

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

SIAN MADE IT!

The amazing Sian Powell hit her 1,000 mile target three weeks ahead of schedule in November; she was out with the CM Running Club when she clocked it up.

"With matched funding from the Phoenix Group we've raised £3200, which will keep the SIFA Fireside breakfast service open for three months," she told us.

COLLECTING YOUR CLARION

Two more businesses have taken up the chance to hand out copies of the Clarion every month. Swifts Tea Rooms in the High Street and The Hopton Crown are happy with the response from their visitors. Our thanks to both companies.

FLU JABS

Have you had yours? It seems there was a problem with some supplies, but about 1,200 people turned out for the treatment. If you didn't make it, Ian at the pharmacy advises us that he has a small quantity of injections still available.

TLC ARE TOPS

TLC Care at Home, whose roots are in New Savage but whose steady growth dictated a move to Bewdley, have hit the heights. The Care and Quality Commission carried out one of their regular assessments of the company recently and awarded them an "Outstanding" rating for their overall service and care for clients.

There are over 7,000 home care agencies in England and the majority - 82 percent - have earned a "Good" rating. Only three percent earn an "Outstanding" in acknowledgement of their high standards and we have one on our doorstep.

See Page 61 inside.

XMAS WINDOWS

Town shops and business premises will be judged this month to see who the first winner of the Clarion Cup is.

Judging will be by the editor and Town Councillors and the cup will be displayed in the winner's window

CHRISTMAS

Never mind the overkill from big stores who've been trying to get you to spend a long way ahead of the occasion. The season of goodwill is here now.

May the Clarion wish all its readers, here and abroad, a really happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Relax and enjoy.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

This is an apolitical publication, but it would be wrong to ignore the General Election and not let you choose to read what every candidate has to say.

On Pages 11 and 12 you will find messages from all four of those contesting the Ludlow seat in parliament. We invited them all to submit 400 words, no more, and we print them here for your convenience. I must say that every candidate has been polite and their words are far more restrained than some of the stuff you can hear on TV and radio. Not to mention social media

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The Cleobury Clarion, December 2019/January 2020

Volume Fourteen - Edition Nine



Sharon Bateman - such a lovely lady deserved a special send off.
Page 17



Fun for all ages at The Cleobury Hub. Page 29.



You can arrange for this fairy to organise your children's special party. Or win a free one!
Read about Natalie on Page 65.

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REMEMBERING BILL

On September 29th Cleobury Mortimer Cricket Club held a memorial cricket match as a fund raiser for the Stroke Association in memory of Bill Evans. Bill had been groundsman of the club for many years and a player for even more.

The match consisted of 22 players, past and present, who were happy to dig out their cricket whites for a special occasion. I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that made the event possible, despite the rain. To all of the very generous donators for the amazing raffle prizes, to everyone who bought raffle tickets and to everyone who helped make it all happen. We managed to raise £1302 for the Stroke Association which was phenomenal.

On behalf of the Evans family and Cleobury Mortimer Cricket Club thank you to everyone for such a great day in memory of such a good man.

Barbara Evans

FREE ENERGY ADVICE

The county's Fuel Buying Scheme is offering community groups free advice on saving money on energy bills. The sessions cover saving money, switching suppliers and the

support available to help people stay warm and get their bills lower.

Book your session with Lizzie Thain on 01743 342167. The offer lasts through winter until March

EARLY NOTICE

Christine Smith, who combines work as an artist with looking after two toddlers, advises us that the Cleobury Festival next year will be on Saturday, June 27th, with the main event running from 11.00 until 5.00. There may be evening events, but no details on that possibility at this early stage.

It will centre around Lacon Childe School and the sports field, to make access easier. Any local business, club or association that wants to be involved can register interest with Christine on 07977 296 335 or clsartcontact@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALLS

WEEK 2020

Manager Ali Sheffield writes to tell us about Village Halls Week:

Brighten your January by joining the Market Hall to celebrate Village Halls Week, 20th-26th January.

We'll be putting together a display to tell the story of Cleobury's Market Hall over the past two hundred years.

If you have any images you could donate or could be copied, or have a personal story about the Hall that you would like to share, please get in touch with me on 07752 542 853 or email markethall@cleobury.org.uk.

Don't forget to come and see the free display in our meeting room during Village Hall Week.

Ali Sheffield

SERVICE

ACKNOWLEDGED

The Royal British Legion's Fish and Chip Supper with musical accompaniment from the Ukulele Orchestra on November 1st was a great night out. The aim was to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal and no doubt their report elsewhere in this issue will tell you how much was raised.

If we describe Branch President Ron Breakwell as the hero of the occasion it will probably make him blush. So we will simply report that his 50 years of service to the Legion was acknowledged with a certificate that describes his "Exemplary Service to the Branch." Everyone who knows Ron will tell you that he's a non boaster who just gets on with the job in a very effective quiet way. A real credit to the Legion and all the good work it does in the community.



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PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

Built on land leased from Mr Arthur Jones of Abberley Hall and opened in 1911, Pensax Village Hall has served the communities of Pensax, Menith Wood and Stockton for over a century. The hall has been the venue for community celebrations of all kinds, social events, evening classes, a youth club, a play group, Church and Parish Council meetings and, of course, it still hosts the local polling station.

In 1974, the then Chair of the Hall Committee, Mrs Elizabeth Head, had the inspired idea of opening a weekly Thrift Shop. The aim was to provide an outlet for cake-makers, needle women and gardeners, for anyone with unwanted items to sell. It would be a source of income, 10% of the selling price of goods being retained for hall funds. Word soon spread and people from further afield would travel to attend Thrift Shop on a Wednesday morning. The venture brought many more economic and social benefits for all its supporters than had been hoped for, and it offered a meeting place for those looking for company, fulfilling exactly the aims of many current efforts by village halls to reach out to the community.

In 1978, the Thrift Shop was able to help Pensax Parish Council to purchase the hall and since then it has been responsible for paying the bills for hall maintenance. Over the years Thrift Shop customers have also supported special charity fundraising with contributions made to local hospitals, hospices, children's charities, Midlands Air Ambulance, to name but a few.

More recently Thrift Shop has had fewer customers than before - Ebay hadn't been heard of in 1974 - and it was with a heavy heart that volunteers decided finally to close this year, but not until we had celebrated 45 years of trading on 23rd October. Real friendships have been forged over the years and Wednesday mornings will not be the same without Thrift Shop to go to. Customers and volunteers alike will miss it but, sadly, all good things come to an end.

Pauline Briggs

ROCK PATHFINDERS
Always efficient, the Pathfinders have provided dates for December and January.

December 5th: Meet at 10.30 at St Leonard's Church, Ribbesford DY12 2TL or SO 787741

19th: 10.30 at The Bell Inn, Pensax WR6 6AE or SO 734690.

January 2nd: Start at 10.30 from Knightwick on the A44, WR6 5PH or SO 731558.

16th: 10.30 at The Hare and Hounds, Worcester Road, Shenstone. DY10 4BU or SO 861736

The club have a new web address: www.rockpathfinders.uk. More information from Alan on 01299 400304.

Susan Humphries

THERE'S A PRIZE WAITING

Andrew Austen has found a winner of his 'Challenge In Rhyme' that we published in October's Clarion. It's Jackie Dickinson, who used to join in the Nearly Dead Poets' Society meetings all the way from Chaddesley Corbett.

The problem is that she didn't give a contact address and there's no such record in the poetry group's notes either. But she must read the Clarion to have seen the competition. So would Jackie please contact the editor - details on Page 67 - so that Andrew can treat her to a pot of tea and a piece of cake, as she does not drink beer.

And as soon as that happy matter has been settled, we'll publish her winning and rhyming entry.

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AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

There are two interesting presentations coming our way in the New Year. They will be in the Market Hall at 3.00 and 7.00 on January 16th, both lasting an hour as Neil Holley tells about the advantages of swapping to air source heat pumps for your heating. As we don't have mains gas in the town, this does make a lot of sense.

Apparently the government will pay you a subsidy for seven years if you swap from oil, LPG or electric boilers, which does have a pleasant feel as a deal. The actual cost is reduced and our carbon emissions will be cut by a half, so the long term effect is also good. No admission charge, tea and coffee served and questions answered.

If you'd like to know more, call Neil on 07767 831 763 or 01684 892121.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

December can be a wonderful month in the garden. The days may be short but on the whole the weather is usually not too bad, with wonderfully clear, frosty, sunny days when it can be

a pleasure to be out if you're wrapped up well. We may be in the colder, darker months of winter but what better time to start planning your summer garden?

Our last meeting of the year in November, was the AGM and members' social evening. After the formalities and a lovely spread of refreshments kindly donated from members. They also made 'Wreath and Table Decorations' using foliage from their gardens. This was the last event in the year; no meeting in December.

It has been a busy year and so a special thank you to committee members for their efforts and to the members because without you there would be no club.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 22nd, the speaker for the evening will be Rosemary Winnall on 'Flower Power'.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with other members. We have a great programme of speakers as well as evening visits to local gardens.

Pauline Bowen

KINLET WEDDING FAIR IS BACK

Following the success of last year's Wedding Fair at Kinlet Hall, it will be back on January 12th. There are few better looking venues for that special occasion than the Grade One listed Hall itself, in its rolling countryside setting.

If weddings are your business, book your stall for this special occasion on 01299 841285.

WEIGHT WATCHERS ARE HERE

Another well known title joins the list of those willing to help you lose a few kilos (that's 2.2 pounds in old fashioned Imperial measure) and get on the road to a slim profile. I used to have one of those.

So welcome to Cleobury Mortimer the world famous Weight Watchers brand. Claire Wilkins is their consultant and she'll be in the Market Hall on Thursday mornings from 9.30.

If you want a little more information, Claire is on 07539 840 210.

SILLY BIT

'Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. A chance to get rid of things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands.'
(Church magazine notice)

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The General Election is on December 12th

Philip Dunne - Conservative Candidate

This is a crucial election for our country. Since the referendum in 2016, our politics have been paralysed by a Parliament unwilling to come together and deliver on the result of the referendum.

We need to break this cycle of deadlock and delay. Now we have a fresh deal with the EU, ready to conclude with a Conservative majority, so we can get Brexit done and refocus on the pressing domestic issues this country faces.

In 2017 I made clear my six key priorities for the Ludlow Constituency, so voters could judge me on my record: supporting Brexit with a deal to Leave; creating employment; cutting taxes and raising the minimum wage; investment in our NHS; improving connectivity; and standing up for Shropshire.

Since then, I have voted consistently to support Leaving the EU with a deal. Conservative stewardship of the economy continues to deliver record employment across the UK, with a record number of full time jobs. I have supported raising the Personal Allowance to £12,500 a year earlier than planned, to let people keep more of their own money. In 2017 I said I would back increasing the National Living Wage to £7.50 per hour. In fact we have gone further, raising it to £8.21, and it

will reach £10.50 by 2024 under Conservative plans. I helped Shropshire's NHS secure £312m for our acute hospitals, to fund local doctors' plans for better care. Mobile signal and broadband continue to improve, but we need to go even further.

But I've not stopped there. Whether campaigning to protect our environment, or bringing together rural groups to ensure Ministers understand the needs of rural communities, I am working year round for South Shropshire.

So I urge voters in and around Cleobury Mortimer to vote Conservative on Thursday 12th December, to get Brexit done and deliver on our priorities – like more funding for our NHS, schools, and more police officers to keep our communities safe.

The only alternative from this Election is that our country becomes run by Jeremy Corbyn and Labour, propped up by the Lib Dems and SNP. Their plans would bankrupt our economy and leave our public services hostage to fortune by cutting NHS hours and stifling investment. It would lead to two more referenda, on EU membership and Scottish independence, fostering further division in our society at a time when we should seek to come together.

Heather Kidd - Liberal Democrat Candidate

Our Government has not served Ludlow Constituency well over the past few years. We have seen cut after cut to our services from schools and our Health Service to libraries and lack of affordable housing. Our roads are in a truly dire state and there has not been enough spent on improving infrastructure such as broadband and mobile phone coverage.

For example South Shropshire schools alone were denied £6.2m between 2015 and 2019. All of our seven secondary schools are listed among the underfunded, along with 34 primaries. The Government's school spending pledge is too little, too late, to restore the damage. Schools are having to rely on handouts from parents, and to slash staff numbers and teaching hours. We would pledge a minimum of a 3% pay rise for teachers, which would be funded by Government.

This has to stop - and now. It is time that Parliament started to invest in us all and gave Shropshire and its residents a brighter future.*

Every area deserves an MP who is willing to fight for them and their needs. Being a Party member must come second to that. We deserve Fair Funding for all our services. Ludlow and Shropshire come near the bottom of the pile for so many of them. Health and education are just two. It's time to have an MP who will fight for this and not just in words. It's time that words turned into action and promises were delivered.

I will fight for that level playing field for well funded services, for action on climate change and for good quality homes that people can afford to rent or buy. There is so much to do and we need a strong and persistent voice to do that. I have a reputation for tough campaigning and would put our beautiful rural area first.

* The Rural Services Network estimates that urban areas in 2019/2020 receive on average 66% (£119 per head) more than rural areas in Local Government Settlement Funding Assessment.

The Clarion Offers Every Candidate Equal Space

Kuldip Sahota - Labour Party Candidate

My name is Kuldip Sahota. I have lived in Shropshire for over 50 years where I have raised my family and have run a number of businesses. I have been a Labour Councillor for over 18 years in Telford and Wrekin and was leader of the Council for 5 years.

In those five years I stopped the closure of the MOD Donnington site and created extra jobs on the site - ensured every secondary school was rebuilt or refurbished - introduced a policy to build a solar farm on Council owned land (one of the first in the country) - built Southwater retail and leisure complex in Telford centre, thus creating hundreds of new jobs - introduced a policy to build houses on Council owned brown field sites and halved youth unemployment.

Currently, our country faces many challenges and I feel I have the experience and the depth of local and national knowledge to deal with it.

Boris Johnson's catastrophic deal to leave the European Union will seriously damage our economy and prosperity. He has thrown caution to the wind in order to become Prime Minister.

Hilary Wendt - Green Party Candidate

Every Green vote in this election is a vote to transform the UK and build something good together. It's a vote for making sure that our best days are still to come. If ever there was a time to vote Green, it's now. Our Green New Deal is the only one with the scale and the pace demanded by science to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency. It will improve the quality of everyone's lives via a safer, fairer future.

We will stand up for remaining part of Europe and for a final say on Brexit, based on what we know now – not what we told over 3 years ago. We will fix our broken democracy so that we can all be heard.

Our Green New Deal for Shropshire gets us to net zero carbon by 2030 via affordably warm homes; a strong local economy; community renewable energy projects; affordable and regular buses and trains so people can get around without relying on their car; healthier communities; and the protection of Shropshire's beauty and our wildlife. Every vote for the Greens helps achieve this.

We'll invest in the NHS and stop its privatisation. We asked the question the official consultation didn't – do residents want to keep

Only Labour offers a realistic chance of getting a sustainable and deliverable deal and we will put **that deal and** the choice to remain in the European Union to the people for a final decision.

This election is not just about Brexit. It is about electing a government that cares and will truly create opportunities for our communities by investing in the future and bringing back optimism and prosperity to areas like South Shropshire and Bridgnorth districts.

Nine years of Conservative austerity has devastated our communities and social services and don't forget, the Lib Dems were their partners in this austerity in their coalition days.

A key to Labour's approach will be our Green Deal—tackling climate change and at the same time creating new opportunities for our future and our well-being through building clean and renewable industries.

A Labour Britain will be at the forefront of the Green revolution in order to save our planet. For me, Labour stands for the politics of hope and opportunities for all of us.

both our fully functioning A&Es? We will continue to fight to keep full services at both

We'll give an extra £4.5 billion a year for free social care to people over 65 who need support in their own homes - like Scotland since 2001.

We'll work with farmers to refocus farm subsidies to help farmers transition to more sustainable, diverse and environmentally friendly forms of land use, along with greater security of tenure and grants encouraging new entrants into farming.

We want to transform the business environment in the UK. Our plans include regional banks; increasing the Employment Allowance to £10,000 (currently just £3,000) per year; making it easier for small businesses to win government contracts; and fining large companies that don't pay small businesses on time. To boost tourism and leisure, we'll reduce VAT to 5% on food and drink in pubs, bars and restaurants, and on hotel bookings and entertainment.

The choices we make now matter like never before. The UK needs a new start. If not now, then when? If you agree - Vote Green Party on the 12th of December.

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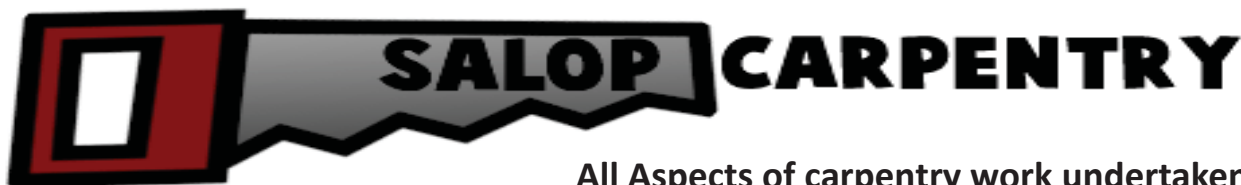
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Little Learners Nursey Qualified nursery assistant required.	Approx 22 hours per week required. 1 x years experience required.	Contact Details: Little_learners@btconnect.com for an application form.
Kinlet Family Playgroup SEN Support worker & playgroup Assistant.	12 x hours per week on a Monday & Wednesday.	Contact Details: Info@kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk for a job pack.
Park House Nursing Home Care assistant for the elderly.	Full or part time hours will be considered. Accommodation is available on site.	Contact Details: Tel: 01299 841262



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SHARON BATEMAN

The notice of Sharon's funeral made it clear that this was not to be a day of mourning, with dark clothes and little or nothing said by those who'd come to see her off. This was a woman with a smile to warm the day, a great sense of humour and a gentle concern for almost anyone who met her. More than special.



It was a totally non-religious gathering - you couldn't call it a ceremony - at the Wyre Forest Crematorium, where we could stand in silence and remember, but there were no prayers. We were welcomed by Christine Jolly, a Civil Celebrant who had clearly done a very thorough job of learning about Sharon.

She was carried in to the sound of Bruce Springsteen's "Land of Hope and Dreams", one of the favourite songs she shared with partner Steve Foster. On the coffin her riding

hat sat with a pair of boots and the family flowers.

What made this day so very moving was the contribution by those who knew her best. Her daughter and family reading, hugging one another in support. We sat and listened to Roy Orbison sing "In Dreams" before Steve Foster stood and delivered his Memories of Sharon, including the unique step of breaking the journey to the crematorium and carrying her into the stable where her beloved horses are kept, for them to say goodbye. One of them, Herbie, came and rested his head on the coffin. The story of their meeting and a slow blooming love that lasted 25 years was a masterly performance that made us laugh and cry.

How do you follow such a performance? You sit and listen to Led Zeppelin's "Thank You" with Robert Plant at his best; it was one of her favourites. When the time came for the coffin to be moved on, the flowers were removed and one of her horse blankets was folded by the family and placed over it.

There were no prayers for this staunch atheist, but those who have faith will be confident that the Almighty will make such a loving human being welcome in

whatever place lies beyond life on earth.

We left to the sound of Bob Dylan's "Forever Young", the selection of music reflecting her zest for life. People were smiling and saying what a wonderful send-off. It seemed that all of us found our way to the Eagle and Serpent, one of her favourite eating places, to recall more memories. Quite a lady; quite a day. JR

PAUL BLAND

The news of Paul's sudden death was a shock. This friendly man who walked his greyhounds every day, with a ready smile and a word for anybody he met leaves a gap. Not all Clarion readers will have known him, but they will have appreciated the work he did in interviewing Cyril Breakwell and recording some of his stories. What people did not see was his thorough work in checking each feature with Cyril before sending it on.

He was a great football fan, both as a capable player and as a follower. His affection for animals was reflected in his support of rescuing greyhounds. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mary and his family for their loss of one of the nicest men you could meet. JR



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MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF



Natalie Brown receiving the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Bakers from Master Baker Paul Morrow.

The ongoing success story that is Kudos Blends made another step forward when its latest recruit, Nathalie Brown, was awarded the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Bakers. Nathalie is the first University College of Birmingham student to receive the award, which has usually been given to a student from the National Bakery School in London. But Nathalie stood out because she earned top grades and landed her job at one of the baking industry's most progressive companies.

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND NEWS

A huge thank you to the community of Cleobury Mortimer and surrounding areas. Together with Cleobury Compassionate Communities we held "Sip and Savour", a cheese and wine with music, evening at Kinlet Hall – the home of the Engleheart family, who kindly allowed us the use of their family home for the occasion. This brought much needed funds for both charities.

More recently the staff of Cleobury Mortimer Pharmacy sold coffee and cakes at the doctor's surgery "flu" clinic. This was for patients to indulge in after receiving their flu jab at the same time raising funds for your local NNF, making it quite a social occasion! Thank you to all who donated cakes and to all the dedicated staff for the time and effort they put in. This year a wonderful total of over £350 was raised of which every penny goes into patient care at times of crisis.

At the Farmers' Market on February 14th the Nightingale Nursing Fund are holding a tombola stall. If you have any items suitable for the stall that you would like to donate please contact one

of the trustees, Debbie Brown, Gill Shorter or myself. People are so generous to charities and in particular local charities.

Thank you all

Rosemary Abbiss (01746 718451)

THE JACK EDWARDS GLOW RUN

This wonderful fund raiser for charity will be on January 31st, with runners and walkers leaving Lacon Childe School at 7.00 on Friday January 31st. All of them will carry glow sticks to light their way over the five kilometre course, every one of them having donated to the cause.

This year 2020's charity is Ronald McDonald House and Jack's mum Chrissie is aiming to make £5,000 for them. You can register for the Run on Facebook and there's also a link on there for non-runners and walkers to make a donation.

For new comers to the town, we should explain that Jack Edwards was the ever smiling little lad who fought leukaemia and became a hero with his story. His first chapter ended with the victory of that horrible disease, but this community united to remember him and the habit continues. There is no finer cause for your generosity than this one.

HOPTON WAFERS' CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Saint Michael and All Angels' church in Hopton Wafers will be holding a Carol Service on December 3rd, starting at 7.00 and featuring the Cleobury Mortimer Church Choir. It will be followed by a Grand Raffle and serving of mulled wine and mince pies.

CHRISTMAS BINGO AT NEEN SAVAGE

This is a Christmas regular, when the Parish Hall is taken over for a family fun evening starting at 7.30 on Friday December 13th. An offering of five games of bingo, a buffet supper, the inevitable raffle, a non-alcoholic bar (bring your own wine or beer according to taste) and a friendly atmosphere.

Entry is £10 for adults and £5 for Under 12s. More details from Clare Ratcliff on 07855 286 596.

YOGA CLASSES

Kate Byrne has a busy schedule of Yoga classes that keeps her busy from Tuesday through to Friday. She now includes a Thursday session at Cleobury Country Centre, from 7.00 to 8.00pm. She's on 07973 400 787 or ycyoga345@btinternet.com

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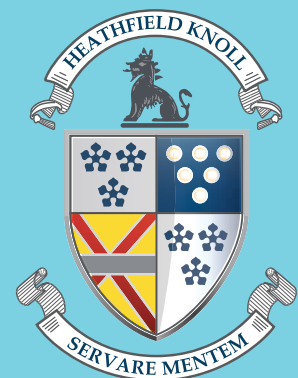
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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

We have plenty of led walks to offer over the festivities. We start with a walk on Sunday December 1st at 10.00 from St. Mary's Church. There is a new tradition that this walk includes a stop for some Christmas like refreshments, so winter walking brings its rewards. Then our long standing programme of a Boxing Day walk starting again at 10.00. Then the New Years' Day walk at 2.00pm, where we invite all walkers to join us in the Kings Arms afterwards for a hot bite to eat. All walks are led by CMFA members who know our footpaths and can be relied upon not to get you lost!

Graham Simpson

ST MARY'S HEATING

A huge thank you to the whole community of Cleobury for your fantastic support for this project. As previously reported the work is now completed and the church is warm for the first time in a very long time. By the time you read this we shall have had our final fundraising event for this and hopefully, therefore, the remainder of the money will be 'in the pot'. What an amazing community effort to have raised all this money in just six

months. I cannot thank everyone enough. So many people have given not just money but their time, their expertise and so many offers of help in different directions from individuals to businesses. We shall be writing to all those for whom we have names and addresses but there are so many more who have given whose names we don't know.

So to all of you: Thank you.

Liz Smith. Churchwarden.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Twelve of our members attended our annual conference and AGM in Bournemouth at the end of October. It was announced that our new international project for the next three years is Empowering Girls in Nepal in partnership with ChoraChori.

The aim of this charity is 'Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Empowerment'. They rescue girls who have been abandoned by their families and trafficked, mainly over the border into India. The charity rescues them and helps them manage their trauma and offers them training to enable them to regain their lives and their independence. Why not join us at one of our

meetings to find out more? Visitors are always welcome; for more details about the club and its activities contact us, kidderminstersorop@gmail.com,

Susan Partridge

RHYME TIME DATES

No Rhyme Time dates for the nursery toddlers in December or January, but they'll be back on Wednesday February 5th. 10.30 to 11.00, as usual, in the library at Cleobury Country Centre.

MRS SHINETON'S SURGERY

Councillor Madge Shingleton will be holding a surgery in the Market Hall on Saturday, December 7th. The hours are 9.00 to 11.00am and no appointment is necessary

THANK YOU

Valerie and Brian Carter would like to wish family, friends and neighbours a happy Christmas and healthy New Year. A donation to the Air Ambulance will be made in lieu of cards.

Also, Valerie thanks all family and friends for their help and support over the last year.

God bless you all.

Brian and Valerie



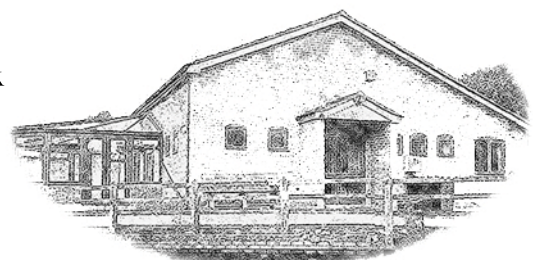
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People of Cleobury, can you help us again by gifting us more teddies and soft toys. We are mounting a big push this Autumn, so we need your help.

With your help we have sent soft toys to deprived children all over the world, and even sent them to less fortunate children in the UK. Please help by dropping your treasured soft toys off at the Market Hall in Cleobury.

Keith Balmer
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-December 2019 & January 2020.

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 1st-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock.

8th, 15th, 22nd, Christmas Day & 29th -8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Community Carols-Sunday 22nd at 5.00pm. All welcome.

Christingle-Christmas Eve at 4.00pm.

Midnight Mass-Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.

January 2020— 5th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock.

12th, 19th & 26th -8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 1st-10.00am Eucharist, 8th-6.30pm Evensong, 15th-10.00am Matins, 22nd-6.30pm Carol service, 25th-10.00am Christmas Day Eucharist, 29th-No service.

January 2020— 5th-10.00am Eucharist, 12th-No service, 19th-10.00am Matins, 26th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-6.30pm Carol service, 22nd-9.00am Eucharist, 24th-4.00pm Crib service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass, 29th-No service.

January 2020— 5th-6.30pm Evensong, 12th-6.30pm Plough service, 19th-6.30pm Evensong, 26th-9.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 1st -10.00am Eucharist, 8th-10.00am Eucharist, 15th- 10.00am Family service, 22nd-10.00am Eucharist, 24th-9.00pm Midnight Mass, 25th-9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist, 29th-No service.

January 2020— 5th-10.00am Eucharist, 12th-10.00am Eucharist, 19th-10.00am Family service, 26th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-3.00pm Carol service, 22nd-No service, 25th-11.00am Christmas Day service, 29th-No service.

January 2020— 5th-No service, 12th-11.00am Eucharist, 19th-No service, 26th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 1st -No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-6.30pm Carol service, 25th-11.00am Christmas Day Eucharist, 29th No service.

January 2020— 5th-No service, 12th-11.00am Eucharist, 19th-No service, 26th-11.00am Village Worship.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 1st -6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-6.30pm Carol service, 25th-10.00am Christmas Day Eucharist, 29th-No service.

January 2020— 5th-6.30pm Evensong, 12th-No service, 19th-11.00am Eucharist, 26th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm

Contact details: Sam Dolphin, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916

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FUTURE HEALTH SERVICE

The lengthy discussions and consultations on what services and where they will be delivered in Shropshire took a positive step forward on September 3rd. The Secretary of State for Health gave permission for the plan for the future of the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford and the Royal Shrewsbury in Shropshire to go ahead.

This means that the Princess Royal at Telford will deliver all the Waiting List operations and Wards, plus diagnostic and treatment procedures with out patient clinics for all health problems for all the people of Telford, Shropshire and Powys. The Royal Shrewsbury will now be able to take all emergencies from the same geographical area to their Major Injuries Unit. The Consultant Midwifery and Children's Centre will also be based at Royal Shrewsbury.

Hopes are high now decisions have been made, that the exciting future proposals and possibilities which front line staff are involved in will encourage people with the necessary skills and experience to come to our beautiful county

to work. The Hospital Trust SATH links with local colleges and universities to offer training for all levels of care which hopefully will help to retain staff in the county. We are also concentrating on bringing all our Health Care groups from GPs, community nurses, and pharmacies, to work together for the benefit of us all.

Madge Shineton

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party will be held on December 6th between 1.00 and 4.00pm. As usual, Trevor Wood will be providing the entertainment, along with the Cleobury Mortimer Primary School Year Six children getting us in the spirit, singing Christmas Carols. If you wish to attend, it would be helpful, but not necessary, if you could inform the Club so that we know numbers for catering.

There will be a Quiz Night in aid of the Social Club on December 6th, starting at 8.00. Maximum teams of 6, £2.50 per person with a cash prize for the winning team.

The Social Club welcomes the Royal British Legion to their new home for their monthly

meetings. The next will be on December 11th at 8.00, and thereafter on the second Wednesday of every month.

Cleobury Mortimer Rugby Club will be playing at home on December 14th against Veseyans and on January 11th against Edwardians; kick-off times 2.15pm.

On December 20th Father Christmas will be visiting the Club for the Children's Party, start time 4.00pm with a present for every child.

The Social Club will be open on Christmas Eve until 9.00, then will be closed until the New Year, reopening on January 3rd. Monday Night Bingo will restart on January 6th.

As usual, for more information please contact the Club on 01299 271448 or drop-in or via our Facebook page.

The Social Club staff, directors and committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We hope that in 2020 the community will continue to give the Club its much valued and needed support.

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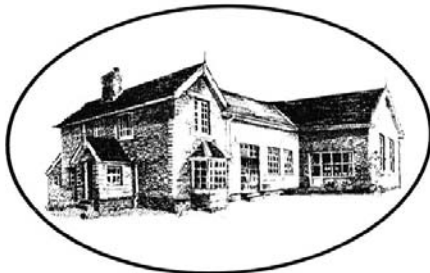
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BRIDGE CLOSED

The Upper Forge Bridge, that leads from Sadlers Barn Farm into the Mawley Estate, has been closed. A notice there, issued by Shropshire Council, simply states:

'Upper Forge Footbridge Closed. Due to structural concerns as a result of flooding.'

Not informative, but very much to the point, and such a cautious measure should be heeded by everyone. The Footpath Association will put any further information on their website, www.cmfa.co.uk as soon as it is available.

LIGHTING UP

LACON CLOSE

Mike and Shelley Roberts are well known in the community for their trucking business and at Christmas they light up Lacon Close by covering the front of their house with lights. And all for a very good cause.

In September 2017 their daughter Millie was born, ahead of schedule by nine weeks and weighing in at a miniscule three pounds and two ounces. It was an anxious time and with some great Neo Natal help, Millie is the thriving apple of mum and dad's eyes. They will always be grateful for that aid.

So the Christmas lights on Number 12 Lacon Close are used to raise funds for the Neo Natal Ward at Worcester Hospital. In 2017 they were able to hand over £700 and last year it was £350. In 2019 they'd like to make it more.

When the Clarion called, young Millie was being looked after by a neighbour while Mike operated the borrowed JCB and Shelley was in the cherry picker lift, wiring up the lights. They've been building up the display since they moved in 14 years ago and the whole front of the house is covered. The installation of a rather special fusebox was down to Shelley's brother, who's an electrician.

The JCB was loaned by Paul Hinwood and is the very same unit that was stolen by some visitors to the town with an interest in finance. It was then used to remove the cashpoint from Lloyds Bank without asking for their permission. Is this the only JCB in the county with a criminal record? Good to see that its behaviour is much more civilised these days.

The lights are due to be on by the time you read this and are worth a stroll up Catherton Road to see them. You can make a donation to the Neo Natal fund by dropping it in the

bucket or through the letter box if the family aren't there. Or you can call Shelley on 07860 669350 and she'll advise the easiest way to donate.



That's Shelley up above and Mike doing the assistant's job.

A BIG SANTA

Take a walk up Mortimer Close, across the road from the Co-op store, and you'll find a 30 feet tall Santa standing in the corner to make Christmas an even bigger spectacle. You're welcome to take selfies or photos of the children.

All courtesy of Vincent and Donna Bonner, who invited the old boy along for the holiday. He must be tired after delivering all those Christmas presents.

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THE CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB



You walk into what used to be the Methodist Chapel on Church Street and the immediate impression is "Wow!" On a cold, wet Friday morning I walked in to find about half the floor area given over to a soft toy play area, with toddlers climbing, rolling in a big ball pond or laughing as volunteer Andrew Keeley led a game. Nearby, their mums sat over coffees and chatted as they watched.

In the corner is a kitchen area, where food and drinks are prepared. The place prides itself on the range of coffee and chocolate drinks it offers, and if you just want to sit and be quiet there's one of those inviting old leather wingback chairs waiting to almost put its arms around you and make you welcome,

next to a wood burning stove giving out deep warmth from behind its protective guard.

There are lots of tables and chairs for those who want to eat or drink and the range of cutlery is kept in what was once an upright piano, but proved to be beyond economic repair. So it's now leading a second life as a cutlery cupboard. Great idea.

Most of the work in converting this to a bright and welcoming place was down to local children with a little adult guidance. High in the vaulted roof is a chandelier, designed by youngsters and fabricated by a local craftsman. The colour scheme is light and airy and the floor is carpeted - better for the toddlers who tend to fall over occasionally.

But this is more versatile than it appears to be. If there is a service to be held in the chapel, it can be easily changed. The big mirrors that add to a feeling of space (sponsored by the Town Council) can be moved aside and play area cleared to make room for chairs and give access to the altar. It's an object lesson in making a building adaptable.

The plans do not stop there. Team leader Mark Greaves has

seen an enthusiastic support for climbing, but that means driving to one of the regional facilities. With a climbing wall here in Cleobury, our carbon score would look better. If they can raise enough grant funding there's a plan for one right here in The Hub.

Try the experience and you'll find it hard to believe that this whole enterprise runs on the efforts of volunteers with just two paid staff - Mark and Molly Perkins. Remarkable.

And what do the younger customers think of the place?



We'll put that down as a success, then.

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I write this year’s Christmas Letter from Westminster decidedly early – my last act on my final day as your MP for Ludlow, before once again becoming your local candidate for election on December 12th. So it is refreshing to look forward and think of the season of goodwill, rather than December’s bracing weather on the campaign trail. Like many in South Shropshire, I shall be celebrating Christmas with my family. But sadly, for many Christians around the world, the simple act of celebrating the birth of Christ runs the risk of persecution and death.

I firmly believe the UK can and should play a role in ensuring freedom from persecution of Christians around the world. So I have followed closely the Independent Review of Foreign and Commonwealth Office support for persecuted Christians, conducted by the Anglican Bishop of Truro, the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen, which was published earlier this year.

The Review is the conclusion of a project that began in December 2018, when the then Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, asked the Bishop of Truro to carry out this important research, with the full support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Bishop Mounstephen's report has identified specific steps the UK Government can take to address the issues faced by persecuted Christians around the world, and I am pleased Ministers have accepted the recommendations.

The freedom Christians enjoy in this country allows the Church of England to continue to play its important role in South Shropshire – from spiritual guidance, to educator, and protector of heritage and the environment, the Church fulfils many roles in our community, as the Archbishop of Canterbury saw first-hand on his recent tour of the Hereford Diocese.

There will be many Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services in most of the beautiful churches around South Shropshire, and Christingle services to help raise funds for the Children’s Society.

Of course, Christmas is not a time of relaxation for all, including those who work over the holiday, like our Armed Forces and Emergency Services staff, to whom we should be immensely grateful for their constant professionalism. I also visit the Royal Mail sorting office each year, to thank local posties for coping with the mad rush to deliver cards, parcels and presents - and this year election leaflets and postal votes - before Christmas Day.

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 everyone in South Shropshire a very happy and peaceful Christmas, with best wishes for the coming year.

Philip Dunne



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The Winter Social Calendar

Part One - December

Sun 1st	10.00	Parish Walk starts at St Mary's Church, all welcome		
	2.30	Bayton's Big Christmas Concert features the Hereford Police Choir		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street		
		Christmas Tree Remembrance available today in Cleobury Funeral's office		
Tues 3rd	2.00	NHS Hearing Aid Support Clinic at St Mary's Place Community Room		
	7.00	Carol Service and Grand Christmas Raffle in Hopton Wafers Church		
Wed 4th	7.00	Cleobury Men's Shed meet in the Market Hall. All Welcome		
Thurs 5th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at St Leonard's Church, Ribbesford. PAGE 7		
Fri 6th	1.00	Senior Citizen's Christmas Party at Sports & Social Club. PAGE 25		
	8.00	Qiz Night, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 25		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 7th	08.00	Household Goods Sale at Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill		
	09.00	Cllr Madge Shineton surgery at Market Hall. No appointment needed. PAGE 21		
	1.00	The Christmas Fair in the Parish Church, including Santa's Grotto		
	4.00	Santa switches on the town's Christmas Lights		
Sun 8th	4.00	Joint Christingle at Farlow Parish Church. PAGE 37		
Mon 9th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group gather at the town Library on Love Lane		
	7.00	Horticultural Society Christmas Social, St Elizabeth's Hall. PAGE 35		
	7.00	Far Forest Royal British Legion meet at the Rock Cross Inn		
Tues 10th	7.25am	Breakfast Club meets at Lacon Childe School	Angela	CM 270636
Wed 11th	10.00	Walking for Health steps out from the Market Hall for a walk around town!		
	10.00	Cleobury CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, Church Street		
	12.30	Christmas Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel, Farlow. PAGE 37		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet at the Village Hall to listen to a Bill White talk		
	8.00	British Legion meets at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 25		
Thurs 12th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
		General Election – do please cast your vote PAGES 11/12		
Fri 13th	7.30	Christmas Bingo at Neen Savage Village Hall. PAGE 19		
Sat 14th	7.30	Cleobury Concert Brass entertain at the Parish Hall. PAGE 55		
		Coach Outing to Chester		01584 891 464
Sun 15th	3.00	Carol Service at Doddington Parish Church		
Mon 16th	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 47		
Wed 18th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 19th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Bell Inn at Pensax. PAGE 7		
Fri 20th	4.00	Children's Party at Sports & Social Club. PAGE 25		
	7.30	Celtic Christmas Strings bring Irish music & song to Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Janet Price	01746 862104
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	S. Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 21st	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market in & around St Mary's Church		
	9.00	Craft Market in the Market Hall, Church Street		
Sun 22nd	6.30	Carol Service at Melville Chapel. PAGE 37		
Tues 24th	7.30	Carol Service at St Elizabeth's Catholic Church, mass at 8pm. PAGE 47		
Wed 25th		CHRISTMAS DAY. A VERY HAPPY ONE TO YOU ALL!!		
Thurs 26th		Boxing Day Walk starts from St Mary's Church. PAGE 21		
Fri 27th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 30th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet's Society meet in the Library on Love Lane		



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Wed 1 st		HAPPY NEW YEAR. MAY IT BE A PEACEFUL & HAPPY ONE FOR US ALL!		
	2.00	Parish Walk with warm food at the end in the KA. PAGE 21		
Thurs 2 nd		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Knightwick, on the A44 at WR6 5PH. PAGE 7		
Sun 5 th	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church St		
Mon 6 th	11.00	Dementia Friendly Town Group meet in the Kings Arms		
Tues 7 th	2.00	NHS Hearing Aid Clinic at St Mary's Place Community Room		
Wed 8 th	10.00	Cleobury CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, Church St		
	12.30	Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel, Farlow. PAGE 37		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
	7.30	Neen Savage WI hear Anni Roper talk about "Confidantes" at the Village Hall		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meets at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Thurs 9 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
Fri 10 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 9 th	7.00	Crime Reduction Group meet at the Cleobury Country Centre		
Sun 12 th	11.30	Kinlet Hall Wedding Fair. PAGE 9		
Mon 13 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet at the Town Library on Love Lane		
	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet in the Methodist Hall. PAGE 35		
Tues 14 th	7.30	Cleobury WI meet at the Market Hall for Rhythmic Drumming. PAGE 53		
Wed 15 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 16 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders step out from The Hare & Hounds, Shenstone. PAGE 7		
	3 & 7	Air Source Heat Pumps presentation, Market Hall. PAGE 9		
Sat 18 th	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in & around St Mary's Church		
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall offers Disney's "Aladdin"		
Mon 20 th		This week is Village Halls Week. Exhibition in the Market Hall		
	7.30	The Reading Group, Town Library, Love Lane. PAGE 47		
Wed 22 nd	10.00	Cleobury CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church St		
	7.30	Clows top Garden Club, Victory Hall, Clows Top		
Thurs 23 rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 25 th	1.00	Rabbie Burns lunch at Doddington Village Hall		
Mon 27 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet's Society meet at the town Library on Love Lane		
Wed 29 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 30 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 31 st	7.00	The Jack Edwards Glow Run leaves from Lacon Childe School		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, NEEN SAVAGE

This lovely church, nestling in the low hills around Kinlet Hall, has some special events over the Christmas/New Year period:

December 1st. 6.30pm, Advent Service

December 15th. 6.30pm. Carol Service, mulled wine, mince pies

December 24th. 4.00pm. Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Service

January 12th. 6.30pm. Plough Service, mulled wine and sausage rolls



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SAINT MARY'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Club met at Cleobury Café in November to hear Vicky Franklin tell how she became a practitioner of the Bowen technique.

With two engineering degrees, Vicky was well qualified to work as an aeronautical design engineer, which she did for many years. However, following her move to Shropshire, she became disenchanted with a daily drive to Manchester, and decided to devote more time to her particular interest – horses. She took early retirement about five years ago, but still needed an income to support herself and her horses. She enrolled on a course to study the Bowen Technique, a gentle manipulative therapy, described by Vicky as a cross between acupuncture and osteopathy.

The technique was developed in Australia by Thomas Bowen. Following his studies of the human muscular structure, he discovered that certain moves on the body helped recovery from many conditions. Vicky is particularly well equipped to be a Bowen practitioner, as she brings the analysis of an engineer to bear on the muscular and skeletal problems of her clients. She emphasised

the need to work out how the clients' problems arise, so that she can address the causes of these, and not merely treat the symptoms.

Treatments Vicky described, assisted by a full-sized complete replica skeleton (attracting some surprised reactions from other customers coming into the café), included shoulder pain, headaches, neck pain, IBS, and the all-too-common lower back pain. She finished with good advice about posture and gentle exercise, which should help us to remain mobile and pain-free as long as possible.

The Club meets on December 10th at the Lacon Childe School when Reverend Sue Barrett will be talking about her move to Shropshire. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

It was good to see many members at our AGM on November 11th. Our chairman had distributed her report together with the programme and allotment co-ordinators. It made very interesting reading and we were amazed at all the things accomplished during the year. Sadly our allotment

representative Peter Harry was retiring from his duties this year. We owe him a great many thanks for all his sterling work: thank you, Peter. The allotments are thriving and there are several new holders.

A good discussion about our plant sales followed; should we continue with them or not? It was felt that they are a good fund raiser and a support to our pledge to the tree pleaching in the town. The trees will look splendid when they are covered with the Christmas lights. Our meeting concluded with a very welcome tasty chicken curry or a vegetarian chilli.

We hope that members will attend our Christmas social in St Elizabeth's Hall on December 9th at 7.00pm. This bring and share meal is always enjoyable and the usual brain teaser gets us all thinking. The first meeting of 2020 will be on January 13th in the Methodist Hall at 8.00 pm
Liz Smurthwaite

BRITISH LEGION

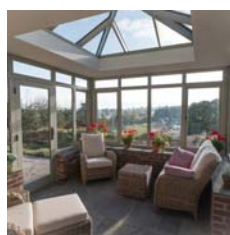
With the closure of The Bell Inn in Lower Street, the Royal British Legion has naturally moved its monthly meeting venue. The branch gathers on the second Wednesday of the month at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane, where parking is much easier. §

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THE ARCHBISHOP CALLED

Early in October Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, visited the diocese of Hereford and was able to fit in a visit to Cleobury Mortimer.

He began at St Laurence's church in Ludlow where he launched the Hereford Diocese Mission and Mortar Digital Tool Kit, which is designed to support parishioners in rejuvenating church buildings. From there he went on to talk to farmers in Much Wenlock and to a Community Centre in Telford. His busy schedule then brought him through Cleobury Mortimer. Here he took the opportunity to visit the Community Hub, just opened by SMYP (St Mary's Youth Project) in the Methodist church buildings.

He was introduced to Mark Greaves, Youth and Family Worker for SMYP, and he showed a great deal of interest in and understanding of, the community space being created. He was able to spend some time talking to the volunteers and team, before going with some of the young people on a prayer walk on Clee Hill.

Roger Brown

MELVILLE CHAPEL

That very individual chapel at Farlow has a busy festive season lined up.

December 8th: Joint Christingle with Farlow Parish Church at the Parish Church 4.00p.m, followed by light refreshments. Proceeds in aid of the Homeless.

December 11th: 12.30, Christmas Soup Lunch. Enjoy hot soup, sing carols and take in entertainment.

December 22nd: 6.30p.m Carol Service

December 25th: 10.30 am Mr N Gibbon will lead a short service suitable for all ages, celebrating the birth of Christ.

January 8th 12.30-2.00 Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel.

Ruth Downes

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The Association's meeting on November 15th was a good chance to catch up with walking events and see how CMFA is coping with its 30th birthday on the horizon. 15 members was a good sign and minutes that just give first names even better. It's a friendly group.

Cooperation with Walking for Health works well, with an average of 23 walkers on the outings, 15 new walkers in 2019

and four people trained as Walk Leaders.

Membership of Walkers Are Welcome is of limited effect and it was agreed that the link should be moved to the Town Council, they having more concern with attracting visitors to the town.

Access to footpaths is an issue with some landowners, some of whom are apparently breaking the law with certain rights of way blocked. Agreed the Town Council be asked to write and if necessary an article detailing the offences be offered to the Clarion for a Name and Shame campaign.

Facebook is working well, with 197 followers and a post reach over 100. Parish Festive Walks scheduled for December 1st and Boxing Day.

Agreed the CMFA would buy a bench to commemorate their 30th birthday in 2020, the location to be established. Ask Hobson's to cooperate with a 20th Anniversary label issue for their Postman's Knock brew.

The meeting opened at 7.30 and closed at 8.55 with a lot of decisions and actions agreed. You can see why the group has kept up its established habit of getting things done.

JR



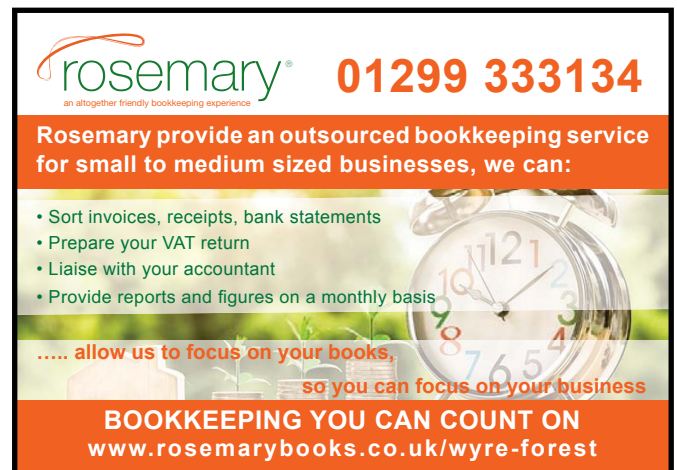
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DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It's nearly that time of year: Christmas. The club has had varied entertainment during October and November, which included slides and a talk about Brunel plus the canals and waterways of Shropshire as well as a town crier, guitarist and a artist. Thank you all our speakers and entertainers.

We also had a Turkey and Tinsel break in Tenby, when the weather was kind and the staff at the Clarence Hotel made sure nothing was too much trouble, We end our year with the annual Christmas party The club will re-start in March 2020; dates will be in the February edition. Our programme for next year is looking great, please come as our guest and see for yourselves. Finally on behalf of everyone at Doddington Friendship Club may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ann Belcher

HOPTON WAFERS CHURCH EVENTS

A quiz evening on November 8th, with eight teams, in the Match Room at Cleobury Golf Club. Winners were Universally Challenged with 62 points, runners up Totally Tee'd Up on

55 and third The Caticoms with 53.5.

On the 15th a Cheese and Wine Tasting at David and Sarah Brown's house, offered six wines from Majestic of Ludlow and delicious local cheeses, pates and home-made bread. Heartfelt thanks to all who attended.

The next event is the Carol Service and Raffle in the church on December 3rd at 7.00. Our Christmas services are at 9.00pm on the 24th and at 9.30am on Christmas Day.

Marilyn Wood

CAUTIONARY TALE

Councillor Jon Bateman with a good story and some very good advice:

I encountered a workman standing in the High Street looking up at the roof of an old building and asked what he was doing. He was clearing gutters and checking the roof lead for an elderly lady.

He then said he was disgusted that the lady in question had been quoted £2,000 for lead replacement and £1,500 for scaffolding. They had a ladder a bucket and a rope, operating perfectly safely and were charging her a couple of hundred pounds. There was a veritable peat bog descending in the bucket from the gutters and roof, so it certainly needed

doing. Also a couple of lead seams needed a bit of filler, but not £3,500 of work!

Just goes to show you should always get more than one quote, and use known local workmen if you can, because there are some unscrupulous people about.

Jon Bodenham

DANGEROUS LITTER

Gayle Yarrantin was on one of her dog walks recently, with a dog off the lead in the playing fields area. It disappeared into the bushes and emerged with a badly cut paw - through two tendons.

A friend did a litter pick in the area soon after the event and in just 20 minutes came up with bags of rubbish including broken drinks bottles. It could have been a child running into that danger.

Gayle has volunteered to work with others to do a complete litter pick there, Town Clerk Matt Sheehan has advised Lacon Childe School of the incident and has asked the police for more evening patrols there.

If the complete litter pick does happen, look out for it on Facebook and if the timing fits in with the Clarion schedules we'll let you know as well. It wasn't long ago that Cleobury won an award as the Tidiest Town in Britain. Time to do it again.

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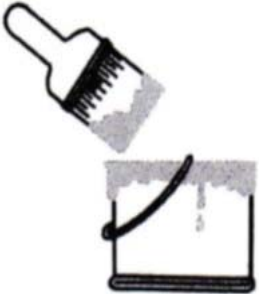
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Winter in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

Our native Corvids (Magpies, Crows, Rooks, Jays and Ravens) are very intelligent birds but they are a noisy lot. The colourful Jays have been busy eating and burying acorns 'while stocks last' and set off with an affronted shriek if I disturb them. We see Crows and Magpies too, far too many of the latter for my liking, but it is the Raven that gives me a thrill when I hear its grating call, usually high above the woods or fields as it flies over its territory hunting for pigeons or other birds and small mammals. In these circumstances it is hard to gauge its size but sometimes other birds will mob it, trying to send it away, and then I can compare them. With a wingspan of up to 150cm they can be larger than Buzzards, whose call is more musical (if that is the right word) but just as haunting.



Photo by Mick Farmer

The forest seems emptier now that the leaves are nearly all off the trees. It still offers some protection from the weather and you will feel warmer there than in the surrounding open landscape. Fallen leaves carpet the ground and are especially thick where they have drifted in the wind. This is where you will find concentrations of the little leaf eaters such as worms, slugs and millipedes, and the decomposers (eg fungi, bacteria and protozoa), all busy despite the winter. In 'The Woodland Trust Book of British Woodlands' Michael Allaby writes that only 1% of the total volume of leaves is eaten on the trees – the rest provide energy for all these organisms which live in and just above the soil, recycling each year's leaf fall so that the nutrients can journey through the soil and air to supply living plants and animals again. Dead wood is also broken down but it takes longer. It resists digestion by most creatures but this is where the fungi play a major part: like animals they secrete digestive enzymes which can break down complex molecules, including cellulose and lignin in wood, into simpler ones which are then absorbed. The fruiting bodies of fungi, mushrooms and toadstools, usually show signs of being nibbled: a fleeting food source for slugs and larger animals.

Talking of larger animals, most of them are out and about during winter months, with only dormice, hedgehogs and bats really hibernating. Dawn only arrives after 8am this month, so that is a good time for a quiet walk to enjoy beautiful effects such as that captured in this photo, or perhaps to spot Fallow Deer before they spot you. On Christmas Day the sun will rise at 8.17am, giving a day lasting 7 hours 47 minutes before sunset at 4pm. Make the most of it!

Linda Iles

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The new 292 timetable did come into use from 4th November and seems to be running fairly well with most services more or less on time although there have been a couple of breakdowns. Comprehensive stocks of the new timetables have been placed at a number of points including bus stops, the Library and Market Hall thanks mainly to Madge Shingleton and Bruce Webster. I used the service to go to Kiddy the other day and it was on time both ways. There is one temporary alteration to the schedule as the service doesn't stop at the Swan Centre while they are carrying out roadworks to de-pedestrianise the area. Naturally, I hadn't asked about this and watched as we sailed past. Luckily, the driver let me off at the bottom ring road lights near Sainsburys so I didn't have to walk too far back...

Although not strictly bus related, you may have wondered why the roads around Cleobury resemble the surface of the Moon. The following may be part of the reason: In response to a Freedom of Information request, Shropshire Council (very reluctantly and only after being threatened with enforcement action by the Information Commissioner's Office) revealed that they had spent just over £80,000 on resurfacing a lane near Oswestry leading to just a few houses. As

'Private Eye' pointed out in their 'Rotten Boroughs' column, surely this reluctance could not be connected to the fact that one of these few houses belongs to a senior Tory county councillor, or the fact that another Tory councillor sent an email to the highways department urging them to get on with the job and mentioning the resident councillor by name. The road in question was also not on the the list of roads needing repair held by the local parish council. Strangely, the council isn't saying. This could be good news of course as we have two county councillors living in Cleobury so can we expect to hear the roar of road surfacing machinery in the near future? Probably not.

This is the second edition of 'Private Eye' running where Shropshire Council has featured in that column, the last entry referring to the fact that a number of councillors had failed to pay their Council Tax on time. The suggested in-house solution? Increase their allowances! You couldn't make it up...

Apparently, a number of bus companies in the West Midlands have been discussing the introduction of a common scheme to reduce fares for off peak travel. One notable absence: Diamond, who have refused to take part.

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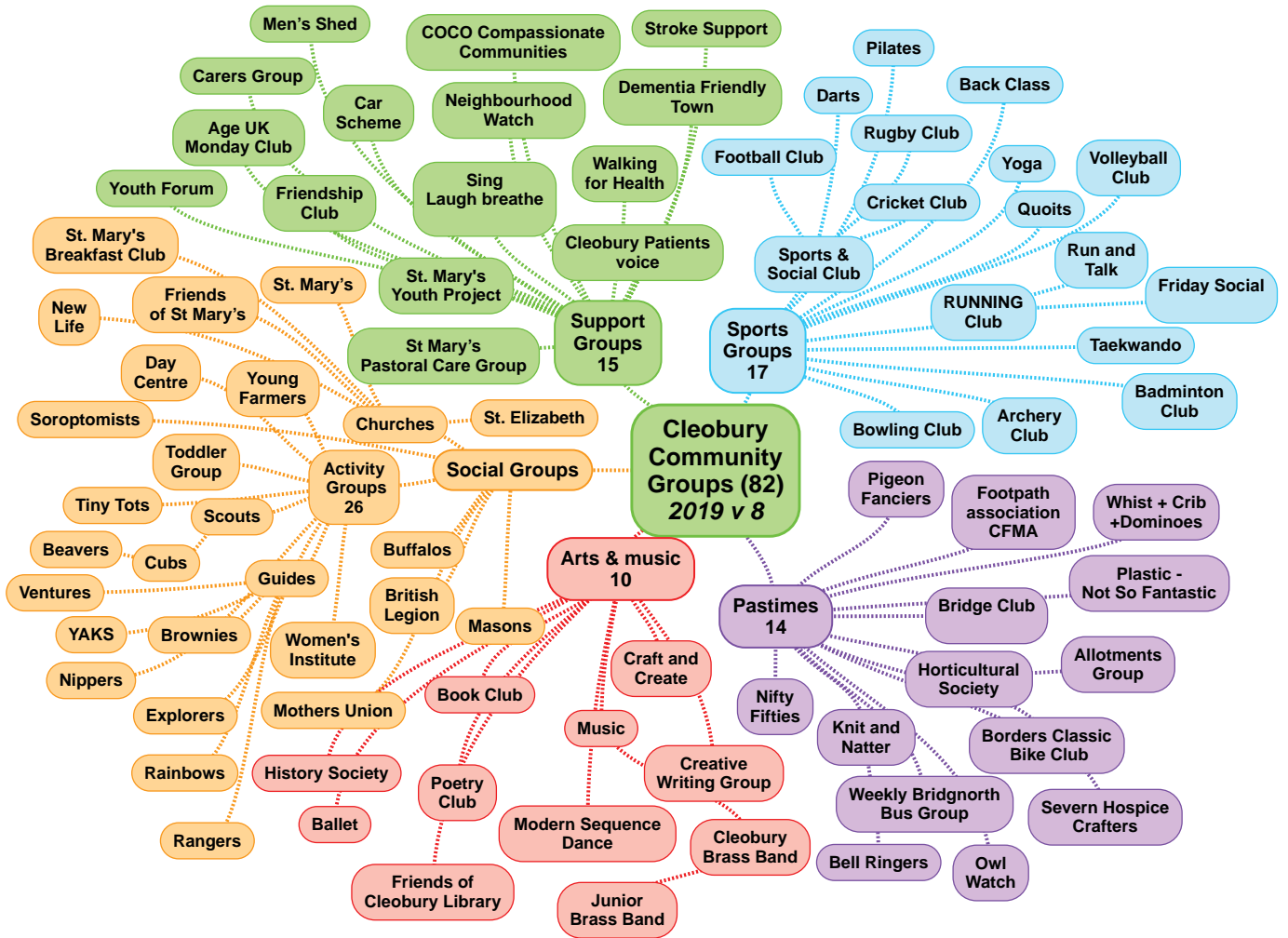
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Town Councillor Jon Bodenham has prepared this remarkable chart showing all the widely differing groups within this town of about 3,000 people. It's quite an achievement to have so many different interests served in this way. Are you signed up for your particular hobby? Why not join and share experiences and stories with other enthusiasts or players?



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SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

We have said farewell to Judy Reid, our organist, and are trying to organise our services without that comforting sound. If anyone knows of an organist/pianist willing to play for us, please let us know.

With the cold nights of December, we enter a period of anticipation and joy. Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus and the beginning of the Liturgical Year. St Elizabeth's is preparing three services to mark this event; Eucharistic services at 7:00pm on Friday 6th, 13th and 20th December. At the beginning of these there will be a short period of reflection and meditation led by one of our Eucharistic ministers. These are brief and give an opportunity to contemplate the true meaning of our faith. On Christmas Eve there will be a Carol Service at 7:30pm followed by Mass at 8:00. On Christmas Day Mass is at the usual time of 9:00am. January is a quiet month with services at the normal times. We wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Year from all at St Elizabeth's.
Paul Flowers. (01299-270-318.)

FAR FOREST & ROCK BRITISH LEGION

Following their success last year, members were encouraged when Amanda Clements-Hunt, Legion Community Fundraiser for the county, visited us recently to honour Poppy Appeal Organiser, Jim Woods, with a special award. This recognised his 20 years service in the post. The Branch were praised for the increase in donations in recent years and were invited to provide a Poppy Appeal stand at M5 Strensham North Services during this year's appeal. At the end of the Appeal the running total for this year stood at almost double last year's total.

Branch Standard Bearer, May Carter took part in the 2019 Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. She then travelled to take part in the parade and service at Rock Village and at Pensax Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

We meet at Rock Cross Inn, 7.00 on the second Monday of each month. *Nigel Caldicott*

THE READING GROUP

'Nothing But Grass' by Will Cohu is set in Lincolnshire and covers a couple of centuries, with many characters involved. There were such a large variety of opinions expressed about this book I feel unable to list them all. Suffice to say the only thing we all agreed upon was that we would not recommend it generally.

Our next read is 'Resistance' by Owen Sheers and we meet on Monday 16th December. The January meeting will be on Monday 20th. Thanks to all my faithful reading group members for turning up so regularly and expressing their views.

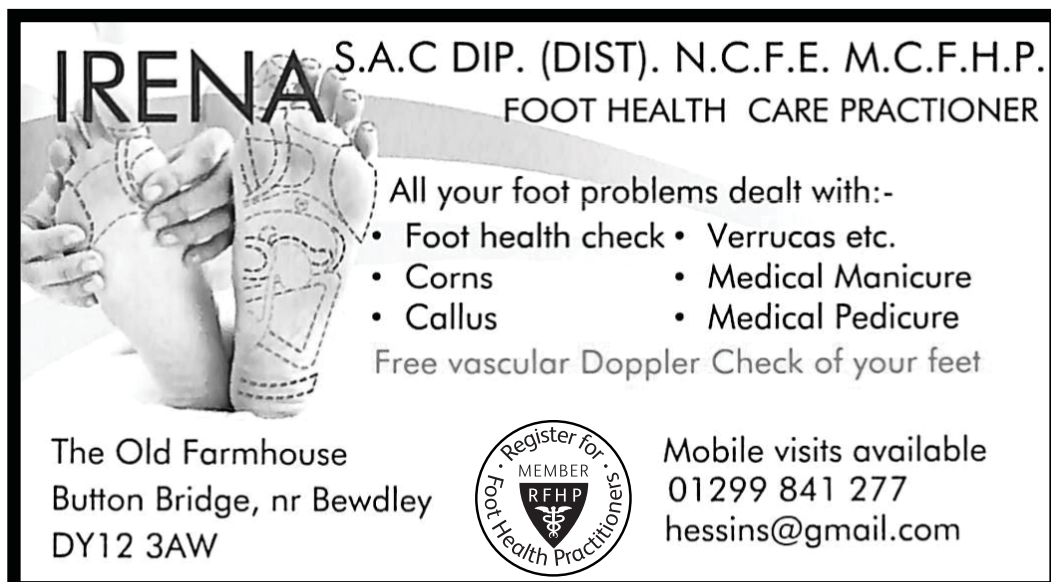
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CHRISTMAS FAIR

St Mary's Xmas Fair will be held on December 7th, starting at 1.00 o'clock in the Church.

Santa will be in his grotto and there will be a variety of stalls including Christmas themed gifts.. The famous 'Ham Man' will also be there selling his wares.

At 4.00, Santa will switch on the Town Christmas lights, so be there or be square.



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Is it only me that thinks Rylan Clark-Neal (of 'TOWIE' fame and currently presenting 'Strictly' updates amongst other things) looks like a 'Thunderbirds' puppet but with added plastic? Perhaps it's the make up but I don't think it would be safe for him to get too near a naked flame, just in case.

David Cameron is busy pushing his memoirs at present. Not that I think he really needed the £600K advance. Still never let it be said that he didn't achieve anything during his spell as PM. He seems to have done more damage to the United Kingdom by accident than Adolf Hitler ever caused on purpose. And all this just to sort out the divisions in his own party (which went well..). And after everything, we have ended up with another arrogant posh boy in charge (for the moment). Mind you, the alternatives are no more attractive with all parties shouting 'My magic money tree is bigger than yours' (note to all: there is no magic money tree).

Why do doctors or nurses say 'Just a little scratch' when giving an injection? It's not a scratch, it's a jab with a sharp and pointy needle. It would be more accurate to say 'Just a little prick' but I know that you boys are sensitive about terms like this (and rightly so in most cases) so perhaps it's best left as it is.

I see the draft report on HS2 appears to recommend going ahead despite estimates of its cost having doubled almost before they have started digging (apart from several cemeteries which wouldn't please me if I had relatives buried there) not to mention a number of ancient woodlands. So we are at about £88 billion at present and is anyone willing to bet that the final cost will be under £100 billion? It looks like the two claimed advantages of the project, speed and frequency, are already being compromised in an effort to save money. It is suggested that tunnels will be made narrower requiring trains to slow down before entering (due to

the amount of air being displaced) and fewer trains being ordered.

Meanwhile, the existing franchise system staggers from crisis to crisis with train companies suing the Transport Department for wrongly excluding them from bidding. No doubt the depressing saga of one group of incompetents giving up the franchise as they couldn't make the planned profits being replaced by a different group of equally incompetent numpties will continue. This will ensure that the whole sorry process will be repeated a few years down the line. Any suggestion of nationalisation is met with shrieks of horror but the fact is that our railways are already largely government owned – by the French, German and Dutch governments who have substantial stakes in the parent companies of our operators.

Take Hinkley Point as another example. Years late and way over budget at a current estimated cost of £22.5 billion and with no reactor of that design having produced a single watt of electricity. The earlier site at Flamanville in Normandy was supposed to be up and running in 2012 at a cost of less than £3 billion. It now looks like it won't come into operation until 2022 at a cost (at present) of an estimated £11 billion. However, EDF with a breathtaking sense of optimism, are pressurising the French government to order another six. Fortunately, by a stroke of genius (or accident) the Hinkley contract ensures that we don't start paying through the nose for our electricity (about three times the current going rate) until it actually produces some which looks like a vanishingly distant prospect.

No doubt any subsequent enquiry will be met with the response that 'Lessons will be learned' but we all know from bitter experience that this just won't happen.

Oh well, mustn't complain(!). I hope you all have a happy Christmas and New Year.

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THE FESTIVAL OF AGEING

This was brave experiment that worked well. All about dealing with old age and some of the problems it might bring. With speakers to tell it didn't really hurt, and traders and associations ready to help

I was flattered to be nominated as an inspirational speaker, apparently because I'm old but still fairly active. I certainly didn't expect much of a reception, but there were five of us and some of their tales made for good listening.

For me, one of the most inspirational was George Rook, who reckons he's had dementia for ten years and is the very active chairman of the Shropshire Dementia Action Alliance. His words: "Brain disease is just that. It's not a death sentence. I look the same, I feel the same." Lots of applause - a great guy.

Claire Cartlidge brought her bicycle in, the one she'd ridden to Greece and back with her husband. Definitely not your average retired librarian.

Doctor William Bird talked about people staying active and his work building the Health Walk scheme that we see in action here in Cleobury.

His easy way of explaining how to keep alert and properly alive was worth the visit alone.

There were sessions the big crowd could attend and my first selection was a county library scheme, "Reading Aloud." We sat and I think it was Team Librarian Heather Rodenhurst who read a selection of short stories. Nice works, but no chance to comment or exchange opinions. It wouldn't go down well with our Reading Group, that's for sure. After all, a good argument is one way of staying alert.

A chance to walk around the trade area meant a chat with the Severn Hospice staff. When I went on stage I did a commercial for them, as I was wearing one of my newer jackets, bought at the Cleobury shop for £5.49. I had been online and looked at Hugo Boss offerings, but couldn't afford £600 for a similar jacket. That got a round of applause - good old Severn Hospice.

More activities to try in the afternoon and I opted for a yoga session, knowing how popular it is in Cleobury. This was a gentle version of the discipline, with sloooooo stretching, mostly done whilst sitting down. It certainly was

relaxing, so much so that I fell asleep. I'm sure it justifies a deeper investigation than my pleasant snooze produced.

It was a pretty good show for a new idea and what little feedback I could hear suggested it's a runner for next year. Good. Staying alive and alert is a good ambition for all of us and a healthy old age means fewer of us taking up hospital beds.

If it does happen again, and the Shrewsbury Town football stadium was a very spacious and easy to find venue, I do hope they tighten up the final speeches with a time limit. The inspirational speakers got five minutes, which worked well. It would be great if some of those who waffled at length at the end of the occasion had to do the same. And now it's time for me to keep quiet.
JR

SILLY BITS

1: "The idea that cavalry will be replaced by these iron coaches is absurd. It is little short of treasonous."

A far sighted aide at a tank demonstration in 1916.

2: "We now have exactly the same situation we had at the start of the race, only exactly the opposite." Murray Walker.

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HIRE THE FUNCTION ROOM

There are several private Christmas parties booked in the Function Room during December. If you are looking for a venue for your party/meeting/special occasion, FB Message or call into the Club to check available dates.

See the Club's Facebook page for scheduled opening hours over the Christmas break.

Monday 2 December 8pm
Bingo

Every Monday at the Social Club. Eyes down 8pm. Cash prizes; over 18 only please.



Friday 6 December
Senior Citizen's Christmas Social 1-4pm

All over 60s welcome to this community social event. Primary School Year 6 will be singing Christmas Carols and Trevor Wood will provide additional musical entertainment.



Followed by.....

Social Club Quiz night 8pm

Bring a team to the Social Club fundraising quiz. Only £2.50 per person, max 6 per team.



Wednesday 11 December 8pm
Royal British Legion Meeting



Friday 13 December
Christmas Jumper Day

Join in this new national event. Wear your Christmas jumper to the Club. Collection for Save the Children



Saturday 14 December 2.15pm
CMRFC v Veseyans



Friday 20 December 7pm
Kid's End of Term Christmas Disco

Start the school holidays with Christmas games and Santa at the Social Club. £3 per child



Tuesday 24 December 2.30pm

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Saturday 11 January 2.15pm
CMRFC v Edwardians



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CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

A big thank you to the ladies from the WI for their kindness and generosity. They were cooking and serving 50 soups and desserts for the Winter Warmer Lunch and donating car loads of duvets, pillows, blankets towels and bed linen for the Shropshire Women's Refuge. The lunch was much appreciated and a thank you letter from the Women's Refuge showed us how gratefully they accepted our donations.

Our November meeting invited us to bring greenery for a Christmas decoration and Liz Smurthwaite provided containers and led us through the intricacies of constructing a table decoration. It was a great pleasure to see how everyone rose to the task and managed to produce a lovely piece of work. You may have seen a photo on our Facebook page. We finished off the month with a committee lunch at the Larch Barn.

Our December meeting was the WI Christmas lunch at the KA with a lovely surprise from Secret Santa. A big thank you goes to the staff there for looking after us so well. We look forward to an exciting program for 2020 and start the year with

a 'Rhythmicity drumming workshop' on January 14 in the Market Hall at 7.30pm. You might think, "how interesting" and would like to come along. Please be our guest, it is only £4 and you will be very welcome.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Gabby Franklin

PLASTIC NOT SO FANTASTIC

Reuse your plastic fake tree, or real trees are plastic free. Make your own Christmas food and snacks; many ready made products come wrapped in large amounts of plastic.

Wrapping leftovers, choose reusable containers over single use cling film. Waxed paper or beeswax wraps is another alternative.

Use wrapping paper that is not "plasticised" Scraps of brightly coloured material can also be used to wrap presents and can be reused. Shredded paper can be used as packaging for breakable items as an alternative to bubble wrap.

Christmas crackers can be personalised and homemade paper hats can be added; non plastic cracker kits are available from Oxfam- £5.99 for six.

Reuse decorations where possible, or use natural products eg pine cones, holly or fir sprigs, cinnamon sticks. Choose gifts carefully; as my 12 year old nephew says, "Give everybody money then they can buy something they actually want"

If buying bathroom products make sure they are microbead free. Keep up with all the other plastic reduction tips you have already adopted this year.

A happy plastic-reduced Christmas from all at the Cleobury Plastic Reduction Group.

Louise Francis

ROAD CLOSURE

There will be drainage work and gully installation at Common Lane, Hollywaste, from December 2nd to the 6th, which will require closure of the road. Diversion signs will show the alternative route for local traffic. Take a look at <https://one.network/?tm=115217360> for more details of the location.

Shropshire Council's Customer Services on 0345 6789006 should be able to answer any questions on the matter.

SILLY BIT

"To know her is not necessarily to love her."

Rex Reed on Barbra Streisand

Andrew Jordan (Jordy)
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FROM THE BANDROOM

Don't miss our Christmas Cracker of a Concert. A very festive and entertaining programme, together with audience participation, just to get you in the mood. Not forgetting our fabulous compère for the evening who brings it all together.

This year it will be held on Saturday 14th December in the Parish Hall. Tickets are £10 and include mulled wine and mince pies. There will also be a licensed bar. To reserve your ticket, please contact Donna on 07791 642214 or Amanda on 01584 891199 or indeed any other band member.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Katie Griffiths

Our website lists all contact details www.CMCB.org.uk, please also find us on Facebook.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

You'd expect us to have a Carol Service every year, and this year will happily be no different - December 15th at 3.00 o'clock in St John's Church - come and join us, Hopton Bank Methodists and Cleobury Country Brass, and enjoy singing traditional Christmas

carols. Plus there will of course be a service on Christmas Day at 11am.

But we will also be repeating our January event - the Burns Lunch went down so well, that we're bringing it back too. Haggis, neeps and tatties ("surprisingly tasty" was the general response last time) and the Scottish Country Dancers will be there to dance for us and with us again. Plus Ewan in his full kilted attire to address the haggis and maybe a few songs. Ticket price held at £7. Saturday 25th January at 12pm at Doddington Village Hall. Call 01584 318036 or email stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com. Thanks to all for your support this year, and Happy Christmas.
Celia Gibb

CATHERTON COMMON

For a long time now I have been bemoaning the, generally, dry weather and worrying about the common drying out and changing. This came into sharp focus earlier this year when a resident was telling me how he used to cross the common with his children 20+ years ago (there was far less tall, dense gorse then) with a small boat and play about on a small pool!

Well what a difference a few months can make. Wandering across the common at the

moment all the small pools and wet flushes are once again filled with water and the common is well served with damp hollows spread in every corner. This is very important for the diversity of the common which is an intricate mix of wet and dry heathland. These wet areas, occurring throughout the common, are very important to our insects, animals and birds and not just to the plants that are adapted to them. People often understand the value of a pond but small seasonal wet hollows, boggy ground and wet flushes (areas where water runs in sheets on and just below the surface) are probably of more value and overlooked.

The value of the common for wildlife is greatly increased by these widely spread wet areas but they also help it to act like a sponge soaking up heavy rainfall and reducing flooding. For that reason we try to avoid diverting the water into ditches where it runs off quickly into streams and rivers causing downstream flooding. Please push your flooding problem back onto the common.

Clive Dean

*Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Reserves Officer South*

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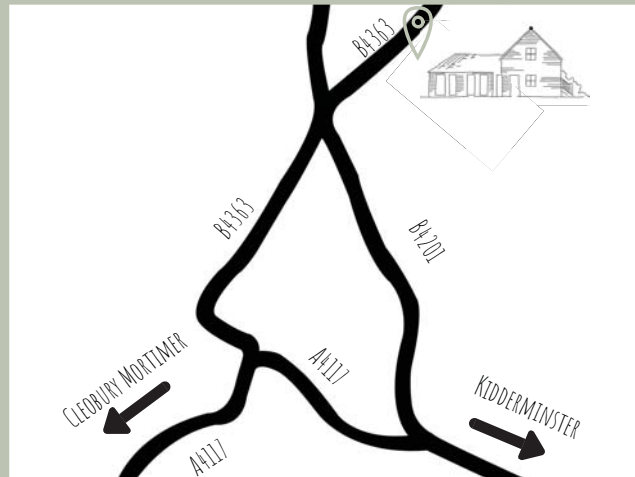
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AN EVENING IN THE TAP ROOM

Pete Williams and friends were fund raising for the Hereford Haven. He reports:

The November 20th quiz evening went really well at the Tap Room. Fully booked, with around 12 teams of six people taking part.

We raised somewhere in the region of £300 on the night and handed this over, along with the £550 raised last month at the KA music night to Di Emmett. She is the manager of The Hereford Haven where Pat visited numerous times. A huge "Thank you" to Nick at Hobsons and to Lester who was the quiz master.

This takes money raised for the Haven to in excess of £20,000 over the last eight years in lots of events.

(What a remarkable fund raising drive that has been, all to support Pete's lovely wife Pat and then in her memory. Congratulations to all who helped that great cause. JR.)

CHRISTMAS TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

From December 1st we will have our Christmas Tree of Remembrance at our office where names and messages can be placed on the tree in memory of your loved ones, no matter

where or when they passed away. Our Tree has proved popular in previous years, enabling families to let their loved ones know that just because they are no longer seen, they are not forgotten.

If you would like a message placed on the tree in memory of someone you have lost, please call into our office at 8 Talbot Square, Cleobury Mortimer, e-mail your name and message to adriansatterly@btinternet.com or leave your name, your loved ones name and your message on our facebook page. We will do the rest for you.

Cleobury Funeral Directors are the only Cleobury Mortimer based funeral service and have Chapels of Rest in the town. I know how difficult it can be coming to terms with the loss of someone special whether this be the first year without them or if they died many years ago, the pain does not go away. We are part of our community. This is where I live and work and would like to remind you that I am available throughout the festive period to offer help and advice, 24 hours a day.

For immediate attention, please contact me on 01299 272963

Adrian Satterly

OWL WATCH

After nearly a year of extensive record keeping of owls hooting we have a very useful data base of the owls of Cleobury. From that data we know pretty well, where new owl nest boxes will work for our Barn, Tawny and Little owls. It is hoped that before Christmas we can have made and installed in trees, three Barn owl, six Tawny and two Little owl boxes plus two for Kestrels. If so, we will have done our bit for a potential owl housing shortage.

Kit Smith

CELTIC CHRISTMAS STRINGS

Just a reminder of a rather special musical evening on December 20th in Chelmarsh Village Hall. The duo, Marie and Chris, will be offering a range of music on harp and guitar, covering a range from traditional Irish through swing and bluegrass to festive numbers. That must surely please any audience.

The gig starts at 7.30 and tickets are £12.00 adults and £8.00 children, including refreshments. Book yours with Janet Price on 01746 862104. It does like a great way of getting in the Christmas mood.

Paul Harding



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December 2019 Clarion Report

Another year draws to a close so quickly, with many projects throughout the year becoming a reality, while we continue to gain value for money with many grants secured. We would especially like to thank the many volunteers that work so hard to help our community thrive. Without the volunteers who give up their time and put so much effort we would not be the community we are. We hope that it continues in 2020 and the Town council is there to help.

The Tree work contracts mentioned in the November report has been agreed. Tree work will start in the Skate park area in December and at the Cemetery, St Mary's and the Playing field on 6th January 2020.

The contractors have done another good job pleaching the trees in the main street, which always makes it easier for us to put up the Christmas lights, and it also solves our issue of falling leaves on the pavements. The Christmas lights put up by volunteers on 24th November, will be turned on at 4pm on Saturday December 7th with St Mary's Church having the community Christmas Fair from 1pm to 4pm. Please come along and support.

From the crime reduction meeting we have had great assistance from the Police and Crime commissioner's office by Graham Oliver and our local Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt Thomas, to push for a police officer for Cleobury Mortimer.

Also, from that meeting we would like to thank Mr Kevin Lane, for taking over as the new Chair of the group and the Town council will still continue to fully support the community group in its efforts going forward with the Town Clerk continuing to assist and keep the council updated. The next meeting will be on Thursday 9th January, 7pm at the Cleobury Country Centre.

The Remembrance Day parade was again well attended, with the march starting from the Talbot car park and marching around Childe road and down the High street. The Church service was really enjoyable with readings from the children and from the Bishop of Hereford. Well done to all who took part.

We would like to remind everyone that the Food Bank is open every Friday morning from 10am to 12 noon at the Market Hall for those in need, run by community volunteers.

The new joint Christmas cards from St Mary's and the Town council are now on sale, thank you to the person who donated the cost of production so that all proceeds can go to good causes.

The Town Council wishes you all a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Please take care on the roads over the festive season. See you all again in 2020.

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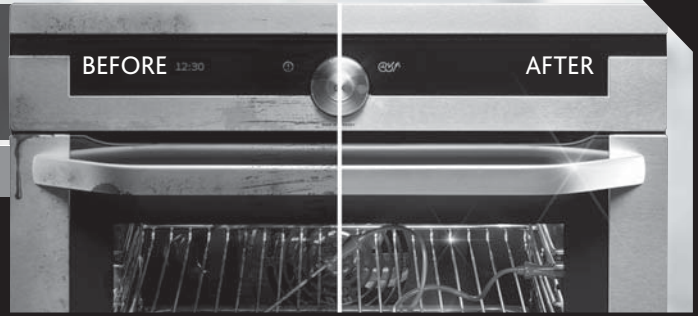
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SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS - TLC Care at Home



This is what success looks like. The Jacksons, Peter and Jacqui with daughter Tracey and some of the team at their Bewdley headquarters.

The Jackson family and their TLC Care At Home service have been featured in these pages before, but their outstanding rate of success justifies an update on a story that shows what care and knowledge can achieve.

Peter and Jacqui started the business from their Neen Savage home in 2013 and discovered a need for the care they offered. As Jacqui puts it: "One room at home we could cope with, but when it got to three rooms we had to find somewhere else." They found it in 2016 at Load Street, Bewdley, above the Kemp Hospice shop. Walk through the street door and you're in

no doubt that this is a friendly, clean and efficient workplace.

Their operation covers the Cleobury Mortimer area and Wyre Forest, with carefully selected and trained carers. From the beginning they have given time and effort to training and developing their staff, and they have their own training facility in the Bewdley base. All the carers are required to achieve Care Certificate and Level 2 Health in Social Care, and are then encouraged to move further up the qualification scale. A typical thoughtful touch is carers having specific qualifications to support the individual needs of each client.

Quality Assurance checks are carried out monthly and include spot checks, observations, medication competency checks and care plan reviews and updates. That does sound like a big administrative load, but what it does for the clients is make sure the service is safe and working well. Regular feedback forms are sent out to both clients and carers to confirm they all feel they are supported and properly looked after.

There is a bespoke management system that tells the manager when carers have arrived safely at their clients' home and it will also alert staff to any medical conditions such as allergies or diabetes. It

can also supply specialised menus for clients with such special needs.

In addition to the company's in-house training facility they use specialist Worcester Care Training Solutions to deliver Moving and Handling, First Aid and Level 2 Medication to both internal and external individuals. A high percentage of the workforce are qualified to sign off Medication Competency for new carers in training.

The Management System has links to NHS websites to understand and give details of clients' conditions and needs, to help give the correct support. They also have Sepsis red flag and stroke assessments to guide staff and ensure the best outcome for the people they support.

It's a complicated process for the client to face, and many find it difficult to understand. TLC can help.

And in November the Care and Quality Commission gave them an 'Outstanding' rating for their service. Less than 3% of English home care companies have done that.



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RAINBOWS NEWS



Rainbows Leader Jean Basham with her three star performers, Holly Grenfell, Leah Bayliss and Emily Grenfell.

Rainbows are not unlike Brownies and Guides, Rainbows have never been able to work towards earning badges for achieving various skills. But now with a new programme

being introduced, Rainbows can join in. The girls were very excited and most of them received badges of some kind. But three went one step further and completed the entire Badge Book. On October 22nd they were presented with a Gold Award, whilst decked out in full Halloween fancy dress to boot! They are the first Rainbows in Shropshire Division to achieve this. Well done girls!

If you have a daughter aged five to seven years old who would like to join Rainbows, we meet at 4.00pm till 5.15pm at the Market Hall on a Tuesday during school term. Give Jean a ring on 07792813774 for more details.

MAKING FRIENDS

Tracey's Sweet Shop in Lion Lane is proving to be a real hit. I was in there buying a treat for my grand daughters, and

children were coming in with eyes as big as saucers at the selection.

The lady is nobody's fool when it comes to making friends. On Halloween she stayed open until 8.00 because children were coming in with their parents, and every child in fancy dress was given a bag of sweets and a raffle ticket for something a bit bigger.

TEAM KIMI

Bev and Kathie with Kimi that cute little owl, will be at the Farmers Market on the 21st. Looking super smart in outfits from GoCustom Clothing of Ludlow and selling draw tickets for a bumper Christmas hamper.

It's all for good causes and since October 2018 they've raised £8,463. They're a great team and their target for the coming year is double that. Do stop and admire the owl.



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James works alongside Sue Brown at Cleobury Chiropractic in the High Street.
 If you would like an early-morning or evening appointment then please call James on: 07506 287191.

WIN A LITTLE BEANS PARTY



This is Natalie Lewis, recently moved from Cambridge to Bewdley and building up her Little Beans Party business. She's also running drama classes at local schools, where her broad experience in stage management shines through. Her background includes work at the Royal Opera House and the Phoenix theatre. If a student is really keen, she can also help to find them an agent.

A Little Beans Party can be in your home, in a local hall or whatever you choose. And the range is from traditional to novelty, for ages from babes to 18 year olds.

And she's offering a free party as a prize. All you have to do is email her on natalie@littlebeansparty.co.uk

SENSIBLE SECURITY

Kevin Lane has returned to a place he remembers well. Older residents may remember an old blacksmith's anvil outside the Three Horseshoes pub. That was his grandfather's, left when the old chap retired. Kevin himself joined the RAF Police and later joined the Gloucester and then West Mercia forces, rising to the rank of Inspector. He clearly knows his stuff.

He's now working as an independent security consultant, with no ties to any industry supplier. That means he takes a broad view and will advise the most economical way of getting proper security. He does have a strong view on the way some companies encourage big spending when you can get decent cover for a modest sum.

He's just taken over as chairman of the Crime Reduction Group, where his experience will be a great asset. He doesn't waffle and does talk in plain English. It will be interesting to see the effect he has on that area.

As a self employed man he's available when you need help or advice. He's on CM 270891 or kevinlane5430@gmail.com

THE MEN'S SHED



The Shed is now complete as a shell, with internal fitting to come. The work continues, with services like heating and electrical supply still to be done. All of that work takes money and the committee are chasing funds all the time. Our thanks to Cleobury W.I. who have made the Shed this year's chosen charity, to the Severn Hospice Shop, whose Christmas Lunches include a raffle, the proceeds from which will also go to the fund, and to Emma Ward, whose clothes swap raised a very useful £203 for us. Thank you - what a generous community this is.

Our website, which is sponsored by The Clarion, is now open and well worth a visit: www.cmms.co.uk. Our next meeting is at 7.00 on December 4th in the Market Hall. All welcome.



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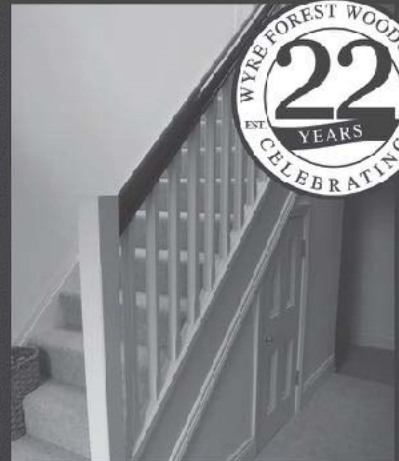
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CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Parfitt	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	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	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE 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 Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

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Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** **Clee Hill Stores;** The Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.**

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

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 22nd

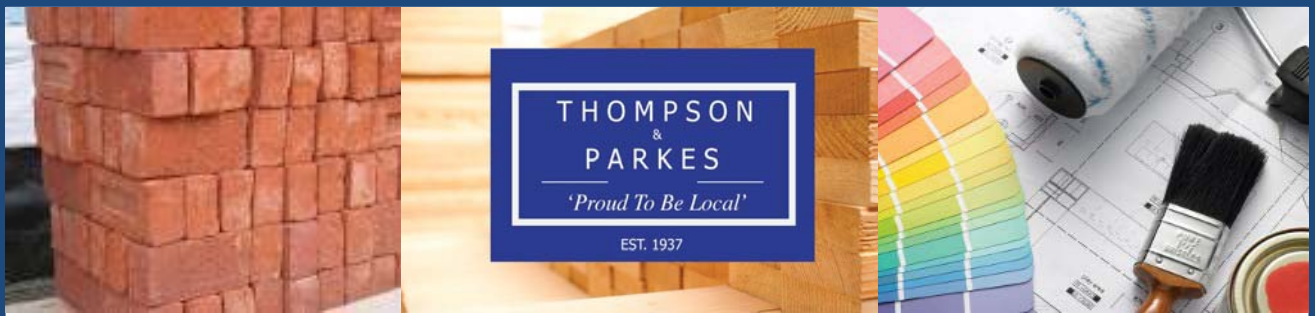
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