

The Cleobury Clarion

THE RECTOR WRITES

It has long been a tradition that at Christmas time the guardian of a community's moral standards offers a greeting and perhaps a little guidance for the future. So it was a pleasure to have our Rector Ashley Buck pen a message to us all.

We do not have the traditional parish magazine today and it is agreed that I make space for the church to remain in touch through these pages. You will find Ashley's letter on Page 59, a touch of tradition that adds to this festive season.

And as editor, may I thank all my contributors, readers and advertisers for the support they give. With the passing of years the work does not become easier, but the simple pleasure of knowing so many good people and being allowed into their lives is a privilege I value very highly. A very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year to you all. God bless you is an old fashioned wish, but one sincerely meant. JR

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Once again the town turned out and witnessed veteran Jon Redfern next to grandson 2nd lieutenant Alfie Todd heading the parade.

Paul Serrell-Cooke writes:

Unperturbed by a bit of rain, the people of Cleobury came out in force and ensured a fitting and respectful occasion to remember and reflect on those who lost their lives in service to our country. Once again, the Remembrance

Parade and Service afterwards proved to be a wonderful example of the community working together.

We were honoured that Mrs Clarissa Daly, a Deputy Lieutenant of Shropshire, was able to attend the occasion, taking part in the parade and reading the lesson during the church service.

Thanks are due to all who took part, from the members of the Royal British Legion to the youngest members of the Tiny Tots Group who took part in the parade.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This is about people, not politics. Our Neighbourhood Plan will affect everyone who lives in this fine town and it deserves the support of us all. On December 7th the Parish Hall will be open to anyone who holds the voting card that has been distributed to all households.

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*Simon Evans, Cleobury postman and noted author.
See Page 13.*



*The Mawley Milk Dress.
Something really different.
On Page 15.*



*Who says you can't buy fish in Cleobury?
Ask Ann - She's on Page 49.*

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CLOWS TOP CRAFT CLUB

The Club has moved from Clows Top to Mamble Village Hall, DY14 9JL.

We meet on Monday mornings from 10am - 12noon. All kinds of crafts are welcome. For just £2.00 a session you could enjoy the company of other crafty people. Tea/coffee and biscuits included.

For more details phone Judith on 07990 932167.

Judith also advises that local photographer Peter Siviter will be talking to the Gardening Club at Victory Hall on January 24th at 7.30. Charge of £2.00 a head to cover refreshments.

NEW NOTES SINGERS

The Singers gave their first concert in October and filled Clee Hill village hall. As well as the choir, there were other singers and instrumentalists with Jackie Handy, the lady who walked the Camino de Santiago earlier this year, acting as compere and the audience got good value with interval refreshments included in the price of £8.00. If they can fill the hall on a wet October evening they look destined for success.

NEARLY DEAD POETS SOCIETY

This small, friendly group don't get much cover on these pages, because they meet late in the month and miss the print deadline. So a brief report of their October meeting in this issue.

We laugh a lot, like Tony Smith listening to Tina Hobin reading a work by her son and

Tony commenting "A nice little piece, rather like you!"

So here's the nice little piece, the work of Richard Hobin:

AMERICA

They've built another. fast foot restaurant

Where the local grocers used to be

And next door is a video store

Renting pockets of exposure

To anyone who will listen or see.

And standing outside, talking in code

Are the spitting young under achievers

Sporting the dress of an unknown rapper

Raising their feet to the people they meet

Insulting the life with illiteracy and mirth

Brought into conflict from the day of their birth.

And we all raise our arms

And we all raise our voice

Cry out for sanctions restricting our choice

And we order our food through an intercom

Received our thanks in muttered grins

Take a last glance before a shopping mall springs

Thank you America for providing our views

Television rumours and the violence we choose

And the grace of our ministers' polished regime

The publicised rape of an ordinary dream

And the scientists' survivors' university speak

The dollars for favours and changing of chique

The minorities protesting their life in a rhyme

Thank you America, for wasting our time.

Richard Hobin

CLEOBURY CONCERT BRASS

Everyone loves the sound of a brass band at Christmas. There will be plenty of opportunity to hear us carol playing (and perhaps pop a bit in our donation tin please!)

After we have brought some early Christmas cheer to the Cleobury lights switch on, you can also expect to hear us playing some carols at Morrisons in Kidderminster, the lovely Doddington carol service on Sunday 17th at 3.00pm and the Hobsons Christmas event on the evening of December 20th.

We also have a joint concert with Bridgnorth MVC on December 9th; see our Facebook page for ticket details.

But the main event of the season is our Christmas Concert, on Sunday December 17th in the Parish Hall. Tickets are £10 and available from The Wash House, Ticket Source or Amanda on 01584 891199 – we look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from all at Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass.

Katie Griffiths

VALERIE CARTER

Wishing all family, friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas.

I will not be sending Christmas cards but will make a donation to the Royal British Legion.

Valerie

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER NEIGHBOURHOOD

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Most people consider themselves fortunate to live in a community such as Cleobury Mortimer and would wish to have a voice in how the Town develops in future. The vision for this is set out in the draft Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan which, following extensive public consultation, was submitted to Shropshire Council, gaining approval at their meeting on 18th October. You should have received your poll card by now and the proposal will go to a public vote on 7th December.

If adopted, the NDP will cover the period up to 2038 and give our community the power to develop a shared vision for our area and help to deliver sustainable development by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. We will be able to have input into the contribution expected from development, setting out the levels and types of affordable housing provision required, along with other areas such as the infrastructure needed for education, health, transport, flood and water management and green and digital provision. If it is not adopted, local input on the above will be extremely limited and in some cases non-existent.

The NDP Steering Group have worked extremely hard over several years to get to this point and now formal

adoption of the Plan will require a simple majority of votes cast. The outcome will affect you as this is your community and your vote. Please use it wisely.

A SLIGHT ERROR



An easy enough mistake to make, to miss reading this sign and follow the instruction your faithful sat nav gives. Little did the driver of the large (six wheels is pretty big) Scania coach know about the road ahead as he drove down Love Lane and turned left into Childe Road back in October.

Gently on down the road until.....



It became obvious that the coach would not get down that

lane, never mind making a turn into The Hurst. So a long reverse to a u-turn at Love Lane and an exit on the usual bus route. Far better solution than the Volvo truck that years ago was determined to get through. 'The Stuck Truck' was our headline and a long struggle the result.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

There is no movie in December. On January 20th at 7.00 for 7.30, we will be showing *Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning* starring Tom Cruise. Tickets £5 – bar, tea, coffee and cake.

February can be dark, cold and miserable. Come to the Parish Hall on Saturdays and have soup and pudding (£3) whilst watching a movie starring the great Dames of British cinema. February 3 - *Tea with Mussolini* (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Joan Plowright); February 10 - *A Passage to India* (Peggy Ashcroft); February 17 - *Gosford Park* (Eileen Atkins, Helen Mirren); February 24 - *Travels with my Aunt* (Maggie Smith). Tickets £5 – bar. For more information visit www.cleoburyparishhall.uk/flicks.

SIMON EVANS EXTRA

See Page 13 and our report of Dr Mark Baldwin's lecture. We are reminded that the CM Footpath Association website has a rich seam of Evans lore that is well worth exploring if you want to know more about the man. JR



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AN AMAZING PLACE

It looks like another warehouse unit on the Tenbury Road business park. A sign tells you that there's a takeaway on one corner, but walk a little further, push open the door and you step into a place of magic for children. This is 'Anchors Away'. Wow.

It's furnished with tables and chairs for families, with mums looking after tots who keep on running away to explore the place. The walls present a series of murals, beautifully painted by Hannah Beth Bailey.

It's all colourful, from the murals to the furniture and the three tier complex of climbing frames with every upright carefully bound with a soft fabric cover. If you want to host a party there are two private rooms for eating or playing before the children get back to the fun.

This is a wonderful facility, funded and set up by two couples who wanted the best for their children and to give the town a very special play area. Full credit to them all, who have made a big commitment, dug deep to finance the operation and are

employing local people to run the place.

It's open seven days a week, there's a SEN session on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. What comes over strongly is the care behind all this - these people want the best for all local children. It's a great asset for the town and the local community, they deserve every success.

Anchors Away, Unit 1, Newhouse Farm, Tenbury Road. Email: anchorsaway2022@outlook.com or call 01299 212514.



The photo was taken before the families began to arrive, so you could see the place in better detail. See it when it's alive with children and it's a real pleasure palace.

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Ewe & You, the name of the charity set up by Geoff and Liz Smith some years ago was the title of November's very entertaining talk by Liz.

Back in the day, Liz was a 'traditional' Vicar's wife – very involved with her husband's church, acting as administrator and secretary, attending services, running a home as well as caring for four young children and their pets. The parish was in Redditch, a 'new town' then but life for many residents was far from idyllic and there were many social problems. One of the things Geoff and Liz did to help the children was to set up youth clubs when they came to realise that most of the children had absolutely no idea of what life in the country was like or where their food came from. To enlighten them and also to give them a good time, they organised trips into the countryside.

After several years of hard but rewarding work, they moved to another parish in the Teme Valley and whilst they were absolutely delighted, they also felt guilty at leaving needy families, especially the children. What to do to remedy this and

also utilise the land attached to the vicarage? Answer – sheep! The first step was a course in sheep husbandry but Kerry Hill sheep, the breed naively chosen for their attractive appearance, proved to be non-compliant at milking time. It was a two person job, with Liz having to straddle the sheep rodeo style as Geoff endeavoured to milk! Just as they were about to give up, the sheep sensing danger suddenly co-operated!

Charity status was sought and eventually granted which led to the charity being set up and funding sourced. Deprived children were invited to come and stay for a few days at a time to experience the country life and also, it has to be said, to give them respite from possibly difficult circumstances at home. Thanks to the Smith family, Ewe & You is still active today serving children from the town.

Diane Waddington

ADAM PONSFORD

My final fundraiser for this year for my 2024 adventure to Kenya is nearly upon us. I need to raise a minimum of £4,000 to cover the costs of travel, accommodation, vaccinations, kit and to support the valuable project work I will be taking part in.

A Family Fun Christmas Fair with craft stalls selling

Christmas gifts along with traditional type stalls takes place at Kinlet Village Hall on Sunday December 3rd from 11.00 until 5.00. We have such a vast array of stallholders, you wouldn't want to miss it, not to mention the amazing prizes in our Grand Prize Draw taking place at 4.00. Tickets £1 each, if you can't make it on the day but you want to buy tickets, please contact us. The "Lucky Square" will also be drawn with a cash prize of £50 for the winner.

If you want further details regarding any of the above, please contact Rachael on 01299 841032 or 0771 5030 510.

Thank you everyone for your help in supporting my journey.

Adam Ponsford, aged 14

HAGGIS IS BACK!

After the success of the event last year, on Friday January 26 at 7.30, the Parish Hall will be hosting a celebration of the immortal memory of Robert Burns. Piper, Scottish dancers, haggis, neeps and tatties, poetry and a dram of whisky – as well as the opportunity to show off your dancing skills. Tickets are £15. For more information and tickets, visit www.cleoburyparishhall.uk/burns or call Gabby Franklin on 01299 271713. *Robert Hodge*



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SIMON EVANS

The Cleobury postman, his life and his writing. A lecture by Doctor Mark Baldwin.

As you would expect from such an experienced academic with a history of lectures that have taken him over much of the globe, Dr Baldwin presented the subject with much detail previously unheard. From Evans' 1895 birth in Tynyfedu, Powys, and his early work for the Post Office, initially as a telegraph boy cycling out to deliver telegrams to his progress as a postman. Not just the story, but with a variety of fascinating items to back up the tale.

Evans signed up to serve King and country in the 1914-18 First World War and was the victim of gas poisoning during that conflict. He returned to his position in the Post Office and during a walking holiday in this area got into conversation with a man looking to move on from the gentle pace to somewhere more lively. Simon was clearly quite a persuasive character and convinced management that the two should swap places. The country man

headed for the bright lights of Birkenhead and Simon Evans for this rural idyll.



Resting place between outward and return daily journeys was this modest cabin, officially known as the Rural Post Shelter Hut. Photo courtesy of Dr Mark Baldwin.

He lived at 24 Lower Street, very conveniently across the road from the Post Office and the sorting office we boasted then. My, how times have changed.

His daily route was not rigidly dictated, but logically varied according to the places he had to visit, both on his journey from the town to his return, when he would collect letters and parcels. Today we can walk the carefully signposted circa 18 miles

Simon Evans Way from Cleobury to Stottesdon, something Phil Redwood did as a relative newcomer to the town before writing in the Clarion with great enthusiasm about the experience.

Simon Evans was keen on his country walking, whatever the long term effect of his war time gassing. He found an outlet in writing about the world he discovered and enjoyed, with five books to his credit. Dr Baldwin naturally has copies of these, plus a growing file of correspondence that his reputation for following Evans' history has brought.

Radio work for the BBC was added to his achievements and it was during that work that he met and married a lady, the two of them having a house built on the site next to what is now the Bowling Club. He died in 1940, one day short of his 45th birthday. A sadly short life of a talented man.

A very interesting evening at a modest £8.00 a head, which included a glass of wine and a snack, with profits going to the Friends of Saint Mary's Church. All that was missing was the public address system that would help the aged.

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THE MAWLEY MILK DRESS



Mawley Milk have supplied 477 used milk bottle caps to student Jasmine Bish so she could complete her design project. The concept was inspired by Paco Rabanne's disc dress and Jasmine was using bottle tops from her local supermarket in Lincolnshire. But they stopped using coloured tops and went for clear plastic to help recycling. Good for the planet, but a headache for Jasmine.

Her aunt Gill Guest came to the rescue because she uses Mawley Milk and they were still still using coloured tops. A distress call to Rachel Robinson at Mawley found the solution. They put any faulty tops to one side for recycling and had two big bags of them waiting to be collected by the recycling service. Gill Guest stepped in and 477 tops were on their way east.

It took a lot of work to finish the job, as each top was pierced, then decorated with a

spiderweb of embroidery threads before being joined up. The sleeves followed the dairy theme, using a milking cluster from a milking machine.

Jasmine calls the garment the Mawley Dress to acknowledge the dairy's help and because in Ludlow Museum there's the Mawley Chasuble once owned by Katherine of Aragon, no less. Long distance goodwill at work.

CLEOBURY. W.I.

We had a busy time in mid-November, with Remembrance Sunday, regular Tuesday meeting and Winter Warmer Lunch within a few days. Several members braved the weather to join the parade to Church on Remembrance Sunday, with Sue Kershaw and Fran laying a wreath on behalf of our WI.

Everyone enjoyed a session making Christmas cards, with Iris Todd kindly providing an array of materials for us to use and guiding us through our creations.

The first of our Winter Warmer Lunches was a huge success; with extra space in the Parish Hall, we were able to serve our delicious home-made soups and desserts to a greater number of customers. Thank you to everyone who attended the event in support of our charity this year, Cleobury First Responders. Look out for the next occasion in February!

Dates for your diary include:

Tuesday 5th December 6.30 for 7pm – Members' Christmas Party at the Market Hall. A

three-course meal provided by the Kings Arms with 'magical' entertainment throughout the evening!

Thursday 14th December – Christmas jumper/hat walk. Members can meet at 11am outside the Market Hall for a local walk, followed by the Pot Lunch organised by Neen Savage WI. Please book the meal with Fran, cost £5 on the day.

Tuesday 9th January – Introduction to Yoga with Sophie at 7.30pm in the Market Hall, followed by the usual refreshments.

Thursday 25th January 10.30am – Coffee and chat at Cleobury Golf Club. Cake optional!

Wishing all our members and the whole Cleobury community a very merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy 2024.

Prospective new members are welcome to contact Judy on 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com. Check out our Facebook page!

Val Sniadowski

ONE POT LUNCH

Neen Savage WI are hosting a One Pot Lunch on Thursday 14th December between 12 and 2pm in the upstairs room of Cleobury Market Hall. For just £5 enjoy a bowl of beef or vegetable stew with crusty bread, followed by a delicious homemade pudding. All proceeds for our Charity of the Year - Nineveh Ridge Care Farm. All Welcome.

Catherine Evans



Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall is the largest in the area

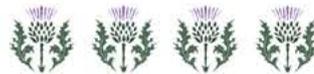
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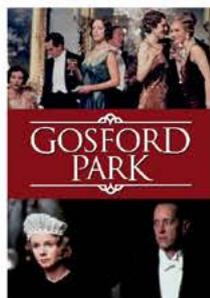
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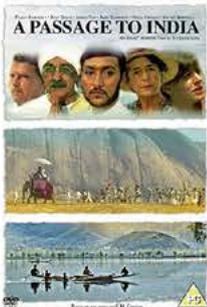
3 February
Tea with Mussolini
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17 February
Gosford Park
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THE LATEST FROM CORAL & TOM...

As we head into December, the November market saw steady activity with some sellers eyeing Christmas and a traditionally quieter end of year market which resulted in a significant slowdown of new properties coming to market across the month. Sales for the month, on the other hand, were stronger with some of the previously stuck on the market properties having sales agreed on, benefitting from less fresh properties coming to the market and forcing buyer's eyes to homes that had been on the market longer.

The recent news that inflation levels have reached their lowest in over two years is also cause for some positivity which hopefully in turn will translate to greater confidence into the market for buyers and sellers going into 2024. The new year is expected by many forecasters to be a stronger period for the housing market, with a jump in activity commonly seen come January as home movers make their new year plans over Christmas.

If you would like to talk about the market and how it's affecting your property value or about an impending move, please do not hesitate to contact us for a chat.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year from us both.

Coralie Walrond MNAEA MARLA

Tom Jackson MNAEA



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Did you know that Cleobury has a Voluntary Car Scheme? Thanks to a team of volunteers and the organisational skills of Mandy Smith, our volunteer coordinator, we offer an invaluable service to the vulnerable and incapacitated of our community. The service is open to anyone needing transport to and from a medical, dental or other health related appointment. The service is supported through Cleobury Mortimer Medical Practice for bookings or Mandy can be contacted directly on 01299 666119. The scheme is subsidised by Shropshire Council so the passenger pays 30p a mile directly to the driver and the Council tops this up by 20p a mile on a monthly basis. There is a flat fee of £2.00 for short journeys in Cleobury.

We are always looking for new drivers so if you feel this is something you could do to give back to your community please get in touch with Mandy on the number above or by email on cleoburycarscheme@btinternet.com. There are no restrictions or expectations on drivers, you can take on as many or few runs as

you want as each run is individually assigned. The only requirements are a DBS check, free to you as a volunteer, obviously a full driving licence and insurance that covers voluntary work.

*Catherine Evans
Volunteer Driver*

CLEOBURY GARDENERS

Creation of a dry garden was the presentation by Chair Flo Hadley to members on 9th October. The shade from the mature cherry tree in Flo's garden, together with a few drought years, had produced an area of poor, barren ground, and the felling of the tree was not an option. Together with fellow member and landscape specialist, Jackie Percival, a dry garden was chosen, where the conditions of the site, of poor, thin soil over a rubble and stoney substructure, were deemed ideal. A dry garden is never watered, never fertilised and is planted with drought-tolerant small plants. Flo and Jackie explained the criteria for planting – colours, shapes, heights – and the planting list and the planting placement. Flo continued through the stages of progress which were

photographed for use in this presentation. A very interesting and informative evening, thank you Flo.

We take this opportunity to thank all those people who donated to the Tree Pleaching Fund on Saturday Market Day. We raised £234.00. All contributions gratefully received.

Our AGM took place on 13th October 2023. Chair Flo Hadley circulated the Chairman's Report, which incorporated reports from the Secretary, the Social Secretary and the Allotments Co-Ordinator. The evening finished with a visual presentation of this year's Learning to Grow Food competition which is open to primary, nursery and special schools in our area. Absolutely wonderful pictures of little ones looking awed at their growing plants!

Our final meeting is the Christmas Social at St Elizabeths Hall, Lower Street on Monday, 11 December at 7.30. Shared plates, wine available. Old and new members welcome, and visitors too (Small entrance fee for funds).

Linda Ashman

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THE CLEOBURY MANOR HOUSE

It has stood the test of time. For three centuries the Manor House in Cleobury Mortimer High Street presents itself as a testament to the style, imagination and quality of build that the Georgian era legacy has left us.

Properties from previous centuries are protected through a listing system by Historic England. A Grade II "Is considered to have a special element of particular interest" and in the case of the Manor House this is the curved and swept oak staircase with toad-back handrail. Also, a carved marble fireplace with Bacchanalian figures. This is what makes our Manor House with a separately listed adjoining stable block so special amongst the over 100 buildings and structures in our own alone.

It is believed the House, aged at over 400 years, was built in the late 17th century by Hugh de Mortimer and was typical of manorial houses of that age. Formerly known as Cooks House, it was sold in 1760 for £60. Over the years, several exchanges of ownership ended with the property being sold to solicitor George Emerson in 1920.

After three more owners the property, then used as a children's home, finally became a nursing home in 1988 and ended up in the hands of the current owners, whose business closed down around 2010. The House was closed up and has remained so since then.

In 1974, when Thomas Pain sold the property to The Children's Family Trust he had a restrictive covenant placed on the title deeds which included the words "That whose ever hands the property came into would forever hereafter maintain in good repair and condition."

By this time the building had been listed by Historic England for 20 years. It is with this in mind when it became obvious that the current owners appeared to show little interest in properly maintaining the building, that a campaign started to save it from further decline.

Known as the **Save The Manor House** campaign, the group built a website with a lot of detail about the history of the house, photographs and regular updates on the massive challenges faced.

There has been evidence submitted to the team that instances of flooding (in one case through a leaking roof) may have resulted in significant damage to important features internally, not least of all the Grand Staircase and flooring throughout.

The team understands that responsibility for maintaining a watch over listed properties lies with the Conservation Department which is part of the Local Planning Authority.

This responsibility extends to requiring the owner to carry out repairs or maintenance as necessary to protect the property. It is believed this has only happened on one occasion, when repairs to a leaking roof were required.

Walking past the building today, one can only see the front elevation and it is very clear that urgent maintenance is required to the decaying woodwork and paintwork.

It is not beyond belief that internally the property could be seriously suffering. With this in mind, the team are pressuring the County Council to require the owner to allow an internal inspection.

To raise local interest and beyond, the team have also been featured on BBC Radio Shropshire, BBC News (Midland) web site and the Shropshire Star and South Shropshire Journal.

To help with local expense of printing and web site support, a funding effort through Go Fund Me has already raised £140. We have a target of £500 and readers can donate through our web site at www.savethemanorhouse.uk

The campaign will continue and with local support from Cleobury Town Council, Shropshire dignitaries and our MP, we hope that one day this Grand Old Lady will once again be a place that the town can be proud of.



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I'll be honest, I've had to go back a few years for this photo of the sheep at Uncllys Farm looking rather nonplussed by deep snow in December 2017. But we did have snow in December 2020 (lasting well into January 2021) and on December 11th 2022, so there's a fair chance that you'll be reading this in snowy circumstances.

'The cold wind doth blow, and we shall have snow, and what will the Robin do then, poor thing?' goes the old rhyme. Some species migrate to warmer regions while others stay put and adapt their behaviour. Dormice, bats and Hedgehogs as well as many reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates have evolved the ability to shut down their metabolism so that they can hibernate through the harsh times of winter. Squirrels are well-known hoarders of food: the native reds hiding acorns and nuts in a 'larder' among the leaf litter

under a tree; the greys burying them here and there (in your lawn and flower pots too!). That colourful and noisy oak wood resident, the Jay, will do the same, and you may also come across little collections of nuts, cherry or damson stones hidden by mice.

Most of the Fallow Deer grow a darker, thicker coat of fur, without the summer spots. This makes them harder to see in the winter forest. Like Badger fur, the hairs are hollow, giving an extra degree of insulation. There are quite a number of white deer now and, though they stand out like sore thumbs during the rest of the year, they are well-camouflaged if it snows. Lovely though they are, deer are not always popular with foresters. Their diet includes tree shoots and bark: the latter especially in the winter. This is why areas of new planting need to be protected by high deer fencing and individual trees by tall tree tubes.

Snow brings a special brilliance and muffled quietness to the forest. A walk in a fresh fall will tell the story of the night before. Which creatures have been abroad? Who was the Fox following? Will those big, clawed prints lead you to a Badger's sett? Is it a dog or a Blackbird that has scuffed among the dry leaves by the path? I'm already looking forward to it but hope we don't get too much of the white stuff.

A very happy Christmas to all.

Linda Iles

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**Cleobury Mortimer Benefice
Church services throughout the Benefice in December 2023.**

St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 3rd December – 10.00am Family Eucharist
Sunday 10th December – 8.30am Said Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 17th December – 10.00am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 24th December – 10.00am Eucharist
5.00pm Christingle
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day – 10.00am Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 31st December – 10.00am Parish Eucharist.

Every Wednesday – 10.00am Eucharist

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 3rd December – 9.30am Eucharist
Tuesday 5th December – 7.00pm Carol Service
Christmas Day – 9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 3rd December – 11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 17th December – 3.00pm Carol Service with Cleobury Concert Brass Band

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 3rd December – 11.00am Village Worship
Sunday 10th December Village Worship
Sunday 17th December – 6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Day – 11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 3rd December – 6.00pm Even Song
Friday 15th December – 7.00pm Carol Service
Christmas Day – 11.00am Christmas Day Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 3rd December – 6.00pm - Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 17th December – 6.00pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve – 4.00pm Crib Service
Christmas Day – 9.00am Christmas Eucharist (BCP)

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 10th December – 11.15am – Parish Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday 17th December – 6.00pm Carol Service.
Christmas Day – 11.15am – Christmas Eucharist (BCP)



Beat The Scammers – December 2023

Eleven months of the year have passed and our thoughts are now turning to the Christmas period where we hope to spend time with friends and family.

For some it may just be a quieter time of reflection but for a few, a sad time if fallen victim of the crime of the century, SCAMMING!

To ensure you are not one of those victims at this time of year here is some advice to keep you safe.

Impersonation scams

These come in various forms from a text from a relative who claims their mobile phone has been lost and they need money to get a new one, to a scammer pretending to be someone you might trust who tries to get sensitive information about you such as Bank details etc. If you get an unexpected call, think before you are willing to share any personal information. If someone pretends to be a relative, tell them you will call back on a number you know is genuine.

Mail or message text attachments.

Scammers use message texting or other forms of social media to send messages with attachments which can contain harmful data or programs that could render your mobile or tablet useless or simply direct you to a web site that looks very genuine and asks for personal data.

Avoid this by not clicking on any links or provide information without verifying the source of the original message.

The rule is, **if unsure do not proceed.**

Delete the message or text, if it is genuine the sender will try to contact you again or by a different method. The scammers use sophisticated computers to dial out to thousands of numbers a minute and generally do not waste time trying more than once.

Courier related Fraud

At this time of year when parcel deliveries rise, so does Courier Fraud which nationally amounts to over £12 million with the average loss being over £4,000.

Scammers might send an email that looks like it is from a genuine delivery service like DHL or Royal Mail, telling you a parcel has been held at a local depot and ask you to pay excess charges to release the parcel. This is a SCAM. Even if you are expecting a delivery always check first with the real sender to establish the status. Do not respond, just delete the message.

A more sinister version of Courier Fraud can start with a call from someone impersonating a Police Officer claiming they are investigating money frauds and ask you to cooperate by moving money from your account to one they have set up to catch criminals.

They might also ask for your credit card to assist them and say they will send round someone to collect it. **This is totally false.**

Neither your Bank or the Police will ever ask for those personal details or ever send someone to your house. They could ask you to withdraw a sum of money so that someone can come and collect it. Sadly, there are still vulnerable people who fall for this and the authorities urge us to be vigilant and be on our guard at all times. Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, neighbours or relatives. It's helping to keep our community safe.

STOP - CHALLENGE – PROTECT

Above all, however you spend this festive season, stay safe and we will see you in February 2024.



Philip Dunne

Christmas 2023

As we approach Christmas this year, I reflect back on a year that has seemed more violent and full of discord than the recent past. The war in Ukraine continues to rage, but added to the senseless bloodshed of Putin's invasion, renewed conflict has flared up in the Middle East, with the divisions that have elicited on our own streets.

I have been deeply concerned about the impact of these divisions on different communities, particularly the fears of the Jewish population in the UK. The face of anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head once again, and we must redouble our efforts to stamp it out of our society.

War and conflict are a stark reminder of the bounty that peace gives us, and that we should never take it for granted. It is my sincere hope that, inspired by both previous generations and the message of Christ, we may live in more peaceful times in the year ahead. Even during the Great War, the Christmas truce provided some small respite from the horrendous conflict, even if it was not to last.

It is noteworthy that the 2021 Census data was the first in our history to record that fewer than half the UK population identified as Christian, at 46.6%. In South Shropshire, it remains considerably higher, at 59.2% of local residents stating their religion as Christian. But even that figure is over 10% lower than at the previous Census in 2011. Interestingly over the past two years, weekly attendance at Church of England services has actually risen, but was still significantly lower than before the coronavirus pandemic.

I mention this fact mostly to note the changing significance of Christianity in our society. Fewer of us attend church services on a regular basis compared to decades past, but at moments of national significance, faith remains a powerful motivator. From His Majesty the King's coronation earlier this year, to the festival of Remembrance last month, we see the lasting impact of Christianity on our society.

While fewer of us may identify as Christians, that need not mean the lessons of Christianity be lost on us. Such is the cultural impact of Christmas that even the agnostics and atheists among us can embrace much of the tradition. Universal virtues of compassion, charity and the importance of family and friends are at the centre of the festive season.

For those who do wish to attend church services this Christmas, there are a great number taking place across South Shropshire. In addition to larger services in the towns, particularly in Ludlow and Bridgnorth, parish noticeboards and parish magazines are carrying details of services local to you, at which all are warmly welcome.

My heart goes out to all those for whom this Christmas is disrupted by bloodshed and violence. I pray that 2024 will bring peace on earth and goodwill towards all men.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Philip

QUALITY DRAMA IN THE STICKS

I must confess an affection for drama, from an evening at Stratford with the stars of the day at their best with The Man's words and sense of theatre, to the Lacon Childe pupils performing the same man's works under the strict stage discipline of Head of Drama Arthur Short. I've seen The Tempest performed at the Exchange Theatre in Manchester, with just a circle of chairs as stage props and a cast led by the late Peter Postlethwaite. Utterly compelling.

But I did not expect to be so moved by a local production of a new work, in this case Tim Foley's 'Driftwood' performed by James Westpool and Jerome Yates of Pentabus and Thickskin Drama. Two men on a temporary stage in Farlow and Oretton Village Hall on a Friday night. After all, what could one expect of a minor event with people you know taking your money on the door and then the start delayed while I responded to an appeal for the person who'd left their car lights on to sort them out. Ahem. Much embarrassment.

The play is set on the beach at Seaton Carew in the North East, a real place on the coast and in this case haunted by Vikings, the image of a father who's dying and brothers combined by family love, divided by widely differing lifestyles and achievement and emotions that run high and low as they argue, fight and make up.

All this with just two crude looking wooden sloping platforms that the actors moved around and climbed over and under as they exchanged arguments and emotions at volume and in near whispers. Plus a figure of driftwood that appears and then

disappears, one brother believing in its existence, the other dismissive of what he sees as an illusion. The dreamed storm scenes were very convincing, with the backdrop to the stage changing and the wind noise growing and receding, then growing again.

They ended with the emotional ties of brotherhood bringing them carefully back together and the audience stood and applauded two actors who had clearly caught them up. If this is the strength of drama that local groups can offer, please give me more. In fact there's an adaption of "Three Men In A Boat" booked for the spring and I've asked for two tickets to be reserved. It's three men in a boat played by one man! Don't tell me it can't be done; I have learned otherwise.



When it was all over and we were heading homeward Jerome Yates, who played the part of brother Tiny, was under the stage taking it apart to be carried on to the next stop on the tour. Big gangs of stage hands to do the dirty work while the stars sign autographs? Not in this devoted little world of theatre.

The production was supported by Arts Alive and Arts Council England. More about Pentabus on pentabus.co.uk and Thickskin on thickskintheatre.co.uk

Jim Reynolds

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

Winter is here once again and the activity in the natural world is slowing down. There is still plenty to see during a countryside walk. Watch out for Fieldfares and Redwings as the migratory birds arrive from Europe. Holly and mistletoe brighten the hedgerows with the bare trees revealing their hidden shapes. Remember that a walk in the Winter's Sun will top you up with Vitamin D.

The work party on November 8th tackled two much needed but rather muddy tasks. The first team repaired some steps at the Glen Caravan park along with the welcome addition of a safely rail. The second team installed a kissing gate at Walford's bridge alongside a farm gate which is very difficult to open. "I can get into the field without a weight lifting session" - is a comment posted on our Facebook page!

Sunday 5th November was a fine sunny day in marked contrast to the previous days and days of wet, stormy weather. 18 walkers and a few well behaved dogs met outside Cleobury Market Hall for the Country Walk. The route took us past the cemetery and onto a surprisingly firm path across the fields to Common Lane. Heading down the lane to Neen Savage Ford where the deep water made it unsafe for vehicles to cross. Across the bridge and past the Church before going along the muddy track towards Walford Bridge. This has taken a battering during the recent flood but is still safe to cross

with care despite considerable damage to the hand rail. We returned to the starting point up Ron Hill tired but exhilarated.

Please note that there isn't a Boxing Day Walk or a Country Walk on January 7. There will be the very popular New Year's Day Walk starting at 2.00pm outside the Market Hall. Food will be provided for all walkers at the Kings Arms. Join us and make country walking a resolution for 2024.

One of the Walking for Health strolls last month took us down Pinkham. The River Rea significantly inundated this area in October. The water levels were still clearly visible just below the ground floor window sills on the mill by the river! The last walk for 2023 will be on Wednesday 13th December at 10.00am, resuming on January 10th 2024.

The last full moon of 2023 is the Cold Moon on December 27th. On behalf of CMFA I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

CMFA activities are on our website www.cmfa.co.uk and also on Facebook.

Veronica Hargreaves

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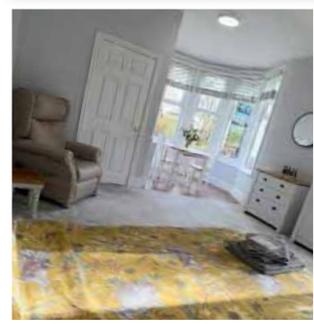
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*Come along
this morning*

Wishing all our Friends, Families and Community a Wonderful Christmas, Filled with Love and Laughter.



As we approach the end of the year, all of us at Doddington Lodge would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas filled with love, laughter, and joy. We are grateful for everyone's support this year.

We hope that the spirit of the season fills your hearts and homes with warmth and happiness. May this Christmas bring you all the happiness and blessings you deserve, and may the new year bring you hope, peace, and prosperity.

Thank you for being a part of our home and for your continuous support. We look forward to continuing to grow our community together in the coming year.

Best wishes from the Doddington Lodge Team.

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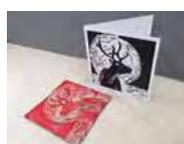
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THE SHOE BOX NEWS

Hi, people who know of Carolyn and me, I'm sorry to say that we shall have to relinquish our role as supporters of the Teddy Trust and the Shoebox appeal. It's been a hard decision, but I have decided to spend more time at home and focus on other issues.

We have met so many fine people during our involvement with these two charities, that it'll be a wrench to stop this work, but needs must. We have decided that this will be our last year, so I will try to find people to take on our various roles. Many thanks to all who have helped the cause.

Regards from Keith and Carolyn Balmer. Happy Christmas and a happy new year.

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The Things I Learned About Gardening (& Other Things) in 2023

For reasons too boring to get into right now, 2023 is the year where I suddenly found myself with a lot more time on my hands. This, I must emphasise, is a good thing (although my wife, who now sees a lot more of me, may disagree).

You'd be quite right in thinking that cutting back my hours at the office would free up some time to tame the wilderness that is my garden. A couple of leisurely hours a day would suffice, right? Well, here's the thing about nature—it abhors a vacuum. And my garden, sensing my newfound availability, has decided to party like it's 1999. The more time I have, the more the weeds flourish, branches encroach/crash to the floor, and as for the flower beds? Well, they resemble the aftermath of a particularly raucous toddler's birthday party.

Speaking of timing, here's a curious thing. On days when I'm brimming with gardening gusto, ready to roll up my sleeves and dive into the long list of jobs I need to tackle, the heavens inevitably open. As we've all witnessed over the last few months, a deluge/downpour of biblical proportions is now a pretty much daily occurrence. Conversely, when I'm inclined to lounge indoors with a cuppa, the sun blazes in full glory. It would appear that the weather and my gardening moods are destined never to synchronise. I wonder if Monty Don has this problem?

Something else I've learned this year is that planting tulips—or any bulbs, really—is akin to setting up an all-you-can-eat buffet for the local squirrel population. They don't just nibble - they feast. The net result? My

carefully planned tulip display is decidedly patchy - it's male pattern baldness in tulip form.

Next, we move on to the greenhouse, my 'happy place'. Earlier this year, I spent an entire day in there, power-washing the glass, retouching the paint, and generally giving it more TLC than I do our house. Fast forward a few weeks, and it's as if a green-tinted curse has been cast upon it. The once-clear glass is now covered in algae, making me wonder if the cleaning spree was a fever dream. I went forward one step and was immediately shoved back two.

And don't get me started on the whole 'grow your own veg' movement. It's all well and good until you realise how much effort goes into growing what amounts to three salads and a side dish. My exceptions? Tomatoes and, on a good day, chillies. They're like the least demanding pets you could ask for: a bit of water, some sunshine, and voilà, you're practically a farmer. My advice? Stay away from anything trickier than that and visit the marvellous local farmers' markets instead. Problem solved.

So, in conclusion, gardening in 2023 has yet again taught me a plethora of lessons, some about plants, but most about life and its quirks. It's muddy, wet, sometimes frustrating, but ultimately rewarding (well, some of the time). It's an enduring passion that I can't imagine not having in my life, so bring on the lessons of 2024!

Merry Christmas, and have a wonderful, safe and happy New Year.

Simon Morton


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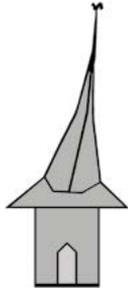
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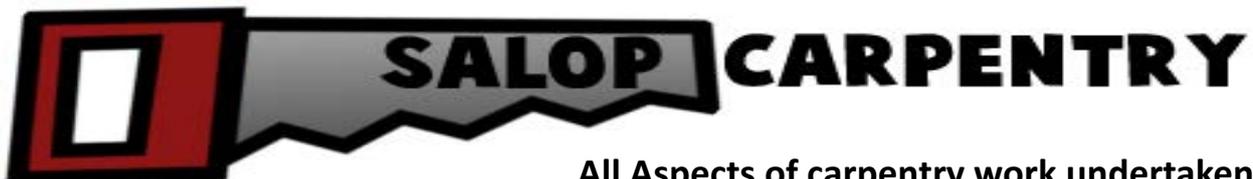
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Good news about the care government is taking with our tax cash. The Home Office has recently paid £15.3 million for a disused prison in Bexhill for use as accommodation for asylum seekers. Sounds reasonable until you see that the seller paid £6 million for the site a year ago using a company set up just a month before. I think the term 'Saw them coming' applies although, unsurprisingly, the Home Office wouldn't comment on the deal. Still, it's only taxpayers money so no problem...

Ten police forces in England and Wales have been involved in a three month experiment which targeted areas with high levels of anti social behaviour by mounting extra police patrols. The result?, a decrease in such behaviour of up to 36%. Who knew?. The exercise cost £20 million but most people could have told them that this would be the case for nothing. I'm not sure how much the people thinking up these schemes are being paid but whatever it is, it's too much. Will these results mean a change in approach or will it just be swept under the carpet like most innovations. You choose...

So, Suella Braverman has finally got the boot after a series of disagreements with Rishi and Party policies. She is clearly not amused and has vented her spleen in a three page letter to the PM which pulls no punches. Just in case he isn't aware of it, there is an old saying that goes: 'Hell hath no fury like a woman spurned' so keep watching your back Rishi...

Elsewhere in the reshuffle, Steve Barclay is appointed Environment Minister replacing the hopeless Therese Coffey. He will be the 7th incumbent since 2018 so I wonder how long he will last. True to form, he has little experience in that area so I don't think we can expect any 'blue sky' thinking. In his case, there is another area of concern as his wife is an executive of Anglian Water, a company currently under investigation for illegal sewage spills. As her job title includes 'Head

of Major Infrastructure Projects' she may be in a position to help with his research into the dire state of our rivers and coastlines and how this happened (or maybe not...). It has also been revealed that he has had a donation of £3000 from a climate change sceptic organisation, so if the zero emissions programme is toned down and sewage – sorry - water companies are let off the hook, you may have a clue why.

Worrying news from Iceland about potential volcanic activity with photos of huge cracks and collapses of road surfaces. I understand that these pictures did actually come from Iceland and weren't taken in Shropshire to save money...Having said that, the A4117 resurfacing to Far Forest has been done very well so it was worth the loooong wait. It's just a shame that the stretch around Henley has been badly battered by the floods and I wonder how long it will be before that is properly fixed. I see the government has announced that £830 million will be allocated to fix potholes nationally but am I alone in thinking that little of Shropshire's share will escape from the Shrewsbury Triangle?...

There has been much publicity recently about 'Courier Fraud' in Shropshire. This involves criminals ringing householders saying that they are police officers investigating crime connected with the their bank account and asking them to transfer funds or supply PIN numbers etc. People are urged to treat such calls with caution as police will never request such details over the phone. Frankly, it should be obvious to most people that this is suspect as the words 'police', 'investigating' and 'crime' appearing in the same sentence is a clear red flag. Recent experience around here has shown that getting police to investigate any crime is like pulling teeth, so a situation where a proactive approach is being taken is clearly ludicrous and should be treated as such.

Ariadne J. Grumpy

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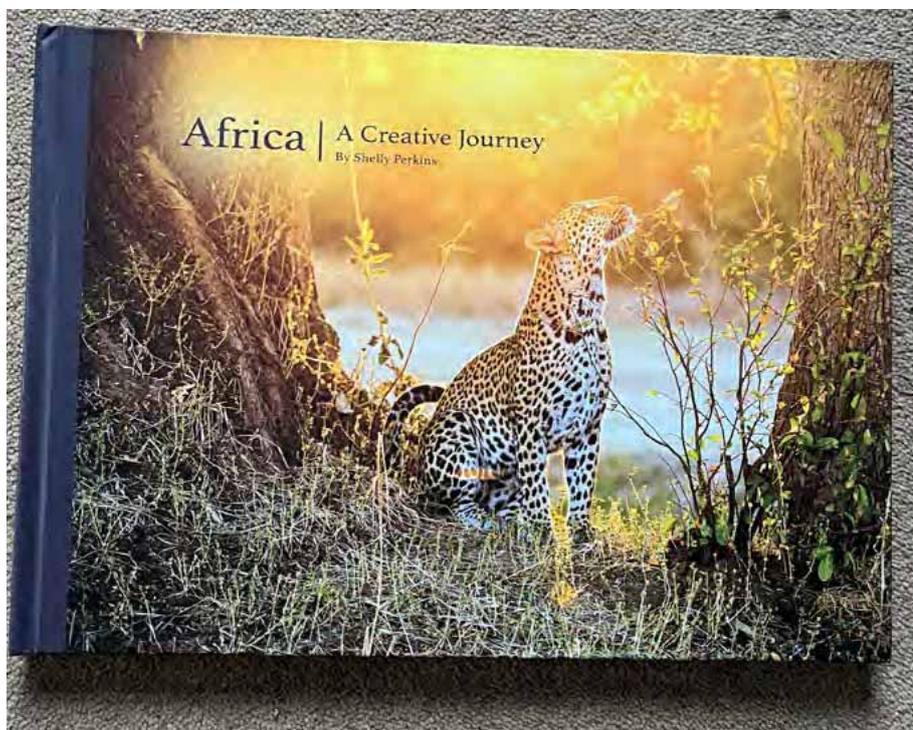
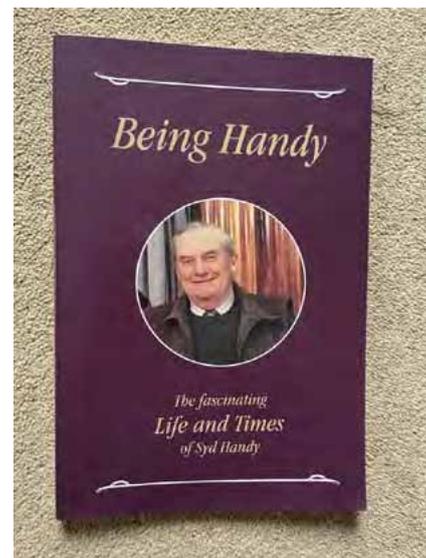
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Clarion Recommended Reads

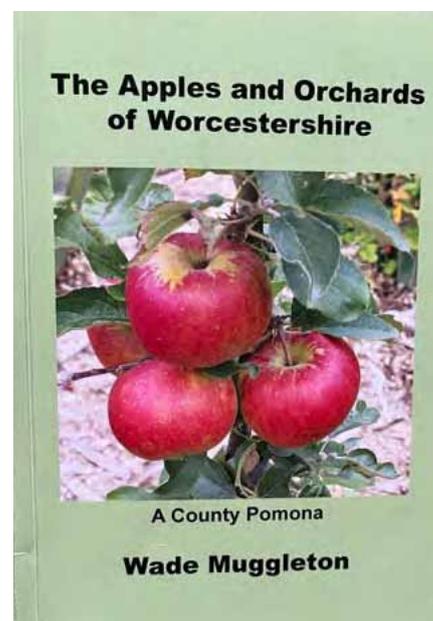
'**Being Handy**' is a lovely, friendly story of a local man, Syd Handy, who didn't pass the old Eleven Plus exams but had an appetite for work and just got on with life. And a fine job he made of it, from humble beginnings helping his parents as they struggled with making a living early in the 1940s and war, looking, asking and learning as he went along. Nobody's fool, he saved until he could afford an old van to help deliver goods and animals, then moving on and buying better. Always busy, always helpful, always making a little something for himself. He married a lady who he says "...enriched and enhanced my life and who I miss every hour of every day." That tells you a lot about Syd and the friendships he's built through the years - and the brave way he's faced up to cancer late in life, telling us all to get it seen to as soon as it shows. A good book, more than affordable at £6.99 and available through his friend Tony Smith, whose email is smith197@internet.com. Typical of Syd, for every book sold there's 50p paid to a polio charity.



"**Africa, A Creative Journey**" by local artist Shelly Perkins is simply a masterwork of her diverse talents. It tells of her time photographing, watching, sketching and then back in her studio painting detailed works of the many animals she has studied. It's no surprise this work was BBC Wildlife Magazine's Book of the Month back in September. On top of all the talents listed above, she has a gentle way with writing that makes you want to see more. I ordered a copy as soon as I knew it was coming and have been just delighted with it. £35 for this much quality is more than a bargain. She's on artbyshelly@googlemail.com

"**The Apples and Orchards of Worcestershire**" by Wade Muggleton is a fascinating trip through a county renowned for its fruit. You have to read this book, or listen to one of Wade's detailed lectures to realise how many different strains there are, most of them named after the village where that fruit was developed or the man who grafted two types to produce something novel, previously unknown.

Wade digs into social and farming history, tells how the arrival of the railway in the Vale of Evesham led to a boost in demand as fresh fruit could be in London overnight. My late father-in-law came from Evesham smallholder stock, but opted for an easier life where an overnight frost could wipe out a year's crop. Hard time for growers, great history to read. This book is currently out of print, but if you see a copy at a local sale, buy it, read it and wonder.



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MELVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

13th December: Christmas Soup Lunch, thank you to all who have supported us this last year. Please don't just turn up for this Soup lunch as booking are full. Please note there will be no Soup Lunch in January.

18th December 6.00pm Farlow C of E Primary school, Farlow Parish Church and Melville Methodist Church are hosting Live Nativity, the story will begin outside Melville Chapel, then we will walk to Farlow and Oreton Village Hall with the Donkey where we will complete the Nativity Story.

There will be Carols Around the Christmas Tree, Mulled wine, Hot Chocolate and Mince pies will be served. If wet we will meet in the Village Hall. Donation to a charity to be decided. Please join us for this Festive evening.

14th January 2024 Coffee Morning at Melville 10a.m to 12noon.

Melville members wish everyone who has supported us this Year a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Happy Christmas to you.
Ruth Downes

THE READING GROUP

'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley, published in 1932, is a bizarre and chilling look into the future, the consequences of science and technology eerily possible. How many of the scientific details would be possible? Unfortunately beyond our gathering's

knowledge. Extremely thought provoking, it provided us with a lively evening. One person found it deeply offensive whilst the overall comment was depressing. We pondered the reason it was written, was it a wake-up call to the population or just his imagination running wild? Several of the group had read the book before and found they had changed their original ideas about it, not for the better. The different levels of artificially produced humanity reminded us of today's class system, always some at the top. Would it be good to be eternally happy relying on drugs? We voted for freedom of thought and experiencing different emotions. Not a favourite book or recommended for enjoyment. Our next book is *The Gallows Pole* and meetings are planned for Dec. 18th and Jan. 15th.

Deana Kimber 01299271754

WOOD WORDS FOR BOWLERS

Greetings to all bowlers and of course all readers of the Cleobury Clarion.

With the green now well and truly "tucked up" for the winter months, little news to report on the bowling front.

A reminder to all interested in playing bowls that overall information is available on websites, Bowls.co.uk, Bowls Development Alliance or British Crown Green Bowls association and the club website cleoburybowls.org.uk or contact number below

Yours in bowls
Smiffy 07494 016137...

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Cleeton St Mary and Silvington Village Hall have a Coffee Morning on December 2nd, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon.

All proceeds will go to the repair fund for Cleeton St Mary church.

CHANGES ALL AROUND



We should all know this happy, smiling face. It's Ann Cuckson, partner in the family catering business up on the Tenbury Road industrial area.

The main business when they started 18 or so years ago was to supply local pubs and food outlets, but with the coming of Covid and so many places cutting back or closing, things have changed a lot.

So the concentration has moved to seafood and frozen food of all sorts for the busy family. They can serve you at the warehouse or deliver if you need a lot for a party. You say, they'll do.

You'll find full details on Page 60, because we couldn't get her picture and that on the same page. She's lovely and friendly, with a lot of good stuff to offer.



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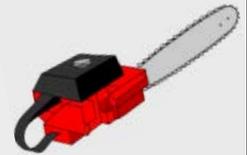
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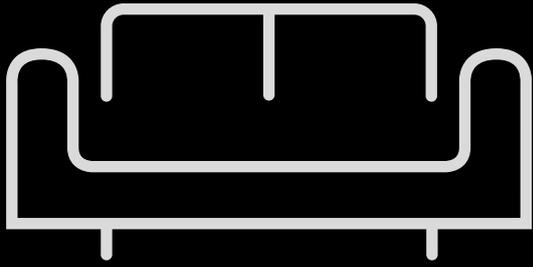
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CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	www.cleoburydental.co.uk
CLEOBURY CARERS	Michelle	01743 341995	carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Jones	07966 080111	Tuesday and Thursday at the Medical Centre
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
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TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Dorothy McBride	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
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SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM		01584 874922	
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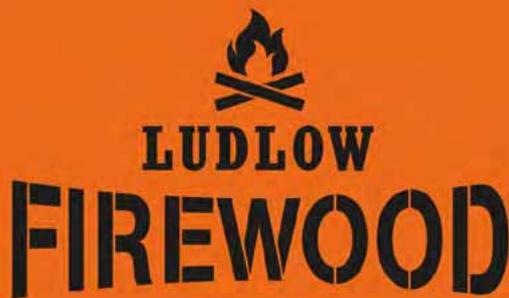
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THE CLARION SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

- Sat. 2nd 10.00 Coffee Morning at Cleeton St Mary and Silvington Village Hall. PAGE 49
5.00? Christmas Lights switched on and Cleobury Concert Brass provide the music PAGE 5
- Sun. 3rd 10.00 Footpath Association Country Walk, starting from the Parish Church
11.00. Family Christmas Fair at Kinlet Village Hall. PAGE 11
- Tue. 5th 7.00 Cleobury W.I. Christmas Dinner at the Market Hall. PAGE 15
- Wed. 6th **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**
6.00 to 7.00. Late Night at the Food Bank in the Market Hall
7.30 Photography Club Fun Night at the Market Hall
7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.
- Thu. 7th All Day! Vote to support the Neighbourhood Plan PAGE 7
- Mon. 11th 7.30 Cleobury Gardeners Christmas Social, St Elizabeth's Hall, Lower Street. PAGE 19
- Wed. 13th **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS EMPTIED TODAY**
10.00 Walking for Health step out from the Market Hall, Church Street.
10.00. CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Great chat and value!
Melville Church Christmas Soup Lunch
- Thu. 14th Neen Savage W.I. invite you for a Pot Lunch PAGE 15
- Fri. 15th 09.00. Carer Support Group meets at St Mary's Place Community Centre.
8.00. Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall
- Sun. 17th 3.00 Carol Service at Saint John's, Doddington PAGE 5
7.00. Cleobury Concert Brass Christmas Concert at the Parish Hall PAGE 5
- Mon 18th 6.30 Farlow School, Parish Church and Melville Church combine to celebrate the Nativity PAGE 49
7.30 The Reading Group meet at the Town Library. PAGE 49
- Wed. 20th **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**
7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall
- Thu. 21st. 7.30 Photography Club Christmas Dinner at The Stable Tavern
- Fri. 22nd 8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.
- Mon. 25th. **CHRISTMAS DAY! MAY IT BE A HAPPY AND SAFE ONE FOR YOU ALL.**
- Wed. 27th **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS MAY BE LATE FOR EMPTYING.**

AND IN JANUARY.....

- Mon. 1st 2.00. CMFA New Year's Day Walk. Starting at the Market Hall. PAGE 29
- Wed. 3rd **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS DUE TO BE EMPTIED TODAY**
7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.
- Tue. 9th 7.30 Cleobury W.I. introduction to yoga, Market Hall. PAGE 15
- Wed. 10th **DOMESTIC RUBBISH AND RECYCLING BINS EMPTIED TODAY**
10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall.
- Fri. 12th 8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.
- Sat. 13th 10.00 Coffee Morning at Melville Chapel, Farlow PAGE 49
- Mon. 15th 7.30 The Reading Group
- Wed. 17th **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**
7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.
- Fri. 19th 09.00 Carer Support Group meet at St Mary's Place Community Centre.
- Wed. 24th 10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall.
- Sat. 20th 7.30 Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall. 'Mission Impossible' with Tom Cruise. PAGE 7
- Mon. 22nd **DEADLINE DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY CLARION**
- Wed. 24th 7.30 Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 5
- Thu. 25th 10.30 Cleobury W.I. coffee and chat at the Golf Club. PAGE 15
- Fri. 26th 8.00 Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.
Wed. 31st **GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH BINS EMPTIED TODAY**

REGULAR EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST:

- Monday at 8.00 Bingo Night in the Market Hall
- Tuesday at 2.00 Friendship Club meet at the Parish Hall
- Thursday at 11.0 Drop-In morning, Parish Church. Take tea and share a quiet chat.
2.00 Tina Hobin's Exercise for the Mature, St Mary's Place, Love Lane.
7.30 Tina Hobin's Ancient Egyptian Dance and good health. In the Market Hall.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is coming..! And that means so many things, not all of them welcome. The relentless pressure on people to spend ramps up even higher to the extent that families can struggle to get by. There is also a false expectation of an ideal Christmas of families in happy harmony, where there is no space for sadness, indeed for many this can be the loneliest time of the year.

But it should not be so. The real story of Christmas is one of loneliness overcome, and of immeasurable priceless generosity. We know so well in so many ways the image at the heart of all, the newborn child in the manger, the brave young mother, the husband watchful and protective. And around this central picture of love, the other actors assemble: the animals touched with a dumb reverence in the warm smell of their straw, the shepherds with their own shy salutation from the looked down upon fringe of their society, the magi with their wealth of academic learning brought abruptly out of the abstract into the fleshly reality of a child of ancient prophecy warm at the

breast. And above the scene, in the wheeling stars, the angelic squadrons are alight with song in the proclamation of a new age.

And from this familiar image of so long ago, the most joyous thing of all is that we are not looking at a historical snapshot of the past at all, but rather a drama into which we too can enter because we are in the scene as well. We share the awed reality of Joseph and Mary, we enter with the shepherds, feeling ourselves simultaneously humbled at being witnesses of the Christmas experience and also exulted by being the first-summoned to the to the presence of the servant king who will make us free. With the magi we see the deepest of human philosophy and the wisdom of the ancients become a tiny child, and in the song of the angels we hear the wedding anthem of earth and heaven, as the Creator enters into creation, and in so entering heals it and us. Christmas directs our minds to the ultimate togetherness in which we are never alone because God has come among us and is with us evermore. Let us rejoice, this happy, this truly happy Christmas...

Ashley

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Fridays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

FOCUS ON: Christmas!

Starting on the **1st December** come and step into the world of the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. The Hub will be transformed into Narnia where you can enter the magical world and have your picture taken with Aslan!

We have loads of activities throughout December with a run through below:

Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Fair: 10am - 2pm Locally made Christmas crafts for sale along with the coffee shop and bouldering wall open.

Thursday 14th December - Pantomime + Nativity story = Pantivity:

(St Mary's Church) - Herold of Herod - 6:15pm. £4 Adult, £1 Child.

Book your tickets at the Hub or online by scanning the QR code.



Sunday 17th December - The Sunday Session Christmas Remix:

The carol service you weren't expecting! 2:30pm for refreshments, 4pm start.

Thursday 21st Friday 22nd December - Christmas Holiday Club. 5's - 11's:

9:30am-3:30pm. £15 per day and free to those who qualify for free school meals.

Sunday 24th December - Christingle Service (St Mary's Church): 5pm-6pm

Come to St Mary's Church and make your Christingle as part of the service. We may even sing a few carols together!

The Hub is open throughout December with our normal opening times but be prepared to meet Aslan and see if you can find the elusive Mr Tumnus over this next month!

We know that the Christmas experience differs from household to household. We know that for some Christmas is a wonderful time of the year and for others it is tough, for many reasons. We want you to know that you are loved and valued beyond measure. This is expressed so clearly through the selfless life of the person born on 25th December, CHRISTmas Day!

We open again on Friday 5th January 2024. Come and see us; drink our great coffee, enjoy our delicious milkshakes, have a climb and enjoy a chat. Bring your little ones to enjoy our toddler soft play and share in community with us.



@cleoburycommunityhub



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Ludlow Motors

Vauxhall

Suzuki

The **New Corsa** is available with a petrol or fully electric engine. A next-generation 51kWh battery with all-electric range of up to 246 miles.



Enjoy the power of an 83 HP engine, with a CO2 output as low as 106 g/km (WLTP combined). When you choose a **Swift** with mild hybrid, a little goes a long way.



The **Astra 100% Electric**. 114kW Electric motor (158PS) with 54kWh battery. 258 miles of Electric range. 0 grams of CO2 emissions.



Designed for all conditions, and we don't just mean the weather. From school runs to weekend getaways, the **Vitara** takes you anywhere you want (or need) to go.

Mokka Electric is powered by a next generation 50kWh lithium-ion battery. It'll take you up to 209 miles (preliminary WLTP)1 on a single charge.



Our latest **S-Cross** comes with the choice of either Mild Hybrid or Full Hybrid technology, supported by a dynamic and responsive petrol engine.



Service

Routine servicing is an important part of keeping your vehicle at its best condition, delivering a top driving experience. Drive confidently knowing your vehicle is working at its best with us.

Motability Scheme

Nothing should stop you living a full life, with independence and freedom. The Motability Scheme opens the doors to those things, with worry free motoring that helps you to keep moving.



We service all popular makes & models.

All Makes & Models Serviced from £199. Fully Electric Servicing From £99.

Spread the cost with a Service Plan from £17.99 per month.



Motability from Worcester Car Sales - 400523 means:

The everyday freedom of having everything included.

Your insurance, servicing, maintenance and full breakdown cover included.

Deputy Town Clerk Vacancy

The Town Council currently have a vacancy for Deputy Town Clerk. If you are interested in applying, the Job Advert & Job Description are available on the website www.cleobury.org.uk or contact the office on 01299 271154 or email council@cleobury.org.uk. To apply, please email your CV and a covering letter to council@cleobury.org.uk no later than Monday 4th December 2023.

Keeping safe during floods

The storms which lead to flooding incidents are becoming more frequent and the risks to drivers and walkers near rivers and streams are very high. Please take care during these heavy storms and do not attempt to drive through or walk near fast flowing water. For further information and advice contact **Environment Agency** – Floodline: 0345 9881188. **Severn Trent** – 24-hour emergency: 0800 783444. **Shropshire Council**: 0345 6789000.

Councillor Surgery

Cllr John Greaves and Cllr Neil Tysall attended the monthly Town Councillor Surgery on Saturday 18th November. Although the Farmers Market was quite busy, very few people came to see us to highlight concerns and issues around the town however, we have been alerted to a serious issue in Lacon Close. We were informed that several people have had windows damaged due to air gun pellets hitting them. Regardless of intent, this is a serious issue which is being investigated by the Police and we will work with them to identify the culprits. If you have any information regarding air gun incidents around the town, please report them to the police.

If you have any local concerns or would just like to pop by and say hello, we will be at the Market Hall again on **Saturday 16th December from 10:00am to 12:00pm**. We hope to see you there.

Neighbourhood Development Plan.

A reminder that a Referendum relating to the adoption of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 7 December 2023. The question which will be asked in the Referendum is: "Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" The relevant documents are available to view at the Cleobury Mortimer Library, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE which is open Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm; Saturday: 10am to 12 midday or via the link on our website www.cleobury.org.uk

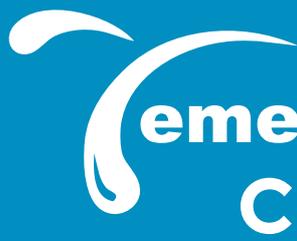
Cleobury Christmas Fayre & Christmas Lights Switch on.

Please join us on Saturday 2nd December from 3.00pm-5.30pm for this year's Christmas Fayre and Christmas Lights Switch on. There will be plenty of market traders & fun for the children in the Church from 3.00pm, the Cleobury Concert Brass Band will be playing outside Church from 4.00pm and the Christmas Lights will be switched on at 5.00pm.

Operation Snap

Despite Operation Snap being active across the West Mercia region, we are still receiving reports of poor driving standards and illegal or dangerous parking. In particular, we need to stop the dangerous parking on the white zig-zag lines either side of the pedestrian crossing, which is a road traffic offence resulting in a hefty fine and up to 6 penalty points. If you have dashcam footage of other motorists driving dangerously or illegally, please report these via the Operation Snap page on the West Mercia Police website www.westmercia.police.uk or follow the 'Reporting Issues' link on the Cleobury Mortimer Town Council website www.cleobury.org.uk.

Next Council Meeting..... Monday 4th December 2023 at 6.30pm, at the Cleobury Country Centre. All public are warmly invited to attend.



eme CLEOBURY



FACILITIES INCLUDE:

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

OPENING TIMES

MON	7.30am - 10am 10am-12.30pm GP Referral 3.30pm - 10pm
TUE	3.30pm - 10pm
WED	7.30am - 10am 4.30pm - 10pm
THU	4.30pm - 10pm
FRI	7.30am - 10am 3.30pm - 10pm
SAT-SUN	7.30am - 1pm

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

CLASS TIMETABLE

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

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



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