BOMERE HEATH AND DISTRICT NEWS

April- May 2026

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The future of *Coffee and Play*
Down on the farm
Save the date for the fete
... and much more...

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Bomere Heath and District News

Is a joint publication managed by the Methodist and Anglican churches of Bomere Heath, Leaton and Albrighton with Battlefield.

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Bomere Heath and District News

April—May 2026

Happy Easter

Welcome to this edition of the Bomere Heath and District News! We hope that you have a lovely Easter and enjoy the May Bank Holidays. Please do also take a look at the Fun Fundraiser poster on the back page. Last year, this event enabled us to break-even so that we can keep delivering the magazine free of charge- please come along and support us!

Our next edition of the Bomere Heath and District News will be June-July, with a copy deadline of 16th May.

With thanks from the team at Bomere Heath and District News

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the mag, here are the bank details:

Bomere Heath Parish News

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Remembering Liz

It is with immense shock and sadness that we share the news that Liz Payne has died. Liz was a staunch supporter of the magazine- delivering it in good weather and bad, writing articles (about English idioms and letterboxes amongst other things) and being part of the team behind last year's Fun Fundraiser. She also began the Book Club in the village. She was a committed and well-known member of the community- wise, straight-talking, kind and a faithful friend to so many of us. We will miss her profoundly and remember her with deep fondness and gratitude. Please do keep Arthur and the wider family in your thoughts and prayers.

CHURCH SERVICES

Anyone is welcome at any of our services- we are here for you!
Each one lasts about an hour, and our service times are below:

Date	**Bomere Methodist Church** the redbrick church at the top of the bank on Baschurch Road, SY4 3PN	**Holy Trinity, Leaton** the parish church- Berwick Road, SY4 3AP	**The Mission Church** the white building in the centre of the village- Shrewsbury Road, SY4 3PN	**St John the Baptist, Albrighton** the sandstone church opposite Albrighton Hall Hotel- SY4 3HP
2nd April (Maundy Thursday)	Ecumenical Agape Meal at the Mission Church in Bomere Heath, 7pm			
3rd April (Good Friday)			2pm Last Hour	
5th April (Easter Day)	10.30am	10.45am	8am	9.15am
12th April	10.30am	10.45am	9am 3pm- Loopy Sunday	No service
19th April	10.30am	10.45am	No service	9.15am
26th April	10.30am	10.45am	9am	No service
3rd May	10.30am	10.45am	No service	9.15am
10th May	10.30am	10.45am	9am 3pm- Loopy Sunday	No service
14th May		4pm Ascension Day service at Battlefield		
17th May	10.30am	10.45am	No service	9.15am
24th May	10.30am	10.45am	9am	No service
31st May	10.30am	10.30am united service at Albrighton		

To find out more about the wider life of the local churches, go to our websites:

www.shropshireandmarches.org.uk

www.severnloopparishes.org.uk

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Every Tuesday in term time, 8.45am-10.15am The Mission Church	First Wednesday of the month, 10am-noon The Methodist Church	Third Tuesday of the month, 2pm-4pm The Methodist Church	Last Wednesday of the month, 2.30pm-4pm The Mission Church

Bomere Heath Fete and Fun Day

We're delighted to announce that Bomere Heath Fete and Fun Day will be returning on Saturday 12th September 2026, and we're planning to make it even bigger and better than last year! Following the success of our 2025 event, we're bringing back many of the much loved favourites, including the Dog Show, The Great Bomere Bake Off, Photography competition, Fruit, Veg and Flower competition, various stalls, fair rides, bouncy castles, street food, a magician, the Human Fruit Machine, and of course our popular raffle… along with some exciting new surprises!

Once again, we anticipate the closure of a part of Shrewsbury Road for the afternoon, helping us create a safe, lively space at the heart of the village for everyone to enjoy. It promises to be a brilliant afternoon of fun and community spirit for all ages.

So please pop the date in your diary, spread the word, and get ready to join us for another unforgettable Bomere Heath Fete and Fun Day. We can't wait to welcome you back for what is set to be a fantastic village celebration!

To keep up to date with all the latest Fete and Fun Day news, you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Just search Bomere Heath Fete and Fun Day. If you'd like to be involved in the organisation of the Fete, in the lead up to or just on the day, or would like to come along with your stall or activity, let us know by contacting BomereHeathFete@gmail.com or contacting Helen on 07801 053114.

The Bomere Heath Fete and Fun Day Organising Team

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESCOTT SURGERY PATIENT NEWSLETTER March & April 2026

Latest News from The Surgery – From Nick Storey, Business Manager and Jackie Jones, Chair, Prescott Surgery Patient Participation Group.

Important News from your Patient Group (PPG)

Patient Group Annual General Meeting

The Patient Group AGM took place on 22nd January 2026. I am delighted to continue the role of Chair of the group and alongside me I welcome Lorraine Tozer as Co-Chair. Lorraine and I will work closely together on all patient matters and regarding the premises/proposed new surgery. I also welcome Alison Bowen as Secretary of the group.

Sister Sarah Marshall

Sister Sarah Marshall left the practice in March. On behalf of all patients, I would like to thank Sister Marshall for all her hard work, commitment and dedication to the patients of the practice. I am sure you will join me in sending Sister Marshall our very best wishes for the future.

Jackie Jones

Jackie Jones, Chair - Prescott Surgery Patient Group

Important News from your Surgery

Pharmabox

If you would like to collect your medication from the Pharmabox please complete the sign-up form available on the website. Although the form is 8-pages long, there are **only 2 pages** to complete. You can ask for a copy of the sign-up form at the Dispensary or at Reception should you not be able to print at home.

Automated Annual Recall Process

Many of you will have already received automated invitations to provide us with information about your current health via a link to a text message or an email. In April we will be extending the service to all patients and will be contacting patients in their month of birth. The aim is to reduce the number of times that you are contacted to request that you come in. For the system to work effectively please let us know if you have changed your mobile phone number or email address.

Spring COVID-19 Booster Vaccine campaign

We will be participating in the Spring COVID-19 Booster Vaccine campaign

and eligible patients will be contacted when we make appointments available.

Nursing Team

We bid Sr Sarah Marshall a very fond farewell and every success as she takes up an appointment at a practice a few minutes' walk from her home. We would like to thank Sarah for her loyal and committed 12 years' service. We are in the process of recruiting Sarah's replacement and ask that you bear with us if at times we cannot provide timely nursing appointments.

Nick Storey – Business Manager, Prescott Surgery

Bomere Heath Gardening Club

Thursday 7..30 p.m. 30th September 2026
Talk Jill Cawthrey
"Back to the Drawing Board"
==========
Thursday ,1.00 p.m. 28th May, 2026
Trip – Coach leaves Red Lion, Bomere Heath 1.00.p.m.
Visit Kings Garden Centre, £20. Coach fare
Refreshments available from their café
(cost to be covered by individual).
Visitors are always welcome, please bring your Coach fare to April meeting when you add your Name to the List – Many Thanks.
Further details from Anita: 07985.082172

BOMERE HEATH LADIES CLUB

Bomere Heath Ladies Club meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Red Room in the Village Hall (unless we are out on trips etc). We enjoy trips, speakers and quiz evenings amongst other events.

Why not join us - our annual subscriptions are £15 and £2 at each meeting attended.

Why not come along and give us a trial. Guests £4 per meeting

Tuesday 7th April.

Learning to fly Jacqueline White.

Tuesday 5th May.

Life upon the wicked stage. Heather Game.

Bomere Heath Village Hall

From Jennie Cooper (Chair BHVH)

We held our BHVH AGM on 12 February 2026 and were pleased to report that the Management Committee had fulfilled its obligations and duties for the Financial Year of 2025. We thanked all the volunteers that support BHVH which include the members of the Management Committee, the Coffee Shop volunteers and the BHVH Volunteer Group, without their support we would not have a village hall available for the use of our community.

We welcomed two new members to the Management Committee, Helen Stiffin and Amanda Langford. Amanda has been part of the BHVH volunteer group for many years and is looking forward to a new challenge supporting us on the Management Committee. Helen remains an active member of the BHVH Volunteers group and is their representative on the Management Committee.

Key points to note from the AGM are as follows:

- Positive year with final year end accounts at 31st December 2025 showing a surplus of income over expenditure of £5433.68. The Village Hall is financially stable with strong cash reserves to cover all known and expected costs forecast to be incurred in 2026.
- Major cost drivers in FY2025, totalling just under £10,000, were utility bills, insurance, coffee shop supplies and machine rental, village hall repairs and upkeep.
- Income was almost exclusively derived from room hire, our community coffee shop and fund raising which in total contributed over £16,000 (72% of total income).
- Hall hire income generated a net increase of 20% compared to FY2024.
- Our well supported Community Coffee Shop generated a net increase of 32% compared to FY2024.
- Over £4,000 was raised from community events run by the volunteers in 2025 which left a profit of £2,600 to support the running of the hall.
- We were grateful to receive donations and grants in FY2025 of almost £2,500. We secured a grant of £279 from the Bomere Heath and District Parish Council that offset the cost of the CCTV that was installed due to the increased instances of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the hall.

Upcoming community events

Our BHVH volunteer group has listened to feedback on the type of entertainment you've said you'd like to see in the Village Hall and we're trying a couple of new events over the next few months. Please come along and support them. Tickets and further details will be available via www.bhvh.co.uk and look out for posters round the Village. Tickets will also be available from the Village Hall Coffee Shop. If there is anything else you'd like to see put on in the Village Hall, as always do let us know.

A Night at the Races, Friday 24th April. A race night with races shown on a large screen with commentary & betting via a tote booth. Tickets for entry £6pp. Over 18's only.

Wine Tasting Evening, Friday 5th June. Do you know your Merlot from your Malbec? Your Sauvignon Blanc from your Chardonnay? A fun wine tasting evening with appetizers served to accompany the wines. Limited places will be available with tickets £15pp and over 18's only.

Table Top Sale, Saturday 4th July. Free entry. Watch out for details on how to book a table if you'd like to come along to sell.

Friday Afternoon Bingo, last Friday of the month, 1.30pm. The next dates are 24 April, 29 May and 26 June.

From our local churches…
Revd. Dave Latcham, Severn Loop Parishes
The glory of the Northern Lights

You may not remember or even have noticed, but rewind back a few months and we had a visit from the Northern Lights. It was one of those rare, clear evenings, and above our heads they were coming and going, moving around in their ethereal way. And I almost missed them!

I was putting the bins out, and it was only because a neighbour was standing outside, excitedly looking through a phone that I looked up to see what the fuss was about. Initially I saw what looked like a wispy grey cloud that was blocking out some of the stars. Except that as I continued watching, this grey cloudlike shape moved, disappeared and then reappeared. It was only when I got my phone out too, and looked through the camera's night filter, that the northern lights were revealed in their full glory, stretching across the sky in the colours of green and pink.

As I stood there, I found myself with a dilemma: on the one hand I wanted to look at the Northern Lights directly, experiencing them above me in the sky; but on the other hand I could only see their fullness when I looked at them through the screen. What was the true experience of the Northern Lights? The truth is that it was together that they gave me that full experience, of both seeing directly the presence of something huge and magnificent hovering above me, and through my phone getting to see the glorious colours in detail.

Let me encourage you to hold that image of looking at the Northern Lights in mind as we approach Easter this year. In many ways Easter will be much the same as we have done before: the same stories of Jesus entering Jerusalem, dying, rising again; the same church events and services; the same proliferation of chocolate! Again we will go about, doing the normal things of life, with Easter like a wispy grey cloud, present but easy to miss in the midst of everything else.

But don't miss its glory. Maybe like me as I was putting out the bins, you might come across someone who seems to be looking at the same thing through a different filter. A way of seeing both its immediate presence, but also encountering its full, glorious technicolour, as the full story of God's love for humanity is filtered through the life, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. Because the more we look at him, the more we see of all that is going on at Easter.

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Down on the farm

We are introducing a new community article about our local farmland. This time, Charles Bridgeman tells us about what's been going on at Leaton Forest in recent months…

I'm writing this on the 1st March, St. David's Day which we celebrated at Leaton Church today.

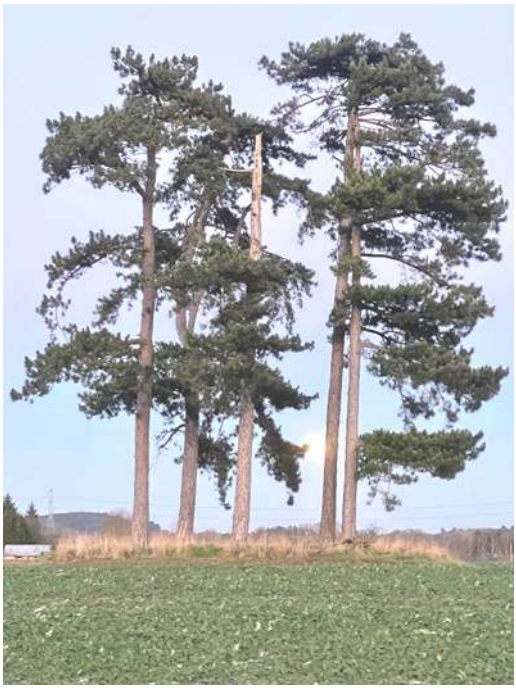
I have just pinched myself (OW!) The sun is shining!

It's been a grim old time on the farm but at Leaton Forest we have taken the opportunity to repair the drive to the grain store. Our new bestie drainage contractor has been busy with his digger putting in a new drain along the drive so that the rainwater (rather a lot of it) goes into the drain and ends up in the pond opposite Leaton Church, which we are opening to the light which will be good for wildlife.

The shooting season has finished so we will be concentrating on squirrel control. Grey squirrels cause a great deal of damage, particularly broadleaf trees, including young Oaks and our valuable Cricket Bat Willows.

The crops planted last Autumn are looking much better than in 2024, and our contractor is hoping that the fields will soon be dry enough to apply fertiliser to the Wheat and Oilseed rape. We are hoping that the Wheat will be good quality this year to go for milling for Bread and biscuit making.

The sheep have been grazing over the winter, and the lambing season is approaching fast so watch out for newborn lambs shortly. Livestock farmers will be hoping that there will not be a drought so that there will plenty of grass for grazing and silage for winter fodder.



Leaton Forest has a had drifts of snowdrops and I am looking forward to primroses starting to show. Our hedge cutting contractor cuts back the vegetation along the forest tracks which allows the wildflowers to come through this finishes at the end of February for the start of the nesting season.

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BASCHURCH, BOMERE HEATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH

It is with some pleasure that I can write to you all with some up to date news regarding our Branch.

My name is William (Bill) Dawber, I was elected to be Chairman of the Branch at our AGM meeting in October, also we have a newly elected President, Malcolm (Mal) Hazell, MBE. It will be a pleasure for us both to serve our Branch and community in our new roles.

The Branch continues to slowly grow in membership numbers, and is open to everyone over the age of 18yrs to come and join us. The door is always open to Serving members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and the general public, Ladies and Gentlemen, so please feel free to come and join us. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, except December at the New Inn, Baschurch at 1900hrs. We would like to hear from any Veterans that are living in the community to see if they require any support.

A few of our members are actively involved with the Gardeners at All Saints Church including taking care of the Commonwealth War graves.

A personal thank you from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025. The Baschurch, Bomere Heath and District Branch have collected an amazing amount of money in our local area, through the generosity of the public. All this money will help support Veterans and their families who are in need of our help, both locally and nationally. Also very importantly the Poppy Appeal continues to thrive. The final total of £6666.80 was raised locally.

If anyone would like to volunteer in helping during the November 2026 appeal, please get in touch, for assisting at the Spar Shop, Baschurch and the Cooperative Shop in Bomere Heath.

We are also planning to get along to the Bomere Heath Fete later in the year, please come along and say hello.

Keep well, keep safe.

Bill Dawber. (Chairman) wldawber@yahoo.co.uk

Coffee and Play graduation!

You may remember that the first edition of the colour cover featured the children at Coffee and Play- our weekly group for preschoolers and their caregivers. Well, most of those children will be off to school come September, and the time has flown! There are a couple of younger children in the group, and we would very much like it to continue. If you have a child who is preschool age, please do consider coming along- it's very informal, and you'll find a warm welcome. There are refreshments and plenty of toys!

One person who attends says:

'This is a nice, welcoming group that's very relaxed.'

Do come along on any Tuesday in term-time to see what it's like- for the group to remain viable, we do need a few more folk. There is a Facebook page where you can find out more, or contact Hannah at revhannahlins@gmail.com.

Coffee and Play meets in the Mission Church in Bomere Heath (the white building, just along from the Coop), on Tuesday mornings in term-time, 8.45am-10.15am.

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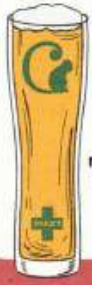

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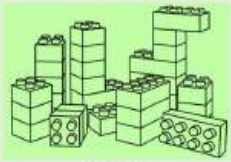
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