Cleobury Clarion

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REMEMBRANCE MONTH 2018

A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG LADY



Sienna Collett, with some of the bags she'll be filling with Christmas gifts for the homeless.

Sienna Collett is like a lot of children in this community, living in nice house, feeling secure. And at just eight years old, bright enough to realise that many around her do not have that; some of them are homeless. So Sienna decided she should do her best to help them at Christmas.

At school she asked for discarded bags to be given to her and she wanted gifts to fill them. Mum Julie estimates she's spent £70 of her own pocket money buying gifts and then hand them out over the first weekend in December at Shrewsbury, Telford and Worcester, where she'll help in the soup kitchen, too.

It's the live spirit of Christmas. Truly wonderful.

A WATERFALL OF POPPIES



Just a sample of the poppies knitted by volunteers for the Remembrance Day display at the Parish Church.

People have been knitting, crocheting and felting in groups and nattering as they created. Some preferred to stay at home and concentrate on the job. The result is a growing harvest of poppies that will tumble down the Parish Church steeple on Remembrance Sunday. It will be spectacular.

Kate Pearce is one of those leading the drive and tells us they'd like all who have helped to gather in the Market Hall on Saturday the 10th, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon to have a coffee and cake and admire their great handiwork. "We'd like to thank you for your support," she said, adding: "What an incredible community we live in."



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Golden Charter



The Cleobury Clarion, November 2018

Volume Thirteen - Edition Eight



Normal people take their dog for a walk. These are not normal people. See Page 63.



Weren't you taught not to play with fire young lady? It's safe on Page 65.



No room in this issue for the ever successful Kudos Blends. See December's Clarion.

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A RECORD BIG **COFFEE MORNING**

First of all, an explanation and an apology. When we said in the September Clarion that the record takings at the annual Macmillan Cancer Care in the Market Hall was £688.10p it was a typing error; in fact the record at that time was £608.10p.

So hearty congratulations to Sue Henderson and all her crew. Sue wrote to say: "A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the World's biggest coffee morning. We raised tremendous £669.10, beating our target. Such a wonderful amount.

We are holding our last coffee morning of the year on Saturday November 24th, in the Market Hall at 10 am."

1918 to 2018

The Friends of Saint Mary's Church invite you to illustrated talk by Dr. Mark Baldwin entitled 'Cleobury Mortimer 100 years ago and WW1 Soldier Simon Evans.'

Simon Evans suffered from gas attacks during the war and moved to Cleobury to work as a local postman, author broadcaster.

Having previously seen Mark's excellent presentation of

Facebook: Luxure Aesthetics

these two topics I can assure you it is most interesting and well worth coming to hear. It will be Mary's Saint Church Cleobury Mortimer on Friday November 9th. starting 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 include a complementary drink and are available from our usual outlets; Library, Cleobury Cleobury Pharmacy, Spire Hairdressing. or ring me on 01584 891351.

Alec Osbaldiston

MUFFLED BELLS

On Armistice Sunday the bells of Saint Mary's Church will be ringing half muffled before the laying of the wreaths and memorial service to remember those killed in battle.

As you listen to the bells you will hear a loud change followed by a muffled change which sounds like an echo. This effect is caused by fastening a leather muffle, shaped like a knee cap, onto one half of the clapper (the "hammer") which strikes the bell. By only muffling the clapper on one side you get this "echo" effect as blows are alternately loud and soft. Bells fitted with muffles in this way are said to be half-muffled.

During the First World War about 1400 bell ringers lost their lives in service of their country. The Great War Memorial Book of Church Bell Ringers who fell in the war is on display near the ringing chamber at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

At the end of the war the bells rang out across the country to celebrate the coming of peace and have followed in that celebratory role ever since.

Alec Osbaldiston

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS **FAYRE**

Always a happy, busy occasion, the Primary School Christmas Favre will be on November 30th this year. If any local trader would like to take a stall, the contact is Caroline Harris on 07730 431 341

THE OLD TIME **MUSIC HALL**

Trevor Wood reports on two evenings of fun at Neen Sollars Victory Hall:

The 5th annual Music Hall was a huge success with capacity audiences and record receipts. We would like to thank all our brave attendees who keep coming along in the hope that it will get better. It never does but at least people go home laughing! See you all again next year - same time, same place.

Trevor



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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

From November, eyes-down for the Monday Night Bingo will take place in the Bar Room at the usual time of 8.00pm when the Pool League are playing at home in the Function Room.

On Saturday, November 3rd, CM Rugby Club has a home game against The Edwardianskick-off 3pm. Chinny's Mobile Fish and Chips will be in attendance on the car park.

The Volleyball Club are holding one of their ever-popular Casino Nights on November 10th, starting at 8pm. Tickets are £10 each and available from Karen Gallagher or one of the Volleyball Club members. The Whist Group will meet on November 15th, starting at 7.30pm.

On November 24th, there will be a Prosecco, Port and Cheese Night with live entertainment from Just Charlotte. Start time is 7.30pm and tickets are £15 each, available from the Social Club.

As usual, for further information, please contact our Club Steward, Gemma Canty, on 01299 271448 or via our FaceBook Page.

Glenys Turpin

CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

Well summer is officially over and what a dry one it was! It leaves me with concerns about how dry the common is now, even after some periods of sustained and heavy rain. The summer had lots of benefits for some wildlife, as I have outlined in earlier articles, but many areas of the common are supposed to be very damp and much of the flora interest depends on those conditions. However if we have another winter like the last one things may return to normal by the spring.

With the end of summer volunteers have begun cutting birch on the common, particularly in the wet flush and upper marshes area. This is a regular job in order to stop the progression of heathland, with its mix of shrubs such as heather, cross-leaved heath and bilberry, from becoming woodland. However it is noticeable that this year sheep and cattle have helped to manage the heathland by browsing young trees. With the dry weather reducing the amount of grass growing more sheep and cattle were grazing on the common and spending more time moving far and wide looking for things to eat.

Having said that there is plenty of catching up to do with trees and gorse still dominating many areas. I hope to use some new machinery combining with Wildlife Trust volunteers to cut more of the gorse and allow the stock to move into more areas.

All the work and grazing has had noticeable benefits with many areas having lots of regenerating heather, and a good mix of shrubs. Another wildlife highlight in September was a chance meeting with a birdwatcher with a photo of a whinchat on the common. This is a very rare appearance, as the only breeding site for whinchat in Shropshire is Long Mynd. *Clive Dean*

SILLY BIT

'Politics gives guys so much power that they tend to behave badly around women. I hope I never get into that.' Bill Clinton

'Rail travel at high speed is not possible, because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia.'

Dr Dionysis Lander of University College, London.

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THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Only a few members had grasped the October task when we met last month, but everyone had a contribution to offer and entertain.

In a further breakaway from established habit, it was agreed that for November we would simply write 1,000 words about a World War One situation. A chance to test our creative skills, which we will measure when we meet in the library at 6.30 on Monday the 12th. All scribes will be made welcome.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

November can be a damp, raw month. Flowers may be scarce in the garden but there are many berries, evergreen foliage and trees with decorative bark to add interest on the dullest of Frosts can be frequent at night, especially when it is calm and clear. Cold winds from the east will make it feel much colder than it really is. November is also the perfect time to plant new roses in a well prepared site and don't forget your Spring Flowering Tulips.

At the September meeting, the club had its annual Autumn Show for members only. The winners were: First and Best Exhibit Bob Marriott, Joint 2nd Kath Thornton & Marion Wilson and 3rd Debbie Dickinson. Many thanks to Anne for judging the show.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a lovely social evening, you don't even need to have a garden to enjoy the company and talks. Non-members welcome to any monthly meeting.

Our next meeting will be on November 28th, and will be the AGM and member's social evening, with Gardener's Question Time after the formalities. This is the last event in the year; no meeting in December.

Pauline Bowen

THE SOROPTIMISTS

October was a fairly busy month. At our business meeting welcomed three members: Judith, Sally and Sue. We enjoyed an entertaining evening 'Beside the Seaside' presented by the Fold Theatre, with all profits helping to support West Mercia Women's Aid, and a number of members attended our Federation's Annual Conference in Liverpool.

Our next business meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on November 1st at Baxter Church Rooms, Bullring, Kidderminster. We shall be supporting the Heritage Group's "Armistice Celebrations Tea Party" on November 6th, at Kidderminster Town Hall.

Our Supper/Speaker meeting at La Brasserie, Kidderminster will be on 15th November, starting at 7.00 and we look forward to hearing Sandra Hill talk about 'Forest School'.

The month's commitments will finish on November 25th with our regular informal coffee morning from 10.00 onwards at the George Hotel in Bewdley. Do come along and meet some of us.

For more details about the club and its activities contact us: 01299 266101 or email: kidderminstersorop@gmail.com Website: http://sigbi.org/kidderminster-and-district/ Facebook: Soroptimists Kidderminster. Visitors always welcome.

Elke Jury

SILLY BIT

'I have made good judgements in the past. I have made good judgements in the future.'

US Vice President Dan Quayle



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'THE THANKFUL VILLAGE' COMES TO BEWDLEY

Yorkshire-based Badapple Theatre Company will bring their tour of Great War play 'The Thankful Village' to St George's Hall, Bewdley, on Saturday November 10th, arriving just in time for the centenary commemorations surrounding the war.

The return of the original comedy-drama by Kate Bramley comes with songs and music by Sony Award winning songwriter Jez Lowe starring Frances Tither, Zoe Land and Sarah Raine.

It's a poignant play that follows the lives of three women from the same rural household, above and below stairs, through the long years of The Great War, left behind to cope as their men-folk march off to Flanders. Each one faces the challenges in her own way, with resilience, humour, a sense of duty and whatever vestiges of hope she can muster, as the years pass by and they wait anxiously for news of loved ones far away. They cannot know that their village will end the war as one of very few similar communities for which fate has reserved a special place in history.

"Defiant humour, emotional clout and a poignant final twist, making you thankful for the underappreciated Great War service of women as much as the men whose story is familiar from history books and the War Poets alike" York Press.

Tickets for the show cost £12 and £6 for under 18s and are a v a i l a b l e f r o m www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk or St Georges Hall Café.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Adam Hope gave an interesting talk on pruning. There are many things to consider before pruning, especially if you are considering a large tree. In Cleobury we are in a conservation area so permission from the Local Authority may be required.

What do you hope to achieve? To lessen the height, get more light to the ground under the tree or thin out the branches to let the remaining branches have more light to stimulate growth? Adam illustrated the range of methods with clear diagrams.

Then the best way to prune branches. An undercut is made a short distance along the branch to reduce the risk of the branch tearing down the stem. Followed by a top cut a short distance from the undercut. You then remove the branch in sections. The final cut should be just above the branch collar. The wound left will be of the smallest diameter for the tree to naturally repair itself.

Many of our members sought advice and we all learnt that there is a lot more to pruning than just getting the secateurs and chopping away.

Our next meeting is the AGM in the Methodist Hall at 8.00 pm on Monday November 12th *Liz Smurthwaite*

DODDINGTON PROMISES AUCTION

Thanks to generous donations we had 101 lots in our Auction of Promises. And thanks to enthusiastic bidding, generous contributions and auctioneer, Ashley, we made £1,090 - an amazing total! This is a great encouragement for our project "Honouring the Past - a Light for the Future" for which we were raising funds, so thanks to all involved. Our next event is Christmas **Fayre** November 24th, 2.30pm at the Village Hall. Join us and get in the Christmas spirit! And raise the roof at our Carol Service on December 16th 3pm at St John's



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'Bee Balanced' courses are being run in the Ditton Priors Village Hall on Saturday Mornings. These are aimed at people who may becoming less mobile and less confident on their feet. The first 10 week programme underway, and the **Doctors** would like to encourage patients who may find this a bit of a daunting prospect, to join the second course. The Practice may be willing to pay the course fees for up to eight frail patients to attend this course. The organiser would also like some volunteers to help her with the courses. Anyone who would like more

information can contact Christine The flu vaccination system has changed this year under 65 year olds with chronic conditions will be given a quadravelent vaccine, and those over 65 will be given a trivalent vaccine. This will make things more complicated and maybe slow the process up vaccination clinics. The Practice offering may be clinics afternoons, and at least one evening (6.30 - 7.30) as well as the normal Saturday morning clinic. The Practice is using Mjog software to send text messages to patients to remind them of clinics, review and so on. Please make sure you have given your mobile number to the Practice.

The A&E at Princess Royal Hospital in Telford will only be open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm from November, but it is already being closed when inadequate staffing necessitates this. There is an Al Anon group based in Bridgnorth which meets on

Friday evenings. Al Anon is a fellowship to support the families and friends of those with an problem. alcohol More information from the Al Anon website, or information available at the Practice. Next year's meetings of the Patient Group will be on Mondays at Ditton Priors Village Hall. The first meeting of 2019 is Monday, February 4 t h . Helena Hale

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

The wonderfully titled Last Baguette Theatre Company will be at Farlow Village Hall on December 1st to present 'The Little Match Girl', Sunday Times Award winning T A Woodsmith's adaption of the Hans Christian Anderson tale of a Victorian match seller finding a place of real magic at Christmas.

The doors and the bar open at 6.00 and the curtain follows suit at 6.30. Book your tickets through James Shier on 01746 718642 or www.artsalive.co.uk.





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

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CLEOBURY CARERS' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Carers are holding their Christmas Bazaar in the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane, on November 20th. It will run from 1.00 to 4.00 o'clock, an hour longer than usual in the hope that they can attract children and their parents on the way home from Primary School. In fact the event is open to all the community, with entry and all refreshments free, though any donation will be much appreciated.

They certainly have an impressive list of attractions for all all ages, including a Table Top Sale, Kids' Tombola, Jumble Jars and other games. And tasty treats like mince pies, gingerbreads, a wee glass of sherry, or tea, coffee and juice to sip. If you would like to donate a raffle prize or maybe bake a cake, you can leave them with Janet Manley at 2 Tenbury Road or call her on CM 272841.

This is a very busy and helpful group of people and when Cecelia of the Carers Trust headquarters in Shrewsbury visited for the first time, she was so impressed that she wrote about it in the group's magazine. With her permission, we print her words here:

Cleobury Carers Group provides friendship, fun, respite, someone at the end of a phone when you're at the end of your tether and a warm welcome when you walk through the door to any carer they meet...and they meet a lot.

Janet Manley, one of the founder members, was driven by a desire to ensure no carer felt unsupported or was left to cope alone. When her parents passed away she donated some of the money collected at their funerals to set up a fund for group activities and started fundraising.

The group learned very quickly that what worked was creating space where carers could

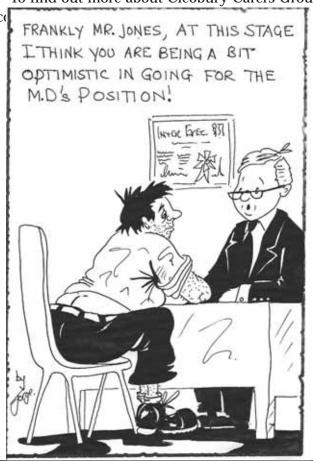
relax together, have a chat and a laugh over a simple lunch and get to know each other as friends and neighbours, leaving their worries at the door for just a while.

Everyone feels valued and everyone contributes in whatever way they can, whether making cake, welcoming new people or washing up.

Two long standing members of the group offer open house and 24/7 phone support to anyone who finds themselves in need of a real helping hand.

The group is a lifeline for carers and a life force in the local community, turning up everywhere to make sure people know about them, and because of that the group keeps growing.

To find out more about Cleobury Carers Group,



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 18 - November 2018



Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-November

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 4th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

11th-10.45am Service of Remembrance

18th & 25th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Service of Light-Sunday 4th. 6.00pm Remembrance of the departed, All welcome.

Farmers Market-Saturday 17th. In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Messy Church-Sunday 25th. All welcome at the Hub at 3.00pm for Crafts, stories, games & a meal

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 4th-10.00am Eucharist, 11th-10.15am Remembrance, 18th-10.00am Matins, 25th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 4th-No service, 11th-10.45am Remembrance, 18th-6.30pm Evensong, 25th-9.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 4th-10.00am Eucharist, 11th-9.30am Remembrance, 18th-10.00am Family service, 25th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 4th-No service, 11th-10.50 Remembrance, 18th-No service, 25th-3.00pm Evening Prayer

Events/Activities: Christmas Fayre. Doddington Village Hall at 2.30pm. All welcome.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 4th-No service, 11th-10.50 Remembrance, 18th-No service, 25th-11.00am Family service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 4th-No service, 11th-10.50 Remembrance, 18th -No service, 25th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916



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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our next Parish Walk is on Sunday November 4th at 10.00 from outside St Mary's Church. Do come and join us, as there should be plenty of autumn colour to see.

Many walkers will be familiar with the well used section of the Shropshire Way, which runs through the garden of Sproseley near Hopton Wafers. It goes very close to the house which makes it feel awkward to use, even though the residents are very friendly and welcoming. October work party Our realigned this path to take it around the other side of the garden pond further from the house. A much more satisfactory route for walkers made possible by both the owner of Sproseley and of the neighbouring field.

By the time you read this, we hope to have renovated the steps down the steep bank through woodland to the River Rea below Reaside Farm in Neen Sollars. A long walk in but the owner of Barnsland Farm is going to help by transporting tools, timber and us to the site.

There are many improvements to footpaths we would be unable to do without such help from landowners and it is much appreciated.

Graham Simpson

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The November walks, each starting at 10.00 and taking two to three hours, will be:

Thursday November 1st: Start from the lay-by on the A443, by the turning for Grimley. WR2 6PD or SO 829604

Thursday 15th: Start from the Riverside Post Office and Tearoom at Arley, DY12 1XA or SO 764802.

More details from Alan on 0 1 2 9 9 4 0 0 3 0 4 o r www.rockpathfinders.16mb.com

THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Can we make it 1,000 shoeboxes again this year? Can we do it? Yes we can!

With your help all those needy children can know that someone, somewhere, cares about them and has sent them a gift. The first time this will ever have happened to them.

Shoeboxes will be in Saint Mary's church from November 12th for you to take, with a leaflet. My helpers and I will be packing in the back of the church from November 14th to the 21st, and all the boxes will go to the Evesham warehouse

on Friday November 23rd, beginning at 10.00am. Help with this huge task is needed. Please be at Saint Mary's if you can help. Thank you.

Jenny Vanderhook 01299 841379

A NEW MAN LEADS THE LEGION

Congratulations to Mike Hermolle, elected chairman of the Cleobury branch of the Royal British Legion at their recent AGM. He has been a member of the Legion for 25 years, joining when he lived near Evesham and then moving to Cornwall before arriving in Cleobury in 2012.

He recognises what an active branch ours is and says he won't be looking to make changes. But he does feel that there are ex members of the forces who the Legion do not know about and who could find a warm welcome in its ranks. We wish him well; if you would like to congratulate him, he's on CM 271384.

SILLY BIT

"I've never really wanted to go to Japan, simply because I don't like eating fish. And I know that's very popular out there in Africa."

Britney Spears "Where the hell is Australia anyway?"

Britney Spears

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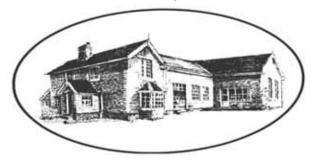
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PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

Wash your clothes less!

In 2017 The National Federation of Women's Institutes launched their campaign End Plastic Soup to protect the ocean from contaminating micro plastic fibres. This month's article comes from their Campaign action pack.

Microplastics are plastic particles smaller than 5mm. A major source of microplastic pollution is from synthetic fibres, which are small strands of plastic that can come loose from clothing in the washing cycle. As they are too small to be caught by washing machine filters and the sewage system, they end up in the sea and wider environment.

Due to their small size the fibres can be ingested by aquatic life, posing a health risk to them. Microplastics are also entering the food chain, the long-term effects of which are unknown.

They suggest that we can all make a difference by taking action at home: Wash less - Only run your washing machine on a full load - Use washing liquid instead of powder - Wash at a low temperature - Bin the lint

from the drier (don't put it down the drain) - avoid buying too many/unnecessary clothes!

If you have any other ideas on how to reduce our single use plastic usage, we would love to hear from you. Plastic: Not So Fantastic will promote tips you send us. You can contact us by e m a i l a t: Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

ADAM'S AID OFF TO A GREAT START

Adam, aged just nine years old Kinlet, launched Charity "Adam's Aid for the Homeless" on Saturday 13th October at Kinlet Village Hall. It was a huge success thanks to the support of our local community. He raised a grand total of £533.60 which has been given to **Nightstop** Wyre **Forest** Mediation. Heartfelt thanks to all of those who attended and helped in any however big or small.

Adam has been inundated with hats and scarves, toiletries and confectionery to put into his Christmas Gift Bags - he is both overwhelmed and very grateful.

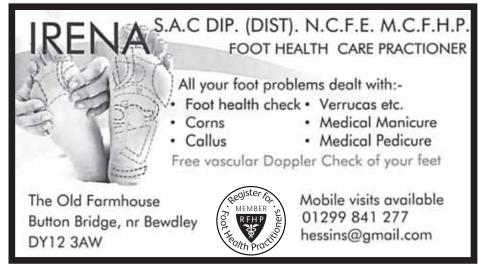
READING GROUP

'The Enchanted' by Rene Denfeld, one of our most popular reads, a great surprise given the topic.

The title refers to the imagination of a prisoner on Death Row, who narrates most of the novel. Rene was the chief investigator for public a defender's office and writes well with atmospheric descriptions. Her use of language was enjoyed. It's an uncomfortable read but a remarkable insight into the lives of people who spend decades locked in tiny cells. They have little or nothing to occupy them over the years except their thoughts. We talked about the death penalty, life sentences and prisons in general. Do any countries have a workable system imprisonment, we wonder? Most of us would not have picked this book off the shelves on reading, found it captivating, such is the joy of a reading group.

We certainly have a wide selection, with a French translation for this month, 'The Elegance of the Hedgehog' by Muriel Barbery. We will exchange our views on this at the library on November 19th.

Deana Kimber 271754



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The Great War ended at 11.00 am on 11th November 1918. Perhaps it's fitting to read how those affected felt and behaved when they learned that it was over.

Western Front. Jim Fox, Durham Light Infantry:

The armistice was to be signed at o'clock on the 11th November, and from 6 that morning there was only occasional shell that was sent by us or the Germans over our lines. Maybe there was one an hour. And then about 10am one came down and killed a sergeant who had been out since 1915. Thought that was very unlucky. To think he had served since 1915, then to be killed within an hour of armistice...

William Collins remembers the conditions on the morning of the 11th November:

On armistice I remember it was a Monday morning, November 11th. The fog was so thick that the visibility was down to 10 yards. A silence came over the whole place that you could almost feel, you know after four and a half years of war, not a shot was fired, not a sound was heard because the fog was blanketed everything you see and hung really thickly over. We were north east of Mons, whereas I had started the battle four and a half years earlier, south east of Mons. So there I was back where the war started after nearly four and a half years of it. Some were keen to fight up to the last minute. Harry Hopthrow wrote:

At breakfast time that morning there was an announcement, I think an infantry battalion had halted just outside the divisional headquarters, who were making their breakfast. I went out and said, "Ok the war is going to stop at 11 o' clock today". And then an

officer came up and said "What is this, cookhouse gossip?" sort of thing. So I told him. The result was the 7th Dragoon Guards with horses had turned up by then and they heard this and immediately saddled up and off they went and went into action.

Too exhausted to react at all. British Officer G Spicer:

I met an officer who informed me that an armistice had been signed and that the war was over. I got my men back, because we were all pretty worn out by that time. I regret to say that the only celebration I had of armistice was I got back to this hut somewhere about 2 o'clock and I lay down and the next time I woke up was the next morning. I'd been to sleep for 15 hours without waking.

In a military hospital at home. British Officer William Chapman:

We couldn't believe it, we couldn't believe it. There was a sense of unreality about it. As though we had entered into another world and hadn't got our bearings. In that hospital, there were two officers' wards and it was the same in either ward and there were hundreds of other troops scattered about the hospital. But that day particularly the mood that happened in London and other big towns was supposed to be exciting and thrilling....but in hospital amongst us wounded officers, there was perfect, I don't know, inhibition almost, perfect calm. And were wondering where they were, just wondering where they were....

Dorchester Prison. Conscientious Objector Wilfred Littleboy:

But, November the eleventh. Ah, we shall be home for Christmas!

Now that was the attitude of a great many people a great many Objectors. Some of us felt pretty clearly that it was going to be a very difficult thing for the authorities to free Objectors while the getting home of the Army was a huge job and taking a very long time and we said it would be much nearer six months. In point of fact it was just about six months because it was April 1919- that all those who had had done at least two years were liberated.

Germany, POW Bert Fearns:

... This day when we looked at the bulletin board there was just word o n one it: "Waffenstillstand" it was a huge long word, we had picked up quite a bit of German but that was a new one on us. So we called the old sentry over and he came with his rifle and we told him to have a look at it. And when he did, he sort of looked up to heaven; put his rifle on the ground; and did a sort of Scots sword dance over it. So we knew by that, that the war was over.

And finally. Pte George Edwin Ellison 5th Irish Lancers (1878-Novermber 1918):

Died at 9.30 am (90 minutes before the Armistice came into effect) while on patrol on the outskirts of Mons, Belgium.

George is the last British soldier to be killed during the First World War and by a simple twist of fate is buried in a grave facing that of John Parr, the first British soldier to die in 1914.

This is the final piece on the Great War from me, I hope that that they have been as interesting to read as they have been to research and write.

Paul French Thank you, Paul, for all that effort. JR

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Last month, we held the first ever Green GB Week, marking the 10th anniversary of the Climate Change Act. The objective was to celebrate and showcase the opportunities arising from clean growth, and to raise awareness of how businesses and the public can contribute to tackling climate change.

government is placing renewed focus on protecting our environment, and ensuring climate change risks are addressed. The past thirty years have shown a growing economy does not have to be linked to growing emissions. Since 1990, we have cut our emissions by over 40% while growing the economy by more than two thirds, with the UK independently assessed as world-leaders in decoupling emissions from growth since 2000.

The Midlands is playing its part in clean growth, as the leading region for the design and manufacture of low carbon vehicles, with more than £1.5 billion (over 60%) of UK automotive Research & Development carried out in the region. In the first quarter of this year, we saw an 11% increase in the number of new ultra-low emission vehicle registrations compared to a year ago. So the Midlands is at the forefront of an emerging industry, providing clean growth and jobs for the future. I am keen to see the electric charging network develop both in Shropshire and across the UK, to help drivers make the switch to electric vehicles.

We have also seen a 30% increase in renewable energy generation since 2014, which has doubled since 2009, helping reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We are cutting emissions quicker than any other country in the G7. In South Shropshire too we have schemes making use of renewable energy sources, including anaerobic digestion, biomass,

solar, and hydroelectric generation in local rivers, which are encouragingly becoming more self-sufficient and less reliant on subsidy, making them sustainable over the longer term.

As a member of the Environmental Audit Select Committee, I was particularly pleased to see the role of Green Finance highlighted during Green GB and NI Week. Earlier this year we published a report into Green Finance, calling on investors and pension providers to recognise climate change as a specific investment risk for the future, which should help encourage further investment in renewables. I have continued to pressure Ministers to make sure they reflect on our policy suggestions in future legislation.

So while encouraging progress is being made, we can always go further. This is why the government has committed over £2.5 billion of investment in low carbon innovation from 2015 to 2021.

But climate change does not respect borders. As we have been reminded recently by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, while the UK may be a world leader, there is more we and our international allies and partners can do to step up to the challenge of climate change. The UK provided one of the first government responses by requesting expert advice whether we could achieve zero emissions by 2050.

The Environmental Audit Committee is now holding an annual review to monitor the government's progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

By maintaining the current focus on clean growth, I am convinced we can make a difference and protect our planet for future generations.

Philip Dunne

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Thurs 1st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders meet at an A443 lay-by near Grimley. PAGE 21		
Sat 3 rd	3.00	CM rugby Club take on Edwardians at home. Just up Love Lane		
08.30		Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Field near Clee Hill		
Sun 4 th 10.00		The Parish Walk starts at the Parish Church and takes in Bransley & Barnsland		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the KA, Church St. Acoustic only, all types, all ages, all for fun		
Mon 5 th	7.00	Town Council meeting in Cleobury Country Centre		
Wed 7 th 10.00		Walking for Health steps out from Sports Centre, Love Lane	Alan	CM 271754
	10.00	Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic, St Mary's Place. Free service on NHS units.		
Thurs 8 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
7.30	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Fri 9 th 7.30	7.30	Prize Bingo at Clows Top Village Hall		01299 832903
	7.30	Dr mark Baldwin talks about the town 100 years ago and Simon Evans, in the		
		Parish Church. PAGE 5		
Sat 10 th		"The Thankful Village" play at St George's Hall, Bewdley. PAGE 11		
	8.00	Casino Night at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 7		
Sat/Sun	10.00	Exhibition of World War One memorabilia in the Market Hall		
10/11 th				
Mon 12 th		Collect your shoe boxes from the Parish Church for filling. The Big Box Event		
		starts today		
	6.30	Creative Writing Group, the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 9		
	8.00	Horticultural Society AGM at Methodist Hall, Church Street.		
Tues 13 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club welcomes Glyn Pugh of Ludlow Brewery.		
Wed 14 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall. £1.50 for cake and tea/coffee		
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. AGM and talk on Winter Decoration. At the Village Hall.		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meets at the Bell Inn, Lower Street.	Mike Hermolle	CM 271384
Thurs 15 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYLCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Rock Pathfinders meet at the Riverside Café in Arley. PAGE 21		
Fri 16 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Sat 17 th		Coach Outing from Clee Hill to Chester	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
Mon 19 th	7.30	The Reading Group meet at the Library Love Lane. PAGE 25		
Tues 20 th	1-4pm	Cleobury Carers' Christmas Bazaar, Sports & Social Club. Free! PAGE 17		

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The greatest demonstration of community feeling in the year. The town gathers in the Talbot Yard as the Royal British Legion Parade assembles, and along the High Street to watch the town band lead the way to the Cenotaph, the laying of wreaths and to experience the quite awesome two minutes silence in memory those who lost their lives in two World Wars and in armed conflict since. It is an extremely moving experience.



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Wed 21st	10.00	Walking for Health are out again.	Alan	CM 271754
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 22 nd		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 24 th	2.30	Doddington Christmas Fayre, in the Village Hall		
	7.30	Prosecco, Por & Cheese Night at Sports & Social Club. PAGE 7		
Mon 26 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet, read and laugh in the library.		
Tues 27 th	2.00	Doddington Friendship Club welcome Dave and Lesley to hear about		
		Scattergories.		
Wed 28th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall in Church Street		
	8.00	Clows Top Garden Club meet at Victory Hall for their AGM and Social. PAGE 9		
Thurs 29th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 30 th		Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER		
Sat 1st	6.30	"The Little Match Girl" is on stage at Farlow Village Hall. PAGE 13		
Mon 3 rd	7.00	Town Council meets in Cleobury Country Centre. Special Speaker – PAGE 61		
Tues 4 th	7.00	Christmas Carol Service in Hopton Parish Church. PAGE 41		
Wed 5 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 6th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

Lacon Childe School Quiz Night

How good to see this event revived; it used to be one of the major evenings for the town, with the school hall absolutely full.

It's on Friday, November 30th, starting at 7.30. Teams of six, paying £5.00 a head and you can expect a licensed bar, nibbles and the inevitable raffle. Head Teacher Darren Reynolds will be Quiz Master, there are cash prizes to be won and all profits go to the School PTA. Tickets from the school office or at the Library. Can the public beat the teachers? We'll see.

The CoCo Coffee Mornings

How quickly these friendly coffee mornings - tea if you prefer - have become part of the social structure of the town. Held in the Market Hall from 10.00 to 12.00 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, they offer home made cake along with a cuppa for just £1.50. We are advised that if you want a slice of Audrey's legendary coffee walnut cake you should arrive early.

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Celebrating the end of the Great War

Although the nation quite understandably regards 11 November 1918 as the end of the Great War, it must be remembered that this was only the date of an armistice - a ceasefire. Resumption of fighting remained a real possibility until a peace treaty could be agreed. In the event, fighting was not resumed, but months of negotiation were required before the ceasefire could be converted in a formal peace. The armistice originally extended only from 11 November to 13 December 1918 but, because no peace agreement had been reached by the end date, it had to be further prolonged several times.

Until a peace treaty had been concluded, national celebrations would have been premature. The Treaty of Versailles, which formally ended the war between the Allied Powers and Germany, was not signed until 28 June 1919, the fifth anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the very event which had led to the start of the war. The signing of the treaty finally allowed Britain to sanction peace celebrations, amongst the first of which was a Royal Proclamation authorizing a Service of Thanksgiving on 6 July 1919. A Peace Committee, chaired by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Curzon, which had first met in May 1919, had initially considered a 4-day national celebration in August, but later reduced this to a single day, Saturday 19 July. On or around that day, almost every town and village in the land took the opportunity to stage a great range of celebratory events. In Ludlow, for example, plans included a series of services, a lunch, bell-ringing, and the planting of an oak tree, ending with fireworks at 10 pm, and flares from Whitcliffe at 11 pm.1

In November 1918, a peace treaty lay in the future, so celebrations had to wait, but nowadays, with the advantage of hindsight, we can justifiably celebrate 11 November as the end of the actual warfare.

Events in Cleobury

___In Cleobury, the Parish Council seems to have started the process of organising Peace Celebrations by resolving that the Chairman call a public meeting on 30 April 1919 to discuss the celebrations, and a second one to discuss the provision of a war memorial.² Although there is no further record of participation by the council, in due course an extensive programme of celebrations was arranged.³

On Friday 18 July, over 100 exservicemen were entertained to a 'capital dinner' in the Oddfellows' Hall (now the Parish Hall), presided over by Councillor Thomas Butcher (the local vet), supported by the Rev. Percy Malden (the vicar), Father Morley (Roman Catholic Priest in residence at Mawley Hall), Mr James Davis (headmaster of Cleobury College) and Lieutenant Greigson, MM (AIF).⁴ This was followed by speeches, toasts and a 'capital smoking concert'. As might be imagined, the ladies' participation was limited to waiting at table.

The whole of the following day, Saturday 19 July, was devoted to celebrations involving the entire community. A procession, headed by a local band, marched through the town. Those taking part included the Police, Fire Brigade, Boy Scouts, and over 50 exsoldiers. They were followed by decorated lorries carrying children dressed to represent Britannia, Peace and the Queen. Behind them came more children on foot, waving flags. The procession made its way to 'the field' where patriotic songs were sung, followed by an open-air service, for which W.E. Dudley had printed the hymn sheet.5 This included the 'Official Peace Version, 1919' of the National Anthem, a version which was endorsed by the Privy Council in 1919, but which has now fallen into disuse. Although its first verse was identical to the standard version, its other two verses were totally different.

Sports came next, and these included two events specifically for ex-servicemen: the quarter-mile and ham cutting⁶ won by B. Downes and F. Rippard respect-ively. At four o'clock, the children had tea, and later some 800 parishioners 'sat down to tea.' As the population of the town was then only about 1,500, this was a remarkable number.

As so often happens, after tea 'rain interfered with arrangements'. How many, many, English summer events have been thus afflicted! Nevertheless, dancing continued until 9 pm, when everyone moved to the Oddfellows' Hall. The evening ended with Dover flares, and fireworks at 11 pm.

More soberly, on Wednesday 23 July, the Committee met again,7 and the Treasurer, Mr George Smith, was able to report that receipts had more than covered costs, producing a small surplus of £2.0.0½d. 'Now the celebrations were over' said Mr Butcher, 'the next thing to be brought before the parish was the provision of a permanent memorial to the fallen'. He favoured a cross 'in a portion of the churchyard adjacent to the street', which is, of course, the scheme which was eventually adopted. He also felt that certain restrictions should apply to the collection of funds for the memorial, because

'... he did not intend to have a house-to-house collection, as he thought the subscription list should be declared open, and that the money should be brought in voluntarily.'

In expressing these sentiments, Mr Butcher was echoing the view of the local ex-servicemen's organisation, the 'Comrades of the Great War'.

Although the British Legion (since 1971, the Royal British Legion) was not formed until 1921, several associations had been created during and immediately after the war to represent the interests of ex-servicemen, particularly those who

had been seriously wounded and invalided out of the forces. In Cleobury there was a branch – called a 'post' – of the Comrades of the Great War, captained by George Smith. The post took a keen interest in the celebratory events, but expressed strong views about how money for a war memorial should be raised. In the days immediately before the Peace Celebrations, the Post had unanimously passed a resolution⁸ recording

'... strong disapproval of the method of raising money to perpetuate the memory of their fallen comrades by holding garden fetes or other entertainments. All present having fought in a theatre of war, and realising to the full the debt the country owes to the men who made the supreme sacrifice, they think the money should be raised only by voluntary subscription . . .'

This disapproval can not have been universally shared, as a garden fete in the grounds of the Manor House was organised in July 1919 by the War Working Party. The proceeds of the fete were to 'be used towards establishing a suitable memorial of the Great War', and amounted to over £63.9 This was a substantial achievement, as that £63 would be worth over £2000 today.

There were, in Cleobury, at least two other celebrations of the Peace. The inmates of the workhouse were given a special dinner by the guardians. Visitors included three of the guardians – T. Butcher, H. Wakeman and J. Rose, Dr Scargill (medical officer for the workhouse), and Mr & Mrs Whitehead. Again, alas, rain interfered with arrangements; the planned outdoor tea in the adjacent field had to be postponed.

The second event¹¹ was a 'Peace Dance' in the Oddfellows' Hall, held specifically to raise money for a local disabled soldier. 130 people attended, and the

dancing continued until 3.30 am, with Walter James, Billy Dudley, and C. E. Morris sharing the duties of Master of Ceremonies. The proceeds, amounting to £12.13.0d (equivalent to about £450 today), were given to Mr G. Griffin, of Lower Forge, who had been discharged from the Army 'totally disabled'.

Events in nearby parishes

Naturally, there were local celebrations in the surrounding villages as well. Doddington mounted two separate events: a dinner for returning soldiers on 15 July, and a day of celebrations on 19 July.¹² About a hundred guests attended the dinner, after which came toasts, and a vote of thanks to the organisers proposed by Lieutenant R.S. Woodward. This was followed by a smoking concert, and the evening ended with the singing of the National Anthem, and Auld Lang Syne.On Peace Day itself, 'the whole of the parish assembled in the grounds of Doddington Lodge' for a midday meal, but the afternoon's sports were interrupted by heavy rain, so everyone adjourned to 'the hut' for tea.13 A dance was held in the evening, and at 11 pm, huge flares were lit on the hill, 'in accordance with the very many which could be observed in the surrounding counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Gloucestershire'. The sports were postponed until the August Bank Holiday, when it was 'hoped that the children will give an exhibition of living whist and Morris dancing, and that a further dance will be held on the Croquet Lawn at Doddington Lodge.'

At Kinlet¹⁴ as part of 'a splendidly arranged and comprehensive programme', a lunch was held, ending with a round of toasts and speeches. Presiding at the meal, Colonel Fisher Childe reported that 53 men from the parish had joined up. 44 of these had seen active service, and eight 'had made the supreme sacrifice, including four from one family.' The afternoon saw a

sports programme, and then tea, and finally dancing in the Parish Hall.

Neen Sollars and Milson combined to celebrate Peace Day on 19 July. 15 Mrs Browne of Neen Sollars House lent a room and buildings for the day, which began with 'an excellent dinner at mid-day' for the soldiers, followed by a dinner for 'all the men' of both parishes. Once the toasts and speeches were over, all adjourned to Mr Skellorn's field for sports. At 3 pm, the children were given tea, and then (at last!) the women 'partook of an excellent meat tea'. The evening was taken up with games for the children, and dancing for the adults.

Cleobury Mortimer's War Memorial¹⁶ Once the celebrations were over, further thought was given to the provision of a suitable memorial to those men from Cleobury Mortimer who had been killed in the war. Following the long-standing tradition of displaying weapons captured from a defeated enemy, a German machine gun was delivered to Cleobury in 1920, although what then happened to it

is unknown.¹⁷

As Thomas Butcher had suggested in 1919, the site chosen for the memorial was indeed to be a portion of the churchyard of St Mary's, adjacent to the main street. In anticipation of the War Memorial Garden's passing to the Parish Council and becoming a legally defined 'Open Space', the Council had to apply to Salop County Council for suitable powers under the Open Spaces Act of 1906.18 On the church's side, faculty for the erection of a memorial cross was granted by the diocese of Hereford on 12 January 1921.¹⁹ A few weeks later, the vicar, Percy Malden, conveyed the ground upon which the cross was to be erected to the Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council, the conveyance being signed by the vicar, witnessed by Thomas Jones and Thomas Butcher, and signed on behalf of the Council by J.E. Evans and E.H. Potter.²⁰ By this conveyance, the Parish Council agreed to maintain the War Memorial

Garden as an Open Space in perpetuity, once the Cleobury Mortimer War Memorial Association had paid for the laying-out of the garden, and erecting of the

The memorial was dedicated on Sunday 22 May 1921 at a service conducted by the Bishop of Hereford.²¹ The unveiling itself was done by Staff-Sergeant Mark Brighton.²² The Parish Council was so impressed by the report of the ceremony in the <u>Kidderminster Times</u> that it resolved to keep a copy of the newspaper report with the Parish Documents.²³

Notes & References

- 1: <u>Ludlow Advertiser</u> 19 July 1919.
- 2: Parish Council Minutes for 16 April 1919, in Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Minute Book, 1901-1924. This is held at the Shropshire Archives, item no CP71/1/2/1. Cited as PCM below. It would appear that a committee was elected at the meeting on 30 April, with Mr Butcher as Chairman, but no records of this have been found.
- 3: Details of the events of 18 and 19 July are drawn from a lengthy report in the <u>Kidderminster Times</u> for 2 August 1919. This was held over from the previous week as there were too many reports of local celebrations to be fitted in to the issue for 26 July.
- 4: The AIF was the Australian Imperial Force, which included some British recruits, despite its title.
- 5: An original hymn sheet is in the author's collection, but no Order of Service has been located. William E. Dudley ('Billy') was a local worthy, shown in <u>Kelly's Directory for Shropshire</u>, 1922 as Captain of the Fire Brigade, agricultural motor engineer, ironmonger, implement agent, shoeing smith, and GWR passenger & parcel agent.
- 6: 'Ham cutting' remains a mystery. There was a ham the prize ham was donated by a local grocer, Mr W. Amies but what was the sport?
- 7: <u>Kidderminster Times</u>, 2 August 1919. George Smith was something of a local Poobah, shown in <u>Kelly's Directory for Shropshire</u>, 1922 as Parish Clerk, Deputy Registrar, Collector of Poor Rates, Collector of Income Tax, etc.
- 8: Kidderminster Times, 5 July 1919.
- 9: <u>Kidderminster Times</u>, 19 July 1919. 'War Working Parties' were established to encourage women to make, collect, and send

out items of comfort for serving soldiers, such as socks, scarves, slippers, cigarettes, etc.

- 10: Kidderminster Times, 26 July 1919.
- 11: Kidderminster Times, 2 August 1919.
- 12: Kidderminster Times, 26 July 1919.
- 13: 'The hut' was a predecessor of the current village hall (and on the same site). I am grateful to Heather Birch for this clarification.
- 14: Kidderminster Times, 26 July 1919.
- 15: ibid.
- 16: Some details of the War Memorial Garden and its history may be found in BALDWIN, M. 'The churchyard, Cleobury Mortimer, during the 19th and 20th centuries'. Cleobury Chronicles, Vol 4, 1996. pp 7-12; and in BALDWIN, M. 'Memorials'. Cleobury Chronicles, Vol 11, 2014. pp 7-10. The latter also describes the war memorials inside St Mary's Church. Biographies of all 29 WW1 casualties named on the memorials may be found in Cleobury Chronicles, Vol 11, 2014.
- 17: 'The Chairman reported that the Machine Gun had arrived & asked the Council where same should be placed & matter was adjourned.' PCM, 2 July 1920. The matter was again 'stood over' in PCM, 24 Sep 1920.
- 18: PCM, 2 July 1920. The powers were obtained by 24 Sep 1920 (PCM).
- 19: The author owns a photocopy of the Faculty, made in 1996 from the original held by the incumbent at that time, Rev R.A. Horsfield.
- 20: The author owns a photocopy of the Conveyance, made in 1996 from the original held by the incumbent at that time, Rev R.A. Horsfield.
- 21: Photocopy of Order of Service in author's collection.
- 22: Mark E Brighton was a local boot repairer, living and working at 34 Lower Street. It was with Mr & Mrs Brighton that Simon Evans took lodgings when he came to live and work in Cleobury in 1926. *See* BALDWIN, M. <u>Simon Evans: his life and later work</u>. Baldwin, 1992. pp 5-6.

23: PCM, 28 Dec 1921.

BEATTIE, D. <u>South Shropshire's First World War</u>. Logaston Press, 2014.

DOODY, J. <u>Shropshire: remembering</u> <u>1914-18</u>. History Press, 2014.

Our thanks to Doctor Mark Baldwin for his research and work in preparing this memorial supplement and to the Royal British Legion for financing its print on these special pages.



It seems that Diamond have gone on the offensive regarding 'unfair competition' from the 292 for their 2/2A services despite the fact that only a small part of the route is duplicated. They claim that as the 292 is subsidised and the 2/2A is not, this gives the former an advantage. As a result, they are still threatening to axe their buses at the end of October. I have been given a of a newsletter from **Bewdley** Conservatives saying that every other 2/2A service has been cancelled and withdrawn from the back doubles of Bewdley. This leaves them with an hourly service (still twice as often as we get!) sticking largely to the main road. Understandably, this has resulted in outrage and a petition has been started which asks Diamond to reconsider.

This decision tends to reinforce my view that part of the old 2L subsidy was being diverted to fund the 2/2A. Now this has been lost, they are claiming foul play... I imagine that the plan to cut the back doubles has been made so that their services can better compete with the 292 on its direct route but I wouldn't be surprised if they mounted a challenge to the subsidy currently being paid to the 292. We shall see how this develops... In the meantime, efforts are being made to fill the vacuum by using Community Transport facilities although I haven't heard how this is working out.

Interestingly, the Bewdley to Kiddy bus service started as early as 1914 being set up to transport carpet factory workers between the two towns. Presumably this was to increase efficiency as, even in those days when people walked more than we do now, starting a long shift after trudging four miles or so in all weathers must have affected workers abilities somewhat. I wonder what the reponse to a job advert would be today if it offered 12 hour shifts at a site some miles away with no alternative but to get there using Shank's Pony...

The 292 appears to be running pretty well with the odd hiccup. One service expired in Kiddy, the cause being traced to fuel which had been contaminated with water. This resulted in a £500 bill to have the vehicle towed in... I used the 0854 to Bewdley the other day and it was on time as was the return. No passenger figure for September as yet due to staff holidays and no further news on any changes yet but if these are to take place in January, then we should be hearing something soon.

As things on the bus front appear to be settling down somewhat, after 46 columns, I feel the time has come to move to a more occasional format. I will try to keep you advised of any developments or issues on an 'as and when' basis but this may not merit a column every month. Thank you for all your kind comments over the last few years and a big thank you to Diamond Buses for the rich vein of comedy that they have provided (albeit unintentionally) to keep us all entertained.

Steve Todd



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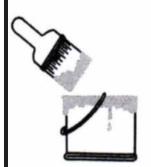


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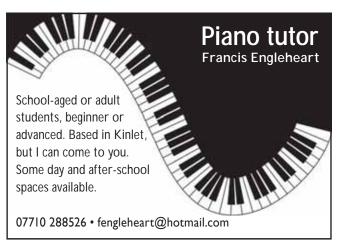
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November in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

A few days ago I made a very exciting discovery in the forest. There I was, walking along the track, mind elsewhere, when I saw something interesting by my feet. It was the shape of a small leaf and looked like.....flint. The flat side was uppermost and it came out easily enough. Could it be an artefact? I'm used to this scenario: it looks like an arrowhead (substitute axehead, piece of pottery, fossil, rare insect etc.) but it always turns out to be something mundane and of interest to no-one else.

I sent a photo to County Archaeologist, Adam Mindykowski, when I got home, and he soon replied to say that it was almost certainly an arrowhead. Here in my hand was something made by someone a few thousand years ago (Adam and his colleagues may be able to narrow it down) and used in the Wyre Forest. There is no flint anywhere near us, so it must have been traded.

That wasn't all that I found on the same walk. Not far along the same track there was a Slow-worm, stationary, right out in the middle. I expect it had felt the vibrations of my approaching footsteps and was playing dead. It was about 35 centimetres long and a particularly dark bronze. I decided to give it some help to reach the track edge and it set

off again, tongue flickering. I also came across two dung beetles (also called Dor beetles) ambling along the path with their slow, clockwork-like movement. I'm talking about a warm day which will be nearly a month ago when you read this. This month the temperature will have dropped and I won't be able to see either of these: the slow worm will have found somewhere to hibernate and the beetles will have died, leaving their eggs in an underground nest provisioned with dung or decaying leaves for the larvae which will hatch next spring. The dead adults are often seen along paths, frozen mid-stride, no longer able to object to an examination of their strikingly iridescent purple undersides. Now large numbers of ladybirds are trying to get into our house and many more creatures are going into hibernation now. The one which most readily springs to mind is the hedgehog, so familiar but so beleaguered now. Please do remember to check your bonfire piles on firework night for sleeping hogs or, better still, only build your fire just before you light it. Personally I always start a bonfire on clear ground and add material to

it, so there's no danger of cooking a spiny

Linda Iles

friend.



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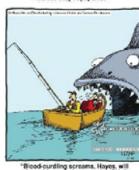
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Early this month I had to arrange an urgent appointment for a friend on a Monday which is usually a very busy day for the practice.

This required a trip to the practice in the late morning and a request to have a confidential chat in the interview room to arrange it. Within two minutes I had seen a receptionist, been given all the necessary details and received an appointment for 3.50 pm that afternoon.

Due to a change in circumstances it was not possible for the patient to attend but because it was a comparatively quiet day a home visit was arranged.

The home visit may not always be possible but I was impressed with the way the system worked, staff were polite, accommodating and efficient. My friend was well looked after. Paul French

ACCESS TO THE MAWLEY ESTATE

I walk round the Mawley Estate, probably three or four times a week and am very impressed with the work that the new owner has had undertaken. A frequent comment I hear from

people is that they thought the Mawley path has been closed to walkers. In fact it isn't and never has been. I understand that the new owner, Mr Rokos, is keen to work with the community and the Mawley Estate is looking fantastic in all its Autumnal glory. A hats off to this gentleman, wonder if he could buy the Manor House?

Glenys Turpin

OCTOBER'S HOPTON WAFERS QUIZ

It's well known that fools rush in where angels fear to tread, so the editor sent off a cheque for the 'Clueless Clarionistas' to take on the might of the village quiz world at Hopton Wafers on October 20th. Diane Waddington, Gabby and Vicky Franklin plus the editor were the the talented team, Clare Hadwell dropping out for family reasons. We arrived with no strategy in mind, but two bottles of red to fortify the brain cells.

We had more laughs than points, the fish and chips supper was good value and the evening organisation showed an undercurrent of experience despite the noise. Mike was a great quiz master, choosing a break in the audience noise to make each announcement, then

repeating for those who didn't listen. Controlling that lot was as easy as herding cats, but he did it.

And the questions! Did you know that a Cornish gillyflower is an apple? Or that Lyonnaise mean food cooked with onions? We listened, we lost and we learned. And we laughed, quite a lot.

The winners with a late rush were the Bull Hitters, half a point ahead of Formula One. And for me, the best team title was 'Gin'll Fix It', which only brought them up to third place. A great night, raising £316 for the Parish Church Fabric Fund.

AND MORE ABOUT HOPTON

Marilyn writes to remind us that there is another event coming soon in Hopton Wafers:

"Christmas Carol Service and Grand Raffle on Tuesday December 4th in Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Hopton Wafers. Starting at 7.00 and followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies."

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SHARP BIT

"Do you mind if I sit back a little? Because your death is very bad." Donald Trump to Larry King.



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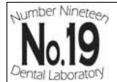
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NEWS FROM THE WORLD WAR ONE GROUP

On the 10th and 11th in the Market Hall there will be an exhibition of Great War related items and artefacts. These are still coming in and being catalogued to put on show.

Although time is now short, if you have anything you would like to be shown please be in touch and we will do our very best to include them for you.

It may be a long shot but if anyone has a family member who was awarded a VC in the Great War we would every much like to hear from you.

At this stage it is hoped that there will be a slideshow of photographs and music of the period plus a recently released recording of The Great War Symphony by Patrick Hawes composed for the Armistice year.

The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 4 pm on 10th and 11th November.

On the morning of November 10th, in the ground floor of the Market Hall, tea will be served from 10.30 am to 12.00 am as a thank you to all the knitters and contributors on the Cleobury Mortimer Poppy Waterfall project. The Waterfall will be in place over this weekend. Many

people have put in a huge effort to make this. Please come along see what they have created to honour all those who served.

No admission charge, but donations please to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

Jon Bodenham reports:

In early September we had our first steering group meeting with a terrific turnout. Shopkeepers, dentists, Police community team, SMYP, CoCo and charities. Caron Rogers was elected as Volunteer Leader and we have adopted a staged approach mapped out by the Alzheimer's Society with its terrific range of multimedia resources, support and assessment approach.

Why just Dementia Friendly? was asked. Loneliness, isolation, and lack of understanding are needed for a number of vulnerable groups, young and old. By starting with Dementia it will help a number of different people and make it easier for them to get involved in the community and access facilities and activities with kindness and understanding.

Our second meeting was hosted by Wendy Satterly at the Kings Arms. Wendy is having the pub assessed for its accessibility and adaptability for people living with dementia who may want to visit with family. Caron Rogers through her work with Capulet Care is trained to assess business premises and make recommendations.

Dentist Anne Marie Bard gave a short talk on how she has championed all her staff being trained in dementia awareness and adapted the building during the recent refurbishment.

The Co-op in Cleobury has a trained Dementia Champion to help them run awareness sessions for all their staff. It can be as easy as watching a 5 minute video or like Severn Hospice volunteers, attend a Dementia friends session of 45-60 minutes and join the 2.5 million people in this country who have a better understanding.

We need other groups to come forward and ask for a briefing, to become Dementia Friends and understand how to make people with dementia or other vulnerabilities welcome and remain fully involved in the life of the town.

If you would like to be kept informed, or want an awareness session or business assessment, then please get in touch through C a r o n R o g e r s o n wellbeing@capuletcare.co.uk or call her on 7961888885.

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James works alongside Sue Brown at Cleobury Chiropractic in the High Street. If you would like an early-morning or evening appointment then please call James on: 07506 287191.

THE DENTAL PRACTICE OPEN EVENING

Cleobury Dental Practice hosted an open evening last month showcasing their diverse services, exhibiting the newly refurbished premises and raising £43 of funds for KEMP Hospice.



Orthodontist Laura Wood and Associate Dentist Neil Simpson take tea with a quick breather at a very busy evening.

The Practice provides the latest in modern technology, with services ranging from the relief of jaw pain, facial pain and tension headaches, using Cerezen, as well as the latest techniques for dental implants and orthodontics. The team showcased the latest in medical advancement including their brand new

treatments for facial aesthetic cosmetic enhancements, dispelled a few myths about dentistry and encouraged more patients to join them.

Practice Leader Dr Bard said: "I'm really pleased the evening was a real success and patients appreciated an opportunity to discuss treatment options with our clinicians in a relaxed atmosphere. We also raised some money for Kemp Hospice with our raffle – a great evening."

'BATTLE'S OVER' IN STOTTESDON

St Mary's Church in Stottesdon is playing its part in 'Battle's Over', exactly 100 years since the 1918 Armistice, when the guns fell silent at the end of World War I.

The heritage bells will ring out in Stottesdon at precisely 7.05pm on Remembrance Sunday, November 11th along with 1000 Cathedrals and Churches up and down the land - marking the anniversary with the "Ringing out for Peace"

Derek Overton, Tower Captain at St Mary's Church said: "We are very proud to be playing a part in this historic international event to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War, and to recognise the contribution and sacrifices made by the men and women from our own community.

It would be wonderful if people wanted to come along to St Mary's Church from 6.45 that evening to hear the bells at close hand, and maybe to visit our small band of bell ringers in the Tower itself.

New and trainee bell ringers are always most welcome at St Mary's and this event will be a fine time to visit us and find out what's involved"

GREAT EFFORT

Flu Jab Saturday brought its usual busy, buzzing crowd, with the job done swiftly and pleasantly by the Medical Centre staff.

New this year was a fund raising effort by the Cleobury Pharmacy staff, working for the Nightingale Nursing Fund with the offer of a cup of coffee and a slice of some very attractive cakes. Lots of smiles, a chance to sit and chat a while and the result a very pleasing £337 for the Fund's vital work. You probably know that all funds raised go to provide care for those in serious need, a really good cause to work for.

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SMYP AND THE C M COMMUNITY HUB

Roger Brown explains and appeals for your votes:

The concept for a youth-led Community Hub, to reach and involve all members of the community, has received wide approval as part of the Neighbourhood Plan project. Currently being driven by Saint Mary's Youth Project, it is conceived to have a Phase One development based at the Methodist church building and hall

SMYP has applied to the Aviva Community Fund to support this initial development and has been accepted as a People's Project worthy of being voted on in a national poll. A number of projects will be supported depending on votes received.

Please use this link to view our project and what the young people of SMYP are visioning for the Cleobury Mortimer community:

https://communityfund.aviva.co.uk/voting/ project/view/4-2169

To support us, register as instructed and you will receive an email from Aviva providing access to vote. Put Cleobury in the search field and please use your votes to support us. Voting closes on Nov 20th

A big thank you from the young people and community of Cleobury Mortimer.

Roger Brown

THE RUNNING CLUB: MORE SUCCESS!

Cleobury Mortimer Running Club is going from strength to strength, continually exceeding all targets and following achievements at several local races, the club has now been awarded the England Athletics West Midlands Club of the Year Award.

Attending the Regional Volunteer Awards this week, club coaches, Andie Ford and Jo Watson, together with Vice Chair Ian Steele, were shocked and overjoyed to receive the award on behalf of the club.

In its third year with over 100 members, the club is continually growing. It only started with a small group of friends who wanted to go out running together.

This isn't the only success the club have had in the last month as a group of around 20 runners represented the club in the Spitfire 10k at RAF Cosford at the beginning of the month.

Club chair and coach, Jo Watson received the award of being the first lady, with the men's team receiving 1st Place Male Team. With 5 runners being in the Top 22, the other club members achieved many Personal Bests.

The month continued with runners competing in the Great North Run and Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathons. Club Runner of the Year 2017, Gillian Barker-Bell, who at the age of 73, ran the Great North Run for the second time, managing knock a massive 10 minutes off her time last year. Rebecca Davey also ran 34 miles 'Bridge to Bridge via 'port' ultra race last Sunday and was the first lady in a fantastic time of 05:07:38.

The Worcester City 10k drew even more runners to this well organised local event. Out of thousands of runners, Luke Williams, ran an amazing time of 36:30 to come 21st.

The two club coaches, Andie Ford and Joanne Watson, have just received confirmation of their places into Boston Marathon which is a massive achievement and very well deserved.







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Join Clee Hill & District Royal British Legion to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I with a special programme of events.

Saturday 10th November

2:30pm — **The Grand Parade** with Tenbury Town marching band! Assemble at the Vic Car Park at 2:30pm ready for parade through the village at 3pm. Route will take us to the Silent Soldier at the Three Crosses (where 'The Last Post' will be played) then down to Clee Hill School for tea and cake. WWI/poppy themed fancy dress encouraged!

5pm — **7pm** — **Silent Vigil** will be held at St Peters Church, Clee Hill which will be decorated with poppies. Come along during this time to light a candle and say private prayers.

Sunday 11th November

All day — 'Plant' a Poppy at St Peters Church, Clee Hill will be open for you to bring along a paper poppy to 'plant' in memory of those who lost their lives in WWI—please do write a loved ones name on it if you'd like to.

6:30pm — **Festival of Remembrance** we conclude with a moving Festival at St Peters Church, to which you are all invited.





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CAR CRIME OUTBREAK

We live in a low crime area, but that doesn't mean crime does not exist here. I admit that my carelessness cost me a TomTom recently when I didn't pay enough attention to the remote in my pocket leaving the car doors unlocked; in the morning I was minus one sat nav. OK, so I'm a prat. But let's all read and note what our Ludlow Safer Neighbourhood Team advise to avoid being another victim. JR:

During the evening of Wednesday October 17th into the early hours of October 18th 2018 there was a total of eight reports of cars being broken into with a number of items taken including handbags, satnavs and other items of value.

It has been reported that these vehicles were left outside of properties unsecure and had then been targeted by opportunists trying car doors until they could find a vehicle to gain access. Criminals then took any items of value found inside.

Other locations in Shropshire, such as Bridgnorth, have also seen an increase in the amount of vehicle crime being reported and West Mercia Police are asking people to remain vigilant and ensure you follow the below advice to help protect your belongings and vehicle:

- 1. Never leave anything on show in your vehicle
- 2. Take your satnav and audio equipment with you
- 3. Remove the satnav cradle and wipe away any suction marks on the windscreen
- 4. Never leave the car engine running or the keys in the ignition
- 5. Always lock your car doors and fully close windows and the sunroof
- 6. Fit anti-theft devices to steering wheels, fuel caps and wheels
- 7. Park in well-lit areas or secure car parks
- 8. Never leave your mobile phone behind
- 9. Don't store items in the boot, take them with you
- 10. Don't put the stereo in the glove box
- 11. Find a safe place for your keyless entry key at home and check to ensure they are out of range of your vehicle

More keyless entry car crime prevention advice:

- a. Ensure your vehicle is properly locked and keep keys as far away from doors and windows as possible
- Place keys in a metal/foil lined box or container, or another container that blocks the keys signal from reaching the vehicle when not in use
- c. Switch off the key's wireless signal when you don't need your vehicle. If you are unsure if the key has this function, find out in your owner's manual
- d. Other steps include checking if there are any software updates for the car itself, remaining vigilant for unusual activity in your area and having an aftermarket immobiliser or tracker fitted

You can also register your property at <u>www.immobilise.com</u> to improve your chances of it being returned in the event of a theft.

If you would like any more advice or would like to report something suspicious, please get in contact with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or call 101.

PCSO Beth Hinton

A TOTALLY DIFFERENT SORT OF CAR CRIME...

To be victim of a theft is unpleasant, but such events do not often inflict permanent damage on the victim. There was a very significant event recently on the outskirts of Ludlow that reports tell us has worried the police.

Billy Auger of Hopton Wafers, purveyor of good natural foods and a nice guy to boot, was on his way home from a meeting, turning off the A49 near the Co-op filling station heading towards Caynham. Coming the other way was a car he can only remember as a silver grey Astra and as they passed a man in the rear passenger leaned out and fired what appeared to be a BeeBee gun at Bill.

His windscreen shattered and he pulled up in shock, to find that a ball bearing had been fired at him, apparently narrowly missing hitting him by very little. It was naturally reported to the police, who quickly turned out but had little to go on in their search.

This is a low crime area, the figures prove it beyond doubt, but sheer stupidity is something we should be aware of. Summer/Winter Sun Holidays Cruises Ski Holidays Weddings and Honeymoons City Breaks Tailor-made Holidays Flight Only **Theatre Trips** Heritage Day Trips

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NOVEMBER AT THE FIGHTING COCKS

Bre at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon tells us she's decided to repeat the annual charity firework display, with all proceeds going to the Air Ambulance. There'll be a guy competition, bar snacks, mulled wine and live band 'HotRox' will round off the evening. Bar meals served as normal, of course.

The full programme will look like this:

Saturday November 3rd: 7.30 sharp the firework display starts the fun.

Thursday the 15th: Bingo Night, when they recommend you book a table and your boards.

Saturday December 1st: 'Fight The Bear' will play live.

SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE AREA - A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

August saw 74 crimes reported in the wider Cleobury Area and it was the first time that Sexual and Domestic Abuse has been the top reported crime. I am sure readers will find this shocking. Domestic Abuse has been slowly rising alongside a National rise

this year of 18 percent. By contrast, anti social behaviour has been steadily falling, thanks to the efforts of the Crime Reduction Group and Council's actions in the last couple of years. The sad thing is 23 incidents in a month is likely to be grossly understated as only 24% of incidents are normally reported. That means the true figure could be as high as 95 in one month. It is distressing to think that there may be people in our community; male and young female. and old. experiencing controlling behaviour, coercion and physical or sexual violence.

The Council, Police and Community Groups, particularly the volunteer crime group have done a lot of work in the last three years to reduce antisocial behaviour through talking to those who committing these offences and working on the underlying issues as well as installing CCTV more widely. Burglary reduced with the introduction of Smartwater marking household items and signage around the town.

What can we do about Domestic Abuse? Well we have to find out and get on with reducing it. If you have time, passion, knowledge or expertise to help combat this terrible crime and reduce its effects on family life, then contact our voluntary crime group.

We will offer training and support and aim to work with other community groups, charities and the community police team.

Contact the current chair of the Crime Group, Matt Sheehan (Town Clerk) on <u>01299271154</u> or b y e - m a i l at matthew.sheehan@cleobury.or g.uk

If you are reading this and need help, please speak to someone you trust, and call the Shropshire Abuse 24 hr Helpline on 08007831359.

Jon Bodenham

FANCY A FOOTBALL CHALLENGE?

Fancy a challenge in a fun, safe environment? Cleobury Juniors are looking for two new players to join our strong under 11s team. Why not come along to our training sessions held every Wednesday evening 6:15 to 7:15 at the Sports & Fitness Centre on the astro. First three sessions are free. For further details contact: Jamie Gardner (manager/coach) on 07738 903 105 or

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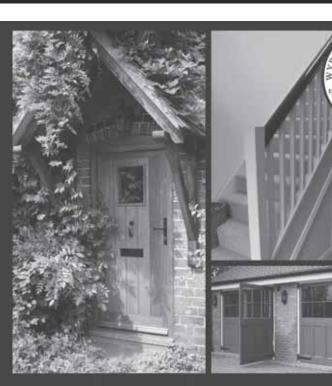
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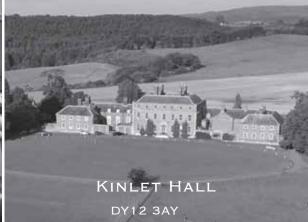
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your feet up and planning what to do at the down. weekend. Of course, many people did but 60 went to the Parish Hall to obtain an update on how the meeting. were published in the September Clarion.

The council were keen that all who attended come along and learn what can be done. communicated well to those who attended.

extension. A substantial piece of oak on display plans are for a family home. We have sent photos helped bring the ideas to life. A stand on Traffic to planning enforcement to show how bad it is Transport included a potential new and will continue to press for action. community transport service serving local areas not covered by existing arrangements.

Visitors were asked to fill in comment sheets on the whole event and to make choices on the Planning and Community Hub options. All of these choices and comments will be built into the first draft Neighbourhood Plan which should be available before Christmas. The group would like to thank the Town and Unitary Councillors and all the volunteers who manned the stands for the evening.

More information about the Neighbourhood Plan Council website be found on the www.cleobury.org.

One issue that keeps cropping up is bad parking on pavements which causes problems for mobility scooters and parents with buggies and prams who have to go into the road to pass. Please be more considerate.

We are getting ready to put up the Christmas lights on the morning of Sunday 18th November; if you can spare a few hours to help us, please

Friday evenings are normally a time for putting contact the Council Office and put your name

We have a speaker at our December 3rd Council **Professor** John Whitelegg Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 was progressing campaigner for 20mph speed restrictions on our on Friday 5th October. The event was the follow up streets in Shropshire. This is something the Town to The Big Cleobury Survey, the results of which Council may look to get involved in as we have many issues especially around the Schools. Please

gave their opinions on the options and proposals. We hope that through these reports you learn that were on view. There were however, two areas more of how we work and deal with issues that were felt to be key to the evening. These were reported to us, plus our support for community the siting of 138 new houses, associated projects. Decisions made by the Town Council are employment land and the plans for a new important and take a lot of in-depth work and we Community Hub to be run by the youth for the encourage positive involvement, so come along benefit of the whole community. This may be and see what we do, read items on our website difficult to deliver but the enthusiasm and and Facebook too. A couple of items being commitment of those manning the stand was discussed on social media recently are the Manor House and the green area by the Primary School. Consideration of the Environment will be key to Shropshire Council is being pressed for some the plan and the volunteers have identified seven enforcement to have the Manor House tidied up at wildlife corridors that need protection and least. All we can get from the owner is that his

> South Shropshire Housing Group have indicated that they want to hand over the green by the Primary School and asked if the Town Council is interested. We have requested something in writing, which we are still waiting for. If and when this is received we will see what the public wants us to do. In the Council office our work every day changes with contacts, questions and appeals for help as well as the day to day running of the town's issues. Sometimes it is easy and just requires signposting but other times it can involve a lot of work. We are still looking for another Councillor to fill a gap, so please contact us if you are interested.

> If you would like to join any local volunteer groups and do not know how or where, please contact us at the Town Council office on

> 0 1 2 9 9 271154 o r e mail matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk.

> Next Council meeting is on Monday November, 7pm at the Cleobury Country Centre.

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BILL EVANS

They stood in ranks outside in the gentle rural Shropshireness of Saint Mary's Parish Churchyard in Neen Savage for Bill Evans's final farewell. The church itself was filled to bursting and we later arrivals, 50 or more, stood and listened as family memories were recalled and men who had known him as a farmer, a sportsman, a loving husband, father and grandfather and those who just knew him as a quiet, decent man told their tales.

Francis Engleheart knew Bill in so many areas of rural life, but their great bond of friendship came through cricket and there could be no better choice than Francis to offer a eulogy that was interspersed with readings and memories from others close to the man whose life we were celebrating. For this was no sad occasion, it was a catalyst for memories of achievement and skill. No humbler man than Bill ever won the BBC's award for sporting contribution Behind The Scenes, no man could have deserved it more.

Mark Darbon led the cortege out of the church and across to the site of Bill's grave. Not creeping off in a hearse to a distant crematorium for this true Englishman. He returned to the soil that had supported him in so many ways through a life lived richly, loved deeply and ended too soon. The world is a poorer place for the loss of such a humble, loving and decent man.

Jim Reynolds

A SOARING FUND RAISER

It stopped the crowds outside the October Farmers' Market, most of them wondering why such a graceful raptor was on show, offered for them to hold and have their photo taken.

This was no sideshow, this a was Indie, a four year old Harris Hawk, a species common to the

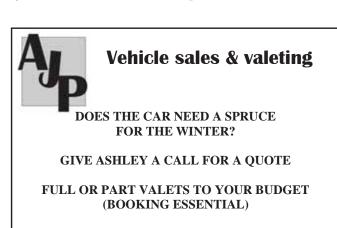
USA, Brazil and Chile. She's the centre of a fund raising drive in support of two local charities - the Nineveh Ridge Care Farm and the Newbridge Cat Rescue Centre.



Guess who's in charge here, as Indie takes flight above Bev Taylor (left) and Kathie Rowbotham to draw the attention of the Farmers' Market crowds.

The driving force behind the fund raising are Bev Taylor of Panache Administration and Kathie Rowbotham, Fundraiser at Nineveh. Care and training of this beautiful bird is in the capable hands of Brett, who flies it for 45 minutes every day from their Hopton Wafers base. In the wild such a hawk would have an estimated life of five years; in captivity it can be up to five times that figure.

The hawk horde are on tour of local events, where you can put on a big leather glove and feel Indie's talons grip as she looks down at you and seems to wonder if you'd make a decent meal. Make no mistake, this is one of nature's killing machines, but a beautiful one.



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IN THE GLASSROOM

This is a young business, run by two talented and determined ladies, who got a start because Cleobury Town Council believed in them. Fiona and Rachel were determined to glassware and others to do the same, but only with a £5,000 grant towards a £6,500 furnace from Cleobury's community fund could they get They going. both live Cleobury, holding down four days a week jobs and giving Fridays to the matter of building their glass business.

They're based in Burwarton, where rents are a lot lower than in Cleobury Mortimer and divide their glass time between making stuff for sale and giving lessons. The Clarion attended class in October, when Colin and Janet arrived from Worcestershire, both looking a little nervous but soon put at ease with a friendly reception and two mugs of tea.



Fiona shows Colin and Janet how she gathers molten glass on a tube to begin work.

With molten glass on the end of a steel tube, the first lesson is to keep the tube revolving or the workpiece droops out of shape. Back in the kiln to get it workable and across to a Marver surfaced table ("Keep it turning!") to gather dye by rolling the glass through it.



Janet rolls the glass through the dye to add the design colour.

Next comes the bit you always see on films, with the glass being blown into a bowl shape, still with the tube turning and always dipping into the kiln to keep it soft and workable.

With the bowl shape half formed, the tube is placed across two steel rails, the worker sitting in between to hand mould the next stage. Economy model shaping glove - one wad of wet newsprint as you stroke the shape right. Once you see smoke - more water on the newsprint.



Colin with economy water cooled moulding glove. More water!

To cut the bowl away from the blow tube, the same rolling rails are used, with a large scissor like tool shaping the bowl into a stem before cutting through the lower stem with a small saw, then carrying the tube over to a bed of absorbent chippings and giving the blow tube a sharp tap with the cutters. The bowl falls into the chippings. If you're making a cup, you melt more glass and form the handle.

Under careful tuition like these two give, it looks easy because they are so thorough. And they joke and swap stories to keep you relaxed. Colin and Janet agreed that the four hours work and learning was good fun and great value for money.

There are other processes to tackle, like forming a wide bowl, that we don't have space to describe in detail. What you get in one session is confidence in Fiona and Rachel to help you try more difficult tasks. Colin and Janet each made their own bowls that they'll get later - it takes six hours in the cooler before you can handle what you've made. Pride of place at home? Fancy serving the dinner wine in fancy glasses you made yourself? It's possible. You got the feeling these two would be back.

More about the Glassroom at www.intheglassroom.co.uk and you'll meet them at local craft fairs if you're lucky. They'll be at next year's Cleobury Festival.

Charming crafts women with no pushy selling, not making a profit yet but super keen to learn and teach more. Happy to entertain schools, too. It looked like a good Council investment to me.

JR

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
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MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
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Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

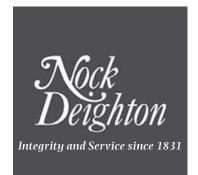
THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 22nd

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Residential Sales

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agents in the UK. So we were absolutely delighted when Nock Deighton was given gold standard and awarded Best Medium Agent in the West Midlands for both sales and lettings at the recent awards ceremony in London.



Erica Hinwood

MARLA MNAEA

Office Manager



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Lettings

Property landlords have a duty to ensure homes are safe for tenants - and reducing the risk of Legionella is among their responsibilities. While the chances of catching Legionella are pretty low, there is a greater risk in properties which have remained empty for a while. In general, keeping cold water cold, hot water hot and water circulating regularly prevents the Legionella bug from developing. The problems are more likely to arise when a house has been unoccupied for some

months between tenancies, when it's important to carry out checks to ensure Legionella isn't lurking in the property. Installing electric showers and combi boilers will limit the risk, and flushing out the plumbing system before a new tenant moves in is another way. Always remember it is your responsibility to ensure safety in all aspects before someone moves in. These simple checks could prevent a potentially life-threatening situation.



Coral Walrond
MARLA MNAEA
Lettings Negotiator

www.nockdeighton.co.uk