

## Christmas Menu 2017

### Starters

Cream of Vegetable Soup with Dinner Roll  
Smoked Salmon and Prawns with Lemon Mayo Sauce  
Chicken Liver Pate with Crostini  
Baby Camembert in Crispy Breadcrumbs with Cranberry Sauce (V)

### Main Course

Traditional Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Pigs in Blankets  
Poached Salmon in a Lemon and Dill Sauce  
Homemade Game Pie, with a Red Wine Gravy  
Mushroom, Brie, Hazelnut and Cranberry Wellington (V)  
*All Main Coursers served with Roast Potatoes, Parsnip Mash,  
Carrots and Brussels Sprouts*

### Desserts

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce  
Homemade Chocolate Roulade  
Christmas Cheesecake  
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Two Course £15.95      Three Course £18.95

The Christmas menu is available until the end of January 2018.  
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## **CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE**

In July last year, we reported the Care Quality Commission review of Doddington Lodge care home, found to be 'Inadequate' and placed in 'Special Measures' after consecutive inspections revealed breaches of at least five aspects of the Health and Social Care Act. Short-term improvements meant a subsequent inspection gave the home a qualified rating of 'Good' and even generated a gushing article in April's Clarion, although one could now be forgiven for thinking that this was another April Fools' joke. This September the CQC made three unannounced returns to Doddington Lodge and deemed it 'Inadequate' again, with seven breaches of the Health and Social Care Act.

The report makes for grim, sometimes shocking, reading and has been featured by the BBC and the Shropshire Star. The care home has now closed down, despite a last-minute attempt by another provider to take it over, with its remaining residents moved elsewhere at very short notice, and several workers out of a job.

Few, if any, of Doddington Lodge's bed places were funded by Shropshire Council, and it is our understanding that Cleobury Fields, the 60-bed care home currently under construction in Cleobury, will only offer self-funded places. Newcastle University's Institute of Ageing predicts a UK shortfall of 71,000 care home places by 2025 and, for the foreseeable future, it looks as though local people who need residential care and are without independent means are going to have to go further afield to find it.

CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We always welcome new members so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area.

## **LOCAL CAROL SERVICES**

December 17th looks like being a very busy and tuneful Sunday, with a wide range of Carol Services in the Cleobury Benefice.

3.00 at St John the Baptist, Doddington.

5.00 at St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

6.30 at All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

6.30 St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

6.30 St George's Parish Church, Milson.

## **GRANT FOR CITIZENS' ADVICE**

Wyre Forest Citizens' Advice has been awarded a grant by the Henry Smith Charity, meaning they can employ a full-time case worker to manage appeals, especially regarding disability benefits. This is an area of much conflict, with appeals against Independence Payment and Employment Support Allowance increased by 25 percent over the last two years.

Kate Bennett of Wyre Forest explained that the current case worked handles over 100 cases a month and that 65 percent of all appeals for disability benefits are successful.

Citizens' Advice is sometimes overlooked as a source of help if you need it. They are at 21-23 New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AF or on 01562 60194.

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# CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

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and children under 18: **£10**



## **MQP HELP THE TOWN AGAIN**



*Town Clerk Matt Sheehan (left) with Hugh McGuigan and one of the five new dog boxes now installed on dog walking routes.*

Midland Quarry Products, who operate the quarry on Clee Hill, have made another donation to help the town. This time it was the supply and installation of five dog boxes in the popular dog walking spots around the town. We already had two, courtesy of Severn Edge Vets, and the amount they collect shows what an effective idea these boxes are.

They are easy to spot with their distinctive doggy profile on the front of the box. You'll find one in the Parish Churchyard, two on the Playing Fields, one at the Skate Park and the fifth by the gate on the path to the caravan park.

All we have to do now is persuade dog owners to use poo bags and put them in the right place.

## **LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

The Cleobury Rural Local Joint Committee met at Hopton

Wafers in November, with Road Safety high on the agenda. There was a report of tractor drivers on the High Street using their mobile phones. There will be a Police check.

MQP quarry manager Hugh McGuigan explained an increase in lorry traffic as the quarry has gone through a recovery from a low position. If there are any reports of his contractors speeding, he needs a registration number or the name on the cab, plus time and place. He can check the speed of any lorry from the onboard cameras and if it has exceeded the limit there will be a warning to the driver. Persistent problems will mean suspension and loss of income.

Parking in the area of the Primary School is to be looked at and possible solutions sought. The new crossing west of the town centre will be sited outside the phone exchange, subject to the Town Council's consent.

If the latest application for a grant goes through, Cleobury Mortimer will have 24 CCTV cameras, which means more cameras than hairdressers! It's all part of preventing crime, with cameras able to automatically recognise a car or van's registration number. Not a comfortable feeling for anyone paying a late visit with crime in mind - the Police will know who they are.

## **CLARION COPPER**

There have been reports of several vehicles being broken into and items taken. At this time of year especially please make sure all presents etc are hidden and vehicles left secured, I will leave posters to place in car windows at the library.

Please be aware during the winter that putting antifreeze in fountains to stop them freezing up is harmful to animals.

*Sue Eden, CPSO*

## **AN ARTS CENTRE?**



*Zoe Partington and Squeeze Hems: artistic ambitions.*

High Street regulars will have noticed that what was Hems's butchers shop has been decorated recently. It's now the first stage in the Pig Nose Pippin arts centre. Not a name you'll forget easily.

It's partners Zoe Partington and Squeeze Hems offering a shop unit with basic extra facilities at this stage, a handy place to show off whatever you're offering to the public, with a car park just 30 yards away.

The plan is to expand one of the oldest buildings on the street and run art exhibitions, tuition sessions and sales outlets, refurbishing as the demand grows. It's a surprisingly big building, with lots of rooms and a side alley way for access to a range of rooms and the back garden in the summer.

Zoe is really well known in the art world, with global connections, and they have strong enquiries already. More at [zoe.partington@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.partington@gmail.com)

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First, a brief account of the development in planes over the course of the war .

#### 1914-1915

We had the BE2 as a prominent feature of the RFC. This was not a military design, in fact not ideal at all having the pilot in the rear cockpit and the observer in the front. This configuration on a biplane meant that very little could be observed due to the wings being in the way. Machine guns could be fitted using one of four sockets at different positions but this required the observer to stand up lift the gun and replace it in a new position, all this while the pilot manoeuvred. Guns were unable to fire through the propeller arc until later.

At this stage aircraft carried out mixed duties as observation platforms, low level bombing missions and air combat. This plane was a good platform and was used to observe and to carry bombs, but only if the observer did not go as the plane would then be overloaded.

#### 1915-1916

In the summer of 1915 a German threat appeared in the form of the Fokker Eindecker which was a monoplane with the ability to fire forward due to the development of a device known as an 'interrupter' which synchronised with the propeller. This plane developed a mystique with the Allies and was the aircraft that the early German air aces flew. The bubble was burst in April 1916 when a complete aircraft was captured (now in the Science Museum) and then flown against Allied aircraft and found to have poor manoeuvrability.

#### 1916-1917

At the end of 1916 the German Albatross fighter was introduced and reigned supreme until the introduction of the first new British fighter designs in mid 1917.

The single seat Sopwith Camel was a fighter which could carry small bombs and was used for attacking trenches. It had to fly directly towards its target to use the twin Lewis guns and was therefore vulnerable to fire from the ground. It was however a very nimble and manoeuvrable aircraft.

The SE 5A, also a single seater, was the most successful fighter of the conflict and armed with one fixed gun and a tilting gun above the wing

The Bristol, armed like the SE 5A but with an extra Lewis gun. Sometimes a double gun flew with the Camel on bombing and ground attack missions. As the best all round fighter it was one of those adopted by the post war RAF.

#### 1918

The final development came in this year with the appearance of the large Handley Page bombers that flew on missions to bomb German cities up to the end of the conflict.

#### Pilots' Watches

We have seen several instances in previous pieces how developments in technology allowed one side to catch up and overtake the other.

The Great War was also an enormous catalyst for changes in society. One example might be the emancipation of women who took on jobs previously only done by men. At the end of the war therefore society needed to embrace this change.

In 1914 wrist watches were rarely worn by men, the pocket watch was still order of the day irrespective of class.

It was not uncommon to see women wearing small pocket watches on a ribbon on their wrist in the late 1880s... more feminine and less cumbersome than carrying the pocket watch. The British Military had from the same period worn pocket watches on leather bands for ease of use.

In the 1914-1918 war the front line was well forward of headquarters, there was no chance of taking instruction by flags or other visual methods. If movements were to take place at a certain time the only way to coordinate action was by the watch. Pilots similarly needed to know exactly at what time they should be at a certain position.

A pocket watch was entirely unsuitable. You had to find it and check it wearing cumbersome clothing and very thick leather gloves or gauntlets. The obvious thing was to adapt a pocket watch and wear it outside the jacket and glove. The large numerals and large winder (crown) meant it was easy to see, wind and alter. Early flyers watches mirrored these features but were specifically designed to be worn on the wrist.

The adoption of the wrist watch first by officers, both ground and air, rapidly spread to other ranks. Those on leave wore their watches on the wrist which caused those not serving to reconsider the issue of the suitability of wrist watches for men. By the end of the 1920s the wristwatch had overtaken the pocket watch in popularity and became a 'must have' item.

So the specific needs generated by the development of air warfare turned the very humble time piece into an important tool for flyers.

If you would like to look further into the RFC, search for The Royal Flying Corps 1914-1918 which is a very useable site.

*Paul French*

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*Emily's is the smiling welcome when you visit Style House Salon*

38 High Street had stood empty for a long time when Lewis Yates bought the place and set about converting a run down office into a sparkling beauty salon. It was a very different place when his sister Emily took over just over a year ago and she's been building trade ever since.

She started in the business as an apprentice at Abacus in Bewdley, qualified as a stylist and worked for twelve years until she began to consider her life and where she and son Theo were heading.

"I was working full days, 9.00 to 6.00, for the minimum wage,"

she remembers. "Then I realised that I wanted to do my own thing and opened the business here."

"It's the best thing I ever did. They are such lovely local people here, so friendly."

There's a two-way benefit here, because she brings customers in from Kidderminster, Bewdley, Highley and Far Forest. The ladies to have Emily look after their hair, while their other halves visit the cafe across the road or maybe discover something else to drink. So good for business in our town.

The reputation she built in her twelve years working in Bewdley certainly helped when she opened. How many customers followed her here? "It must have been a hundred or more."

Emily's own skills are a strong attraction. She's a qualified colourist and extension specialist, plus an official ambassador for the Schwarzkopf range of products. And her pleasant, welcoming manner makes you feel relaxed.

The salon welcomes you, a complete transformation from the office it used to be, with three styling stations and another to be added in the New

Year as the customer base grows.

Emily recruited stylist Brook recently, but she found travel from Kidderminster demanding and they parted on good terms. That leaves Emily and apprentice Lucy coping, with Lucy doing one modelling evening a week and working alongside Emily for the other four days.

Opening hours are 9.30 to 6.00 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with late night on Wednesday when it's 11.00 to 8.00, and they round the week off on Saturday with a slightly shorter day: 9.00 to 3.30.

Add on preparation time, tidying up at the end of the day, plus keeping the books and ordering stocks and she's a busy lady. Then remember that four years old Theo is in nursery every day and there's not a lot of spare time for this energetic new addition to the business community.

So with her move to open her own business working well, what's next? "I'd like to expand, have more stylists and clients, then hopefully another salon one day."

One last thing we should tell. It's not just a ladies' salon, she does men's hair as well.

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## **KATE'S MESSAGE OF HOPE**



Kate Jones is quite a bundle of energy, running four choir groups in the area and practicing the gentle Reiki form of alternative medicine. You'd never guess she had been a serious diabetes sufferer unless you heard her tell the story.

She did that in the Market Hall in November, recounting how in 2013 she lacked energy and a series of blood tests eventually revealed diabetes. She resolved to sort out the problem herself and not resort to drugs for three months. "Fat around the middle is the cause," she explained, with irregular eating adding to the problem. Informed recommendation was to go no more than three hours without food, with proteins the best to snack on, like nuts, houmous and apples.

She exercised with walking and has progressed to going to the gym today. Reiki helped her relax and stop worrying. A further test of the amount of sugar clinging to blood cells revealed a level of 66 percent; 48 is the maximum acceptable. By 2015 self-treatment and discipline had got that down to 45 and today her level is 39. Her

blood pressure has plummeted too. She recommends gradual change, checking one element at a time to ascertain progress.

She follows her own CRANES discipline. C for Choice of food, R for rest, A for activity, N for nutrition, E for engagement with life and S for support from friends and family.

A fascinating tale, told modestly to an appreciative audience who applauded her and wanted to know more. This was really an experiment to test public reaction, and there was clearly a positive one. Watch this space to know when she's speaking again.

## **CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE**

The weather is very up and down in terms of temperature at the moment but we are slowly moving into winter and creatures are beginning their preparations. Slow worms are prolific on the common and along with other amphibians and reptiles, e.g. lizards and snakes, are looking for bracken litter to hibernate in over winter. Bracken has its uses and we do not want to eliminate it from the Common, just keep it in balance with other habitat

Shropshire Wildlife Trust volunteers will be spending at least one day a month on gorse removal where it becomes tall and dense and takes over, also around small pools and damp areas where it can shade the water and surrounding plants, also on bell pit mounds where it can damage the acid grassland, a habitat becoming more rare.

Now is a time of year when people are cutting back hedges and trimming other plants in their gardens so that things are

tidy for the winter. It may seem the common is an ideal place to dispose of this green waste but PLEASE DON'T leave any of your garden waste hedge cuttings or grass cuttings on the common. They are a source of very concentrated nutrients and the common is special for wildlife because of its very low level of nutrients. Not only does this waste look untidy and encourage others to leave their waste, it will harm the local wildlife and environment.

*Clive Dean*

*SWT Reserves Officer South*

## **SURPRISE WINNERS AT BAYTON QUIZ**

The friendly Bayton community had their tolerance tested at the November Grand Quiz in the Parish Hall. On a crowded and busy evening, helped no end by the bar being open, the Infamous Six of Cleobury Mortimer invaders plus two renegade Bayton residents took first place with 75 points and to add to the embarrassment, the Cleobury Clots -you can tell they were the second team from that title - came away in second place with a score of 71. Tied in third were The Buffers and what someone's scrawl suggests were a team called Scratch Card with 66. Corrections to that guess at the team name on a postcard to General Mugabe, General Post Office, General Muddle, Zimbabwe if you please.

We hear rumours that something in the region of £150 was raised for the hall. It was deserved, the atmosphere convivial and the question master and his questions not too noisy and very courteous. If you can get a table at the next one, it's well worth a visit.



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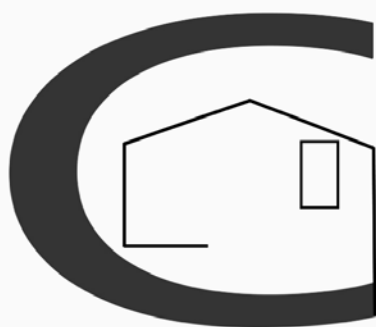
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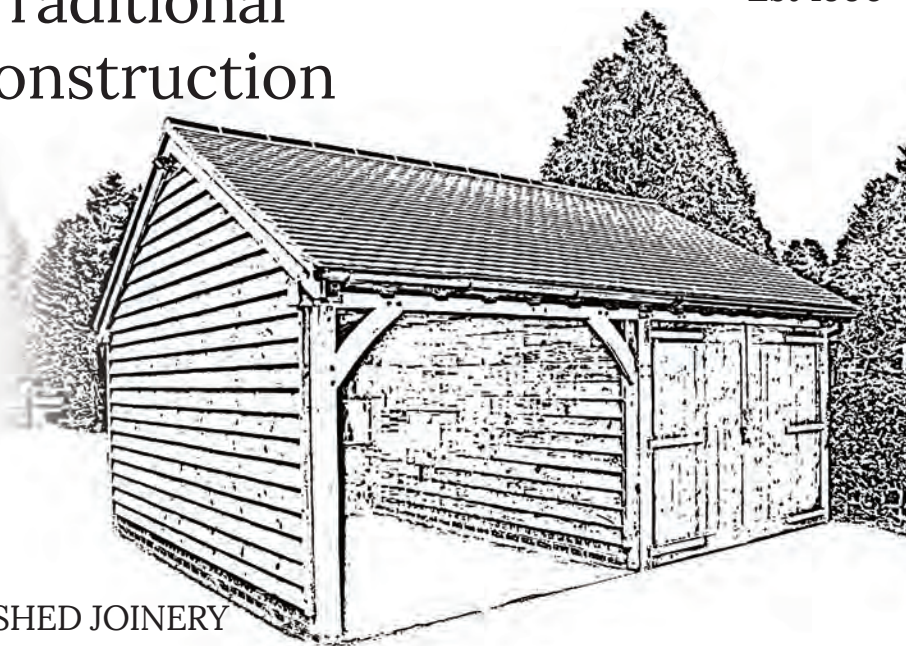
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## Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
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	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		08444 068888	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
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 Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
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### THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 15th

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## ***Residential Sales***

The abolishment of stamp duty will be introduced “immediately” for all first-time buyers purchasing a home under £300,000. We think this is fantastic news and will help more people take their first step on the property ladder. But it’s also good for the housing market as a whole, because first-time buyers are incredibly important to maintaining a healthy

turnover of properties. If first time buyers are priced out of the market it means those people looking to move into bigger properties have no buyers for their current house, with the inevitable knock-on effects further up the chain.



Erica Hinwood  
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## ***Lettings***

Are you among the millions of parents who helped their children afford their first home by paying the deposit to secure their mortgage? But did you know that more and more parents are also helping out with their children’s rental payments too? A report recently published by Legal and General found that “the Bank of Mum and Dad” will have paid £2.3 BILLION worth of rent by the end of this year – on top of the £6.5 billion they are already paying in deposits and mortgage repayments. Interestingly, if you add up the figures it would

make the Bank of Mum and Dad the ninth largest lender in the UK – alongside the likes of the Yorkshire Building Society.



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