
The Cleobury Clarion



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NOVEMBER 2015

MAKING THE NEWS

Cleobury Mortimer has been making the news recently. Its appointment as the first small town to carry the We Don't Buy Crime label, plus the signs telling the criminal world that this is a SmartWater Town. It's not an easy target for burglars any more.

A cooperation between the Parish Council and West Mercia Police has seen free packs of SmartWater delivered to over 900 houses as we go to press. At parish clerk Matt Sheehan's suggestion, there's been a break for the local volunteers and police to catch their breath, but there will be a second wave of deliveries to local homes from November 3rd. If you want to help, Matt will be glad to hear from you on CM 271154. And if you've not had your pack yet, call him and say when you will be at home and it will come your way. And all of this aid to fighting crime doesn't mean digging into your pockets, it's free.

Matt Sheehan's value to the community was recognised at the recent West Mercia Awards

Evening, when he was one of three people shortlisted for their Dedication To Service. He was the leading contender from Shropshire and while the overall winner's prize wasn't his, he did come home with an official certificate to acknowledge his work.

The Awards Evening was the idea of Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore, who does seem to be making his mark despite having treatment for cancer. One of the grants for the SmartWater gifts came from Mr Longmore's fund.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday the 8th will see the town come to a virtual standstill as we gather around the War Memorial and remember those who died in the 1939-45 Second World War and later conflicts.

The day begins with the Royal British Legion parade gathering in Talbot Square at 10.00. Then at 10.45 the band will lead them off on the usual route down to the High Street and along to the front of the Parish Church and the Memorial Garden. They will

arrive there at about 10.55 and those who will be laying wreaths will stand down to march to the side and await the prayers. At 11.00 the traditional two minutes silence will be observed, the town hushed in respect. David Taylor will sound the Last Post and then Reveille to mark the end of the silence. The names of the fallen will be read and to hear the local names, some of whom lost a number of men, is a truly moving experience.

The laying of wreaths by representatives of many local bodies, from primary school children to pensioners, strikes another chord as we realise how many local people want to pay their respects to the fallen.

At the end of the ceremony the parade will march into the church for the 11.15 service and the hundreds who line the street will either join in or make their way home, all of us quiet in remembering how many brave people have died in the defence of freedom. That coming together is part of the strong bond that forms this community.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page November 2015 - Volume Thirteen - Edition Eight

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; **Clee Hill** Post Office; **Cleobury North** Village Store; The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank** Service Station; **Ludlow Library**; **Mawley Oak** Garage; The Colliers Arms Farmers Market 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** and McCartneys Estate Agents, **Tenbury Wells**.

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

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk

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

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Vicki Alexander is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - Constable Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

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

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

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

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM 272717, 07761 976650 mobile, or dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. Out of surgery hours, 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.

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

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

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 - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator. BUT SEE PAGE 7.

WASTE DISPOSAL - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

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For more information contact:

Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. November 2015



*You'll never guess where we photographed this old railway signal.
See Page 33.*



*The men behind more than this Giant Chair. Mark Pearce
Landscapes.
See Page 47.*



*Making people happy is their business. Live Life @ Home.
See Page 55.*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HIS & HERS MOVES HOME



Julie Guest outside her new doggie parlour at New House Farm on Tenbury Road.

Julie Guest has been smartening up the area's dogs for years now, the last seven of them at Clay Farm on the Clows Top Road. She has a good following, a reflection of the care she takes with dogs as she checks for lumps and bumps as she washes and trims.

The need to move brought her back into Cleobury, to a site that's handily visible to any proud dog owner walking out of the Severn Edge Vets clinic. And what a sparkling new

place she has, that you'd never guess was built from materials recovered from demolition sites by husband Simon

The interior includes a big bath for washing and there's a big fur dryer to finish the job after the trim and shampoo. The place sparkles in white, with doggie themed wallpaper in panels and a separate kitchen area. Outside there is space to instal separate rental spaces for people who want to leave their pet for the day; ideal for the busy person off to work who wants to know their best friend is in good hands.

You just wouldn't believe that this smart new addition to the business units represents four months work, including plumbing and wiring. Just goes to show what determined professionals can achieve.

THE SCOUTING GROUP CHRISTMAS POST

Iain Smith has news of one of Christmas's best value deals, a true money saver;

It's that time of year again with Christmas fast approaching. Cleobury Scouting Group will once more be running a Christmas Post Service, so please look out for the posting boxes and flyers in the run up to December 25th.

Unfortunately our scouting colleagues in Bewdley and Stourport are unable to join us due to the loss of adult support and members. However we will be running the service covering as far as Chorley to the north, Doddington to the west, Mamble and Clows Top to the south and Mawley Oak and areas in between. Detailed maps of the area covered will be available shortly.

Members of the scouting groups have designed their own stamps for use this year and at a cost of 20p per stamp, this is good value for money. All proceeds raised will go towards the upkeep of the iconic Pump House Headquarters as in previous years.

Iain Smith, Chair, HQ Committee

SEVEN SUMMITS

Interesting sounding talk to be given in the Parish Church at 7.30 on Friday the 13th this month. It's about climbing to the highest points on seven continents - no mean feat.

£10 adults, £5 children that includes refreshments. Diane Waddington on 01299 272820 has both information and tickets.





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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

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

At the September meeting, Patrick Clements gave a very interesting talk and slide show entitled Wildlife, Nature & Conservation. It was based on the work done by the Halesowen Wildlife Group. Their role has been opening footpaths, renewing stiles, creating ponds, laying hedges, building bird and bat boxes, all to encourage and help our wildlife. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

It was also the club's Autumn Show. Winners were 1st Bob Marriott, 2nd Austin Fletcher and 3rd Marion Wilson. Best Exhibit Bob Marriott; many thanks to Anne for judging.

Our next and last meeting this year is on Wednesday 25th November, and will be the AGM and members' social evening. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday 27th January, when Jo Roche will give a talk entitled 'Abberley Hall & Clock Tower'.

DO NOT TRY

I am a great fan of Simply Fresh in Talbot Square and visit most days of the week. It's just what a local store should be, with an impressive range of food to offer.

Being a curious type, I noticed the Old El Paso Refried Beans, a Mexican addition to most dishes. I like Mexican food and thought a dash of something spicy would be a great idea. But this turned out to be super bland and offered not one jot of a treat.

The following is purely a personal opinion: avoid! JR

STIR UP SUNDAY

Another rather special event at Hobson's Brewery

On November 22nd we are organising a MASS stir up with three sessions: 10.00am, 2.00 or 6.00pm, when Reuben and his team are organising another special Stir Up at the brewery. We provide the ingredients, plus some Hobsons Postman's Knock

to create a scrumptious pud, we just need your help to make it and give it a stir! A family event getting everyone involved in the tradition of making the Christmas pudding, you just need to bring a wooden spoon and apron.

The cost to take part is £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children (4-16yrs), plus the option to take home your mixture in a special pudding bowl made by Wenlock Pottery - small £10.00, large £15.00. Ticket price includes refreshments and mince pies.

Book by either calling the brewery on CM 270837 or online at www.hobsons-brewery.co.uk

Kate Pearce

EQUINE TABLE TOP SALE

Clee View Bridleway Group are holding a table top sale at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall on November 17th, starting at 7.30pm with the entry charge at a very affordable £2.00 each.

If you want to book a table, they are £10 each in advance or £15 on the door, subject to the room available. It's all done to support the work of the Bridleways Group and if you would like to join in, Yvonne on 01746 718650 will be happy to help. Email info@cleviewbridleway.co.uk.

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Lacon Childe Pupils Visit WW1 War Graves

There is a Government backed scheme to take pupils from as many schools as possible to Belgium and France during the centenary years of the 1914-18 First World War. Ed.

Lacon Childe was represented by Cerys Rowles and Verity Smithson, whose winning submission of their reasons for wanting to join the trip was outstanding. They travelled with teacher Caroline Rawnsley, leaving Birmingham's Digbeth bus station at 10.00am on September 13th and taking an overnight stop in Kent before a Eurotunnel journey to Calais and a visit to Flanders Field Museum in Belgium. Later in the day they saw the Death Cells at Poperinge, where the British Army kept men who had deserted, before being executed.

In the evening they attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, where British military personnel acted as guides. The Gate is in Ypres, at the centre of one of the most intense battle areas, where bombs and shells from more than 100 years ago are still turned up as farmers plough their fields. This 'Iron Harvest,' as the locals call it, is laid out beside the field and every other day a soldier from a munitions

unit makes an inspection to see that they are safe to handle. Just last year a spoon was found with a bullet hole through the bowl; the soldier's engraved number was checked with the Army records and showed that the man had a leg wound, the German bullet passing through the puttees that covered his calves and his spoon.

During the ceremony, which attracts a crowd of a thousand or more every day, Verity was selected to lay a wreath on the memorial. She had also made a collection of poppies from red felt and she and Cerys placed one in a tree at every cemetery they visited.



Cerys (left) and Verity with two of their guides at the Menin Gate.

The next day saw them in the Somme area, visiting the Ulster Memorial and other cemeteries before visiting the evening talk by a serving soldier, who showed what a British soldier carried in the First World War

and contrasted it with today's much lighter and sophisticated equipment. But no equipment would make advancing through deep mud easy.

The final day started with a visit to the German graves at Langemark Cemetery, where they noticed that the Allied graves are marked by upright white headstones and the Germans use black stone, laid to the ground. The final visit was to the Coming World Remember Me Workshop, where Cerys and Verity created a pottery figure of a soldier. The idea is to create a memorial to the 600,000 Belgians who died in the war.

This is part of the 110 memorial, the idea being that every pupil who goes on this tour will tell 110 other people about it, so that eventually those who know about it will equal the number of people who died. They will be talking to a variety of groups about their experience.

The girls were visibly moved by what they saw and learned. As Verity put it: "You could imagine a soldier standing behind every grave." How very thoughtful to make such a trip available to pupils who will help to keep the memory of that awful conflict alive.



**THE CLEOBURY
COUNTRY CENTRE**

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e: business@cleoburycountry.com

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Training Courses Upcoming:

- Emergency 1st Aid at Work : 17th Nov, 9am - 4pm
- Food Hygiene Level 2: 6th Nov , 9am - 4pm
- PAT course: 12th Nov, 9am-4pm
- Level 2 Health & Safety: 4th Nov, 9am-4pm

Business Networking this month:

Wednesday 18th November 2015

For more information on training courses at
The Cleobury Centre please contact us on the tel or email above.

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Clarion Clippings -- The Local News

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

STEWART MUMFORD

Stewart has changed his trading title, which is now Stewart Mumford Architectural Consulting Ltd. It's an evolution of the business that will not change what he offers: same man, same service, slightly different name.

He has set up a separate business email address: stewartmumfordarchitectural@gmail.com for commercial matters, while his private one stays the same.

PICKLELILY CIRCUS

What a lovely title for a group catering for the very young. They'll be at Moffats School in Kinlet on November 27th, from 10.30 to 12.00 noon with their Christmas Magic Show, which is aimed at the 2 to 5 age group. There's no charge, which shows a fine Christmas spirit early in the festivities, but there is limited space available, so booking is essential. Call 01299 841230 to get your place.

MACMILLAN MATTERS

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way at the world's biggest coffee morning, we raised a wonderful £430-21. So huge, huge thanks to everyone.

We are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 28th

November in The Market Hall 10am until 12 noon. Lots of goodies for Christmas, chutneys, pickles and jams, Christmas cards and more.

Sue Henderson

FESTIVE SHOP AT THE FIGHTING COCKS

The Festive Shop at Stottesdon's Fighting Cocks pub is now in its ninth year and will be back there on December 3rd. Diane Newsham reminds us that there is no admission charge, but some pretty keen raffle ticket selling will greet you. As they are raising money for the Severn Hospice, there's no hardship in finding a contribution. It all starts at 7.30.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The November walks are:

Thursday 5th From the layby alongside the A443, close to the turnings for Grimley and Sinton Green. WR2 6PD OS reference 829604

Thursday 19th from Dog Lane Riverside Car Park, Bewdley DY12 2EG; OS ref 785755

SPECS FOR AFRICA

Have you any unwanted spectacles you could donate to the poor people in Uganda? There is a box in Cleobury Cafe waiting for your donations of spectacles and/or cases. They will be taken and given out in

January; see this space for an account of my adventures there.

Jenny Vanderhook

EVENING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Severn Hospice Crafters are hosting an evening Christmas Shop on Thursday November 19th between 6.00 and 8.00 in the Hospice Shop on the High Street. Entry will be by ticket, £3 each to include complimentary refreshments. Our range of handmade crafts will be on sale along with seasonal gifts and decorations and the Severn Hospice Christmas cards. There will also be a raffle. Come along to get in the Christmas spirit, no need to head off to Kidderminster or Worcester to do your Christmas shopping.

SYCAMORE POISONING

Severn Edge Vets are hosting a free admission evening at The Punch Bowl, on Bridgnorth's Ludlow Road, WV16 5NQ, on the 11th of this month. Starting at 7.30, it's about the risk of sycamore poisoning and other toxic plants that are a threat to the welfare of horses.

These evenings sell out, so book your place early by calling 01746 763 998 or looking in at www.severnedgevets.co.uk.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NEW TYRE SERVICE IN TOWN

Paul Welch has just launched PW Tyres, a Cleobury based mobile service for cars, vans, caravans and campers. He's been working in the agricultural tyre business, but decided he'd be better off - and probably a lot less muddy - dealing with vehicles that travel on the roads instead of across fields.

He's keen to please, with a seven day service and an emergency service as well to cover the night hours. He'll come to your home or work with a Transit van kitted out to do everything from removing the old rubber to balancing the wheel when the new one's in place. And he only supplies new tyres - no remoulds in his service.

I tried him out, as I needed two new tyres on a VW Golf, and he arrived on time and did the job right there on the front drive before handing me a bill that didn't hurt. That was for an everyday car, but if you have something a little tasty he offers a nitrogen filling service as well.

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This man is not praying or prying, it's Paul Welch of P W Tyres at work.

THE ALAN GOLDEN AWARDS

The Bridgnorth Lions organise the local heat of the Alan Golden competition, that is designed to reward a young person between 12 and 18 who has made an outstanding contribution to a local group or their community.

Entrants must live within 15 miles of Bridgnorth and the prizes are an engraved trophy and £100 for the winner, £50 for the runner-up and £15 each for the other entrants. The winner will be entered in an Area Lions

Competition with the chance of winning a very handy £500. A fine reward for good work.

Entries close on January 1st and entry forms are available from George Lee of the Bridgnorth Lions on 01746 7 1 0 2 3 9 or georgelee321@btinternet.com

THE READING GROUP

Diana Athill 'Somewhere Towards the End'.

We welcomed another a new member to our October meeting where 15 of us met. Written when Ms Athill was in her eighties this is a general look at her life, past, present and future. Opinions varied, although a majority agreed it was pleasingly written. She was definitely ahead of her time, making her mark in publishing, then a male dominated world.

The text produced a wide range of subjects, including maternal feelings, affairs, being a carer, writing to heal, and death. She certainly got us thinking.

Our November meeting will be on Monday 16th 7.30pm at Cleobury Library. I'm sorry to say our group is now full but if you would like to join please contact me, as it may be possible to form another group.

Deana Kimber 271754

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ANOTHER GOLD MEDAL WINNER!



Relaxing in the kitchen, as a gold medal winner is entitled to do, Robin Conway at rest.

Robin Conway waited until he was properly mature before winning a gold medal. His came as a member of the LX Over 60s team in this year's Euro Hockey Championships and he wears it with pride.

"I've been playing since I was 12 and I'm 60 now," he explains, though he carries his years very lightly. "I do hockey and boxing coaching at Lacon Childe School as a volunteer and help out at a couple of boxing clubs in Kidderminster." He walks a lot,

with and without dog, taking in the beautiful countryside that he enjoys and keeps his hockey eyes in trim with LX Hockey tournaments, when players from all over the country meet and compete.

MR WOOD ENTERTAINS

My wife and I moved to Cleobury a couple of years ago from the North of England. Since 20 years ago I have been entertaining with my keyboard on a semi-professional basis in hotels and for private parties, dances and the like. Since arriving here I have been raising funds for churches throughout Shropshire and also playing in residential and care homes.

For 40 years I have been entertaining W.I Groups at their meetings, Birthday and Christmas parties and decided to do the same here. The Shropshire Head Office said I would have to audition which I agreed to do but they eventually decided not to offer me an audition. So if any W I Group or similar organisation would like me to perform they can contact me on 01299 272666. I now perform free of charge, but if anyone wishes to give a donation it will go to St Mary's Youth Project.

Trevor Wood

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC

On October 11th, St Mary's was packed by an audience eager to be bathed in the sounds of wonderful music. The programme that the BPO delighted us with was as familiar as slipping on one's favourite well-worn shoes. They commenced with Beethoven's Overture, 'The Creatures of Prometheus', followed by 'Hebrides Overture'. Less well-known, but every bit as engaging, was the Horn Concerto No 1, by Richard Strauss, soloist Tim Stidwill.

After the interval Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 filled the air. The orchestra clearly loved every second as much as did the audience, whose rapturous applause at the concert's conclusion was fitting testimony to a wonderfully entertaining evening. As we ventured in the chill of the night air, we were warmed inwardly by the music we had heard and left hoping that yet another appearance of the BPO in Cleobury Mortimer would not be too long delayed.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

What should you do if you find a stray cat? Amy Watkins explains.

Imagine there's a cat you've never seen before which is constantly hanging around your front door, crying for food and affection; a big butch tom cat who seems to be a stray and enjoys fighting with all the cats in the neighbourhood or a small kitten, wandering around aimlessly. Lost or stray cats are unfortunately commonplace. What should you do? Who should you call or approach? Hopefully this short article will give you some direction.

Firstly we need to understand the clear definition between a stray and a feral cat. If the cat is unfriendly and not approachable, it may well be feral. Feral cats are more than happy and able to look after themselves without a human companion. Local charities carry out trapping and neutering programmes to maintain their population. As long as these cats are happy and healthy they will successfully survive outside. Injured or unwell animals, however, need to be taken to your local vets for assessment.

So, you've established your newly found feline companion isn't feral, what should you do now? You need to find out if this cat has an owner – ask neighbours, use posters (available to download online) and social media. If

the cat is approachable download a paper collar (available from many rescue websites) to identify the cat and wait to see if you receive a reply.

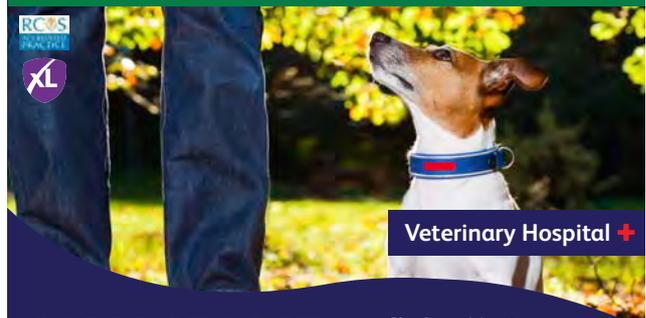
If you are unable to find an owner, the next step would be to take the cat to your local vets or rescue centre to check whether it has a microchip. Vets can also check lost and found records to see if any missing cats have been reported.

If, unfortunately your stray cat (despite your best efforts) is not owned or identifiable but healthy – please contact your local RSPCA branch, Cats' Protection or other local animal rescue centre for re-homing. An injured, pregnant or unwell animal will need a 'log number' - this number will allow your local vets to acquire emergency funds to treat the cat as necessary. Without it, treatment may be limited.

Amy Watkins

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE BIKE SHOW HELPS OTHERS

The Borders Classic Bike Show at Lacon Childe School is a well established fund raiser for a school we can all be proud of. But we should acknowledge the generosity of the Parent Teacher Association for the way they pass on some of the profits to local causes. This year there were two:



From left: The Editor, Sue Henderson of Macmillan and Tina Woodall of the PTA

The first was a payment of £500 to Macmillan Cancer Care, when I was both proud and grateful to join PTA chair Tina Woodall in presenting a cheque to Macmillan local secretary Sue Henderson, in memory of Valerie, my wife.

Sue was quite overwhelmed: "It's been an amazing week. £430 at the Great Coffee Morning and £500 from the Bike Show!"



Liz Vanegas de Quickenden of First Responders with Tina.

The second was a cheque for £150 handed to Liz Vanegas of the First Responders, in recognition of the valuable support she gave to the Show by being there on call both days. In rural areas like ours, the ability of these volunteers to get to an emergency quickly can quite simply be a life saver, as they stabilise an injured person before the paramedics in the ambulance arrive with their professional care.

And finally my personal thanks to the PTA for their enthusiasm and cooperation in making the show such a success and to every local trader who helped them.

At the end of the money business, Tina Woodall was presented with a bouquet as she retired from the chair of the PTA, with a job well done.

PTA'S NEW FACE

Taking over the chair of the PTA is Sue Brown, well known for her chiropractice on the High Street, where many an aching back or limb has been relieved. We talked to her.



She's very keen to spread the word about the Lacon Lottery, where you buy your number for £10 and get ten chances to win a prize. £75 at the moment, but could be bigger if more people sign up. "Much better odds than the National Lottery," she added with a grin.

"Every parent at Lacon Childe is also a member of the PTA," she explained. "They don't have to attend meetings, but we would love their support. A hand at the Bike Show wouldn't hurt." JR

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE TOWN LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Just eleven people gathered for the October 7th open meeting about the options available for the town's library; three of those did not represent a particular group interest. As this was the final day of the consultation process, maybe the readers out there thought there was no opportunity to change official opinions so late in the day.

A pity, because although there seemed to be an assumption that Option One - the handing over of day to day control to Cleobury Country with County Council finance for at least three years - there was a lot of debate and questioning. It was revealed that the response of the public to the questionnaire showed about 70 percent in favour of Option One and library staff explained how the CC staff would be trained in much the same way as new library staff are. It does seem that in this Brave New Austere World, professional librarians will be a very rare breed.

Councillor Gwillam Butler explained that the County are facing a further cut of £100 million in Government support. Further, the new move to allow councils to retain income from

business rates will not help much, as this large county with low population does not bring in enough to cover what has been paid by the Government.

There will be changes to the layout, to accommodate a small office in one corner. This will allow Cleobury Country to earn a little extra rent and help them move towards breaking even. There will also be two free-to-use telephones for people to contact the County services direct and one of the computers will double as a link and still be available for the public to use when free. Alterations will be made to make telephone calls private and not overheard, though one person with experience of such booths in industry doubted their effectiveness.

At the end of the evening, the general feeling seemed to be that Option One, which will give us all access to the library for five and half days a week, was acceptable, with at least one expressing reservations. But in the face of such cuts in services as the County has to make, we are fortunate to have a facility like this that has a long term lease that means it will have a library there for a long time. But it will be a place that reflects the changes that we see all around.

No official decision will emerge quickly from the public consultation. We can expect to hear the final word early this month. JR

AND ALSO IN THE LIBRARY

Just a reminder that Suzanne Thomas runs her Rhyme Time sessions for the youngest children on the first Wednesday of the month, in the library, from 10.30 to 11.00.

She offers quite a range to keep kids from less than a year old up to five amused. Rhymes, songs, stories and music so that there's enough variety to hold their attention for the session.

HORTICULTURAL SOC.

In October Mike Jones talked about Carl Linnaeus, the Swede who devised the method of giving plants Latin names. He was sent by the Royal Society to collect specimens of plants, rocks and animals and was befriended by eminent botanist; in exchange for knowledge he got food and shelter. His specimens were named by group and species, thus two Latin words; in 1753 he published his famous reference work, still in use today, though plants are named in English.



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Connectivity in the Ludlow Constituency

The technology revolution that has taken place in the last twenty years means connectivity is more important to our lives than ever before. To put in perspective how far we have come in computing terms, the average iPhone in your pocket today has more computing power than NASA had when they put man on the moon.

Harnessing this technology offers enormous benefits, from breakthrough medical research and learning, to new markets and jobs for young entrepreneurs. So it is clearly vital we continue to improve connectivity and ensure this wealth of opportunity does not pass Shropshire by.

Commercial providers, working with local groups, are rolling out superfast broadband across the UK. In Shropshire, this task is split between the commercial delivery programme of BT and Connecting Shropshire – a joint effort from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and Shropshire Council, alongside some non-commercial funding from BT.

The effect of this combined investment means that 105,000 households across Shropshire are currently able to receive fibre broadband. Of these, so far the BDUK scheme has enabled 43,000 households to be able to order a fibre broadband upgrade from their internet provider, with 82% able to access superfast speeds. Residents must note that broadband speed will not automatically increase after your local cabinet is upgraded to fibre. This will depend on the package you receive from your internet provider.

While upgrading cabinets to fibre broadband will help the vast majority of houses in Shropshire to access greater speeds, there remain

some properties which will be difficult to upgrade. This is often linked to rurality, or distance from the local cabinet. So Connecting Shropshire are exploring other solutions to help bring faster broadband to more homes and businesses across the county, including scheduling a trial rollout of satellite broadband.

This investment will achieve a transformation in our broadband access, so that everyone in the UK will be able to access minimum broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps), and 95 per cent of the UK receiving far greater speeds (at least 24Mbps) by 2017. Shropshire’s rural topography and sparse population present particular challenges compared to urban areas, but I am determined to do what I can to help.

Improving connectivity for the Ludlow constituency also means tackling poor mobile phone signal. Travelling across South Shropshire, I am aware how frustrating lack of mobile phone signal can be. Eliminating not spots – areas where there is no signal at all from any provider – and poor signal strength is a priority. We saw recently how dangerous this lack of mobile phone signal can be, when a local farmer had an accident and there was no signal to make an emergency call which could have saved his life.

All five Shropshire MPs feel that progress from mobile phone operators to improve rural signal availability has been too slow. So we have arranged a summit meeting with all major mobile providers, as well as BT and Shropshire Council who provide infrastructure for broadband and mobile internet, to nail down which areas are worst affected and how and when they can be improved.

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The November Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Mon 2nd	7.00	Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council meeting at the market hall. 15 minutes Open Time for parishioner comments before the formal business meeting		
	7.30	Bewdley WI meet at St George's Hall in Load Street to watch Stef the Chef demonstrating How to Make Chocolate. Can you resist such an offer? Visitors Welcome		
Wed 4th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 5th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk, starts at lay-by on A443, near turnings for Grimley and Sinton Green WR2 6PD		
Sat 7th	8.30	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill. Great Value to be found here.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
Wed 11th	7.30	Neen Savage WI, Village hall. AGM and 'Well Begun, Nearly Done' discussion.		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	CM 270793
Thu 12th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 13th	8.00	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary and Silvington Village hall		
Sat 14th	8.00	Dance at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. £5 entry	Sue Jordan	01584 890583
Tue 17th	7.30	Equine table top sale, Farlow and Oretton Village Hall £2 entry. See Page 9	Yvonne	01746 718650
Wed 18th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 19th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday the 8th is the day the Royal British Legion cooperates with the Parish Church and a full range of local clubs and associations to remember those who lost their lives in war. The Parade leaves Talbot Square at 10.45, then arrives at the Cenotaph at about 10.55 for the moving saying of prayers, the two minutes silence and the reading out of the names of those local men and women who died fighting for us.



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The November Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thu 19th	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk starts from Dog Lane car park, Bewdley DY12 2EG		
	6.00	Evening Christmas Shop at Severn Edge Hospice Shop, High Street	Page 13	
Fri 20th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun 22nd	10.00	2.00 or 6.00 Three Sessions of stirring up Christmas Pudding at Hobsons Brewery	Page 9	
Wed 25th	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall for their AGM and social evening.	Page 9	
Thu 26th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 27th	10.30	Till Noon, Picklelilly Circus Magic Christmas Show at Moffats School Kinlet. Admission free, booking essential	Page 13	01299 841230
	4.00	till 6.00. Cleobury Mortimer Primary School Christmas Fair, with loads of stalls and games, plus Father Christmas in the room that's been converted into his grotto. Really happy event.		
Sat 28th	8.30	Final Sale of Household good this year at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.00	to 12.00 noon. Macmillian Coffee morning in the Market Hall, lots of Christmassy things to buy early. Good company too.	Page 13	
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER...				
Wed 2nd	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 3rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Festive Shop at The Fighting Cocks, Admission free, proceeds to Severn Hospice	Page 13	

THE ADVENT SOUP LUNCHESES

This cleverly simple idea offers a lunch of locally baked bread, home made soup, and apple pie and cream as a sweet, for which a suggested donation of £3.00 would be appreciated. The proceeds go to Homeless at Christmas and The Severn Hospice.

It starts on Friday November 27th, runs from 1.00 to 2.15 and repeats on December 4th, 11th and 18th. It's a very pleasant social gathering, with stalls in support selling home made cakes and chocolate Christmas tree decorations , plus a Bring and Buy Sale and a Christmas Cake Raffle. All credit to organiser Shaunah Murrell and her supporters.

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A beautifully presented three bedroomed cottage having been modernised and updated by the current owners over recent years to provide comfortable accommodation in a pleasant rural setting. With easy maintenance landscaped gardens and parking to the rear, Energy Rating D.

Asking Price £230,000
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NEW



NEW



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EARDISTON

Spacious semi-detached two bedroomed bungalow located in an elevated position with stunning views over the Teme Valley. Having accommodation including: lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and family bathroom. Large well maintained gardens to the rear, Energy Rating E.

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NEEN SOLLARS

Detached character property set in approximately 2.38 acres of formal gardens and woodland area with picturesque trout stream. Accommodation includes: open plan lounge/dining room, study, family room, large breakfast kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite and dressing room, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Energy Rating D.

Offers In The Region Of £395,000

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MAMBLE

Modern detached house set in a desirable village setting with glorious views over the surrounding countryside. Having the added benefit of a garage conversion to make it suitable for multi-generational living. This lovely property consists of 4 good sized bedrooms (master with dressing area and ensuite with Jacuzzi bath) and 4 reception rooms. Manageable gardens to the rear backing onto open fields. Energy Rating E.

Offers In The Region Of £265,500

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER

A Large town house situated in the sought after village of Cleobury Mortimer in South Shropshire. This character property dates back to victorian times and provides plentiful and spacious living perfect for the modern family with its 4 bedrooms and two bathrooms this property has to be viewed to be appreciated. Energy Rating E

Asking Price £227,995

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SUTTON

A delightful extended period detached cottage having been recently modernised to a high standard by the current owners. Accommodation includes: three bedrooms with an ensuite from the master, fitted kitchen/diner, fourth bedroom/additional sitting room, dining room and lounge with log burner. Set in approximately three quarters of an acre of grounds which includes mature formal gardens, two adjoining stables and pony paddock. Energy Rating C.

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A Quiet Break with a Difference - Canal Cruising

It was years ago that an old motorcycling friend, Dave Measures, told me about the narrow boat he'd bought with a legacy and was planning to take around the canal system in his retirement. A man who'd been timed at 160mph on an airfield runway, how would he adapt to moving at walking pace? In the summer he called to say he was in the area and how about a day on the water?

The boat was moored at Caunsall, near Kidderminster, and we were joined by Martin Smith, recently retired from driving trains at 125mph. I felt quite slow in their company. The boat is 40 feet long, powered by a smooth four cylinder engine, and turning it around to travel north meant travelling a few miles south to a point where there was room to turn it around.



Cap'n Measures attends to the mooring rope while crewman Smith holds the craft steady.

The first revelation was the beauty of the canalside homes, with cropped lawns running down to the water. The second was the sight of a mother duck swimming calmly along with her family, undisturbed by a large boat passing slowly by.

The journey north meant meeting other boats, when happy greetings were exchanged. Canal users are almost all very polite and cooperative, helping one another with the heavy gates at every lock and waiting quietly until the oncoming boat has cleared the lock and left it for them.

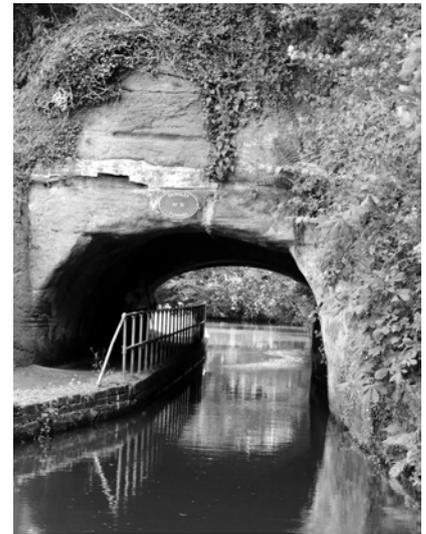
The sound of traffic nearby was a reminder that this stretch of the Shropshire and Staffordshire Canal runs close to the A449 at intervals, its noise a reminder of their hurry. Down on the canal, you look at the green of trees that almost form a tunnel, and wonder where all this gentle beauty is hidden when you're driving up the Wolverhampton road. It's nearby, down here on the canal.



Within earshot, fast moving road traffic. Down here, quiet calm.

Dave estimated our cruising speed at 3 to 4mph, or a brisk walking pace. But the winding path of the canal and the constant changing of the view made every minute fascinating. Not least amongst the features were the tunnels, reminders of the huge gangs of labourers who carved this path through

whatever obstacle the landscape offered.



The Dunsley Tunnel, a short passage through ancient rock.

It was close to Kinver that we turned the boat around and headed south to a mooring near a road bridge, to take lunch in a pub. But they weren't serving lunch any more and we made do with a modest raid of the food cupboards. We hadn't realised how late it was, but such a quiet way of moving through the country removes the normal sense of time. There were lots of walkers and cyclists out there, almost all with a smile and a polite greeting.

We were back at Caunsall by about 5.30, for me to say farewell and thank you, then join the usual busy traffic on the homeward rush. For Dave it was a drive back to Nottingham, the boat secured to wait for him and wife Marion to come back and continue what was another holiday journey. For me it had been a lesson in relaxation, a chance to see great country in good company and no hurry. Recommended. JR

Paul Harding



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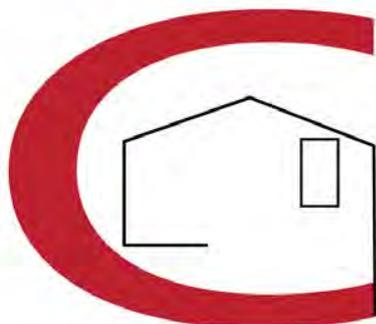
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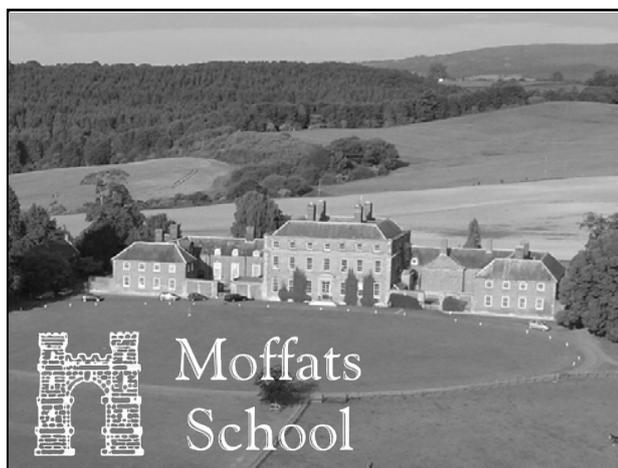
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Farming - John and Catherine Evans

November marks a change in pace for the working day. All the winter planting is now done, the clocks have changed and the days are shorter. This means more conventional working hours. Most farmers work to the hours of available daylight, so long days in the summer months to plant and harvest whilst the winter days are shorter and mainly focus on the livestock on the farm. Generally the cattle come inside for the winter months, as they make too much mess in the fields when the ground is wet and the grass not growing. They will need feeding morning and night and although this is heavily mechanised these days it is still very time consuming and ties us to the farm. Fortunately I am developing a network of friends and family happy to dog sit, feed the piglets, calves and hens here at Broome Park and generally keep an eye on everything so we can take the odd day off. When you read this we will just be completing our 6 monthly, whole herd TB test, always a worrying time of year, especially as TB seems to flare up when the cattle come in from the fields. Fingers crossed we will be clear and not need retesting for another 12 months. The ewes for lambing in April will be put to the tup (male sheep) at the beginning of November and this years lambs will go onto turnips to fatten them up over the winter months. A few fattened sheep are sent to

market, either Bridgnorth or Ludlow, most weeks through the winter.

This year John will lose his 'Grandfather rights' which allowed him to spray crops without any certification, due to his being born before 1963! From November he will need a certificate to show he has been trained to a certain level to allow him to continue spraying – I don't think he's looking forward to going back to college for a two day course. Spraying in November is against the weeds to stop them smothering the growing crops. Spraying can only be done when the conditions are right – slight wind, no rain or frost, so opportunities are small at this time of the year.

I had a minor B&B drama earlier last month when Mack the dog took a fancy to one of my young chickens whilst I was showing a young child and his father around the animals. He scooped up a chicken and ran off, ignoring my calls to come back and came to rest under the trampoline, occupied by mother and small child, this resulted in me crawling under the trampoline to retrieve a very sad looking bird. 'Oh, yes, it will be fine' said I, not believing a word of it but miraculously, after a reviving drink and cup cake (I can't remember where that came from) the chicken has made a full recovery. Never a dull moment here.

John and Catherine Evans



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Hall Bookings: Jan Short on 01299 271070

Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



There was a break-in to a shed at Boraston between September 9th and 14th where over 2000 litres of domestic oil was stolen. Between 8:30pm on September 18th and 6:30pm the next day, a chainsaw was stolen from a garage in Rock. At two locations in Oreton on September 27th/28th five wooden field gates were stolen. Between 11:00am and 4:00pm on October 3rd a burglary took place in Prescott. Although access was gained to the house, only a chainsaw and a pair of ladders were stolen from the workshop. On October 11th between 10:30am and 4:30pm, a hedgetrimmer was stolen from an insecure shed at a farm in Kinlet. Thirty road forms worth £2000 were stolen from a building site at Neen Savage sometime between July 27th and October 14th. On a farm at Nash on October 18th/19th a sheep was killed and several others injured by what is thought to have been a dog (or dogs) running loose.

Towards the end of October there were reports of 'loud bangs' in the evenings. These are likely to have been caused by 'crow bangers' and not ordinary fireworks. Some residents have said they thought guns had been fired. I expect there will be similar reports this month. It is illegal to let off fireworks in a public place, unless it is a

properly organised event, and for under 18 year olds to possess them in a public place. Anyone supplying or using fireworks illegally can receive a £5000 fine and/or 6 months imprisonment. Could parents whose children may roam the streets of Cleobury at night please try to ensure that their children do not have any fireworks in their possession?

Also towards the end of last month, the Smartwater kits were being delivered to residents. Every household in Cleobury is to receive a free kit. However, it has been difficult to catch anyone in at some houses. There will be more attempts but any Cleobury householder who has not yet received a pack can go to The Market Hall with their details and ask Matt for a kit. Matt is in his office most days Monday to Friday. Please ensure that the stickers are displayed where criminals may see them so that they have an opportunity to think twice about breaking in and stealing your stuff, and don't forget to security mark pedal cycles and power tools in your sheds.

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

Nick Morris



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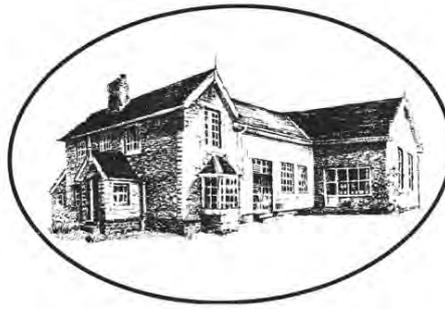
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Linda Iles

November In The Wyre Forest



Above all, it's a place for fun.

This month the autumn colours will still be brightening up the forest. I become mesmerised by leaf shapes and colours, from the bright orange of the wild service trees, which stand out like beacons, to the multi-coloured, variously lobed and crinkled oak leaves. Many of the latter are marked with the wandering trails of leaf miners: the larvae of various genera of moth and fly which munch their way between the two surfaces of the leaf. Have a look – the occupant may have long gone but you can sometimes see how a little island of green remains encircled by the miner's trail and surrounded by yellow and brown. As the green chlorophyll is lost from the leaf in autumn the other pigments remain

and give us the characteristic autumn colours, but in these little islands the green is trapped. But this is late autumn, and the forest is opening up as the leaves fall and the bracken dies down. The winter vistas appear again and deer can be glimpsed far off, on the other side of a valley, and boundary-marking yews stand out dark green amongst the brown. Most of the leaves are on the ground, where they can be thrown, scrunched or kicked by children of all ages who love their sound and sheer abundance.

Parts of the forest may not be very tranquil at the moment. In the New Parks area the trees are being thinned: the traditional forestry practice of harvesting a proportion and allowing the remainder to thrive in the increased space and light. Most of the oaks and other broadleaved trees that line the trails have already been thinned, but the family bike trail will remain closed while the opportunity is taken to resurface it. The Douglas fir, Corsican pine and larch thinnings will provide fence posts, construction timber, plywood and particle board. The European larch is resistant to rot and is valued for that reason but it is also a very fine tree and I would argue for a good smattering of larch around the forest on the basis that it is particularly beautiful in autumn, when its needles turn golden yellow, and spring when the new needles burst from the twigs in soft tufts of brilliant green...but that's another story.

Linda Iles



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In Business - Mark Pearce, Landscapes and Woodwork

Mark Pearce has been self employed since he was a lad of 17, always working with his hands. 33 years later he's learned a lot and can tackle just about any job, or bring in an equally skilled specialist to do the bits he won't touch because he wants the best possible finish.

"I'll talk to the customer about the job as it progresses," he explains. ""And if they want it changed I'll do it; it's much easier to do as you work than ask when it's finished. And if I can find a cheaper way of doing the job, I'll pass that saving on." There aren't very many tradesmen that will do that, so you can see why most of his work is repeats for established customers or by recommendation.

He's a landscaper principally with woodworking skills in support and garden furniture making when the other work is slow. Which isn't very often, as he's currently quoting a three months wait before he can take on another job. He has good eye for design, like the Giant's Chair he produced recently and quickly sold at the Bewdley Craft Fair; there's another, waiting for the next market he attends.



Mark (left) with Dan Romeo and the mighty Giant's Chair.

The big appeal of the work Mark and assistant Dan Romeo produce is their ability to make almost anything bespoke. Like a greenhouse to fit in a corner of a garden, or the propagator built especially for Ray Ingram's award winning vegetables grown in his Stottesdon garden. You name it, he'll sketch it and get you to agree it as he builds. It's not exactly the B&Q approach to gardening.

He operates within a radius of about 50 miles, working as far away as Birmingham. "I don't want to go pinching work off people a long way

away," he says. "There's plenty to do around here."

He's loyal to local suppliers too. Plants come from the Farlow Farm Nursery, wood from Chetton Timber with the shed materials all impregnated with preservative, and rustic timbers from M&M.

We talked to Sarah Williams of Bridgnorth, who had landscaping work done in the garden. "He was brilliant," she told us. "Everything exactly to plan, landscaping and creating a new sunken patio. Mark could see what it would look like; we changed some of the details along the way and he told us what it would cost extra and stuck to that price. The brickwork was to an amazing standard and the result was better than I expected. I'd recommend him to anyone."

It's quite an array of talents in Mr Pearce's hands that keeps him busy seven days a week as wife Sarah handles the paperwork. Son Richard helps out on projects when he's on holiday from school, so it's a real family affair, with the emphasis on quality and proper value for money. A genuine country craftsman.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



Cleobury Juniors line up in their new Go Ape livery before their October match with Warndon. Extreme left: Referee Jack Martin, extreme right: manager Martin Coombs with Matt Forman of Go Ape, Wyre Forest.

'GO APE' BACKS CLEOBURY JUNIORS

Cleobury Juniors Under 16s are setting a novel trend with their new sponsor, 'Go Ape' of Wyre Forest. Manager Matt Forman was at their match with Warndon early in October to see the strip in action. He explained that Go Ape don't normally sponsor sports, but team manager Martin Coombs had persuaded him to supply vouchers that could be raffled and the result has been good.

Go Ape have been operating in the Wyre Forest since 2009. It's a measure of their success

that they have just opened a second operation there, to give adventurous visitors the choice of two routes through the upper reaches of the trees.

And the team bearing the Go Ape name on their shirts showed that they are a successful outfit as well. Matt looked on as they trounced Warndon 6-0, their third win in three matches so far this season. That show of talent and determination puts them at the top of the Mercian Under 16s Division Two League. What better way to show a sponsor he'd made the right choice?

THE FUN RUN IS BACK

The Cleobury Mortimer Sponsored Fun Run for over 18s, three legged and in fancy dress, is on again this year. It's in aid of BBC Children in Need and local children charities. It happens on Friday the 13th at the Parish Hall.

Sponsor forms are available in all local pubs and the Sports and Social Club.

Any local children's charity who would like to be considered for a donation please apply in writing to: The Fun Run committee, Walfords Cottage, Green Lane, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8EN.

Caroline Bills

CHRISTMAS CALENDARS

The promised calendars of Simon Evans country, using the best pictures selected by the judges at the Simon Evans Weekend, are on sale. They are really good as a reminder of the lovely countryside we live in and at just £4.50, quite a bargain. Available from the library - all proceeds go to the Friends - in Love Lane, from Butlers on the High Street or organiser Graham Simpson on CM 270655. But hurry - they're selling out fast.



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On The Market - Ella's Creations



Ella Low with some of her clever creations. See them all on her stall at the Farmer's Market.

Ella Low's card says she's an artisan, which my dictionary says is a handicraftsman. Or in this case, woman. Someone whose business has grown from a hobby to be a full time job.

She learned silver and copper smithing in the Forest of Dean, crafts she uses in making individual jewellery pieces. She has tried candle making, but that didn't satisfy her soul as a

craftswoman and she took a break before coming back with an open mind and concentrated on developing her jewellery skills, using semi-precious stones. Then her imagination took her in other directions as her range expanded.

Like making fairy doors, her own invention for young children, or as she says "A portal to Fairy World." Each one is made to fit the character of the child as the parents outline it, and it comes with an adoption certificate for the child to take on whatever he or she calls their fairy. They are told that fairies like to hear children reading their favourite stories, so encouraging their reading. If you look in on Ella's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ellalowcreation, she'll encourage you to Adopt A Fairy. It's an idea that has parents coming back for the next child and she's even made one that was sent to France. Whoever heard of a Fairy Export Drive?

She also make Clay Leaves, impressing clay onto real leaves before baking and painting

them. They make an attractive table decoration on their own or can hold small beads or even flowers.

"It's not jewellery that defines my work," she explains. "I just couldn't do the same thing day in and day out." So she's happy to take special commissions and the challenge they bring. Like the man who wanted some candles made for his daughter - candle making is in Ella's CV too - and loved the idea of her creating a mini bouquet to tie around each one.

She sells at just two markets, Cleobury and Chaddesley Corbett, plus craft fairs like the one at Tewkesbury. And she does individual work for the two shops she supplies in Stourport and Winchcombe.

What drives this talented young woman? "It's very good to be away from the stress of a management job," she smiles. And do her children's ideas spring from her childhood in Rumania? "Oh no, I lived there in the Communist times. We had nothing like this." You can see why she likes England.

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ON THE BUSES

October seems to have been a quieter month (unless you know something I don't) but there have still been a number of instances of late running.

Even if you arrive back in Cleobury on time there is no guarantee that this is the end of your problems. In one case, having stopped in Lower In hedge, the doors could not be persuaded to open and a 10 minute wait ensued whilst the driver consulted with the depot as to how this could be achieved. Eventually it was sorted but I wonder whether Diamond are so desperate for customers that they are reluctant to let them go. I have also seen several buses with 'Not in Service' or no number at all running backwards and forwards at times that bear no relation to those on the timetable as well as one apparently broken down by the Parish Hall. I have been trying to speak to my contact at Diamond about punctuality but he seems to have stopped answering his phone. Perhaps he has been executed following the attention allegedly being given to the Kiddy depot by Diamond management (see last month's article).

The timetables on the Corve Street bus stop have finally been changed so at least customers will now know

that the 2L exists even if it doesn't turn up. Just as well as there have been several examples of this. In one case, a family with three children under five had to wait 90 minutes in the cold before the bus appeared. In another, the bus didn't appear at all. Never mind, only two hours to wait for the next one. Still no new timetables on the Cleobury stops but as it only been about seven weeks since the times changed perhaps the scribes at County Hall are still writing out the new details with their quill pens.

The timetables themselves have proved very popular with only a few left but don't lose them in case further supplies fail to materialise. We were in Lancashire briefly the other week when we spotted a Diamond bus which was only TWO years old so they do exist. Mind you, it was parked in a lay by so it may have been broken. I am told that there has been a staff meeting at Diamond during which the drivers expressed their dissatisfaction about the convoluted route of the 2L and the number of Diamond buses trying to use the back streets of Kiddy and Bewdley at the same time. Clearly this is not a problem that affects the Shropshire half of the route...

Madge Shingleton and I had a meeting with Philip Dunne

the other week following which he wrote to the Traffic Commissioners expressing his concerns about the 2L service. They have replied saying that they have written to the company reminding them of their obligations to provide an acceptable service and saying that if they receive further reports of failure to comply with the relevant requirements they will consider setting up a further public enquiry. I wonder whether the public will be allowed to attend?.

I have had a response from Shropshire Council to my further questions about the funding and route. They say that they are 'not able to add further to the initial responses at this time' but these were clearly unsatisfactory which is why I asked again. It seems to me that there are a number of ways in which problems can be dealt with. You can be proactive and sort them before they get worse, reactive and sort them after they get worse or you can be inactive and refuse to believe that the problem exists at all which is sadly the approach that County Hall seem to be adopting. The words 'Ostrich' and 'Sand' come to mind.

Never mind. Onwards and upwards.

Steve Todd

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IN BUSINESS TWO: Live Life @ Home



"We just offer what people need. No rules or regulations, no red tape, it's tailor made to what people say they want," explains Liz. "Like the lady we take to Bristol shopping; we'll be taking her again for Christmas."

Liz and Tracey - never mind surnames, they don't use them - both trained as carers at Worcestershire County Council, including tending dementia sufferers. Now they work together as Live Life @ Home, self employed and able to give the care their experience has shown them people need. "They want to access the community they live in, but often don't have the confidence," explains Liz. "There's no age bar, we've cared for an autistic youngster and got him swimming and going on outings. Another 20 year old had a physical

disability, but his confidence grew with proper care and he's off to university now."

They advertise their service, but most of their work comes through referrals, often from social workers who recognise the thoroughness of what they do. Like the client with terminal cancer they looked after on a 24/7 basis, taking it in turns to sleep on the premises while the other dealt with the phone calls and made the calls on others in need of what is really basic care.

"People want someone who will take the trouble to listen to what they say, even if they do have dementia. You have to listen and sometimes work out what they mean, because it's not obvious at first," Tracey says. "We spent one New Year's Day driving around, looking for a chemist who was open to supply morphine for a client in pain. We ended up getting Hereford Hospital to send someone up to Kidderminster with it in the evening. They've learned from that and the nurses have Just In Case boxes at weekends now."

They're getting more end-of-life cases to look after. Like the man who saw their video in the care home he was due to leave and declared: "Those are

the girls I want to look after me!" They cooked whatever he fancied for his meals and even brought in their own home-made soups as they made the final days as comfortable as they could.

Isn't that hard, building an emotional bond that will inevitably end with death? "I found it very difficult watching him die of cancer," Liz agrees. But they recognise the strength of character some elderly people show, like the man who talked about what he wanted to do at each stage as death neared. "He died the way he wanted to, it was a privilege to be there," says Liz.

Despite the suffering they see they have a happy working relationship, talking on the phone and laughing when they get together. It's that happy, smiling style that clients like, the thought that it's not all doom and gloom. If that makes them sound light hearted, it's because they are, but these are two experienced and well qualified ladies who run a serious business. Fully insured, enhanced DBS checked, properly trained and able to advise families where to look for grants or how to handle the business of dealing with loss. Very valuable members of society.



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All staff enhanced DBS checked with over 20yrs experience and training within the local authority/social services mainstream and dementia care sector. Fully insured.

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Mob: 07826 929222

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SARITA WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Sarita Jones made it to the top of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain on the African continent. She reports:

After a very gruelling but exciting trek I reached the highest point on Kilimanjaro Uhuru peak which was 5,855m high. I have had the most unforgettable experience.

It took five days to climb Kilimanjaro and I experienced different climate changes. At the very bottom it was 40 degrees and then when I got to the top it was -20 which was very cold!

We trekked for eight hours a day, some days longer and it was very gruelling but the scenery was beautiful it was also very strange waking up and looking out to see that I was higher than the clouds and at that point I thought "Yes! I am actually doing this!"

On the final summit night it was very exciting, we left base camp at 11.00pm and set off on the summit trek. We had head torches on but it was very scary in an unknown place, however the porters kept the spirits high and gave us all tremendous support, motivation and help. As we climbed higher it was a lot harder; it was very hard to breathe and I had to walk at the pace of a 90 year old man. The final hour I had to climb on my hands and knees over rocks but when I reached the top it was an unforgettable experience. We then carried on trekking for a further two hours to reach Uhuru peak and watch the sunrise over the glaciers. There were a lot of tears at that point, that's for sure.

The support from family and friends and the community has been outstanding and with all of your help and support I have raised £4,721 for the British Heart Foundation and I cannot thank you all enough.

Sarita

STOTTESDON W.I.

In October we learned of another inspirational local organisation when Katja Ward of Cleobury Co-co came to talk to us. Katja is the town's Co-ordinator of the Compassionate Communities project, which now has centres across the county. As a free service to tackle loneliness Katja leads a team of volunteers to support carers, as well as the 'cared for', to keep elderly vulnerable people in their own homes. She recognizes the key factor of continuity – the same familiar faces being there 1:1 for individual needs, or simply providing companionship. We all loved her warm and friendly approach and her excellent presentation.

Next month's meeting will involve members and visitors in a creative activity with an evening making felt flowers, naturally followed by festive refreshments. Join us on 16th December at Chorley VH 7.30. Visitor charge £5 to cover materials; please contact one of the numbers below. We would love to see you.

Marian Wootton 01746 718151

Stef Bryan 01746 718018

CLEOBURY W.I.

We held our AGM during the October meeting; the committee and officers remain the same, and we would welcome more members to join the committee.

The business was followed by

a superb buffet and a sing song which was very amusing. I don't think any of us will be in demand for solos. In November we will be hearing all about Norway and are looking forward to some beautiful pictures.

Also in November we have a soup lunch, raising funds for the WI and our charity for this year, First Responders. For £4 you can enjoy a homemade soup, fresh bread, and a choice of home made puddings, followed by tea and coffee. Great Value! Come along to the Market Hall, Thursday November 5th, 12.00 till 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier!

Gillian Senior.

ANOTHER AWARD FOR THE LAMP



Islam Uddin, Executive Chef at The Lamp, with his award.

The 40 best curry chefs in the UK were acclaimed at the recent 'Curry Life' magazine gathering in London. And one of those to receive the coveted certificates was Islam Uddin of The Lamp Indian and Bangladesh restaurant on the High Street.

It is a great honour for a local chef to be rated so highly in an industry that serves 2.5 million customers a week here in the UK. Congratulations!

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£475,000

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£449,500

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BURFORD

Burford Cottage is a wonderful detached period cottage having been improved and extended by the current owners who have created a spacious and comfortable country home. The property is set over two floors and includes a living room, separate sitting room, dining room, fitted dining kitchen with utility, four bedrooms, bathroom and ensuite shower room. Detached double garage and landscape gardens. Energy Rating E.

£425,000

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