

# THE CORVEDALE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026  
*The Corvedale's Community Magazine*



'Ice henge', Diddlebury  
- Kim Simm

# 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)



## 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](mailto:stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk)

## SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

**Cllr. Colin Stanford**

*Councillor, Corvedale Division*

[colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](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
Mr A Inglefield	The Mount, Aston Munslow	Aston Munslow
Ms N Fuller	Mill House, Bache Mill	Bache Mill
Mr P Turner	16 Beambridge, Munslow	Beambridge/Millichope
Mr D Hedgley / Mrs M Holt	Bouldon	Bouldon, Wynett's Bank
Mrs A Benbow	Thonglands Farm, Stanton Long	Broadstone, Rowe Lane, Hungerford
Mr I Hankinson	Broncroft, Broncroft	Broncroft, Baucott, Balaam's Heath, Tugford
Mrs N Brentnall	Holdgate Pool Farm, Brookhampton	Brookhampton
Mr M Jones	Yew Tree Cottage, Corfton Bache	Corfton/Corfton Bache
Mrs C Crowther	Corfton Lodge	Corfton, Pedlar's Rest
Mrs V Hardwick	Sparchford Cottage, Sparchford	Culmington 1
Mrs C Byng	The Meadow, Culmington	Culmington 2
Mrs S Morgan	1, The Moors, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 1
Mr N Kennedy	The Old Byre, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 2
Ms S Walters	Roseford, Bache Mill	Diddlebury 3, Middlehope
Mr B Sanders	The Orchard, Munslow	Munslow
Ms S Lewis	New House Farm, Peaton	Peaton, Peaton Strand
Ms C Morgan	Ludlow	Sutton
Mrs P Baynham	Garage Cottage, Westhope	Westhope

# COPY FOR MARCH 2026 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the March 2026 magazine, please send by email to [corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com) by **MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 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 FEBRUARY 2026** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: [corvedalenewsadvertising@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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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 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: -

### 1. Online:

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

### 2. By post:

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

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

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

With 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)

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# 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](mailto: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](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 12th February**



## CORVEDALE ARTISTS

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

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

**£8.00 per session**

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

For further information  
telephone 01299 832 603



## CORVEDALE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP



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

Please contact Katharine Wale on 07866 408 897 or [katharinewale59@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Wednesday 18th February**  
Venus Pool, 10am

### TALKS

First Wednesday of each month at Wistanstow Village Hall.

**Wednesday 18th February**  
Farming in Protected Landscapes - Lucy Grove

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

## 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* *Raffle*

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](mailto:diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com) and we'll send you all the details.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FEBRUARY 2025

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
Wed 4th	Quiz Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 5th	Coffee Morning	Munslow Parish Hall	10.30am - 12 noon
Sat 7th	Corvedale Garden Group Talk: Paul Green	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Sat 7th	Snowdrop Weekend	St Peter's, Stanton Lacy	2-4.30pm
Sat 7th	Edge Chamber Choir Concert: Northern Lights	St John's, Gravel Hill, Ludlow	7.30pm
Sat 7th	Skittles Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Sun 8th	Snowdrop Weekend	St Peter's, Stanton Lacy	2-4.30pm
Wed 11th	Munslow WI Meeting	Munslow Parish Hall	2pm
Wed 11th	Flicks in the Sticks: The Problem with People	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Thu 12th	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 12th	Hayton & District WI Meeting	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 12th	Pages Meadow Film: Common Ground	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	7pm
Sat 14th	Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm
Sun 15th	Tree Planting	Westhope College	10am-1pm
Mon 16th	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
Wed 18th	RSPB Walk	Venus Pool	10am
Wed 18th	RSPB Talk: Farming in Protected Landscapes, Lucy Grove	Wistanstow Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 19th	Coffee Morning	Munslow Parish Hall	10.30am - 12 noon
Thu 19th	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
Fri 20th	Pub Night with Rockfall	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
Sat 21st	Prize / Cash Bingo	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
Wed 25th	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 28th	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm

## MARCH 2026

Mon 2nd	Coffee, Cake and Cleaning!	St Peter's, Diddlebury	10-11.30am
Tue 3rd	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
Sat 7th	Jordan Brown	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
Wed 11th	Munslow WI Meeting	Munslow Parish Hall	2pm
Thu 12th	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 14th	Corvedale Garden Group	Brockamin	10am
Sat 14th	Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm
Mon 16th	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
Wed 18th	RSPB Talk: The Work of the Raptor Conservation Officer, Jack Ashton Booth	Wistanstow Village Hall	7.30pm
Thu 19th	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
Wed 25th	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 28th	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am-12.30pm

## 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:

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 Munslow - Page 9      Westhope - Page 9

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

# WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE

**The**EDGE CHAMBER CHOIR  
presents

## Northern Lights

music from Scandinavia

Saturday 7th February at 7.30pm  
St John's Church, Gravel Hill, Ludlow SY8 1QU

Music Director: Ros Crouch  
Piano: Catharine Boyd-Moss

**Tickets: £12 in advance**  
£15 on the door (Under 18 free)

available from members of the choir  
from [www.trybooking.com/uk/EUAB](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/EUAB)  
and on the door.

Including music from Denmark,  
Finland, Iceland and Sweden by  
Jean Sibelius, Edvard Grieg,  
Ola Gjeilo, Frode Fjellheim  
and Jaakko Mäntyjärvi.

Money raised will be split between  
St John's Church and the Edge  
Chamber Choir.

 [www.edgechamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.edgechamberchoir.org.uk)  
Find us on Facebook  
and Twitter X @edgechoir





## PAGE'S MEADOW TALKS & FILMS CLEE ST MARGARET VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
7.00pm

FILM SCREENING  
of  
*Common Ground* (2023)  
and discussion after the film  
100 mins

The film is a sequel to *Kiss the Ground* which we screened here in 2023. It looks at how some farmers from across America and from politically and culturally diverse backgrounds adopted regenerative farming practices with the intent to improve soil health. The documentary looks at the positive outcomes of regenerative farming while raising concerns about its methods and limitations.

All welcome.  
Suggested donation of £3.00 towards VH hire and other costs.  
Includes tea, coffee, local apple juice, and biscuits.

## CHURCH OF ST PETER STANTON LACY

# SNOWDROP WEEKEND

7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026  
From 2pm to 4.30pm

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

# Tree Planting

Sunday February 15  
10am - 1pm

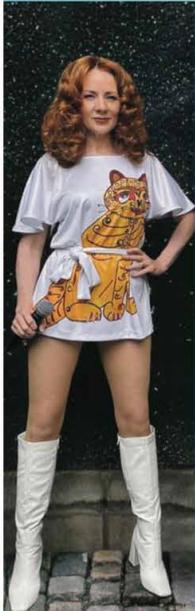
All are welcome,  
Plant a Tree for the future.

Free refreshments  
at the Campfire café

Parking at Westhope College  
SY7 9JL  
[Wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com](mailto:Wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com)



# The Abba Belles



back by  
popular demand  
at

**Culmington  
Village Hall**

**Saturday,  
31st January 2026**

**Singing & Dancing start  
8.30pm**

Bar opens at 7.30pm



*Their fully costumed and choreographed show will have you up dancing before you can say 'Mama Mia!' and their infectious energy will leave you wanting more!*

*Tickets: £14*

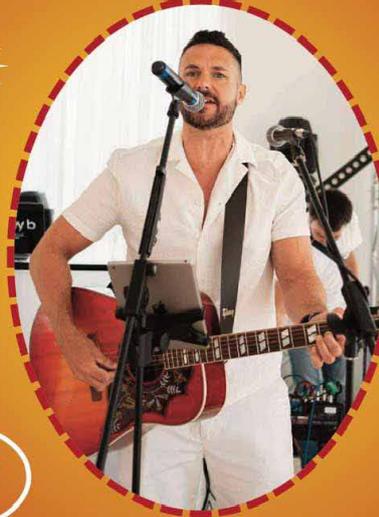
**Contact: Jo Mear: 07872 109936 or Jeff Williams: 01584 861849**

Based in the Midlands, the ABBA BELLES consist of professional vocalists Beth (Agnetha) and Ali (Anni-Frid) who are dedicated to bringing you a memorable evening with your favourite ABBA hits! A great night to enjoy with friends and family singing and dancing the night away

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

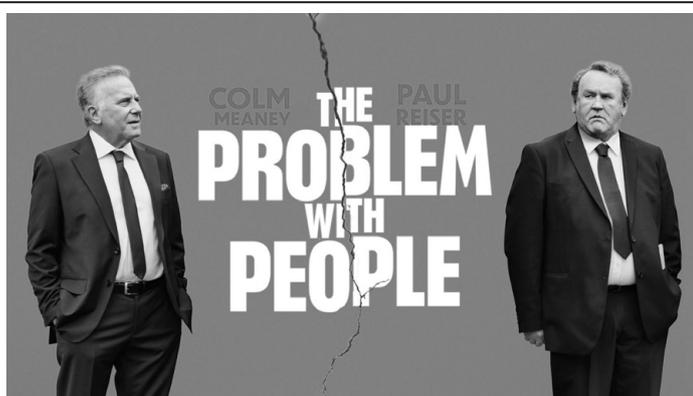
60s to  
present day  
music to  
suit  
everyone

Tickets:  
£10

**Culmington Village Hall  
Saturday, 7th March 2026**

Contact:

Jo Mear: 07872 109936 or Jeff Williams: 01584 861849



Two distant cousins who've never met - one in NYC, the other in the smallest town in Ireland - come together to put an end to a generations-long family feud. It doesn't go well! **The Problem With People**, set in beautifully lush Irish countryside, is a heartwarming comedy about family, world peace... and sheep.

**WEDNESDAY  
11 FEBRUARY**

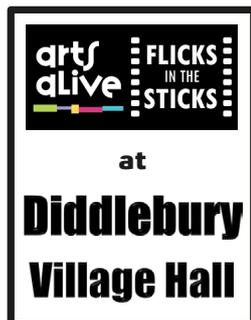
**Bar Opens: 19:00**

**Film starts: 19:30**

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

**Entry £5**

For more information contact [bookdvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookdvh@gmail.com) Or 07396730342



## PUB NIGHT @DVH



+



**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Live Music from our resident band

# Rockfall

Bar Stefano open at: 19:00

**Rockfall** playing at: 19:30

Have a few drinks with your friends & neighbours

Listen to Rockfall playing some great tunes...

Who knows - you might even feel like dancing!

Light snacks available

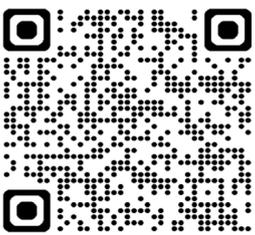
**Free admission - all welcome**

# DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

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

**COMING SOON!**  
**Feb 4th**  
**Quiz Night at DVH**  
**February 20th**  
**Pub Night @ DVH**  
 Full bar & great music  
 from **ROCKFALL!**  
 See advert for details

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



**FLICKS IN THE STICKS**

**The Problem with People**

**Wednesday 11th February**

	<b>Our first Quiz Night of the New Year</b> Space for 4 more teams but booking is essential.	Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 7 for 7.30 pm
	<b>CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP MEETING</b> For info, please contact Alison at <a href="mailto:Corvedale.Garden.Group@gmail.com">Corvedale.Garden.Group@gmail.com</a>	Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> February 9:30 – 12:00
	<b>The Corvedale Book Club</b> Meet to discuss their latest book choice Contact: <a href="mailto:Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com">Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com</a>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 19:00
	<b>The Problem With People</b> , set in beautifully lush Irish countryside, is a heartwarming comedy about family, world peace... and sheep.	Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb Film starts 19:30
	<b>PUB NIGHT @ DVH</b> Full bar + great music from our resident band <b>ROCKFALL</b> Come for a chat with neighbours & maybe dance the night away!	Fri. 20 <sup>th</sup> February Bar open 19:00 Music from 19:30
	<b>Mini Moos Baby &amp; Toddler Group – term time only</b> £2.50 per Family	Mondays 10.00 - 12.00
	<b>The Corvedale Choir</b> Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information.	Mondays 19.30 -21.30
	<b>The Blue Hills Choir</b> Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information.	Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00
	<b>Zumba</b> Contact Cat: <a href="mailto:zumbawithcat@outlook.com">zumbawithcat@outlook.com</a> /07817 448832	Tuesdays 18.00
	<b>Tai Chi</b> Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250275 <a href="mailto:hello@goldenthreadscic.com">hello@goldenthreadscic.com</a>	Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00
	<b>Pilates with Tina</b> Bookings only via <a href="mailto:pilateswithtina@outlook.com">pilateswithtina@outlook.com</a>	Thursdays 18:00 – 19:00
	<b>Physiotherapist-led Pilates.</b> Contact Beverley Chumber: <a href="mailto:beverleychumber@sky.com">beverleychumber@sky.com</a> 07967 814412	Fridays 9.15 - 10.15

# CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Coffee Morning

Every Monday, 10am - 11.30am

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

### Bridge Club

Every Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Richard Smith [richard.smith404@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.smith404@btinternet.com)

### Yoga

Every Wednesday, 6pm - 7.15pm

**Please Note: Currently Suspended**

Contact Jennifer Gennard 07968 817 643

## REMINDER JANUARY EVENT

### The Abba Belles

Saturday 31st January, from 7.30pm

The perfect way to cheer up the new year with dancing and singing starting at 8.30pm. Bar open 7.30pm. Tickets £14. Contact Jo Mear 07872 109 936 or Jeff Williams 01584 861 849.

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### Lunch Club

Thursday 19th February

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

## MARCH EVENTS

### JORDAN

Saturday 7th March

Back by popular demand – another chance to enjoy music and dancing with talented singer and musician. Details to follow.

### Lunch Club

Thursday 19th March

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

## ABDON VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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

Saturday 14th February, 10.30 - 12.30.

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

### Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th February, 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](mailto:abdon.villagehall@gmail.com), Margaret Buckingham: 01746 712 296 or visit our website for the booking form and details: [www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk](http://www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk)

# WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

We had a busy end to 2025 with an excellent turnout for our Christmas whist drive, and a full house for the Christmas prize bingo.

The second draw for our annual lottery took place with the first prize of £150 going to Rowan Cowley, second of £100 to Nigel Bate and third prize of £50 to Wendy Edwards. The 2026 lottery tickets are now on sale at £12. Please contact a member of the committee to obtain your ticket. One hundred tickets are available for the next lottery draw with the same prizes. The first draw will take place at an event in June which is still being organised, date to be confirmed.

### Dates Going Forward:

Weekly Whist Drives every Monday 7pm for 7.15 start.

Weekly Yoga with Sue Pugh, all enquiries 07432 349 933.

Prize/Cash Bingo **Saturday 21st February**. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Licensed cash bar. Refreshments available.

Community Lunch **Wednesday 1st April**. Home cooked two-course lunch with tea/coffee, £12 pp. Licensed cash bar. Booking essential - call Betty 07860 447 397 or Moira 07542 947 440.

We have a rummage sale planned for **Saturday 11th April**. All donations gratefully received. Collections can be arranged.

A date for your diary, our Harvest Supper, is **17th October**.

More events which we are awaiting confirmation of, will be in next month's news.

We are looking forward to another busy year. A warm welcome awaits everyone to our lovely village hall. Thank you everyone for your support in 2025!

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

# MUNSLOW PARISH HALL

We held two coffee mornings in December at which we raised £150 for Little Stars. This local charity provides essential items for mums and children who find themselves in need. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to the craft stall and donated so generously.

Coffee morning dates for 2026 are **Thursdays 5th and 19th February**. As always, we start at 10.30 am and finish at around 12 noon.

We look forward to seeing you all again and we wish you a Happy New Year.

Lesley Dobson

On behalf of the parish hall committee



# CHURCH NEWS

## LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Every evening in many of our cathedrals there is a service of Evensong: we also have it in the Corvedale churches at least twice a month and sometimes more. During Evensong we say or sing the Nunc Dimittis, words which also form part of the service of Compline. The Nunc Dimittis comes from words which St Luke attributes to Simeon at the time when Jesus was presented in the temple (Luke 2, 22-38) when he was about forty days old. The church remembers this on 2nd February, although this year we'll think about it on 1st February as it's the nearest Sunday. In the Nunc Dimittis, Simeon describes Jesus as the light to lighten the gentiles – and from that idea of bringing light comes the alternative name for the day: Candlemas.

We come across a similar idea in St John's gospel, when Jesus describes himself as the Light of the World (John 8, 12) and it's an idea we revisit every time we have a service of baptism, when we give the newly baptised person a candle, symbolising the light of Christ coming into their life.

We live in a world in which we are surrounded by much that we could describe as the darkness. The news is dominated by conflict and controversy, internationally and nearer to home. It can be easy to feel that the darkness is winning and to feel powerless to do anything to change that. Even so, it is up to us to bring the light in where we can. At the Easter Vigil each year, we start with the church in darkness and then light one candle and then increasingly more until the church is filled with light. One candle isn't enormously powerful, but lots of them together are. We may not feel that we can bring much light into the world as individuals, but, together with others, we can make a difference. How might we play our part in bringing light into the darkness of the world?

Rev'd John Beesley

## REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

7th December     Teddy Reuben Morris     Diddlebury

### WEDDING

19th December     Beth Howells & Rhys Horn     Diddlebury

### FUNERAL

11th December     David Aspinnall     Culmington

## FLOWERS & BRASSES

### FEBRUARY 2026

1st     Liz Jones                     8th     Liz Jones  
15th     Liz Jones                     22nd     Sharon Constable\*

\* Brasses only

## MUNSLow CHURCH

We are very much hoping that the re-wiring work at Munslow Church will be started during February. Hopefully, we can continue to have morning services in the church whilst the work is done – even if it's a bit chilly and dusty. At the time of writing whether we can have an Evensong in March is uncertain: if we have no lights, we'll have to cancel the service. We'll keep you posted as time goes on!

Rev'd John Beesley

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & HAMPER DRAW

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas tree festival and hamper draw in December. The hamper draw made £1,449 and donations at the Christmas tree festival raised an additional £269, making a total of £1,718, which is tremendous. Thank you to all who gave prizes, who sold raffle tickets - and bought them. Thanks too to those who worked so hard to make Diddlebury Church look lovely and who provided refreshments. The money raised goes to help us keep the seven churches in the Corvedale open and in good repair – costs which continue to increase!

Rev'd John Beesley

## ST PETER'S CHURCH, DIDDLEBURY, HOL(E)Y DUSTERS!

St Peter's church is a historic gem at the centre of our community. As a small village church, it is busy, not just with Sunday services, but also weddings, funerals, and christenings, Messy Church, school services, concerts, and fundraising events and is also a popular stop for walkers. We are fortunate, so many country churches do not have such an active life!

Our cleaning rota has depleted in the last few years leaving just two people to keep the church looking beautiful. They are looking for company...So on the first Monday of each month we are going to start a coffee, cake, and cleaning morning from 10 – 11.30 am starting on **Monday 2nd February**. Even if you just flick a duster for twenty minutes and have a coffee that would be a huge help!

You don't have to stay for all the time if you don't want to. But if you would like to help, find a friendly bunch of people, and enjoy a coffee and cake, you would be very welcome. You don't have to be a churchgoer or a believer! We would just like some help to keep St Peter's, our village church, beautiful and clean.

If you would like a chat ring Sharon on 07581 686 736 or just turn up on **2nd February**.

Sharon Constable

## ADVERTISING RATES 2026

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

## DON'T MISS

The message from the goats!

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# COME & SING MESSIAH

On Sunday 28th December, Diddlebury church was the venue for Corvedale concert's charity 'Come and Sing' Messiah. Four professional soloists, together with the Jarualda Quartet and guests, gathered to perform Handel's masterpiece, with the audience forming the chorus. Keeping everything together was the up-and-coming young conductor, Bedwyn Lloyd Phillips, who did an excellent job! The chorus numbered around a hundred, with many people having travelled some distance to take part (the record was Berkshire!), and the roof was suitably raised. Having completed the performance,

mulled wine and mince pies were enthusiastically consumed. The event raised one thousand and forty pounds in total, which was divided equally between the Corvedale parishes and Team Cleo, which raises funds for paediatric brain tumour research. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed in any way, especially those people who made dozens of mince pies and helped to serve mulled wine and clear away afterwards.

Ruth Henley

# CORVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were sorry to lose Mr Davda, our headteacher, at Christmas but unfortunately, like many teachers, he is leaving the profession. This term Mr Morris from Rushbury school has kindly agreed to step in for two days a week to help with management of the school whilst Mrs Rook will lead on the other three days. The school, however, remains in a strong position due to the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of the staff. We interviewed on 26th January for a new headteacher with a starting date set for 13th April 2026, the beginning of the summer term. Applications for the post closed on 5th January with an unexpectedly high number of seven applications being received. Four applicants had visited the school, and all submitted applications, a heartening endorsement of the school's attractiveness.

Parents' appreciation of this, and their confidence in the school, was yet again reflected in the strong and positive responses recorded in replies to the annual parental questionnaire at the December parents' evening. There is still an overwhelming number of parents (95-100%) who view what the school offers overall as either excellent or good. 100% of our parents would still recommend our school to other parents and feel that it is a safe and happy place to learn, endorsing that their children are making substantial progress, with 97.5% believing that good behaviour is promoted in the school. The full results can be seen on the school website.

The Governor Impact Statement for the period from November 2024 to November 2025 will also be posted on the school website. This gives a detailed breakdown of the work done by the governing body during this period. Our budget figures are on track, despite us investing heavily in improving

the flood defences around the nursery and across the school in general. We have also expanded the fencing around the nursery to cope with the increased footprint, which was enlarged to manage growing numbers. We have a nursery provision and staffing that we can be proud of.

A survey of pupil voices conducted by Governors was incredibly positive, with the children strongly advocating their views. The end of term Christmas carol concert and nativity plays were an enormous success and were well attended by parents. Much of our musical success is down to Mr Bennett and the funding received from the Millichope Foundation.

The governing body wishes to congratulate the staff and pupils on the further acknowledgement received in the press, for their outstanding performance in the 2023/24 Key Stage 2 results, being ranked as the 4th best performing primary school in Shropshire. Tables for the 2024/25 year are not yet available but, yet again, we had a pleasing set of results.

In sport, the school enjoyed a remarkable set of achievements in football, netball, and rounders in small school sports: Shropshire champions in all three areas! A big thanks must also go to the staff who have coached the children to these exacting standards, giving freely of their own time. In a similar vein, the Corvedale School Association run by the parents does sterling work, raising funds to underpin many school activities and the provision of equipment. We are, as Ofsted said, a real family school!

David Hedgley

Chair of governors on behalf of the Governing Body.



# MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

The choir completed its Christmas programme with a well-attended concert at the William Brookes School. This followed on from our engagements at the two care homes in the town and our regular appearance under the Corn Exchange at the Christmas Fayre.

We are now into a period where we are under less pressure from concerts so can concentrate on learning a new repertoire. We are aware that if you are a regular attendee at our concerts, you may enjoy some of our oft-performed pieces if there is a balance with new work. As we always attempt to work towards singing our repertoire 'off copy', this requires a fair bit of effort and time to get right, so this period in the year provides that for us.

Indeed, our first concert of 2026 will not take place until **Saturday 28th March** when we join forces with the male voice choirs from Shifnal, Newport and Hadley to sing in a grand charity concert on behalf of the Hope House Children's Hospice. This will take place in the large auditorium at Idsall School, Shifnal with details to follow next month for those of you who would like to support the event.

New members will always be made welcome in the choir. Please contact us beforehand or simply turn up on a **Tuesday evening** from 7.20pm at the William Brookes School in Much Wenlock.

Dick Langford, 01952 728 758, [rlangfordchoir@gmail.com](mailto:rlangfordchoir@gmail.com)

# CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP

Happy New Year and welcome to a new gardening year. It's a snowy January weekend but already bulbs are spiking through the soil, catkins are appearing and there are snowdrops, amelanchier and hellebores in flower in my garden. Hopeful signs ahead. The garden group has a fantastic new programme for 2026. See below or request a copy from the email address listed. You are welcome to attend one or more of the events on a 'pay as you go' basis but it is helpful to have numbers in advance for the hosts and catering. Please come along to Diddlebury village hall for our first talk of the season. Paul Green, an extremely knowledgeable and very entertaining speaker from Green Leaves Nursery, Newent [www.greenleavesnursery.com](http://www.greenleavesnursery.com), will be coming to talk about plants of the season and bring 'choice and rare Gloucestershire grown plants' to purchase. **Saturday 7th February** at 10am. Admission £10 cash to include coffee and assorted homemade cakes. Raffle, and prizes too. We look forward to seeing members new and long-standing there.

Corvedale Garden Group  
[corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com](mailto:corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com)

## 2026 PROGRAMME

All distances and times are from The Swan at Aston Munslow. New members welcome for one or more talks/visits. 10am start. Contact: [corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com](mailto:corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com)

**7th February - Paul Green - 'Plants of the Season.'**  
Diddlebury Village Hall • 3mins • 1.4 miles • £10

A very knowledgeable plantsman from Green Leaves Nursery, Newent. Will bring plants to sell.

**14th March - Margaret Stone**  
Brockamin WR2 4TQ • 71mins • 47 miles • £10

1.5 acre plantsman's garden, next to common land. Informal mixed borders, tree swings, wild areas. Many snowdrops; national collection of pulmonarias; symphoricarpon novae-angliae, hardy geraniums.

**11th April - Nick and Sue Helme**  
Wainfield, Ross On Wye HR9 6LI • 70mins • 44miles • £10

A pretty three acre, informal, wildlife, spring garden; roses, clematis, fruit trees, climbing plants. Waterfall, pond and plethora of spring bulbs, fruit walk, naturalised cowslips, unusual mature trees, sculptures.

**9th May - Madresfield Court**  
WR13 5AJ • 65mins • 45miles • £17.50

House and Garden tour with refreshments. Garden dates from 1865 around oak, lombardy poplar and cedar avenues. Meadows. 100m iris and peony walk. We have permission to view this historical moated stately home.

**13th June - Pat Jacobs, Rowena Colthurst**  
Pitchford Hall SY5 7DN • 36 mins 16miles £27.50

Conducted tour of renovated Elizabethan timber framed hall and Queen Victoria's tree house. Ghosts and priest hole. Walled garden, extensive woodland, arboretum, south lawn borders, Marches views. With refreshments in the orangery. 24 persons max.

**11th July - Gill and Cliff Plowes**  
Cuckoo Hall, Abermule Montgomery SY15 6LD  
45mins • 27miles • £11

1.5 acre garden, designed by retired nursery owners, RHS gold medalists. Island beds of grasses and shrubs, 3 ponds, streamside garden, herbaceous, colour coordinated borders; roses, moongate, potager.

**8th August - Growing Point, Credenhill, Hereford**  
HR4 7DX • 46mins • 32miles • £10

Demonstration garden made for and by people with physical, mental and health challenges. Horticultural therapy, well being and sensory stimulation, social stimulation and life changing experiences.

**12th September - Heather Willis**  
The Mount, Bull Lane, Bishops Castle SY9 5DA  
28mins • 16 miles • £10

1 acre evolving garden, great Long Mynd views framed by 2 beech trees, many roses and mixed shrubs. 24 year project.

**10th October - Bert and Tricia Bland**  
The Leasowes, Cound, (Turn off at Oakleys plant hire.)  
26mins • 16miles • £8

We visited this garden in spring a couple of years ago and many people asked to see these amazing trees in autumn. 700 unusual trees planted up a valley beyond the 10 acre formal gardens and 3 extensive ponds.

**14th November - Tamsin Westhorpe - 'Prepare for a perfect Spring'.**  
Diddlebury Village Hall • 3mins • 1.4 miles • £10

Local famous gardener, Tamsin Westhorpe, from Stocktonbury Gardens on the A49 was due to speak to us a couple of years ago, but had an accident with a ladder! Author, journalist and RHS judge. I'm delighted she has a slot for her entertaining and knowledgeable talk on how to start now to prepare for your shrubs, bulbs and perennials to look the best ever.

Don't miss it and visit the garden, monthly if you can - it has a great café too.

## BASSES WANTED!

The Edge Chamber Choir is looking for basses to join this highly regarded local choir of about twenty-four singers.

If you are an experienced singer who would be interested in auditioning, please contact the choir by emailing [ros.crouch@gmail.com](mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com).

We have exciting concerts coming up including the Rachmaninoff Vespers in May and a programme of American music in October. Northern Lights, our next concert, is on **7th February** at St John's church, Ludlow, featuring music from Scandinavia.

# CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

JANUARY 2026

We made the decision to cancel the face-to-face meeting at Diddlebury village hall due to adverse weather conditions and instead six of us chose to meet on Zoom. Excellent decision! Before Christmas we had decided not to read the planned book, (*Rodham* by Curtis Sittenfeld) as it was the third one about American Presidents and their wives we had read recently, and it was quite lengthy for the busy Christmas period. Instead, we decided on a sharing session where we each brought a poem, short story, or novel we had enjoyed. We had an entertaining and informative discussion. Ann H. started by sharing 'What we can know' by Ian McEwan. Set in 22nd century Britain, where the landscapes and society have been reshaped by environmental catastrophes and nuclear conflicts, it follows the academic Tom Metcalf as he looks for a poem, 'A corona for Vivian' which the poet, Francis Blunde read to his wife in 2014. The book asks us to consider how 'historical understanding changes in a world of overwhelming digital information, how art and creativity can adapt despite social and environmental upheaval.' [ref: NPR Book of the Day]. Ann enjoyed the immediacy of the book for the present time and the detective element to the script.

Elaine G. shared 'The land in Winter' by Andrew Miller, the 2025 Booker Prize winner. It describes two couples in the West Country, coping with the weather of 1962/63 in a rural setting, where each couple is expecting a baby. Elaine described it as 'gripping': the judges as 'a dazzling chronicle of the human heart.' Things begin to unravel after a Boxing Day party... The characters' lives are well depicted and their relationships with sympathy.

Cathy B. brought 'Muckle Fluggie' by Michael Pedersen. Set on a small island in the Shetlands, the father, and his nineteen-year-old son Ouse, are the sole residents. The father is the lighthouse keeper, the son a needlework artist, both mourning the mother and united by their stewardship of the island, the birds, and its inhabitants. A third character, a visiting writer from Edinburgh arrives and changes the dynamic. Here is a guest appearance by the ghost of Robert Louis Stevenson. The book is descriptive, poetic and at times dark but champions hope and love in times of darkness and despair.

Bob B. brought 'The Looking Glass War' by John le Carre and linked it to the recent popular series of The Night Manager. A classic spy tale about those pursued and those caught in the Cold War: their fears and divided loyalties, the pressures they faced, the dangers they encountered and the roles of governments in disentangling truth from fiction, wants from needs.

Penny C. contributed 'Raising Hare' by Chloe Dalton, which Good Reads describes as 'a moving and fascinating meditation on freedom, trust, loss and our relationships with the natural world.' This is a lockdown tale of the intermingling of lifestyles and co-dependencies, which is concise and compelling, the restricted/restrictive relationship having an impact on both lives.

I'd been reading 'Tin Man' by Sarah Winman, whose 'Still Life' we had shared previously in the book group and had enjoyed it. It's the story of a love triangle between Ellis Judd, a Cowley, car plant worker, his wife Annie, and his best friend Michael, none of whom ended up living the lives they had planned. Set in the height of the AIDS epidemic, it movingly charts their lives, loves and griefs, and their resilience, at times of shame, fear and personal disaster and distress.

So, a selection of future reads to try, to share, with my apologies for misrepresenting anyone's comments on 'their' book. It was a lively and very enjoyable conversation for a snowy evening.

Our next group read for **12th February** is 'Being Mortal' by Atul Gawande which raises questions about whether we over medicalise death. It is topical when the End-of-Life Bill is stuttering its way through the House of Lords. You may remember that Atul Gawande gave the Reith Lectures in 2014 on the future of medicine, why do doctors fail, and the idea of well-being. These can be tracked down on the BBC website or on YouTube. If you are interested in sharing and discussing books for this or other sessions, you would be welcome to join us.

Cath Burley  
cathburley@hotmail.com

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## NEWS FROM BROWN CLEE PPG

(PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP)

### Brown Clee PPG Is Keeping Busy Over The Winter

Last year ended with a very successful women-only discussion group on the menopause and post-menopausal health, led by the Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Lisa Davies. Lisa has a special interest in the topic and was able to give access to a wide range of resources. She created a really safe atmosphere where the women asked questions and shared problems and experiences. An enormous amount of learning took place, and we hope that we may be able to organise a similar event, one evening in March 2026. If you want to take part in this (numbers limited to twenty people), get in touch with [brownclepppg@gmail.com](mailto:brownclepppg@gmail.com).

The latest open meeting took place on Tuesday 20th January, with the new female partners and two interesting speakers. Report to follow in the next edition of the magazine.

Tina Ranson, [brownclepppg@gmail.com](mailto:brownclepppg@gmail.com)

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## WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB

The Clover Club enjoyed their 49th Christmas lunch and party at The Swan last December. Many thanks to Ben and his team for a lovely day. We start our 2026 programme on **1st April** when we will join the Westhope community lunch at 12.30 for 1 o'clock. Everyone very welcome,

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254



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FEBRUARY 2026

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# LUDLOW ROTARY SEEKS YOUNG LEADERS OF TOMORROW



Ludlow Rotary Club wants to hear from young people aged 16 or 17 who would like to be considered for this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Award scheme – RYLA for short.

Each year the club aims to sponsor one or two youngsters who might benefit from what is regarded as one of the most successful youth schemes run by Rotary. It offers a fun yet intensive training programme for young people, both boys and girls, aimed at nurturing and encouraging leadership and communication skills and giving participants a head start at an early age.



Over the course of the five-day residential camp held at Boreatton Park, Baschurch in north Shropshire, activities are arranged which encourage initiative and organisational skills and which help participants

to develop confidence and creative problem-solving methods. The youngsters work in teams and are supervised at all times by trained and qualified instructors. In line with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, outdoor activities are a crucial part of the experience. Debates and discussion are also encouraged.

In sponsoring the youngsters, Ludlow Rotary Club meets all fees and transports the candidates to and from the venue.

Kim Olyett, who co-ordinates the club's involvement in the programme, explained that the club's interest in the youngsters does not end there: *'Each year, after their return, the participants, together with their parents, are invited to a Rotary meeting to tell us about their experiences. Invariably it is enthusiastic. Over the years we have never failed to be impressed by how much the youngsters themselves recognise the positive impact and value that the programme has on their outlook as they prepare their CVs in support of their future educational and career choices.'*

Kim added *'I would be delighted to hear from potential applicants or their parents preferably by the end of February and would be happy to provide further information and an application form. The only stipulation is that applicants must be over 16 and under 18 when the programme takes place from 2nd to 7th August 2026. I can be contacted at [youthservices@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](mailto:youthservices@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk).'*

For further information please contact: Barry Forrester at [forrester.ludlow@gmail.com](mailto:forrester.ludlow@gmail.com) or 01584 878 872 / 07786 078 470.



## WILD ABOUT WESTHOPE

Wild about Westhope is celebrating the start of the new year with a grant of £2,290 awarded to them by Severn Trent Water. The grant will be used to help build a new volunteer woodland shelter, undertake tree works, and train volunteers in green wood craft construction.

Wild about Westhope trustee, Sue Corfield, said: *"The group was starting to outgrow its little makeshift shelter. The new shelter will function as a base for our fantastic volunteers, and we will be able to expand our activities to work with more local groups and to deliver training to a wider audience. We are all delighted to receive this grant."*

Wild about Westhope encourages the use of woodlands and other natural spaces to promote nature connection and improve people's wellbeing and is keen to ensure visitor safety. The project will deal with trees, near to the shelter, which require specialist work to make the site safe for the future.

The group runs regular volunteer days every Thursday and undertake a range of conservation management activities, green wood crafts and charcoal making. New volunteers are always welcome, no experience needed just plenty of enthusiasm!

The group also welcomes support from wildlife specialists or anyone willing to be trained and take a lead in specific wildlife species.

Please contact the group for further information: [wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com](mailto:wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com)

Richard Thomason, 07377 526 701



## SKITTLES NIGHT

If you fancy a fun night for people of all ages and abilities, come along to the skittles night at Diddlebury village hall on **Saturday 7th February**.

The action starts at 7pm and costs just £2 per person. Teas and refreshments will be available although you can bring your own tippie if you prefer something stronger!

The evening is typically genuine fun, and you don't have to be an expert to enjoy yourself. No need to pre-book either, just turn up on the night.

All proceeds aid the Corvedale Autumn Show.

Ross Stokes



# WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

## HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

As this is our first contribution to the magazine in 2026, we should like to wish all readers, magazine editors, and contributors a happy new year!

In December, branch members met to enjoy our annual celebration for Christmas supper at The Cliffe Hotel in Ludlow, with some members meeting again before Christmas at the Stanton Lacy village hall monthly market where some of our excellent bakers contribute cakes and refreshments. However, due to the chilly snowy weather experienced early in January, it was decided not to go ahead with our members-only evening meeting on the eighth and to look forward to our next meeting in February.

With no speaker in January to report on, we thought it apt to mention once more the wonderful contribution to the Ukrainian war effort local humanitarian, Mike Stevens, makes by collecting candle stubs and used tins to put together small, improvised heaters and stoves that provide essential light, warmth and cooking support for soldiers in the field there. He is always incredibly grateful for any contributions anyone can make by saving candles and used tins to enable him to continue his invaluable work. To facilitate this, St Peter's Church in Stanton Lacy has been designated as a drop-off point for any contributions, with many thanks in advance.

Our next meeting will be held as usual at Stanton Lacy village hall, Hayton's Bent, SY8 2AT at 7:30pm on **Thursday 12th February**. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange a speaker for this meeting.

WI branch meetings are open for any ladies who would like to come along to experience a meeting, enjoy listening to our speakers and interested in considering joining our branch. Meetings are held at on the second Thursday evening of most months. For further information about dates, the WI, and our branch, please feel free to contact one the committee members below. Watch this space in future magazines for details of forthcoming speakers.

Contacts for further information: Phyllis Steventon, President,

01584 823 436; Jennette Arnold OBE, Secretary, via email at: [haytonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk](mailto:haytonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk).

Louise Gough

## MUNSLOW WI

On Friday 19th December, ten members of Munslow WI met up at the Discovery Centre, Craven Arms for our Christmas afternoon tea party. What a wonderful spread they laid out for us. Delicious sandwiches, scones, mince pies, and a variety of lovely cakes. Alongside this came unlimited tea and coffee plus Christmas crackers. Doggy bags were also provided for those tasty morsels that we just could not find room for! Definitely to be recommended.

At our first meeting of the new year, the AGM, the president thanked everyone for their support, with particular thanks to the outgoing publicity secretary, treasurer, and secretary, all of whom have done excellent work for many years. The president also stood down from her role and was thanked for everything she has done.

As well as the usual business, we had a useful and interesting discussion about the National WI's decision to no longer allow membership to transgender women. The president had provided an excellent lemon drizzle cake which we enjoyed as we talked.

We have an interesting programme for the year ahead. Loraine Lawrence will talk about her holiday in Namibia on **11th February** at 2pm in Munslow parish hall, and on 11th March, at the same time and place, Beverley Harris will present '*Criminal Minds – born or made*'. Other subjects this year include the Triathlon, Sustainable Development in Egypt, and Nutrition and Wellness.

Please contact our Secretary, Loraine Lawrence, 01584 841 862 if you would like more information.

Wendy Brogden, [wendy@brogden.info](mailto:wendy@brogden.info)

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# CAROL SINGING BY THE DIDDLE BROOK

'Thank you for a magical evening down by the Diddle brook, a lovely way to start the Christmas celebrations' and 'It was a magical event which showed the true spirit of Christmas.' These were just two of the many lovely comments we received after our wonderful Carol Singing by the Diddle brook event which took place just before Christmas.

It truly was a magical community event enjoyed by almost sixty people who came to celebrate Christmas by singing together, with some just enjoying listening, beside the Diddle brook in our pretty village of Diddlebury in the Corvedale.

Huge thanks go to Dee (Charlotte) Bache for gathering an exceptionally large and extremely talented group of musicians who came from far and wide to play for us.

After some hearty singing from the gathered throng the band moved up to DVH to entertain us with more Christmas songs and carols while we all enjoyed mulled wine and the mince pies kindly baked by members of our community.

With so many requests to repeat this next year we have already pencilled it into the DVH diary for 2026 so watch this space.

Kim Simm



# MUSINGS ON LIFE

## ADVENTURE AFTER ADVENT



Between Advent and Christmas, Sue and I train-meandered around some European countries and our first stop was the wonderful Bruges. The splendid model in the picture was displayed in one of the city museums. It represents the town in 'early modern' times when the built

area was still confined within its original regular canal-girt oval enclosure with an agricultural hinterland.

This is not in any sense an isolated case: anything but. Britain and Europe have many examples of cities growing up, or arguably, more likely, being founded in oval spaces in late prehistoric times by Celtic peoples though they likely acquired the notion from predecessors. We used to be taught to think of 'Barbaric Celts' although we now know better. These were places of sophistication. These settlements could be on a vast scale, too, like Manching in Bavaria. Only those which have been authenticated archaeologically are in 'the canon,' and such origins are likely to be much more numerous and include what became modern cities like Canterbury and London.

For me, one fascinating example would not appear in any standard list but well deserves our attention: Bristol. This follows the pattern and yet does not. It is said to have been founded by the English Bishop Wulstan (of Worcester), famed for, remarkably, keeping his job after the regime change of 1066. So this planted town is much later than Celtic times, though there is the suggestion that it was a re-founding. In later medieval times a clear, regular, street plan based on a roughly oval structure was still visible, as seen on this contemporary plan.

So, are there common stories behind these founding concepts? Practicality must be one: the near circle is the most efficient way of enclosing land in a geometric (literally measuring the earth) pattern. Defence is surely another, for while the name 'Bruges' may have Norse origins, the vast work of water engineering may have been carried out to protect against Viking incursion. Economic progress is also much cited: the function of the new town was to organise and raise the whole economic temperature of the town and its rural fringe. We should not necessarily confuse this with the grey monolithic economics we have come to expect today, 'beholden to its phobia of shortages and addicted to constant growth.'\* Bruges is a case in point: although huge by the standards of the day it encouraged beguinages where people (usually women) lived communally and shared. They were not against private enterprise but promoted it and helped to develop and beatify the city. Not



only this but the city fed itself on the produce of its agricultural neighborhood. The modern longing for self-sufficient towns and cities is nothing new.

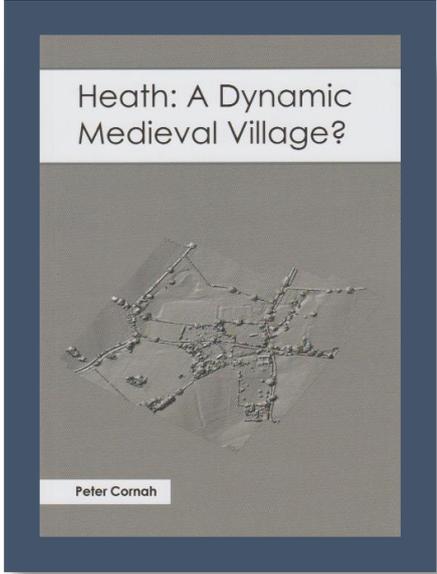
Perhaps the most interesting and radical impulse for the formation of these towns was that of a spiritual foundation and this has importance when we look both at Bristol and Canterbury. If you walk in central Bristol today do not expect to see Wulstan's street pattern laid out in form of a Celtic cross: that is long gone. The churches, however, have not. Of the original five within the wall, Holy Trinity (now Christ Church), All Saints, Peter and Mary le Port still exist, all sound and powerful dedications for what the Bishop hoped, no doubt, would be a little blob of heaven on earth.

At Canterbury we can discern a similar story. It is a late Roman town. Again, an elliptical shape of city wall with a central crossing of roads; a sacred geometry which happily jigsawed into prevailing ideas after Christian hegemony was established after 597AD.

Whilst, as at Bristol, some of the ancient churches have gone, it of course acquired a tremendously important cathedral built in the eastern quarter of the old city in closest proximity to Jerusalem. The church was said to have been built on a pre-existing Christian church from the Roman period. The High Altar is the highest point, an allusion to the crucifixion hill, and the crypts below are said to be modeled on the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. It is not at all subtle, but, there again, it is not supposed to be.

Peter Cornah  
[villageadamandeve.uk](http://villageadamandeve.uk)

\* *The Green Ages*, Annette Kehnel p.31.



Heath: A Dynamic Medieval Village?

Peter Cornah

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

# SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

If like me, you are relieved to see the worst of the recent storm behind us, power restored and roads and lanes reopened from fallen trees and cables, you may not want to hear too much about the woes of Shropshire Council's finances so I will provide something of a diversion before I get to that!

Everyone does Christmas differently, but here are some highlights that stood out for me.

**Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre** – despite wet weather people filled the streets and with over 140 stalls there really was something for everyone. There was much singing, dancing, church bells tolling with great street food and drinks.

**Carol singing around the Christmas tree in Church Stretton** - over two hundred people filled The Square and sang their hearts out. All arranged by Church Stretton Round Table.

**Tractor Rally through Church Stretton** - a real celebration of farming and Christmas – we counted seventy-four tractors all adorned with Christmas lights. Great to see, especially for the younger spectators. Some of us older ones necessarily adjourned to the local hostelry for refreshments.

**Christmas morning walk to Flounders Folly** to see the sunrise – bracing but stunning! Once the roast was safely in the oven, we made our traditional visit to The Swan at Aston Munslow for some Christmas cheer before lunch back at home.

**Boxing Day Meet in The Castle Square, Ludlow** - hundreds followed the long-standing tradition to see the Ludlow Hunt meet in the town square. It was wonderful to see so many families and folk from all walks of life lending their support.

## COUNCIL MATTERS

**Finances** - Shropshire Council is extremely disappointed with the government's recent funding decision. Their Fair Funding Policy (ironic) was supposed to make funding fairer for counties like Shropshire but instead it will leave us with less money than before and make it even harder to provide essential services. Shropshire is a sparsely populated county where delivering services such as waste collection, social care, and road maintenance costs more money, yet the funding doesn't reflect this. The removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant which stripped Shropshire of millions of pounds has worsened the shortfall further. Over the next three years Shropshire will lose fifteen million pounds in

funding. Consequently, the council will have to make tough decisions about what it can afford to provide and is expected to raise council tax by the maximum amount permitted by government.

**Weather, Refuse and Gritting** – Adverse weather, especially Storm Goretta, brought disruption to all the Corvedale and Apedale with some communities (including ours) cut off and without power. Our local farmers worked tirelessly to shift snow and fallen trees to get our lanes open once more and, as always, they step up in a crisis. Council gritting teams have been working flat out to keep main roads open and now we must be alert to flooding as the snow melts rapidly.

Some routine waste collections have been rescheduled, and garden waste collections have been paused temporarily to prioritise household waste. If your waste has been missed because of ice and snow, please leave it out for collection the following day. If you become aware of a grit bin that is empty, please notify Shropshire Council via FixMyStreet. If you can't do this, please ask a neighbour or friend to help.

**Devolution** – to answer questions about the council's ambitions to devolve responsibility for some services to town and parish councils, Chair of Cardington Parish Council, Clive Tonks, invited Councillor Wagner to address their meeting last week. What has become clear is that the council faces a perilous financial situation and the opportunity for local councils to provide some services such as pothole repair, grit bin filling and gully emptying needs to be discussed carefully by residents. It is also clear that the funding for these locally provided services would be borne by an increase in the precept (i.e. local parish tax). Legal, regulatory, and cost implications also need consideration. There is much to think about especially as recent experience across this area has made many people wonder whether they could be doing a better job of things themselves.

Please contact me on 07966 459 412 (mobile and WhatsApp) or email me at [colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk).

Dr Colin Stanford  
Shropshire Councillor  
for The Corvedale



## MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR FOR MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Munslow Parish Council has a vacancy for a councillor.

If you are interested in applying or would like to know more about what is involved, please contact the Clerk of the Council: Heather Coonick on 07817 607 355 or [munslowpc@gmail.com](mailto:munslowpc@gmail.com)

This notice is dated 18th December 2025.

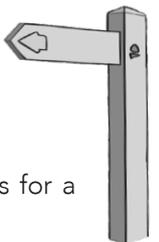
## CORVEDALE FOOTPATH & MAINTENANCE GROUP

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](mailto:katharinewale59@gmail.com) or on 07866 408 897.

Katharine Wale



# CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

## CANDLEMAS

Ten years ago a tradition was started by the executive panel of the Shropshire Churches Tourism Group. Unable to find a date in December for a pre-Christmas get-together, we decided to have a post-Christmas lunch at my house in January instead. That practice has continued, and we enjoyed our latest event last month. We do the whole thing: turkey and all the trimmings and crackers with paper hats. This year it was a week later than usual so Twelfth Night passed me by and the decorations, tree and crib stayed in place!

Now, this got me thinking about days gone by. Christmas decorations in medieval times meant lots of greenery from the land around. Holly and ivy and green fir not only looked nice, but they kept the bad spirits at bay too. In Church terms, Christmastide lasted until Candlemas (and still does!), celebrated forty days later on 2nd February, which is where we are now. Many a church will be celebrating one of the loveliest services in the religious calendar. And it happens in Christian countries all over the world. It recalls the time that Mary and Joseph took their newborn child to the Temple to present him to God, as was the custom.

The celebration dates back to the beginnings of Christianity but really took off around the year 380AD when people got involved with processions and taking their candles to be blessed. It was a time for joy, and, like many rituals, it was built on Pagan practice. The Romans marked the feast of Lupercalia in mid- February, in honour of Lupercus, the god of fertility and shepherds. It gradually became a feast of purification and the blessing of candles spread across Europe. In Germany, people decided that if the sun appeared on Candlemas day, a hedgehog would cast a shadow, making a second winter. This is the origin of the American festival of Groundhog Day, as many early settlers were German.

So this year I am sticking to the old ways and am keeping the trappings until Candlemas. Watering a tree is now part of a daily routine and visitors to the house love the snowman guarding the bathroom door. The crib, which I collected in my journalist days from Palestine, has kept well for forty days with new greenery, too. So I might have to repeat this next year! What do you think?

Anni Holden Calver,  
Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group  
(SCTG)

[www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk](http://www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk)  
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre and  
Churchyard Task Team cheerleader!  
[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)



# GREEN PAGE NEW YEAR QUIZ

## SOILS

1. What are the three main types of British soil?
2. Approximately how many micro-organisms are there in a teaspoon of soil?
3. What do you call the layers when you dig a deep hole through soil?

## WATER

4. What is meant by the freshwater cycle?
5. Which river in England is known as the Holy River?
6. What is the biggest fish ever caught in the River Severn with rod and line?

## PLANTS

7. What is thought to be the oldest tree in Shropshire?
8. What is another common name for the plant known as ransoms?
9. What plant was used in the textile industry for raising the nap in wool?

## INSECTS

10. What percentage of all the species in the world are insects?
11. What is the caterpillar food plant of the Red Admiral butterfly?
12. How many days on average does a bumblebee live for?

## BIRDS

13. What is the common name for the bird known as passer domesticus?
14. How many species of owl breed in Britain?
15. What is the collective noun for puffins?

## MAMMALS

16. When were grey squirrels introduced into Britain?
17. Approximately how many spines are there on an adult hedgehog?

## MAMMALS CONT..

18. What is considered to be the rarest native mammal to be found in Shropshire?

## GENERAL

19. If an animal is described as crepuscular, what does it mean?
20. Which three English counties are famous for producing Stilton cheese?
21. Which breed of dog is named after a Scottish island?
22. Which British beach is home to Durdle Door?
23. The name of the full moon in September?
24. What unusual weather event is statistically more likely at Easter than at Christmas in the UK?
25. What is the traditional English folk dance performed with bells and stick?

## ANSWERS

Find the answers on page 25

## SCORES

- 20 - 25 Amazing, what a wealth of knowledge you have.
- 15 - 20 Well done, your understanding of the natural world is impressive.
- 10 - 15 You have a good awareness of the natural world. Well done.
- 5 - 10 You have learnt a lot already about the natural world, isn't it interesting finding out more?
- 1 - 5 Brilliant, you gave it a go. Hope you have enjoyed learning more. Stay inspired.

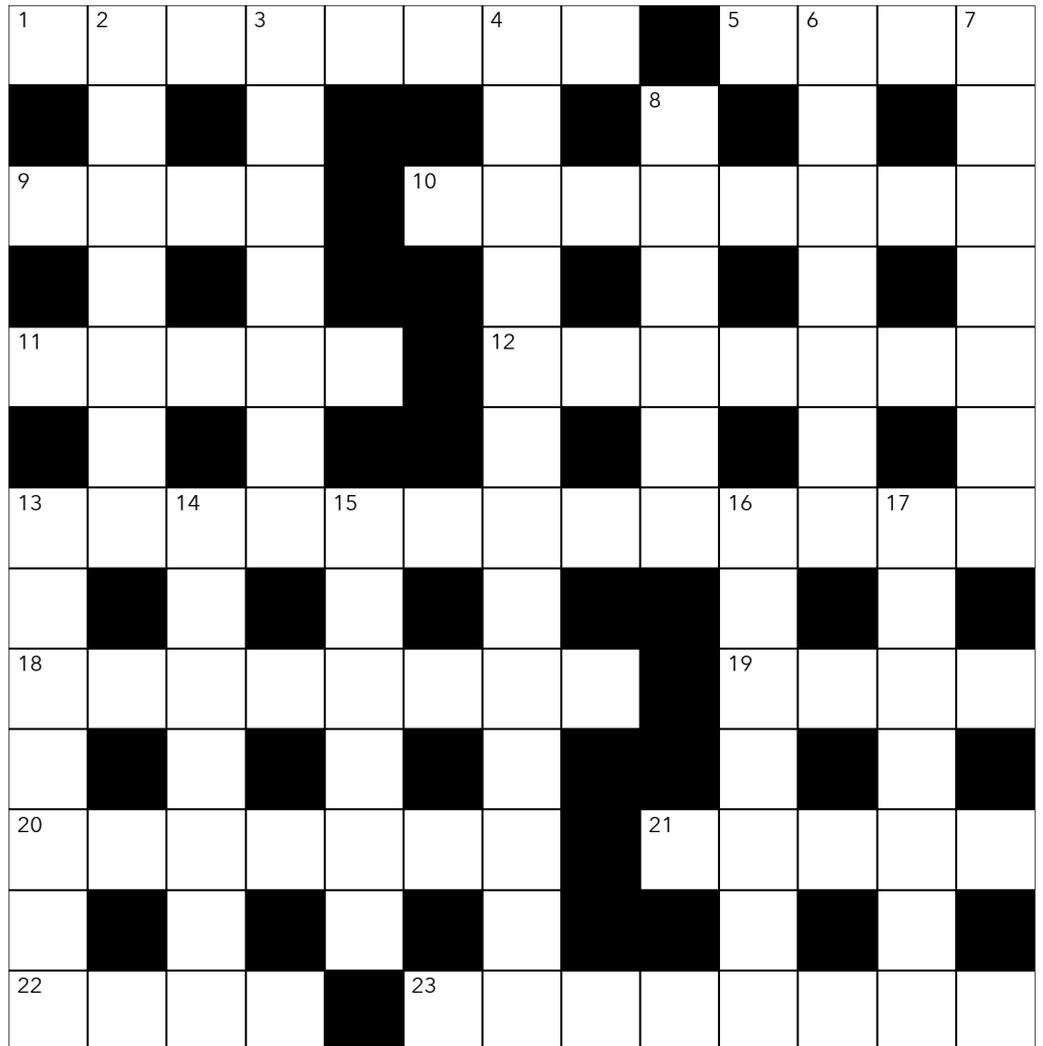
# FEBRUARY CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY ARTEMONAS

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

## ACROSS

- 1) Game to set kilts moving (8)
- 5) Make a questionnaire (4)
- 9) After gas emission mother is unconscious (4)
- 10) Marriage vow subsequently given by admirer (8)
- 11) What comes of spinning a yarn (5)
- 12) Poorly from a car accident? (3,4)
- 13) An experiment when IRA land is surrounded by fear (5,3,5)
- 18) Satisfies silly sausages (8)
- 19) A smack on the wrist (4)
- 20) Writer backs tune by Holst (7)
- 21) The pride of British Rugby? (5)
- 22) Gallop on the Isle of Wight, say (4)
- 23) London street where editor was left behind (8)



## DOWN

- 2) Critic bangs on the door (7)
- 3) Old Russian artisan in trouble (7)
- 4) Stamina for exam shows what we can do (9,4)
- 6) Exit to the open air? (7)
- 7) I join Silas at sea (7)
- 8) Look for German spear (6)
- 13) He prepares the horse and shoe (7)
- 14) Popular drink I had lacks flavour (7)
- 15) The French fever for the Premiership perhaps (6)
- 16) Disturbance right at start of sale after article is removed (7)
- 17) Illegal action connected with East Anglian Anglican church (7)



# THE TALLY HO INN BOULDON



## FOOD TIMES

WED 6-8PM

THUR 12-2, 6-8PM

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

SUNDAY 12-4PM

WWW.THETALLYHO.CO.UK

01584 841830

## JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS

VALENTINES ITALIAN FEAST - 14<sup>TH</sup> FEB

CORVEDALE SUPPER CLUB - 26<sup>TH</sup> FEB

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DARTS - EVERY WED IN FEB

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH - 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 12-4PM

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DARTS EVERY WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY

JOIN US FOR KNOCKOUT DARTS

& A PINT £5

ADD A CHIP BUTTY FOR £5

BOOKING ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

## CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6TH JAN 2026

**Present:** Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mrs J Mear, and Mrs J Williams.

**In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

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

**Apologies For Absence:** Cllrs Mr A Lewis (sickness), Ms J Watts (work). Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council). Cllr Mear had sent apologies that she would be late for the meeting.

**Report from Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council):** Cllr Stanford had sent a brief report: He had met with Mr Pike and Mr Bingham to look at the new Culmington development which had caused concerns regarding the route of the bridleway and public footpath.

**Public Involvement Session:** No members of the public were present.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th November 2025 were approved and were signed by the chair.

**Highways:** There had been no response from the Shropshire Council traffic engineer re the B4368 and B4365. The Clerk would contact the engineer again.

Cllr Caine reported that there was a fault with the Vehicle Activated Sign and he was waiting for instructions from the company who had taken over TWM, FTS (Fewzed Transport Solutions). Once they had returned the unit they would quote for repairs. FTS had informed the council that the guarantee on the other Vehicle Activated Sign was no longer valid as they had not assumed liability of products supplied by TWM, which has ceased trading.

Cllr Mear joined the meeting.

**Reports from Members:** *Village Hall Committee* – Cllr Mear reported that the work on the drainage for the hall had begun. There were plenty of events planned for the coming months.

**Flood Action Group** – Cllr Disley said the group had held a brief meeting on 2nd December. There had been work on 'Slow the Flow' in the Seifton Batch and Westhope areas. A resident in Seifton Batch had complimented Mr D Lewis (environmental maintenance contractor) on his work keeping the drains clear. Videos/photographs of flooding incidents would be very helpful for the group to review the effectiveness of Slow the Flow and how flooding was impacting

the parish.

*South Shropshire Area Committee* – Cllr Byng had no report.

**Planning:** 25/03977/FUL Upper Norton Farm Clubhouse, Onibury, SY7 9LT Formation of playground – it was decided that it was not necessary to call an extraordinary meeting to review this application and no comment was made. Application withdrawn by applicant – noted.

**Policy Reviews:** It was agreed to adopt the policies on Biodiversity, Grant Awarding and General Data Protection Regulations Policies and Documents.

**Ordinary Meetings:** It was resolved that ceasing the holding of meetings in April would help to reduce the clerk's workload: the end of year accounts and Audit and Annual Governance and Accountability Return are dealt with at the May and June meetings. Meetings will now be held in January, February, March, May, June, July, September, October and November.

**Finance:** It was agreed that Cllr Seabrook should become a full and online signatory.

As of 15th December the account held £9,616.60 with expenditure of £6,888.42. The expenditure was within budget with an adjusted forecast expenditure of £1,535.05. The report was accepted and Cllr Disley signed the bank reconciliation.

**Budget and Precept for 2026-2027:** Two budgets were considered: the first retaining the clerks' hours at the present level of 5 hours per week and the second with a reduction to 4.5 hours per week. There had been an increase in administrative costs due to the requirement for the council to own the domain of a generic council email address and the introduction of banking fees. There was acknowledgement that the council had tried to keep previous years' precepts as low as possible in recognition of residents' cost of living increases, but this was no longer possible due to increasing costs for the council.

The budget was adopted with a reduction in the clerks' hours from 1st April 2026 to 4.5 hours per week. The precept will be £5,489 which is an increase of 6.73% on the previous year.

Payments were authorised to: D Lewis (environmental maintenance) invoice 900 £152.00 and invoice 916 £133.00.

**Next meeting: This will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026**

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO - Tel: 07817 607 355  
clerk@culmington-pc.gov.uk | culmington-pc.gov.uk  
Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

## ABDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

# DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllr D Hedgley (Chairman), Cllrs T O'Boyle, R Povall, A Rattu, S Povall, C Martyn, A Watson, R Morgan and W Watts.

**In Attendance:** The Clerk, Corvedale Cllr Colin Stanford.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd October 2025 were approved and two matters arising were dealt with.

**Reports:** *The Chairman* reported on difficulties Severn Trent Water had caused digging up the road in Peaton, and on problems at The Moors in Diddlebury caused by a missing signpost. He had responded to a request for DPC to provide and decorate a Christmas tree for the church: he would be decorating it on 11th December and requested assistance.

*Corvedale Cllr Stanford* reported that SC were still trying to negotiate a £60m loan from the government to plug their budget deficit – 87% of SC's budget had been spent on Adult and Child Social Care. Councillors asked Cllr Stanford how this figure could be reduced: the response was that those services were statutory requirements, so SC is obligated to provide them until the government legislates otherwise. He had investigated the temporary traffic lights in Beambridge which had caused traffic delays on the B4368. He had noted many potholes had been filled. He thanked Cllr Martyn for his work on the Flood Action Group and hoped work would continue on leaky dams to reduce flooding in Diddlebury parish.

*Cllr Martyn (Flood Action Group)* reported that Storm Claudia had caused some over-road flooding: a visual inspection of the flood gauge showed a peak of 900mm. He had received no reports of flooding in the Bouldon area. The next FAG meeting was on 8th January 2026, and he welcomes details from residents of any flood issues to be considered at the meeting.

*Cllr Rattu (Diddlebury Village Hall)* reported on successful events at DVH and also on the decisions the DVH committee had taken about the provision and use of notice boards.

**Highways and Environmental Matters:** Land Registry documents sent to DPC

relating to the parking issue at Jack's Cottage, Bache Mill were considered. Cllr Rattu has spoken to SC Highways engineers about the continued flooding on the bridge on the B4368, to be told there was no money available to fix the problem. Cllr Watson said she had seen two SC staff inspecting the dead and dying trees on the bridge.

**Communications and Correspondence:** Eleven items were considered and noted. A complaint about the height of the fencing around the Sun Inn was noted and would be referred to SC.

**Finance Report for November/part December 2025:** Cheques totalling £1,309.84 were approved for payment, leaving DPC with funds of £17,520.77. Cllr O'Boyle approved the cash book/bank statement reconciliation.

**Consideration of first draft of 2026/2027 Precept Budget:** The draft was considered and would be finalised and adopted at the January 2026 meeting.

**2025/2026 Audit Preparation:** Mrs Jennie Griffiths was appointed as DPC's auditor for the 2025/2026 audit. DPC's Code of Conduct was reviewed and approved. DPC's Reserves Policy was considered, and it was agreed that £4,250 should be transferred to a deposit account: the Clerk would explore opening an account with HSBC. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have to be updated and were deferred to another meeting.

**Any Other Business:** Cllr Watts' suggestion that profiles and photographs of all councillors should be displayed on the website was deferred whilst a change of website provider was under consideration.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 28th January 2026 commencing at 7.30pm at Diddlebury 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](http://www.diddleburyparish.co.uk) or obtained from the Clerk:*

*Mrs J de Russett at No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH.  
Email [diddleburypc@outlook.com](mailto:diddleburypc@outlook.com) Tel: 01547 519 282*

# MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2025

**Members Present:** Cllrs Nigel Dobson (temporary chair), Richard Arnold, Barbara Archer, Val Fotheringham, Ed Povey and Stuart Rowbotham.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

**Chairperson:** Cllr Dobson remained as temporary chair.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Meeson.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Public Forum:** Three members of the public were in attendance. One expressed their thanks to Cllr Dobson and the council for helping to clarify the issues surrounding the electricity supply to Aston Hall and the discharge of conditions for Aston Hall. The other two were members of the Nature Recovery Group and explained the reasons behind the application to the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund. Council resolved to discuss this item next.

**Application to Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund:** The council would make an application for a Wildlife Box Scheme on behalf of the Working Group and include a contribution of £300 toward this when setting the budget for 2026-27.

**Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2025 were approved and signed by the chair.

**Reports: Shropshire Council** – Cllr Stanford reported that the council finances continued to be a great concern and there was a forecast overspend of £70 million for this financial year. The council was still negotiating a loan from the government of £70 million which included a financial plan to show sustainability for the coming three years. Many savings had been made in recent years so it was unclear where further savings would come from. If the government did not agree the loan the council would have to declare a Section 114 notice, meaning its expenditure was more than its income and central government would become involved in helping the council to balance its budget. The overspend was mainly in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and transport (mainly for Special Educational Needs children). Cllr Stanford had not received a reply from the portfolio holder for highways regarding the issues on the B4368 and had asked for a meeting with the traffic engineer but again had not received a response. Shropshire highways reported that 30,000 potholes had been filled over the last 12 months, but they were only repairing those deeper than 40mm as they were seen as a safety risk. He was not aware of any outcome of parishes signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Neighbourhood and Family hubs were being set up – one was based in Ludlow Library. He was a member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and involved in a Task and Finish Group considering how health could be included in all council decision making processes. He was also a member of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership. The National Trust was leading an application to the Lottery Fund for the Shropshire Hills. Cllr Arnold asked whether there was any progress on the food waste collections by Shropshire Council: Cllr Stanford agreed to investigate whether there was a start date.

**Munslow Village Hall** – Cllr Dobson said there would be two coffee mornings

before Christmas and sales would raise funds for Tiny Stars Charity. Everyone was welcome to attend.

**Beambridge/B4368 Junction:** Work to the damaged building was almost complete but the traffic lights were still in place.

**Electricity cable to the solar panels at Aston Hall:** The agenda item was incorrect: the electricity supply was to Aston Hall, not the solar panels. National Grid had decided to route the supply along the B4368 rather than through Aston Munslow village.

**Discharge of conditions at Aston Hall:** The owner of Aston Hall had provided the council with details of the external lighting plan which the council had distributed to interested members of the public. Shropshire council had granted permission for the discharge of conditions.

**New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor:** The contractor had reported that the work needed on the brook in Aston Munslow would have to be done by Shropshire council. He would be asked to clear the drains near the war memorial in Munslow.

**Information Provided by The Hills Ford Stages 2026:** The council noted the plans and had no issues at this point.

**Management of Assets:** The notice board in Aston Munslow would be removed and repaired by Cllr Dobson. A replacement notice board for Broadstone would be considered at the next meeting.

The council would like to thank Mr Dave Lewis for his work on the bus shelter.

**Finance:** As of 17th November 2025 expenditure for the current financial year was £4,384.65 with a slight overspend on insurance and the defibrillator. On 27th November 2025 the current account held £3,473.42 and on 10th November 2025 the savings account held £9,315.54. The report and reconciliation was accepted and signed by Cllr Arnold.

**Budget and Precept for 2026-27:** The council considered several areas where savings could be made and added a new budget heading for Nature Recovery. Last year's precept had seen a reduction on the previous year in recognition of the financial pressures on households, but the council forecast that there would be a large expenditure on managing the ash tree in the Munslow Burial Ground in the coming financial year which meant that the precept would need to increase. It was considered that this was necessary from a safety perspective. It was agreed to adopt the adjusted budget of £8,707, to include £300 for Nature Recovery and a reduction in the clerks' hours to 4.5 per week from 1st April 2026. The precept was set at £7,373 for 2026-2027.

**Payments were authorised to:** D Lewis (environmental maintenance) Inv 895 £173.30, D Lewis (asset maintenance) Inv 894 £71.25, H Coonick and HMRC, Salary Oct – Dec £965.97, travel expenses £27.90, reimbursement for scanning, postage and inks £42.47; B Archer reimbursement for photographs for ID1 Form £12.50.

**Item for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 4th February 2026 at Munslow Village Hall:** Notice boards.

Minutes and Agendas are available on [www.munslow-pc.gov.uk](http://www.munslow-pc.gov.uk) or from the Clerk on [munslowpc@gmail.com](mailto:munslowpc@gmail.com) or 07817 607 355.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE GOATS AT SHEPHERD'S BARN, CORFTON

(via Kate and Sam Davies)



A big thank you from the goats at Shepherd's Barn to all those who donated their Christmas trees to us.



## GARDEN TEAM

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

Email us: [team@humblebeegardeners.co.uk](mailto:team@humblebeegardeners.co.uk)

## LANDSCAPE TEAM

*Landscape Design - Soft & Hard Landscaping - Patios, Paving & Walling  
Water & Stone Features - Bespoke Woodworking  
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 18) Assuages 19) Cuff 20) Neptune 21) Lions 22) Ride 23) Stranded
- DOWN:** 2) Knocker 3) Tsarina 4) Endurance test 6) Outdoor 7) Mariner 8) Glance 13) Trainer  
 14) Insipid 15) League 16) Ruction 17) Offence;

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1. Podzol, brown earth and gley
2. 4 billion
3. Soil horizon or profile
4. The continuous movement of water on above and below the surface of the earth
5. River Thames
6. A sturgeon weighing 414lbs in 1903
7. The yew in Norbury churchyard thought to be around 2700 years old
8. Wild garlic
9. Teasel
10. 80%
11. Nettle
12. 28 days
13. House sparrow
14. Five: barn, tawny, little, long eared and short eared
15. A circus
16. 1876 at Henbury Hall in Cheshire
17. 7,000
18. Pine marten
19. An animal active during the twilight hours
20. Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire
21. Skye terrier
22. Lulworth Cove, Dorset
23. Harvest
24. Snowfall
25. Morris dancing



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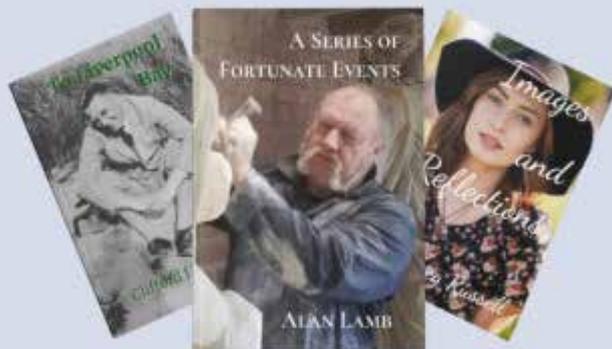
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0800 6783 105 (outside normal hours)

Power Cuts call 105

#### Water Supply Problems

Severn Trent Water, 0800 783 4444

#### County Flood Management

Shropshire Council, 0345 678 9006,

flood@shropshire.gov.uk

#### Diddlebury Parish Flood

##### Action Group

Clive Martyn, 07803 184 778,

happy4clive@gmail.com

#### Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit

Community Hospital, 01584 874297

#### Shropdoc (out of hours service)

Doctors Co-operative, 111

#### Station Drive Doctors' Surgery

01584 872461

#### Portcullis Doctors' Surgery

01584 872939

#### Craven Arms Medical Practice

01588 672309

#### Police (non-emergency)

PC 23440 Henry King-Salter

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#### 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 Ruset, 01547 519282,

diddleburypc@outlook.com

#### Munslow Parish Council Clerk

Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,

munslowpc@gmail.com

#### Diddlebury Parish Website

www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

#### Corvedale Google Group

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

### VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

#### Abdon Village Hall

Margaret Buckingham, 01746 712296,

www.abdonandheathparish.org,

abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

#### Munslow Parish Hall

Frances Sutton, 01584 841654

Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

#### Culmington Village Hall

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#### Diddlebury Church Room

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jan\_kennedy@icloud.com

#### Westhope Village Hall

Betty Manley, 07860 447397,

mbm3049@icloud.com

### CLUBS & SOCIETIES

#### Abdon Wildlife Group

Miles Leach, 07810 810400,

milesleach712@gmail.com

#### Blue Hills Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547385,

ros.crouch@gmail.com

#### Corvedale Artists

Juliet Hole, 01299 832603

Ann Hankinson, 01584 841460

#### Corvedale Book Group

corvedale.book.group@gmail.com

#### Corvedale Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547 385,

ros.crouch@gmail.com

#### Corvedale & District Autumn Show

John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

#### Corvedale Garden Group

corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com

#### Corvedale Footpath

##### Maintenance Group

Katharine Wale, 07866 408 897,

katharinewale59@gmail.com

#### Community Environmental Group

Rebecca Bull,

peter17bull@btinternet.com

#### Westhope Clover Club

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

#### Diddlebury & Westhope WI

Joy Williams, 01584 861849

f\_j\_williams@btinternet.com

#### Munslow WI

Wendy Brogden, 01584 841 649,

wendy@brogden.info

#### Hayton & District WI

Phyllis Steventon, 01584 823 436





# THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

## CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2026

	<b>1st February</b> Presentation of Christ in the Temple	<b>8th February</b> 2nd Sunday before Lent	<b>15th February</b> Sunday next before Lent	<b>22nd February</b> Lent 1	<b>1st March</b> Lent 2
<b>Abdon</b>		9:45 HC		6pm EP	
<b>Broadstone</b>					
<b>Culmington</b>	11:15 HC		6pm Songs of Praise	8:30 HC (BCP)	11:15 HC
<b>Diddlebury</b>	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS	9:45 HC
<b>Holdgate</b>	8:30 HC				8:30 HC
<b>Munslow</b>	6pm EP	11:15 HC		9:45 HC	To Be Confirmed
<b>Tugford</b>			9:45 HC		

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

**Wednesday 18th February** – Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion, 7:30pm at Culmington

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

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