

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



Christmas Tree Festival
at St Peter's, Diddlebury
- Colin Pitcher

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



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**.

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. Colin Stanford

Councillor, Corvedale Division

colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk
07966 459 412

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

LIST OF DISTRIBUTORS & AREAS

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Mrs M Buckingham	The Old Rectory, Abdon	Abdon
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Mrs S Morgan	1, The Moors, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 1
Mr N Kennedy	The Old Byre, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 2
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Mr B Sanders	The Orchard, 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 FEBRUARY 2026 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the February 2026 magazine, please send by email to corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com by **MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2026** 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 19TH JANUARY 2026** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: corvedalenewsadvertising@gmail.com. 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 colin.pitcher@hotmail.com

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.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025 and 2026

The Corvedale News Team is delighted to announce that we are able to hold the 2026 subscription prices at the 2025 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.

To all of you have paid your 2025 subscriptions – a big thank you again. It is very appreciated by your Corvedale News Team.

To all of you have not paid – well, the Corvedale News Team like to think you've just forgotten to pay!

But we still have over **£250** of subscriptions which remain unpaid. This **£250** represents around **7%** of our total subscription monies for the year. So, 7% have enjoyed the Corvedale News throughout 2025 but still have not paid. The non-payment does cause us additional work. We now have in place a robust database, so we know exactly who has not paid. So please, make your payment as soon as you can.

If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact Colin Pitcher by email: colin.pitcher@hotmail.com

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

2. 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

3. Your Corvedale News distributor: Hand your cash or cheque over to your distributor.

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 Meetings: Thursday 11th December 2025 and Thursday 9th January 2026



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.

Please note there are no working parties in December.

**Wednesday 21st January
 Friday 23rd January
 Sunday 25th January**

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

WALKS

Sunday 7th December
 Mortimer Forest, 10am

Saturday 10th January
 Whitcliffe Common & 'The Bread Walk', 10am

Wednesday 18th February
 Venus Pool, 10am

TALKS

First Wednesday of each month at Wistanstow Village Hall.

Wednesday 17th December
 Beyond the Beak - Terry Moore

Wednesday 21st January
 Willow Tits and Curlews - Jamie Murphy

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

ORGANISING AN EVENT OR RUN A LOCAL CLUB?

Contact the editor to include your poster in the next edition:
corvedaleneditor@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2025

3rd	Wed	Munslow Parish Council Meeting	Munslow Village Hall	7.30pm
4th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Munslow Village Hall	10.30am
4th	Thu	Westhope Clover Club	The Swan Inn, Aston Munslow	12 noon
4th	Thu	Messy Church	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	3.20pm
5th	Fri	Christmas Fayre	Culmington Village Hall	6pm
6th	Sat	Much Wenlock Christmas Fair	Much Wenlock	
6th	Sat	Christmas Prize Bingo	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
7th	Sun	RSPB Walk	Mortimer Forest	10am
7th	Sun	Wreath Making Workshop	Culmington Village Hall	4pm
8th	Mon	Christmas Whist Drive	Westhope Village Hall	TBA
10th	Wed	Diddlebury & Westhope WI	The Swan Inn, Aston Munslow	TBA
10th	Wed	Quiz Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
11th	Thu	Christmas Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
11th	Thu	Film: Cider With Rosie	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	7pm
11th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
11th	Thu	Hayton & District WI Supper	The Cliffe Hotel, Ludlow	7.30pm
12th	Fri	Christmas Tree Festival	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	3pm
12th	Fri	Christmas Hamper Draw	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	8pm
13th	Sat	Un-Finished Objects Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
13th	Sat	Christmas Tree Festival	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	10am-4pm
14th	Sun	Christmas Tree Festival	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	2pm
14th	Sun	Evensong	All Saints Church, Culmington	6pm
16th	Tue	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir Concert	William Brookes School	7pm
17th	Wed	RSPB Talk - Beyond the Beak - Terry Moore	Wistanstow Village Hall	7.30pm
18th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Munslow Village Hall	10.30am
19th	Fri	Munslow WI Christmas Party	Munslow Village Hall	2pm
19th	Fri	Carol Singing by the Diddlebrook	Diddlebury Village	6pm
28th	Sun	Come and Sing - Messiah	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	3pm
31st	Wed	Stefano's Hootenanny	Diddlebury Village Hall	8pm

JANUARY 2026

6th	Tue	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
8th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Munslow Village Hall	10.30am
8th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
10th	Sat	RSPB Walk	Whitcliffe Common & 'Bread Walk'	10am
10th	Sat	Un-Finished Objects Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
11th	Sun	Big Breakfast	Culmington Village Hall	TBA
14th	Wed	Munslow WI Meeting	Munslow Village Hall	2pm
14th	Wed	Flicks in the Sticks: Downton Abbey	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
15th	Thu	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
19th	Mon	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
20th	Tue	Brown Clee PPG Meeting	TBA	TBA
21st	Wed	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
22nd	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Munslow Village Hall	10.30am
23rd	Fri	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
25th	Sun	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
28th	Wed	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
31st	Sat	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am

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 Tues	Blue Hills Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tues	Corvedale Artists	Munslow Village Hall	10am
Every Tues	Zumba	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Weds	Yoga	Culmington Village Hall	6pm
Every Weds	Line Dancing	Onbury Village Hall	7pm & 8pm
Every Weds	Pub Night	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	8pm
Every Thur	Yoga	Westhope Village Hall	9.45-10.45am
Every Thur	Tai Chi	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Thur	Pilates Beginners/Intermediate Class	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Fri	Physiotherapist-led Pilates	Diddlebury Village Hall	9.15am

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES:

Abdon - Page 9
Munslow - Page 9
Culmington - Page 9
Westhope - Page 9
Diddlebury - Page 8

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE



Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale is the third and final film in the beloved series. As the Crawley family faces change and new beginnings, familiar faces return and lasting bonds are tested in a warm and elegant farewell to a cherished era.

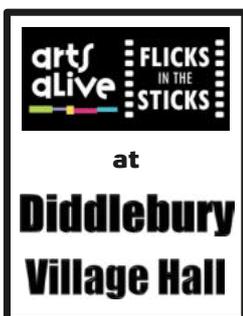
WEDNESDAY
14 JANUARY

Bar Opens: 19:00

Film starts: 19:30

Interval with Full Bar, tea/coffee/ice-creams

Entry £5



SY7 9DH

For more information contact bookdyh@gmail.com Or 07396730342

New Year's Big Breakfast



Culmington Village Hall

Sunday, 11th January 2026

Breakfast / Brunch served from 9.30am to 1.00pm

To book your scrummy meal contact

Gwyn Edwards **01584 861666** or Jo Mear **07872 109936**

Adults: £12.50 / Children: £7

CHURCH OF ST PETER
STANTON LACY

SNOWDROP WEEKEND

7th - 8th Feb 2026

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.

Here it comes ...

Christmas Fayre

at

Culmington Village Hall



Friday, 5th December 2025 from 6pm onwards

During the evening there will be Christmas Stalls to purchase your Christmas gifts plus a visit from Father Christmas and Tenbury Town Band playing popular Christmas Carols

Refreshments will be available including Mulled Wine

Admission is £2.50 per adult to include Coffee/Tea and a mince pie

Children accompanied by adults are free including a gift from Father Christmas

Contact

Jo Mear: **07872 109936**
or Jeff Williams: **01584 861849**



Corvedale Concerts

presents

'Come & Sing' Handel's

MESSIAH

Sarah Westwood ~ Soprano Samantha Lewis ~ Alto
Ethan Jacobs ~ Tenor Paul Henley ~ Bass

The Jarualda Quartet & Elizabeth Jones ~ Double Bass
Erin McLellan ~ Trumpet Simon Russell ~ Organ
Bedwyn Lloyd Phillips ~ Conductor

St. Peter's Church, Diddlebury, SY7 9DH
Sunday 28th December 2025 ~ 3.00 pm

Tickets: on door £10 inc. refreshments

In aid of Team Cleo (paediatric brain tumour research)
& Corvedale Parishes' Funds

(Score Hire £10 refundable on return) Further information 07745 825700

Diddlebury Village Hall invites you to enjoy

Carol Singing



with a



beside the

Diddle Brook

Friday 19th 6 pm
December

Then follow Dee's Carolling Band up to DVH for more Festive Tunes and



Bar Stefano will be OPEN too! 😊

DVH invites you to

STEFANO'S HOOTENANNY

on

NEW YEAR'S EVE

B.Y.O. Picnic & Drinks

We'll provide

- The ambience,
- Music for dancing
- Glasses/plates/cutlery

Stay as long as you fancy between

20:00 - 00:30

Please book your tables via

WhatsApp 07396 730342 or bookdvh@gmail.com

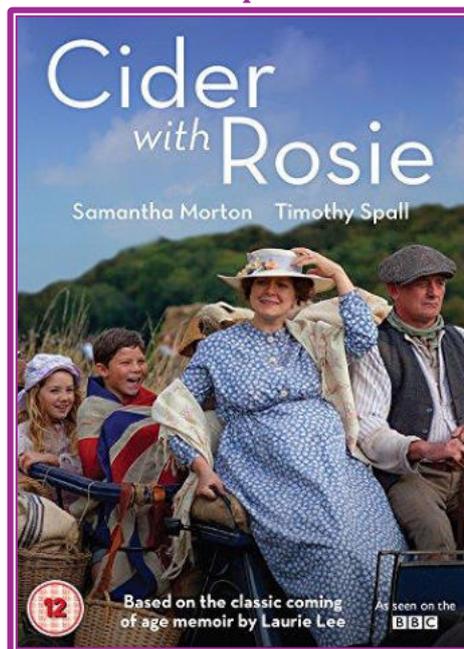
There is no charge for this event.

PAGE'S MEADOW TALKS & FILMS

CLEE ST MARGARET VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, 11th December 2025

7.00pm



Suggested donation of £5.00 to cover cost of village hall hire
mince pies, stollen, mulled cider and local apple juice.

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

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

COMING SOON!

Dec 19

Carols & Mince Pies

Dec 31

Stefano's Hootenanny

Feb 4

Quiz Night

For more information on
What's coming up @ DVH
 Scan the QR Code with your phone
 camera to take you to the
 Forthcoming Events page on our
 website: diddleburyvillagehall.org



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

**Downton Abbey:
 The Grand Finale**

**Wednesday 14th
 January**

Carols by the Diddle	Start the festive season by carol singing along to Dee's carolling band beside the pretty Diddle brook! Then follow the band up to DVH for mulled wine & mince pies. Bar Stefano will be opening then too!	Wednesday 19 December 6pm
Stefano's Hootenanny	See in the New Year with your friends and neighbours and community! BYO food & drinks – we supply the ambience & playlist for dancing. Free admission but please book your table	Wednesday 31 December 20:00 – 00:30
	Corvedale Book Club Meet to discuss their latest book choice. Contact: Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com	Thursday 8 January 19:00
	We've been so lucky to get an early release of the final film in the much-loved Downton Abbey series – DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE We expect this to be a popular movie – booking seats is an option.	Wednesday 14 January Film starts 19:30
	Our first Quiz Night of the New Year We're lucky to have lots of regular quizzers so booking is essential.	Wednesday 4 February
	Mini Moos Baby & Toddler Group – term time only £2.50 per Family	Mondays 10.00 - 12.00
	The Corvedale Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Mondays 19.30 -21.30
	The Blue Hills Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00
	Zumba Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448832	Tuesdays 18.00
	Tai Chi Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250275 hello@goldenthreadscic.com	Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00
	Pilates with Tina Bookings only via pilateswithtina@outlook.com	Thursdays 18:00 – 19:00
	Physiotherapist-led Pilates. Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814412	Fridays 9.15 - 10.15

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, 6pm - 7.15pm

Contact Jennifer Gennard 07968 817 643

DECEMBER EVENTS

Culmington Christmas Fayre

Friday 5th December, 6pm start

Lots of stalls to buy your Christmas gifts plus a visit from the very famous Father Christmas!

£2.50 entry for adults including tea/coffee and a mince pie.

Children free including goodies from Father Christmas.

Contact Jo Mear 07872 109 936.

Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 7th December, 4pm

Contact Amy Caine to book at amy@amycaine.co.uk

Christmas Lunch Club

Thursday 11th December

Gwyn Edwards to book: 01584 861 666 or 07891 904 501.

JANUARY EVENTS

Big Breakfast

Sunday 11th January

Return of our popular Big Breakfast.

Adults £12.50, children £7. Booking essential!

Contact Gwyn Edwards 01584 861 666 or 07891 904 501

or Jo Mear 07872 109 936.

Lunch Club

Thursday 15th January

Gwyn Edwards to book: 01584 861 666 or 07891 904 501.

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

Sat 13th December & Sat 10th January, 10.30am-12.30pm.

The UFO craft group will meet on the second Saturday of the month, as usual.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 31st January, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Please note there is no coffee morning in December.

Our coffee morning continues, as usual, on the last Saturday of the month. Lively chat, coffee and, of course, cake!

Abdon Village Hall Bookings

Contact: abdon.villagehall@gmail.com, Margaret

Buckingham: 01746 712 296 or visit our website for the

booking form and details: www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

November seemed a busy month with the weekly yoga and whist drives, a private 70th birthday party and two funeral wakes using our lovely village hall. This year's skittles league is now under way. We have had a win and look forward to enjoying the season. The new heating system is working very well; it is so nice to go into a lovely warm hall and most of all not to have freezing toilets!

On **Saturday 6th December** we have our grand Christmas prize bingo with great prizes with free admission and a festive welcome drink. Refreshments and cash bar available. Eyes down 7.30pm. Come and join us for a fun evening.

Monday 8th December is our Christmas whist drive. Great prizes, welcome festive drink and refreshments. Also our second lottery draw will be drawn. First prize £150 second prize £100 and third prize £50. We have 7 tickets left for this draw at £12 per ticket. Please contact us on 07860 447 397 if you would like to enter the draw.

On **Thursday 4th December** the Clover Club Christmas lunch is at The Swan, Aston Munslow. It's been a difficult year, so everyone is looking forward to celebrating together for a delicious lunch.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during 2025. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Watch this space for our programme for 2026.

All enquiries for hall hire and our events please contact Betty 07860 447 397 or Moira 01584 861 663 or 07542 947 440.

MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

Our coffee mornings are proving popular again as we begin our winter events. As a reminder December dates are **Thursdays 4th and 18th** from 10.30am until 12 noon. The **18th** will be our Christmas get together with mince pies as well as homemade cakes.

On both dates we will be running a craft stall which we hope you will support. We are trying to raise money for Little Stars, a registered charity which supports local mums before and after the birth of their babies with essential items for both the mums and the babies.

Dates for January coffee mornings will be **Thursdays 8th and the 22nd**, 10.30am until 12 midday.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Lesley Dobson, On behalf of the village hall committee

ADVERTISING RATES 2026

The Corvedale News Team is delighted to announce that we are able to hold the 2026 advertising prices at the 2025 rates. The prices are just £55 for a small advert, £82.50 for a quarter page and £110 for a half page for the whole year. This represents remarkable value for money.



THE TALLY HO INN BOULDON



FOOD TIMES

WED 6-8PM

THUR 12-2, 6-8PM

FRI & SAT 12-2, 6-8:30PM

SUNDAY 12-4PM

WWW.THETALLYHO.CO.UK

01584 841830

JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS

FESTIVE MENU FROM THE 3RD DEC

XMAS CORVEDALE SUPPER CLUB - 11TH DEC

TALLY CHRISTMAS CAROLS - 21ST DEC @6PM

XMAS DAY DRINKS - 11:30-1:30PM

BOXING DAY & NEW YEARS DAY LUNCH

12-4PM.

CORVEDALE SUPPER CLUB - 15TH JAN 2026

THE TALLY HO WILL BE CLOSED FROM
JANUARY 2ND AND WILL OPEN BACK UP ON
JANUARY 9TH 2026

FOR FURTHER CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES
PLEASE CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

We enjoyed our short afternoon concert at the Priory Hall recently where we entertained the Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice Wellness Group and their supporters, and we now look forward to a full programme of Christmas engagements. Hopefully, this year we will sing at both Lady Forester's and the Wheatlands care homes before attendance at the Wenlock Christmas Fayre. As usual, we'll be singing under the Corn Exchange from 11am with a mixture of seasonal music, some familiar, some new, and also a selection of our favourite songs.

Our own Christmas concert will be held at William Brookes School on **Tuesday 16th December** at 7pm. This is a free concert with mince pies and mulled wine, a Christmas raffle and a pay bar that will be open before and after the event.

Please consider joining us. Entry is by tickets available from choir members, by contacting us on the number below or from Penny Farthing in the Square in Wenlock.

Into 2026 and whilst the choir has concerts lined up, we have quite a few weeks of practice before we perform again in March. This means that we'll be able to work on a new repertoire. It will also be an excellent time to join us if you are looking for a fresh and rewarding interest for the New Year, with our first rehearsal being on **Tuesday 6th January** from 7.20pm at William Brookes School.

Wishing all our friends, supporters and patrons a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dick Langford, 01952 728 758, rlangfordchoir@gmail.com

'COME & SING' MESSIAH

When the excitement of Christmas has worn off, New Year is days away and you're wondering what to do with yourself on a December Sunday afternoon, look no further than Diddlebury Church where, at 3pm on **28th December**, you can 'Come and Sing' Handel's The Messiah! There will be four professionally trained soloists, The Jarualda Quartet plus guests and the marvellous young conductor, Bedwyn Lloyd Phillips, who was last seen in Corvedale at the Festival Opera Gala. There is no rehearsal, just a joyful and spontaneous

performance, followed by mulled wine and mince pies which are included. Admission is £10, score hire (if needed) £10 cash, refundable on return of the score. All proceeds to be shared between the Corvedale Parishes and Team Cleo, which raises money for paediatric brain tumour research. Do come along and raise the roof... and if your other half doesn't sing, they can come anyway and listen!

Ruth Henley for Corvedale Concerts, 07745 825 700

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

It's currently mid-November and I am trying to tell myself that there is still a long time before Christmas. Somebody was telling me this week about writing their Christmas cards: I don't think I've bought any yet – I certainly haven't written one.

It's all too easy, as we look at the coming month, to get bogged down in all the tasks to be ticked off the list before Christmas finally arrives. All too easy, too, to forget what it is that we're really doing. Despite all we see in the adverts and in films, Christmas is actually about celebrating the Son of God being born as one of us – an event which, as Christians, we believe happened in Bethlehem somewhere just over 2,000 years ago. That baby had to flee his home country and become a refugee in Egypt because of the politics of the time and place in which he was born. Even when he was able to return to his homeland, he grew up in a poor family in a land under foreign occupation. That baby grew up to be someone who changed the world through his life and teaching as he tried to help those who follow him to know more about God and about how God longs for us to live. This is why Christmas is important – and this is why we celebrate.

To help us to reflect on what Christmas is about there will be the usual services of Compline on Wednesday evenings. They are quiet and special services that gives us time to think our own thoughts and pray our own prayers. If you haven't been yet, I'd encourage you to give it a go. When we get closer to Christmas, there will be the usual opportunities to celebrate the birth of that special baby.

When we get there, I hope that you have a very happy and enjoyable Christmas, that you enjoy all that the festive season brings – and that you have a chance to remember what it is that lies at the heart of the celebrations.

Rev'd John Beesley

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & HAMPER DRAW

The Christmas Tree Festival returns to Diddlebury Church in December, but in a slightly different format. We will open on the afternoon of **Friday 12th December** at 3pm, with the hamper draw in the evening. The church will be open with refreshments from 10am - 4pm on **Saturday 13th** and on the afternoon of **Sunday 14th**. If you, or an organisation of which you are a part, would like to bring a decorated tree to the church as part of the festival, please contact me – you can have it back afterwards: it doesn't have to stay in church for the whole festive season!

The hamper draw will take place on **Friday 12th** at 8pm. Hopefully, tickets will be on sale by the time you get this. There is the usual range of great prizes – vouchers for meals and from several local shops and also the hampers themselves. We are always grateful for contributions of items to go into the hampers – please bring them (labelled) to one of the churches or leave them at the Rectory.

As is the case for everyone else, the costs involved in keeping our churches open and in use continue to climb. The Christmas tree weekend and hamper draw are a significant part of our fundraising, so please come along, enjoy all there is to see and do, and play a part in helping to keep our churches open.

Rev'd John Beesley

REGISTERS

FUNERALS

24th October	Richard Francis	Diddlebury
3rd November	Norman Wilson	Abdon
11th November	Jeremy Utting	Diddlebury
14th November	David Marston	Tugford

FLOWERS & BRASSES

DECEMBER 2025

7th	Sharon Constable (<i>Brasses only</i>)	
14th	Christmas Tree Festival	
21st	Christmas Decorations	28th Christmas Decorations

JANUARY 2025

4th	Christmas decorations	11th Liz Jones
18th	Liz Jones	25th Liz Jones

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church will be at 3.20pm on **Thursday 4th December** in Diddlebury Church. We will have crafts, stories and food as we think about Advent and Christmas. All families are welcome – whether you have been before or not. We hope to see you there!

Rev'd John Beesley

ALL SAINTS CHURCH CULMINGTON

Some of you will know that our Archdeacon, Fiona Gibson, leaves the Diocese at Christmas to take up her post as Suffragan Bishop of Taunton in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Archdeacon Fiona has kindly agreed to preside at Evensong at All Saints on **Sunday 14th December** at 6pm and to bless the newly commissioned facsimile of the Ten Commandments wall paintings. The beautiful copperplate calligraphy was worked by Kate Gravestock (who used to live at Corfton) and the framed facsimile will hang below the original wall paintings after its blessing.

The service will be followed by celebration drinks and mince pies. All are welcome to come and share this occasion.

Churchwardens Andrew Pike and Val Hardwick

CELEBRATING AT HARVEST TIME

Sunday 19th October was a busy day in Culmington. The church was open in the afternoon for visitors to enjoy it fully decorated with themed harvest arrangements of flowers, fruit, vegetables and the autumn hedgerow. Tea and coffee plus homemade cake was also on offer, and you may have heard the bells being rung.

Then there was a joint church evensong Harvest Service followed by a satisfying ploughman's supper and apple pie at Culmington Village Hall.

The hall was full to celebrate the installation of Reverend John Beesley as a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral.

A huge thank you to everyone, including our visitors, who helped to make the day a heart-warming success.

Nothing beats the uplifting feeling of community coming together.

Avril Lines

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY



I am house hunting at the moment as Dr Bob and I downsize and move closer to one of our daughters. No, it's not the best time of year to be doing this, but there it is and here we are! The other day we were in our future town with a list of 'suitable' homes. We had a bit of a drive to get there, and I spent my time wreath spotting. I noticed earlier this year that some people had chosen to put a

wreath on their doors at Eastertide - generally a collection of artificial spring flowers. When Autumn came a month or so ago there they were again - wreaths featuring leaves and fruits with yellow, green and brown hues. As Halloween got closer small pumpkins took their place on the decorated doors. I counted more than twenty doors with wreaths as we approached our destination. The interesting thing was how the Christmas wreath was appearing with fir and holly and ivy and the occasional gold bauble. Again, most were artificial, but still nice.

I helped out at a wreath making event at my grandson's school in November. From my present home I filled bin bags with holly, ivy and branches of fir, which make the base of a Christmas wreath. Ribbons and baubles were added and an

amazing number of very individual wreaths in a variety of shapes were taken home to adorn a lot of doors.

Holly and ivy are very connected with Christmas. Since medieval times holly has represented the crown of thorns and the blood of Jesus but the contrast of shiny green and red berries is very pleasing to look at. Ivy, like most evergreen plants, has been revered from pagan times onwards for keeping its leaves over winter and therefore associated with eternal life. It was also thought to help the recovery of sick animals and in Shropshire, a thousand years ago, a piece of ivy would have been fed to animals before midday on Christmas Day to keep the evil spirits away for the coming year. Do any local farmers still do that today?

Traditionally the holly and ivy would be brought into the dwelling on Christmas Eve and would last until either Epiphany or Twelfth Night as we know it (6th January) or be kept until Candlemas at the beginning of February. We decorate our house with the best we can pick and cut from the garden.

It will be our last Christmas in this happy home, but it is time to move on. In the new year I will make a wreath here to take to our new home. I will put it on the new front door and join the modern wreath update.

Anni Holden Calver,
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

CHILLI AND LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

A SELL-OUT SUCCESS AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Celebrating Community, Cuisine, and Candlelit Tunes

DVH was packed for the sold-out chilli and live music night, with a buzzing atmosphere of lively conversation, laughter, music and homemade food filling the space.

The event brought together residents from every corner of our community. It was great to see a large turnout from our local farming community, our large group of loyal regulars from Corfton, as well as many from Diddlebury and further afield who warmly welcomed fresh faces who've recently joined our patch.

No one left hungry, thanks to the generous spread laid on by Team DVH. The chilli was delicious, and the mountain of enormous jacket potatoes, kindly donated by local farmer Ed Morris from Pinstones, helped make the meal. Along with the Shropshire beef, it was a treat to enjoy local produce at its finest.

Special thanks go to The Jon Crowe Trio for keeping us entertained throughout the evening, In the lovely candlelit room they helped create a special and vibrant atmosphere.

Events like these would not be possible without the hard work of many hands. Huge thanks go to those who helped make the event possible - from sourcing ingredients and taking a whole day to cook chilli for eighty people, making salsas and accompaniments, baking eighty potatoes, stocking and manning a full Bar Stefano and for serving dinner to a room full of hungry people.

And of course, big thanks to Mike at Aston Munslow Garage, who yet again managed our ticket sales with his usual good cheer. Without all these efforts - big and small - these events would not be possible.

If you've enjoyed any of our DVH Nights, watch for the launch of 'Friends of DVH' - a friendly way to keep you informed about all our events and volunteering opportunities. No matter if you're new or have lived here for years, any help would be hugely appreciated.

Here's to many more magical evenings in Diddlebury - where the food is plentiful, the music is marvellous, and friends, old and new, always have a lovely, friendly place to gather.

Kim Simm



CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP ROUNDUP

BY THE SEA BY ABDULRAZAK GURNAH

The November choice of the Corvedale Book Group provoked full discussion in a somewhat depleted group. It is a saga of inter family conflict set against some of the major changes in societies affected by Empire, especially the ending of the British Empire. It presents a picture of these events and consequences seen from the perspective of individuals living in Zanzibar over the time during which the country became an independent socialist country. The focus is on the relationships between two families within the country and the disastrous involvement of a trader from Oman in these relationships. The story centres on the experiences of two individuals from these families and their paths from their homes beside the Indian Ocean as each seeks to leave behind these conflicts as refugees or emigrants ultimately to meet in Britain in an unnamed town by the sea. The narrative also shows how European views and values impact on the men's lives.

The main character is Saleh Omar whom we meet as he tackles the process of becoming a refugee around the time of the last millennium aged 65 years. He encounters an immigration official, Kevin Edelman, the son of a previous generation of refugees who treats him with casual contempt and even steals his most precious possession, a link to past life and values, a mahogany box containing incense. He does not disclose his ability to speak English but is able to fully grasp the nature of the process being applied to him eventually declaring his refugee status with a single word, 'asylum'. He is assisted by a support worker, Rachel, also of refugee heritage, and experiences indignities, squalor and the inability of the system to recognise his culture, needs, or even to pronounce his name. Rachel finds someone from a similar background who she hopes will assist in translating his native language but this person, Latif Mahmud, is in reality a member of the family with whom he has found himself in conflict. The documents that helped obtain a passport enabling Saleh to leave home were based on Latif's father's birth certificate. Naturally, Latif recognises his father's name and becomes curious to find out what has happened. Latif journeyed to Britain as a refugee some time before the fall of the Soviet Union via an offer of training from the German Democratic Republic. He took this up seeking an escape

from his family's troubles. However he found it was not the freedom he sought. Falling in with a German family he has had contact with but who are seeking escape themselves he travelled first out of Germany with them and then alone, on to Britain, arriving by ship where he was helped to settle and then find a career as an academic.

The two men have their different motivations to speak to each other. Saleh wants to expiate actions he feels were unworthy of him. He has in his mind the concept of kasho - in Kiswahili, the art of being carefree. Latif means to both find out what this man who has taken his family name has to do with his family and also be able to express the bitterness he feels at what befell his family. Gradually, by sharing anecdotes and exploring their personal histories the two narrate their shared but contrasting experiences, which centre on the dishonest and abusive actions of the trader with whom both families engaged their trust and wealth. This tests their trust and belief in each other but has the effect of reducing the tension between and within them without resolving it completely.

We discussed the nature of storytelling within the novel, observed by one reviewer as a 'masterpiece of pacing,' by others as presenting difficulties by being so drawn out. We noted that the experience and knowledge of members of our group helped us understand some aspects of the account. One example was that within small communities, particularly self-supporting ones, there was often difficulty of finding a translator who was unbiased or unconnected to the person being helped. This story was perhaps an extreme example of that issue. Other issues thrown up included the male focus of the work. Although female characters did exist their roles were constrained by the laws, customs and actions of the men in their lives despite having power or being respected and valued, especially by the main character.

The book sets its characters against a backdrop of political and legal power which is played out in enabling either improvement or destruction in people's lives. In that way the book explores the nature of morality, power, trust and what individuals can or do contribute through their comments and actions.

Robert Bluett

NEWS FROM BROWN CLEE PPG

(PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP)

Brown Clee PPG Is Keeping Busy Over The Winter

There was a great turnout for Ade Robinson's talk about building a garden for Chelsea on 17th October, which raised almost £200. This will be used for materials to develop the garden around the Ditton Priors Surgery. Ade has already started planting the gravel areas by the path, and plans to continue through the winter when the weather allows.

There was also a good response to the offer from Lisa Davies to lead a discussion about post-menopausal health, which took place on 27th November. It's likely that a similar session will be held in an evening, next spring, as we already have a waiting list. Keep an eye out on the Facebook page and practice notice boards for details.

The PPG committee for 2026 is confirmed as Christine Ranson (chair) Judith Miles (treasurer), Linda Jackson, Ade Robinson and Yemmi Agbebi. There is currently a vacancy for the post of secretary, and we would be really pleased to hear from anyone who might want to know more about this.

Have a healthy and happy Christmas and we will see you at the next PPG meeting on **20th January**, when we will be joined by Dr Wendy Matthews and Dr Claire Bravey.

Tina Ranson, browncleppg@gmail.com

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



MUNSLOW WI

Lynne and Zoe from the Shropshire Women's Refuge gave the Munslow WI a remarkably interesting and informative talk in November about their work. Both spoke movingly about their personal experiences of abuse and how this had motivated and inspired them to help others – which they now do in senior roles in the organisation.

They explained that there are three strands to the work of the Women's Refuge – Outreach, Children and Young Person's Work and Refuge Accommodation. Outreach provides support to any who get in contact: needs, such as how to get a court injunction, or how to contact a support officer, are talked through. Educational courses about aspects of abuse are also available. The children of victims receive particular attention at a time when their lives are frightening and uncertain. They are welcomed warmly, with gifts such as a teddy bear, and have access to therapeutic play or one-to-one support from a professional. Special care is taken to liaise with the children's new school.

The refuge has three properties: two for women – one with ten bedrooms and one with three – and a two-bed refuge for male victims of abuse. The larger property has two shared kitchens which can make for challenges, of course, but staff are sensitive to individual needs. Those who come to the refuge get help from National Rail with immediate, free, organised transport and the refuge staff, as well as providing emotional support, help with such things as registering with a GP and, most importantly, with re-housing. On average, those who come to the refuge stay for six to nine months before being re-housed. Lynne and Zoe also spend time working to improve the system for victims of abuse. For example, they mentioned the need for more training for judges about the nature of domestic abuse.

Any donations for the refuge are welcomed as the funding received is limited. Lynne summed this up as 'donate anything that you yourself would be pleased to receive.' Donations can be taken to the office at the Gateway in Craven Arms.

The next meetings of the Munslow WI are the Christmas party at 2pm on **Friday 19th December** and a meeting at 2pm on **Wednesday 14th January** – subject still being organised! Please get in touch with our secretary, Val Hardwick, on 01584 861 658 if you would like more information.

Wendy Brogden, wendy@brogden.info

DIDDLEBURY & WESTHOPE WI

On a wet autumnal evening we gathered for our November meeting in Culmington Village Hall, more of us than anticipated given the weather. Sally Joiner was our invited speaker for the evening to talk to us about sign language. Surprisingly, out of the 68,000 people in Shropshire who have hearing problems only 195 use sign language. We had a general discussion regarding the issues faced with hearing loss and the methods of overcoming it, whether it be with hearing aids, which are increasingly high tech, or lip reading and sign language. We had members who have experience of the difficulties of not hearing clearly and there was much indignation at the perception or assumption made that you not only couldn't hear and the speaker needed to shout but that they also needed to speak slowly as if your understanding were in some way compromised. Certainly not something easily accepted by our feisty members! On a slightly brighter side we learnt that if you do have recognised hearing loss you are entitled to 50% off tickets at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury!

Learning that sign language can be regional and that one or two signs can be different we had several slightly amusing rounds of learning the alphabet ourselves which was remarkably interesting with very patient coaching by Sally. There are videos to help apparently and a pub in Kidderminster where you can practice. Obviously, a lot more involved than the 'thank you' sign we all know from Strictly! A really interesting talk with a lot of relevant information which we all appreciated, conversation developing along many interesting lines related to hearing loss. Sally was warmly thanked for being a delightful, informative and interesting speaker.

Our formal meeting followed, preceded by delicious refreshments from Mary and Eileen. Looking forward to December we are anticipating a fun gathering at The Swan on **Wednesday 10th December** and festive wreath making at Mary's on **Tuesday 16th December**...Christmas is on its way!

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 if you would like any further information on 01584 861 849.

Jayne Disley

HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

With another eventful year having passed by, it was time for our AGM. During the business section of the meeting our secretary, Jennette Arnold OBE, gave her annual report highlighting the year's events and activities. Our programme showed that we remain an active and vibrant WI branch fully committed to the long-term goal of inspiring women to learn new skills, become active citizens, and use their collective voice to influence local, national, and international affairs. We enjoyed a wide range of talks, from the history and beauty of Shropshire to humorous and intriguing anecdotes from fifty years in broadcasting. We provided community activities such as an annual litter pick and creating dental kits for users of the local charity Hands Together Ludlow. Funds have been raised for Smile Train, Hands Together Ludlow and organisations supporting farmers' mental well-being. As part of the Ludlow North Group of WIs, members attended several enjoyable events, including a group night out at the Swan Inn. Hayton & District WI will take the lead role for this group until November 2026: other member branches include Brockton & District, Clee St Margaret, Diddlebury & Westhope, and Munslow WIs. The report reflected the many contributions of Hayton & District WI over the past twelve months and the invaluable circle of friendship and support we provide to members and our wider community. Jennette gave her heartfelt thanks to all members for the support they gave her during the year. The Annual Financial Report, presented by Joyce Randle, branch treasurer, completed the business agenda for the AGM.



Members were then treated to an unexpected and inspiring presentation from local humanitarian Mike Stevens. Mike devotes much of his free time to supporting soldiers in Ukraine. Using donated candle stubs and recycled tins he creates 'Candlelights in Tins', small, improvised heaters and stoves that provide essential light, warmth and cooking support for soldiers in the field. Members responded with great generosity, offering tins and candles to assist his ongoing efforts. He explained how he raises funds through car boot sales to buy old 4x4 vehicles, fills them with these heaters and other useful supplies, and then personally drives the 2,000 miles to deliver them directly to Ukraine. Once there, he donates the vehicle itself before making the long journey home via public transport... and then begins the whole process again! Mike's talk was both powerful and moving. He described the emotional impact of witnessing daily life interrupted by air-raid sirens, the sudden emptiness of once-busy streets and the eerie silence that follows as people seek shelter. His dedication and compassion left a strong impression on everyone present.

Our next meeting on **Thursday 11th December** at 7.30pm will be a members-only Christmas supper at The Cliffe Hotel in Ludlow. WI branch meetings for any ladies who would like to come along to experience a meeting with the aim of joining our branch or for those who would like to come and listen to any of our speakers (£5 for non-members) would be welcome from February 2026. Meetings are held at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent, SY8 2AT at 7:30pm on the second Thursday evening of most months. For further information please feel free to contact either our Branch President, Phyllis Steventon on 01584 823 436 or our Secretary, Jennette Arnold OBE via email at haytonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk. Watch this space in future magazines for details of forthcoming speakers.

Louise Gough

MISTLETOE

As I walk down the stairs, I gaze at the dried, dusty leaves and twigs hanging from the beam. It's mistletoe; gathered on the winter solstice and brought in to replace the bundle from the year before. Soon, it will be time to replace this one. This brittle and cobwebbed combination of male and female mistletoe will be taken down and burned with thanks given for the year that has been, its gifts and challenges, lessons and blessings. Then the male plant will be brought in the front door by myself, and the female through the back by my husband, they meet in the stairwell, are tied with a green ribbon, and attached to the beam. A first kiss beneath the mistletoe and our tradition continues.

In Shropshire folklore a *Sheaf of Gleanings*, published 1882, the editor Charlotte S Burne, states that in Montgomeryshire, 'a correspondent...tells me that he and his wife have never been without a piece of mistletoe in the house since they have been married.' And it is so with us.

Jake grew up with mistletoe adorning a beam in the kitchen, refreshed every Christmas time. I grew up with a plastic replica dangling from the brass light fitting in the hall, but it intrigued me. Imagine my delight when I moved to Shropshire and found it literally dripping from the trees.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is not terribly poisonous. Obviously, ingesting a large amount of the berries or leaves is not recommended as the toxin lectin is present throughout the plant. In recent years, parts of the plant have been used in the aftermath of cancer treatments, under the strict guidance of health practitioners.

Neither is it a parasite. It is a hemi-parasite, relying on nutrients from the sap of the host tree, yet it draws its water supply from the air and rain and energy from sunlight by photosynthesis - something which starts very early on in the development of the plant, while the green embryonic seed is surrounded by 'sticky white stuff' - that gives the plant its botanical name 'viscum album' - inside the berry on the female plant.

English mistletoe is dioecious, there are male and female plants of the same species. The females have the berries, and the males have the pollen. Both flower in late winter, the time between Candlemas and the spring equinox, and it is also at this point where the berries are ripest, and the seed is most viable.



This green seed needs sunlight to germinate, and when wiped by the beak of a blackcap, or excreted in sticky strands by the mistle thrush, it sticks to a branch, sends out holdfasts at the spring equinox and a tap root that penetrates the bark of the host tree. Locally its most common hosts are apple, hawthorn, rowan, lime and poplar.

So hang it with intent and when you share a kiss beneath a bough, remember that you're in the presence of a very special plant indeed.

Suzanne and Jake Thomas

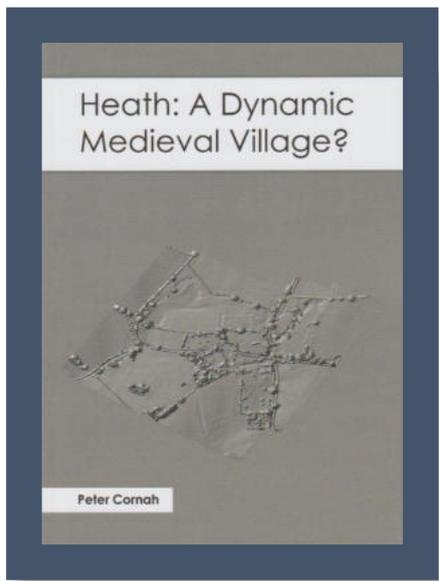
WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB

The Clover Club enjoyed a belated anniversary meeting at the Discovery Centre with a cream scone afternoon tea. It was lovely to see everyone and catch up on all the news.

Our last meeting of the year is on **Thursday 4th December** when we will meet for our Christmas lunch and celebrations at The Swan Inn, Aston Munslow at 12 o'clock for 12.30pm.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254





If you would like a copy of the book that goes with village that went with the chapel, for £10, please ring Peter on 01584 823858 or email petercornah@gmail.com. Contact details are also on villageadamandeve.uk



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW
DIOCESE OF HEREFORD, CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Laurence Church, Ludlow, is recruiting a part-time Finance Manager (20 hrs per week) with a starting date in the New Year.

We are looking for somebody with experience in book-keeping, pay-roll administration, financial reporting and accounts preparation, appropriate to the equivalent of a small business (turnover c.£500,000 per annum). Hybrid working arrangements can be accommodated.

If this might interest you, please contact office@stlaurences.org.uk for a full job description.

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP

The 2025 season ended with an inspiring talk by our own members, Sam and Kate Davies, who are based in the Corvedale. They have been self-sufficient for twenty years and like everyone else have had a bumper crop of apples, so Sam admitted he was tempted to retitle the talk 'What to do with so many apples?'

We learned what spoils our garden produce - enzymes, bacteria, mould, fungi, yeasts etc. - and explored methods of preserving, including freezing, adding sugar, salt, oil, brine and vinegar to name but a few. The aim of some of these is to promote the growth of healthy organisms rather than those that will destroy crops. One useful tip is to leave some crops in the ground, for example carrots, parsnips and beetroot, while keeping an eye on any rodent damage. Sam showed pictures of their outbuildings which had been adapted for storage, including warm storage, cooler storage, as well as using the house windowsills for squash and shelving in the spare room – much appreciated by any guests, I am sure, if they fancy a midnight snack.

We then explored fermentation as a method of preservation using salt and allowing the beneficial microorganism to grow which, of course, adds to the flavour and has many health benefits including improving the gut microbiome. As you can see from the photo two of our members were encouraged to have a go at making sauerkraut which included some bashing of the red cabbage, also very good if you have had a bad day! We didn't get to taste it as it takes time to develop but it looked very promising.



Probably one of the favoured methods of preservation is of course wine making and Sam and Kate make wine from most fruit and some vegetables including parsnips and onions with Sam admitting he didn't really like parsnips but does like parsnip wine. We also learned about dehydration, which is suitable for most fruits and can be done in a specialist dehydrator or in the oven, and pickling and bottling.

We then ended with a raffle and coffee and lots of - wait for it - apple cake which was all delicious. Thanks to everyone who helped this year: Amanda for the programme and helpers at the two village hall events. It is great to see Cath back in action and she has developed the exciting programme for 2026 - see alongside for a brief outline and as always remember the garden group is free to join and all we need is your email address. So, if you are interested email me at corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com.

Alison Benbow

2026 PROGRAMME

Saturday 7th February:

Diddlebury Village Hall - Paul Green presenting *Plants of the Season*

Saturday 14th March:

Brockamin

Saturday 11th April:

Wainfield

Saturday 9th May:

Madresfield Court

Saturday 13th June:

Pitchford Hall and Garden

Saturday 11th July:

Cuckoo Hall

Saturday 8th August:

Growing Point, Hereford

Saturday 12th September:

The Mount, Bishops Castle

Saturday 10th October:

The Leasowes, Cound

Saturday 14th November:

Diddlebury Village Hall - Tamsin Westhorpe presenting *Preparing for Spring*

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

FINANCES - The council is in the process of seeking a loan from Central Government to keep the council afloat to the tune of several tens of millions of pounds although Chief Executive Tanya Miles has emphasised that this is only a short-term solution and the council must then prove that it can manage its budget without overspends (and I assume that this will be a condition of any loan that might be agreed). As reported by the BBC this week the council leader said that Shropshire Council may still have to declare itself 'bankrupt' unless help was forthcoming from government. The shortfall is estimated to be £60 million.

HIGHWAYS - I have asked the Council and Highways department to meet me on site with representatives of Munslow Parish Council and others to see the problems caused by the Beambridge traffic lights and to introduce more of the recommendations of the Route Study which was published in 2023 to make the B4368 a safer road. This study was paid for with public money and representatives from the local area worked with the team to bring forward a number of safety measures and to date only a small number have been implemented, which is a real concern.

FLOODING - A flood alert was issued recently for parts of the Severn, upstream of Shrewsbury, so we should all be alert to the very real risk of local flooding with any heavy downpours which are worsened by the very dry ground conditions. Our local Flood Action Groups are busy monitoring the situation and report to parish councils regularly.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HUBS - Shropshire Council is continuing the work to develop local centres where residents can obtain information and support on housing, access to benefits, health, employment and other services. Our nearest centres are in Ludlow and Bridgnorth. The new NHS 10-year

plan aims to bring health care closer to our communities with so-called neighbourhood health and Shropshire has been given the opportunity to enter the first phase of this with one pilot site which has yet to be decided on. This will be a further development centred on the idea of community hubs.

ACTON SCOTT HERITAGE FARM - We had a great morning out with one of our grandchildren at Acton Scott on their last weekend of the year. I haven't been for many years and the new charity that has been formed to support and run it are doing a great job and deserve all of our support. Reopened earlier this year it is really gaining momentum. There is so much to learn about farming practices of previous generations and plenty of animals to get close to. The brick kiln was up and running and there was a display of vintage tractors for the enthusiasts. The volunteers are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and are all dressed in traditional Victorian costumes. I even ended up grinding some wheat into flour with a very enthusiastic young helper! After a couple of hours it was time to visit the café in the old school which provided delicious coffee and cakes. The farm is accessible to toddlers and wheelchair users. Following a winter break the farm reopens at Easter next year.



Dr Colin Stanford
Shropshire Councillor for The Corvedale
colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk
07966 459 412

CORVEDALE FOOTPATH & MAINTENANCE GROUP



If you know of a problem or issue with a local footpath, especially if it is on the Corvedale Three Castles Walk or the Shropshire Way, please contact the Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group. We aim to keep our footpaths accessible to local and visiting walkers and generally have up to 3 working parties per month.

New members are always welcome, so if you would like to join us for a one-off or longer-term commitment please do get in touch.

Our next planned working parties are:

Wednesday 21st January, Friday 23rd January, Sunday 25th January.

Please note there are no working parties in December.

For more information, or to report a problem with a local path, please contact Katharine Wale at katharinewale59@gmail.com or on 07866 408 897.



The Corvedale News team would like to wish all our distributors, readers, and contributors a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Next issue: February 2026



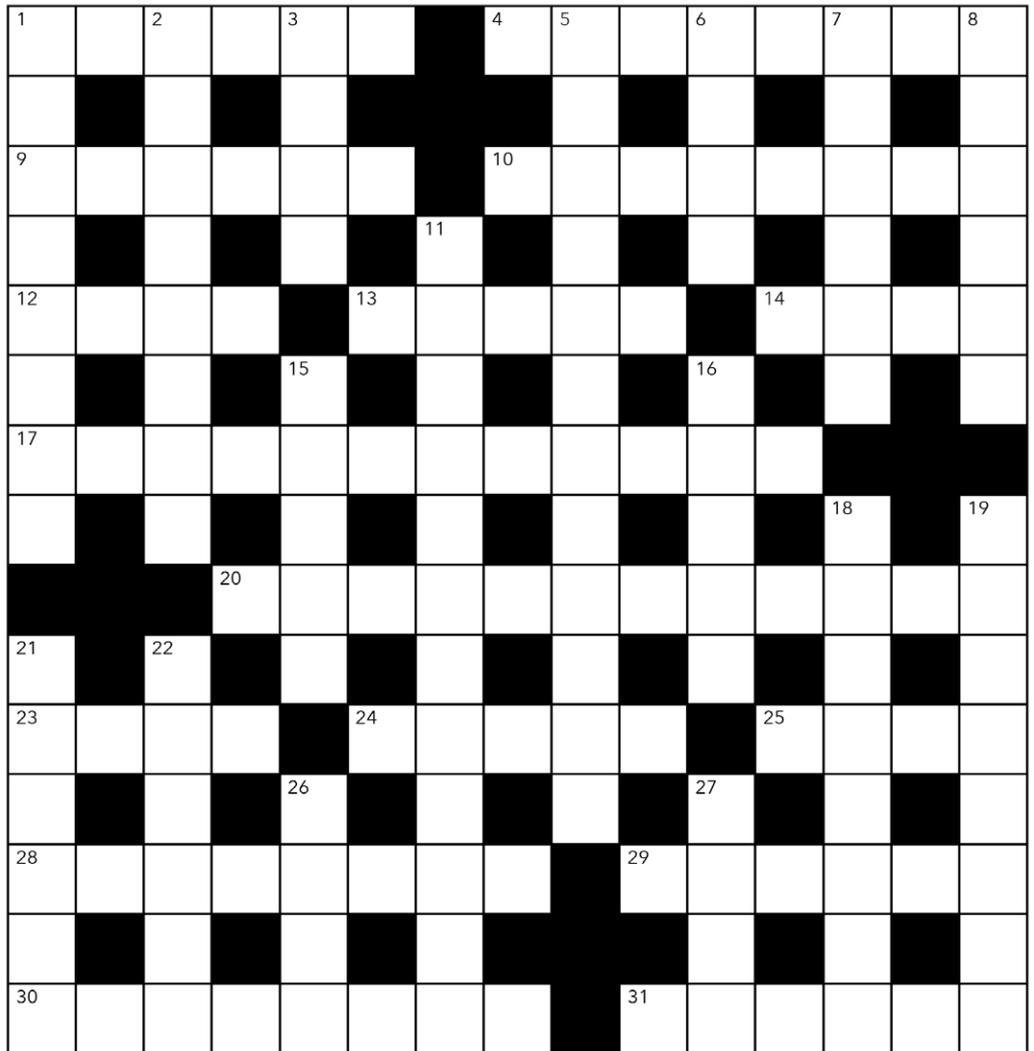
DECEMBER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY ARTEMONAS

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

ACROSS

- 1) Great apes no longer eat fruit (6)
- 4) Brush with celeb for astral phenomenon (8)
- 9) Comes with the big bird. (3,3,3,9) (with 20 across)
- 10) Present month? 8)
- 12) Drink left for the sailors (4)
- 13) Key for the capital (5)
- 14) Plant found in theatre entrance (4)
- 17) Electrical fault spotted with limited view (5-7)
- 20) see 9ac
- 23) Praise the aristocrat I hear (4)
- 24) Mainly chatty round the boat (5)
- 25) Initially old George recreates Elijah as a horrible beast (4)
- 28) Mixed Japanese wine and French cheese – surely not produced here? (8)
- 29) Is it possible for the monkey to have a snack? (6)
- 30) Satellite receivers give more channels – for video games? (8)
- 31) Safest way to great meals (6)



DOWN

- 1) Couple propping up the bar at the match? (8)
- 2) Old queen and her son join fairy-tale writer (8)
- 3) Fish caught in a wheel sometimes (4)
- 5) Play in January (7,5)
- 6) Dance of Scottish anglers? (4)
- 7) Awaiting delivery (6)
- 8) Aim to get sailor first (6)
- 11) Day before the present one (9,3)
- 15) Irritable and hot in city riot (5)
- 16) Gangs of troubled mates (5)
- 18) Mixes up an old horse and sheep (8)
- 19) Somehow she's sure she is in the cinema (8)
- 21) Be chopping logs into spheres (6)
- 22) Could be the country for Christmas (6)
- 26) Group causes a riot (4)
- 27) Soap or sponge? (4)

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2025 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs D Hedgley, T O'Boyle, R Povall, A Rattu, S Povall, C Martyn.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Watson, Morgan & Watts.

In attendance: The clerk, Corvedale Cllr Colin Stanford, and two members of the public.

A Declaration of Interest was made by Cllr O'Boyle re planning application 25/03206/TCA.

Public Involvement Session: Cllr S Povall indicated that due to market forces/welfare issues he needed to build additional chicken sheds at Corfton Farm and sought an initial view from the council. The Chairman said any preliminary views on such an application would need to be an agenda item so the public could attend and be involved in any decision making.

Minutes of the parish council meeting on 24th September 2025 were approved and four matters arising were dealt with.

Reports: The Chairman reported on Shropshire Council's 'Working Together' seminar in Shrewsbury. SC is seeking the participation of town and parish council in taking over, managing, and financing via their precepts some aspects of maintenance works in their parishes. He advised that DPC's previous experience of jointly funding a maintenance officer with adjoining parishes had not been successful and he did not believe DPC had the resources to take on the large amount of work and administration proposed by the scheme.

He also reported on the issue involving works to a gateway behind the Sun Inn in Corfton and he had considered the planning applications and prepared for this meeting.

Corvedale Cllr Stanford said that SC's budget overspend was larger than anticipated due to the fact that adult and social care and transporting children to school were consuming most of SC's annual budget. He agreed that SC's initiative 'Working Together' was simply not viable, especially as parish councils operated largely on a volunteer basis. He commented on the consultation document SC had circulated seeking views on proposed designs for housing and urged the councillors to respond to it. He congratulated the Chairman on his persistence which had finally seen the bridge repairs carried out in Bouldon. He had been approached by a parishioner wanting to know if Open Reach's new broadband contract covered Middlehope. Their interactive map did not show Westhope, Middlehope or any other hamlets in the area so an answer cannot be ascertained. Cllr Rattu said DPC had not received any broadband updates for a couple of years and no new fibre cabinets had been installed in the parish. Cllr Stanford agreed to make further enquiries.

Flood Action Group report: Cllr Martyn had submitted a report to the Corvedale News on flooding issues.

Westhope Village Hall: Mrs Worthington said new electric heating and fire alarms had been installed in the hall, funding having come from events organised by the committee. A range of events was planned for the Christmas period.

Louisa Powell Almshouses: Cllr O'Boyle had just attended a meeting: all

properties were let: £30,000 has been spent recently on repairs and refurbishment. Dog ownership and space for mobility scooters were problems.

Planning: 25/03460/FUL - an application for the siting of nine holiday letting units and associated works at Westhope Country Retreats, Middle Westhope Farm was considered. The increase in traffic that nine new units would generate, using the narrow lanes serving Westhope, was a concern. It might cause problems for residents, college users, and farmers, and it was noted there were other planning permissions extant in Westhope. A representative from the applicant firm assured councillors that arrival and departure times and dates would be staggered, and all three of the available routes to the site will be included in booking information. On the basis of these assurances the parish council supported the application.

25/03205/TCA - application to reduce the height of two beech trees in the Diddlebury Conservation Area namely at Glebe Farm, Mill Lane, Diddlebury. Councillors supported this application.

Highways And Environmental Matters: A pre-existing gateway to a field behind the Sun Inn, Corfton, had been moved by eight feet into the field. Cllr R Povall visited the site and was satisfied that no planning breaches had been committed.

Communications and Correspondence: Eight items were considered and noted.

Planning permission had been granted for 25/01457/FUL and 25/01458/LBC - works at The Green Farm, Middlehope and 25/02831/FUL - for a garage at Moat Hollow House, Bache Mill.

Finance Report for October 2025: Cheques totalling £452.52 were approved for payment, leaving DPC with the sum of £18,894.61. Cllr O'Boyle approved the cash book/bank statement reconciliation.

Cllr R Povall's proposal that a notice board costing £383 plus VAT be purchased for Bache Mill was approved.

Any Other Business: Cllr Watts had suggested that profiles and photographs of all councillors should be displayed on the website. This matter was deferred to the next meeting as not all councillors were present: additionally, Cllr Martyn was uncertain whether there was sufficient space on the website to accommodate this suggestion.

The Chairman drew councillors' attention to SC's Notification of Consultation on Design Guidance. He is keen that councillors should respond to the consultation especially on the draft design of new dwellings and draft design of residential extensions and alterations.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at Diddlebury Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

There will be no meeting in December. The first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at Diddlebury Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Agendas and full copies of the Minutes and finance reports can be viewed by visiting the Diddlebury Parish Council website at www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk:

Mrs J de Russett at No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH.

Email clerk@diddlebury-pc.gov.uk or diddleburypc@outlook.com

Tel: 01547 519 282

MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Cllrs Barbara Archer, Nigel Dobson, Val Fotheringham, Chris Meeson, Ed Povey, Stuart Rowbotham and Graham Williams.

In Attendance: Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council): seven members of the public.

Election of a Chairperson: Cllr Dobson was elected as Chairperson.

The Chair announced the sudden death last week of Cllr David Marston who had been a councillor for many decades – the councillors will miss him and send condolences to his family. Cllrs Williams and Meeson will attend the funeral on behalf of Munslow Parish Council. Cllrs and members of the public held a moment of reflection for Cllr Marston and Mr Stephen Williams, a previous councillor, who also died recently.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Arnold, H Coonick (Clerk).

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Fotheringham (planning: Tudor Cottage) and non-pecuniary (solar panels).

Public Forum: Seven members of the public were in attendance.

Concerns were expressed about the Beambridge temporary traffic lights frequently breaking down and the dangers to residents and that despite the accident occurring on 23rd July no action had been taken to repair the building. Could Shropshire Council issue a Dangerous Structure Notice? They were keen for MPC to press Shropshire Council to act.

There was also disquiet about the ground source heat pumps being installed at Aston Hall: an upgraded electricity supply was required. National Grid was managing the routing of the cable. It was also proposed, under Discharge of Conditions, to replace four large floodlights with low-level sensor-controlled lights to shine a gentle beam to the floor and reduce light spill. Further details would be made available to the Parish Council for distribution to interested parishioners.

There were concerns about the routing and duration of the works of the cable from Aston Hall. Residents would like clarity over the scope and duration of the work and traffic management during that time. They were also concerned about The Fold at Aston Hall being converted for battery storage and had reported the issue to the Planning Enforcement Officer. They were concerned that some screening was not in line with the planning permission and the new lighting plans would create excessive light pollution.

The electricity cable would run across an unadopted lane. There were concerns that work at Aston Hall had caused a spring to emerge, potentially making it undrivable due to flooding. Residents were also concerned that where their view had once been of fields it was now of solar panels.

One person expressed concerns about the exit from Aston Munslow onto the B4368 during the laying of the cable and major disruptions to the village. The residents were fed up with the noise of building works at Aston Hall. The route of the cable lay across a field that has surface water drainage and filter beds.

In response to these comments it was stated that: a. lighting – there would be a substantial reduction in the amount of lighting b. National Grid thought that the work would take five days and no roads would be closed except for two to three hours when digging the road. c. if there were unlawful development then the owners' professional advisers would be liable. The owner would not intentionally go against approved plans.

The council would decide whether it was necessary to call an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the Discharge of Conditions for Aston Hall.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October 2025 were approved and signed by the chair.

Reports: Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford reported that the new Chief Executive, Tanya Miles, had made reassurances that there would be no redundancies. They were considering three areas of overspend – adult social care, children's social care and taxi costs. They were discussing borrowing £30-60 million from Central Government to tide the council over until March. There had been some pothole repairs in the area. He had received a lot of correspondence about the traffic

lights at Beambridge and was reassured to hear that building repairs were due to start soon. A number of Parish Councils had signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the hope that it would improve lines of communication with Shropshire Council. Parking fees were increasing in Bridgnorth, Church Stretton and Ludlow. He apologised for not responding to the correspondence regarding the Beambridge traffic lights.

Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson said the redecoration work had started, and they were hoping to get some funds to continue the improvements – volunteers to help with the work were welcome. Coffee mornings would start on 6th November and run every two weeks until at least Christmas.

Planning: The Council supported the following three applications: 25/03938/TCA Tudor Cottage, Aston Munslow, 25/04021/TCA Millichope Cottage, Park Lane, Munslow, and 25/03932/FUL 6 Park Lane, Munslow.

Action Re Beambridge/B4368 Junction: Cllr Dobson had been in touch with Shropshire Highways, Millichope, and Cllr Stanford regarding this. Work was due to start on repairs on 11th November. It had been delayed as the building has listed status, and they had struggled to find contractors able to start work. Anyone who had problems at the road junction should contact the Police as they were aware of the situation. The recent contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner had advised the council to contact the Traffic Engineer at Shropshire Council. Cllr Stanford would try to arrange a site visit with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, PC Stuart Coote, and Cllr Dobson, to discuss speeding on the B4368 and at the Beambridge junction in particular.

Electricity supply to solar panels at Aston Hall: There were easements in place for drains from neighbouring properties that come onto Aston Hall land and the contractors held a map of the drains. If the cable runs across that area of land, they should not disrupt the drainage systems. Once National Grid confirmed a route the owner of Aston Hall would share the plans with the Clerk to distribute to Councillors and parishioners. It was anticipated that the work would not begin until at least February 2026. Cllr Fotheringham suggested that communication was key, and residents required clarity over plans, timings and durations.

Policing priorities for the forthcoming six months: There were concerns that

the crime rate appeared to be increasing. The Council's priorities would be a. antisocial driving b. speeding c. thefts (farms).

New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: Work on culverts and drains near Rowe Farm, verge cutting and drain/culvert clearing, Rowe Lane West and clear/clean the bus shelter at Aston Munslow. Blocked drains on the length of the B4368 from Hungerford to Aston Munslow would be reported on FixMyStreet.

Attendance at the War Memorial in Munslow for Remembrance Day: Councillors Archer and Dobson planned to attend the service on the 11th November and lay a wreath on behalf of the council.

Management of Assets: Quotes for repairs and replacement of notice boards in Aston Munslow were in the region of £5,000, which was not acceptable. The current Aston Munslow notice board would be removed and a new one installed inside the bus shelter. A decision on the other boards was deferred to the next meeting.

Planning permission had been granted for the tree works in the Munslow Burial Ground. The contractor had been informed, but work had not yet started.

Finance: the May 2025 Election Recharge Fee of £125 was payable in January 2026.

Mrs Rebecca Turner was appointed Internal Auditor for 2026-27.

There were no further additions to the draft budget which would be adopted at the next meeting.

Payments were authorised to: H Coonick (clerk) stationery £10.94; Shropshire Council green bin permit for burial ground £56 D Lewis (environmental maintenance) £190. Cllrs Povey and Archer £79 each reimbursement for identity forms for registration of the village hall lease.

Payment for salt spreaders, amounting to £150 plus VAT, was not approved.

Items for the Next Meeting: a. repairs/replacement of notice board at Broadstone. b. adopt the budget and set the precept. c. elect a chairperson.

Minutes and Agendas are available on www.munslow-pc.gov.uk or from the Clerk on munslowpc@gmail.com or 07817 607 355.

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Councillors Mr Ian Alderson (Vice chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mrs J Mear, Ms J Watts and Mrs J Williams.

In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Cllr Alderson chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Seabrook.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair) and Mr A Lewis; Cllr Colin Stanford

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Involvement Session: No members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th October 2025 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the vice chair.

Reports from Members: *Shropshire Cllr Stanford* had sent a report: Finances still dominated the news at Shropshire Council. The interim CEO Tanya Miles reassured staff last week saying that there would be no more redundancies and that the focus had to be on reducing any unnecessary spending. In the medium-term financial plan three areas of overspend were identified: adult social care, children's social care and taxis (used mostly to transport children with special educational needs). These were all statutory services, and savings may be hard to find. The council leaders were in the process of seeking a loan from Central Government to keep the council afloat to the tune of several tens of millions of pounds although Tanya Miles emphasised that this was only a short-term solution and the council had then to prove that it could manage its budget without overspends. Work continued on potholes. There was a particular frustration on the B4368 with the three-way lights at Beambridge. This had been taken up by Munslow parish council with Highways. So far, he hadn't heard any more about the newly agreed speed restrictions for Culmington on the B4365. He was frustrated by the attitude of the Highways department who took the view that the safety of children and road users lay with Manor Adventure as it was a private business. He firmly rejected this position and reminded officers that the safety and welfare of all children in Shropshire was a matter for the council wherever they are. A council flood alert had been issued the previous day for parts of the Severn upstream of Shrewsbury. All parish councils in the Corvedale had deliberated and considered the MOU sent out by council leaders. The response had ranged from vocal opposition to muted acknowledgement that anything that opened lines of communication with the SC had to be better than nothing.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Mear reported that a new boiler was being installed as the old one was beyond repair. There had been two very successful events recently including the charity auction and community lunch. She thanked the committee and local people for their donations and support at both events.

Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley said that some households had responded to the Environment Agency who will now review applications to see if anything could be offered. She would be attending a webinar on ground water.

Correspondence with Shropshire Council regarding the B4368: Tracey Onslow, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, was in touch with the Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer about the B4368 near Manor Adventure. The clerk hoped for an update for the next meeting.

Use of Farmland to Alleviate Flooding: The clerk met with the landowner and thanked him for allowing the desilting of the pipe on his land which, it was hoped, would reduce the flooding on Seifton Lane. He was concerned that blocked drains on Seifton Lane had not yet been jetted by Shropshire Council. At this point he would like to see the effect of the desilting and drain clearance before he considered allowing his land being flooded.

Letter to Stuart Anderson, MP re blocked bridleway: Stuart Anderson MP had written to Shropshire Council on the parish council's behalf and Peter Banford, Shropshire Council's Communities and Culture Manager had responded to Culmington Parish Council stating that: 'I have been assured by the officer in question that the investigation into these matters will be resumed in early November.'

Repairs to Bus Shelter and Installation Of Waste Bin: Cllr Caine reported that the bus shelter had been repaired and painted, and the waste bin installed. The tree had also been pruned. Cllrs thank Cllr Caine for his work as it had made the area look much smarter.

Finance: The Notification of Election 2025 recharge of £125 was due in January 2026. As there had not been a Parish Council election the fee was much less than anticipated as it only covered the election of the Shropshire Council Divisional Councillor.

An auditor needed to be independent of the council and competent. The council considered Ms Tavi Meeson to be both and agreed to appoint her as internal auditor.

The Reserves Policy was adopted.

Councillors considered the draft budget. Options to reduce the costs included reducing the clerks' hours from 5 to 4.5 hours per week and not holding a meeting in April each year. The budget would be adopted and the precept set at the January 2026 meeting.

The following payments were authorised: Village hall rental (meeting with PCC representative) £10; Vehicle Activated Sign replacement batteries: £3.99 & £46.75 (reimburse Cllr Caine). It was hoped that replacing the batteries in the sign would resolve the problem.

Clerk salary and HMRC Oct – Dec: £935.26 and travel £20.25: reimbursement for stationery and stamps £9.51. D Lewis, environmental maintenance £156.75

Items for the next Parish Council Meeting: a. Adopt the budget and set the precept for 2026-27.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th January 2026, starting at 7pm

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO - Tel: 07817 607 355

clerk@culmington-pc.gov.uk | culmington-pc.gov.uk

Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

ABDON PARISH COUNCIL

Date Of Next Meeting: 12th November 2025. Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk: abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com Tel: 07813 271 274

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1) Grapes, 4) Stardust, 9/20) And all the trimmings, 10) December, 12) Port, 13) Shift, 14) Tree, 17) Short-sighted, 20) see 9ac, 23) Laud 24) Yacht 25) Ogre, 28) Bakeries, 29) Canape, 30) Skyboxes, 31) Feasts

DOWN: 1) Goalposts, 2) Anderson, 3) Eels, 5) Twelfth Night, 6) Reel, 7) Unborn, 8) Target, 11) Christmas Eve, 15) Itchy, 16) Teams, 18) Anagrams, 19) Ushers, 21) Globes, 22) Turkey, 26) Trio, 27) Cake

ADVERTISER INDEX

CHIMNEY SWEEPS & FIREWOOD

Eaton Woodlands.....	27
JT Brisbane.....	27
Logs 2 Your Door.....	27
Ludlow Firewood.....	27
Millichope Enterprises.....	27
Stanton Sweeps.....	25

SCHOOLS & ACTIVITIES

Corvedale Brownies.....	28
Corvedale Primary School.....	28

GARDENING & TREE SERVICES

Arboretum Tree Services.....	24
Humble-Bee Gardeners.....	23
R&S Landscapes.....	22
Shropshire Lawn Company.....	22
Shropshire Turf & Soil.....	24

PROPERTY

DDA Architects.....	25
Just Mortgages.....	28
Samuel Wood.....	28

TRADES PEOPLE

AJ Hoskins & Sons Ltd.....	26
JF Plumbing & Property.....	26
Ludlow Salvage.....	30
Stephen Morgan.....	25
Gary Paris.....	26
R.A.I.T. Electrical.....	26
Simon's Home Improvements.....	25
Dave Stratton.....	26
Triple R Joinery.....	22
Alan Williams.....	26
WoodWorks & WaterTight.....	22

MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Behaviour Business.....	22
Buzzard, The.....	30
Computer Medicine.....	23
Dog Walker & House Sitter.....	28
Foot Health Practioner.....	30
Life Story Writer.....	23
Mike's Auto Care.....	29
Second Sense Hearing.....	21
Stonemasons of Church Stretton.....	29
Working Solutions.....	25



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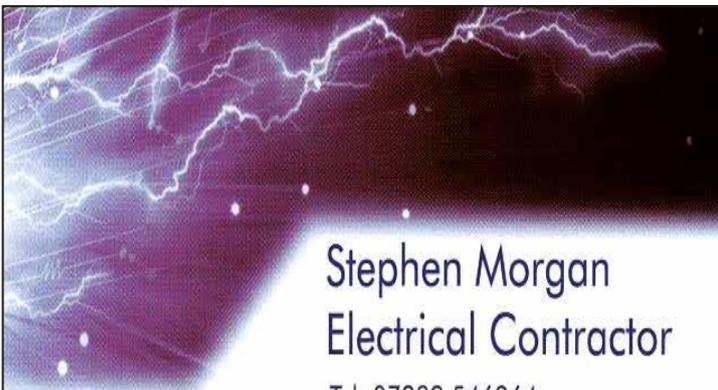
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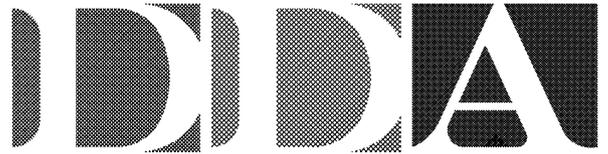
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0800 6783 105 (outside normal hours)

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, 07803 184 778,

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,

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Craven Arms Recycling Centre

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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,

clerk@culmington-pc.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk

Mrs Jean de Ruset, 01547 519282,

clerk@diddlebury-pc.gov.uk

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 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

Wendy Brogden, 01584 841 649,

wendy@brogden.info

Hayton & District WI

Phyllis Steventon, 01584 823 436



THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

	7th December Advent 2	14th December Advent 3	21st December Advent 4	Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	28th December Christmas 1
Abdon		9:45 HC	6pm Carol Service for the parishes of Abdon and Munslow		9:30 HC	10am Group Service of Holy Communion at Munslow
Culmington	11:15 HC	6pm Evensong Preacher: Ven Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow			10:15 HC	
Diddlebury	9:45 HC		2:15pm Carol Service for the parishes of Culmington and Diddlebury, with the Corvedale Choir	3pm Crib & Christingle Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion	11:30 FS Children are invited to being an unwrapped present to show us (avoid things with small parts)	
Holdgate	8:30 HC		11:15 Carol Service for the parishes of Holdgate and Tugford	9pm HC for Christmas		
Munslow	(no service)	11:15 HC	9:45 HC (said, no hymns)		9am HC	
Tugford		9:45 HC			11:15 HC	

Tuesday 9th December at 9:30am – Holy Communion in Corvedale School – all welcome.

Thursday 11th December at 7:30pm – Carol Service at Westhope

Compline for Advent – Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm 3rd December at Holdgate, 10th at Diddlebury, 17th at Culmington

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY 2026

	4th January Epiphany	11th January Baptism of Christ	18th January Epiphany 2	25th January Conversion of St Paul	1st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Abdon		9:45 HC		6pm Compline	
Culmington	11:15 HC		6pm EP	8:30 HC (BCP)	11:15 HC
Diddlebury	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS attended by 333 Squadron Ludlow Air Cadets	9:45 HC
Holdgate	8:30 HC				8:30 HC
Munslow	6pm Epiphany Carols	11:15 HC		9:45 HC	6pm EP
Tugford			9:45 HC		

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