

The Cleobury Clarion

BRILLIANT CHILDREN!

Anton Bill's grandad told us about his 11-year-old who was tackling a two mile swim at Tenbury Baths. We first heard Anton had pledges for £300, but by the time he finished the mammoth 130 lengths of the bath and told the congregation at his church in Kidderminster, the money had gone up to £450!



Anton Bill. Modest and quiet, but very focussed and determined.

This remarkable young man had only earned his one mile certificate in February. "The

whole point was raising money and challenging myself. There wouldn't be much point in doing just one mile."

It was no easy cruise, as Anton's legs gave up after 100 lengths and he finished the distance using just arm power. The whole Bill family are sports people, from tennis to rugby. Plus marathon swimming.

Another pair of great kids were in Cleobury, selling the cakes and sweets they'd made to raise funds for Red Nose Day.



APRIL 2013

Izzie Higgins and Harriet Tranter staffed the stall, with a bit of parental help, and went out selling around the town. The result: £201 raised in one morning. They're both pupils at Cleobury Primary School.

And up in Larks Rise was another great effort. Molly Orgee, Hannah Francis and Maddie Meredith made leaflets to distribute, baked the cakes and sold them, plus running a raffle. £67.67 for Comic Relief.



L to R: Hannah, Molly and Maddie. In front: Rupert.

Local children giving time and effort to help the less privileged. A great example to us all.



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 - Emergency First Aid at Work (3 day) 22/23/24 April 9am—4pm
 - Food Hygiene Level 2 (1 day) 2 May 9am—4pm
 - Food Hygiene Level 3 (3 day) 13, 14, 15 May 9am—4pm
 - Practical Fire Safety / Fire Marshall course (1/2day) 16 May
- Free Business Networking** —Wed 17th April, 6pm—8pm.

The Cleobury Clarion. April 2013

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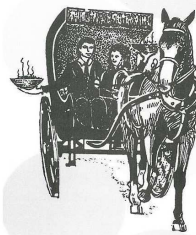
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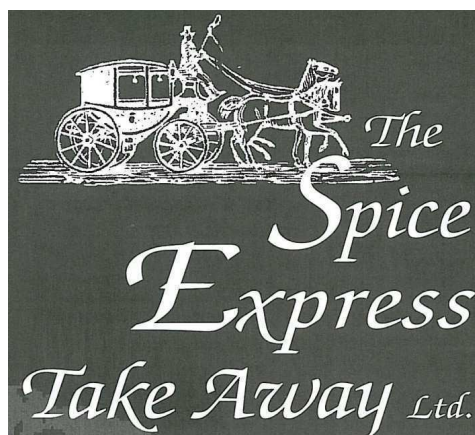
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THE PIONEER CENTRE GROWS



Melissa Nicholls was the first official user of the Abseil Tower. One brave lady as she backed down the long slope.

The Pioneer Centre hosted a very special gathering at the end of February, when Paralympian Melissa Nicholls made the first official trip down the new Wheelchair Abseil slope. She was cheered on by children, centre staff, management and fellow guest Winston Davis. It's a daunting business to ease your wheelchair backwards down a 50 percent slope, even if you do have an instructor at your side. Part way down Melissa was talking on her mic and admitted

that she was feeling scared. Everyone looking on could see why.

Melissa was a finalist in the 200 metres at the 2012 Olympics and is in training for the 2016 games. She had a number of strokes in 2008 and could not stand; inspired by the Beijing Olympics she got into training and four years later competed for England. Quite a lady.

Winston Davis was a West Indies test cricketer who was hit by a falling branch when clearing land to build a new church. He has been in his wheelchair for the last 15 years, but has tremendous determination and character, telling the crowd in an interview that he expects to walk again. Quite a man.

The Wheelchair Abseil extends the facilities for the disabled at the Centre and this success has got the ambition adrenalin flowing. Now they're looking to add to the new Tower and offer a wide range of other facilities, so that any disabled visitor has as many sports choices as others. Watch this space, these people do not talk idly about their plans.

And what a friendly touch to name the new facility the Tony Booton Adventure Tower, to honour the 49 years he worked

at the Centre. Tony didn't know what they had planned, the unanimous choice of the staff when discussing what to call the new facility.



Tony looking mighty pleased to be honoured at the Abseil Tower entrance.

ROCK BRIDGE CLUB

Luke Grant advises us that the club meets every Sunday in the superb Rock Village Hall at 7.00 pm. New members are always welcome, on their own or with a partner. The meetings are very sociable and relaxed, and they do not play Duplicate Bridge. Minimal formalities, you just turn up or contact Luke Grant on 07854 951 330 for more details.



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BORDERS BIKE SHOW BENEFITS CHARITIES



From the left, Tracey Rochelle of Lacon Childe PTA, Mandie Fitzgerald of Acorns Hospice, Kate Harvey of Onside and Lacon Childe head teacher Alan Gilhooley.

The Parent Teacher Association of Lacon Childe School had an extra mission before their February committee meeting began. David Spruce, organiser of the annual Borders Classic Bike Show, wheeled in his 1920 500cc Douglas that has been at almost every show, to add a little mechanical interest to the presentation of cheques to charity.

PTA secretary Tracey Rochelle handed cheques for £250 to Mandie Fitzgerald of the Acorns children's hospice and to Kate Harvey of Onside, with head teacher Alan Gilhooley in

support. The work of Acorns helping sick children and their families is well known, Onside less so. Worcester based, they help the elderly, the disabled and the mentally troubled to get a fair deal in day to day affairs that would normally overwhelm such people; in 2012 they helped over 2,500 of them.

As the Bike Show has grown and made bigger profits, this habit of passing £500 on to a range of charities each year has developed. A typical big hearted Cleobury Mortimer attitude we should all be proud of.

THE CHAS BEALE DANCE CLUB

The Club have been on a fund raising campaign since December, when donations were made in place of sending Christmas cards. We have recently held a charity event and a raffle and would like to thank Shirley Pugh for displaying the prizes in her window. In all we collected £210 for Cancer Research.

We meet in Lacon Childe School at 8.00 on Tuesday nights where new members will be made very welcome. *Betty Ladek*

AFRICAN ART SHOW

Alison Parsons attracted a lot of attention when she promoted an exhibition of African art at The Fighting Cocks pub in

Stottesdon last November. Now she's planning another.

She's been to Zimbabwe again, to pick out her 2013 range, and will have it lined up in The Cocks again on April 24th, from 7.00 to 9.00pm. It's worth a look in, if you want something very much out of the ordinary. Alison can tell you more on 01746 718047 or 07871 530855.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

April, the most exciting month of the year. We are well into spring, gardens are looking vibrant and days are warming up. Nights can still be cold, so protect any tender plants if frost is forecast.

At the February meeting Ray Sturdy, gave a slide show on one of his hiking travels in Peru, Land of the Incas, with 'Paddington Bear' tucked in his rucksack. A great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

If you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, then why not join us for a cup of tea and a chat at one of our monthly meetings.

At our meeting on April 24th Rob Cole will talk about Perennials from Seed.

Diary Date:
Saturday May 18th, Plant Sale & Coffee Morning, 10.00am
Pauline Bowen

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1 slice brown bread
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3 tbsp olive oil
2 garlic cloves
Handful roughly chopped parsley
Grated zest and juice 1 lemon

Broccoli & Walnut Spaghetti

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1. Rear the bread into chunks, then whizz with the walnuts in a food processor to make coarse crumbs. Cook the spaghetti according to the pack instructions. Four mins before the end of cooking, throw in broccoli.
2. Meanwhile, heat 2 tbsp of the oil in a pan, add the crumbs and fry until lightly toasted. Stir in garlic, parsley and zest. Drain the pasta, the toss with the walnut crumbs and remaining oil. Squeeze over the lemon juice and serve.

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CLEOBURY W.I.

Unfortunately our March meeting speaker was unable to attend so the secretary's husband Dan Gregory typed out a quiz for everyone to do. It was on general knowledge and Liz Smurthwaite won. The flower of the month was won by Judy and the competition was won by Jill. The evening ended early at 8.50 pm.

At our April meeting, Julia Baron will talk on how to preserve our memories and look after them. Plus a more detailed account on how our Soup Lunch survived the cold weather and more details on how much we have raised for our charity of the year.

Anyone wishing to join our happy group please contact our President Jill on 01299 271671. All visitors are welcome.

Angie Gregory

POUND THE BOUNDS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

This May Midland Air Ambulance has teamed up with the 'Pound the Bounds' event to offer walking enthusiasts a chance to help support a life saving charity whilst doing something they enjoy.

On May 5th, starting in Rock, there is a variety of walks organised for all abilities and you can sign up in advance or simply turn up. The whole family can take part in a 25 miles, 18 miles, 12 miles, 9 miles or just a six mile walk.

A special three mile treasure trail has also being organised where the whole family share finding the hidden treasure en route.

All these routes are marked and each walker will be given a sheet with directions, so it is almost

impossible to get lost Help is a phone-call away if required.

Refreshment stations are situated strategically along all routes and progress of each participant is monitored throughout. This event is open to all ages and walkers can simply match a route to their ability. Kids go free and details of adult registration fees are available by visiting www.poundthebounds.org.uk and you can download your sponsorship form by visiting www.midlandsairambulance.com

Registration will be open from 8.00 to 8.00 with guided walks leaving at 11.00am.

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Our Snowdrop Walks in the grounds of Mawley Hall at the end of February raised £385. They provided an opportunity for people to walk the peaceful pathway along the River Rea to the carpet of snowdrops by the Lower Forge. The, slightly uphill walk back could then be rewarded with a warm fire and enjoyable refreshments in the old coach house.

On the eve of Mothering Sunday we held a Create a Cupcake Party for young children in the Market Hall. This was followed by decorating two cupcakes and making a basket to hold them.

We will be serving afternoon teas on Saturday May 18th for a Shropshire Historic Churches tour when we will have visitors to our church.

Our next major event is the popular Wine Walk on the evening of Friday June 14th. This is a ticket only event and has always been a sell out. Full

details will be published nearer the time and are available on our web site at <http://pages.cleoburycountry.com/fosmc>

Alec Osbaldiston.

THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, Stottesdon, Kinlet and Neen Savage are invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds TSB Bank, cleobury Mortimer, from Lacon Childe School or from Mr J Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 2SA. The closing date is June 24th.

AN APOLOGY

Writing about Alan Price and his excellent taxi service in the March Clarion, the editor managed to give you the wrong address for his website. The guilty party has had his cheese sandwiches withdrawn for the next two weeks.

Alan's real website address is www.alanpricedirecttravel.co.uk

KID CARPET AnD THE NOISY ANIMALS

The what? Find out at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, No1 Mill Street on Tuesday the 2nd of this month. It's about four animals on a journey through the trials of life to a grand dance contest. Punk rock abounds. Tickets £10, Box Office 01584 878141. Not one for your granny.

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May 2nd is Election Day and Philip Dunne MP reminds us in his Letter from Westminster that we need new blood and good common sense people to lead the town forwards. We talked to a man who wanted to contribute to the community and took the plunge.



Councillor Geoff Hainsworth

Geoff Hainsworth is a quality engineer, long time served in the automotive industry. He ended his career with Land Rover, including three years at BMW in Munich, when the intention was to produce England's famous Range Rover to BMW standards. The work pattern was three weeks in Munich followed by one in Britain, with Geoff accepted as a member of BMW's senior management.

He retired from Land Rover in 2005, having bought a house in Cleobury Mortimer ten years before. He spent time trying to fill the hours, becoming involved with the Footpath Association until a friend suggested he could do a good job on the Parish Council, where they wanted to co-opt a new member. In 2009 he became Councillor G Hainsworth.

He and Clerk Matt Sheehan started at the same meeting, when Geoff was amazed to find no formal structure for purchases. "Essential if you're spending public money," in his

view. Soon he and others with business backgrounds persuaded the council to adopt a policy that any job costing over £100 should have three independent quotes on the price.

With four years experience, much of it spent arguing for more logical ways of running the town, he's seen a proper structure of responsibilities put into place. With his industrial background, he was a natural choice to watch over Risk Assessment, essential to keep the insurance company happy. He's also a Market Hall trustee, serves on the Parish Hall committee, oversees the upkeep and replacement of our street lights and is involved with the council's responsibility for the playing fields. All these as additions to his job as a Councillor: "It does help that I'm retired, as some of those jobs mean that I must be available during daytime," he explains.

He's an admirer of current council chair Sean Thorogood, another man with a successful industrial background: "He's done a brilliant job. He's got a sound business sense, gets his priorities right and he's as straight as a die." It was Sean who introduced a microphone in meetings so that debates can be clearly heard by the public.

A matter that has occupied a lot of time in the last four years has been the new Medical Centre, and Geoff indentified a stumbling block early on. "The Muller land proposal was long running and I proposed that we buy the land for a nominal sum, because we couldn't negotiate

about the Centre until we owned the land," he reasons. That simple purchase made securing the £1.5 million funding get started, though delays meant the town came close to losing it. "The alternative land for development did not qualify for the Primary Care Trust funding," he adds in explanation of the last-minute approach being rejected.

"It's all done and dusted now. Building will start around September time and the Centre should be ready by September next year." With all the nonsense that's been talked about the Medical Centre in some quarters, it's too easy to forget that some clear sighted members of the council could see the need to act and got on with it.

Four years on, with a lot done, what does he see as the major achievement of the last four years? "Making sure we got the Medical Centre done."

A place on the Parish Council doesn't earn. "Being on the council has cost me money. It always will," says Geoff. But if you want to help make this a better place to live, this is where it all starts.

Matt Sheehan at the Parish Council office in the Market Hall can give you information and the timetable for your application to stand for election. He's on 01299 271154 from 9.00 to 1.00 Monday to Friday.

NOTE: The promised statements from candidates in the county election will be in our May. The applications will not be finalised until April 11th, hence the delay.

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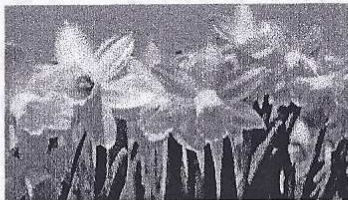
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PETE'S NEW SERVICE

Pete Andrews, whose Wyre Forest Windows business has quickly built a good name for service and quality, has taken on another valuable service for house and business premises owners. He has fitted in sub-contract work for a flat roof sealing service with his other work and learned enough to start up on his own.

He soon learned that the most common problem with a flat roof is the lack of drainage, with pools of rainwater forming and staying there in the sort of weather we had too much of last summer. He has designed his own system of providing a slope to drain water away and includes it in every quotation he gives with his new service.

He is the exclusive local supplier of the Firestone 'Rubbercover' roofing, made by the giant American company better known for their tyres. Firestone give a 20 year warranty with the waterproof material and Pete matches that with his own warranty on his installation work. In fact the normal life of the rubber sheet, that covers most domestic size roofs in one piece, is 50 years.

> It comes in different forms, to suit the building's use. So a garden shed has a simple rubber

sheet on top of a membrane that gives the sheet a smooth surface to adhere to. No need for insulation of a simple job like that, but if you have a flat roof on an extension of the house, there is industry standard insulation as part of the job. If you have a problem flat roof, it's worth a call to Pete on 07977 609262/01299 272861 to get his advice and a free quotation.

DUCK FUN ON THE RIVER REA

St Mary's Church will be holding another Duck Race and Barbeque on April 27th. It will start at Papermill where a barbeque and refreshments will be available, first race at twelve noon; ducks can be sponsored for £2 each or six for £10. Tickets for ducks can be bought in advance from Cleobury News, Carrot Tops, Cleobury Pharmacy or St Mary's PCC members. They will also be available on the day.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun but if you can't make it on the day, you can still sponsor a duck that will race in your name. Details from Jayne Brown on CM 271880

DOGS ON LEADS, PLEASE

The Footpath Association, who do a great job in keeping the

local pathways open and clearly signed, have a clear rule about dogs on their local walks. They must be kept on a lead when walking across local farmland.

The logic is simple. Dogs free from the lead and in open country will naturally run free, particularly if they are town dogs and unused to such freedom. If they see sheep they will run to them, not with any aggression in mind, just simple curiosity. The sheep will react differently, seeing a dog as a threat and run to escape it.

A recent instance saw dogs off the lead startle sheep, who ran in panic into a river. One ewe was so badly frightened that she miscarried and lost twin lambs. The dog was innocent in its ignorance, the sheep natural in their reaction, the dog owner not aware of the threat. The result a damaged ewe, two lambs lost and a farmer out of pocket. Please don't think that they make easy money - it's a struggle.

So the point of all this is to ask dog owners walking in our lovely country to please control your dogs. On the lead, always.

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Star of the Small Ads - Adrian Booton, Plasterer

He's a one-man-band who's happy to stay that way. No big overheads, no fancy aspirations and flash, just a man who knows his job well and wants to give good value. I know, because he recently did a job at my house and amazed us with his speed, the quality of finish and the way he cleaned up after taking down a ceiling then putting in, skimming and finishing a new one.

Adrian Booton left school and went into the building trade, intending to be a bricklayer. But outside work in winter didn't appeal and when local builder Dave Johnson offered him a job to learn plastering, he moved indoors to a new career. 28 years later he's a respected craftsman who does a lot of traditional lime plastering on restoration work as well as the more traditional stuff. "People didn't trust me when I

was 19, didn't think I could do the job. I don't have that problem now," he smiles.

His work comes mainly from the local area, where those who've used him tell others how good his work is and how reasonable his prices are. "I did a job recently where they'd been quoted £400 to do a room. I did it for £180," he explains. "They'd been told the materials would cost £100. They really cost £35."

That rare skill of lime plastering brings work over a growing area, much of it on churches, and he's happy to travel any reasonable distance, so long as he can get home at night. That's the other side of him, a strong family man.

He's very thorough about the job, explaining why a ceiling may have to come down to get the best result. And his smooth touch with water brush in one hand and trowel in the other



makes it look so easy. Just don't think this is a do-it-yourself task for someone with no experience. It needs the touch of expertise to get that mixture to go smoothly on a ceiling or wall and stay there. He has it.

Adrian is on 01299 832838 or mobile 07974 582 524.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE HOPTON WAFERS PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Council meetings take place on the second Monday of the month in one of three village halls. The next on Monday April 8th, 7.00pm in Hopton Wafers Hall. The future use of primary school building will be discussed. All residents are welcome.

The Council has obtained a grant to help with minor works and is pleased to announce we have employed a Lengthsman to undertake these duties.

There are continued complaints about speeding through Hopton Wafers and Doddington. The Parish Council is working with the Police to implement speed management measures in addition to the speed activated sign in Doddington.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday April 15th, 7.00pm in Hopton Wafers Village Hall. Reports from community groups and the Parish Council.

The Council regularly receives planning applications. Mainly for extensions but we have had several applications for single plot exception-site affordable housing which we are pleased to support for local people.

After a great deal of work by volunteers, the community led plan was adopted by the Parish Council and copies issued to every household and local organisations. See our web-site for a copy of the Plan: www.hoptonunity.org.

People are encouraged to consider standing for election this Spring. Councillors represent their community at a local level, making decisions on how their community spends their money and what services they should deliver. They are responsible for the well-being of their community and maintenance of the area. Parish Councils work in partnership with community groups, Shropshire Council and other service providers. Councillors are responsible to the people they represent so if you feel you can contribute, please contact the Elections Office on 0345 678 9015 or the Parish Clerk, Mrs Dorothy McBride on 01299 272 717.

Councillors will recommence surgeries in the summer after the election. Details will be on the Notice Boards and the web-site.

www.hoptonwafers.org

Dorothy McBride

PETER TURNER

Many people who use the good offices of the Voluntary Car Scheme will be sad at the news of Peter Turner's passing. His widow Carol writes:

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their many kindnesses during my husband's final illness. Your love and support have helped us through a difficult time

Clebury is a special place

God Bless

Carol Turner

KINLET PLAYGROUP

In the run up to Easter our children enjoyed making special cards for their families, cooking chocolate Easter nests and designing and creating a Spring collage - we had some fantastic little sheep and daffodils.

Families and children also took part in a sponsored Spring Walk from Playgroup to Kinlet Church. That's almost two miles, a long way for all of those little legs. The children were great and were rewarded with an Easter greeting from the vicar and an egg hunt around the church. Fun all round and we give thanks to our families and their friends for supporting Playgroup and sponsoring the children.

Zoe Pearson

CHORLEY PLAYGROUP

Chorley Family Playgroup took part in World Book Day on March 7th. It is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK, Ireland and Europe, where children are encouraged to read more and are helped by some of the world's greatest children's authors.

To mark this wonderful day, the children of the playgroup dressed up as their favourite characters from children's books and brought their favourite story in to share with their friends.

Claire Burton



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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Elbows and Hips

I wonder how many of you have had, or know someone who has a pet with arthritis? It is so very common for us to see an old dog gingerly pottering into our consultation rooms. Luckily, in most of these cases, we have a significant number of medications available to help alleviate the pain and discomfort.

There are certain breeds, for example the Labrador, for whom arthritis can hit earlier and harder than usual. Through significant investigation into the problem, we now know that the reason behind the Labradors predisposition is poor joint conformation that has been slowly worsening through the generations.

In an effort to help reduce this problem over the coming decades, pedigree breeders are now participating in hip and elbow dysplasia scoring systems. This is where both the prospective breeding bitch, and stud dog are microchipped (the only form of permanent identification allowed) and then we take some specific x-rays of their hips, and sometimes their elbows to check that everything looks healthy, and the joints look good. Of course, with anything that is being undertaken on a nationwide basis, there is a dedicated panel of interpreters for these images, and your dog ends up with a score. This allows you, and the owner of the other dog to make an informed decision on how good, or bad, the resultant pups' hips and elbows are likely to be. In turn, this has an effect on the pedigree of any resultant pups.

If you have a large breed pedigree dog, and you think that you might be interested in breeding from them, please contact the surgery at Cleobury to discuss your options.

This Month's special offer at Severn Edge Vets is a massive 20% reduction off any dental treatment that we do through April. If your dog, or cat has been recommended a dental in the last year, or that breath is just too smelly,

then just drop us a line to have a chat. We can book you in to see a nurse or vet, to have a look at the problem, and discuss your options with an honest, level headed opinion on what is truly best for your pet.

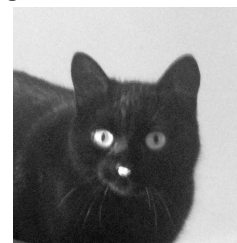
Bubble fans will be pleased to hear that he has been up to his usual tricks. The new treadmill at home has a white logo on the belt that flashes past as you run – truly irresistible to a cat – so he has to be shut away while we are running. He managed to get shut in the garage last week, climbed the ladder and leapt three feet from the top into the garage loft. We only found him when he poked his head down at dinner time. As usual, even though the trip up to the loft was ever so effortless, it was truly impossible for him to contemplate the descent, so he just waited there helplessly until I could get up to fetch him down!

In a response to a couple of requests over the last year – This month – I hope that we have managed to reproduce a little photo of Bubbles. I'll see if I can get some better ones over the next month!

Thanks for reading!

Jeremy Hall

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Bayton Church of England Primary School



It's hard to believe that it is Spring as I look out of my window at the snow, but it is now the end of March, and indeed the end of a very busy time at Bayton Primary School.

This half term everyone in school children have enjoyed two trips to Bannister. On both trips the Reception children from Victoria Smethwick, that we have been twelve months. Whilst there, the some of the animals, and have a tour children from Victoria Park it was animals in a farming environment!



has enjoyed trips out. Our Reception Nineveh Farm, run by Pippa and Mark children were accompanied by Park Academy, a school based in building links with over the past children were able to meet and pet of the farm. For some of the the first time they had seen farm

Our Year 1 and 2 children went on a trip to the Avoncroft Museum in Bromsgrove as part of their Houses and Homes topic. This was a particularly popular visit as they were able to explore houses through the ages, some being made of wood, straw and stone.

Our Years 3 and 4 children enjoyed a mini tennis afternoon at Lacon Childe School. All children at Bayton enjoy their trips to Lacon Childe where they are encouraged to participate in different sports, meet children from local primary schools and be coached by the Y9 Young Leaders.

Finally, our year 5 and 6 children have had a great time at Worcester Cathedral as part of their Religious Buildings RE topic. Whilst there they enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral and then took part in workshops making prayer stones and miming lines from the Bible. The team at Worcester Cathedral were very friendly and informative, and made the trip all the more memorable.

Sadly, our year 3 and 4 class trip to Worcester Cathedral to sing with children from other primary schools was cancelled at the last minute due to the weather. The children had been practising hard and were really looking forward to the occasion and we hope to take part in this in the future.

To learn more about our "Outstanding" school and to read the Ofsted report, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk or contact us on (01299) 832393. We have places available in September's Reception intake.

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Happenings on High Street

BARBARA WINS THE FINAL SHOP AND SAVE DRAW



Clare Todd of the Cleobury Country Centre looks happier to give away a cheque for £250 than winner Barbara Evans is to receive it.

The Final Shop and Save lucky draw was held in March and Barbara Evans' loyalty to local shops was rewarded with her name coming out of the draw. Not a bad reward for keeping her shopping local, as she normally does, because she won a cheque for £250.

The scheme was a good idea that didn't catch the imagination of shoppers and we understand there were no completed cards handed in for the previous three months. Did the public think that the first draw was a one-

and-only occasion? Did the shopkeepers push the idea and ask customers if they had a card to be stamped when they bought locally? Jo Apperly at Red Hare was actively pushing the idea, but we have heard reports of shops listed as taking part in the competition not having any idea about stamping cards.

AND ON A HIGHER HIGH STREET...

There's a new florist's shop in the area, this time on Clee Hill High Street. And you don't get much higher than that around here.

Phil Selly is the man behind it, who will offer a range of fresh blooms and other little services to please the other half in your life. Hill Top Florists is the name of the shop and we have already heard how helpful the service is.

DIGGING HOLES

The replacement of electricity cables along the High Street has been a long process, with major interruption to business and apparently repeat diggings in the same area. It was necessary because the old supply cable and the feeders off into buildings needed to be replaced, but did it have to bring so many vehicles to park along the street.

Yes, you expect vans to be in the area, to make tools and

components readily accessible. But why leave so many trailers at the kerbside? There's a car park in Childe Road, room to park them outside the cemetery, or even the front access to the sad, rundown Manor House. And it would have been helpful to bus passengers to have a temporary stop while the regular one was behind barriers. Not a lot of thought seemed to be given to keeping the town centre running. Far less than we saw when the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme gave the main street an award winning facelift. A pity.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Is it winter or spring? The snowdrops have arrived and crocuses are showing through the icy ground; even the bluebells are starting to grow. We are so used to trudging through ice and mud we will soon have webbed feet! Despite the changes in the weather our social and parish walks continue and the social group last month walked around Wenlock Edge. The Parish Walk was well attended with some new participants including children and dogs. The dogs certainly needed baths afterwards.

The work parties have been busy on paths around the golf course and the Pioneer Centre. More helpers are needed for the work parties so if you have any time to spare and would like to help keep our footpaths clear and accessible please contact us via our website or see contact below. No expertise is needed, just enthusiasm.

Some walkers may see our new 'Snip & Slash' signs around the area. If you can spend a few minutes cutting back brambles or nettles to help keep open the paths you walk it will help lighten our workload.

If you have problems with any paths please let us know.

Our social walks take place once a month, on a Saturday and we continue to meet for the Parish Walks on the first Sunday of each month, 10.00am at the parish church.

If you would like to help us or have a problem with a footpath please contact: susan@eaglelane.co.uk.

Happy walking!

FROM THE BANDROOM

Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass are delighted to report that they are promoted from the 4th Section Midlands Area to the 3rd Section to take effect from January 2014, and they are pleased to bring this honour to Cleobury Mortimer.

The Band only started contesting 18 months ago and are now top in their section in the whole of the Midlands. This amazing result is a combination of hard work and the skill and guidance by the Musical Directors who have worked with the band, most recently Saphran Ali.

The band have a full programme ahead of them including concerts, festivals and private functions.

We also have a training band following in the footsteps of the

main band and who have recently been very successful in competitions. For further details of this please contact Jack Martin on 01299 271302.

Stella Wilcox.

CLEAN TOWN?

John Del Mar makes a pertinent point:

I noted with pleasure, words to the effect on a sign into the town, that Cleobury Mortimer was judged one of the cleanest towns in the country in 2010, but only wish the same could be said for the approach roads.

We in Neen Savage try to do our bit by collecting bags of rubbish around the parish, but the roads to Tenbury and Hopton Wafers are also something to be ashamed of - Costa Coffee containers being one of the main culprits.

I am not sure what the answer is though the council makes some effort within its limited budget to clean the verges. Perhaps local traders could make their customers more aware that throwing litter out of car windows is disgusting, horrid to live with and gives a terrible impression to visitors to our country.

J Z Del Mar

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

On May 2nd we have local elections for the first time in four years. There are 74 council seats up for election across the county, 22 of them in the Ludlow constituency. I am sure there will be plenty of candidates seeking your attention for Shropshire Council.

But for many of our town and parish councils this will be the first opportunity for full elections for six years. This is because the rules for moving to a unitary authority meant town and parish election dates were moved to synchronise with the unitary election.

In our town and parish councils it has often been a struggle to find candidates. This has meant that in many areas elections have not taken place if enough individuals have not come forward to ensure a contest. It has also led to individuals being persuaded to join a council by being co-opted without election.

I believe democracy is the best way we have of choosing community leaders. Elections provide the mechanism for these leaders to be held accountable to their electorate. So it is important that when elections do come along there is a choice of candidates. But in too many parishes and towns, few people seem willing to put themselves forward. So I want to encourage readers to think whether you should stand.

Why should you? To start with there is a need in any community for diversity of opinion and for everyone to feel their views have the chance to be represented. So offering neighbours and friends someone to represent their interests is worthwhile in itself.

The commitment of time is one of the biggest deterrents for many. I realise public service of this kind is not for all, and many people in or looking for work feel they are unable to commit. But most councils recognise they need to make their proceedings accessible for those with full-

time jobs. So most meetings are held in the evenings. Few councils meet more than monthly, although most have committees which add extra meetings for those involved.

Some people who are quite willing to volunteer for other activities in their community, are nervous that they may not have the skills, patience or temperament to serve on their local town or parish council. I understand this reticence, but it is often misplaced. Each council needs a mix of talents and experience.

Some do not want to get involved in local politics. Here in Shropshire party politics rarely surfaces at town or parish level. Almost everyone stands as an individual in their own right, and adopts an independent stance on the council once elected. This does not prevent informal alliances being formed between councillors on issues, which can lead to factions emerging on some councils. But this is rarely based on doctrinaire party political lines.

Most people who seek to join their local council do so because they want to help others within their community and feel they have something to contribute. The government believes in localism, that is devolving more decision making powers and responsibilities to local communities. Within the unitary authority structure greater responsibility for town and parish councils is slowly taking place. But in order for this to happen these councils need to demonstrate they have the capacity to accept more responsibility.

This is where you come in, by ensuring individuals with something to contribute are willing to stand and get elected. It is not too late. You have until 5th April to get your nomination papers in to the local council clerk. Please think about it over Easter.

Philip Dunne MP

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Good News! The building of our new Medical Centre will commence shortly.

Now is the time to join our group, to put forward ideas, issues and queries in relation to Social Services.

We are an active group, who meet on a monthly basis at The Market Hall.

Do come and join us and bring your ideas with you!

For more details, contact Pat Smith on 01299 270592

The April Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 3	10.00am	Walking for Health starts from a new venue for the holidays, the CM Golf Club to try some of the new walks into the Wyre Forest	Mandy Smith	CM 270312
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 4	10.30am	Pathfinders start their walk from the Childe Road West car park in Cleobury.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall Committee, open to all residents. SEE ADVERT PAGE 36		
Fri 5		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 6	5.00pm	Draw for the Magic Raffle prize of £100 and more at the Stable Tavern, Talbot Yard.		
Sun 7	10.00am	The Footpath Association meet at the Parish Church for their monthly Parish Walk. All are welcome, dogs on leads, please.		
Tue 9	7.30am	St Mary's Breakfast Club meet at the Kings Arms for brekkie and to listen to Philip Dunne MP.		
Wed 10		The Royal British Legion have a visit to the Morgan car factory in Malvern.	Mark Baldwin	CM 270110
	7.30pm	Parish Plan meeting in the Market Hall. Your chance to help plan the town's future.		
	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. have an Open Meeting in the village hall.		
Thu 11		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 12		Bingo Night at Cleeton Village Hall		
Mon 15	7.00pm	Hopton Wafers Annual Parish Meeting is in the Village Hall		
	7.30pm	The Reading Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. SEE PAGE 33		
Wed 17	10.00am	Walking for Health returns to the Finess Centre.	Mandy Smith	CM 270312
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 18		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders start their walk from The Colliers Arms at Rock		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		

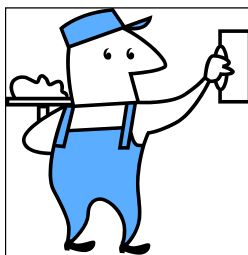


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The April Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Fri 19	7.30pm	Quiz Night at The Cape of Good Hope, Billingsley. Proceeds to St Mary's church in the village.	Zoe Baggott	07974 808817
	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 20	7.00pm	Wine Tasting at Milson/Neen Sollars village hall. Tickets £10 including fizz and food.	Carole Hall	CM 271698
	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks offers Meryl Streep in 'Hope Springs' in the Parish Hall, Church Street.		
Sun 21	10.00am	St George's Day features Cleobury Mortimer Scouts, hosting a county parade and church service. Road closures will affect Love Lane, Childe Road, High Street, Lower Street, The Hurst and Langland Road.		
Wed 24	7.00pm	African Art on display at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon	Alison Parsons	07871 530855
	7.30pm	Clows Top Garden Club, Victory Hall. Rob Cole talks about Perennials from Seed.	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
Thu 25		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 26	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 27	11.00pm	Open Day at the Old Vicarage adventure Centre in Stottesdon. SEE PAGE 35		
	12 noon	The annual Duck Race on the River Rea starts at the Paper Mills; barbeque and refreshments available, plus the chance of a little flutter. SEE PAGE 13		
	7.30pm	The Goode Quartet perform a wide range of music at a fund raising evening at the lovely St Mary's Church in Neen Savage. SEE PAGE		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY		
Wed 1	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584890874
Thu 2		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 5	8.00am	Rock Pound the Bounds walking day. See Page 9		

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CLEOBURY DENTAL PRACTICE GROWS

"I've never worked so hard in all my life," smiles Ann-Marie Bard, senior partner at Cleobury Dental Practice on Talbot Square. It's five years since she and Peter Lloyd took over the business from Mr Neale, with funding to take on patients who lived in Shropshire. The growth has been phenomenal and last year alone they took on more than 600 new patients.

This is not just a matter of opening the doors and taking people in, not if you are an NHS practice. You have to apply for consent to help more people and get the funding essential to equip another unit of the surgery. Thanks to Ann-Marie's hard work and astute dealing, they now have extra operating funds through to March next year, and the 60 people on the waiting list have been notified.

They have added a clinical dental technician to the team, who is in Cleobury one day a week at present. A great advantage of the new man is that he has his own laboratory in Stourport, so processing and testing is handled very quickly.

An extra piece of equipment is a defibrillator, which is not a mandatory part of the surgery.

But Ann-Marie recognised the common sense of such a recovery aid where anaesthetic is used and arranged with Heartbeat UK that they would match her own contribution to add the unit to the strength.

Amongst the friendly staff Laura Eccles has recently passed her Dental Nursing exam and two other members are training for the same qualification.

Did you know that tooth whitening, once widely available, can now be offered only someone with a professional dental qualification. If you fancy brightening your smile with just such a job, the surgery has a special promotional offer of 25 percent off the normal price price, bringing it down to £295.

The surgery is now a firmly established part of the town and an asset that draws people in who might not shop here normally.

CLEOBURY READING GROUP

We were pleased to welcome two new members to our March meeting. We discussed a beautifully written book, "Wild Places" by Robert MacFarland, which was well received by most, with a few reservations. Some members found it too

wordy or self-indulgent. Poetic or pretentious? It's a matter of opinion and what a book group is all about.

A copy of "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" by Paul Torday is available at Cleobury Library if you wish to join us there to chat about it on Monday April 15th at 7.30pm.

Deana Kimber

EARLY NOTICE

This is a preliminary notice of the Nightingale Nursing Fund Five-a-Side Football day. The date is Sunday June 2nd, the venue the playing field next to the Cleobury Sports & Social Club. Entry forms are available from the Sports Centre of from Carl Brooks.

The more teams that enter the better the competition for the coveted medals.

Rosemary Abbiss

PARISH PLAN MEETING

The next Parish Plan meeting is in the Market Hall on April 10th, starting at 7.30. There's room for more people who want to get involved in the future development of the town and this is the place to find out what you can do. Later meetings are scheduled for May 8th and June 19th.

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Knowing that many readers have busy lives that can't be ruled by the simple matter of picking up your Clarion, we've put it out on the internet. Just type in www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk on the 4th of the month. It's all there, 60 pages of it, including the advertisements.

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This is the Old Vicarage Adventure Centre's new VW van, with seats for seven and super signage by Paul Haydon of N-Sign in Stottesdon.

OLD VICARAGE OPEN DAY

The Old Vicarage Adventure Centre in Stottesdon has an Open Day on Sunday April 28th. It's down the road from the actual vicarage, on their Ginny Hole Site.

It will be open from 11.00 to 4.00, with a big range of activities available for children

to try, all for free. And entry is free, too.

There will be presentations on the latest adventure holidays, camps and adult events, plus playboat demo. The day is run in support of the Pat Straughan Riding for the Disabled charity and donations to that excellent cause will be welcome. Bar and refreshments available, too

To book your place and be sure of a ride or whatever takes your fancy, you can complete a one line booking form on liveadventure.co or call them on 01746 718436. All children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult, please.

It's an opportunity to see just what a great range of activities are available at the Centre and to see why the place is such a success.

EARLY NOTICE

There's a big Crib Knockout Competition planned for May 15th at the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane. £1.00 per head per competition, cash prizes to be won and refreshments included. That sounds like very good value for money. All profits go to the Shropshire & Mid Wales Hospice. More details next month.

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

**The next 'Flicks in the Sticks' will be on Saturday April
20th, starting at 7.30pm**

The film is 'Hope Springs' starring Meryl Streep.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
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The Farming Page

Rachel Robinson of Mawley Milk reports

Mawley Holsteins – The Dairy Superstars

What do we look for in a dairy cow? A naturally large capacity to produce milk is obviously quite high on the list of priorities, but when breeding our cattle there are many more important traits we consider. Good all-round conformation is a must – good feet, legs and topline, good udder attachment and well placed teats. A tall, strong, body frame, so typical in the Holstein breed, is also preferred. Her breeding programme is tailored to suit her particular conformation – she is put to a bull that will highlight strong points and hopefully improve on any areas of weakness. Once she has had a two month rest and has ‘calved down’ she will be at the peak of her milk production. During this time

her diet plays a very important part in managing her health and enabling her body to produce anything up to 65 litres of milk a day. Our automated milking system allows the high yielding cows to milk as frequently as they need to, sometimes 4 or 5 times in 24 hours. The system is linked to a computer that tells the machine how much feed the cow needs to get each visit, so while standing being milked, she is munching away on a mostly home-grown mix of cereals. In addition she has 24 hour access to ad-lib silage. She will also be drinking large amounts water at this stage in her lactation. As the months pass, her yield will naturally decline and her visits to be milked may drop to once or twice a day; again her diet is adjusted regularly

to see she is getting all the right nutrients for her stage of lactation. These valuable cattle demand a lot of time and care from experienced herdsman. Any unusual drop in milk production may be a vital early sign of the onset of an illness and she needs to be monitored and treated accordingly. When she has finished her lactation cycle and is put back into calf, she is taken out of the milking system and looked after as a ‘dry’ cow (one that isn’t producing any milk) and put on a maintenance diet of hay, straw and silage. In the summer months her rest period will be out at grass in a paddock with other dry cows, and in winter she is housed on a straw bed, while she awaits the arrival of her next calf and the cycle starts all over again.

Rachel



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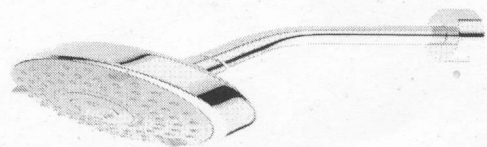
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FORMULA ONE COMES TO CLEOBURY



Toby Lloyd comes into the pits on his first Formula One drive to report to Caitlin Ward and Otis Partington-Zoller.

The parents calling to collect their children from Cleobury Primary School on March 18th were stunned to find a Formula One car parked in the playground. It was part of a national drive to encourage interest in engineering as a career, particularly for the girls.

All the children had a chance to look over the car and lucky Toby Lloyd won the raffle to actually sit in the cockpit. The steering wheel had to be

removed first, then slotted back into place when the driver was aboard, just as they do in Formula One races. Looking on were Otis Partington-Zoller and a less than impressed Caitlin Ward, who admitted that cars don't really interest her. Honesty is always the best policy, Caitlin.

The crew who delivered the car for the occasion confirmed it is a 2010 car, built from Formula One components supplied by a number of racing teams. But the engine wasn't still in there; this was a very quiet racer.

MAMBLE CAR BOOT SALE

This boot sale is becoming a local tradition, thanks to a sensible policy of keeping traders out and inviting amateurs with garages and sheds to clear to come in. This year it's on April 20th and opens to the public at 9.00 o'clock sharp. Booters have access from 8.00

All proceeds go to local charities and selling here is not expensive at £6 for a car boot and £10 for trailers and vans. Pre-book and you get a pound off those prices, too. Call 01299 832796 to do that.

Mamble is on the A456 Leominster road and the sale will be clearly signed.

THE MAGIC RAFFLE

Proud Meggs Magic is a retired racing greyhound who was out walking with owner John Pound when she accidentally shattered her leg. John and his wife Sandra opted to save the dog and not put her down, which meant a plating operation costing £2500.

To help pay the bill, the Magic Raffle was organised at the Stable Tavern. Then John and Sandra asked that the money be split between them and the Retired Greyhound Trust. First prize will be £100 in cash.

You can buy a ticket for the cause at the Stable, and the draw will be held there on April 6th at 5.00. More details from Kirk Williams on 07816 763858

CLEOBURY TREASURE TRAIL

Launching at the Farmers Market on the 20th of this month is the Cleobury Treasure Trail. Nicely presented cards give you a host of clues to follow as you walk around the town and if you get all the answers, your card goes into a draw at the end of the year for a prize of £1000! Nice Christmas present there for someone.

Cards cost £6.99 each and will be aimed at both residents and visitors to the town. And you'll be amazed at the sights on the main street we overlook as we pass them day by day.

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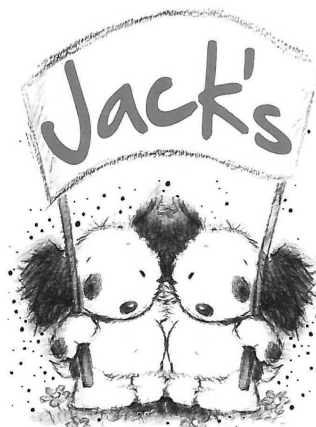
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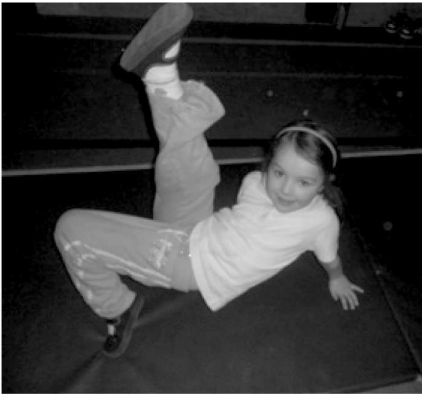


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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone	
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906	
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374	
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649	
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514	
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 718769	
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418	
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933	
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317	
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde		
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	17.30	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986	
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210	
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544	
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912	
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114	
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624	
	Tue	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
		14.00	Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353
15.45		Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246	
17.00		Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317	
17.30		Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416	
18.45		Bridge Club Hopton Wafters Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562	
19.00		Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808	
19.30		Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe School	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291	
Wed		10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
	16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Emma Reynolds	CM 272746	
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street			
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842	
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560	
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	19.30	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627	
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514	
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808	
	16.45	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809	
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317	
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 717769	
	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868	
	17.30	Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774	
	19.00	Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937	
	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359	
Sat	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112	

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Clarion Coppers - With CSO Nick Morris

Again I am pleased to say there has been very little crime in our area during the last month. There was some minor criminal damage to a caravan at Glen Caravan Park which happened sometime between November 2012 and early March 2013. The only other one reported was of a Toyota Hilux stolen from the car park of The Eagle and Serpent in Kinlet in the early hours of March 6th 2013. The theft of Toyota Hiluxes and Landrover Defenders has been a problem for a couple of years and owners are urged to take extra measures to foil thieves, such as fitting a tracker device, and/or using a good quality steering lock whenever the vehicle is left unattended.

We are still receiving reports of antisocial behaviour caused by a few of the drivers who collect in the Leisure Centre car park. Usually we get the report well after the incident which does not help. Please ring 101 immediately with as many details as possible -

vehicle, registration number, driver name or description, etc and it may be possible then to start the process of vehicle seizure.

The good news is that a gang of eight criminals were jailed for between six years and eighteen months on March 11th. This gang committed many offences on commercial premises over the West Mercia and West Midland Police areas, stealing large amounts of money including some from Tuffins here in Cleobury. Another good result was achieved when police in South Shropshire joined with partner agencies to target travelling criminals and motorists committing driving offences. Several vehicles in a dangerous condition were seized, one person had benefits withdrawn when found to be working, with four other similar cases to be investigated, several motorists were found to be using kerosine or red diesel in their vehicles and were fined

between £250 and £1400. A delivery driver was tested and found to be impaired from drug abuse, a foreign driver didn't have a proper licence, two people were dealt with for using mobile phones whilst driving and four others for speeding. Similar events to this are to be planned in the near future.

Now something for the kids. Whilst on patrol recently and passing the playpark, I saw three children playing and a magician talking to them. I heard the magician say to the children, "Whatever you shout as you go down the slide you will get a bucket of." The first child went down the slide and shouted, "SWEETS" and magically received a bucket of sweets. The second child went down the slide and shouted, "MONEY" and magically received a bucket of money. The third child had not been paying attention and whilst descending the slide shouted, "WEEEEEEEEEE....."

Nick Morris

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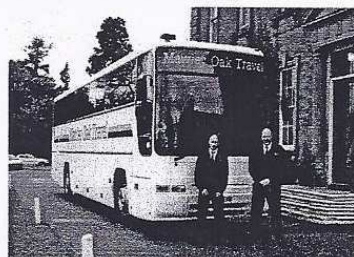
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April in the Wyre Forest - Linda Iles writes



Amongst the beech trees

The most exciting news around here this month is that work is to begin to connect Uncllys Farm and other homes nearby in the forest to National Grid electricity. When we moved here 8 years ago the notion of living "off-grid" and generating our own electricity from renewable sources had a huge appeal. Our plan was that a 3kw array of photovoltaic cells would be our main source of electricity with a diesel generator acting as back-up. To help out when the sun didn't shine we looked at a micro-hydroelectric scheme (too micro to be useful) and a wind turbine (too many trees!). Although the PVs made a very useful contribution and could be relied upon during sunny (dare I say "normal"?) weather, we found we were turning on the generator far too often. Our quote for connection was breathtakingly huge but it will be wonderful to have this particular "mod con".

The forest is a large-scale demonstration of the use of renewable energy. Each tree is a factory using solar energy captured by hundreds of square metres of leaves to drive a chemical reaction which, fortunately for us, has oxygen as a by-product. The way each tree (and other plant) grows maximises its ability to get a share of the sunshine and the raw materials (water, carbon dioxide) it needs to make sugars for its own needs, while minimising the chances of all of it ending up inside the local herbivores! I love to look at the new leaves bursting from the winter buds at this time of the year, growing almost discernably as you watch: the vivid, translucent beech, the greedy light capturers of hazel and sycamore, the sprays of little green, pendant flowers among the new leaves of oak.

As well as the usual **Health Walks** on Tuesday and Sunday mornings, and **Forest Friends** for pre-schoolers on term time Friday mornings, other special events this month are:

Discovery Centre Open Day Every weekday from 2nd April to 12th April, 11am to 3pm. Come and look round the Community Discovery Centre. Spot our lovely new art works, explore

our hands-on displays, watch the birds from our hide windows, follow the Sensory Trail, and discover the origins of the Earth with our Geological Time Trail. The unique 'Wild Side of Wyre' deer museum will also be open. There is something to interest everyone and it's free.

Art Exhibition Charcoal drawings by Emma Safe. Large scale "spirit drawings" capture the changing moods of the Wyre Forest. Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th April, 10:30-4.30 (Friday until 7.30pm) at the Discovery Centre.

April 5th Uncllys Farm Family Walk Bring the family to see the animals and hear the latest about looking after the farm, forest and wildlife. We'll be making bird feeders too. FREE thanks to an educational access grant from DEFRA, but please book on 01299 488083. 1pm to 3pm. Tea and cake for sale.

Saturday 20th April **Spinning and Wool Crafts** at Uncllys Farm, 10am to 4pm. Course fee £40. Bookings/info: 01299 488083 or info@wyreclt.org.uk

Linda Iles

SILLY BIT

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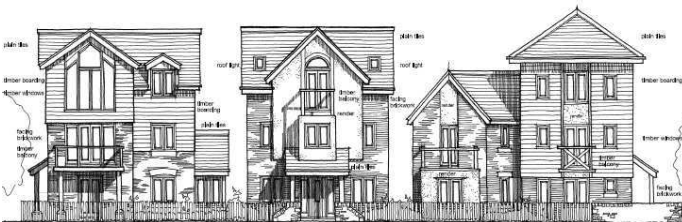
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HOBSONS HELP DARTS AND DOMINOES



Mike 'Razz' Worrall has not lost a single game this year.

Hobsons have agreed to sponsor the local Darts and Dominoes league. Established 75 years ago, it fosters two of the most traditional pub games.

The finals of the darts series was held at The Bell on March 12th, in a gentle, friendly atmosphere that saw defeated players applauding the winner in a truly sporting manner.

Postman Mike Worrall won the individual player title, and can boast of not losing a single game this year. But he came close to losing one to fellow finalist Kirsty Bullock, whose graceful style at the oche, firing her arrows from one side, proved very effective.

A week later it was dominoes time, with the Serpents winning the league and Alan Mellings from the Fighting Cocks picking up an award for the most individual wins. Stamina counted in the singles final, when Martin Millichamp took the title from Andy Deignan in a match that lasted until 2.00 in the morning.

IT'S HAPPY TIME AGAIN

The Cleobury Beer Festival returns for its fourth year, after seeing strong growth over the previous three events. The organisers are promising it will be bigger and better than ever before. A host of ales and ciders will be on show, all sourced within a thirty mile radius of Cleobury Mortimer.

It all takes place at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club on Friday April 19th - 3.00pm until late and Saturday the 20th - 12.00 until late. Tickets are just £5 and that includes your first pint in a commemorative pint glass.

Entertainment will be hosted by Aaron Booton with open mic slots available over the two days. For more information please call Graham or Dave on 01299 271 1 1 2 or visit www.cleoburybeerfestival.bigcartel.com to buy tickets.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

In March we welcomed Billy Auger to talk about organic fruit growing. He has his own such farm at Hopton Wafers and he talked us through land preparation for strawberry beds and how he feeds them with organically made compost. He also advised on types of strawberry that do well in this area and those to grow so that you can harvest concurrently through the season. Billy went on to other fruits he grows and how he cultivates to give good crops. Many are grown under netting so they are not ravaged by the birds but there is not a lot you can do to deter slugs organically. We still have a few plots available on our allotment site, information on 01299 271194. *Liz Smurthwaite*

GREAT GUYS AND DOLLS

It's a well known fact that teenage boys do not do singing. However the Lacon Childe School production of Guys and Dolls had twelve boys singing and performing as New York gamblers of the thirties.

Eight girls had the task of reforming these characters at the Save a Soul Mission. This is about to be closed down until gambler Sky Masterson falls in love with the beautiful Sgt. Sarah Brown and supplies enough sinners to convince the General the mission is a great success.

The fourteen year engagement of gambler Nathan Detroit and night club singer Ever Loving Adelaide provided the sub plot and gave the Hot Box Dancers the opportunity to display their expertise in night club routines.

To perform in front of a hall filled with classmates, Mums and Dads is a daunting task. All soloists sang beautifully with great stage presence and the chorus was equally impressive, accompanied by able musicians.

The discipline imposed upon these young actors meant we were in 1930s downtown New York for the evening. Every cast member was completely in character, never missing a line nor dropping the accent. Remember they are twelve to fifteen years old. This was director Arthur Short's fourteenth production for Lacon Childe School. He has not lost his touch.

Valerie Reynolds

SILLY BIT

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE FARMERS MARKET

This new venture from Cleobury Country begins on April 20th, at the Parish Church, Starting at 10.30, when David and Margaret Robinson cut the tape, it will run through to 12.00 noon. But the range of attractions on offer suggests there will be a later closing.

Cleobury's own Concert Brass will entertain and the excellent Crooked Steeple Morris ladies clog dancing troupe will show off their great style and energy. They must be fit girls - there's a Taster Workshop for you to try the art at Lacon Childe School on the following Monday at 8.00 pm.

Some of the traders are worth a look, just to see what they actually sell. Names like Snogable Garlic, Cottage Herbery and Good Game join the more obvious Hobsons, Ludlow Vineyard, Simply Fresh and Ashley's Bakery. All under cover too, though you could hope that the Almighty would smile upon the occasion.

Late bookings on CM 272300 or www.cleoburycountry.com. The pilot for this was a great success last year; come and see how the promising infant has grown.

THE SCOUTS AND SAINT GEORGE'S DAY

Cleobury's Scouts are hosting the Saint George's Parade on April 21st and the parade from the Talbot car park will leave at 10.30, led by a band and with Cubs and Beavers from all over the county marching in support. They'll process down Childe Road and onto High Street, to the Parish Church for a service. Then they'll reassemble and march east.

All this activity means road closures, and Love Lane, Childe Road and High Street will be closed at 10.30 until the parade has safely passed. After the church service, there will be a 12.00 noon closure of Lower Street, The Hurst and Langland Road for the assembly to disperse.

Please be patient if you're in town. Park the car, walk towards the band music and watch the youngsters in procession.

THE LEGION LUNCHESES

On March 17th, the Cleobury Branch of the Royal British Legion held its Annual Luncheon at Cleobury's Sports & Social Club. About 60 diners were welcomed by Chairman Jim Hulme, before enjoying a three-course meal by Tenbury caterers, Clock House.

This was followed by an address from Group Captain Mark Brown, a serving RAF officer who moved to Cleobury in 2012. Before describing today's RAF, and its role within the defence capability of the UK, he recalled how helpful the Legion had been to him, by helping to fund his early training, and to his wife, by assisting her in creating her business. A vote of thanks was proposed by Lesley Ravenscroft.

The branch's next event is a coach trip to the Morgan Motor Company on April 10th. A few seats are still available at £17 - please contact Mark Baldwin at the Bookshop for details, or ring 01299 270110. Later this year there may be a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War in July.

JO'S A WINNER

Jo Bargman, renowned as a dog trainer and breeder, came away from the annual Crufts, the biggest dog show in the world, with two winners' rosettes.

Her puppy Jas was declared Best Puppy Bitch in the Large Munster Lander class and went on to be selected Overall Best Puppy in the same class. As you can imagine, Jo was on top of the world that her small and friendly holding in Shropshire had beaten all the big breeders.

She and husband Chris keep the Munster Landers and German Shepherds in the house, and we can tell you from personal experience that there's not a trace of doggie smell, even though you can have a reception party of four or more.



A very happy Jo with champion puppy Jas, relaxing after their Very Big Day.

All the dogs seem really happy, with just a slight tension between two expectant mothers. Jo's training expertise shines through in their behaviour, the dogs responding to firm commands and content to lie and not interrupt family chat. Jo has a litter of German Shepherds due soon. 01299 270514 is the number.



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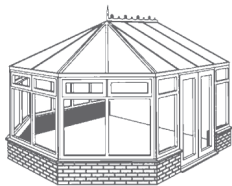
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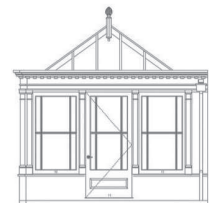
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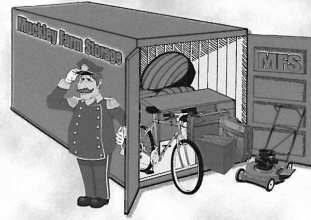


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IN BUSINESS: Jill Sharp, Physiotherapist



Jill showing a typical gentle touch with fingertips, her working tools.

Jill Sharp was working as a medical secretary: "Absolutely bored just working in an office," she admits. "I was fascinated by work on the wards, where people seemed to love what they were doing." Soon she was back at college, working for her A Levels and with them moving on to a three year degree course that saw her qualified as a physiotherapist 20 years ago.

The skills she learned then have been honed and developed as her knowledge has grown. In 2011 she began training in the very gentle Emmett technique and in January this year was accepted as an Emmett practitioner. She's a member of the Chartered Society of

Physiotherapists and proudly wears their badge; her skills have grown over the years, it's a constantly developing area of treatment.

Jill is part of the team at Kim Stanley's Health and Beauty Salon and is there on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The other three working days she's an NHS Community Physio in the Wyre Forest area. She also does home visits to the housebound as a private service.

So how effective can the Emmett technique be? "I was sceptical about it at first," she admits. "You don't believe how good it is until you actually see what it can do."

She describes a rugby player in need of help, who he couldn't lift his right arm because of a bone impingement in his shoulder. "I gave him just one manoeuvre and he could lift his arm above his head." To put it another way, when he walked in to see Jill he had 90 degrees of movement on that arm; when he walked out again he had 180 degrees.

He came for one more treatment two weeks later and soon after that had successful surgery to get the bones right. And to be quite sure, he came back to Jill for the final sort-out after the surgery.

She became interested in the Emmett development because of its gentleness and rapid results. And she's also a qualified acupuncturist for pain relieving treatment.

There's a happy spirit of cooperation in the Health and Beauty Salon, where Jill, owner Kim, beautician Leanne and Reiki specialist Kate all cooperate and help one another if needed. It can be very good for a client with a problem mentioned in passing, who can be referred on to Jill for treatment.

She has no plans to develop her own business into something bigger. "I'm not money driven," she explains. "I enjoy the work and solving problems with clients. With any therapy, the interaction between you is very important. They have to feel they can trust you."

Her work, most of it using just fingertip touch, is effective enough to bring clients to Cleobury Mortimer from Bridgnorth, Stourport and Kidderminster. She will agree that her degree is a help in research, but the majority of her day to day work is down to practical, physical skills. Which she clearly has in abundance.

Jill Sharp is on 07905 766 729



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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IN THE MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 22nd**

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CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 077 039 65064 Mrs Theresa Parfitt.

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

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Or through the Wednesday link at the Cleobury Centre.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE STATION - 0300 333 3000. The Station is not manned full time; you can contact **WPC Anne O'Leary** direct at: @westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES - 01299 270215. Robin Borns is the contact.

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. You can talk in confidence, to report any crime. You do not have to give your name.

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PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public, who may address the Council in the Democratic Session before the business starts. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

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