

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



A Winter's Day, Alison Benbow

Printed Copy £8.00 per annum

Digital Copy £5.00 per annum

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & SUPPORT

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

To access information and advice:

FREE Shropshire Adviceline: 0808 278 7894
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

Specialist Debt Team: 01742 280 019
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

FREE Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133

FREE Universal Credit: Help to claim:
0800 144 8 444

On the web: www.citizensadvice.org.uk



STUART ANDERSON

**Member of Parliament
for the South Shropshire Constituency**

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187

Fax: 01584 876 345

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

**Cllr. Cecilia Motley
Councillor, Corvedale Division**

Cabinet Member for Health and Communities;
Executive member, Rural Services Network;

Shropshire Council 01588 672 192



SUPPORT & RESOURCES

There is a wealth of information and resources available on the Shropshire Council website: www.shropshire.gov.uk

From information about household recycling, planning applications, and highways to help with Cost-of-Living and Benefits. Help and information can also be obtained by phone: **0345 678 9000**.

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

LIST OF DISTRIBUTORS & AREAS

| NAME | ADDRESS | AREA SERVED |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Mrs M Buckingham | The Old Rectory, Abdon | Abdon |
| Mr A Inglefield | Aston Munslow | Aston Munslow |
| Ms N Fuller | Mill House, Bache Mill | Bache Mill |
| Mr P Turner | 16 Beambridge, Munslow | Beambridge/Millichope |
| Mr D Hedgley / Mrs M Holt | Bouldon | Bouldon, Wynett's Bank |
| Mrs A Benbow | Thonglands Farm, Stanton Long | Broadstone, Rowe Lane, Hungerford |
| Mr I Hankinson | Broncroft, Broncroft | Broncroft, Baucott, Balaam's Heath, Tugford |
| Mrs N Brentnall | Holdgate Pool Farm, Brookhampton | Brookhampton |
| Mr M Jones | Yew Tree Cottage, Corfton Bache | Corfton/Corfton Bache |
| Mrs C Crowther | Corfton Lodge | Corfton, Pedlar's Rest |
| Mrs V Hardwick | Sparchford Cottage, Sparchford | Culmington 1 |
| Mrs C Byng | The Meadow, Culmington | Culmington 2 |
| Mrs S Morgan | 1, The Moors, Diddlebury | Diddlebury 1 |
| Mr N Kennedy | The Old Byre, Diddlebury | Diddlebury 2 |
| Ms S Walters | Roseford, Bache Mill | Diddlebury 3, Middlehope |
| Mrs A Donnelly | The Ashlings, Munslow | Munslow |
| Ms S Lewis | New House Farm, Peaton | Peaton, Peaton Strand |
| Ms C Morgan | Ludlow | Sutton |
| Mrs P Baynham | Garage Cottage, Westhope | Westhope |

COPY FOR MARCH 2025 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the March 2025 magazines, please send by email to editor@corvedalenews.co.uk by **MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2025** at the latest.

ADVERTISEMENTS If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager by **MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2025** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk. All adverts must be in electronic format and sent in either jpg or Word format.

PICTURES We are always very pleased to receive high quality pictures of scenes or events around the Corvedale to add to our library for use on the front cover. Email to photos@corvedalenews.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTE If anyone knows of other events taking place within their immediate area in the next few months, could they please let the Editor know so these may be included in the Dates for Your Diary.

OUR DOMESTICS

DON'T FORGET If you are aware of anyone who does not receive the Corvedale News in your area but would like to, please have a word with your distributor.

DISCLAIMER Views expressed in this paper are those of the relevant authors and not necessarily those of the Corvedale News team. We reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted for publication. No liability is accepted for loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising, and the appearance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement or recommendation. The Corvedale News is published and distributed entirely by volunteers, with production costs defrayed by advertising and subscriptions.

DESIGN & PRINTING Our magazine is designed, set and printed by Craven Design and Print. info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk Unit 1, Craven Arms Business Park, Craven Arms, SY7 8NR. Tel: 01588 673972

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025

The Corvedale News Team is very pleased to announce that we are able to hold the 2025 subscription prices at the 2024 rates. The paper subscription will remain at £8.00 per annum and the electronic subscription £5.00 per annum. This represents remarkable value for money.

You can make your payment in three ways:-

1. Online:

Account Name: Corvedale News (Business Account)
Sort Code: 30-90-49
Account Number: 54132260
Reference: Please use your surname and your location e.g. SMITH, PEATON

3. By post:

Make your cheque out to: THE CORVEDALE NEWS
Print your name and address on the back of the cheque and post to:
T Bennett, Corvedale News Treasurer
Lower Middle Barns
Corfton, Craven Arms
SY7 9LB

2. Your Corvedale News distributor:

Hand your cash or cheque over to your distributor.

If you are not sure whether you have paid or not, please contact Colin Pitcher by email at colin.pitcher@hotmail.com.
With thanks for your continued support.

The Corvedale News Team

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rev'd John S Beesley
St Michael's Rectory
Munslow
SY7 9EU

Tel: (01584) 841488
revjbeesley@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Canon Christopher Walsh
St Peter's RC Church
Henley Road, Ludlow
SY8 1QZ

Tel: (01584) 872906
st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net

METHODIST CHAPEL

Craven Arms: for service times and ministers, please contact the Shropshire and Marches Circuit Office

Tel: (01743) 874923
circuitoffice2803@gmail.com

LOCAL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

 *Mini Moos* 
Baby and toddler group

Every Monday
 10-12 term time
 £2.50 per family

Baby area
 Toddler area
 Ride-ons
 Craft activities
 Song time
 And lots more

 Diddlebury Village Hall 

*Find us on Facebook
 Mini Moos baby and toddler group*


Weekly Whist Drives



Every Monday
 All ages and abilities welcome

Doors open 7pm
 Start 7:15pm

£3 to include half time refreshments

Westhope Village Hall
 SY7 9JL



ENJOY SINGING?
CORVEDALE CHOIR is looking to recruit new members who love to sing.

WHO?
 We are a mixed voice community choir based in the Corvedale. Our Musical Director is Ros Crouch. All songs are taught - an ability to follow music and a desire to sing is all that's required.

WHEN and WHERE?
 Monday evenings 7.30 to 9.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall during school term times

WHAT?
 We sing an eclectic mix of harmony songs with a supportive, friendly and fun group of local people. We have an annual summer concert and support a carol service in church at Christmas time. And we raise money for good causes at the same time.

INTERESTED? For further information contact Avril Lines avril.fossilsinshropshire@gmail.com Or 01584 861 339

Or join us any Monday evening for a taster.

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

Corvedale Book Group welcomes new members! It costs less than £5 a month to cover room hire fees and Shropshire Library loan fees.

For the first six months of the year, we will be choosing books selected by group members. Then we will be discussing books selected from the annual library list.

Please contact cathburley@hotmail.com if you would like to join us.

**Second Thursday of the month
 7.30pm - 9pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th February



CORVEDALE ARTISTS

meet every Tuesday
 from 10.00 am until 1.00pm in
Beambridge Village Hall

Portrait Model and Still Life provided at each session with tuition, or bring your own artwork

£8.00 per session

A warm welcome awaits new members of all abilities so why not come along?

For further information telephone 01299 832 603



CORVEDALE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP



Working parties are usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month and the following Friday and Sunday, beginning at 9.30am.

Please contact Katharine Wale on 07866 408 897 or katharinewale59@gmail.com to confirm work location.

If any local walkers in the Corvedale notice any stiles or steps in poor condition, please report back to Katharine.

**Wednesday 26th February,
 Friday 28th February
 Sunday 2nd March**

RSPB Walks & Talks

More info can be found on the RSPB local group website.

WALKS

Sunday 23rd February 10am River Onny
Sunday 9th March 9.30am Sowdley Wood & Clunton Coppice

TALKS - Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall. £2 members, £5 non-members including refreshments.

11th February Council Parks Ranger Guy Border
11th March Osprey Project Chris & Graham Pennie



All Saints Church Culmington

Back by popular demand but with a twist. Winter is coming!

Willow brash kindling
 £1 per bag.

Willow mini logs to get your fires really going £2 per bag.

All found in the church porch.

Either leave money in the wall money box or if you're paying by card make a donation using the card reader in the church.

All donations much appreciated.

ORGANISING AN EVENT OR RUN A LOCAL CLUB?

Get the word out with the Corvedale News.

Contact the editor to include your poster in the next edition:
editor@corvedalenews.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2025

| | | | | |
|------|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 4th | Tue | Culmington Parish Council Meeting | Culmington Village Hall | 7pm |
| 5th | Wed | Coffee Morning | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 10 - 12noon |
| 6th | Thu | Gardening Workshop | Westhope College | 10am - 4pm |
| 6th | Thu | Quiz Night | The Tally Ho, Bouldon | see advert |
| 8th | Sat | Corvedale Garden Group: Talk | Diddlebury Village Hall | 10am |
| 8th | Sat | Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning | Abdon Village Hall | 10.30-12.30pm |
| 8th | Sat | Hedge Laying Day | Abdon Village Hall | 10am-4pm |
| 8th | Sat | Snowdrop Weekend | St Peter's, Stanton Lacy | 2pm - 4.30pm |
| 8th | Sat | Teacher's Pet Rock Band | Ditton Priors Village Hall | 6.30pm |
| 8th | Sat | Skittles League | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 8pm |
| 9th | Sun | Tree Planting | Westhope College | 10am-1pm |
| 9th | Sun | Snowdrop Weekend | St Peter's, Stanton Lacy | 2-4.30pm |
| 11th | Tue | RSPB Talk: Council Parks Ranger, Guy Border | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 12th | Wed | Munslow WI | Munslow Village Hall | 2pm |
| 12th | Wed | Quiz Night | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 12th | Wed | Diddlebury & Westhope WI | Culmington Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 13th | Thu | Coffee Morning | Munslow Village Hall | 10.30 - 12noon |
| 13th | Thu | Corvedale Book Group | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 13th | Thu | Hayton WI | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 14th | Fri | Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir Concert | William Brookes School | 7.30pm |
| 14th | Fri | Valentine's Curry Night | The Tally Ho, Bouldon | |
| 15th | Sat | Newtown Male Voice Choir | Westhope Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 15th | Sat | Skittles League | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 8pm |
| 15th | Sat | Edge Chamber Choir Concert | St John's, Ludlow | 7.30pm |
| 17th | Mon | Corvedale News Copy Deadline | | |
| 19th | Wed | Coffee Morning | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 10am - 12noon |
| 19th | Wed | Flicks in the Sticks: The Trouble with Jessica | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 20th | Thu | Lunch Club | Culmington Village Hall | 12.30pm |
| 21st | Fri | Quiz Night | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 7pm |
| 22nd | Sat | Coffee Morning | Abdon Village Hall | 10.30-12.30pm |
| 22nd | Sat | Cash Bingo | Westhope Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 22nd | Sat | Skittles League | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 8pm |
| 23rd | Sun | RSPB Walk | River Onny | 10am |
| 23rd | Sun | Community Market | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 10am - 12noon |
| 26th | Wed | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |
| 26th | Wed | Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 27th | Thu | Coffee Morning | Munslow Village Hall | 10.30-12noon |
| 28th | Fri | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |
| 28th | Fri | Steak Night | Culmington Village Hall | 6.30pm |

MARCH 2025

| | | | | |
|------|-----|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 2nd | Sun | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |
| 6th | Thu | Gardening Workshop | Westhope College | 10am-4pm |
| 8th | Sat | Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning | Abdon Village Hall | 10.30-12.30pm |
| 11th | Tue | RSPB Talk: Osprey Project, Chris & Graham Pennie | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 13th | Thu | Corvedale Book Group | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 17th | Mon | Corvedale News Copy Deadline | | |
| 19th | Wed | Flicks in the Sticks: Conclave | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 20th | Thu | Lunch Club | Culmington Village Hall | 12.30pm |
| 22nd | Sat | Much Wenlock Male Voice Chior Concert | TBA | TBA |
| 23rd | Sun | RSPB Walk - Sowdley Wood & Clunton Coppice | | 9.30am |
| 26th | Wed | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |
| 27th | Thu | Gardening Workshop | Westhope College | 10am-4pm |
| 28th | Fri | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |
| 28th | Fri | Lasagne & Live Music Night | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7pm |
| 29th | Sat | Coffee Morning | Abdon Village Hall | 10.30-12.30pm |
| 30th | Sun | Footpath Maintenance Group | TBA | 9.30am |

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| Every Mon | Corvedale Choir | Diddlebury Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Every Mon | Coffee Morning | Culmington Village Hall | 10am - 11.30am |
| Every Mon | Bridge Club | Culmington Village Hall | 12.30pm - 5pm |
| Every Mon | Whist Drive | Westhope Village Hall | 7.15pm |
| Every Mon | Mini Moos - Baby & Toddler Group | Diddlebury Village Hall | 10am |
| Every Tue | Blue Hills Choir | Diddlebury Village Hall | 10am |
| Every Tue | Corvedale Artists | Munslow Village Hall | 10am |
| Every Tue | Zumba | Diddlebury Village Hall | 6pm |
| Every Wed | Yoga | Westhope Village Hall | 9.45 - 10.45am |
| Every Wed | Yoga | Culmington Village Hall | 6pm |
| Every Wed | Line Dancing | Onbury Village Hall | 7pm & 8pm |
| Every Wed | Pub Night | Stanton Lacy Village Hall | 8pm |
| Every Thu | Tai Chi | Diddlebury Village Hall | 10am |
| Every Thu | Pilates - Beginners/Intermediate Class | Diddlebury Village Hall | 6pm |
| Every Fri | Physiotherapist-led Pilates | Diddlebury Village Hall | 9.15am |

VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:

Abdon - Page 8, Culmington - Page 8, Diddlebury - Page 10, Munslow - Page 8, Stanton Lacy - Page 9, Westhope - Page 8

The deadline for all submissions to the News is Monday 17th February

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE



Conclave

When tasked with running the covert process of choosing the next Pope, Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy, with an incendiary secret that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church

An entertainingly juicy adaptation of Robert Harris's novel.

Wednesday 19th March

Bar Opens 19:00

Film Starts 19:30

There will be an interval



Culmington Lunch Club

Meet new friends
Catch up with old friends
whilst you enjoy a delicious,
freshly-cooked, 2-course meal

All for just
£12



Bar

Every third Thursday
of the month
12.30pm for 1pm

Raffle

Culmington Village Hall

To book your place contact:

Gwyn Edwards on 01584 861666 or 07891 904504

Lasagne & Live Music Night

Enjoy delicious lasagne with toe-tapping music!

Tickets on sale soon - so keep a watch out as numbers will be limited



**Friday
28th
March**

STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL JOIN US FOR A

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21st 2025

7pm START

TEAMS OF UP TO 6
£2 PER PERSON

RAFFLE AND PRIZES TO
BE WON

BAR OPEN

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE

CHURCH OF ST PETER
STANTON LACY

**SNOWDROP
WEEKEND**

8th - 9th February 2025
From 2pm to 4.30pm

*Join us to enjoy the annual Snowdrop display
and help raise funds for the Church.
Refreshments, homemade cakes and
preserves all available to buy.*



The Trouble with Jessica

A new British satirical dark comedy about successful professional couple Sarah and Tom who are in deep financial trouble. Then along comes Jessica...

Wednesday 19th February

Bar Opens 19:00

Film Starts 19:30

There will be an interval

Entry £5 - card or cash



**Tree
Planting**

Sunday February 9th
10am - 1pm

All are welcome to join the fun and help plant a new woodland edge with trees and shrubs.
Positive action to **support local wildlife**.
Free refreshments at the Campfire café


Wild about Westhope


Heritage Fund

Parking at Westhope College
SY7 9JL
email: Wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com

ABDON VILLAGE HALL HEDGE LAYING DAYS

Saturday 8th February 2025
from 10.00am-4.00pm

Come along to learn all about hedge laying and help with the laying of the village hall hedges, with expert Chris Rowe.

Warm drinks and biscuits will be provided in the village hall and bring your own packed lunch. Bring warm clothes and suitable stout footwear

All welcome

Enquiries: 07729 927 777

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year everyone.

We are starting off our new year events with the rearranged Newtown Male Voice Choir Concert on **Saturday 15th February at 7.30pm**. This event had to be cancelled last November due to the floods. Tickets are available at £15 pp to include a welcome drink and light refreshments. Anyone who bought tickets for the November date but is now unable to attend the concert in February will be fully refunded. Please call Betty 07860 447 397.

Everyone is always welcome to all our events and our licensed bar is available.

All enquiries Betty 07860 447 397 or Moira 01584 861 663 or 07542 947 440.

Betty Manley

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Weekly Whist Drive

Continue every Monday 7pm for 7.15pm start.
Admission £3.

Weekly Yoga

Thursdays, 9.45am - 10.45am

Please contact Sue Pugh 07432 349 933.

Cash Bingo

Saturday 22nd February. 7pm, eyes down 7-30pm.

Community Lunch

Wednesday 9th April 12.30 for 1pm.

Homemade two-course lunch with tea/coffee £12pp.
Everyone welcome.

MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

Dates for coffee mornings are **Thursday 13th February** and **Thursday 27th February** 10.30 till 12 noon.

Lesley Dobson

DITTON PRIORS HALLS EVENTS

We have another busy and fun year ahead for the hall and pavilion. Here are a few dates for your diary:

Teachers Pet Rock Band at Ditton Priors Village Hall
Saturday 8th February - 6.30pm

Music Bingo at Ditton Priors Pavilion
Saturday 5th April

Beerfest at Ditton Priors Recreation Ground
Saturday 12th July

Louise Tyson

CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

REGULAR EVENTS

Coffee Morning

Every Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Come along for a cuppa (coffee or tea) for just £1.
Good company, free refills and biscuits!

Bridge Club

Every Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Richard Smith richard.smith404@btinternet.com

Yoga

Every Wednesday, 6 to 7.15pm

Contact Jennifer Gennard 07968 817 643

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Lunch Club

Thursday 20th February, 12.30pm

Contact Gwyn Edwards to book 01584 861 666

Steak Night

Friday 28th February

£25 including complimentary glass of wine. Bring your own dessert! Meals served from 6.30pm to 9pm with licensed bar. Book in advance: Gwyn Edwards - 01584 861 666 or Jo Mear - 07872 109 936

FUTURE EVENTS

Lunch Club

Thursday 20th March

Contact Gwyn Edwards to book 01584 861 666

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS – FEBRUARY

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

Saturday 8th February 10.30am - 12.30pm.

On the second Saturday of every month at Abdon Village Hall. Bring your 'crafty projects' - learn from each other and enjoy the chat as you, crochet, knit, sew, patchwork or do anything crafty! And of course, coffee and cake too! A warm welcome for everyone!

Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd February 10.30am - 12.30pm.

On the last Saturday of each month – everyone is welcome to our warm and friendly get togethers - lively chat, coffee and, of course, cake!

Abdon Village Hall Bookings

Contact Margaret Buckingham: 01746 712 296

or abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Or visit our website for the booking form and details:
www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk

STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL

Follow us on Facebook - Stanton Lacy Village Hall Events

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th & 19th, 10am – 12noon.

Join us for tea, coffee and delicious cake.

Winter Warmer

Wednesday 12th, 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Delicious homemade soups in a warm and welcoming space Everyone is welcome!

Diane Breeze, Community Wellbeing Outreach Officer will be joining us to provide free blood pressure checks and to offer any health advice required. She is also hoping to be joined by a member of the Community Support team, to offer other advice and guidance.

Quiz Night

Friday 21st, 7pm start

Teams of up to 6 - £2 per person. Raffle and prizes to be won. Bar open. For more information contact Sarah Thomas on 01584 878 257.

Skittles League

Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd. 8pm for 8.15 start

Community Market

Saturday 22nd, 10am – 12noon

Come along and see what our wonderful small businesses have to offer. We also serve tea, coffee and cake.

Pub Night every Wednesday

Bar opens 8pm – late.

Everyone welcome.

CORVEDALE FOLK CLUB

It is with great sadness that we have to report that the regular monthly meetings of the Corvedale Folk Club have now finished. The final one was the December Christmas session and was a good finale and well attended. Sadly though, many of the recent meetings have not attracted enough people to make it viable in the long term.

However, it did last for just short of thirteen years from its beginning at the Swan Inn, followed by the Sun Inn and finally the Seven Stars. Many thanks to our hosts Will & Sharon, Ben & Jo, Norman & Theresa and Colin. Their support was invaluable. Thanks are also due to the very many performers and audience members. I haven't kept a record over the years but from memory I can recall seventy-five performers and that's unlikely to be the full list! So the total number of attendees must run to a couple of hundred or more.

The history of folk music in the Corvedale is long and rich, and I am proud that we have made a small contribution to that tradition. I am sure it will not be the last!

Ian Fotheringham

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Many thanks to those of you who attended our Christmas concert at the William Brookes School in December and enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies on offer, and even perhaps, the singing! We had a full house which created a really good atmosphere for the event and set us all up for the festive season.

As our chairman, David Chantrey, mentioned on the evening, we are always happy to welcome new members, but support for the choir can also be given through our patron scheme which is open to all. By becoming a patron, you will receive a monthly newsletter telling you what events are coming up in the future, how to get tickets, opportunities for discounts for our home concerts and invitations to our social events, away trips and tours. Our existing patrons are a loyal and friendly group of folk and would be happy to include you in the 'choir family' as a non-singing member. As always, our contact details are at the foot of this article.

Our next concert will again be at the William Brookes School on **Friday 14th February** at 7.30pm, when we will be joining local group Band on the Edge for a Much Wenlock extravaganza! An evening of fun and music from both local groups. This will include the band playing hot jazz from the golden age, ballads and jazz/rock styles from the 60s onwards, plus hopefully, a joint piece or two with the choir – not to be missed! Tickets are obtainable from The Edge at the school, online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edgeartscentre or through the usual choir contacts.

Looking further ahead and a date for your diaries, on **Saturday 22nd March** we will be hosting a joint concert with Snowdown Male Voice Choir from Kent. More details in our next newsletter.

Dick Langford

01952 728 758, chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



The Clover Club had a delightful Christmas party way back in December at the Swan. Sincere thanks to Ben and his helpers for a delicious meal. Unfortunately, since then we have lost David Povall. Our thoughts are with his family, remembering David with love.

Due to the club having so few members now, it is no longer a viable proposition to organise speakers and entertainment. However, we do plan to meet and support the community lunches at Westhope during the year, have our annual outing to the Discovery Centre, and enjoy a Christmas party.

The community lunches have now moved to a Wednesday. So our next meeting will be **Wednesday 9th April** at Westhope Village Hall, 12.30pm for 1pm lunch. Remember the lunches are open to everyone, so please come along and enjoy a delicious home cooked meal with no washing up!

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org What's App/call - 07396 730342 Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall.org



The Trouble with Jessica

A new British satirical dark comedy about successful professional couple Sarah and Tom who are in deep financial trouble. Then along comes Jessica...

Wednesday 19th February

Bar Opens 19:00
Film Starts 19:30

There will be an interval

Entry £5 – card or cash




Conclave

When tasked with running the covert process of choosing the next Pope, Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy, with an incendiary secret that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church

An entertainingly juicy adaptation of Robert Harris's novel.

Wednesday 19th March

Bar Opens 19:00
Film Starts 19:30

There will be an interval



Lasagne & Live Music Night

Enjoy delicious lasagne with toe-tapping music!

Tickets on sale soon - so keep a watch out as numbers will be limited



Friday 28th March

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | <p>Just one table left for our February Quiz Night! Teams of 4 - £10 per team Booking essential – WhatsApp or email us 07396 730342 diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com</p> | <p>Wednesday 12th February 19:00 for 19:30</p> |
|  | <p>The Corvedale Book Club Meet to discuss their latest book choice. Contact Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com</p> | <p>Thursday 13th February 19:00</p> |
| <p>Lasagne & Live Music</p> | <p>Following our successful Chilli and Live Music night we bring you LASAGNE & LIVE MUSIC NIGHT Delicious Lasagne and toe-tapping live music all in a great atmosphere! Tickets available soon so don't miss out – buy them as soon as you see them!</p> | <p>Friday 28th March 19:00</p> |
|  | <p>Mini Moos Baby & Toddler Group £2.50 per Family</p> | <p>Mondays 10.00 - 12.00 Term time</p> |
|  | <p>The Corvedale Choir. Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.</p> | <p>Mondays 19.30 - 21.30</p> |
|  | <p>The Blue Hills Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.</p> | <p>Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00</p> |
|  | <p>Zumba Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448832</p> | <p>Tuesdays 18.00</p> |
|  | <p>Tai Chi Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250275 hello@goldenthreadscic.com</p> | <p>Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00</p> |
|  | <p>Pilates with Tina Bookings only via pilateswithtina@outlook.com</p> | <p>Thursdays 18:00 – 19:00</p> |
|  | <p>Physiotherapist-Led Pilates. Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814412</p> | <p>Fridays 9.15 - 10.15</p> |

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Easter can fall on any date between 22nd March and 25th April. It's always a Sunday and depends on the date of the first full moon on or after 21st March. This year it falls on 20th April: relatively late in the possible range. This, in turn, affects the date of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent – this year Wednesday 5th March. This means we will have about a month of what the church calls 'Ordinary Time' during February and the first few days of March. Ordinary time is basically those periods of the year when we are not marking a special church season – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent or Easter. The seasonal hangings in our churches will be green, a reminder of the life that surrounds us increasingly as we move towards the spring, with longer days and (hopefully) finer weather.

I often feel that calling any period 'ordinary' time is something of a misnomer. I am writing this on a Sunday afternoon in January, and today's reading is about the transformation Jesus brought to the potential disaster at a wedding in Cana. Earlier today the first three hostages were released by Hamas, I have spoken to several couples about their weddings, and to someone else who recently found out that their illness is terminal. To what extent can we describe any time as 'ordinary'? At any time, some of us will be experiencing some of the many joys that life can bring whilst others experience some of the challenges. Quite a few of us may experience the joys and the challenges at the same time in different parts of our lives, some of which will be short-term, others will be longer-lasting.

Through it all Christians believe that we have the presence of God with us, walking alongside us as Christ walked alongside his disciples on the road to Emmaus. That presence of God with us won't take our problems away but may help us to bear them more easily knowing that we are not alone. God can be hard to perceive in the midst of all that daily life throws at us – one of the reasons why our church buildings are open to all every day and also why our services are open to all who wish to come – in times that are joyful, times that are challenging and times that are just ordinary.

Rev'd John Beesley

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & HAMPER DRAW

Thank you, as always, to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree Festival and the Hamper Draw. Once again the church looked lovely, decorated with Christmas Trees and other decorations contributed by each of the churches, Corvedale School, Messy Church and several individuals.

The many donations of food and drink meant that this year we had eight bulging hampers plus a wide variety of vouchers and other prizes. Our thanks to the Crown Country Inn at Munslow, the Swan at Aston Munslow, the Seven Stars, Aston Munslow Garage, Cyril Bason's, Sophie's Butchers and the many people who donated prizes.

After expenses the Hamper Draw made £1,438.85 and donations at the Christmas Tree Festival came to £74.50, making a total of £1,513.35 which will be shared between the churches and will help with the ever-increasing costs associated with keeping the churches open for everyone throughout the year.

Rev'd John Beesley

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church will be on **Thursday 3rd April** from 3.20pm, when we'll be thinking about Lent and Easter. More details next month, but for now put the date in your diary ready to come along!

Rev'd John Beesley

ST CATHERINE'S, TUGFORD

Our Christmas Music at Tugford delivered another memorable night despite a pre-concert electrical fault leaving our bell ringers to ring in the dark - of course any good bell ringer will tell you that you only need your ears (and hands of course) to ring a bell in sync with the team.

After that, the wonderful Stream of Sound choir took over, Ros Crouch sang *Oh Holy Night* faultlessly, John Brentnall accompanied on both keyboard and organ, our four readers delivered their lines with suitable panache and Maggie rose from her sick bed to reprise her mad Welsh fairy act to the usual acclaim in front of another capacity audience. A surplus of £750 will be shared between the six churches in the Corvedale Benefice and our thanks go to all the other helpers who played their part in making the evening such a success.

Colin Porter / Maggie Teague

FROM THE REGISTERS

BURIAL OF ASHES

12th December Dorothy Norton Culmington

FLOWERS & BRASSES

FEBRUARY 2025

| | | | |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| 2nd | Liz Jones | 9th | Liz Jones |
| 16th | Liz Jones | 23rd | Liz Jones |

EDGE CHAMBER CHOIR

A LITTLE JAZZ MASS BY BOB CHILCOTT

In the Edge Chamber Choir's next concert on **Saturday 15th February** at 7.30pm, in St John's Church, Gravel Hill, Ludlow, a number of significant birthdays will be celebrated.

Bob Chilcott will be 70 this year and the concert will be based around his *A Little Jazz Mass*, plus his glorious *The Lily and the Rose*.

John Rutter will be 80: the choir will be performing two works of his that are not widely known – *Musica dei Donum* for choir and flute, and *Come Down O Love Divine* – plus his very popular *Gaelic Blessing*.

Arvo Pärt reaches 90 and to celebrate his work we will sing *The Deer's Cry* and *The Woman with the Alabaster Box*.

A less well-known composer, Canadian Eleanor Daley, will also be 70 and we will sing a couple of her very lyrical pieces. The concert will also include music by H Balfour Gardiner, Anna Lapwood and James Whitbourn.

Tickets are £12 in advance from www.trybooking.com/uk/EHnk or members of the choir, or £15 on the door.

Ros Crouch

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

THE DICTATOR'S WIFE BY FREYA BERRY

As so often in this group, at our January meeting we began by disagreeing! Two had quite enjoyed the book, some found it interesting but disliked it, and one was quite critical of it. However, at the end we all agreed that it had led to some great discussions, ranging far and wide in impressions, reactions and references.

Cambridge graduate Freya Berry worked as a Reuters journalist, including in New York, where she reported on the 2016 US election. She left to research and write this novel, her first, also continuing to write for other journalistic outlets. Her observations of Melania Trump, Jill Biden and Michelle Obama, plus close consideration of the wives of some of the world's most autocratic leaders, including Asma al-Assad, Elena Ceaușescu, Eva Perón and Imelda Marcos, provided inspiration for the novel. Mostly set in 1993, it is told in the first person by Laura Lazarescu, a young London lawyer of Yanussian descent, who travels to Yanussia a tiny, imaginary country 'squashed between Romania, Hungary and Serbia' as part of the legal team called in to defend Marija Popa, widow of former dictator, Constantin Popa. Marija is charged with money laundering, bribery, fraud and corruption. Laura's story starts and finishes in 2018, after Marija's death, and she reflects back on events in 1993. She had wanted to find out more about why her parents had left Yanussia and what had led her initially loving mother to reject her daughter and try to stop her from going back.

There are parallels with life under the Ceaușescus and other dictatorships, where there was little trust between people and fear of being reported to the authorities was routine. Much of the novel is dark and chilling. Our discussion compared

this to what we happily describe as modern democracies, voicing different perspectives on just how free we really are in the West. Some of the dynamics of power, performance and sexism at issue in *The Dictator's Wife* may not be as unique to autocracies as the West would like to tell itself.

Marija, whose trademark is a red dress, presents as hot and cold, innocent and guilty, evil and good, all at different times, making it hard for the defence team to work out whether she should be convicted or acquitted. Her failure to co-operate with them does not help. Was she complicit in the dark acts of her late husband or was she an innocent victim by association? She tells Laura that her marriage, far from being a bond of equal power, had in fact been one of enslavement and terror. However, we all felt that she was very much complicit.

We discussed how glamorous spouses might be used by tyrants to soften their image, how they could be survivors of brutal patriarchy and lack genuine political power, but also have blood on their own hands. Laura cannot resist Marija's magnetic and controlling allure, even though she knows she's being lured into a spider's trap. She is prepared to do whatever it takes to dig out the truth, however much it hurts. We felt some of the plot and some relationships were unconvincing, the pace was often slow, the use of imagery was at times excessive and there were unnecessary elements that promised additional themes but led nowhere. There were characters whose roles were not developed and we agreed that the book would have benefited from more radical editing. Very mixed views, but another book we could not wholeheartedly recommend.

Penny Cooper

CORVEDALE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Spring Term is well underway and there is so much to share. Christmas at Corvedale School was magical. Thank you to all the parents and members of the local community who joined us during the festive period and helped to make the events so special.

Since returning at the start of the month, class 1 and 2 have been enjoying some high-quality cricket coaching, whilst children in class 3 have attended an indoor athletics meet, and there is plenty more sport on the horizon this term! We also have house activities planned, including a trip to the Millichope Estate, and of course the term will end with Easter celebrations. We look forward to welcoming you all to those and hope you enjoy!

The staff and governors were all really pleased to see that our fantastic Ofsted report at the end of the last academic year was backed up by the news we achieved the fifth highest pupil outcomes in the whole of Shropshire, as reported in the Shropshire Star on 31st December. These results really emphasise the positive direction the school has been moving in and reflect all the positive feedback we have received from our parent community too.

I also want to acknowledge the continued commitment of our governing body. It was further exemplified last term when many of them came to our aid with sandbags and shovels to rebuild our flood defences and help prevent further damage being sustained to our nursery. Thank you all for your heroic efforts!

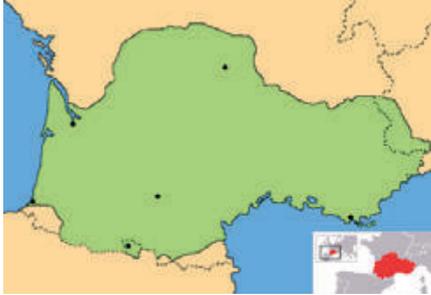
Neil Davda, Headteacher



CORVEDALE PAST & PRESENT

OFF TO OCCITANIA

These days we think of France as stretching from the North Sea to the Mediterranean and from Spain to Italy, but this was not the case in ancient times. So welcome to Occitania, a vast swathe of land comprising what we today think of as southern France. This was not a kingdom but a series of duchies, the western part being occupied by the powerful Aquitaine Duchy. Both the culture and the language (the *Langue d'Oc*) of Occitania were a fusion of the Latin Celtic, and Gaulish culture, as opposed to 'Francia', a fusion of the Frankish and Latin. This area is substantially larger than modern Languedoc.



At a time when Ludlow was, perhaps, only in the planning stage, there arose in Aquitaine a remarkable figure. By a strange chance Eleanor became the ruler (Duchess) of Aquitaine and at the age of thirteen was

married to the King of France. *Langue d'Oc* was of course her mother tongue and, it is said, her sons Richard and John (both later Kings of England) knew that language first. Later in life Eleanor apparently apologised for her poor French – she had learnt it only in England despite having been Queen of France! Her marriage to the French King was a disaster and, as soon as it had been dissolved, she married one Henry Plantagenet... who then only went on to be King of England! Throughout her long life (to say it was colourful would hardly be sufficient), this double queen was by turns *de facto* regent of England, negotiator on a massive stage, conspirator, 16 year prisoner and tireless wheeler-dealer, especially in favour of her sons and against her husbands. An instance is when she raised insane amounts of cash to ransom her son Richard – he of the Lion Heart – from a German prison.

In our own times Occitania has gained some recognition as a region (Occitanie) of France, albeit somewhat smaller than the old language area, perhaps in an effort to forestall any moves towards a nationalist movement.

So why is it worth us knowing about all this? Even on slight acquaintance it's pretty clear that the south is *different*: the land, climate, sense of place and deep history.

I think there is reason for saying it gave a big push to English history: when Henry and Eleanor tied the knot (1154) his lands and her dowry, fused, formed a vast empire that flowed from the Scottish Border to the Mediterranean. We were part of the power bloc with a remarkable queen, who did what queens were supposed to do, in other words quickly produced boy heirs (you could say she was too successful in that sense – but that is another story!). She was also said to be a great beauty, forceful, quixotic, and uncontrollable: impossible no doubt, but some woman; a shock-wave hitting the staid Anglo-Norman upper crust and English populous alike.

Locally, I like to think that we can see something of a tidal wave of exoticism that must have broken over England in the middle of the 12th century. Here is an example of the outrageously florid and boisterous style of the 'Herefordshire School': a carved font at Eardisley wrought by Occitan masons. But surely the most famous and riotous example is Kilpeck Church, south of Hereford, where the exterior of the church is covered in a profusion of astonishingly energetic carving.



I must confess I do like to imagine another 'Eleanor effect', although this is pure speculation! She came as queen to England 94 years after the conquest of 1066. The English language had had, to put it mildly a rough ride. All the powerful (aristocracy, higher levels of the church) were Francophone. Official documents, law and proclamations were in French or Latin. The monoglot English person was (you get the impression) seen as somewhere between an earthworm and an amoeba.

All of this was to change in the decades and centuries to follow. English was, in many ways, to swallow its rivals and rise again to a remarkable place. No doubt the old guard were trying to hold on to a superior, urbane French, but *just perhaps* it became fashionable even *cool* to speak in a different way. Maybe it was not going to be too long before that old school French was going to be a bit of a laughing-stock!

Peter Cornah, www.villageadamandeve.uk

CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT @ DVH

Oh what fun we had at our Christmas Quiz!

A room packed full of quizzers not only tackled Jean's Christmas quiz questions but also joined in the singing in our final round on Christmas songs. Voices primed by the half-time mince pies kindly made for us all by Jan and Jean.

Scoring was very close with everyone determined to win one of our 'rubbish' prizes! Taking the star prize of a whole Toblerone each were the Woolston Wanderers with 88 points. Just 2 points behind with 86 pts were the Brough Diamonds and in third place were the 4 Diamonds. Fourth place went to team Dasher and Dancer.

We had some really brilliant and inventive team names but one in particular had to take top honours on the night - Three Wise Women and a Donkey!

As this was our last quiz of 2024, there are number of people we would like to thank.

Firstly, thanks to all our wonderful quizzers for supporting us during the year.

Thanks to Stefano and Ruth for running Bar Stefano so well.

Thanks also to Val, Wendy, Eileen, Sharon, Ian, Lesley, Derek and Russell for all your essential help and of course a special huge thank you to Jean for producing all the brilliant quizzes.

And last but not least, a special thank you to Kim for being such an excellent quiz master.

Our first quiz of the new season ahead is on **Wednesday 12th February** and it's already nearly booked up!

Team DVH

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP



I am writing this in the freezing cold and imagine everyone is looking forward to thinking about Spring. The first meeting of the Corvedale Garden Group is on **Saturday 8th February** at Diddlebury Village Hall at 10.00am. The talk is *All about Roses* by Pauline and Ray Martin and the cost is £10 per person (cash preferred). The talk will include twelve tips for growing roses, with special emphasis on pruning, and will include a practical demonstration.

Pauline and Ray Martin are co-founders of the Rose Society UK and have been growing roses for fifty years in East Anglia. They have won national championships, and they are Rose Society UK accredited judges. The talk is open to all so please come along. Any questions please email Corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com. The full programme for this year will be launched at the meeting and joining the garden group is free: we just need your contact details to get in touch with details of meetings.

Alison Benbow

WESTHOPE COLLEGE GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Westhope College is running a number of gardening workshops throughout the Spring as follows:

Thursday 6th February - Where do I start with my garden?

Thursday 6th March - Vegetable Growing for beginners.

Thursday 27th March - Grow your own salads all year round.

Each workshop costs £75 for the day, including lunch and all refreshments, and run 10am - 4pm and further details are on our website at www.westhope.org.uk/courses/homeandgarden.html

All workshops are accessible for complete beginners, but people with gardening experience will still find inspiration, new ideas and other fellow gardeners in the group.

Rachel Buchanan

NEWS FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

TURBULENT TIMES AHEAD?

I reported in December that Shropshire's Local Plan was halted on the instructions of the Planning Inspectorate. It took them ten weeks to explain that they disagreed with some of our site allocations, particularly regarding housing set aside for the Black Country. In the meanwhile the Government produced their new National Planning Policy Framework, which confirmed that Shropshire's annual housing figure needs to increase from 1073 to 1994 dwellings. This means that Shropshire Council, faced with such a large increase in annual housing numbers, can no longer meet its five-year land supply target.

A five-year land supply is a planning policy requirement for councils in England to ensure that enough land is allocated and available to meet the housing needs of their area over a rolling five year period. If Shropshire does not have enough land allocated (which, with such a large annual increase in allocation is now sadly inevitable), the county is open to applications from developers on sites currently outside the Local Plan provisions, provided the applications meet national and local planning policies.

This happened in Shropshire once before, in the early days of the Unitary Council, and resulted in a massive expansion of housebuilding in some areas – particularly Shifnal - which caused considerable problems in the town and required huge infrastructure investment to put right. It is hard to know how we are going to meet the requirements to build nearly 1,000 houses more per annum particularly as nationwide there are still shortages of materials, workers and equipment. However, it is early days yet and there may be negotiations to be had to reduce the allocation.

The English Devolution White Paper came out just before Christmas. The Government's ambition is to abolish all Councils other than Unitary Councils with a population of 500,000. County and District Councils due to hold elections in May 2025 were asked if they wished to delay their elections to enable them to prepare to join together into unitary authorities. Eighteen councils have agreed to delay.

Shropshire has elections on 1st May and we will go ahead with these.

We are not proving the most attractive partner to neighbouring authorities as a huge rural county with a population of only 323,000, an above average elderly population and no large towns. We understand we will receive a letter before the end of January instructing us to move into a combined authority – with whom we know not - under a mayoral system. One question springs to mind from these ever-larger agglomerations: What price the 'Local' in Local Government?

Just to cheer everyone up even more, Shropshire has not done well from the Local Government Financial Settlement. We have had a 2.84% increase in core funding, against the national average funding increase for councils of 6%, with urban authorities benefitting the most. Shropshire received the third lowest increase out of more than 180 councils.

A key pressure for us is the loss of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, as well as a large reduction in social care funding, which leaves us with a loss of £16m. Nevertheless, in 2024/25 the Council is set to deliver £50m of savings, against a backdrop of the growing need for social care affecting councils countrywide. Due to Shropshire's size and rurality we are faced with extra costs for waste collection/disposal, housing, social services, education and our discretionary services.

One of the joys of life in Shropshire is its rurality; unfortunately, when people are spread out over such a large area it costs more to provide local services.

Cllr Cecilia Motley
Shropshire Councillor,
Corvedale Division
Cabinet Member,
Adult Social Care and Health



CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE



SNOWDROPS

I had a really lovely surprise on New Year's Day! Not a warm day, but on a brief walk down the garden I spotted a small group of snowdrops, under the hedge. They had a bit to go before their delicate white petals were slightly spread in that shy way that snowdrops have: not showing off, but what a treat to see.

Now into February and this tiny flower is in its element. *Thou fairy gift from summer, Why art thou blooming now?* asked the scandalous 19th century poet, Letitia Elizabeth Landon, in her poem, 'The Snowdrop'. A good question, as you would think any sensible plant would wait until the weather was warmer before flowering. Instead, the plant turns many a churchyard into fairyland in February.

Several churches in the county have 'Snowdrop Weekends' this month, usually about the third weekend, when the flowers are at their very best and a stunning sight, a carpet of white amongst the gravestones.

The Latin name for the snowdrop family or genus is '*galanthus*,' finally agreed on in 1753, when botany was coming into its own as a science. But snowdrops were known about by the fourth century BCE in ancient Greece. The Greek author Theophrastus was describing the snowdrop and other similar flowers in such a way that, in the 21st century, we could identify what he was describing (when translated from ancient Greek: definitely not my forte!).

Galanthus nivalis is the best-known and most widespread of snowdrops, and it is native to a large area of Europe, stretching from the Pyrenees in the west, through France and Germany to Poland in the north, Italy, northern Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey. Several other species are found in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. Most *Galanthus* species grow best in woodland, so head for St Peter's church in Stanton Lacy for the best display in Shropshire! But your village churches may have them too.

In colder countries snowdrops flower later than January and February as they do in England. The Russian composer, Tchaikovsky, wrote a suite of twelve piano pieces, one for each month of the year. The pieces carry the name of the month, followed by something associated with it: the second part of the 'April' name is – snowdrop!

Anni Holden Calver

Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG)

Trustee of Caring for God's Acre
and Churchyard Task Team cheerleader!



ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH TUGFORD

HELP/ADVICE NEEDED

Tugford church has recently undergone its Quinquennial inspection to ensure the building is in good condition and any necessary remedial work is attended to in a timely fashion. As a Grade II* listed building going back over 900 years, it is important that it is kept in good order, not only for church folk but also the many who gain benefit and enjoyment from our wonderful heritage buildings, with which Shropshire is particularly blessed.

Thankfully, St Catherine's is in generally good condition, having benefited from major internal and external restorations in recent years. The external restoration nearly ten years ago included a new roof and the installation of a French drain around the perimeter. There is now some evidence of rising damp in the internal walls of the bell tower and our architect recommends a CCTV camera survey of the French drain to ensure it is functioning properly.

We, the Churchwardens, are at a slight loss as to where to obtain this expertise and wondered whether there is anyone locally who can help, either personally or by pointing us in the right direction. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Colin Porter, 01584 841 627

ALL SAINTS CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

Following the successful fundraising in 2024 when we raised just over £8,000, we are now planning exciting events for this year. Rev. John Beesley will give another of his interesting talks, this time on his Egyptian holiday. A summer BBQ and garden party is planned for 28th June (please note the date in your diary) and in the autumn we will hold a black-tie dinner with entertainment, date to be confirmed. Sponsor a Stone will recommence this year and will be available at all events, in the church and from the churchwardens.

Over the past few months the project team has been working hard on the Lottery application. We are being helped by the Diocesan Church Buildings Support Officer, Lorna Theophilus, trusting that the latest version will meet with her approval so that we can submit our application. This entails a lot of work sending various accounts, letters of approval and permissions but we are hoping not to miss the window of opportunity for work to commence in the Spring and to finish early Autumn. We can only do this with the funds in place to meet the project costs so rely on your help and support by fundraising in any way you can. We are so grateful for the generous donations we have received from local members of the parish plus two promises of substantial donations from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and the Millichope Foundation.

Further information on the project and its fundraising is available from the churchwardens.

Val Hardwick and Andrew Pike, 01584 861 658 and 861 361

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

MUNSLOW WI

At our Christmas meeting in December an outside catering team treated us to a delicious afternoon tea, consisting of mouthwatering sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and, just to add a few more calories, rich chocolate cake! Susan had organised an enjoyable (but not too difficult) quiz, a few nostalgic Christmas memories came from Anne Donnelly, Loraine Lawrence and Wendy Brogden, and Anne read a poem entitled *The Christmas Tree* by Jenny Rose. The very enjoyable afternoon concluded with a sizeable collection of items for the local Women's Refuge.

In January we were pleased to arrange another Christmas party for local children, fourteen in all. The highlight of the afternoon was *Jack the Magician*, ably assisted by Hugh, Emmaline and Reggie. After an enjoyable tea and party games all children left happily with a party bag!

We held a coffee morning in January for members and friends and our AGM was held later in the month. We will be back to normal in February with a talk on Kidney Transplants on **Wednesday 12th February at 2.00pm**. For more information call me on 01584 841 251 or email on gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk. Visitors are always welcome.

Jenny Rose

HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

Unfortunately, the January 2025 meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather. Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm** in Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Haytons Bent, SY8 2AT. Our speaker will be Ron Jones, The Mad Thatcher, telling us about his 60+ years as a thatcher. For anyone interested in attending or joining our branch, please contact Phyllis Steventon, Branch President, on 01584 823 436 or our Branch Secretary at hayton.district.wi@gmail.com.

Annie Jones

DIDDLEBURY & WESTHOPE WI

Happy New Year, everyone!

Food and friendship have been the themes of our last two meetings. No better way to finish one year and start another. We met at the Swan for our December meeting and enjoyed delicious food provided by Ben and his team. A lovely festive evening looking ahead to our own personal Christmas celebrations. We do not always meet in January, but we decided an informal get together would start the year well and met at Joy's for food and a catchup. As always in January the weather was a factor with cold and icy roads, so we were a small group but had fun, nevertheless. Our thanks go to Joy for hosting and getting the log burner going.

The programme for the year has been discussed over the last few meetings and is in the process of being formalised now with much to look forward to. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th February** and will also be our AGM.

As always if anyone would like to come along to our meetings either as a visitor for the evening or to join as a member you would be very welcome. Visitor fee is £2. Please do ring Joy Williams, our secretary, on 01584 861 849 if you would like any further information.

Jayne Disley



CORVEDALE FESTIVAL UPDATE

To all our loyal supporters it is with considerable regret and sadness that Paul and I have decided that it is no longer viable for us to continue with the Corvedale Festival. It has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2022, and the 2024 festival was a huge success. However, maintaining this success has come at considerable cost to us, both in time and energy. It was beginning to affect our health and taking over our lives, so we have taken the incredibly difficult decision to let it go. We are truly grateful for all the support we have received.

However, there will still be live music in the dale under the banner of 'Corvedale Concerts', which will happen as one-off events, as and when opportunities arise. We hope that these will go some way to filling the gap left by the festival. These will start with a series of three concerts, given by Ruth to raise funds for the local church restoration projects and featuring J.S.Bach's complete Six Suites for Solo Cello. The first of these will take place on **Sunday 6th April** at 3.00pm in St Catherine's Church, Tugford followed by refreshments. The second and third concerts will take place on **11th May** in St Peter's Church, Diddlebury and **15th June** in All Saints Church, Culmington. We do hope you can join us.

Ruth and Paul Henley

CORVEDALE FOOTPATH & MAINTENANCE GROUP



On 27th November last year Jenny Vine formally retired from the Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group (CFMG) with a special lunch at the Swan in Aston Munslow held in her honour. Whilst Jenny will be very much missed, the CFMG members remain committed to continuing the work to keep our local public footpaths open and usable where at all possible. It is a small group with finite resources, so there is a limit to what we can do each month, especially if the weather is against us, as it was throughout much of 2024. New members are always very welcome, so if you would like to join us, please get in touch with Katharine Wale at katharinewale59@gmail.com or on 07866 408 897.

If you notice any steps or stiles that need repair, replacement or other attention, please do let us know!

We will continue to hold three working groups in one week each month - the dates for 2025 are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Feb: Wed 26, Fri 28, Sun 2 | Jul: Wed 23, Fri 25, Sun 27 |
| Mar: Wed 26, Fri 28, Sun 30 | Aug: Wed 20, Fri 22, Sun 24 |
| Apr: Wed 23, Fri 25, Sun 27 | Sep: Wed 24, Fri 26, Sun 28 |
| May: Wed 21, Fri 23, Sun 25 | Oct: Wed 22, Fri 24, Sun 26 |
| Jun: Wed 25, Fri 27, Sun 29 | Nov: Wed 19, Fri 21, Sun 23 |

Katharine Wale

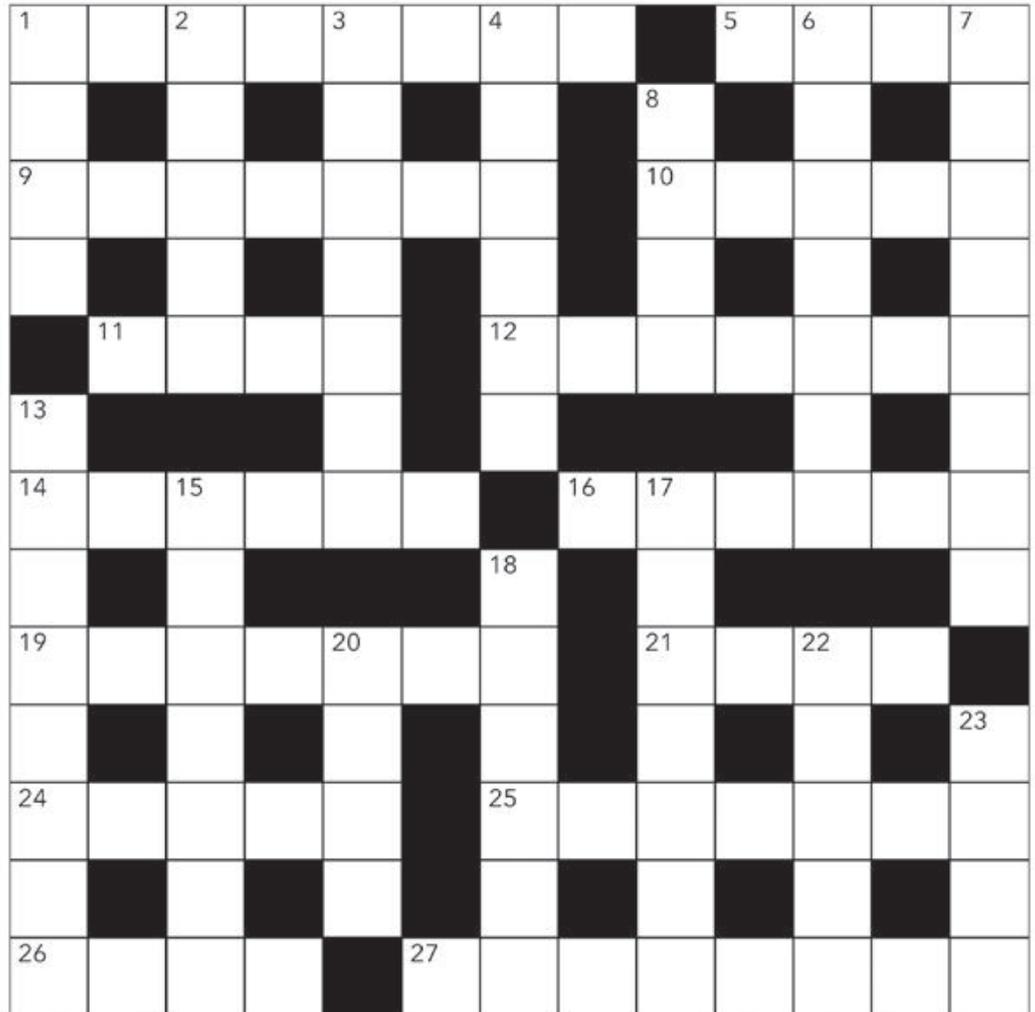
FEBRUARY CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword
can be found on page 21 in this
edition of the magazine.

ACROSS

- 1) Young employee meets alien on the world wide web (8)
- 5) Notice the blemish (4)
- 9) Hear you and me are after the price of clothing (7)
- 10) French writer is confused by gun (5)
- 11) Action of French, forwards and backwards (4)
- 12) Harbour a company in the entrance area (7)
- 14) Clear the circle round for fortune teller (6)
- 16) Stop start of great long expedition for ornament (6)
- 19) Tell story to sad rat near by (7)
- 21) Great old record in charge (4)
- 24) My old one, Alf, and me were hot stuff (5)
- 25) Starve learner, maybe, on their journeys (7)
- 26) Kiln has lost the start of Sunday lunch (4)
- 27) I set Cher off to find renegades (8)



DOWN

- 1) Slowly get closer towards the measure (4)
- 2) A test maybe of a sense (5)
- 3) Game of golf the Spanish used in heraldry? (7)
- 4) Not obliged to give former partner most of empty things (6)
- 6) Got pins for this foreign appointment (7)
- 7) Amount of business could include apples (8)
- 8) Mix up in prison? (4)
- 13) Darn foot, perhaps, backwards and forwards (2,3,3)
- 15) Big Sara might need these when driving (7)
- 17) It's normal to state the era (7)
- 18) Grinder – in graduate's hat? (6)
- 20) Name at the end maybe (4)
- 22) It's cold in Northern Ireland but these ancient people were in England (5)
- 23) Enquires about some damask sheets (4)

SHROPSHIRE RURAL SUPPORT

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

Shropshire is one of the most beautiful counties in England from the Teme Valley to the Long Mynd to the rolling land in the north of the county. The farms that make up and manage this beautiful pastoral scene are run by farmers and their families who are in one of the most stressful and, at times, isolated of occupations with amongst the highest levels of suicide in the UK.

Many of the farms are multigenerational family businesses with up to three generations working together on the farm with all the ups and downs of running a family businesses with the added complication of living on top of each other. Also, not only do they have to put up with vagaries of the weather, but also with continually changing government regulations and the dominance of the supermarkets controlling prices.

Some thirty years ago, in a year when suicide incidents peaked in Shropshire, **Shropshire Rural Support** was set up to support farmers, their families and people living and working in rural Shropshire at times of need. The enquiries we receive cover both business issues and personal issues including bereavement, loneliness, domestic abuse, family fallouts, succession and divorce. Our role is to ensure the caller is signposted to a safe place where they can access the help that they need to address their particular issue, though sometimes it is a case of our being there to listen.

We are a self-funding charity run by volunteers, most of whom have a farming background and understand the issues of running a farm. Assisted by the volunteers the day-to-day operation is delivered by two part-time coordinators and the support service is available 24/7/365 via a freephone helpline which ensures that whatever the time-of-day people can readily access our confidential service. For those, particularly the younger generation, who prefer to text message rather than talking on a phone, we have recently launched a free confidential 24/7/365 text messaging helpline.

Doing nothing is not an option, if you know of someone you are worried about, please encourage to them they get in touch by ringing the confidential free phone number 0300 123 2825 or text SRS to 85258. There is also a wealth of information is available on our website www.shropshireruralsupport.org.uk

Mervyn Lewis



CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Mrs M Holland, Ms J Mear, Mr I Steele.
In Attendance: Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO) and one member of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: None.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2024 were agreed as being correct and were signed by the Chair.

Reports from Members: Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the government wanted to see much more delegation of decisions to planning officers when applications conformed to the Local Plan. However, Shropshire's Local Plan inspection was terminated, and the Council had not yet been informed of the reason. This also left the five-year land supply plan in limbo. The government was only increasing rural funding by 2.4%, compared to urban areas receiving 9%. The Rural Services Grant had been removed. The government's plans for more devolved areas were proving difficult for Shropshire Council as it was struggling to find other councils to join up with. Social Care was experiencing issues as the increase in employers' National Insurance was impacting upon the providers, but SC was not able to increase the funding to assist them. Cllr Steele asked Cllr Motley about 'land banking' by developers – if this land could be released it would provide more building land. Cllr Motley agreed. Cllr Steele also raised concerns about the sewage pipe plans in Bishops Castle which would affect the River Onny. Cllr Motley would investigate whether Shropshire Council was planning to challenge Severn Trent's plans. Cllrs encouraged members of the public to sign the petition and the Council would write to Severn Trent to express its concerns about the plans.

Village Hall Committee - Cllr Mear reported that there were lots of events planned for the year ahead. The committee was concentrating on marketing the hall and applying for funding for the extension. It was also continuing to work on the governing document.

South Shropshire Area Committee - H Coonick (Clerk) read out the minutes: Juan Hernandez of StreetScene had made a presentation on his work in improving the FixMyStreet app. Chris Mellings had replaced Dianne Dorrell as Chief Officer of SALC and planned to refresh the website, encourage councils to share good news and good practice and build relationships between SALC, local MP's and members of the House of Lords. Cllr Archer asked whether Shropshire Council could remove the restrictions on the Environmental Maintenance Contractors working on B roads. Mr Mellings had agreed to discuss this with Shropshire Council. Cllr Holman noted that Shropshire was at the bottom of most of the policing performance measures within West Mercia. It was suggested that PCC John Campion be invited to the next meeting to speak about police performance in Shropshire. The committee would also consider how to promote the importance of residents standing as councillors ahead of the elections in May.

Flooding: The report of the Seifton Lane Joint FAG/Parish Council site visit had been sent to Cllr Motley and Mr Bellis (Shropshire Council). Mr Bellis had asked for a site visit to meet with a landowner to discuss ways to mitigate flooding on Seifton Lane. Cllr Steele said the Slow the Flow structures in Seifton Bache were unable to deal with the level of flooding. Cllr Alderson considered that diverting the route of the brook would not work as in flood situations rivers tend to revert to their original route.

The Clerk would attend the meeting with Mr Bellis to discuss the benefit of desilting Seifton Brook in 2025. A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the Limes and Pines Opposite Culmington Village Hall: Cllr Seabrook had approached Natural Environment and Martin Sutton (county arboriculturist at Shropshire Council) to see if a TPO would be possible.

Reduction of the 40mph Speed Limit on the B4365: Members agreed to add a reduction to the speed limit on the B4365 to 30mph to the Place Plan and send the request to Nick Newton (Traffic Engineer for Shropshire Council).

Use of the Neighbourhood Fund for extending the speed limit to beyond Clay Lane: Shropshire Council reported that due to staffing changes and a reduced ability to deliver projects the development of the new policy had been delayed. It recognised that many Parish and Town Councils wished to use the fund for this purpose and advised that CPC reiterated the request with the portfolio holder for highways.

It was agreed to contact the Highways Portfolio Holder to ask that the Neighbourhood Fund be allowed to be used to fund highways signage.

Nominations to the Lord-Lieutenant's Shropshire Garden Party 2025: the clerk would make a nomination and once it was accepted she would inform the council.

Update on the Blocked Bridleway: The Rights of Way team at Shropshire Council reported on 6th January 2025 that they had no further information to update the council. It was agreed to ask the Rights of Way Officer what legal action would be taken to ensure that this Bridleway was open for the public to use.

Finance: Expenditure was within the budget except for a slight overspend on insurance. As at 6th November 2024 the bank account held £12,342.02. The report was accepted, and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllrs Holland and Byng.

It was agreed to remain with Lloyds and pay the new monthly fee of £4.25. A savings account would be investigated.

The budget and precept for 2025-2026 were set at £5,064.33 which was approximately a 2.73% increase on the previous year.

A payment to D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Invs 666 & 676 £117.00 was authorised.

Items for the Next Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 4th February 2025: a. Consider Desilting of Seifton Brook b Consider a Tree Preservation Order c. Update on Use of Neighbourhood Fund for Speed Limit Extension. d. Consider opening a Savings Account.

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO
Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE
07817 607 355 • culmingtonpc@gmail.com • www.culmington.org

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr D Hedgley – Chairman. Cllrs A Rattu, A Watson, C Martyn, S Povall, T O'Boyle, T Pardoe and R Morgan.

Apologies: Shropshire Cllr C Motley.

In attendance: The Clerk and five members of the public.

Declarations of Interest: None were made.

Public Involvement Session: PC 23440 Henry King-Salter

attended the meeting to introduce himself as the new Community Police Officer. Although based at Church Stretton his area covered Craven Arms and surrounding parishes including Diddlebury. His contact mobile number was 07483 140311 and his email: henry.king-salter@westmercia.police.uk.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd October 2024 were approved and matters arising dealt with.

Reports: The Chairman reported on his attendance at a community meeting in Craven Arms, and on his completion of a consultation from SC concerning banners and notices advertising local events.

Westhope Village Hall: Mrs Worthington said the event on 23rd November featuring the Newtown Male Voice Choir had been

cancelled due to flooding and would be re-scheduled in the New Year. Bingo, skittles and whilst drives continue to be well attended.

Flood Action Group: Cllr Martyn reported on the flooding on 24th November. Three houses in Bache Mill were flooded as was the B4368 on the bridge. He was submitting a full report to the Highways Engineer. He would suggest a depth gauge be sited in the bridge.

Diddlebury Village Hall: Cllr S Povall reported further on complaints from some local residents about damage to their drives caused by DVH car park users. The Chairman noted that DPC no longer owns any part of the car park, having transferred its interest to the Official Custodian of Charities in 2016.

Planning Applications: 24/04312/FUL - Application for change of use from agricultural portal frame building to office, gym, stores, toilets, showers and games room and all associated work at Westhope Country Retreats, Middle Westhope Farm, Westhope. Councillors supported this application.

24/04151/FUL – Application for erection of a dwelling for single disabled occupancy, access drive and parking on land southeast of No 11 Corfton Bache. Councillors supported the application with a caveat that a restriction be placed on the property to prevent it being sold as an open market development.

Highways/Environmental Issues: A response to DPC's Freedom of Information Request about flooding on the B4368 had been received and considered by councillors. Flood alleviation measures were discussed at length. Craven Arms Depot would be contacted to see if free sandbags were available to residents. The possible introduction of beavers in the Corvedale was discussed. Cllr Martyn would attend a meeting at Culmington shortly when this issue would be discussed, and he would report back to the January meeting.

Cllr Watson was concerned that traffic lights had been set up on the B4368 at Pedlars Rest for four days and were sited on the highway,

causing traffic to swerve to avoid collisions. No work appeared to have been carried out justifying the traffic lights apart from two Severn Trent tankers being parked there for part of one day.

Communications And Correspondence: Six items of correspondence were considered.

Finance Matters: The Finance Report for November and part December 2024 was considered and cheques totalling £1,145.73 were approved for payment, after which DPC held funds totalling £14,748.92. Cllr O'Boyle verified the reconciliation between DPC's cash book and HSBC's bank statement.

A draft of DPC's 2025/2026 Precept Budget was considered. A final version of the budget would be considered and approved at the meeting on 22nd January 2025

Any Other Business: The Chairman raised concerns that SWS had been given a contract by Shropshire Council to provide Broadband coverage in the Corvedale, but had transferred the contract to VONEUS, who had been extremely difficult to contact. There had been frequent problems with Broadband coverage especially in the Bouldon area, but VONEUS was seemingly not interested in solving the problems.

It was agreed that the Resolution passed in January 2019 concerning open market development in Corfton needed to be revised and would be an Agenda item in January 2025.

The next Parish Council meeting would be on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall. There would be no meeting in December.

Agendas and full copies of the minutes can be viewed on the Diddlebury Parish Council website www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs J de Russett at No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH, Tel: 01547 519282, diddleburypc@outlook.com

ABDON & HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2024 AT ABDON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Yarwood, Price, Hartley, Lewis; W Richards (clerk), Cllr C. Motley of Shropshire Council and two members of the public.

Open Session: No matters were raised.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th August 2024 were read by the Chair and unanimously agreed as correct.

Co-option of a new councillor: Mr Oliver Uffold, who lives within Abdon, had put himself forward. Cllr Lewis proposed co-option of Mr Uffold. This was seconded by Cllr Hartley and unanimously agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed.

Finance: The balance at the bank was £8421.38, and income of £80.00 and £150.00 from the marquee had been received. The Chair signed the bank statement. Payment of the Clerk's invoice of £221.25 for July to September was agreed.

Reports from Members: SALC: Cllr Lewis reported on the meeting about 'FixMyStreet' and suggested an advert on the website explaining the full range of activities it covered: signs, stray dogs etc. This was agreed. Internet coverage was questioned: Cllr Motley would speak to Ben Walker at Shropshire Council as there were some deals available funded by the government. A member of the public suggested that all residents needed to complain so that companies had a true record of the issue. The Village Hall

mirror had been folded up by Mr Steere as the Parish Council hadn't been updated. PPG: two partners were now on board plus Dr Bassett and a third would be recruited. The next meeting would be on 29th October. The Community Benefit Society remained interested in the purchase of the building. Cllr Motley reported that Shropshire Council was keen for devolution which was a concern due to Shropshire's large size but low population, and low number businesses. Shropshire's elderly and children's social care were high costs at the moment. Cllr Motley would not be standing at the next elections in May, after 22 years.

Highways/Highway Maintenance Officer: The Clerk reported that Mr Clayton was unavailable. It was agreed unanimously that the Clerk would contact alternatives requesting a quote for a few days' work.

Correspondence: Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Cllr Lewis reported on an email and public survey, which would be added to the website. The Clerk would forward it to Cllr Motley.

AOB: Cllr Price made a request for confirmation of locations of gateways away from public highways and footpaths. Maps were presented. The Clerk would draft an email for approval by councillors.

Items for consideration at the next meeting: (for dissemination of information only) Internet and mobile phone signals. HMO quotes.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th January 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Wendy Richards – Parish Clerk:

Email: abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com Tel: 07813 271 274

MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk
munslowpc@gmail.com or 07817 607355

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Don't forget that we still need photos for our cover page. Send us your photos, from landscapes to local goings-on. We are looking for pictures that capture the essence of living in the Corvedale and surrounding community. Please ensure your images are of the highest resolution. Please send all photos to: photos@corvedalenews.co.uk

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1) Internet; 5) Spot; 9) Costume; 10) Taser; 11) Deed; 12) Portico; 14) Oracle; 16) Bangle; 19) Narrate;
21) Epic; 24) Flame; 25) Travels; 26) Oast; 27) Heretics

DOWN: 1) Inch; 2) Taste; 3) Roundel; 4) Exempt; 6) Posting; 7) Turnover; 8) Stir; 13) To and Fro; 15) Airbags;
17) Average; 18) Pestle; 20) Amen; 22) Icen; 23) Asks

ADVERTISER INDEX

CHIMNEY SWEEPS & FIREWOOD

Eaton Woodlands.....27
JT Brisbane.....27
Ludlow Firewood.....27
Millichope Enterprises.....27
Stanton Sweeps.....22

SCHOOLS & ACTIVITIES

Brockton Primary School28
Corvedale Brownies28
Corvedale Primary School....28

GARDENING & TREE SERVICES

Arboretum Tree Services24
Humble-Bee Gardeners23
R&S Landscapes22
Shropshire Lawn Company25

PROPERTY

DDA Architects.....27
Just Mortgages.....28
Samuel Wood.....28

TRADES PEOPLE

AJ Hoskins & Sons Ltd.....26
JF Plumbing & Property26
Ludlow Salvage25
Stephen Morgan.....25
Gary Paris26
R.A.I.T. Electrical.....26
Dave Stratton26
Triple R Joinery.....22
Alan Williams.....26
WoodWorks & WaterTight...22

MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Behaviour Business ...25
Buzzard, The30
Computer Medicine23
Foot Health Practioner24
Life Story Writer.....23
Mike's Auto Care29
Second Sense Hearing21
Stonemasons of Church Stretton29
Working Solutions22



Dave, Becky and Anthony Jennings



Sound Advice Safely Delivered!

Second Sense Bridgnorth is a local, family business providing Shropshire, the Black Country and West Midlands with excellent hearing services including:

- ♥ free hearing checks ♥ earwax removal
- ♥ latest hearing aids ♥ tinnitus therapy
- ♥ any make hearing aid repairs
- ♥ best price and service guaranteed

Dave and Anthony Jennings are both fully qualified Hearing Aid Audiologists with over 40 years' experience. Becky Jennings, highly experienced in adult and children's services, looks after our Admin and Social Media as well as helping on the front desk.

With appointments at our Bridgnorth hearing centre or in your home, pop in or call **01746 572572** and let us help you hear clearly again!

10 Whitburn Street
Bridgnorth WV16 4QN
www.secondsense.co.uk

"First class service... very informative, with good advice and a relief to have found such a professional, caring specialist...cannot recommend enough... Thank you." Mrs G



Second Sense
Hearing Specialists

Chimney Sweep



**Local
and
Reliable
Service**

**from £60 per sweep
Free Smoke Tests
Certificates issued**

**Contact: 07805 643422 or
www.StantonSweeps.com**



WORKING SOLUTIONS

Recruitment & Coaching

Working Solutions is evolving!

With 30 years of proven success, I am now offering Recruitment for Permanent roles and Career & Pre-Retirement Coaching for those seeking clarity in their work lives.

Email Julia on admin@workingsolutions.co.uk

01584 877677

www.workingsolutions.co.uk

Professional - Friendly - Confidential - Virtual



Made to measure timber windows & doors

Kevin James

07495 817596

Kevjuk@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on Facebook @ Triple R Joinery



WoodWorks & WaterTight

Carpentry / Plumbing / Property Maintenance

Free Quotes

Kitchen, Bathrooms, Doors, Radiators, Tiling,
Flooring and everything in-between.

Get in touch and let me help with your projects!
All works considered.

Find us on Facebook

07890 689 076

wwwtenquiries@outlook.com

Travel 40miles of Diddlebury

ADVERTISE HERE

If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager:

advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk

R&S LANDSCAPES FENCING & GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Garden clearances

Hedge cutting

Fruit tree pruning

Borders and flowerbeds

All types of garden work undertaken

Over 20 years' experience

For advice and a free estimate call

07980 923 854 or 07961 157 953

or email shaunbowen@gmail.com

The Story of Your Life

Written by professional local writer
in a full colour hardback book

A precious gift for your family



Interviews online or in the comfort of your home
Packages to suit all budgets



info@lifestorywriter.co.uk 07849 208924
www.lifestorywriter.co.uk



GARDEN TEAM

Garden Design - Plant Sourcing - Garden Management - Regular Maintenance
Seasonal Border Tidy - Green Roof Installation - Meadow Establishment
Specialist Pruning - Consultation

Email us: team@humblebeegardeners.co.uk

LANDSCAPE TEAM

Landscape Design - Soft & Hard Landscaping - Patios, Paving & Walling
Water & Stone Features - Bespoke Woodworking
Wooden Buildings & Structures - Pond Creation

Email us: build@humblebeegardeners.co.uk

Let us put the joy back into your garden!



Phone us: 01584 891463 / 07534 148428

www.humblebeegardeners.co.uk

Facebook and Instagram icons followed by @humblebeegardeners



The computer people who come to you

Computer Problems?

- 1) Turn it off and on again
- 2) Call Computer Medicine
- 3) No more problems!

We are local computer experts who can help to solve your IT issues. Just some of our services include:

- Virus & spyware removal
- Supplying new PCs and all things tech
- Bombproof backup & cloud solutions
- Gearing your IT for home working
- Home & business support
- Staying safe online
- Remote support

We come to you so there's no need to take your PC to a repair centre.

We now also offer one-to-one training for those wanting to gain confidence using technology.

Please contact us to discuss your requirement - we can help.

Tel: 01584 856 774

info@computermedicine.co.uk

www.computermedicine.co.uk

Established in 2003



Toenail cutting
Corn & callus removal
Athlete's foot
Foot massage
Home visits available
Diploma Level 4
Registered & fully
insured

Foot Health Practitioner
Angie Lennox
07977 108391 for Appointments

ARBORETUM TREE SERVICES

EST.2013

Oli Francis
M. 07890 395 120
E. arboretumltd@gmail.com
www.arboretumtreeservices.co.uk





The Animal Behaviour Business

Solving Behaviour Problems Positively

- 🐾 Dog and Cat Behaviour Problem Resolution
- 🐾 'Grumps and Growlers' courses for dogs that bark and growl at other dogs and people
- 🐾 Puppy Classes (20 weeks and under)
- 🐾 Older puppy Classes (20 weeks to 18 months)
- 🐾 Recall Courses—Ensure your dog comes back - every time
- 🐾 Board and Train—Your dog comes to stay to be trained

07778 435116

valerie@animalbehaviourbusiness.com
www.animalbehaviourbusiness.com



**Stephen Morgan
Electrical Contractor**

Tel: 07989 546964
Tel: 01584 322123
Email: business@smorgan.net

NICEIC
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
(W.E. Morgan and Co)

Domestic - Agricultural - Commercial - PAT Testing
CCTV - Smart Home Networks - AV/Data Distribution

the shropshire lawn company

The affordable way to get a lovely lawn

- seasonal treatments
- moss control
- scarification and aeration
- lawn advice

Call for your free lawn analysis

07745 510482 / 01694 771452

www.shropshirelawncompany.co.uk

LUDLOW SALVAGE

~ Est 2017 ~

Supplying reclaimed materials for your homes and projects.



📞 07805 312168

📱 /ludlowsalvage 📷 /ludlowsalvage

✉️ ludlowsalvage@gmail.com

🌐 www.ludlowsalvage.co.uk

Plot 1, Station Yard, Station Road,
Woofferton, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4AW

ADVERTISE HERE

If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager:

advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk

R.A.I.T. ELECTRICAL

Rewires & new build
Alterations, Additions, Fault Finding
Inspection & Testing
Security Alarms, C.C.T.V.
Door Entry Systems

Tel Jason on:

01584 856 268 / 07740 356 578

E-mail: raitelectrical@btinternet.com

ALAN WILLIAMS

Interior & Exterior
Painter & Decorator



Mobile: 07951 578 923



A J Hoskins & Sons Ltd

We make and fit doors, windows, stairs but also fit standard kitchens, bedroom units etc.

Timber framing, fencing, decking, roofing, brickwork, plastering, painting and all types of property maintenance.

Carpentry, joinery and general builder.

Free Estimates - Local references available

NO VAT

Tel: 01584 890 298 Mob: 07977 844 863

Locally based PLUMBER & GENERAL MAINTENANCE

25+ years' experience

Saniflo Engineer

(separate rates apply)

No job too small

£27.50 first hour/part

£22.50 per hour thereafter

Can price by job if over 1 day

Call GARY PARIS

01584 861844

Dave Stratton

Carpenter Joiner

General Building Maintenance



Phone: 07803 083931

Email: Davestratton@btinternet.com

Corfton, Craven Arms, Shropshire



JF Plumbing & Property Services.

jamesfowlerpps@gmail.com

Diddlebury

07519787730

Millichope Enterprises

Please call to order your
Log Deliveries

**Seasoned Hardwood Logs
Delivered to Your Door**

Estate Office 01584 841200

Email: estateoffice@millichope.co.uk

EATON WOODLANDS

Ring (01584) 861643

for your

**SEASONED HARDWOOD
FIRE LOGS**

Cut to your size

Ideal for Log Burners and Open Fires

JTB

J.T. Brisbane

SOLID FUEL INSTALLATIONS, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

- Installations of solid and multi fuel stoves and appliances, flexible metal flue and liners external and internal system chimneys/twin wall
- Chimney Sweeping
- Service and maintenance
- Remedial works and chimney repairs including chimney pot and cowl fitting
- Plastering and patios
- General building and property maintenance

Contact James on: 07855 717 902 / 01584 841 005

Brisbanej@hotmail.com

Meadow Cottage, Diddlebury, Nr Craven Arms



DDA

ARCHITECTS

The Friendly
Professional Service
For All Your Architectural Needs

David Dickinson

Dip Arch (Hons) DA (Manc) RIBA

Corfton Bache | Craven Arms
Ludlow | Shropshire | SY7 9LE

Office 01584 861 468

Mobile 07753 824 855

Email david@dda-architects.co.uk

Web www.dda-architects.co.uk

LUDLOW FIREWOOD
- Est 2019 -

Suppliers of Premium Grade Ready to Burn Firewood,
Beautifully Crated and Delivered to Your Door

Perfect for woodburners and outdoor heating
We also sell kindling and natural firelighters.
Barrow bags and nets for places with difficult access.
Also stocking firebowls, BBQs, chimineas and more!

[/ludlowfirewood](#) [@ludlowfirewood](#) ludlowfirewood@gmail.com
Plot 1, Station Yard, Station Road, Woofferton, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4AW
07949 318 014
WWW.LUDLOWFIREWOOD.COM



SAMUEL WOOD

We're ready when you are

Award-winning estate and lettings agents

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Craven Arms | 01588 672728 |
| Ludlow | 01584 875207 |
| Lettings | 01743 272720 |
| Church Stretton | 01694 722723 |
| Shrewsbury | 01743 272710 |

www.samuelwood.co.uk
cravenarms@samuelwood.co.uk

naea | propertymark

Corvedale C of E Primary School & Nursery
"Love God, Love Learning, Love Life"



Diddlebury SY7 9DH

Tel: 01584 841630

email: admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

www.corvedaleprimary.co.uk

Serving the Corvedale by providing an education of the highest quality rooted in Christian faith and practice, within a caring, stimulating and trusting environment.

Headteacher: Mr N Davda

School Administrators: Mrs. R Jarrett & Mrs. H Southall



Neil Anscomb-Gates
Mortgage & Protection Adviser

M 07932 813994

neil.anscombgates@justmortgages.co.uk



explore.
discover.
inspire.

"Pupils are enthusiastic learners. They work well together and help each other."

- OFSTED, June 2022

Places available, visits welcome

Nursery places for 2-4 year olds available now

Brockton, Much Wenlock, TF13 6JR

01746 785671

admin.brockton@taw.org.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager:

advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk.



Craven Arms Brownies and Guides meet every other Monday evening, 5:30pm, at Halo Leisure Centre, Craven Arms.

For all girls aged 7-14.

Go to "www.girlguiding.org.uk" to register.

Or contact Lisa Thomas 07805 904 917 for more information.



Lower Bank Farm,
Aston Munslow, SY7 9EP



DELIVERING QUALITY, ALWAYS

www.mikesautocare.co.uk
01584 817 094

Mike's Auto Care is a family business based in Aston Munslow, which offers full bespoke detailing services to suit all vehicles and budgets, and designed to help protect your vehicle against common cosmetic damage and problems that can build up over time. This will help get your vehicle back to near showroom quality. We offer a wide range of services ranging from a sympathetic hand wash, including dry, protect and shine, valeting services, to full bespoke detailing.

Mike has over **10 years** detailing experience and wants to make sure you drive away with a new-found love of your vehicle.

Buried in the beautiful Shropshire countryside, Mike's Auto Care is your first stop if you need a wash, valet or a detail.

Wheeluv Installation Accredited
Lanoguard Protective Lubricants Accredited
Matrix 4D Ceramic Coating Accredited.



STONEMASONS
of CHURCH STRETTON

MEMORIALS

Headstones
Cremation tablets
Traditional and modern
Additional inscriptions

HOME

Kitchen worktops
Fireplaces and hearths
Bathroom and wet room
Signs and general masonry

01694 724 448 www.strettonstonemasons.co.uk

The Buzzard

Corvedale Community Minibus



A friendly door to door accessible bus service for people living in the Corvedale

- * affordable
- * accessible
- * friendly, personal service
- * collecting from the Corvedale Villages and going to: Bridgnorth on Mondays
Craven Arms on Thursdays
Ludlow on Fridays
- * monthly trips to Shrewsbury



**Give us a ring today to find out more:
01584 700 907**

**Email: ludlowtraveller@shrewsburydialaride.org.uk
www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk/corvedale-buzzard**

Shrewsbury Community Transport Initiative Ltd is registered in England & Wales No 3274618

COMMUNITY LINKS

SPONSORED BY THE TALLY HO INN, BOULDON

If you represent a local Corvedale group and would like it to be added to this list, please contact the Editor.

LOCAL SERVICES & EMERGENCIES

Electricity Problems/Power Cuts

National Grid

01584 870 747 (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm)

0800 6783 105 (outside normal hours)

Power Cuts call 105

Water Supply Problems

Severn Trent Water, 0800 783 4444

County Flood Management

Shropshire Council, 0345 678 9006,

flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Flood

Action Group

Clive Martyn, 01584 841346,

happy4clive@gmail.com

Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit

Community Hospital, 01584 874297

Shropdoc (out of hours service)

Doctors Co-operative, 111

Station Drive Doctors' Surgery

01584 872461

Portcullis Doctors' Surgery

01584 872939

Craven Arms Medical Practice

01588 672309

Police (non-emergency)

PC 23440 Henry King-Salter

henry.king-salter@westmercia.police.uk

07483 140311.

Voluntary Car Scheme - 9am - noon

Craven Arms Good Neighbours,

01588 673732

Craven Arms Recycling Centre

To make an appointment visit -

www.shropshire.gov.uk/

recyclingcentrebooking

or telephone 0345 678 9007

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Corvedale Brownies

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter'

Corvedale School, Playgroup and Nursery

Neil Davda, 01584 841630,

admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

Abdon & Heath Parish Clerk

Wendy Richards, 07813 271274,

abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com

Culmington Parish Council Clerk

Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,

culmingtonpc@googlemail.com

Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk

Mrs Jean de Ruset, 01547 519282,

diddleburypc@outlook.com

Munslow Parish Council Clerk

Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,

munslowpc@gmail.com

Diddlebury Parish Website

www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

Corvedale Google Group

This is a free service and issues purely local information such as road closures, flood warnings, planning applications, local events and so on to its members on a regular basis. If you would like to join this service, please email Martin Jones: martingcn@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

Abdon Village Hall

Margaret Buckingham, 01746 712296,

www.abdonandheathparish.org,

abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Munslow Village Hall

Frances Sutton, 01584 841654

Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

Culmington Village Hall

Avril Lines, 01584 861 339

culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com

Diddlebury Village Hall

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Hall booking enquiries:

bookdvh@gmail.com

General information:

diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com

WhatsApp/text/phone:

07396 730342

Diddlebury Church Room

Jan Kennedy, 01584 841372,

jan_kennedy@icloud.com

Westhope Village Hall

Betty Manley, 07860 447397,

mbm3049@icloud.com

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Abdon Wildlife Group

Miles Leach, 07810 810400,

milesleach712@gmail.com

Blue Hills Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547385,

ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale Artists

Juliet Hole, 01299 832603

Ann Hankinson, 01584 841460

Corvedale Book Group

corvedale.book.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547 385,

ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale & District Autumn Show

John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

Corvedale Folk Club

Ian Fotheringham, 01584 841331

Corvedale Garden Group

corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Footpath

Maintenance Group

Katharine Wale, 07866 408 897,

katharinewale59@gmail.com

Community Environmental Group

Rebecca Bull,

peter17bull@btinternet.com

Westhope Clover Club

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Diddlebury & Westhope WI

Joy Williams, 01584 861849

f_j_williams@btinternet.com

Munslow WI

Jenny Rose, 01584 841 251,

gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk

Hayton & District WI

Phyllis Steventon, 01584 823 436



CONTACTS



THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2025

| | 2nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple | 9th February 4th Sunday before Lent | 16th February 3rd Sunday before Lent | 23rd February 2nd Sunday before Lent | 2nd March Sunday next before Lent |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Abdon | | 9:45 HC | | 6pm EP | |
| Broadstone | | | 8:30 HC | | |
| Culmington | 11:15 HC | | 6pm Compline | 8:30 HC (BCP) | 11:15 HC |
| Diddlebury | 9:45 HC | 6pm EP | 11:15 HC | 11:15 FS | 9:45 HC |
| Holdgate | 8:30 HC | | | | 8:30 HC |
| Munslow | 6pm EP | 11:15 HC | | 9:45 HC | 6pm EP |
| Tugford | | | 9:45 HC | | |

Key: HC = Holy Communion, EP = Evensong, FS = Family Service