

# THE CORVEDALE NEWS

MARCH 2024  
*The Corvedale's Community Magazine*



Spring Hellebores - Penny Unitt

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](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

## PHILIP DUNNE

**Member of Parliament for the  
Ludlow Constituency**

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187

Fax: 01584 876 345

Email: [philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:philip.dunne.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](http://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
Mrs C Evans	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
<b>VACANT – New Volunteer Required</b>		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	Middlehope
Mrs A Donnelly	The Ashlings, Munslow	Munslow
<b>VACANT – New Volunteer Required</b>		Peaton, Peaton Strand
Ms C Morgan	Ludlow	Sutton
Mrs P Baynham	Garage Cottage, Westhope	Westhope

# COPY FOR APRIL 2024 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the **April 2024** magazine, please send by email to [editor@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@corvedalenews.co.uk) by **MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024** 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 18TH MARCH 2024** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: [advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto:info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk) Unit 1, Craven Arms Business Park, Craven Arms, SY7 8NR. Tel: 01588 673972

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

We have agreed to hold subscription prices at the current rates for 2024. The paper subscription will remain at £8.00 per annum and the electronic subscription £5.00.

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.

## OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2023, please do so IMMEDIATELY, using one of the methods above. If you are not sure whether you have already paid or not, please contact Colin Pitcher by email at [colin.pitcher@hotmail.com](mailto:colin.pitcher@hotmail.com).

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Corvedale News Team

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## CHURCH CONTACTS

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

Tel: (01584) 841488

[revjbeesley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:circuitoffice2803@gmail.com)

# WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE



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



## 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](mailto: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 14th March**



## 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 832608



# Coffee Morning and Talk

Stoke St Milborough Village Hall  
**Monday 25th March**  
from 10.00am

This month we are very pleased that Martin Steer is going to come and talk to us about his life in organic farming and about the Soil Association. It is sure to be fascinating

## PAGE'S MEADOW TALKS AND FILMS



Spring is in the air & the gardens beckon – learn all about composting from an experienced Master Composter from Garden Organic.



**7.30pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

CLIFF ST MARGARET VILLAGE HALL

*ALL welcome donation suggested £3.00. Includes tea coffee local apple juice and biscuits.*



## DAFFODIL DAY

COME AND VISIT

SPARCHFORD COTTAGE

CULMINGTON

ON

EASTER MONDAY

1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024.

2 — 5 pm

Teas and refreshments

Donations in aid of Corvedale Benefice



## TOWER HOUSE GARDEN (SY7 9LN) OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 18th May**

**National Garden Scheme**

**11am-5.30pm**

*Teas in aid of Culmington Church*

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**Sunday 19th May**

**Open all day**

Entry £5, Children free.

*In aid of Culmington Church.*

You could even make a day of it and walk here, along the bridleway from the village hall and the Beefy Boys event.

ludlow  
assemblyrooms

16 MAR  
7.30 pm

CRAVEN ARMS



BIG BAND

**SWING FOR LUDLOW FOODBANK!**

Sponsored by local businesses -  
ALL PROCEEDS TO LUDLOW FOODBANK

Tickets: £12.50  
ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk  
01584 878141



The

## Jarualda Quartet

The 2024 Corvedale Festival

### Launch Event

Haydn: Quartet Op 76 No 2 'Fifths'

Beethoven: Quartet Op 18 No 6

Dvorak: Quartet in F Op 96 'American'

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Diddlebury Village Hall SY7 9DH

Cold Buffet 6pm Concert 7.30pm

Tickets £20 (includes buffet)

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival)

Phone: Festival Office 07745 825 700

or Email: [corvedalefestival@gmail.com](mailto:corvedalefestival@gmail.com)

2024 Festival 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September

[www.corvedalefestival.org](http://www.corvedalefestival.org)

## Tapas Night & Variety Show

featuring

### Paul Ray

Vocalist - Comedian - Magician

Licensed cash bar

**Westhope Village Hall**

Saturday 16th March 7pm

**Ticket only entry £15**

*Smart dress preferred*

Bookings call: 07860 447 397



Diddlebury Village Hall

## Grey Wolf in concert

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

7.00pm doors & bar open

7.30pm Performance

Adults £14.90

U-16s (accompanied by adult) £6.60

Prices include booking fee

Tickets from [WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com) or contact Ian

Fotheringham 01584 841 331

e-mail: [ianfotheringham@btinternet.com](mailto:ianfotheringham@btinternet.com)

Further details on DVH Facebook page,  
Grey Wolf's website or contact Ian.

## Corvedale Folk Club at The Seven Stars, Broadstone on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm

All are welcome to perform or listen to and enjoy acoustic music, recitations and story-telling.

Meetings will be the 4th Monday of each month

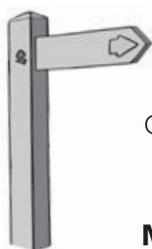
For further information contact Ian on 01584 841 331 or email [ianfotheringham@btinternet.com](mailto:ianfotheringham@btinternet.com)

## 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 ring Jenny Vine on 01584 841596 to confirm work location. If any local walkers in the Corvedale notice any stiles or steps in poor condition, please report back to Jenny.

The current planned dates are as follows:

**March: Wed 20th, Fri 22nd, Sun 24th**



Enjoy singing?  
Corvedale Choir



is looking for new members who love to sing

**WHO?** We are a mixed voice choir based in the Corvedale who began singing together in 2010. Our Musical Director is Ros Crouch, well known for her leadership of several choirs in the area

**WHAT?** We sing an eclectic mix of harmony songs with a supportive, friendly and fun group of local people

**WHERE?** Diddlebury Village Hall

**WHY?** Because we love singing with other people and because singing is good for physical and mental health

**WHEN?** Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm during term time.

We have 2 concerts a year: a charity fundraiser in the summer and a carol concert at Christmas



**Interested?** We would love to hear from you. There are no auditions, all songs are taught - an ability to follow music and a desire to sing is all that's required

**Not sure if it's for you?** You're welcome to come along and join us for a taster evening for free any Monday evening

**HOW?** If you would like further information please contact :

Avril Lines [avril.fossilsinshropshire@gmail.com](mailto:avril.fossilsinshropshire@gmail.com) or 01584 861 339

# WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

We are fast approaching Spring and looking forward to our busy centenary year.

The last few arrangements are now being finalised for our celebrations on **Sunday 9th June**. Invitations will be out soon with a programme for the day.

But before that we have the privilege of welcoming Paul Ray, OBE to our village hall to present his fabulous show of comedy, singing and magic, on **16th March**, 7pm - late. Tickets limited. £15 including Tapas. Licensed cash bar. Smart dress please. Call 07860 447 397 to reserve your tickets.

More dates for your diary:

**Thursday 4th April**, Community Lunch. Home cooked two course lunch with tea / coffee £10. **Saturday 13th April**, Family Bingo 7pm eyes down 7.30. **Saturday 19th October**, Harvest Supper. **Sunday 20th October**, Rag wreath workshop

We will soon be having the exterior of the hall painted and decorated, a big thank you to all supporters of our village hall for putting money in the coffers to make this possible.

We look forward to welcoming all friends old and new to our fundraising events so as we can continue with the improvements to our lovely village hall.

The hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required. All enquiries Betty 07860 447 397.

Betty Manley

## MARCH (AND FUTURE) EVENTS

### Whist Drives

Every Monday, starting at 7.15pm.  
£3 entry. All abilities welcome.

### Yoga with Sue Pugh - Fully subscribed.

Every Thursday 9.45 - 10.45am.  
All enquiries Sue Pugh 07432 349 933  
or Betty 07860 447 397.

### Tapas Evening & Show

Saturday 16th March, 7pm.

With showman Paul Ray, unusualist, comedian, vocalist, and close up magic. Tickets £15 inclusive. Smart dress. Call 07860 447 397 to reserve your tickets.

### Community Lunch

Thursday 4th April

Home cooked two course lunch with tea / coffee £10.

### Family Bingo

Saturday 13th April, 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

### Harvest Supper

Saturday 19th October

### Rag Wreath Workshop

Sunday 20th October

# CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - MARCH

### Bluebird Belles return as ABBA Belles

Saturday 2nd March

An evening's entertainment with all your favourite ABBA hits. Tickets £12 with light refreshments. Contact Jo Mear on 07872 109 936 or 01584 861 486. **SOLD OUT**

### Coffee Morning

Monday 4th and every following Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Tea or coffee for £1 with free refills. Good company and biscuits.

### Bridge Club

Monday 4th and every following Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Peter Whitehead [pst.whitehead@gmail.com](mailto:pst.whitehead@gmail.com)

### Lunch Club

Thursday 21st, 12:30pm for 1pm

A 2-course meal for £10 plus raffle and bar.

Please book in advance so we know numbers.

Contact Gwyn Edwards on 07891 904 501 or 01584 861 666 or Anne Rowlands on 01584 861 78.

## PLANNING AHEAD

### Curry Night

Friday 26th April. Food from 6.30 - 8.30pm. Bar open 6pm.

£10 for choice of curry (inc. vegetarian option), rice, naan, and samosas. Contact Jo Mear 07872 109 936, Gwyn Edwards 07891 904 501 or Anne Rowlands 01584 861 787.

### Can Do Crafts - Rag Rug Cushions/Bathmats

Saturday 27th April, 10am to 12.30pm.

Rag rug cushion cover / bathmat. £25 includes refreshments. Come along for a fun and creative time. Contact Rosemary Jones 01584 861 823 or 07837 609 229.

### Beefy Boys

Sunday 19th May

Back by popular demand! Plus, the return of the Animal Man and a donut stall. Contact Jo Mear on 07872 109 936 or 01584 861 486.

# MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

Our warm hub coffee mornings are continuing into March.

**Thursday 14th March** is the next date, then **Thursday 28th March**. Our February coffee mornings have been very well attended and it's great to see people from outside of Munslow coming along.

The hall was the venue for a lively ceilidh at the beginning of February. This was a private birthday party and serves to highlight the hall as a great venue for local events both public and private. Details of how to book the hall are on the Community Links page at the back of the magazine.

Keep on coming please, we need and value all your support.

Lesley Dobson

# ABDON VILLAGE HALL

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - MARCH

### Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

On the second Saturday every month, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

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

On the last Saturday of each month 10.30am - 12.30pm.

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](mailto:abdon.villagehall@gmail.com) Or visit our website for the booking form and details: [www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk](http://www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk)

# STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL

## EVENTS MARCH 2023

### Pub Night every Wednesday from 8.00pm

### Winter Warmers

Wednesday 13th March - 12.30 - 2.30pm

Delicious homemade soup. All ages welcome.

To book or volunteer to help please call: Robin Gatehouse - 07977 913 004 or Jeanette Arnold - 07568 083 322

### Hayton & District WI

Second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

For more details ring Phyllis 01584 823 436.

### Community Market

Last Saturday of each month

### For more information.

Email: [slvh.info@gmail.com](mailto:slvh.info@gmail.com)

or Facebook: Stanton Lacy Village Hall Events

## RSPB Walks & Talks

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

### WALKS

10th Mar Bury Ditches 9.30am

7th April Whixall Moss 2pm

### TALKS

7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

12th Mar Steve Dawes African Adventure

16th April Pete Carty Identifying Bird Songs



# DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall



**Street FOOD NIGHT!**  
 Fishy Friday is coming  
 From the renowned Fish and Chip Van  
**THE FISH HEADS!**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
 More details to follow next month  
**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**MICHAEL CAINE** **GLENDA JACKSON**  
**THE GREAT ESCAPER**  
 BASED ON THE LOVE STORY  
**art alive** **FLICKS IN THE STICKS**  
**The Great Escaper (12A)**  
 Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson  
 7.45 pm Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
 Doors & Bar Open: 7.15 pm  
 Tickets: £5 (Card machine)

Diddlebury Village Hall  
 Presents  
 another popular  
**Quiz Night**  
 On  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
**7.00 pm Bar Opens**  
**7.30 pm Quiz Starts**  
**Teams of 4**  
**Booking Essential- book early!**  
 Book via  
**DVH Facebook page/Messenger**  
**or Text/Call - 07396730342**

	<b>DVH Quiz Night</b> Fundraising Event - Supper & Talk	<b>7pm Wednesday</b> <b>6th March</b>
	<b>Corvedale Churches</b> Illustrated Talk with Supper - A Journey in Southern Italy	<b>19.30 Friday</b> <b>8th March</b>
	<b>RSPB South Shropshire Local Group</b> Steve Dawes – African Adventure	<b>19.30 Tuesday</b> <b>12th March</b>
	<b>The Corvedale Book Group</b> Contact Cath Burley: <a href="mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com">cathburley@hotmail.com</a>	<b>19.30 Thursday</b> <b>14th March</b>
	<b>The Great Escaper (12a)</b> Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson	<b>19.45 Thursday</b> <b>28th March</b>
	<b>Mini Moos Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> £2.50 per family See Facebook for more information:	<b>Mondays</b> <b>10.00 - 12.00</b> <b>Term time</b>
	<b>The Corvedale Choir.</b> Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information.	<b>Mondays</b> <b>19.30-21.30</b>
	<b>The Blue Hills Choir</b> Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information.	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>10.00-12.00</b>
	<b>Zumba</b> Contact Cat: <a href="mailto:zumbawithcat@outlook.com">zumbawithcat@outlook.com</a> /07817 448 832	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>18.00</b>
	<b>Tai Chi</b> Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250 275 / <a href="mailto:hello@goldenthreadscic.com">hello@goldenthreadscic.com</a>	<b>Thursdays</b> <b>10.00-11.00</b>
	<b>Physiotherapist-led Pilates.</b> Contact Beverley Chumber: <a href="mailto:beverleychumber@sky.com">beverleychumber@sky.com</a> /07967 814 412	<b>Fridays</b> <b>9.15-10.15</b>

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Every Mon	<b>Corvedale Choir</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Every Mon	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Culmington Village Hall	10am - 11.30am
Every Mon	<b>Bridge Club</b>	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm - 5pm
Every Mon	<b>Westhope Whist Drive</b>	Westhope Village Hall	7.15pm
Every Mon	<b>Mini Moos - Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tue	<b>Blue Hills Choir</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tue	<b>Corvedale Artists</b>	Beambridge Club Room	10am
Every Tue	<b>Zumba</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Wed	<b>Yoga</b>	Westhope Village Hall	3.30pm
Every Wed	<b>Pub Night</b>	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	8pm
Every Thu	<b>Tai Chi</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Fri	<b>Physiotherapist-led Pilates</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	9.15am

## MARCH 2024

2nd	Sat	<b>Bluebird Belles as ABBA Belles</b>	Culmington Village Hall	7.30pm
5th	Tue	<b>Culmington Parish Council Meeting</b>	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
6th	Wed	<b>Quiz Night</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
7th	Thu	<b>Clover Club</b>	Westhope Village Hall	2.30pm
7th	Thu	<b>Munslow Parish Council Meeting</b>	Munslow Village Hall	7.30pm
8th	Fri	<b>Talk - A Journey in Southern Italy</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
9th	Sat	<b>Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning</b>	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
10th	Sun	<b>RSPB Walk</b>	Bury Ditches	9.30am
12th	Tue	<b>RSPB Talk - African Adventure, Steve Dawes</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
12th	Tue	<b>Brown Clee Table Tennis Club</b>	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	7.30pm
13th	Wed	<b>Winter Warmer Soup Lunch</b>	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	12pm
13th	Wed	<b>Munslow WI</b>	Munslow Village Hall	7.30pm
14th	Thu	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Munslow Village Hall	10am
14th	Thu	<b>Corvedale Book Group</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
14th	Thu	<b>Pages Meadow Talk</b>	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	7.30pm
14th	Thu	<b>Hayton &amp; District WI Meeting</b>	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
16th	Sat	<b>Craven Arms Big Band</b>	Ludlow Assemby Rooms	7.30pm
16th	Sat	<b>Tapas Evening &amp; Show</b>	Westhope Village Hall	7pm
18th	Mon	<b>Corvedale News Copy Deadline</b>	-	-
20th	Wed	<b>Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
20th	Wed	<b>Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
21st	Thu	<b>Lunch Club</b>	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
22nd	Fri	<b>Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
23rd	Sat	<b>Munch Wenlock Male Voice Choir Concert</b>	Wrekin College, Wellington	7pm
24th	Sun	<b>Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
25th	Mon	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Stoke St Milborough Village Hall	10am
25th	Mon	<b>Corvedale Folk Club</b>	The Seven Stars, Broadstone	7.30pm
26th	Tue	<b>Brown Clee Table Tennis Club</b>	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	7.30pm
28th	Thu	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Munslow Village Hall	10am
28th	Thu	<b>Flicks in the Sticks - The Great Escaper</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
30th	Sat	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am

## ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:

Abdon - Page 8, Culmington - Page 8, Diddlebury - Page 9, Munslow - Page 8, Stanton Lacy - Page 8, Westhope - Page 7  
The deadline for all submissions to the News is Monday 18th March

# CHURCH NEWS

## LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Each year the children from Corvedale School come to church for an Easter service. During the service they are given a Palm Cross, and, on several occasions, I have talked about the Palm Cross and an Easter egg, reminding them that we can only celebrate Jesus coming back to life on Easter Day because he had died on the cross on Good Friday. If we forget that the two are linked, we miss the point. *'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'* (John 3, 16) and *'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends'* (John 15, 13).

In order to fully appreciate what it is that we celebrate at Easter, we need to have thought about what comes before. I say this not to discourage you from joining us at Easter, but to encourage you to join us in the services that lead up to it, particularly during Holy Week when we think about Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion before we come to the celebrations of his new life – and think about what that means for us and for our relationship with God.

Each year people tell me that Christmas is my busy time. In fact, Easter is busier, with five consecutive days of services which mark very specific events. It is a week which brings highs and lows as we celebrate Christ's journey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, think about his death and burial and then celebrate his rising to new life. It is a story which includes both the miraculous and the very human reactions and behaviour of ordinary people. It is a story which has changed the lives of countless millions of people – and can change ours, too, if we let it. Do join us as we explore the story of what happened in a week in Jerusalem and think about its meaning.

And, when we get there – Happy Easter!

Rev'd John Beesley

## SKITTLED OVER IN DIDDLEBURY

Yes, the recent Skittles Night at Diddlebury Village Hall really was as much fun as it looks in these pictures.

Ten teams of all ages and abilities competed over six rounds for the princely first (and only!) prize of five British pounds, with the emphasis on fun rather than serious competition which was reflected in the scores. The winning team of four was Rock Cottagers from Bache Mill.

Between rounds bowlers were invited to complete a couple of quiz sheets and enjoy a tasty selection of homemade cakes and biscuits or their own refreshments.

The annual event, organised by the Corvedale Autumn Show Committee, raised around £140.

Our thanks to Roland and Helen Preece for their loan of the skittles and for compiling the quiz. Also to those who helped on the night, and to everyone who made it such a fun event.

We look forward to seeing you again next time.

Ross Stokes

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH CULMINGTON CHURCH TOWER REPAIR APPEAL

The appeal got off to an excellent start thanks to Priscilla Spicer holding a card evening in Culmington Village Hall which made £1,000. We have planned a number of other fundraising events which we hope you will support. Our next big event is on Midsummer Day **Friday 21st June** so please keep that date in mind. All welcome.

Andrew and Val, Churchwardens

## A JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHERN ITALY

Having talked in previous years about Rome and Venice (and Scotland) it struck me that there are lots of other places in Italy that are not so well known. We invite you to join us at 7:30pm on **Friday 8th March** in Diddlebury Village Hall as we think, with photographs, about travelling through parts of southern Italy, before enjoying an Italian supper. Tickets are £10 in aid of the Corvedale Parishes, and it would really help if we knew you were planning to come so that we can have enough supper available. Please let me or one of the churchwardens know.

Rev'd John Beesley

## FLOWERS & BRASSES

### MARCH 2024

3rd\* Liz Jones  
10th\* Liz Jones  
17th\* Liz Jones

24th\* Sharon Constable  
31st Easter decorations  
\* Brasses only

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

30th January

Chris Aimson

Munslow



# WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



## HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

At February's meeting we were incredibly pleased to welcome our first speaker for 2024. Mellie Lewis, who lives in Clun, is the holder of the National Collection of Aeonium Species, of which she has around one thousand plants and over three hundred varieties, all quite different and individually beautiful. Her talk entitled '*Aeoniums in Habitat and at Home*' told us how she started collecting the genus Aeonium back in the 1980s after a friend drew her attention to a small plant left on a compost heap - a moment in time that set off her fascination for these species. She actively began her research and collection, learning how Aeoniums are incredibly hardy, succulent, subtropical plants with a wonderful botanical history. In 2018, Mellie applied to be recognised as having the National Collection of Aeoniums and became the first person in the UK to receive this status. She has studied Aeoniums at home and in their native habitats, most of their varieties being native to the Canary Islands with some found in Madeira, Cabo Verde, Morocco, East Africa, and Yemen, where they evolved to adapt to the different environments. Mellie is currently working on an Aeonium trial being held at RHS Wisley and she recently appeared on Gardeners' World.

We also discussed our full programme of speakers for the forthcoming year, commencing in April, some of the suggested outings for the year and the usual annual dates for our diaries. With a very proactive committee again this year, it looks as though we'll have lots of fun and interesting events to report on as each month goes by.

Our final speaker for this year on **Thursday 14th March**, will be Dr Nigel Baker, Archaeologist, with his talk entitled *Paddling in the Past*. As an archaeologist and canoeist, Dr Baker has found archaeology in, under and next to the River Severn and other English rivers. He has kayaked on floods in Shropshire and, amazingly, deep under Bristol city centre. Can't wait to see his finds!

As usual, we look forward to seeing members and their guests and to welcoming anyone who would like to come along and join us for a 7:30 pm start on **Thursday 14th March**, at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent SY7 2AT with refreshments to follow the meeting. For further information please contact our Club President, Phyllis Steventon on 01584 823 436, or our Secretary at [hayton.district.wi@gmail.com](mailto:hayton.district.wi@gmail.com).

Louise Gough

## MUNSLOW WI

Our Secretary, Val, opened the February meeting by reminding us of some future dates and a couple of changes to meetings. The pizza evening which, we're happy to say, seems to have become an annual event will now be held on **19th June** (not the 12th) and we are planning a trip to the Black Country Museum at the end of June. The group event this year will be a lunch on **9th November**.

Our speaker for the afternoon was our own Wendy Brogden who had researched four historical figures from our Parishes. John Lloyd was vicar of Munslow from 1506-1528 and he is commemorated in St Michael's by a stained-glass window and

a gravestone near the altar. There is also a commemorative stone to William Churchman, Yeoman of Holloway Munslow. Wendy also told us of two other important churchmen - Thomas Coates of Shipton Hall and John Lutwych, also of Shipton. All these characters were leading churchmen and landowners living in the 16th century. Their stories brought our local history to light. Wendy was warmly thanked for her remarkably interesting talk, then it was time to sample Loraine's Beer and Chocolate cake! Something a bit different: the result... I don't think there was any left!

Our next meeting will be in Munslow Village Hall at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 13th March** when the talk will be *My Life in China* and will be an open meeting. Please feel free to join us.

Call on 01584 841 251 or email [gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk) for more information.

Jenny Rose

## WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



The Clover Club restart their 2024 programme on **Thursday 7th March** at Westhope Village Hall with a film show, '*Pictures In Harmony*' at 2.30pm.

Our programme of events for the coming months is as follows.

On **4th April** we join the Westhope Community Lunch, 12.30pm for 1pm at Westhope Village Hall.

Join us on **2nd May** for '*Laughter with Ken Pugh*' at 2.30pm Westhope Village Hall.

On **6th June** we meet at The Discovery Centre, Craven Arms at 2.30 for a cream scone tea party.

And finally on **4th July** once again, we join the Westhope Community Lunch, 12.30pm for 1pm at Westhope Village Hall.

Please come and join us at any of these meetings, you will all be very welcome.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

## VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

**Do you have an hour or so to spare each month?**

The Corvedale News Team is looking for new volunteers to take on the distribution of the Corvedale News in the Broadstone, Hungerford, Rowe Lane area and also in Peaton / Peaton Strand. Magazines are distributed each month from February to December inclusive.

Why not get some fresh air and exercise whilst contributing to your local community?

If you feel you could help us out, please contact our distribution manager Colin Pitcher at [colin.pitcher@hotmail.com](mailto:colin.pitcher@hotmail.com).

The Corvedale News Team

# THE CORNEWALLS OF DIDDLEBURY

## PART ONE: HOME IS THE SAILOR

In my piece on the Cornwall hatchments in Diddlebury Church (*Corvedale News*, December 2023) I promised to deal in some future articles with the family and its involvement with the Hall and its estate. The Cornewalls were an ancient and illustrious Marcher family who claimed, perhaps dubiously, descent from Richard of Cornwall, a younger son of King John. The family's fortunes were considerably augmented in the fourteenth century by the acquisition of the former Mortimer estates of Burford, where a magnificent collection of the family's monuments may be seen in the church. Branches of the family were established at Berrington and Moccas in Herefordshire, and it is from the former that the Diddlebury family was descended.



Captain Frederick Cornwall by Thomas Gainsborough, probably painted at Bath in 1762.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.)

Captain Frederick Cornwall, who purchased Diddlebury in 1752, was the youngest of the three sons of the Reverend Frederick Cornwall, Vicar of Bromfield from 1702 to 1746, and his wife Anne Trice. Young Frederick set out on a naval career, following the example of his uncle, Admiral Charles Cornwall, and his cousin James. In 1734 he was made a Lieutenant, and ten years later he was serving as First Lieutenant on his cousin's ship HMS *Marlborough*. On 11th February 1744 a Spanish fleet, which had been blockaded in Toulon by the Royal Navy, sought, with somewhat

lukewarm French support, to break out of the port. The British commander, Admiral Matthews was also less than enthusiastic, and allowed the enemy to escape. However the *Marlborough* had sailed into the heart of the battle and engaged the enemy flagship. Captain Cornwall, echoing the fate of that other Shropshire hero Admiral Benbow, had his legs blown away by chain shot and was killed. His nephew, First Lieutenant Frederick, despite having lost his arm in the conflict, took command and sailed to safety.

This inglorious defeat had a number of repercussions. Admiral Matthews was court martialled and dismissed from

the service, as were seven of his captains. The Cornewalls, however, became heroes. Captain James was accorded the honour of a funeral in Westminster Abbey, and a sumptuous monument 36 feet high paid for by Parliament (sadly truncated and moved to the cloisters in 1925). First Lieutenant Frederick was promoted to the rank of Captain, backdated to the day of the battle. Unfortunately his first ship, HMS *Colchester*, ran aground on sandbanks off the coast of Kent, but no doubt his previous heroics served him in good stead. The pilot responsible served twelve months in prison!

Frederick Cornwall, at the age of forty, was in a position to take a wife and set himself up as a country gentleman ready for his retirement from the sea. In May 1746 he married a Bromfield neighbour, Mary, daughter of Francis Herbert of Oakley Park, and in 1752 he purchased Diddlebury Hall and estate for £10,000. The Baldwyn family, who had lived in the hall for several centuries, first as stewards for the Earls of Shrewsbury and latterly as owners, were gradually becoming more focussed on their property at Aqualate on the Staffordshire border and decided to quit their Diddlebury estate. Like those naval officers who pass through the pages of Jane Austen's novels, Frederick now had a base on shore while still a serving officer.

When Frederick purchased the hall, it was an ancient timber-framed structure, and the new owner's first action was to commission a more up-to-date replacement. For this he commissioned two Warwickshire brothers, David and William Hiorn, who had learned their craft under the more famous William Smith of Warwick. The Hiorns provided the captain with an inexpensive and somewhat unostentatious house which cost £1,757 excluding the stable block. (Delbury Hall is the most fully documented of all the Hiorns' works, and readers can find more details in Gareth Williams' superb book *The Country Houses of Shropshire*). While these works were being conducted, Frederick pursued his naval career, and took part in the Battle of Minorca in 1756. It was Cornwall's evidence in the subsequent court martial of Admiral Byng for cowardice which sealed that unfortunate man's conviction and execution 'to encourage the others.' Cornwall secured his last command in 1761, a seventy-gun ship of the line named HMS Cornwall in honour of his dead cousin. With the return of peace in 1763, the Captain was ready to return to Shropshire and the life of a country gentleman.

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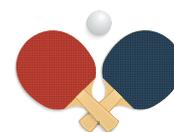
## BROWN CLEE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Hosted at Clee St Margaret Village Hall - open to everyone from surrounding villages.

Did you know that table tennis is not only good exercise for the body, but also being increasingly recognised as excellent brain training? It's good fun too!

We're a friendly group and everybody is made welcome, whatever your standard. No need to book, just come along. Hope to see you there!

Ruby Reseigh



**Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month  
(March 12th, 26th)**

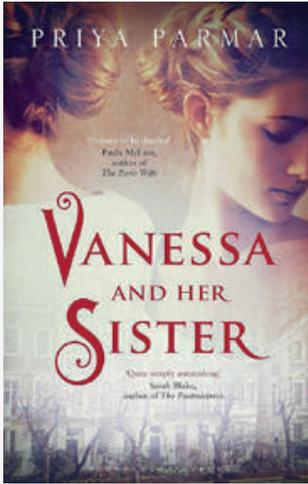
**7.30 - 9pm at Clee St Margaret Village Hall**

*Adults (over 18s) only*

£3 a session (card payments preferred but not essential)

All equipment provided.

# CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP



## VANESSA AND HER SISTER BY PRIYA PARMAR

This book made a good start to the book group year. There was an excited buzz all evening as everyone chipped in with comments about the impression the book had made on them. Most of us had found it hard to put down and were sad when it ended. We even hope for a sequel!

The book recounts an imagined period in the lives of the artist Vanessa Bell and her sister Virginia Woolf when they were young adults. Although Vanessa is not known to have written a diary, the author has used her imagination and information from other records available to recount an engaging and entirely believable account of day-to-day life in Bloomsbury.

This approach integrates a 'mélange' of biography, memoir, and fiction. Within the novel, facsimiles of letters, postcards, and telegrams, to and from members of the group, help to carry the narrative forward, in and out of the wider context in which they live.

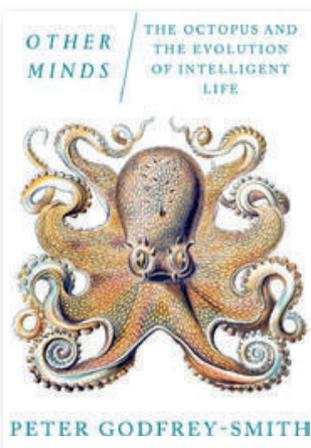
The four Stephens children, Vanessa, Toby, Virginia and Adrian, lost their stepmother, Julia Duckworth Stephen, in 1895, then their father, Sir Leslie Stephen, in 1904, before moving from Kensington to Bloomsbury to set up home together in 1905. In their early twenties they resolve to defy convention and have a home where friends are encouraged to drop in and talk of philosophy, art, literature, relationships. People mix freely and easily together unchaperoned. Relationships are formed and reformed. Dress is informal; refreshments are simple; alcohol is abundant. They scandalise the older, more conventional, generation by staying up till all hours.

Toby is at Cambridge and the core of the group is formed

from 'his set' and their friends there. Lytton Strachey, E.M. Forster (Morgan), Maynard Keynes and Clive Bell are frequent attendees. Leonard Woolf is a corresponding member, regularly updated by Lytton. From an initial informal party, the Stephens then create 'at homes' on Thursdays to talk about life and love, citing philosophy, literature, and history as sources. Virginia is ebullient, witty, pithy, has a way with words and can hold centre stage. Vanessa, attending to the practicalities and the finances, feels her wish to encourage reflections and discussions on art are sidelined. A Friday gathering for artists emerges to encourage them to comment on the thrilling new movements which are emerging in Paris and elsewhere in Europe. The cast of characters at the beginning of the book is fascinating. Other people who attend intermittently, or are mentioned, include Rupert Brook, Robert Cecil, Roger Fry, Duncan Grant, the Lamb brothers, George Mallory, and Lady Ottoline Morrell. From time to time members of the group go to the country together, to Cornwall, to Europe, then reconvene in Bloomsbury. It was a community buffered by wealth and privilege, trying to challenge custom and respectability: to question, to learn, to develop.

The dynamics between the siblings are well portrayed. Virginia, the baby of the family, is demanding, needy, wanting Vanessa to parent her, to love her, to be hers exclusively. The novel alludes to previous dark periods and the threat of future unravelling. As time goes on the family face health challenges as do those around them. Things change. Relationships change. There is love and distress. There are echoes of previous losses. Vanessa's developing relationship with Clive Bell excites Virginia's jealousy and her destructive side. Vanessa is hurt but grows in emotional maturity and learns to live for herself.

We all commented on how believable the diaries were and how credible the account of their daily lives, their concerns, their emotions. It is a book which would bear reading time and again.



## OTHER MINDS: THE OCTOPUS, THE SEA AND THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLIGENT LIFE BY PETER GODFREY-SMITH

February's book was a quite different and more complex read than January's: non-fiction, philosophy, and evolution. Remarkably interesting, but not a bedtime read. No-one in the group managed to finish it in the three weeks available since the last meeting, so due to that, and weather and other commitments, there were to have been very few attendees,

so the meeting was cancelled.

The book was well reviewed being a non-fiction book of the month at Waterstones and shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize. We needed to give it more time and attention and possibly to read it more than once.

The author, a philosopher, and a scuba diver, investigates the theory that cephalopods (octopus, jelly fish, cuttlefish,

and their family members), five hundred million years ago formed a separate branch of the family tree of living things. He explains this and cites their intelligence, communication, and investigative skills as exceeding those of most species other than humankind. He likens the octopus to an intelligent alien. He explains they evolved to develop nervous systems from clusters of seaborne cells under the sea. The book was thought provoking as it questioned what we understand about sensing, feeling, and communicating. Apparently the eight tentacles of the octopus are so well endowed with neurons that they can almost 'think' independently. The world might have become a vastly different place if their evolution had overtaken ours.

Our next read is *Dove Keepers* by Alice Hoffman. This is the story of four strong women. It is set in ancient Israel. As ever, if you would like to join us to discuss this book on **Thursday 14th March** at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall you would be welcome.

Cath Burley, cathburley@hotmail.com

# LUDLOW ROTARY CARES 2024

Once again, Ludlow Rotary Club invites local community groups to apply for a grant.

'Ludlow Rotary Cares' is the name the club has given to its annual scheme aimed at supporting community life in and around Ludlow by offering modest grants to local charities and organisations. For this year, the maximum grant available has been increased from £500 to £750.

Over the past nine years Ludlow Rotary Club has been able to invest over £45,000 in almost one hundred local community projects through this scheme from funds it has raised. After a successful Dog Day fundraising event in 2023, the club is delighted to be able to invest again in our community.

The club intends to be open minded about the types of activities it will support so long as the project or programme responds to a community need in or within fifteen miles of Ludlow and meets its criteria on the giving of grants. What the club will need to understand is exactly what the money will be used for, who will benefit from it and how much difference it will make.

Further information and a simple application form can be found on the website [www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk).



Organisations which meet the criteria will need to get their applications in by **21st April**. Those shortlisted will be invited to an evening event at Ashford Carbonell Village Hall on **14th May** at which they will be asked to explain their project for a few minutes to a small panel. There will also be an opportunity to meet other applicants as well as members of the Rotary Club.

The club is keen to hear from a wide range of organisations including those that have applied in the past or have been awarded grants in the past, so if you are involved in or are aware of one which might benefit, do take a look at the website and follow the link to download an application form.

For further information email: [lrc@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](mailto:lrc@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk).

Barry Forrester, Ludlow Rotary Club

## ORGANISING AN EVENT?

Get the word out with the Corvedale News. Contact the editor to include your poster in the next edition: [editor@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@corvedalenews.co.uk)

## NEW ADVERTISER ALERT

Nails by Domi, Nail Technician  
See Page 24

**THE TALLY HO INN**  
**BOULDON**

**CHICKEN NIGHT**  
A WHOLE ROAST CHICKEN  
(SERVES 2/3 PEOPLE)  
+ 2 SIDES  
EVERY WEDNESDAY £30

**LIVE MUSIC**  
COMING SOON TO THE TALLY HO  
WATCH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DETAILS

FROM 28TH FEB

@tallyho.bouldon The Tally Ho Inn Bouldon

# CORVEDALE PAST & PRESENT

## THE TROUBLE WITH CURRANT BUNS!



It is so instantly recognised by residents and visitors to Shropshire. Stokesay Castle is remarkable in many respects. Historically it is described as a fortified manor house, none better anywhere in the country we

might say. That, however, is a bit bloodless. I've always thought of it as an emblem of massive change, surely bewildering to all who lived through it. This concept probably rings a bell!

English Heritage, in their wonderful notes on Stokesay, point out that in the 13th century the Great Hall was built by one Laurence de Ludlowe. Whether it was because of sheep breeding, or 'terroir,' March hill climate, or careful management, in the 12th and 13th centuries wool from the Welsh Borderlands was the *crème de la crème*. Carefully washed and packed and sent across the North Sea to the burgeoning industrial areas in the Low Countries, it was wrought into the finest cloth, the best in Europe, and was sold around the Mediterranean and Middle East where it competed with fine fabrics coming from Asia. The merchants involved became fabulously rich, and our friends the de Ludlowes formed a remarkable dynasty.

This trade was the stimulus for financial changes that form the basis of contemporary money systems. It had to be so: the wool passed through many hands, traded by people of many languages, dialects and currencies. The northern Italians were at the forefront of producing new cashless trade arrangements provoked by wool commerce.

Lawrence, the most famous of the de Ludlowe merchants, amassed great wealth and became perhaps the third most powerful and influential man in the country in the reign of Edward I.

It's often argued that the Middle Ages produced only three types of men; those who fought, those who prayed and those who worked. Men like Laurence were blowing this system apart. His family name tells us a lot. Ludlow was a new, planned, town, designed to raise the whole local

economic temperature and make money. It was a merchant town, so different from neighbours like Shrewsbury, Wenlock and Hereford which were heavily controlled by monastic organisations. How the old families must have despised men like Lawrence; *nouveau riche*, threatening the very fabric of their world. Laurence's acquisition of Stokesay? An outrage. An upstart merchant of peasant stock aping nobility, becoming an aspirant Lord with his own household and manor. Whatever next?

Do you suppose Lawrence got his comeuppance, when, on the king's business, he, his wool and newfound money sank to the bottom of the North Sea off the coast of Suffolk?

You might cough and splutter a bit if I argued that the modern world with its distorted wealth and money systems and its seemingly unstoppable technical innovation had its global origins in Stokesay, but, just maybe, there is a tiny grain of possibility there! Certainly, the dogma that we need even more wealth and new things has been become baked into our psyche like currants into a bun!

Now, even leaving aside war, we face climate instability with its terrible brothers: nature destruction, soil and water degradation and spiralling chronic disease. You may think these are only symptoms of a deeper crisis of the mind and soul of humanity which will never be cured by the same paradigms that caused all the problems in the first place!

My own feeble effort is to learn and increasingly to relearn how the human frame is put together and functions (there is so much more to consider nowadays), because that changes everything: our whole relationship with ourselves, our food, other people and the natural world!

You may be interested in taking a look at *villageadamandev*.uk, or you might even like to send me some words.

Peter Cornah, [petercornah@gmail.com](mailto:petercornah@gmail.com), 01584 823 858

P.S. Homage to Christopher Train's book *'The Sheep Hath Payed for All'*, a marvellous read if you want to know more about the de Ludlowes and their times. I think it's still available at Castle Bookshop in Ludlow, so I'm not lending you my copy!

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## MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Following our appeal for a June concert due to the postponement of this year's Wenlock Festival, we are delighted to announce that we will be singing in Shrewsbury Abbey to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity so many in the community have received help from. Please put **Saturday 15th June** in your diaries and come along to support both the choir and the charity. More details in future newsletters.

Our first outing of the season, however, is another exciting venture, when we join forces for the evening with both Newport Choir and the Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir to form a 'Wrekin Choir.' This is a fundraising event, on this occasion on behalf of the Midlands Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Society. The concert will be held in the Memorial

Hall at Wrekin College in Wellington at 7pm on **Saturday 23rd March**. Tickets are £10 to include light refreshments. It is not often so many voices (possibly one hundred) gather to unite in song, so we are really looking forward to it. Tickets are available from choir members, at Penny Farthing in the Square or at the door on the evening.

We are also pleased to say that two new members have joined the choir since the new year. Neither have a history of singing in a choir previously but are both making progress and learning new music along with the rest of us. If you've been considering joining us, you won't be the only newbie in the room! Go on, give it a try.

Dick Langford, [chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com),  
01952 728 758, [www.mwmvchoir.org.uk](http://www.mwmvchoir.org.uk)

# CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE



## MAINLY ABOUT ROOKS

Over the land freckled with snow half thawed  
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed  
And saw from the elm-tops, delicate as flower of grass,  
What we below could not see, Winter pass.

Here's a poem by Edward Thomas. It comprises only four lines, but I think it's very clever, reminding us that other species can have the edge over us humans. Edward Thomas (a favourite poet of mine, probably because my Dad was fond of him) enlisted in the First World War in 1915 and was killed in 1917 at the age of 38.

Thomas had been part of a group of poets called 'The Dymock poets,' Dymock being a small village in North Gloucestershire, close to the Herefordshire border; other poets in the group included Robert Frost, Rupert Brooke (another sad loss in WWI), and Eleanor Farjeon. The death of Thomas saw the disintegration of the group.

But back to 'Thawing,' as the poem above is called. I was in Stanton Lacy recently enjoying the annual carpeting of the churchyard by thousands of snowdrops and still worth a visit at the start of March.

My recent trip to Stanton Lacy offered more than snowdrops. From the sky, above the trees in the churchyard, came a cacophony of noise. The rooks were preening themselves as they landed on the high branches hoping to attract interest

from one of the female rooks, perching nearby and looking coy (I had binoculars!).

Many rooks were already paired up, and they pair for life. They are also very sociable, forming large colonies and returning to their chosen nesting places each year. Rooks are very sharp when it comes to building. A bit of warm weather and they are collecting twigs. As we know, this January was the hottest on record so by the end of February the nests will be ready for eggs. While building and renovating some of the nests from last year to use again, these intelligent birds do not need a DIY shop: they just work together and create nests for all. This month, they will lay about 3 – 5 eggs and baby rooks will leave the nest next month. They will stay close to mum and dad until autumn when they will join the colony as they stay together in their winter lodgings.

Edward Thomas's little poem sums up the activity and the racket that rooks can make. But he also points out that they know more than us humans. They rise above us in flight and can see the weather that is coming before we can. The subtle way the poet enjoys the role of the rooks here is lovely. They take it for granted; they know that winter is gone. From their point of view winter is well on its way out. They may not know it's March, but they know spring is arriving and they are ready for this new season. Shall we humans join in?

Anni Holden-Calver,  
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre

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## WILD ABOUT WESTHOPE

### WILDLIFE EXPERTS NEEDED FOR WILDING PROJECT

Following the sad passing of Trevor Leese, an inspirational butterfly enthusiast and one of the founding members of Wild About Westhope (WAW), the not-for-profit South Shropshire wilding project is looking for new voluntary members with a passion for flora or fauna to join the committee.

Volunteers don't need to have any formal qualifications, just a sound knowledge of a threatened species of flora or fauna and a commitment to making a difference.

Anne Dyer, landowner and chairman of WAW, said:

*'Trevor injected considerable energy and passion into creating a butterfly-friendly habitat and the group will continue to apply his methods to attract new species into the area.'*

*'We are also keen to ensure that other threatened species are protected and would encourage anyone with similar desires*

*to join the group.*

*'Ideally, we would like volunteers to support in both practical management and also, perhaps more importantly, in monitoring and recording species' levels.'*

So, if you're nuts about newts, fanatical about frogs or wild about willow, please get in touch.

Established in 2021, Wild About Westhope promotes sustainable land management to benefit wildlife and the local community. The group manages a local nature reserve with the help of volunteers who meet regularly to undertake conservation management.

For further information please contact:  
[wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com](mailto:wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com)

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## CORVEDALE FESTIVAL LAUNCH 2024

Spring is fast approaching, and with it the 2024 Corvedale Festival launch event. Festival artists-in-residence, the Jarualda Quartet, will be returning to Diddlebury village hall with a fabulous programme of Haydn, Beethoven and Dvořák's iconic 'American Quartet.' The evening will start with the usual substantial buffet (bar available). The full details of September's festival will be on display and tickets for that go on sale at the launch. It will also be your chance to grab yourself a super bargain 2024 festival pass at the discounted price of

£90 (standard price £100). This will give you admission to all festival events which would cost £195 as individual tickets. The launch is on **Saturday 11th May**, buffet 6pm, concert 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £20 which includes the buffet, are available from 11th March online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival), by phoning the festival office on 07745 825 700 or by emailing [corvedalefestival@gmail.com](mailto:corvedalefestival@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

Ruth Henley, [www.corvedalefestival.org](http://www.corvedalefestival.org)

# DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2024-25

Following the council meeting on 24th January, the precept for the next financial year was set at £7,500. This is an increase of £840 on last year's but still over £1,100 less than in the previous two years. This will result in an increase of approximately £3 per household.

The council made a conscious decision to try to keep the precept low but had to absorb wage rises for the clerk/financial officer of approximately £260 and other inflation-related increases in running costs. We have reduced asset management costs by work being undertaken by councillors and local people volunteering their help. We are always happy to accept such volunteering with painting, light repairs and cleaning of assets. We continue to financially support the infrastructure of village halls, local charities and work such as the Flood Action Group where possible. The money received

this year from the Shropshire Council Neighbourhood Fund, derived from the Community Infrastructure Levy on new houses, has been earmarked to open up the play area in the school grounds to children and families. This was requested by parishioners in our Place Plan survey. The new playground area will be open even when the school is not in session and will provide an all-weather play surface. We have also earmarked £300 for an information board to sit alongside the War Memorial in St Peter's churchyard, which details the history of the names inscribed on it.

A full copy of the precept can be found on DPC's website. Financial reports are detailed in each meeting's Minutes, which are also on our website.

David Hedgley, Chair

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## A DIFFICULT TIME FOR SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

I'm sure you will have read of the financial challenges that are causing major constraints for councils all over the country at present. I'm afraid that Shropshire is also affected by these.

Local authority finances have been seriously stretched by the ever-increasing cost of providing statutory services to local populations. Rocketing costs in service delivery are forcing many local authorities to consider deep service cuts in order to manage their budgets.

In Shropshire a whopping 80% of our disposable budget is sucked into the growing demand for adults' and children's social care services as well as increased temporary accommodation and pressure on Special Educational Needs transport. Shropshire's rising social care costs are exacerbated by our rural and sparsely populated geography, as well as the growing number of adults aged 18-64 who need care, and over 65s with increasingly complex needs, particularly dementia. Currently we have over 700 children in the care system and the number has kept climbing since the Covid pandemic.

Unlike the NHS we are not allowed to carry forward a deficit budget but have to balance our budgets at each year end. The pressure on our 2024/25 budget means we must review all our services, both statutory and discretionary: some will change, some will reduce, and we may have to stop other services altogether. We know this situation will have a considerable impact on our communities, but we have no choice but to rise to the challenge.

Our budget decisions are likely to include:

- Reviewing the strategy for library provision
- Reducing support for leisure provision
- Reviewing and reducing the number of household recycling centres
- Charging for green waste collections. Households could opt out of this collection if they wish

- Reducing the number of council buildings and other assets and accelerating the move from Shirehall into alternative offices
- Reorganising the transport needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities: a consultation on this has already begun

Significant changes will go through further consultation involving both public and council staff, but some redundancies will be inevitable to meet our savings targets. We are already exploring alternative ways of delivering or reducing non-essential services and we are determined to minimise compulsory redundancies.

The challenge would be much greater without the savings of £41.3m that we have already made in this financial year throughout the council, the highest we have ever achieved. My own portfolio responsibility, adult social care, has to date contributed over £13m of savings to the overall figure and this will rise further by the end of this financial year.

Throughout all this and alongside our Local Government colleagues we have been lobbying government hard for funding reform that takes account of the challenges faced by local government, and the unique set of circumstances that makes Shropshire's position even more challenging.

I will keep Corvedale residents updated on the budget situation. We are determined to continue to provide the best quality services possible to our residents, but the road ahead is likely to be bumpy.

Cecilia Motley  
Councillor, Corvedale Division  
Cabinet Member,  
Adult Social Care & Health,  
Shropshire Council



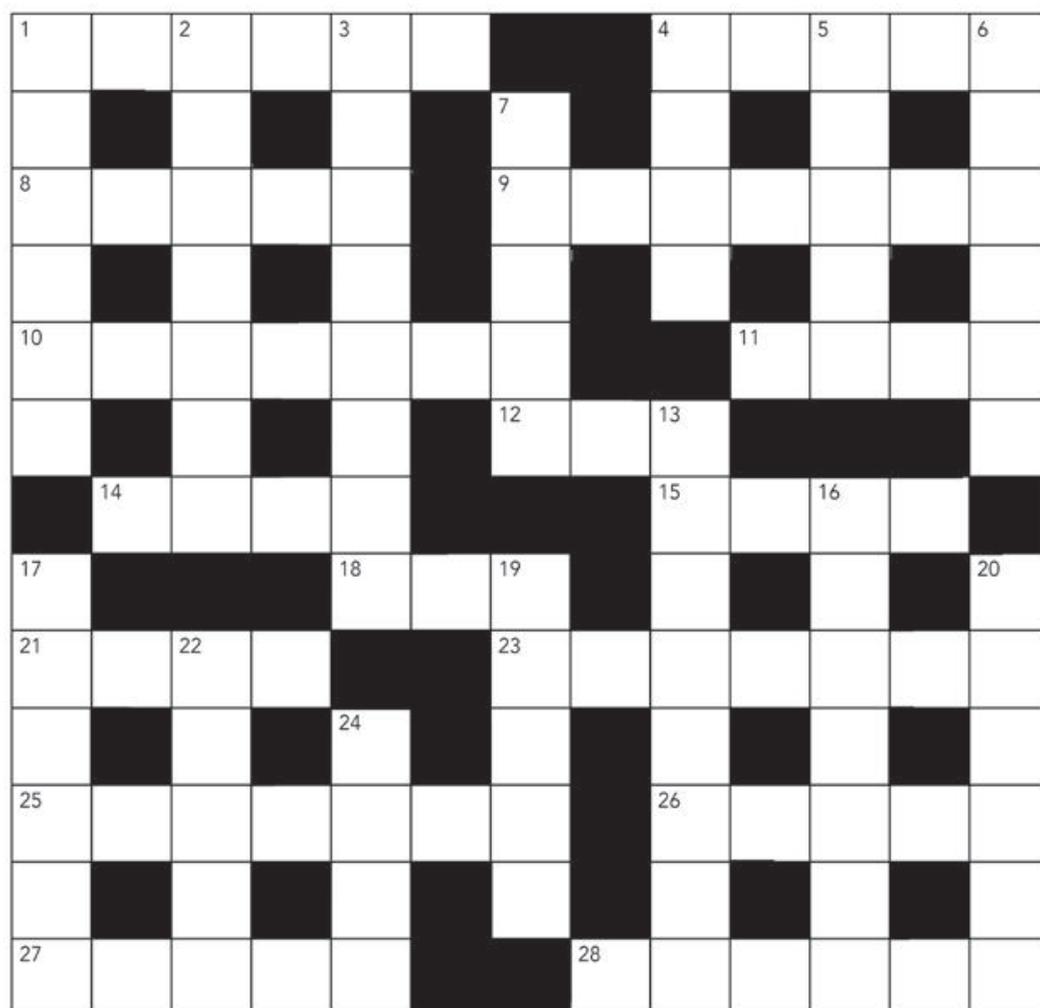
# MARCH CROSSWORD

BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword  
can be found on page 23 in this  
edition of the magazine.

## ACROSS

- 1) Tip our hat to a writer (6)
- 4) Weeds on the waterfront (5)
- 8) Indiscreet collection of rubble (5)
- 9) Free rent again (7)
- 10) Tidiest birdhouse in which to eat (7)
- 11) Direction we place before holy person (4)
- 12) Have a meal out in all weathers (3)
- 14) Retained first kind, entertaining person to apply (4)
- 15) Just open a drink (4)
- 18) Finish back in old Newcastle (3)
- 21) Woman from the start had right on her side always (4)
- 23) In my view, a vegetable should contain Greek character (7)
- 25) Undertaking a seaside walk is with the first event (7)
- 26) Join university before half-term (5)
- 27) Frees some knots (5)
- 28) Put in an extra sheet (6)



## DOWN

- 1) A nest's been rebuilt by agreement (6)
- 2) Caterer beaten in a row (7)
- 3) Welcome letter contains something tasty (8)
- 4) Boring and overcast (4)
- 5) Box a rodent in church (5)
- 6) Seat is arranged for an after lunch nap in Madrid (6)
- 7) We say it's correct to take pen to paper (5)
- 13) Trumpets first ruin act, turning quiet (8)
- 16) As one number it's silly (7)
- 17) Mother's aid hesitates to become an assistant (6)
- 19) A number practise meditation possibly (5)
- 20) French one and others show discontent (6)
- 22) Grind down Stick in the middle of Greece (5)
- 24) Binding but could be prejudice (4)

# DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2024 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllr D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllrs R Povall, R Morgan, C Martyn, T Pardoe, T O'Boyle, A Watson.

**Apologies:** Cllrs A Rattu, S Povall and Shropshire Councillor C Motley.

**In attendance:** The Clerk.

**Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

**Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting on 22nd November 2023 were approved by councillors. Four matters arising were considered.

**Reports: The Chairman** reported he had met contractors to obtain a quotation for the fencing, and with the Clerk had met a contractor at the school to obtain a quotation for an all-weather surface for the proposed public access playground. They had also visited the Corvedale Inn, which was closed, and had viewed Jack's Cottage and the new development in Bache Mill. Cllr R Povall said the landlord of the inn was ill, but it would be re-opening when he had recovered. The Chairman advised he had been in touch with the owner of Jack's Cottage and had received assurances that he was actively seeking alternative parking arrangements, as the original space was now subject to legal proceedings. With Cllr Martyn, he had visited 4 Peaton Strand, Bouldon, to deal with the planning application 23/04974/FUL. He had dealt with complaints about mud on the roads, and been in discussions with the War Graves Commission and the Hereford Diocese about the proposed information board to be sited next to the war memorial in Diddlebury. In addition, he had done all he could to progress the outstanding highways and bridges works in Bouldon.

**Flood Action Group Report:** Cllr Martyn reported on the recent National Flood Forum meeting which he had attended. Mr Bellis was considering repairs to the leaky dams as he had funds available, and was liaising with Shropshire Wildlife Trust on the matter. Although the recent torrential rain had caused road and field flooding, no properties in Diddlebury Parish had been flooded. Run-off had flooded sections of the B4368, in part as some gateways had been sandbagged, preventing run off into the fields and ditches.

**Planning Applications:** The Chairman reported that application 23/04974/FUL, for the erection of a two-storey extension and outside cladding at 4 Peaton Strand, Bouldon, had been dealt with via DPC's Standing Order 27 procedure and had been supported.

Two councillors advised that No 5 Mill Lane had recently changed hands. It was not currently being occupied but extensive works appeared to be under way, including removal of the flat roof and its replacement with a pitched tiled roof, plus it appeared that an extension was being built at the back. DPC had not received any planning applications about this property. The Clerk was asked to contact the planning department to ascertain whether planning permission was needed.

Councillors also raised concerns that aspects of the planning permission granted for the development in Bache Mill were not being followed in terms of the wildlife strip, the gardens and the fencing.

**Highways/Environmental Issues:** The Chairman, Cllrs O'Boyle and Rattu had attended a meeting at the Beambridge Clubroom to discuss, with other parishes, the report on speeding measures on the Corvedale stretch of the B4368 prepared by Highways Engineer Nick Newton. The bottom line was that there was no money available for anything but cosmetic measures. It was left

that each parish would write up and submit to Highways a wish-list of what it would like to see in its parts of the Corvedale to reduce speed.

Two councillors and members of the public had raised with DPC the unsightly manner in which BT had sought to connect telephone/Broadband services to the Malt House. Part of cabling had been inserted in a grey plastic downpipe, which had been attached to the side of the footbridge in Mill Lane in a very visible manner, which was considered to be incompatible with a conservation area. The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Jack Wrigley to seek a visually improved scheme.

**Communications and Correspondence:** Twenty items of correspondence were considered. Cllr R Povall agreed to deal with Item 20 and provide a response to the letter from Culmington Parish Council. He would visit the new owners of Chapel House. The Clerk was asked to contact the Place Plan department at SC to ascertain whether it was open to DPC to vary the designation of that part of Seifton which is in Diddlebury Parish from community cluster to open countryside.

**Application for a donation towards exterior refurbishment works from Westhope Village Hall Committee:** The Committee had not been able to provide DPC with adequate quotations for the works nor the requested up-to-date accounts, so had withdrawn its application for the time being.

**Consideration of quotations for works on the proposed public access playground in part of the school grounds at Corvedale C of E school, Diddlebury:** The proposed playground required realignment of the existing fencing plus additional fencing. DPC approved a quotation of £2,598 plus VAT for these works and they would take place in the Easter holidays. One quotation in the region of £14,500 had been obtained for the all-weather surfacing works and additional quotations were being sought. It was agreed by the DPC councillors that, in principle, the work would proceed once quotations and funding were in place. Two councillors agreed to explore funding avenues. The fencing works would be paid for from existing Neighbourhood Fund receipts. Residents of Diddlebury Parish were invited to make individual donations towards the cost of this playground, which would be available 24/7 to all children and their families.

**Finance Matters:** The Finance Report for December 2023 – January 2024 was considered and cheques totalling £769.63 were approved for payment, after which DPC held funds totalling £23,081.93. Cllr O'Boyle verified the reconciliation between DPC's cash book and bank statement 377.

**Consideration and adoption of the 2024-25 Precept Budget:** Councillors considered DPC's 2024-2025 Precept Budget and voted for a budget of £7,500, which would cost Band D council tax payers £25.46. A copy of the Budget could be viewed on DPC's website.

**Meeting dates and times for 2024 – May 2025:** A list of meeting dates was approved. Cllr O'Boyle proposed that in future meetings commence at 7.15pm rather than 7.30pm and this was adopted. A list of meeting dates can be viewed on DPC's website.

**Any Other Business:** Local groups, charities and organisations were reminded that DPC considers requests for small donations at the March meeting – 20th March 2024. Please send requests to the Clerk or Chairman.

**The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 20th March, 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

Agendas and full copies of the minutes can be viewed on the Diddlebury Parish Council website [www.diddleburyparish.co.uk](http://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](mailto:diddleburypc@outlook.com)

# MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

**Present:** Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Nigel Dobson, Andy Johnson and Graham Williams. In attendance: Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Antonia Bury, Val Fotheringham, Ed Povey, David Marston and Chris Meeson.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Public Forum:** No members of the public were present.

**Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2023 were signed by the chair as a correct record.

**Reports: Chair's Report:** Cllr Archer reported that the application for solar panels at Aston Munslow had been withdrawn.

**Cllr Motley** reported that Shropshire Council was making drastic reductions in budgets to ensure it can provide statutory services to Children's and Adults' services. It was due to make a public announcement the following week. She had spoken to Tracy Darke, Assistant Director Economy & Place, regarding the B4368 meeting between Shropshire Council and Diddlebury and Munslow Parish Councils. Ms Darke would discuss the matter with the Traffic Engineers. The Council was combining the Place Plans with the equivalent in Health and Wellbeing. The Clerk said that she had already been contacted by the Health and Wellbeing Team.

**Cllr Dobson** had nothing to report about the Beambridge Club Room.

**Cllr Meeson** had attended a meeting of South Shropshire Chairs on behalf of Cllr Archer. He had sent a report. There had been considerable discussion about the implications of Martyn's Law for Parish Councils. The Clerk reported that this could be incorporated into the Emergency Plan for the parish. Other matters discussed were affordable housing and banking issues.

**Highways:** Minutes of the B4368 Report and Meeting with Shropshire Council had been circulated to the Traffic Engineers, Diddlebury and Munslow Parish Councils, Cllr Motley, and West Mercia Police.

**Highway Priorities:** It was agreed that Shropshire Council should be informed that the priorities for the B4368 through Munslow Parish were:

- for there to be a speed limit of 40mph throughout the length of the parish, maintaining the present 30mph limits within the villages.
- for there to be additional funding for West Mercia Police to enforce the limits.
- additional posts to be installed for the mobile vehicle activated signs.

It was agreed that the first and third point be added to the Place Plan.

**Other Highway Matters:** Cllrs Dobson and Williams reported that the vehicle activated signs were all functioning well and were noticeably effective at reducing the speed of traffic. They were still waiting for additional posts to be installed by Shropshire Council.

The Clerk reported that the application to the Police and Crime Commissioner for a further Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign made earlier in the year would be considered by the PCC in the next round of funding.

Cllr Archer reported that residents wanted to thank the Council and the Environmental Maintenance Contractor for the work carried out near The Swan Inn at Aston Munslow. Further work for the contractor had been in Beambridge and Broadstone.

Councillors, the Clerk and many members of the public had reported the flooding and condition of Rowe Lane to Shropshire Council via Fix My Street. Shropshire Council had now used a digger to clear the ditches and the flooding had gone. Further work was planned.

**Correspondence:** Snowball Community: the Disability App was noted. The Clerk would inform the Community Health and Wellbeing Survey (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) Team of the best methods of communicating with parishioners regarding the survey.

**Update on Access to Work:** The Clerk reported that she had now received various pieces of equipment from the government scheme to enable her to continue to work as a clerk. They were proving very effective.

**Delegation, Biodiversity, and Complaints Policies:** The Council resolved to adopt all three policies.

**Update on Emergency Planning:** The Clerk reported that she had attended an Emergency Planning session with Cllr David Hedgley (Chair of Diddlebury Parish Council). It had been agreed to support the proposal for a joint working party for Emergency Planning with neighbouring parish councils.

**Finance:** The bank account held £10,905.06 as at 19th December 2023. The budget report showed overspends on several items and a further £1,375 was needed to cover expenditure during January - March. The report was accepted and the budget would be increased by £1,375. The bank reconciliation was signed as accurate by Cllrs Johnson and Williams.

**Payments were authorised to:** HMRC (£180.20), D Lewis for Environmental Maintenance (£80.75 and £63.75).

**Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Thursday 7th March 2024 at Beambridge Village Hall:** a. correspondence from Mr Lindsay Bury (Millichope Foundation) b. Update on the Agreement with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**Minutes and Agendas** are available on [www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk) or from the Clerk on [munslowpc@gmail.com](mailto:munslowpc@gmail.com) or 07817 607355

# CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mr Matthew Seabrook (Temporary Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear and Mr I Steele.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr Ian Alderson, Mrs M Holland, Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.

**Declarations of Interest** relating to this meeting: None.

**Public Involvement Session:** Two members of the public attended to discuss the possibility of an application for an affordable home in the parish.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 2nd January 2024 were agreed

to be correct and were signed by the Chair.

**Update on Access to Work:** The Clerk reported that she had now received the equipment from the scheme to help with her hearing. It was proving to be very effective.

**Neighbourhood Fund Payments:** The Parish Council would receive a payment of £3,234.22 from the Neighbourhood Fund in April. This money could be spent on items of infrastructure or on addressing the demands of development within the area. This matter would be placed on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Community Governance and Boundary Review:** Diddlebury Parish Council had acknowledged receipt of the letter about the boundary at Seifton Batch.

The Clerk reported that she had hand delivered a joint letter from Stanton Lacy and Culmington Parish Councils to six households in Vernolds Common informing them of the proposal to transfer them to Culmington Parish Council area and giving them the opportunity to comment.

**Reports from Members:** **Cllr Motley** reported that Shropshire Council had received the final settlement from the Government but it was not enough to cover costs and the forthcoming year looked very unclear financially. She had managed to reduce the costs of her departments by approximately £15 million but further reductions would be drastic. The Council would do what it could to try to continue to provide services. The NHS was looking at health provision in rural areas. Station Drive had now taken over full responsibility for the operation of Ludlow Hospital.

**Cllr Mear** said that the Village Hall Committee had planned a range of events, some to raise money for the extension but also to encourage as many people as possible to use the hall. There were still issues trying to get Wi-Fi for the hall. The Committee thanked the Parish Council for the donation towards the costs of maintaining the defibrillator.

**Correspondence:** Crane Quality Counselling donation request – this would be included in the consideration of donations at the March meeting.

Shropshire Planning Enforcement – Councillors had been provided with information from the Planning Enforcement Team on the updated planning enforcement protocol and priorities when dealing with planning enforcement.

**Highways:** The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation that day that the post for the Speed Indicator Device at the eastern entrance to Culmington Village had been ordered and once it had been installed the Speed Indicator Device could be ordered.

Mr Jeff Williams from the Parish Path Group was asking for volunteers to help with repairs to the footbridge on Seifton Lane. Further money had been received from Shropshire Council for the paths group equipment.

The permit for the desilting of Seifton Brook was for three years and would end on 30th June 2024. Cllrs Byng and Turley would look at the brook in March and decide if desilting was required.

**Telephone Box at Vernolds Common:** Further reasons why the box should be retained with telephony had been given to BT. Shropshire Council was awaiting their decision. If BT decided not to retain the telephony Stanton Lacy Parish Council would consider adopting the box. It is, however, in very poor condition.

**Emergency Planning:** The Clerk reported that she had attended an Emergency Planning session with Cllr Hedgley from Diddlebury Parish Council. It was agreed that Culmington Parish Council would support a joint working group with Diddlebury and Munslow Parish Councils and Flood Action Groups to develop a plan.

**Blocked Bridleway:** Outdoor Partnerships had been informed and would look into the matter.

**Finance:** Payment was authorised to D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Invs 455 and 465 £106.25.

**Finance Report:** Expenditure was within budget except for the hall rental where there had been an overspend of £33. It was expected that the expenditure in total in March would be within the budget. As of the 20th December 2023 the bank account held £11,410.84 which reconciled with the accounts. The report was accepted and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllrs Mear and Seabrook as an accurate record.

**Chairperson for the Next Meeting:** Cllr Mear was elected.

**Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 5th March, 2024:** a. speed indicator device. b. donations c. parish boundary review d. blocked bridleway.

**NOTES:** The Council wished to express its condolences to the families of Mr Peter Caine and Mr Graham Hardy.

[www.culmington.org](http://www.culmington.org) Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO  
Telephone: 07817 607 355, [culmingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:culmingtonpc@gmail.com)  
Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

## ABDON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024 AT ABDON VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Hartley, Bill Lewis, Rowland Price, Michael Whalley, Chris Yarwood, Clerk: W Richards and three members of public.

**Open Session:** The owners of the Top Barn, Abdon introduced themselves and expressed their intention to proceed with plans to convert the barn into their home.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**An Apology** was received from Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council).

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 were read by the Chair and unanimously agreed as correct.

**Finance:** The balance as at 4th December 2023 was £10,114.13. A cheque for the Clerk's wages for October/ December of £210.00 was agreed. A request from Abdon Village Hall for 50% of website domain and host charges (£79.13) was agreed.

**Budget and Precept Approval:** This was presented and discussed. Cllr Lewis questioned the CIL funds and their use: it would be looked into further. Cllr Yarwood proposed that the marquee hire be increased from £65 to £75. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr Price proposed keeping the precept at nil, although Cllr Whalley suggested it might be necessary to start one. The Clerk would request a neighbourhood fund breakdown. A nil precept was unanimously agreed.

**Footpath Maintenance Donation:** A donation of £250 had been received. It was agreed that nothing need be done until requirements are raised by the public.

**Highways:** A map was presented showing the ditches requiring attention. Andrew Clayton had quoted £38 +VAT per hour, with a minimum of 8 hours. It was unanimously agreed to proceed.

**Correspondence:** The Clerk gave details of road closures, which will be on the website. Grants may be available if property had been flooded: see website. The Boundary Review would not impact the parish. Ash die-back grants might be available if trees were beside roads or footpaths. Clee Hill motorsport would be coming through on 21st January 2024. The D-Day 80th anniversary would be on 6th June 2024. It was agreed to forward details to the Village Hall. Shropshire Hills National Landscape (which replaces the AONB) would be making Conservation Fund grants of between £500 and £2000 available for funding environmental education. Applications had to be in by 12th February 2024. Cllr Whalley updated everyone on the Chairs' meeting and Martyn's Law.

**Items For Consideration For The Next Meeting:** Highways, village hall mirror.

**Date Of Next Meeting:** The next meeting (which would be the AGM) would be on 9th May 2024.

WendyRichards-Parish Clerk: [abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com](mailto:abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com)  
Tel: 07813 271 274

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## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

**ACROSS:** 1) Author, 4) Docks, 8) Scree, 9) Release, 10) Neatest, 11) West, 12) Eat, 14) Kept, 15) Ajar, 18) End, 21) Ever, 23) Opinion, 25) Promise, 26) Unite, 27) Reefs, 28) Insert

**DOWN:** 1) Assent, 2) Terrace, 3) Omelette, 4) Dull, 5) Crate, 6) Siesta, 7) Rite, 13) Taciturn, 16) Asinine, 17) Helper, 19) Dozen, 20) Unrest, 22) Erode, 24) Bias

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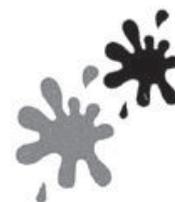
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[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter)



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# COMMUNITY LINKS

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### LOCAL SERVICES & EMERGENCIES

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**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)**  
Sgt Jen Price,  
jennifer.price@westmercia.police.uk.

**Voluntary Car Scheme - 9am - noon**  
Craven Arms Good Neighbours,  
01588 673732

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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**  
Jonathan Brough, 01584 841630,  
admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

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### WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

**Diddlebury & Westhope WI**  
Joy Williams, 01584 861849  
f\_j\_williams@btinternet.com

**Munslow WI**  
Jenny Rose, 01584 841251,  
gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk

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### CONTACTS

### 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 Rusett, 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: [martinggc@gmail.com](mailto:martinggc@gmail.com)

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### VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

**Abdon Village Hall**  
Margaret Buckingham, 01746 712296,  
www.abdonandheathparish.org,  
abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

**Beambridge Club Room**  
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](mailto:bookdvh@gmail.com)  
**General information:**  
[diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
Cath Burley,  
cathburley@hotmail.com

**Corvedale Choir**  
Ros Crouch, 01584 841053,  
ros.crouch@gmail.com

**Corvedale & District Autumn Show**  
John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

**Corvedale Folk Club**  
Ian Fotheringham, 01584 841331

**Corvedale Garden Group**  
Cath Burley,  
cathburley@hotmail.com

**Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group**  
Jenny Vine, 01584 841596,  
jvcedarwood@hotmail.co.uk

**Community Environmental Group**  
Rebecca Bull,  
peter17bull@btinternet.com

**Diddlebury Dancing Group**  
Sally Woodhouse,  
01584 841265, 07813 019010  
sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk

**Westhope Clover Club**  
Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

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





# THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

	<b>3RD MARCH</b> Lent 3	<b>10TH MARCH</b> Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	<b>17TH MARCH</b> Lent 5	<b>24TH MARCH</b> Palm Sunday	<b>31ST MARCH</b> Easter Day	
<b>ABDON</b>		9:45 HC		Procession and Holy Communion (Group Service)  10 am  at Tugford	9am HC	
<b>BROADSTONE</b>			8:30 HC			
<b>CULMINGTON</b>	11:15 HC		6pm Compline			10:30 HC
<b>DIDDLEBURY</b>	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC			11:30 HC
<b>HOLDGATE</b>	8:30 HC					9am HC
<b>MUNSLOW</b>	6pm EP	11:15 HC				(service on Saturday night – see below)
<b>TUGFORD</b>			9:45 HC			10:15 HC

**Compline for Lent:** 7:30pm on Wednesdays: 6th March at Munslow 13th March at Holdgate  
20th March at Culmington 27th March at Broadstone

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, 28th March Holy Communion at Holdgate at 7:30pm  
 Good Friday, 29th March Children's Service at Diddlebury at 10:30, Sung Compline at Culmington at 5:30pm  
 Holy Saturday, 30th March Easter Vigil and Holy Communion at Munslow at 7:30pm

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