

The Cleobury Clarion



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January 2018

THE BEST THING FROM THAT SNOW



The Snow Bear that looked out over the main street from the church grounds.

The combination of heavy snow and freezing temperatures over the December 9/10th weekend gave the whitest winter scene we've had for years. So soft and lovely to look out on in the morning for those who didn't have to go to work, but not much fun for those trying to get somewhere on time.

It brought out some of the best in local people, from the

unknown snow sculptor who gave the town a bear to watch over the churchyard, to Town Clerk Matt Sheehan and Roger Potter getting their shovels out and digging a pathway along the High Street from Lloyds Bank down to the pedestrian crossing and across to the Post Office. One of the final gestures from Mark and Myfanwy Baldwin as they cleared out their old bookshop was a notice praising Matt for the extra hours he put in. Such a refreshing change from the dreadful stuff we used to see from another source...

With local restaurants busy with Christmas bookings, the problems of getting supplies through was quite a headache. And spare a thought for Simply Fresh, waiting for a delivery from wholesalers Palmer and Harvey, only to hear this this major wholesaler had closed its doors overnight.

Away from the predictable warnings not to travel unless absolutely essential, we all got on with life and found that it's not necessary to go out driving every day. So quiet, too.

MORE ABOUT SELFISH PARKING

A reader stopped me and thanked me for pointing out the selfish parking at the Medical Centre. Then explained that a greater problem is the modern habit of parking on the pavement.

She is quite right. She had recently had to push a wheelchair out into the road to get around a car that was on the pavement. Some of the stupidity of people blocking the pavement on routes to both our schools simply makes walking more dangerous for children. Don't they matter any more?

This is not a selfish community; the response to appeals for funds to help those in distress shows that to be true. So why should we tolerate selfishness that puts people in possible danger?

Let's shame the selfish. The Clarion will print a photo of selfish parking every month, with the registration number legible. And we'll pass the picture on to the police, who have the power to act on such offences. Watch this space. JR



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The Cleobury Clarion, January 2018

Volume Fifteen - Edition Ten



*Seriously good singers. Much
Wenlock Male Voice Choir.
See Page 11.*



*Hydrotherapy for dogs is coming
to Oak Ridge Total Dog Care.
See Page 21*



*Kim Stanley's smart new look
and same great service.
In Business Page 53.*

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NEW FACE IN THE CHURCH



The Reverend Sue Barrett and her husband James have recently moved into the area, taking over a nine acre smallholding at Detton. Sue has been licensed by the Bishop of Hereford to work in the benefice, where her well established ability to sit and listen sympathetically to people with troubles will be a great help.

The Barretts moved here from Feckenham in Worcestershire, where they would take in guests at their home to help them find peace. The first priority in their new home was to get the guests' accommodation sorted out and ready. They have found a warm welcome from the community

and are obviously settling in well; we wish them a long and happy life in this lovely corner of England.

WHIST ON THE HILL

Sonia Pearsall's regular Whist Drives at Doddington Village Hall are a popular feature in the area. Regular followers probably know of the changed starting time for the evenings, but just in case you're not aware, please note that this year it will be 'Eyes Down' at 7.30 and not the long established 8.00 o'clock.

The Bingo nights at the same venue will carry on as before, starting at 8.00. Sonia is on 01584 890874.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This active walking group will be keeping up that good habit with two outings this month.

The first will be on Thursday the 4th, starting from the Earnwood Copse Car Park in the Wyre Forest, off the B4194. DY12 3HS on your sat nav or Ordnance Survey map reference 743784.

On the 18th they'll be meeting at The Tap House, Station Road in Hartlebury village. DY11 7YJ or SO reference 844710. More details from Alan on 01299 400304

BAYTON ROAD CLOSURE

Only a short one this time, which is a blessing after the months of closure further down the road during the summer. This is for a new water connection to be made by Severn Trent just beyond the rise from Redthorne Hill and is scheduled to last from January 8th to 10th.

A plan showing the location is available by clicking <https://roadworks.org?tm=104209505>

CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

A Concert by the Cosford Military Wives Choir will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday the 16th of March

For more information call Val Breakwell on 01299 270830

SILLY BITS

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He grew to that size through too much pi.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of maths disruption.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

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'LIFE AND LEARNING' AT LUDLOW

This is an adult learning programme arranged by Saint Laurence's Parish Church in Ludlow. The idea is to broaden understanding and encourage debate on theology, social issues and the arts.

Lectures are held at the Ludlow Mascall Centre in Lower Galdeford, starting at 10.00 am. Numbers are limited and those planning to attend are encouraged to book a place by calling the Parish Office on 01584 872073.

The first lecture this month is on Thursday the 18th, when Canon Jonathan Boardman will consider 'Religious or Spiritual: An Investigation of Two National Souls'. Then on the 25th Revd Dr Chris Moore marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a lecture on 'The Holocaust and Human Nature.'

We will publish details of the February and March lectures in the appropriate Clarion issues. This does sound like an opportunity to take in some top quality mind food.

DOG WALKING SERVICE

Gayle Yarranton has a Cocker Spaniel and a Labrador, so knows how important regular walking is to keep such lovely animals in good condition. She's set up in business as Dipity Dogs, offering a walking service or home pet care if you're away on holiday or just work long hours and can't leave your best friend for long periods. Whatever the reason you can't give long walks, Gayle can help you and will tailor to suit the dog's needs.



This is Gayle at work, keeping old racing greyhound Hero in trim.

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type, just the sort you can trust with your best friend. She lives in Cleobury, is fully insured and has a CRB check to confirm her standing.

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NEW GOLF CLUB MEMBER

Congratulations to David and Eve Pain on the birth on November 28th of Rafferty David Fitzhenry. The youngest member of Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club weighed in at eight pounds five ounces and can expect to grow up with one of the biggest playgrounds any young man could ask for.

SILLY BITS

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris you'd be in Seine.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says "Dam!"

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ARMISTICE PLAQUE AT THE MARKET HALL

The Clarion carried news about this project last year. So it is gratifying to confirm that sufficient funding has been generated to allow this to go ahead. To date the community has raised in excess of £2000 and West Midland Cooperative provided a grant of £1350.

A local contractor has been awarded the contract to supply and fit the plaque to the Market Hall. It will mirror the existing plaque to Boer War veterans and carry the names of all those from our Parish who fell during the Great War. It will be in place for August 2018 and details regarding the dedication will be released soon.

The Royal British Legion, WW1 Group and the Town Council very much appreciate the support for the project.

Thank you all very much.

WHAT IS LIFE ABOUT ? DO WE KNOW?

Have you ever given these questions about life really serious thought? If so, this could be for you.

This is a chance to explore personally the meaning of life itself in this complex world we live in. To seek answers about

faith, ourselves and the meaning of all our precious lives, in a safe and friendly environment and with others.

The Alpha Course begins here in February with a Sunday afternoon get together in the Market Hall with tea provided for everyone and details of what it will be about. Come along, just to hear about it. There is no obligation. The course itself will begin shortly afterwards, and run through until April.

More information and dates to follow in the February edition. Look for posters about the town.

Enquiries: Barbara 01299 489705.

RUSKIN IN WYRE

Kate Quinton, Community Development Officer at Wyre Community Land Trust, with an invitation:

We invite you to be part of the Ruskin in Wyre events programme, delivered for the Guild of St George by the Wyre Community Land Trust.

Join us at Ruskin Land for a family friendly Midwinter Tales lantern lit trail on February 17th, 5.30 to 7.00pm. Wrap up warm and come and hear tall tales of the forest bringing its dark corners to life. This is a free event, please get in touch to book your place.

Craft is at the centre of our work. On February 21st in half term, we are offering a day course for adults and children to come to the forest and be creative together. You will have the opportunity to use traditional tools to turn local Wyre oak into useful items for your home. Spaces are £20 for one child with one adult, numbers are limited please get in touch to book.

Alice our resident craftsperson is running a Spoon Carving day , 10.30 to 4.00 on February 24th. Learn safe and effective use of the axe and knife to carve your own Wyre Oak spoon. Book to secure a place; £20 per person.

To book or for further information Contact: events@wyreclt.org.uk

Or book online at ruskinland.org.uk.

Kate Quinton

SILLY BIT

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Atheists Anonymous is a non-prophet organisation.

Sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre: 'Keep off the Grass'.



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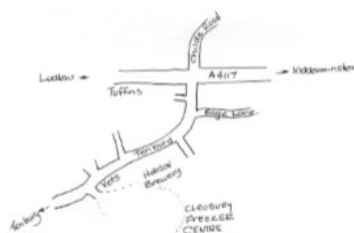
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BAYTON'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This December 3rd gathering had special significance, as Saint Bartholomew's church had been closed for more than a year for a comprehensive rebuilding programme. There was tension right to the last days, when Severn Trent managed to reconnect the water pipes and ensure a supply for tea making.

The concert tickets sold out long before the event and something like 130 people plus the 30-strong Much Wedlock Male Voice Choir under Paul Kelly filled the church to capacity and a wee bit more.



The choir were excellent, with a programme of both carols and popular favourites, then joining in the community singing sessions. They have a total membership of 46 and are hoping to recruit just a few more to help them celebrate their 50th birthday this year.

Brian Link hosted the afternoon with an easy style and a lot of information about the restoration of the church. He explained that there used to be chicken wire suspended from

the ceiling to catch the ancient plaster that had been falling on the congregation's heads. The roof had been stripped back and remade, with modern insulation and materials. But the main timber spans, apparently installed during a rebuild 500 years ago, were in good condition and needed no replacement. At the other extreme, the builders had dug down to bedrock to cure an old problem with damp. The stone flag floor does look good.

Before the interval there was a star performance by Ollie Hart-Bradford, booked by Brian Link after he read about this local talent in these pages. Ollie does sing well, in a relaxed manner that the audience loved. Big rounds of applause for both his sessions.



Ollie Hart-Bradford really wowed the audience.

The interval brought another eye opener. Tea was served by a legion of helpers who carried it to the seated audience while the choir queued into the kitchen. Then everyone was handed a foil wrapped package of locally made sandwiches and cakes, including a small piece of the Christmas variety. All made by church volunteers and part of the admission charge. Superb.



Brian Link did a great job as host. Easy manner and lots of detail to keep people informed.

There was a raffle, but I didn't see the tickets, so missed out. There must have been close to 20 prizes, the winning numbers picked out and a runner sent off to hand over the prize as the next dip into the bag was just happening. The result was a draw that held the audience's attention and not too much time spent before we were back to the music.

It was close to five o'clock when the concert ended with a presentation to a surprised Ollie Hart-Bradford. This young man does have a modest way, not at all trying to be the star he will surely become.

The final farewell from the host was an invitation to take a bag of cooking apples from the church porch, as they were surplus to needs and what was left was going to West Midlands Safari Park on Monday. And very fine apples they were.

The Concert drew visitors from North and South Wales, plus Birmingham, which shows how its reputation has grown. If you get a chance to go, don't miss it. Great stuff. JR

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CLEE HILL COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

The Group was formed in 2012 with the aim of bringing together people interested in wildlife to do something positive for local species. The group's activity is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee, Clee Hill Common, Catherton Common and surrounding areas.

HELPING BIRDS TO FIND A HOME

In a changing landscape, sometimes birds appreciate a helping hand to find a suitable nest site. Through her involvement with the Group, Angela MacKirdy was aware that the number of Kestrels in the UK is declining. Kestrels have nested near her smallholding on Catherton Common for many years but their chosen tree was decaying badly and not providing enough shelter to allow chicks to survive. She and husband Iain researched suitable designs and built a nest box in spring 2017 which was erected on a pole close to the original nest site. They watched anxiously as a pair of kestrels investigated both the old nest site and the new 'des res'.

Happily, they chose the latter and went on to raise a single chick which fledged successfully. The chick was ringed to help with future



It may not look much to you, but to kestrels it's a 'des res'. The nesting box installed by Angela and Iain MacKirdy.

For 2018 the group has successfully obtained a grant from the Ludlow Rotary Club Cares fund for new nest box schemes in the Clee Hill area for Kestrels, Pied Fly Catchers, Redstarts, Swifts, Swallows and House Martins.

The Clee Hill group is free and open to anyone from anywhere. There is no need to be a wildlife expert or skilled in identification, just an interest in our local area and its wildlife. Becoming involved provides the incentive to become more aware of wildlife and to learn a bit more about the species that

occupy the beautiful landscape of Clee Hill.

For more information about the nest box scheme and the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group visit the Shropshire Community Wildlife Groups website www.shropscwgs.org.uk or email webmaster@shropscwgs.org.uk

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Christmas and New Year celebrations are behind us and we are looking forward to another busy year. Our first Business meeting will on January 4th at the Baxter Church Rooms, Bullring, Kidderminster, at 7.30 pm. On Saturday, the 13th we will be holding our annual Members Reflection Day, at the home of Christine Saxby.

Our next Speaker/Supper meeting at La Brasserie, Kidderminster, is on the 18th, 6.30 for 7.00 pm start. The topic of the evening will be relating to the environment and food.

The first of our regular informal Coffee Mornings at the George Hotel, Bewdley will be on the 25th at 10.00. Do come and meet some of us.

Elke Jury

SILLY BIT

She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.



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For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk, **stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer**

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TV FILM CREW UNEARTH HISTORIC PORSCHE

In 2014 a German television film crew working on an antiques programme were visiting an old barn where a number of cars had been stored. Amongst them were two of the 911 sports models dating from the 1960s. One of them, a red coupe, was numbered 300 - 057 and a check with the Porsche Museum got a very strong reaction, because it was older than any of the 911 models in the factory's possession.



The car as found in 2014

The Museum agreed to buy both cars at a price set by an independent valuer and the oldest one was moved to the museum's workshops, where a long process of restoration began. The car had not been restored or altered in any way, which made it even more valuable as a museum exhibit.

The restoration used the original components as much as possible, though the team had to use some body parts from another model of similar age. After three

years of craftsmen's time the job was done and one immaculate Model 901, made in the Weissach factory in October 1964 is now on show at a special exhibition with the title "911 (901 No 57) A legend takes off". The exhibition will run until April 8th this year and Porsche enthusiasts from all over the globe are expected to look in to see this remarkable piece of company history.



This is the only example of the 911 series in the museum that carries the 901 badge of the first cars made. The car was launched and was selling well under that title until the French Peugeot factory's solicitors wrote and pointed out that Peugeot had patented the idea of a series using three numbers with 0 in the middle to identify them. Their 403 and 404 were big sellers globally and the French were not going to have their thunder stolen. Porsche did the honourable thing and changed the badge from 901 to 911, which has gone on to sit proudly on the flanks of over a million elegant sports cars.

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Strangles – An Old Adversary

This disease strikes terror into the heart of horse owners probably because of the emotive sound of the name. Although it is true that horses can die from strangles this is very rare in the United Kingdom. More often one sees a profuse nasal discharge (usually from both nostrils), enlarged and sore lymph glands just inside the bone of the lower jaw and throat. The horse may develop a fever, loss of appetite, depression and a cough. Less severe clinical signs can also be seen of dullness, short term fever and inappetence with only a mild nasal discharge. As with human coughs and colds different levels of immunity of individuals means that you get different levels of clinical signs. Very occasionally some cases will have serious complications where the bacteria spreads throughout the body to cause further abscessation known as 'bastard strangles'.

Up to 10% of horses may recover and appear normal but remain infected. These horses are 'silent carriers' and harbour the bacteria within the guttural pouches of the throat; they can infect other horses.

Strangles is caused by a bacterium called *Streptococcus equi equi* – usually we forget the second 'equi' when we talk about it and refer to *Strep. equi*. It is extremely infectious and contagious and it can affect horses of any age.

The key point to remember about infection is that, apart from being spread through the air, it can also be carried on clothing, hands, grooming equipment and even on the coats of dogs and cats.

Once an outbreak starts isolation is the key – but more about that later.

Can we protect our horses against Strangles?

Prevention is most definitely better than cure, this is done by keeping your horse away from infected horses and infected material. There is a strangles vaccine in the UK which can reduce clinical signs though it is not widely used and is actually out of stock at present.

On all livery yards there has to be a policy of openness. It is generally not a matter of neglect that a horse becomes infected with strangles but more one of bad luck. It is not appropriate for any individual owner of an affected horse to keep quiet about the situation – considerable aggravation will ensue as more and more horses become infected. As vets we are bound by client confidentiality but in rare cases where clients are not open about the situation with fellow horse-owners, it can look as though we are colluding with them.

Treatment

Nursing care is the mainstay of treatment involving damp sloppy food to aid swallowing. Where abscesses are forming applying warm poultices to help them mature and come to a head and then flushing once they burst to speed resolution. Anti inflammatory to make the patient feel more comfortable and reduce

fevers. Antibiotics are controversial and should only be used in the very early stages as discussed later.

What should we do when an outbreak is confirmed?

Once an outbreak is confirmed then the managers of equine premises should stop all movement on or off the yard. All the horses should be put into at least three categories: those which have had no contact with the infected animals; those which have been in contact; those which are clinically affected

Once these groups have been set up there should only be any movement into the clinically affected group.

Owners of horses in each group should have no contact with those in other groups until the outbreak has been resolved.

It is helpful if owners of horses in groups 1 and 2 take rectal temperatures twice daily and keep a record – if you are unsure how to do this then please ask one of us at Severn Edge. We don't want to hear of any accidents! A rising rectal temperature indicates infection before obvious signs appear.

If the temperature goes above 38.2C then there is an argument for giving penicillin injections to affected individuals. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days and shedding of bugs takes place 2 to 7 days after this and will persist for 2 to 3 weeks.

Swelling in the lymph nodes under the jaw will usually occur 7 to 10 days after infection and once this occurs then most antibiotic treatment is useless. However, if one can catch the initial rise in temperature then the course of the infection can be significantly shortened.

Management of infected horses.: Arrange for the horse to be swabbed at the earliest opportunity; do not have any contact with any other uninfected horses during the outbreak; try to arrange for only one person to deal with infected horses on the premises; set up a foot bath with Virkon S outside the box; change into overalls before attending to your horse.

Dr Mark Sanderson BVM&S MRCVS



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NEW FACES, NEW DOG CARE CENTRE



"We're devoted to dogs." Nia and Glenn of Oak Ridge Total Dog Care. Two people who have given up professional positions that took them around the world, to open a dog care centre here in Cleobury Mortimer, are definitely out of the ordinary.

Glenn did 21 years in the international exhibition business and Nia held a high position in IT. They've both spent time in the Middle East and seem glad to be settled in rural England. Glenn quotes one German banker telling him "The Sultan of Dubai has an income from oil of \$120 million US a day, but the real money is in Abu Dhabi." For two people whose feet are firmly on the ground, that's the stuff of fairyland.

They have two loveable mutts of their own, one a rescue dog from Far Forest Kennels. And the two acres of land they have at Mawley is being converted to accommodate dogs taken in for either day care or home boarding. There are two secure outdoor play paddocks, plus indoor play and rest areas. For the day care side of the service,

they're open from 7.30am to 6.00pm, with later pick ups available because they know people don't all work to a fixed schedule. The dogs get play and exercise time plus training if the owner asks for it.

They have been inspected and been awarded a licence for boarding by the County Council. For them, home boarding means the guest dogs allowed to mix with their own pets, in the house or out in the spacious play area. "They are not isolated, they're cared for," emphasises Nia.



Day care units, all brand new, with secure play area around. Even on a snowy day there were dogs playing.

Future plans are ambitious, with a 68 square metre building due to be fitted with a hydrotherapy unit. Not exactly a common service, but well known in horse racing circles as an aid to injury recovery and to keep muscles in the best of tone. They've been talking to local vets about this installation and there's great interest in the venture, which is due to open in July this year.

They see hydrotherapy being used for two particular categories. The first as an aid to

agility and fitness, so of interest to owners entering dogs in the international competition scene.

The second area is rehabilitation, to aid recovery from orthopaedic surgery and reduce the effect of neurological degeneration. It will increase the animal's quality of life, which any owner will understand and wish for.

The hydrotherapy treatment will only be given when the dog has been referred by a veterinary surgeon. It will involve 30 minute sessions that include a warm shower wash, 20 minutes exercise in the unit and a final shower and drying. "20 minutes in the unit is the equivalent of a 10 mile walk," Glenn explains.

The essential curing element is the ease with which an animal can move when the water carries its body weight and eases the burden of its full weight if it is in recovery. It gets confidence in recovery much quicker than simple exercise through walking.

Nia has trained for this work and is Level Three certified by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association, essential for her to offer the treatment. The Association will check the unit and her operating competence every year, requiring evidence of her continuous professional development with at least 40 hours of training to keep up to date with developments.

It's a serious business and she will stay eligible to do the work only by meeting exacting standards.

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The Department for Work and Pensions Universal Credit has changed its telephone service lines to free call.

UC Live Service used to be on 0345 600 0723; it's now on Freephone 0800 328 9344. UC Full Service was on 0345 600 4272 and it's now on Freephone 0800 328 5644.

Our thanks to Councillor Madge Shineton for this information.

IN PRAISE OF....

Talking to Kim Stanley about the 'In Business' feature on Page 53, we asked if she had a customer who could give an opinion of her work. Hers is another "local girl makes good" success and Zoe Partington clearly thinks so as well. This is what she wrote:

"Kim's been an incredibly successful business woman and full of aplomb in my eyes, our very own Meghan Markle. Kim has always offered an outstanding spa treatment to all her customers that is good value for money. It's been at least 20 years since I first called on Kim to give me some light relief from losing my sight in hard circumstances. Having her pamper me with luxury gave me composure and a boost, but she

is so much more than that, her assurance and calmness always provides a relaxing space for taking a step back from life.

Kim and her new ventures and new designs provide the town with a business that is worth its weight in gold. Kim is a rare jewel and only adds to the multitude of hardworking folk who make Cleobury Mortimer a town to feel proud to be part of an amazing community."

Zoe Partington

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

At our December meeting, when three people braved the snows and shared a bottle of festive red, Vicki Honeybourne had some good news.

She joined the group early in the year, looking to expand her writing skills beyond the very specialist sphere of education. The monthly challenge of producing interesting text to include a few chosen words has brought out a more imaginative side and one piece she wrote was recently sent to a writing competition that was part of the Women in Comedy Festival at Manchester. She came away with second prize.

We toasted absent friends, enjoyed reading and listening and selected the challenge for

January. The opening phrase is "Mayday, Mayday!" with the option of including the words 'love, IT and failure'.

The Group meet in the library on Monday the 8th at 6.30, when we hope Gill Guest has been persuaded to stand in for the absent chairman. A very happy New Year to all who read and write; you are always welcome at our meetings. *JR*

WINTER TRAVEL TIPS

The AA have warned that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take a shovel, blankets/sleeping bag, extra clothing (including scarf, hat and gloves) 24 hour supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare battery, petrol can, first aid kit and jump leads. I felt a right idiot on the bus!

Steve Todd

SpArC THEATRE SPRING BROCHURE

The lively SpArC Theatre in Bishops Castle has its Winter/Spring Brochure online at www.sparctheatre.co.uk. It's a very impressive line-up, including the Castle Players' 'Jack and the Beanstalk', the Royal Opera House presentation of Bizet's 'Carmen' via satellite and the National Theatre's 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof', also on satellite. Well worth a look.



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THE BOOKSHOP

After more than 31 years trading on Cleobury's High Street, M & M Baldwin finally shut their shop on December 2nd. The stock is being dispersed, either to auction, or by donation to the Severn Valley Railway, the Cleobury Mortimer History Society, or the National Trust at Berrington Hall.

Books on Military History (particularly on Intelligence) are being retained as stock for a small specialist business backing up Mark's continuing programme of presentations on The Codebreakers of WW2.

Mark & Myfanwy would like to thank all their customers for their support over the years, whether that has been buying or selling books, postcards or photocopying. When we move, we will certainly miss being in such a central position in the town, which allowed many people to pop in for a chat, even if they weren't buying. Mark has always maintained that we were in the information business, rather than just the book business.

Thanks to all! *Mark & Myfanwy*

PS: Anyone want to buy a bookcase? Many shapes and sizes available.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

January – New Year, New Start! Start making plans for the coming year. Flicking through seed catalogues and making notes about changes to your garden on the plants and layout to improve its look. If you have workable ground you can still plant bare root roses, trees, fruit bushes and hedges.

It's time to harvest your winter vegetables this month. If you've over-indulged with them over the Christmas season, use them to make wonderfully thick warm soups.

When the weather allows, prune deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees. It must be done before the first signs of spring.

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 are relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. Our Garden Club has a very

friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome. Membership £10.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday 24th January, the speaker will be David Mills on 'Bees'.

Pauline Bowen

CLEOBURY W.I.

Historic amount of snow but most of us made it to the Kings Arms for our brilliant Christmas bash. Great food, plenty of sparkle, chat, Secret Santa's sack and we toasted 95 years of Cleobury WI. Not sure what the other customers thought of our rendition of Happy Birthday to us but it's too good an excuse for another party. Anyone who has been a member look out for an invitation to a celebration in February. Meanwhile we will be learning how to make unusual cards at the January meeting, 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th and providing fundraising Winter Warmer lunches 12-2pm on January 25th, both at the Market Hall. Memberships start this month, to join us or for more information call 01299 270983, email judyasant10@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

Judy Sant

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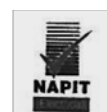
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I hope readers managed to have a pleasant break over Christmas and the New Year. Unsurprisingly perhaps given the events of the year just past, my New Year's message is similar to that of last year, namely 2017 really was a momentous year in British politics. So for Members of Parliament, like anyone else, some time with family over Christmas provides a welcome respite before we re-enter the fray, re-energised and ready to address the challenges ahead.

Last May Shropshire Council elections saw little change, other than in Broseley. But the General Election in June saw a significant reversion to two party dominance of elections, as in the past. Both Conservatives and Labour increased their vote share from the 2015 election, with the other minor parties losing ground. Here in South Shropshire, I was delighted to be returned with an increased vote share and increased majority, but was surprised and disappointed the Conservatives lost an overall majority in the House of Commons.

Whatever we think of the result, it did confirm one thing – that Brexit must proceed. In June, over 80% of voters backed candidates who stood on manifestos which included respecting the decision of the British people in the referendum to leave the European Union.

So implementing Brexit will naturally take up the majority of Parliamentary time in 2018. The process by which we leave will define our country's relationship with the European Union for years to come, so it is vital we do what we can to secure the best possible exit for Britain. But it is of course also essential to continue to address the issues facing the country today, and

for me, this means ensuring families in South Shropshire benefit as we build a Britain fit for the future.

2017 will also be remembered for a series of tragic events, so I am also hopeful for a more peaceful year in 2018. The terrorist attacks the UK faced last year, including Manchester, Borough Market and Westminster Bridge, and the horror of Grenfell Tower were truly harrowing. In the face of these atrocities it was encouraging to see the way the country came together. I saw first-hand the response from our emergency services, which was exemplary, including the NHS, but I hope sincerely there will be no similar cause for them to repeat their actions again this year.

As always, I will continue to hold my regular surgeries in different towns across the Ludlow Constituency throughout 2018. If you would like to speak to me about an issue or concern, please see my website www.philipdunne.com for the dates and locations of upcoming surgeries. You can also raise a concern by emailing me at philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk, or by writing to me at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

If you would like to keep up to date with my work for the Ludlow Constituency, you can follow me on Twitter or Facebook by searching Dunne4Ludlow, or you can sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, either via my website above or by emailing me requesting to join my mailing list.

I wish readers all the best for 2018.

Philip Dunne MP

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POETRY PLEASES MORE PEOPLE

The Poetry Club is in its second year and going gently (poetically?) from strength to strength. As more people have become aware of its existence it grows gently and the range of verse presented every month grows with it.

We are very lucky in having Tony Smith travel in from Kidderminster to enthuse and introduce something most of us have not heard before. Tony is a considerable character and Linda Fowler of Glint Print, who prints his books of verse about Kidderminster characters and pubs, describes him as "A party on legs". You don't frown for long when Tony's about.

David Walford, Cleobury's own man of poetry, fits in club nights when he's not out walking hills and moorland. If he's not there, someone else will read one of David's many fine works. Tony Rudd comes in from Bewdley, where he's a noted member of their poetic group, and from the west Robert Hodge can recite Rabbin Burns from his considerable memory or will play a Russian sung poem with that country's male descant choir in support. For sure, we are never bored.

Pauline Ray reads works she had published along with contributions to the old 'Unity' parish magazine and recently Janet Dickinson from

Chaddesley Corbett paid a visit and read from her self published book of verse. There are more poets in this area than you would ever guess if we didn't gather and swap rhymes. The odd bottle of wine does help the friendly atmosphere.

Tony Smith recently read one of the most moving poems I've heard. It was written by John Gillespie Junior in 1942, when he was over here from Canada to learn how to fly a Spitfire:

High Flight

Oh, I have slipped the surly
bonds of earth

And danced the skies on
laughter silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed, and
joined the tumbling mirth

Of sun split clouds - and done
a hundred things

You have not dreamed of -
wheeled and soared and swung

High in the sunlit silence
hovering there.

I've chased the shouting wind
along and flung

My eager craft through footless
halls of air...

Up, up the long delirious
burning blue

I've topped the wind-swept
heights with easy grace

Where never lark, or ever eagle
flew

And while with silent lifting
mind I trod

The high untrespassed sanctity
of space

Put out my hand, and touched
the face of God.

The young man who penned that wonderful description of the thrill of flight did not survive. He was lost in battle a few short months later.

It occurs to me that I give too much space to poetry on these pages and perhaps I should be fitted with a word governor. But please do not let my enthusiasm suggest that we are a solemn lot, preoccupied with the fine detail of such writing as this. We listen, we laugh and sometimes are moved close to tears.

Typical of this approach was the recent proposal that we change the club's title from the rather solemn sounding Poetry Club to The Nearly Dead Poets Society. That was agreed unanimously.

The Nearly Dead Poets Society meets in the town library on Love Lane at 7.30 on Monday the 29th of this month. Come and be both welcomed and entertained. JR

GETTING OLD

SILLY BITS

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought 'Nap Time' was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

43 hardy folks braved the near blizzard weather conditions on December 8th to attend the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. A further 12, who were unable to attend because of mobility difficulties and the icy weather, were delivered food parcels to their doors. Huge thanks to Elliot, Manager of Cleobury Co-op, for supplying the buffet food as part of their Community Programme, and to four of his staff, Jackie, Karen, Bob and Niall, who provided help on the day. Thanks also to Trevor Wood for his musical entertainment which always sends people home with a smile on their faces. A true example of the generations and community coming together and supporting each other.

The younger generation were kept entertained when 33 children attended the Family Christmas Party on December 15th, with special guest Father Christmas dropping in to say ho ho ho! Once again, lots of happy, smiling faces leaving the building!

The Social Club was a popular venue for family gatherings and social events during 2017. We hope you will continue to give us your support during 2018, especially as our Club Steward, Gemma, has some great plans for future events. We'll keep you posted throughout the year, here in the Clarion as well as on our Facebook page and outside notice boards. Gemma can be contacted on 271448.

Glenys Turpin

VERSATILE, THAT'S GORDON



Gordon Winters is already known locally for the supply of raw meat products for your dog - good stuff. But there's another skill he's been honing as he

qualified as a driving instructor. That's not an easy process, taking up to two years; Gordon says he was lucky to meet and work with Rob Simmons, a man with 30 years experience as an Advanced Driving Instructor.

The learning involved working with a driving school senior instructor and when he met Rob Simmons he realised what a class act the man is. "Knocked spots off both driving schools I'd been with," says Gordon. "He was exceptionally good and taught well. Expensive but value for money."

Gordon has not been impressed by some of the standards he's seen, like a pupil with 40 hours of tuition who's never been allowed to go beyond fourth gear. With a new standard driving test due to be launched that includes basic Motorway tuition, getting into top gear to cruise quietly and economically is an essential part of the proper use of such major routes.

He's got himself a Suzuki Swift, a popular choice locally, and finds it both roomy and economical. Looks like he's going to be a busy man.

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The December Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 3 rd	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Thurs 4 th	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Earnwood Copse Park. Page 5		
	7.30	Soroptimists Business Meeting, Baxter Church Rooms, Bullring, Kidderminster. Page 13		
Sun 7 th	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only. All types, all ages.		
Mon 8 th		Temporary closure of Bayton Lane at Cleobury Mortimer end. Page 5		
	6.30	Creative Writing Group, The Library, Love Lane. Page 23		
Fri 5 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 8 th	7.00	Cleobury Town Council meet in Cleobury Country Centre. The first 15 minutes is a public participation session.	Matt Sheehan	01299 271 154
Fri 12 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Wed 10 th		Bayton Lane works due to end and lane re-opened		
	10.00	Cleobury CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. Coffee and cake for £1.50!		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe choir meet and greet in the Market Hall.	Kate	01584 890 284
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street	David Taylor	01299 270 793
Thurs 11 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 17 th	11.00	Sing, laugh, Breathe choir, Market Hall	Kate	01584 890 284
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall, lots of parking spaces	Sonia Pearsall	1584 890 874
Thurs 18 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPITED TODAY		
	10.00	"Religious or Spiritual?" lecture in Ludlow Madscall Centre. Limited numbers-booking on 01584 872073. Page 7		

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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 18 th	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Tap House, Hartlebury. Page 5		
Sat 20 th	9.30-12.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in and around St Marys Church	Clare Todd	01299 272 300
Wed 24 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe choir, Market Hall	Kate	01584 890 284
Thurs 25 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	"The Holocaust and Human Nature" lecture at Ludlow Mascall Centre. Page 7		
	10.00	Soroptimists Coffee Morning, George Hotel, Bewdley. Page 13		
Fri 26 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874
Sat 27 th	10.00 to 5.00	Final day of Clair Carter's exhibition at Photo Space, Castle Street, Ludlow.		
Mon 29 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society gather at the Library, Love Lane.		
Wed 31 st	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe choir, Market Hall	Kate	01584 890 284
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FEBRUARY.....		
Thurs 1 st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 7 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe choir meet at the Market Hall	Kate	01584 890 284
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890 874

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CCTV to protect threatened falcons



Following the deliberate killing of the nesting pair of peregrine falcons in May last year, the Shropshire Peregrine Group, RSPB and West Mercia Police have worked together in order to bring in heightened security measures to assist in the protection of these rare falcons.

The area where the birds nest has been patrolled by local volunteers and Ludlow Safer Neighbourhood Team but unfortunately no less than eight birds have been killed from poisoning since 2010 which amounts to a quarter of Shropshire's current breeding population being lost in such terrible circumstances.

Following an appeal for information, a number of reports were received in confidence identifying local individuals who were suspected of being involved in these attacks against the falcons and work will be carried out in order to observe local areas and

individuals in order to gather more intelligence on this matter.

Peregrines have been sighted in the area of Clee Hill in recent weeks and are expected to nest in the area once more in the New Year. Both the police and The Peregrine Group are fully aware of the threats being made towards the falcons therefore security measures have been put in place to aid in protecting them. Surveillance cameras have now been installed that cover the nest site from a number of different angles and operate on a 24 hour basis. The footage will be reviewed by The Peregrine Group on a regular basis and anything of evidential value will be passed on to the police for investigation. In addition, increased numbers of volunteers will be deployed in the area when the peregrines are expected to nest again in early 2018.

With these security methods that have been put in place, we hope that this will deter any further harm being caused to the birds and West Mercia Police ask for anyone with information to come forward and report it confidentially either through 101 or Crimestoppers or alternatively you can email the local policing team on ludlow.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk.

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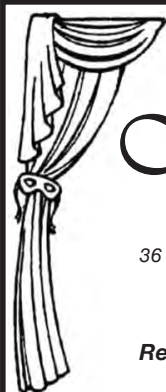
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Like buses, you hear nothing of transport reviews and then two come along at once. In the last few weeks, Cleobury Town Council have been invited to contribute to 'Connecting People with Places – A Practical Vision for Travel in Shropshire' and 'The future of rural bus services in Shropshire'. They have responded to both in quite strong terms, pointing out the inadequacy of the current provision for this area. We await the results with interest...

No sooner had the ink dried on last month's column when news came in of yet another major fuel leak, this time in Bewdley. Apparently it was the same vehicle that had shut down much of Kiddy three days before and was said to have been fitted with a new fuel tank. This time the cause was claimed to be the driver going over speed humps too quickly and he was sacked (probably the first time problems have been caused by a Diamond bus going too fast!). Still, it made the front page of the 'Shuttle' with a photo showing local residents mopping up the spillage using anything to hand including incontinence pads... Thinking about it, these could be a useful product to carry on the buses as passengers may rightly feel a little 'nervous' when contemplating their trip with Diamond.

More complaints in the 'Shuttle' about the recently reprieved No 1 service with regular breakdowns and no shows. This is not restricted to that service as one 2L was diverted up the Bewdley bypass due to roadworks and broke down. A relief vehicle was sent and that broke down as well. They were finally picked up by yet another vehicle driven by an Inspector as they had run out of drivers. You couldn't make it up.... On another occasion, the engine of a 2L from Ludlow kept stopping as it came over the hill and one elderly lady, fed up with the delays, asked the driver if Diamond had considered installing a coffee machine and a toilet... Apparently, as part of the Government's plan to get rid of old polluting diesel cars, owners are to be offered the option of either a scrappage payment to enable them to buy a cleaner vehicle or a bus pass... No, me neither.

Apparently driverless buses are in the news with Singapore due to introduce them in 2022. It could be argued that we already have them as many of the 2L jockeys have little control over

where their vehicle goes or what it does. This reminds me of an old Airline joke regarding pilotless planes. It is said that eventually there will be only two crew in the cockpit, a man and a dog. The man will be there to reassure passengers that everything is under control and the dog will be there to bite him if he touches anything...

Those with time on their hands might want to try 'Desert Bus' a new video game which depicts the the eight hour trip from Tucson Arizona to Las Vegas in real time. Nothing happens as you drive down a straight, empty road but the bus lists to one side so you must concentrate because if you go off the road, you get towed back to the start – also in real time. Should you manage the whole eight hours, you are awarded one point and then you get to drive back... They should be told that this has already been done here in South Shropshire but with added breakdowns just to liven things up.

Finally, can I wish all our readers a Happy New Year. Thank you for all the reports and information – please keep them coming. We can only hope that 2018 will bring us a better service in which case, I'll have to find something else to write about. I loved the cartoon about the bus stop by 'Jorge' in the December edition and gather that there are more on the way. Talking about cartoons, I remember a very old one: This depicts an irate woman standing by a wishing well with a double decker bus parked in the background. She is shouting 'No! No! – I said I wanted a 38 BUST!'. They say the old ones are the best but I'm not convinced...



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ON THE MARKET

Another new face on the monthly Farmers' Market, this time from the Vale of Evesham.



Dallas Maertens of Bow Brook Farm, with an array of home bred meats plus preserves.

14 years ago, Marco and Dallas Maertens arrived in the UK after the trauma of leaving the farm they had developed in Zimbabwe. They found a 30 acre holding at Bow Brook Farm in Drakes Broughton, near Pershore and set about the business of building a new life.

You can see some of the results on the stall Dallas runs at the Cleobury Country Farmers' Market, and we'll report on the pork we purchased in a later edition. They keep pigs and

sheep on their property, the raw materials for the sausages, bacon, preserve and straight forward meat portions they sell at selected markets.

There's also a range of preserves that get high praise from other professionals. Like Annie Pyatt of Cosy Kitchen, who used their lemon curd in her muffins and was delighted with the result.

Take a look at www.bowbrookfarm or, better still, try some of their produce at this month's market on the 20th.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year and hope you can join us in our walks that include monthly Parish Walks (next one is Sunday Feb 4th), longer Social Walks and shorter Walking for Health outings every other Wednesday. Even better, help us maintain the local footpaths -see below.

Our last work party of 2017 early in December was successful. Some years we have to cancel because of bad weather but we had a pleasant day to be outside, putting in a new gate off Common Lane and two other small jobs.

The next work party will not be until March; we have a list of

items to keep us busy for another year and would welcome more hands. If you are a walker and appreciate how good our local footpath network is, why not come and help us? It will not stay that way without our efforts. Contact us on footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

SAINT MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The Parish Church looked very welcoming, dressed with lights for both the Christmas Fayre and Farmers' Market. George Castledine was a splendid Father Christmas and the event was boosted by a generous donation that lifted the proceeds for the church to a total of £1252. A good festive season's start.



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I'm writing this article on The Snowy Day. It remains to be seen whether there are lots more snowy days before publication.

Some thinning has been going on in the forest belonging to the Guild of St. George at Ruskin Land. Stacks of oak are accumulating in the loading area down the hill from Unclys Farm and being taken away periodically by timber lorries, sadly mainly for use as firewood because of its poor quality. The objective of management is to establish a regular thinning regime so that the timber grows more strongly and the woodland becomes lighter and richer in species. Between the farm and the cattle grid on Tanners Hill the thinned woodland will be fenced so that it can be grazed by cattle, producing a 'wood pasture'- a habitat which will form a natural link between the orchards of Bowcastle and Unclys and in which we hope that the rare Lesser Spotted Woodpecker will thrive.

It may be, though, that the success of this lovely bird may be beyond our local help: 'The Nature of Wyre' quotes a study which suggests that climate change may be responsible for a lack of invertebrates in the tree canopy at the right time to coincide with the hatching of young. If you listen very carefully on your forest walks this month (and are very lucky) you may hear woodpeckers drumming on resounding branches as they begin to attract mates and demarcate their territories. The Lesser Spotted is said to drum more rapidly and produce a sound rather like a ruler being twanged on a table (do schoolchildren still do that?).

On a much smaller scale, the length of hedge which we planted at the farm soon after we moved there was needing some attention and was deemed ideal to be used for a hedgelaying course. Under the skilful hand of Wade Muggleton and the quick-learning Wyre Community Land Trust volunteers it took only a day for the hedge to be trimmed, cut, staked and laid in traditional style. It looks very fine and so do they! If you would like to join them for countryside work parties and learn new skills, contact the Trust on volunteer@wyreclt.org.uk. The hedge should now thicken up to form a stock-proof barrier. With its variety of nut- and berry-bearing trees and shrubs (hawthorn, hazel, elder, dogwood, rose and field maple) it will be a food source for many kinds of wildlife and the blossom will provide nectar in the spring.

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Christmas Menu 2017

Starters

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

Main Course

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

Desserts

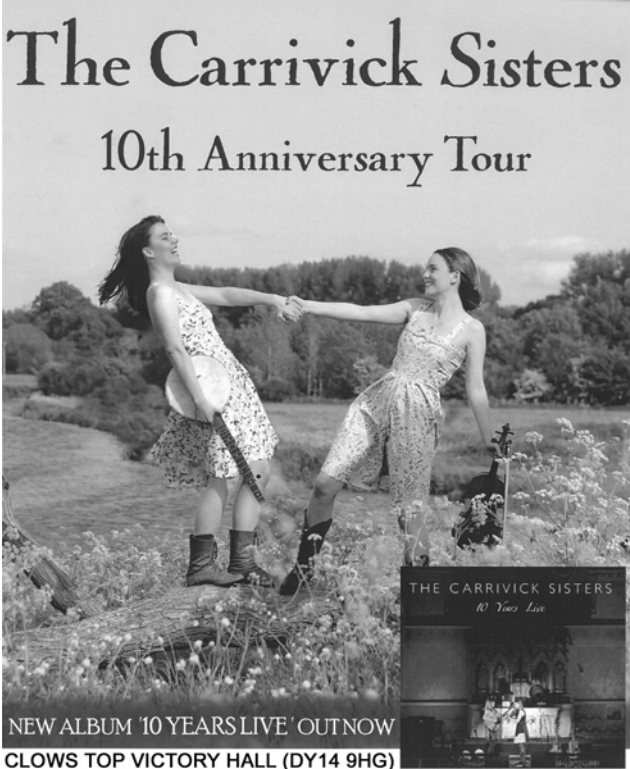
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Homemade Chocolate Roulade
Christmas Cheesecake
Cheese and Biscuits
Tea/Coffee & Mince Pie

Two Course £15.95 Three Course £18.95

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ANOTHER MUSICAL EVENING AT CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL

It's good to hear that the popular Shindig events are back at Clows Top Victory Hall, starting the 2018 season with a visit from the Carrivick Sisters, twins Laura and Charlotte. They're from South Devon and present their own compositions based on local folk tales and traditional songs. They started out as professionals in 2007 and in 2010 were finalists in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards.

With tickets at £10, this promises to be a lively evening of bluegrass folk presented on a wide range of instruments.

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

As I write, the celebrations of a birth in a manger for want of a bed, are approaching their annual climax. How ironic that Shropshire's health authority has just announced the permanent closure of the midwife-led delivery units at Bridgnorth and Ludlow Hospitals. With Shrewsbury's delivery unit currently closed for at least a month because of snow damage, it's now a choice between a home birth or a journey to Telford Hospital for Shropshire's mothers-to-be.

Following the 'temporary' closure of these units earlier in 2017, before the near-paralysis of the pre-Christmas snow, four local mothers had given birth without midwife support in recent months because it can take up to two hours for a midwife to reach a woman in labour. Long-term understaffing by a cash-strapped local health system has generated this situation, yet rather than transfer to Telford's short-staffed Obstetric Unit a significant number of the midwives from Bridgnorth and Ludlow have understandably resigned instead.

For low-risk pregnancies (typically 45% of all cases), a study led by Oxford University found that midwife-led units were just as safe for babies as consultant-led obstetric units, and were better for the mothers themselves. They were also significantly cheaper, and National Institute for Care and Health Excellence guidance now recommends that more women should be encouraged to give birth at midwife-led units. The existence of successful rural midwife-led units placed Shropshire in a great position to lead the way in national policy; instead, it has decided to squander this advantage.

In defending the closure decision, one local councillor has started to intone a new mantra: "If you choose to live in the countryside, you can't expect to have the services". When I last looked, the NHS was still a universal service, as intended by its founders, and not a postcode lottery: if any locals are paying lower rates of tax and National Insurance than people in other parts of the country, I'm sure many of us would like to hear about it. Not all who live here 'chose' to do so, least of all children, and encouraging us to see ourselves as second-class citizens is shameful.

CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. The meeting on January 15th will be our Annual General Meeting, at which officers will be elected for the coming year. The objective of the group is to promote positive patient involvement in monitoring, improving communications about, and developing our local health and social care services. We always welcome new members so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area.

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A TALENT LOOKING FOR WORK

Bianca Hugel approached the Clarion last year, asking to advertise that she was looking for part time work. And how much would an advert cost?

That honest approach struck home. We do not charge for Sits Vac advertisements, believing they are a service to the community. So why should we charge someone looking for work? A free advert appeared.

Following up in a chat with one of Bianca's neighbours, we were concerned to hear that she's had no response. But adverts in this newsletter are supposed to work - lots of our advertisers tell us they do. So let us tell you more about this very able lady.

She was born and raised in the Black Forest area and studied at Mannheim before teaching at a Rudolf Steiner school in Heidelberg. Her father believed girls could do most jobs that a boy could, so she worked on the farm as well as developing her talents as an artist. Later in life she came to England, where her daughter was settled, and found work in the West Midlands on a magazine, using her artistic

skills and developing other abilities like book keeping and administration. She was there for seven years, until the magazine was moved to America.



Multi talented, with a German work ethic - Bianca.

She moved to Cleobury with work in this area, but that didn't last, so she's looking for a part time post until she can take full time work in April. She's self employed, which means she looks after her National Insurance payments.

She strikes us as one of those people whose broad experience makes them able to adapt and take on almost any task. Speaks very good English, has a winning smile and the ability to listen. She's on 07582 463 632 or bianca.hugel@gmail.com

OFSTED PRAISE FOR CLEOBURY PRIMARY

Cleobury Primary School had an inspection by the Office for Standards in Education in November. The result was a 'Good' grade, after a detailed assessment of the work of the staff and its effect upon the pupils. Also considered was the opinion of parents, where there was more praise.

Head Carmel Mayfield, appointed to the post in September 2014, comes in for much praise. Highlighted are the improved writing standards, now above the national levels at Key Stages 1 and 2, children developing a 'love for learning', a culture of safeguarding and development of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). For the lady's first headship, that's an impressive start.

The benefit of belonging to the Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust is access to specialist teaching skills and having experience of the next stage in the children's education. In all, this report on one school also gives a glimpse of the long term thinking that will benefit pupils of all ages. JR

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Starring: Britt Robertson, Josh Gad (voice), Dennis Quaid, Peggy Lipton

WELL BEING COMES TO CLEOBURY



*April Boardman, the gentle power
behind The Well Being.*

April Boardman has moved into Cleobury Mortimer and is still trying to get over how friendly and helpful people are. She's come from Taunton to be near her daughter and as a native of Halesowen you could say she's getting back to her roots.

April is a holistic therapist, trading under the name of The Well Being with a very wide range of massages and therapies to help relieve pain and aid the basic matter of relaxation.

"Holistic therapy means treating the whole person," she

explains. "That covers four main areas: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health." She first qualified in the 1980s and has been learning new skills and developing the established ones ever since. And she's not the first person to mention constant professional development, a sign that this is someone who hasn't eased off into complacency. Her membership of the Federation of Holistic Therapists and is on their register of accredited providers. As April puts it: "I'm constantly adding to my skills."

Her deep tissue massage has helped a lot of people, including a multiple sclerosis sufferer and another with serious arthritis. It's also very helpful for athletes. "It can reduce discomfort in joints and relieve aches and pains," she says. She's also a Reiki Master, qualified to teach that gentle technique.

Looking after the general population means being flexible to meet individual needs. So she can give massage in the adapted treatment room at 16 Furlongs Close or she can make home calls to housebound clients within a five mile radius. If the client is in serious pain that

means they cannot lie down she applies seated massage.

The list of massages she is qualified to apply is a very long one, including aromatherapy, pregnancy and hot stone using very smooth basalt rock.

That is an impressive range, but what about spiritual health? "What lifts your spirits?" she asks in response. "Reiki healing can rebalance your energy levels to aid your overall health and well being." And April can offer Past Life Regression.

She also practises hypnotherapy as part of helping people relax, but if there is a problem that even this range of treatments cannot address, she will refer the matter on to another professional. What good therapists like April do not do is tell the client there's nothing more they can do.

She's not a miracle worker, she's a well qualified lady practising treatments that are being recognised by healthcare companies, by helping people get away from pain pills. It says a great deal about the growth of natural healing that more people are turning to such practitioners when the more conventional forms of treatment have not brought relief.



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... make some space just for you.

Kim Stanley has been in the beauty business since she graduated from Worcester College in 1992 with an International Health and Beauty Council qualification after three years of study and practise.

She began building a reputation locally with space at Shirley Pugh's popular High Street hair dressing salon, before moving into Number 30 High Street. It was a busy place with a great following, that she left only because she and husband Paul were expecting their daughter. "We agreed I'd leave and be a full time mum," she recalls.

Not that her customers forgot her. They stayed in touch, respecting her wish to give her energy to bringing up the new member of the family, and occasionally gently reminding her how much they'd like her gentle care again.

Only when her daughter was well established at school did Kim consider coming back to the business. Number 30 High Street was vacant, there were customers waiting and her long established physiotherapist colleague Jill Sharp was looking to develop her own business as an alternative to her successful career working in the NHS. Kim Stanley Health and Beauty was back in business.

"We came in on a shoestring," says Kim. "I gradually ploughed money back into the business when I could and it grew organically. When Kelly Allen came on board I had a great team, a great landlord who supported the business and we really have a lot to offer. We open six days and offer three late evenings."



"A great team...and a lot to offer." A very elegant setting for Kim at the back, Kelly front left with Jill Sharp on the right.

"Kelly has five years experience, one of those as a beauty therapist on one of the large cruise ships. What skills does she bring to the operation? Absolutely everything. She's a very valued addition to the team."

Jill Sharp has quit her NHS work and works three days a week in the salon, the other two days given to home calls. She's a chartered physiotherapist whose background includes time as a clinical educator for Birmingham University students. She is also a pain relief acupuncturist with the capacity to help with pain management. Her latest qualification is in another method using a gentle touch - the Emmett Technique. Talk to anyone who has experienced Jill's gentle touch and they'll tell you how she has a magic touch that brings relief from pain with only a slight fingertip pressure.

Kim's own range of treatments ranges from waxing through electrolysis, eye care, facials, body massage by Spa Find, hot stone or bamboo, aromatherapy, manicure and pedicure, polish to non-surgical facelift. All in the welcoming atmosphere of one of the smartest places in the town.

The new interior was designed by Paul, after a long discussion about the best way to make their customers feel welcome and comfortable. It must be said that the smiles help that process no end.

It's taken a year to do the job, Kim and Paul working at weekends and using outside contractors only when there was a job they couldn't do well. "If we'd closed the shop it would have taken about six weeks," she explains. But six weeks with not one customer looked after is not a good business plan, so they rolled up their sleeves and got on with the job.

"The object was to have more space for people to sit down. We had the new seats to measure by Wenlock Upholstery, with the seat height comfortable for people with back issues." Gone are the display cabinets, replaced by wall shelves; the storage unit is beneath the counter, out of sight. Beyond the counter is the manicure unit.

Curves are dominant through the scheme, with a hint of more to see when you move on into the treatment area. Lighting is carefully executed, clear enough to see, gentle enough to relax you. The theme is "Make Some Space Just For You" and the welcoming atmosphere combined with comfortable seating backs up the message. For a DIY job, quite amazing.

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This year will be a busy one for these pieces as it is the anniversary of the last full year of the Great War.

Rather than write about one aspect for this issue I have picked two different threads relating to the conflict, one concerning an incident at home and one offering a small insight into serving in the trenches in Belgium. The only connection being a Scottish one. I hope this piece is of interest.

The Battle that Never Was

Rosyth on the Firth of Forth has been and still is a major Naval base. On the night of 31st January 1918 a large fleet left Rosyth to join Operation E.C.1 in Orkney, which was to happen the following day. The Entire Grand Fleet was taking part and the forty vessels that left were only a small part of it.

Arranged in their squadrons and groups there were three battleships, four battle cruisers, two cruisers, destroyer escorts and two flotillas of K class submarines, each led by a cruiser. It's interesting to note that compared with the size of the fleet today even this small part of the Grand Fleet was huge in comparison.

They left Rosyth and steamed in one line nearly 30 miles long with the submarines on the surface and all the battleships at the rear. As a German submarine was suspected in the area, each vessel showed only a dim stern light and all maintained radio silence.

At the mouth of the Firth of Forth is the Isle of May. As they passed the "May", as it is known locally, they adjusted course and increased speed to 20 knots.

As one of the submarine flotillas passed the island a pair of lights were seen approaching and they altered course but submarine K14's helm jammed, throwing her out of line and she turned on the navigation lights, freeing the helm at the same time and attempting a return to the line. The following vessel due to

the heavy mist failed to stop and hit K14, crippling her. About fifteen minutes later the lead vessel in the following group ploughed through the wreckage and disabled a second submarine. Within the next hour further collisions took place resulting in the loss of 104 sailors two submarines plus damage to a further four submarines and the cruiser 'Fearless'.

Black humour resulted in the incident being known as the "Battle of May Island" even though the enemy caused no loss of life. Being a fishing community this part of Scotland is known for its wry sense of humour and if you are familiar with the area, as the writer happily is, it comes as no surprise.

The investigation and courts martial were kept very quiet with much of the information not released until the 1990s. In 2002 a cairn was erected in the town of Anstruther opposite the Island of May to honour those lost. If you visit, find the cairn and also please enjoy the best fish and chips in the world!

Extracts from a diary kept by Private James Beatson 9th Royal Scots Regiment

I felt it fitting to use these words to stand for all those who kept notes diaries and journals during their service. They are not passed on to illustrate any point or enlighten about specific events. James was however eloquent in his recording and I hope they throw some light on events which are hard for us to comprehend at this distance. *PF*

25th January 1915

Left Edinburgh two nights ago. The less I say of how I felt the better. I propose keeping a rough record of future days so that when I return (May God grant it), I may faithfully recount them.

Private Beatson's diary continues on Page 57
present circumstances a little more grub

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15th March 1915

We can rough it hard when needed but in the present circumstances a little more grub would leave us less hungry and these damned Belgians fleece us at every opportunity.

23rd March 1915

Last night, while a few of us were carrying rations to the reserve trenches, young Bennet fell, hit in the forehead, two paces in front of me. Just a flutter and another gone west. I'm in easy times with death but its damnable to be hit in the dark by a sniping cur. God pity us.

8th April 1915

Oh, for a ten minutes in front of the fire at home with a wash up in warm water and able to stand without bringing down an avalanche of dirt all over you and your kit. Tea and dirt taste rotten.

13th April 1915

In a communication trench, I crept through the skeleton of a Frenchman lying beneath the water, the white bones sticking out of his tunic, poor chap.

Scots, French, Germans, Austrians, Russians and the rest return to Mother Earth groaning and cursing.

Beatson found a magazine containing diary extracts from a Prussian soldier known as Heinrich. The extracts are too long to reproduce here but our soldier found a bond with his counterpart so here is the very last reference to Heinrich in the diary.

22nd August 1915

A remark that the food is a lot better lately. And the diary ends. Are you dead Heinrich? I know you would die bravely and quietly. Fate has labelled you Prussian and me British, but I would do a long pilgrimage to lay flowers on the grave that holds your body.

7th December 1915 (last entry)

The situation here is a bit peculiar, the line is broken by the river Somme and its marshes-the space between the broken ends of the two lines.

James was killed in the Battle of the Somme on 23rd July 1916.

Have a peaceful New Year

Paul French

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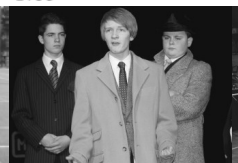
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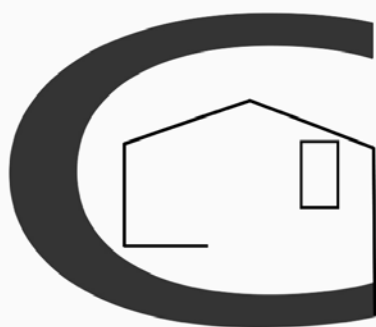
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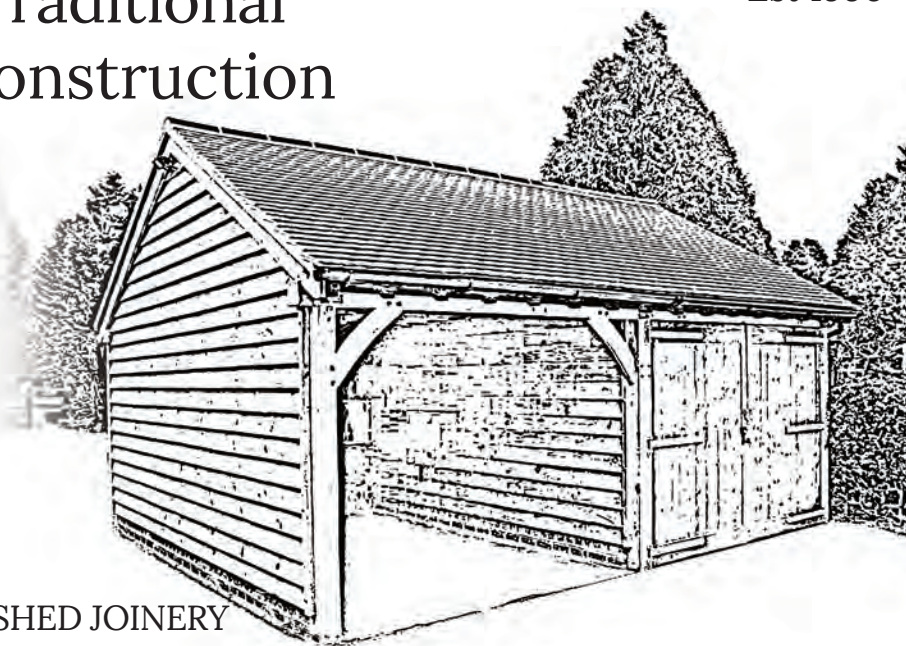
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