

HOPE and SHELVE CHURCH NEWS

Hope and Shelve churches are now administered by one Parochial Church Council. The **Annual Parish Council Meeting** will be held at Hope Village Hall, (change of previously advertised venue), on Monday 17 April starting at 7.00pm. This is a public meeting to which all are welcome.

Shelve are still looking for someone to take on the role of Church Warden and anyone who may be interested should contact Rev. Greg Smith.

House for Duty Priest – no further news to report at present.

Fifth Sunday Group Service - Holy Trinity Hope are pleased to have been asked to host this
Joint service of Holy Communion on Sunday 29 April starting at 10.30 am. We look forward to welcoming you but would remind you that parking at Hope is limited so if you are able to share transport please do. Additional parking should be available at Hope Village Hall.

Condolences – We send our love and prayers to Barbara Venables, our church warden, on the loss of her husband Brian, our treasurer. May they both know the peace of our Lord.

April Services - All at 9.00am Sundays
2nd & 16th Shelve - Holy Communion
9th & 23rd Hope - Holy Communion



We look forward to welcoming you to one of our services in the near future and sharing coffee afterwards in our lovely churches!
All enquiries about Hope and Shelve Churches should be made to Rev. Greg Smith on 07902 7994653 or rectorpontstip@gmail.com

New Class For 2023 Hope Show

Although the Hope Show is some months away, it has been decided to include a category for the tallest Sunflower (thanks Doug) and this is advance warning so that you can all get the seeds planted. They will be judged in categories for children and adults and we now have to work out the practicalities of measuring 20foot blooms and how they might be transported, intact, to Hope Village Hall.

Of course there will be the other usual categories for submissions so you might want to start preparing your entries to leave yourself plenty of time to present your masterpiece.

Good sewing, growing, making and snapping etc !

FREE HEALTH CHECKS

The Community Wellbeing Outreach Team from Shropshire Council offer health checks including Blood Pressure readings at the Hope Village Hall Community Café with an opportunity to discuss other wellbeing matters confidentially.

March 22nd
May 10th
July 12th
September 13th
November 15th

MINSTERLEY & DISTRICT 'DIAMOND' EISTEDDFOD 2023

The Minsterley and District Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all the competitors who entered the various classes at the event on Saturday, 18 March 2023. We congratulate the winners and hope that both entrants and visitors enjoyed the occasion and gained pleasure from the performances.
The Committee would also like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the many friends who help out in various ways during the Festival weekend as it would be impossible to stage the event without this support. ”

Sabrina Mobile Library

The mobile library will be at Hope Village Hall on the following alternate Wednesdays, 1pm – 1.50pm:

April 5th and 19th

Visits are subject to change due to inclement weather, vehicle breakdown etc. For more information, enquiries, or to renew items please visit: www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries

email: libraries@shropshire.gov.uk Phone: 01743 255024

NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

We have been seeing frog spawn on the hill since February, and with the warm weather it was probably earlier than usual. The frogs obviously didn't see the sudden dump of snow coming in March.



Common frogs hibernate through the winter, usually on land underneath rotting logs or in a pile of stones, although sometimes they can lie dormant at the bottom of ponds. Being in a pond would seem the ideal place, particularly as that's where they need to be to spawn. However, it is a risky strategy, as there needs to be enough oxygen in the water for them to absorb through their skin and sometimes toxic gases given off by decomposing vegetation are trapped by surface ice causing frogs in the pond to die.

Common frogs breed in ponds and ditches during the spring but spend much of the rest of the year feeding in damp habitats such as woodland, gardens, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. They can be found all over the hill, even though there aren't many ponds for them to spawn in. Once you do discover a pond it is usually rammed full of their eggs lain in big clumps. This is very different from the toad that lays ribbons of spawn.

There are only two native frogs and two native toads in the UK and only the common frog and common toad are likely to be found in Shropshire. They can be distinguished in a variety of ways, the most obvious one is that frogs generally jump, having longer legs designed for swimming, whereas toads with their shorter stockier legs tend to walk in a more leisurely way. Common frogs can vary in colour but have a smooth wet skin and do not generally stray from moist conditions. Toads on the other hand have a warty dry skin and lack the dark 'mask' behind the eye, seen on the frog.

At this time of year, they head to their spawning pools where they pair up so that the males can fertilise the eggs as they are produced by the female. Incredibly, a female frog can lay as many as 4000 eggs in one spring. Once hatched the tadpoles take about 16 weeks to turn into little froglets that are ready to venture onto land.

Although frogs themselves are carnivorous, eating a variety of invertebrates they also make attractive meals for a vast range of wildlife, as they are vulnerable to predators on the ground, underwater and from above. Predators of frogs include newts, dragonfly larvae, small mammals, lizards and snakes, otters and birds such as herons.

The next two events on the hill are:

- The miners cottages at Blakemoorgate will be open on Easter Sunday from 11am to 3pm, so do drop in (no charge).
- We are also taking bookings for our Dawn Chorus guided walk by local naturalist Dave Pearce. Sunday 7th May 6am-8.30am with optional breakfast at the pub. To book email stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk (Cost £7.50, not including breakfast).

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak.

ROMAN BRITAIN (continued from March)

In terms of religious belief, many wealthy British families began to worship the Roman gods. Christianity came to Britain but initially the progress was slow and in most towns worship of the Celtic Gods continued alongside worship of the Roman Gods. In the early fourth century the Emperor Constantine became a Christian. Despite this very few traces of Christian worship have been found, mosaics and wall paintings being the evidence here. After 392 A.D. Christianity was the official Religion of the Roman Empire but despite all of this, however, Pagan beliefs continued to be held.

Eventually the Roman Legions were to leave Britain. Tribes along the Rivers Rhine and Danube were putting huge pressure on the Empire and on the east coast of Britain Saxon Tribes were making regular attacks. Defences were put up, but the pressure continued; The Empire grew weaker and it became impossible to defend Britain. In 410 A.D. Britons were told that they would have to defend themselves. T
he Angles, Saxons and Jutes were interested in the farmlands of Southern Britain although these lands were very different from the cold windswept lands from which they came.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of the Romans was Latin. This language underpins all modern European languages. The following are examples of Latin words and it is interesting to consider the modern English words that are derived from them:

Amo = I love Porto = I carry Transporto = I carry across Specto = I watch Aedifico = I build.

The easy way to work this out is to split the dipthong :
Pater = Father Mater = Mother Frater = Brother Soror = sister
Scripto = I write Traho = I drag Laboro = I work

This means very little in this form, but its supine tractum is very relevant to an area like this:
Educo = I lead out Navigo = I sail
Canis familiaris = dog Felix catus = cat Equus = horse
Senex = Old man Vacca = Cow Ambulo = I walk Aqua=water

The influence of Rome lives on with much television coverage over the years. In 1971 there was an excellent programme produced by the BBC on the invasion of southern Britain. The programme was presented by men who were historians and doctors explaining the skeletal remains and what they told us about the nature of the Roman invasion of Southern Britain. (I have not been able to find the name of these programmes).

An expression that is used, though not frequently, is “crossing the Rubicon”. The Rubicon was a river that during the late phase of the Roman Republic marked the boundary between the Roman Province of Cisalpine Gaul to the North East and Italy to the south, that was controlled by Rome and its Allies. Generals returning from campaigns were not supposed to cross this line although Julius Caesar crossed this in early January 49 B.C. Today it is a metaphor for crossing accepted social norms either in verbal terms or in relation to actions that one might make or where one might have reached a point of no return.

Class exists in some form or other in all societies. In Rome there were the Patricians and the Plebeians. The former were the wealthy political and social elite, the Plebeians the rest of society. Today, the term pleb lives on in a negative context to describe members of lower socio-economic groups.

Another reference to Rome came from an unexpected source. The song Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now by the Smiths, written by Steven Morrissey and Johnny Marr was published in 1984 and contained the lines, "two lovers entwined pass me by and heaven knows I'm miserable now." A brilliant line by any standards but the other line that is notable in the context of this article, " what she asked of me at end of the day. Caligula would have blushed"; the Emperor Caligula was, of course, synonymous with debauchery and cruelty!

The BBC produced the I Claudius series, fascinating historically and an acting master class. Sir Derek Jacoby, Sir John Hurt, Sir Patrick Stewart, Brian Blessed and Sian Phillips were stars. Other actors and actresses were equally hugely talented.

Straight lines in the building of roads and motorways, the precincts that towns and cities are laid out in the U.S.A. are examples of Roman influences. Roman ideas on law are part of the fabric of western societies.

Civis Romanus Sum meaning, "I am a Roman citizen", was a prized statement to be able to make at the time of the Roman Empire. Considering the plethora of Roman influences around us today in our daily lives, perhaps in some ways we are still citizens of Rome!

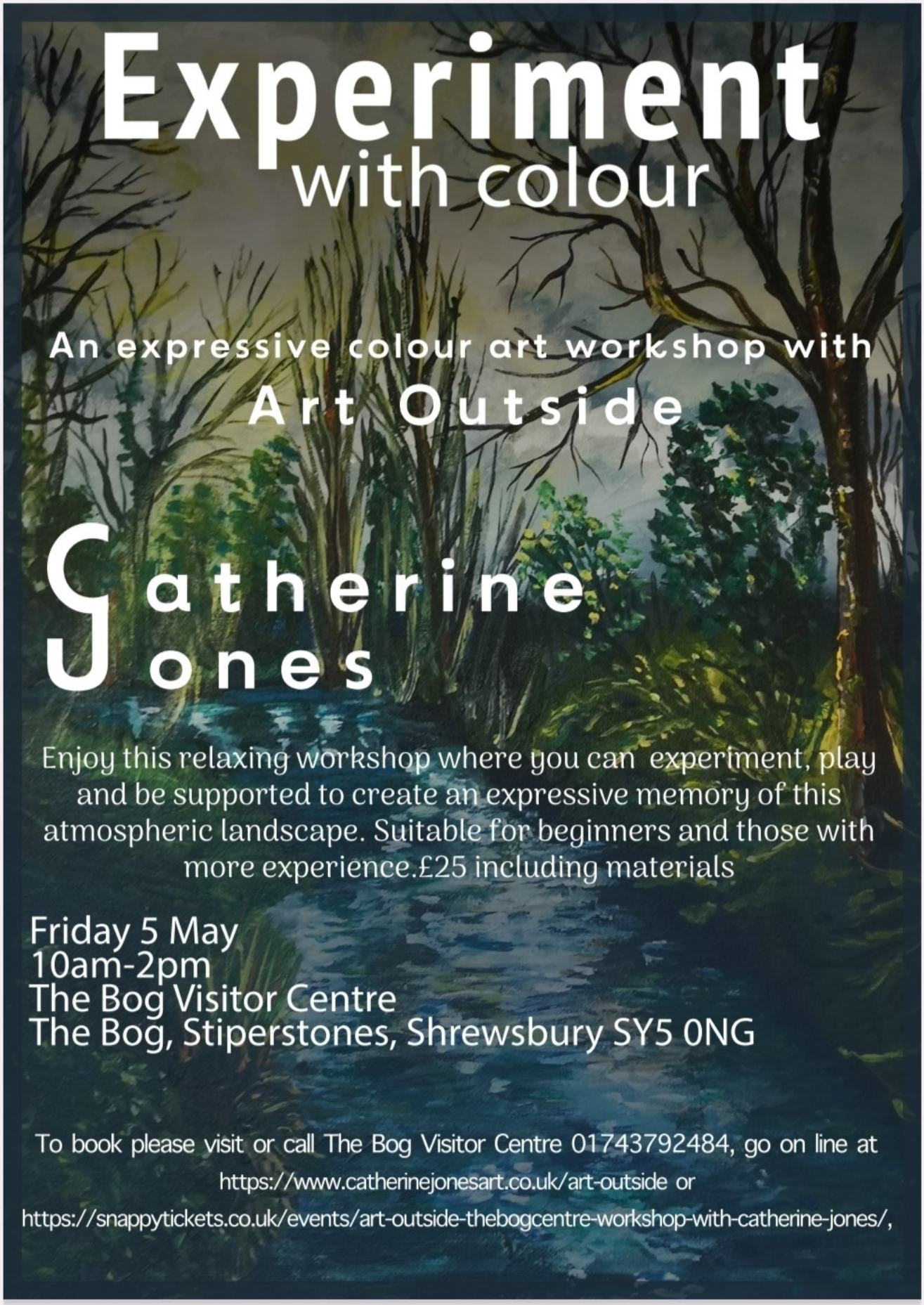
John Hodson.

Fuel Thefts

The last month has seen a spike in reports of fuel thefts from farm tractors and plant machinery. A tractor and an excavator at a farm in Snailbeach had diesel siphoned from the tanks and a mini digger being used for roadworks near Worthen was also targeted along with its battery. All the thefts occurred over weekends during the hours of darkness. Social media posts also indicate that machinery over the Powys border in Forden have also been attacked.

Farm fuel tanks, machinery and tractors can be vulnerable to fuel theft. Where possible we advise:

- Keep tractors and powered machinery locked and out of sight from roads and footpaths when not in use to prevent thieves draining fuel tanks
- Use locking fuel tank caps
- Keep field and farmyard gates closed and locked, and block exit points that aren't used
- Activate intruder alarm systems, which may have a local sounder or remotely monitored signalling
- Install security lighting to illuminate any suspicious activity
- Check that your fuel gauge is not showing irregularities in fuel levels


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https://snappytickets.co.uk/events/art-outside-thebogcentre-workshop-with-catherine-jones/,

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites both members and non-members to our next Open Meeting on **Wednesday 19th April 2pm at Minsterley Parish Hall** where Alison Utting will give a performance on the early life and personal experiences of the amazing **Dames Agnus Hunt**, or **"Aggie"** (31 Dec 1866 – 24 Jul 1948). Entrance is free and refreshments will be available.

Dame Agnes Hunt was a phenomenal woman. She established the practice of orthopaedic nursing and co-founded the world-renowned orthopaedic hospital at Oswestry. She also set up an award-winning specialist college to provide further education for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

Severely disabled herself, Agnes overcame huge obstacles in her mission to help others. Her indomitable personality and self-deprecating humour are woven through her remarkable autobiography, 'This Is My Life', which forms the basis of this 40-minute dramatic monologue written and presented by Alison Utting. The focus is Aggie's youth, training and personal life, rather than the history of the hospital and college.

This book, along with two other books about the history of the hospital – 'A Breath of Fresh Air' and 'Healing and Hope' – will be available for cash purchase at £10 if you wish. It is sold by the RJAH League of Friends and all proceeds will go to them.

The u3a promotes lifelong learning across a wide range of activities and subjects and which fosters friendship and fun, open to anyone who is older or retired or not in full-time employment. Website: u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley.



Make the most of life, join our u3a

Our u3a is part of a worldwide charity which helps retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun and friendship:

- 20 plus interest groups in our local u3a; something for everyone
- start at any level
- a warm welcome
- meetings are in person or by zoom, depending on the group
- new groups are formed when sufficient members express interest

- Art History
- Bridge
- Café Society
- Cinema & Social
- Creative writing
- Cycling
- Family History
- Folk Music
- Gardening
- Geology
- History
- Italian
- Literature
- Local History
- Painting & Drawing
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Play reading
- Recorded music
- Short Tennis
- Table Tennis (Minsterley)
- Table Tennis (Pontesbury)
- Walking (long)
- Walking (short)



learn, laugh, live

Contact
Steve Anderson
steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com
07861 531 186

u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is offering free webinars in conjunction with Power to Change regarding energy issues:

Fuel poverty awareness and basic energy advice **– Wednesday 3 May 2023 – 15.00-17.00.** This session will cover what fuel poverty is and how it's impacting our communities. We'll provide guidance for how to identify if someone is in fuel poverty and how you can support them.

Building community energy resilience: exploring community action on energy **– Thursday 1 June 2023 – 15.00-16.30.** This session will explore community-level initiatives for supporting people in your community to act on energy to reduce their carbon emissions and lower their bills. This will help businesses to understand how they can start building longer term community energy resilience.

For those receiving our paper edition, access to the web links shown below will have to be via the digital version posted our website at https://hopevillagehall.org.uk/hope-newsletter.

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Have you complained about your health care or social care?

While in the vast majority of cases people are satisfied with the care they or their relatives receive from the NHS or from Social Care providers sometimes people don't get the services they want or expect and sometimes things go wrong. When this happens people often want to register their concerns in an attempt to help prevent the same problems happening to others, get answers to their questions and receive an acknowledgement that things should have been done better. When this happens the route most people take is to lodge a formal complaint.

Healthwatch Shropshire wants to know about people's experience of doing this, not only if people achieved the outcome they sought through the complaint but also their experience of making the complaint, did they feel supported, did they have the information they needed, how they were treated and if they felt listened to.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "Everybody has a right to complain about their care and treatment when they feel that it has not gone as well as it should have done. Our Independent Health Complaints Advocacy Service can support people through the NHS complaints process. We know from our experience how difficult it can be for patients and relatives to go through the process as it often involves raising difficult issues, from a distressing time in their lives, which can be emotionally challenging."

"Every health and social care provider, from large hospitals to GPs through to care homes has a complaints procedure for people to follow. We would like to hear from people who have either lodged a complaint or have considered lodging a complaint and decided against it in the last two years.. We can then use these experiences to work with the health and social care sector to highlight where things have gone well and where there may be room for improvement."

People can share their experiences with Healthwatch Shropshire through an online survey https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWSComplaints or by contacting them by phone on 01743 237884.

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent health and social care champion in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users, carers, and the general public about services including hospitals, GPs, mental health services, community health services, pharmacists, opticians, residential care and children's services. It also has statutory powers that it can use to influence service provision by encouraging improvements.

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HOPE VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY EVENINGS
6.30 TO 8PM



Table Tennis
(2 tables available)
Or Darts



We have bats etc., available but bring your own if you can. Small charge to cover refreshments.

Pilates Class

When? - Mondays

Time? - 6:00-6:45PM

Class? - Mat Pilates

Where? - Hope Village Hall

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Ruth Morriss of ExtendAbility

Website : www.ExtendAbility.co.uk

Email : rmorriss73@gmail.com

Mobile : 07788123380 (please leave text or voice message)

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Contact Dan Lewis on 07904 338 791

or danlewisfitness@btinternet.com

WORTHEN AND BROCKTON CROWN GREEN BOWLING CLUB

Our bowling green and Clubhouse are situated in the heart of the village behind Worthen Village Hall and adjacent to Brockton Rovers football pitch.

We are a small friendly Club who play competitively in the various Shrewsbury Bowling Leagues. We have our own Club Cup Competitions which usually take place at weekends and Bank holidays and we also organise friendly matches with other local Bowling Clubs. The bowling season runs from April through to September.

If you have ever considered, or would like to know more about becoming a member of our friendly Club, please contact Kate Washbourne, Club Secretary, on 07791 210208 or e-mail kate@gladstan.co.uk

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British Telecom	0800 023 2023	**Severn Trent Water**	0800 783 4444	**Western Power**	0800 328 1111
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May 2023 deadline - Thursday 20th April 5pm

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If you would like to receive the newsletter monthly by email, please email:

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CONTACT US

Please send articles / quiz responses to editor@hopenews.uk

All other comments / questions to enquiries@hopenews.uk