

HOPE AND SHELVE CHURCH PARISH

Services during February

Sunday 4th February – Holy Communion at Shelve 9am

Sunday 11th February – Holy Communion at Hope 9am

Wednesday 14th February – Group Ash Wednesday Service at St George, Pontesbury 7pm

Sunday 18th February – Morning Prayer at Shelve 9am

Sunday 25th February – Group Holy Communion at St George, Pontesbury 10.30am

As I write this from my window I can see the roofs and paths around are covered with a dusting of snow. Perhaps you are looking forward to the return of warmer weather, not least so we can keep our heating bills under control. The Old English word for spring was *lencten, which comes from the same root as 'long' and 'lengthen'. It is also the word which gives us the name for Lent, the season which leads up to Easter. We are already seeing the days growing longer, even if they are not yet much warmer. The coming of lighter evenings does not of course mean we have seen the back of wild weather – the old English name for February quite possibly means 'mud-month'!*

Lent is traditionally a season for fasting, perhaps giving up rich food or drink in preparation for the celebration of Easter when we may consume large amounts of chocolate. It can also be a good time to give to charity, live more simply, or spend extra time in quiet and reflection. The local churches of this area will be running Lent Lunches at Hope Village Hall from 12-1 on 5 Thursdays in Lent, beginning on Thursday 22nd February. A simple lunch of soup and bread will be provided free, with the opportunity to make a donation to charity, and a short time of reflection on the Easter story. All are welcome.

Fran

Rev Fran Brealey, Associate Minister, Pontesbury and Stiperstones benefices, with lead responsibility for Hope and Shelve.

Tel: 07982324760. Email: revfran@btinternet.com

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

Upcoming dates: 7th & 21st February

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

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 14th February 13th March 10th April	Every 3rd Wednesday 08:30 am until 11:00 am 21st February 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 January 2024

1. **Flooding**. Over the last few weeks we have seen a succession of storms hit our area usually accompanied by heavy rain.

For many years I (and a great many of you) have been continually pressing Shropshire Council to take action on the dreadful state of the drains and gullies along our roads. Unfortunately, these complaints have largely fallen on deaf ears and we are seeing the results of that neglect in the floods and overflowing drains we have seen recently. We have not seen the full and systematic clearing of these (including the connecting pipes and collapse drains) that is required. We have quite a number of collapsed connecting pipes and these just fail to carry the water away.

If your home or business has been affected by flooding you may be eligible for some support providing certain conditions are met. Full details and application forms are in the link below. Note it refers to storm babet but is applicable to the current situation as well.

https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/storm-babet-flood-relief/?fbclid=IwAR1pgnXShKUy1RagK_g7kehp2NhaxYxELhXVa9AyBJ-Rzkd2TGRHgahhWBU

Similarly attempts to get Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency to work towards a solution to the flooding in Brockton and Worthen are proving very difficult.

ACTION: If you have a problem with a blocked drain etc., then email me at Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk AND report it on 'Fix My Street' at https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/
The more of us that report a problem, the higher the priority it will get.

2. **Grit Bins**. Despite my best efforts, there are still a number of bins that remain empty and we are entering the coldest months of the year. Please let me know of any empty bins and I'll do my best to get them filled.

3. Please don't **park on pavement**s as parents with buggies and those with mobility scooters are forced to walk in the road. That can be very dangerous, especially on dark evenings.

Best wishes, Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen

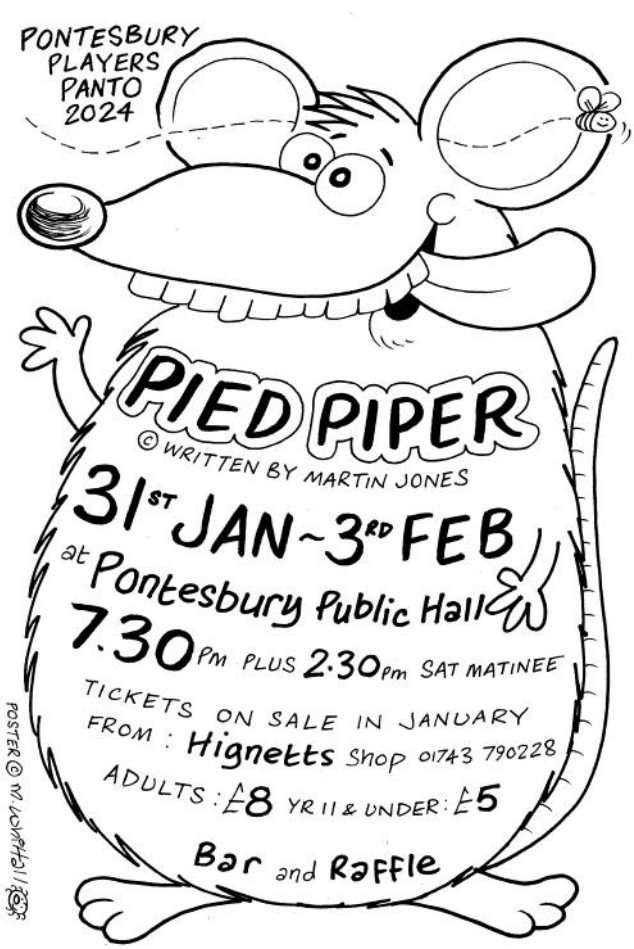
07980635518 heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk www.heatherkidd.org Also on Facebook

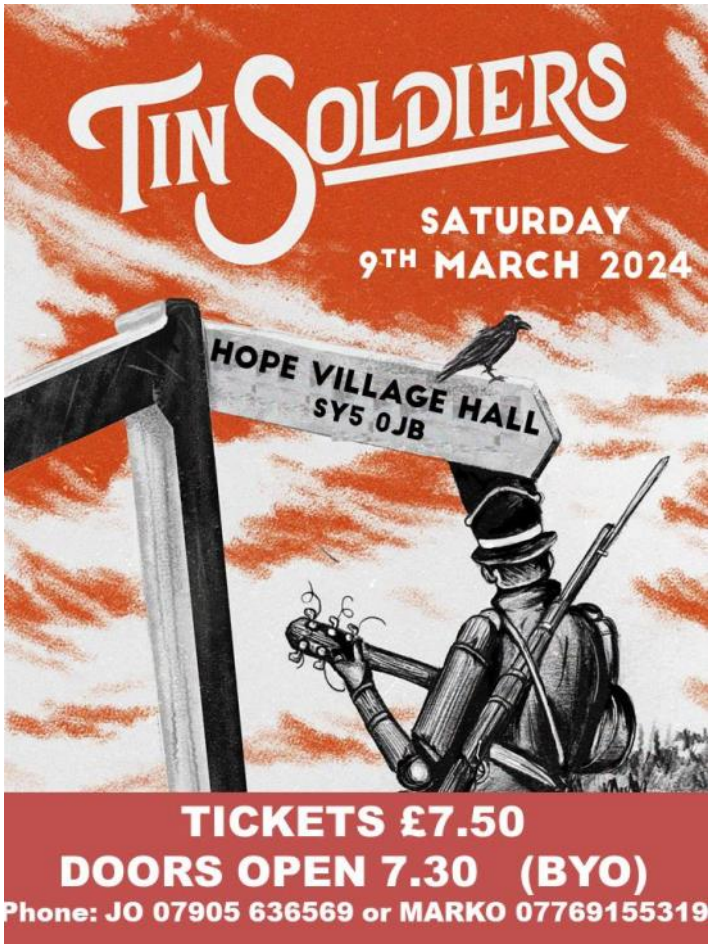
Janet, Debbie & Clare would like to say a massive thank you for all your support and to our team of helpers at our Bingo Evenings, Christmas Coffee Morning and Wednesday cake sales. We raised a total of £2189.34 in aid of Hospice at Home which is a charity very close to us as a family.

I would also like to thank a number of businesses/ people who supported us by kindly donating raffle prizes.

Stiperstones Inn
Little Efes
Double Vision Bakes
Lauren Binns
Pontesbury Tractors ltd
Hair by Jen
The Flower Shop
Julie Burgwin

We are really overwhelmed with this amount and the Hospice at Home team were also really grateful.





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



PONTESBURY & DISTRICT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The Trading Post re-opens on Saturday 3 February. We are situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and are open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon, from now until the end of October.

We have a good stock of seed potatoes as well as pea, bean and beetroot seeds, onion and shallot sets, plus plenty of all the other materials that you will need to get sowing and growing. The bulk delivery of multi-purpose potting compost has arrived and the usual offer of a reduced price for a multiple purchase is in place; we also have peat-free multi-purpose compost but this isn't on special offer due to the ongoing difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies. The government ban on the sale of peat takes place at the end of 2024 so this year could be your opportunity to compare composts with and without peat.

As usual there will be people on hand to help carry the heavy stuff to your car.

Some dates for your diary:

- 5 March: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall
- 16 May: Spring into the Garden, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall
- 19 May Pontesbury Garden Trail
- 24 August: Annual Show, 2.30 pm in the Public Hall

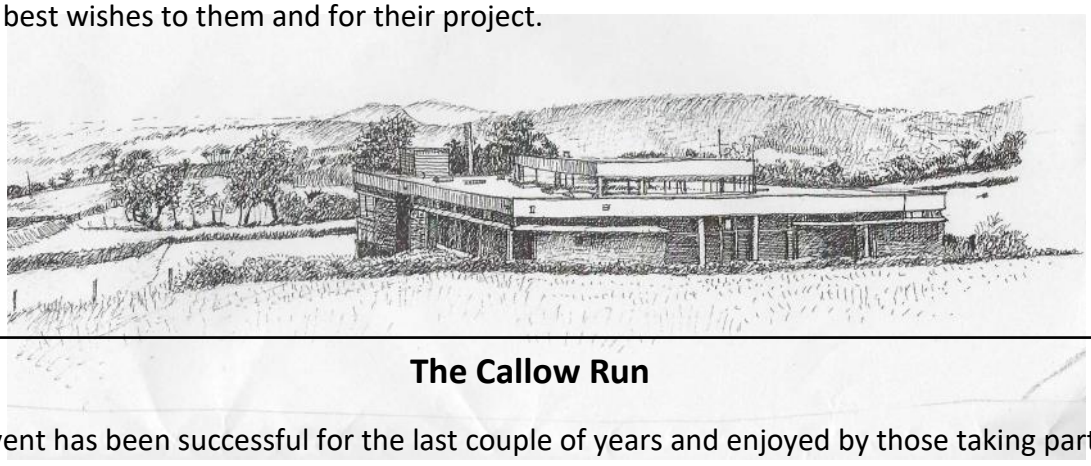
26 October Last Trading Post open day for 2024.

A reminder: subscriptions for 2024 are now due: they are still £2 for the year, or £1 if you are retired.

Hope School development site

After a short contest between potential buyers, the old Hope Church of England Primary School site has been sold, subject to contract, to a couple from Pontesbury who intend to build two houses; one for their own use and the other for a family member. Their plans are now being drawn up so, assuming no issues with Shropshire Council planners, they should be in residence by 2025.

HVH members have met the couple and understand their aspirations and, as their immediate neighbour, we offer our best wishes to them and for their project.



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.

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

West Mercia POLICE

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 November 2023 – 15th December 2023

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Aston Pigott	
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control	Jogger bitten	Worthen	Owner identified; investigation ongoing
Harassment		Worthen	
Assault	X2	Snailbeach	
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control	Delivery driver bitten	Snailbeach	

Rogue Traders

Locally we have had an increase in suspect rogue traders offering 'services'. Rogue traders are people who call at your door pretending to be qualified tradespeople and offering to do work on your home. They may suggest urgent repairs need carrying out at your home. They may pressurise you to make quick decisions to have work done, pay in advance for materials or do poor work at highly inflated prices. Doorstep cold-calling is not illegal, however our advice is to never employ traders who call at your door unannounced.

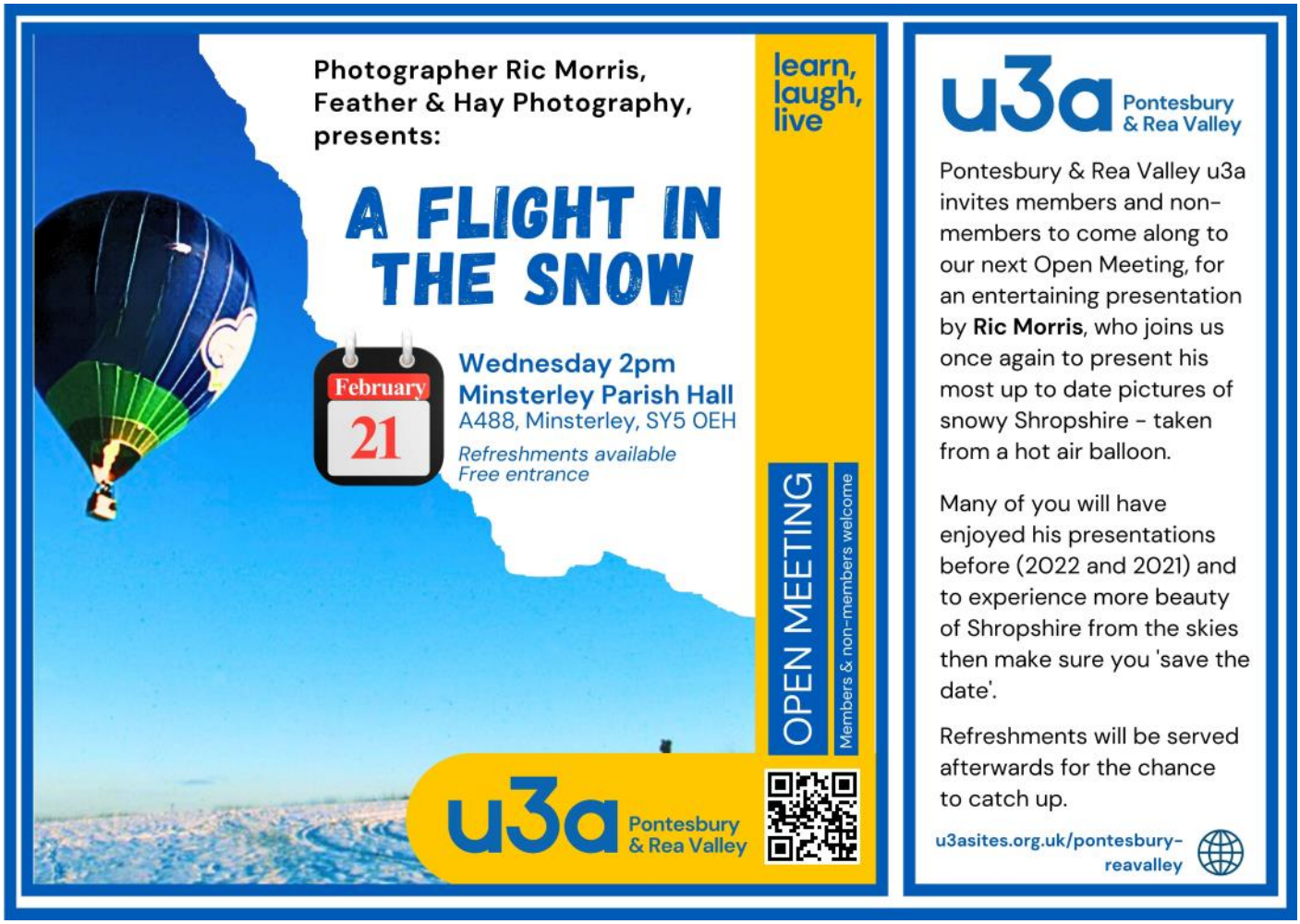
- Be cautious; if a trader knocks at your door, do not agree to on the spot house repairs without taking advice.
- Say 'no thank you' and close the door. Be wary of special offers. They will use tactics such as 'I am only in your area today and would need to do the work now'.
- Do not believe when told that guttering, roofing, gardening or paving work is in need of urgent repair – this may cause you to panic and allow the work to take place.
- Don't allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to have work carried out. If you ask them to leave and they don't, they are committing a criminal offence - contact the police on 999.
- Do not make snap decisions. If you feel that any work needs carrying out on your property, take time to talk to family or neighbours before you make a decision.
- Don't ever go to a bank or cash point with a trader; legitimate traders would never do this!

Remember……it's OK to say no! If you feel you have been a victim of rogue traders, you can report suspicious callers to Trading Standards, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline number at 0808 223 1133, or West Mercia Police on 101 or 999 in the event of an emergency.

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE

16th December 2023 – 14th January 2024

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Farm outbuildings entered, chainsaw and leaf blower taken	Worthen	Discovered on the 10th January, potentially occurred early hours of that morning as other burglaries below occurred on the same night
Burglary	Honda and Suzuki quad bikes along with power tools stolen from within barns, trailer stolen from yard along with a Toyota Hilux ML67MUW and Landrover Freelander SK64ORU	Chirbury	Occurred around 03:30 – 05:00 10th January. Freelander recovered in Westbury. Linked to burglaries on the same night in Pentreheyling, Sarn and Kerry. Mitsubushi L200 stolen from Kerry left at scene in Chirbury
Burglary	KTM motorbike and various power tools including Husqvarna chainsaw and Makita drills stolen	Pentreheyling	Linked to the above
Burglary	Old garage broken into via padlock, Dewalt battery chainsaw and the charger, rack of spanners and Dewalt drill with battery stolen	Black Marsh	Unknown when offence occurred at time of writing
Burglary	Farm buildings broken into, Tools stolen include 3 x laser levels 4x chainsaws stihl 660, 362, 362, 262 4x cutting saws, 2x stihl 4s400s 2x huqsvarna ks760s Dewalt 18v circular saw, stephill/honda welder and generator. A white Ford Transit BW11UEL and an Ifor Williams Trailer also stolen from the yard and used to transport the stolen tools	Stockton	Occurred around 01:30 5th January
Assault	X2	Leigh	
Assault and harassment	Incident occurred on a public transport bus	Marton	23rd December
Malicious communications		Gravels	



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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



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Alexanders of Welshpool stall, bric a brac and books




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Key Phone Numbers

Pontesbury & Worthen Medical Practice	01743 79032	Westbury Medical Centre	01743 884727
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

NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

The first 12 species action plans are being launched this month at a conference to be held in Norbury, for more details have a look on the Stepping Stones website, or sign up to their newsletter.

These plans outline some of the actions that are required to help these species, some of them are survey actions, so that we can get a better idea of where they are and how populations are faring. These often involve volunteers so there should be plenty of opportunities to get involved through the species champions or through your local community wildlife group.

Other actions will be related to land management and will highlight ways in which areas of land can be managed to optimise their potential for some of these key species, for example keeping naturally marshy areas wet through the blocking of drains which will help maintain species like snipe and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies.

Each month this year I thought that I would focus 'Notes from the Hill' on one of these 12 species, starting with the dormouse, which is the only woodland species in the list, unless you count willow tit.

Dormice are one of our most endearing animals, small, orange fur, with a bushy tail and big dark eyes and a tendency to fall asleep, what's not to love.



The dormouse records for the area are mainly to the east of the Long Mynd and the north and west of the Stiperstones, with most records coming from the Hope Valley. Strangely there are very few records for the Onny Valley and maybe we could do with more people looking for signs in that area. Survey techniques vary but the easiest one is looking for the characteristic discarded hazel nut shells in Autumn. Dormice munch through a lot of hazel nuts at this time of year to fatten up, almost doubling their weight, so that they can hibernate throughout the winter months when food would be scarce. They are nocturnal animals and are rarely seen, so survey techniques rely upon finding signs such as chewed nuts or nests, which are often woven from stripped honeysuckle bark.

Dormice live in woodlands, scrub and thick hedges but need a range of woodland plants and will feed on a variety of nectar, flowers, berries, nuts and insects throughout the warmer months, but to do this they need a woodland with a large range of different trees and shrubs. They live almost entirely in this canopy and rarely come down to the ground, where they would be at risk of being eaten. For this reason, joining up woodlands and connecting them with thick hedges is vital to prevent them from becoming isolated in small woodland pockets. Even in woodlands it is important to have trees spanning across rides so that they can easily cross them.

On the Stiperstones we are trying to diversify the woodlands by encouraging trees other than oaks and birch to regenerate. For example, most of our hazel trees are found on the edges of the reserve, so that is the only place we are finding dormouse signs. We try and keep our main woodlands free of grazing animals and deer both of which can reduce the wildlife value of the woodland.

Dormice require the cold to keep them in hibernation through the winter. As winters become milder with climate change, it could be that our upland woodlands become important as refuges where dormice can continue to survive in the face of this latest threat.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak

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

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

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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.

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Web: lewiswealthmanagement.co.uk

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

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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**

March 2024 deadline - Friday 23rd February 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
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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:

mailinglist@hopenews.uk

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CONTACT US

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

All other comments / questions to enquiries@hopenews.uk