HOPE NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Hope and Shelve Parish

Saturday November 1st 3pm All Souls Service at Holy Trinity, Hope
Sunday November 2nd 9am All Saints Holy Communion at All Saints, Shelve
Sunday November 9th 9am Holy Communion with an Act of Remembrance at Hope
Sunday November 16th 9am 'Worship Together', informal service for all ages at Shelve
Sunday November 23rd 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity, Hope
Sunday November 30th 10.30am Group Holy Communion Service at All Saints, Shelve
Refreshments served after all our services.

ADVANCED NOTICE Saturday December 13th Christmas Coffee morning in Hope Village Hall 10am-12 noon with activities for families.

November is a month of Remembrance, and this begins for the church on the 1st of the month when we will be holding an All Souls' Day service at Hope Church at 3pm. This is an opportunity to spend time together remembering those we love and have lost, recently or long ago. We will be lighting candles and giving thanks for all they mean to us, and then sharing tea and cake together. If you would like the name of a loved one read out in this service, do text or email me (details below).
November 2nd is All Saints' Day, and a special day at Shelve Church which is dedicated to All Saints. We will be remembering not just the famous saints pictured in stained glass windows, but all those who have been part of the church community at Shelve and surrounding area over many generations.
We will be marking Remembrance Sunday at Hope Church. All are welcome to this service and to the Community Act of Remembrance at Bentlawnt War Memorial at 11am on the 11th.

Researching your family's history is one way of remembering those generations that preceded us. It is always good to meet people who have connections with those buried in Hope and Shelve churchyards and Hope cemetery, and to find out more about those who have been part of our communities in the past. At this time of year we often sing a hymn written by Isaac Watts in the 18th century, which contrasts the ever-rolling stream of history with the eternity of God. Remembrance can be a difficult season, but it can also be a time to commit ourselves to working for a better, kinder world, as we honour those who have gone before us.

Rev Fran Brealey
revfran@btinternet.com 07948 676581

Editor's Note

Don't forget the next issue of the newsletter will cover the months of December AND January if you have any news or events you would like to be included.

We Will Remember Them

It has recently been brought to my attention that, quite unknowingly, we have done a great disservice to a former resident and his family.

That disservice concerns the omission, from all of our local war memorials, of Lance Corporal Leslie William Potter, 8th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), who died on 7th January 1945, aged 23 years. He was the son of Leonard and Lily Potter, of Gravels.

It is difficult to understand how Leslie's name was overlooked, particularly as he is remembered on the headstone of a family grave in Hope Churchyard. The grave occupies a square plot marked by an open Bible, and the inscriptions read:

> *"In loving memory of Harriet Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Cross, of Hawthorne Cottage, Stapley, who died Jan 15th 1928, aged 68 years. "Rest in the Lord."*
>
> *Also of Samuel, beloved husband of the above, died April 7th 1933, aged 76 years. "Re-united."*
>
> *In loving memory of Lily Potter, who died 7th June 1948, aged 47 years. "Peace perfect peace."*
>
> *Also of Leslie William Potter, beloved son of Leonard and Lily Potter, killed in action in Italy, 7th Jan 1945, aged 23 years. "Thy duty nobly done."*

Leslie's actual burial is in Forli War Cemetery, Vecchiazzano, Forli, Tuscany, Italy, where his headstone bears the words:

> *"His memory will live in the hearts he left behind. Mum, Dad, brothers & sisters."*

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record (Lance Corporal Leslie William Potter | War Casualty Details 2207232 | CWGC), the following history provides context for Leslie's final months of service:

> *"On 3rd September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, coinciding with the armistice made with the Italians, who then re-entered the war on the Allied side.*
>
> *Following the fall of Rome in June 1944, the German retreat became ordered, with successive stands on a series of defensive lines. In the northern Apennine Mountains, the last of these — the Gothic Line — was breached during the Autumn campaign. The front advanced slowly as far as Ravenna but, with divisions transferred to France and the Germans entrenched in strong positions, the advance stalled as winter set in.*
>
> *The Forli Cemetery was established soon after the Eighth Army captured Forli in November 1944, with graves brought in from surrounding battlefields. Many of those buried there lost their lives in the heavy fighting between Rimini and Ravenna in the appalling conditions of October to December 1944.*
>
> *Forli War Cemetery contains 738 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, four of whom are unidentified."*

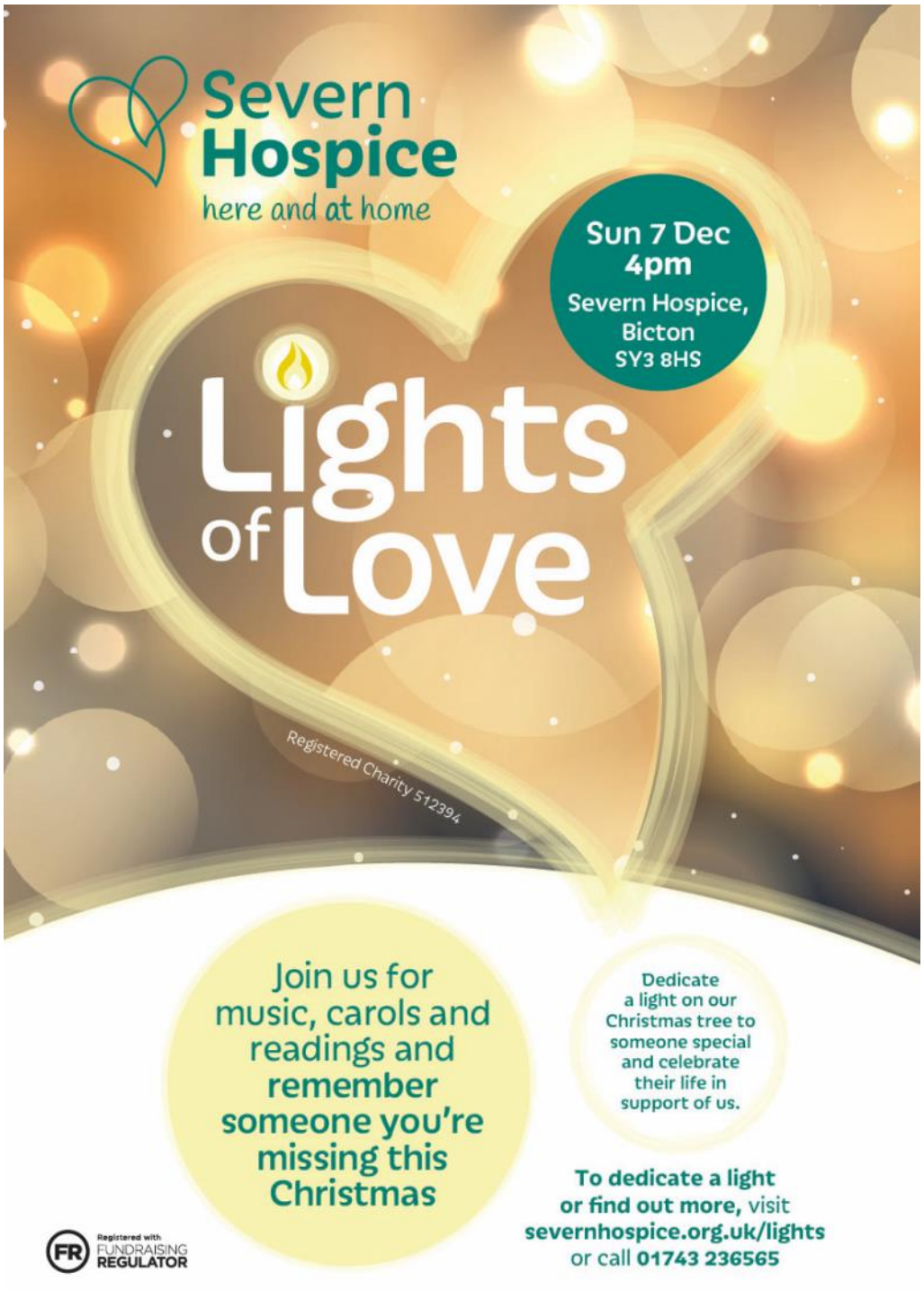
Leslie's name will now be added to the main memorial at Bentlawnt so that he may be remembered among those who gave everything for our freedom.



Memorial Day service

Concerning the addition of Leslie Potter's name to the Bentlawnt Memorial, Jake of Welshpool Printing Group, of Severn Farm Enterprise Park, Welshpool (https://wpg-group.com), kindly offered to add Leslie's name to the Memorial free of charge. This was a very generous gesture, and HVH is pleased to acknowledge and thank them publicly for their contribution.

Leslie's name will be added to the Memorial in time for the Remembrance Day service at Bentlawnt on Tuesday, 11th November, at 11a.m. We warmly invite everyone to attend as we commemorate those local people who gave their lives in the two World Wars. With many new residents now part of our community, we especially hope to see some new faces joining us in remembrance.



Hope Apple Day

This year's apple day at Hope Village Hall was a great success, despite the inclement weather with a record number of apples processed on the day and taken for professional bottling.

Huge thanks to all those who came along and supported this event and the volunteers who worked very hard to meet the demand and provide refreshments.

We collected over 500 bottles of pasteurised juice, around half of which have been 'bought back' by people who dropped off their apples. The hall now has over 200 bottles, produced from donated fruit, which will be available to buy for £3.50 each at the Wednesday community café and other events. (If you would like to buy some and aren't able to come to the hall on a Wednesday lunchtime do let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. Email enquiries@hopevillagehall.org.uk)

West Mercia Police report

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

16th September 2025 – 14th October 2025

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Marton	
Aggravated vehicle taking	Vehicle taken from property without consent and damage caused to it	Worthen	Suspects arrested, enquires ongoing
Stalking		Marton	
Blackmail		Hope Valley	
Assault		Stiperstones	
Malicious communications		Churchstoke	

Crime Prevention - Lighten up your home

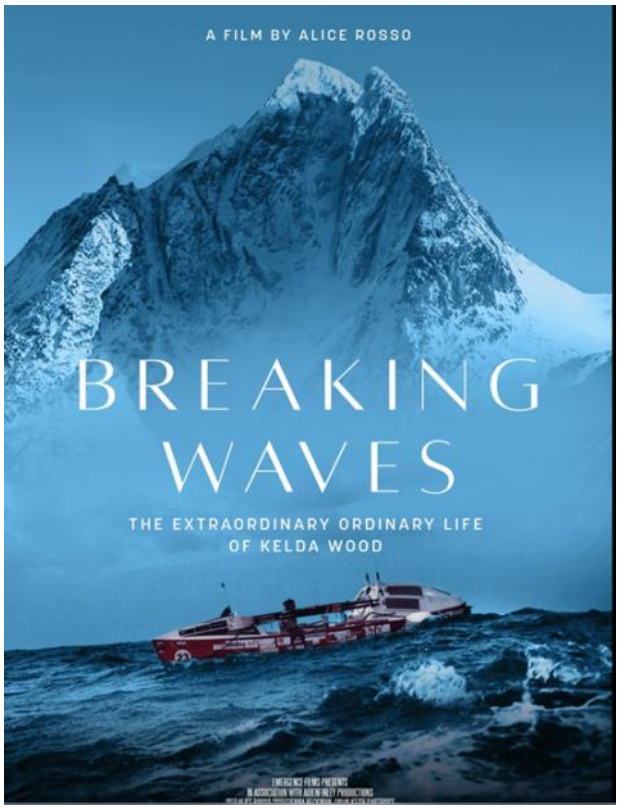
It's that time of year again when the darker nights are upon us. A simple method of leaving a light on in your home in the evening or late at night can significantly reduce the chance of being a victim of a burglary. This time of year there is generally a peak in dwelling burglaries across the county. Thankfully we do get very few dwelling burglaries in our policing area but having a light on may help deter any opportunist thieves looking to target outbuildings.

The 'Lighten up' top security tips are:

- A well-lit home gives the impression someone is in and not unoccupied
- Use timer switches to turn lamps on when you are out
- We recommend dusk 'til dawn lighting, which is the type that stays on through the hours of darkness, switching off before the sun comes up.
- Don't just set a light on a timer in the hall or landing area, try and set the lights up in room
- Consider other types of lighting, such as devices that simulate the light of a TV
- Invest in external lighting such as PIR lights to light up outbuildings and yards
- Always lock windows and doors and keep gates and side entrances well secured

Callow Club
Everyone is welcome!

12th November – 7:00pm
Worthen Village Hall Cost £5.00
Bring your own liquid refreshments and nibbles. Proceeds of the raffle will go to the Climbing Out charity.



Kelda Wood is the first para-athlete to row across the Atlantic Ocean solo. Follow this "ordinary" woman's journey through the tallest peaks in the world, the GB Paralympic squad, and cancer. Be inspired to go on your own journey.

We are thrilled to have an exclusive showing of "Breaking Waves" a film about Kelda Wood's extraordinary life, rowing single handedly across the Atlantic Ocean, after a freak accident which left Kelda with an irreparable leg injury that has had a huge impact on her life and ended her dreams of becoming an Olympic horse rider. After rebuilding her confidence, Kelda changed her focus and eventually retrained as an outdoor instructor. She then launched Climbing Out charity to help people who have been through life changing mental or physical trauma or illness.

Booking is essential so contact Linda Sagar on 01743 891744 or 07840 365474

… and then in December

10th December - 7:00pm Brockton Church Rooms
£15.00 (which includes 3 raffle tickets)– Come and enjoy **a Christmas party with a difference**. Steve Worral (of Operation Sabre) will be sharing his experiences walking the Santiago de Compostela / Camino Way. To tie in with Steve's pilgrimage and by way of celebration of the great year that we as the Callow Club have had, we will host a two course Galician meal, including drinks, during the evening.

Bookings for this close on the 3rd December 2025
so contact Linda Sagar on 01743 891744 or 07840 365474 to avoid disappointment

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

12th & 26th November



USE IT OR LOSE IT

Don't forget the mobile Post Office van calls at

Hope Village Hall every Thursday @ 10.15 am

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
HOPE CHURCH
SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
9AM

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
WAR MEMORIAL
BENTLAWNT
TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
11AM

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'



In aid of
Lingden Davies

FRIDAY 28th November 2025

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



A Moving Tribute to a Shropshire Son
Join Us this November

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

As we enter a time of remembrance, Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a warmly invites you to our Open Meeting on 20th November for a special performance of Strange Meetings, presented by Shaun Higgins.

This powerful one-man show brings to life the final 15 months of Wilfred Owen – the renowned war poet born in Oswestry, Shropshire. From his time at Craiglockhart Hospital being treated for shell-shock, to his influential friendship with Siegfried Sassoon and the poetic brilliance it inspired, the story follows Owen's return to the Western Front and his untimely death just days before the Armistice.

Owen's story is one of hidden strength, fragility and the tragic cutting-short of huge potential. This first-person perspective is alive with language and wry humour, bringing to life his thoughts and inspirations.

Following the talk, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a. Members and Non-Members are welcome.

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 20 interest groups covering a variety of activities.

A talk by celebrated Wildlife Photographer **Ben Osborne**

FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY

Polar Journeys



Join Ben on a journey to the ends of the earth, with breathtaking images and captivating stories from his adventures in the Arctic and Antarctic. A visual experience not to be missed!

© Ben Osborne Photography

Saturday
22 NOV
7.30pm

PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL

TICKETS £10 (under 16s £5)
from Hignetts, Pontesbury Library and TicketSource

BAR OPEN

FOPL: Raising funds to support Pontesbury Library



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December 2025

10.00am – 12.00noon

Hope Village Hall

In aid of Hospice at Home



Stalls: Cakes

Raffle

Christmas Stall

Lucky Squares

Seasonal Refreshments



Donations welcome beforehand, please contact

Clare Bennett – 01743 790419 or Deborah Davies – 01743 891414

Mini Health Checks (Blood Pressure)

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

Wednesday 19th November from noon to 1.50pm

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

Shropshire Hills National Landscape

www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk

Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team
Unit 5 Drovers House, The Auction Yard, Craven Arms, SY7 9BZ
telephone: 01743 254740, email: shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk

Funding to help communities to care for the natural environment in their local area.

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund has reopened this autumn and new applications are invited for projects to start in spring 2026.

Fund priorities are:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and its conservation, especially involving young people.

We're keen to encourage applications from community groups. Grants are in the range of £500 – £2,000 and can make a real difference in converting great ideas into sustainable community action for nature and people.

Earlier this year, grants totalling just under £15,000, were awarded to nine practical projects with strong community engagement. These include funding the wildlife monitoring efforts of a parish council, creating a publicly accessible wildflower meadow and supporting a community wildlife group to deliver a programme of events.

If you have an idea in mind, the first step is to complete a short project idea form. We will then get in touch with you to discuss your idea and will be able to recommend whether your project should progress to full application. The deadline to make an expression of interest to the Fund is 13th February 2026.

The link to the online form, further information and how to apply is on the Shropshire Hills National Landscape website, www.shropshirehills-nl.co.uk or go to Read about 'how to apply' here.

Or contact Stephanie Hayes from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team, email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 254746.

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

NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

Although the summer seems to have been drawn out rather late this year the hill is showing signs of autumn and by the time you read this will probably be showing all the autumn colours in the bilberry, the bracken and the trees. This is always the best time of the year for fungi and this year seems to be a bumper year.



Fungi, what most people know as mushrooms and toadstools, come in a vast variety of colours and forms and are a vitally important part of life on earth. Although they often go unnoticed, hidden below ground or within rotting wood, they are essential to ecosystems and to human health. Fungi are the worlds natural recycling system, breaking down dead organic matter and releasing nutrients into the soil essential to plant growth and all animals that rely upon it. Their underground mycorrhizae also play a vital part in the absorption of nutrients and water by plants and of course we use fungi for a variety of purposes. After all what would we do without the yeast that makes our bread rise and our beer brew.

Woodlands are often the places where you would go to see mushrooms and toadstools and the birch woodlands on the Stiperstones are home to one of the most recognised toadstools, the fly agaric. With its white speckled red cap, it is the toadstool in every fairy story. Its name refers to a traditional use of the dried flesh being sprinkled in milk to kill insects.

Most of our mushrooms and toadstools now have common names, many of which are quite descriptive such as jelly ear, rancid bonnet, hairy curtain crust and wood cauliflower.

The birch polypore is a typical bracket fungus that grows on dead birch trees. Otzi the 5300-year-old mummified man found in the Italian Alps was found with some birch polypore on a leather thong around his neck. This could have been for use as tinder to light a fire as a smouldering ember can be kept going in it, so it could have been used to take fire on his travels. Another theory is that one of the chemicals found in this fungus can be used to remove intestinal worms, something that Otzi was suffering from.

The Stiperstones has some great fungi records not only from its woodlands but also in other habitats such as the scrub and its grasslands.

One very obvious fungi that grows on the stems of gorse bushes is witches' butter. This is a very interesting, if complicated fungi that parasitises another parasitic crust fungi growing on the gorse. Its bright orange jelly like growth was once thought to be the sign of witchcraft.



We have records of two particularly notable fungi that have been found on the grasslands of the Stiperstones. The big blue pinkgill is a rare toadstool which we thought would be relatively easy to identify as there aren't many blue fungi in the Uk, however it has now been split into four distinct species, so who knows which one we have. The olive earthtongue is another rare fungi that also may be a complex of different species. This is a tiny green or brown fungus that as the name suggests emerges from the ground with tongue shaped fruiting bodies. Both are found on old unimproved pastures.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak

Community Resource – Oil Buying Club

Want to save money on your heating oil? We can help!

Now is the time to take advantage of cheaper heating oil. With the weather cooling down, prices often rise due to increased demand. But you can save money by joining our Oil Buying Club.

Community Resource is a Shropshire-based charity that runs a Community Oil Buying Club to reduce heating costs for those living off gas. By combining orders across communities, we bulk buy and pass the savings on to you.

Stats for October 2025:

Highest Price Quoted: 54.40ppl *Saving on 500 litres: £24.50*

Average Price Quoted: 52.40ppl *Saving on 1000 litres: £49.00*

Price Negotiated: 49.50ppl

Membership is just £27 per year and includes support from local coordinators and help for those without email.

Next order deadline: Tuesday 12 November

For more info, visit: Service Community Support - Community Resource
Or email: oil@community-resource.org.uk

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALK: NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 15th November - Monthly Walk
10am - 1pm
Pontesford Hill Car Park - hoot.signed.cobbled

Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) at our November 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.

This event is free, but donations are welcome.

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

We'd like your help to put wildlife on the map!

iRecord

What is iRecord?

iRecord is an online recording website and App that you can use to share and collate your wildlife records, including your incredible photos.

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group encourages everyone to record all the wildlife you see. Through iRecord, your records are shared with those who need them to inform monitoring and conservation efforts, both locally and nationally. It's a fantastic learning tool that will help you to identify what you are seeing and great way to put our local wildlife on the map

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

It is a great way for you to:

- Record all the wildlife you see, wherever you are
- Securely store and keep track of your records
- Share your sightings with the community
- Benefit from checks and reviews by experts
- Explore maps, reports and graphs of your data
- Explore information shared by other recorders in your area and/or for species groups you are interested in
- Contribute to science and conservation
- Contribute to our quarterly iRecord report for the Rea Valley area



Join in the fun and download the iRecord App from your App store today!

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.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HOPE
FUNDRAISING

Burns Night

"Now's the day and now's the hour"

Traditional two course haggis meal with music, quiz, verse and dancing

Saturday 24th January 2026

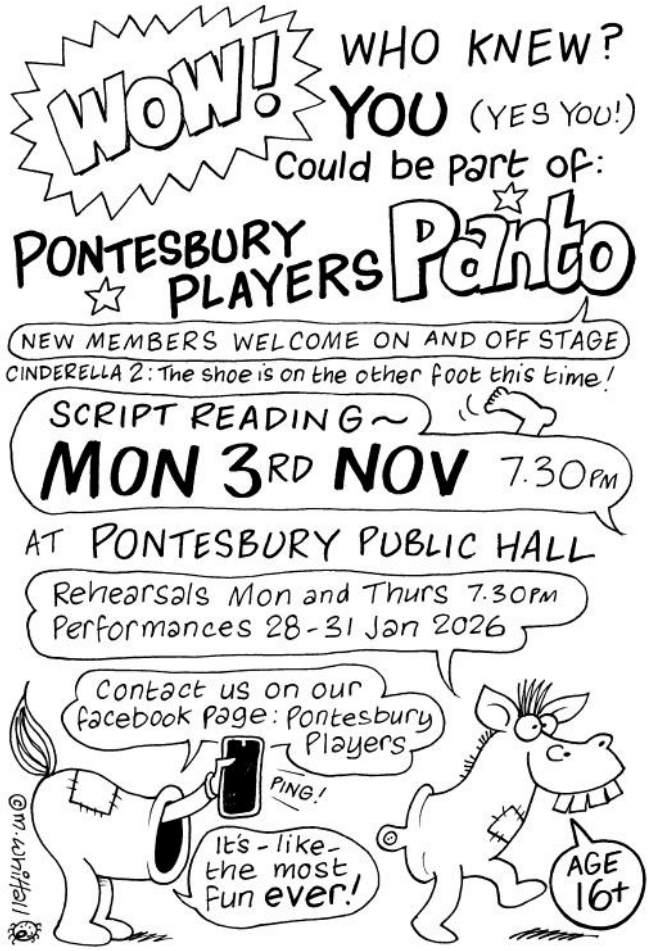
Hope Village Hall SY5 0JB

7:00 pm

Tickets on sale from 1st November 2025

£12 per person - Children £5
Vegetarian Haggis Option
Bring your own drinks

For more information visit https://hthope.church





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Email: poochparloursalon@hotmail.com

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
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OR SANDRA ON 01743-891861
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01743 885775

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

West Mercia POLICE
SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

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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2.30 .5.00

Sat 10.00-5.00





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HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF HIRING HOPE VILLAGE HALL?

Our rates are very competitive

@ **£8 per hour**

Enquiries and bookings are made with Debbie on 01743 891414

A leaflet is available with information about the facilities. You can also find out more online at hopevillagehall.org.uk

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

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December 2025/January 2026 deadline—Monday 24th November 5pm

Advertising is an important source of funding for our newsletter!

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

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