

HOPE AND SHELVE PARISH CHURCHES

Services during March

Sunday 3rd March – Holy Communion 9am at Shelve

Sunday 10th March* – Mothering Sunday Holy Communion 9am at Hope

Sunday 17th March – Morning Prayer 9am at Shelve

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday service 9am at Hope

Thursday 28th March - Group Maundy Thursday service 7pm at Holy Trinity, Minsterley

Friday 29th March - Good Friday reflective service 2pm at Shelve

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday Holy Communion service 9am at Hope

*Please note that there will also be a Mothering Sunday service at St Luke's, Snailbeach at 3pm on Sunday March 10th.

Stiperstones Lent Lunches -Thursdays, 12-1 in Hope Village Hall

Feb 22nd ,Feb 29th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st
Soup and bread lunch. Donations in aid of those in need in Gaza.

Last week I enjoyed two walks on the Stiperstones. The first was in glorious sunshine, with bright blue skies and far-reaching views. The second time was mostly grey, low cloud, intermittent rain and the occasional rainbow. I was only out for a stroll, but of course many people were hard at work through it all, rain or shine.

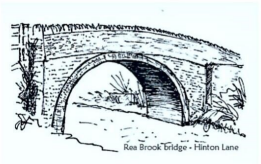
We get used to changeable weather, it is not a surprise in this part of the world. But life can often be like that, with its up and downs, joys and sorrows. Even if our life is currently reasonably smooth, we cannot fail to be aware of the sadnesses which afflict others, both those individuals we know well, and those we only see on the news.

Easter, early this year, will be here in just a few weeks time. In the church this is a festival which combines sadness and joy. On Good Friday we remember the death of an innocent man, executed by a corrupt and brutal government. How can this be thought to be good? Yet Christians see in this death the possibility of an end to all suffering, and on Easter Day three days later, we celebrate the resurrection, the promise of new life, and the defeat of evil and death.

We wish you all a Happy Easter!

Rev Fran Brealey 07982324760 revfran@btinternet.com

Rea Valley foodbank



COMMUNITY APPEAL

The Rea Valley foodbank Community Appeal has been well supported and we wish to continue into the New Year. These are the darker months and many Clients struggle, you support not feeds the household that need assistance it also sends a message that we care as a community.

Rea Valley was set up in partnership with Shrewsbury Food Bank PLUS. The valued support from Shrewsbury means that our Foodbank sessions in Minsterley and Pontesbury are supplied with donated food, toiletries, cleaning products and household items for individuals and families every week.

We desperately need in-date tinned and packet foodstuff, toiletries, cleaning products, pet food and nappies. If you are able to donate and can help us to help others in our community please drop off at the following venues, at the dates and times listed. **NOTE New more convenient time for Worthen**

Hope Village Hall	**Worthen Village Hall**
Every 2nd Wednesday 12 noon until 2:00 pm 13th March 10th April	Every 3rd Wednesday 08:30 am until 11:00 am 20th March 17th April

Members of our team will be there to collect donations and provide a warm welcome. Thank you!
For further information please email support@reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk

Free Health Checks

The Shropshire Council Community Outreach team offer mini health checks throughout the community. These health checks give Shropshire residents a better understanding of their health as well as an opportunity to discuss any concerns they have regarding their health and wellbeing. The team are able to inform residents what help and support is available, empowering residents to take the next step in improving their own health and wellbeing.
Visiting Hope Village Hall between noon to 1.50pm on the following dates:

20th March
17th July
20th November
15th May
18th September

For further information, please email: CommunityOutreach@shropshire.gov.uk

Free School piano

This was from Hope School, light oak in colour

Please call Steve on 07977 476386 for more details

HEATHER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Landslips

The repeated storms we have suffered over the last few months have led to three more landslips on roads in our area. I have spent a great deal of time (much of it in the rain!) getting the Council to take action to address these occurrences. As we go to press, these are the latest updates:
Marton Beech. The mud from the slip has been cleared from the road but more is washed down every time it rains. Work to permanently stabilise this is due to start with the onset of drier weather in the late spring or summer.
Brockton Brook: Shropshire Council has agreed to build a wall along the bank backed with concrete which should stabilise matters. Again, this needs to wait for drier weather in the late spring or summer.
Hope Valley A488. WSP, the Council's contractors, are drawing up a scheme to address this. Let's hope that they do it quicker than the 2-3 years they took to do the plan for the A490 (see below). There have been some problems with the traffic lights here and the Council is looking at upgrading these lights. The coned-off carriageway is **UNSAFE** and should not be used.

Last but not least the **A490 Chirbury/Churchstoke Road**. Despite a great deal of pressure from all concerned we are still no further forward with a date to repair this landslip. I even held an event to celebrate the landslip's 4th birthday, with the press invited, to try and pressure Shropshire Council into finding a diversion and setting a date. They insist it will now be done in the 2024/25 financial year. Let's hope we get something done before its 5th birthday!

Post Office Outreach.

The Post Office is reviewing the usage of the Post Office outreach sessions in Marton, Hope and Stiperstones. Can you please remember to use these over the next few weeks. It's really a case of use it or lose it!

Gullies

Gullies – drains- across the whole area are blocked with debris after the heavy rain. Please let me know and report it on FixMyStreet. - https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk

Best wishes
Heather
Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury & Worthen
Mobile 07980 635518 heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk www.heatherkidd.org.uk
Find me on Facebook too

Report from Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

Let me open with some good news; we have voted to reduce the Parish precept, your household's contribution to the finances of the Parish Council, by 13.5% this year. More than an eighth. We're not making any cuts to do this, either, and in fact, we're heavily engaged in more projects than ever before, with an overhaul of the Snailbeach Public Toilets and bus shelter. We will continue to provide floodsax and other emergency equipment to those areas in need.

We have given grants to a host of community events and projects. We've been cautious, we've been careful, and the public can now reap at least some of the dividends.

We can still do more, of course! We have grant funding available for community groups or projects, and if you are involved with anything we might be able to support, I encourage you to get in touch with one of your Parish Councillors; contact details are available on our website.
www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk)

We're here to help, if we can. All you need to do is ask. Richard Tongue,, Chairmanl

BINGO
Family Fun Night

In aid of
Hospice at Home

FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024

Doors Open from 7.00pm

(Eyes Down 7.30pm)

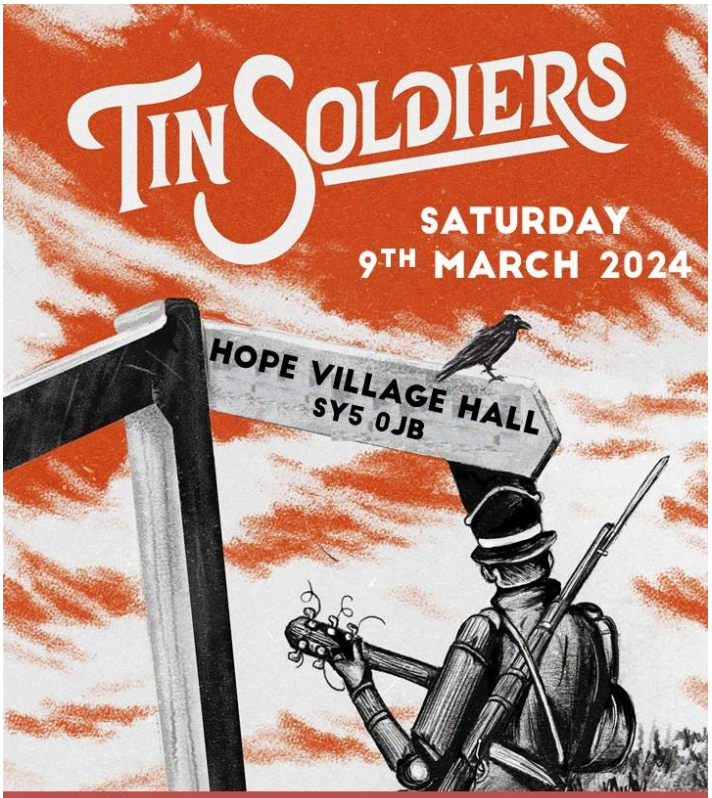
Hope Village Hall

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



TICKETS £7.50
DOORS OPEN 7.30 (BYO)
Phone: JO 07905 636569 or MARKO 07769155319



Dvořák
Stabat Mater
Song to the Moon ~ Slavonic Dances

Marches Choir
and Sinfonia

Alistair Auld - Conductor

Caroline Clarke (Soprano) ~ Stephanie Windsor-Lewis (Mezzo)
Andrew Morris (Tenor) ~ Nicholas Morris (Bass)

Saturday March 16th
7.30 pm
St John's Church, Bishops Castle

THE MARCHES CHOIR
Singing our hearts out

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394
and from TicketSource
Children and Students FREE
www.marcheschoir.org.uk

MONTGOMERY
Antiques & Collectors Fayre

Farmhouse & French Antiques,
Art, Collectables, Curios,
Home & Garden Décor, Plants
and more!

Montgomery Town Hall
Easter Sunday & Monday

31st March	1st April
11am to 4pm	10am to 4pm

Shop of Treasures in Old Bell Gallery
Made in Monty in The Institute

Refreshments available in the Hall

PONTESBURY & DISTRICT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on 5 March, at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall, and we hope to see more Members attending. Although we are always ready to welcome more helpers on a Saturday morning, and on the Committee, there will be no pressure to do so just by attending the AGM. 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

At the time of writing vegetable seeds and seed potatoes are selling well, but we should still have a good number of all varieties still available, and it's not too late to get them started. The seed potatoes should be set out in seed trays, or egg boxes, in a light, frost-free room to let the shoots develop so that they have a head start when planted out in late March and early April.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our social evening, Spring in to the Garden on 16 May where you will be able to buy vegetable seedlings if you haven't started your own. There will also be plant stalls with plants for the borders as well as other, garden related, things.

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon until the end of October.
Some dates for your diary:

- 19 May Pontesbury Garden Trail
- 24 August: Annual Show, 2.30 pm in the Public Hall
- 26 October Last Trading Post open day for 2024.

The Callow Run

This local event has been successful for the last couple of years and enjoyed by those taking part. We are looking for someone to take over the reins and organise it this year.

We are hoping the run can take place on the same day as the Hope Church Fete in the summer or maybe on the same day as Hope Show in September.

If you, or someone you know would be interested in taking on the organisation of the event for 2024 please contact chair@hopevillagehall.org.uk for more information.

The Marches Choir present a stunning Dvořák concert – Saturday 16th March.

The choir, together with the Marches Sinfonia and four professional soloists, will present Dvořák's intensely moving 'Stabat Mater', alongside 'Song to the Moon' from his *opera Rusalka, two of his popular and exciting Slavonic Dances, and the beautiful solo Meditation from the opera Thais by Jules Massenet. Musical Director Alistair Auld says "Dvořák is one of my all-time favourite choral composers. His music is brimming with passion and deep expression. Our programme embraces folk dances, opera and sacred choral music all in one. A real treat for music lovers!"*

St John's Church, Bishops Castle, 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (children and students free) from 07806 433394, online via www.ticketsource.co.uk, or on the door.

NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

Each month this year I am featuring one of the twelve species for which action plans have been produced by the Stepping Stones Project. These plans can be found on the Middle Marches community Land Trust web site. Each of these species now has a champion that will encourage the delivery of the actions within these plans.

The species I am featuring this month is the willow tit. Like all of our tit species it is a resident bird, staying with us all year. In looks it is almost identical to the marsh tit and indeed it was only identified as a separate species in 1897. Compared to some of the other tits it is relatively dull having a brown body with a large sooty black cap and white cheeks. The only distinguishing feature that can sometimes be seen in the field is a pale panel on the top of the wing.

Willow tits are naturally much scarcer than marsh tits, however the numbers of both species have plummeted recently and they are both listed on the UK red list of threatened birds. The decline in the population of willow tits has shown particularly dramatic declines in the UK, with a decrease of 83% between 1995 and 2017. It now has the unfortunate accolade of being our most threatened resident bird.

One of the distinguishing behaviours of the willow tit is that it always excavates its own nest hole, so if you see a tit excavating a hole in deadwood (not just enlarging a hole) then it is a good way of identifying a willow tit. It excavates a new hole each year in small rotting deadwood and stumps, often in quite small dead trees or tree limbs. It prefers birch and willow which are relatively quick to become soft once they have died. This is often the sort of material that is cleared or tidied up in the modern countryside. The National Trust are experimenting with artificial nest sites at Barns Farm, but the best way to help these birds is to leave areas of wet woodland and scrub undisturbed and allow dead trees to remain where they are.



Nesting in fragile rotten wood is a risky strategy and the adults do not visit the nest as often as other birds to reduce the likelihood of predation, however as their habitat has diminished it is likely that predation by great spotted woodpeckers and grey squirrels has increased and this may be a factor in their decline.

Due to the difficulty of identifying Willow tits they are likely to be under-recorded in the area, so a survey has been developed using their calls which can be quite distinctive. As the birds are more territorial early in the year, the surveys have already started this year, but if you would like to get involved in future surveys, please get in touch with the Stepping Stones project.

On the Stiperstones we have been blocking forestry drains within the woodland at the Gatten which is creating wetter conditions, where there will be more deadwood which should be suitable for willow tits. Hopefully the action plan will help to encourage the appropriate management of wet habitat across the Stepping Stones area resulting in the survival of this great bird which has now become extinct across a lot of its former range in southern England.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak

A new 'super' National Nature Reserve in Shropshire

Natural England is proposing a plan to create a new National Nature Reserve in Shropshire
On the evening Wednesday 7th February, Natural England ran an event at Snailbeach Village Hall to gather views on the proposal for a 'super' National Nature Reserve in the landscape around the Stiperstones. The event was really well attended, Natural England staff explained the idea and listened to a range of views. Natural England are interested in hearing what you have to say and will be sharing more information and updates, including on the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve Facebook page.

What does 'super' National Nature Reserve mean?
Natural England is proposing a plan to create a larger National Nature Reserve in Shropshire, extending from the current one at the Stiperstones. It will be managed by partner organisations who will work together to improve the land for nature and wildlife.

Natural England is working with partner organisations who own land near the existing Stiperstones National Nature Reserve. The proposal is that these organisations volunteer their land to make up part of the new larger National Nature Reserve. The areas of land might not necessarily all join up, but the partners who manage the land are committed to working together. **It will not include land where the landowner does not want to participate.**

A large National Nature Reserve that is managed by partners is sometimes referred to as a 'super' National Nature Reserve.

Has this been done before?
Yes, there are a few examples around the country. The first was the Purbeck Heaths in Dorset. Other examples include the Somerset Wetlands and the Mendip National Nature Reserve in Somerset.

What are the benefits of a 'super' National Nature Reserve?
The key benefits are to improve land for wildlife, improve water quality, slow the flow of water off the hills and store more carbon.

Who is involved?
The proposal is being led by Natural England and being developed in partnership with other organisations. At this stage these include Forestry England, Forestry Commission, Shropshire County Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Middle Marches Community Land Trust, National Trust, Shropshire Hills National Landscape and Natural Resources Wales.

How long will it take?
Natural England are working towards a date of 2025 to finalise what land is included, how it will be managed and complete the declaration process.

Find out more
To give us your thoughts and find out more, contact west.midlands.enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk and keep an eye on Stiperstones Nature Reserve Facebook page Stiperstones Nature Reserve Facebook page.

Come to the Gathering!

An Evening of Praise, Singing and Christian Fellowship.
Last Tuesday of the Month. Starts at 7pm
Marton Village Hall

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ALL WELCOME

THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE

2024 Season

The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2024 season on Wednesday 20 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.

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. (Contact details below)

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

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

Contact details for our Secretary Lin Brown 01694 781634 bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Website www.bogvisitorcentre.com

Hope Village Hall Community Café

Every Wednesday from noon to 2pm.

Come along to enjoy good company, light refreshments and use the post office facilities.

Alexanders of Welshpool stall, bric a brac and books

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 2023, we found 9 - 11 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 2024, will be explained at the meeting.

Community Wildlife Bird Group meeting
7.30pm, Monday 25th 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

Book Review—Cecily

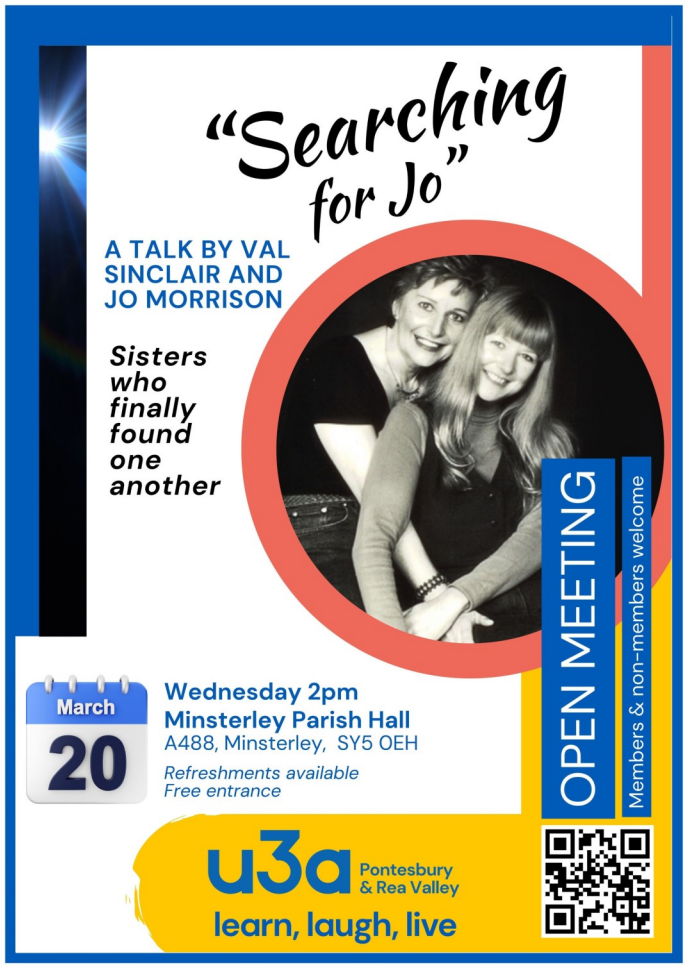
Author Annie Garthwaite writes about the war of the Roses from the perspective of Cecily Neville, Duchess of York. Cecily stayed in Ludlow Castle following the outbreak of war in 1455 surreptitiously working for the cause of the House of York, even after Richard fled to Ireland and Europe.

A fascinating tale of a strong woman which includes lots of recognisable local places. Available from the library van!

The Sabrina Mobile Library visits Hope Village Hall on Route 3, alternate Wednesdays, from 1pm to 1.50pm.

Upcoming dates: 6th & 20th March

We have a map of all our routes and stops on our website here:
https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/mobile-libraries/



u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Members and non-members are invited to attend an unmissable talk by local resident and famous singer, **Val Sinclair and her sister Jo Morrison; "Searching for Jo"**.

Val was 7 years old when her sister Jo was born. She remembers being allowed a quick look at the 'new born' but it was to be over 40 years before the sisters finally met again. For a number of years Val and Jo never 'went public', they spent months getting to know one another, even before meeting each other's husbands and children but they all finally fell together as a happy family.

Eventually they felt able to give their first public talk and were also interviewed on the BBC's Woman's Hour programme which was looking at the new Adoption Bill (their real names were withheld). This heart-warming account will be of interest to anyone affected by adoption, anyone searching for a relative or those who would just like to listen to what Jo and Val describe as "the most momentous thing that ever happened in their lives".

This is an amazing and moving story of the reasons surrounding Jo's adoption, the search for Jo, the role of NORCAP, finding Jo, the post-reunion path and 'nature versus nurture'.

Refreshments will be served afterwards for members and visitors, with the chance to catch up.

Minsterley Eisteddfod 2024

Minsterley Eisteddfod takes place on the weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th of March at Minsterley Parish Hall and is open to the public at all times. Saturday is the day of competitions with classes starting in the morning and carrying on through the day and into the evening. Competitors will perform instrumental solo's and group piece's, solo singing in many different genres, group singing for choirs and musical theatre groups and spoken recitations and individual speaking. There will also be a display of all the written works entries including stories with the title 'Old Shoes', poems entitled 'In the Mist' and limericks starting 'They wanted to drill for more oil……'

Our competitors are as young as four and as old as… well there is no limit to enjoying the arts. Our professional adjudicators give constructive and encouraging advise to all who have entered to enable our performers to improve on their performances in the future. A number of our past regular competitors have gone on to pursue careers in their chosen fields at some of the most prestigious music college's in the country.

This fantastic showcase of talent is open to the public to enjoy, and all are welcome to join in the fun and encourage these brave competitors as they take to the stage. Parking is readily available, and refreshments can be found in our café.

On Sunday we host a concert given by Cantores Beati, mixed chamber choir under the baton of James Llewelyn Jones with guest accompanist Sara Wilander, guest soloist mezzo soprano Motje Wolf and introducing local Shrewsbury musician Ben Richards on cello.

Tickets are available by phoning Jill Blyth on 01743 791908 and all details of our event can be found on our website minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com

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

DONATION REQUEST

The Royal British Legion, Worthen Branch are holding an 'Easter Eggstravaganza' event at Worthen Village Hall on Saturday 23rd March between 2pm and 4pm.

We would really appreciate any donations of the following items to help make the event really special.

- Easter Eggs – any size gratefully received.
- Raffle/Tombola Prizes.
- Cakes – please bring to the hall on the day.



THANK YOU!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Donations can be left with
Denise Renson
4 Roseway, Worthen.
07471 503240

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday 23rd March

2.00pm – 4.00pm

at

Worthen Village Hall

Buns with the Easter Bunny

Easter Tombola

Raffle Cakes

and more.....



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WORTHEN BRANCH

£2 Entrance
includes a Hot Cross Bun & a cup of tea/coffee

West Mercia Police

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL
Safer Neighbourhood Team

Date: February 2024 – Newsletter

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL SNT are based at Bishops Castle Police Station, Union St, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AJ.

We work in the Parishes and area's of Bishop's Castle, Mainstone, Colebatch, Clun, Llanfair Waterdine, Newcastle on Clun, Bettws-Y-Crwyn, Stowe, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clungunford, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Clunbury, Edgton, Wistanstow, Lydbury North, Lydham, More, Norbury, Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Stiperstones, Worthen and Chirbury.

Team details

Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt 0640 Jenni Price

Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 3331 Stuart Coote

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown

Team Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

West Mercia Police contact numbers

Emergency: 999 **Non Emergency:** 101
Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting): 101, Extension 770-4901
Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/
Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk
Twitter: @SouthShropCops
Facebook: Bishop's Castle Policing Team Rural Watch

CRIME STATS

Please note not all crimes or investigations are recorded below due to the sensitive nature or ongoing investigations.

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 15th January 2024 – 15th February 2024			
CRIME REPORTED	**DETAILS**	**LOCATION**	**NOTES**
Harassment		Stiperstones	
Assault		Brockton	
Burglary	Damaged caused by offenders in order to enter property, nothing believed to be stolen. Property is in a poor state, windows and doors boarded up for security	Bentlawnt	Occurred around the 26th January. Offenders believed to be 'Urban Explorers' looking to photograph the property for social media content
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control	Person jogging has been chased and bitten by 2 dogs	Brockton	

Local Support for the Purchase of Minsterley Meadows

On 6th January, well over a hundred people attended a public meeting in Minsterley Parish Hall, organised by Middle Marches Community Land Trust, in order to check out local interest and support for a fund-raising appeal to purchase Minsterley Meadows. At the meeting there was a great deal of public interest, concern and community support. As a result, a working group, which meets regularly, was quickly set up. At present much of the work is exploratory but an action plan is already being drawn up with a view to securing the meadows for local people and for the Nation as a whole.

Minsterley Meadows are ancient and nationally scarce, flower-rich hayfields, designated by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and recognised as a site of national importance. Amongst these meadow plants we have thousands of beautiful and rare Green-winged Orchids which burst into a profusion of rich purple flowers in late May.

This is the best site in Shropshire for these orchids which are listed as near threatened on the Great Britain Red List. Believed to have been left untilled for centuries, it is filled with birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. Lovely mature hedgerows at the boundaries create a wildlife corridor whilst the meadows also provide access to Poles Coppice and Eastridge Woods.

Purchasing the meadows will keep these nationally important grasslands as a vital home for wildlife to be enjoyed by the community; provide local people with a key green space, next to a children's play area; secure access for future generations and limit development, as the adjoining field has already been built upon.

Should negotiations be successful, a campaign to raise the money will be launched and we would greatly appreciate any support you can give during the fund-raising campaign.

If the funds are raised and Minsterley Meadows are purchased, the site will be owned by the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, which is a local community-led trust, the aims of which are to help create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside. Working closely with local residents and volunteers, the Marches Meadows Group would manage the meadows.

In the meantime, we will keep you informed of any developments.

For further information, please contact info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

See website: https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/



Green-winged Orchid

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

David Buxton	Julie Chesters
David Croker	Fiona Dale
Heather Davies	Mal Fellows
Andy Holloway	Brian Jones
Heather Kidd	Mike Powell
Richard Jones	John Soper
Annabel Stacey	Richard Tongue
Benno Veenstra	Gayvn Williams

www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk/committee

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

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Bishop's Castle Medical Practice	01588 638285	Montgomery Medical Practice	01686 668217
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	01743 261000	NHS Non-Emergency Helpline	111

Shropshire Council Customer Services	0345 6789000	Shropshire Council Benefit Support	0345 6789002
Shropshire Council Welfare Support	0345 6789078	Shropshire Council Bereavement Support	0345 6783028
National Grid (Fault Report/Status)	0800 6783105	Environment Agency (Incident Hotline)	0800 80 70 60
Severn Trent Water (Report Problem)	0800 7834444	Shropshire Highways (Report Problem)	0345 6789006
Shropshire Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 2787894	Shropshire Rural Support	0300 1232825
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Society	0800 1884444	Farming Community Network	01788 510866
Samaritans Helpline	116 123	Universal Credit Helpline	0800 3285644
Child Benefit Helpline	0300 2003100	Pensions Helpline	0800 7310469
Business Support Helpline	0300 4563565	Keep Shropshire Warm (Energy Advice)	0800 1123743
Barnabas Money Advice (Debt Advice)	07507 663251	A4U (Disability/Carers Advice/Advocacy)	01743 539201
Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin	01743 233123	Just Credit Union (Low Cost Loans)	01743 252325
Christians Against Poverty (Debt Counselling)	01274 760720		
Shrewsbury Samaritans	0330 0945717	Shropshire Mind (Mental Health Support)	01743 368647
Alzheimer's Society Shropshire	01952 250392	Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service	0300 3031191



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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

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)

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St James's Place

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF HIRING HOPE VILLAGE HALL?

Our rates are very competitive :

Currently **£7 per hour** **Please note this will be increasing to £8 from May 2024**

Enquiries and bookings are made with Debbie on 01743 891414 (Reserve - Jean on 01743 891637). A leaflet is available with information about the facilities. You can also find out more online at hopevillagehall.org.uk

West Mercia POLICE
SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

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**

Email address: **bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk**

April 2024 deadline - Tuesday 26th March 5pm

Advertising is an important source of funding for our newsletter!

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

Prices per annum below; We can price for one-off or irregular ads too.

Size	*(width x height)*	Per issue	Per annum
Whole page	19 x 27 cm	£25.00	£179.00
Half page	19 x 13 cm	£15.00	£107.00
Quarter page	9 x 13 cm	£8.00	£57.00
Double standard	12 x 6 cm	£6.50	£46.00
Standard	6 x 6 cm	£5.00	£36.00

By advertising in the Hope Newsletter, you agree to our advertising terms and conditions which can be found at https://hopevillagehall.org.uk/hope-newsletter/advertising

Hope News Online...

You can view the newsletter and archive back to 2012 online at:

hopevillagehall.org.uk/hope-newsletter

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

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By sending in an item for publication, you agree that you have the relevant rights for it to be published.

CONTACT US

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

All other comments / questions to enquiries@hopenews.uk