

# The Cleobury Clarion

## REMI REINS

Tenbury's lovely Regal theatre filled every seat on February 24th for the debut of a new locally developed project that celebrates the great musical talent of the late Peter Green. The Regal does have some bright brains selecting and promoting music and theatre that draws audiences in and sends them home happy.

In this instance the buzz of anticipation before a note had been played suggested that lots of people knew this would be special. The typical dimming of the lights brought conversation to a stop and those still standing and chatting moved swiftly to take their seats and take in a musical experience they knew would be good, possibly great. Two and a half hours later, the prolonged standing ovation confirmed their hopes. Read more on Page 43.

## THE HIGH SHERIFF VISITED

The High Sheriff of the county called to visit and inspect the town on February 14th. The lady prefers to be called simply Mandy Thorn and showed a lively interest in our community with a capacity to listen carefully and not dictate to our representatives how to do their job. A very refreshing approach when compared with some who have not managed to wear their position with such modesty. No names, no pack drill.

She looked in on the CoCo Coffee morning in the Market Hall, meeting Catherine Evans and several other local characters. From there she walked down to the Community Hub, the one-time Methodist chapel that is now the base of Saint Mary's Youth Partnership and home to lots of fun and

help for the younger children in the town. Richard was the host on that occasion, showing the range of work already completed and the plans for the future. The next steps will require something like £150,000 and raising that from a variety of sources is the task facing those who run the Hub.

The knowledge that senior figures such as Mandy have become apparent at this stage, she listing a number of potential sources and offering either contact details from her Smartphone to ask, or in some other cases offering to make contact herself.

It was an impressive visit by a well connected and clear sighted lady who could prove to be another source of aid to the Community Hub venture. No shout or show, simply listening and offering advice. Just what the county needs in fact.



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Mandy Thorn MBE  
High Sheriff of Shropshire  
Listening before advising.  
See Page 1.



One handsome bird, the  
Raven.  
Linda Iles' view.  
See Page 21.



David Purslow and Keith  
Nicklin of CSI. Making  
life comfortable.  
See Page 48.

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## TREASURER WANTED

Cleobury Mortimer Mens Shed needs a little help. We are without a treasurer and are seeking a local resident who is able to give a little bit of time to help this important charity continue to contribute to our town and help tackle loneliness and isolation along the way.

It is not a time-consuming job as we have very little income and expense. Essentially, we just need a quarterly return and an accountants summary for the year for the charities commission.

Experience shows this is a couple of hours here and there now and then.

If you're reading this and interested in giving a little bit back which will help so many people then please contact our secretary, Guy James on:-  
07532 230051

[guyjames50@gmail.com](mailto:guyjames50@gmail.com)

*Pete Blackburn*

## BIG EASTER BREAKFAST

The Neen Savage Big Breakfast sounds like a busy and friendly way to start an important day in the church calendar. It will be centred around the Parish Church and Hall, starting with an Easter Joy Service at 9.00. This will be followed by a Mega Easter Egg Hunt at 9.30 and then the Big Breakfast at 9.45. That means a full English breakfast with free tea and coffee for a reasonable £8.00, or £4.00 for children under 12. For more information or to book your

place, call 07825030607. After that the day is yours, if you have any energy left.

## NEW NOTES CHOIR NEEDS MEN

Last year I told you of the success of the concert held in the Clee Hill village hall by the New Note Singers. Well, our number of members is steadily growing but sadly male members are very few. We need more men, now!

The most frequent comments are "But I cannot sing." Let me tell you everyone can sing, you may not be able to sing well, but you can sing. It's good for the soul and it makes you feel good. So, you men, what are you waiting for? What are you afraid of? The lovely ladies won't eat you, we are a friendly group and have lots of fun every Thursday from 1.45 till 3.30 in the Clee Hill Community Centre. So come along and you will be made very welcome.

*Derek Handy*

## CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

The March meeting is our Spring Show, when part of the Hall is full of cheery spring flowers waiting to be judged. Guaranteed to lift the lowest spirits!

Our speaker this month is Darren Rudge; an old friend of the Club. Who could forget his previous talks "Teabags, Bras and Tights" and "Colour and Interest in the Garden."

Darren is a horticulturist with 30 years experience. He has been a BBC broadcaster for 15 years; was an assistant director

at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and currently runs a garden design business.

The subject this month will be "Low Maintenance Gardening" A topic which I am sure will be of interest to everyone. He does encourage full audience participation, so be prepared to join in.

As usual there will be a flower of the month competition, and a magazine swap. Also, a prize is on offer if your number is drawn out of the hat. Any questions? Call Elva on 01299 832288.

We look forward to seeing you on the 27th March.

*Judith Lawson*

## CLEOBURY CONCERT BRASS

We have been in full swing rehearsing for the area contest in Corby on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The title of the music is Corineus by Christopher Bond, which is an exciting piece of music and has made our winter practices very enjoyable.

Very short notice, but if you are at a loose end this evening, March 1st, we will be opening the doors to our final rehearsal in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Our 2024 engagement list is taking shape, so please get in touch if you have a special occasion coming up and are looking for something a bit musically different, you might like to consider booking the band to play, we can tailor the music to your requirements.

To discuss options, please contact our secretary Amanda on 01584 891199

*Katie Griffiths*



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### CLEOBURY W.I.

Our recent coffee morning was held at Cleobury Golf Club, with a dozen members enjoying coffee, cake and toasted teacakes and a good natter.

There was a great turnout for our February meeting, which saw the return of Tim Scarborough's drumming workshop. Many members and several visitors enjoyed the evening of Rhythmicity. There were three types of instrument available (various drums, shakers and things to tap!) and we had the opportunity to try out all types as we made music together.

The patchwork and quilting sessions run by Sarah Wilde are underway, with various dates on the calendar for meetings at St Mary's Place. Sarah demonstrates techniques, we practise and will hopefully each have a beautiful sample quilt by the end!

We do try to cater for all tastes in our WI, with a range of speakers and activities. The committee has been busy organising next year's programme of events, which will be presented at the AGM on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a 'members only' evening with a look back over the past year's events and activities, the usual financial report and election of the committee for the coming year. The business part of the evening is only short, then we will enjoy a 'bring and share' supper and games of Bingo with prizes to follow!

The next afternoon tea meeting will be held at 3pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Fountain. All members are invited to come along and enjoy tea, cake and a natter.

For further information or to join WI, you are welcome to contact Judy 01299 270983 or email [judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com). Check out our Facebook page!

*Val Sniadowski*

### LUDLOW ROTARY CARES 2024

'Ludlow Rotary Cares' is the name given to its annual scheme supporting community life in and around Ludlow, offering modest grants to local charities and organisations. For this year the maximum grant available has been increased from £500 to £750.

Over the past nine years the Ludlow Rotary Club has been able to invest over £45,000 in almost 100 local community projects through this scheme from funds it has raised. After a successful Dog Day fundraising event in 2023, the Club is delighted to be able to invest again in our community.

The Club intends to be very open minded about the types of activities it will support so long as the project or programme responds to a community need in or within 15 miles of Ludlow and meets its criteria on the giving of grants.

What the Club will need to understand is exactly what the money will be used for, who will benefit from it and how much difference it will make.

Further information and a simple application form can be found on the website [www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk). Organisations which meet the criteria will need to get their applications in by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Those shortlisted will be invited to an evening event at Ashford Carbonell Village Hall on May 14<sup>th</sup> at which they will be asked to explain their project for a few minutes to a small panel. There will also be an opportunity to meet other applicants as well as members of the Rotary Club.

The Club is keen to hear from a wide range of organisations including those that have applied in the past or have been awarded grants in the past, so if you are involved in or are aware of one which might benefit, do take a look at the website and follow the link to download an application form.

For further information please email [lrc@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](mailto:lrc@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk).

Barry Forrester  
*Ludlow Rotary Club*



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### SELECT AND SAVE FINED FOR UNDER AGE VAPE SALE

The owner of the Select and Save store in Cleobury Mortimer has been convicted of selling a nicotine vape product to a minor under the legal age of 18, following a prosecution by Shropshire Council R P Enterprises Ltd of Penn Road, Wolverhampton, was convicted at Telford Magistrates Court on 5th February 2024 and ordered to pay a total of £5,944 in fines and costs.

Shropshire Council's trading standards team conducted an underage sales exercise with two volunteers at the store in June 2023, after receiving intelligence that the premises was selling vapes to children under the age of 18. Of the six premises subjected to a test purchase on the day, only the Select and Save store sold a disposable vape to the volunteers.

The prosecution was brought as the business was unable to provide sufficient evidence of procedures it had taken to prevent the future sales of age restricted products to minors.

Chris Schofield, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning and regulatory services, said: "This case is a reminder to any business selling age-

restricted products of their responsibilities to prevent sales to minors, such as 'Challenge 25', requesting photo ID, and ensuring all staff receive adequate training.

"We want to make sure Shropshire is a strong, safe and attractive place for people, and our trading standards team will continue to work to ensure laws on age related products are complied with.

"This kind of work by trading standards helps prevent under 18s from accessing age-restricted products from businesses who flout the law."

Any person or business who suspects a business may be selling vapes or other age-restricted products to minors, can report this to the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. Information can be provided anonymously and will be shared with trading standards in line with the council's information governance policies. Shropshire businesses who want advice on their legal obligations can do so by contacting 0345 678 9000. Further advice is also available from [Business Companion](#).

### WHOOOPS!

Our news item in the February Clarion that the Monday Bingo at the Market Hall had closed down was wrong. We were notified by

Suzanne French that she had ceased to organise the evenings, hence our report.

But Margaret Griffiths has been in touch to advise that she is now running the sessions, which will please players of the game. She's on CM 272683, the starting time is from 7.30 on Mondays and new players will be made very welcome.

### CLOWS TOP VICTORY HALL

Barn Dance. Saturday March 9th. 7.00 pm. Same caller and band as our previous dances. Adults £10, Child u16, £5. Bar and snacks. Ring Steve on 07738014884 for tickets.

Quiz Night. Saturday March 16th 7.15 pm. Teams up to six, £2.50 per head. Bar and snacks, also Pakoray Shakoray selling their curries etc. Ring Steve on 07738014884 to book a team in.

Wildlife Club Friday 5th April. 7.00pm. Wildlife quizzes, bar and snacks with free tea and coffee all night.

The speaker will be David Brown talking about Moths. Members free, non members on the door 5 pounds, just turn up. For more information ring Steve on 07738014884.

*Steve Woodison*



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## CLEOBURY GARDENERS

Mycorrhizal Networks. Covid gave Kit Smith the opportunity to further his relationship with a magnificent *Quercus Rubor* – his favourite oak tree on the Ridgeway beyond Hobsons Brewery. The fact that his garden was wilting during the hot summer whilst this Oak was surviving well, caused Kit to research the Why and How questions. He was guided to the existence and work of the Mycorrhizal Network, a worldwide web.

Kit Smith is Cleobury's own passionate environmentalist. At our meeting in February he spoke of a very long love affair, a 40 million year long love affair - between fungi, plants and trees which communicate with each other through their interconnected root systems, in a symbiotic relationship of mutual benefit: trees receive water and minerals from fungi in return for sugars from the photosynthesis of trees. Beneath the ground the root structures grow towards one another and have become a continuous underground network existing over vast areas of land, crossing countries, borders and boundaries. Increasingly, however, with development, some modern farming practices, population movement, civil and military unrest, the networks are suffering and the food exchanges are interrupted.

So how can we play our part? The importance of countryside to Cleobury residents, and the requirement to protect trees, tracks and wildlife corridors became apparent in the

Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, the ramifications of which remain relevant to 2038 – another 14 years for us to adjust, control and change for our benefit and those who follow. Be aware of disrupting the soil; apply a mycorrhizal powder to the roots of plants to encourage root development, and plant to reinstate networks rather than cause further disruption. There exists an outline map of wildlife corridors which have already been created around Cleobury which is available from Cleobury Country Centre.

Our next meeting, at the Parish Hall, is on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 for 8pm. Our speaker is Benjamin Matthews, and his topic is "Hostas".

Remember, garden as though you will live forever.

*Linda Ashman*

## FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Most people in Cleobury admire the beauty and presence of St Mary's Church, a focal point in the centre of the Town. But do you know how much it costs to maintain it for the benefit of all in the Community? The current annual running cost is approximately £47,000 which comes out at about £900 a week and this has to be found by the Parochial Church Council who are all volunteers. This sum just covers normal expenditure such as heating, lighting and routine maintenance, but any repairs or improvements are extra. In addition, the building is one of the 2.5% of listed buildings that are designated Grade 1 so that any work must be done to a high standard,

usually by specialists and this does not come cheap.

For instance, the recent overhaul of the clock, maintenance of the bell frame and new staircase to the bell chamber is likely to cost around £50,000. Grant funding is often available but this usually requires match funding so that the balance must be raised locally. This problem has been recognised and in 2003 The Friends of St Mary's was formed to 'Maintain, repair, restore and preserve the Church building and its fabric for the benefit of the community and future generations'. Since its formation, the Friends have raised and donated at least £100,000 for a number of projects including the rewiring and installation of an improved lighting system and underfloor heating which have made the building much more practical as an events venue.

However, time takes its toll and this year, three of our long serving Committee members are retiring. Elizabeth Burton, Angela Drennan and Diane Waddington have together given many years of service to Cleobury and deserve our thanks for all the work they have done. As a result, new Committee members are urgently required. As the population of Cleobury now numbers over 3000, there must be some public spirited souls out there willing to help.

To sum up, you are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Friends on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in St Mary's Church. Volunteers especially welcome.

*Steve Todd. Secretary.*



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**THE NEARLY DEAD  
POETS' SOCIETY**

It does seem strange, reporting on the January poetry gathering in the March Clarion, but meeting on the last Monday in the month means the deadline was missed. So some late good news, with six lovers of words gathered as we greeted Chris Withers and Janet Manley. Clearly out to make friends, they'd heard we take a sip of wine with words and brought a bottle along. It went down very well.

Tony Smith taxied in from Kidderminster to make us laugh, David Walford made us shake our heads in admiration of his word power and Chris Withers reminded us of Dylan Thomas's great craft with a reading of "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night." Tina Hobin read some of her son Richards deep work and we hope he'll come and read live sometime soon. The editor reminded us that he and Tina were the only two at the December night with a poem written for absent friends! That made six of us feel like a crowd.

We meet at 7.30 in the town library on Monday the 25th this month, when fine words and laughter will be shared. Our subject for the poem will be 'Leap Year'.

**DOG CONTROL**

The local police remind us that dogs should be kept under reasonable control and not be a nuisance. A series of complaints about lack of

control and noise saw one owner in Bridgnorth issued with a Community Protection Warning, resulting in secure fencing being installed around the owner's property and the dog to be kept under control on a lead.

**EASTER VILLAGE  
MARKET**

On Saturday the 23rd, from 10.00 'til 2.00, at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall. Handmade products, crafts and gifts, tea, cakes and a raffle. Check [facebook.com/farlowandoretton](https://www.facebook.com/farlowandoretton) for details or call Lucy on 01746 718642.

**VLADIMIR**

Regular readers may recall the matter of a nasty little pain that was removed from my bladder in February last year. It was one minor pain in the backside named after the biggest current example of that strain. If I was looking for an excuse for errors in the February edition there it was, but I attributed that to age.

I certainly was rather nervous to be called in for a progress check in February this year. But the cheerful staff at Redditch hospital made me feel at ease, the matter of a camera being fitted to make the examination was much easier than last time and the surgeon had a friendly manner. Even better, there was no sign of any infection and I parted feeling very much better and advised that a repeat examination will be booked for about six months time. I had been trying not to complain or get wound up, but I was just plain relieved.

I've praised the National Health Service on these pages quite a bit in the past 18 years, and I'll carry on doing so whenever I see or experience the sort of excellence I've just experienced. If I may offer a rather trite phrase to remind anyone who feels they're not as well as they normally are, it's simply "If in doubt, go and find out!" There's a service and a wealth of knowledge that will help you.

**THE PENTABUS  
YARD SALE**

This highly regarded local theatre company is celebrating its 50th birthday this year. They are moving from their long established base at Bromfield, near Ludlow, and are having a Yard Sale of props, costumes, furniture and memorabilia acquired over half a century. Can you imagine just how much stuff a theatre company could build up in that time?

You can see for yourself at The Old School, Bromfield, near Ludlow at SY8 2JU on Saturday March 9th between 10.00 and 2.00 o'clock. If you're feeling brave, just imagine what you could dress in to pay a visit to your local pub or even try getting onto a bus to go to work on Monday the 11th. It's not for the shy, but it is tailor made for a barrel load of laughs.



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### WOOD WORDS

The recent spells of cold and wet weather do not really give much inspiration to write a few notes on the world of green bowling. But the anticipation of what will be in mid-April when the green re-opens (weather permitting) gives a little glimmer of expectation!

Just a reminder that new members are welcome and next season we intend to repeat organisation of "taster sessions" for those that might wish to consider "having a go"! Details will be available on face book and club website cleoburybowls.org.uk also within these columns.

Readers may have viewed the recent televised Indoor World Bowls Championship, which despite its somewhat boring title (to some) created memorable viewing for those interested in the skill, dexterity and intrigue (better than Traitors) within the sport of bowling.....come and try!

Club news shows the award of Member of the Year '23, made by club chairman Tony Wilson, was passed to stalwart member Phil Pack, head greenkeeper, a top class player and expert in arranging rules and order of play in club special bowling days.

Whilst on a sad note, former club captain and vice president Brian Sheldon - "Shelly"- to most - died suddenly in December. Also, in the same vein of sadness, the club has been informed of the death of member Pauline Sorrell in early January. Pauline was a member of the Ladies League Team and a regular player. Our sympathies are extended to all

family and friends of both longstanding members.

Finally, watch this space for further details of recent "stop press" just come in regarding sponsorship of the club for next season by a well known local brewery.

A reminder to all readers that general information on bowling is available on websites, Bowls.co.uk, Bowls Development Alliance or British Crown Green Bowls Association.

*Yours in bowls  
Smiffy*

### THE READING GROUP

Good writing, good story and a good evening's chat! 'Marriage Material' by Satham Sanghera was appreciated by all and contained information often new to us. We thought it to be a realistic representation, documenting the life of a Sikh family running a Wolverhampton corner shop. The elder son Arian Bango works in London and has an English fiancé. On the death of his father he goes back to help his mother sort things out. Sanghera writes about the cultural frustrations experienced by many second generation Sikhs, other nationalities and religions. Their family life interesting, providing us with plenty of subjects for discussion. The level of tolerance achieved; how family, especially elders, are looked after and the usual question 'have things moved on'? Our book for March is 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens, opinions will be aired on Monday March 18th.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

### THE MEN'S SHED

An interview with Anthony, a regular user of the Men's Shed in Cleobury.

**Why do you go to the Men's Shed?**

I have depression. I'd rather cut my leg off with a rusty spoon than talk about it in public, but it's something we need to talk about to break the taboo around mental illness. I've lost two close mates to suicide so I know the devastation it can cause.

I regularly pop into the Men's Shed for a cuppa and a chat. I've helped with community projects and I've learned how to use woodworking tools which is brilliant because I'm a DIY novice. The shed environment is creative, positive and encouraging regardless of your skill level. I'm toying with the idea of building a garden table for my wife who is very rude about my DIY skills!

There's only one golden rule - What is said in the Men's Shed stays in the Men's Shed.

**Who goes?**

Men from different walks of life: farmer, carpenter, IT consultant and a surveyor. The members have a strong sense of belonging and camaraderie, and devote time to worthwhile community projects.

**When and where?**

It's informal. Pop in for a cuppa and have a look around. Tuesday and Wednesday midday to 4pm, Friday 2:30pm to 4pm (a social occasion at the Cleobury Community Hub) Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8RD (the shed is across from the Seafood Centre)



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## THE LATEST FROM CORAL & TOM...

February's housing market continued its positive start to the year with net sales agreed so far this year across the UK being at 95193 homes, exceeding the average across 2017/18/19 where we experienced a traditional market not influenced and affected by Covid-19 and stamp duty relief. New properties coming to market are also up from previous years, with year to date new listings surpassing the averages for the last 8 years.

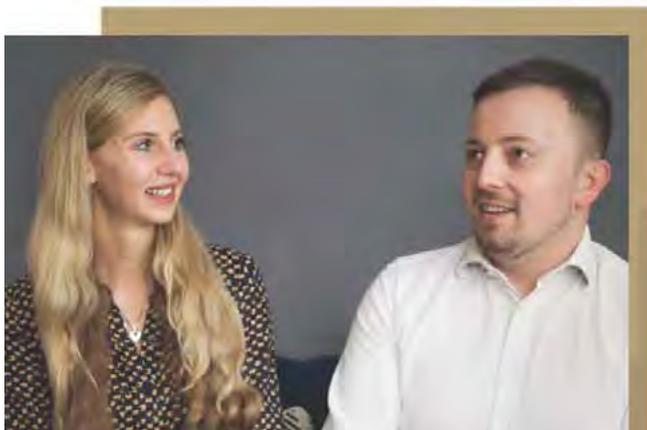
Locally, across the Wyre Forest, sales agreed have reached 230 at the time of writing with a week left of the month, compared to last year's 204 agreed for January and February which is positive to see the market we live in is as buoyant as the rest of the UK. There is clear appetite from home movers we have spoken to this year to move forward with their plans after being unsuccessful in 2023.

As ever, the influx of new homes coming to market gives plenty of choice for prospective buyers so working closely with your estate agent to give you honest and informative advice to navigate the market when selling is going to be key in making a move happen.

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

**Coralie Walrond** MNAEA MARLA

**Tom Jackson** MNAEA



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## Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group

### Curlew and Lapwing survey

**Curlews usually start returning in late February, and continue to arrive throughout March. Have you heard your first of the year yet?**

**If so, please tell us**

Our survey aims to find out how many breeding pairs there are, and where. We need to know that before we can try and help them. If you can recognise Lapwing and Curlew (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution. If possible, we would also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

The area is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee and Clee Hill and Catherton Commons, extending approximately as far as Knowlegate and Knowbury to the south, Bitterley to the west, Cleedownton and Bromdon to the north, and Doddington to the east. The bird survey has been carried out every year since 2012, and we are doing it again this year.

If you regret the disappearance of Curlew and Lapwing from the local countryside, and want to do something to help stop it, we would like your help, please. New helpers will be very welcome.

In 2023, we had the best result for some years – two pairs of Curlew each fledged a young bird. We located about eight breeding pairs of Curlews in the area altogether, similar to the last three years, but a lot less than the 13 pairs when we started in 2012. Are there more? Where are they?

The survey is easy to do, and only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June. Simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come. Whether you join in or not, please let us know if you see Curlew, Lapwing or Kestrel anywhere in the area.

You can read about the Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) *Save our Curlews campaign* on the SOS website [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/).

**We still need to monitor the local Curlew population, and check all the pairs we do find, to see if they produce young, and if any fledge, so if you can do so, please help.**

**A Bird Group meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18 March,  
at the Recreation Rooms, 22A, Clee Hill High Street,  
to present the results of our work in previous years, and plans for 2024.**

**All welcome!!!**

For more information, please see the Clee Hill pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website <https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/clee-hill-wildlife-group/>

**You can find more information about how to report a Curlew, Lapwing or Kestrel, arrangements for the public meeting on 1820 March,**

**on our website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk/](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/)**

**or contact Chris Bargman**

**01299 270514, email: [chcwgs@shropscwgs.org.uk](mailto:chcwgs@shropscwgs.org.uk)**

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## The Cleobury Mortimer Manor House

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

Properties from previous centuries are protected through a listing system by Historic England. A Grade II with \* is considered to have a special element of particular interest and in the case of the Manor House this is the curved and swept oak staircase with toad-back handrail. This is what makes our Manor House with a separately listed adjoining Stable Block, so special amongst the 77 listed buildings and structures in our town alone.

It is believed the House was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, by Hugh de Mortimer and was typical of Manorial Houses of that age. Formerly known as Cooks House, it was sold on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1760 for the sum of £60. Over the years, many exchanges of ownership ended with the property ending its life as a Nursing Home in 1988. The home was closed up around 2010 and has remained so since then.

The building was listed by Historic England over 20 years ago. But it became obvious that the current owner has not fully maintained the building, resulting in a local campaign to save it from further decline.

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

Just recently a small group of supporters met outside the Manor House to show that its decline was not forgotten and looking at the front elevation it is very clear that

urgent maintenance is required to the decaying woodwork and paintwork.



The Save the Manor House Team, while still in discussions with the Local Conservation Office, have also met with the owner, who has confirmed that any appropriate offer to purchase would be met with interest. At this stage there has been one approach which we will follow closely

### The group has simple objectives.

1<sup>st</sup> is to have at least the visible frontage of the property cleaned up to remove the 'eyesore' element. This would entail addressing the decaying paintwork, the front garden and shrub area and the main gates.

2<sup>nd</sup> objective is to see the property sold to a party who would restore life to the whole building and site.

3<sup>rd</sup> and final objective would be to see the house be part of our thriving community either purely as a residential property or some form of single or multiple business enterprise further benefitting the economy of the town.

We would welcome that our campaign with saving the Manor House gets the widest possible coverage. We believe there must be someone out there who would be prepared to take it on for all our benefit.

We very much appreciate any support that helps to maintain the focus on saving this beautiful property right in the middle of our town. [www.savethemanorhouse.uk](http://www.savethemanorhouse.uk)



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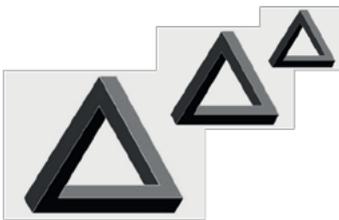
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March is something of a changeover month. Winter visitors such as Redwings and Fieldfares will be on their way back north but the summer visitors should be arriving and we may see Sand Martins by the river or hear Chiffchaffs making their onomatopoeic calls. Many of our year-round residents are already laying eggs in their nests and others may already be feeding nestlings.



Tawny Owls and Ravens are examples of these early breeders. The Raven (pictured) is a frequent visitor to the farm but I have yet to see one at close quarters or even at ground level. They most commonly announce their presence high above the tree canopy as they fly over, repeating a throaty, rasping 'Cronk', and often tumbling in acrobatic displays to each other. They pair for life, which can be up to fifteen years. They are completely black like their relatives the crows and rooks, but are much bigger, bigger even than buzzards. Their

size, long wings (giving a wingspan of 1.3 metres) and diamond-shaped tail help to identify them at a distance but if you could see them close up they would also be distinguished by a heavy beak and bristling throat feathers.

Literature and older text books associate Ravens with the cliffs and mountains of the north and west, and although they have extended their range eastwards over most of Britain, their presence, and especially their calls, evoke a sense of wildness and loneliness. These are not the only emotions they inspire: over many hundreds of years they have often been feared or hated. They feed on carrion (as well as small living prey) and can be relied upon to turn up when an animal dies, starting their feast by pecking out the creature's eyes. There is evidence that they sometimes kill lambs and even adult sheep, so it's not surprising that many farmers hate them and gamekeepers persecute them. They are also associated with battlefields and feature in superstitions and folk tales as harbingers of death. The other side of the coin is that they are highly intelligent: good at mimicry, feats of memory and problem-solving. They can make fascinating and amusing pets and the famous Ravens that guard the Tower of London are tame, cared for by a Yeoman warder known as the Ravenmaster. In case you didn't know, the Tower and England itself will fall if they ever leave. But was King Arthur turned into a Raven, and will he return to save his kingdom when disaster threatens?

*Linda Iles*

# Cleobury Mortimer & District History Society

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## INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

The History Society is seeking new members.

**Come along to an open meeting on  
Tuesday 16 April  
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[robert@cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk](mailto:robert@cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk)



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# CLEOBURY MORTIMER BENEFICE HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

<p>Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday</p>	<p>The cross will leave Kinlet at 12.30pm, walk to Kinlet School and walk through the Village to The Eagle and Serpent by 1.30pm.</p> <p>Cross goes by road to Neen Savage by 6pm</p>
<p>Monday 25th March</p>	<p>12pm Eucharist at Neen Savage, walk the Cross from the church to the main road and by car to Hopton Wafers at 6pm for an Evening service and address.</p>
<p>Tuesday 26th March</p>	<p>12pm Eucharist at Hopton Wafers followed by a loop around the village.</p> <p>Cross to go by road to Doddington via Hopton Bank Methodist Church at 5.30pm for prayers. 6pm evening service and address at Doddington Church.</p>
<p>Wednesday 27th March</p>	<p>2pm Doddington walk to Park Homes then Doddington Lodge (2.30pm)</p> <p>Cross by car to Milson for 4pm Eucharist. Walk to Neen Sollars for Evening service and address at 6pm.</p>
<p>Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Walk around Neen Sollars 12pm with the Cross.</p> <p>Cross goes by road to St Elizabeth at 4pm.</p> <p>Eucharist and Vigil 7.30-9.30pm at St Mary's.</p>
<p>Friday 29th March Good Friday</p>	<p>Meet at St. Elizabeth's at 9.00am for Stations of the Cross, walk to the Hub for 9.30am.</p> <p>10.00am Communion from the reserved sacrament at St Mary's.</p> <p>12.30pm walk around Cleobury to St. Mary's at 2.00pm</p> <p>3pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>6.30pm Compline at Neen Savage.</p>
<p>Saturday 30th March Easter Eve</p>	<p>All (New Fire, Easter Vigil and Eucharist) 8.30pm at St. Mary's.</p>
<p>Sunday 31st March Easter Day</p>	<p>St Mary the Virgin, Cleobury Mortimer: 10.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St Michael &amp; All Angels, Hopton Wafers: 9.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>All Saints, Neen Sollars: 11.00am Village Eucharist</p> <p>St George's, Milson: 11.00am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St Mary's, Neen Savage: 9.00am Parish Eucharist &amp; Community Big Breakfast</p> <p>St John the Baptist, Kinlet: 11.15am Parish Eucharist</p> <p>St John the Baptist, Doddington: 11.00am Parish Eucharist</p>

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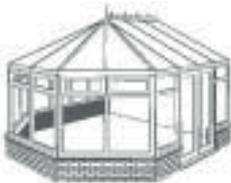
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## Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

### The Spring Budget

The Chancellor will deliver his Spring Budget Statement on 6th March. This is likely to be the last major fiscal event of this Parliament. It also provides a formal update of latest estimates of the economic outlook which will provide much of the context for the upcoming General Election.

The economic backdrop is really important to grasp. The Government had to spend £400bn to keep millions of businesses and tens of millions of their employees afloat during the pandemic. The interest burden in servicing that debt has risen, as interest rates were increased, to bring down inflation, which had soared due to the escalation in energy costs after Putin invaded Ukraine. These issues all have a bearing on each other.

While the UK entered a technical recession at the end of 2023 it is likely to have left it at the beginning of this year, making it one of the shallowest downturns in the past century, and the UK economy is forecast to outgrow both France and Germany in 2024. Inflation has more than halved. Unemployment is at close to record lows. Energy costs are declining. Mortgage interest rates have started to fall. Incomes have risen above inflation for the past nine months. Taxes (national insurance) have been cut for 27 million people this year. There are plenty of challenges but the economic backdrop is improving

I am not standing again, so this is also the last chance I have had to suggest ideas for any tax or spending decisions which the Chancellor may make to help deliver positive changes for residents of South Shropshire.

I write significantly ahead of the Budget, and have no knowledge of what it might contain. There will be policies of national significance, and I hope that the prudence with which this government has stewarded the economy through the period of high inflation, will now leave some room for manoeuvre, including the possibility of further tax cuts to help stimulate economic growth.

I have joined other colleagues from the Conservative Environment Network in calling for a number of changes, which mostly remove

perverse disincentives towards green schemes. For example, given how important farming is to South Shropshire, I have asked the Chancellor to support the River Severn Partnership proposals and to look again at equalling out tax anomalies on agricultural land being used for environmental schemes. I have also called for stamp duty changes to be made to encourage householders to invest in energy efficiency measures when moving house.

I also want to support our hospitality sector, which is crucial to South Shropshire's economy but has been hit hard in recent years. Readers may have seen that ABTA recently named Shropshire as one of its top ten global destinations – the only place in the UK to feature. So harnessing our hospitality sector will help drive future growth, and I have supported calls to extend rate relief for hospitality businesses, to help ease the burden of rising cost pressures.

My earliest interventions this year were to work with Shropshire Council to put into perspective the financial challenges they face. The Adult Social Care budget continues to absorb a growing percentage of the Council's finances, not least because South Shropshire is a popular place to retire, and so our demographics are older. Over 30% of our population in South Shropshire is aged over 65, compared to 18% nationally. Last month we secured some increase in the funding allocation to Shropshire Council, but the Council still faces significant budget challenges.

Given my previous role as a Defence Minister,, I would be encouraged to see further uplift in the Defence budget. I have called for the plan to reduce the size of the Army to be reversed.

Whatever measures we see this month, it will be important to avoid fuelling any further inflation, while using tax changes as a lever to stimulate growth in the economy, which pays for the public services on which we all rely.

*Philip Dunne*

*Carole Clayton - Funeral  
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### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Sadly the annual Snowdrop Walk was cancelled last month due to the closure of the footpath accessing the Lower Forge Bridge on the Mawley Estate. Instead fifteen walkers and three well behaved dogs set out from the Market Hall on a rather grey early February morning to walk the undulating countryside to the south of the town. Following CMFA Walk 5, Teme Valley Views, the route was reasonably firm underfoot despite the January storms with just a few muddy areas. The promise of a lovely day became a reality when the breeze cleared the mist to give spectacular views over the Teme Valley with Abberley, Bromyard and the Malvern Hills in the distance. The walk of just over three miles has a few short hilly sections that exercised the heart was completed in about two hours at a leisurely chatty pace. We did look for snowdrops during the walk but they were only evident in private gardens in Cleobury! The Country Walk on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> will meet outside St Mary's church at 10.00 and head towards Neen Savage.

The work parties start this month after the Winter break. They are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month. As it says on our website, CMFA is one of many volunteer groups in Shropshire that provide a major contribution to the maintenance of public Rights of Way. Please get in touch via the website if you would like to join this worthwhile activity.

Choosing a suitable route for Walking for Health is challenging during the winter months. In February one of our leaders came up with a novel variation, an exploration of some of the Cleobury's cul de sacs! It may sound odd but it was definitely different. There were several comments of "I've never been down here", even from long standing residents. The highlights of the town look different from an unusual angle. The view of St Mary's church steeple from Mill Pool Place not only shows its characteristic twist but also a distinct lean. Walking for Health meet on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am outside The Market Hall.

There are many footpaths around Cleobury and I expect we all have our favourites. One of mine is CMFA Walk 9: Hobson's

Choice. The five mile route heads out of town past Hobson's brewery and the vets. The paths cross arable land towards Barnslands Farm which has stood there since the sixteenth century. There are some steepish sections, several stiles and it can be muddy after heavy rain. The views over the Rea and Teme Valleys towards the Black Mountains are well worth the effort.

More information and the calendar can be found on the website [www.cmfa.co.uk](http://www.cmfa.co.uk) Our Facebook page has news and many photos.

*Veronica Hargreaves*

### ROCK PATHFINDERS

Walk dates and details for this very active neighbour just across the Worcestershire border.

Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup>. 10.00 start from Kinlet Hall, just off the B4194 at DY12 3AS

Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>. 10.00am start from Rock Village, Porchbrook Road, Rock DY14 9SD.

The club had a new web address : [www.rockpathfinders.uk](http://www.rockpathfinders.uk).

Or email : [mdsskey@rockpathfinders.uk](mailto:mdsskey@rockpathfinders.uk) or ring Alan on 01299 400304

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## THE BREAKFAST CLUB

In February, the Club met to hear Pete Blackburn talk about 'Crisis & Conflict'. A retired police officer, Pete has experienced crisis and conflict during the course of his duties, and he summarised some of the learning relevant to any conflict situation. He did, however, stress right at the start that this is a field in which 'there is no such thing as an expert' as we all have more to learn.

In any crisis situation the prime aim of the police will be to save life and defuse confrontation without harm coming to anyone involved. Key factors in such a situation include situational awareness, emotional intelligence, and effective communication using active listening skills. It is always important to remain as calm as possible, and use active listening skills to establish a rapport and gain an understanding of the situation to build genuine trust and a safe way forward. Simple common sense principles, e.g. being truthful, will help increase the likelihood of a peaceful resolution.

Having outlined some of these principles, Pete then shared the learning from one domestic siege situation where an elderly lady was held at knifepoint by a family member threatening to kill her. Pete outlined how he initially spoke directly to the subject then co-ordinated the negotiations, working closely with other specialist mental health professionals. This approach

helped influence the subject to release the lady held without harm, and after 28 hours of negotiation a peaceful surrender was achieved, to the relief of all involved. Whilst numerous options were continually reviewed by the police, good communication and teamwork led to a peaceful outcome. A good example of how negotiation can help bring a complex conflict situation to peaceful conclusion. Pete's final words were 'The most dangerous time in any negotiation is when you think you're winning.'

The Club's next meeting will be held on March 12th at the Golf Club, with Chris Kippin speaking on 'So Near And Yet So Far'. This will be followed by the AGM. April's meeting will be held on 2 April, with visiting speaker Tim Blackburn (Consultant in Facial Plastic Surgery, Manchester) who will speak on 'Facial Reconstruction Surgery'. Anyone wishing to attend either meeting should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book a place.

*Mark Baldwin*

## FLICKS IN THE STICKS

On the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings (summer 2014) octogenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) made global headlines. He'd staged a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades. The story captured the imagination of the world – embodying the defiant, "can-do" spirit of a generation that was

fast disappearing. It was the story we all tell ourselves to make war and old age bearable. The bitter-sweet script explores the reality with wit and a very big heart. Bernie's adventure, spanning a mere 48 hours, also marked the culmination of his 60-year marriage to Irene (Glenda Jackson) -- the story celebrates their love without sentimentality and with an eye to the lessons we can all learn from the Greatest Generation.

*Robert Hodge*

## THE HISTORY SOCIETY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

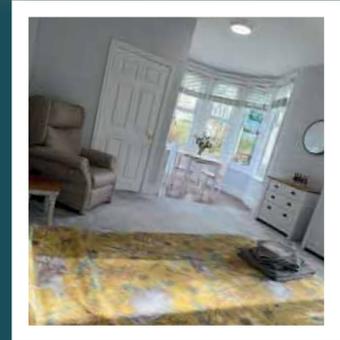
Are you interested in local history? Further to the item in last month's Clarion, there will be an open meeting of the History Society on Tuesday 16 April at 7.30pm in the Market Hall where you can learn how we have researched the mediæval origins of Cleobury, the Mortimers, local industry and trades, families and characters, the poor, crime and punishment, settlement, buildings, wills, social mobility, genealogy and much more. If you are interested, but can't come – please email [robert@cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk](mailto:robert@cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk)

*Dr Robert Hodge  
Chairman*



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Our home is a loving community and family, where you can consider Doddington Lodge a home away from home. We will provide you with all the key information, guiding you through every step of the process, whether you are staying with us for a short or long stay.

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March 2024



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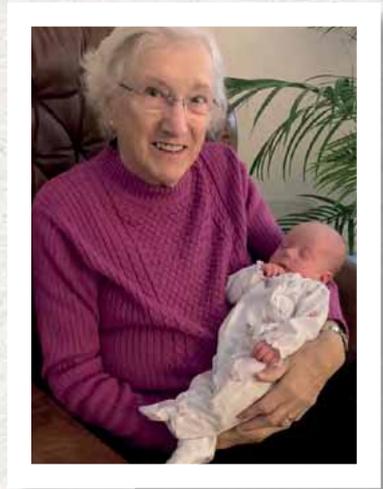
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM A MEMORABLE MONTH AT DODDINGTON LODGE

We've had such a lovely time here at Doddington Lodge over the month of February, celebrating some very special moments.

We kicked things off with a lively Chinese New Year celebration, where we enjoyed some delicious Chinese cuisine and cracked open fortune cookies. It was such a fun night, full of good food and laughs, wishing everyone a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year.

A few days later, we celebrated Pancake Day here at Doddington Lodge. We started the day by flipping some yummy pancakes and having delicious toppings, from classic lemon and sugar to chocolate spread. There was a pancake topping for everyone!

The next day, we all celebrated a lovely Valentine's Day. The atmosphere was filled with love and warmth as we enjoyed a delicious Valentine's Day-themed menu created by our very talented chefs, making it a truly special day to remember.



### ★ ★ ★ Team Spotlight ★ ★ ★



We would like to introduce you to Rachel L. She is one of our amazing Activity Coordinators who lives in Tenbury with her husband and two children. Rachel has a great passion for baking cakes and cooking delicious food, and she can often be found experimenting with new recipes in her kitchen. She is also a devoted parent who takes an active role in her children's after-school activities such as dancing, swimming, and football.

But that's not all! Rachel is also a skilled hairdresser and barber. Her talent for styling hair leaves our residents feeling amazing after spending some time in the Doddington Lodge salon. Providing a sense of well-being to our residents through her work is extremely important and never fails to fill her with immense satisfaction.

We are incredibly lucky to have Rachel as part of our Doddington Lodge team. Her sparkle and upbeat outlook never fails to put a smile on our faces. We are truly grateful for the warmth and dedication she brings to our community.

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### The Petrified Puppy

This month's meandering ponderings start with a plea. Dear reader, I need your insight and expertise. And if you don't have any of that to hand, I'll take your best wishes and messages of support.

Frankly, I'll take whatever you've got.

The source of my chagrin is a fox-red Labrador named Maggie. Let's gallop through the good stuff first:

**She's gorgeous.** Granted, some family members have commented that her head looks a bit like a baked bean and her eyes are a touch on the beady side, but to me, my 'Labra-daughter' is picture perfect.

**She's funny.** I mean, *really* funny. They say that comedy is all about timing, and Maggie has a knack of choosing the perfect time to run away my wife's slippers. She nails it every time, sparking great hilarity in our house. In fact, the only one who doesn't seem to see the funny side of it is my wife, but I assure Maggie that you can't please all the people all the time. Tough audience, my wife.

**She's sporty.** A hairy four-legged mix of Usain Bolt, Adam Peaty and Erling Haaland - she is a running/swimming/ball-catching machine. This physical aptitude does come at a cost, namely, her eating her own body weight in ridiculously expensive dog food. However, I view this very much as a necessary investment - after all, you don't stick any old unleaded into an F1 car, do you?

However, despite all this marvellousness, we do have one slight issue - with the exception of our immediate family and home environment, Maggie is terrified of almost everything.

The distant sound of a car will send her into a frenzy. Strangers - even friends who are regular visitors - are treated with the highest of suspicion. Any loud noise will

spark a major panic attack.

And despite being surrounded by people ready to dish out calming hugs, her preferred method of dealing with fear is to find the nearest thorny bush and hide under it, shaking. She's become so skilled at hiding in response to these blips that we've had to invest in an Apple AirTag to keep track of her whereabouts.

It's horrible to see how upset she gets. It's also the polar opposite of what I had envisioned when we decided to bring Maggie into our lives. I had imagined leisurely walks and adventures in the countryside and visits to dog-friendly pubs where she would lie quietly under the table, a picture of serene canine companionship. Instead, I find myself the caretaker of a dog so consumed by fear that the mere sound of a car engine causes her to tremble uncontrollably. The more I try to (sensitively) expose her to the outside world, the more she freaks out.

And so, I turn to you, dear Clarion reader, for wisdom and advice. How can I help Maggie overcome her fears and become the confident, joyful companion I know she can be? What tips do you have to help me introduce her to the world in a way that feels safe and secure?

The good news is that there's no end of patience and understanding from our side; I'm just on the lookout for more creative ways for us to help Maggie face a world where cars, strangers, and noises are no longer threats but part of the exciting tapestry of her little canine life.

In the meantime, I'll continue to laugh like a drain every time she hides a slipper and stand slack-jawed in wonderment as she does yet another length in the pond...

*Simon Morton*



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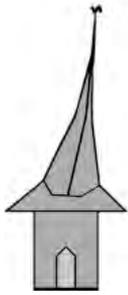
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There have been a number of rumours as to why our Post Office shut last year and a case that was heard at Telford Magistrates Court on 5<sup>th</sup> February might provide a clue. The Court heard that RP Enterprises, the operators of the 'Select and Save' shop in Cleobury Mortimer, were guilty of selling vapes to an apparently under age 'mystery shopper' working for Shropshire Trading Standards last June. It appears that, acting on 'information received', six shops were subjected to test purchases. The other five passed the tests but.... RP Enterprises were fined a total of £5944. Given the general atmosphere that surrounded the shop, I suspect that this news will not come as a surprise to many....

On the same subject, as a change from 'Would you like a ride in my Cousin's taxi?', it has emerged that predators are using vapes to groom under age youngsters into sexual or criminal activity. They often use social media to engage with victims, commonly posing as those of a similar age. This can also involve the use of illegal high strength products of which some 750,000 were seized by Trading Standards officers nationally in the year ending March 2023. I suspect the total will be even higher in the current year. Still, the problem is being solved by what a government spokesman has claimed is 'bold and decisive action on smoking and vaping'. Excuse me for being cynical but where is it?

A Labour Councillor on Shropshire Council has been accused of starting a class war and advocating a Marxist agenda by a Conservative opponent for suggesting that residential care for children be taken back into Council control. It was claimed that this would save £11 million and also enable care workers to be paid a decent wage for the difficult work they do instead of the bare minimum paid by private operators. If this is the case, perhaps most of us would be manning the barricades. This coincides with a report in 'The House Magazine' highlighting the costs and profits made by the sector. This found that the average cost of keeping a child in residential

care is £5,400 a week with some cases exceeding £10,000. Some councils are paying 25 per cent more than two years ago and income at the 20 largest operators totalled some £1.63 billion with profits of 19 per cent, up six points since the previous year. The average annual cost of a placement being £281,000 with the highest being £373,000.

Apparently the Mullers site is under offer again although the potential buyer seems to want to use it for storage rather than manufacturing purposes which would limit employment opportunities.

An unfortunate outcome for a man with a prostate problem. He was 'caught short' on the A41 and seen relieving himself in a layby so ended up being fined £88. You men of a certain age will know how he felt...However, the real scandal is the fact that the private company employed by the council to administer the system retained a staggering 78% of the fine for their trouble. Apparently this is the norm for this type of operation and no doubt results in councils setting the fines as high as possible so that their miserably small share amounts to slightly more. Another candidate for taking back in house? Still, better make sure you go before you leave home, boys.

Sympathy for the students at the University of the Highlands and Islands who have been given a trigger warning about Hemingway's classic '*The Old Man and the Sea*' because of scenes of 'graphic fishing'. Perhaps they are all vegan and need protecting from any hint of piscatorial pornography so a lie down and cold flannel over the eyes might be a good idea. Cue sounds of their Viking ancestors rotating rapidly in their graves...Regarding trigger warnings in theatres, the actor Ralph Fiennes in a statement of the bleeding obvious has pointed out that shocking and challenging the audience is kind of the point...

*Ariadne J. Grumpy*

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## MAN OF THE WORLD. THE MUSIC OF PETER GREEN

I do love music. As a kid I would hear my Godfather, an enthusiastic amateur, in full tenor flow and enjoy the sound. I did try to learn to play the piano, because my big sister did, but didn't have the patience to learn scales and that interest faded very quickly; I never have liked boredom.

I discovered rock n' roll and Bill Haley in the 50s, then Little Richard, and boredom was forgotten. I still love great music, of whatever genre, from Bach's 'Saint Matthew Passion' to Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven'.

When the Regal Theatre announced the existence of 'Man of the World' I booked tickets as soon as I could, not knowing who would be performing; Peter Green's music was enough to know. February 24th would reveal all.

My lady and I dined at Mister Thom's family eatery, a few doors from the theatre; friendly, tasty and affordable. We were greeted in the usual friendly style of the theatre's volunteers and Marilyn showed us to our seats. There was a growing air of anticipation as 8.00 o'clock grew close and we still didn't know who would be performing.

The curtain rose with the audience applauding as four men walked on stage to their instruments. Lead and bass guitars, drums and a pair of bongos centre stage by a microphone. And the sound of 'Black Magic Woman' at a healthy decibel rating. This was good; time to settle back and enjoy the evening.

Vocalist Dave Harris was a show in himself, with lyrics and body motions, then taking on the bongos and blending with the guitarist as they exchanged solo spots. It was later in the evening that I learned the guitarist was the great Remi Harris, who I did not recognise in his lead guitar casual dress. But his command of the instrument should have told me who it was - who else brings such versatile playing to the Regal?

The bass guitar man often seems lost in such company and Tom Moore made no attempt to play the star. He did what a good bass man always does and provided rhythm when it was needed and swapped chords and phrases with Remi on special sets. Mutual respect was evidenced by Remi acclaiming Tom's solo spots at the end of whatever song featured the two of them.

The first half of the show featured this group's 'The Green Manalishi' before the band took a well earned break and the audience

headed for the bars to deal with thirst or other facilities to make room for whatever their fancy was. It was a good sign that people talked to people they hadn't met before this respect for music brought them together.

The second half started with pure instrumental numbers before Dave Small was back on the bongos and a neat blending of vocals and mouth organ. I hadn't seen this man in action before and he was a great blend of vocal and instrumental talent, once again swapping solos spots with Remi. It was a reminder of just whose music we had come to hear when the first few bars of 'Man Of The World' struck up on Remi's guitar and the audience were applauding. These people, nearly all of them, knew their music.

After more than two hours of great music it had to come to an end. And I've got this far in the story without mentioning Shane Dixon, who did a great job on drums and probably worked harder than anyone. Another great guy richly deserving applause as the band shared a final bow to a cheering standing acclaim. It was the best rock show I've seen, and I've seen quite a few. On the way out there was a collection to help the Regal in its ambition to make the place famous. Well deserved.

*Jim Reynolds*

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**ALL ABOUT CARING**  
The Clarion has agreed to give Shropshire Carers Support space for a series of features about their work. This is the first.

Do you help someone who could not manage without your support? If so, you are probably an unpaid or family carer. Many people do not recognise themselves as carers but see what they are doing as part of their role, for example as a mother, husband, son, or friend.

Unpaid carers play a substantial and vital role in meeting daily living needs of people in our communities. The care they provide has enormous value, both for the people they care for and for wider society. Many carers experience great satisfaction from their role, however, without identifying as a carer and receiving help at an early stage, it can lead to carers own health and wellbeing being affected.

So where can carers go to find the information and the support they need?

The Shropshire Carers Support service offers:

One-to-one support - we work with carers to explore the options available to them. This may mean referral to other organisations to provide the appropriate support.

Support Line—providing a listening ear, to help carers reach solutions that assist with moving forward.

*Operating Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 9-00am till 5-00pm, Tues - 9.00am till 7.30pm, Saturday - 9.30am till 12.00pm.*

Regular contact to check on the carer's wellbeing.

Personalised information and advice.

Local peer support groups – virtual and in the community.

Signposting or referral to specialist advice and support – e.g. benefits advice.

Carer Register – mechanism to share important information quickly with carers. On enrolment to the Register, the carer will also receive a Carer ID/ emergency card and emergency plan to complete, and the option to receive a free 5-part email course delivered by Mobilise Online, Shropshire – digital support for Carers.

Assistance with planning ahead – the right information at the right time.

Events and activities.

**Contact Shropshire Carers support line on 01743 341995 or email: [Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk)**

*Samantha Thompson*

### THE CHILDE

#### ENDOWMENT FUND

Look out for a feature in next month's Clarion about this little known but very effective fund supporting outstanding people as they move on beyond secondary education.

Lacon Childe School is not good at telling the world about its success. But they have had some stars walk out of their gate to begin to make their mark in spheres like neurology, history, climate change and law. That's just a few of the subjects picked at random from a selection of "Thank You" notes from those who have benefited.

### PHILIP DUNNE SUPPORTS

Mr Dunne is supporting four local businesses who are regional finalists in the Countryside Alliance Awards annual competition. Also known as the Rural Oscars.

The businesses and the classes in which they are entered are:

Carters of Ludlow in the Butcher class.

Local to Ludlow CIC in the Local Food and Drink class.

Ludlow Distillery also in the Local Food and Drink class.

And finally the Tally Ho inn at Bouldon in the Inn class.

Voting is open online now at

<https://www.research.netCAA24MMP> and closes on April 1st. The winners will be announced in May and then go forward to compete in the grand final.

Mr Dunne commented: "The fact South Shropshire has four regional finalists is a testament to the brilliant business we have locally and the excellent service they provide to the community.

I commend them for their hard work and hope local residents will get behind these businesses and vote for them."

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## MAKING BETTER USE OF LIVING SPACE



*The men behind CIS. David Purslow (left) and Keith Nicklin*

Keith Nicklin made the first contact, Stewart Mumford having suggested the Clarion would be a good choice for advertising in this area. CIS is building a name for insulation that will keep a conservatory warmer in the winter and cooler in a hot summer. Sounded interesting.

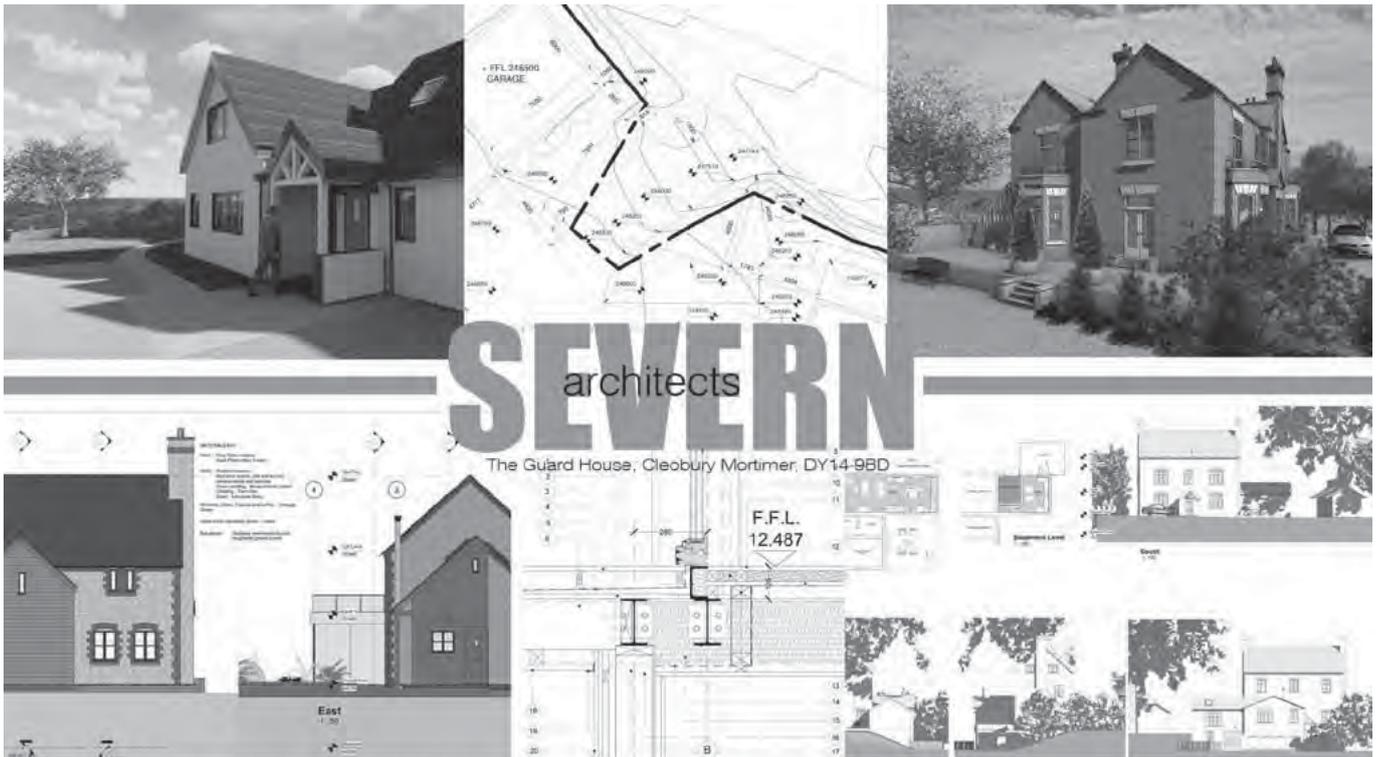
We met at the Community Hub, where their friendly approach was made clear when David explained that he'll book a visit with the suggestion that the customer makes the tea and he'll bring the biscuits. At which stage he took a packet of biscuits out and offered me one! You can see that they're good at making friends.

Their system is simply knowing their materials and installing them carefully. They don't talk technical to an ignoramus like me, but it's common sense that insulation works both ways - keep the heat in when the temperature is cold and out when it's hot.

A customer's reaction would be the best way of seeing how good the system is and I talked to Peter Cuthbert, a relative newcomer who was advised by Stewart Mumford that it was worth the investment. Asked what he thought of the product and the service behind it his immediate response was "Excellent."

Peter's experience included a friend whose extension was about the same size as his and in the height of summer it was simply too hot to sit down in comfort. He's had the CIS treatment and now finds that room comfortable to use all year round. An additional benefit is the effect of the coating making the room look lighter too.

So is there an adjustment to be made as the atmosphere warms up? Do they need an other visit by the installation crew? "No. Nothing like that. The room adjusts with the outside temperature and we can use it all year round." And we won't make the large national company who came to give a quote embarrassed by mentioning their name, but their price was roughly three times what Peter and wife Chris paid; in these inflationary times that was very good news again. We like good news in Clarion Country and this story fits the bill. JR



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## Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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

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## About us

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

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

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- With over 130 years combined experience, we are keen to help with all your energy enquiries and deliver impartial advice.
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- Self-consumption gadgets to help you utilise all of your generated energy. Whether its a Smart Electric Car Charger, Immersion Diverters or Battery Storage Units, we can help you become more independent from the grid.
- Ensure your heating is as efficient as possible, through underfloor heating installation, radiator upgrades and smart hot water cylinders.
- Advice on all Government Grants and Incentives.
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**Get in touch today to start renewing your energy!**

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



01299 270011



sales@energyzone.co.uk

## THE CLARION SOCIAL CALENDAR MARCH 2024

<p>Fri. 1st. 7.30 Concert Brass final rehearsal for the area competition. Stop and enjoy. 8.00. Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.</p>	<p>PAGE 5</p>
<p>Sat. 2nd. 7.30. The Christians live at The Regal Tenbury Wells.</p>	<p>PAGE 35</p>
<p>Sun. 3rd. 10.00 Countryside Walk starts from St Mary's church.</p>	<p>PAGE 29</p>
<p>Wed. 6th GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY 6.00 to 7.00 Late Night at the Food Bank, Market Hall. 7.30. Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.</p>	
<p>Thu. 7th. 10.00 Rock Pathfinders walk out from Kinlet Hall.</p>	<p>PAGE 29</p>
<p>Fri, 8th. 10.00 to 12.00 Coffee Morning at Doddington Lodge, up on the Hill. 7.30 She Rocks The Night live at The Regal, Tenbury Wells for Women's Day.</p>	<p>PAGE 32 PAGE 35</p>
<p>Sat. 9th. 7.00 Barn Dance, Victory Hall, Clows Top.</p>	<p>PAGE 9</p>
<p>Mon. 11th. 7.30 Cleobury Gardeners meet at the Parish Hall.</p>	<p>PAGE 11</p>
<p>Tue. 12th. 7.30am Breakfast Club at the Golf Club. Speaker: Chris Tippin. 7.30 Cleobury W.I. AGM. Members only</p>	<p>PAGE 31 PAGE 31</p>
<p>Wed. 13th. GENERAL WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY 10.00 Walking for Health steps out from the Market Hall. 10.00 CoCo Coffee Morning Market Hall, Church Street.</p>	<p>PAGE 29</p>
<p>Thu. 14th. 7.00. Friends of St Mary's Church AGM, in the church.</p>	<p>PAGE 11</p>
<p>Fri. 15th. 8.00. Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall.</p>	
<p>Sat. 16th. 7.15 Quiz Night, Victory Hall, Clows Top.</p>	<p>PAGE 9</p>
<p>Mon. 18th. 7.30 The Reading Group meet at the town library 7.30 Wildlife Bird Group meet at Recreation Rooms, Clee Hill</p>	<p>PAGE 15 PAGE 17</p>
<p>Wed. 20th. GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE BINS EMPTIED 3.00 Cleobury W.I. take tea at the Royal Fountain Inn. 7.30. Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.</p>	<p>PAGE 7</p>
<p>Thu. 21st. 10.00 Rock Pathfinders walk out from Rock Village Hall.</p>	<p>PAGE 29</p>
<p><b>Fri. 22nd. DEADLINE DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE APRIL CLARION</b></p>	
<p>Mon. 25th. 7.30 The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the town library.</p>	<p>PAGE 13</p>
<p>Wed. 27th. GENERAL WASTE BINS EMPTIED 10.00 Walking for Health starts from the Market Hall. 10.00 CoCo Coffee morning, Market Hall</p>	<p>PAGE 29</p>
<p>Fri. 29th. 7.00. The Bohemians live at The Regal, Tenbury Wells.</p>	<p>PAGE 35</p>
<p>Sun. 31st. Easter Sunday. Daylight Saving Time begins <b>AND LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL...</b></p>	
<p>Wed. 3rd. 7.30 Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.</p>	
<p>Thu. 4th. GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE BINS EMPTIED.</p>	
<p>Fri. 5th. Wildlife Club, Victory Hall, Clows Top</p>	<p>PAGE 9</p>
<p><b>REGULAR EVENTS OF INTEREST</b></p>	
<p>Mon. 7.30. Margaret Griffiths's Bingo Night at the Market Hall.</p>	
<p>Tue. 2.00. Friendship Club meet at the Parish Hall.</p>	
<p>Thu. Drop-In at Saint Mary's church to chat and maybe share a problem. 7.30 Tina Hobin's Birth Dance and good health club at the Market Hall.</p>	

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*Curries and Mr Daves Curries*

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*Frozen Fruit*

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## LET'S BEAT THE SCAMMERS

Welcome back to all my readers.

I have a question to pose before I continue to try and raise awareness of the evil in the world.

The question is "what is truth?". I ask this as it is fundamental to the actions we take on a daily basis to protect ourselves and our families. One definition is that "truth" is what you see in reality, or experience yourself seeing with your own eyes. It's not what someone else tells you which may or may not have been seen by themselves, although in the majority of cases, it will be true.

**You trust those closest to you, don't you?**

Scams tend to be labelled in certain ways, like email scams, delivery scams, doorstep scams and the emerging term "romance scams". This new type of scam relates to the scammer building a relationship with someone online and at some point taking the relationship in a different direction by introducing **blackmail** into the mix. Simply put, "give me money or I will expose you". That threat creates a level of fear that overtakes any form of rational thinking.

The victim is, at the least, embarrassed that a piece of information about them might end up in the public domain, or at worst, puts them in a situation where the information could destroy their life.

I use the word destroy, not in a physical sense but in every other way, socially, financially and internally in family relationships. **BLACKMAIL** is the operative word here and the scammer will go to extensive lengths to convince a victim that handing over money will make the whole thing go away.

It does not! Blackmailers have no upper limit and can only be stopped when, like the school playground bully, the victim stands up to them.

In the case I am writing about, it can only be stopped when the victim had the courage to stand up, admit their actions to their immediate family and call the Police despite being warned that in doing so would bring the world crashing down on them.

**What are the messages I am trying to convey here?**

First of all, the power of social media is such that it sometimes is hard to tell the truth from the untrue.

This example relates to an unsolicited approach over the social media, 'Instagram' where the victim made the assumption that the person was very genuine. There was nothing genuine about this, it was an attempt to set a snare and it worked.

The old term "softly softly catchy monkey" springs to mind and these scammers are working hundreds of potential victims simultaneously. It only takes one or two to fall and the scammer has succeeded.

**So how do you avoid it?**

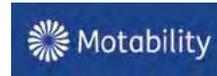
As I have written many times before, be very suspicious of any unsolicited message, post, email or approach from someone you don't immediately recognise. Cut it off at the outset, the scammer may not be put off immediately but for them it's a business and the millions out there represent rich pickings for them so they will just move on. In discussions with the authorities, I have discovered that since Covid, the examples of this type of scam have exploded worldwide. Scammers sitting at computers anywhere in the world are trying to target the innocent and the vulnerable. Please don't be one of them.

At this time of year, many people may feel some form of loneliness that can lead to vulnerability, resulting in common sense being put aside. The outcome for the victim is beyond our sense of fairness and justice.

We all need to do our bit in our community to reach out to those around us, particularly those living alone. Together we stand a chance of minimising the impact of these terrible crimes. Sadly they are not going away, but let's keep them out of our community.

**Thank you for reading and I wish you all a safe, healthy New Year.**

*Nigel Reid*



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### How to contact the Town Council

Telephone: 01299 271154 or 07483 112290

Email: [council@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:council@cleobury.org.uk)

Speak to us at the Councillor Surgeries held on the third Saturday of every month in the Market Hall.

### Tree Works

We are currently undertaking Tree Works in the QE11 Park. In early March there will be considerable cutting to the Sycamore trees, along the path between the Workhouse Field and the Playing Field. In addition, on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March the section of Love Lane that runs alongside the Love Lane Play Area will be closed, as will the Play Area, in order for the large oak tree to be extensively cut back. All this work is being carried out for Health and Safety reasons following a detailed Arborists report.

### Cemetery

The Town Council is responsible for the overall management and safety of the Cemetery, but grave owners are responsible for ensuring their family graves are kept tidy and the memorial stones are safe. We are aware of some misleading and incorrect information being circulated locally regarding the Cemetery. Please keep your contact details up to date with the office so we can contact you should there be any issues. The Cemetery Rules and Regulations are displayed in the Lych gate notice board and on the Town Council website.

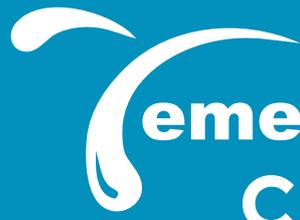
### Councillor Surgery

Cllr Tysall, Cllr Winward and Cllr James attended the monthly Councillor Surgery held in The Market Hall alongside the Farmers Market on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. We were visited by a number of residents who commented on various community matters including expressing positive comments about PC Nicholas Nolan's visit on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Cleobury Country Centre and the recent handrail work at the side of the Market Hall. If you have an issue you want to raise, you can contact the office on the details above or drop into the next monthly councillor surgery.

### Policing and Reporting

Cleobury Mortimer and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team has recently been joined by PC Nicholas Nolan. He is aiming to share his time equally between Cleobury Mortimer and Highley and can be contacted via email on either [nicholas.nolan@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:nicholas.nolan@westmercia.police.uk) or [ch.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ch.snt@westmercia.police.uk). Should you become aware of a crime or anti-social behaviour there are various ways to report them. Either call 101, if it is non-urgent, use Crimestoppers or the 'Contact Us' page on the West Mercia Police website or email the Cleobury Mortimer and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team on [ch.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ch.snt@westmercia.police.uk). Always dial 999 in an emergency. If you have any issues with highways, parking, dog fouling, waste collections etc please report them to Shropshire Council Customer Services. Please telephone 0345 678 9000 or email [customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk). Alternatively, some issues can be reported via the Fix My Street app.

**Next Council Meeting.....Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm, at Cleobury Country Centre.** All public are warmly invited to attend.



# eme CLEOBURY



### FACILITIES INCLUDE:

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

### OPENING TIMES

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

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

### CLASS TIMETABLE

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

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