HOPE NEWSLETTER

May 2025

HOPE AND SHELVE PARISH

Services in May

May 4th 9am Holy Communion at All Saints, Shelve

May 11th 9am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Hope

May 18th 9am All Age Service at All Saints, Shelve

May 25th 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity, Hope

Refreshments served after all our services.

After the lovely weather we enjoyed last month, I am sure we are all hoping it was not the last of the summer for this year. Farmers and gardeners will have been glad of the rain over Easter, but it was hard to feel thankful as nearly 20 brave souls (several dogs included) tramped from Middleton Church, across Stapeley Hill and down through Bentlawnt to Hope Church as part of our Good Friday Pilgrimage. Fortunately, the weather brightened somewhat in the afternoon, and we continued to Shelve Church and then to the Marsh Chapel. At each stop we were provided with welcome refreshments, and were joined by non-walkers for short acts of worship.

Easter Sunday was altogether brighter as we gathered to celebrate the resurrection at Shelve church. It was good to welcome so many of all ages.

The funeral service of our dear friend Yetta Littlehales was held just after Easter in Hope Church. It was an opportunity to remember and give thanks for her long life of service to the church and community.

Looking ahead our Annual Meeting for Hope and Shelve parish will take place on May 22nd at 2pm in Shelve Church. This is an opportunity to review the past year, and plan for the future. All are welcome to join us.

Rev Fran Brealey

revfran@btinternet.com 07982 324760

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER—HOPE SHOW

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER—HOPE APPLE DAY

Hope's Outreach Post Office Service – an update

On 7th April, on behalf of HVH, I submitted a complaint to Post Office Ltd (POL) detailing the very serious concerns that have been expressed about the closure of our Post Office service and of the manner in which it was done. In it, I included information about the paper and online petitions, signed by a total of 438 people, and listed many of the comments written by signatories on the paper version.

The complaint was copied to several MPs, including our own, Stuart Anderson; the Secretary of State for Business and Trade (DBT) (POL's sole shareholder); Citizens Advice (stated by POL as the, 'relevant consumer watchdog', in matters of complaint about the withdrawal/change of services) and others.

My complaint was sent to the DBT by Stuart Anderson and very quickly he received a response, which revealed POL's intentions for the 3 withdrawn outreach services (Hope, Minsterley and Shawbury) and what precipitated their decision.

A few days later, I received an, undated, emailed official response from POL that formalised their stance on these withdrawals. It mirrored the DBT response and, in summary stated, ***'Unfortunately, the operator*** *[the Pontesbury Postmaster]* ***has resigned from operating Minsterley, Hope and Shawbury outreach services and the services ceased operating as they had been, on 17 February'****; Post Office are,* ***'not looking to reopen Minsterley outreach Post Office at this time'****; and they are,* ***'still exploring options to restore service in Hope and Shawbury and whether it would be viable to continue to operate services in these locations'.*** *The resignation of the Pontesbury Postmaster was completely at odds with what we considered possible at the time of the closure and what we had been told by local Post Office staff.*

Although there is a possibility of a replacement service at Hope, it is more likely that we would be offered a mobile service, evidenced perhaps by the unannounced visit to HVH by a mobile Post Office driver on 20th March. He knew nothing about the previous service but, when told of it, asked about the viability of its operation. He also made it clear that his mobile service could not be available on Wednesdays. This last point is a real disappointment and the service would likely suffer reduced use because of it.

It seems inconceivable that POL's now stated stance about the possible provision of future services was not determined prior to the submission of my complaint; but no attempt was made to inform the potential hosts nor, contrary to their published, 'Principles of Community Engagement', 'our locally elected representatives', despite those Principles being headed by the words, 'We are committed to engaging and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network.'

How long will it be for POL to make their decision of future service provision? Who can tell, but let us be hopeful that we are provided a service that was as useful as its predecessor.

Now that this information from POL is in the public domain, I announced it to those gathered at HVH's Wednesday Community Café. I have also informed Claire, the florist in Minsterley, from where the Minsterley Outreach Service operated, and I also visited Pontesbury Post Office to advise the staff there of POL's stance. The Postmaster there remains on medical leave so the service, as usual, is operated by his staff. When informed that their employer had resigned as the operator of outreach services, they were clearly bemused because this was the first they had heard of it (they found out about the closures through social media). I left with them a copy of the POL decision letter that they intend to give to the Postmaster.

In their letter to me, Post Office state they will, 'provide notice to the community and stakeholders, once we have a confirmed proposal' and I have asked that I be informed accordingly.

Barry

VE Day 80th Anniversary

The 80th Anniversary of VE Day falls on Thursday 8 May 2025. VE Day marks the end of World War II in Europe. It honours the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the war, as well as those who supported them from home.

Our Wednesday Community Café on **7th May** will have a VE day theme.

WWII 80th Anniversary

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War next year, we'd like to feature your recollections throughout the 2025 Minsterley Parish Magazines. These can be a memory of the war years as a whole, of VE/VJ Day, family history etc. They don't need to be specifically Minsterley or even Shropshire centred - we're excited to hear about wherever you were.

Pieces can be from 50 to 500 words. We can include an image though it will appear in black and white. Any image should be your own (rather than taken from the internet).
Please send your pieces to Sarah Edwards (sarahedwards90@hotmail.com) or David Young (minsterleyparishmagazine@gmail.com) and watch out for what we hope will be a really interesting feature for 2025.

Pontesbury Gardeners' Association at the Pontesbury Festival

For those who regularly come to our Spring into the Garden event can we remind you that we have moved it from the regular May date to June 26 so as to be part of the Pontesbury Festival activities. We are also starting half an hour earlier, opening the doors at 7 pm.

There will be the usual plant sales and the Trading Post stand but also this year are flower baskets and troughs, jams and chutneys, wooden garden containers and displays and information from local nature projects.

Meanwhile the Trading Post continues to stock (almost) all your garden requirements for the coming growing season so please call in and let us know what else we can do to help you.
The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and we are there every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.



Hope Show – Saturday 6th September

This is the final reminder to the sunflower growers planning to win the tallest sunflower class at the Hope Show. Your planting window is closing fast so get that special plot of land/container ready and be prepared to protect the growing plant. Good luck to you all.

Hope Newsletter is always hopeful that our readers will share some of their experiences with their neighbours. It can be about anything you like, current, historical, amusing, worrying, embarrassing (if you dare reveal) or of which you're proud, a few words or several paragraphs. If you feel confident to do so, please send it to editor@hopenews.uk. If you're not up to using a computer, just contact me at the Community Café on Wednesdays and I'll write it up for you.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

AROUND THE WORLD FAMILIES ARE SEEING THEIR HARVESTS FAIL AS THE CLIMATE CRISIS BRINGS INCREASINGLY ERRATIC WEATHER.

THIS YEAR CHRISTIAN AID DONATIONS WILL FUND VITAL TRAINING TO ENABLE TO COMMUNITIES TO LEARN NEW AGRICULTURAL FARMING METHODS TO GROW CLIMATE RESILIENT CROPS TO PROTECT FAMILIES FROM HUNGER.

You can help raise money for Christian Aid's campaign to HELP FARMERS TO SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITY TO ESCAPE HUNGER by donating, helping or coming to a

BREAKFAST & COFFEE MORNING
in HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Minsterley
on SATURDAY 17th May
from 9.30 till 12 noon

If you can help in any way with the above event or would like to make a donation please speak to Susan Bates - 01743 891985 or s.jbates@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible

CHRISTIAN AID WON'T STOP UNTIL EVERYONE HAS THE CHANCE TO LIVE A FULL LIFE, FREE FROM POVERTY AND IS UNITED IN HOPE.



My dad, Sgt. AL Gilder—572165. Ready for bomb transportation somewhere in Wales

VE Day Quiz

Codebreakers at Bletchley Park successfully cracked which code, that helped to shorten the war?

At what time did Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister leading Britain during WWII, deliver his VE Day speech on May 8th, 1945?

Which British aircraft played a significant role in the Battle of Britain in 1940?

Which organisation, known for its mobile canteens, provided hot meals and drinks to soldiers and civilians in need?

Answers:
1. Enigma Code
2. 3pm
3. Spitfire
4. The Salvation Army

THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE
2025 Season

The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2025 season on Wednesday 9 April

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 20 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: Wednesday – Friday 12 – 4pm
Saturday and Sunday 11am – 4pm

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

Mini Health Checks (Blood Pressure)

The Shropshire Community Outreach team will be at the hall to do free blood pressure checks on

21st May & 5th July from noon to 1.50pm

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

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

14th & 28th May

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

The Long Mynd and Stiperstones Shuttle is back for another year

The Long Mynd and Stiperstones Shuttle is back for another year – this year we are running more trips for a longer season starting on Saturday 10th May and then running every weekend until the end of September.

We've increased the daily frequency of the service too by tweaking last years' timetable. This means that we will be running five circuits a day from 9am until 6pm.

Ticket prices remain roughly the same as last year with only a slight increase of 50p on our Day Rover (Hop on and Off) Ticket. We've also introduced a new Scenic Tour – Afternoon Ride Around ticket for £7.00 in response to the rising demand from passengers to stay on the bus all the way around the circuit.

We are asking passengers to opt for this new ticket in the afternoon, freeing up much needed seats at the busier times of the day. The 2pm service from Church Stretton is perfect for this – see the timetable for further details.

Printed timetables are now available from the usual places including Hough & Sons Butchers on Beaumont Road, Church Stretton Tourist Information Centre, the Bog Centre and Carding Mill Valley. Please note the Bog Centre's shorter opening times when planning your trip.

For more information about the service go to www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk or visit the National Landscape Face Book Page.

Public Consultation – new 5-year Plan to set future direction for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape

Thriving in Balance with Nature – the new 5-year Plan aims to set a sustainable future direction for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (used to be called Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty, or AONB).

The draft Plan is out for consultation from May to the end of July. Your parish is wholly or partly within the National Landscape. The Plan sets out local priorities as well as taking account of influences from outside the area including global environmental change and national policies. It aims to influence and guide landowners, organisations and individuals on a wide range of topics by setting out how to best manage the Shropshire Hills landscape. It includes policies to influence decisions which affect the area, and identifies actions for partners to deliver.

The new Plan is built around six priority themes:

- Restoring our NATURE and regenerating natural processes
- Building CLIMATE resilience and decarbonising urgently
- Managing and looking after our WATER – which supports all life
- Nurturing our LAND and living healthy soil – so it can sustain us
- Healthy PEOPLE connected to nature – in vibrant communities and as welcome visitors

Valuing and caring for the Shropshire Hills as a special PLACE

Comments are invited through this consultation period (May -July). You will find the draft Plan document at https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/

Shropshire Hills Summer Forum & Field Visits

This year, the Shropshire Hills Summer Forum & Field Visits are being held on Thursday 5th June at Rushbury Village Hall, 10am – 3.30pm.

The event is an open invitation for you to come along and find out more about the new 5-year Plan for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, which is out for public consultation from May to July 2025.

The Plan is called 'Thriving in Balance with Nature'. It aims to guide sustainable future directions for the Shropshire Hills landscape and the challenges we face such as the declines in nature and water quality, climate change, and the pressures on farming.

There's already a lot of great activity happening in the Shropshire Hills on all these topics, but we need to do more. Through short presentations, information stalls and field visits, the Forum will showcase some of the brilliant work happening locally to help protect and regenerate this special landscape.

The Forum is free, but booking is required. To see the programme and to book you place please visit our website at presentations, informal networking & field visits. Or contact the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team by email: shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk, or telephone 01743 254740.

To enquire about display space to showcase work/ activity you're involved in which is helping to protect and regenerate the Shropshire Hills landscape, please get in touch using the email or telephone number above.

Funding available for farmers in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme has been extended to March 2026. If you farm or manage land within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape funding is available to deliver projects under the themes of nature, climate, people and place. Projects need to be completed by March 2026. New programme guidance from Defra has been uploaded to the 'How to Apply' page on our website. For more information and to read short summaries of projects that have been supported to date, please visit the Farming in Protected Landscapes pages on our website at Farming in Protected Landscapes funding programme to March 2025

Our Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme advisers:

Alison Jones, email alison.m.jones@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 254745

Helen Oliver, email helen.oliver@shropshire.gov.uk or mobile 07811 790489



Wood Anenome (RVWG)



RVWG Snailbeach Walk

CRAFTY MONDAYS

CRAFT AND CHAT

2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
LOUNGE AREA
AT
MINSTERLEY METHODIST CHURCH
7 PM TO 9 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LESLEY ON 01743-791045
OR SANDRA ON 01743-891861
OR
JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT
AND JOIN US!



u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites members & non-members to the Open Meeting on the 21st May, where our speaker is u3a member, **Malcolm Philcox**, talking on **South West Japan - Land of Floods, Earthquakes, and an Atom Bomb!**

We like to have presentations from our own u3a members, so this month Malcolm will be offering a lighthearted but informative account of his travels in Japan. A chance to broaden your horizons without leaving Shropshire.

Afterwards, as always, will be followed by refreshments and the chance to catch up.

Our u3a is a UK charity which helps retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun, with over 20 interest groups.

pontesbury.u3asite.uk

SOUTH WEST JAPAN - LAND OF FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, VOLCANOES, AND AN ATOM BOMB!

a presentation by Malcolm Philcox

MAY 21

Wednesday 2pm
Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Refreshments available
Free entrance



Callow Club

Everyone is welcome!

Come and enjoy an amazing presentation and speaker

When: 14th May 2025 at 7:30pm

Where: Brockton Church Rooms, SY5 9HU

"A Portrait of Antarctica"

A personal story of Politics,

Science and Adventure by Jonathan Walton



Jonathan has had a 51-year love affair with the great white South. His Antarctic experience includes 18 summer seasons and 2 winters spread over 50 years – not forgetting his father before him and his son after him. He is the holder of a Polar Medal and is the immediate past president of the UK Antarctic Club. This presentation includes an overview of the continent of Antarctica plus personal tales of life in a hostile climate with periods of up to 9 months sharing a one room hut with only 3 others. He has lived in the Rea Valley for the past 33 years.

Booking is essential.

Contact: Linda Sagar on 01743 891 744 or 07840 365 474

Coral Milborrow 01743 892958 or 07485 655 992

Cost: £8.00 which includes snacks

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

EVENTS : 2025

Join other friendly members at our specialist events - discovering local flora and fauna together. Experts will be on hand to help us identify and understand what we are seeing.

Free to attend but booking essential. Book via reavalleycwg@gmail.com
Donations welcome.



25th January
Winter Visitors - a beginners guide to winter ducks
10-1pm
Venus Pool Car Park
washing.spud.spiking



26th April
Wildflower Walk-at Pontesford & Earls Hill
10-1pm
Pontesford Hill Car Park
hoot.signed.cobbled



9th May
Bat Walk - evening walk at Minsterley Meadows
8:45pm - dusk
Minsterley Meadows
leafing.hopefully.helpful



30th May
Bat Walk- evening walk at Snailbeach old mine works
9:15pm - dusk
Snailbeach Car Park
premature.picnic.completed



29th June
Butterfly Walk - Transect - Mitchell's Fold & Black Marsh
10-1pm
Mitchell's Fold Car Park
snaps.scarecrow.rods



7th July
Swift Walk with Carol Wood - Shropshire Swift Group
8pm - dusk
Ford Village Hall
shaver.songbirds.rare



11th July
Swift Walk with Carol Wood - Shopshire Swift Group
8pm- dusk
Hanwood - Caradoc View
hugs.possibly.lushly



4th September
Pond Dipping & dragonfly spotting
6.30pm - dusk
Meadow House, Habberley
absorbing.rigid.national

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

JOIN US TODAY!
Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com
Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP


















Join us today!

Anyone who lives or works in the area, or has an interest in its wildlife, and who wants to actively contribute to local knowledge and conservation, is welcome.

Membership is free.

Enthusiasm and interest in the area are far more important than specialist knowledge.

To join please email reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

Email today to join our active and vibrant Whatsapp group.

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS AND EVENTS : MAY 2025

Saturday 17th May - Monthly Walk
10 am - 1 pm
Poles Coppice Car Park -relations.alley.costumes



Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) at our May monthly walk providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required

Please note that there is no designated leader for these monthly walks. A meeting point is listed for each walk and the group will decide together on the day where they would like to walk.



Join us as we use bat detectors to search for different bat species in these popular locations in the Rea Valley:

Friday 9th May - Bat Walk at Minsterley Meadows
8:45 pm - Dusk
Minsterley Meadows - leafing.hopefully.helpful

Friday 30th May - Bat Walk at Snailbeach old mine
9:15pm - Dusk
Snailbeach Car Park - premature.picnic.completed

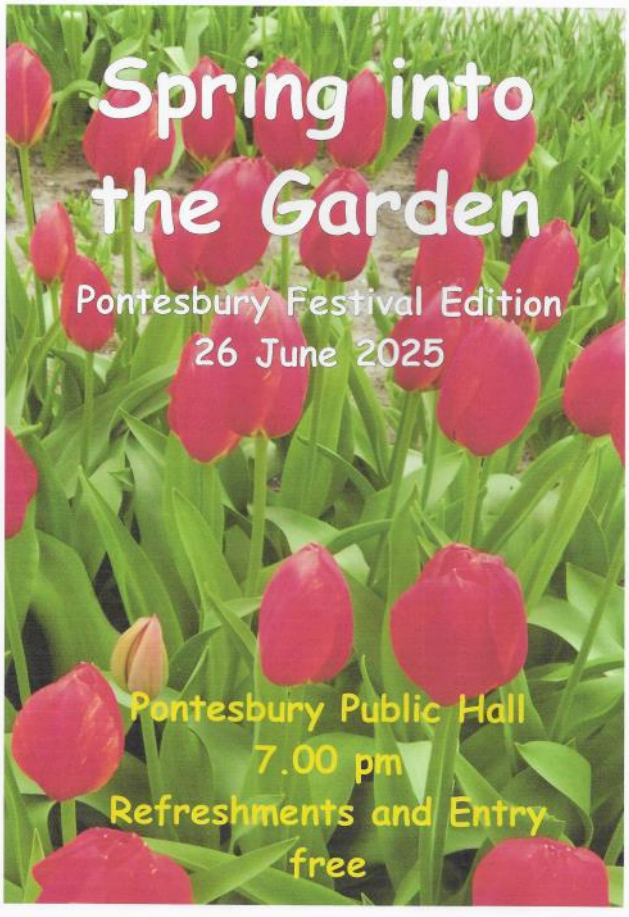
Shropshire Hills National Landscape

These two events are free, but donations are welcome. Pre-booking is required by emailing reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

JOIN US TODAY!
Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com
Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available



Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

We've had a busy start to the year with the beginning of our monthly walk calendar. Our monthly walks are free to attend, and no booking is required – the idea is for like minded nature lovers to come together and enjoy walking in their local patch.

Our most recent monthly walk took place on Wednesday 16th April. We gathered at Brockton for our first evening monthly walk of the year. After a few weeks of consecutive warm sunny days, the temperatures had dropped dramatically, and we were all back to wearing our coats and woolly hats. Spring is one of the best times of year to go for a walk in Beechfield Dingle, with the fresh leaves bursting from the trees and wildflowers covering the woodland floor, it's a spectacular local woodland. We saw a handful of Early Purple Orchids on the bank which were just starting to flower and enjoyed a wonder through carpets of wild garlic, bluebells, and wood anemone. We spotted a few botanical gems including a patch of alternate-leaved-golden -saxifrage, toothwort and Moschatel. We walked out of the woodland and looped back to the car park via the road with some great views of Stiperstones and Bromlow Callow on the way past. Those with binoculars could see the early growth of Herb Paris from the roadside. This woodland is the only place in the Rea Valley where you can see this wonderful ancient woodland indicator plant species.

As we returned to the car park, we saw a swallow fly past. It must have been wondering what had happened to the weather after all the recent sunshine.

What a lovely way to spend a spring evening!

We want to share our enthusiasm for the local area and the amazing wildlife that can be found right on our doorstep, and we will be attending some community engagement events including 'Go Wild in Worthen' the Pontesbury Festival – we hope to meet some of you there.

Having recently received grant funding from the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund we are also very excited to begin a series of specialist local events – focussing more on specific wildlife found in our area including bats, swifts, butterflies, and pond species – check our website and Facebook pages for more information.

Fire - a word of warning

During the warm spell a few weeks ago, (foolishly as it turned out) I started a small bonfire in a field above the house. The bonfire had been in place for some months and its contents were very dry, so I had water available in case it spread.

My experience of bonfire lighting is that it can take several attempts to get started. Not this one. It immediately burst into searing flames and the surrounding grass did catch fire, but it took no time for it to get beyond my water dousing capability and the creeping flames had soon fired about 2 acres of grass, with the plumes of smoke being visible from miles around.

The Fire and Rescue Service was called and units arrived from five stations, as far away as Ludlow. The unit from Minsterley was very soon on site. They and their colleagues acted professionally, very quickly and extremely thoroughly and they soon had the fire under control but remained for 4 hours to ensure everything was out. They were also very gracious in the way they dealt with me for my mistake. Officers returned that evening to make a final check.

Despite the alarm this caused to my neighbours, they united in taking the micky out of me for my bonfire escapade and I thank them for this, which reinforces my view of the strength of our community.

But it could so easily have had a different outcome, so please take great care when burning during dry spells. I would hate for the Fire and Rescue Service to be troubled again for such a matter.

Barry

NATURAL ENGLAND - Notes from the hill

May is always my favourite month on the hill, as this is the month when nature seems to come to life. It is the time of buds bursting, birds singing and insects emerging. One of the insects that does emerge at this time of year is the emperor moth, the UK's only silk moth. This moth is a large day-flying moth with large peacock-like eye spots on the wings. It can easily be mistaken for a butterfly, however it is only the male that flies during the day on its search for a mate. Its large antennae detecting the pheromones that the females produce. Once mated the male dies as it is unable to feed and only has the energy reserves that were built up when it was a caterpillar. The caterpillars that are green with black hoops containing yellow spots feed upon woody moorland plants such as heather and bramble. They overwinter in their papery cocoons before emerging at this time of year as adults.



Two other insects to look out for on the tracks around the hill are the green tiger beetle, a predatory beetle that can often be seen flying short distances in front of you as you walk. If you approach slowly you will see its dazzling green metallic colour, which is similar to the green hairstreak butterfly which is often hard to make out when it sits still on a piece of vegetation. Again it is often seen along the paths across the hill and at certain times of the year can be quite numerous.

To find out more about the wildlife that can be found on this National Nature Reserve why not join us on one of our events. There are lots that can be attended in the coming months, for more details see our Facebook page. These include:

Our annual bird walk with the Upper Onny Wildlife Group on Saturday 3 May 9:30am–1pm, a free event with no booking required. Following a route that can be rocky and sometimes wet underfoot. Meet at the Stiperstones NNR car park with your binoculars at the ready to see if we can beat last years' bird count of 40 species.

The Hidden Stiperstones is a walk around the less visited parts of the Stiperstones led by the senior reserve manager, Sat 31 May 10am-4pm £6pp, £15 family. To book, go to Eventbrite or scan the QR code.

We are also running a new easy access storytelling walk for those with limited mobility on
Friday 6 June 11am-12.30pm. A free event but requires booking see QR code.

Finally a plea to everyone to keep to the main paths with dogs on a lead as this is prime bird nesting time and the commoners sheep will be out on the site.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak.

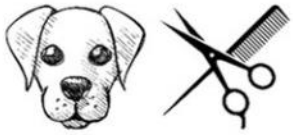
REQUEST FOR PHOTOS

Can you help? The Village Hall committee are working on updating the website and would like to include some good quality, high resolution images of the interior and exterior of the hall.

If you are a keen amateur, or professional photographer, would you be willing to take some pictures we could use? Or, you may have some of an event you attended you'd be happy to share.

If you are able to help please email enquiries@hopevillagehall.org.uk

Located at Shelve Farm, between Minsterley & Bishop's Castle.



The Pooch Parlour
Dog Grooming

Find us on Facebook & Instagram!
The Pooch Parlour Dog Grooming
@poochparloursalon

1 on 1 Dog Grooming
Fully Qualified Level 2 & 3
FdSc Animal Management & Welfare
Canine First Aid Trained
Fully Insured
Relaxing & Homely Environment

Services Include:

- Bath and Blow Dry
- Full Grooms
- De-Sheds
- Scissor Tidy
- Puppy Grooms
- Hand Stripping
- Emmi-Pet Teeth Cleaning
- Nail Clipping/ Ear Cleaning

Pick up and drop offs available on request!

Phone/Text Emma on: 07396938212

Email: poochparloursalon@hotmail.com

Local health champion publishes report into the experiences of using community pharmacies

Healthwatch Shropshire wanted to hear from anyone who has used pharmacy services for any reason since February 2024. The key recommendations are:

1. Consider the suggestions for improvement from the public in the report, in particular what can be done to reduce delays in dispensing medication and increasing access to GP appointments.
2. Speak to Pharmacists about their experiences of delivering the Pharmacy First service, in particular any issues around staffing capacity and what they think would help them to provide this service in a more seamless way that builds public confidence.
3. Consider how the Pharmacy First service can be promoted more effectively to different parts of our population, e.g. young people aged 16+ and those with limited access or experience of using technology. Where possible involve these groups in developing your approach through co-production.

Ensure there is correct and consistent messaging from GP practice staff and 111 about the Pharmacy First service and how to access it.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "We know that a lot of work is being done in Shropshire to encourage people to think about where they can go for advice and treatment rather than wait for a GP appointment or go to A&E. Some people had no idea that they can go to their community pharmacy and ask to speak to the pharmacist confidentially. The people who had used 'Pharmacy First' found their local pharmacist convenient and happy to help. We hope this report will make more people aware of the options open to them, while highlighting the support pharmacies need to be able to offer these services and increase public confidence."

The full report can be found here: https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2025-03-27/shropshire-

Presence of Mind

Body & Spirit

WELLNESS ROOM

A beautiful new healing space has opened in Pontesbury. Located in the Connections Emporium and Post Office building. Please feel free to call in and meet Krystyna. She has been a physical and emotional therapist for over 30 years now, trained in many different fields of therapy. So if it is an aching back, anxiety, stress or one of the many maladies we humans suffer – or just pure relaxation, pop along have a chat and book a session.

See Facebook Energetics Engineer or Connections/ Pontesbury Post Office for updates, special offers and workshops.

Call Krystyna on 07876 238843

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A leaflet is available with information about the facilities. You can also find out

Come to the Gathering!
An evening of Praise, Singing and Christian Fellowship
Third Tuesday of the Month
7:00pm for refreshments and 7:30pm start
Marton Village Hall
ALL WELCOME

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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

FREE

Do you have an event to promote?

Anything for sale or wanted?

A regular group meeting?

Group activity?

Community information?

We usually have space to include posters or a mention about the above for no charge.

Just email details to:

editor@hopenews.uk Or:

enquiries@hopenews.uk

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Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

SGT 0642 Jenni Price PC 3331 Stuart Coote

PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown

Contact Details

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

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

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

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

Twitter: **@SouthShropCops**

Key Phone Numbers

Pontesbury & Worthen Medical Practice	01743 790325	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

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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- Bridge
- Café Society
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- 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

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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- Brochures & Newsletters
- Laminating & Binding
- Photographs & Prints
- Business Cards & Stationery
- Tickets
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Thursday 8th May 2025

June 2025 deadline - Thursday 22nd May 5pm

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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 current 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**

Have you got any recipes, cartoons, quizzes, crosswords or articles you would like to see in the newsletter? Just send to either of the email addresses below and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Articles—editor@hopenews.uk or sarah@hopenews.uk

Comments or queries—enquiries@hopenews.uk

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