

The Cleobury Clarion

JANUARY 2013

CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I. - 90 YEARS OLD



The presentation party at the Cleobury Women's Institute 90th birthday party. Left to right: W.I. Federation Chairman Sue Bradley, Cleobury President Jill Chesterman, secretary Angi Gregory, treasurer Janet Short, and Federation joint vice chairmen Dot and Jean.

The traditional institutions of Cleobury Mortimer go back a long time. Our Parish Church can trace its roots to Saxon times, the Lacon Childe School was founded in 1735 and our branch of the Royal British Legion in 1921. Just one year later the Women's Institute branch was formed and thrives to this day with energetic committee members and excellent organisation.

They celebrated this birthday with a dinner in the Parish Hall, inviting Adrian Williams, ex head of the Library Service in Shropshire, along as an entertaining and informative speaker.

The editor was invited to photograph the figureheads and the accompanying birthday cake at this special occasion. I arrived at 7.45 and crept into the back of the hall, where Adran Williams spotted me and informed the gathering: "I see your photographer has arrived, so I'm going to keep quiet for a while and let him do his job." At that the committee moved as one to direct me to the table where the cake was waiting to be cut, stood patiently where I asked them to and smiled for the camera. As soon as the pictures were taken, I was thanked courteously and they returned to their seats for the real business of the evening.

A model example of businesslike behaviour, everything planned, every member aware what would happen, the very professional speaker ready to accommodate the schedule. You can see why they succeed; read more on Page 9. JR

2012 - WERE WE WRONG?

12 months ago the Clarion promised to find the good news and bring it to you, ignoring the gloom and doom that was everywhere. In a year of apparent financial disaster, there have been a few failures but a least an equal number of successes and new ventures. Life goes on and if people's belts are tightened, it doesn't affect their smiles much.

So please let us wish you another Happy New Year, when we plan to bring you more stories of local good news. We're not saying 2013 will be a year of effortless success, but we do forecast that a good life will go on.

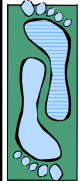



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The Cleobury Clarion. January 2013

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*Cleobury Mortimer W.I.
is 90 years old and certainly
doesn't look it or act it.
Their remarkable story is on
Page 9.*



*Keith Berrow, Shropshire
Council Leader, came to
Cleobury and met a very happy
crew at Simply Fresh.
See Page 23.*



*A man with a big job and a
gentle way of doing it.
The Pioneer Centre.
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'MASSIVE THANKS' AND MARVELLOUS RESULT

A message from that remarkable lady, Pat Williams:

I just wanted to say a massive "Thank You" to you all for your support on November 24th to our Charity Ball at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club. It was lovely to see you all dressed up, you looked fantastic, I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. A very special Thank You also goes to Justin Parker, who did a fantastic job of running the auction and raffle, for the live music from the Mandolin Orchestra of South Shropshire who did a brilliant job of starting the evenings entertainment off, and to Whateva Trevor who played until midnight and kept us all dancing.

Through your generosity, you have helped raise nearly £2000 for The Haven and Macmillan Cancer Support. As soon as we get a final figure, we will let you know.

Many thanks & love,
Pat, Pete and Victoria

REMEMBRANCE DAY MYSTERY MAN

Does anyone know the identity of the gentleman who attended the Remembrance Sunday parade with two carers? He was a veteran with medals from the

Second World War and the Cleobury Mortimer branch of the Royal British Legion would like to contact him.

Lesley Ravenscroft CM 271135

PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Anyone who organises events for young people should note this new service. We've looked at the catalogue and it's a very impressive range on offer.

I just wanted to bring to your attention a new initiative from Leisure Services. The Shropshire Community Play Store is now open.

The scheme is open to community, voluntary groups and groups who work with children and young people in Shropshire. The scheme enables them to hire equipment for minimal costs, so whether they would like something for a fun day, play scheme, or just to have a change from their regular equipment the store is there to help. All they need to do is apply to become a member, and they then have access to the range of equipment available; hiring costs apply. Membership is free.

If you would like any more information, or have questions relating to this, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Deana Pennington, Play Development Officer

01743 255069 or
deana.pennington@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

After the Christmas break, we return to Playgroup on January 9th for our Spring Term. We will be thinking about our environment, and all it encompasses, including our homes, lives, recycling, people around us, and of course starting planting when the weather allows.

"Little Tiddlers" sessions for children from birth (accompanied by a parent or carer) continue to run within our playgroup session on a Thursday morning, 9.30 to 11.30, at a cost of £2.50 per child. These informal sessions are a chance to chat to other parents and also see how we work at KFP, while your little one gets to explore a friendly, safe environment, with lots of activities. Please remember to wear unimportant clothes as we often have messy play opportunities during our Tiddler sessions.

There are no requirements to book in advance, or to come to every session, so feel free to drop in any Thursday you're free.

Zoe Pearson



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HAPPY MEMORIES

Our 'In Business' feature on the Cleobury Playgroup in the December issue brought a response from Kath Bills:

Many thanks for mentioning the 'old' Playgroup in the December Clarion. Just one thing though, you'd better mention the other mothers involved in setting it up more than 45 years ago. As well as myself there were Brenda Weaver, Pauline Straughton and Paula Hartley - apologies if I've forgotten anyone else. Do they remember the warm doughnuts we used to go and fetch from Mr. Onions' shop at teabreak time? Happy days.

Best wishes to the girls carrying on now.

Regards, Kath Bills

Mr Onions bakery was in Church Street, but it's known today as The Crusty Cob. Ed.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

We did it! The final total of shoeboxes sent to the Ukraine from the people of Cleobury Mortimer and district this year was 1,234. What an amazing result.

I had my ever increasing army of helpers, without whom it would not have been achieved. A lot of hard work, but so worthwhile. I must mention all the schools in the area and the groups who meet in the Scout Hut; you all did brilliantly, thank you so much.

As Christmas is over, I can now ask you for all your cards; the suitable pictures will go in the bottom of the boxes next Christmas.

Please take them to Cleobury News and, if possible, cut off the fronts and recycle the backs. If you can't do it, I will.

Christmas comes in a shoe box. Thanks to all of you who gave your time.

Jenny Vanderhook

STOTTESDON W.I.

We had an eventful year in 2012. Our November AGM was an opportunity to look back on growing membership, lively evenings with a variety of speakers and activities, and participation in village and community events. Topics to cater for all interests, have ranged from local industrial history to Indian cookery and dog psychology, and a chance to have a go at rag-rug making and water colour painting.

As well as supporting Farlow and Stottesdon Schools' Village Fetes and After School Clubs, we are proud to have been able to make a significant donation to Bridgnorth Domestic Abuse Forum, raised largely by the efforts of our President Steff Bryan, in completing a sponsored swim as well as organising a Summer Garden coffee morning.

We rounded off the year with a convivial dinner at the Boyne Arms, where we enjoyed a fine spread of local beef, turkey and seasonal vegetables, all beautifully cooked and well presented.

We are now looking ahead to welcoming members and visitors to our first meeting of 2013 at Farlow Village Hall on January 16th, for an evening of Games, with a trading stall for re-homing those presents that don't fit! Come along and join us.

Marian Wootton

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

January – New Year, New Start! Start making plans for the year ahead. Flicking through seed

catalogues and making notes about changes to your garden on the plants and layout to improve to look.

In the colder spells don't forget our garden birds. Food is in short supply this time of the year and they need our feeding stations to survive the cold.

Garden tools are often taken for granted. Now is the time to get them cleaned, sharpened and oiled ready for use in the spring.

Gardening is one of the few hobbies that is relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. Our club has a very friendly atmosphere, and everyone is welcome. It's a great way for exchanging gardening knowledge, learning new ways of doing things and sharing tips. The 2013 programme of talks has varied subjects from how to grow 'Perennials from Seed' to 'Perfume in the Garden'.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday the 23rd when Jill Guest will be talking on Easy Garden Design.

ANOTHER NEW CHOIR

Goodness, aren't choirs popular. With our well established Reid Warblers and Kate Jones's new venture, we now hear of Royal Welsh College of Music graduate Beth Hippard starting a Ludlow branch of got2sing at St Laurence's C of E school, in Jockeyfields. First meeting is at 7.30 on the 29th of this month and will be free.

Beth has a lot experience singing with bands around Hereford and she aims to encourage anyone who enjoys singing to experience a range of music. No auditions needed, no previous experience necessary, just the wish to sing. Look in at www.got2sing.co.uk for details.

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

Secretary Angi Gregory outlines the W.I's history in the town:

In 1922 there was a meeting of local ladies, one of them Mrs. Elizabeth Downes who ran the local Post Office and shop. It was decided these enterprising ladies should join the Nationwide Women's Institute. The attendance was high as they were only too happy to get out of the house to be entertained.

The ladies got together once a month to 'make and bake'. It was decided to have a national theme tune and 'Jerusalem' seemed to cover how everyone was feeling at the time. The return of their war weary husbands from the front seemed to encourage the Women's Institute to take off. Little did they know that in 20 years time, they would have to cope with another war.

Nearly every local lady attended, and so began the phrase "Woman's Institute is Jam and Jerusalem". Jam and cakes are still made, Jerusalem is still sung occasionally but we are now more adventurous, with outings, line dancing and attending Denman College, where you learn anything from meditation to climbing mountains.

W.I. is about friendship. There are members who travel the world and then talk of their adventures. In our W.I we have one of many ladies who volunteer to help children in Kurdistan by collecting boxes filled with presents.

We help local charities by raising funds, and enjoying ourselves. This coming year our

designated charity is Nightingale Nurses. Our coffee mornings and Winter Warmer Soups will raise money for them.

In 2014 we have already decided to raise money for our New Medical Centre.

We celebrated our 90th Anniversary by having a bit of a do. The Federation Chairman from Shrewsbury, plus two Vice Chairmen presented us with a certificate which we are very proud of. We kept the business side of our meeting to a minimum. I will elaborate next month

Our membership increases every month and we always welcome new members and visitors. Our group is all about youth, experience and friendship. If you would like to know more, please telephone Jill Chesterman, our President, on 01299 271671

Here's to another 90 years of friendship.

THE DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It's party time again - how the years fly by as you get older. Our club had an 'in house' Christmas party, with the committee providing a lovely buffet followed by a short play entitled 'A Chinese Tragedy'. This was staged by members, without rehearsal, and proved to be hilarious. After all that we had a number of games, taking us back to our childhood; it was great fun, with much laughter. When you look around, it's amazing how much talent we have in our local groups.

Looking back over 2012 we have had talks by a cartoonist, an artist, an account of a motorcycle ride across America, horse racing, skittles, a baker, a

musical duo, about a wedding in Shanghai, Ellie Targett's 'Another Man's Shoes' and Brian Draper talking about Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale. All that plus four outings and a trip to the pantomime.

We recommence activities on Tuesday March 6th at 2.30 and we always welcome new members.

Alison Osborne, Chairman

MOUSE RACING EVENING

You must admit, it's different from most of the social evenings we list through the year.

It's organised by the Burwarton Charity Group, who organise the Young Farmers tent at the Burwarton Show and the charity dance that follows. All for local charities and much appreciated by those who benefit from the work the Group put in.

But the non-summer of 2012 caused the show to be cancelled, which meant no money raised. The group are not prepared to wait until the next show to raise funds to help their local friends and have decided to run a Mouse Racing Evening on Saturday the 19th at Cleobury North village hall.

It starts at 8.00, tickets are a very affordable £5.00 each that includes a light supper and are available from Hannah Jordan on 07807 382 261. Why not go along, maybe have a little flutter, and help to raise money for a good cause while you enjoy the evening.

SILLY BIT

"America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real, but the moon landing was faked."

David Letterman

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EXPORTING EXPERTISE

Anthony Eddies-Davies's Live the Adventure in Stottesdon has played a major role in developing the tourist industry of Bhutan, after his skills as a kayaker and expedition leader were recognised by the Bhutanese Royal Family. Anthony made his first kayaking trip to the Himalayan region 21 years ago.

He and fellow National Geographic explorer, Gerry Moffat, were invited by the country's monarchy to map Bhutan's major rivers, train local people as guides with internationally recognised qualifications, and pave the way for a sustainable Bhutanese adventure travel industry.

The last remaining pieces of the river system were mapped last November, which culminated with Mr Eddies-Davies and Live the Adventure's Worldwide Travel branch taking a commercial trip through the region. Their journey took them through the biggest and one of the last untouched bio diverse regions on the planet, the World Heritage site of Menas National Park.

Because of Anthony's exploratory work, Live the Adventure is one of a handful of companies worldwide that

has been given exclusive unlimited access to the whole of Bhutan. The country is becoming better understood and because of this the future of adventure tourism is bright.

Mr Eddies-Davies said: "The beauty of the area is staggering. Wildlife is abundant - hornbills, golden langur monkeys, 3ft lizards and very remote jungle - cat foot prints on beaches! Where quality of life is measured by Gross National Happiness, there is so much that Bhutan has to offer."

Live the Adventure Worldwide Travel continues to work with the Bhutanese Tourist Board training guides and is now privileged to guide a number of itineraries to this hidden Buddhist Kingdom each year.

For more information about visiting Bhutan please visit www.livetheadventure.co

THANK YOU

Back in the summer Jean Jones suffered a cruel theft when her collection of garden meerkats was stolen. They were presents from her family, who knew how much she liked those cute little insurance salesmen, and gradually built up Jean's own herd.

In the weeks before Christmas meerkats began to appear in Jean's garden again. Not her old crew returning, but brand

new kats brought by people who cared. There was no covering note to say who'd done this, just a sign-off with the last few, saying "Simples".

Jean would like to thank whoever it was that took the trouble to fill that gap in the garden. A very kind thought.

A SAD FAREWELL

To Louise Hill's lovely little Sweet Shop that has closed its door on the High Street. The move from her original base in Talbot Square on to the busier main street looked like a good move, but the shop was advertised on Facebook, giving health problems as the reason for Louise pulling out. We do know she was working at Lacon Childe School and paying local youngsters to look after the business.

It was quite a favourite with the younger children and older adults, its range of traditional sweets and ready prepared little bags of favourites such a friendly, personal touch compared with the plastic packaged version that has taken over in this serve-yourself age. We'll miss those paper bags.

SILLY BIT

"When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

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Star of the Small Ads - Tom Cartwright, Builder



Typical of the Cartwright ability to deal with any problem is this 17th century doorframe, with an oak door made to fit its quirky curves.

35 years ago Tom Cartwright quit his dad's nursery business in Bewdley and moved to Cleobury Mortimer, where he set up business as a builder. "It was something I'd always enjoyed, where my skill lay," he explains. "Dad had an interest in engineering and a big workshop, where I learned to weld."

He and Mavis bought a cottage in Lower Street and set about restoration. "I owe a lot to Fred Burton, the undertaker, who encouraged me and taught me skills like using an

adze." Tom was a quick learner and acquired a range of other skills that made him arguably the best local man in his trade, always in demand. You can see his expert touch in his cottage that has grown with the acquisition and restoration of the house next door, and the lovely cottage he built from scratch for John Cope when he retired from his butchery business.

Today he employs three men, Wayne, Andrew and Colin, all recruited from school and trained to be multi skilled. Their current project is a house dating in part back to the 17th century, that has been extended and made beautiful with great care. Tom proudly showed the old fittings uncovered and restored, the new staircase made in his workshop and the ancient bowed doorway with an oak door made to fit and complement its curving timbers.

All this done with modern methods and materials as the neglect of centuries was put right, to give a dry cellar, proper insulation and warmth without intruding on the beauty of the place. 'No visible

wires' was the instruction to electrician Terry Henderson, and that's what he produced. "I've worked with Terry quite a long time," says Tom in tribute.

Talk to him about some of the damage he's put right and you realise why he's in demand. It seems that joists with no visible support at one end are quite a normal find when you're the builder call in to sort out the mess others may leave.

"I get told I ought to retire, but I enjoy what I'm doing and don't want to stop," he says. Is there anything he and his crew won't do? "Built up felt roofing - far too messy!" he laughs. The rest he can handle, in time, to the highest standard.

He's also very active behind the scenes with Cleobury Players and has ambitious plans to present R C Sherriff's classic First World War drama 'Journey's End' in 2014. He just needs 13 willing and able men to help. That sounds more demanding than building work.

Tom Cartwright is on 01299 270725 or e-mail Thomascartwr@btconnect.com.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HIGH STREET WORKS

SCHEDULED

**Clerk to the Parish Council
Matt Sheehan advises on road
works coming shortly:**

I need to inform you that I had a meeting with Western Power recently, about the work to instal a new cable down the High Street.

The original plan has changed and they are now putting the cable down the pavement on the South side, to just past the Post Office. They will start work on January 13th, with four-way lights at the crossroads and will work to keep disruption to a minimum. The project should take five weeks.

The North side of the High Street will have no parking, to allow traffic flow, and the contractors will also connect the new streetlight in the Tenbury Road, just before Tenbury Mead, and the new Childe Road toilets at the same time.

To work with the community, they said they will come to the Parish Council meeting on January 7th, 7.00pm in the Market Hall, to explain their efforts to limit disruption and answer any questions. A great gesture on their part.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

**Sarah Wylde reports on the
Saint Mary's Youth Project;**

After a very successful 2012 for SMYP, we approach another new one with many activities planned. Our new website is up and running, please take some time to look at it. You can keep abreast of all our news and events and see what an amazing job our young people do. Your continuing support is very much needed and gratefully received. Find us on www.smyp.org.uk

Currently the Tuesday youth group, the younger age range, have begun a cooking programme every week. This is designed to encourage healthy eating and learn new skills in the kitchen that they can hopefully put into practice in their own homes.

The plan is to cook six different dishes, two starters, two main courses and two desserts. They will then choose one from each course that they prefer and prepare and cook these dishes for their families to enjoy. Maybe some will go onto Jamie Oliver's 15!

Needless to say, not everyone can, or wants to be in the kitchen at once, so during the cooking sessions there are fun entertaining games being organised and run by our newest volunteers, Joe Lacey and Chloe Matthews. We are very fortunate as we have amazingly motivated volunteers helping our youth project, without them our leaders could not cope. Very many thanks to them all.

Sarah Wylde

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

The Severn Trent River Trust held an open meeting at the Pioneer Centre at the end of November, to discuss the future care and development of local rivers, with the Rea and Arrow of particular interest.

The speakers were brief and described the largely voluntary work done to protect both wild life and countryside along the rivers, where water quality has improved in the last decade and work has been done to encourage some rare species to return to these local waters. There is cooperation between volunteers and the water

authority representatives, which was good to see.

Most of the landowners present seemed willing to accept their responsibilities as riparian owners with water frontages to maintain. There are obviously concerns about costs of remedial work after recent heavy flooding, but there was no bickering; everybody apparently wants to see rivers used sensibly and the countryside and its amenities conserved for the future.

We could not stay until the end, but did come away impressed that all parties were ready to listen and in their turn explain. At a time of climate change and severe financial restraint, that does suggest there is an intention to work together and not waste time moaning.

WHAT DO THEY KNOW THAT WE DON'T?

On a slightly lighter note, did you notice that on another wet Sunday night, December 16th to be precise, the BBC TV regional weather forecast was presented by Sara Blizzard? Prophetic or what?

SILLY BITS

"When the white missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray' and we closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land."

Bishop Desmond Tutu

"I've been married to a communist and to a fascist, and neither of them would take out the garbage."

Zsa Zsa Gabor

"I have kleptomania, and when it gets bad I take something for it."

Robert Benchley

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Apologies to regular readers of these articles. If you remember two months ago I was talking about moving house, and how to help cats take the move as easily as possible. Anyway – it turns out that moving house is actually quite stressful and hectic (for Humans at least) so I missed the deadline for the Severn Edge Clarion Article last month. You will be pleased, however, to find that Bubbles has moved easily, and is now tearing around the new house as if he has always lived there. He particularly likes the shelf above the radiator... it has officially become the cat place. Any attempts to place new home cards, or Christmas cards have failed as they have been snow-ploughed out of the way by our delightful kitty in order to make room for his sprawling. Who knew just how long a small cat can make himself if he tries?!

And now, of course, the Christmas tree has appeared from the loft, and has been decorated with great care by Anna and I. So this months question is... when you have a naughty cat that likes to un-decorate your Christmas tree... how do you train him to use a catflap so that you can safely kick him out of the front door, knowing that he will find his way around to the back and into the kitchen?

Bubbles, of course, has been a house cat for 18months now. He has never known the pleasure of trips outdoors to go exploring. He is keen, but I need to be certain he knows how to get back indoors before I allow him free roam. At the moment, he is allowed out in the daylight, when we are around to watch where he goes and retrieve him if we need to go out somewhere. He is interested in the catflap, but can't yet work it out. So the next few weeks are set to be full of pushing a reluctant cat through a catflap in the hope that he will finally get the idea!

I think we are confident that he will not wander far, food is just too important to him, and he was neutered when he was just six months old, so wandering to find ladies is

just not on his agenda. I'm not sure he knows what they are.

Neutering your pets is important for a number of reasons, including the above. If you have been thinking about it, then pick up the phone and speak to one of our reception team, or vets to weigh up the pros and cons of having the operation done. As a New Year incentive, Severn Edge Vets are offering 20% off the price of Neutering operations for dogs, cat, rabbits, guinea pigs and ferrets until the end of January 2013.

Christmas brings so much joy, happiness, cake and chocolate into every household. Please keep the leftover cake and chocolate out of reach and sight of all of your pets as it can have nasty consequences if they eat too much of them... Raisins in cake can lead to kidney problems, and one of the constituents of chocolate is a potent poison for dogs. Doggy chocolate alternatives are available to buy. Feel free to leave the joy and happiness in their reach, and spoil them with plenty of walks and fuss.

Wishing everyone the very best for 2013 from all of us at Severn Edge Vets.

Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS

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Christmas is a busy time at Bayton Church of England Primary School. We alternate our school productions, with one year being a Nativity and the next a Christmas play. It was the Nativity this year, held at Bayton Village Church during the last week of the school term. Our Reception children had the important role of acting out the nativity, whilst children in years 5 and 6 told the nativity story. Christmas carols were sung by individual year groups and the whole school, and we had a teacher and a parent doing readings - it really is a whole school affair! Apart from the Nativity, the whole school were planning a trip to the theatre in Worcester to see Snow White,

the PTA were putting on a Christmas shopping fair and on the last day of the term, children took part in the ever popular Talent Show.

For further information about our popular school, visit our website on www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk. For enquiries for children starting in September 2013, please contact the office on 01299 832393. Due to a family relocating, we have places in some current year groups.

The children, staff and families of Bayton Church of England Primary School hope you had a very Merry Christmas, and wish you a Happy New Year.

Sarah Brown

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Here we are again at the start of another year. I wonder how many of you have New Years resolutions and how many of you will manage to keep them until the end of 2013? It is quite a tricky task - I speak with experience.

Children have no real intentions of committing themselves to such responsibilities; however, it might be correct to say that they give themselves goals when trying to achieve a means to an end. I often joke with parents that children have a built in psychology degree when they are born. They always seem to know which buttons to press or how to play one parent off against another to ensure they can get what they want. I'm sure there are one or two of you out there who are smiling and nodding your heads reflecting on the times this has happened to you.

Parenting skills are variable and will depend on parents' experiences from their own childhood, also from the culture in which they lived. Family values are passed down with individual's adaptations added or taken away which reflect their current environment and situations. Children do not come with an instruction booklet and often new parents or guardians are learning parenting skills as they go

through the different stages their children reach. It is interesting that research has shown the extent to which parents can influence the children's development, and that different approaches to parenting will have different outcomes for a child.

For the sake of the child's individual character and family's ethics it is important that early years settings understand the values of each family and therefore important that partnerships with parents are developed in a strong way in order to help support the children in their learning. Time should be spent between parents and the setting so to share experiences the children have in order to understand the child's needs, and that the child sees there is a mutual respect between adults. Little Learner's Nursery certainly encourage a positive relationship with parents in order to understand all the individualities of children who attend. The nursery values this relationship and understands the importance it has on the children's futures.

Perhaps one New Years resolution for parents with children in schools or Early Years groups might be to ensure they develop and maintain a positive relationship with the school or group to help their children's outcomes for the years ahead.

Judith Bunn

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SIMPLY FRESH ARRIVES IN TOWN



Shropshire Council Leader Keith Berrow cuts the tinsel to declare the retitled Simply Fresh store in Talbot Square officially open.

It has to be quite a special store opening that brings the Leader of Shropshire Council here. On December 8th Keith Berrow drove down from Oswestry to cut the tinsel and declare William Henry's new Simply Fresh store officially open. Quite a coup to get the fine new store off to a busy start, with free wine and nibbles to tempt the curious in to look around.

It's quite a place, with a total make-over from a new floor to new display units and topped off by new ceiling and lighting. The range of foods and household supplies is much bigger and there seem to be very tempting

bargains to be found every day. The emphasis is on local produce, with Shropshire output prominent alongside the well established deli range.

The staff were all in matching uniforms, complete with smiles as they handed out some free samples.

This is a big investment for William to make, a vote of confidence in Cleobury Mortimer as a shopping centre and an even greater attraction than before. Not many privately owned small town shops can match this; well worth a visit.

AND ON THE SAME DAY..



Lowri and trained stylist Gemma Newton at Edna Maes' salon.

Also in Talbot Square, which really has come up in the world and looks smart, Lowri at Edna

Maes was celebrating the salon's first birthday.

From the start when there was just the boss herself doing styling work, it's grown and she's taken on Gemma Newton from Hereford College and trained her to Level 2 NVQ in Hairdressing. And on Friday and Saturday, Jade fits in work experience with her studies at Lacon Childe School. Building for the future.

Edna Maes has a growing reputation and customers travel from as far as Malvern, Leominster and Aberystwyth for their styling work. Lowri admits that she'd like to move into bigger premises in the future, but her business roots are firmly planted in Cleobury.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to all our customers, they're all so lovely and friendly," said Lowri. The number of people calling in and toasting her further success was a tribute to her own friendly approach and welcoming smile. And she's a pretty nifty stylist too - my eight year old grand daughter's firm favourite. You don't get much higher praise than that.

SILLY BIT

"The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats."

Jean Kerr



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HELPING LITTLE HEARTS



Rachel Robinson (left) collects a cheque for a very good cause from Martine Lee in the luxury of the Estivals Salon at Cleeton St Mary

It was a rather special occasion up on Clee Hill, when Martine Lee's Estival Country Beauty Retreat opened its doors for a Champagne Shopping Day. The formula was simple - pay £5.00 for a tour of the facilities, have a nail trim and polish, taste some home made nibbles and sip a glass of champagne. If you were in the mood for a little shopping, Martine had her own fine ranges on display and other specialist companies had taken space to show off their wares. A chance for visitors to spoil themselves before the winter weather set in.

But there was a strong goodwill purpose behind the occasion. All the admission money and the rent paid by the invited traders was set aside as a donation to the

Little Hearts charity that supports children born with severe cardiac problems and their parents.

The weather tried to spoil the occasion, and failed. "I had a party of four from Stourbridge due to come, but they phoned and said the conditions were too bad to risk it," Martine recalled. "But they sent a cheque for their admission charge to help the charity in their absence. Such a lovely thing to do."

In fact 30 brave souls faced up to one of the last gestures of what passed for summer in 2012, and made it. The result was £210.00 collected for the charity and on December 17th Rachel Robinson drove up to Cleeton St Mary to discover a gem of a salon tucked away on the hillside. "It's lovely up here, I've never seen it in the daylight before, and this place is just amazing" she enthused.

Rachel is the local contact for Little Hearts as her son was born with a cardiac problem that would have been incurable not long ago. But advances in surgery have come a long way since the charity was founded in 1994 and today her little lad is a proper little bundle of mischief.

This was an interesting meeting between two young businesswomen making their way in a harsh commercial world. Rachel as a partner in the Mawley Milk family concern, with responsibility

for publicity and marketing, a job she combines with running the home and bringing up a family. Martine swapped a high position in the corporate world for life in rural Shropshire with the big challenge of persuading people to come to her hillside salon, where what was a stone barn is now a luxury treatment centre, with a wood burning stove the latest aid to comfort. Apparently the winter chill up on the hill can penetrate conventional heating and the warmth of a stove is the answer.

Estivals is growing as people get to hear of the treatments on offer and the lovely setting. Getting known is no small task when you offer a special service from such a quiet spot as this, but word of mouth and a great website are getting through. Martine will admit she's spent too much money with weekend magazines with very little return. What she is planning for 2013 is another Champagne Shopping Experience, at a more temperate time of year. That location, that view and that level of pampering will be very hard to resist.

Rachel's first time at the place left a deep impression, and she will definitely be returning to try the pampering for herself. And if she can persuade friends to sip a little champagne for a good cause in 2013, that's another success.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FAITH IN THE MOSQUE?

Faith in the Pub is a well established group of men who profess the Christian faith and meet once a month to listen to a speaker and discuss their faith and its effects upon their everyday life. Early in December they took a big step beyond the normal amiable chat over a pint and visited a mosque at Tettenhall, in Wolverhampton to see the Muslim faith in action and hear about its beliefs.

There is more than enough hysteria about Muslims in the general press and if you just take a quick peek at some of the Facebook output you'd think we were being attacked by the Devil himself. Time for a more considered look and to examine some facts.

There were about twelve in the party, met by our host Zahid Parvez and made to feel at home when he explained that it is customary to remove shoes before entering the mosque, not for any religious reason, but simply to keep the carpets clean. The building was once a GP's practice that has been adapted, with some of the space used as classrooms; it is a community building rather than just a place of worship.

We were allowed to enter the area where the men worshipped and to stand

and listen while a community leader led prayers. The atmosphere was more informal than you would see in our church, with some men arriving late to join in and then continue their prayers after the main assembly had finished. It is normal for practising Muslims to pray to Allah five times in a day, the first at daybreak and the last at around nightfall.

There were only men of all ages - at prayer in this room, no women. We asked Zahid about this later and he explained that a woman kneeling in prayer is seen as a distraction for a man, who should be concentrating only on prayer. At some mosques the sexes are in the same room for prayer, with the men on the ground floor and the women above them in a gallery. We were assured that there is no separation because women are treated as lesser beings.

We talked at length with Zahid, and whilst there are parallels in the basic beliefs of Christians, Jews and Muslims, they acknowledge the Virgin Birth but see Jesus Christ as a learned teacher to be revered, not as the Son of God.

Dinner was served by the community leaders, after we had all formally washed our hands. It was simple fare of vegetables, rice, chicken and

a vegetarian alternative, with water the only drink until the after-dinner tea.

More questions came out, and the obvious area of difference was over Shariah Law, which we in the West often see as inhuman. Zahid explained the basic punishment for theft, where a hand will be amputated as punishment, but only if the guilty party is an adult, not impoverished or starving. We have moved on from the days when a man could be hung for stealing food to feed his family or himself, but the Muslim faith is very conservative and still observes the ancient law.

Not once was a question dismissed or ignored, Zahid and his fellows listening courteously and answering carefully. Muslims have lived in Great Britain for hundreds of years and the first purpose built mosque was erected in Woking, in Surrey, back in 1889. It is still there after 123 years.

The feeling in the mini-bus home was that a lot had been learned, our hosts had been very open, but there are some areas where we are never likely to agree. Nothing wrong with that, as great religions have learned over the centuries that we can live peacefully with other ideals. If only everyone who uses a faith as a weapon could see that. JR

The January Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 2/ Sat 5	7.30pm	Ludlow Assembly Rooms have 'Skyfall', the latest James Bond film	Box Office	01584 878141
Fri 4		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 5	2.00pm	Bewdley Wassail Festival starts in Gardeners Meadow and parades to the Centre at Jubilee Gardens.		01299 405516
Wed 9	7.30pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		
Thu 10		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Tue 15	2.00pm	CM Carers Group meet at St Mary's Place, off Love Lane.	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 16	10.00am	Butterfly Wyre Forest conservation work party meet at Dry Mill Lane car park to move on and improve a butterfly habitat.	Mike Williams	07802 274552
	12.30pm	Clebury Ladies Luncheon Club meet at The Crown in Hopton Wafers.	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
Thu 17		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00pm	John Lithgow stars in 'The Magistrate' a Victorian farce, at SpArC Theatre on Bishops Castle's Brampton Road. www.sparctheatre.co.uk	Box Office	01588 630243
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Fri 18/ Sat 19	7.30pm	Ludlow Assembly Rooms feature 'Sightseers', the acclaimed black comedy about a caravan tour with a real difference.	Box Office	01584 878141



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The January Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sat 19	7.30pm	'Flicks in the Sticks' at the Parish Hall, Church Street. 'Anna Karenina' starring Keira Knightley and Jude Law		
Sat 19	8.00pm	Mouse Racing evening at Cleobury North village hall, raising money for charity. £5 ticket includes light supper SEE PAGE 9	Hannah	07807 283261
Wed 23	7.45pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. Speaker: Gill Guest on 'Easy Garden Design.'" SEE PAGE 7		
Thu 24		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Neen Savage Parish Hall.	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Sat 26	10.00am	First of the Spring Flower Weekends at Berrington Hall, Near Leominster on the A49. HR6 0DW for sat navvers		
Tue 29	7.30pm	Got2sing choir club's first meeting at St Laurence's C of E Primary School, Jockeyfields, Ludlow. www.got2sing.co.uk		
Thu 31		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00am	Knowle Sports Association sales start again, at The Knowle on Clee Hill. SY8 3NJ if you need sat nav to get there. Some real bargains to be had.		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY....		
Fri 1		YOUR CLARION AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL OUTLET		
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Thu 7		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

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Meet Bill Longmore, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Mercia area.

He explains his plans and how you can see what he's doing and comment on what is being done to improve policing in our area.

I have recently been elected as West Mercia's first Police and Crime Commissioner, covering Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and explain how you can let me know your views on my proposals for policing and community safety.

The role of Police and Crime Commissioner is set out in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. It is a new role but broadly I am responsible for securing the maintenance of the police force within West Mercia and ensuring that it is effective and efficient. My responsibilities include: holding the Chief Constable to account; developing and issuing a police and crime plan and publishing an annual report; setting the budget for policing and making community safety grants; obtaining the views of people and victims of crime within West Mercia about matters concerning policing; co-operating with criminal justice bodies, to ensure an efficient and effective criminal justice service, and with community safety partners, having regard to their priorities.

I do not intend to be a faceless man sitting in an office but out listening to the community.

I aim to provide a strong and powerful voice for the people of West Mercia and represent their views about how crime and disorder is prevented and its consequences are tackled. I want to develop a closer working relationship between the Commissioner's Office with the Police and with the general public.

I am under no illusions as to the challenges I face in this new role. We are currently living in times of austerity where finance and resources are limited, and police budgets have been slashed by millions of pounds. I aim to ensure that what funding is available is used wisely to provide an effective and efficient police force within West Mercia and to prevent crime and disorder.

The Olympic Games in London was an example of what can be achieved by organisations and the dedication and motivation of individuals to inspire others to achieve greater things. I want to use my position to inspire others to be leaders in the community to prevent crime and disorder, and build a better and safer society for the people of West Mercia. I would particularly like to encourage leadership within communities to promote and provide activities for young people, which engage as many people as possible.

Over the next few months I will be writing my first Police and Crime Plan and would welcome feedback on my proposals before the plan is finalised. I will publish details on my website www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk by January 7th and you will have until January 18th to submit responses. To keep costs down I intend where possible to consult electronically via my website or email but will of course post details to those not online.

If you would like to receive information on future consultations undertaken by my office please either visit my website, or email opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Kind regards

Bill Longmore

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The Farming Page - from Rachel Robinson

Hello from Mawley Town Farm. This is our first article and we hope you find the information of interest. If there is anything you would like to know more about for future editions, please do get in touch.

Mawley Town is a mixed farm, with dairy, beef, arable and milk processing. Situated just a mile out on the Kidderminster side of town, we can be easily identified by our new landmark - a 75kw wind turbine that provides 3/4 of our electricity. We take animal welfare and the environment very seriously, and try to balance the two in modern day farming. We feel very privileged to be the second generation of Robinsons to be custodians of this historic farm, and hope it continues for generations to come to meet the demands of food and farming.

We are currently milking 220 cows, predominantly Holstein Friesians, because they have a tremendous

natural capacity to produce milk. The Holstein derives from the Friesian cow but has been bred for its larger frame, better udders and docile temperament. Their laid back nature makes them nice cattle to work with and the majority of our herd are home-bred. We calve all year round; about 250 calves are born each year, and the calf shed is home to 40 calves at any one time. We keep all our bull calves, even the Holsteins and rear them to maturity. About two thirds of all the calves born will go for beef. All the Holstein heifer calves go out to grass until they are mature at the age of two when they themselves are due to calf. We use artificial insemination for the majority of breeding, but we also have a home bred bull Mawley Conquest, who is out at grass with 80 heifers. For beef we have 'Shortie' a Beef Shorthorn bull, as we only need a small proportion of dairy heifers born each year.

As we enter the new year, we can start to plant crops we didn't manage to get in in the autumn, now that the days are stretching out. Hopefully they won't be in the ground very long before they start to shoot. We grow crops for the cattle, mostly wheat, barley, oats, peas, maize and grass. As I write this in December we have another day of rain falling on saturated ground. We only managed to plant a third of the crops in the autumn due to the wet, so we join all our colleagues across the country in the hope of a kind spring.

We have been processing milk in our small dairy for many years and provide a service to the community with a doorstep delivery. We also supply Carrot Tops, Spar, Talbot Store, the Post Office and Harry Tuffins in the town, along with a network of independent farm shops, tearooms, pubs and schools in south Shropshire and north Worcestershire



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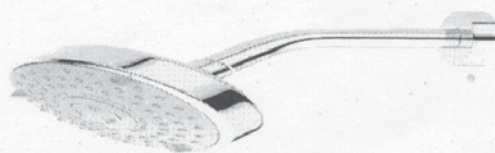
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MEDIUM STEERS	Best quality to 239.0p av. 228.3p; Standard quality to 203.5p av. 196.4p; Also rans to 179.5p; Overall average 202.0p
HEAVY STEERS	Best quality to 238.0p av. 218.0p; Standard quality to 207.5p av. 199.1p; Also rans to 179.5p; Overall average 204.9p.
MEDIUM HEIFERS	Best Quality to 235.5p; av. 220.2p; Standard quality to 208.0p av. 200.5p Also rans to 175.1p; Overall average 208.1p.
HEAVY HEIFERS	Best quality to 230.0p av. 217.2p; Standard quality to 208.5p av. 196.5p; Also rans to 177.0p; Overall average 201.0p.
MEDIUM BULLS	To 219.0p average 185.2p.
HEAVY BULLS	To 232.5p average 204.5p.

BARREN COWS & OVER 48 MONTHS CATTLE – 105

Another very strong trade indeed with genuine Barreners up to 167.5p/kg. Again a lot of plain cows in the entry.

Prices were as follows:-

Grade 1 Cows to 167.50p av. 148.50p	Grade 2 Cows to 139.50p av. 134.99p
Grade 3 Cows to 129.50p av. 126.28p	Grade 4 Cows to 120.00p av. 100.58p

Overall average 124.44p/kg.

FINISHED SHEEP – 3,438

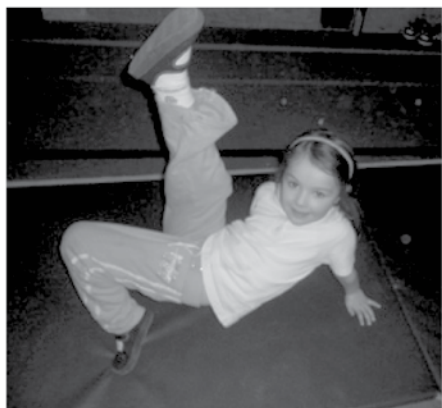
A difficult lamb trade, with an increase in numbers nationally. Wholesalers moaning about fat and the high percentage starting to cut fat. Prices rose last week. Demand fell. Lambs hanging in abattoirs. Trade eases back again. A very difficult cycle.

Prices were as follows:-

Standard Lambs to 174.0p av. 151.1p	Medium Lambs to 167.5p av. 151.0p
Heavy Lambs to 160.0p av. 147.2p	Overweight Lambs to 150.0p av. 142.2p

Export quality lambs sold up to 174.0p per kilo and averaged 157.0p per kilo and home trade lambs sold up to 150.0p per kilo and averaged 148.0p per kilo

The Killing Ewes were a brighter trade as the abattoirs get back after the Muslim festival. Ewes up to £120.00 and an overall average of £62.80, Killing Rams to £109.00



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CONTACT DETAILS

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 71879
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624
Tue	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
	14.00	Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353
	15.45	Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246
	17.00	Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317
	17.30	Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
	18.45	Bridge Club Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	19.00	Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
	19.30	Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe School	E Wigglesworth	01562 822291
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
	16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Emma Reynolds	CM 272746
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street		
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	19.30	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514
	11.00	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808
	15.30	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	19.15	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 717769
	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
	17.30	Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774
	19.00	Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937
	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359
Sat	08.30	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112

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Many prominent scientists are alarmed by the content of some drinking water and actively seek to change the processes involved. The practice of making water safe to drink actually involves adding large amounts of extremely poisonous chemicals to it. Key scientists are now providing evidence that long-term ingestion of small amounts of chemicals like these could be the cause of some major health problems. Here is a list of just a few of the chemicals routinely added to our water supply:

- **Liquified chlorine**
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Even if the water leaves the source in a relatively clean state, don't forget that your water travels through pipes, which may have been underground since Victorian times. It is almost impossible for the water not to become contaminated by something undesirable.

Contaminants in Tap Water Tap water is treated with a large number of chemicals in order to kill bacteria and other microorganisms. In addition, it may contain other undesirable contaminants like toxic metal salts, hormones and pesticides, or it may become contaminated by chemicals or microbes within pipes (e.g. lead, bacteria, protozoa).



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Clarion Coppers - With CSO Nick Morris

Since last month's issue there have been very few relevant incidents to report, but we have our share of things like domestic incidents, assaults, fights, private disagreements, road traffic collisions, missing persons, concerns for safety, etc. On November 22nd just before 8:00pm we had a report of a laser beam being shone on a bungalow in Mortimer Gardens. I did an area search immediately but I didn't see any likely culprits. Between November 18th and 22nd the ground floor door of a barn conversion in Billingsley was forced and jewellery stolen. This is thought to be have been linked to a burglary in Cleobury North on November 23rd where jewellery was stolen after burglars entered through a ground floor toilet window. On November 25th tools were stolen from an unlocked garage in Milson. If you would like to obtain a 'Smartwater' property marking pack at a reduced rate, pop into the police station to leave your contact details. We are usually open every mid morning Monday to Saturday and at other odd times - do try the door even if it says 'closed' because you never know!! If I'm there I normally only lock it when I'm having my break.

In the West Meia area as a whole, we deal with a considerable number of domestic abuse incidents. We encourage all victims of this crime to report it. We have leaflets in the police station with sound advice and useful contact numbers.

Now a word of warning on scams and other fraudulent activity. Criminals continue to develop clever ways of trying to get hold of your money and we must try to stop this. Official advice is if you have been a victim of

fraud, now or in the past, it is important that you report the matter. You can do this by visiting the U.K. National Fraud and Internet reporting centre- Action Fraud:- www.actionfraud.police.uk or telephone:- 0300 123 2040.

Drivers are continuing to receive fines and penalty points on their licences for parking on the zigzags in High Street without a valid reason. Many verbal warnings have been given to offenders. A frequent excuse given is, "I only went to the shop to get ..". Would those drivers accept the excuse a burglar they caught in their house might give, "I only stole a bit of jewellery - I needed the money because I'm short as I don't work"? All laws are for everybody.

Regarding antisocial behaviour, do not hesitate to phone 101 to report it. And if you see vehicles being driven dangerously, report what you see with vehicle details and if possible a description of the driver; we will speak to, and monitor the offender with a view to issuing a formal warning if the behaviour continues. Thanks to everyone who has reported anything to us -it is much appreciated. If the information keeps coming, we can get a bigger picture of what is happening and eventually bring offenders to justice.

Finally, we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. Except criminals, who have no remorse for their crimes or compassion for their victims and who intend to be selfish and bring misery and unhappiness to people who have done them no wrong!

Nick Morris

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THE ROAD TO SUCCESS...



January in the Wyre Forest - Linda Iles writes



Sculptor David Freedman suffers for his art as he installs a dragonfly in the Discovery Centre's main pond.

Today is cold – one of those icy, sparkly, days which are ideal for walking. Stepping out into the forest, I am soon on a narrow track where my boots occasionally crunch through a crust of ice into water and I have to skip around the deeper puddles. I keep my eyes open for fallow deer through the bare oaks but see only pigeons, squirrels and boisterous jays in search of acorns.

The fallen leaves have lost their bright colours and intriguing shapes, having broken down to a dark brown mulch on its way to becoming soil. It seals in moisture and a little residual warmth so that roots and shoots can grow even under today's frost. Looking more closely at a rotting log I

can see that it is home to two kinds of delicate, vivid green mosses and resolve to learn more about these hardy little plants.

Warmed by the exercise, I complete the circle of my walk, crossing the fields and then stopping by the pond to watch for movement under the surface, which still has a thin layer of ice on the unlit side. Was that a water beetle that swam away at the extreme edge of my vision? Or maybe a water boatman? The water has cleared in the cold weather so that I can see right down to the dead leaves on the bottom, where I have no doubt there is plenty going on.

I am resolved to complete this project this year. Although some wildlife has enjoyed my pond since it was dug five years ago, I have never finished the edge or populated the underwater shelves with aquatic plants. As a result this little world is out of balance, and warmer weather brings algal blooms that obscure my views of its inhabitants and shade out other submerged vegetation that I try to establish. Now is the time to plan, and when the spring comes I can bring in my stone, gravel and plants with the hope

of making a thriving and beautiful haven for some of our freshwater-loving wild creatures.

The Discovery Centre ponds have had two years to settle down since the building work was completed. You may have seen the main pond with its dragonfly sculpture for yourself on a visit to the wildlife area and sensory trail. Unfortunately the pond water quality is suffering due to problems with the water treatment system, resulting in sensory experiences of a rather unpleasant and unforeseen kind! I hope the Forestry Commission's expertise get everything working properly and make the pond a thing of the past!

If you would like an opportunity to help our wildlife in the forest this month, Butterfly Conservation have a volunteer work party on Wednesday 16th January, meeting at Dry Mill Lane car park, Bewdley (grid reference SO773764) for 10 am before driving to an area where butterfly habitat is being improved. For more details contact Mike Williams 07802274552 mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk

Linda Iles

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Game Night at Cleobury Golf Club

It was the first time I'd been to the Game Night, something that's becoming a tradition and a real favourite with the carnivores. It's chef Phil Waring's chance to let his imagination run loose with traditional game meats.

A bonus was sharing a table with Iain Jukes of Jukes Wines in Ombersley, who is a member of the club and their wine supplier. We joined two lovely local ladies, Eve and Hilda, who had been to the last event and knew what was coming.

Iain spoke briefly about the wines he'd chosen to serve with the five courses and was handing it out by the glass as guests headed for their tables. Sorry, but as I was driving I kept off the alcohol and have nothing to say about that aspect. But we do buy mixed cases of wine from Jukes and it's the best value by far we've found amongst some of the big names.

The first dish was Phil's Cleobury Fried Pheasant, legs and breasts of that bird in a Southern Fried coating with a winter coleslaw, chilli dip and a small jenga tower of chunky chips. Not a happy combination for me, the coating detracting from a meat flavour that needs no boost in the manner of commercial chicken.

Venison was next, a long established English favourite

that was cleverly combined with chocolate to season it. It came with parsnips, a puree and a crunchy touch of chips, all topped off by a redcurrant Yorkshire pud. A glass or two of one of Mr Jukes' fine reds would have made this one even better, but it was quite a treat on its own. My equal favourite of the four meats.

Iain chatted amiably about life as a wine merchant who specialises in the catering trade and has customers as far away as Northampton. "If you'd asked me what I dreamed of doing when I started in this trade at the age of 16, I could never have dreamed I'd go white water rafting and riding with the gouchos in Argentina," he told us. He's seen most of the wine world, including Australia, and obviously enjoyed it. Lucky man? Yes, but much of his travelling has been at his own company's expense; it's not all been jollies at someone else's expense.

The third dish was rabbit, that most basic of traditional country meats that has kept many families well fed. Phil served this as a pie, with the meat stripped off the bone to make it more accessible, and served up with a subtle mustard mash and succulent baby carrots. My other joint favourite of the evening, it stopped conversation as we all savoured its flavour.

Duck was the final meat, served with cherry sauce, roasted beetroot, leeks and fondant potato. An imaginative mixture again, but I found the meat too tough to make the combination work really well. You have to get duck absolutely right to do it justice and for me that didn't happen.

Have I been spoiled by an exquisite Peking Duck in a noted restaurant in Beijing? Am I unreasonable to expect the same here in rural Shropshire? Maybe so, and I do not want to take anything away from an evening I went to out of curiosity and came away thinking what a great idea it was. Maybe I'll avoid duck in future.

The evening rounded off with a dessert of baked figs in caramel and balsamic vinegar with Italian ricotta cheese on the side and a dash of toasted almonds, another warming dish to send us off into the night chill feeling very well fed.

Congratulations to Phil for the big amount of work he put into this and to the club for being brave and showing those who listen that they have a good talent in their kitchen that any visitor - not just club members - can taste and enjoy. It's too easy to overlook how good the club can be as a place to eat out on that special occasion.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Sue Davis writes:

The Cleobury Mortimer Scouts and Guides would like to thank the community for supporting the 2012 Christmas Post, when an amazing £800.00 was raised. In particular we really appreciate the support received from our retailer helpers, as they sell the stamps and collect the Christmas post on our behalf. This year Lesley Burnside and her staff at Cleobury News sold just under 1,200 stamps, which is an incredible amount as it is half of the total stamp sales. We are grateful to all our advertisers within the Christmas Post Flyer, as this allows us to promote the scheme. The Scouts and Guides volunteer each year to deliver the Christmas cards to your door, which is great training as they will always be able to give clear local directions, having themselves explored the area! Finally thank you to

all those in our community who support the young people in the Scout and Guide movement. Sue

THE READING GROUP

Review: "The Picture of Dorian Grey" by Oscar Wilde

A stimulating novel about morality, controversial when published owing to its homosexual theme. Difficult to get in to but better as it progressed. Wonderful lyrical descriptions - though some went on a bit - and great dialogue, an interesting book with plenty to discuss.

"One Day" by David Nicholls is the choice for our January 21st meeting, 7.30pm at Cleobury Library; copies are available there.

Deana Kimber 271754

LOCAL BRIDGE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Susan Sharp, an avid campaigner for the Footpath Association and other access matters, is looking for help in establishing who owns the Lower Forge footbridge over the River Rea.

It seems the river bank is collapsing and Susan is

trying to persuade Shopshire Council to get it put right before the bank gives way and the bridge is possibly lost. The Council say it belongs to someone else, not them, but won't name names.

Can you help? Do you know who built the bridge, who owns it and who has maintained it? If you do, please contact Susan at susan@eaglelane.co.uk

GOOD ONE, LLOYDS

Tony Booton had one of those accidents you dread when he and Meryl were on a cruise in the eastern Mediterranean recently. He fell over in the shower during a very bad storm and broke a number of vertebrae.

Because he had holiday accident cover through his Lloyds TSB bank account, there was no problem getting him into a local hospital and Meryl into a nearby hotel, then they were both flown home and he was transferred to a local hospital. All on the Axa insurance that comes with a Lloyds account and no silly arguments. Worth knowing..

Knowing that many readers have busy lives that can't be ruled by the simple matter of picking up your Clarion, we've put it out on the internet. Just type in www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk on the 4th of the month. It's all there, 60 pages of it, including the advertisements.

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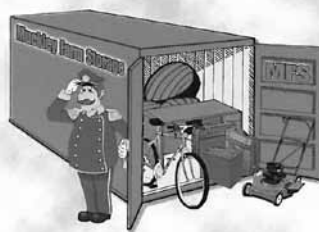


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IN BUSINESS: The Pioneer Centre



Head of Centre Tim Stone at the brand new wheelchair abseil slope.

It's probably Cleobury Mortimer's best kept secret. A conference and recreational facility with room for 310 guests and not visible from any main route. The Pioneer Centre draws about 18,000 visitors a year and hardly makes a ripple in the life of the town.

It's tucked away on the lane from Six Ashes that passes in front of Mawley Town Farm, a 25 acre site that was established as a National Camp in the 1930s. It passed through many hands before the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs took over in 1991 and employed Ryland Robertshaw to revive its fortunes.

Today it's headed by Tim Stone and employs up to 60 people according to the season and demand, 30 of them full time and salaried. He says that almost all of the 25 acres is in use now, with a range of facilities that keeps on growing.

Most of the accommodation from the 30s is still there. Some of the huts are used to house staff and volunteers, while

others have been converted to provide all-weather fun, like the indoor caving centre and the two archery ranges. They complement the outdoor climbing and abseiling towers, the challenging high ropes courses; there are more than we have room to list here.

The raft building ponds, dug last year, gave birth to a rare facility. The earth from those excavations has been used to build a new tower, with a long, sloping climb to the top. Up there is a shelter and the steel structure that allows wheel chair users to rope up and abseil down a steep ramp. "They couldn't join in before, but just had to sit and watch," explains Tim. "Now they can join in and experience the thrill."

The place has grown from its humble beginnings to offer a flexible range of accommodation and teaching and conference facilities that draws users from all over the country and caters for a wide range of dietary needs and different faiths. When you read this, the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade will have stayed for a holiday, the in-house catering able to cater for their kosher food requirements. And they have also welcomed parties of Sikhs and Muslims, again able to provide for the specific needs of separate beliefs.

Guests stay in modern wooden buildings, four people to a room, with ensuite facilities. Those units blend with slightly larger rooms that have wider doors and special provision for wheelchair users. 310 young people staying on one site, with en suite provision including wet rooms and decent drying facilities, is a service very hard to find. The quality of the

buildings is clear when Tim explains that they are up to ten years old, but have had regular cleaning as their maintenance, not refurbishment. All guest accommodation is less than ten years old.

Backing up the sleeping accommodation is a range of recreation and meeting rooms from the 300-seater conference hall via 200 and 100 seater small halls down to rooms for a few dozen. Tim emphasises that the charges include all this extra provision, with no hidden extras to add to the bill; in times of tightened budgets, that honest approach wins friends. In his words: "We do try to avoid hidden costs - the price is the price."

They welcome a lot of school parties, who find the security of everything provided on one site fits in with the need to know where the children are at all times. The play and sports facilities can be used to keep the children occupied throughout the day, and the trained staff much prefer to be busy using their skills - and improving their own standards - than looking for other ways of filling their day.

An essential part of the Centre's operation is its ability to train young people to become qualified and able to progress in their profession. "We have an Activities Team who want to do what they're trained for," says Tim. "Most of the staff are under 25 and enjoy working with people and being flexible. They're pressured, but it's never an unpleasant pressure."

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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THE DEADLINE FOR EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 23rd

The Cleobury Clarion is a member of the Cleobury Mortimer Chamber of Trade

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 077 039 65064 Mrs Theresa Parfitt.

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane.. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

CHAMBER OF TRADE - 01299 270279. Mrs Lesley Burnside is the Chair.

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Or through the Wednesday link at the Cleobury Centre.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE STATION - 0300 333 3000. The Station is not manned full time; you can contact **WPC Anne O'Leary** direct at: @westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES - 01299 270215. Robin Borns is the contact.

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PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk **Matthew Sheehan** is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public, who may address the Council in the Democratic Session before the business starts. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

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