

# The Cleobury Clarion



**SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY**

**March 2015**

## **BIG JOB COMING ON THE MAIN STREET**

There will be major work on the town's central lighting system during the week from March 20th to 27th. All our street lighting columns are to be changed, from the New Bridge through to the Western boundary on Ludlow Road. No other roads will be affected, just the main street.

Traffic control will be by a manual 'Stop' and 'Go' board system, which is seen as the easiest way to move the control along the route as each stage is completed. Traffic disruption is inevitable, but the work is scheduled to take place from 9.30am to 4.00pm each day to avoid the peak traffic flow times. It will be done by contractors working for Shropshire Council, who apologise for any inconvenience caused, but the light columns are due to be replaced as they age and tend to be less secure. It's what you'd call good housekeeping if you did it at home.

## **CLAIRE DOES IT AGAIN!**



*No apologies for publishing another winning photo from Claire Carter. This study of a melting river in Patagonia won her first place in the River Category in the National Geographic Traveller Photographic Competition. Two international successes just as she announces she's going into photography as a full time occupation. Timing is everything!*

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Two local Parish Council chairmen have been invited to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in the summer. It was a simple out-of-the-top-hat draw and the lucky names were Sean Thorogood of Cleobury Mortimer and Martin Brooks of Highley. We wish them and their ladies well.

## **BACK TO BASICS**

Not exactly exciting stuff, but something all dog owners should know about because of the coming campaign against dog fouling. The Parish Council will have a supply of free poo bags, available from the Council office in the New Market Hall. Another excuse for bad behaviour removed.



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SUPPLIERS OF INDEPENDENT  
MARKET SHARE REPORTS  
THROUGHOUT ENGLAND AND WALES

# **The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page**

**March 2015 - Volume Twelve - Edition Twelve**

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Printed by: Linda Fowler at Glint Print 01299 266657

**The Clarion On The Web: [www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk](http://www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk)**

*The Clarion is owned and published by*

*Cleobury Clarion Media Limited*

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Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 24th**

**Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails**

**CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR** - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; [theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**CITIZENS ADVICE** - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

**CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES (CoCo)** - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon Wednesday only.

**CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY** - 01299 272301. Vicki Alexander is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

**LOCAL POLICE** - Constable Anne O'Leary; [ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES:** Iain Smith CM 271809

**CRIMESTOPPERS** - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE** - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: 0800 783 1359

**HOME FROM HOSPITAL** - 01584 878046. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

**JOB VACANCIES** - 01299 272300. See the local list in Cleobury Country Centre.

**MARKET HALL**- Dorothy CM272717, 07761 976650 mobile, or [dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk)

**MEDICAL CENTRE** - 01299 270209. Out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

**SHROP DOC** - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

**THE PHARMACY** - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

**NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND** - 01746 718210. Rosemary Abbiss is the contact.

**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. Website: [www.cleobury.org.uk](http://www.cleobury.org.uk)

**POST OFFICE** - 01299 270201. Many services in Cleobury: car tax, foreign currency, cash point

**SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT** - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, [mark.stmarys@live.co.uk](mailto:mark.stmarys@live.co.uk)

**SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL** - 0345 678 9000

**SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM** - E-mail [richard@ssyf.net](mailto:richard@ssyf.net).

**VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME** - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator.

**WASTE DISPOSAL** - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033



# The Cleobury Clarion. March 2015



*All the way from Abergavenny to tell some scary dragon stories in the Library.  
See Page 19.*



*This man cooks up a great meal. Mr Cox is the new face of The Stable Tavern.  
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*In Business - Kate Jones has a gentle touch with her Rieki practice.  
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### HAVE YOU TRIED?

The Llaeth Y Llan yoghurt from the Village Dairy on Llanefydd, Denbighshire? It's on the shelves in Carrot Tops, with a range of 13 flavours in little 125gm taster pots, or 450gm big pots when you've established your favourite.

I'm a great enthusiast of fruit yoghurts and these do have a very fresh and lively flavour that leaves you in no doubt what it is you're eating. Not the cheapest at 60p a small pot, but every one I've tried so far has been quite a treat. Recommended. JR

### COMING SOON

'Flicks in the Sticks' has a busy night coming on April 18th, when 'The Imitation Game' starring Benedict Cumberbatch is the big attraction. Book early for this one, as it's almost certain to sell out.

### BEWDLEY MUSEUM

Jenny Robbins of the Friends of Bewdley Museum writes:

On Saturday March 14th, from 11.00 – 12.30, the Friends of Bewdley Museum are having a coffee morning in the Guildhall. Please come along to keep in touch or to have a chat about ways in which you may be able to get involved. There will be cake!

The Friends volunteers work throughout the year performing varied tasks. They have been helping behind the scenes through the closed season, cataloguing and cleaning. The Museum re opens on March 1st, and as ever we welcome active members and volunteers who would like to support activities on site.

Brass rubbing, claypipe making, ropemaking and the air raid shelter rely on volunteer support to bring these unique features of our museum to life.

We welcome new members who would like to be part of supporting the Museum. To find out how you can join, visit [www.bewdleymuseum.org.uk](http://www.bewdleymuseum.org.uk) or send us an email at [friends@bewdleymuseum.org.uk](mailto:friends@bewdleymuseum.org.uk)

Jenny Robbins

### A RARE ALLOTMENT OPPORTUNITY

There are a few half or whole plots available on our Cleobury allotment site. If you fancy growing your own vegetables and flowers on a beautiful hill overlooking the town, and keeping very fit at the same time, why not enquire?

For more information phone 01299 272628 and speak to Peter or Sarah.

Sarah Wilde

### COCO NEWS

Recent months have proved kind to CoCo, with several donations. The Darts and Dominoes Club from the Bell have very generously donated £980 raised through their weekly league games. We have also received very welcome help from St Mary's Church and Mawley Milk. This will all help us pay travel costs, training for our volunteers and for group events for clients later in the year. We really couldn't survive without the support from the community and are extremely appreciative of any donation, either of money or time to help us continue with the service we provide to the elderly and vulnerable in the locality. We have recently trained more volunteers and so will be able to help even more people in the future. We are holding our AGM on Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Market Hall at 11:00 am. All are welcome!

If any individual or group would like to support CoCo in any way please contact Katja in Jones in the Market Hall Office on CM 270018, Mobile on 07966-080-111, or E-mail: [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com)

Paul Flowers



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### MUSICAL SATURDAYS TO COME:

March 7th: Cooper and Davies

March 28th: Fight The Bear  
-----

### MONTHLY SUNDAY OPEN MIC:

March 1st

6.00 start. All local talent welcome

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## HERE TO HELP



*The man does know his way around computers and systems.*

*Ricky Price.*

Ricky Price has been working with computers for more than 15 years. Ten with Mike Longmore at Newbridge gave him some good experience of more than working on machines, it gave him awareness of the best sources for parts. The sort of knowledge you only acquire with experience.

He moved on to Lacon Childe School, setting up their IT system and getting to know the education sector's methods. Now he's moving on again, to become an independent operator and offer his wide range of skills to any computer user who wants a website, operating advice, service or a

state of the art system designing and installing. On his website it says "All your IT needs" and his experience has shown he can provide just that. One testimonial on the site points out his ability to design for a customer's needs today and in the future; thinking today to make life easier tomorrow.

He'll be offering customised support contracts to business and educational users. In the face of spending cutbacks that see the county offering just three hours a month of computer technical support to schools, he's sure he'll be needed, and he'll be there.

It's a brave move for a man with a young family, but he can see the need for someone who understands systems to be on call when people need him. And he knows how to deal with private users who have a problem beyond their experience and would welcome a knowledgeable set of fingers sorting it out.

His website is at [www.cleoburyitsolutions.co.uk](http://www.cleoburyitsolutions.co.uk), or call 07837 223850 or CM 272940.

## AN APPEAL FROM THE FURNITURE SCHEME

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*Elaine Duggan*

## ANOTHER JAZZ TREAT COMING OUR WAY

Shindig, who put on some great shows at Clows Top's Victory Hall, are at it again. On the 27th of this month, they are offering acclaimed jazz singer Juliet Kelly. This is the lady of whom Time Out said "One of the UK's best singers, in any genre," so you can expect a quality evening. It's titled 'Celebrating the Divas of Jazz', with songs better known from stars like Ella, Sarah, Nina and Billie; jazz buffs won't need the second names to convince them.

As before, you can book tickets for the music only at £10 a head, or add a supper for an extra £2! It really is top value. Book yours on 01299 832456 or 832044, or over the counter at Brian's Butchers and Clows Top Post Office.

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Mum eats free on Mothering Sunday,  
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

March can be a tricky month weatherwise, with sunshine one day, hard frost the next and often very windy. However, the daylight hours are getting longer and the ground is warming up. Daffodils and spring bulbs are giving fabulous displays. If time and weather permits, try to do some weeding; you will benefit from this early start later in the year.

March is the perfect time to plant your summer flowering bulbs such as Dahlias, Begonias, Lilies and Freesias. Make sure you prepare the soil first by placing a handful of grit at the bottom of the planting hole to ensure that drainage is sufficient to prevent the bulbs rotting.

At the January meeting, Danny Arnold gave an interesting talk and power point presentation on the wildlife in the Teme Valley. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with others.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> and will

feature our members' Spring Show and a quiz hosted by Derek Walker.

*Pauline Bowen*

## THE FUEL BUYING SCHEME

**Shropshire Rural Community Council's latest fuel buying news:**

Now is the perfect time to fill up your oil tanks with prices at a record low.; even better to join a bulk buying scheme and save even more. This year so far our members have enjoyed oil deliveries under 35ppl!

The fuel buying scheme encourages households in rural Shropshire to purchase their heating oil together. Members benefit from cheaper fuel by being part of a group that can negotiate cheaper bulk-buying rates. Since its inception, over three years ago, members have accessed the most competitive heating oil prices in Shropshire, with some reporting savings of up to 5 pence per litre. We have also added bulk LPG and Cylinders to our service at very competitive rates.

The scheme is open to individuals, businesses and

community buildings in Shropshire. Join today and see how much you could save.

Annual membership fees apply: domestic £24, community building £36 and business £120.

For more information call 01743342167 or email [oil@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:oil@shropshire-rcc.org.uk)

## GROUNDSMAN NEEDED

Cleobury Cricket Club are looking for a volunteer to maintain their wicket this summer, as Bill Evans is not well enough to take up the task again. He is willing to advise and pass on essential tips learned during his very successful 50 years doing the job. There can be none better than Bill to help a novice.

It needs six to eight hours a week, while the club provide equipment, fuel and some assistance. Ben Griffiths on CM 270923, mobile 70966 023 754 Or email [bhgriffiths@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bhgriffiths@hotmail.co.uk) can tell you more. Bill did a super job and won awards for his work on keeping the wicket in such good trim; learning from him could prove to be a step to better things.

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## Clarion Clippings -- The Local News

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER, DY14 8BY

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M:07739186163  
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## AMAZING MONEY

### RAISING

**Roger Gittins may have given up running The Bell, but he's still a vital central link in raising funds for a range of charities. He has some really great news.**

### THE SUNDAY LEAGUE CHARITY FUND:

The Fund last year donated 90 percent of the funds raised to Macmillan Cancer Support, Nightingale Nurses and the Cleobury Compassionate Communities. They each received a cheque to the value of £980.

My thanks go to the captains and players of the teams at The Lion, The Bell, Stable Tavern, The Talbot and the Sports and Social Club. The Lottery players at The Bell also donated £300 to the fund.

*Roger Gittins, Secretary/Treasurer.*

### THE POPPY APPEAL 2014:

The Poppy Appeal has so far raised £6830.15. May I pass on the thanks from the Appeal to all the businesses who allowed us to place collection boxes on their counters. My thanks to the collectors, schools and all those that did a grand job in raising such a magnificent total.

*Roger Gittins, PAO*

## STOTTESDON W.I.

Many of us fail to enjoy the gems on our doorstep, a prime example being Bridgnorth's Dudmaston Hall. Pete Carty (National Trust area manager) is adept at involving an army of volunteers to realise this estate's diverse projects, from restoring woodland paths and recreating warm red sandstone rockeries, to pressing apple juice from the orchard's old English varieties. I love the setting of the old house, nestling in the ancient landscape, yet incorporating contemporary sculptures, and am longing to return for the Spring reopening. Thank you Peter, for a most enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting continues an historic theme, with Nick from 'The Copperpot' on Georgian dining. Join us at Chorley Village Hall on March 18th at 7.30 pm

*Marian Wootton*

## BRITISH LEGION NEWS

The Royal British Legion is one of the longest running Armed Forces Charities. The Cleobury Mortimer Branch was one of the first in the country to be set up, July 1921. The RBL recently came 2<sup>nd</sup> in a National Poll in naming the top 10

charities, Cancer UK came top. The main fundraising time being the Poppy Appeal held in the three weeks up to Remembrance Day.

Funds raised go to helping people of the Armed Services and their families in times of need. A new telephone support centre has opened, receiving over 109,00 calls with over 70% of callers helped on the first call. One of our local members has received a stair lift to help them. This was made possible with our intervention and also the help of local welfare workers.

Over the last few months we have been approached by several people expressing their disapproval of the placing of advertising banners on the War Memorial railings. We are not the custodians of this area and they should make their concerns known to the Parish Council.

We meet at the Bell Inn on the second Wednesday of the month at 8.00 and new members are always welcome. You don't have to have been in the Forces to join.

*David Taylor, Chairman*



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## **The Clarion Jobs Page**

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### **Situation Vacant - Account Manager - Muller England.**

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Please contact:-

Ellen Jackson on [ellen@muller-england.co.uk](mailto:ellen@muller-england.co.uk) CV's to Ellen Jackson at Muller England, High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8DT

### **Housekeeper/Cleaner Wanted**

### **THE KINGS ARMS, CLEOBURY MORTIMER**

**Hours etc. to be discussed.**

**Contact Wendy on 01299 271954**



**Shropshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service

**On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer  
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For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email [HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk), stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.



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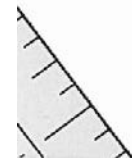
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### A VERY SPECIAL ART EXHIBITION AT BAYTON

Apologies for this late notice, but it did not arrive in time to tell of this special exhibition in the February issue.

At 6.30 today, March 1st, there will be a gathering for reflection in music and readings in Saint Bartholomew's Church in Bayton as a display of 14 paintings of the Stations of the Cross is opened. The works are by Nigel Robert Pugh and have been on tour around the country. They will remain on show for a week, before being moved on to Worcester Cathedral.

There will be four opportunities to call in at the church and look closely at the paintings, then possibly to sit and contemplate their deeper meaning. On Monday 2nd, Wednesday 4th and Friday 6th from 2.00 until 4.00, and on Sunday 8th from 11.00am to 1.00. In between, on Saturday at 7.00 there will be an evening event, with a short choral and instrumental concert, followed by cheese and wine and another chance to view the paintings. We are told that the paintings have remarkable character that you will not

forget, so a visit could be very rewarding. Admission to all the exhibition events is free.

### EGYPTIAN NIGHT AT HOBSONS

The splendid new Tasting Room at Hobson's Brewery - if you haven't seen it, you really should - is becoming quite a social centre with a variety of attractions. The latest is an Egyptian Night on the 26th this month, when cooking guru Marina Ibrahim will be creating authentic dishes from that country. Lots of spicy food from someone who really knows, with four taster dishes served up with matched Hobsons ales. They never did anything like this up the road at the Three Horseshoes, you know!

It starts at about 7.00 and includes a brewery tour for those few local people who haven't done one yet. At £20.00 a head it's a good buy and the atmosphere will be warm and friendly. Do you realise that the charge for this evening with food wouldn't cover the cost of just two pints at Singapore's famous Raffles Hotel? Bargain.

### ART EXPRESS

Art Express is a project that brings workshops out to rural communities and encourages

disabled and older people to try their hands at a variety of ways to express themselves. The classes are free, as are the tea and coffee. They start at 10.00 and go on until 3.00, so you are advised to bring your own lunch. And you get proper tuition to bring out skills you may not realise you have.

More information from Angela Martin on 07814 055638 or email her at [artexpress2014@gmail.com](mailto:artexpress2014@gmail.com). You can also book a place on the course with her. Sounds like good fun.

### JAZZ AT THE ROCK

Rock Village Hall hosts the Sussex Jazz Kings playing New Orleans style jazz on Saturday the 14th. It's raising money for the Save the Children Fund, sponsored by local businesses including the Rock and District News.

The tickets are £10 and that includes a supper. It all kicks off at 7.30, the Rock village hall is an outstanding venue and it should be a great evening. Book your ticket with Len Pitman on 01299 832294.

### SILLY BIT

**I decided to rename the John and called it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.**



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# National Storytelling Week



Conventional logic says that Storytelling Week would be aimed at children, but the two events staged at the library let adults in as well. Some were parents, of course, but there were curious onlookers as well.

The week started on January 31st, with renowned childrens' author and storyteller Daniel Morden, who travelled up from Abergavenny to move about almost as much as he changed expression. He's quite an actor, his voice changing in response to the children's comments and questions. Asked to name a favourite food, one of his very lively audience suggested a raw pork pie, which drew a strong reaction from the others. But it gave Daniel a foil to use in his unfolding tale about travelling through dangerous lands and having adventures, evoking a chorus of "raw pork pie" at intervals.

There was a balance between the children listening closely to the story and shouting their own

contribution, keeping their attention for a very full hour and leaving them wanting more.



*Could he be in a sulk, just like a little brother or sister? Daniel Morden has a very expressive face.*

To offset the frightening tales of dragons and dangers, on February 7th a witch came down from her hiding place on Clew Hill and told old wives' tales. Like the blackbird dipping his curious beak in golden beads and being punished with thick soot that coloured his feathers but never his golden beak. You look at them in a different light when you know that.

And did you know that the Stiperstones are that shape because they're really dragons

resting after a long fight defending their home. We know that's true, because Suzanne the Witch told us so.



*Suzanne the Witch told how the Guardian Dragon of Shropshire refused to move to Kidderminster Safari Park. Quite right, too!*

Both story tellers attracted a good crowd of children, 18 to hear Daniel and 15 to listen to the less frightening Suzanne. Not that the children were frightened, but some adults looked as if they were.

A good effort from Suzanne on behalf of the Friends of the Library, who would like to record their gratitude for the Parish Council grant that made the whole week possible.

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# The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Following three years of writing a column for the Clarion, my time has come to move on from Severn Edge Vets. I have loved becoming part of the community in this form, and while I will remain resident in my home town of Bewdley, I will shortly be moving jobs to Worcester.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for reading my column, thank the editor for agreeing to publish my articles, and may I wish you and your pets every health and happiness in the future. *Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS.*

*This month we welcome Penny Yates BVSc MRCVS. Ed*

## Dental Disease in Small Animals: the wisdom of checking your pet's mouth

Examining the mouth can tell us a lot about the general health of our pets. As vets we routinely look in and around the mouth every time we examine an animal. The lips, gums, teeth, tongue, and the hard palate can all be quietly brewing some serious problems which may well be related to dental disease. All of these are places that are easily checked in amenable pets, and owners can, and should, look at them regularly (except in rodents). The most important thing for any of us as pet owners is to be able to safely and gently look in our pet's mouths whenever we're handling them. So don't leave it until you're concerned about a problem; get into the habit of routinely checking for anything which looks abnormal. The sooner we know about a dental or oral problem, the better. Most of the conditions which affect the mouth are painful and will therefore need swift investigation and treatment. Smelly breath is not just a sign of old age, and should not be considered normal. The bad breath is just a symptom of a disease process which will progress if it is not dealt with. It is often due to dental disease, but may be due to a tumour in the mouth, a piece of foreign material stuck in the mouth, or ulceration due to a more generalised disease.

Gingivitis (inflamed gums, possibly bleeding), calculus, tooth root abscesses and ultimately tooth loss are all painful conditions, but often do not cause an animal to stop eating. In many instances these are chronic conditions which progress gradually, and so often they are not perceived to be significant factors in our pet's general health. However, they are genuinely debilitating conditions which we certainly wouldn't ignore in

our own mouths, and we ought to learn to appreciate their significance in our pets. Some factors, such as breed, jaw conformation, tooth trauma and viral/bacterial infection can predispose our pets to rapid or severe dental disease. Poor and/or inappropriate diet is a major cause of dental disease in pet rabbits and guinea pigs, who actually only require simple low energy, high fibre food i.e. grass/hay (not concentrated, manufactured pellets). They need to spend long periods of time chewing; otherwise their teeth become too long and irregular in shape. Sharp spurs on the molar teeth dig into the cheeks and tongue, and the abnormally long teeth prevent normal chewing action.

The best advice I can give you is to check your pet's mouth regularly (i.e. at least weekly, if not daily); look at all the teeth, open the mouth wide and look under the tongue and along the hard palate. Look for swellings, bleeding, plaque, foreign bodies etc. If you see anything abnormal, or which concerns you, get it checked by your vet. Prompt action is always best.

Please be aware that insurance policies will rarely cover the cost of dental treatment, unless it is for an acute condition which could not have been prevented by good care and attention. It is our responsibility to make the effort to maintain good dental hygiene wherever possible, and therefore minimise the need for veterinary dental treatment. Appropriate food, chews, toothpaste and mouth washes should all be considered part of a good dental care regimen. The vast majority of veterinary dental treatment requires general anaesthesia and so pets usually stay at the vets for the day to receive the care and attention they deserve.

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## Happening on High Street

### NEW FACE, NEW SERVICE



*Step this way, sir, and get a new look. Harry Martin sits, Scott Wadley clips.*

We couldn't get in to photograph the smart new interior of the JFM Barber Shop earlier, because it opened its doors the day after the February Clarion hit the streets. Since then we've been back for a very competent cut and met the man in charge, Scott Wadley.

Three years ago he decided to concentrate his skills solely on men's hairstyling. "It's become more complex in recent years," he explains. "Many different styles that need proper attention."

His chance to practice that came when he joined JFM, a local success story that Justin

Chance - he's local too, living just outside Highley- launched in Kinver 20 years ago, then expanded into Kidderminster. The latest move is onto Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer,

The shop launched with Scott the only stylist, but business has been very strong and he's looking to have the place open six days a week if demand keeps growing and he takes on another staff member. At the moment the salon opens 9.00 to 5.00 on Monday, closes on Tuesday, then opens 9.00 to 5.00 on Wednesday, 10.00 to 6.00 Thursday and Friday and 8.30 to 4.30 on Saturday. It's good to see another business moving into town and doing well.

### ANOTHER NEW FACE, BUT NO SIGN ON TIME

Martin Taylor, the man behind the Cleobury Opticians that will be opening its Church Street doors on Saturday the 14th this month, hastily had his work cut out to be ready in time. He had been promised that the shop sign would be up by February 21st, but when we called to talk to him not much had happened. He did not look a happy man.

This will be Martin's third shop, joining the two he already has in Dudley. He's the boss, but he's clearly not afraid to get his

hands dirty to get a job done, and there he was grafting away on the weekend to get the job moving.

It's been a long time since Cleobury Mortimer could boast an optician, and the arrival of one as the town grows has drawn favourable comment.

He'll be happy to show you around this impressive showroom on the 14th, bringing life and energy to a place that hasn't bustled since Errol Dyer sold his finance and insurance business. Another step forward for the main street.

### THE POST OFFICE

No official word yet about the Post Office moving into the Spar Grocery, but Raj Sanghera has been on a training course and is ready to take over. The gap left in what we will grow to know as Butler's Londis Store is due to be filled by a greetings card company's display, Gwillam Butler explained.

Gwillam is still the official Post Master at Clee Hill Office but couldn't reach agreement on a new contract for Cleobury, hence the move. The move of that office into the Spar store will mean this important service remains in the town centre, with access for all. Good for the community.



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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## EARLY NOTICE OF AN INTERESTING EVENING

A member of Bridgnorth Choral Society, who is also a patient of Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre, is organising a concert on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> in St Marys Church. Helping her are members of Cleobury Patients Voice, comprising patients of the practice who meet regularly and liaise with the practice team on matters relevant to the health and care needs of the local community. All the money raised will go towards equipment needed for patient care. The concert is being held as a thank you to the surgery from this lady for all the support she has received and is receiving, following her recent diagnosis of a serious illness.

Tickets are available from Cleobury Café at 18 High Street, from Gillian Davies on 01299 271023 or on the door. For further information about either the concert or Cleobury Patients' Voice please call Gillian.

## THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we welcomed renowned naturalist Rosemary Winnall MBE, who gave us a beautifully illustrated

talk on creating a garden for wildlife. Rosemary ran the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre, bringing her knowledge and enthusiasm to students of all ages. She now runs study groups, collecting data of insects and animals found in woodland.

Her home is a haven for wildlife. She has a pond which attracts frogs and other pond life. In her two acre wild area she keeps the grass long with the exception of mown strips for access and allows Dexter cattle to graze, as it is very steep and not suitable for machinery. Her aim is to have wild blooms flowering every month of the year and she has scattered seed accordingly. We were advised to scatter wildflower seeds during the summer months so that the flowers will attract bees and other insects. When visiting the garden centre look carefully to see which plants are attracting insects before buying. Bird boxes in several places, insect houses, batboxes and hedgehog houses were also advised. Many of our gardens are possibly not big enough for some of these suggestions but there were ideas we can take on board.

Our next meeting in the Methodist Hall is on March 9<sup>th</sup>, when Diana Perry will talk on the history of English Roses. It is

also our Spring flower competition where members are encouraged to bring a jam jar of spring flowers.

*Liz Smurthwaite*

## KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

After the half-term break we returned to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The children tasted rice and noodles and really enjoyed cooking and imagining in the role play area, plus using noodles for messy play.

During March we will be thinking about Spring, hoping the weather cooperates and celebrating Easter. The children will be decorating eggs and enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt in the grounds, and of course we will be thinking about the reason we celebrate Easter.

Our Spring Term ends on March 26<sup>th</sup>, and we return for the Summer Term on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Zoe Pearson*

## TENBURY WEDDING FAIR IS BACK

After last year's success, the Tenbury Wedding Fair is back at the Fountain Inn on April 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1.00. Lots of names already booked in. Full details and bookings from Clare Bradley on [clairebradley1@icloud.com](mailto:clairebradley1@icloud.com).



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## Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Last month I congratulated a constituent in Much Wenlock celebrating her 100th birthday. This prompted me to wonder how many people in South Shropshire have reached this impressive milestone.

We all know we get older every year. But what is striking is how many more of us reach milestone birthdays each year. When first elected your MP, the proportion of those living in South Shropshire aged 65 or over was 20.9%. Today in fewer than 10 years, that figure has risen to 25.2%.

Medical advances are helping many more of us to stay more active in old age. Modern healthcare has made rapid advances, new drugs and treatments ensuring people live longer. So since 2005 there has also been an extraordinary 40% increase in the number of people aged 85 and over living in South Shropshire. Though the gender gap in life expectancy is narrowing, it is still the case locally that more women are living longer than men. The downward trend of smoking, traditionally much higher in men, and healthier diets has helped reduce this gap. Early diagnosis and more effective treatment of conditions like heart disease, diabetes and cancer will help improve life expectancy further still.

This is very welcome news, but not without consequences. The costs of looking after people in old age are naturally going to rise. This will be an important issue for whoever is in government in the next parliament. With significant public debt and the need to live within our means, savings will still need to be made. But I do not believe it would be right to balance the books on the backs of those who have worked hard all their lives and contributed the most to British society today.

Pensioners have had positive protection through the 'triple lock' under which the state pension now rises

each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. The state pension is now £950 a year higher than it was in 2010 and at its highest level compared to earnings for two decades. I believe the next government should maintain this triple lock throughout the next Parliament to 2020.

The cost of care in old age can be a big worry to retirees and their dependents. At present those who have done the right thing can see their hard-earned savings wiped out by potentially unlimited, unpredictable care costs. I am pleased action is now being taken to introduce a cap on social care costs. This will be set at £72,000 and will take effect from April 2016. Creating certainty that there is an upper limit to costs will enable many to invest through financial products to cover themselves up to the value of the cap. Crucially, it will reduce the risk of homeowners being forced to sell their homes to pay for care. In another important change, the assets a person can hold and still receive financial support for their care home costs will quadruple from £23,250 to £118,000.

Providing a sense of security in retirement is the right thing to do. This year a new 'pensioner bond', a savings product offering high interest rates for those aged 65 and over was the most successful savings product launch ever introduced. Availability of the bond has been extended so millions more pensioners will have the opportunity to benefit from market-leading savings rates. It is right to support policies for pensioners, like those delivered in this Parliament, grounded by belief in the security and dignity in retirement.

I have still to find out how many local residents may receive a card from Her Majesty in 2015, but am confident it will be materially more than in 2005.

*Philip Dunne*

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# The March Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sun 1 To Sun 8		A range of events at St Bartholomew's in Bayton, built around an exhibition of paintings of the Stations of the Cross. Free admission; prepare to be impressed. PAGE 17.		
Mon 2	7.00pm	Cleobury Parish Council meet in the Market Hall. The public may bring concerns to the council's notice in the 15 minutes Democratic Time before the formal meeting begins.	Matt Sheehan	CM 271154
Wed 4		The B4363 will be closed all day from its junction with A4117 to Kinlet Bank for a drainage investigation. Look out for diversion signs.		
	10.00am	Walking for Health start their walks	Mandy Smith	01299 270312
	8.00am	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thur 5		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at the Viewpoint east of Clee Hill Village, SY8 3QE, then head off for a scenic walk.	Alan	01299 400304
Sat 7	8.00am to 11.00am	Household Goods Sale at Knowle Sports Club.	Audrey	01584 890644
Mon 9	7.30pm	The Horticultural Society meet in the Methodist Hall, Church Street, to hear Diana Perry talk about English Roses.		
Tue 10	7.25am	The Breakfast Club meet at Lacon Childe School to teat well and hear Mark Baldwin talk about 4000 Years of Keeping Secrets		
	7.30pm	Cleobury WI .meet in the Market Hall, where Iris Todd will talk about and demonstrate spinning.		
Wed 11	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. meet in the fine village hall to hear Elizabeth Beckett talk about Natural Skincare.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		
Thu 12		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 13	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 14	10.00ish	Cleobury Opticians' doors will be open on Church Street. Page 23.		
	11.00am	Coffee Morning with Friends of Bewdley Museum in the Guildhall. PAGE 7		
	7.30pm	Rock Village Hall offers the Sussex Jazz Kings and a supper for just £10, raising funds for Save the Children. Great value.	Len Pitman	01299 832294

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## The March Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Mon 16		Art Express is a free arts workshop, meeting in the Parish Hall. Starting time?	Zoe	07803607008
	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather in the Library to exchange news and views of their latest read. They can be quite merciless		
Tue 17	6.30pm	The Crime Reduction Group meet at the Market Hall, where the wonderful SmartWater will be demonstrated		
Wed 18	10.00am	Second monthly walk for Walking for Health	Mandy Smith	01299 270312
	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I.meet at Chorley Village Hall to learn about Victorian dining. PAGE 13		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 19		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at Rock Village Hall for their AGM, then head out into the fresh air for a short walk.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Fri 20	9.30am	Work begins on replacing the town's street light columns. PAGE 1.		
	7.30pm	The Parish Hall Committee AGM is in the Hall, and all are welcome.		
Wed 25	7.30pm	Clows Top Gardening Club gather at Victory Hall for their Spring Show. PAGE 11.		
Thju 26		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00pm	Egyptian Night at Hobson's Brewery, with cooking and demos, brewery tour, beers to matches the dishes, too. At £20 a head it promises to be quite an experience.		
Fri 27	7.30pm	Clows Top Victory Hall feature Juliet Kelly and 'Celebrating the Divas of Jazz.' Another super value evening out. Book on 01299 832456. SEE PAGE 9.		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Tue 31	1.30pm	Den Building Day at Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, near Bromyard WR6 5TB. Estate rangers instruct children how to do it well. £2.00 per junior head.		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL ....		
Wed 1	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 2		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	11.00am	CleoburyCoCo's AGM, in the Market Hall. SEE PAGE 7	Katja Jones	CM 270018

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NEW



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Set in a courtyard location in Milson is this 4 bedroomed barn conversion. Having a wealth of character with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams to the walls and ceilings throughout. Accommodation includes: master bedroom with dressing room and ensuite bathroom, three further bedrooms, family bathroom, living room with inglenook fireplace and wood burner, kitchen, rear porch, utility/laundry room, guest room with WC and garage. Energy Rating D.

**OIRO £395,000**

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NEW



NEW



#### BURFORD

Located in Burford just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre is this immaculately presented, 4 bedroomed family home. Having ample parking to the front and landscaped, oriental themed garden to the rear to include vegetable garden, fish pond and decked seating area. Inside the property has good sized open plan living accommodation with three reception rooms. Highly recommended for an internal inspection. Energy Rating D.

**OIRO £310,000**

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A Large town house situated in the sought after village of Cleobury Mortimer in South Shropshire. This character property dates back to the 17th Century and provides plentiful and spacious living to accommodate the largest family and would even be suitable for multi-generational living. Having six bedrooms and four bathrooms this property has to be viewed to be appreciated. Energy Rating F.

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#### BURFORD

Semi-detached family home renovated to a high standard in a cul-de-sac position in Burford. Accommodation including: 4 bedrooms, family bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen and downstairs WC. Benefitting from gas central heating, integral garage and driveway parking. Energy Rating D.

**OIRO £189,950**

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#### TENBURY WELLS

Located in a cul-de-sac position is this extended, semi-detached property. Just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre. Accommodation including: 5 bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, open plan kitchen/dining room area, utility, conservatory and living room with gas fire. Benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating throughout and good sized rear garden. Energy Rating D.

**OIRO £245,000**

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NEW PRICE



#### BURFORD

Detached 3 bedroomed property located in Burford, just a short walk from the market town of Tenbury Wells. The property benefits from a good sized parking area to the front, gas central heating and double glazing throughout. With spacious accommodation to include: three double bedrooms, family bathroom, open plan living room (with gas fire) and dining room, cloakroom with WC and kitchen. Energy Rating D.

**OIRO £212,500**

Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999

#### BURFORD

A three bedroomed, modern property located in Burford just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre. Having three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC and family bathroom. Benefitting from easy maintenance gardens to the front and rear and allocated parking space in the courtyard behind. EPC C.

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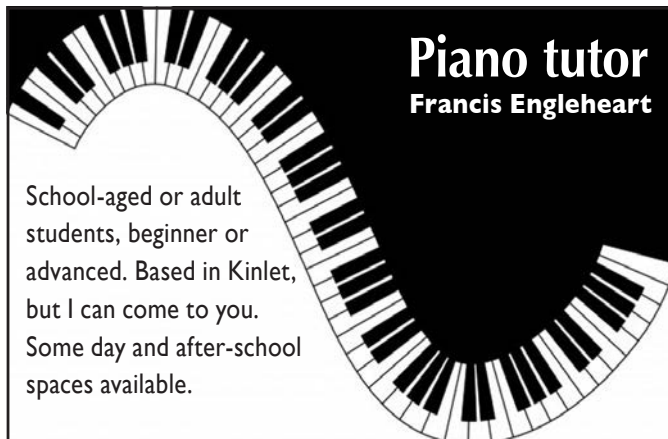
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### THE STABLE TAVERN - BACK AS A PROPER PUB



*New hosts at The Stable. Zol Cox and Kate Tolley have signed up for five years.*

You wouldn't recognise the Stable Tavern as the same place that served just beer and bar food a few weeks ago. The place has been given a thorough facelift with new fittings and furnishings and the reputation it once had for good food looks like coming back.

The new hosts are Zol Cox and partner Kate Tolley, who moved in from running the Kingfisher Club in Wall Heath. That was a busy place, with seating for 500 people. Quite a contrast with the Stable Tavern's capacity for 32 on the ground floor. "But this is our show," explains Zol. "We run this as our business, not as managers." They've signed a five year lease and they and the children live on the premises; that's commitment, a clear sign that they mean to build a strong business.

Kate looks after front of house and bar, while Zol is landlord and chef. He's been in the food business a long time, training at Pedmore House in Stourbridge and honing his skills in a range of local pubs and clubs. When

he was chef at Wharton Park Golf Club, Kate was a trainee and the two got together, running the Wall Heath Tavern before taking on the Kingfisher Club.

The lounge and public bars are kept separate, to give diners a good, peaceful atmosphere. When we called to take photos, it was at the end of a busy lunch time with lots of local faces smiling, plus a couple who'd driven over from Kingswinford to enjoy Zol's food again.

The bar offers real ales like Three Tuns from Bishops Castle and Ludlow Brewery's Gold, plus good old reliable Banks's. If cider is your taste, they have Robinson's, Strongbow and Thatcher's to tempt you. At the bar you can lunch on cobs or home made pies if you don't want to get formal.

Upstairs the Function Room is nearing completion and will open for business this month. If you have a club dinner in mind, they can seat 40 up there.



*The boss in his regular place of work and creation.*

The kitchen is a stainless steel place, where a lot of money has been invested. Nobody wanted to say just how much, but we have heard a figure in the region of £35,000. Whatever the price,

the place reflects a commitment to make it work as a good venue to both eat and drink.

So what's the food like? Zol had offered a free meal, which is not in line with the Clarion principle of refusing freebies, but it's quite normal in the food world. Just so you know, I didn't pay.

For a starter, the Black Pudding Stack intrigued. The dominant flavours were that pudding, plus bacon and a cap of Stilton cheese. Wow! That hit several spots in one go and I won't forget it in a hurry. I'd been sipping cider and the strong savoury tang offset the apple sweetness of the cider very well.

The main course eased the juices with a vegetarian Butter Bean Casserole, with goat's cheese and a baltic glaze to smooth it all off. Very nice too, with a glass of red wine to ease its passage. I stupidly took up the offer of a sweet with a banana split; it was lovely, but far too much to finish.

Conclusion: you can see why there were so many smiling faces at lunch time. This man can cook and his menu will change with the seasons; a worthy addition to Cleobury dining.

The Stable opens from 12.00 noon to 11.00 Sunday to Thursday, and over the weekend it's 12.00 til 12.00. You can book your table for lunch or dinner on CM 270382 or through Facebook on thestabletaverninn. It's good to see the place back in the food competition that adds to the town's appeal and we wish Zol and Kate every success in their ambition to succeed through simple hard work.

*Jim Reynolds*

# Paul Harding



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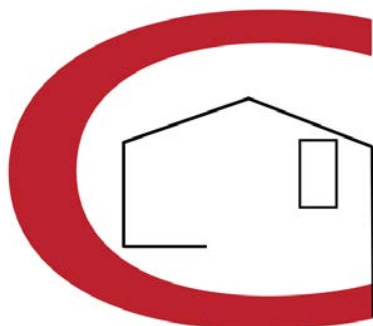
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

We had a stimulating talk in February from Jenny Vanderhook, about her recent visit to Mexico. She brought along a selection of pictures of the country and its wildlife, as well as fascinating tales of hiking up the mountains to see ancient ruins.

She was particularly interested in the butterflies and spoke about the Monarch species.

We also held a very well attended fund raising Soup Lunch, with four varieties on offer and the same number of homemade desserts, all made by WI members. We will be sharing the profits with Cleobury CoCo.

At our next meeting, on March 10th at 7.30 in the Market Hall, Iris Todd will be demonstrating and talking about Spinning.

*Gillian Senior*

## THE READING GROUP

Our book this month was 'Ghost Song' by Sarah Rayne. The tale revolved around a Music Hall in London, closed up since 1914 in mysterious circumstances.

Partly a psychological thriller but also a love story and an historical novel, it had something for everybody. This

meant, of course, that various members of the group favoured different aspects of the book. Some found it too long and the plot a bit contrived but we agreed that it was a good page turner and some of us will look out for other Sarah Rayne stories.

Not the greatest literary work, but a gripping story, one member described it as "unputdownable nonsense"

We meet again on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Library.

## SCIENCE OPEN

### MORNING AT MOFFATS

Moffats School has a science themed Open Morning on March 13th, reflecting their presentation of the subject to pupils of all ages from five upwards. Head of Science Mal Theaker explains: "We always strive to make even the most serious side of science accessible, fun and memorable for all our pupils. I firmly believe that this enables them to make informed choices throughout their education."

The Open Morning will run from 9.30 through to 12.30 and includes a tour of the school. All are welcome and you can call the school office on 01299 841230 for more information. Alternatively, email [office@moffats.co.uk](mailto:office@moffats.co.uk) or look in at [www.moffats.co.uk](http://www.moffats.co.uk)

## POUND THE BOUNDS

This annual walk around the boundaries of Rock Parish is a prominent fund raiser for its chosen charity, Midlands Air Ambulance. Last year over 600 walkers paid up, put on their boots and walked so effectively that they earned more than £5,600 for the cause. Anybody who has suffered or heard of an accident in the local countryside will know how vital the rescue 'copter is.

This year's Pounding happens on Sunday May 3rd and now offers a 26 mile route for the fit and ambitious; for those who just want a scenic day out, there are less demanding options. It's all based on Rock Village Hall and registration for the event is open now. You can download a sponsorship form at [www.poundthebounds.org.uk](http://www.poundthebounds.org.uk) or get more details by talking to Susan Humphries on 01299 4 0 0 3 0 4 or [suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk)

With interest in walking in the area growing, having such a stellar event as this can only help boost the pastime. Rock Pathfinders and Midlands Air Ambulance deserve such strong support for getting together and cooperating to great effect.



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## **The Farming Page - Rachel Robinson writes**

The winter months have been fairly dormant. Well, as dormant as they can be when there are 700 cattle to look after! Every animal has been housed over the winter and we look forward to warmer drier weather so we can get them outside. Sadly the farm is back under TB restriction having had one reactor on both of the last tests. We will have to test again at the beginning of April, so fingers and hooves crossed for a clear result.

The low milk price that is putting so many dairy farmers out of business has had a lot of press over recent weeks and this prompted a visit from Radio Shropshire to Mawley Town Farm who ran three recorded pieces as we discussed milk price and the pros and cons of processing our own milk.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the clocks 'springing forward' at the end of the month. To kick start spring we will be fertilizing the crops we planted in the autumn to give them a boost, then machinery will be prepared ready for

planting. If we have some nice dry weather we will be letting the cattle out soon, but not until after April's TB test.

We hope to hold an open day this year, at the end of June. It is a wonderful opportunity for Mawley Milk fans to see the calves, cows, bulls, milking system and farm machinery up close. It is a big undertaking for us to host but we have such positive feedback from visitors it makes it all worthwhile. We do not charge, but there will be a small number of local charities serving refreshments and holding stalls and we hope you will support them. Keep an eye out for our advert in future editions of The Clarion for further details. We look forward to welcoming you to our farm.

As always regular updates are posted to our Facebook page Facebook/Mawley Town Farm

*Rachel Robinson*



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# Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



The first of the reported crimes committed during the last month happened on January 18th between 9:00 and 10:00pm when the cooling system at the Medical Centre was wilfully damaged. There is a suspect for this offence who is being investigated. Between 6:30pm on January 21st and 10:00am the next day, a parked car in Clee Hill was broken into and £200 worth of damage incurred to steal just £6 in cash! There was a failed attempt to break into a secure tack room at a farm in Bagginswood between 8:00pm on January 25th and 9:00pm the next day. During the night of January 27th/28th a large number of tools were stolen from the boot of a car parked in Lion Lane. Between 7:00am on February 3rd and 10:00am on February 5th there was a burglary at a house in Tenbury Road whilst the occupants were away, and a similar offence took place during the same period at a house in Ludlow Road, also when the occupants were away. At approximately 4:00am on February 11th a Land Rover Defender was stolen from the driveway of a house in Clee Hill. During the same night a winch and two side mirrors were stolen from a Land Rover Defender parked at a different location in Clee Hill. The victim of this crime had had diesel stolen from a different vehicle at this location ten days earlier. A burglary was committed at a house in Button Oak whilst the occupants were out, between 1:30pm and 3:00pm on February 16th.

Jewellery, cash and a laptop computer were stolen. Between 5:00pm on February 18th and 9:00am the next day a chain saw, a pressure washer, a bow saw and safety equipment were stolen from a farm building between Milson and Nash. On February 20th it was reported that at sometime during the previous fortnight the domestic oil tank at a house in Clows Top had been emptied.

In general, vehicle theft occurs regularly everywhere, so basic security advice should be heeded to help stop yours being stolen. However, certain high value vehicles and iconic vehicles such as Land Rover Defenders are targeted more than most. It must be good policy to obtain and use the best security devices to help give your vehicle protection from thieves. You may note that one such vehicle was stolen from a driveway, which would indicate that any extra security should be employed wherever the vehicle is parked. It has been reported that near to the centre of Cleobury two dogs are let loose to 'do what a dog's gotta do'. If anyone sees this or can shed any light as to who the owners are, it would be greatly appreciated if you let someone in authority know. Finally, for anyone who thinks that parking regulations are for everyone else, a Council CEO attends Cleobury regularly to issue penalty tickets. I often see non-disabled drivers parking in the disabled bay outside Londis. How selfish is that?



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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### ON THE BUSES

**Steve Todd brings you more news. How the man keeps his sense of humour after all this is a mystery.**

A fairly quiet month with less disasters than usual. We were sat in the Market Hall the other Wednesday when THREE Diamond buses came through in convoy. This was a surprise as I didn't think they ever had that many running at once. Apparently one had broken down and the second had gone to rescue it. Not sure what the third one was for unless it was a reserve in case the second broke down as well.

One resident had an eventful trip back from Kiddy. The bus started off OK but after a few hundred yards, the passengers were turfed off as the driver had an unspecified problem. She got another bus to Bewdley where she managed to pick up the 2L but this only got as far as Far Forest before expiring. However, there was a relief bus waiting to pick them up without delay so perhaps Diamond are using psychic powers to predict when breakdowns will occur. On one Monday, the early bus failed to appear and when Diamond were contacted, they said that it hadn't left the depot as there had been a mix up over

the rosters. It eventually appeared 45 minutes late – just the job if you need to get to work on time.

The times on the Cleobury bus stops were finally changed towards the end of January. It always seems to take a month before they catch up. The bad news is that the 2L times have vanished completely from the Corve Street stop in Ludlow. However, the service does still depart from the same spot. As for timetables, I went to the Kiddy depot again, to be told they were being revised and reprinted and would be available 'next week'. I asked if this meant the timetable would be changing again and was told no which probably means it will. In the two minutes I was there, two breakdowns were phoned in and when I commented on the frequency of these was told grumpily that 'Everybody's buses break down' This may be true but probably not as often. On my way back through Kiddy, I spotted a Diamond bus – broken down...

As I write this (20th Feb) Drivers are still charging users of the 9.19 to Kiddy £1. This is despite Shropshire Council's assurance on the December 3rd 2014 that this had stopped happening. I'll chase them

about this (again!). The only good news is the fact that we have been to Ludlow twice in the last 10 days and - I never thought I would say this - the service has run on time every time. I wonder if this means that Diamond are taking notice of complaints or it's just an accident. One piece of news relates to a woman in Bristol who got so fed up with delayed buses and a lack of response to her complaints that she invoiced the bus company (First Bus) for her time at £9.19 an hour. The total came to £103.30. She didn't get the money but she did get an apology and some free tickets.

*Steve Todd*

### FOREST DOG RESCUE

This devoted rescue service is holding an auction at the Gainsborough Hotel, Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster on April 16th and they're looking for any contributions of goods to be sold off. The contact is Wendy Squires on 01299 823621 or [secretary@forest-dog-rescue.org.uk](mailto:secretary@forest-dog-rescue.org.uk).

The sale should be worth a visit, as FDR are well supported. Viewing time starts at 6.00 and the sale itself at 7.30. This is a well established event and a quick raid of the piggy bank could be in order if you have a liking for bargain.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: [admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net](mailto:admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net)

Website: [cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk](http://cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk)

## THE HUMBLE PIE DEPARTMENT

### THE EDITOR APOLOGISES

I have let Rachael at Wild at Heart Flowers down. Early in January she sent me a special notice, explaining that she would be closing her shop at Mawley Oak Garage and would then work from home at Dhustone Lane on Clee Hill. I forgot to put her advert on the pages and her message was not seen by you the readers, her customers. I answer for what goes into these

pages and, even worse in this instance, what gets left out. It was my fault.

So I'm giving her this page to get the news of her move known. She's a busy lady and found it a strain at times, with work based down at Mawley Oak, her at home doing domestics and then putting in overtime on an urgent floral job. And if she hadn't got all that she needed in the house, it could be back down the hill and more hours worked.

# Wild At Heart Flowers Notice 12/1/15

I Will now only be working from my home workshop  
specialising in funeral flowers, sculptures & wedding flowers, special events and dressing houses.

**\*\* Home visits can be arranged but all orders must be pre booked –  
Please use mobile number: 07526 283377 \*\***

**The Retail Shop Based at Mawley Oak  
Garage is now closed,  
due to my commitments/ circumstances.**

I wish to thank all of my customers for their previous custom, support and wish you all well in the future

Best Wishes Rachael

**Tel. Rachael on 07526 283377**

I spoke to Rachael on February 24th and the workroom she plans at home was not yet finished. As I understand it, she will have storage, workroom and tools up there, plus the view across to the Black Mountains to contemplate when she stops for a cuppa.

As soon as she says the place is ready, we'll talk to her about her plans and let you see what the new workroom is like. Unless she intends to serve teas to the sheep, there

won't be a lot of passing trade, but she'll have the room she wants and all her stock in one place. Getting one of those big flower delivery trucks up the lane should be interesting, too.

This is also an interesting social experiment, quitting a very visible site and moving to an almost invisible one; most people in business think the other way. The artist in her will probably be happy and the ideas should be less inhibited. We'll see. JR



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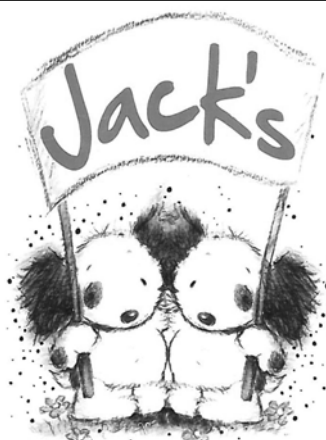
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# Linda Iles

## March In The Wyre Forest



*The New Orchard at Unccllys Farm. Linda's home.*

I'm busy putting the final touches for an orchard plan at St George's Farm. Land given to the Guild of St George in 1871, cleared of forest then planted with its first orchard in 1880.

The original planting list reveals some interesting differences between culinary habits then and now. The apples, cherries, pears and plums which were chosen to feed the populations of Bewdley, Birmingham included many cooking varieties, for instance the May Duke cherry and both Yellow and Purple Pershore plums. I wonder what the demand will be for bottled fruit, jams and pies in the decades to come? It's anybody's guess. So I'm faced, even these days, with a bewildering choice of varieties old and new, all with different attributes.

With apples, should I go for eating, cooking, juicing or cider-making, or rather, in what proportion? (Will perry ride the same wave of popularity as cider?) When I select apples for resistance to canker, a disease which has been a

problem in the new trees at Unccllys Farm, should I prioritise that over good juicing, or keeping quality? Shouldn't I also keep in mind the need to avoid scab and mildew, and choose late-flowering varieties to escape early frosts? It's all very complicated and to avoid an eternity of indecision I may well go for those which I just like the sound of. We already have Pitmaston Pineapple and D'Arcy Spice, but perhaps I can sneak in some Pig's Nose Pippin or Slack Ma Girdle!

If I make poor decisions and the new orchard fails to deliver in terms of saleable fruit, at least there will be plenty of locals happy to make use of the crop. At harvest time the human munchers, juicers and cider-makers will be joined by an army of birds, foxes, deer, wasps, hornets etc. and even at other times of the year the trees will be hosting nectar-loving insects, beetles, bats and woodpeckers.

On a different subject, I must convey a little request from Butterfly Conservation. Surveyors are needed to help assess the health of the forest's butterfly populations. You don't need to be a specialist but you need to be able to commit time every other week to walking a set transect, recording butterflies as you go. It should only take about an hour, and as it's alongside Dowles Brook who knows what else you might see? Please contact Mike Williams at [mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk) if you think this may be for you.

*Linda Iles*

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## ANOTHER PAT WILLIAMS FUND RAISING HIT



*Big smiles all round at another great result. From left: Organiser Alison Andrews, Nic from Gist Support UK, Lesley Leach from The Haven and the inspirational Pat Williams.*

A small but very happy gathering at Cleobury Golf Club in February saw cheques for £538 handed over to two cancer charities, thanks to the efforts of Cleobury people. Pat Williams and her amazing capacity to face up to the disease and help others is well known and she was there, smiling as usual, glad to meet and greet in a good cause.

A new face was Nic from Gist Support UK, present because Pat's illness has been diagnosed as the rare gist (gastrointestinal stromal tumour) and any funding help with research into this relatively recent discovery is very welcome.

Lesley Leach from The Haven, a place that has welcomed Pat on a number of occasions, is a regular face at such presentations. When the question of how much money Pat Williams and friends have raised was asked, Pat guessed at about £15,000 for The Haven

alone. "At least that," was Lesley's comment in confirmation that she's collected quite a few cheques on their behalf.

Little publicity is given to the work that Alison Andrews does as an organiser. She's very modest about the work and time she puts in, but the fact that so much money is raised is a reflection of her efforts. Top marks to her, a vital part of a great team.

## FISH, CHIPS AND SEA SHANTIES



*"I see no ships" seems to be the message. No surprise from the Inland Sea Shanty Singers, but lots of laughs.*

It was a riotous evening on February 20th in the Parish Hall. Up on stage were a group of men old enough to know better, sipping at Mr Hobson's finest and totally unabashed that not one of them had a musical qualification of any sort. Well, there was a piano accordion up there, and whoever heard of one of those players being qualified? Whoops, slight editorial prejudice showing there.

Apparently it all started when a group of chaps in a pub took a bet that they couldn't form a sea shanty group. All from inland counties, they took up the

challenge with a repertoire of just seven shanties between them. Two years later, they know 50 sea songs and travel the length and breadth of the A49 to entertain. And it was very clear that they haven't given up drinking.

No divas or egos on parade, just a gang of chaps singing their hearts out, cracking jokes and getting everyone involved in having a damned good time. It was a really good evening, the fish and chips came warm and were welcome, then the singing started again. If you like your entertainment straight and simple, look out for these non sailors.

## LATE NEWS

Too late to go in the calendar, details of what sounds like a good evening arrived this morning, the 25th.

Alf Jenkins is giving a talk to the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group in Clee Hill Village Hall on March 10th. It starts at 7.30 and Alf will be talking about growing up on the Hill and some of the wild life and farming changes he's seen since the days before birds began to disappear from the area at such a rate. The experience of such a knowledgeable man will make for good listening.

There will be refreshments and to help pay for the overheads of the occasion, a raffle. Of course there will be a raffle. The world hasn't changed that much.

## SILLY BITS

**Q: What's the difference between a new dog and a new husband?**

**A: After a year, the dog's still glad to see you.**

**Q: Why is it hard for women to find sensitive, caring men?**

**A: Those men already have boyfriends.**

**PRIZE BINGO**  
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Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February - **HORSE RACE NIGHT** - Hosted by Cleobury Mortimer Volleyball Club

★★★★

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - **WICKED LIZARDS - DISCO - KARAOKE** - Hosted by Cleobury Mortimer Rugby Club

★★★★

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - **EASTER FAMILY PARTY** - Easter Bonnet Competition - Fancy Dress - Games 5pm-7pm

★★★★



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April - **NUTTY 2 TONES** - Brilliant *Madness* Tribute Act

★★★★

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - **'RED or BLACK'** - Hosted by CRUVO

★★★★



Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July - **FAMILY SUMMER DAY** - Disco - Games - Bouncy Castle - BBQ 12pm-4pm

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Various membership options are available:

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Senior Citizens Membership	Single £2.00 Joint £3.00



### **FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Friday 18th September	70's & 80's THEMED DISCO
Saturday 31st October	FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY
Saturday 7th November	CRUVO FIREWORK PARTY
Saturday 14th November	COVER GIRLS - 1940's Theme
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY
NEW YEARS PARTY	MOTOWN TRIBUTE NIGHT

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### **Training Courses Upcoming:**

- PAT Course: Tues. 10th March, 9am - 4pm
- Emergency 1st Aid at Work : 12th March, 9am - 4pm
- Paediatric First Aid: 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th March, 6 - 9pm
- Health & Safety Level 2: Wed 15th April, 9am - 4 pm

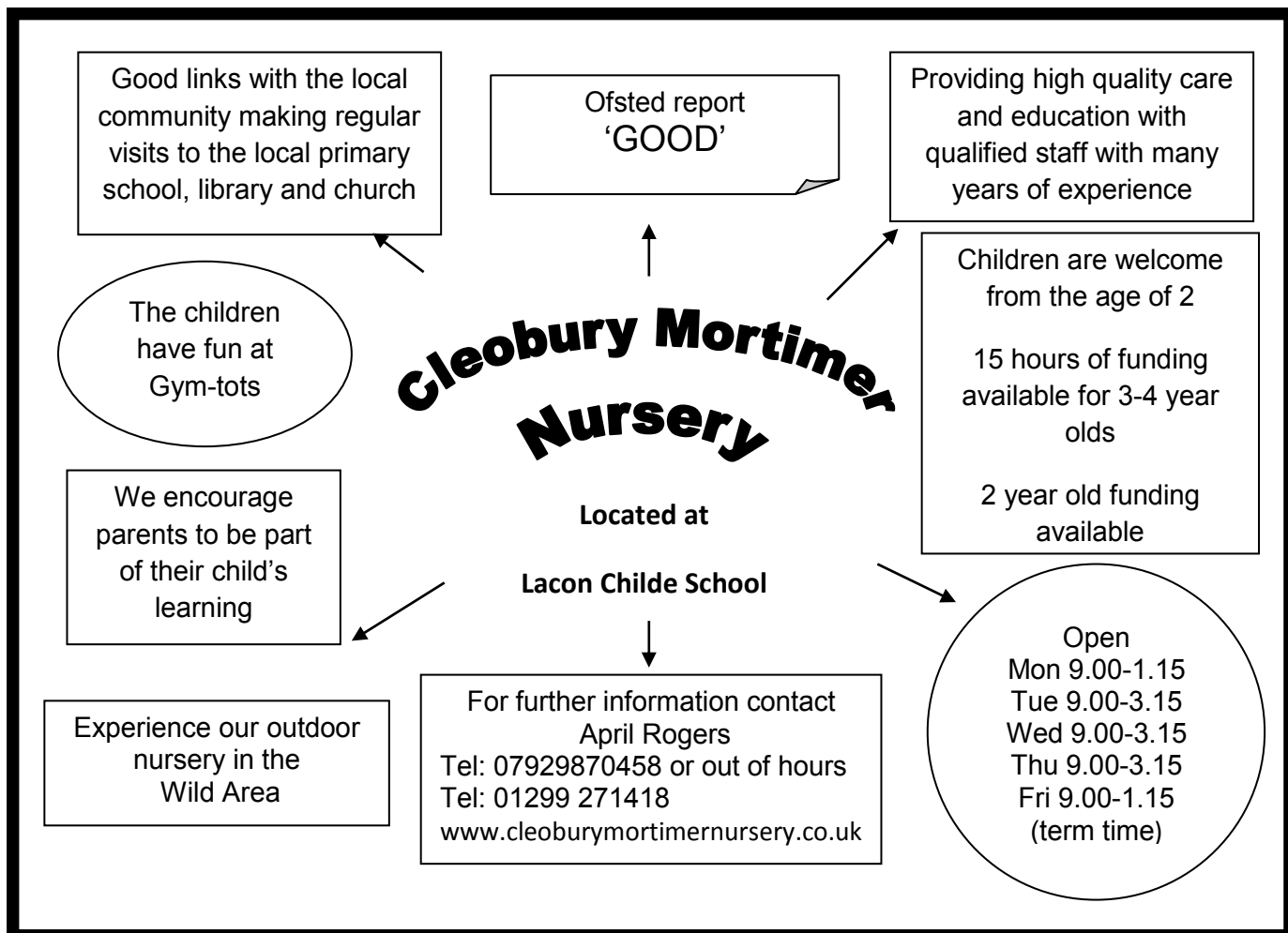
### **Business Networking this month:**

Wednesday 18th March 2015

For more information on training courses at  
The Cleobury Centre please contact us on the tel or email above.

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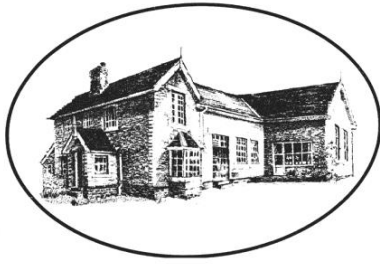
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Bayton C of E Primary School, where our mission is

## TO BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE!

To further enhance their learning, the children at Bayton C of E Primary School often enjoy trips to further support their topic, RE, science and sport subjects and this term is particularly busy in this respect.

Our Y1 children recently enjoyed a trip to Bayton Church where they took part in a mock Christening as part of their RE topic on Baptism. The children collaboratively chose the name of Georgia Annabel Bayton, and dressed a doll in a Christening gown. The service was taken by Christine Clarke, who took them through the service complete with hymns and a reading from the Bible from class teacher, Mrs Harris and the children themselves took part in the role of parents, godparents and other family members.

Moving up the school, our Y3/4 class are planning a trip to the Grosvenor Museum in Chester as part of their Roman topic. The children will be shown around the museum by a Roman Soldier and will be shown the amphitheatre, galleries and workshop where they will be able to see and maybe handle Roman artefacts.

As I write this article our Y5/6 children are enjoying a fabulous trip to Bristol primarily to see the stage performance of War Horse after their World War One topic from last term. The children were so keen to see this production that they hosted a cake sale before Christmas to raise money towards the cost of this trip. Whilst in Bristol they are planning to see some Banksy artwork in the city as part of their current art topic.



Further to this our Y1s are planning to visit Cleobury Fire Station in the near future as part of their Fire topic and the whole of KS2 will be going to Worcester Cathedral to see a play about the Magna Carter and take part in a workshop.

And of course, children across the whole school regularly take part in sporting activities at Lacon Childe School, where they meet children from neighbouring primary schools.

*We currently have places available in our year 1 and year 5 classes. For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our website at [www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk)*

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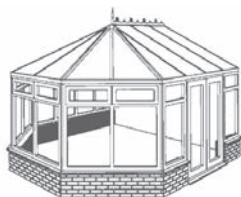
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## BRICKS TO THE RESCUE



*Marion Parson of Newbridge Cat Rescue introduces Smokey the cat to local hero Stefan Brick.*

Newbridge Cat Rescue had a big lift recently when Midland Quarry Products presented 20 tonnes of stone to resurface the paths around the Reaside site. The only problem was moving all that weight of stone; Dan Shotton with a shovel and wheel barrow had a heroic go and moved two tonnes, but something bigger was clearly need.

Enter Stefan Brick of Brick Plant Hire, who booked half a day off work at the family business, taking a mini digger with him. Just the right tool to shift the remaining 18 tonnes to give Marion dry paths to walk around, whatever the weather. A really great and neighbourly thing to do.

## BELARUS

**Jenny Vanderhook has been there and to other places where the Christmas Shoe Boxes go.**

Many people said to me 'You've seen all that happens with the Samaritan Shoe Boxes at this end, you really should see the other end.' So I have; twice to Kyrgyzstan and to Swaziland and now Belarus, a Eastern European country about the same size as the UK. It is the only European country still with a Communist dictator, although I must say it never made any difference to us and our stay. But we were 13 English people taken around by four Belarusians, so maybe that made us OK. Also, Belarus has had the shoe boxes for a long time, with lovely local organiser Nicolai, who was with us for the whole time we were there.

Nicolai, the minibus driver and all the interpreters lived in the capital, Minsk, where we flew in and stayed for most of our visit, travelling out to villages most days. In the five days we gave out shoe boxes, we did 15 distributions in schools, churches, sanatoria and centres for handicapped children. One school was for blind children and one of our team a blind lady; she was able to interact well there. Another

was a music school and after tea we were treated to an impromptu singsong by the director and some of the staff. Two others were art schools, with wonderful work on show.

I noticed that every time we arrived at a place for a distribution we were obviously expected and you could feel the excitement, but the children were very subdued and just sat where they were told and looked at us.

Then we started to undo the crates with the boxes in and give them to the children. What a difference! They just lit up. Some took the gifts out slowly and wonderingly, looking carefully at each item; others quickly got it all out, then put it all back and went off to their dormitory with it. It was lovely to see and this time I did what I'd always meant to and stood and watched the scene while the others gave the boxes out, especially when there were only a few children. I was the only one in the team, apart from the leader, who'd ever ben on a distribution before, so was able to tell them how very different each country is.

Would I go again? I would like to, if I'm chosen. Meanwhile, please keep on filling the shoe boxes.

*Jenny Vanderhook*

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## IN BUSINESS: Reiki Master Kate Jones



*Kate Jones. No pressure, no stress, just a gentle touch and a great capacity to listen.*

Kate Jones learned about Reiki and her own ability to generate a gentle curative touch 26 years ago. "In Birmingham, in someone's house. The lady who taught us travelled up from Cardiff." She's come a long way since then, just as this Japanese way of gentle healing has spread worldwide. Kate moved on to teach the art and is now recognised as a Reiki Master.

The global spread of acceptance began in Hawaii, after Hawayo Takato experienced its effect when visiting Japan, became a Reiki master, and eventually took Reiki to America. Having worked and converted people in both North and South of that huge landmass, she then moved on to Canada.

To show how universal this peaceful art is, Kate quotes people from both sides of the Israel/Palestine border who travel across that troubled line to share treatment and to learn. It knows no political or religious boundaries.

That all sounds wonderful, but how does someone as experienced as her measure the success of this art from the

mysterious East? "My own health is much improved, I have masses of energy, I'm slimmer and I have a peaceful and happy life. My own success I see in the increasing joy in other people's living."

She's not reading that from a corporate pamphlet like a double glazing salesperson, she looks you in the eye and talks with a quiet smile that reflects in her whole demeanour. Nobody could say this is a belief that will appeal to everyone, but as an ambassador for the movement she does have you feeling that life can be a better and more peaceful experience.

The starting point in most Reiki treatment seems to be when life is getting on top of people and they look for something better than another course of pills. "The key to everything - through the Reiki touch - is a calm mind and a relaxed body," she explains. She quotes a recent example of a nurse in a low state, feeling stressed out and suffering almost continual colds. After a few treatments the colds had gone, she had her confidence back and with a monthly top-up life is a great deal better.

"Reiki can help people dealing with cancer too," she explains. "Including chemotherapy treatment. It makes the patient feel more comfortable about a course of treatment. It's being accepted more by conventional medicine; some doctors learn how to treat their patients, others call us in as support."

A sign of that growing acceptance is the National Register of Reiki Practitioners, so that hospices can call in the more advanced people to help patients. Kate helped to set up that Register.

Some doctors have had Reiki practitioners working in their surgeries, where the doctor's time is precious and the Reiki practitioner can give hours of contact if the patient needs it. "We're really helpful," explains Kate. "Drug free, so at less cost."

Her base is in Ludlow, where she gives both treatment and teaching in Reflections, opposite the Assembly Rooms. From there she travels out to see individuals, normally within a 30 miles radius, but that is flexible. For example she travels to Birmingham on occasion. More than flexible is the possibility of starting a group in Scotland, which she admits could be handy, as she's found family roots there.

She's in Cleobury every Tuesday afternoon, at Kim Stanley's Health and Beauty at No 30, High Street. Other times can be booked with a call to her at 01584 890284. Kate and Kim got together after meeting at a Cleobury Country Networking evening and Kim invited her to add to the services available.

She adds to the range of help that renowned place offers: "Some times I can help people see what they hadn't seen in themselves. It can be help at times of trauma, uncertainty or a need for change. What I don't do is advise."

The impression she made very firmly in the course of our talk was that she helps people find inner strength they did not know they possessed, which helps them face life with more confidence. And how does she see her future in Reiki? "I'd be very happy with another 25 years just helping people," she says with that quiet smile. Quite a lady.

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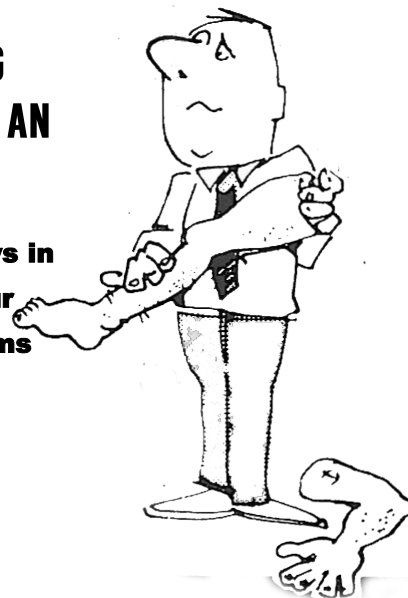
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