

HOPE VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CAFÉ

2022 was another successful year for Hope Village Hall's Community Café. As most of you know, this is held every Wednesday lunchtime and creates valuable income for the Hall. It is run on a rota basis by separate groups of lady volunteers who provide delicious home-cooked meals, soup, sandwiches, cakes etc. There's not a ban on men volunteering for any of the necessary roles (most of them seem too busy tucking into the food) and there's always space for more volunteers, of any persuasion, to offer their services.

The Café often attracts well over 30 people, with several visiting from places beyond the locality and it is gaining a well-earned reputation of some renown in the area. Not everyone who reads this will have the opportunity to make a visit on a Wednesday but those of you who do might want to check out the quality of the food and service and the very reasonable prices. There's sure to be people there that you know and it's a great opportunity to meet neighbours, both old and new.

It is appropriate here to add that HVH has again been awarded the highest (Grade 5: Very Good), food hygiene rating after an inspection by Shropshire Council. This covers the handling, storage and preparation of food; the cleanliness of the facilities and how food safety is managed so it is a great credit to the same volunteer groups who maintain the Hall's facilities for the community's benefit.

Well done girls.

Continued overleaf

On one Wednesday in December the Café is suspended in favour of an organised Christmas lunch. These pictures show how the Hall looked before the throng arrived last year but within an hour it was full of smiling faces eager to get the festivities underway. As you can see, and as usual, the Hall looked so good and was a great credit to those who presented it for this and the other Christmas events.





Unfortunately, numbers for this lunch have to be limited and it must be booked on a first come first served basis, so there are often some disappointments. This time, the attendees had the additional benefit of being entertained, prior to lunch service, with a wonderful piano performance by our own Georgia Davies. As we anticipated the lunch was up to the usual high standard and highly appreciative comments were received from many of those attending.

Hope Village Hall

Hope Village Hall (HVH) recently added a section to their website advising how a donation could be made to ease the burden that volunteers face in raising the funds that are essential in supporting its charitable purpose, which is for the daily and long-term running of the Hall that is used for such a variety of purposes by so many in our community.

But in these very difficult economic times, as a thought for those of you who might want to offer some financial assistance but who cannot just do so, another consideration might be to leave a gift to HVH in your Will. Of course, the time that such a gift would be made is not something we would like you to dwell on and making an act of such generosity would require serious consideration, which should take into account any advice that might be sought from family or legal/financial advisors.

Thank you.

Sabrina Mobile Library

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

March 8th and 22nd

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

Tin Soldiers

performing at

Hope Village Hall (SY5 0JB)

Friday 24 March, doors open 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50

on the door or in advance (see below)

Americana, folk and country
music from the 1950's
to the present day

Bring your own drink and glasses.

Refreshments
and snacks will
be on sale.



Tickets will be limited in number.
Available in advance from the Community Café, Hope Village Hall every Wednesday 12-2pm or phone Jo, tel 07905636569, email chair@hopevillagehall.org

THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2023 season on Wednesday 29 March

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Our team of volunteers are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase as are books, maps and walk leaflets. This season we plan to reintroduce a series of half day craft workshops which will be advertised on the website and in local newsletters.

Staffing The Visitor Centre

'Volunteers' work their first 30 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate for those who chose to be paid. Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If interested please email Lin Brown.

School students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are paid all of their working hours at the appropriate rate for their age. Students interested in joining the team please email Lin Brown.

Opening hours Tuesday – Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm

Contact details for our Secretary Lin Brown bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Website www.bogvisitorcentre.com

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a

Our **Local History** interest group welcomes all Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a members (and those interested in joining the u3a) to a talk by Penny Ward on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings; the first iron framed building and blueprint for the skyscrapers that followed, at Minsterley Parish Hall on the 21st March 2023 at 2pm with a cost of £6 maximum, but this could reduce to £5, depending on numbers, to cover costs and hall hire. Refreshments will be available.

Penny Ward studied Archaeology at Cardiff in the 1970s and managed the Shropshire Historic Environment Record for several decades until her retirement in 2016. She has been involved with the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings since 2005, when English Heritage (now Historic England) took over the site and asked for volunteers to assist on Heritage Open Days. Her talk will tell the story of the site, from the revolutionary use of cast iron in its construction at the end of the eighteenth century up to the latest phase in its existence which began in September last year when the ground floor of the now restored Main Mill building opened to the public. It will also give some account of the Flax Mill's Bleach Works at Hanwood.

Please contact Susan Lockwood if you wish to attend so she knows how many people to cater for. Phone: 01743791082; Email: susanlockwood345@btinternet.com.



VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that ONE VACANCY has occurred in the office of Councillor for the Hope Ward, and Worthen with Shelve Parish Council intends to co-opt.

You can stand for Councillor you are over 18 and meet one of the following criteria:

- you are registered as a local government elector for your area, or
- you have lived in the area for at least 12 months, or
- been a tenant or landowner for at least 12 months, or
- your main or only place of work has been in the area for at least 12 months

About Your Parish Council The role of your Parish Council is to work towards improving the well-being of its community and providing services at the most local level. They work to represent their local community, deliver services and strive to improve quality of life. Worthen with Shelve Parish Council provides services such as;

- Maintaining Closed Cemeteries in Hope and Worthen and the War Memorial in Worthen
- Maintaining and Managing Hope Burial Ground
- Bus shelters
- Street Lighting
- Crime reduction
- Public Toilets in Snailbeach
- Liaising with Shropshire Council on many issues such as safety and condition of roads and road signs, litter bins, planning applications and flooding.

Councillors attending monthly meetings make decisions on the works and direction of the Council, this means deciding where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. They are the voice of the people, representing the view of the people on bodies that affect the wider community such as the Police and Shropshire Council.

If you are interested in being a Parish Councillor then please contact the Clerk for further information and an application form. All completed applications must be received by 17th April, 2023.

All candidates are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings which are held on the last Monday of each month.

This notice is dated the 22nd day of February 2023

Sarah-Jane Smith, Clerk to the Council

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Email: **clerk@worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk** Website: www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk

Pontesbury Gardeners' News

It's been a good start to the year with lots of people at the Trading Post on Saturday mornings. We still have a good number of seed potatoes still available, and it's not too late to get them started: just lay them out in seed trays, or egg boxes, in a light, frost-free room and let the shoots develop so that they have a head start when planted out in late March and early April.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 7 March, at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall, and we hope to see more Members attending. There will be refreshments available at the end of the meeting where we'll all get a chance to chat and catch up after the winter – being busy at the Trading Post has meant that we may not have had as much time as we would like to talk to everyone on Saturday mornings.

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon until the end of October.

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR HEATHER KIDD

FLOODING IN HOPE, SNAILBEACH OR STIPERSTONES.
Worthen and Shelve Parish Council has now bought a stock of flood sacks. If you have experienced any flooding and would like some, drop me a line.

VOTER ID
From 4 May 2023 voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. No elections are planned in the Shropshire Council area this year, but from February 2023 onwards anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID – known as a Voter Authority Certificate at www .voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

BISHOPS CASTLE HOSPITAL
There is an NHS Public Engagement Event on Wednesday 1st March at the Methodist Hall , Station Street, Bishop's Castle. There will be 2 sessions either 2 to 4.30pm or 5.30 to 8pm. More details to follow by email, social media, posters and flyers. Please use this opportunity to have your say on the health services that we need in our local area **especially our hospital in Bishop's castle.**

ROADS 1: ACTION ON LANDSLIP ROAD RESTRICTION AFTER 3 YEAR WAIT
Shropshire Council is going to complete road repairs on the A490 near Chirbury three years after a landslip made one lane of the road unusable.
I have been putting pressure on the Council, almost from day one on this one. Since the landslip in February 2020 we have had a number of studies and some lengthy discussions but little action on an actual repair. All we have had is temporary traffic lights which have cost the taxpayer a significant amount over the last 3 years.
Now at long last we have a promise of action. Shropshire Council is looking to undertake the repair during the period April to September 2023. Given the complexity of the job this will probably mean the closure of the road for some of that period. The important thing is we get a fully functioning road back by the end of the summer.

ROADS 2: MONTGOMERY DISRUPTION
Although outside our area I thought I'd better warn people that there is going to be major disruption from early May till December 2023 in Montgomery. This is to replace the water main along the B4385 through Montgomery. **I am in discussion with the highways people in Shropshire and Powys to try and avoid both these sets of works clashing!**

Best wishes

Heather

Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk 079806 35518 www.heatherkidd.org also on Facebook.

Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

How many Curlews and Lapwings are there? Please help us to find out



We are going to start looking again for Curlew and Lapwing at the end of March. If you would like to do something to help stop them disappearing from the local countryside, we would like your help, please.

We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them.

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group area extends from Brockton, Minsterley, Pontesbury and Plealey in the north, to Rorrington, Hemford, and Stiperstones, Cothercott and Wilderley hills in the south, and includes the Rea and Hope valleys, and Habberley brook.

We have looked for Curlews and Lapwings since 2014. In 2021, we found 12 breeding pairs of Curlews, but didn't find any nesting Lapwing. We hope to find the same number of Curlews again, and more Lapwing.

The survey only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come. Results from previous years, and more about our plans for 2023, will be explained at the meeting.

Community Wildlife Bird Group meeting
7.30pm, Tuesday 21st March
Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, SY5 0EH
All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Rea Valley pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

If you want to help, but can't get to the meeting, please email me: leo@leosmith.org.uk

Leo Smith

STRENGTH & STABILITY CLASS
FOR AGES 60+

Tuesdays 9.30am—10.30am at Minsterley Parish Hall

Thursdays 10.00am—11.00am at The Pavilion Community Hub, Pontesbury

Booking is essential.

Contact Dan Lewis on 07904 338 791

or danlewisfitness@btinternet.com



In aid of
Hospice at Home

FRIDAY 17th MARCH 2023

Doors Open from 7.00pm

(Eyes Down 7.30pm)

Hope Village Hall

Bingo Books
£10 for 6 or £5 for 3
To include a strip of raffle tickets

Donations of Raffle Prizes would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Clare (790419) or Deborah (891414)

Refreshments will be available on the night

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.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

citizens advice Rural Issues Group

Rural Households Survey on the Cost of Living



Do you live in a rural area and are you feeling the pinch?

The Rural Services Network and the Rural Issues Group of Citizens Advice are jointly running a survey to understand more about rural household budgets at, what is, a very difficult time for many.

Research commissioned by the RSN last year shows rural areas are suffering more acutely from the rise in the cost of living. Results from the survey will help us to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living



<<<

Scan the QR code to access the survey and tell us your views

The survey closes on 31 March 2023

Volunteer 'buddies' sought to help people feel less isolated

Community Resource is inviting people to volunteer to help those who are isolated become more active and to help alleviate inactivity and social exclusion.

The charity is keen to hear from potential 'Buddy' volunteers; individuals who would be interested in accompanying people who are feeling isolated and alone and need some motivation, support, or encouragement to get involved in local activities. Activities that volunteers participate in may include exercise classes, walking groups or yoga classes or simply joining someone for a coffee, a visit to the cinema or a stroll in the park.

To become a Buddy, volunteers will be given appropriate training and undertake a DBS check, which Community Resource will arrange. There is no set criteria for the amount of time someone needs to give, with flexible opportunities depending on people's availability.

To find out more and express your interest, please contact Community Resource on 01743 360641 or email enquiries@community-resource.org.uk

If you'd like to have a chat about this opportunity, understand what it could involve and whether it would suit you, contact Sara Edwards, Wellbeing & Care Development Officer.

Tel: 01743 360641 Email: sara.edwards@community-resource.org.uk

Free Energy Saving Webinars from Marches Energy Agency

Are you looking to make your home warmer and greener?

To find out, check out this FREE webinar coming up in partnership with Building Sense, sign up below:

Monday 20th March, 1pm - 2pm
Retrofitting historic buildings: **Retrofitting historic buildings: Grade II and curtilage listed case studies Tickets, Mon 20 Mar 2023 at 13:00 | Eventbrite**

Shed38 at Marton Stores

Katrina Collins has recently taken on what was the village shop in Marton. It's had a complete makeover and is now a coffee shop/café serving delicious light lunches, sweet treats and takeouts.

Also available is a selection of vintage and collectable items for the home and garden, from Collins & Gilder, so now you can browse, shop and eat all in one place, what's not to like!?

Shop currently open 9am- 2pm Cafe open at 10am Weds, Thurs and Fridays

Catering for private functions also offered Tel/Whatsapp; 07484 724113

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NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

Spring is in the air and our resident birds are now singing again in the early morning. Dunnocks are one of the first of our song birds to start up in the spring with their jaunty high pitched ditties. Many of the birds of prey are also carrying out their courtship displays as they pair up ready for the nesting season to come.

Red kites are showing well on the Stiperstones at present, as they cruise around effortlessly on the updraft along the hill. They are superbly adapted to their life of carrion feeding, being lightly built so that they can fly without expending any energy, their angled wings and long forked tail allow them great manouverability in the air, and their excellent eye sight allows them to spot carrion or small mammals from a great height. Although known as carrion feeders they will also take mice and voles. Earthworms also play a large part in their diet which is why they can often be seen in large numbers along with buzzards on freshly tilled soil.

They are rarely confused with any other bird , although they are a similar size to a buzzard their angled wings and forked tail will identify them immediately. If seen close up their rusty red body and whitish head are unmistakable.



Red kites have been a great british conservation success. They once bred across much of the UK, but persecution over a 200-year period saw numbers fall, and as they became rarer they increasingly became a target for egg collectors, reducing them to a few breeding pairs in central Wales. By the 1980s, the red kite was one of only three globally threatened species in the UK.

Today the Welsh population has recovered to a population of 1800 breeding pairs, about 7% of the world's population. Alongside this have been a number of reintroductions and now after 30 years of conservation work red kites can be seen once again in most English Counties.

As the weather improves and the hill dries out, we will be carrying out some controlled burning of the heather. This varies the structure of the heathland which benefits a variety of invertebrates, lichens and birds. However, one of the key reasons for burning is to reduce the amount of fuel on the hill should we have a summer wildfire, allowing it to be more easily controlled. So if you are up the hill and see smoke, surrounded by strange people in orange boiler suits, you will know what's going on.

Our first event of the year is our annual scythe peening workshop. Sunday the 2nd of April offers the chance to get your Austrian scythe into peak condition for the coming mowing season. It will be at our workshop at Rigmoreoak starting at 10am, free of charge.

We will also be having our first open day at the cottages at Blakemoorgate since its closure during Covid lockdown. The cottages will be open on Easter Sunday from 11am to 3pm, so do drop in.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak.

SpArC Bishops Castle
Leisure Centre Open Day
Saturday 11th March 10am – 2pm

Come and try our facilities and activities....

* Meet the Team * View the Facilities
* Find out about our Exercise on Referral program
* Plus specialised Classes

FREE Activities throughout the day will include:

* Gym Tours in our Brand New State of the art Gym – powered by Technogym
* Pool Inflatable Fun sessions (please pre-book)
* Membership information & Offers
* Fitness Class Taster Sessions
* Bouncy Castle Fun
* Plus Much More....



Shropshire SLT LEISURE TIME

For More information:
Tel: 01588 630243
Twitter: BishopsCastleLC
Facebook: bishopscastleleisure
Email: sparc.leisure@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire Council



"The Marches Choir present Dvořák and Schubert on Saturday 18th March.

The choir, together with the Marches Sinfonia, professional soprano soloist Caroline Clarke, and additional singers from Cardigan in West Wales, will present Dvořák's Mass in D and Te Deum, alongside Schubert's Mass in G.

This feast of choral music from composers of the late 19th Century, with a Czech - Germanic flavour, will delight audiences with a taste for rich, sonorous harmonies and deeply moving melodic beauty, and the concert promises to be a treat for all music lovers!

St John's Church, Bishops Castle, 7.30pm.

Tickets £15 (children and students free) from 01588 650315, online via www.ticketsource.co.uk, or on the door."

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 All Saints Shelve 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.

Lent Lunch – this will be held at Hope Village Hall on Friday 24 March from 12noon till 1.00pm. All are welcome to join us for a simple lunch in return for donations which will be sent to Christian Aid.

House for Duty Priest – a candidate for this post to undertake pastoral responsibility for the parish of Hope and Shelve has been interviewed and we are awaiting further news from the Diocese.



February Services – all at 9.00am
Sunday 5th Shelve – Holy Communion
Sunday 12th Hope – Holy Communion
Sunday 19th Shelve – Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th Hope – Morning Prayer

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

ROMAN BRITAIN

There is scarcely anywhere in the World that has not been influenced by Roman Culture. The question is begged: how did Britain become part of this great Empire?

Just across the English Channel France (Gaul) had been conquered and there was, it seems, huge debate in the Roman Senate about whether Britain should be conquered. Some argued that the Empire was large enough; others argued that Britain might make the Empire more secure.

Julius Caesar, it is useful to stress, was not an Emperor although he was very powerful and gained much popularity in Rome. The first Emperor was Augustus. Caesar first landed in Britain in 55 B.C. but bad weather in the English Channel meant that he was forced to return to the Continent.

He did not give up returning to Britain in 54 B.C. and he was better prepared this time. The Romans made good progress despite the strong resistance from the Britons, although Caesar decided to abandon the invasion because of unrest in Gaul. Despite this he was to return to Rome in triumph in 49 B.C. - Being literate the Romans gave good descriptions of the Britons.

Caesar was assassinated on 15th March 44 B.C., he was brutally stabbed to death in the Senate House of Rome and obviously this halted any future ambitions.

It would fall to the Emperor Claudius to plan the next invasion. It would appear that Claudius was a scholarly Emperor, he must have read the reports of Caesar's failures and learned from them. When he invaded, the Britons put up a huge fight. Things went well and Aulus Plautius, a very competent and experienced general, sent for Claudius to come to Britain and accept the surrender of several tribal chiefs in person. Claudius made him Governor of the rest of Britain.

The Romans continued the conquest of Britain and as they did so they began to build a network of roads. One of the first of these was Watling Street. This road ran from the Kent coast, it passed through Canterbury and London and extended to Wroxeter (in Shropshire) and Chester. This road marks roughly the route of the current A5. Along this road and others there were a series of stations (mansios), along with very basic inns called componae. There were also tabernae that offered bed and breakfast. The Romans built roads very well in a straight line and with cambers to help with drainage. These were a significant contribution to Britain.

The Romans were to face two significant rebellions namely from Caratacus and Boudicca. Claudius' forces defeated Caratacus. However, it seems that he was impressed by him; He was allowed to live freely in Rome having been granted a pardon. Queen Boudicca's experience was less fortunate. She was whipped by the Romans, a great humiliation for a Queen. Her two daughters, who were children, were raped by Roman soldiers. These two horrific events were commented on by the great Roman historian, Tacitus. In A.D. 60 she and her forces attacked Colchester and burnt it to the ground. London and St. Albans suffered a similar fate. During the Second World War 1939-1945 the London Blitz exposed layers of ash left by her attacks.

Boudicca and her forces were eventually trapped and defeated by Suetonius' army. She was determined that she would not be taken captive and committed suicide.

In A.D. 78 Agricola was made Governor of Britain. By the time that he was recalled to Rome, he had conquered all of Britain up to Central Scotland. Agricola had been a good Governor of Britain and it was he who made the indigenous peoples of Britain amenable to Roman rule. (cont)

To reinforce their rule the Romans built Hadrian's Wall. They had known for a long time that Scotland could not be totally conquered. It might be argued that did not happen until 1746 when the Duke of Cumberland defeated the Jacobite Army of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden. The Romans built a further Wall, the Antonine Wall. It was built between the estuaries of the Rivers Forth and Clyde, where the gap narrowed and this was to help reinforce their control.

Once the conquest was completed Roman Britain began to take shape. London (Londinium) then, as now, was the most important town. All the important roads converged on London and other towns rapidly developed. Much thought was put into the development of towns, streets were planned, as were buildings. To further embed Roman rule, tribal chiefs and other prominent Britons were encouraged to become Roman citizens.

It was around this time that the Thames was first crossed by a bridge. Some towns were called colonia; these were composed of retired soldiers from the Legions. The first of these were established at Colchester, Lincoln, Gloucester and York. London was to become a significant financial centre. Then, as now, the south-east of England was the most important part of the country. Coins were also minted here. Large numbers of soldiers were stationed at York, Chester and Caerleon.

Towns began to thrive, becoming centres of business and culture. Each town had a forum (market place) and basilica (town hall). Temples were built and baths became an important part of these towns.

As stated, roads were a vital part of Roman conquests. Maps of Roman roads show how all of the main towns were connected. Many modern towns end in ester; this indicates that they were Roman fortresses. Many fine villas were built by the rich and interestingly many had hypocausts, a form of under floor heating; Romans found the climate of Britain much colder to that experienced in Rome and the wider Mediterranean area.

The countryside also developed as a result of Roman occupation. Farms and villas were expanded and it was the Romans who introduced strawberries to Britain. When the Romans withdrew from Britain, strawberry growing fell. They were reintroduced to the gardens of Hampton Court by Henry VIII. with account books of the time showing the exact nature of the expenditure on Strawberries. Wine, olive oil and glass were brought to villas, in return the villas sold food, wool and hides that the villa estates produced.

Mining became important. Stone quarries were to be found all over Britain and lead mines were very important to the Romans as silver was also extracted from the lead. In our own area lead was mined at several locations near Shelve, including the Roman Gravels Mine. The ore contained a small amount of silver that was extracted during the smelting process. Roman pigs or ingots of lead have been found with the inscription “IMP HADRIANI AUG”- Emperor Hadrian Augustus.

Iron was mined in large quantities e.g. Sussex and the Weald and also the Forest of Dean. The Romans mined gold in Wales.

In terms of farming, wheat was to be the main product in the Lowlands of Southern Britain. Much can be deduced from the Mosaics that wealthy villa owners left behind. Wine and olive oil were very important commodities for the wealthy owners of villas.

(Article written by John Hodson—to be continued next month)

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Hope Village Hall

At the Village Hall

THURSDAY EVENINGS
6:30 to 8:00pm



Table Tennis
(2 tables available)

All level of players welcome

We shall have bats etc available but bring your own if you can. Those attending can decide how frequently to meet in future.

Small charge to cover refreshments

Pilates Class

When? - Mondays

Time? - 6:00-6:45PM

Class? - Mat Pilates

Where? - Hope Village Hall

Pilates is great for easing aches and pains of all kinds.

Improve your strength , posture and breathing!

For more details, you contact:

Ruth Morriss of ExtendAbility

Website : www.ExtendAbility.co.uk

Email : rmorriss73@gmail.com

Mobile : 07788123380 (please leave text or voice message)

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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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

Lambing season is now starting where historically it has coincided with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs. We have recently received reports of Ewes being attacked or chased and later dying in the Hemford and Shelve areas.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep, worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep. Dog Owners, either living locally or simply visiting the area for a walk, have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept on a lead around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that the dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Shrop Doc:	0333 222 6655	**Pontesbury Surgery**	01743 790 325	**Worthen Surgery**	01743 891 401
Westbury Surgery	01743 884 727	**Pontesbury Chemist**	01743 790 273	**Shrewsbury Hospital**	01743 261 000
British Telecom	0800 023 2023	**Severn Trent Water**	0800 783 4444	**Western Power**	0800 328 1111
Waste Collection	0345 678 9007	**Minsterley Motors**	01743 791 208	**Highways Emergencies**	0345 678 9006

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Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:
SGT 2382 Damien Kelly PC 21056 Matt Howell PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

Contact Details

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Website: **www.westmercia.police.uk**

Twitter: **@SouthShropCops**

Facebook: **Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch**

April 2023 deadline - Thursday 23rd March 5pm

Advertising is an important source of funding for our newsletter!

Do you have anything to advertise? **Wanted? For Sale? Business? Hobby?**

Here are our prices:

Size	*(width x*	Per issue	Per annum
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CONTACT US

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

All other comments / questions to enquiries@hopenews.uk