

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

MARCH 2026
The Corvedale's Community Magazine

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SY7 9LB



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With thanks for your continued support. The Corvedale News Team

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & SUPPORT

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

To access information and advice:

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

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

FREE Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133

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

On the web: www.citizensadvice.org.uk



STUART ANDERSON

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

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187

Fax: 01584 876 345

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

Cllr. Colin Stanford

Councillor, Corvedale Division

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



SUPPORT & RESOURCES

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

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

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

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COPY FOR APRIL 2026 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the April 2026 magazine, please send by email to corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com by **MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2026** at the latest.

ADVERTISEMENTS If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager by **MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2026** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: corvedalenewsadvertising@gmail.com. All adverts must be in electronic format and sent in either jpg or Word format.

PICTURES We are always very pleased to receive high quality pictures of scenes or events around the Corvedale to add to our library for use on the front cover. Email to colin.pitcher@hotmail.com

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

OUR DOMESTICS

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

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026

The Corvedale News Team is delighted to announce that we are able to hold the 2026 subscription prices at the 2025 rates. The paper subscription will remain at £8.00 per annum and the electronic subscription £5.00 per annum. This represents remarkable value for money.

You can make your payment in three ways: -

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With thanks for your continued support.

The Corvedale News Team

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rev'd John S Beesley
St Michael's Rectory
Munslow
SY7 9EU
Tel: (01584) 841488
revjbeesley@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Canon Christopher Walsh
St Peter's RC Church
Henley Road, Ludlow
SY8 1QZ
Tel: (01584) 872906
st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net

METHODIST CHAPEL

Craven Arms: for service times and ministers, please contact the Shropshire and Marches Circuit Office
Tel: (01743) 874923
circuitoffice2803@gmail.com

LOCAL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

 *Mini Moos* 

Baby and toddler group

Every Monday
10-12 term time
£2.50 per family

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

 Diddlebury Village Hall 

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



Weekly Whist Drives



Every Monday
All ages and abilities welcome
Doors open 7pm
Start 7:15pm

£3 to include half time refreshments

Westhope Village Hall
SY7 9JL



ENJOY SINGING?

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

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

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

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

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

Or join us any Monday evening for a taster.

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP


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

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

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

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

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th March



CORVEDALE ARTISTS

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

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

 £8.00 per session

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

For further information
telephone 01299 832 603

CORVEDALE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP



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

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

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

RSPB Events

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



WALKS

Sunday 8th March
Sowdley Wood, Clunton, 10am

Saturday 11th April
Tittley Pool, 10:30am

TALKS

First Wednesday of each month at Wistanstow Village Hall.

Wednesday 18th March
The Work of The Raptor Conservation Officer - Jack Ashton Booth

Wednesday 15th April
A brush with Shropshire - Ben Waddams

Culmington Lunch Club

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

 All for just £12

Bar 


Every third Thursday of the month
12.30pm for 1pm

Culmington Village Hall

To book your place contact:
Gwyn Edwards on 01584 861666 or 07891 904504

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WHY NOT JOIN THE Friends of Diddlebury Village Hall



Do you have a little spare time to help us in some way - but DON'T want to become a Trustee?

Or - do you just want to keep up to date with What's on at DVH?

Whichever you choose just email us at diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com and we'll send you all the details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2026

Sun 1st	Table Top Sale	Diddlebury Village Hall	11am-1pm
Mon 2nd	Coffee, Cake and Cleaning!	St Peter's, Diddlebury	10-11.30am
Tue 3rd	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
Wed 4th	Munslow Parish Council Meeting	Munslow Parish Hall	7.30pm
Thu 5th	Coffee Morning	Munslow Parish Hall	10.30am-12noon
Sat 7th	Jordan Brown	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
Sun 8th	RSPB Walk	Soudley Wood, Clunton	10am
Wed 11th	Munslow WI Meeting	Munslow Parish Hall	2pm
Wed 11th	Diddlebury & Westhope WI: Games Night	Culmington Village Hall	7.30pm
Wed 11th	Flicks in the Sticks: / Swear	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Wed 11th	Menopause Issues	The Pavillion, Ditton Priors	7pm
Thu 12th	Whist Day	Westhope Village Hall	10.45am-3.30pm
Thu 12th	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 12th	Hayton & District WI Meeting	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 14th	Corvedale Garden Group	Brockamin	10am
Sat 14th	Defibrillator Training	Westhope Village Hall	10.30am
Sat 14th	Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm
Mon 16th	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
Wed 18th	Quiz Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Wed 18th	RSPB Talk - The Work of the Raptor Conservation Officer, Jack Ashton Booth	Wistanstow Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 19th	Coffee Morning	Munslow Parish Hall	10.30am-12noon
Thu 19th	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
Thu 19th	Messy Church	St Peter's, Diddlebury	3.20pm
Thu 19th	Deadline Ludlow Rotary Grant Applications		
Sun 22nd	Spring Gardens Day	Sparchford Cottage, Culmington	2-4.30pm
Wed 25th	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 28th	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm
Sat 28th	Harmony4Hope Concert	Wrekin College, Wellington	7pm
Sun 29th	Jacobi Chorale	St Peter's, Diddlebury	2.30pm

APRIL 2026

Wed 1st	Community Lunch	Westhope Village Hall	12.30pm
Wed 1st	Westhope Clover Club	Westhope Village Hall	12.30pm
Wed 1st	Lenten Lunch	St Peter's, Stanton Lacy	12.30pm
Thu 9th	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 11th	Rummage Sale	Westhope Village Hall	10am
Sat 11th	RSPB Walk	Tittley Pool	10.30am
Wed 15th	RSPB Talk - A Brush with Nature, Ben Waddams	Wistanstow Village Hall	7.30pm
Wed 15th	Flicks in the Sticks: One Battle After Another	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Thu 16th	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
Tue 21st	Brown Clew PPG Meeting	Ditton Priors Village Hall	7pm
Fri 24th	Curry & Comedy Night	Culmington Village Hall	6pm
Sat 25th	Corvedale Cake Walk		

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES:

Abdon - Page 9
Munslow - Page 9
Culmington - Page 9
Westhope - Page 8
Diddlebury - Page 7

The deadline for all submissions to the News is Monday 16th March 2026

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE

St Peter's Church LENTEN LUNCH Stanton Lacy Village Hall

Wed 1st April 2026
12.30 to 2.30pm

Please join us to mark Lent with a simple meal of homemade soup, bread and cheese.

There is no charge but donations are welcome.

Proceeds to St Peter's + Local Charity

Places are limited so please contact Jennette Arnold, Church Warden on 07568 083322 to book your place.



PRAY



FAST



GIVE



I Swear

15

Funny, heartfelt and emphatically moving, *I Swear* dramatises the true story of Tourette syndrome campaigner John Davidson's quest to live normally in a world that was calling him different.

It is a powerful look at an astonishing life – taking in the frustration and fatigue of being persistently misunderstood and the wit, grit and resolve that saw Davidson seek to define

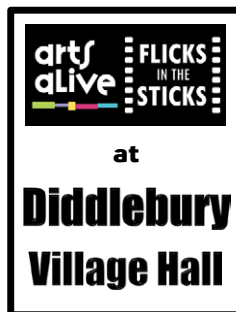
**WEDNESDAY
11 MARCH**

Bar Opens: 19:00

Film starts: 19:30

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

Entry £5



**SUNDAY 22ND MARCH
2.00pm - 4.30pm**

SPRING GARDENS DAY WITH DAFFODILS AT SPARCHFORD COTTAGE

Visit the glorious daffodils at Sparchford Cottage.



Enjoy a stroll or ride round the village to see the wide variety of spring gardens on the way to Sparchford Cottage.

And this year, take a trail of clues to spot the answers to some characters from well-known books or films hiding along the way.

Start and finish at Culmington Village Hall to collect your trail clues and enjoy homemade cakes and a drink.



Ideal for a family afternoon out!



ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

15

One Battle After Another is one of the most acclaimed films of the year, a highly rated, black comedy action-thriller movie with countless rave reviews hailing it as a masterpiece which gives you a nice, warm, virtuous feeling when you're finished. Throw in the star power of the film's lead, **Leonardo DiCaprio**, not to mention his co-stars, **Sean Penn** and **Benicio del Toro**, and you've got all the makings for a great night out at the cinema.

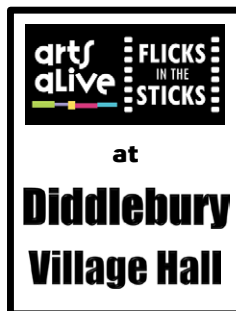
**WEDNESDAY
15 APRIL**

Bar Opens: 19:00

Film starts: 19:30

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

Entry £5



DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

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

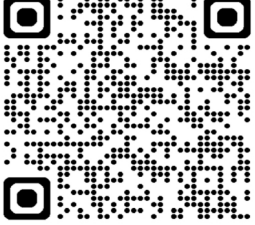

<p style="text-align: center;">COMING SOON!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st March 11:00 – 13:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TABLE TOP SALE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18th March QUIZ NIGHT</p>	<p>For more information on What's coming up @ DVH</p> <p>Scan the QR Code with your phone camera to take you to the Forthcoming Events page on our website: diddleburyvillagehall.org</p> 	<p style="font-size: 2em;">MOVIE NIGHT</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">Wednesdays</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">11th March I SWEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">15th April ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER</p>
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TABLE TOP SALE	Come and shop at our first ever Table Top Sale Homemade cakes, bacon baps and hot drinks on sale too!	Sunday 1st March 11:00 – 13:00
MOVIE NIGHT	I SWEAR is a frank, funny and powerful new film inspired by the life and experiences of John Davidson, MBE the Scotsman credited with educating the UK about Tourette's Syndrome	Wed. 11th Mar Bar open 19:00 Film starts 19:30
MOVIE NIGHT	ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER – Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Bean & Benicio del Toro star in one of the most acclaimed films of 2025, with countless rave reviews hailing it as a masterpiece.	Wed. 15th Apr Bar open 19:00 Film starts 19:30
QUIZ NIGHT	Another of our hugely popular Quiz Nights Teams of 4 £10 per team. Booking is essential.	Wed. 18th March 7 for 7.30 pm
	The Corvedale Book Club Meet to discuss their latest book choice. Contact: Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com	Thursday 12th March 19:00
	Mini Moos Baby & Toddler Group – term time only £2.50 per Family	Mondays 10.00 - 12.00
	The Corvedale Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Mondays 19.30 -21.30
	The Blue Hills Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00
	Zumba Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448832	Tuesdays 18.00
	Tai Chi Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250275 hello@goldenthreadscic.com	Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00
	Pilates with Tina Bookings only via pilateswithtina@outlook.com	Thursdays 18:00 – 19:00
	Physiotherapist-led Pilates. Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814412	Fridays 9.15 - 10.15

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

More events being organised...

All events include a licenced cash bar.
Enquiries & booking details: 07860 447 397.

Whist Drive

Every Monday, 7pm for 7:15pm start.

Yoga

Every Tuesday, 9:45am
Enquiries Sue Pugh 07432 349 933.

Community Lunch

Wednesday 1st April & Wednesday 3rd June,
12:30 for 1pm.
£12pp. Two-course home cooked meal with tea/coffee.
Booking essential.

Skittles Evening

Every 2nd Friday, 7:30pm
May – September.

Bingo

Saturday 16th May, 7pm, eyes down 7:30pm.

Whist Day

Thursday 12th March, 10:45am - 3:30pm
£10 includes lunch & tea. Booking essential.

Defibrillator Training Course

Saturday 14th March, 10:30am
Learn how to use this important piece of equipment.
All welcome.

Rummage Sale

Saturday 11th April, 10am
£1 entrance includes tea/coffee.

Memorial Race Day Afternoon

Sunday 14th June
Food available from 12 noon. Times and costs to be announced. In memory of Ellie, a great stalwart of Westhope who sadly passed away in October last year after a short illness. Proceeds to Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust and Brain Tumour Research.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 17th October.
£15pp. Entertainment included.
Three-course home cooked meal with tea/coffee.
Booking essential.

Newtown Male Voice Choir

Saturday 5th December, 7:30pm.



CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

REGULAR EVENTS

Coffee Morning

Every Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Come along for a cuppa (coffee or tea) for just £1.

Good company, free refills and biscuits!

Bridge Club

Every Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Richard Smith richard.smith404@btinternet.com

Yoga

Every Wednesday, 6pm - 7.15pm

Please Note: Currently Suspended

Contact Jennifer Gennard 07968 817 643

MARCH EVENTS

Jordan

Saturday 7th March. Bar Open 7pm. Music from 8.30pm.

Music and dancing with Jordan Brown. Tickets £10. Contact

Jo Mear 07872 109 936 or Jeff Williams 01584 861 849.

WI – Games Night

Wednesday 11th March, 7.30pm

Visitors are welcome to join in an evening of fun and friendship playing a variety of games ranging from Bingo to Build a Dinosaur plus various card games and more challenging Mahjong. £4 including refreshments.

Lunch Club

Thursday 19th March

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

APRIL EVENTS

Lunch Club

Thursday 16th April

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

Curry & Comedy Night

Friday 24th April

With local comedian Alan Grosvenor. Tickets £18.

Bar from 6pm till late. Curry served between 6.30 and 8pm.

Comedy from 8.30pm. To book contact Jo Mear

07872 109 936 or Gwyn Edwards 01584 861 666

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

Saturday 14th March, 10.30 - 12.30.

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

Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th March, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Our coffee mornings continue on the last Saturday of the month. Lively chat, coffee and, of course, cake!

Abdon Village Hall Bookings

Contact: abdon.villagehall@gmail.com,

Margaret Buckingham: 01746 712 296

or visit our website for the booking form and details:

www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk

GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON & GET READY FOR THE PARTY!

Music, Singing & Dancing
with **Jordan Brown**
Award winning musician from Shrewsbury



Bar open at 7pm

Music from 8.30pm

60s to present day music to suit everyone

Tickets: £10

Culmington Village Hall
Saturday, 7th March 2026

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

MUNSLOW PARISH HALL

Our warm hub coffee morning continues to be well attended even during the horribly wet weather we have had. Thanks to all of you who support the hall with your generous donations at the coffee mornings. We really appreciate your contributions. Thanks also to all of you who have helped with running the coffee mornings in January and February and to all our great cake makers.

Dates for March coffee mornings will be **Thursdays 5th and 19th March** 10.30am to 12 noon.

Look out for dates for activities run by the local Nature Recovery Group. These will include a nature walk and tea at the hall and further activities later in the year. Dates to be confirmed.

Looking forward to some better Spring weather and seeing you all again.

Lesley Dobson
On behalf of the parish hall committee

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

March this year is wholly within Lent, the period of forty days in which we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and also prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week and Easter.

To remind us that this is a sombre time we use purple hangings and vestments in church, and the churches are not decorated with flowers. To remind us of the suffering Jesus experienced in the wilderness, some people choose to give up something they enjoy for Lent – sometimes an activity but often some type of food or drink. Others take on something extra as a way of marking Lent: you might decide to read part of the Bible each day, if this is not something you usually do. You might set some time aside each day to spend in prayer, or you could decide to attend a service at church you haven't tried before. Each Wednesday evening in Lent we have the service of Compline, a quiet and reflective service which begins with a themed address, and which also includes periods of silence in which we can bring our own prayers and concerns to God.

Lent can be a time that reminds us of all that is wrong in the world – and perhaps in our own lives. It is also a time which reminds us that the opportunity is there for us to do what we can to change things. As Lent began, on Ash Wednesday, those of us who gathered at Culmington were marked with ashes and heard the words 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.'

There is much that is wrong in the world – we see it daily on the news – and there is much that we can do nothing about. There are also things that we can do something about. Perhaps this Lent might be the time to make a start.

Rev'd John Beesley

REGISTERS

FUNERAL

12th February Gloria Simcock Culmington

BURIAL OF ASHES

26th January Hilda Garrett Diddlebury

MUNSLOW CHURCH

By the time you read this, we hope that the work to re-wire Munslow Church will have started. The first thing that will happen is that all the lights and heaters will be removed, so there won't be a service of Evensong on Sunday 1st March. We are planning that the other services in March will go ahead, but the building will be dusty and may not be heated, so please dress accordingly or join us for a service in one of the other churches.

Rev'd John Beesley

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church will be at Diddlebury on **Thursday 19th March**, starting at 3:20pm. We'll be thinking about Lent and Easter - with stories, activities and food. If you have children or grandchildren of a suitable age, do put the date in your diary and come along: you're welcome whether you've been to Messy Church before or not. We look forward to seeing you!

Rev'd John Beesley

CHORAL CONCERT

On Palm Sunday afternoon (**29th March**) at 2:30pm, in Diddlebury Church, the Jacobi Chorale will be performing Bach Cantatas 4, 118 and 230. Admission is free: there will be refreshments afterwards and also a retiring collection.

The Jacobi Chorale, an early music choir, was founded in 2007 under the direction of Dr Paul Nevins. Performing across the Midlands their focus is mainly on music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Some of you will have met Paul before either at his talk about trumpets in 2024, or at Evensong in Munslow. Do come and join us for an afternoon of music.

Rev'd John Beesley

FLOWERS & BRASSES

MARCH 2026

1st	Kath Worthington *	8th	Kath Worthington *
15th	Kath Worthington *	22nd	Sharon Constable *
29th	Sharon Constable *		* Brasses only

HOL(E)Y DUSTERS AT DIDDLEBURY CHURCH

The cans of polish, dusters, cobweb catchers, brooms and hoovers were wielded with gusto at our first group clean in St Peter's!

After just an hour and a half (including a break for a well-earned coffee and cake) the church looked and smelt amazing!

I would like to thank Eileen, Wendy, Paul, Liz and Mary who were just fantastic and did a great job.

If you would like to come along and join in with the chat and cleaning (and enjoy great coffee and cake) you will be made very welcome! You do not have to be a churchgoer, and you do not have to commit to every month or even the whole hour and a half! Every little helps to keep our historic church looking beautiful.

Our next session is on **Monday 2nd March** starting at 10am and finishing by 11.30am.

Sharon Constable

CHURCH CLEANING

THE PERILS OF OVER-ZEALOUSNESS



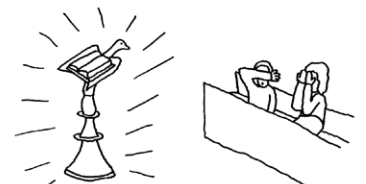
AN UNSECURED ORGANIST



SLIDING HYMNBOOKS



SLIPPERY COLLECTION PLATES



DAZZLING BRASSWORK

CartoonChurch.com

DORSET APPLE CAKE

There are lots of recipes for apple cake, but I think this is one of the best. It was given to me by the lady who was my bridesmaid and who – surprise, surprise – lives in Dorset!

from the kitchen of Liz Jones



INGREDIENTS

- 225g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 115g unsalted butter diced and chilled, plus extra for greasing
- 115g light brown sugar
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 6-8 tbsp milk
- 225g Bramley or Granny Smith apples peeled, cored and diced
- 100g sultanas
- 2 tbsp demerara sugar (optional)

METHOD

1. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4. Grease and line a deep 20cm cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Mix the flour and cinnamon together in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub into the flour using your fingers, until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the light brown sugar. Beat in the egg followed by 6 - 8 tbsp of milk – you want to achieve a smooth, thick batter.
3. Add the apples and sultanas and mix to combine. Scrape the batter into your prepared tin and gently level out. Sprinkle over the demerara sugar and bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes or until golden and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.
4. Allow to cool in the tin for 15 minutes and then carefully turn out onto a wire rack to cool further. Best served still warm with a little custard.

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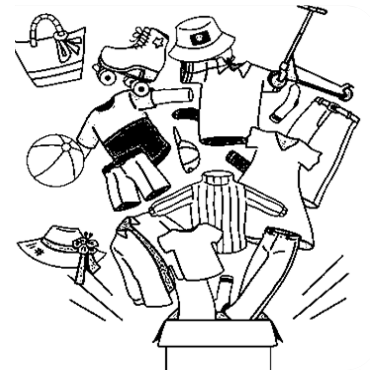
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Our rates are very competitive.

For more information, please contact our advertising manager at corvedalenewsadvertising@gmail.com.

**Diddlebury Village Hall
INDOOR
TABLE
TOP
SALE**



SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

11:00 – 13:00 Set up from 10:00

BOOKING IN ADVANCE ONLY

SORRY NO TRADERS

Homemade cakes, bacon baps & hot drinks available

TABLES PROVIDED

£10 – LARGE - 6ft 1 remaining
£5 – SMALL - 3ft 4 remaining

Contact DVH to Book

Raising funds for DVH Charity number 522511

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP

Despite a very wet January and a 'dreary' day for our meeting on 7th February, it was heartening to have such a good turnout of members to hear Paul Green's lively and informative talk on 'Plants for the season'. Paul had ventured north from Green Leaves nursery in Newent with a van full of plants which he talked about at length, then cheerfully sold to excited members who were pleased to have something new to 'heel' into their plots once the weather relents a little. Despite the rain I am looking out onto snowdrops and catkins with plenty of bulbs and perennial shoots pushing through and lots of promise of good things to come. Green Leaves (www.greenleavesnursery.com) has been established for over 30 years and in his interactive talk Paul highlighted time spent in both America and Japan. He clearly demonstrated his enthusiasm for specialist and rare plants, and he was knowledgeable about the best sort of soil pH and conditions for each plant he lovingly showed us and for their hardiness, leaf shape, colour and scent. He talked of the difficulties in sourcing plants which will cope both with more arid summers and with winters where, like now, the sodden soil makes them likely to give up from root rot! He mentioned that many traditional forms of plants now have more modern cultivars which may be more floriferous, hardier, and more adaptable than our traditional garden favourites (e.g., *buddleia*, *bergenia*, *cistus*). He encouraged us to experiment until we found the mix we were looking for.

The plants he discussed included:

- *Nandina domestica*: sacred or heavenly bamboo which he praised for autumn/winter colour, leaf shape and utility. A plant the Japanese put in pots just inside their house doors.
- *Salix purpurea* 'Nancy Saunders': an elegant small willow with fine, deep red stems.
- *Cornus controversa* (yellow stems) and *cornus kesselringii*

(black stems): to complement *cornus midwinterfire*.

- *Actea* 'Black Negligee'
- *Pulmonaria* 'blue ensign'
- *Nepeta* 'pursian blue'
- *Euphorbia purpurea*, 'Miner's merlot'
- *Sarcococa confusa*: sweet box, as an alternative to much troubled *buxus sempervirens* for scented hedging.
- *Sophora* 'sun king'
- *Bergenia puerescens*

Paul also advised the group on taking hardwood and soft wood cuttings and how to use colour contrasts to make our borders 'pop' with colour. In addition to providing plants and a variety of talks to local garden groups, Paul suggested members attend local plant fairs such as those which occur at Weston Park, Hergest Croft, and Whittington Castle. We adjourned for coffee, delicious cakes and the raffle while eagerly asking more questions and buying plants. With many thanks to members for help setting up the room and clearing up afterwards, for making drinks, washing up, providing cakes and raffle prizes and to Anne Donnelly for her kind donations of garden equipment which will continue to be cherished.

Our next meeting is a group visit to Margaret Stone's garden, Brockamin (WR2 4TQ), on **Saturday 14th March**, where we hope to see some informal borders with bulbs, pulmonaria and a range of hardy geraniums. Admission to include refreshments costs £10. If you would like to be on the email list for the group and/or would like to come to the next visit please let Alison Benbow know ten days ahead of time at corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com

Cath Burley

DVH NEWS

WHAT A NIGHT: DVH'S FIRST QUIZ OF 2026 A CRACKING EVENING OF FUN, LAUGHTER, AND QUESTIONABLE PRIZES!

Wednesday 4th February saw DVH bursting at the seams for our first quiz of 2026, and what a brilliant night it was! The place was packed with quizzers, all keen to not only flex their brains but also wholeheartedly join in the fun and share a few laughs.

The competition was fierce, with scores neck and neck right up until the final round. In the end, three teams edged ahead and claimed the coveted top spots. True to tradition, the prizes were delightfully rubbish – just the way we like them!

The *Nellie Deans* claimed first place once again with an impressive 75 points, finishing five points ahead of frequent winners *Pipe Dreams* and just one point ahead of the *Leamoor Commoners*.



The *Nellie Deans*

A loud cheer broke out to join in the celebrations with

the *Great Expectations* who had triumphed to reclaim their bottom of the leaderboard place, having temporarily lost that position at the Christmas quiz.

Winning 1st prize of £20 in the Squares competition was Lynne Watters with the 2nd prize of a bottle of fizz going to Chris Morter.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in and made the event such a success and for your generosity which helps us raise vital funds to keep our fantastic village hall well maintained and to improve its facilities for all to enjoy. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful and loyal following.

This was an excellent start to the year and we can't wait to welcome you again at our next gathering.

If you missed out this time, don't worry – there'll be another chance to test your knowledge and maybe win a gloriously rubbish prize before long! Our next quiz is on **Wednesday 18th March** and if you haven't already signed up then do get in touch to and we'll save you a table.

Kim Simm

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

BEING MORTAL BY ATUL GAWANDE

Fortunately, the weather had improved sufficiently for us to meet in February having had to use Zoom in January. Six of us had a fascinating discussion about the end of life and shared stories of parents/loved ones. The author of *'Being Mortal'*, an American doctor, lecturer, and writer who gave the Reith lectures in 2014 is frank about his feelings and experiences and writes about them in a very readable way. The four lectures are still available to listen to and include the titles *'Why do doctors fail?'* *'The century of the system,'* *'The problem of hubris'* and *'The idea of well-being.'* He talks about a process we are all going to face at some point as we, or those close to us, move from being fiercely independent to beginning to fall apart, physically, and maybe mentally, becoming increasingly dependent and requiring assistance and having to learn to ask for help or to find out where to seek it. He also talks about the health and social care systems, acknowledging their strengths and weaknesses, and ruefully accepts that he, like some other doctors, may have been programmed to separate his work persona from his feelings and to have to try too hard to offer ways to fix things rather than ask the person in front of him what their preference might be and how they would prefer to age and eventually die. As a society it is a conversation we need to have with ourselves and our families so that we can work through some of the discomfort and emotion in advance and be clearer about how we would like to see our futures. In the course of the book he provides case studies, one of which relates to his father, and he faces the cultural and generational discomfort of having hard conversations, looking at what working towards living well every day of our lives might be, and the lessons we all need in letting go of the many things associated with these decisions, whether we are given a choice in the timing of this, or whether they are sprung upon us. His stories are based more on physical ill health (cancer, stroke) than dementia/mental ill health. He also appears to assume that people live in functional and articulate families, rather than families where one of the legacies of two world wars has been to generate a level of emotional illiteracy, where we have been trained to *'keep calm and carry on'* or *'put up or shut up'*, ignoring our need to express ourselves, to ask for what we would like and to ask our families their preferences too and work towards an acceptable compromise. The book is readable and anecdotal. It offers hope and some viable

solutions, suggesting that the onus is on us to work towards acceptable options by sharing what we might really want and the impact that might have on those around us and making time to visit and revisit those conversations and put them on record. Some of us live further from our children and family members than previously; financial, emotional and time costs of caring can be high when everyone has busy work lives and their own families to care for. We all *'have history in this area of complexity and we all have wants and fears'*.

Dr Gawunde talks of whether we should discuss in more detail with our medical teams whether medications or invasive treatments are wanted, necessary, or even in someone's best interest. He talks about whether people would prefer to die at home or in institutions like hospital or care homes and, if the latter, whether they meet our needs for connectedness, security, and a sense of purpose. He visits care homes and looks at a few which have tried to turn things around by providing purposeful activity - pets (cats, dogs and eighty parakeets!) and visiting children/the public. He talks of the need to talk openly with the person and their family, to speak with dignity and respect, to really listen and ask questions about what might improve the quality of one's ending and the memories which a 'good end' might leave as a legacy for family and friends. He also recognises that decisions change as needs change and the process of needing more care may go through several stages and that a one State version will not suit everyone. How do we want to manage our ageing at home, so that they feel safe and well cared for without financial constraints or pressures? How do we continue to find things which will give us a sense of purpose and companionship/belonging to a community? How do we let go of our independence, our possessions, our relationships? - massive questions. How might those things fit with our own past experiences, morals, values, and spiritual beliefs?

When we meet on **Thursday 12th March** we will be discussing the system around a specific death, that of the Pope, and the implications as described in Robert Harris's *Conclave*. We have some spare copies of the book available if you would like to join us at 7.30pm in Diddlebury village hall.

Cath Burley
cathburley@hotmail.com

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



Our next meeting is at Westhope Village Hall on **Wednesday 1st April**, 12.30 for 1 o'clock, when we will be joining the Westhope community lunch.

We looking forward to seeing everyone, please join us, if you can.

Kath Woodhouse
01584 841 254

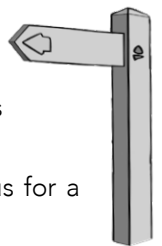
CORVEDALE FOOTPATH & MAINTENANCE GROUP

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

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

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

Katharine Wale



HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

Our first meeting of 2026, on Thursday 12th February, was held as usual at Stanton Lacy Village Hall. The meeting commenced with a short business session after which members enjoyed refreshments and biscuits kindly provided by Annie and Shirley, when, with no talk scheduled, we all took the opportunity to catch up with each other. The two regular monthly competitions were judged. The 'Letter of the Month' was Z and winners were Joyce in 1st place with her Zebrite Grate Polish; Barbara and Sue in joint 2nd place each with a Zester; and in 3rd place Eileen with a Zip. Next month's competition will start at the beginning of the alphabet once more with A, so members, please remember to bring the most interesting, unusual item you have, beginning with the letter A. The 'Flower of the Month' was won by Joyce in 1st place and Phyllis in 2nd place. As Spring approaches there will surely be new, beautiful flowers popping up in members' gardens to bring along and enter in the next competition.

Our next meeting will be held at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent, SY8 2AT at 7:30pm on **Thursday 12th March** when our talk for the evening, entitled 'Shropshire and Beyond', will be by John Hayward when he presents his inspiring images of the county's landscapes, towns, and villages.

WI branch meetings are open for any ladies who would like to come along to experience a meeting, enjoy listening to our speakers and are interested in considering joining our branch. Meetings are held on the second Thursday evening of most months. Watch this space in future magazines for details of forthcoming speakers.

Contacts for further information: Phyllis Steventon, President, 01584 823 436; Secretary, Jennette Arnold OBE, haytonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk.

Louise Gough

MUNSLOW WI

Our new president, Barbara Archer, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Munslow WI held at Munslow Parish Hall on Wednesday 11th February. Loraine Lawrence then gave an excellent talk about the holiday she and her husband had taken in Namibia a few years ago.



They quickly learned that searching rocky outcrops for ancient rock art in the middle of the day in desert temperatures approaching 40 degrees was not the best way to explore, but that behind them, they had a wealth of wonderful experiences.

Loraine showed us photos of Namibia's famous red dunes, subtly changing colour with the sun rise, of petrified trees and ancient San rock art, the enormous nests of the social



weaver birds, and of Fish Canyon, second only to the Grand Canyon in size.



It was especially interesting to learn about the Quiver Trees: the San people used the hollow trunks to fashion quivers for their arrows and the powder which the tree produces - to protect itself from the sun - as a sunscreen.

Loraine and her husband travelled over 2,000 miles in a four-by-four vehicle, mostly on dirt roads, and stayed in well-organised, luxury camps along the way. Loraine admitted, however, to an unusual open-air shower hidden in the rocks at one of their lodges and that their first vehicle was a bit of a boneshaker and had to be replaced!

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 11th March** at 2pm when Beverly Harris will give a talk entitled 'Criminal Minds - born or made'. Please contact our Secretary, Loraine Lawrence, on 01584 841 862 if you would like more information.

Wendy Brogden, wendy@brogden.info

DIDDLEBURY & WESTHOPE WI

Our WI gathered on the second Wednesday of February at Culmington Village Hall for our first meeting of this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with our fellow members and welcome new people but also to look back briefly on our pre-Christmas gathering at The Swan, which was enjoyed by those who could attend.

Our attention then turned to our AGM and reflections from Anne, our President, on the year. A wide variety of speakers and activities during the year began with a whisk around the world in 89 days with fascinating tales from Jacki White which tempted everyone to go home to book a holiday! April was a joint meeting and the opportunity to hear Gabriela La Foley who had us rolling in the aisles and sent us home refreshed and smiling. May tempted our taste buds with Jan Morgan Birtle's Nanny Jenny who entertained us with her family's farming journey and trying her wonderful sausages and ice cream which more than satisfied us and filled up our freezers. June was a DIY evening themed around Spain with food provided

by members and a challenging quiz set by Jacki, always fun and a fantastic opportunity to chat. Ludlow Community First Responders attended our July evening meeting and proved to be remarkably interesting and informative. August was a garden meeting, and we toured the gardens of some group members, which was hugely enjoyed. October tested our skittles skills at Westhope, joined by Craven Arms Ladies team and members from Munslow WI: an entertaining and fun evening with our fellow players. We look forward to a return match this coming October. In November we welcomed Sally Joiner who introduced us to Sign Language and challenged us with learning the alphabet. In addition, we had our entries to the Burwarton Show, coming 2nd and 3rd, craft group meetings, and a soggy garden visit to Stokesay, as well as a sunnier visit to Glyn's Garden. A very satisfying year to look back on.

Our current committee is staying on this year, and thanks were extended to everyone, committee, and members alike,

who make our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month so worthwhile, full of fun and friendship. Discussions took place on the format of meetings, Ludlow North Group plans and the programme for this coming year before we finished the meeting sharing delicious cheese and wine.

Our next meeting will be a games evening on **Wednesday 11th March** at 7.30pm in Culmington village hall. As always,

if anyone would like to come along to our meetings either as a visitor for the evening or to join as a member you would be very welcome. The visitor fee is still £2 but will increase to £4 from April. Please do ring Joy Williams, our secretary, if you would like any further information on 01584 861 849.

Jayne Disley

LUDLOW ROTARY INVITES GRANT APPLICATIONS

The window is now open for local community groups to apply for a grant from Ludlow Rotary.

'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. The maximum grant available is £750. Over the past eleven years Ludlow Rotary Club has been able to distribute £60,000 to over 110 local community projects through this scheme. In 2025 alone, the club made 13 grants totaling £8,000 to community organisations through Ludlow Rotary Cares.



Junior members of Ludlow Amateur Boxing Club marking the arrival of new training equipment.

Nine of the grants were to organisations involved with children and young people. These included Ludlow Amateur Boxing Club who needed to update their specialist training equipment, the 1st Ludlow Scout Group who wished to improve the facilities available to their sixty members, and Ludlow Youth Club who wanted to buy

some sports games equipment to promote physical activity.

Not that other community groups were overlooked. The Gallows Bank Millenium Green Trust which cares for a valued green space in the town, Read Easy Shropshire Hills which assists with adult literacy, the Ludlow & Area Community

Partnership support scheme for sufferers of dementia and the Leintwardine Social Group which exists to combat loneliness amongst older people were also awarded grants.

As in previous years the club intends to be very 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 15 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. Organisations which meet the criteria will need to get their applications in by **Sunday 19th April**. Those shortlisted will be invited to an evening event at Ashford Carbonell Village Hall on **Tuesday 12th 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, look at the website and follow the link to download an application form.

For further information please email:
Irc@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk

Barry Forrester
Ludlow Rotary Club
01584 878 872 / 07786 078 470
forrester.ludlow@gmail.com

NEWS FROM BROWN CLEE PPG (PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP)

Dr Bassett attended the January meeting of patients and announced that he is very pleased to have found a young male doctor with experience in general practice, who will join the Brown Clee team, thus ensuring the future of Brown Clee for many years to come. Dr Matthews and Dr Bravey will continue to work alongside the new doctor, whilst Dr Bassett takes a well-earned retirement.

Lisa Davies, the Advanced Nurse Practitioner had led a really interesting and well received discussion on issues around menopause last November. A second session is now planned for **Wednesday 11th March** at 7pm in the Pavillion in Ditton Priors. There are still a small number of places left, and the talk is relevant to any woman approaching menopause or is post-menopausal. There is a lot more to it than just 'hot

sweats'! To book a place: brownclepppg@gmail.com

The audience also learned from Bob Williams about Parish Paths Partnership (P3 groups) and how they keep footpaths accessible. Jenny Joyner, who teaches Tai Chi got everyone involved while she was telling us about the benefits of Tai Chi. If you want to know more your local P3 group, or about how you can join a Tai Chi class, contact brownclepppg@gmail.com

The next meeting for patients is **Tuesday 21st April 2026** at 7pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall. All patients are welcome to attend, and we believe that Dr Matthews will join us for that meeting.

Tina Ranson
brownclepppg@gmail.com

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

The wet weather seems as relentless as the financial news coming out from Shropshire Council. In the past few days Shropshire hit the national headlines as one of only three councils in England given the right to increase council tax by a record-breaking 9%. This is more than twice the rate of inflation and will raise around £14.5 million. Whilst some will argue that we all need to pay more for our services this assumes that services are effective and meet the population's needs. Many would say that this simply isn't happening, and it will add to living costs for all of us.

The loan that the council is seeking from central government to prevent bankruptcy has grown to £121million at the last count, as compared to £50 to £70 million. My understanding is that because a decision was made not to progress with the Northwest Relief Road around Shrewsbury the money already spent (about £40 million) will not be reimbursed by government, adding to the debt burden.

It's hard not to talk about potholes as they crop up in every conversation with family, friends, and neighbours. I do see work being done in response to those of us reporting them through FixMyStreet but the heavy rain has brought a whole new crop of them with many accounts of burst tyres and damaged cars. Please do report any new ones because it does alert the council to problems and they will prioritise the work accordingly.

Flooding is a continual concern on some roads especially

between Westhope and Ticklerton where one section at Harton has now been closed until the problem is resolved. I have been using that road for the past 30 years and have never known it to be so bad. Inevitably this puts added pressure on the only realistic alternative which is a single track lane – far from ideal. At the same time A49 closures add more heavy traffic to the B4368 which isn't designed or suitable for this and residents are rightly angry. I have been working with our parish councils to pressurise the highways department to respond to our concerns on numerous highway hazards, but progress is slow.

I had mixed emotions when I read in last month's Corvedale News that Severn Trent Water had kindly donated £3,000 to Wild about Westhope to help their woodland project. I have volunteered with Wild about Westhope which is a very worthwhile venture, and I learned a huge amount about woodland management but to precis the comments of someone nearby who also read the article, *'Shouldn't they be spending money on fixing the water leaks and stopping effluent discharges into our rivers rather than spending on planting trees!'* This is what has recently been labelled as *'Greenwashing.'*

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



MUSINGS ON LIFE

BARON HARD-UP AND RENT-A-COW

Pre-revolutionary France had aristocrats, who, far from 'rolling in it' were more pushed for cash than their tenants. Such was Baron Lahantan... and what was a young fellow to do when the Old World wasn't exactly playing ball? Go to the New World of course! Fine: in the 18th century French North America was vast. Ironically, Baron L. made a fortune for himself writing up his travels in the Great Lakes area in a seven-volume extravaganza – a must for every fashionable Parisian salon. Volume 2 contained lengthy, sensational, dialogues with an Indian chief called Kandiaronk.

To explain: from the outset, it was clear to Europeans that indigenous Americans had wonderful gifts for language and debate. They talked at length to Jesuit priests, who, despite being trained debaters, were regularly verbally floored. No wonder, really, as when the indigenous menfolk were not hunting or fighting they loved nothing better than sitting in a circle and discoursing.

Kandiaronk, it seems, made excoriating criticisms about the vanity and cruelty of French society (having travelled much in France) and the Jesuits' religious philosophy. So apposite and rapier-like were these observations that many felt they couldn't possibly have come from a 'primitive.' Those Europeans who had had similar contacts, it seems, knew better. It has been pointed out that thinking people, such as J.J. Rousseau, who were trying to sweep away outdated theocratic medieval notions (in what today we call 'The Enlightenment'), cherry-picked substantial ideas from the Lahantan/Kandiaronk dialogues. Of course, we don't know

what the aboriginal/medieval European dialogue would have sounded like, but perhaps it would have been surprising.

If you are fascinated by the traces of the past on the ground, you need to know the history: it all slots together. Laying aside rose-tinted glasses, new insights suggest we have grossly misrepresented the past. A man called Hobbes, in the 17th century, justified absolute government, as he thought otherwise, 'all would fight all' and the result would be brutish and chaotic.

In the middle ages such government* was a distant irrelevance to most and although the problems were daunting, rent-a-cow helped. Then, it seems, debt was often a strong cohesive force in society, not the scourge it is today. Poor would help poor and those with larger incomes arranged what has been termed 'micro-finance' to help the poorer, or the young create a better life. Even the much-maligned monasteries were to the fore. The impression is; private money striving for dignity for all. We might compare this with modern ideas of money and society and debate 'where it all went wrong' (if you think it has). Perhaps it is more profitable to learn from the past where we can, because one thing we can all agree on – we cannot go backwards!

Peter Cornah

*In indigenous North America it did not exist.

Two contemporary books have agitated me to write this. *'The Green Ages,'* by Kehnel and *'The Dawn of Everything'* by Graeber and Wengrow.

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

SPRING IS NEARLY HERE!

I have been looking forward to March all the way through last month. This has a lot to do with working in ancient churchyards. There is so much going on despite the weather: it is as if the plants know more than we do - is that possible? When admiring carpets of snowdrops it's easy to forget that underneath that carpet nature is working hard.

While cutting back ivy on yew trees and clearing growth on churchyard walls you can spot other plants pushing up to the light under your feet as the snowdrops fade away. Bishop's Castle churchyard has an amazing display of wild daffodils in March and April and, working there recently, there they were; leaves and buds were in sight. The Churchyard Task Team volunteers, part of Caring for God's Acre, will be back in the town later this month and I know we will be greeted by 'A host of golden daffodils'.

It's the colours of March that make me happy. The snowdrops reflect January and by the next month the celandines are showing off their gold. The primrose doesn't attempt to compete, offering a pale yellow as if it's too shy to show off so ostentatiously. Even closer to the ground you can spot the hairy violets in shades of purple, violet and lilac. This is a flower that likes to play with hue and tone: a very clever little plant I think.

Just as clever is the crocus. Familiar in our gardens as well as a stalwart in many a churchyard, the earliest ones are purple,

although the bright yellow stamens take some of the glory. It can give the impression of delicacy, but it's strong enough to be an early spring performer.

It is not just about colour. Wood spurge is a leafy tall plant with lots of tiny green umbels. With height in March at about 40 centimetres, (16 inches for the decimally challenged!) it stands out without any gaudy colours. In contrast, the wood anemone is a fragile-looking plant with spindly stalk and three green leaves below its simple white star-like flower. You might wonder if you have the right flower as it can be tinged with a pink frosting.

March is also good for saints having two patron saints: St David of Wales on the first and St Patrick of Ireland on the seventeenth, while another famous Welsh one, St Teilo has his on the ninth. We get Mothering Sunday in this month, too - there's so much going on!

But the best bit of March is the light. By the 31st the clocks will have sprung forward. Between sunrise and sunset there will be 13 hours, that's half the day in the light. Something nice to look forward to!

Anni Holden Calver
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre
and Churchyard Task Team cheerleader!
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



CORVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It gives the Governing Body pleasure to announce that Mrs Susan (Sue) Rook has been offered the vacant Headship at Corvedale Primary School and Nursery and that she has accepted the position. The interview process was very rigorous and, after consideration, Mrs Rook was the unanimous choice of the selection panel.

Mrs Rook will assume her post on 13th April. The present arrangement of Mr Morris in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Mrs Rook taking the lead on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will continue for this term. The only leadership change will be that Mr Morris will be guiding Mrs Rook in the role of headteacher. Mrs Rook will still be teaching Robin's class part time, and we will have to seek a replacement teacher for the remaining days for the start of the Summer Term.

We look forward to the continuing success and growth of the school. We feel confident that we have made the right choice to ensure this happens within a stable environment and that you will continue to give your support to the school and to Mrs Rook in particular.

David Hedgley, Chair of Governors

All members of the community will now likely be aware that at the start of the upcoming summer term Mrs Rook will take over the reins and start in her role as the new permanent headteacher at Corvedale. I am delighted for Sue and feel that it was a wise decision by those members of the governing body charged with making this particularly important appointment. It will provide the school with continuity, and I have been impressed with Sue's vision and ideas for the school moving forward.

Sue and I have already formed an excellent working relationship and there are a sizable number of similarities our schools share. A proportion of my remaining time at Corvedale, as acting headteacher, will be to focus on how our two schools can work closely together, share good practice, develop enrichment opportunities, and increase links more generally, for the benefit of pupils at both schools.

Steve Morris, Acting Headteacher



NO ORDINARY CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN APRIL

At the January Culmington Parish Council meeting the council decided to no longer hold ordinary Parish Council meetings in April. This was to ease the financial pressures on the council and not raise the precept paid by households above a reasonable amount. The Parish Council's ordinary meetings will now be in January, February, March, May, June, July, September, October and November.

To check the dates for the meetings, the agendas and minutes please go to the Parish Council Website:
www.culmington-pc.gov.uk

GREEN MATTERS

THE WONDERFUL BENEFITS OF A DEAD HEDGE

A dead hedge is one of the most vibrant, sustainable features you can add to your garden. Far from being just a pile of sticks, it is a purposeful, eco-friendly barrier that transforms garden 'waste' into a thriving wildlife sanctuary.

WHAT IS A DEAD HEDGE?

A dead hedge is an upright structure made from woody cuttings, such as branches, twigs, and prunings, stacked or woven between vertical wooden stakes. It functions as a natural fence or screen, but unlike a living hedge, it doesn't require watering or soil nutrients to thrive.

WHY YOU SHOULD BUILD ONE

This is one garden job you can do in March. It's such an asset to your garden for:

- **Wildlife haven:** it provides essential shelter and nesting sites for birds like wrens, robins, and dunnocks. It also acts as a haven for hedgehogs, amphibians, and is beneficial to insects.
- **Waste management:** instead of burning prunings or hauling them to a landfill, you keep the biomass on-site, recycling nutrients back into your soil as the wood decomposes.
- **Climate and soil benefits:** they function as a carbon sink and a natural windbreak, creating sheltered microclimates for delicate plants while preventing soil erosion.
- **Low cost and effort:** using materials already found in your garden makes it a free alternative to expensive wooden fencing.
- **Natural barriers:** they function as effective windbreaks for vegetable patches and can screen unsightly areas like compost bins or utility zones.
- **Low maintenance:** unlike living hedges, they require no irrigation, chemical treatments, or annual trimming.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN

1. **Mark the line:** decide on your hedge's path. They can be straight or curvilinear to fit your garden's aesthetic. Typically, 50–60cm wide.
2. **Drive in the stakes:** hammer two parallel rows of sturdy stakes (like hazel, chestnut, or untreated timber) into the ground, 50–75cm apart along each row.
3. **Layer the material:** start with heavier branches at the base for stability. Fill the gap with your collection of prunings, packing them tightly and interlocking them for stability.
4. **Weave for strength:** for a neater finish, weave longer, flexible branches like willow or bramble horizontally between the stakes to bind the structure together.
5. **Leave access gaps:** ensure there are small openings at the base to allow hedgehogs and amphibians to pass through.
6. **Maintain & top up:** As the material settles and rots over its 3–5 year lifespan, simply add more fresh cuttings to the top to maintain its height. Periodically check the stability of the uprights and knock in new ones if they begin to rot. Do not use material from plants affected by honey fungus or box blight, as this can spread to the rest of your garden.



Around Wheathill Wildlife Site, we have made seven, of various lengths, over the last couple of years. They hide the composting area, thicken the base of hedges that have that ballerina appearance, they link gaps in hedges and create new boundaries.

What's been lovely this winter is they have made lots of dry, safe spaces for wildlife to rest.

Hope you make one too!

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

PRECEPT 2026-27

A first draft of the 2026/2027 proposed precept was considered by the councillors at the November meeting. A final version of the budget was considered and approved at the meeting on 28th January 2026. The parish council precept of £8,000 was agreed for 2026/2027, which will result in a charge to Band D ratepayers of £26.67 pa an increase of £1.05.

This is an increase on last year's precept of £500 having held the precept at £7,500 for the previous two years. It is however lower than the 2021/22 and 2022/23 precepts by £500 each year. The items of expense were agreed for next year with the final total of £7,777.80 being rounded up to £8,000 to allow a small proportion to go towards the reserves. The increase in reserves follows guidance from the external auditors to raise reserves to equal the normal yearly running costs of the council. At present reserves are £4,250 and we propose to raise them gradually over the next few years. The rise in expenses of £277.80 consisted of increases in

national clerks pay scales and improvements to the website. The council also took a decision to cover the running costs of the three defibrillators in the parish with pads needing to be renewed every three years or on use which will be equivalent to about £150 pa.

We have continued to reduce costs regarding asset management by work being undertaken by councillors and local people volunteering their help. We continue to financially support the infrastructure of village halls, local charities, and work such as the Flood Action Group where possible. We have also earmarked £300 for an information board / book to accompany the War Memorial detailing the history of the names inscribed on it.

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

D. Hedgley, Chair DPC

CORVEDALE CAKEWALK

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

The annual cakewalk is the main fundraiser for Holdgate church. It is an incredibly joyful day and over the years has generated a very loyal following from all over the country. Entries opened on 1st January and had sold out by that evening. So far, we have 160 entrants. If you wish to take part, we do have the facility to enrol a limited number of locals in addition to the official list. Please contact us if you are interested. To run this event, we rely on volunteers. The Long Distant Walking Association organise the 10 and 20 mile routes. Any help associated with manning the checkpoints

at Holdgate or Clee St Margaret would be appreciated. It involves making drinks, serving food, and welcoming the walkers. Those who helped previously have really enjoyed their time - the walkers are a very jolly lot. Otherwise, any pledges of homemade cakes (for which we are renowned!) would be gratefully received.

Please contact John or Claire Brentnall or Judith Brick (claire.n.brentnall@gmail.com).

Claire Brentnall

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Our first concert of the year will take place at the end of the month, but with a change of venue. Rather than using Idsall School as originally planned, our joint four choirs' concert has been moved to Wrekin College which has better facilities for the number of singers and audience expected to be involved.

This is the **Harmony4Hope** event on **Saturday 28th March** at 7pm when we will join forces with Hadley, Newport and Shifnal Male Voice Choirs in an event to support Hope House Children's Hospice. Their mission statement says that (the charity) 'gives every local child with a life-threatening condition, and their family, access to professional care, and improves their quality of life from the point of diagnosis'. However, with only 16-17% of their funding coming from

government, we can see how vital events, such as ours, are to support that aim.

The choirs will join to sing several pieces, most notably Another Day which was composed specifically for Hope House with the themes of support, sanctuary and hope, with lyrics to match. The song has since been performed by many choirs and recorded for the charity by the world-renowned singer Bryn Terfel. We very much look forward to this unique event and hope that some of you will be able to join us too.

Tickets for the concert are available from choir members or from Penny Farthing in the Square in Much Wenlock.

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



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CORVEDALE SUPPER CLUB - 26TH MARCH

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MARCH CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY ARTEMONAS

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

ACROSS

- 1) Sailors in a mess? (3,2,3)
- 5) Deeds of Book Five? (4)
- 9) Catch the eye of a tiger first on land (7)
- 10) Island is part of comic April Fool (5)
- 11) Man about this place (4)
- 12) At 51, in Birmingham I find a drug (7)
- 14) Go against work as a model (6)
- 16) Now a girl guide makes a cart (6)
- 19) Away from the influence of alcohol I'd a year's rest (7)
- 21) Sew the best course at sea (4)
- 24) Complete world organisation goes on the canal (5)
- 25) Spreads out in the park? (7)
- 26) Simple way to fly off perhaps? (4)
- 27) Sue is cross about cuts (8)

1		2		3		4			5	6		7
								8				
9								10				
	11					12						
13												
14		15					16	17				
						18						
19				20				21		22		
												23
24						25						
26					27							

DOWN

- 1) One road to another club's ground (4)
- 2) The French and English machine (5)
- 3) First of the composer's journeys (7)
- 4) Praises from former partner, sadly lost (6)
- 6) Putting schoolboy's hat on? (7)
- 7) I swing heartless mother around in the water (8)
- 8) Strike breaker smashes taxis (4)
- 13) Fiery home for flowers (8)
- 15) I precede procedures and have controls (7)
- 17) Tackles a strange sack race (7)
- 18) At first my year of painting in Canada was short sighted (6)
- 20) Time for fruit (4)
- 22) Atmosphere in Colorado capital (5)
- 23) Employs in-house services (4)

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mr A Lewis, Ms J Watts and Mrs J Williams.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Mrs J Mear and Mr Ian Alderson.

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: None.

Graham Donaldson, Rural and Business Crime Officer, Wildlife Crime Coordinator, West Mercia Police was unable to attend the meeting, but he would be invited to the Annual Parish meeting in May.

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2026 were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the chair.

Reports from Members: Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford reported that a loan from central government to assist the council in this financial year had not yet been agreed. The central government settlement, despite Fairer Rural Funding, was less than expected. The council had received a rating of amber in the recently published government assessment of road maintenance by county. He was involved in the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was working to ensure that all departments took health into account when making decisions. They had started with planning, trying to ensure that new developments considered the needs of disabled and older people. He was also a member of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was working with Telford and Wrekin. Councillors asked why the council had received less from the government via the settlement. Cllr Stanford said that the way that deprivation was measured did not recognise the different needs in rural areas such as the need for car ownership. He also noted that there were no large businesses within Shropshire which would pay high levels of rates to the council, which impacted the council's income.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Mear had sent her apologies. The clerk reported that work had begun on the drainage problem, but it was unclear what the solution was at the moment. There were plenty of events planned.

Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that at the recent meeting they had a report from the Slow the Flow Project. There were various projects planned to install leaky dams, scrapes and the reinstatement of ponds. They were considering holding another public event to update progress. The work at Burley had finished which would assist areas further downstream. Those who were going

ahead with the Environment Agencies Protective Barrier Scheme would need to sign up shortly. The drain jetting remained reactive rather than proactive which was frustrating.

Highways: The clerk had contacted Shropshire Council's Highways Engineer about a reduction in the speed limit on the B4365 at Culmington and road safety on the B4368 near Manor Adventure, but with no response. She would continue to request an update.

Cllr Caine reported that the vehicle activated sign was ready to be sent to the new company FEWZED to be assessed for repairs. The cost of a new unit would be in the region of £2,000 as the solar panel would not need to be replaced.

Street Naming: Councillors considered that a name which was more locally relevant for the seven new dwellings and three barn conversions at Culmington Farm would be preferred, such as Meadow View or Church Close. The clerk would contact Mr Norton for comment before responding to the application.

The clerk reported that she had attended the Partnership Working Research Group Workshop session which had discussed the devolution of non-statutory services presently provided by Shropshire Council (SC) to the town and parish councils in 2027-28. SC presently spends £3,490.82 on grounds maintenance, bin emptying, and carriageway and footway cleaning in Culmington Parish. Councillors were not clear what 'grounds' were being referred to or whether £3,090.39 worth of carriageway cleaning had occurred in the last year. SC were developing a process to assist councils to take over the services and further work, and collaboration would be needed before the next financial year. For the parish councils to take on this work precepts would need to rise in future years.

Complaints Policy and Procedure: This was adopted.

Finance: Consideration of grants was deferred to the next meeting.

Payments were authorised to: Shropshire Council (Election fee May 2025) inv 7364270 £125, D Lewis (environmental maintenance) inv 924 £218.50, Culmington village hall rental inv 140 £150.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party: Mrs Jo Mear was nominated for her work as chair of the village hall committee. The party would be held on 12 May 2026.

Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2026:

a. Devolution b. Emergency plan and emergency contact list c. Amalgamation of police services.

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO - Tel: 07817 607 355

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

Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2026 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Hedgley, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. R Povall, Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. A. Watson, Cllr. R Morgan

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. S Povall and Cllr. W Watts

In Attendance: The clerk, Corvedale Cllr. Colin Stanford and one member of the public

Public Involvement Session: Mr D Mills attended on behalf of the Cheltenham & Ludlow Motor Club to advise about the effect their rally on 20th September 2026 will have on this parish.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 26th November 2025 were approved and two matters arising were dealt with.

Reports: *The Chair* reported on his parish activities including the appointment of a new head teacher, Mrs Rook, at Corvedale School. DPC wish her well in her new post.

Corvedale Cllr. Stanford reported that SC is still trying to negotiate a multi-million-pound loan from the government to plug its budget deficit. The 2026/2027 government funding awarded to SC is £15m short of its projected expenditure, Telford was awarded £80m. Mr James Walton, the long-standing Executive Director, has left SC. Although it had been agreed prior to the May 2025 elections that the Shirehall would be sold for redevelopment, the new administration is looking at eleven different options despite the fact it costing £280,000 pa to keep the Shirehall stood empty.

Cllr. Martyn (Flood Action Group) reported that the two recent storms had produced gauge readings of 0.64 and 0.42 metres. There is a fallen laurel tree blocking the ditch behind the Moors View. Cllr. Rattu agreed to deal with it. The Flood Group meeting scheduled for 8th January 2026 had to be cancelled due to the illness of some participants.

Cllr. Rattu (Diddlebury Village Hall) reported concerns about the new white lines in the DVH car park: they have baffled some car park users. The marking out of the spaces is to be modified. Mini Moos playgroup find it difficult to park when using the hall as the car park is full of school staff cars. The Chairman will take the issue up with the school and will also see if the school can be opened promptly to avoid congestion developing at dropping off/collection time.

Highways and Environmental Matters: A complaint about dangers posed by the speed of traffic travelling down Mill Lane from a new Mill Lane resident was discussed. It was agreed to ask Mr Davies to site the SID in Mill Lane for a while, and to ask the Community Police Officer to carry out speed checks on the lane. The school urge all parents to drive carefully.

Potholes, road flooding and the broken gate on the Bache Mill bridleway were also discussed.

Communications and Correspondence: Thirteen items were considered and noted. Cllr Rattu had circulated a report on Broadband speed updates. Whilst new houses in Bache Mill have fibre to door broadband, other parts of the parish are unlikely to see faster speeds via Openreach until 2030. Good reports were received about the alternative Starlink satellite system.

New Website: Cllr. Martyn demonstrated the new parish council website which he has developed, hosted by Hugo Fox. He and the clerk will administer the parish council portion of the new website. The website has been developed to also accommodate several local community groups and the village halls. Those who wish to avail themselves of this facility can obtain a password from Cllr. Martyn to enable them to upload their content onto the website. Cllr. Martyn was congratulated and thanked for his work on developing the new website.

Finance Report for part December 2025/January 2026: Cheques totalling £655.10 were approved for payment, leaving DPC with funds of £16,855.67. Cllr. O'Boyle approved the cash book/bank statement reconciliation.

Consideration and adoption of the 2026/2027 Precept Budget: The Precept Budget was debated and it was agreed that it be approved and adopted in the sum £8,000. The details are set out in the full minutes of the meeting of 28th January 2026 and can be viewed on the DPC website.

2025/2026 Audit Preparation: Councillors considered and approved the updated Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Register of Assets.

Any Other Business: No matters were raised.

The chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm

The next parish council meeting is on Wednesday 25th February 2026 commencing at 7.30pm at Diddlebury village hall and the March meeting is on 25th March at Westhope village hall.

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

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

Email diddleburypc@outlook.com Tel: 01547 519 282

ABDON PARISH COUNCIL

Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk: abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com Tel: 07813 271 274

MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Barbara Archer, Richard Arnold, Nigel Dobson, Ed Povey and Graham Williams.

In Attendance: Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council) and Heather Coonick (clerk/RFO).

Cllr Povey was elected as a temporary chair.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Val Fotheringham, Chris Meeson and Stuart Rowbotham.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Forum: Mike Kelly reported that the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund application needed to be submitted by 14th March 2026 and the council would be informed of the outcome shortly afterwards. As the Parish Council was the applicant a safeguarding policy would need to be adopted. The clerk asked Mr Kelly for a risk assessment to be carried out for all activities and details of volunteers retained for insurance purposes. They would be liaising with other local groups in making the nature boxes and they were planning a walk with an etymologist.

The clerk read out a letter from a member of the public regarding the proposed work at Aston Hall (see 'planning' below: there had also been comments about the solar panels but they were not relevant to the application on the agenda): *'I have grave concerns regarding the erection of this building which, without proper screening would be clearly visible from our property. They have the following questions: 1. When would planting of the screening around the proposed building structure begin 2. What would the height of any shrubs or trees be when they were initially planted around the building. 3. Would there be any exterior lighting on the new building. 4. Would there be any background noise audible to the exterior of the building.'*

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 3rd December 2025 were approved and signed by the chair.

Nature Recovery Working Group and Application to Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund: Mr Kelly asked for the grant money to be paid into the Parish Council account and payments for materials etc would then be made from that account. This was agreed.

Hills Ford Stages Rally 20th September 2026: The representative from the Cheltenham and Ludlow Motor Club did not attend the meeting but councillors reviewed the information made available and considered that the organisation so far had been excellent. The clerk would inform the organisers that the council has no concerns at this point.

Reports: Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford said the council's finances were still a significant problem and they were waiting to hear if the government would provide them with a loan. The latest government settlement was less than expected despite the government's fairer rural funding calculation. The council was rated as amber on a map of potholes across the country. He was a member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was presently trying to ensure that health was considered in all policy and decision making across the council.

Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson reported that the coffee mornings had gone well with money raised going to Little Stars Charity. It was hoped to have a tea and cake stall at the Millichope Open Day in October.

Planning: Erection of enabling infrastructure enclosure required by Statutory Undertaker to facilitate Estate electricity connection Aston Hall Aston Munslow SY7 9ER: Councillors considered the plans, the comment from the member of the public, a letter from Gyles Quarre Architects and the information that this enclosure was a requirement of National Grid. The architect reported that the planting of screening for the enclosure would be undertaken in the earliest planting season upon completion of the construction of the enclosure. The screening would be a mix of hedging and shrubs with species selected to provide effective long-term screening as they mature. There would be no external lighting and there would be no audible background noise to the exterior of the enclosure. The application was supported.

Highways: Members reviewed the response from Stuart Anderson MP and Shropshire Council re the B4368 report. The engineer said that he had not been given priorities by the Parish Council. The council would ask Shropshire Council to publish the B4368 report and to implement the recommendations, which included that all speed limits be 30mph with 40mph buffer zones along the length of the B4368: this would provide a consistent approach. Copies of the letter would be sent to Nick Newton (Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer), Stuart Anderson MP, Councillor Vasmer (Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment) and Tracey Onslow, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

Storm Gorette: Councillors were concerned that the National Grid and BT

were not maintaining the electricity supply adequately as during storms the cables were being damaged. Storm Gorette caused the telephone supply to be cut off for days in one area of the parish. The clerk would write to National Grid and BT asking them to carry out regular maintenance to prevent future disruption to supplies.

Submission to Shropshire Archives and Missing Minutes for 2007 – 2013 and 2017: The Council would contact previous clerks and chairs to try to locate the missing minutes.

New Task for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: Examine the brook opposite the war memorial in Munslow and clear debris, if possible, to prevent flooding.

Management of Assets: Repair/replacement of notice boards was deferred to the next meeting.

The contractor had completed work to the trees in the burial ground and advised that the ash tree did not need any immediate work but some limbs could be removed at some point.

Finance: Payments were authorised to: D Lewis (environmental maintenance) inv 925 £194.75, H Coonick reimbursement stationery £12.55, Shropshire Council election fee May 2025 £125.00, Richard Lane (Munslow Burial Ground mowing) £91.00.

Partnership Working Research Group Workshop Session: The clerk reported that the session included councillors and clerks from South Shropshire considering the proposals for devolving street scene activities to parish councils. The information provided on what was presently being funded by Shropshire Council was not accurate. Shropshire Council would have devolution team who would be able to assist with the devolution process. It was clear that collaboration between councils would assist with this process.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party 12th May 2026: Councillors would let the clerk know of who they wish to nominate.

Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 4th March 2026 at Munslow Parish Hall: a. Devolution of street scene services to parish councils b. Nature Recovery Application c. Repairs/replacements of notice boards.

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



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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

- ACROSS:** 1) All at sea 5) Acts 9) Attract 10) Capri 11) Here 12) Librium 14) Oppose
 16) Waggon 19) Holiday 21) Tack 24) Uncut 25) Picnics 26) Easy 27) Scissors
- DOWN:** 1) Away 2) Lathe 3) Travels 4) Extols 6) Capping 7) Swimming 8) Scar
 13) Hothouse 15) Polices 17) Attacks 18) Myopic 20) Date 22) Cairo 23) Uses

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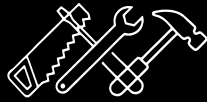
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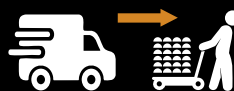
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Power Cuts call 105

Water Supply Problems
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County Flood Management
Shropshire Council, 0345 678 9006,
flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Flood Action Group
Clive Martyn, 07803 184 778,
happy4clive@gmail.com

Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit
Community Hospital, 01584 874297

Shropdoc (out of hours service)
Doctors Co-operative, 111

Station Drive Doctors' Surgery
01584 872461

Portcullis Doctors' Surgery
01584 872939

Craven Arms Medical Practice
01588 672309

Police (non-emergency)
PC 23440 Henry King-Salter
henry.king-salter@westmercia.police.uk
07483 140311.

Voluntary Car Scheme - 9am - noon
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Craven Arms Recycling Centre
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CHILDREN'S & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

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

Corvedale School, Playgroup and Nursery
01584 841630,
admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

Abdon & Heath Parish Clerk
Wendy Richards, 07813 271274,
abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com

Culmington Parish Council Clerk
Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,
clerk@culmington-pc.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk
Mrs Jean de 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: martingcn@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

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

Munslow Parish Hall
Frances Sutton, 01584 841654
Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

Culmington Village Hall
Avril Lines, 01584 861 339
culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com

Diddlebury Village Hall
www.diddleburyvillagehall.org
Hall booking enquiries:
bookdvh@gmail.com
General information:
diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com
WhatsApp/text/phone:
07396 730342

Diddlebury Church Room
Jan Kennedy, 01584 841372,
jan_kennedy@icloud.com

Westhope Village Hall
Betty Manley, 07860 447397,
mbm3049@icloud.com

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Abdon Wildlife Group
Miles Leach, 07810 810400,
milesleach712@gmail.com

Blue Hills Choir
Ros Crouch, 01584 547385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale Artists
Juliet Hole, 01299 832603
Ann Hankinson, 01584 841460

Corvedale Book Group
corvedale.book.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Choir
Ros Crouch, 01584 547 385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale & District Autumn Show
John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

Corvedale Garden Group
corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group
Katharine Wale, 07866 408 897,
katharinewale59@gmail.com

Community Environmental Group
Rebecca Bull,
peter17bull@btinternet.com

Westhope Clover Club
Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Diddlebury & Westhope WI
Joy Williams, 01584 861849
f_j_williams@btinternet.com

Munslow WI
Wendy Brogden, 01584 841 649,
wendy@brogden.info

Hayton & District WI
Phyllis Steventon, 01584 823 436

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 IN MARCH 2026

	1st March Lent 2	8th March Lent 3	15th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	22nd March Lent 5	29th March Palm Sunday	5th April Easter Day		
Abdon		9:45 HC	10:30am Group Service Holy Communion with Bishop Richard at Diddlebury	6pm Compline	10am Group Service Procession and Holy Communion at Holdgate	9am HC		
Broadstone								
Culmington	11:15 HC					8:30 HC (BCP)		9:30 HC
Diddlebury	9:45 HC	6pm EP				11:15 FS		11:30 HC
Holdgate	8:30 HC							<i>Saturday 4th, 7:30pm Vigil and HC for Easter</i>
Munslow	No service	11:15 HC				9:45 HC		11:15 HC
Tugford								10:15 HC

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

Thursday 26th March - Holy Communion in Corvedale School at 9:30am – all welcome!

Compline and Address, Wednesdays in Lent at 7:30pm

4th March at Diddlebury 11th at Tugford 18th at Holdgate
25th at Munslow 1st April at Broadstone

Holy Week Services

2nd April, Maundy Thursday, HC, 7:30pm at Tugford
3rd April, Good Friday, Sung Compline, 5:30pm at Culmington
4th April, Easter Eve, Vigil and HC for Easter, 7:30pm at Holdgate