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The Cleobury Clarion

NO GLOOM - OUR PROMISE JANUARY 2012

What is it about the British press that it loves bad news and gloom so much? In recent months, apart from a blessed break over Christmas, there has been almost entirely depressing news.

We are not suggesting that all is well with the world and that there's not a number of problems to be faced. But do we have to face that task with a scowl, and never a sign of a grin. Believe it or not, the world hasn't come to an end. The sun still shines on most mornings, the birds sing, friends greet one another cheerfully. There's not much you can do about the Eurozone's sickness from here, so let's wish them well and get on with life.

Read PC Tony Sewell's 'Clarion Coppers' column on Page 31 and you'll find him full of optimism and proud of his home town, where crime is low and people are civil.

A new shop has opened on the main street - see the story on Page 41 - with the staff full of praise for the friendly people they've met. Smiles all round.

So here's our promise for 2012. Whatever depression you get from papers, radio or TV, we will find and report good news. No negatives, no moans and groans, just true life from this wonderful part of the country we are lucky enough to live in.

A naive promise to make? Let's see.

PC SEWELL'S NEW COMPANY CAR



Tony Sewell asked the children in the Peter Rabbit Nursery if they could design a new police car for him. And here it is, parked in the Police Station, with personalised number plate and a smiling Tony. Apparently it's not much good for catching crooks, but the fuel consumption is great. Nice one.

The Clarion is on the web from January 4th:

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The Cleobury Clarion. January 2012

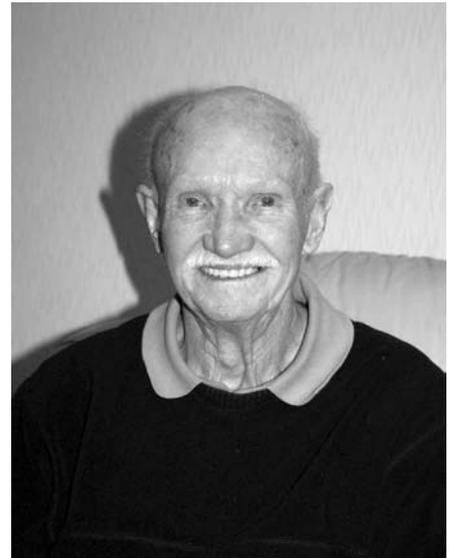
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www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk**

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

RUMOURS, RUMOURS, RUMOURS

When a planning application for a well established industrial site in town appears, it's inevitable that rumours start to fly. And the possible development of 26 houses on the New Road site where SHW Containers operate has really got the tongues wagging. "Like shoving a stick in a hornets' nest," as someone said.

The Clarion called and asked what's planned: here are the facts. The company is an international operator, supplying cardboard boxes to markets as far as Peru and Ghana, and has to streamline its operation to stay competitive. That means modern buildings to accommodate modern machinery and access for the 46 feet trucks that their suppliers and carriers use because they provide the cost savings. Those great artics don't fit happily into our narrow roads, but one of them carrying a load is a lot cheaper than two or three smaller vehicles. The company have tried in the past to buy land to give direct access to the A4117, but without success. The planning consent that agreed to houses filling the old Muller's sports field site and ignored the need for proper vehicular access to a centre of local employment, not to mention stopping heavy vehicles moving through housing areas, beggars belief.

So logic says that the Box Factory, as most people call the company, has to move. It's a local family business that dates back to the 1930s, and they don't want to move away, but they also want to stay in business. Closure is not an option.

This was not an official interview, just an informal chat. If planning consent is granted, we have been promised more detail, and we'll put you in the picture.

SUPER VALUE AT CORELEY

There's a very good value Barn Dance at Coreley Village Hall on Saturday the 21st. Doors open at 7.30, dancing starts at 8.00 and the ticket price of £6.50 includes a fish and chip supper. Beat that for an affordable night out, not to mention working off some of the inches the Christmas and New Year celebration put on.

Details and tickets from Anton on 01584 891320 or Maxine on 891285.

KNOWLE SPORTS GROUND SALES.

Please note that these popular sales won't be happening in January and the site will be closed through the month. The hard working volunteers who make it happen are having a well deserved break.

CHORLEY FAMILY PLAYGROUP

The children enjoyed their Christmas party on December 8th. They were joined by parents and siblings for a special lunch, followed by party games including pass the parcel and musical bumps. The children then treated us all to a round of festive songs that they had been practising. Afterwards they enjoyed a special visit from Father Christmas, and each child was given a present special to them. There were a lot of very happy faces.

The playgroup operates from the campus of Stottesdon School and offers childcare for pre-school children from two years

upwards. It is open five days a week and offers a complete wrap around care service. For further information please contact Zoe Day on 01746 718769.

IN PRAISE OF....

It was a strange way to spend a birthday. Photographing Santa's arrival at the Christmas Fair on December 3rd, I was about to leave when a chest pain hit me. Ruth at Carrot Tops got me home, where my wife called Shropdoc and left a message.

They were back within two minutes and after detailed questioning called an ambulance. It arrived a quarter of an hour later and the crew gave me an ECG before telling me I was off to hospital for a proper check-up; along the way I had two more readings taken, so there was plenty of analysis for the doctor at Worcester Royal. He kept me there overnight, despite my protests that it was my birthday on Sunday. It made sense, though Sunday morning wasn't quite as riotous as it would have been at home with grandchildren.

Further tests and a long wait before I was allowed home, with the good news that it wasn't a heart attack. More likely the effect of extreme shortage of breath through a chest infection. A week later and with a course of anti-biotics I'm feeling much better and making progress; if you're reading this in January, it confirms that.

We take the medical services for granted all too easily. Only if we suffer an accident or have a fright like mine do we realise how many good professionals we can call on for help. Without exception they are friendly and caring. Really good people.

Jim Reynolds



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Clarion Clippings -The Local News

CLEOBURY MORTIMER CRICKET CLUB

The Club held its annual presentation dinner on Friday December 2nd, at the Sports & Social Club. After an excellent three course meal, Chairman Rob Evans thanked the presidents and sponsors for their continued support, giving special mention to Karen & John Gallagher. He congratulated all the members and players for another successful year, both on and off the pitch. The 1st XI have been promoted into division 4 of the Worcestershire Cricket League structure, and the 2nd XI finished mid table to keep their place in division 5. The club also boasts retaining the South Shropshire 20-20 Cup, the Cleobury Indoor League title, and were also losing finalists in the inaugural Hobsons Pub League. Special thanks were given to Bill and Barbara Evans, for all their hard work during the past season. Bill was voted Clubman of the Year, and 16 year old Matt Walford was presented with the prestigious Young Player of the Year.

The club is always looking out for new members, both players and supporters, so if you are interested in getting involved with your local village cricket club, please come along to the

Annual General Meeting to be held at the Cleobury Mortimer Sports & Social Club, at 8pm on Thursday 19th January 2012. Visit our website at - www.cleoburymortimer.play-cricket.com

Nick Jones

AND UP AT THE GOLF CLUB....

They're rightly proud of the big, new biomass boiler they've recently installed. Very green, using wood sourced from the course and its surroundings to provide plenty of warmth through the winter.

But a small hitch developed and the club were in touch with the installers, who guided them through a checklist to discover a valve wasn't working properly. As the installers didn't have the complete answer, they suggested Graham Pain talk to the valve suppliers, Essbee, down in Newbury.

Essbee's man took details and asked where the club was located. As we all know, it's in South Shropshire. "Would you believe it, we've only got one sales agent on the road and he lives in Cleobury Mortimer," said the man at Essbee. "I'll give you his number and if you call him he'll look in on his way home." Enter James Orgee, White Knight of the World of

Valves, who realised the valve had been wrongly installed and soon put the matter right. Warm winter up at the Club now certain.

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Welcome back all, after the Christmas break. Playgroup starts back on Wednesday January 4th and we extend a very warm welcome to Daniel and Amy, starting with us this term. Amy has been attending Little Tiddlers sessions with her Mum, and it is lovely to have her joining us for the formal Playgroup sessions. This half term we will be thinking about 'Getting Around' and the many, ways this is possible.

Before the break we had a great run up to Christmas with fundraising in the way of our children's Christmas cards and a Christmas goodies bake sale. We also had a great party on the last day with games, food and fun. Thank you to the parent helpers and all of our families for supporting our efforts.

Zoe Pearson

WISE WORDS

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Mark Twain

"Never let a computer know you're in a hurry."

Anon.



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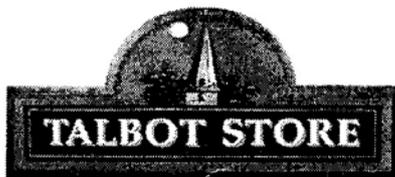
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QUIETLY HELPING

Only a few people regularly drive through Nineveh, on the narrow lane from Cleobury to Bayton. It's a very quiet spot, where Mark and Pippa Bannister's Nineveh Ridge Care Farm helps a range of vulnerable people handle projects and build their self respect.

Two days a week are given over to those with drug and drink problems, one day to special needs children and the other two days to people with mental health and learning difficulties. These are people who are too readily dismissed as beyond help, but volunteers work with them and bring out skills they didn't know they had.

There are examples like the alcoholic who's been dry for some weeks and happily works at jobs around the farm. The Director of the Worcestershire Drug and Alcohol Abuse Team has visited, and confirmed that keeping people off their habit comes from them feeling better about themselves. Or the young man who only wanted to sleep at his previous place, and now tells his social worker he's too busy at Nineveh to feel tired.

Results like that are a tribute to the volunteers who make the place run. Now their work has

been boosted with the appointment of project manager David Passey, a man with a range of skills and a degree in forestry. He's introducing new ideas to help capture the interest and keep the concentration firmly on the road to recovery.

The operation is dependent on grants to operate. Like the one from Midcounties Cooperative Community Fund to improve disabled access. Wyre Forest Leisure Group will welcome that, to ease their visits for adults with learning and mobility difficulties. Pens Meadow Special School in Stourbridge also have children with limited mobility - their access will be easier. "If they can't get to the animals, then we will build special pens so the animals can be closer to the car park," explained Pippa.

Worcestershire County Council Children's Service has recently given a grant to run Music Makers sessions for special needs children on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, until the end of March. A lovely idea that will stimulate the children and give their carers a few hours rest.

In a time of cutbacks and ever tightening budgets, help for the vulnerable is at risk. Not here, where the motivation is to give to those who have little.

If you would like to know more, or perhaps volunteer to help, talk to Pippa on 01299 832864 or e-mail ninevehridge@gmail.com

Take a look at their website: www.ninevehridgecarefarm.org.uk

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR



Santa and Helper arrive for the Fair

The church was decorated with effective ceiling lights and bustling with people. The new layout enabled movement freely around the stalls, while Father Christmas, was kept busy and his only "break" was to go and switch on the town's Christmas lights.

The event raised £2200 to be shared between The Friends of Saint Mary's and Saint Mary's Church PCC. Thanks go to all those involved in helping to make it another successful and enjoyable occasion.

Alec Osbaldiston

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The Clarion Jobs Page

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NEW FACE, NEW PLACE, NEW APPROACH



Welcoming smiles at the new Edna Maes salon in Talbot Square. Proprietor Lowri Akerman in the chair, with trainee Samantha Baker behind.

Lowri Akerman is the power behind the new Edna Maes hair salon in Talbot Square. Lowri moved here from Aberystwyth five years ago to work in a local salon, had a break to spend three months in New Zealand and came back. If this place wins over NZ, she obviously likes it.

In November she committed to taking on the empty unit at 7 Talbot Square and led a blitz by family and friends to get it ready.

Partner Lee Carbine did all the painting and friends and tradesmen completed the transformation for the opening party on December 3rd and the official opening for business on the 6th. "I wanted it to look like a little treasure chest inside," explained Lowri. "So that people come in and feel relaxed." It fits that description, but done on a sensible budget that suggests the lady's feet are firmly on the ground.

Centre stage when you walk in is a luxury backwash unit where you lie back and soak in the experience. Above are chandeliers, around are styling stations and cabinets showing off treats like the exclusive evo range of products and the huge range of hair colours. She got the evo franchise only after the company had visited the salon and approved its quality.

Supporting Lowri is trainee Samantha Baker, who says she's always wanted to do beauty work. She'll be combining the practical learning of working in the salon with a college course. Is having a trainee on the staff from Day One an extravagance? Lowri doesn't think so: "At a pinch I could run the place on my own, but the service to the customer wouldn't be as good."

Edna Maes welcomes all ages, women and men, and is open five days a week. 10.00 to 6.00 Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.00 to 6.00 Thursday, 12.00 to 8.00 Friday and 9.00 to 4.00 on Saturday. Their appointments book looked pretty full when we were there, so a call to 01299 272697 to reserve your own spot is advisable.

We were puzzled by the name of the business, Edna Maes. "My grandmother's name. She was a hairdresser," Lowri smiled. "She used to work in Shropshire and moved on to Aberystwyth."

So the business is in her genes, this very independent young woman who knows just what she has to offer: "A lovely, luxury service at reasonable prices."

We wish her every success.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Two hours of Christmas Fayre fun at Cleobury Primary School on November 25th produced a profit of £680 for the school. The traders looked pretty happy too.

The money went towards buying a book for each pupil at Christmas and the rest will help provide sun sails to give shade in the playgrounds during the summer. A good result for everyone who helped.



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

In this January edition, I hope you have enjoyed a Happy Christmas. Now is the time of year when I am often asked what the future holds.

Looking ahead, 2012 will be a momentous year for Britain. Economic challenges will continue to loom large. Western developed countries, with a few exceptions, face unprecedented debt burdens, belt-tightening is all around, and jobs are hard to find. But many companies are quietly progressing and growing, including many I meet around the constituency. There are success stories, working to achieve strong export growth. There are companies in the constituency selling horticultural equipment to Russia, smoked salmon to Thailand, and creative software to Japan.

Encouraging exports is likely to be key to stimulating growth in the British economy. One in five small and medium size businesses in this country use export markets; in Germany one in four similar size businesses export. There are success stories of growth through exports in this constituency, but I want to help others reach out to markets overseas, and will be working with local business groups to show how this can be done.

Britain's industrial strength has been built on our history as a trading nation. Technology makes it easier than ever to reach markets, in particular the developing economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and Turkey as well as our better

established trading partners. I am keen to hear from any companies who would like to learn more about how to develop their business internationally.

There are Shropshire based businesses who will benefit from the London 2012 Olympics. The Olympic Torch was designed in Shropshire, the Wenlock mascot was inspired and with its twin Mandeville was created here. The county will benefit from increased tourism next year as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics are expected to encourage four million more visitors to the UK. These events will also lift spirits throughout the country. I am encouraged by plans to celebrate the Jubilee across the constituency, with beacons flaming from the tops of Shropshire hills a few days after the Olympic flame is carried through on its way to the Games.

2012 should see the first free school in Shropshire, and work start on the first new hospital for generations. In November we will elect a Police Commissioner for West Mercia for the first time.

So I remain optimistic about the future for Shropshire. I look forward to 2012 as a year in which there will be unique reasons to be proud of Britain at a time when many other countries face tough challenges.

Wishing you a very happy new year,
Philip Dunne MP

Heather Kidd's Local View

Local Schools given extra money! And more to come...

Shropshire schools are well known to be more poorly funded than nearly all schools in other parts of England. All extra funding is important in delivering good quality education across Shropshire. A little good news is always welcome especially at Christmas.

Next year the Pupil Premium, a Lib Dem manifesto item, will be extending its reach to cover any child that has been registered for Free School Meals in the past six years. The Department for Education has announced next year's Pupil Premium will increase by £112 for each pupil. It will rise from £488 this year to £600 per pupil.

This policy will mean that Cleobury Primary School will receive an extra pupil premium payment of around £27,000 on top of their budget for children receiving free school meals. Lacon

Childe School will benefit by £54,600 next year. Every penny counts for Shropshire Schools. This will make a significant difference as schools face a difficult financial future.

If you lose your job, are on benefits or on very low pay, ring the Free School Meals Team at Shropshire Council (01743 254368) to see if your child is eligible. The Shropshire Council website also gives forms and advice. You could get free lunches for your child, help your budget out and get £488 extra for your school this year, which will rise to £600 next year!

If any of you have relatives in Wales the Lib Dems have bargained with the Labour Assembly Government to include a Pupil Premium there too.

On that note I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Heather Kidd

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

STOTTESDON'S CHAMPION SCAM FIGHTER



Charles Watkins with a wad of international correspondence.

As worldwide communication grows, it's very easy to stay in touch with family and friends wherever they may be. Sadly, there's a down side to this, with criminals all too ready to use the same channels to burrow into bank accounts and help themselves.

Charles Watkins at Stottesdon is well aware of this habit, but his approach came by a letter with a Gatwick postmark. Mr Hu Pong, claiming to be a Business Relations Manager working for the Hung Kai

Finance Company in Hong Kong. He had a deceased client called George Watkins, who'd died in mainland China leaving US\$10.5 million in an account with Public Bank Ltd (Hong Kong) and as he had no family and had left no will, Mr Pong had selected this namesake in distant Stottesdon to be the lucky beneficiary. Just why was not explained; there are 142,000 people called Watkins in America alone, so perhaps Mr Pong found it easier to stick a pin in the UK list and come up with Charles.

If that's so, he got it seriously wrong this time. Charles checked out the two companies Mr Pong quoted and wrote to their Chief Executives. Hung Kai Finance haven't replied yet, but Public Bank Hong Kong wrote back the same day and didn't mince their words.

"We wish to confirm that the inheritance claim is indeed a scam," said their letter. "Our Bank do not have any relationship with the said Hung Kai Finance Company nor Mr Hu Pong.

"For your information, our Bank has received numerous letters of such scam nature sent to us by recipients seeking our verification on the authenticity of the documents and the

purported persons concerned. We have reported these scams to the Hong Kong police."

Wide awake Charles didn't fall for it and few people would believe such a windfall coming out of nowhere. If one comes your way, you can either put it straight in the bin or play along before passing it on to the banks named. Just remember to never, ever, give these people your bank details.

TIM IS PRO OF THE YEAR



Tim (l) with Elite CEO Paul Hedges

Clebury Golf Club's Tim Hall was recently voted Elite Marketing Partner Pro of the Year, in recognition of his online marketing and social media skills in spreading the message about his sport and the superb local course. He'll be featured in a teaching series in National Club Golfer Magazine. Top man!

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SEVERN EDGE VETS

New Year, new resolutions. How many did you make? I expect one of them was to cut back on spending, especially after the credit card bill for December arrived.

To help you, Severn Edge Vets have a food loyalty scheme in place. Every time you spend £50 on pet food you get £5 off. You don't have to spend £50 all at once – we keep a total on the computer of every food item that you buy. Dog food, cat food, bagged or canned, rat and rabbit – all go toward the total. If you have several pets remember that bigger bags of food can often be more cost effective too. Good quality pet food may seem more expensive but as you feed less they work out cheaper in the long run. Our nurses are able to give you advice on which is the best to feed to your pet and as many come with a money back guarantee you won't be stuck with a huge bag of unwanted food. As they say "Every little helps!"

If resolution number one was about saving I bet number two was to lose weight! While dieting is on your mind, take a good luck at your pet. Are they carrying a bit more than they should? Just like with humans, weight gain happens over a period of time and when you see your pet every day it is not always obvious.

Did you know that we have our own version of "Weight Watchers"? There are free clinics with trained nurses who can advise you on all aspects of weight management for your animals. So if you have noticed that your pet has gained a few pounds and lost their waistline give us a call.

Every year at this time the newspapers are full of stories about abandoned animals. People give cute puppies and kittens as Christmas presents (and don't get me started on that!!) and the old pet gets turfed out. Many are lucky enough to find their way to

one of the many rescue centres around the country but others are not so fortunate.

There are lots of reasons for there being so many animals in rescue centres, not just the post Christmas clear out. Financial, changes in domestic situations and just too many animals having litters are just some of them. So if you are thinking about letting your pet have a litter think twice. "It would be nice for the kids" is not a good reason. You may be able to find nice homes for this litter but what about the litters they have? What about when the pregnancy goes wrong? Murphy's law says that it will go wrong in the middle of the night and then you get stuck with the cost of an out of hours emergency caesarean.

Breeding is NOT an easy way of making a bit of money. If you have any doubts go and talk to the people who run a rescue centre. Locally we have Forest Dog Rescue at Far Forest, Birch Hill Rescue at Neen Sollars and Cats Protection in Cleobury who all do a fantastic job. If you are thinking of getting a pet this year, consider a rescue animal and change its life for the better.

Elayne Jonas

Severn Edge

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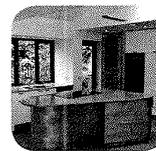
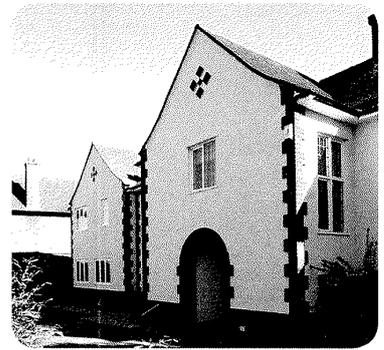
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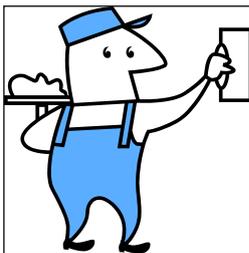
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Bayton - Is There A Happier Place for Children?

Welcome to our new monthly column in which we will bring you the latest news from nursery life. Firstly a bit about us...Little Learners' Nursery is situated in Bayton, about a 10 minute drive from Cleobury. We are open from 8.00am – 6.00pm, 50 weeks a year and can take 24 children per session, aged 2-4. We are also open during school holidays to any children aged 2-11. We have a large garden where the children spend a lot of time as well as a canopy on the side of the nursery to allow us to play out in all weathers! We plan our activities according to the children's interests which varies week

to week and allows us to enhance their learning though the play they enjoy the most!

We are really pleased that we can start with some fantastic news. We recently had an Ofsted inspection and were awarded the 'outstanding' grade! All the staff are extremely proud of our achievement and we have also received some lovely comments from parents, both past and present, who all said "We knew that anyway!"

The children have been extremely busy during the last few weeks of the term getting ready for Christmas. They have made Christmas

cards, calendars, presents and have written a special letter to Santa. All the children took part in a Nativity play which they performed beautifully in front of a packed nursery of very proud parents and grandparents.

We celebrated the end of term with a Christmas party where the children played lots of party games before a surprise visit from Father Christmas who brought presents for everyone. Many thanks to FC (nursery code for Father Christmas) for his help. Happy New Year everyone!

Stacey

THE NURSERY. Open 8.00 to 6.00, 50 weeks a year, children from 2 years.

2-11 Holiday Club. Ofsted 2011: 'Outstanding.' Call Stacey or Jemma on 01299 832855

Following on from the success of Geography Week in 2010, children at Bayton Church of England Primary School recently enjoyed Africa Week, whereby they spent the week learning about African culture and traditions, countries and wildlife.

During the week, the children were visited by the Mighty Zulu Nation. This is an African dance group that go into schools providing workshops and performances for all children. This day proved a huge success with teachers and children alike,

with children writing reports describing them as colourful, entertaining and great fun.



Also during the week, as part of their DT lessons, years 5 and 6 children worked in groups to research, plan and build models of an African Village. This proved a great success

and Head Teacher, Mrs Avis Pounder, had the difficult task of choosing a winner from the five groups.

Children in the younger year groups enjoyed creating African flags, drums and making African animal prints, as well as tie-dying t-shirts and cooking up African snacks.

To see more pictures from the week, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk. For further information about our school, or to find out about availability of places contact our office on 01299 832393

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Lovely rural setting and grounds. Ofsted 2011: 'Good with Outstanding Features.' Head Teacher: Avis Pounder 01299 832393

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Sophie Gordon Advises on Personal Problems

I am 18, at college and doing part time bar work to earn a little money. My dad is under pressure in his job and drinks a lot. Sometimes he comes home after nine o'clock, saying he's been dealing with problems, but obviously he's been drinking. He loses his temper with Mum if she complains, and shouts at me and my two sisters. We don't know what to do. Please, where can we get help?

Sophie Advises: There are two aspects to your problem, which may be approached differently even though they are linked. One is your father's drinking and the other his aggression towards his family. I gather that your father is not like this when he is sober, and he may well secretly feel guilty about his behaviour. Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, any such feelings are likely to make him more resentful if he is confronted about his shortcomings. So you must go very carefully if one of you gets the opportunity to talk to him about the problem. If you do, make it clear that you are not blaming him, but trying to understand and support him.

You can seek support from people who really do understand your problem from Al-Anon (and Alateen for relatives and friends aged 12 to 17) Tel. 020.7403.0888, website www.al-anonuk.org.uk, e-mail enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk. Al-Anon and Alateen are sister organisations of Alcoholics Anonymous, and designed to support the families and friends of problem drinkers.

One important point to make about his drinking, is that you must do what you can to see that he does not drive when affected by drink. Nobody wants to "tell" on their father, but drink driving can kill people, and if you know he is driving when he is drunk, the only proper thing to do is to ring 999 and tell the police.

The other part of your problem is your father's aggression. So far, it seems, he has not used physical violence towards any of his family; but losing his temper regularly and shouting at you all is a form of abuse, and a serious matter. While many people can behave in this way and never become physically violent, for some it can lead to violence. You never know what may happen in temper and in drink, and it is best to be careful, just in case. So – just to be safe – it would be sensible to ensure that knives are not left lying around, but put safely away out of sight and out of immediate reach.

Whether your father ever uses physical violence or not, you can get advice from the police domestic abuse teams on 0800 783 1359 (for Shropshire and Herefordshire; the number for Worcestershire is 0800 980 3331).

Meanwhile, make sure that you, your mother and your sisters continue to support each other during this difficult time.

**Readers may write to Ms Gordon on any matter, c/o The Clarion in complete confidence.
Or you may prefer to e-mail her direct at sophigor@gmail.com**

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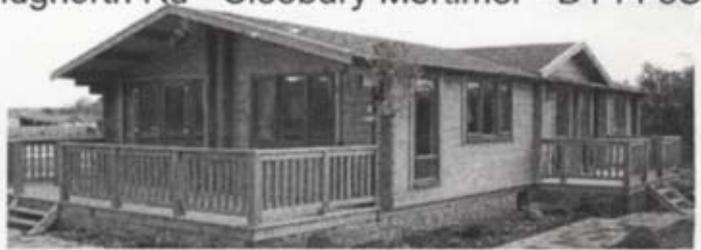
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT



Making traditional music with an amazing array of instruments - The Night Watch.

It was a cruelly cold evening that welcomed The Night Watch to Clows Top's Victory Hall on December 9th. This is a venue with a reputation for promoting art events beyond the predictable and this one certainly lived up to that renown.

Andy Casserley and Ian Pittaway are two accomplished musicians with a passion for very early English works, played on instruments of the type used in those ancient days. Occasionally they sing in Middle English, which sounds natural with a West Midlands accent, so not a

problem for a Stourbridge man and his Bromsgrove partner.

They started with a medieval air and moved on to the oldest known English song, with the same chorus repeated five times and all to complain about the weather. So, truly English. Andy was on the organ-like cornamuse and Ian the gittern, an early relative of the mandolin with its sound box carved from one piece of wood.

They explained the history of the instruments as the evening progressed and shot down a few old myths. It seems Henry the Eighth did not write the old favourite 'Greensleeves', but is credited with the composition of 'Grene Growith the Holy.' But to confuse the issue, Ian did explain that if the king wanted to claim a song as his own, a humble minstrel was unlikely to argue, given Henry's fondness for a good execution...

During the interval the audience examined the instruments and learned about them from the duo. Ian told about Lundberg, a Swedish lute player, who bought the remains of a 1580s instrument and had it repaired, which called on the skills of three separate craftsmen. Today Lundberg plays that same instrument in his stage performances.

They played ancient French songs as well, with the audience joining in the chorus of 'Tourdion', which appropriately praises the drinking of claret. These old works are dominated by either religion, the weather or drinking alcohol.

The pair's musical talents include two fine voices and instruments as diverse as the cornamuse, shawm (an ancestor of the oboe) bagpipes and simfony, pipes of all sizes and tones and percussion. Andy actually two quite different pipes at once, and later played a pipe with one hand while keeping the rhythm on a small drum with the other. Who said men can't multi-task? Oh yes, and through the evening they changed costumes to fit in with the age of the airs they were playing.

It was a measure of the way they captured the audience's imagination that announcing the final song produced a loud groan, so they played an encore and were rewarded with prolonged applause. They had entertained, enlightened and to a small measure educated their audience, and very few musicians can do all that in one performance. If you can, go and see them. They are rather special.

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Who will be the Charity Champions of 2012?

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This is an idea sparked off by a talk with Roger Gittins of The Bell Inn. Roger knows better than most people just how generous the Cleobury community is when it comes to raising money for charity. You could lose count of the people who've come here to accept a cheque for a good cause and been amazed how much this small town can raise. Small town, big heart.

So here's an idea. Throughout this year, please let the Editor at The Clarion know about money your club, association or charity branch raises for a worthwhile cause. No matter how small or large the amount, we want to know about it.

You may be raising money for your own use, like the Scouts and Guides Christmas Post, or you may be a group who want to help great causes like the Nightingale and MacMillan Nurses who do

such wonderful work to help those in great need.

The Classic Bike Show raises money for Lacon Childe School's PTA - that qualifies too. The British Legion works through the year to raise money for its work with ex service men and women - we want to know how they're doing through the year and what the 2012 grand total is. If your nursery is raising funds to buy new equipment for toddlers, please tell us the outcome.

The Clarion will sponsor a Charity Champions trophy and replica for the overall winners to keep and display as proof of their efforts. We have asked the Parish Council if they will help with a special presentation ceremony, hopefully with the Chairman handing over the award. We'll invite much wider coverage; the national press and television will be told what's happened, but there's no guarantee they'll come. We

know they should, and we'll try to get them here.

The contact address for the Editor is 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, or you can e-mail details to me at editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

One rule about passing on information: it must be in writing. A quick mention as we talk in the High Street will not be used - experience has shown there are too many errors and misunderstandings with that method. So in writing only, if you please.

And remember that if you get a grant from an official body, like the Local Joint Committee or the Parish Council, that doesn't count. It's people working together, on their own initiative, that we want to hear about. Fund raising counts, grants don't.

Please don't be shy about this. When the total raised for all causes is added up at the end of the year I know we'll be amazed at what can be done. Go to it Cleobury, show the world how great you are.



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The January Monthly Social Calendar - Part 1

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Fri 6		PLEASE NOTE – BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 11	12.30pm	The Ladies Luncheon Club meets at The Crown in Hopton Wafers	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	8.00pm	Cleobury's Royal British Legion meets at The Bell inn, Lower Street		
Thu 12		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY. REMEMBER – NO CARDBOARD.		
Fri 13	8.00pm	Bingo Nights are back at Doddington's Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Wed 18	6.00pm	Olympic Torch meeting in the Market Hall. Open to all, to develop ideas for May 24 th passage of the Torch through Cleobury.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Another Sonia Pearsall event.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 19		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. Proceeds to OAP entertainment.	Alan Evans	CM 270114

DOOM AND GLOOM? NOT HERE!

Whatever you may have heard or read, the country has not closed down and life as we know it has not come to an end. The Clarion will continue to bring you local news and views throughout 2012, with the emphasis on the positive. If you have a good story that you would like to share with our growing readership, please contact the editor (see Page 55) and we will happily work with you.



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The January Monthly Social Calendar - Part 2

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	Annual General Meeting of CM Cricket club at the sports & Social Club, Love Lane. Good place to learn about the club if you're thinking of joining....		
Sat 21	7.30pm	Barn Dance at Coreley Village Hall. £6.50 tickets include fish and chip supper – super value. SEE PAGE 5	Anton	01584 891320
Wed 25	7.45pm	Clows Top Gardening Club gather at Victory Hall to hear Brian Draper talk about "Elgar's Countryside"	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 26		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY. REMEMBER – NO CARDBOARD.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Neen Savage Village Hall	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Fri 27	8.00pm	Eyes Down for a Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FEBRUARY....		
Thu 2		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		



THE FIRST TRACTOR IN THE VILLAGE, NEEN SOLLARS, 1947

We have Bernard Owen to thank for this image, taken from his fine history of Neen Sollars. It shows Arthur Blount with the tractor he built around the basis of an Austin 16 saloon car of the 1930s. And for an idea about the remarkable adaption we have had the invaluable help of Mick Davis, who grew up in Neen and knew this vehicle well. It uses the sturdy Austin four-cylinder engine with two gearboxes linked, so that selecting bottom gear in both boxes gave a very low crawler gear that would climb any hill; top gear in both was for road use only, though any speed would seriously stress the unique tyres. These were oversize, fitted over the original rear tyres and a deep tread cut into the outer rubber, to be chained to the inner wheel to give good traction in deep mud. Pannier bags could be thrown over the bonnet to carry whatever was needed during the working day. The tractor could pull a large trailer, rather like an articulated lorry today, with the front of the trailer overhanging the nominal driver's seat, so when negotiating a tight turn the driver had to be aware of the swinging trailer and move swiftly out of the way. Apparently petrol consumption was terrible, but those old Austins would run on paraffin....

Paul Harding



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Clarion Coppers - P C Tony Sewell

2011 was a very busy first year, making new contacts and getting to know the community in which we serve. There will be new challenges in 2012, with government cuts looming on all departments, austerity biting; for some the future is gloomy.

However, not here. We live in an area that is a sought after place to live, our schools are 'outstanding' and residential growth continues in the town. We are set for a new doctors surgery, the Olympic torch is coming to town, and to top it all, a great community to live in. Our services are some of the best around and knowing where I have policed both in the West Midlands and West Mercia. I can say that this is one of the safest and lowest crimes rates in the country.

We have councillors that work hard for the community, sometimes a thankless task; we have people who dedicate their time to their community, like the Scouts, Guides, teachers, our firemen, all part of this community. We have people who watch what goes on in the community and will point out where things are wrong, which also makes it more interesting to work in.

2011 showed a significant fall in crime. When crime occurs it can have a massive effect on how people live their lives and it is down to the community to support them in whatever way we can. After the Christmas break, celebrating the birth of Jesus and presents under the tree, spare a

thought for the older people who might have no company or friends, the homeless, who have nothing and the vulnerable or sick who need our protection. What can we do to help? We all have our part to play.

I am looking forward. 2012 is my 25th year of policing; I want to continue to provide the three things I believe are important to the community

1. The Police Station.

The station is staffed every morning, except Sundays 9.00 to 12.00 by great volunteers, Flo, Dan and Charlotte who bring a wealth of experience.

2. Contact Local Officers.

We have introduced the Local Policing mobile number, Facebook and other media as a point of contact, to avoid waiting, but to also know who you are speaking to.

3. Visible Patrols.

To deter criminals from our area, to provide reassurance and community wellbeing to our policing plan.

But if you have ideas of how we can make it better, we're here to listen and help.

Have a very Happy New Year.

PC Tony Sewell & CSO Nick Morris

Clebury Mortimer Police Station

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE OLYMPIC TORCH

Dr Mark Baldwin was there:

On December 9th, a meeting was held in the Market Hall to plan the way Cleobury should celebrate the day - 24 May 2012 - when the Olympic Torch will pass through the town. The meeting was called and chaired by Madge Shingleton, and was attended by 24 people from Cleobury and the adjacent villages.

Not all the details have yet been revealed, although it is known that on the day the Torch will leave Ledbury, and travel via Hereford, Ludlow and Clee Hill to Cleobury, and then to Bewdley, Droitwich and Worcester.

It can only be presumed that the Torch will travel in a vehicular convoy between towns and villages, and only be carried (possibly in 300-metre stages) through the settlements. If this is the case, the Torch, and the attendant TV cameras, may well only spend a few minutes in our town. Our chance to showcase will be real, but limited.

It is important, therefore, that the day be seen as a focus for a series of sporting and other activities built around the Olympic ideal, rather than solely an event in its own right. A number of excellent suggestions were made from the floor, including the creation of

banners to line the route, sports activities for the schools and young people, and the reservation of certain areas along the main street for particular schools. It should also be remembered that the Jubilee celebrations will be taking place less than two weeks later, so it may be possible that the street decorations can be used to mark both events.

Sean Thorogood gave a positive assurance that the Parish Council will wish to contribute to the celebrations.

The evening ended with the decision that a meeting be called on 18 January, at 6.00 pm in the Market Hall, to develop Cleobury's ideas further. Although it is hoped that some of the town's leading organisations will be represented, the meeting will be open to all, without formality.

Mark Baldwin

FAITH IN THE PUB

Roger Skelhorn, the man behind their monthly meetings, explains:

It's not an advertising slogan for the pub industry but the name of a group that meets in a pub. Since May 2010, a group of men gather in the King's Arms, to talk about how faith affects their lives and relationships.

Many of us have some form of Christian faith but it's not a

requirement. Some of the guys without a Christian faith come along to explore ideas in a friendly and non-threatening place. Pubs have always been a place where men go to chat to other men; this is no different.

We've chatted about the role of faith in a wide variety of work contexts. The Police, corporate finance, farming, marketing motorbikes and running a school. We've seen how a faith can transform a life from the personal testimony of a recovered drug addict and looked at men's health issues.

It's not about trying to get more male bums on hard pews in a church or bashing people over the head with a Bible. Just an opportunity to build new, and extend existing, relationships.

We started following a discussion with Nick Davis of Hobsons Brewery after the Remembrance Sunday service two years ago, commenting on how many men attended and, as the saying goes, "the rest is ..."

The next meeting is on February 6th when we will be hearing about the Drug Rehabilitation project at Willowdene. Come along, and see for yourself. You'll be very welcome.

More information? Call me on CM 270843.

Roger Skelhorn

Mick Fox

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Clive Davies' Westwood Farm Diary

WESTWOOD FARM DIARY 16th December

And so, what of 2011? Still some ongoing wars and conflicts, an expanding Asian economy and a shrinking western based one. Various politicians in great difficulties and long established institutions lost or in trouble. There have been the deaths of many high profile people, among them entertainers and sportsmen. Weather patterns a little strange and here in the UK and certainly through mid England a relatively dry time.

Of course, as we might expect, this has been and is a great talking point for the farming folk. And no wonder, it's all very important. Clearly there must be a great deficit of moisture for the year. Probably a third down or so, but here at Westwood we have just about had enough to keep things going. Our grass growth rates have been affected but thankfully because temperatures have not been excessively high the crop on our shallow soils did not burn off as is often the case. Now, however, what with the winter period coming along and whilst ditches, streams and rivers are but a virtual trickle, we don't want the rainfall balance just now. Well not until about February if possible and then a good drying March! Not too much to ask.

Whilst we ponder all this 'then and now' stuff, the world of Westwood still goes on. It's been a good year for us and particularly on the livestock front. The cattle have done well. We went into 2011 with high numbers due to not selling quite enough during the latter part of the previous year. This made winter housing a bit tight and tested our feed reserves. During the year a number of cattle have spent their time with Ian and Janet Greenhalgh of Rock. This has given us a little more space at home. Sales have happened, thick, fast and regularly so we go into the New Year with

manageable numbers but still have a few head to pass-on for suitable takers! We have attended a dozen or so shows and exhibitions and had some very good results. Three of our young bulls took various Breed Championships but the highlights have been for the success of other breeders and cattle farmers with their bloodlines derived from Westwood. The 'National' Champion was an outstanding young breeding female that carried a great deal of our lines as did all the other top winners at the event once again held at the Tenbury Show.

Sheep wise, we have had a very encouraging year. It is still a fair joke about the area that we are back into sheep farming and especially that it involves the chosen Shropshires! But, just they might. Of all the sheep we have ever worked with, this breed has one distinct attribute and that is that it will live. Anyone who understands a sheep or wishes to, should know that to die seems its life-long ambition! In the main the Shropshire is a bit extraordinary in this respect and gets the thumbs-up from us! The flock has progressed well during 2011. Learning all the time, we have improved its performance in most respects with hopefully further development into the year ahead. Our successes at the Breed Society Sale were a tremendous boost and now set standards for us to work from into the future. Other transactions since mean that we move-on with minimal numbers and by the fact that we had further enquiries of interest it well indicates that this project has legs! We are currently undertaking some health tests to hopefully further enhance future sales. Lots been done, lots going on, lots to do, here's to 2012!

Clive Davies



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The Clarion Weekly Calendar - Part One

<i>day</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>contact</i>	<i>phone no</i>
SUN	8.30	Holy Communion)at the Parish Church of St Mary		CM 270264
Sun	9.45	Parish Communion) the Virgin, Church Street		
Sun	9.00	Mass at St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street	Fr J Robinson	01584 872906
Sun	09.00	Cleobury Country Archers, Sports Centre	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
Sun	10.30	New Life Church, for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Sun	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Sun	11.00	Morning Service at the Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
MON	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (term only)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Mon	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Mon	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Mon	10.00	-19.00 Library open at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Mon	9.30	Morning workout in the Sports Hall £2.00	Deena Edwards	01299 271217
Mon	9.30	Belly Dancing Class at Victory Hall, Clows Top		
Mon	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Mon	10.00	Monday Club, St Mary's Place £5.00 for day incl 2 course meal	Jenny Ferriday	CM 400773
Mon	17.30	Cubs meeting (term-time only)	Karen King	CM 270001
Mon	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
Mon	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
Mon	19.00	Cleobury Mortimer Ladies Rugby Team Training	Sarah Cound	07977 120272
Mon	19.15	Yoga Class, Bayton Village Hall	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Mon	19.30	Rangers Meeting (term-time only)	Judy Ellis	01584 890759
Mon	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club (exc. Bank Hols)	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Mon	20.00	Prize Bingo, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
TUE	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Tue	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Tue	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Tue	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Tue	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Tue	10.00	Nippers (Mothers & Tots), Methodist Hall,	Emma Greenaway	CM 272959
Tue	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Tue	17.00	Sports Roundabout, CM sports Hall. £1 per hour		CM 271317
Tue	17.30	Beavers meeting (term-time only)	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
Tue	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	07964902549
Tue	18.45	Bridge Club, Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Tue	18.45	Yoga, Victory Hall, Clows Top	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Tue	19.00	Bellringers' practice night. St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
Tue	19.00	Dog ringcraft class, Clee Hill Village Hall	01584 890999	or 890478
Tue	19.00	Zumba Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Faith Thompson	07517 753375
Tue	19.30	Peak Physique, Lacon Childe School	Kim Bills	01384 877702
Tue	20.00	Charles Beale Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Tue	20.30	Aerobics, Lacon Childe School. £2.00	Ms K Bills	01384 877702
WED	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Wed	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Wed	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (see Mon)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Wed	9.00	Open Doors in the Market Hall. Parents & toddlers 1 st monthly	Rachel	CM 272920

The Weekly Calendar continues on Page 41....

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The Weekly Calendar - Continued

<i>Day</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>contact</i>	<i>phone no</i>
Wed	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	9.30	Rising Fives Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Wed	10.00	Citizen's Advice Bureau, CM Library (appt only)		01584 876933
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
Wed	14.00	- 17.30 Library open, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	17.15	Brownies meeting (term time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Wed	16.30	Gym Club for ages 6 and over £3 (booking essential)	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Guides meeting (term time only)	Bev Pearce	CM
Wed	19.00	Heartbeat Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Yoga Class, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.30	Rugby Club Training, Lacon Childe		CM 271317
Wed	19.30	Band practice, Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
Wed	19.30	New Life Church Prayer meeting. For venue, please ring	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Wed	19.30	Choir Practice, St Mary's Church	Philip Englehart	CM 270627
THU	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Thu	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Thu	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Thu	9.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Thu	9.30	Little Tiddlers, birth onwards at demountable, Kinlet School	Sam	CM 271847
Thu	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall. (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Thu	11.00	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club,	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Thu	13.30	Cards and Scrabble, St Mary's Place, Love Lane	Jo Booton	CM 270792
Thu	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, £1 non residents	Jo Booton	07969 104808
Thu	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	0796 4902549
Thu	17.30	Brownies meeting (term-time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Thu	17.45	Cleobury Comets Netball at Sports & Social Club		CM 270317
Thu	19.00	Bell Inn Improvers rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu	19.30	Tums & Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Thu	19.30	Adult 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hives	CM 271317
Thu	20.00	11-16 Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
FRI	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Fri	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Fri	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Fri	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall £2.00 per family	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
Fri	17.00	Junior 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	17.30	Rainbows Meeting girls 5-7 years (term-time only)	Jean Basham	07792813774
Fri	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre. Adults £2.50,		01584 881359
SAT	8.30	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Sat	10.00	-13.00 Library at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Sat	10.00	Telephone advice line to Citizens' Advice Bureau		01584 810860
Sat	11.00	Junior Golf Coaching for boys and girls, CM Golf Club	John Jones	CM 271628

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Clarion News - High Street Happenings

WITH THREE 'E's' PLEASE



Naomi Hindley heads the family business now on the corner of Eagle Lane. The Toyota embroidery machines can decorate a garment while you wait if it's needed urgently.

The shop on the corner of Eagle Lane has stood empty far too long and it's good to see it brought back to life. The new occupants are Sheeppworkwear, well established in Highley and offering a wide range of clothing for children, ladies and gents, with an emphasis on riding and shooting wear. They are also agents for Toggi and Hunter boots.

Naomi Hindley heads the business, that also has long experience of embroidering

garments to order. The level of sophistication available is quite an eye-opener, and Naomi's brother Tyler - a talented artist in his own right - produced a picture of the RMS Titanic that was fed into the machine to produce a one-off garment for a customer. Their claim is simple: they can embroider any fabric. A personalised horse blanket? Of course.

Naomi will be moving between the two branches of the business and her mother Rita was in charge when The Clarion first called. She is clearly impressed by the friendly reception to the new venture, with some people just looking in to wish them well. Rita has a talent worth remembering; she does repairs to garments. It's a versatile place that welcomes a challenge with a smile. An intriguing addition to the main street's range of shops and we wish them every success.

CLEAR CROSSING

An eminently sensible upgrade has been given to the beacons marking our town centre pedestrian crossing. There had been comments from experienced drivers that the crossing was not clear to approaching drivers, especially in the dark, and the problem has now been cured. Mind you, my (much) better half still had a Corsa drive across in front of her

in the morning. Better lit crossing does not always mean more aware drivers, it seems.

The Parish Council are to be congratulated on listening to sense, assessing the situation and acting to improve matters.

ON THE MOVE

Positive Ground, Peter and Sarah-Beth Roper's media and business development operation, is moving from its 34 High Street base to the Cleobury Country Centre. They'll be taking over the office recently vacated by Lulu West, who many will remember for her Arriba Health Care franchise.

That leaves a shop vacant on the main street. Just one shop, not dozens as you find in too many towns today. That's a tribute to the quality of the shops we have here and the community's shopping loyalty.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM MICK

Mick Hendy, who did so much to keep our High Street clean and tidy, would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who gave him a final send-off into retirement. There was a gathering in The Crusty Cob, gifts from wellwishers and a collection that realised about £140 to send the man off with our best wishes. He really was very well chuffed.

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Clarion News - More High Street Happenings

TRANSFORMATION



It's hard to believe that not long ago this was a neglected backyard. Now it's a sympathetic development of apartments behind The Crusty Cob

Few people would have wanted to walk far into the sad old yard behind what used to be Mr Onions' bakery on the High Street. It was a place in disrepair, an eyesore.

Then Gwilym Butler decided it was too good a town centre site to be out of use and called in an architect to draw up plans for a revival. With planning permission granted, the Bate Brothers moved in; regulars on the main street will have noticed their presence and much activity over recent months.

The Clarion was given an early tour of the outcome in December. Now known as Bakery Court, it uses a paved and gravelled access to four new apartments, all named to reflect their past.

The first is Granary Loft, a two bedroom first floor flat where there used to be a store. Next is The Old Flour Store, which needs no explanation, and then there's Baker's Cottage.

Furthest from the street is the fully glazed frontage of Baker's Barn, where Mr Onions used to stable the horse with which he did his rounds in the days long before the warmth and convenience of medium sized diesel vans.

Across the yard, wooden bin stores line the wall to maintain the appearance, with another store for the Crusty Cob bins near the entrance. Electricity meters are housed in one unit in the same area, a sensible idea that saves time and interruption of the domestic premises. Doors will close access at night, with a speaker contact to each apartment. We understand that two of the new flats are already let; with such a location and a pristine conversion to tailor to the tenants' own tastes, you can see why. Another Cleobury Town Centre enhancement.

KONKERS AND KASH AT THE K.A.

Pete Williams reports:

The Conkers afternoon and evening on November 27th at the KA was very well attended and raised the healthy sum of £65, which will be donated to The Haven breast cancer care centre in Hereford. The final was between Kim and Mackenzie, with Mackenzie coming out the winner.

Pat (*featured last month - Ed*) was also handed a donation of £56 raised at last year's carol service in the pub, and that is on its way to The Haven.

There was more more. Pat was given a collection made for the Kemp Hospice in Worcester, who loaned her a wheelchair when she was poorly. This was rounded up to £30 and sent on to the Hospice.

Wendy and Chad at the King's Arms should be thanked on behalf of both The Haven and Kemp Hospice, and Pat and myself, for their fabulous support of these events. Lovely people, with big hearts.

Pete Williams

Please see Page 27 for a new Cleobury Clarion initiative to honour the Charity Champions of the community every year.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



A slate sculpture of a mole at the Forestry Commission's Garwnant site, near Merthyr Tydfil

JANUARY IN THE FOREST

The new year beckons! Days are already lengthening, even in the middle of winter and each green bud or bird's song promises that spring will come. At the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre we have a programme of events for 2012, available from the foyer of the Forest Café or online: Google "Wyre Forest Visitor Discovery Centre, Forestry Commission".

When you take to the forest on this month you may wonder how our furry friends are getting on. The grey squirrels will keep you company in all but the nastiest weather, when they stay snuggled up in their dreys. Their buried caches of nuts and acorns should keep them alive, supplemented by freshly foraged plants, roots and fungi.

Badgers, foxes and rabbits shelter from the weather underground. Badgers are able to stay indoors for long periods, using up body fat built up by the bounty of autumn. However, tucked away in their setts, the females may well give birth to the first of the young in January, producing litters of up to five cubs. Foxes and rabbits are more

likely to get desperate for food, taking risks such as being abroad in daylight, and turning to foods that are avoided in better times.

At this time of the year I see groups of fallow does moving through the forest at night or early morning. We have a white doe in the area, very beautiful but not camouflaged at all! The rut is over and fawns will not be born until June.

We hope the hedgehogs, whose decline has been noted by naturalists and media, will find dry places to hibernate and have enough reserves of body fat to get through the winter. Mice, voles and shrews have a tough time, with tiny body mass they need to eat frequently, while evading predators who would like to add them to the menu. The mole is in the best place, searching its tunnels for worms.

There are Health Walks Tuesday and Sunday, 10.30 at the Visitor Centre for an 11.00 start. The walks are free, led by trained leaders, and are especially for those who wish to improve their fitness – perhaps after illness.

*Linda Iles
Forestry Commission*

LOCAL WALKS - LOTS OF THEM

In her usual gentle style, Linda Iles reminds us of the Health Walks available all year round from the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre. Walking in that area has given my family pleasure since we moved here a third of a century ago and it still appeals.

The Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association reminded us of their New Year's Day outing, starting from the Parish Church at 2.00. A merciful hour for those who may have greeted the arrival of 2012 with a little too much enthusiasm. This will be guided walk suitable for newcomers, so an ideal opportunity to glimpse some of the country you can see on foot in wonderful South Shropshire. And with a masterly piece of timing, the ramble will end back at the King's Arms to revive flagging spirits with a wee tittle. A very good social occasion, and we apologise that we did not have earlier notice of the event to advise you in December. Better notice is given of the February 5th outing, starting from the Parish Church at 10.00 in the morning.

The Rock Pathfinders will be out on Thursday the 5th of this month. They meet in the car park off Heronswood Road, Spennells in Kidderminster to start at 10.30. The walk normally takes two to three hours.

And the Pathfinders are out once more on Thursday the 19th, again meeting at 10.30 and on this occasion gathering at the very hospitable Rock Cross Inn.

Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more or you can look in on www.rockvillagehall.co.uk.

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Winter Menu

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Whitebait Served with Tartare Sauce & Salad Garnish £5.50/£10.95

Wild Mushroom Risotto Topped with Rocket & Parmesan Shavings £5.95/£11.95

Smoked Salmon served with Beetroot, Salad &
A Creamy Horseradish Dressing £6.95

Hummus served with Roasted Peppers & Bread £4.50

Hot Belly Pork with Plum Sauce & Dressed Leaves £5.50

Cajun Chicken Strips served with Salad and Garlic Mayonnaise £5.95

All starters served with bread and butter

MAINS

Braised Beef on a Bed of Horseradish Mash £11.95

Beer Battered Cod Served with Chips & Mushy Peas £10.95

Slow Baked Pork Belly with Dauphinoise Potatoes £11.95

Chef's Chicken Curry Served with Rice (Vegetarian option available) £10.50

Lamb Shank in a Red Wine Jus served with Spring Onion Mashed Potato £12.95

Breast of Chicken served in a Creamy Tarragon, White Wine
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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Update for Clarion January 2011

St Mary's: The Remembrance Garden railings were repaired before Remembrance Day. They were subsequently damaged and had to be done again. The Church steps were repaired at the same time because they were dangerous, with pieces missing. A subcommittee meeting of the Historic Core has taken place with the Church group and the new Notice board has been agreed for a local firm to build. Other projects are being looked at around the church.

Streetlights: Two streetlights, in Ronhill Lane and Church Walk have no power but we have submitted all relevant paperwork and both should soon be done. The light in the Church Walk will be replaced by a new streetlight because of the issues of overhead cables.

The Streetlight in the walkway from Steeple Close has been identified by our engineers as dangerous and has now been agreed by Council to be replaced.

A subcommittee of councillors has now been set up to identify any places requiring a streetlight and the first part of the Tenbury Road and the Talbot Yard are two. If anyone has suggestions of any more please let the Clerk know. Also please keep informing the Clerk of any that are not working.

Cemetery: The new paths have now been completed and trees and shrubs been sorted to make it a pleasant place to visit. Two trees have been requested to replace the two diseased trees cut down. These will come from Shropshire council, at no cost to the Parish.

The new Rules and Regulations are on the website and available and from the Clerk, also a committee of councillors is now looking into the extension of the Cemetery for future generations' peace of mind.

Highways: Road markings of the Disabled bay outside chemist and the SLOW signs on the road outside the Primary School have been agreed and waiting for the contractors.

New Child crossing signs by primary school have now been placed.

The Zebra crossing raised concerns of visibility and after a meeting with Highways, Nick the CSO, Cllr G Hainsworth and Clerk, High Visibility LED lights have been fitted.

Parking: The Parking Review maps have been received from Highways and the subcommittee now have to meet and decide the way forward with Public consultation. Look out for the map in the Market Hall. All responses will be collected by the Clerk.

Toilets: The Clerk is waiting for Shropshire Council to confirm New Toilets plans are correct before moving forward. Tenders will then be required to get them built by the new car park in Childe Road, where services are already in place.

Precept: This will be kept the same as last year with no increase to council tax from the Parish Council even though we have to take on more, like the running of the new toilets. This is helped by the councillors securing grants and funding throughout the year, like the 75% of the cost for the new Bus Shelters, saving £7,500.

Bus Stops: After complaints made to the Clerk, we will be arranging a meeting in the New Year with all relevant departments to identify and mark all bus stops in the town.

Next Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th January at 7.00pm in the Market Hall.



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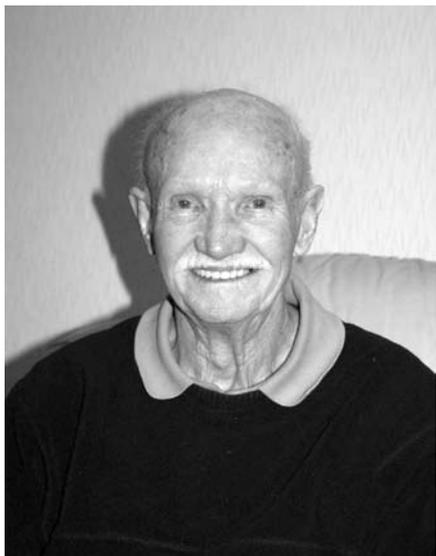
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Clarion Character - Tony Booton



The smile says it all. Tony Booton is a man happy with life.

Tony Booton is Cleobury born and bred. He came into this world in a cottage on the Ludlow Road shortly before his family moved up the road to Stepple Lodge. Dad was a farm labourer and luxuries were few; when Tony started school at six, he walked into Cleobury with his mum. At ten years he came in on his own to the old Lacon Childe School in Childe Road. Eventually the school bus route was changed and he rode in.

At 15 he went to work for Bill Shaw as a farm labourer, doing a wide range of jobs from driving to hedging and stock care. It was a long week, 7.00 to 6.00 five days a week, 7.00 to 1.00 Saturday and occasionally 7.00 to 9.30 and 3.30 to 6.00 on Sunday. It was hard work, like muck spreading with a pitchfork, unloading from a

horse drawn cart. He saved hard and bought his first motorbike, a 1935 Royal Enfield that broke its frame when he took off over the bridge at the waterworks on Catherton Road. End of bike.

He moved on to a succession of jobs when Bill Shaw let men go. He was one of a road maintenance gang, based at Pinkham where the Medical Centre now stands, mending, resurfacing and widening the highway. "All done by hand. Stones laid down eleven inches deep at the edges, tapering to seven inches at the crown of the road. Then put a drystone cap over it all and wait for the Barber-Greene machine to come along and put the tarmac on top." The hours were 7.30 to 5.00 in the summer. with an earlier 4.30 stop in the winter.

In 1964 Tony was taken on as boiler man at the City of Coventry Boarding School. Today it's the British Youth for Christ Action Centre and he's still working there. "I retired at 65 and we were out shopping in Solihull when I got a call from Tim Stone, asking if I could do a few days to help them out. I asked when they wanted me to start and he said 'Tomorrow'! At 76 he's doing three mornings a week and still enjoying it: "You're never bored, there's always something to do."

He's become part of the local scenery, married to Meryl since

1961, ex member of the Fire Brigade and a man who's seen a lot of change.

"When I moved back into Cleobury from Stepple I was 15 and knew everyone by name. The Muller Sports Ground was opposite the Fire Station and Furlongs Road was the tennis courts. Geoff Andrews had his timber yard down at Pinkham."

"Tom Pain had the T H Pain Sawmills behind where Tuffins is, with Pain's Garage at the front. Across the road, behind the Three Horseshoes, was T H Pain again, where you could get your horses shod or they'd make you a cart on site. "

"Further up, at 57 High Street, was Ralph Jones's Bakery, where Ashley's is now; This was before they developed Mortimer Gardens. When I was working for Purslow's, we used to carry the coke up the alley at the side to Ralph Jones's for the ovens."

"In the 1950s Charles's Coaches were parked in Lion Lane and they used to have taxis at Lower Street Garage. There used to be a fish and chip shop on the car park there."

"There were no houses down Catherton Road in the 1960s and we used to to walk in from Stepple, where we had paraffin lamps and an outside toilet at the cottage, to the cinema owned by T H Pain. Cleobury's a great place for children to grow up - then and now."

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



Mystery Mostly Solved

This picture of snowy Clarvers Field in 1947, published in our November issue, brought a response from Clare Borton, whose mum Heather Sanders, nee Downes, was there and saw the picture being taken. She naturally recognised some of the faces. Left to right, she identified her brother Tommy Downes, Diane Pearson with her father Arthur, Sylvia King (now Brown), unknown lad in cap, Dick Skellern, Margaret Brown, unknown lad in cap, June Cook, Lewis Munkley and Teddy Lane.

CALLING SOCCER VETERANS

Derick Pearce writes:

We are holding a fund-raising day on May 12th, prior to the Cup Final, in aid of Midlands Air Ambulance, in conjunction with The Nightingale Nursing Fund.

We hope to organise two football matches, Junior and Senior. The Senior match between ex Springvale Rovers players and Clee Hill United players, in memory of Dave Broome and Dereck Martin, who both sadly passed way in 2009.

Anyone who can help in any way at all is invited to a meeting at Cleobury Sports and Social Club on Sunday, January 15th at 8.00, or contact me on 01299

270599. Any help or offer of support will be much appreciated. *Derick Pearce*

THE HOLE IN THE WALL EXPANDS

The popular Hole In The Wall festival now covers two musical weekends, as the Shifest moves from Stottesdon to Hopton Court to be taken under the Hole's wing in 2012.

The Shifest will be over the weekend of May 3rd to 5th and the Hole In The Wall biggy follows in July, spanning from the 13th to the 15th.

More information on the web: www.holeinthewallfestival.co.uk

CHARITY WHIST DRIVE

Early notice of a whist drive to be held in the Victory Hall in

Clows Top on Thursday, February 2nd. It starts at 8.00 and all proceeds will go to a breast cancer charity. Donations of prizes are very welcome and if you can help, please speak to Christine on CM 270741 or Joy on CM 270741.

FILM TREATS COMING

Too late for inclusion in the Monthly Calendar is news of some film treats coming to the Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

From the 17th to 19th this month is a screening of Madonna's 'My Week With Marilyn' and on the 25th and 26th they offer 'Wuthering Heights.' Start times 7.30, seats not expensive and the Booking Office is on 01584 878141. You can reserve seats.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE UPDATE

Jenny MacRorie has the news:

Our Annual General Meeting will be on January 19th, at 7.00pm in the Market Hall. It will start with a presentation of the Patient Survey by Jacqui Lewis. Everyone is welcome to attend - you can find out just what we do.

After all the merriment over Christmas, now's the time to think about our own health. The NHS has a good website, called NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx

And a message from Cleobury Pharmacy:

We are very proud to be working with Shropshire's very own free NHS Stop Smoking Service, called Help 2 Quit. We will be offering all who would like help to stop smoking some professional one-to-one advice, over a 12 week bespoke programme to meet individual needs.

To make an appointment, call the pharmacy on CM 270219, or for further information contact the Help 2 Quit office 01743 366940.

All at the pharmacy, Medical Centre and CPV wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

CROWDS AT THE CROWN

Terry Robertson has been a busy landlord at The Crown in Hopton Wafers. The place was recently fully booked for three nights for a television crew filming The Victorian Farm at Acton Scott. Weddings at nearby Hopton Court also keep him busy, as well as the popular shoots.

A very generous personal touch was his donation of a table of ten for dinner, to be auctioned at the church fund raising ball.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING

After the removal of cardboard recycling via the Green Wheelie Bins, the Cleobury Country Environmental Forum did some serious lobbying. The result is a cardboard recycle bank at the Sports Centre site - hooray!

Please remember to flatten all boxes when using the unit, so that we get maximum capacity of use. In the post Christmas weeks all those Amazon boxes have to go somewhere, so please use the facility wisely.

SILENCED BELLS

Alec Osbaldiston explains:

The bells of Saint Mary's Church will be silent from about mid January until the end of February whilst repairs and general maintenance work is

carried out to the bells and their fittings. A recent report suggested it was time to carry out necessary repairs to maintain the six bells for future generations.

One major part of the work is to remove the cast-in crown staples and their remains as these are by far the most common cause of old bells becoming cracked. The bells were originally installed in 1757 and the last overhaul was in 1925 when they were re-hung in a cast iron frame.

The clock will still be ticking and keeping time but will not be striking the hour until the work is completed.

Alec Osbaldiston.

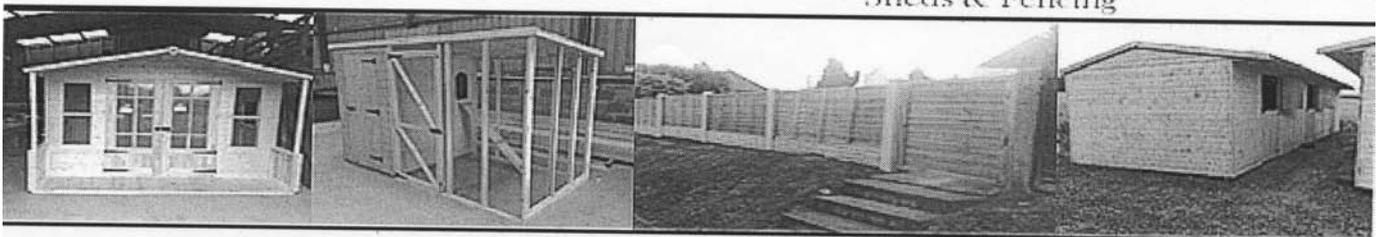
FOOTPATH NEWS

Congratulations to Joy Wilkinson, elected Secretary of the Footpath Association at their recent AGM. She replaces Graham Simpson, standing down through ill health.

They are very careful people in the matter of money. In fact the finances are so good that there will not be a membership charge this year. Later this month they'll gather at the Live and Let Live in Neen Sollars, with quite a lot to celebrate. If only we could get them to run a bank or two for the country....

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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Where can I get it?

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury Mortimer from: Lower Street Garage, The Library, Spar Grocery, Baldwin's Bookshop, The Post Office, Cleobury News, McCartneys Estate Agents, Farlow Estates, Harry Tuffin's and Talbot Stores.

Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**, **Clee Hill** Post Office, **Cleobury North** Village Store, **Clows Top** Post Office, The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**, **Hopton Bank** Service Station, **Mawley Oak** Garage, The Fighting Cocks at **Stottesdon**, The Duck Inn at **Chorley**, The Live and Let Live at **Neen Sollars**, The Eagle and Serpent at **Kinlet** and Parker Motors at **Ditton Priors**.

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

The Cleobury Clarion is proud to be member of the Cleobury Mortimer Chamber of Trade

Clarion Contact - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane.. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri. You can also contact the new Shropshire Council free of charge.

CHAMBER OF TRADE - 01299 270279. Mrs Lesley Burnside is the Chair.

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 **PC Tony Sewell** direct at: anthony.sewell@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.

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

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. For help over the first few weeks back home.

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

MARKET HALL- Dorothy on CM270324, 07761 976650 mobile or mcbrideneenpc@aol.com

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. At weekends, the Shrop Doc Service.

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. The number there is 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 an open session before the business meeting starts.

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

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270833. Mrs Pat Smith is the coordinator.

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Crown Cottages • Bagginswood OIRO £297,00

Full of character and charm this semi detached cottage is situated in a rural position surrounded with the beautiful countryside. Originally used a public house, the four-bedroom property has been improved by the current owners.

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