

### SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

### **OUR CHRISTMAS CUP** WINNER



Smiles all round as new Town Councillor Sally Burns hands Jo of Red Hare Salon the Clarion Cup for the best Christmas-themed window display on the High Street.

It's a pleasant task meeting with two Town Councillors and walking up and down the High Street to discuss which business premises best represents the chosen theme for the Christmas to represent Christmas feeling.

This time I joined John Greaves the difference on our main and Patrick Buck and we made sure we covered all the business premises; picking the best from it difficult to believe that not some very attractive displays. We agreed that the Market Hall deserved a special mention and liked the efforts from both Flowers by Fiona (last year's winner) and Cleobury Wash House. But Jo at Red Hare was the unanimous choice - she does have a great touch at presenting her business well. The number of other businesses who gave her warm congratulations said it all. The trophy is on display in the salon.

### WE'RE LOOKING **MUCH SMARTER**

Doesn't the High Street look smart after the road surface was upgraded and the pavements given a proper high pressure cleaning. The Clarion has been critical of the lack of tidiness and there's still a lot to do, like that mess at the Old Music Room as display. This year it was just that, you turn up Childe Road, but

#### FEBRUARY 2023

thoroughfare shows what can be done. Newer residents may find many years ago Cleobury Mortimer was given an award as the tidiest town in Britain, we've come a long way since then and not in the right direction.

### THE WIZARD OF OZ

Nothing at all to do with Andy Murray's success Down Under, this is the renowned fairy tale by Frank Baum that was such a hit as a movie. But this version is presented by Lacon Childe School and all parts are played by students of that rather special place. Can you believe the Yellow Brick Road in the school hall?

It's playing for three evenings, from Wednesday the 8th to Friday the 10th this month and adult tickets are £5.00 with the concessions priced at just £4.00.

This is a very ambitious venture, but the school does have a good name for its drama. Come along and give them a cheer.





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### The Cleobury Clarion, February 2023 Volume Eighteen - Edition Nine



Follow the Yellow Brick Road! The Wizard of Oz at Lacon Childe. See Page 1.



Hazel catkins, as seen on God's Little Acre Page 15



Could this tree be out for a walk? See Linda Iles' words on the Wyre Forest. Page 23.

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### FROM THE **BANDROOM**

The band would like to give special thanks for all those who kindly contributed to our funds during the busy Christmas period.

Our Christmas concert in the Parish Hall went really well, with a varied programme, mulled wine, mince pies and a fantastic raffle. Thank you to the friendly staff in the Wash House for selling the concert tickets.

We now begin rehearsing in earnest for the area contest in Corby on February 26th. The title of the music is 'Chorale & Toccata' by Stephen Bulla, which has the makings of an enjoyable but challenging piece.

Our 2023 engagement list is taking shape, so please get in touch if you have a special occasion coming up and are looking for something a bit musically different, you might like to consider booking the band to play. We can tailor the music to your requirements.

For a quote please contact our secretary Amanda on 01584 891199

#### Katie Griffiths

### LET'S SUPPORT ADAM, A VERY FINE YOUNG MAN

In July 2024 I hope to be on an incredible adventure to Kenya with Camps International that will not only change my life, it will also have a positive impact on the communities and local environments I will visit.

I will spend four weeks working hard to improve living standards for rural communities that are suffering from high levels of poverty and where

opportunities for young people Lucky Squares (£1 for 1 or £2.50 are limited or non-existent. I also for 3); Quiz Night; Plant/flower hope to play a critical role in improving and protecting some of the most beautiful wild spaces on the planet and the wildlife that depends on them for survival.

The opportunity to travel, help others and experience the different culture, food and way of living is so exciting, although I have to admit I am slightly nervous. To enable me to join in this trip of a lifetime I need to fundraise to cover the costs of travel and accommodation, vaccinations, kit and to support the valuable project work I will be taking part in.

I am busy coming up with ideas for fundraising and hope you will get on board for this part of my journey. I appreciate with the economic crisis this is not going to be easy but if you can help in any way I would be very grateful.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to seeing you at my events. Some of the things I will be offering are:

Craft Stall at Ludlow Market on Monday 20th February selling gifts, cards and jewellery

Afternoon Tea gifts for Mums on Saturday 18th March (just in time for Mother's Day!)

Bingo Night – date to be confirmed

Coffee Morning & Bake Sale date to be confirmed

stalls to rent for other stallholders

Collection of unwanted clothes for me to re-sell

Dog Walking

Local Farmers Markets selling handmade items

sales; Raffles; Christmas Craft Fair; Christmas Trees for Sale (to be ordered in advance) with an additional option of collection and disposal after use

If you would like to know more details please call me on 01299 841032. Thanks

Adam Ponsford, aged 13.

### THE FESTIVAL AT THE EDGE

A piece of good news to greet you with this, the first Clarion of the year. The Festival at the Edge will be back at Hopton Court over the weekend of July 21st to the 23rd. It was a really good weekend last year if you like your entertainment based upon music, words and original thinking, plus trade stalls that are totally different from the average. It's a family and friends based happening, with something to please all ages.

Genevieve Tudor is involved with the publicity and tells me that Transglobal Underground are appearing. You've got to go and see and them, if only out of curiosity. See you there. JR

### **GOLF CLUB NEWS**

Mike Fazakarley has joined the Club as Food and Beverage Manager and made an impact with two Sunday Lunch launches. The first on January 22nd and next on February 5th that's already sold out.

They are served in the match Craft Fairs - various dates with room between 12.00 noon and 3.00, as two or three options with a special price for children under 12. Great to encourage a family atmosphere for the club. Contact Mike o n catering@cleoburygolfclub.com or 01299 271 112 to book.



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#### **Cleobury Clarion - February 2023**

THE MANOR HOUSE This report on progress in the matter of the Manor House came too late for the December/ January issue, but it makes interesting reading. JR

The team would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who has subscribed to our newsletters and who in other ways has supported and encouraged our cause.

As we near the end of 2022, we c a n look back and be comfortable that while the ultimate goal has not yet been achieved, we still keep the focus on finding a way to see this beautiful house restored to its original glory and back in use as a valuable part of the Cleobury Mortimer community.

We would like to thank all the subscribers that have joined us this year taking our numbers to 169 and it's very encouraging to see that subscribers are not just currently local residents but people that have lived previously in the Town. In some cases worked in the Manor House when it was a viable and valuable business.

In 2023 we would like to add some stories from people who have more in depth knowledge of the house. We think this would help others to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of restoring this house. If you have any stories you would like to share, please get in touch with us either by replying directly to this email or using the feedback form on the web site.

There are some ideas and actions that are yet to be completed and previously we have spoken about trying to gain images of the rear of the

property to support an approach to Shropshire Planning Dept Conservation Officers. This is to ensure that the current owner is obliged to maintain the property in line with English Heritage requirements to prevent any structural decay.

We are in discussions with a drone operator who has expressed interest in helping but we need to ensure that this activity does not infringe any legislation.

A recent image has been taken of the front of the house which indicates that there is a broken pane of glass. It would be worrying if this was a result of vandalism, but we will try to get a better image to verify that it is not just an unusual shadow.

We can report that the premises at 15b High Street formerly leased to Hollywoods Fencing has been vacated with some ground clearance at the rear. However there is no public information about the future of this land which has elements of the Manor House directly on its borders.

There has been no contact with the owner in recent months, but we hope to rectify that in the early part of 2023.

In the meantime we would like to thank every one who is supporting us either simply though being a subscriber or through more active participation. It is very much appreciated.

Hope you had a great Christmas however you spent it and we look forward to 2023 with some trepidation for the economy but with hope that things will get better. *The Manor House Team* 

### INTRODUCING VLADIMIR

20 or thereabouts years ago I was found to have cancer of my prostate gland. No need to panic, my condition was checked regularly and when the little beggar showed signs of growing I was given radiotherapy and the thing disappeared. I called him Norman after a managing director who could be a real pain in the backside.

A December 29th examination at the Urology Department of Kidderminster Hospital revealed a tumour on my bladder. Quite a shock, as I hadn't ordered one on my Christmas list to Santa, but the smiling and polite staff working with Sister Jackie Askew made me feel it was something that can be sorted out. Time will tell.

I had to give this latest addition to my list of friends a name and the biggest pain in the backside in the world is Vladimir, he of the Putin tribe. So I will be reporting any progress or incidents when they are significant, but what I will not do is get all weepy and looking for sympathy. If I can find a way of laughing, I'll try to make you smile. I won't say that Vladimir is welcome, but if tumour humour makes you smile, I'll be happy. IR

### SILLY BIT

Did you hear about Donald Trump's visit to Japan, when mention was made of Pearl Harbour? Donald denied ever knowing the woman.

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### THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I am writing this on the twelfth day of Christmas. I braved the mess which was my garden to be delighted to find helebores and primroses in flower, bulbs showing, and buds on the acers.

But this is February, and no time for rest. You have probably spent January analysing the successes and failures of 2022 and perused the seed catalogues and plant lists to make your plans for 2023.

If you must get down and dirty, let's talk trees. Having lost their leaves, the branch framework of most trees is still visible and they have become major structural and architectural features in the winter garden. There is still time to lightly prune the smaller, thinner growth back to achieve a tidier shape, and to lift the ceiling to give back light to the ground underneath.

No trees? Now is a good time to consider planting one, and the "Times" gardening writers have published an excellent list of colourful and decorative trees for the smaller garden, which we have on file, and we can even help with advice on planting.

For your planted trees, prepare a mulch-mat of dry potting compost/own compost/soil improver (£2 a bag from a

recycling depot) to spread around the base of the trees, leaving a clear area at the trunk, to provide nutrients for the new growing season.

Jobs-to-do in February

Towards the end of the month prune roses; on shrub, patio and floribunda roses cut out dead and diseased wood, then prune back to 1/4'' above an outward-facing bud to create an open-centred bush.

Prune wisteria, cutting back the long, whippy stems to 2-3 buds and removing any spent, old stems to rejuvenate if necessary. Feed and mulch.

Finish pruning standard apples and pears. First take out dead, dying and diseased branches, then any that are crossing over, only taking out a third of the branches in a season. Then cut back to tips to make fruiting spurs.

Prepare the ground for veg and fruit planting by clearing site by hand, then applying 3" mat of well-rotted manure and compost. Check you pH if using spent mushroom compost as this is usually alkaline and may not be suitable.

Chit earliest seed potatoes, sow chillies, peppers and aubergines under cover and then enjoy your garden. Talk to you next month. Remember, live each day as if it were your last, but garden as though you will live forever. *Linda Ashman, Secretary* 

### **CHANGING TIMES**

The Horticultural Society was founded over 25 years ago and we're moving forward with a new name: from January; we shall be known as Cleobury Gardeners. We retain the Horticultural Society's underpinning constitution and structure, but you'll see our new name on banners advertising our fundraising events, in articles that we write in the Clarion for example, on our Facebook page and on new developments on our website and on Instagram. We are already growing our membership and have a fantastic programme for 2023 which includes informative speakers covering a wide range of topics, from garden ponds to vegetable growing, propagation of flowers and growing drought-tolerant plants, to garden visits. And don't forget our social events! So, we have something to appeal to everyone, whether established gardeners or just starting off with plants in containers. Joining is easy - email flo.hadley@btinternet.com or come along to our next meeting at 7.30 in St Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Lower Street, on Monday February 13th. Flo Hadley

Chair, Cleobury Gardeners





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### DANCING TO BETTER HEALTH?

The ancient Egyptian pregnancy dance was a proven boost to health long before the advance of medicine became known. Part one of a two-part study was published in September 2022 in the Journal of Applied Art and Health, volume 13 (2) pages167 to 177.

Is the Egyptian practise, more commonly known as belly dancing, safe in pregnancy?

Beneficial views of two expert panels agreed movements were safe and helped with back ache, pelvic discomfort, constipation, sleeplessness and anxiety. It would enhance women's mental health, promote selfi m a g e a n d g i v e th e m confidence in their ability to birth.

Relational aspects of this ancient dance help to build sisterhood of women and even their transition to motherhood.

#### **Holistic Dance Therapy**

The natural healing power of this ancient dance is beneficial for all women irrespective of age, size, health or fitness levels, as the movements are based on the natural structure of the body and help to move the body as it is designed to move. It relieves lower back pain, gynaecological problems such as the early stages of endometriosis, menstrual and menopausal problems. Improves poor posture, tones weak muscles and improves coordination, balance and flexibility. It also helps asthmatics and many more health issues.

Classes are held on Thursday evenings, 7.00 till 8.00pm in the Market Hall. Starting tomorrow!

Call Tina on 01299 272 882 for further information

### CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

February 22nd is the first date in our new programme. We are indebted to Elva who works hard to arrange speakers and visits. A change to the time of the meetings; start time of 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00.

We will welcome Helen Picton, of Old Court Nurseries and Picton Garden. Her subject is "daisies", the largest plant group in the world, so Helen will have plenty of scope for her talk!

Old Court Nurseries are a family run concern, situated on the lower slopes of the Malverns. They have been going since 1906, so they must

be doing something right! There are 430 varieties of Michaelmas Daisies in the Picton Garden which is open to the public. Times vary depending on the time of year, so check before you travel.

Your first chance to enter the flower of the month competition. Points are added up throughout the year, and a prize awarded for the most points gained at the AGM in November.

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd of February, at 7.30pm, at Clows Top Victory Hall. *Judith Lawson* 

### THE BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC

The Friends of Saint Mary's Church will be hosting a concert performance by the orchestra in Saint Mary's on Sunday, February 19th at 7.30.

The church acoustics have long complemented the sound quality s u c h o f а performance;Brum's Philharmonic always pleases this local audience and this year they offer works by Mendelssohn, Enescu and Elgar. The ticket price of £19.00 includes interval refreshments that will add to the evening's entertainment. Available from Diane Waddington on CM



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Lunch club	11:30am - 12:30pm	£4.00
Afternoon Session	12:30am - 3:00pm	£10.00
After School Club	3:00pm - 5:30pm	£10.00

### ROBIN HOOD. AS EVER, THE HERO

It's many years since I went to the panto as a kid, but I'd heard how good the Regal Theatre version was. My lady love and I booked to take my 10 year old grand daughter Ava to see Robin Hood, her first time at a pantomime.

The place was crowded when we arrived and I didn't manage to get a programme as a souvenir. No matter, the idea was to sit back and enjoy the show and fun the many children would have.

The Sheriff of Nottingham made it clear from the start that he was the villain of the piece and quickly built a chorus of booing as he told how he was out to kidnap the king's daughters and keep Robin Hood out of the way. The chorus of cheers for Robin and boos for the Sheriff was taken up by nursery age children through to oldies like me.

Joining in the fun was Nanny Notty Knickerlastic, played by Chris Bianchi with total disregard for personal dignity and much laughter and cheers. The whole atmosphere of the two hour show was fun and the chance to sing and cheer along with the cast. They included children from local dance schools and the Regal's own School of Creative Arts, all impressively disciplined but adding to the fun feeling.

You expect the cast to be out to get laughs, but the trio in the orchestra pit were at it too. We wondered why there were yellow soldiers helmets laying amongst the instruments, but when a battle developed between the two elements the musicians put them on and gallantly played on through a rain of plastic balls. They deserved a medal each, maybe a Kings Cross instead of the Victoria version?

There were loads of funny turns and romantic moments between Robin and Maid Marion before the leading characters fell out. And what an absolute hoot that was, as Robin ran and the Sheriff chased around the theatre, with children cheering them on, then they disappeared and emerged on screen running around the town, over the bridge and then around the circular.building on Cross Street before they re-emerged in the theatre to huge cheers. It was the first time I'd seen a live chase blended with film and

the effect was tremendous. That few minutes of action and the delight of the children in the audience watching it made it clear why Christmas Panto at the Regal is so very popular.

Of course the wicked Sheriff got his just desserts, Robin Hood got Maid Marion and the audience got a show that was worth every penny. Producer Andrew MacDuff and director Chris Garner along with the whole cast did a wonderful job and made a lot of children and both parents and grandparents happy.

This year's show is 'Aladdin', running from December 15th to the 31st. The copy of the programme I got to see said that if you booked by the end of January the price will be the same as last year. Tell them that the Clarion was late telling you and ask if they'll be kind. Every experience I've had of the friendly people running the place suggests they might take pity on you.

It's such a welcoming place and I've got into the habit of checking what's coming that will further broaden my view of good old fashioned theatre.

Jim Reynolds



**Cleobury Clarion - February 2023** 



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**Cleobury Clarion - February 2023** 

### CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

I can hardly believe it is February already. But look out of the window and the signs are already there. At a recent Churchyard Task Team outing, the first one of 2023, we found a primrose in flower - yes, in January.



Hazel catkins, the first of the year's bright colours that bring cheer to God's Acre.

So what can we expect in February, particularly in our churchyards. Still sleeping or hibernating will be hedgehogs, bats and, if you are lucky, dormice, with eyes shut tight until the weather gets warmer. They are fortunate to live in such a special environment. This is what we nurture at Caring for God's Acre.

The first signs of spring are appearing. Bright green catkins hang in huge numbers from the hazel trees, each made up of 240 individual flowers and loads of pollen. They are stunningly beautiful, standing out as colour on a leafless tree. They are also striking against the nearby dark green ivy, a plant crucial to winter around your local church. The thick foliage offers cover and warmth, while berries are scoffed greedily by blackbirds, thrushes, redwings and blackcaps.

I think of February as the raucous, noisy month. The birds that started practising their newest song in late January are still trying to fine tune it. They are trying to attract that best looking hen in the hedge or tree, or feeding on that convenient bird table. The robin's song is pleasant, they have been singing throughout autumn and keep singing until the summer, when they take a two or three month sabbatical! As the days get lighter (yes really) you will hear the blackbird singing his heart out look up and spot him at the top of a tall tree, his blackness shimmering in the winter sun on a good day.

Some birds sing beautiful music but can be drowned out by the grating, rasping noise (we cannot dignify it as music) of the rooks. They return to the habitats of last year, repairing nests which have deteriorated and building new ones as they prepare for parenthood again. They work in colonies in tall trees, usually oak or ash. The noise as they build will be replaced by an even louder racket as babies appear and the feeding frenzy begins. I love the din they make but I am not sure everyone would agree with me.

PS You will be getting 10 hours and 48 minutes of daylight by 28<sup>th</sup> February *Anni Holden Calver Trustee of Caring for God's Acre* 

### THE READING GROUP

A pleasant evening was enjoyed in December, with wine and nibbles, courtesy of our members. Unfortunately the November book, Milkman by Anna Burns, did not fare so well, finished by very few. I believe the concept was good and some appreciated the writing. A much easier read for the Christmas break, The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper by Phaedre Patrick. A lighthearted novel with a kaleidoscope of characters, some more steriotyped than others. Rather contrived but a gentle, amusing read. We await delivery of God of Small Things by Roy Arundhati. Opinions will be put forward on February 20th at Cleobury Library. Deana Kimber

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

Our official 100th birthday was on December 7th and we rounded off our centenary by planting a Rowan tree in the commemorative garden, then enjoyed prosecco and cake at Judy's. Several members met for a bracing Christmas jumper walk, despite the freezing temperatures, followed by welcome refreshments kindly supplied by Sue Kershaw.

The Christmas social evening saw 26 members getting together for a festive three course meal at the Market Hall provided and served by Wendy and staff from the King's Arms. Also in December, we were delighted to be nominated by Kim Grenfell as Champions of the Community and allocated tickets for the excellent performance of Robin Hood at the Regal Theatre in Tenbury. Several committee members joined in the fun. "Oh yes we did!!"

It was good to see so many members and guests for our first meeting of 2023. Francis Engleheart gave an interesting talk on the History of Kinlet Hall with slides to demonstrate the changes (and what remains the same!) over the years in the hall, church and surrounding area.

Twenty-five members and guests attended an evening of defibrillator and emergency first aid training presented by Liz Vanegas de Quickenden. Liz ably demonstrated how to use a defibrillator and apply CPR, as well as how to deal with choking. We then had the opportunity to ask questions and put the procedure into practice using manikins. Liz

highlighted the fact that there is 12.00 noon until 7.00. If you a shortage of First Responders, came to last year's event you'll who work on a purely know what a great laugh and voluntary basis and rely on fun day it was, and this year's monetary donations to purchase will incorporate lessons learned. everything they need from vehicles to equipment and club and interest stalls being out uniforms. We are all very on the sports field with no small grateful for the work they do.

We look forward to welcoming confusing visitors. All stall Holly Joynson to our February space will be free, with the meeting, when she will talk people running the stall about Dance for Health and responsible for setting it up and Well-being, and will no doubt running it. get us up and moving.

holding our second Winter 769 Warmer lunch from 12.15 - charlie r313@hotmail.com. She 2pm, when everyone in the can tell you what space is community is invited to come available and where; if you along and enjoy a bowl of were there last year, she'll be in delicious soup and a range of touch direct. desserts, all home-made of course, for a very reasonable March 1st, so get in touch with cost. This will be the last chance Charlotte as soon as you can. to support our annual charity, Midlands Air Ambulance, before our year ends in March.

Thank you to everyone who supported us during our centenary year. We made some great memories. A new batch of commemorative tea towels is on order and they will be on sale at £6.50 each.

The latest donations of nbbchildren's clothes have been sorted. Parents and grandparents are invited to make use of the good quality (free!) second-hand clothes which are stored in the entrance at the Market Hall.

For further information or to join WI, you are welcome to contact Judy 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com Val Sniadowski

### **CLEOBURY FESTIVAL**

This year's big town event will be on Saturday June 24th, from

Like all the trade and local signs pointing elsewhere and

Booking the stalls is the job of On February 23rd we will be Charlotte Rose, who's on 07557 746 0 r

Deadline for booking space is

### NIGHTINGALE NURSING

A huge thank you to the Sunday Charity League of Cleobury Mortimer for donating over £1,000 to the Nightingale Nursing Fund. Thanks also go to Neen Savage W.I. who held soup lunches in the Market Hall throughout December and donated the profits to the N.N. fund. Thank you to all who supported in any way. It is appreciated.

The fund is there for patients of the local doctors surgery who find themselves with a medical crisis. The fund pays for carers, nurses, paliative care nurses from care agencies to assist in these times. Please feel free to contact the doctors surgery or any one of the trustees if you are in need or know of anyone struggling.

Rosemary Abbiss

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**Cleobury Clarion - February 2023** 

### WYE TO WYRE

# Kit Smith explains an exciting project that will affect our locality for many years to come.

Severn Treescapes is a new and ambitious project to create a 60-mile corridor of enhanced tree cover to connect two of England's largest semi-natural woodlands crossing Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire and into Shropshire The corridor will stretch from the lower Wye Valley and Forest of Dean in the south to our Wyre Forest in the north. It will demonstrate that increasing woodland connectivity at a regional scale, whether through woodlands, hedgerows, orchards, agroforestry, can work alongside productive agricultural systems and with local communities. It will build on the remaining pockets of ancient woodland to create a climate resilient landscape, all within thirty miles of the homes of around eight million people.

Here in Cleobury Mortimer, though on a much smaller scale, we are slightly ahead of the game by having developed a similar ambitious project within our Neighbourhood Plan which is due to go for approval at a local referendum this summer. We have named and mapped ten Wildlife Corridors with a total length of over nine miles that connect with each other and the Wyre Forrest and via the Rea and Teme rivers to the Severn. We are enhancing connectivity and tree cover with new lengths of corridors and have policies that include the requirement 20% tree cover for all new housing development. Together with major tree planting by landowners, with Marley Hall's extensive and visionary landscape and with a Neighbourhood Plan requirement we are contributing to the Severn Treescape project at its northern end.

The scale and ambition of the Severn Treescapes project is impressive. The question is "Is it realistic and possible?" To break the issues down to manageable sizes and comprehensibility, it might be worth looking at the total project as a sandwich.

The top layer of the bread of the sandwich is made from Ambition, Mission, Vision and Determination. The bottom layer is the base layer made up of existing experience and expertise of the three Wildlife Trusts of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, together with dedicated landowners and community groups working in the corridor.

As with any good sandwich, the middle layer is the exciting and active part, full of colour, taste, flavour and texture. The recipe of the mix includes existing assets of nature reserves, existing tracts of trees and hedgerows. New flavour is added by community groups activity such as Cleobury's project. It only needs another ten or so, such local projects from within the 60 mile corridor to make a huge difference. Schools, colleges and universities, local businesses, landowners, wilding areas, arboretums, tree planting groups and communities add spice and vitality.

The whole sandwich is held together by the top layer of aspiration and the bottom layer of coordination and cooperation. It can work. We can and should make it work to save our humanity and that of nature and the environment. A "Wyred" corridor/forest could be our legacy into the next millennium.

Kit Smith







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**Cleobury Clarion February 2023** 

### **ROCK PATHFINDERS**

As ever, the Pathfinders have a mixed selection of walks for this year. Here is their February selection.

Thursday, 2nd. 10.00 start from Blackstone Area car park, Bewdley By-pass, DY12 1PU

Thursday, 16th. 10.00 start from The Grange, Mortimer's Cross, Leominster HR6 9PD

Web address: mdsskey@rockpathfinders.uk or telephone Alan on 01299400304

### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Exercise was possibly a New Year's resolution for some people, including me, as there was a good attendance at the first Walking for Health of 2023. The weather was mixed as we followed one of our Winter routes around our interesting town with only a couple of rain showers. The socialising continued afterwards over a welcome warm drink and cake at the Coco coffee morning in the Market Hall. 10.00am on the second and fourth Wednesday are the dates for your diary if you wish to join us.

didn't let up, 28 hardy people paths to enjoy. A local walk is in full waterproof clothing described in the CMFA leaflet 1, enjoyed (or maybe that should appropriately named "a be endured) the New Year's wander round Cleobury". It has Day walk. Afterwards twenty three routes of varying lengths went on to the King's Arms for from 1.5 to 3.5 miles which can refreshments, the first time be adapted for most people's since the pandemic that we needs. have been able enjoy the post New Year's Day walk get the names given to the full together. Many thanks to the moons. Ancient cultures, staff at the KA for their warm particularly Native Americans, welcome and delicious food.

Country Walks for 2023 with and the weather. January's is varied routes mainly based on called Wolf Moon after the the CMFA leaflet walks. The howling of hungry wolves, not Snowdrop Walk, a firm a sound we often hear in favourite, takes place on Cleobury, but one that you can Sunday February 5th starting at vividly imagine. The Snow 10.00 outside St Mary's Church. Moon of February reflect the The flowers are usually heavy snows of North America. resplendent along the route It is sometimes called storm or through Mawley so let's hope hunger moon. 2023 lives up to previous years. definitive list as there are other These walks are around 2 to 2.5 hours and are a good way to Veronica Hargreaves enjoy our countryside and meet new people.

Teme are a beautiful asset to Veronica's CMFA report. Can any our local countryside. At this of our American readers add to the time of year muddy paths, list, please? I'm sure our readers puddles together with larger here in Britain would be pleased to scale flooding often restrict a lot *learn more. Jim Reynolds.* of walking routes. The Wyre

Although the heavy rain Forest has lots of well surfaced

I have often wondered about gave them names based on the There is a full programme of behaviour of plants, animals This is not a names in different cultures.

An intriguing glimpse into the The rivers Severn, Wye and naming of moon phases in



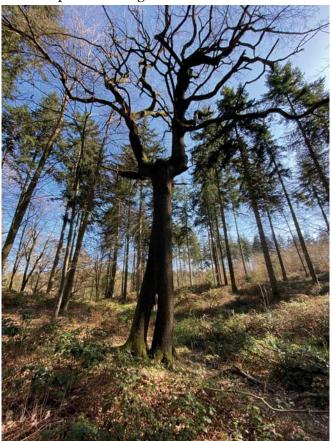
**Cleobury Clarion February 2023** 



**Cleobury Clarion February 2023** 



When I worked at the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre as an environmental educator we had an engaging activity called 'Meet a tree'. Children or adults would work in pairs: one blindfolded, one leading the way to a tree of their choice which the other had to get to know using their sense of touch. (We took pains to teach safe ways of working although these were sometimes forgotten in the excitement of the moment. Payback time for any shortcomings in the leader's carefulness or safety awareness came when the roles were reversed!). On being taken back to the start the blindfold was removed and the now sighted participant tried to locate 'their' tree. There were many learning points: how vulnerable we feel when we can't see, the usefulness of our neglected other senses, the tendency of slugs to sit on tree trunks in damp weather, or the unreliability of our best What impressed me most was the friend! individuality of trees - not so much in a plantation but very evident in a woodland of mixed species and ages.



It is in my nature to care about individual trees. I know that forest management demands a more general approach and that trees need to be removed during thinning to help the growth of those remaining and bring light into the woodland environment. Sometimes trees have to be felled for safety reasons or because they have grown in the 'wrong' place. These decisions depend on a value judgement but trees are very often treated as an expendable inconvenience. (I'm not talking about the growth of timber here, i.e. the harvesting of a renewable resource in a sustainable way.)

To me, each tree felling is a sadness, whatever the reason. These organisms photosynthesise, using the sun's energy to build complex sugars out of water and carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen back into the air. They form relationships with fungi in the soil and are eventually returned to the soil by fungi when they die. Their shape encourages rain water to penetrate into the soil rather than adding to surface flood water. They shelter us from hot sun, strong winds, noise and pollution. They provide homes and food for a huge variety of wildlife. And of course they are beautiful.

Some of us will have favourite trees: they may be ancient, or have childhood associations (or both!), they may have unusual shapes or characteristics, or significance as landmarks. I'll leave you with this photo of a tree which my excolleague Mandy Jones encountered in Eymore Wood. Unlike Tolkien's Ents, described in *'The Two Towers'*, this one stays still, but you can imagine the great strides it would make as it toured the woods, shepherding its flock of young and old trees that define, nourish and shelter all the wildlife of the woodland ecosystem.

#### Linda Iles

### A SOUP LUNCH

Available at the Melville Methodist Church at Oreton on Wednesday, February 8th. between 12.30 and 2.00pm

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### Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Local planning issues often fill my postbag and can be a source of significant concern to local residents affected by an application and rightly so.

Planning issues are at the heart of our communities, permitting the very homes we live in, the schools our children go to, the hospital we visit and the roads that take us there. That is why reforming the way our outdated and bureaucratic planning system works is so important. Many people complain to me that it is not currently delivering for the people locally that use it or the communities that need good homes to live in.

Most people recognise that we need to build more houses, especially affordable homes, across the country. In Shropshire sadly many young families are forced into renting for longer than they want to and struggle to find suitable homes when they can afford a mortgage. But that also means we need to build the right homes in the right places.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which finished its passage through the Commons before Christmas, recognises that it is communities themselves who are best placed to make decisions on local development. The Bill will modernise the planning system for the 21st century and give residents a louder voice to ensure that development reflects community preferences. Under the reformed system, local plans will be given more weight and the plan making process will be sped up.

This will not only give communities like ours in South Shropshire more certainty that the right homes will be built in the right places but will also give more assurance that areas of environmental importance will be respected in decisions on planning applications and appeals and crucially, will remove centrally imposed house building targets.

The legislation puts communities at its heart. It will introduce a requirement for local planning authorities to produce design codes for their areas, which will have full weight in planning decision making. Digitising the planning system will make it easier for communities to access the system and help groups typically underrepresented in planning decisions to make their voices heard in their area. This compliments ongoing pilots which are testing new digital initiatives, such as online 3D maps and QR code systems to enable residents to interact with the system in new ways.

A new Infrastructure Levy will also be introduced to help fund the schools, GP surgeries and road improvements needed, which has been a regular concern in local planning applications in South Shropshire. The levy will be set locally to allow Shropshire Council to tailor it to our local circumstances. There will be a consultation on the workings of this new levy, which I was pleased to have confirmed will also be available to ensure water supply and treatment improvements can benefit.

The Government remains wholeheartedly committed to the benefits of neighbourhood planning. The new Bill will strengthen neighbourhood planning and give these plans greater weight in planning decisions. The legislation will also help even more people to get involved in neighbourhood planning by introducing a new tool for parish councils and n e i g h b o u r h o o d f o r u m s c a l l e d a neighbourhood priorities statement. This will allow communities to identify priorities and preferences for their area which the local authority will be obliged to take into account when preparing its local plan.

It is our neighbourhoods that feel the impact of planning most immediately. I am hopeful that these reforms will genuinely empower people from all backgrounds to get more involved in decisions that shape where we live.

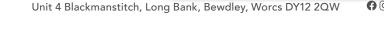
### Philip Dunne

# Do you suffer from heat loss, outside noise or draughty windows like many older properties?

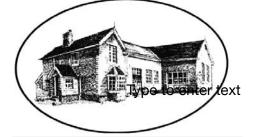
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### **Cleobury Clarion February 2023**

### C M ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The November Poppy collections raised a total of £5855.86. A great start to our Poppy Appeal collection for the year.

We are in need of more (and younger) members and plan to increase the presence of the RBL in an attempt to improve membership. We shall be holding information sessions and publicising the RBL around the area. I will be at the Farmers' Market this month with information for any who are interested.

Our next event is the Annual Lunch on March 26th; soon. Branch meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, alternating between the Sports and Social Club and one of the town pubs. The February meeting is in the Talbot on 8<sup>th</sup> February. *Mike Hermolle – Branch Chairman* 01299 271384

### FAR FOREST/ROCK LEGION

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Jim Wood reports that over £9,972 has b e e n b a n k e d . F u r t h e r contributions should take the total over £10,000.

Martin Fisher, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Strensham Services on the M5 has confirmed that collections there totalled £18,306. The next Branch Meeting will be at the Rock Cross Inn at 7.00 on Monday March 13th *Nigel Caldicott* 

### FESTIVAL OF EALING COMEDIES

In the Parish Hall every Sunday evening in February at 6.00 pm - a treat for the cold weather. Ealing comedy is one of British cinema's most powerful brands.These films have stayed fresh even after more than 70 years in the public eye among the most loved films of all time. Join us for the movies (tickets £5): The Ladykillers - 5 F e b r u a r y; T h e T i t f i e l d Thunderbolt - 12 February; The Lavender Hill Mob - 19 February; and Whisky Galore - 26 February.

Seating at tables and soup and pudding will be available for  $\pounds$ 3. Bar open throughout.

### INVITATION TO A CHARITY LUNCH

Thursday February 23rd at 12.00 upstairs in the Market Hall

Join us to enjoy. soup with an International flavour, crusty bread with a cheese platter and fresh fruit.

Payment will be by donation to support Christian Aid in its work with the world's poorest people. *Gabrielle Eve* 

### ST JOHN'S, DODDINGTON

#### A walk through Titterstone Clee Hill's industrial history

A guided walk through the industrial features of this important site February 16th 10:30am 1:00pm Tickets £5 (£10 including fish & chip lunch) from ticketsource.co.uk/st-johnschurch-doddington-southshropshire

An optional fish and chip lunch will be available at St John's Church, Doddington at the end of the walk. Please book to secure y o u r place. <u>stjohnsdoddington@gmail.com</u> 01584 318036

#### **Titterstone Clee:** a hill, a people and a dialect shaped by industry *A talk by Alf Jenkins MBE*

March 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm at Clee Hill Village Hall with

refreshments. Tickets free, but limited, so please book using ticketsource link above or contact us.

Alf was born and grew up on the hill and has recorded and shared its history for much of his life.









### 18 February 7.30pm Downtown Abbey - A New Era

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

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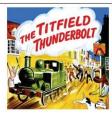
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EALING

FEBRUARY FESTIVAL OF EALING COMEDY Sundays in February 6.00pm Tickets £5. Soup and pudding £3



5 February The Ladykillers



12 February The Titfield Thunderbolt



19 February The Lavender Hill Mob



26 February Whisky Galore



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### TARGETED COMMUNITY AND POLICING WORK AIMED AT IMPROVING **CLEOBURY TOWN CENTRE**

A targeted programme of community partnership and policing work across Cleobury community work, additional policing Mortimer has helped to take significant steps measures have been brought in to support the to address issues of anti-social behaviour and work of all the partners involved. drug use in the town.

Mercia Police's local Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been carried out as well as patrols Team in conjunction with Cleobury Mortimer by plain clothes officers. These have included Town Council, the Lacon Childe School, domestic abuse risk management checks, a children's services and the community itself. It significant number of additional patrols by has seen a proactive range of measures taking both the South East and South West Shropshire place since issues of concern were first raised Safer Neighbourhood Teams as well as plain last summer.

Pubs in the town have been visited with this engagement reinforced by checks to ensure have been executed leading to arrests and compliance with licensing rules.

residents has been sent out backed up by a action taken where appropriate – in some cases relevant newsletter and Neighbourhood anti-social behaviour letters have been issued. Matters Leaflets.

children's services and senior staff at the Lacon throughout the town encouraging anyone who Childe School to look at different ways of is concerned to contact the Safer working with young people to involve them Neighbourhood Team. fully in tackling the town's issues.

Council has also carried out a thorough review great piece of teamwork with the future wellof closed circuit television to make sure the being of Cleobury at the very heart of it. coverage meets the needs of the town and the Everyone involved cares about the town's wellcouncil is in the process of fixing High Street being and we have had a successful few signage.

neighbourhood team, said: "Our priority as the continue building on the good progress made local safer neighbourhood team is to listen to our local communities and, through working in partnership with our partners and local disorder in the town then they can talk to the residents, address the issues that matter to local safer neighbourhood team by contacting them the most.

"We know there were local concerns around anti-social behaviour in Cleobury Mortimer Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 and over the past few months have worked or by visiting www.crimestoppers-org.uk . closely with the town council and local school Crimestoppers is 100% confidential, to find the best ways to resolve these. Working individual's details are never passed to police. in partnership is absolutely crucial and I think all involved can be pleased with the progress that has been made."

As well as the extensive programme of

A significant number of additional uniformed The extensive work has been led by West patrols by South Shropshire Neighbourhood clothes CID officers.

In specific operations, two drugs warrants police have investigated reports of incidents of A proactive letter drop to more than 300 anti-social behaviour in the High Street with

Posters relating to anti-social behaviour and There has also been close work with both drug use have also been distributed

Councillor Debbie Brown, chair of Cleobury A joint project with Cleobury Mortimer Town Mortimer Town Council, said: "This has been a months as a result. But we know we mustn't Sergeant Kate Øen, from the local safer rest on our laurels and are determined to so far."

> If anyone has concerns about crime and 101.

> Alternatively, information can be passed to



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dern bistro dining room and bar with a aily menu created by our accomplished idually designed spacious double rooms, puples to stay together or beautiful single with en-suites and stunning countryside a hairdressing salon for a little pampering a place of well-being. Doddington Lodge is a place where friendships are made and special moments are shared. We organise many fun activities that everyone can get involved with, whether that's a sing along, arts and crafts, collecting fresh veg from the allottment or just simply helping each other with a crossword in our daily newspaper. Each day is different, we certainly have many happy moments...

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# DODDINGTON LODGE BRINGS HOME SME FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Last month, we were lucky enough to attend the SME Gala Dinner Awards at the prestigious Wembley Arena in London. A night of celebration and recognition of small to mediumsized businesses across the UK. We were absolutely thrilled when it was announced that Doddington Lodge had won Family Business of The Year 2022!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this accomplishment possible. From our hard-working team, our residents, family and friends and the wider local community - we are so grateful for your support. This is a momentous occasion for us all, one which we won't soon forget!



www.doddingtonlodge.com | E: enquiries@doddingtonlodge.com | T: 01584 707084 Doddington Lodge, Residential Care Home, Doddington, Nr Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 0H



#### **Cleobury Clarion February 2023**

Come along! Coffee morning on Friday 10th February 2023

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

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

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

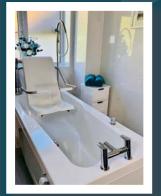
A warm welcome awaits on these frosty mornings - We look forward to seeing you!

# 'Doddington Lodge A Day Away From Home' Self-Care & Respite Day is Coming Soon!

We are so delighted with our fabulous new luxury specialist bathroom. Bath bombs and bubbles, relaxing in the bath, and having a pamper is something everyone can enjoy, with our Comfort VH1700 Variable Height Transfer Bath with integrated powered seat, nursing arms and safety strap, along with TMV3 WRAS compliant brassware & shower unit. Thank you to EA Mobility for such an amazing job!



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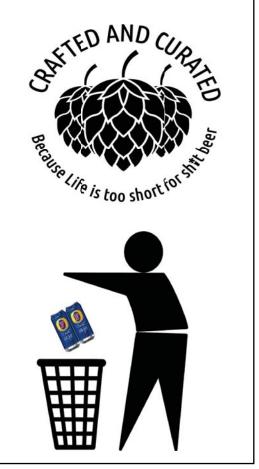
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**Cleobury Clarion February 2023** 

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**Cleobury Clarion - February 2023** 



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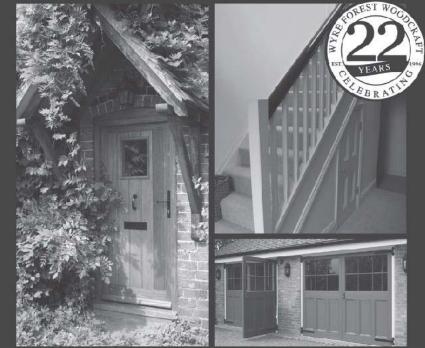
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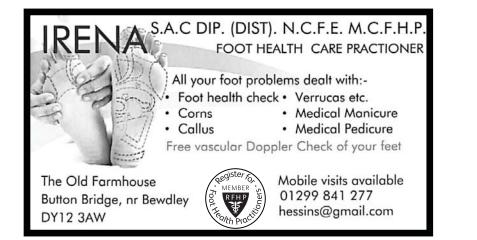
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**Cleobury Clarion February 2023** 



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### **Cleobury Clarion February 2023**



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#### St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February – 10am Family Eucharist Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – 8.30am and 10am Eucharist Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 10am Eucharist Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - 10am Eucharist

#### St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February - 9.30am Eucharist Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February- 9.30am Eucharist

#### St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February– 11.am Eucharist Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February– 3pm Evening Prayer

#### All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February– 11.am Village Worship Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – 11.am Eucharist Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 11.am Village Worship Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February – 11.am Village Worship

#### St George's, Milson

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February – 6pm Evening Prayer Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 9.00am Eucharist

#### St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February– 6pm Evening Prayer BCP Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 11.am Eucharist

#### St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – 11.15 Eucharist BCP Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February – 6pm Evening Prayer BCP



'Drop in at St Mary's' - every Thursday, 10.00-11.30am for coffee and a chat, if you are feeling lonely and confused, have lost the confidence to go out or have no-one to talk to. If you have problems and are struggling to sort them out or just wish to have a quiet place to sit. This opportunity is free and provides a peaceful environment to sit in the company of others and listen and talk if you wish to.

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### **Simon Morton**

# Colour is Just Around the Corner (Honest)

I hate to start 2023 on a downer, but let's be frank - winter can be a dreary time for gardens.

My own patch is a case in point - a barren wasteland of frozen/waterlogged soil (depending on the time of day) and hardy weeds. The few bedraggled plants left in my patio pots gave up the ghost some time ago, meaning the Christmas lights we draped around the front door were illuminating little more than a mix of brown, slimy leaves and the odd drooping Cosmos stalk (minus any leaves or seed head, obvs). In effect, we've entered 2023 with an array of dead plants in empty pots, so if you're looking for winter colour, keep moving—nothing to see here.

This obviously won't do. It's time to start planning for next winter to ensure we have a little colour to brighten up the colder months. Option one is to plant evergreens, such as holly, pine, and spruce, which will keep their leaves but run the risk of making my patio look like Santa's grotto all year round.

Option two is to embrace winter flowering shrubs (witch hazel, winter jasmine and mahonia, that sort of thing) and rely on them to add the 'pop' of colour that's currently missing. Hmmm...we may have a contender once I recover from the heart palpitations I got when looking at the price of these at the garden centre.

Option three (and the one thing I have done consistently since we moved in) is to stick a bunch of daff, tulip and crocus bulbs in and patiently wait until Spring. Yes, there's a bit of delayed gratification, but the weird weather of late means that things are moving on apace. At the time of writing, our snowdrops are already sticking their heads above the parapet, and a few daffs are bravely making their presence felt. Admittedly, this feels way earlier than last year, but then again, it may just be me catastrophising, a habit I've picked up as I've got older. Either way, colour seems to be just around the corner.

As well as the monochrome nature of my garden, I'm having to find ways of dealing with the sogginess. Everything is soaked through, leading to waterlogged beds, a very, um, 'moist' greenhouse (heat and moisture the perfect combination for fungal diseases and pests - woohoo!) and very slippy paths. There was an amusing interlude earlier this week when I was attempting to wheelbarrow compost from one end of the garden to the other. A combination of a slippery surface and my own ungainly lack of balance meant that I ended up on my back, covered in wet clay mud and looking around to see if anyone had spotted me going arse over elbow. Once I realised the coast was clear, I couldn't help laughing at the ridiculousness of the whole situation and promptly walked back inside and had a bath.

So, in addition to the long list of plants for the summer months and factoring in some winter colour, I probably need to add drainage to my gardening to-do list. The magazines recommend pathways of crushed stone or gravel as long-term solutions to my pratfall problem or, as an absolute minimum, using wooden planks or boards as a walkway to protect the ground. However, all I can think of is how painful that would be to land on.

As all gardeners know, January and February are the tough months. The yearning to get out there and work up a sweat without the danger of falling flat on your backside is strong, but patience, a pile of seed catalogues and a roaring fire will have to suffice until we can really get back at it.

Simon Morton



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Sad news. Rays Farm, the place that has entertained kids- and adults- for over 30 years, has shut due to 'reasons beyond our control'. What a shame although we are assured that all the animals and birds will be found good homes.

You may have seen the announcement, presented as a step change for bus travellers, of a £2 limit on single fares for the first three months of 2023. Apparently designed to encourage more use of buses, it seems like a good idea - but not here, as Diamond Buses have declined to apply the scheme. They claim that the way the Department for Transport or DFT (always referred to as 'DaFT' by Private Eye) have structured payments to operators means that they would lose money. I'm not sure how that works but just don't bother to ask the driver. This is ironic, as a study by University College London has concluded that being stranded at home by poor public transport is bad for your health, especially in the over 55's. Related problems include high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, depression and dementia and these are linked to a 26% higher risk of early death. Those who could travel at least 15 miles regularly reported better health and social participation so even if a bus ride to Kiddy isn't high on your bucket list, doing it regularly might give you longer to complete the rest.

In another development, Shropshire Council have been awarded £12 million under the Government's 'Shared Prosperity Fund' designed to help 'levelling up'. Apparently, it is to replace EU regional funding which was lost when we left. It will be some time before we know which projects will benefit from this funding but it will be interesting to see how much of it manages to escape from the 'Shrewsbury black hole' and gets out to rural areas. Should you see either of your Shropshire Councillors around, make sure you bend their ears about it. And if you see the words 'Shrewsbury North West Relief Road' mentioned at any point, be afraid, be very afraid...

It used to be the case that 'Sex, Drugs and Rock n' Roll' were the prerogative of pop groups. No longer. It seems that MP's on APPG's (all party parliamentary groups) of which there are more than 700 (!) of which around 130 focus on certain countries via all expenses paid (by us) group trips are misbehaving. Incidents include activities that can result in blackmail or attempts to recruit them as spies, incidents such as finding sex workers in their rooms and excessive drinking etc. A No10 spokesman said this was very concerning although whether this is a matter of principle or just jealousy for missing out is not clear. Still, I'm sure that those involved are very grateful for our generosity ...

Good news from West Midlands Safari Park, now renting out chalets next to the animal enclosures allowing close up views of the wildlife through panoramic glass windows. A snip at £730 a night for two people although this does include dinner and breakfast. However, I'm not sure whether this means you get dinner or become dinner..Best to check this out before booking.

You may recall the revelations some time back about the amounts of raw or partially treated sewage being pumped into our waterways and around the coast. A map recently published by Thames Water showed large numbers of sites where this is happening, in some places for weeks at a time. They are not alone as all the other companies are in a similar situation. Still, the Government are taking the problem seriously at last and have given the water companies a deadline by which they must fix the problem. It is clear how urgently this is being viewed at Westminster from the deadline date for compliance which is..2064. Words fail me. Ariadne J Grumpy

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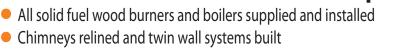
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### THE CLARION SOCIAL CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2023

Date	Time	Details				
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	6-7pm	Late Night at the Food Bank, Market Hall				
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good parking – great venue				
		DOMESTIC RUBBISH COLLECTION TODAY				
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10.00		Rock Pathfinders step out from Blackstone car park, Bewdley by-pass PAGE 21				
	7.00	Dancing and Health Club, Market Hall PAGE 11				
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Country Walk starts from the Parish Church. All welcome				
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Bingo every Monday at the Market Hall				
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health start from CM Market Hall. PAGE 21				
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall				
	12.30-	Soup Lunch at Melville Methodist Church, Oreton				
	2pm					
	7.30	Royal British Legion meet at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane				
		DOMESTIC GARDEN & RECYCLING COLLECTION TODAY				
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00	Dancing and Health Club, Market Hall				
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Creative Writing Group meet at the town Library, Love Lane				
	7.30	Cleobury Gardeners, St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street. PAGE 9				
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall				
		DOMESTIC RUBBISH COLLECTION TODAY				
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Rock Pathfinders walk from the Grange, Mortimer's Cross, Leominster. PAGE 21				
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall				
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in and around St Mary's church				
	2.15	Cleobury RFC are at home to Bridgnorth!! – cheer them on at the playing field				
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra in concert at St Mary's Church. PAGE 11				
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>		Adam Ponsford's fund-raising start at Ludlow Market. PAGE 5				
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health, start at CM Market Hall. PAGE 21				
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall				
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club, Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 11				
		DOMESTIC GARDEN AND RECYCLING COLLECTION TODAY				
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall				
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>		Cleobury Concert Brass contest the local match at Corby. Wish them Luck! PAGE 5				
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the town Library, Love Lane				
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH				
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall				
		DOMESTIC RUBBISH COLLECTION TODAY				
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	This month's Country Walk start from St Mary's Parish Church				
		AND A REMINDER ABOUT THESE REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS:				
Mon	8.00	Bingo with Suzanne in the Market Hall				
Tues	2.00	The Friendship Club meet in the Parish Hall				
Thurs	10.00	Drop In at St Mary's Church to chat and maybe share a problem				
	7.00	Lessons in the ancient Birth Dance and good health habits in the Market Hall				

**SEVERN HOSPICE:** A group from the Severn Hospice local support group recently visited the hospice to see around the recent new build in Shrewsbury. A wonderful "Living Well" center has been built costing over £5 million. It is for patients with life limiting illnesses can "Live Well" during their last days, Weeks, years. A bright happy place has a craft room as well as space for coffee mornings for patients, together with space for consulting rooms for therapies, doctors and nurses.

We completed our visit with a super lunch in the coffee shop - again raising funds for the hospice. The coffee shop is very busy and open to the public. Well worth a visit if you are ever in the area. *Rosemary*.







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www.kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk Unit 11 Finepoint Way, Stourport Road, Kidderminter DY11 7FB info@kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk



## CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB Coffee Shop, Climb61, Youth Events Mondays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-9pm Tuesdays - 9:30am-12:45pm, 2:30pm-9pm Fridays - 9:30am-12:45pm,

2:30pm-5:30pm

January is often a month where people hide away and look forward to the warmer, brighter days. However, we have seen a great number of regular and new visitors coming to the CCH for all of our activities. Our **Warm Welcome Lunch** is going really well, every Monday 12:30pm-2pm. If you fancy a change of scenery and a free soup lunch then pop in and join us. Free wifi and a warm welcome awaits, all the time and especially in these winter months.

The **Soup Garden** is our micro-allotment and has been put together and nurtured by volunteers in our community. Please come in, ask questions and get involved. We would love to get involved in growing veg at the CCH.

### FOCUS ON: Climb61 Bouldering Comp - Saturday 25th February 10am-4pm

This is our first Bouldering competition and will be held throughout the whole day. Come along, hang out with others and get your climb on! Boulder Problems are climbing routes varying in difficulty and just like the name, they are Problems which you need to solve! We have 6 boulder problems for both age categories and an eliminate problem to have a go at too. Great prizes and lots of fun.

£10 entry for the comp. Children (6-15) and Adult (16+) entry.

The coffee shop is open all day too!

Climb6l Session Times - To book climbing and events: **www.smyp.org.uk Tuesdays** - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm, 5:45pm-7:15pm, 7:30pm-9pm (**Mondays**) 6:30pm-8pm **Fridays** - 9:30am-11am, 11:15am-12:45pm, 2:15pm-3:45pm, 4pm-5:30pm **LADIES NIGHT** - 2nd February and the following month - 2nd March



**Take advantage of our offer:** Replace your flat roof Making EPDM (rubber) your choice for a long lasting, weatherproof & high slip resistant membrane, with a lifespan of 50 years, **get it for the same price as felt,** which only carries a 10 year guarantee!

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# **CLEOBURY SEAFOOD & FREEZER CENTRE**

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#### Fish

Cod, Haddock, Plaice fillets, Sea bass, Lemon sole, Cod Loins, Smoked Haddock. Battered & breaded fish fillets. Young's Jumbo Cod Fish Fingers.(Very Popular)

Seafood

Raw king Prawns, Squid, , whitebait, cooked tiger prawns, scallops, seafood cocktail. Hot & Spicy Prawns, Breaded Cod & Plaice Goujons

New Fish Cakes Thai Style Cod & Prawn, Smoked Haddock, Mozzarella & Spring Onion, Sea Bass, Cod, Lime & Ginger.

### **Fruit and Vegetables**

### **Potato Products**

Bannister Jacket Potatoes, Oven chips, Sweet Potato Fries Twister Fries, Hash Browns, Spicy Wedges Chicken Products

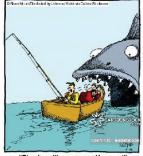
Southern Fried Breaded Chicken Steaks, Breaded Chicken Goujons, Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Bites.

Gateaux for all occasions BENNETTS ICE CREAM

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

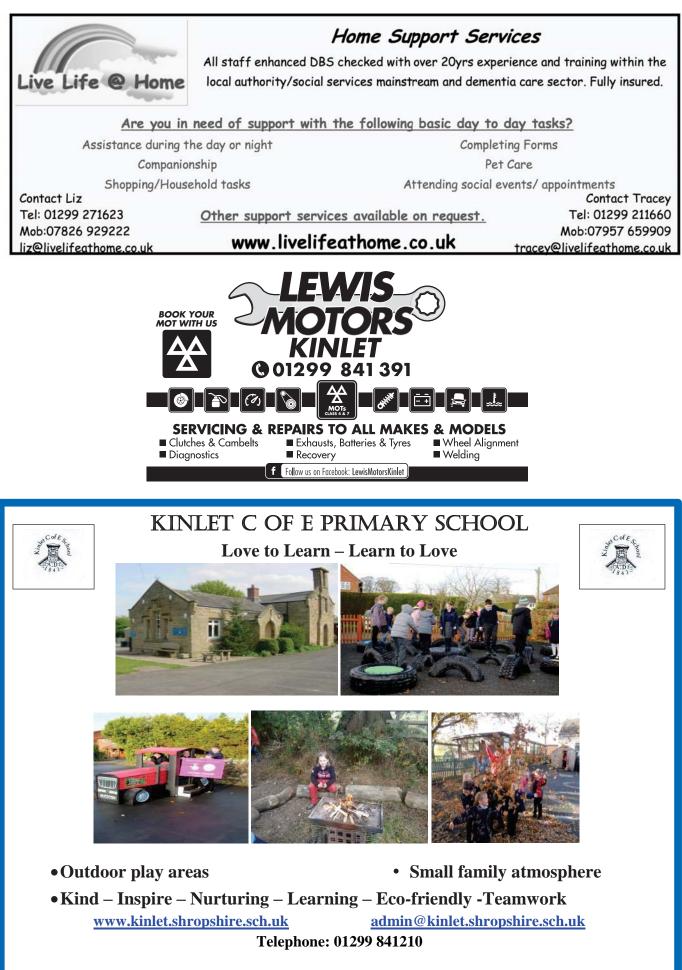


We tried artificial flies. We tried lures. We tried live bait. Nothing works ... it's like they're *psychic*!"



Blood-curdling screams, Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

### **Clarion Clippings - The Local News**





Welcome to 2023 and Beat the Scammers. There is so much still going on, that it's hard to decide what to cover in these articles. But this month as we start 2023, I thought we could reflect on the larger picture including Neighbourhood Watch. Some of you who read the Clarion in hard copy may not be aware that we have a local Neighbourhood Watch group which is supported on Social-Media (Facebook). This was set up in 2020 when Covid hit and public meetings were not possible.

However. the background to Neighbourhood Watch is interesting. In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was New York stabbed in outside the apartment building across the street from where she lived. Two weeks after the murder it was rumoured that 38 witnesses saw or heard the attack, but none of them called the police or came to her aid. This prompted inquiries into what became effect or known the bvstander as "Genovese syndrome", and the murder became a staple of American psychology textbooks for the next four decades. It also motivated a community response and the very first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up.

The concept developed and has spread worldwide and the spirit of looking out for our neighbours is what is embodied in our local scheme and in the articles that I have been writing for the last2 years. My articles have focussed on the types of criminal activity that preys, not just on the elderly and vulnerable in our community, but everyone whether they are frequent users of Social-Media, the internet, use either a smart phone, an older style phone or just a landline at home. The scammers use every possible means of communication to get at their targets, which means that unless you live your life devoid of any form of communication, you could be targeted. I have had comments like, "I am an intelligent, aware person" and they can't fool me". But sadly, I still get examples from people who are aware, but have still fallen for increasingly sophisticated approaches of this criminal element.

I can also report that the Police and law enforcement agencies working across national borders have had successes and brought down a gang of over 8 top scammers at the end of last year. Although this is only the tip of the iceberg, it demonstrated that instead of keeping quiet and saying nothing (perhaps due to embarrassment), reporting anything suspicious helps to build a picture of intelligence that Law Enforcement can use to eventually track down the ring leaders.

**So, my message for the New Year is this**. Think twice about any communication you receive either, by phone, text, email or social media. Were you expecting it? Can you be sure you know who it is from? It does not take more than a few minutes to make simple checks and a genuine sender will not be offended if you do this. If you have access to the internet, the web site <u>www.beat-the-scams.info</u> is a good source of information and is regularly updated. If you wish to join the Facebook group for our local neighbourhood watch

You will find us on **Cleobury Mortimer** and District Neighbourhood Watch.

Have a safe 2023.



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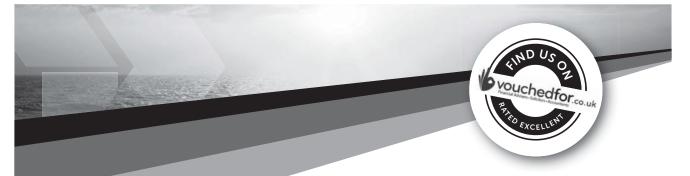
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# The Framing Studio Cleobury Mortimer

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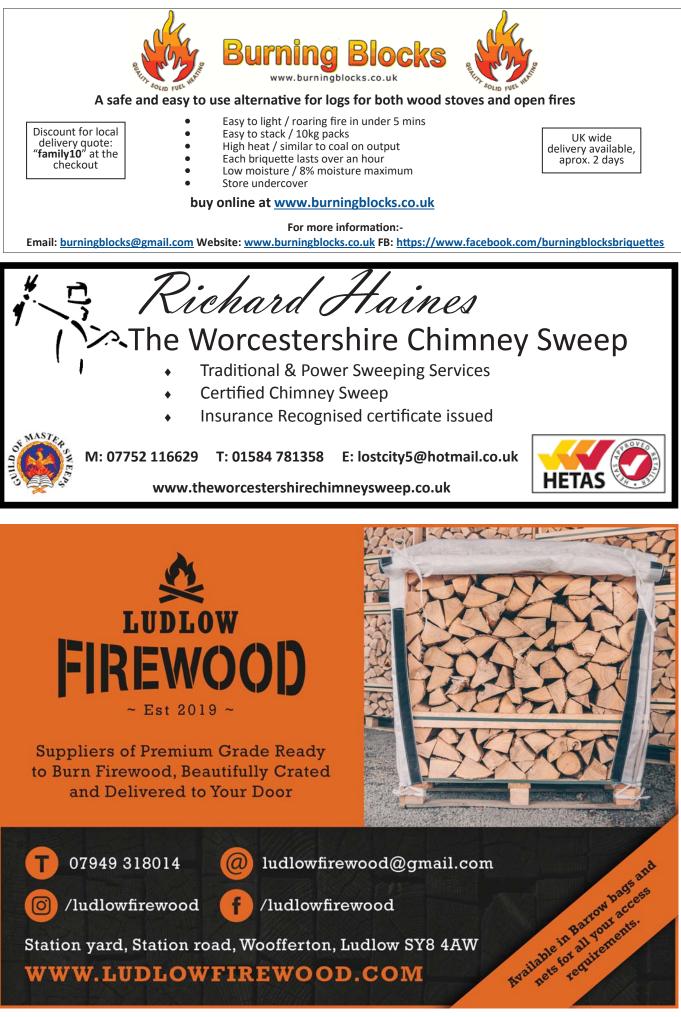


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#### Thank you to Paul French

Paul French retired from the Town Council at the end of December 2022 after eight years of service to the community. Whilst being an active councillor, Paul also put in a lot of hard work with the Festival, Christmas Light displays, WWI and Jubilee events as well as planting spring bulbs in the QEII Park.

#### **Christmas Window Competition**

We are pleased to continue to work with the Clarion for the Best Dressed Christmas Window Display – the 2022 winner being Red Hare – Congratulations!



#### Neighbourhood Development Plan

In December 2022, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council formally submitted the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan to Shropshire Council for the next stage of the process known as Regulation 16. Shropshire Council published the plan for consultation on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 which will run for six weeks closing at 5pm on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The Neighbourhood Plan documentation can be viewed online at <u>www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/cleobury-mortimer-neighbourhood-planconsultation-2023/</u> and a copy has also been made available for viewing at Cleobury Mortimer Library and Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Representations on the Draft Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan may be submitted to Shropshire Council by emailing: <u>planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk</u> or by post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury SY1 9LJ.

After the consultation closes on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the Neighbourhood Plan documentation, together with any representations received, will be submitted to an independent Examiner for final review, further comment and a decision on whether the plan can proceed to a local referendum. At referendum, if the residents of Cleobury Mortimer vote in favour of the plan, it will be adopted shortly after and any future development in the town will need to comply with the policies.

Cleobury Mortimer Town Council will post updates on the Town Council website and notice boards as the final stages of the process progress.

#### **Community Meeting**

As a follow up to the public meeting last summer there will be a meeting held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, commencing at 6pm with members of the police, council, community groups and partners. This meeting is open to the public to attend and discuss community matters with representatives of various organisations. We are keen to encourage conversations, work together and help find solutions to any issues or concerns in Cleobury.

#### Grants available to community groups

The Town Council still has some funding available to support local community groups based in Cleobury Mortimer. Grants are available for activities or for equipment. If you have a project or activity which would benefit from some financial support please contact our Finance Officer, Mrs Dorothy McBride on 01299 271154 or email <u>dorothy.mcbride@cleobury.org.uk</u> for further information and an application form.



Report for Clarion – February 2023



# **Our Services**

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HEAT PUMPS

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# About us

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

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

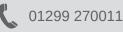
The current energy crisis has been incredibly eye-opening as we come to realise how reliant we are on other countries for fuel. Wouldn't it be nice to become more independent and less reliant on the volatile energy prices... well, that's where we can help!

### What can EnergyZone Offer?

- With over 130 years combined experience, we are keen to help with all your energy enquiries and deliver impartial advice.
- Totally free desktop quotes for Solar PV and Heat Pump systems completely unique to your property to show you exactly how much you could save.
- Self-consumption gadgets to help you utilise all of your generated energy. Whether its a Smart Electric Car Charger, Immersion Diverters or Battery Storage Units, we can help you become more independent from the grid.
- Ensure your heating is as efficient as possible, through underfloor heating installation, radiator upgrades and smart hot water cylinders.
- Advice on all Government Grants and Incentives.
- Local support with annual servicing through our in-house EZCare package.

Get in touch today to start renewing your energy!

For your peace of mind, EnergyZone has the following accreditations:



sales@energyzone.co.uk



### **Community Contacts for Clarion Readers**

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE		01299 271747	www.cleoburydental.co.uk
CLEOBURY CARERS	Michelle	01743 341995	carerssupport@shropshire.gov.uk
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Jones	07966 080111	Tuesday and Thursday at the Medical Centre
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	PC Wayne Strangwood	07773 054 587	wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Fiona McCallum	07805 737 555	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Kim	01299 272732	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		111	Service available evenings and weekends
THE MEN'S SHED	Pete Blackburn	07776 243 584	petblack@me.com
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	Angela Flowers	01299 270318	Sunday Mass at 9.00am
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM		01584 874922	
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30

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

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

**Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in:** Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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

### DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE: FEBRUARY 22ND

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

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

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

The Clarion on the web: **www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk** 

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**FACILITIES INCLUDE:** 

Gym Exercise Classes Sports Hall Outside Astro Pitch

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Netball 😽

Tennis Courts

### **OPENING TIMES**

7.30am - 10am 10am-12.30pm GP Referral 3.30pm - 10pm
3.30pm - 10pm
7.30am - 10am 4.30pm - 10pm
4.30pm - 10pm
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.

			<u></u>			
MON	9.15 - 10am 6.30 - 7.15pm	GENTLE AERO BODY PUMP	BICS			
TUES	9.15 - 10am 10.15 - 11am 6.15 - 7pm	YOGA YOGA TRX				
WED	5.15 - 6pm 6 - 6.45pm	PILATES CIRCUITS		Hannik	THE REAL PROPERTY OF	
THU	6 - 6.45pm 7 - 7.45pm	STEP SPIN				
FRI	6 - 6.45pm	STRETCH & RELAX	TEME CLEOE			
	ng required for Exercise ne or at the Centre	e classes	CLEOBURY MOR DY 14 8PF	TIMER	L	

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