

# The Cleobury & Rock Clarion

## OUR NEW TITLE

The Clarion is 20 years old this month and with that big birthday comes a new title, combining our presence with that of the Rock and District News. Peter Bill, owner of that neighbouring title when the Clarion first emerged was himself quite new to the business and kindly offered advice. We each had our own ideas of what was needed and went on our own ways in pursuit of our quite separate businesses.

We have remained friendly rivals to this day and Peter has offered to provide news from his part of the world after opting for for what I hope will be restful retirement; he's earned it.

I look forward to making new contacts and learning the best routes through the district as we distribute the free copies of this magazine. I thought we had some testing hills in Shropshire, but the blend of steep gradients and very narrow lanes around Rock are another attractive lesson to learn.

## WE'VE GROWN A LOT IN 20 YEARS

When the Clarion first emerged 20 years ago it was a step into the relative unknown. I had been editing the Cleobury Bulletin, owned by the Parish Council, and was one of four councillors who resigned because we did not like the way the running of the town was going. I was backed by a number of friends who helped to pay the Clarion print bill at its launch and there was a strong sign of support when advertising income repaid all my backers in the first month.

The Cleobury Bulletin has long gone and the Clarion, that little upstart, is printing over 1,000 copies a month. The print bill has grown with it, but the simple fact of life is that you, the reader, want it and we will deliver to more collection points from now on so that our Rock readers can easily collect their copies.

The support by so many enthusiastic contributors is the reason for our growth. Too

many to name here, they will be invited to a birthday party. There the ladies will be greeted with a glass of Prosecco or another white wine, while the men will be offered a pint of Uncle Jim's Ale, another success story as Hobsons have supported us.

I want to thank everyone who has helped this baby grow so strongly. My family have backed me all the way and recently my lady love Tina Hobin has added her energy to the gang. The lady has a great deal of charm and enthusiasm and we work and play hard together.

We will be distributing the Cleobury and Rock Clarion on the first or second day of the month, as that task means driving at least 75 miles around Worcestershire and Shropshire and if the weather is bad we may run out of time.

Our black Clarion shirts will become familiar over a bigger area as we spread the local news and get to meet our readers. Tina and I look forward to that.

*Jim Reynolds*



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# All the news - The Cleobury Clarion - May 2025



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*CMFA Style - Page 19*



*Big Window Job  
More in June .*

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Adrian T

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## SOCIAL CRICKET REVIVAL

Sunday May 12th will be a big day for lovers of social cricket, when the friendly game returns to the town's sports field. This will be the first match in a summer long six-a-side series, all on Sunday afternoons, starting at 12.00. Mixed teams, all abilities welcome

The Cricket Club will be based at the Sports and Social Club, so the afternoons will offer drinks and barbecue food to help build a friendly, family atmosphere.

If you want to enter a team for what sounds like a good new sporting occasion for all ages, contact team manager Grainger Jones on 07974 100089 or email [grainger.jones@outlook.com](mailto:grainger.jones@outlook.com)

## THE BREAKFAST CLUB

'Much More Than a Bimbo'

On April 8th, the club met to hear Francis Engleheart's well-researched talk on Emma Hamilton. He stressed, and demonstrated, that Emma was very much more than the mistress of Horatio Nelson. Born Amy Lyon in 1765, she was of lowly stock, daughter of a Cheshire blacksmith. Bright, lively and beautiful, she moved to London becoming the companion of several wealthy men, including Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh, who disowned her once she became pregnant. From an understanding aristocrat, Charles Greville, she then obtained protection and some respectability, when he set up Emma (her new name) and her widowed mother in a cottage in Paddington Green. One visitor was Sir William Hamilton, who invited her and her mother to Naples, where he was the British Envoy. She was initially his companion, not lover, but he eventually proposed, and they married in 1791, remaining so until his death in 1803. By then she had been Nelson's mistress for several years, and they lived together until Nelson's death.

Throughout her years in London and Naples, she displayed an alertness and intelligence surprising in one who had had such a poor beginning. She knew many notable figures, such as the King & Queen of Naples, Marie Antoinette, Goethe, Sheridan, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Haydn, and the Prince Regent. Of the many artists who painted her, George Romney was the most prolific, and many of his attractive portraits of her survive.

The Club's next meetings will be at the Golf Club on 13th May, when Liz Smith speaks on 'A Vicar's Wife', and on 10 June when Kit Smith tells us about 'Swifts'. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan on CM270636. Mark Baldwin

## ANNIVERSARIES

2025 marks the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8 May and Victory in Japan Day (VJ Day) on 15 August). Community events are being planned for both occasions. Focusing on VE Day for now, the intention is to have a parade that marches to the tune of the Cleobury Brass Band from the Talbot Car Park to the Sports Field and Town Beacon. I am writing to ask if you and your organisation would like to be part of the celebrations. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of the march from the Talbot Car Park.

## CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

We will be having two events in May. On May 10th we will be holding our annual Plant Sale. (that's an annual event, not a sale of annual plants!) It will be held at Clows Top Victory Hall from 10am - 12 noon. We are hoping to have some other stalls too, if you would like one, please contact Tracey on 07450 653920. There will be refreshments available.

Our first outing of the year will be to Coddington Vineyard

Gardens on May 28th. We will meet at the Victory Hall as usual to share cars. Departure time is at 5.30pm, not 6pm as in previous years. The vineyard is about a 45 minute drive away, in Herefordshire. The garden features a woodland walk with spring bulbs and wildflower meadows. There is a large pond and stream garden with masses of Primula, Hostas, Hellebores, Hamamelis and Parottia.

Guests are welcome on our outings. To book, contact Elva on 01299 832288.

Judith Lawson

## THE MELVILLE CHAPEL

10th May The Chapel will be celebrating VE Day's 80 years and onwards, in Crafts and Flowers.

Refreshments served between 10.30 and 4.00

14th May Soup Lunch 12.30 - 2.00

Ruth Downes

## SILLY BITS

"I bought my wife a lovely present for our 25th wedding anniversary."

"Really? That was very generous of you"

"Yes, it's polished mahogany with chromed corner handles and a green baize top. I think she'll like it, even though she doesn't normally play snooker."

Barry Cryer

"The older I get the earlier it gets late."

Red Molotov

"Did you know that women use 30,000 words a day while men use only 15,000?"

"Yes, because we have to keep repeating everything!"

Anon



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## CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

Well, this year spring seems to have arrived with some sun and warmth for a change. Early flowers have emerged, and I have seen plenty of butterflies, hoverflies and other insects. Birds too have been singing away with skylarks and curlew prominent on the heathland among the more common species and Chiffchaffs arriving in the woodland. Lambs can be seen frolicking on the heath, hopefully all free from disturbance by loose dogs!

When our winter habitat management has halted our volunteer Survey and Monitoring Team starts work. They have given many positive reports in the last two years with improved records of 'indicator' plants and improved habitat in general on the common where they have focused on the two mire/bog areas and the Upper Marshes heathland. They will be back this year to look at further areas between now and August. Other groups come and look at Butterflies, dragonflies, birds and a range of other insects and animals and pass their finds on to us here at SWT, to help us decide on the focus for future rounds of habitat work.

I must also give a mention to my Volunteer Wardens at both Catherton and Cramer Gutter who carry out valuable work throughout the year. They act as my eyes and ears on the Common and talk to people they meet on the reserves to help inform people about the area. They put signs up each year to warn people of the do's and don'ts and patrol to keep people informed of why some things

are prohibited. Some wardens also carry out practical tasks and look after our cows. *Clive Dean - SWT reserves officer*

## THE CHANNEL ISLANDS Occupation & Defence

Dr Mark Baldwin speaks to the National Trust on May 13th about these islands in the Second World War.

The Channel Islands were a tempting target for Hitler, as a successful invasion would surely demonstrate the UK's inability to defend its own homeland. Churchill decided that there could be no realistic defence against a German attack, so an unresisted German Occupation began in June 1940. Followed by Hitler's determination to make them into an impregnable fortress, the most heavily defended sector of what came to be known as 'The Atlantic Wall' stretching from the Spanish border right up to the Arctic Circle. The numerous fortifications on the Channel Islands remained unassailed, and hence they survive in huge numbers.

Doctor Baldwin has visited many of the installations in Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney, and will present the results of his research in an illustrated talk to the Wyre Forest & District Centre of the National Trust on 13 May at 7.30 pm in the Blakedown Parish Rooms. All welcome. Pre-paid tickets are not required, just pay £3 on the door.

Mark gives talks on a variety of topics, including and The Social History of the Postcard (24th May for Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club).

## DOMINO EVENINGS

Domino evenings are 'spot on' The Spring/Summer monthly Dominoes Knockout

starts again this month and hopefully will feature on the first Wednesday of each month through to October 2025.

Young, old, experienced and new players are welcome. Although the evening is billed as a knockout, the intention is for all players to get the opportunity to take part in at least two games. The next evening is on Wednesday May 7 at The Old Lion, with an 8.00 pm start. All are welcome - young, old, experienced and learners. Please enter your name on the sheet in the pub before Tuesday, May 6 or email [dominoescleobury@gmail.com](mailto:dominoescleobury@gmail.com)

*Phil Campion*

## OLD BIROS

Have you ever wondered how to recycle a dried-up biro? Should it go into the purple-lidded wheelie bin? Does the fact that it's made of several different materials mean that it has to go into the black bin?

The solution is in our library. Just inside the door, next to the battery recycling bin, is a box in which old pens, biros, felt pens, etc can be left for recycling.

*Mark Baldwin*

## FUNDRAISING LUNCH

John & Judy Sant invite you to a fundraising lunch for Christian Aid on Sunday May 11th 12.30 - 2.30pm, at Swan House, 10 Church St, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BS. There will be a £10 donation on the door and a raffle (so cash only please) and bring your own drink, glasses provided!

Further details from [judysant10@gmail.co.uk](mailto:judysant10@gmail.co.uk) call 01299 270983 or message 07814325989





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## Kathie Rowbotham's Animal Magic Page

### SUZY WONG

I've regularly been asked, where did my passion for animals, especially cats, come from? Well, from my earliest memory, my best friend was our 'Chinese' cat, called

Suzy Wong.

I remember when I was three years old, I'd dress her in my dolls' clothes, put her whiskers and ears back where they belonged, and then wrap her in little blankets, like a baby. I'd put her on her back, in my doll's pram and push her around our cul-de-sac. If we met anyone, they'd stop to admire my baby, I was a proud Mom.

One day, Mother decided to hold a sale of things she no longer wanted, just for me and my sister Di. I didn't have much pocket money left, so I was gutted when Di won the first 'lot' which was Suzy. I walked away, after winning an old brass jug, a pair of high heeled boots, two bras and a small coffee table. Di wouldn't even let me stroke Suzy and she planned on changing her name to Jane. So I complained to Mother!

Mother gave in and insisted that Di should swap Suzy back for some old melted lipsticks and a packet of shortbread biscuits. Di was happy with that and I was elated, because I had my best friend 'Suzy' back and I got to keep my little coffee table! That night, we got our Ballet Exam results, me and Di passed with honours, so Dad took us out for a Chinese meal to celebrate. At the restaurant, I refused to eat any Chinese cats, so I stuck to egg fried rice, in support of my Suzy. I later

learned that Suzy was actually a 'Siamese seal point' cat and I was delighted when Dad explained, that they don't actually use any cats in Chinese meals.

Some days, I'd put Suzy's collar and lead on and armed with a huge piece of cheese, tied to a piece of string, we'd head out into the field at the back of our house – we were *mouse hunting*! I really believed that a mouse would appear, lured by the scent of the cheese, Suzy would catch him, then I could take him home to live out his days in my bedroom.

In reality, after four hours out in that field, we found nothing, apart from a few pieces of pottery, some tiny glass bottles and a clay pipe (it was previously a Victorian rubbish dump). I'd unleash Suzy, give her the cheese and let her have the rest of the day off, to do *her own thing*!

One Christmas, I asked Santa for 'a boyfriend for Suzy'. Oh Hell, I was gutted to unwrap a scary ventriloquist dummy! However, every cloud has a silver lining. I undressed that monstrosity and shoved him in a cupboard. Suzy proudly modelled that tail coat, black trousers and bow tie, when I took her out in her pram.

Suzy lived until she was 18yrs old. I thought that she was fitted with *Duracell batteries* and that she would live forever! But, I soon learned that they too, only have a 'limited lifespan'! She taught me that 'it's better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all!' Such powerful words that led me to wanting to help any animal in need.

Love

Kathie

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## THE CLEOBURY SWIFTS

Our Cleobury swifts have left central Africa and should all be with us within the next two weeks. During May, June and July, around 14 pairs will return to their usual nest sites in the church roof and in a few tall buildings in our town. They will mate and rear up to two young swifts before flying the 3000 miles back to Africa. How they find their way over sea and land, is not fully known, but is a small part of the natural wonders that our swifts delight us over their short breeding season. Welcome home.

*Kit Smith*

## HERITAGE GATEWAY UNVEILED

**St John's Church celebrates the unique culture of the Clee hills**

From the middle of May St John's Doddington or as it's locally known, 'The Church on the Hill' is welcoming visitors back following an extensive restoration project. This has created a new heritage gateway to the Clee hills and provides new facilities for tourists and locals alike. The launch marks the culmination of a community-led arts and heritage initiative supported by Nationally Lottery

Heritage Fund and many local and national trusts.

Hundreds of local residents have been involved in celebrating the area's rich geological, natural, and social history. The project has created new displays and facilities that showcase the unique character of Titterstone Clee Hill and its surrounding landscape. Visitors explore exhibits highlighting the area's distinctive geology, diverse natural environment, and fascinating social history. These include displays created by pupils from Clee Hill Community Academy which showcase their family histories from the early quarry and mine workers to the those who staffed the radar station in WW2.

"This project has opened an exciting new chapter for St John's," said Celia Gibb, Church Warden, who managed the restoration efforts. "What makes this special is how local people have come together to capture and celebrate our shared heritage. We're delighted with the refurbishment of this beautiful old church but most excited to see how we can attract new visitors, inviting them to

stop off during their journey into the Shropshire Hills."

The renovated church now features improved community facilities including a toilet and coffee machine with snacks, making it an ideal venue for local gatherings, educational activities, and cultural events. The new facilities are designed to serve as both a visitor attraction and a valuable resource for residents.

Volunteers with interests in nature and local history have helped record and share heritage information. Artists have assisted, creating new works and a new musical works to reflect the area's character. A finale performance of this Song of the Hill will be held at St Laurence's in Ludlow on May 9th. Tickets are free but limited. Please visit [stjohnsdoddington.org](http://stjohnsdoddington.org) for more information.

Celia adds, "Whether you're interested in creating, learning new skills, or helping shape this new resource, St John's welcomes your contribution."

*Jim Grevatte*



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## ROCK VILLAGE HALL

This splendid hall advises two events on May 10<sup>th</sup>, clearly a busy day there.

10.30 to noon there's a Community Coffee Morning, ideal for a chat and a bite to eat, with a selection of hot drinks, cakes or bacon/sausage baps available.

Later in the day there's a Live Music Night, with the doors opening at 7.30 for an 8.00 o'clock start an evening with Slyde. Dig out your glad rags and sparkles, with fancy dress recommended. Tickets are £10.00, bookable at [www.rockvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rockvillagehall.co.uk) or pay at the door.

## HOPTON WAFERS VILLAGE HALL

The community are organising a major fund raiser on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with a 'Promise Auction and Sausage and Mash Supper' to help raise funds for acoustic panels in the hall. Doors open at 6.30 for a 7.00 o'clock start; admission costs just £6.00 a head and you bring your own drinks. Book tickets through Helen at [majorhel@hotmail.com](mailto:majorhel@hotmail.com) or text 07931546778.

If you can't make it on the night you can put in a bid for any of the prizes that include a flight in a two-seater plane, a day's weaving course for three, an Italian meal cooked for four in your own home, a day's carp fishing at Hopton Court. A four ball round of golf at the Leominster club and lots of vouchers at local shops including a voucher for a £100 service on your car at Windsor Price Autos. If you'd like to donate a prize, contact [frank.stanitand1@gmail.com](mailto:frank.stanitand1@gmail.com)

## PARISH HALL FLICKS IN THE STICKS

May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm

Lee portrays a pivotal decade in the life of American war correspondent and photographer, Lee Miller (Kate

Winslet). Miller's singular talent and unbridled tenacity resulted in some of the 20th century's most indelible images of war, including an iconic photo of Miller herself, posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub. Miller had a profound understanding and empathy for women and the voiceless victims of war. Her images display both the fragility and ferocity of the human experience. Above all, the film shows how Miller lived her life at full-throttle in pursuit of truth, for which she paid a huge personal price, forcing her to confront a traumatic and deeply buried secret from her childhood.

## WOOD WORDS

Off to a flying start! All three teams have enjoyed early victories in league fixtures to start the season with encouraging performances. Details on website [cleoburybowls.org.com](http://cleoburybowls.org.com).

We go into May with our first taster session on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> (6.00pm for 6.30 pm) and on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> we take part in The Big Bowls Week-end (11.00am until 4.00pm).

Both dates give potential bowlers a chance to "try their luck" and an opportunity, free of charge (anyone welcome) to have a go! (More info on Bowls England website).

In other news the club is arranging training sessions for use of the donated defibrillator – further information to be announced shortly.

All club information is on the website and social media outlets. However, news of our existence has spread far and wide through the columns of The Clarion, with enquiries about use of the green from local community groups keen to try the sport of bowling – our thanks to Uncle Jim for finding editorial space to support us.

Yours in bowls  
Smiffy 07494016137

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid week is 11th to 17th May 2025 which is its 80th year.

'Every year, during this appeal, people across Britain and Ireland have 7 days to make a difference. We hope people will get behind our fundraising and support their global neighbours. Together, we can put the unstoppable power of hope into action.

As tragic events unfold across the world, from Gaza to Ukraine and South Sudan, we need your support to offer hope to communities in crisis.'

Please look out for opportunities to donate in the local churches or online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) where there is more information.

## CLEE HILL WILDLIFE

It's not too late to help with the Bird Survey, if you want to join in. We found six pairs of Curlew last year, and we hope they have all come back. We need to count the breeding population, and monitor the outcome of nesting attempts, to see if any young fledge.

If you see or hear a Curlew, please tell us.

We would also like to know if you see or hear any Lapwing, Kestrel or Cuckoo, or see evidence of breeding Red Kite, please.

If you've seen or heard any of these species, please do not assume we know about them.

Just report all your observations, especially any Curlew ("the most important bird conservation priority in the UK" as one enthusiastic watcher put it.)

Contact:

Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: [chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk](mailto:chcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk))





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Come and have a look at what we can offer. To book, call Robert on 01299 270047

[www.cleoburyparishhall.uk](http://www.cleoburyparishhall.uk)

[facebook.com/cleoburymortimerparishhall](https://www.facebook.com/cleoburymortimerparishhall)



**17 May 7.30pm**

**Tickets £5 - Bar, tea, coffee, cake**



### **ALL OF US STRANGERS** (note change of production)

One night in his near-empty tower block in contemporary London, Adam (Andrew Scott) has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbour Harry (Paul Mescal), which punctures the rhythm of his everyday life. As a relationship develops between them, Adam is preoccupied with memories of the past and finds himself drawn back to the suburban town where he grew up, and the childhood home where his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell), appear to be living, just as they were on the day they died, 30 years before.



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# Letter from Westminster

**Stuart Anderson MP**

The increased costs being faced by everyone this April is a serious challenge. I continue to raise with the Government the need to support our hospitality businesses with a VAT cut and warn about the dangers of tax increases on businesses. Many constituents have also got in touch with me to explain how the welfare reforms will affect them and their loved ones. I am launching a survey to collect more views and pass them on to Ministers. We must encourage people back to work while properly supporting those who are unable to do so.

I spoke with the BBC about the campaign being run by local constituent Rachel Baker on family access to mortuaries. Rachel's son, Joe, an accomplished aircraft engineer, tragically lost his life in a road traffic accident in November 2023. The family were denied access to his body for 10 days despite many desperate appeals. I am supporting Rachel's heroic campaign and petition to improve the support offered to families in this most tragic of circumstances. After my initial enquiry, Ministers said there were no plans to change these rules, so I have requested a meeting with Ministers to explain the hurt this policy causes families.

Potholes blight rural areas like South Shropshire, costing the owners of damaged vehicles almost £400 each year. So, I was delighted when the last government committed £8.3 billion towards resurfacing 5,000 miles of road as part of a decade long repair scheme. I am calling on Ministers to stand by the previously announced investment for Shropshire. It would equip the Council with the certainty needed to plan ahead. I am also urging residents who have experienced potholes and other problems with road surfaces to tell me about it as part of my new Pothole Patrol initiative.

Backing our farmers is a key part of my plan for South Shropshire. They are the backbone of our rural economy. So, I was delighted to welcome Shadow Farming Minister Robbie Moore to

South Shropshire recently. We met with local farmers and representatives from the National Farmers Union at a third-generation family farm near Craven Arms. We discussed the impact of government policies and how farmer confidence can be restored. Shropshire has the highest number of farms per county in England, so this is an issue that is very important for our rural economy.

South Shropshire is, in my view, the most beautiful constituency in the country. It was great to celebrate this in my photo competition - there is still time to vote for a winner on my website. Our countryside is cherished by us all and must be protected for future generations to enjoy. It is critical residents have the confidence that any new applications which come forward for development are judged fairly and openly, while guarding against encroachment on our precious countryside and the farmland that is vital for food security. I will continue to advocate for local consent in the planning system.

I have been visiting many local schools recently, from Stottesdon to Newcastle on Clun to Dorrington and Clee Hill. It is really great to meet with students who always have excellent questions. One issue that comes up often are financial constraints. In a recent announcement South Shropshire missed out on funding for nursery provision within primary schools. This is a significant rural challenge that I will be raising on behalf of constituents.

It was great to visit Clickingmad, a digital services company celebrating their 25th anniversary, and launch their '25 Acts of Kindness in 2025' initiative in Bridgnorth. Our small businesses are a cherished part of South Shropshire, so I was also delighted to recognise Ludlow Nutrition as the winner of my Small Business Awards, alongside 85 other nominated businesses. I continue to encourage businesses to take part in my small business survey.

**Stuart Anderson MP**

**House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**  
**01584 872187**

**[stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk)**

# Carer Corner

Meeting at Cleobury Parish Hall  
Church St Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS

On the second Thursday of the Month  
11.00am until 1.00pm

For more Information, please contact Katja Jones  
On 07966 080111  
Or email [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com)



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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## THE MANOR HOUSE

It is officially spring and as I look out of my window, I am fortunate to watch new lambs frolicking in this spring sunshine. But I am sorry for those residents in the town whose windows overlook the Manor House. What a sad sight to wake up to every day. The visitors who grace us with their presence and spend some of their money in town leave with an impression that Love Cleobury is maybe not living up to the call.

The town council through the hard efforts of our Town Clerk has tried it's best to engage with the owner of the Manor House who no doubt looks out of his own front window and is not faced with the eyesore that we are.

It's hard not to be convinced that living in the Home County of Buckinghamshire is a world away from what should be a significant responsibility for addressing the decay of this once wonderful 18th Century house. But that appears to be the case.

The saying, "Out of sight out of mind" seems very appropriate here. In the last newsletter we disclosed that vegetation appeared to be growing inside the lower rooms of the property, evidenced by the appearance of a branch of some plant or other inside the space between the glass and the shutters. This is most likely to happen when both light and moisture are present to enable growth and it begs the question that what else is growing inside that should not be there? There are various bodies in the UK that concern themselves with this rich heritage that is Great Britain, but it is also the case that properties have to reach a stage of decay or disrepair before organisations like English Heritage, The Georgian Society and others are either able to or have the available funding to go after those that own properties and effect change. Despite the support in our community, which is amazing, and for which this campaign truly appreciates, it seems sometimes like a lone voice in the wilderness.

So it's time for change! Time to make some noise and grab the attention that we need to save this property from further decay and return it hopefully into a property that our town can be proud of and a contributor to our town's economy. The forthcoming elections for seats at the County table in Shrewsbury will take place on May 1st. Whichever party gains control of the Cabinet we sincerely hope that our campaign will gain some traction amongst those who wish to represent us.

There are many unelected posts that are filled within a County structure, with departments such as Planning and Conservation, but these departments compete for funding to fulfil their

roles and can only prioritise what the various Cabinet committees demand of them.

Many of us will be familiar with the case of Mr Bates versus the Post office where the little man took on the might of a huge organisation that was ignoring things going wrong under their very noses. Well we can take that crusade and take our campaign to the heart of County Government with a petition demanding that our local Conservation Officers use whatever powers are available to them to establish the exact internal condition of the Manor House. Pictures taken of the rear of the property show how easily that Mother Nature can take over and significant sting vegetation is pushing up against the rear walls of the property. Evidence is also showing that some mature trees are suffering damage and potential loss through total lack of management or maintenance and once again this is an issue given the property sits within a conservation area in the town.

So here is what we propose.

A request to raise a formal petition with Shropshire Council has not even been acknowledged in well over 4 weeks. Therefore this newsletter contains the format for a petition with the UK wide CHANGE.ORG petition system that we invite everyone to sign and encourage friends and family who are not included on this newsletter to sign as well. Please click here to access the petition.

The petition is calling for the owner to permit officials from the County Conservation office to be allowed entry to the property to establish the internal condition and if necessary make orders for the owner to carry out whatever work is required to maintain the property in good order.

There is a paragraph in the Title Deeds of the property that requires past, current and future owners of the Manor House to maintain it in good condition. This covers the fabric of the building, the grounds and the interior. None of these appear to have been maintained since the Manor House closed down as a Nursing Home nearly 15 years ago.

So we urge you and anyone you know to please click on the link above or below to complete this petition and we will ensure it gets to Shire Hall in Shrewsbury after a new Council is elected. We will of course keep everyone informed through our social media pages and these newsletters.

Thank you for your support.

The Save the Manor House Team  
Change.Org petition to Shropshire Council  
*Cleobury Manor House News*  
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# Stepping Out

## Who's Walking, When and Where

### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

The CMFA held its AGM at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club at the start of April and there was a good attendance with over thirty members present.

After the AGM, our annual meal took place in the restaurant. Good food with excellent service and our thanks and appreciation have been sent to the Golf Club staff who worked so hard. An enjoyable evening with good company in very pleasant surroundings.



*I did think this individual card for the CMFA*

*Dinner seating plan and menu choice was great.*

Walking for Health was led by Rose and Ben Moule which was a lovely change as they selected and led a new dry weather route for the twenty-five walkers. The walk took the group diagonally up Clarvers Hill from Lion Lane towards the allotments. There are always good views from the

top of the hill, overlooking Cleobury 's newer and older buildings and then Clee Hill, Brown Clee and the lovely green countryside appears behind. The walk continued back via the new Eagle Lane steps, by the Co-op and the Lacon School path. This route in fine weather, proved that the WfH walkers, some with mobility issues, is within the capability of most of our members.

Our monthly Sunday Country Walk attracted a good turnout of nineteen walkers. This was the 'Daffodil Walk' the Rea Valley Amble Walk 18 leaflet. The fine weather made the walk pleasant with a wonderful show of daffodils along the track to Musbatch Farm. The walk was about four and a half miles.

The dates for our WfH walks and our countryside walks are available on CMFA website. If you would like to join us, then please just turn up on the day.

The warm weather and the sunshine has encouraged the growth of weeds, nettles and brambles and our footpath guardians will be out and about trying to keep them in check and off the paths, however if you want to 'Snip and Slash' as you walk, it will always help. Alternatively, please let us know if a footpath is becoming blocked by growth or if there is another problem with a route you are walking.

Our work parties have also commenced their planned schedule. There is always something to do – repairs of stiles and posts, major clearances, and restorations. Some may have noticed the new signpost by the school field, recently installed by CMFA.

CMFA is supported by its members and other volunteers who are dedicated to making sure we can continue to walk through our beautiful countryside around Cleobury. If you would like to join us or would like to support our work, please contact us through our website or e mail: [zellcmfa@gmail.com](mailto:zellcmfa@gmail.com).

### ROCK PATHFINDERS

Thursday May 1st at 10.00. Start at Hampstall Inn car park, Astley Burf, Stourport DY1 0RY

Thursday 15th Start at Hallow public house, Crown Lane, Hallow WR2 6PP





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## May in the Wyre Forest

**Linda Iles recognises the scent and taste of the Elder.**

Our piece of the forest is white with blossom at the moment. Blackthorn has been followed with Damson, and now cherries, both wild and cultivated, carry on the theme. In the hedgerows and woodland edges the Hawthorn blossom (known as 'May' of course) decorates its branches of bright new leaves, but I want to draw attention to a humbler tree that is scenting the air and adding its frothy white flower heads to the picture. The Elder, *Sambucus nigra*, sets itself anywhere and grows so freely that it's generally regarded as a weed but it should be valued for many reasons. Its very vigour and success as a coloniser is helpful in areas which are bare and need restoration, such as spoil heaps and railway embankments. The foliage has an unpleasant smell and in former times branches were placed in cattle byres and the harnesses of horses to ward off flies, the animals sometimes seeking out the bushes themselves for the same reason. The stems develop a corky pith which is easy to remove, lending them to use as pea-shooters and whistles. (I must see how my 8-year old grandson gets on with this project when he comes to stay! I remember that the whistles don't always perform at first and sometimes need some patient re-modelling to achieve a satisfactory sound.) Strangely, the wood itself is very hard and the trunk or stump can be used for wood-turning.

Since we are in May, let's concentrate on the blossoms. The big umbels of flowers attract many pollinating insects but human opinion is divided on whether they smell sweet as honey or somewhat musty. They feature in many country recipes such as elderflower fritters, where the heads are kept whole and dipped by the stalk into a light batter, then fried and sprinkled with sugar. More well-known are elderflower champagne and cordial but the latter is a more reliable beverage to make. Pick 20 heads of blossom on a dry, sunny morning when their pollen content and scent will be greatest. Give them a little shake (not too much or you'll lose the pollen) to dislodge most of the insects. Slowly dissolve 1 kilogram of sugar in 1 litre of water then boil it for a minute or two to make a syrup. Zest and slice 2 unwaxed lemons and place in a large non-metallic container. You can add 40 grams of citric acid as a natural preservative too. Pour the syrup over the lemons and carefully add the flower heads. Cover with a clean cloth and leave overnight to steep. Next day strain the liquid carefully then pour into sterilised bottles. The cordial can be kept for up to 6 weeks in a cool, dark place or frozen for longer. Add a little to Gooseberry pie or simply dilute it and enjoy a taste of early summer!

*Linda Iles*

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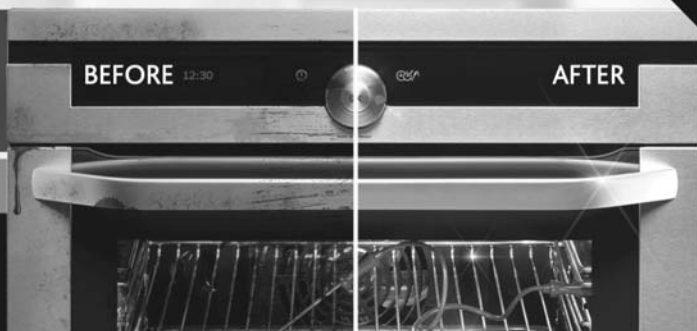
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## JUST DON'T MENTION THE FROG...

Have you ever had a morning that just went badly wrong in seconds?. Take me the other week: Day planned, just a few chores before setting out including bringing in kindling from the timber store. I was wandering across the patio when I realised that there was a frog sat exactly where I was about to plant my foot. This is not unknown as it was mating season when numbers of the little hoppers appear from heaven knows where to get a slice of the action. Not wishing to harm the little feller, I shifted my stance to relocate the landing site, only to find my other foot slide away and dump me very hard on the wet slabs. Bother I thought -or words to that effect- and decided to wait a few seconds until I got my breath back before getting up.

Or not. It quickly dawned on me that my left leg had ceased to obey my brain and that getting up was therefore not an option. I had come out without my mobile (a lesson to learn there) and the DLM (Domestic Line Manager) was busy indoors so it was just a case of waiting until she started wondering where I was and came searching. Sure enough, after around 30 minutes she appeared and suggested that an ambulance should be called. Do bears poo in the woods?. Call duly made, I was advised that there might be a delay in responding which didn't come as a surprise. Time passed, and the dispatcher rang back to see how I was. Given my age and it being nearly 3 hours since the fall, he upgraded the case to the next level of urgency and shortly afterwards the welcome sounds of sirens heralded the arrival of my home for the next 10 hours or so.

As a broad principle, I am not naming any individuals in this saga but I have made an exception for the brilliant Hereford-based Richard and Emily who came riding to my rescue. They were very professional, getting me on to a stretcher and offering me gas and air (yes please!) before searching for the destination with the shortest queues which turned out to be Worcester which was fine

with me. So, clutching mobile phone I was wafted off into the distance. We had just passed Stourport when a call came in. There had been a fall which had left someone unconscious and although another crew was on its way, we were closer so could we go and hold the fort until they arrived?. Was this OK with me?. Obviously a head injury needed urgent attention and as I was still happily sucking on the gas and air, it was fine.

So, back to Stourport and a 20 minute stop until the relief crew arrived and took over. Then onwards to Worcester where we arrived about 4.30pm to find we were 8th in the queue. I was quickly triaged by the Worcester staff and we settled down to wait. Bare in mind that cases are not necessarily taken in order of arrival as life threatening conditions will obviously be given priority. At about 6.30, I was taken for X rays and then back to the ambulance. By this time, the crew had managed to source tea and various sandwiches and biscuits which I couldn't eat due to being coeliac but Emily, bless her, went off foraging again and managed to find a yoghurt which was very welcome as it was now 12 hours since I had eaten.

The evening wore on and the end of the crew's shift approached and they managed to find another team to take me on so they could get back to Hereford. Assuming nothing cropped up during their return journey, they would have spent virtually the whole of their 12 hour shift dealing with one BOF patient which shows what a lot of resource is tied up just waiting. By this time, weeing into a plastic funnel was losing its charm although things didn't get easier as we shall see. Midnight struck heralding the start of new day and also heralding my transfer into A&E where I was wheeled into a cubicle and punctured several times for a canula and blood tests. And then out into the corridor as all the cubicles were needed. What would the new day bring?. Read on and find out or don't, it's up to you.

*Steve Todd*



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# Clarion Clippings - the Local News

## CLEOBURY W.I.

The past month began with an earnest Litter Pick around the public areas of the town, finishing with a well-deserved coffee at Judy Sant's house. We were also represented at St Mary's Quiz evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our April Open meeting began with the presentation of a donation of £810 to Mark Greaves for the Cleobury Community Hub, the CHH was the designated charity for fundraising for CMWI 2024-2025. Thank you to all who have supported our Winter Warmer Lunches and made this generous donation possible. Thanks also to Stuart Walford and Magna Chocolates for their speaker donations also given to our charity of the year. An inspirational talk followed from Tullis Matson from the charity 'Saving Animals from Extinction'. From his base in North Shropshire, his groundbreaking work began with practicing AI on stallions on his home farm. His work, supported by a team of helpers, has made them become global leaders in equine reproduction together with Cryopreservation to create one of Europe's first living biobank to indefinitely preserve tissue.

VE Day - 80 Years On is only a few days away and the WI are looking forward to celebrating in style. Cleobury's very own Land Girls will be serving cake and afternoon tea from 2-4pm at the Parish Hall with rousing music from the 1940s. Please come and support our event before the evening commemorative event and the lighting of the beacon.

Future Events with the WI:

May meeting on Tuesday 13th May in the Market Hall @ 7.30pm Cascade Colour Styling with Lynn Ellison (Members only, prospective new members welcome)

Eat Cake for VE Day on Thursday 8th May in the Parish Hall @ 2-4pm

Outing to Harrington Hall on Wednesday 18th June

Please contact Sue Kershaw on 07470896045 or email

suejkershaw@gmail.com for further information on joining WI.

*Sally Serrell-Cooke*

## FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Friday 9th May - Ludlow Male Voice Choir - in St. Mary's Church. Programme begins at 7.30 pm

Friday 20th June - Midsummer Wine Walk 7:00 until 10:00 pm - four easily walkable venues in Cleobury to meet friends old and new while enjoying a glass of wine (or a soft drink), nibbles and the hosts' gardens.

Tickets for both events are available from: Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library, Spire Hairdressers and on-line by visiting [cmthefriends@gmail.com](mailto:cmthefriends@gmail.com)

*Peter Sniadowski*

## HOW SILLY CAN YOU GET?

I get quite a lot of special offers from businesses serving my area of interest, mostly to do with motorcycles or cars. Watches seem to be a favourite offer that I can easily dismiss, but this one was just too damned silly to ignore.

It's a watch that includes small fragments from the motorcycle that the late Evel Knievel rode in his last ever jump, but in fact he fell off in a practice run and never did make the promised jump over a pool that contained sharks.

Mr Knievel broke his arm in the fall and retired from stunt jumping after that. One assumes the sharks were recaptured and returned to wherever they are normally kept.

The Harley-Davidson motorcycle had its handlebar levers removed and material from them included in the batch

of Shark Jump watches that were offered to readers of this magazine. The overlong blurb finally got to tell me how much these rare watches ("Own a piece of Evel Knievel" as they put it) would cost. Such a bargain at £1795, but somehow I resisted the urge to buy. JR

## CLEOBURY FREEMASONS LODGE 6972

Cleobury Lodge is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its consecration, with a reception to be held at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club on May 15th at 7pm. All non-Masons and their partners are invited to attend as their guests, be welcomed with a drink, and have an opportunity to find out what Masons do and to ask questions. If you would like to attend, please contact [diningsecretary@cleoburymasons.org.uk](mailto:diningsecretary@cleoburymasons.org.uk).

## THE READING GROUP

'The Last Good Man' by Thomas McMullen' our latest novel, almost defies description. A man from an unnamed city goes to join a relation in a small village on Dartmoor. On arrival he finds they have their own system of justice, rather medieval. At least two of our group enjoyed it, one had nothing to say and several, including me, left bewildered. All agreed it was thought provoking and interesting especially from a psychological viewpoint. It was not clear what era it was, possibly the future. It highlighted many of the things wrong in the world today also comparisons to social media and the wall in the novel. Quite violent at times, rather bleak and not a pleasant read.

Hopes are up for a more cheerful read for May, 'You People', by Nikita Lalwani. Next meeting on May 19th.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

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**Cleobury Mortimer Benefice**  
**Church services throughout the Benefice in May 2025**

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Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 10.00am Family Eucharist  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May: 8.30am Said Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 10.00am Parish Eucharist  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May: 10.00am Parish Eucharist

Every Wednesday: 10.00am Eucharist  
Every Thursday: 10.00am – 11.30am: Drop in at St Mary's. Drop in for a free cup of tea or coffee.

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

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 9.30am Eucharist  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 9.30am Eucharist

**St John the Baptist, Doddington**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Eucharist  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 3.00pm Evening Prayer

**All Saints', Neen Sollars**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Village Worship  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Village Worship  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Village Worship  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Village Eucharist

**St George's, Milson**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 6.00pm Evensong  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Parish Eucharist

**St Mary's, Neen Savage**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 6.00pm - Evening Prayer (BCP)  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: 9.00am – Parish Eucharist (BCP)

**St John the Baptist, Kinlet**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May: 11.15am – Parish Eucharist (BCP)  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May: 6.00pm- Evening Prayer (BCP)

**Leadership Team:**

Rector: Reverend Prebendary Ashley Buck: 07477 165602  
Curate: Reverend Sarah Lupton  
Church Office: Open Tuesday & Thursday 8.00am – 2.00pm Email: [cleoburychurch@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburychurch@hotmail.com)  
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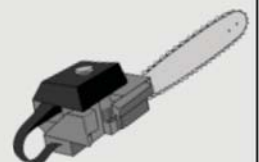
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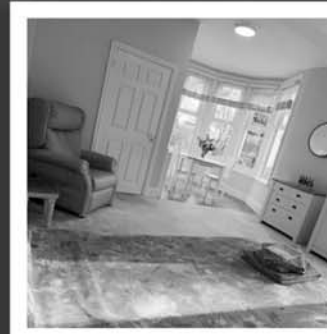






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Doddington Lodge is a place where friendships are made and special moments are shared. We organise many fun activities that everyone can get involved with, whether that's a sing along, arts and crafts, collecting fresh veg from the allotment or just simply helping each other with a crossword in our daily newspaper. Each day is different, we certainly have many happy moments...

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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Coffee morning  
on Friday 9th  
May 2025



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# SPRING CELEBRATIONS AND HAPPY MOMENTS WITH OUR DODDINGTON LODGE FAMILY



What a fun-filled month we've had at Doddington Lodge! Spring is definitely in the air, and we've been busy celebrating in style.

First up was Easter - our little visitors, Otávio, Thomas, and Annabelle, popped in with egg-stra special chocolate treats that had everyone smiling. We went wild for Easter Bingo, got our hands messy with spring crafts, and treated ourselves to some delicious home-baked goodies.

Our coffee morning was wonderful, a mix of friendly chatter and yummy homemade cakes, and Abberley Pre-School's tiny artists brightened the place up with their colourful creations and chocolate cakes.



Thanks to your support, our Easter raffle was a huge success - we raised £530 for our Residential Fund! What a wonderful way to make a difference for our residents.

To cap off the month, we threw a classic St. George's Day afternoon tea complete with scones, jam, and cucumber sandwiches (of course!).

Here's to more sunny days, crafty fun, and lovely get-togethers next month. We can't wait!

*Lots of happy moments*



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# Simon Morton In The Garden

## Winging It in the Wild: One Man's Quest for Blisters and Solitude

Warning: this month's article has absolutely nothing to do with gardening. Not a single mention of mulch, seedlings, or slugs. You've been warned.

Instead, I'd like to waffle on about a new annual tradition I've adopted in recent years. Each year, I pack a bag, lace up my boots, and vanish for a week. No Wi-Fi, no responsibilities, and - mercifully - no one asking if I've ever tried companion planting.

Last year, it was the Northumberland Coast Path. Stunning views, hearty pub lunches, and a strong chance of being blown into the sea. This year, I've chosen something more compact but no less ambitious: walking the entire Isle of Man. Yes, the whole blinking thing. Circumnavigating it like a bearded, middle-aged Magellan, minus the boat or navigational skill. And, once again, I'll be doing most of it solo, joined only in the final couple of days by a friend, presumably to check I haven't gone feral or taken to naming rocks.

There's joy in the walking, of course - the miles, the scenery, the occasional chat with a fellow hiker or confused/concerned sheep - but the real thrill? The planning. There's something deeply satisfying about mapping a route, timing your days, and debating whether your knees/feet/back can handle that "moderate incline."

And, of course, there's the gear. Oh, don't get me started on gear. I've become mildly obsessed with rucksacks - sorry, packs. That's what we seasoned walkers call them, don't you know? Choosing the right pack is a rabbit hole of straps, back ventilation, load distribution, and litres. So many litres. I now know more about pack ergonomics than I do about tax returns. It's oddly comforting.

**Cleobury & Rock Clarion May 2025**

Then there are the books. Tiny, waterproof guidebooks you can slip in your pocket without looking like you're smuggling a paperback novel or something else down your trousers. I've spent hours watching YouTube videos about blisters, weather-proof jackets, and which socks will "change your life." (Spoiler: they won't.)

This year I've learned to plan my mileage sensibly. Twenty miles on day one might feel heroic—until you wake up on day two walking like John Wayne after a particular bumpy cattle drive. No, it's a marathon, not a sprint. Maybe more of a plod, perhaps? Yes - that's it - a scenic, windswept plod. Accommodation? Let's be honest. It's just me. so I'm not seeking high-thread-count sheets or a minibar. My perfect stopover involves a bed upstairs and a pint and a pie downstairs. Pubs are top of the list. B&Bs, acceptable. Hotels? Only in an emergency or if I've taken a wrong turn and ended up somewhere unexpectedly swanky.

Packing will begin shortly, which means the house will be strewn with kit, and I'll descend into that delightful mental cocktail of excitement, panic, and vague dread. I'll wonder whether I've packed too much (Answer: yes.) and I'll question my decision to do this sort of thing on my own. (Answer: still yes.)

And why the Isle of Man? Simple. I not only like coastal walks, I'm also a huge fan of navigational ease. If the sea stays on my left, I know I'm going the right way. If it's on my right, I've either turned around or had a breakdown.

So, off I go—armed with maps, overconfidence, and a small pharmacy's worth of blister plasters. Wish me luck.

And no, still not gardening. Maybe next month.

*Simon Morton*



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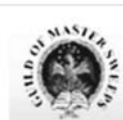
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# Mrs Grumpy.

Have you had need to call the Police lately and been disappointed by the response? Fear Not, a solution is to hand. You may recall the case in Hertfordshire where a couple were 'visited' at home by six uniformed officers, carted off to the nick, fingerprinted and detained for some hours before being released with no further action. Their heinous crime?, they were said to have 'harassed' school staff on line in a dispute over the procedure used to recruit a new Head by sending a number of E Mails and making critical comments on WhatsApp. When quizzed about this, the Chief Constable admitted that 'it could have been handled better' which is an understatement to say the least. He was asked why they had not been invited down to the nick for a chat in the first instance and said that they might not have agreed, although we'll never know... So, if you are burgled or assaulted, on no account mention those words. Just say that you may have harassed a member of school staff and you will be knee deep in Police within minutes.

In another case, six female students gathered in a Quaker meeting house to discuss protest meetings over hummus and breadsticks. They were raided by 20 police and arrested on suspicion of conspiracy. Apparently, Home Office staff have hinted that they were not as innocent as they appeared so I suppose we should be grateful we have been protected from the Quaker terrorists. Not sure if they have been charged with anything but I have a suggestion for the CPS: What about trying 'Being in possession of an offensive breadstick?'...

This seems like another case of Police having the wrong qualifications. Instead of a paper degree, for that job they need a degree from the University of Life and the experience and common sense that results. I sense that few new recruits or their superiors have that. It doesn't help that they have to spend much of their time filling in lengthy reports on often imaginary 'hate' crimes instead of

being out and about catching criminals. Still, I suppose we should be grateful as at least they are making an effort. Most youngsters these days seem terrified of emerging from their bedrooms... Not sure what will happen if the voting age is reduced to 16 and they have to venture out to the polling station.

I see Ed Davey is suggesting that Police and Crime Commissioners in rural areas be scrapped to release funds for front line officers. 'Hear Hear' is all I can say as following a brief flurry of (much publicised) activity some months ago, sightings of officers around here have been extremely rare.

News from the High Street: The Kings Arms has reopened under new management and reports so far seem generally positive. A bakers is due to be opening where Fiona's Flowers/ the pet food shop was and a sandwich shop is set to open in what was Copes butchers. Not sure if there will be enough demand for both but good luck to them anyway. Following a full refurbishment, undertakers Perry and Phillips will be holding an open day on 2nd of this month in the old Crusty Cob premises. They are a long established family business and are aware that there is work to do to repair the reputation of this sector in Cleobury. One shop that is no nearer opening is a Post Office. ...New 20MPH speed limit signs are appearing near Lacon Childe. This comes just as Wales is scrapping virtually all of theirs...It makes sense to have this lower limit near schools but let's hope it isn't contagious.

The journalist HL Mencken had an interesting take on the development of democracy: 'As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their hearts' desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron'. I wonder when that might happen...

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## Clarion Clippings - Let's Beat The Scammers

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter and whatever you did at least the weather was reasonable for a change. Easter is generally the start of Holiday season for many of us and if we have not already planned and booked a break it is certainly now that many will do so.

With the 2 Bank Holliday weekends in May heralding the major part of holiday summer, we see many offers of accommodation or chances to get away and relax. But beware this is a great time for the scamming season as well.

It is so easy now with even fairly simple technology to fabricate a web site portraying either a holiday cottage or villa or even foreign destination that looks attractive both from the visuals and the price.

But "buyer be aware" it's very much the case today that if something looks too good to be true it certainly is.

It's down to us all as buyers to take more time to check out these offers in detail before parting with our money. We read of examples where whole families have turned up at an address that they believed was going to be their dream destination for a few days or even a week, only to find the real owner of the property opening the door and having to tell them they have been scammed.

The disappointment for you especially if you have young children with you is beyond belief.

Not only have you made possibly a long journey but you have almost certainly lost money which in today's environment you can hardly afford to lose.

But what can be done to ensure you will not become such a victim? The first steps are to check out any advert for a holiday very carefully, looking for clues that it might be fake.

With adverts on the TV for companies like GoDaddy who offer free web site building, it is too easy for scammers to build a site that on the surface looks genuine.

They take images from genuine sites and add their own fake details to pull customers in and usually demand full payment up front.

Genuine web sites offering holidays have good elements relating to Terms and Conditions and their own company details which scammers tend

to ignore as sadly many of us tend also to ignore. Spelling or grammatical mistakes can also be a clue that something may not be right.

Good web sites will also have customer reviews generally managed by well known organisations such as Trust Pilot. Any reviews on fake web sites will not be Trust Pilot supported and should be carefully scrutinised. Reviews that have similar wording or mistakes are probably not genuine either and an indication of scamming.

Payment for booking should be considered carefully as well. Options presented range from using Pay Pal, Debit Cards or Online Banking to the use of Credit Cards.

Using Pay Pal gives a good level of protection as the payment details behind a Pay Pal account are hidden from the person receiving the payment. Using Debit or Credit Cards poses a higher risk as the card details can be taken and used by a scammer possibly before the victim realises their card has been scammed.

Using a credit card provides the safest option as Credit Card companies build in protection for this. You can also check if a seller is ATOL registered particularly for non UK destinations, but the evidence currently suggests the scamming is focussed on UK based holidays at the moment.

The message is clear, take time to check out any offer before making a commitment.

Making a long journey to a fake address is a painful experience we don't want you to have to have.

Stay Safe and enjoy the Summer.

*Nigel Reid*

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If I see something sagging, bagging or dragging I'll get it nipped, tucked or sucked.

*Dolly Parton*

One of the key problems today is that politics is such a disgrace, good people don't go into government.

*Donald Trump*





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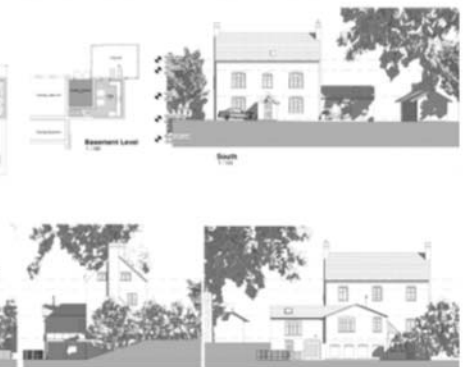
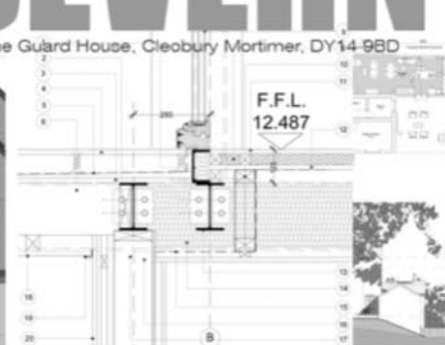
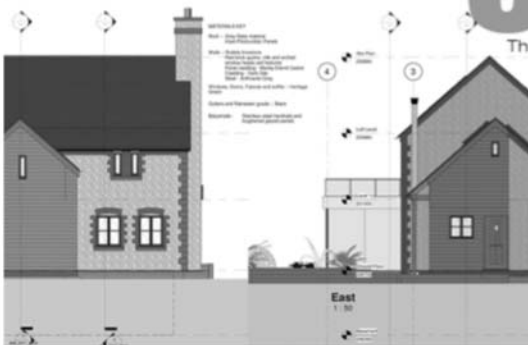
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# THE MAY SOCIAL CALENDAR

Thu May 1<sup>st</sup> Local Elections.

10.00 Rock Pathfinders step out from Hampstall Inn car Park, DY1 0RY PAGE 19

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30 “Victor and Albert” star at Farlow and Oreton village hall.

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 6.00 Compline, St. Giles’ Church, Heightington

Thu 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30 Victory in Europe Day celebrated

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30 Ludlow Male Voice Choir Sing at St Mary’s church. PAGE 26

Quiz Night at the Golf Club. Teams of four @ £10 a head.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Coffee Morning at Rock Village Hall. PAGE 13

10.30 Melville Chapel celebrate VE Day PAGE 5

7.30 Live Music Night with Slyde at Rock Village Hall PAGE 13

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 11.00 Communion of VE Day, St Peter’s Church, Rock

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> 6.30 Taster Session at the Cleobury Bowls Club. PAGE 13

Tue 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 Cleobury W.I. meet at the Market Hall

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 12.30 Soup Lunch at Melville Chapel

7.00 Royal British Legion meet at the Sports and Social Club

Thu 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00 Rock Pathfinders walk from the Hallow public house, Crown Lane. WR2 6PP PAGE 19

7.00 Cleobury Freemasons Lodge have an Open Night at the Golf Club PAGE 26

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew’s Church, Bayton

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 7.00 Royal British Legion Social Night, The Talbot Hotel

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.00 Promise Auction and Sausage and Mash Supper at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. PAGE 13

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> 11.00 Big Bowls Weekend. Try your hand at it. PAGE 13

7.30 Mark Baldwin gives his talk on postcards at the Golf Club. £5.00 a head.

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 11.00 Family Service Holy Trinity Church, Far Forest.

11.00 Family Service, St Bartholomew’s Church, Bayton.

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00 Ascension Day. Holy Communion, St Bartholomew’s Church Church, Bayton

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## STILL IN LOVE



This a magic moment, two mature people walking hand-in-hand and captured on the Clarion camera, both smiling in the spring sunshine. It's Mike and Judith Chopping, long time citizens of Cleobury after moving here when Mike was teaching in what used to be called the Coventry School.

Every time you see them, they'll be hand-in-hand and ready with a smile. Ask how long they've been doing this and Judith will tell you "63 years!" Such a warming picture that we'll be looking for more couples who look so happy and make you smile.

## VOLUNTEER WANTED

The Newbridge Cat Rescue Centre, that friendly home to all felines looking for a place to stay and then move on to a loving home that will appreciate their gentle manner, is looking for a volunteer. Male or female, someone to help with maintenance around the riverside site on the tight left-hand corner at the bottom of the hill as you drive in from Kidderminster.

Marion runs the place, that handles many cats old and

young, in the course of a year. But looking after all the animals and keeping the nursery grounds and buildings up to scratch is a big task. So if you have a love of animals and a little spare time to help a good cause, Marion would love to hear from you and show you around the place. She's on 01299 270701

## PROSTATE CANCER

This is the biggest cancer threat to men of mature years and we are very fortunate that there has been an active support group in this area for years. Its title may be the Worcestershire Prostate Support Group, but they are willing to work beyond mere county boundaries.

Robin Bourn has been appointed the local ambassador for the group and he'll be writing for us in the June issue and following up with event news and dates. There is a lot of great work being done in combatting this disease and we do like stories about people who work for the health of others.

## MIXED SOCIAL GOLF

This sounds interesting, a novel way of finding out about how to play on a top class course in a friendly atmosphere. It's just up the road at the town's own club. David Pain explains:

"You are very welcome to join our Thursday evening mixed golf roll-up. A great opportunity to get to know others, have fun, socialise, eat and drink and enjoy twilight golf, from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Every Thursday evening, roll from 4.00 and the first shot from the tee is at 4.30; don't forget to order your supper before you go out.

You can bring a partner to play different 9-hole competitions each week. Pay £5.00 a couple and all money goes out in prizes on the night, including a Nearest the Pin award.

It's organised by Garry and Sian Hawes, contact 07856257502 or email [sianhawes@live.com](mailto:sianhawes@live.com).

During the winter months, we have Mixed winter golf played on Sunday mornings, one or two a month (weather dependent) from October to March. We mix up players into teams with different 9 or 18-hole competitions booked on WhatsApp to participate.

Call us to learn more on 01299 271112

## 'WISH YOU WERE HERE'

This is the title of one of Mark Baldwin's more recent talks, this time about the history of the postcard, those personal or funny communications some of us will remember from family holidays before the mobile phone too over.

It's at the Golf Club on the 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30. Mark is both a talented researcher and an easy speaker to listen to. Should be an interesting evening.

## ROCKING AT THE REGAL

I have to use my words with care now that we share page space with Rock village. This is entirely different, it's about a notable evening of rock music at the Regal Theatre in Tenbury Wells on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. It must surely be notable to be posted so early in the year and tickets are on sale now.

The evening will feature a seven piece band, with guitars much in evidence and much rhythm and noise to be heard.

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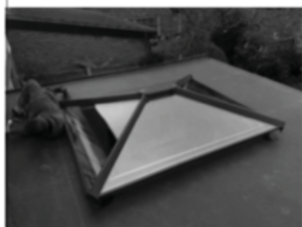
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#### **How to contact the Town Council**

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.

#### **Councillor Surgery**

Cllr James attended the monthly Councillor Surgery held in the Market Hall, alongside the Farmers Market, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Items raised included highway maintenance, street cleaning and community events. 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 on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

#### **BT Payphone Kiosk at junction of the Hurst and Lower Street**

The red telephone box on the High Street in Cleobury Mortimer is available for adoption. BT have asked the Town Council if we would like to adopt this kiosk. We would like to hear from any community minded residents who would be willing to help look after this historic asset if we do take on this payphone kiosk or even to share some ideas on its future use – perhaps as a book swap facility or to host a defibrillator?

#### **Cleobury Festival – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Please note this date in your diaries. Festival planning is well underway with lots of stalls and entertainment for all the family.



#### **Dates for your Diary**

Next Council Meeting – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6.30pm, at the Cleobury Country Centre.

Councillor Surgery – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, from 10am – 12noon, at the Market Hall.

Election Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Cleobury Festival – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 on the Playing Field.





# eme CLEOBURY



## FACILITIES INCLUDE:

Gym   
 Exercise Classes   
 Sports Hall   
 Outside Astro Pitch   
 Netball   
 Tennis Courts 

## CLASS TIMETABLE

MON	9.15 - 10am	CARDIO PILATES & STRENGTH
	6.30 - 7.15pm	BODY PUMP
TUES	9.15 - 10am	YOGA
	10.15 - 11am	YOGA
	6.15 - 7pm	TRX
WED	5.15 - 6pm	PILATES
	6 - 6.45pm	CIRCUITS
THU	6 - 6.45pm	STEP & SCULPT
	7 - 7.45pm	SPIN
FRI	6 - 6.45pm	STRETCH & RELAX

Pre-Booking required for Exercise classes  
 Book online or at the Centre

## OPENING TIMES

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

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



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