

The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

July 2017

MOFFATS SCHOOL TO CLOSE

Such sad news that Moffats School is to close at the end of the month. It started life in 1934, founded by Natalie Engleheart in Hertfordshire and taking its name from the house there. It moved around during the 1939-45 World War until settling at Kinlet Hall 71 years ago, with the Engleheart family involved up to the present day.

It has followed the established tradition of remaining small in terms of numbers, which makes for a family atmosphere for the younger children, who would find a large establishment overwhelming. Chairman Julian Engleheart explained that the financial pressure on a small establishment is such in this numbers-ruled world that to commit to another year was not realistic.

We understand that there will continue to be educational events at the Hall and the Clarion will be happy to help publicise those happenings. We wish the family and staff well in the future.

A GREAT SUCCESS



The reputation of the Cleobury Mortimer Lectures took a great step upwards with a luminary of Professor Mary Beard's standing opening the 2017 season. Professor Beard spoke in her usual relaxed and informative style about 'What the Romans Did for Us' and took a lot of informed questions afterwards, clearly impressed by a Parish Church filled to capacity and the depth of interest in the subject matter.

In her established light hearted manner, she confessed that she had been intrigued by

the invitation to speak here for the simple reason that it was written in Latin. How else would Robert Hodge make our appeal stand out to a Professor of Classics at Cambridge? She did say the Latin was not of the best, which quite mortified poor Robert, who confessed that he'd spent two days getting it right.

There is one more date to complete the series. Robert will talk about 'Not Belonging' in the Parish Church at 7.30 on July 6th. More details on Page 39.

THE BIGGEST CLARION EVER

At 68 pages, this is the biggest ever issue of the Cleobury Clarion. It's come a long way from the 24 pages of the first back in 2005.

The growth reflects an ever increasing demand for advert space and the need to add more pages of editorial to keep a balance between the commercial side and the local news stories.

It will not get any bigger than this unless Glint Print buy a bigger capacity collator. But we doubt if the editor could cope with more anyway.

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The Cleobury Clarion, July 2017

Volume Fifteen - Edition Four



*Scary people loose on the Town
Playing Field.
See Pages 11 and 12.*



*You wouldn't believe what this lady
got as her very special Christmas
present. And how did he wrap it?
See Page 17.*



*John May. Lots of experience is
behind his advice.
In Business - Page 63.*

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All 64 pages and the adverts



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IN PRAISE OF...

Walking round the house without shoes at 6.30 am, I had the unpleasant sensation of treading on a wet patch of carpet. Was it the dog's fault? No, and it was right in the middle of the house, nowhere near any plumbing. While standing, wet-footed and worried, I heard the plop of a drop of water falling onto the carpet. I looked up the stairwell, then raced up the stairs to track down the leak. Once at the head of the stairs, I could see water coming through the ceiling – a worrying conclusion on a rainy day. Action stations! Sprint down the stairs and out to the workshop, grab the step-ladder, sprint (well, hurry) back up three flights of stairs, set up the ladder, push open the trapdoor, and clamber into the roof space. Was rain coming through the roof? Thank goodness, it wasn't. A brief scabble around in the loft insulation revealed the problem – a leaking connection to the cold water header tank, producing a regular drip, but nothing too serious.

I decided to wait a couple of hours before phoning a plumber. Sadly, the man on whom I've relied for years (Tom Cartwright) has hung up his Stilsons, so I phoned Nick Wilkinson of NJ Plumbing and Heating, who had installed a whole new oil-fired heating system for us in 2014. I got through to Nick about 9.30, explained the problem, and he promised to come round in

about an hour. He duly turned up, inspected the tank, and set about draining the whole system. By noon – job done! To go from early morning panic to complete solution in a few hours was more than I would have dared to hope. Good work, Nick!

Mark Baldwin

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

July, the garden should now be looking its best. However, if some of the early summer perennials have finished flowering and are looking a bit shabby, you can tidy up these with a 'July Chop'.

It's time to plant autumn-flowering bulbs, once you've checked that they are healthy. Bulbs are a problem-free way of adding late colour to the garden.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with other members. We have a great programme of speakers as well as evening visits to local gardens.

Our next meeting will be on July 26th, when the speaker will be Adam Greathead on 'A Garden Divided'.

Pauline Bowen

CLOWS TOP SUMMER GARDEN SHOW

August 19th is the date for this year's annual Summer Show at Clows Top. This show is open to anyone who likes to grow their own vegetables or flowers,

making your own jams, cakes, biscuits, or handicraft and floral art skills. There's even a children's section so there's something for all the family. The show is in Clows Top Victory Hall with plenty of parking at the rear. Schedules are available from Clows Top Shop, Colliers Farm Shop and Forest Stores.

The show opens at 2.00pm with an admission fee of £1.00.

There will be horticultural exhibits, refreshments, tombola, plant stall and other side shows. Stall holders welcome; pre-book with Marion for availability. A raffle will be held on the day. The cups will be presented at 4.00pm followed by the raffle. All enquiries to Marion Wilson 01299 270475.

THANK YOU FROM MACMILLAN CANCER CARE

Can you please include in the Clarion our thanks to everyone who contributed to the £201-16 collected at the May 20th street collection in aid of Macmillan.

We are very grateful for everyone's continuing support.

Sue Henderson

FREE PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Any Clarion reader who uses a Canon MP560 Pixma printer is welcome to my collection of back-up ink cartridges. They are CK520 and 521, in all colours, and are free if you will collect them. See Page 63 for contact details.

Jim Reynolds

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We have readers in Hong Kong, New Zealand and America.



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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The organisers of the Community Day on June 10th are to be commended for well-attended and enjoyable events throughout the town. The Social Club was extremely busy with children and their parents enjoying the Junior Disco in the afternoon, followed by Ruth, singing 'Through The Decades' which was well supported by the older generation.

Zoe Partington, as part of 'Curating Communities' in Lacon Childe School asked Cleobury townfolk to share their memories of Cleobury Mortimer through photographs, stories, memorabilia, anything related to the town's past and present. The response was great, with the material contributed forming part of an exhibition to be held in the Social Club and other venues in 2018. This is part of a larger project to attract arts and culture for all generations to Cleobury Mortimer, putting the town well and truly on the map.

CM Rugby Club invite you to 'Breakfast with The Lions' in the Club on Saturday 1st and Saturday 8th July. The British Lions Test matches will be shown on the Club's TVs, with

full English breakfast being served from 8.00 at a cost of £5.

CM Volleyball Club are organising a Fun Volleyball Tournament on Lacon Childe School field on Saturday, 15th July between 12.30 and 5pm. On the evening of the 15th July, the band Two Blank Pages will be playing in the Club from 8.30pm onwards, entry is free.

Also on July 15th, CM Cricket Club will be playing Knighton, starting at 1.00, followed by a BBQ from 7.00 onwards.

This year's Clubfest will be on August 19th, preparations are well under way.

As always, please contact Club Steward Andy Goold for further details via our Facebook page or on 01299 271488.

Glenys Turpin

THE POETRY CLUB

Kay Downes is a new member of the club, who found listening to others read works about the First World War was an inspiration to pen some memorable lines herself.

REMEMBER US

Their lives have gone, their time so brief.

And Death has come, that cruel thief.

They left for war 'mid shouts and waves

That speed them on to early graves.

And now they lie in Flanders field

Their broken bodies long concealed.

We heed them still, every one, Those husbands, brothers, fathers, sons.

And in the grey before the dawn We hear their whispers so forlorn.

"Remember us, who lie here still,

Against our wish, against our will.

Think of us with love and pride, Remind us why we fought and died."

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This busy and friendly club's walks for July are:

Thursday the 6th: Meet at 10.30 in the Viewpoint opposite the Kremlin Inn at Clee Hill Village. SY8 3LZ or OS 595753.

Thursday the 20th: Meet at 10.30 at the Colliers Arms, Tenbury Road, Bewdley. DY14 9HA or OS 765745.

All walkers welcome, walks take two to three hours. More information from Alan on 01299 400304 or www.rockpathfinders.16mb.com

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THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

It should be easy for creative people to take on a new idea, and at our June meeting we did just that. New member Ann Webber explained that in New Zealand a writing group would have a special test, writing about an object without once saying what it was.

So that is one of the options we have: either write about a barn without mentioning that word, or write any story or script using the three words consequence, steeple and stillness, all within 1000 words. We meet at the library at 6.30 on Monday the 10th to see how creative we have been.

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

It's probably fair to say that of all the industries that will be affected by Brexit when it finally happens, farming is facing some of the greatest uncertainty. Over 70% of agri-business exports currently flow to the EU, which provides over £2.5 billion in annual farm payments to UK farmers.

So it is timely to hear of the Farming Community Network, which seeks to support farmers and families within the farming

community through difficult times. It provides free, confidential and practical help to around 6,000 people a year on a range of farming-related issues, including financial difficulties, animal disease, mental health and family disputes. Many of its 400 volunteers across England and Wales are involved with farming, and will "walk with people" to help them solve their problems. They can be contacted on 03000 111 999.

Prescription charges have risen again, now £8.60 for each item. Perhaps less well known is the Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC). This costs £29.60 per quarter, or £104 for a year, and offers significant savings if you are having to buy more than one prescription item every month. The 12-month PPC can even be paid for in monthly instalments if you use Direct Debit. It's an NHS scheme and the pharmacy can provide a leaflet and more details.

Talking of Cleobury's pharmacy, many who live in the more remote parts of our area with little access to transport have benefitted in recent years from its free delivery service. Thanks to Government cuts to the funding of community

pharmacies, it has had no option but to introduce a fee of £1 per delivery in partial support of the service's continuation. It has also rationalized its delivery timetable, and most villages will only receive deliveries on one day each week (e.g. Coreley and Hopton on Mondays; Far Forest on Tuesdays; Highley and Stottesdon on Wednesdays, etc.). This means that if you rely on this delivery service, you will need to factor this into your timing when ordering repeat prescriptions. More information from the pharmacy itself on 01299 270219.

CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We welcome new members so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area.

TEASER BIT

Q: If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go to find the letter 'A'?

A: One thousand.

Q: What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A: Honey



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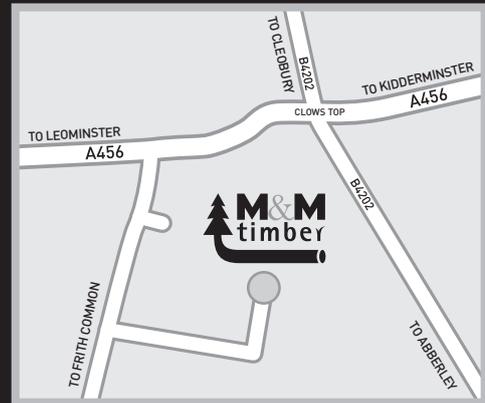
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CLEOBURY'S COMMUNITY DAY

What a success that was. There was a great deal of thinking and hard work put into one day, with an enthusiastic response from all sorts of clubs, services and local businesses. They were rewarded with a dry day and a steady stream of people for most of the open hours.

In the Market Hall Clare Carter was assuring us that people would start to arrive at about 11.00 and was proved spot on. Downstairs Marion Wilson sold plants and Pam Elmer pictures and postcards, while upstairs Edwin Sayer and Vicky Winterbourne were talking books and selling a few while Iris Todd worked at her spinning wheel and Myfanwe Baldwin quietly progressed the weaving of a wicker chair seat.

Corrina Payton's 'Moonshine Designs' attracted attention with their bottle bases and matching shades. She was happy with sales, her customers perhaps reminded of the potions that had once left them with a hangover. You have to admit, using liquor bottles as the base for lamps is good way of building your stock.

Behind the church Fee, Rachel and Jem were giving very popular glass blowing demonstrations with a portable kiln purchased thanks to help from the town's capital fund. More about them when we can sit and talk at length - they were busy all day.

There was a variety of music in the church, but the editor's inability to resist the cakes and tea on offer stopped him going in. We talked to Carol Turner

later, who'd spent most of the day serving and talking to visitors, including one couple on holiday in the area who were most impressed by the community spirit the day generated. The church funds were swelled by the catering and people who had never been in there before found a friendly welcome and a warm old building. If anyone took up the offer of a bell ringing trial we don't know.

John Carter opened his back garden cottage as a gallery for his range of artworks and hand made furniture. The place is a model of what you can achieve with an older house, modest funds and artistic flair.

Just up The Hurst was John and Daphne Tuck's open garden, which people were enthusing about. Walk through the gate and you could see why, it's a magic place with lots of modest sheds made attractive with colour and artwork. So much to see and I did like the carved figures: "Just some Thermolite blocks I found behind the shed," explained John.

In the Primary School was artwork portraying the town in different ways, each alternative the work of a particular year. The offering from the Reception Class was a real eye catcher. All in the hall, where artwork is evident around the walls. Inspirational for young minds.

Lacon Childe gave emphasis to a series of memories from past students, outlining their life since moving on. Quite a revelation to see where talented people have gone since getting a good start at our local

comprehensive, or should I be calling it an academy now? The tributes to members of staff and the effect they had was quite an eye opener.

Unheralded was the young lady sitting in the reception area and singing to her acoustic guitar accompaniment. By the time I had read the past pupils' notes she had finished and I didn't have a chance to listen to her properly or to get her name.

On the Sports Field the Fire and Rescue lads had an appliance and a crowd of children climbing all over the vehicle, trying on helmets, then some of them lining up to use the water hose with just a little adult assistance. Smiles all round measured the success of that idea. The police chatted and gave advice while in the Sports and Social Club there was Junior Disco and further entertainment to round off the day when the rest had closed and gone home after a long and successful day.

There was a great deal to see and I didn't manage to get to the Methodist Church Hall art show, but Stroma Lennox reported another busy day there for an established event. Similarly, time restrictions did not allow looking in at the Medical Centre. A lack of information about planned events there apart from Walking for Health outings did not help planning.

The day should be considered in comparison with the first such event last year. This was a huge advance and reports from the post event meeting suggest that it will become an annual event. There are details to improve, but this was a really good day.

AND THE DAY IN PICTURES



'Moonshine Designs' is the neat name for Corrina Payton's very individual lampshades.



Myfanwe Baldwin attends a chair seat while Sophia Evans looks on and learns.



You would expect young children to be more than ready to try spraying a fire hose. And you'd be right.



The town, through the eyes of one Primary School class.



In John and Daphne Tuck's garden, this is what two Thermolite blocks can become.



This is one of the most attractive aspects of the day. Young children lost in wonder as they discover something new.

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SHROP DOC SERVICE 'OUTSTANDING'

Philip Dunne has congratulated ShropDoc on receiving an Outstanding rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Following inspection in February, the CQC rated ShropDoc's Out-Of-Hours service as Outstanding, highlighting particular success in delivering a caring service, responsive to people's needs, and well-led services. Feedback from service users was also highlighted in the report, where ShropDoc performed above the national average.

Mr Dunne said: "I congratulate the staff and GPs for securing an Outstanding rating from the Care Quality Commission. As a Health Minister during the past year I have visited other out-of-hours and NHS 111 services elsewhere in the country which have been looking to the model of clinician led triaging pioneered by ShropDoc as the best model on which to emulate their NHS 111 services."

CLEOBURY W.I.

We were pleased to be able to present a cheque for £200 to Mark Greaves and baby Ezra representing St Mary's Youth Project; the community benefits hugely from such a vibrant and caring organisation. Anji reported on the National AGM in Liverpool, now work starts on the resolutions to alleviate loneliness and prevent 'plastic soup' in the oceans.

Local florist Claire Bradley showed off her skills and inspired all members and visitors to create beautiful table arrangements including a wonderful variety of flowers and

foliage brought from members' gardens. June 27th was an evening outing to the superb secret garden in Ludlow, with equally superb coffee and cake. All are welcome to the Market Hall on July 11th at 7.30pm to learn about the History of Afternoon Tea. More information on Cleobury Mortimer WI's Facebook page or contact me: on 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com.

Judy Sant

ONIBURY CROSSING CLOSED

Urgent repair work is needed on the level crossing at Onibury on the A49 Ludlow to Shrewsbury route. The effect will be the road closed to pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles from July 1st until the weekend of 8/9th. It's a big job, renewing the crossing and upgrading the track.

Diversions will be posted for the regular North to South A49 traffic flow, but for Cleobury Country people the more logical option will be the Bridgnorth Road, with a left fork after the Halfway House to pick up Telegraph Lane and join the A458 Shrewsbury Road. It will inevitably be crowded during the work period, but a lot better than joining the crowd filling the lanes to skirt around Onibury.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

In the summer months we concentrate on keeping paths clear of encroaching growth. Nettles, bramble, bracken and hedges.

We do large jobs by work parties and smaller ones individually. Some of you will have noticed that in June we did "Jacobs Ladder" the path from

Ronhill to Furlongs. We also cleared the riverside paths at Neen Sollars.

Occasionally we are delighted to come across paths which have been cleared by someone else. If that is you, we would be pleased if you got in touch. Please e-mail on footpaths@cmfa.co.uk

Our next Parish Walk on Sunday July 2nd will be on a route around the Milson area. Please check posters in town or the website www.cmfa.co.uk for details. Note that we do not have a walk in August.

Graham Simpson

BAYTON CHURCH FETE

This sounds like a fine example of a traditional village fete, based in the grounds of Bayton School and the neighbouring Village Hall. So the setting is great for a start.

It opens at 2.00 on Saturday the 8th of this month, with a Bouncy Castle, Coconut Shy, Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip running all afternoon. Naturally there will be refreshments, plus a licensed bar. Entertainment will be provided by the children of the School and the Brass Ensemble of the West Mercia Police Band, courtesy of David Taylor.

All proceeds from the fete will go to help with the running costs of the three churches in Bayton, Clows Top and Mamble. The extensive work on Bayton church continues, with the projected opening in October.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Errol Dyer, recently featured on these pages, whose picture 'Hare With Attitude' was chosen by Society of Amateur Artists to make him SAA Artist of the Year



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PERFECT PARTNERS



Mike and Shelly Roberts with her Christmas present, eight litres of turbo-charged Volvo tipper.

We've written about Shelly Roberts before, when her Volvo FL6 tipper truck had recently clocked up 1,000,000 kilometres. That faithful old servant has just been retired, partly because Shelly had a back problem that required surgery and she really did deserve a little more in the way of creature comforts.

That old truck was a tribute to Volvo quality and careful driving and maintenance. It has now covered 1,200,000 miles and stands in the yard, waiting to be rebuilt. We quizzed Mike about the replacements it has needed since he bought it brand new in

1992. "It's had a couple of clutches and a new head gasket at about 800,000 miles. I thought I'd have to do the bearings then, but it was all OK. And it's had a new gearbox because the shell was cracked - they're known to do that. We found one that a chap was breaking and fitted that."

It's unusual in having both a turbocharger and a positive supercharger: "It's a fire engine unit, cost an extra £5,000 when I bought it new." The tipper body is the original, an alloy unit made in Wisbech that gives the truck a carrying capacity of 11 tonnes in its regular haulage work in the local area. "It's a pretty good record, considering it's all been up and down Clew Hill," he grins.

Mike does the maintenance on the trucks, except when they're still under warranty. He was trained at Leyland Trucks in Lancashire, because his father Chris ran Leylands in the family transport business, and can take on just about any mechanical job. The restoration of the FL6 will be handled by them both.

Shelley's new truck is an eight litre turbo-diesel Volvo called Molly. It came from South Wales with over 500,000 kilometres on the clock and it's getting a smart paint job in between hauling

aggregate and asphalt materials to local construction and highway sites. It's relatively small compared with the big haulers we see passing through Cleobury, but that's an advantage when most of your work is in a rural area with narrow lanes where the monsters are just too big to get in and out again.

That's Shelly's speciality, the ability to deliver to difficult sites. Like the current work getting stone and gravel to an embankment slip on the Severn Valley Railway at Severn Lodge Farm. She backs down to tip the load onto the tracked vehicle that's the only thing that can get through. She does like her new daily ride: "I've got air conditioning and a comfortable seat!"

Mike's own Volvo is a very serious piece of metalwork, with a 13 litre turbo-diesel power unit putting out 560 horsepower through a 12-speed automatic gearbox. "Easier to drive than the car," he assures me with another grin.

They grin a lot, these two. Not what you might expect from people whose working day can start before 5.00, but they're totally engrossed in what they do and they obviously do it very well.

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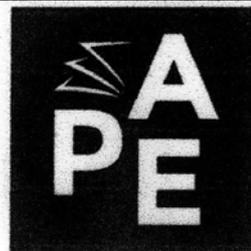


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At Severn Edge Vets Ltd we pride ourselves on continually investing in our facilities, our branches, and being up to date with the latest treatments. A recent addition for female dogs is key hole neutering, a modern approach to spaying which results in less pain, lower risk and faster recovery. Our vet, Daniel Nicholls, talks here about the method and the extraordinary benefits it can bring to the recovery process of your pet.

Key-hole (Laparoscopic) surgery is something that was barely on my radar at university. It was always something that was discussed as possible but not really normal practice. So, when I started at Severn Edge, key-hole surgery wasn't something I had seen much of or had much experience with. It's only since being here I have seen an array of operations that have been done using key-hole methods. My eyes have most definitely been opened to the possibilities.

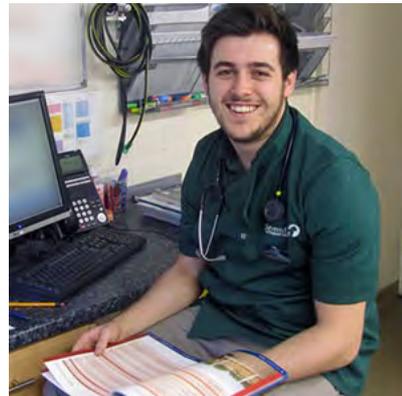
Key-hole surgery isn't something new in human medicine but it's only in the last decade or so that it has emerged in the veterinary world. It can be used for a variety of operations that were previously done by more invasive methods, often opening the animal up (laparotomy) in the traditional method giving you total access to the abdomen.

Why bother with this new stuff? The benefits are mainly seen in the recovery of the animal following the operation. Having abdominal surgery for example is a very painful experience and although we try our best to alleviate that pain using medications, often the discomfort from the surgery is there regardless. Key-hole surgery means that instead of a large hole required to access the cavity, a couple of small holes are used instead. This means there is a lot less trauma to the skin and muscle layers so therefore

much less pain and less time needing to be rested. This all means your animal gets back to normal life quicker than ever before.

There are a variety of situations and surgical procedures that key-hole is suitable for. At the moment the routine surgery we are doing at Severn Edge is a keyhole ovariectomy (spay). However, we are now using the technique more and more for other things such as taking liver biopsies for patients with liver disease that needs investigating and removing retained testicles (cryptorchid) in male dogs. In my time seeing and performing key-hole operations, I have already seen the dramatic improvement in recovery times and pain experienced post operatively. I am excited to see what we can use the technique for next, so that we can constantly progress and improve our patient's quality of care.

Dr Dan Nicholls BVMedSci BVM BVS MRCVS



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ROLAND EMETT AT CHELSEA

A visit to the Chelsea Flower Show at the end of May led to a discovery for Mike and myself: the work of eccentric British artist/engineer, Roland Emmet. A floral stand was dedicated to his memory, displaying some of his fantastical machines and automata from a larger installation.

Emett was born in London, the son of a businessman and amateur inventor; and educated at Waverley Grammar School in Birmingham; and he studied at the Birmingham School of Arts and Crafts when one of his landscapes, *Cornish Harbour*, was exhibited at the Royal Academy, and is now in the Tate collection. His WWII service entailed working as a draughtsman for the Air Ministry, but he still worked on his cartoons in his spare time. Later, he was published in *Punch* magazine; designed scenes for the Globe Theatre; produced kinetic sculptures for the Festival of Britain; machines for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; and the kinetic water clock in the Victoria Centre, Nottingham amongst others. I can't help thinking that the late, loved,

eccentric Arthur Lane would have greatly admired his work.

The stand at Chelsea, produced by Birmingham City Council, displayed Emmet's '*A Quiet Afternoon in the Cloud Cuckoo Valley*', and it was the largest "mechanical thing" (his words) he'd created before he died in 1990. It was a Heath-Robinson type of scenario populated by whimsical machines and figurines. Sadly, it never went on display in his lifetime, but it has recently been restored and exhibited at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and again brought entertainingly to life in the floral display at Chelsea.

It stands seven metres tall and around eleven metres in circumference, and consists of eight separate sculptures, each of which moves in an ingenious and co-ordinated way to charming musical accompaniment. There's a train with a Mrs Fanshawe sitting elegantly in 1st class; a bike with birds living in the lamp; an ornithologist disguised as a tree; a squirrel stealing from a picnic; and farmer playing the harp to his cows in the meadow. Emmet said, "The first principle in science is to create something

nice to look at and then decide what it can do."

The full collection can be seen on video at www.cloudcuckoovalley.com. In addition, the Rowland Emmet Society (who are appealing for support to conserve this amazing collection) can be reached at www.rolandemett.com.

Linda Fowler

(I've visited the Cloud Cuckoo Valley site and it's a real rib tickler JR)

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David Eve

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A CLEOBURY MEN'S SHED

I expect all Clarion readers either own their own shed or know a man who does. A tiny sanctuary all of one's own, a haven from which all manner of creative and productive things might emerge, if only a man at peace with himself for time well spent in a manner of his choosing.

In Australia early in the 21st century, it was noted that some older men were withdrawing from society and so becoming isolated. The response to this was to develop the theme of one man in his shed and to create the social setting of 'Men in Sheds.' The idea and its inherent benefits took off, flourished and spread across the world. The Sheds provide a place for men to meet and interact side by side, to learn new skills and to share knowledge. Members work on their own or community projects, experiencing personal achievement and engaging with their community.

For 12 years 'Men in Sheds in Shropshire' has been helping groups of men to establish Men's Sheds in their own community and they are keen to come and help in Cleobury. The

Sheds they help to create are places where men can work and socialise together and where they feel welcomed and valued. They believe it is crucial to the long term success of a shed that those involved drive all the decision making themselves.

Cleobury Compassionate Communities are keen to fund and get this project off the ground. The feelers are out for suitable premises and a few men have already expressed an interest.

If you would like to find out more there will be an inspiring talk from 'Men in Sheds in Shropshire' in the near future. Please contact Katja on 07966 0 8 0 1 1 1 o r cleoburycoco@hotmail.com if you would like to come along. For more information about how it all works see www.misis.org.uk

Katja Jones

A JOB WELL DONE

It was about 6.00pm on Thursday June 17th, when I found myself stood next to our Town Clerk, Matt Sheehan. I happened to query who was responsible for the hedgerow overhanging the pathway across Pudding Brook at the back of the coal yard as it was almost impossible to walk across there

without being caught in the foliage or falling in the brook.

Matt advised it was the responsibility of the households whose gardens backed onto the path, but he would look into it and see what he could do. Fast forward to 7.00pm Friday June 18th when I was on my way to Pinkham across the aforementioned path. All the hedgerow was cut back, neat and tidy, allowing a safe and easy walk.

If that isn't a man doing his job I don't know what is. Well done, Matt.

Peter Colquitt

CYGNET COTTAGE OPEN MORNING

To celebrate the completion of renovations at 12 Church Street, everyone is invited to a coffee morning on Tuesday July 4th, from 10.45 to 12.45. The house has been completely restored and will be available as a holiday let. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Severn Hospice whose local shop has been a fantastic source of furnishings.

Judy Sant

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THE READING GROUP

'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou.

All members were present this month and agreed this was a great read. Published in 1969 the title is taken from a poem written by Maya the same year as this autobiography. In beautiful prose, she tells of her tumultuous life from three to sixteen years old in the 1930s, much of it spent in a small rural Southern black community. It is a direct, vivid narrative with humorous parts and a real eye opener to the life of a black person in that era. Her endurance, courage and resilience is remarkable. She is at first curious and later forgiving about the inequality and hate she encounters. It is amazing how she fights for her rights and achieves so much, although that part of her life is not revealed in this volume. Much of our meeting was taken up by discussions regarding racism, both cultural and general and how there is still a long way to go in this area. For July we read 'The Hundred Year Old Man Who Disappears' by Jonas Jonasson. We meet on July 17th for what promises to be an

amusing evening. For more information contact Deana Kimber (271754).

BURWARTON BECKONS

Preparations for the annual Burwarton show have stepped up a gear with tradestand space fully allocated providing visitors with a wide variety of interesting displays. Marking out the showground will begin mid-July leading up to the big day.

Lots of interesting features around the showground so make sure you visit as many as possible Ken Hughes stonemason, Beez Neez honey with a working hive, rare-breed poultry display, Mediterranean donkeys, alpacas, Charlie, the Acton Scott working horse, who visits every year for his annual outing and much more.

A visit to the Horse field is a must where there are seven rings of competitions to keep you entertained all through the day. Liz Brown, author of Cayman Star (The True Story of a Horse's Life) and Cayman Havana (True Story of a Horse's Return) will be on site promoting her books and has generously offered a copy of each as prizes. Later in the day

at about 4.00 the Ludlow Hunt Pony Club Games will provide thrills and spills for your delight.

The very popular Livestock area will again be bursting at the seams with cattle, sheep and pigs and the very popular shearing competition.

Once you have circumnavigated the showground, why not take a seat around the main ring and enjoy the fast and furious Squibb Freestyle Stunt team with their thrilling air-borne motorcycle tricks, and the Shetland Pony Grand National – a high speed dash, a blur of coloured silks, flying manes and tails – all the excitement of a day at the races condensed into Shetland pony size.

It's a very busy day, with judging in some classes starting at 8.00am. And you can book your tickets online at Burwarton Show or locally at Gallagher's excellent feed store. Pre booked tickets (16plus £15, 5-15 £4.00, Concessions £14, Family - two adults and two children - £35) are cheaper than paying on the gate

It really is a great day out, with something for everyone. If you haven't been yet, you should give it a try.

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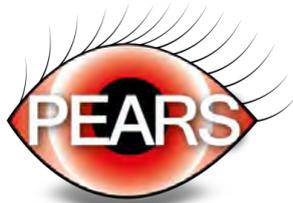
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I am delighted that last month voters in South Shropshire placed their trust in me, and re-elected me to represent the Ludlow Constituency for the fourth time. The result secured both the highest number of votes for a candidate in the seat’s history (31,433) and a record majority (19,286).

I am humbled by the result. To those who voted for me: thank you. To those who did not: my door is always open to discuss your concerns. As I have for the past 12 years, I will hold regular advice surgeries locally to help constituents in whatever way I can. If you have an issue you wish to raise, you can email me at philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk, or call my office on [01584 872187](tel:01584872187) or write directly to me at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

The result nationally was clearly not what I had hoped for, but at this crucial time, the Prime Minister will form a Government in the national interest. As I am writing before the Queen's Speech, the Government is finalising arrangements with the DUP to support specific elements of a programme for government in the best interests of the United Kingdom. I expect this to focus on the Brexit negotiations, economic and security issues, but will mean we will continue to have distinct positions on social and other issues.

Security issues have been all too present in the national psyche over the past few months. The terrible attacks in Westminster, Manchester, and London Bridge, Finsbury Park and the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, revealed the worst but also the best of Britain, as communities came together in support. While our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, I wanted to focus on the response of the emergency services, in particular the health service.

In my role as a Health Minister I attended meetings to coordinate the response to the Manchester attack during the General Election, and

the Grenfell Tower fire last month, and it was clear that on these and the other occasions the response from police and fire services was exemplary. In Manchester, by entire coincidence there had been a full major incident rehearsal only two months before, coincidentally on the day of the Westminster Bridge attack.

The response from the NHS was also first-rate. Not only were there clear and well-rehearsed emergency responses, but staff also showed a dedicated ethos to dropping everything when an emergency arose, running towards danger to help save lives. It is difficult to express the importance of this, and we should all be grateful for their unwavering commitment. Before Easter I visited one of the hospitals to thank staff who had responded to the Westminster Bridge incident, and met patients recovering from their injuries who were full of praise for the treatment received.

Following my reappointment as Health Minister after the General Election, I visited the London Ambulance Service to thank control room staff, including some who had taken calls from Westminster Bridge, London Bridge and Grenfell Tower incidents. I was struck by their calm demeanour and professionalism. I was pleased to learn London Ambulance Service have established teams and protocols with other NHS and voluntary bodies to provide counselling, not just in the immediate aftermath, but an ability for staff who may have been affected from responding to a traumatic incident to access talking therapists and advice whenever needed.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated people working to keep our country safe. But we must all work together to find ways to minimise risks in future and bring our communities together to heal rather than exacerbate grievances.

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FAREWELL BETTY AND MIKE



*Mike Reiner and Betty Davies.
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On June 7th a celebration took place at the Sports and Social Club, to mark the retirement of Betty Davies and Mike Reiner from the Town Council. Between them they have close to 80 years joint service to our community.

A Shropshire lass, Betty moved here in 1969 from Newport. All of her children, five of her grandchildren and great grandchildren were educated in Cleobury Mortimer. A keen member of the W.I., Betty was encouraged to stand for election to the Parish Council where she remained until her retirement; for many years she was also a District Councillor.

She persuaded the District Council to purchase what is now the Talbot Square car park, the success of which she is most proud. A similar struggle resulted in the pedestrian crossing on the High Street.

The things Betty remembers with greatest pleasure are to do with young people, like renting out the old Lacon Childe swimming pool over the summer funded a trip to the Safari Park for three coachloads of children. Her proudest moment? "When I married Ted. He supported everything I did".

Mike was elected onto the Parish Council in May 1979. He was Vice Chairman and Chairman in 1988 and 1989. At one time he was Chairman of the Parish Hall committee and is most proud of the replacement of an open coal fire with an oil fired central heating system. He is also proud of his efforts to improve facilities in the Cemetery: improved access to allow removal of soil and burial parties an easier route in. Farming is in Mike's blood; he has always farmed.

When asked to comment on his time on the Parish Council, Mike's response was "It was an honour to do it".

Paul French

SCOUTS OPEN MEETING

Cleobury Mortimer Scout Group are looking to recruit leaders and helpers. It's a much more important job than you might think at first, as involvement with the Scouts and its system of encouragement and training does a great deal of good for young people.

The Group are holding an Open Meeting at The Tasting Room at Hobsons Brewery on Thursday the 20th this month. It starts at 6.00, ends at 9.00, and there will be plenty of opportunities to talk to parents already involved and find out what you might do to help.

The Group emphasise that you don't need previous experience to volunteer. They can find you a slot to fit your availability and will make sure that you are properly trained and supported. That last word is important, as anyone taking on a new voluntary role will need to feel there's help and advice if they face a new problem.

If you want to talk the idea through before going along to the meeting, Ian Smith on 07975 514 603 is happy to talk and give the benefit his experience. And it's a pretty good social scene, too. Give it a try.



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The July Clarion Social Calendar**Part One**

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sat 1 st	8.00am	Sale of household goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill		
	12.00	Rock Church Fete will be opened by Mark Garnier MP		
Sun 2 nd	10.30am	CMFA Parish Walk, starting from the Parish Church. PAGE 13		
	6.30	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, church Street		
Tues 4 th	10.45am	Open Coffee Morning at 12 Church Street. PAGE 23		
Wed 5 th	10.00am	Walking For Health steps out from the Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 6 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Clee Hill Viewpoint. PAGE 7		
Sat 8 th	8.00am	Breakfast with the Lions on TV, Sports & Social Club. PAGE 7		
	2.00	Bayton Church Fete is at the village school and hall. PAGE 13		
Mon 10 th	6.30	Creative Writing Group, in the Library. PAGE 9		
Tues 11 th	7.30	Cleobury W.I. meet in the Market Hall. PAGE 13		
Wed 12 th	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	7.30	Neen Savage W>I> have a garden visit to Catherton Barn		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell inn.	David Taylor	CM 270793
Thurs 13 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 15 th	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, St Marys Church	Clare Todd	01299 272300
	12.30	Fun Volleyball Tournament, Lacon Childe School field. PAGE 7		

The Cleobury Mortimer Lectures end on the 6th of this month, with Robert Hodge talking about 'The Perils of Not Belonging' as it affected the poor in the 18th and 19th centuries when poverty struck. If you were not accepted as a member of the community, you could be banished with no support. Local stories will be used to illustrate the harshness of life then. See Page 39 for ticket details.



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The July Social Calendar Continued

Part Two

Mon 17 th	6.30	Cleobury Patients Voice meet at the Medical Centre. PAGE 9		
	7.30	The Reading Group gather at the Library. PAGE 25		
Wed 19 th	10.00am	Walking for Health, Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 20 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at the Colliers Arms. PAGE 7		
Fri 21 st	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 22 nd		Coach Outing to Weston-Super-Mare	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
	10.00	The Horticultural Society meet in the Talbot Car Park for a visit to Stone House Cottage Garden		
Sat/Sun 22/23 rd	1.00	Traditional Cherry Fair at Bewdley Museum, Load St. PAGE 41		
Sun 23 rd	10.00am	Ludlow dog Day at Stokesay Court near Craven Arms		
Wed 26 th	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 5		
Thurs 27 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 28 th	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Mon 31 st	7.30	The Poetry club meet in the Library, Love Lane		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO AUGUST		
Wed 2 nd	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 3 rd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		It's the Big One, THE BURWARTON SHOW. The biggest one-day country show of all. More details PAGE 25		

Information about the Scouts Open Meeting arrived too late to be included in the Social Calendar layout, which is done by an outside source and not in-house. There's a news item about this on Page 29, which we recommend you read if you have a child involved in the Scouts or likely to be so in the near future. Basically, the problem appears to be that a lot of keen youngsters want to be part of that movement, but they are short of adults to watch over proceedings and keep the ratio of children to supervisor correct. So they are having this Open Meeting as part of a recruitment drive. Sounds like another Cleobury Mortimer activity proving to be very successful and growing fast. A good reason to help them.

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In the last month the local Safer Neighbourhood Team have taken part in lots of community events in Cleobury. PCSO Eden and PCSO Leek attended Cleobury Mortimer Scout troop and delivered a talk on who we are and what we do. This educated them how the police work and some of the equipment used by the force. I am led to believe the scouts had great fun arresting each other and talking over the airwaves.

We attended the Cleobury Festival on June 10th, along with the We Don't Buy Crime manager Mick Simpson. This was a very enjoyable day and it was great to speak to those who attended.

Cleobury continues to maintain very low levels of crime though we do often hear reports on incidents via gossip and through the grapevine. If you do experience an incident please do inform the police via the 101 service or via the internet. This is the only way we will be able to properly identify issues and challenge those responsible.

Over the coming weeks we will be conducting a series of traffic operations over south Shropshire specifically

targeting speeding drivers and those who use their mobile phones while driving. Cleobury has been put forward as a location for this operation. This is to follow up the recent changes to the way fines for these offences are

issued. Drivers who are caught on their mobile while driving now face a £200 fine and six penalty points. Speeding fines are now calculated as a percentage of your weekly wage ranging from 50% and three penalty points for the least serious offences to 150% with six penalty points for the most serious. For new drivers, who cannot gain six or more penalty points, this would also lead to their licence being revoked. We continue to actively target untaxed vehicles and will look to seize any that are identified.

We continue to engage with the local crime reduction group, town council and other organisations within Cleobury. If there are any events or meetings you would like us to attend please inform us and we will do our best. *Liam Jones*

View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police websites at: www.warwickshire.police.uk and www.westmercia.police.uk

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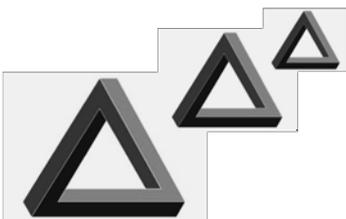
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DIAMOND BUSES – AN APOLOGY

Regular readers may remember that in last month's column, I jokingly suggested that Diamond's new bus tracking app would be improved by the addition of a temperature sensor so that in the event of a fire the emergency services could be alerted immediately.

Little did I know that a few days later, this would have come in handy as yet another of Diamond's finest barbequed itself at Callow Hill. Clearly this incident was entirely down to me mentioning this possibility and absolutely nothing to do with incompetent management, clapped out vehicles or inadequate maintenance, not to mention inaction by the Traffic Commissioners. For this grave error on my part, I sincerely apologise. However, given the recent tragic events in London, I wonder whether enforcement agencies will now start to give more thought to the safety of citizens both at home and whilst travelling.... At least the app now seems to have been installed on the fleet as one driver spent so much time playing with it following a breakdown that he weaved his way along and across the road to the consternation of the passengers..

Back to the usual rash of breakdowns, these seem to be occurring in ever greater numbers with two in a single journey not unusual. Even if your bus does arrive on time, the chances of it getting to its destination are increasingly slim. In one case the 9.38 to Ludlow had to stop to cool down at Doddington and limped to Clee Hill before expiring. The driver contacted base only to be told that they would have to wait for the mechanic as he was already in Ludlow repairing the vehicle from the previous service... The passengers finally got to Ludlow two hours late. Unfortunately, the return trip was no better as the bus failed to show and the journey back to Cleobury also took 2 hours.

At least they did get there as journeys in the other direction didn't even start at one point during the month. Due to roadworks, the bus

could not follow the normal route and merely retraced its path picking up at Tesco's instead of Corve Street. Unfortunately, no-one bothered to tell passengers or put a notice on the stop setting this out so some passengers had a very long wait, having eventually to find an alternative way home. When asked about this, Diamond blamed Shropshire Council who blamed Diamond. Whatever happened to owning up to mistakes and putting things right?

On the weekend of the Ludlow Food Festival, the bus died on Clee hill and the driver advised passengers that there would be no relief service. Luckily, one occupant knew a minibus operator who was summoned and, following a whip round, transported everyone to Ludlow. On another day, the 9.14 was late arriving and when asked why, the driver said that this was the third bus that had been used on the service, the other two having expired.

There have been a number of other incidents such as one vehicle stuck in third gear and another where the driver was asked to operate the ramp to help an elderly passenger alight but declined as he didn't know where the button was...

I understand that Worcestershire Council have employed a company to conduct an on board survey of the 2L route asking for comments on the service. Apparently there have been a few rather ripe responses... I don't know whether we will ever see the results and conclusions of this exercise but we can only hope. However, if you are lucky enough to own an Aston Martin, the company will sell you (for £634!) a set of tyre cushions. These are used when a vehicle is stationary for long periods to stop 'flat spotting' of the tyres as the same area is in constant contact with the ground. Should you be thinking of buying Diamond a Christmas present, a few sets of these would no doubt be very welcome.

Still no news of another operator as currently no-one else seems interested in taking over the 2L route although enquiries are continuing.

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THE RED HARE TIP AND FACT

**This month from Style
Director Cassy Romeo:**

Tip:

The most common mistake people make when they are drying their hair is to direct the airflow up the hair shaft lifting the cuticle and causing frizz. When drying your hair, have the hot air blowing down the hair shaft from root to tip. This will flatten the cuticle and help promote frizz-free, shiny hair.

Fact:

There is no way to repair split ends apart from trimming them!

THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES

The audience at the June lecture wanted to know when the next murder will be! The novel format of the talk worked well and the audience were intrigued by the evidence presented by six members of the History Society in the case of the 1866 Dudlick Murder.

Though their verdict on who should have been prosecuted was inconclusive, there were some interesting theories put forward.

The final talk in this year's series is on Thursday July 6th at 7.30pm in the church. Robert Hodge will talk about the 'Perils of not belonging'.

For ordinary people, life in the 18th and 19th centuries could be very hard. When poverty struck, it could become much worse and for some it meant being forcibly removed from their home and sent to another parish, perhaps some distance away, because you did not 'belong' locally. Real stories about real people will be used to shed light on this harsh practice.

Tickets from the Cleobury Café, the library or online at www.cleoburylectures.uk

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

At our meeting in June we welcomed Maxine Smith from Tilly Tea Dance who skillfully guided us through the process of making a needle felted pansy brooch. Maxine was supremely organised and had everything ready for us to create a beautiful piece of work. We were also pleased to have three new ladies attend and hopefully they will become regular members.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 12th July when we will be visiting the garden at Catherton Barns by kind permission of Flo Hadley. Anyone interested in joining us

should contact our President, Sandra Dodd on 01299 271563.

On September 9th we will be holding our 3rd Annual Afternoon Tea at Neen Savage Parish Hall from 2.00 to 4.00. This year it will be Afternoon Tea with a twist - start with a savoury scone then choose 3 servings from a large range of delicious puddings. All washed down with tea or coffee at only £5 a ticket. Proceeds to be shared between our Bursary Fund and the Ludlow Food Bank.

Catherine Evans

A NICE QUIET SORT OF BIRTHDAY, GRANDAD?

He doesn't look it, but John Redfern was 80 in June. He's not the sort to shout, more given to having quiet word, but the man's done a lot in his life. So if he chose to follow the pipe and slippers routine of many his age, no one could blame him.

But he didn't. John and a band of mates headed North and took a country stroll. All along the 86 miles of Hadrian's Wall, through the hills and dales of Cumbria and Northumberland, taking seven days to complete the trek. Sensible chaps, they stayed in hotels and slept in comfort, ate and drank properly. Good call, Grandad.

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We look after one of the many old cherry orchards in the Wyre Forest. These were planted early in the 20th Century to take advantage of the high prices that could be obtained for fresh fruit taken to Birmingham and other urban areas by the newly-constructed railway network. Harvesting the fruit was (and is) a very labour-intensive job, especially when the fruit is growing on an old-fashioned standard tree. I now appreciate the origin of the term 'cherry picking', referring to taking only the best: you can only pick the fruit that is ripe making return visits necessary in the hope that the birds haven't found them first. Add to this the danger of climbing long ladders to reach the branches and you can understand why the fruit commanded a high price. In the heyday of cherry production there would be a man to move the ladders for a gang of 8 to 10, usually casually-employed,

women pickers. Many who worked in the carpet factories during the day would squeeze in some extra employment in the orchards at this time of year.

When we came to Uncllys we set about planting new cherry trees and over the years since have pruned the old trees to keep them standing as long as possible. Even when dead they provide a habitat for some of the forest's rarest creatures, such as the Noble Chafer beetle. Spring brings a wonderful show of blossom, but this is only the second year in 13 when we have anything like a good crop of cherries. Some of the new trees are fruiting at last and nearly all of the 'old ladies' are having a go, so we are being vigilant at checking on the progress of ripening and trying to get the ladder to the trees in time. We have a number of varieties which ripen consecutively from June to the end of July, with each variety yielding ripe fruit over about 9 days. We can't put the time in to visit the trees every day, so the pigeons, jays and thrushes help with the picking and other nocturnal visitors clear up the fruit that gets knocked to the ground.

The Cherry Fair, a revival of the traditional annual market, celebrates the harvest on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd July at Bewdley Museum from 1.00 to 4.00pm each day with music, children's activities, crafts, food and drink. Now, is it to be cherry ice cream, cherry clafoutis, summer pudding, chocolate and cherry gateau.....?

Linda Iles

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NOT QUITE ON THE MARKET, BUT IN THE MARKET HALL

Pam Elmer specialises in animal pictures that brighten the display in the front of the Market Hall on the monthly Farmers' Market days. You look at them and assume she's a trained professional; in fact she took up painting as a hobby and it just took off from there.

The talent is obviously in her blood, her father was a semi-professional who sold a lot of pictures in the 1970s and 80s. But she was not encouraged to follow an artistic career at school, and talks disparagingly of a pre-occupation with girls being taught short-hand and prepared for work as secretaries.

Pam didn't follow that route, but trained and practised as a hypnotherapist in Warwickshire until she moved to Bayton a year ago. She has plans to set up a practice here, but work on the house is taking priority before she can begin that project.

In the meantime, painting is a gentle relaxation, though she has had one notable surprise in what is not by any stretch of the imagination a hard-faced selling

operation. "One of the first pictures I sold was of a cat. It was used in an advertising campaign by the Soya Milk Marketing Bureau, suggesting that the cat liked their milk."



Pam with some of the pictures that brighten up the Market Hall every month.

Her current sales operation is limited to word-of-mouth recommendations by customers and her presence every month in the Market Hall. She does have plans for a website, but the work on the house does limit the time available to chase such matters.

She limits her output to pictures of landscapes, greetings cards using those same images

and special commissions of favourite pets by proud owners. That must be a lovely gift to receive.

Her pictures clearly have a lasting effect. One lady who had commissioned a painting of her dog ten years ago, contacted Pam because she wanted another picture of her new pet. Quite a tribute to the quality of this modest artist's work.

She'll be in the Market Hall at this month's Farmers' Market weekend. With no pressure, just a charming smile and a gentle chat.

WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MARKET...

We've been buying sausages from Good Game for months; a firm favourite with plenty of flavour.

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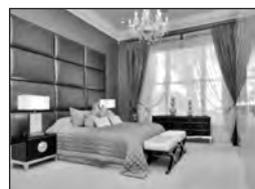
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Paul French adds to his stories about local men in the 1914 -18 Great War,

Howard Cyril Pratt... Gunner 113504 150th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery was born in Cleobury Mortimer on the 4th April 1890.

He was the youngest of six children, four of whom are buried in Cleobury Mortimer Cemetery. His father William was a hotel keeper at the Kings Arms and his mother was Harriet.

Howard made a good start in life as evidence confirms. A card exists from the Childrens Memorial of the Mission issued when he was nine years old, on the back of which is written "I will try to be reverent in the Church, Howard Pratt". As we will see this good behaviour did not always continue.

He enlisted in Smethwick in December 1915, he was twenty six years old and was a "metal worker". On the 30th November 1916 he embarked at Folkestone for Boulogne.

It was in December of that year that Howard rather blotted his copy book because on the 16th he was given seven days field punishment No 2 for 'urinating in a refuse bin'.

(No 2 was being placed in leg irons and handcuffs but still allowed you to march with the unit.)

On February 17th 1917 Howard was docked seven days pay for "quitting his billet without a pass" and "being improperly dressed, contrary to Doullens town orders". One wonders what those dress codes were and what would the Mission have thought?

In December 1917 he was posted to 56 Siege Battery and died of wounds in September 1918 aged 28 and is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt l Abbe, Somme and his plot number is No V11 B66.

We don't know exactly what part Howard played in his battery for these reasons.

A siege battery comprised 5 officers and 177 other ranks, 17 riding horses, 6 draught horses and 80 heavy horses, 3 two horse wagons and 10 four horse wagons

Each battery would normally be grouped with three others under a Siege Brigade.

Records were held and covered the Brigade details and movements but were not Battery specific

However we can get an idea of what Howard did. Siege Batteries used heavy fixed guns to lay down destructive fire on strong points roads, railways and behind enemy lines. The range of the heaviest guns was four miles.

Howard's resting place is with many members of the Australian contingent, it is likely therefore that he is with those who he supported in 1918

Courtesy of form 118A (list of effects) we know that his sister at the George Hotel, Bewdley received the following: letters, photographs, a broken knife, note book, watch (broken). collar badge and disc.

As always we are grateful to Howard for his part and although detail maybe lacking we know that he did what he had to do.

Thank you Howard.

The writer also applauds Howard's apparent disregard for dress code.

Paul French



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A CHANCE TO SAVE MONEY

Kit Smith outlines one of the benefits of Cleobury being a Smartwater town and part of the 'We Don't Buy Crime' campaign.

The community of Cleobury Mortimer have worked together to feel safer and to be safer.

Police report lower levels of crime in the town and higher levels in other towns and villages. Cleobury is being used as a model by other communities.

One insurance company so far has realised that their risk is reduced in Cleobury and have reduced their insurance premium by 15%

Smart Water: Cleobury Mortimer is the first town in the UK to be covered by Smart Water. 80 plus percent of households are now involved with over 20,000 items of value individually marked. The town has many notices of "We Don't Buy Crime", and houses have Smart Water window stickers. All police officers carry torches which can identify Smart Water marking on valuables, and so are able to link stolen property direct to individual homes and return them. This cost £15,000, raised from grants and gifts.

Closed Circuit TV (CCTV): 12 new high resolution cameras send images 24/7 to the Fire Station monitoring centre, which records the images, to be used during or after an incident. This is augmented by a network of private CCTV security cameras. Cost £20,000 funded by the Parish Council, Police Commissioner, Shropshire Housing Group and individuals.

Police presence: Despite national reduction in police footfall, especially in rural areas, Cleobury has managed to increase police presence by welcoming the mobile police station, encouraging police dog training in the town, exploring the potential for Special Constables and generally working closely and productively with the police.

Traffic: The Cleobury Crime Reduction Group is researching measures to reduce traffic issues in the town with new surveys and electronic speeding signage.

The local MP Philip Dunne along with the Police Commissioner John Campion have endorsed and encouraged the crime reduction work of the community.

The items above were sufficient on an individual basis for the NFU to reduce a premium due to reduced risk to the community and to them and their underwriters. It is suggested therefore that if you wish to apply to your insurance company for a premium reduction, you do so individually in your own words, and at the time of your annual renewal of home/household insurance.

Kit Smith

Editor's Comment: This is another success for the community of Cleobury Mortimer. The work being done to protect the town and reduce crime can be used to reduce your household insurance cost, if your insurer is made aware of the facts.

They are unlikely to give you a reduction if you simply say that we are a Smartwater town, because few companies will know about this very effective deterrent. At this early stage it's up to individuals to explain the measures we have taken, but the Clarion will suggest that the Town Council prepares a simple leaflet that explains what we do, so that you can send it to your insurer and ask if they will co-operate in view of the reduced risk of a claim.

We'll keep you posted on progress with that idea. And if you do get a reduction in your insurance cost, please advise Town Clerk Matt Sheehan. We will also publish the names of cooperating insurers in the Clarion; so far the only company reported to have given a reduction is the National Farmers Union Insurance.

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A WELL SIGNED LANDMARK



The new sign at The Old Lion in Lower Street. It's an eye-catching attraction as you drive into town.

The Old Lion on Lower Street is quite an attraction to strangers driving into town from the West Midlands. Its benches along the elevated footpath and tubs and hanging baskets of flowers add to a colourful scene. At night, an array of lights and a happy bunch of drinkers increase the welcoming sight.

The place obviously deserves a decent sign, and the obvious place to go for one of those is the combined father and son talents of Bob and Ralph Timmins. Not many people in the community

realise what a first class act these two are, working on steam locomotives to give them a true craftsman's finish on the sign writing. Bob was the recognised man who worked on the Orient Express for years, until the company changed hands and the new owners preferred computer controlled plastics to keep the trains looking spruce. Their business; their call.

Jared Reid, manager of the Old Lion, knew where to go for a good job, and had to have a special framework made to support the weight of the new sign. It's a very fine piece of craftsmanship that will last for many years.

The pub itself is busy under Jared's management, with local real ales and decent ciders in the pumps, including the rather fine Robinson's brand from Tenbury Wells. Sky TV Sport and others on offer, regular quiz nights and a friendly atmosphere make this another notable watering hole. And they have the Clarion on the bar every month for people who want to catch up on the local news.

FOREST DOG RESCUE

It was Forest Dog Rescue who organised the popular Dog Show at the June 10th

Community Celebration. Something they do regularly at their Far Forest base is run a Car Boot Sale on the first Sunday of the month through the less extreme months of the year. So this year there will be sales through until November.

It's quite a bargain morning for both car booters and buyers. The booters have to clock in by 9.00 in the morning and pay just £5 for a car bootful. If you turn up with a big estate or a van, they will naturally charge more.

The gates open to buyers at 10.00 and the sales run through until 1.00. There are food and drinks on sale and if you want to look around the kennels they will give you time if they're not too busy. If you are seriously looking for a rescue dog, making a weekday appointment is best. And you can expect someone to call on you at home to make sure you have a place suitable for the friend you choose from their wide range.

It's a very impressive place, the kennels refurbished and extended after a customer left a good sum of money in gratitude for the work they do. They are a good team, always cheerful and helpful and most of all caring for the dogs they rescue and rehome.

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FROM THE BANDROOM

June was a very busy banding month, playing at a variety of venues. We were pleased to have been part of the Cleobury Community Celebration and performed a concert in St Mary's Church, a very pleasant afternoon.

Our training band played at a sweltering Neen Sollars Fete and will also be performing at Chelmarsh Fete on 8th July.

July kick starts with the wedding of Stella Wilcox's grand-daughter in Crickhowell, so I'm sure she will be shining down on that performance. The middle of the month will be the annual Ironbridge Brass Festival; always a lovely day. Look on their website for further details - CMCB will be playing in the afternoon.

Then we have Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge and Sanders Park in Bromsgrove to round off another busy month!

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands.

www.cmc.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

THE SWIFTS REPORT

Our swifts' breeding season here in Cleobury will be over at the end of the month and they will all fly the 5,000 miles back to Africa, hopefully to return next May. It is nearly impossible to count fast flying swifts in the sky as it proved at an evening gathering of swift watchers June 19th. However, we have identified and recorded seventeen successful nest sites mostly around the church but also at the far end of Lower Street and at the old Junior School. By taking two breeding adults per nest and adding some maturing juveniles and fledglings we believe we will have a departing population of 70 plus swifts of all ages. That information provides us with a base to judge in future years whether numbers are reducing or increasing year on year.

The Saint Mary's Youth Project group have put up eight new nest boxes on the church as future nest sites. It is really good to report that those boxes have been inspected by juvenile swifts this summer. We have high hopes that they will use at least some of them next year as they become mature breeding pairs. The camera in the swift nest and its images in the church

give us unclear information. It looks as if the pair using that nesting site are either immature or infertile. Next year we hope to have a few more cameras in nests, even in one of our new nest boxes. Please do enjoy our swifts' antics this month as they feed up their chicks and increase their evening displays of fast flying and apparent playing before they roost in their nests or at 10,000 feet. "Bon voyage" and hope to see you all next year.

There will be a post season meeting with a presentation in the autumn to review Cleobury Swift Watch's first year and plan for 2018.

Kit Smith

Editor's Note:

Attracted by the noise of many birds, I walked down to the church at about 9.30 in the evening of the 19th and joined the watching party. The sight of maybe two dozen small birds - Kit is right in his description of the difficulty of counting them - darting through sky air at some speed and diving towards the church eaves at what seems to be a suicidal speed, only to swerve away or land briefly in one of the apertures is astonishing. You think they must collide, but their powers of navigation are phenomenal. Do go and watch them if you get the chance - a wonderful experience. JR.



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NEWS FROM THE LEGION

The Legion is planning a coach trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Thursday July 20th, at a cost of £37 per person, which includes the entrance fee as well as the coach. This event is open to non-members as well as members, and tickets may be booked with Mark Baldwin (CM 270110) or Ron Breakwell (270830).

Duxford is a huge site – over a mile long – and full of interest, both aviation and otherwise. It's still an operational airfield, so visitors can watch aircraft taking off and landing, and often get a chance of a flight as well. Exact times are yet to be finalised, but we expect to leave Cleobury about 7.30 am, and return at about 7.30 pm.

Mark Baldwin

DUNNE FIGHTS TO KEEP BANK

MP Philip Dunne has criticised the decision by Barclays to close their branch in Craven Arms, the last bank branch in the town.

Mr Dunne said he was seeking an urgent meeting with the Regional Director of Barclays, to make the case for keeping a branch in town, and would work with local representatives to put forward their case.

Barclays have announced their intention to close the branch from October 6th.

Mr Dunne said: "I am appalled by this decision by Barclays to remove their branch from Craven Arms, when it is the last bank branch in town.

This service is very important to both those banking personally or for businesses. So I am seeking a meeting, to make clear why the branch should remain in Craven Arms.

I will be working with local people to coordinate a strong response."

ONE FOR YOUR DIARY

We are very happy to tell you that the Chorley Show is alive and apparently very well. We are told that it happened last year, but nobody bothered to tell the Clarion, so we in turn couldn't tell you about.

That's a pity, because it's a friendly little local show, with much to offer for a modest gate price. But we can tell you that this year's event will be on August 19th and it's well worth a visit.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Our next Business meeting will be on July 6th, 7.30 pm at Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster. Some members have signed up for the 'Race for Life' at Worcester Racecourse on July

16th, in aid of Cancer Research UK. Please note that instead of our usual Supper Meeting we will be having our almost traditional Summer Outing, a guided tour around the Birmingham Repertory Theatre with a look behind the scenes. An Afternoon Tea organised by one of our members on August 5th for the 'Meru Day of Action' will provide an end to our summer commitments. All regular meetings will recommence in September.

Elke Jury

TALKING AT WORCESTER FESTIVAL

Dr Mark Baldwin will be giving one of his popular talks on the German Enigma coding machine, the Bletchley Park codebreakers and the Battle of the Atlantic in World War Two at Worcester's prestigious Huntingdon Hall on August 25th. It will be part of the annual Worcester Festival programme.

Dr Baldwin has presented over 700 speeches on this subjected anyone who's listened to him will acknowledge that he is a master of the craft. The trip into Worcester is well worth the effort; the booking office is on 01905 611427 and the talk starts at 7.30.



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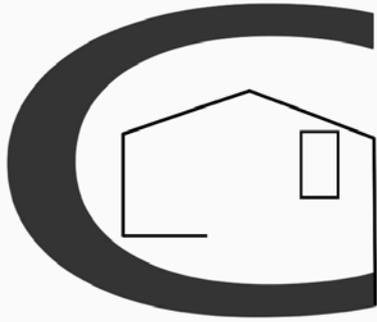
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OUR VOICE IN SHREWSBURY

Members of the Breakfast Club assembled in the Cleobury Café on 13 June to hear Councillor Madge Shingleton talk about her work representing our area on Shropshire Council. Steering clear of the recent General Election, Madge moved quickly to the problems facing the new council, with 16 newly elected councillors and a new leader. Madge has real-life experience of running a small business, and managing a hospital casualty department (which produced some interesting reminiscences), so it is appropriate that she should sit on the council's Planning Committee, and be Vice-Chair of the Health & Adult Social Care Committee.

One problem that most, if not all, councils are facing is shortage of funds. Shropshire is no exception, and is in the difficult position of having few major industries, and thus having a small rate base. Also, being a large county with a small population makes it difficult to provide the services the public has come to expect. For instance, road quality and the distances involved make it impossible to meet desired ambulance response times. And, what about the 2L bus . . . ?

Mention of this infamous bus brought forth a more animated reaction from club members than anything else Madge said.

We were all encouraged to participate fully in the upcoming consultation which our Town Council will be launching later this year. This should be the best way to steer council activity towards meeting the needs of our community. This is the least we can do to back up our councillors – and aren't we fortunate to have a hard-working and experienced person like Madge to argue Cleobury's case on the Shropshire Council?

The Breakfast Club next meets at the King's Arms on July 11th to hear Andy Vanderhook speak on 'Oil on the Rails'. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) or Angela Drennan (270636) to book places as soon as possible, as numbers are strictly limited.

Mark Baldwin

A VERY SPECIAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

Cleobury Golf Club are hosting the Rainbow Cancer Care Charity Day on July 7th. It's open to teams of four at a cost of £35 a head, which covers a bacon sandwich and coffee before play, 18 holes of a very

fine golf course and a buffet to finish. Plus a raffle with some great prizes.

It's the work of John and Angela Gaskell, keen club members. Angela lost her mum to cancer in 2009, just two weeks before a family golf day to celebrate John's 60th birthday. In mum's memory they ran a raffle for Cancer Research on the day and raised £500. After that success they were asked to repeat the day and to date have raised nearly £50,000 for a range of charities. They have lots of support from sports people and raise funds with extras like a putting competition, a Beat the Golf Pro contest, sponsored holes and an auction.

It's a lovely idea, golfers out on one of the most picturesque courses in the area, enjoying good company and raising money for charities. And if you hurry, there's still a chance of a place for your team. Email angela.gaskell@yahoo.com, who will want to know your preferred time to be on the tee and the name of your team leader.

Or you might want to sponsor one the holes for the competition. Call the Pro Shop at the course on CM 271112 and they'll tell if there are any still available and how to help make the day a great success.



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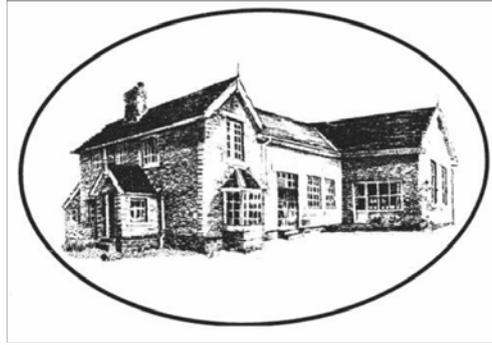
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In Business

Jon May has led an interesting life, one that took him from university into accountancy and on into industry here at home and in Africa. After ten years there he opted to return to Britain with his young family and was lucky enough to find a house here in Cleobury Mortimer.

He's built up quite a fund of experience and success since an audit customer took him on to run a group of small computer companies. Under his guidance it grew to employ 100 before the parent company sold it on. Jon's reaction was to set out to explore the world, until in a Kenya supermarket he heard his name called by a man he remembered from student days in Birmingham. It's a small world.

The outcome was a job offer, taking on a security company in need of guidance from barely breaking even towards profit. He achieved that in just four months and went on to build up business with Blue Chip companies, including debt recovery on an international basis. A lot of hard work, much stress and after ten productive years in that continent he opted for giving more time to his family and headed back to England. From the family home in Bliss Gate they looked around and found

John May of De Courcy May Wealth Management

what they wanted here in Cleobury Mortimer.

It was at this time Jon realised that quitting the corporate world in Africa left him with no pension plan, contrary to all his training. He looked at what was on offer and liked the look of St James's Place. In what was to prove an extremely wise choice, he took up that option with a well funded company.



business world: Jon May.

He started his own management business, working for a number of local companies and getting them organised with systems developed to meet their specific needs. He considered becoming an independent financial adviser, but the length of training and the cost was a deterrent. Until he saw an on-line advertisement that investigation proved to be a screening for St James's Place.

He already appreciated the company's standing and filled in the questionnaire, including a testing final question: 'What is your expectation of earnings, if engaged, in the first year?' The man is no fool and gave a realistic figure. He got an interview.

It was the beginning of an exhaustive testing process. Four months of interviews, during which time he was required to pass an examination before he was taken on for training. Three more exams to pass before going to the St James's Academy.

He was accepted as a local representative, one of approximately 3,500 in the country. One of his ongoing tasks in building local knowledge is getting know where the best local specialist advice and services is available. "It's all about client service," he explains. As you would expect from a representative of a FTSE 100 company.

He works from a modest office in Cleobury Country Centre. Will he stay locally based? "Definitely. I might take a bigger office in the Centre, but it's a great place, secure and with good parking." A local man who came back to add to the local business scene.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

AFTERNOON TEA, WITH GREAT CARE

A Garden Party and Afternoon Tea in Tenbury Road does sound rather posh. But this one in June was organised by the Cleobury branch of the Carers' Support Group and friendliness and care was the order of the day.

The local branch is run by Wendy Duley and Janet Manley, two ladies with their feet firmly on the ground. The Party was in Janet's garden, the place dressed up for the occasion with banners and bunting. I asked Wendy if she'd sit and talk about the service, but she directed me to Sharon Malins. Sharon is a care advisor with Carers Trust 4 All, who liaises with Lisa Prince and Margarite Davies of People 2 People..

She has quite a task to deal with, backing support groups in Bishops Castle, Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer. A bundle of smiling energy, always willing to call and chat to anyone who needs anything, from simple advice to help in caring for an aged or disabled relative. "I've called on everyone you can see here," she explained.

She'd also brought a box of produce from the Shrewsbury Food Hub. Food that had run past its supermarket sell-by date

just yesterday and was passed on the the Hub for distribution. It was at the party for guests to take a bag of what they needed or fancied and make a donation to the funds. Simple!

What Sharon and the team are organising is part of a county wide support network that helps carers whose work for their charges saves the country a great deal of money. If there is a shock domestic event that requires prompt help, there's an County Emergency Response Service that will act fast and at no cost; that is met by the County Council.

Sharon has been in the job eight months and she's made her mark. She identifies carers via local GP practices and other sources of local knowledge, then offers them support. You can contact her on 0333 323 1900 and be sure of a positive response.

So what attracted her to this job? "I was assistant manager in a care home and wanted a change from all the paperwork, more contact with people, so I took on this job," she smiles. "And I've enjoyed every day of it." It shows in her friendly approach and the way she sits and listens with the team as carers tell of their experiences. Friendly, but working out how to help.



Helpful people with a big job to do.

From left: Lisa Prince, Sharon Malins and Margarite Davies.

Sharon is full of praise for local organisers Janet and Wendy. "Wendy's a physiotherapist and Janet has cared within her own family, so they understand what's needed."

We talked to Val and Graham Simpson, Val in recovery from a stroke and Graham full of praise for Wendy. "Before Val came home from hospital, I was asking about changes I saw and she was assuring me it was all quite normal." It's that assurance and continuing advice that makes carers such a vital part of a community that is seldom recognised beyond those whose experience knows how



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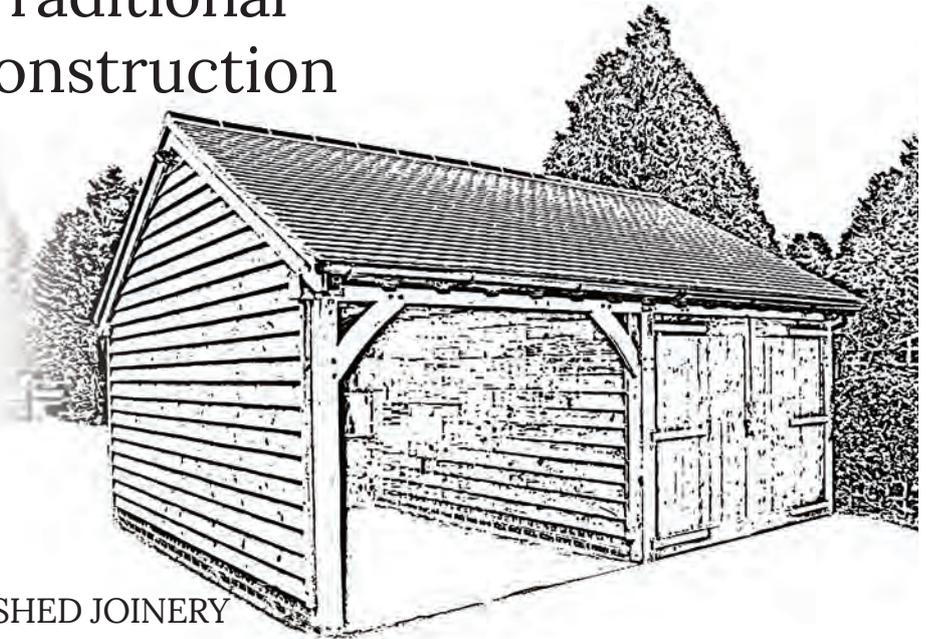
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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
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MARKET HALL	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		08444 068888	Service available evenings and weekends
THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
PARISH COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Spar Grocery, M & M Baldwin, The Londis Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, MidCounties Co-op, Carrot Tops, The Library and Simply Fresh. Or, **Out in Cleobury Country at:** Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** Post Office **Clee Hill;** Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.**

THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 23rd

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Larks Rise £265,000
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Delightful four bedroom family home, situated in a peaceful cul de sac location, overlooking open fields on the outskirts of Cleobury Mortimer. EPC D



Orchard Street £450 pcm
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Two bedroom terraced property within walking distance of local amenities and town centre. EPC D

Residential Sales

So the votes have been cast and the general election has resulted in an unexpected hung parliament – but what does that mean for property in the area?

The main issue is still the lack of property available, and the only slight worry is that if any uncertainty does continue then we may see even fewer properties coming onto the market.

That will mean if you want to buy property in Kidderminster, the competition between buyers will be fierce. For those considering selling, the price you're likely to achieve for your property will be high and we may see even more properties selling above the asking price as the fight to own a home continues!



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
Office Manager

Lettings

It's looking likely that rents in the area are going to rise during 2017.

Landlords have been hit time and again over the past couple of years, with stamp duty rises and the scrapping of mortgage interest relief, just two of the high profile initiatives introduced by the government.

It looks like the various tax changes are starting to have an effect, with a gradual reduction in the number of properties available to rent.

That's not good news for tenants because it means rents will gradually rise as demand starts to outstrip supply.



Coral Walrond
MARLA MNAEA
Lettings Negotiator