

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

APRIL 2024
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



Leopard's bane - Jill Wardle

Printed Copy £8.00 per annum

Digital Copy £5.00 per annum

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & SUPPORT

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE



To access information and advice:

FREE Shropshire Adviceline: 0808 278 7894
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

Specialist Debt Team: 01742 280 019
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

FREE Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133

FREE Universal Credit: Help to claim:
0800 144 8 444

On the web: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

PHILIP DUNNE

**Member of Parliament for the
Ludlow Constituency**

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187

Fax: 01584 876 345

Email: philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk

SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

**Cllr. Cecilia Motley
Councillor, Corvedale Division**

Cabinet Member for Health and Communities;
Executive member, Rural Services Network;

Shropshire Council 01588 672 192



SUPPORT & RESOURCES

There is a wealth of information and resources available on the Shropshire Council website: www.shropshire.gov.uk

From information about household recycling, planning applications, and highways to help with Cost-of-Living and Benefits. Help and information can also be obtained by phone: **0345 678 9000**.

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

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Mr P Turner	16 Beambridge, Munslow	Beambridge/Millichope
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Mrs C Byng	The Meadow, Culmington	Culmington 2
Mrs S Morgan	1, The Moors, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 1
Mr N Kennedy	The Old Byre, Diddlebury	Diddlebury 2
Ms S Walters	Roseford, Bache Mill	Middlehope
Mrs A Donnelly	The Ashlings, Munslow	Munslow
VACANT – New Volunteer Required		Peaton, Peaton Strand
Ms C Morgan	Ludlow	Sutton
Mrs P Baynham	Garage Cottage, Westhope	Westhope

COPY FOR MAY 2024 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the **May 2024** magazine, please send by email to editor@corvedalenews.co.uk by **MONDAY 15TH April 2024** at the latest.

ADVERTISEMENTS If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager by **MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: advertising@corvedalenews.co.uk. All adverts must be in electronic format and sent in either jpg or Word format.

PICTURES We are always very pleased to receive high quality pictures of scenes or events around the Corvedale to add to our library for use on the front cover. Email to photos@corvedalenews.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTE If anyone knows of other events taking place within their immediate area in the next few months, could they please let the Editor know so these may be included in the Dates for Your Diary.

OUR DOMESTICS

DON'T FORGET If you are aware of anyone who does not receive the Corvedale News in your area but would like to, please have a word with your distributor.

DISCLAIMER Views expressed in this paper are those of the relevant authors and not necessarily those of the Corvedale News team. We reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted for publication. No liability is accepted for loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising, and the appearance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement or recommendation. The Corvedale News is published and distributed entirely by volunteers, with production costs defrayed by advertising and subscriptions.

DESIGN & PRINTING Our magazine is designed, set and printed by Craven Design and Print. info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk Unit 1, Craven Arms Business Park, Craven Arms, SY7 8NR. Tel: 01588 673972

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

We have agreed to hold subscription prices at the current rates for 2024. The paper subscription will remain at £8.00 per annum and the electronic subscription £5.00.

You can make your payment in three ways:-

1. Online:

Account Name: Corvedale News (Business Account)
Sort Code: 30-90-49
Account Number: 54132260
Reference: Please use your surname and your location e.g. SMITH, PEATON

3. By post:

Make your cheque out to: THE CORVEDALE NEWS
Print your name and address on the back of the cheque and post to:
T Bennett, Corvedale News Treasurer
Lower Middle Barns
Corfton, Craven Arms
SY7 9LB

2. Your Corvedale News distributor:

Hand your cash or cheque over to your distributor.

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2023, please do so IMMEDIATELY, using one of the methods above. If you are not sure whether you have already paid or not, please contact Colin Pitcher by email at colin.pitcher@hotmail.com.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Corvedale News Team

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rev'd John S Beesley
St Michael's Rectory
Munslow
SY7 9EU

Tel: (01584) 841488
revjbeesley@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Canon Christopher Walsh
St Peter's RC Church
Henley Road, Ludlow
SY8 1QZ

Tel: (01584) 872906
st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net

METHODIST CHAPEL

Craven Arms: for service times and ministers, please contact the Shropshire and Marches Circuit Office

Tel: (01743) 874923
circuitoffice2803@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE





Mini Moos

Baby and toddler group

Every Monday
10-12 term time

£2.50 per family

Baby area
Toddler area
Ride ons
Craft activities
Song time
And lots more

 Diddlebury Village Hall 

Find us on Facebook
Mini Moos baby and toddler group



Weekly Whist Drives



Every Monday

All ages and abilities welcome

Doors open 7pm
Start 7:15pm

£3 to include half time
refreshments

Westhope Village Hall
SY7 9JL



CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

Corvedale Book Group welcomes new members! It costs less than £5 a month to cover room hire fees and Shropshire Library loan fees.

For the first six months of the year, we will be choosing books selected by group members. Then we will be discussing books selected from the annual library list.

Please contact cathburley@hotmail.com if you would like to join us.

**Second Thursday of the month
7.30pm - 9pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th April



CORVEDALE ARTISTS

meet every Tuesday
from 10.00 am until 1.00pm in
Beambridge Village Hall

Portrait Model and Still Life
provided at each session
with tuition, or bring your
own artwork

**£8.00 per
session**

A warm welcome awaits new
members of all abilities
so why not come along?

For further information
telephone 01299 832608

Street
FOOD NIGHT at DVH

Fishy Friday

From the renowned Fish and Chip Van

FISH HEADS!

Friday 19 April

Bar opens at 17:30

Draft  available!!!

Food from 17:30 – 21:00

See the DVH [FACEBOOK](#) page for more information

GREAT DIDDLEBURY CHURCH PLANT SALE

DIDDLEBURY CHURCH ROOM

FRIDAY 17th MAY

10AM – 4PM

SATURDAY 18th MAY

10AM – 1PM

Teas, coffee and home-made cakes as well!



DAFFODIL DAY

COME AND VISIT

SPARCHFORD COTTAGE

CULMINGTON

ON

EASTER MONDAY

1st APRIL 2024.

2 — 5 pm

Teas and refreshments

Donations in aid of Corvedale Benefice



TOWER HOUSE GARDEN (SY7 9LN) OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

Saturday 18th May

National Garden Scheme

11am-5.30pm

Teas in aid of Culmington Church

Sunday 19th May

Open all day

Entry £5, Children free.

In aid of Culmington Church.

You could even make a day of it and walk here, along the bridleway from the village hall and the Beefy Boys event.

Diddlebury Village Hall
Grey Wolf
in concert

Friday 17th May

7.00pm doors & bar open
7.30pm Performance

Adults £14.90
U-16s (accompanied by adult) £6.60
Prices include booking fee

Tickets from WeGotTickets.com or contact Ian
Fotheringham 01584 841 331
e-mail: ianfotheringham@btinternet.com

Further details on DVH Facebook page,
Grey Wolf's website or contact Ian.

The
Jarualda Quartet

The 2024 Corvedale Festival
Launch Event

Haydn: Quartet Op 76 No 2 'Fifths'

Beethoven: Quartet Op 18 No 6

Dvorak: Quartet in F Op 96 'American'

Saturday 11th May

Diddlebury Village Hall SY7 9DH

Cold Buffet 6pm Concert 7.30pm

Tickets £20 (includes buffet)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival

Phone: Festival Office 07745 825 700

or Email: corvedalefestival@gmail.com

2024 Festival 20th – 28th September

www.corvedalefestival.org



Enjoy singing?
Corvedale Choir



is looking for new members who love to sing

WHO? We are a mixed voice choir based in the Corvedale who began singing together in 2010. Our Musical Director is Ros Crouch, well known for her leadership of several choirs in the area

WHAT? We sing an eclectic mix of harmony songs with a supportive, friendly and fun group of local people

WHERE? Diddlebury Village Hall

WHY? Because we love singing with other people and because singing is good for physical and mental health

WHEN? Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm during term time.

We have 2 concerts a year: a charity fundraiser in the summer and a carol concert at Christmas



Interested? We would love to hear from you. There are no auditions, all songs are taught - an ability to follow music and a desire to sing is all that's required

Not sure if it's for you? You're welcome to come along and join us for a taster evening for free any Monday evening

HOW? If you would like further information please contact :

Avril Lines avril.fossilsinshropshire@gmail.com or 01584 861 339

Diddlebury Village Hall

Miriam
Backhouse/Erasmus
in concert

Friday 28th June

7.00pm Doors & bar open
7.30pm Performance

Adults £12.50
U-16s (accompanied by adult) £6.00

Tickets from WeGotTickets.com or contact Ian
Fotheringham 01584 841 331
e-mail: ianfotheringham@btinternet.com

Further details on DVH Facebook page or look up
Miriam on Facebook or her official YouTube site or
contact Ian

Corvedale Folk Club

at The Seven Stars, Broadstone
on Monday 22nd April
at 7.30pm

All are welcome to perform or listen to and enjoy
acoustic music, recitations and story-telling.

Meetings will be the 4th Monday of each month

For further information contact Ian on 01584 841 331
or email ianfotheringham@btinternet.com

CORVEDALE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP

Working parties are usually on the 4th Wednesday
of the month and the following Friday and Sunday,

beginning at 9.30am. Please ring Jenny

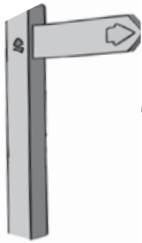
Vine on 01584 841596 to confirm work

location. If any local walkers in the

Corvedale notice any stiles or steps in poor
condition, please report back to Jenny.

The current planned dates are as follows:

April: Wed 24th, Fri 26th, Sun 28th



QUIZ NIGHT

at
DVH

**Wednesday
May 1st**

Quiz Starts: 19:30

Booking essential

Text/WhatsApp: 07396 730342

Email: diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com



Watch

The Grand National

at

Stanton Lacy V Hall

4.00p.m.

Sat. 13th April

Hall open 3.00p.m.

Bar and food



DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall



Street
FOOD NIGHT at DVH

Fishy Friday

From the renowned Fish and Chip Van

FISH HEADS!

Friday 19 April

Bar opens at 17:30
Draft available!!!

Food from 17:30 – 21:00

See the DVH [FACEBOOK](#) page for more information





Hercule Poirot Mystery
A Haunting in Venice (12A)
Kenneth Branagh, Kelly Reilly
7.45 pm Thursday 25th April
Doors & Bar Open: 7.15 pm
Tickets: £5 (Card machine)



QUIZ NIGHT

at DVH

Wednesday 1st May

Bar Opens: 19:00
Quiz Starts: 19:30

Booking essential

Text/WhatsApp: 07396 730342
Email: diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com

	RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Peter Carty: Talk on Birdsong	19.30pm Tuesday 9th April
	<i>The Fabulous Fish Heads</i> Top quality Fish and Chips served from 5.30 – 9.00 pm New – Draught Beer at the Bar – from 5.30 pm	5.30pm Friday 19th April
	A Haunting in Venice (12a) Starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot	19.45pm Thursday 25th April
	DVH Quiz Night Booking essential – 07396 730342 or diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com	7pm Wednesday 1 st May
	Mini Moos Baby & Toddler Group £2.50 per Family See Facebook for more information:	Mondays 10.00 - 12.00 Term time
	The Corvedale Choir. Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Mondays 19.30-21.30
	The Blue Hills Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Tuesdays 10.00-12.00
	Zumba Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448832	Tuesdays 18.00
	Tai Chi Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250275 hello@goldenthreadscc.com	Thursdays 10.00-11.00
	Physiotherapist-led Pilates Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814412	Fridays 9.15-10.15

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Every Mon	Corvedale Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Every Mon	Coffee Morning	Culmington Village Hall	10am - 11.30am
Every Mon	Bridge Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm - 5pm
Every Mon	Westhope Whist Drive	Westhope Village Hall	7.15pm
Every Mon	Mini Moos - Baby & Toddler Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tue	Blue Hills Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tue	Corvedale Artists	Beambridge Club Room	10am
Every Tue	Zumba	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Wed	Yoga	Westhope Village Hall	3.30pm
Every Wed	Pub Night	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	8pm
Every Thu	Tai Chi	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Fri	Physiotherapist-led Pilates	Diddlebury Village Hall	9.15am

APRIL 2024

1st	Mon	Daffodil Day	Sparchford Cottage	2pm
1st	Mon	Munslow Annual Meeting of Parishioners	Munslow Church	7.30pm
2nd	Tue	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7.30pm
3rd	Wed	Coffee Morning	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	10am
3rd	Wed	Kids Film Night	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	6pm
4th	Thu	Community Lunch	Westhope Village Hall	12.30pm
7th	Sun	RSPB Walk	Whixall Moss	2pm
9th	Tue	RSPB Talk - Pete Carty - Identifying Bird Song	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
10th	Wed	Munslow WI	Munslow Village Hall	7.30pm
10th	Wed	Diddlebury & Westhope WI	Culmington Village Hall	7.30pm
11th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
11th	Thu	Hayton & District WI	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
13th	Sat	Un-Finished Objects Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
13th	Sat	Garden Group Visit	The Leasowes Cound	TBC
13th	Sat	Grand National	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	4pm
13th	Sat	Easter Prize / Cash Bingo	Westhope Village Hall	7pm
14th	Sun	Pages Meadow Talk - An Acre of Land	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	2.30pm
17th	Wed	Coffee Morning	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	10am
18th	Thu	Coffee Morning	Munslow Village Hall	10.30am
18th	Thu	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
19th	Fri	Fish Heads - Fishy Friday	Diddlebury Village Hall	5.30pm
20th	Sat	Flower Festival	Munslow Church	2pm
22nd	Mon	Corvedale Folk Club	Seven Stars, Broadstone	7.30pm
23rd	Tue	Another Way? - Talk by Peter Cornah	Clee St Margaret Village Hall	2.30pm
24th	Wed	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
24th	Wed	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
25th	Thu	Flicks in the Sticks - A Haunting in Venice	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
26th	Fri	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
26th	Fri	Curry Night	Culmington Village Hall	6.30pm
27th	Sat	Can-do-Crafts - Rag Cushion / Bathmat	Culmington Village Hall	10am
27th	Sat	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
28th	Sun	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
30th	Tue	Culmington Annual Meeting of Parishioners	Culmington Village Hall	2.30pm

ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:

Abdon - 11, Culmington - 10, Diddlebury - 8, Stanton Lacy - 11, Westhope - 10, Munslow - 11

The deadline for all submissions to the News is Monday 15th April

CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - APRIL

Coffee Morning

Monday 1st and every following Monday, 10am - 11.30am
Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Tea or coffee for £1 with free refills. Good company and biscuits.

Bridge Club

Monday 1st and every following Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm
Contact Peter Whitehead pst.whitehead@gmail.com

Lunch Club

Thursday 18th, 12:30pm for 1pm
A 2-course meal for £10 plus raffle and bar.
Please book in advance so we know numbers.
Contact Gwyn Edwards on 07891 904 501 or 01584 861 666
or Anne Rowlands on 01584 861 787.

Curry Night

Friday 26th April. Food from 6.30 - 8.30pm. Bar open 6pm.
£10 for choice of beef (spicy), chicken (less spicy) and vegetarian curry, rice, naan, and samosas. Contact Jo Mear on 07872 109 936, Gwyn Edwards on 07891 904 501 or Anne Rowlands on 01584 861 787.

Can Do Crafts - Rag Rug Cushions/Bathmats

Saturday 27th April, 10am to 12.30pm.
Rag rug cushion cover / bathmat. £25 includes refreshments.
Come along for a fun and creative time. Contact Rosemary Jones 01584 861 823 or 07837 609 229.

PLANNING AHEAD

Lunch Club

Thursday 16th May, Thursday 20th June, 12:30pm for 1pm
A 2-course meal for £10 plus raffle and bar.
Please book in advance so we know numbers.
Contact Gwyn Edwards on 07891 904 501 or 01584 861 666
or Anne Rowlands on 01584 861 787.

Beefy Boys

Sunday 19th May
Back by popular demand! Plus, the return of the Animal Man and a donut stall. Contact Jo Mear on 07872 109 936 or 01584 861 486.

Beacon Day

Thursday 6th June
80th Anniversary of D-Day. Beacon will be lit at 9:15pm.

Social Night

Friday 28th June, bar open from 7:00.

RSPB Walks & Talks

More info can be found on the RSPB local group website.

WALKS

7th April Whixall Moss 2pm

TALKS

7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

9th April Pete Carty Identifying Bird Songs



WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

What a fabulous night! Our Tapas and Show evening with Paul Ray, magician and showman was a huge success. This was a new venture for us, and we are delighted to have received some excellent feedback. Thanks to everyone who came to support us.



We are all still busy working hard at Westhope, planning future events for the spring and summer.

Thursday 4th April is our first community lunch, a lovely homemade 2-course lunch, with tea/coffee 12.30 for 1pm. To book please call Kath Woodhouse on 01584 841 254 or Betty 07860 447 397. Everyone welcome. Pre-booking is essential.

Saturday 13th April - Easter prize/cash bingo. Doors open 7pm for eyes down at 7.30.

Our centenary celebration programme is now being finalized, so invitations will be going out soon after Easter.

The hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required. All enquiries Betty 07860 447 397.

Betty Manley

APRIL (AND FUTURE) EVENTS

Whist Drives

Every Monday, starting at 7.15pm.
£3 entry. All abilities welcome.

Yoga with Sue Pugh - Fully subscribed.

Every Thursday 9.45 - 10.45am.
All enquiries Sue Pugh 07432 349 933
or Betty 07860 447 397.

Community Lunch

Thursday 4th April, 12.30 for 1pm
Home cooked two course lunch with tea / coffee £10.
Pre-booking is essential, call Kath Woodhouse on 01584 841 254 or Betty 07860 447 397

Easter Family Bingo

Saturday 13th April, 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 19th October

Rag Wreath Workshop

Sunday 20th October

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - APRIL

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

On the second Saturday every month, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Bring your 'crafty projects' - learn from each other and enjoy the chat as you, crochet, knit, sew, patchwork or do anything crafty! And of course, coffee and cake too! A warm welcome for everyone!

Coffee Morning

On the last Saturday of each month 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to our warm and friendly get togethers - lively chat, coffee and, of course, cake!

Abdon Village Hall Bookings

Contact Margaret Buckingham: 01746 712 296 or abdon.villagehall@gmail.com Or visit our website for the booking form and details: www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk

MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

By popular request we are continuing our coffee mornings into Spring this year, with the next taking place on **Thursday 18th April** 10.30am until 12 noon. We are making this coffee morning a special event in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. This great organisation is asking people to run fundraising events this spring in aid of the wonderful work they do. We hope that many of you will come and join us to donate, and enjoy some really delicious cakes and, as always, lovely tea and coffee.

Many of the regular visitors to the coffee mornings have indicated that they would like to be able to continue coming to coffee with us, and we hope to arrange more dates in May. Please note there is just the one coffee morning in April, on the 18th as above.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lesley Dobson

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



The Clover Club re-opened on a sad note, remembering Glenys and Dorothea, two members who we lost in February. Our love and support goes to their families.

Kath then introduced Hillary and Ian who own 'Pictures in Harmony'. The photographs were amazing, and all fitted in with the music and songs. We sang along to *Loch Lomond*, and *The White Cliffs of Dover* amongst others. Unfortunately, only six members turned up to enjoy this occasion, but we had a good draw, with tea and cakes to follow.

Our next meeting is **Thursday 4th April** 12.30pm at Westhope Village Hall, when we join the Community Lunch. Everyone very welcome.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL

EVENTS APRIL 2024

Pub Night every Wednesday from 8.00pm

Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 3rd & 17th April, 10am-12pm

Tea, Coffee & Cake. Everyone Welcome!

Kids Film Night

Wednesday 3rd April, showing at 6pm

Cozy up in front of a film. Film yet to be confirmed. Bar will be open for adults. Drinks and snacks available for the kids

Grand National

Saturday 13th April

Join us for an exciting afternoon of racing. Bar open from 3pm. Food will be available

Community Market

Last Saturday of each month

For more information.

Email: slvh.info@gmail.com

or Facebook: Stanton Lacy Village Hall Events



FLOWERS & BRASSES

MARCH 2024

7th Liz Jones

14th Liz Jones

21st Melissa Hartop

28th Melissa Hartop

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

17th March Daisy Rose Martin

Diddlebury

FUNERALS

1st March Graham Hardy

Culmington

12th March Dorothea Clinton

Diddlebury

15th March Martin Holland

Culmington

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Easter this year is relatively early, falling on 31st March. This means that April is entirely taken up by the Easter season, a period of fifty days which takes us from Easter to Pentecost, which this year falls on 19th May. Shopping habits mean that the two big festivals in the church year, Easter and Christmas, are times when we are in danger of starting to think about the event too soon, so that (a) we miss out on the season of preparation and (b) when we get there, we've had enough of it. The Christmas season gets squeezed out by Boxing Day sales and the rush to think about the New Year. Easter is always in danger of being over by the end of lunch on Easter Day: having been to church, eaten an Easter Egg and had lunch, we can feel that we've done Easter and it's time to move on. The fifty days of the Easter season remind us that there is far more to it than just a morning. As Christians we believe that Christ's resurrection changed forever the relationship between God and his people – because of the resurrection we have a closer relationship with God than was the case before it. This is powerful and life-changing stuff. It means that our celebrations of the resurrection continue as we remember the times Jesus spent with his disciples after the resurrection, in the forty days before he ascended into heaven. We remember too that ten days after the Ascension the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost, empowering them to go out to begin the task of spreading the Christian message around the world.

I have quoted before the line from Pope John Paul II, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song', but it is perhaps worth looking at the whole of what he said: 'We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the fundamental duty of love of our neighbour, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy. We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: Be it done unto me according to thy word.' It is this that we will celebrate during the Easter season – come and join us!

Rev'd John Beesley

RECENT EVENTS

Thank you to Dr Paul Nevins and all who attended the talk about the history of the trumpet on 25th February. It was a really interesting afternoon, enjoyed by all who came. It raised £250, which has been split between the Corvedale group of churches and Horatio's Garden at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital in Gobowen.

Thank you as well to everyone who supported the Italy talk on 8th March – to those who made food in abundance, those who gave raffle prizes and sold tickets, to those who helped on the night – and to all who came along. The evening made £742 which will be divided between the churches and helps to support the ever-increasing costs associated with keeping seven churches open and running.

Rev'd John Beesley

MUNSLOW CHURCH SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL

Many of you will be aware that following a safety inspection, we are planning to rewire Munslow Church. The current estimates for doing this are in the region of £46,000. Fundraising has started and, as part of this, we will be holding a Spring Flower Festival on **Saturday 20th April** from 2pm to 4pm. The church will be decorated, tea and cake will be available, there will be plants for sale, a display of the registers, and other things will be happening too. Do put the date in your diary and come along. If you could help by making a cake, or in another way, please let me know!

Perhaps less excitingly, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting season is upon us and details of the various meetings will be elsewhere in the magazine. Munslow's APCM will be on **Wednesday 1st May** at 7:30pm in the church.

Rev'd John Beesley

DIDDLEBURY CHURCH NEWS

This is some advanced notice for the Annual Plant Sale which is taking place this year in the Church Room on **Friday 17th May** and **Saturday 18th May**. An important change this year is that on the Saturday we will close at 1pm rather than at 4pm. This is because Saturday afternoon produces very few customers, and the helpers are usually in need of a good rest! As usual we would be very grateful for help with the sale, in the form of donations of plants, or help on the day.

Megan has been running the plant sale for nearly a quarter of a century, and, as her health problems are becoming more troublesome, she intends that this will be the last sale which she will organise. If there is anyone out there who would like to take over next year, Megan would be delighted to hear from them (on 01584 841 650) The Plant Sale is a major fundraiser for the church (£1,000 last year) and it would be a pity for it to come to an end.

Martin Speight

ALL SAINTS CHURCH CULMINGTON

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be held on **Tuesday 30th April** at 2.30pm in Culmington Village Hall. The meeting gives parishioners information on the progress of the church, any future plans together with the election of your Churchwardens. Current wardens, Andrew Pike and Val Hardwick are willing to continue in post providing continuity for the Church Tower Appeal. The Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council will follow. Please do come along and find out more about your church. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

We are in a waiting period as the Faculty application has been sent off and applications for grants are awaiting response. We have so far received two positive replies. Plans are shaping up for a Midsummer evening of music, BBQ and relaxation at the church and an Auction of Promises later in the year plus other smaller fundraising events in conjunction with Culmington Village Hall.

Andrew Pike and Val Hardwick
Churchwardens

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

The next big event in the choir's calendar is our tour to Cornwall at the beginning of May. We are excited to be taking part once again in the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival. We last attended in 2019 when we were one of almost sixty choirs who sang across forty different venues in the county.

Whilst being an opportunity to sing to a large and appreciative audience and also enjoy the varied landscape and delights of Cornwall, we will again be able to listen to different styles of music from choirs across Europe. This year, for example, choirs from Sweden, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Austria and even Wales will be attending!

We have two evening concerts at Liskeard and St Just where we share a stage with other choirs, and have three daytime slots, at the Trebah Gardens amphitheatre, the Minack Theatre with the ocean as our backdrop, and finally on Killacourt Greenspace in Newquay. We will be mixing up our repertoire between some old favourites and a few new pieces that are currently in rehearsal. We are also hoping to surprise the locals with a rendition of 'The Song of the Western Men' otherwise known as 'Trelawny', the unofficial anthem of Cornwall. We'll maybe not attempt the accent though!

Dick Langford, chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com,
01952 728 758, www.mwmvchoir.org.uk

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

THE DOVEKEEPERS BY ALICE HOFFMAN

The Dovekeepers is a fascinating book, if a little daunting in its 504-page length. American writer, Alice Hoffman, has contributed her extensive research about the days leading up to the Roman siege of Masada in the Judean desert in 70CE. Much of it was based on the historical account by Josephus. Some of you may have visited the Yigam Yadin museum where artefacts which inspired the book are on display. In Masada 900 Jews held out for months in a mountain stronghold only accessed by a narrow winding path. They planned to avoid capture but (plot spoiler) only two women and five children survived.

The novel is crafted around the stories of four strong women who take different paths to reach the stronghold but eventually work together in the dovecote. The doves provide eggs, meal, and manure to enable the beleaguered garrison to grow their own food. Telling four women's stories in the different sections of the book, the interweaving of their lives is an ambitious project. It's a story of struggle, relationships, births, and death. Yael, Revka, Aziza and Shira have had to learn to be secretive, resilient, and independent. Eventually, they learn to work together as a group and to depend on and protect each other against the misogynistic society in which they live. At times, their suffering is overwhelming. The landscape is hostile. There are pages describing the effort of surviving their journeys across the endless, barren, windswept desert. For some of them their faith sustains them. For others, the need to protect their men or their children becomes the core of their need to survive. Some of their relationships are passionate, though mostly secretive. They have to work within the cult-like framework of the authoritarian religious rules of the mountain stronghold.

Yael is the freckled and red-haired daughter of the Assassin Yosef bar Elhanan; unwanted and ignored, because her much loved mother died in childbirth. Cared for by a young nurse, Shirah, she is given little love in her life. Her brother, who does care for her, eventually follows his father's career. Eventually the father kills once too often and leaves Jerusalem to cross the desert with Yael, reluctantly allowed to follow in his footsteps. Revka is portrayed as an avenging mother, who was happy as a village baker's wife until her world changed when her husband died, and her daughter was brutally killed by Roman soldiers. Her mission was to channel her grief into

fiercely protecting her young grandsons, rendered mute by the experience. Her son-in-law's grief turns him into an isolated religious fanatic. She is on her own. Aziza, a warrior's daughter, was raised as a boy, hiding her gender to provide protection from the dangerous days in which they lived. A fearless rider and an expert marksman, she later struggles with the impact of the role in war. The love she eventually finds as a woman is not sufficient to sustain her. Shirah, raised in Alexandria, a wise woman with medicinal skills, has uncanny insight and power based on ancient magic. She has a hidden love story of her own, which is her strength and her undoing.

As a group we commented sadly on the parallels with the political situation today. It's a gripping book worth reading, if you persevere beyond the first section, and probably worth re-reading to absorb the challenging history and to make sense of the interwoven lives of these four strong women. Some editing might have made it an easier read. I, for one, was pleased I'd read it.

Our next book, **White Houses by Amy Bloom**, is about Franklyn and Eleanor Roosevelt and we will meet to discuss it on **Thursday 11th April**. The group welcomes new members. Get in touch if you would like to join us.

Cath Burley, cathburley@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

Do you have an hour or so to spare each month?

The Corvedale News Team is looking for a new volunteer to take on the distribution of the Corvedale News in the Peaton / Peaton Strand area. Magazines are distributed each month from February to December inclusive.

Why not get some fresh air and exercise whilst contributing to your local community?

If you feel you could help us out, please contact our distribution manager Colin Pitcher at colin.pitcher@hotmail.com.

The Corvedale News Team

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

March's meeting was not only fascinating, learning from Archaeologist Dr Nigel Baker about his exploits as a keen canoeist on the River Severn, other rivers and under Bristol City Centre, but also very entertaining. Nigel's leisure time exploits commenced when a neighbour was throwing out a kayak. Nigel decided he'd rather fancy taking to the waters near his home in a kayak, much as he'd done as a child in East Anglia, so he asked if he could have it! Until he ventured out onto the rivers, he'd never really thought that being in a kayak or canoe could be a good way of finding archaeology. But once he began going out on the local rivers surrounding his home and onto the River Severn, he soon found out that being low down on the water was a great way of seeing and finding things that perhaps no-one else had seen, discovering many facts and artefacts. It reminded him of a quote he'd once heard that 'kayaks and canoes were forms of transport that would take you to parts of the world that other forms of transport could never reach'! This was clearly the case when canoeing on the River Avon in Bristol, going under a low archway flowing down under Bristol City Centre into complete darkness onto what was discovered to be the hidden River Frome. The Frome's course had been altered, blocked up, channelled off, used as a defence, a harbour and a sewer and finally built over by our medieval forebears after its smell had become so awful. It is now hidden from view but still flows freely beneath the streets of the city. There, Nigel and a colleague discovered the remains of original bridges which were thought to have disappeared centuries ago. After his talk, Nigel very kindly judged our two competitions for the month.

Being well into early 2024 now, with Spring knocking on the door, members are enthused to bring ideas for events and outings to the table and we are looking forward to attending events being arranged by other branches and the Shropshire Federation WI.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 11th April** at 7:30pm with our speaker Tullis Matson presenting a talk about Nature's Safe - a charity on a mission to save the future of our natural world by preserving live cells of animals at risk of extinction. Being one of Europe's first living biobanks, its mission is to Save Animals From Extinction by collecting, storing and regenerating reproductive cells from endangered animal species. We hope members and guests are able to join us for, what promises to be, a very interesting talk.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent SY7 2AT. For further information please contact our Club President, Phyllis Steventon on 01584 823 436, or our Secretary at hayton.district.wi@gmail.com.

Louise Gough

NEW ADVERTISERS:

JF Plumbing & Property Services, Page 24
Triple R Joinery, Page 24

MUNSLOW WI

Our March gathering was an open meeting where we welcomed several guests.

The main topic was a talk by Kate O'Connor about China. Kate told of how from quite a young age she was fascinated by stories of China and the Chinese language. She was also curious having seen magazine articles and photographs, so she travelled there in the late 1970s and attended University in Beijing where she became fluent in the language. She spoke about the kindness and generosity of the Chinese people.

In those days there was a huge contrast between life in China and the UK: travel was mostly by bus or bicycle and hot water rationed to two hours a day. One Christmas Kate cycled several miles to make a phone call to her family at home which only lasted three minutes. However, life in China was beginning to change and when Kate returned in the 1980s things were vastly different. Some years later she was to discover that several of her forebears had also spent time in China. Kate was warmly thanked for giving us an insight into China in the last century. The usual tea, cake, biscuits, and chat ensued, and we left feeling that we'd learned a little more about another nation.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 10th April** when Grant Williams will tell us about The Discovery Centre in Craven Arms. We meet at 7.30pm at Munslow Village Hall (Beambridge Clubroom) and we are always happy to welcome visitors or new members.

Jenny Rose

Hayton and District Women's Institute

NORTH LUDLOW WI GROUP MEETING

DATE: Thurs 9th May 2024 7.30pm

VENUE: Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent, SY8 2AT

GUEST SPEAKER: Natalie Cumming

Image by Natalie Cumming

Natalie will be talking about her book *'The Fiddle'*. It tells a true story, tracing a precious family violin through war, terror and the Holocaust, to safety and restoration in 21st century Britain.

EVERYONE WELCOME

£3 members; £5 guests, inc. refreshments.
All proceeds to the Air Ambulance Charity.

Contact for more information:

Club President - 01584 823436

Club Secretary - hayton.district.wi@gmail.com

April is often a lovely month; the daylight is longer, the weather a bit warmer and there's the possibility of some sunshine. The tourist season has started too. Easter is what starts it off, so is your church looking clean and tidy and welcoming to anyone who might venture through your door?

Simple things make churches welcoming, the best of all being flowers. They brighten up the building: flowers bought, wild or from your garden. Many churches now have visitor counters and contactless giving machines. The recent Heritage Lottery project provided many of them and it is paying off. Many more people walk into their churches than the visitor book shows, and contactless giving makes it easy for people to donate. And they do!

Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG) has lots of ideas on its website for welcoming visitors. This is also the year when, if your church is not a member, you can join. Sign up for £60 for 3 years membership. You will be featured in the next brochure which will be printed next year (2025/year 2) which will be available for 3 years. 30,000 brochures are printed for distribution around churches, visitor information centres in the County and surrounding ones, major visitor attractions where possible and any other relevant place of which we can think of. You will have a church page on the website, promotion

on Facebook and Instagram, and special events advertised widely. There are opportunities to learn more about pleasing visitors and help when you need it. We are planning day trips to some member churches each year too.

April might also be the month you turn up to see what the Churchyard Task team are doing in a churchyard near you. It's a sociable thing to do, it's good for your health to be outside and you are contributing positively to the environment. There are lots of different tasks to do like cutting back, building habitat piles and taming the ivy to name but a few. I cannot believe that since retiring I have learned to scythe, can have a go at laying a hedge – not to mention constructing a dry-stone wall. This was not what I had planned for my retirement, but what a privilege! We always like to see local people when we are working in your churchyard and cake is always welcome!

Churchyard Task Team - dates for April

9th Burrington, 11th Ford, 16th Caynham, 18th Montford, 23rd Bromfield, 25th Kinnersley Cemetery, 30th Cressage.

Anni Holden-Calver,
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre
Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group



VOLUNTEER RETIRES

Barbara Bowers has recently retired as distributor for the Corvedale News in the Broadstone, Hungerford and Rowe Lane areas. Barbara has been delivering your magazines for over 25 years and all on foot! The Corvedale News Team would like to send a huge thank you to Barbara for all her efforts over so many years.

Our thanks also go to Alison Benbow who has kindly agreed to take over from Barbara.

The Corvedale News Team

Barbara pictured with flowers and chocolates presented by the Corvedale News Team.

QUIZ NIGHT AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Our first quiz night of the year at DVH was a sell-out! It was wonderful to see the hall packed full of quizzers who, as well as bringing their very impressive general knowledge also came out to enjoy themselves, resulting in lots of fun and laughter and a great atmosphere.

The competition was close, but it was The Travellers - Tina and Will Ranson from Ludlow with friends Sue Price and Malcolm Harris from Homer near Much Wenlock who travelled to the top of the leaderboard with a fine score of 81 points (pictured celebrating with their top prizes).

Three points behind with 78 points and far from duffers were the Diddlebury Duffers –

Steven and Wendy Ross, Sara Thompson and Russell Simm.

In third place with 73 points were the Woolston Nomads a team from Woolston near Wistanstow, who are members of DVH's Tai Chi classes.

Huge thanks to everyone who bought 'squares' in the draw – David Hedgeley was the lucky winner of £20 with Steve Woods of Corfton winning the second prize of a bottle of wine.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported the night and are delighted to have raised a total of £169 which will go towards the purchase of a new sound system for the hall.

Also, many thanks go to Jean Drakes for producing yet another excellent quiz.

Our next quiz will be on **Wednesday 1st May**. Some of the tables have already been booked so get in touch asap to reserve your table. diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com or Text/WhatsApp: 07396 730 342.

Kim Simm

THE CORNEWALLS OF DIDDLEBURY

PART TWO: A PROUD PRELATE

As I mentioned last month, Captain Cornwall retired from active service in the 1760s and settled down on his estate in Diddlebury. In 1771 he entered Parliament for the Montgomery Boroughs in the interest of his wife's cousin, the Earl of Powis, but, being a true son of Shropshire, he hated the smoke of London and attended the House infrequently. He did not stand in the next election in 1774 and remained happily in his native county.

Captain and Mrs Cornwall had three sons, the first of whom died in infancy. The eldest survivor, Frederick, did not follow his father into the Navy. After Eton and St John's College, Cambridge (where he did not take a degree) he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1773. Three years later he entered Parliament for Leominster, probably in Lord Powis's interest, and in 1780 won the seat at Ludlow. In 1778 Frederick had inherited a fortune from his cousin, Francis Walker of Ferney, near Onibury. However, the Will contained two conditions: Frederick was to add the name of Walker to his own (not an unusual condition at the time) and would not come into his inheritance for five years. Here fate intervened for the first time, for Frederick died shortly before the five years were up. This meant that his brother Foliott became heir to both the Cornwall and Walker estates.

Foliott Herbert Walker Cornwall, like many younger sons of the nobility and gentry, had entered the church after Cambridge. Being extremely well connected, he advanced rapidly after his ordination in 1777. Having served three years as a curate in the East Midlands, he was given livings first in Berkshire and then in Norfolk. It is almost certain that he was an absentee rector, for he began to receive far more prestigious appointments which he held in addition to his parish posts. In 1780, at the age of 26, he was made Chaplain to the House of Commons, where by curious coincidence his cousin was Speaker, a post he held for nine years. In 1788 Captain Cornwall died and Foliott inherited the Diddlebury estate, and shortly afterwards came into the Ferney Hall bequest which his brother had died too early to enter into. The young clergyman had become a very rich man as well as rising rapidly in the church. In 1784 he added a canonry of Windsor to his parliamentary post, and in 1793 was appointed Dean of Canterbury. His family connections to Lord Powis, and through his cousin, the Speaker, to the Earls of Liverpool, undoubtedly helped to smooth his upward path. In 1787 he married Anne, the daughter of The Hon. and Rev. George Hamilton, a fellow Canon of Windsor and a cousin of the Marquess of Abercorn. Anne bore the bishop three children Frederick Hamilton in 1791, Marianne in 1793 and Herbert in 1794. A year later she died, and the bishop remained a widower until his death in 1831. So far, I have found no indication of what arrangements were made for the children, other than that both sons went to Eton and Cambridge.

In 1797 Foliott took the next step in his elevation when he was appointed Bishop of Bristol. This was, however, merely a staging post, and in 1803 he was promoted to Hereford, finally being translated to Worcester in 1808. Here he stayed until his death in 1831, having refused a move to Durham a few years previously. As Bishop of Worcester Foliott Cornwall resided in stately splendour in Hartlebury Castle a few miles north

of the city, using Delbury Hall (as it was now known) as his 'holiday home' where he was able to relax and hunt with his private pack of foxhounds.

The bishop also completely refurbished the family pew or chapel in the parish church (now the vestry), adding among other things a fireplace for his comfort. His appointment to the Bench of Bishops had been largely political, as it was felt that he would be useful to the government in the Upper House – which no doubt was particularly true when his distant relative Lord Liverpool became Prime Minister in 1812.



Bishop Cornwall by William Gill of Ludlow. Reproduced under Wikicommons.

Bishop Cornwall died at Hartlebury Castle on 5th September 1831, and was brought home to be buried in Diddlebury church. His hatchment was hung in the family chapel (see Corvedale News, December 2023) and a memorial tablet was erected, now sadly partly hidden behind vestry furnishings. His obituary in the *Gentleman's Magazine* damned him with faint praise, stating that he had been *possessed of fair scholarship, strong good sense, polished manners and an amiable temper, and had passed a virtuous and exemplary life*. It also stated that his literary output consisted of two short, printed sermons. (This was not strictly true – another of his sermons is currently on sale on the internet for £250). He did, however, leave a legacy which unintentionally brought ruin to the family.

Bishop Cornwall placed an entail on the estate, which gave his male heirs only a life interest in the property and which could not be sold. There were two reasons for this. If the heir at some point should be a female, the property would automatically pass to her husband upon marriage – a situation which was not remedied until 1882. Rather than being simply an act of misogyny this was a measure intended to keep estates in the family. However, a secondary reason may also have been involved. According to the Regency gossip-monger Captain Gronow, the heir to Delbury had led something of a fast life in London. As many country estates had been bankrupted by gambling and politics, the bishop may well have attempted to insure against such an eventuality. It all went disastrously wrong, though, with the result that in 1904 the last link between the Cornwalls and Delbury was severed.

To be concluded.

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ORGANISING AN EVENT?

Get the word out with the Corvedale News.
Contact the editor to include your poster in the next edition: editor@corvedalenews.co.uk

CORVEDALE PAST & PRESENT

DA YA FANCY A FEW DAYS IN DURHAM, PET?



We did - so we went! A first sighting of Durham cathedral is extraordinary even these days when, frankly... we've seen it all. Just imagine the effect it must have had on a contemporary local seeing it for the first time! Even to the urbane traveller it was wonderful, full of architectural impossibilities, pointed arches and stone ceilings. What William the Bastard (*Conqueror*, if you will), and his followers did up and down the country was a show of overwhelming power and force. In Durham, as well as the vast cathedral set to control hearts, minds, and souls, a linked castle physically controlled the populace – 'all bases covered'. In this peninsula town surrounded by a sweep of the river, the old Saxon infrastructure was smashed by the ducal, now regal machine. In another peninsular town, Shrewsbury, much the same was happening.

Perhaps if we could see into the mind of William, he might have dreamt he was changing the country for a thousand years. He did, but whether for good or ill, I'll let you decide.

The next 250 years showed astonishing progress (perhaps that is the word). Yet were the seeds of disaster being sown?

When it happened, it must have been like the clap of doom. We're living through climate instability now, but then it happened even more suddenly. The year 1315 heralded a series of disastrous summers. It rained incessantly, the crops rotted, the hay, once cut, could not be dried and few if any farm animals would have seen the turn of the year. The conventional narrative then follows like this. Some 30 years later a disease was introduced throughout the European mainland and Britain, killing at least a third, perhaps a half of the population. Scholarship identifies the bacterium *Yersinia Pestis* and boldly states that this was the cause of the disease, though remember, association does not necessarily equal causation.

So how should we now view what the Victorians in their macabre way called the 'Black Death'?

For five hundred years farmers in England had been inverting the soil by ploughing. The thirteenth century in particular saw a huge cereal rush. More and more land being turned to wheat for bread production, traces of which can still be seen in the land. It was to feed a growing population, but could this have materially contributed to the horrors of the next century?

In the last few decades huge certainties have been overturned, though this so far has led to precious little change

in production of our food or how we view our maladies. Increasingly, though, investigations into the natural world, including ourselves, have shown the basis of life-partnerships between animals, plants and unimaginable numbers of microbes living in the soil. The old world which taught that 'the only bugs we needed were dead ones' is hanging on with a grip like...a man desperate!

Now it is not unreasonable to argue that the view about historic and contemporary infections needs at least a radical rethink. A possible scenario for the fourteenth century plague might go thus: England had seen arable lands ploughed for 500 years or thereabouts, damaging the soil biology and in particular the fungal networks which are rather akin to oceanic coral reefs, which give structure for other life to flourish. This had been offset by the practice of manuring the fields (which we now understand feeds the microbes, not the plants), and by crop rotation and fallow. The thirteenth century saw a crisis of pressure on the land and good practices might have increasingly been disregarded, people perhaps not understanding that the soil was a limited and delicate resource. Not only the quantity but the nutritional eloquence of food would have suffered, as would the soil biology and the human equivalent - the gut biota. The gut is our principal immune organ. Many would have been left malnourished and immunologically deficient.

Can we really say that a bug caused the plague, or was it just like a child let loose in a sweet shop?

Caution is needed: I have made a simplistic case and our understanding of our cohabitation with unseen microbes is in its infancy, but I thought it worth a shout!

Peter Cornah, villageadamandeve.uk

ANOTHER WAY?

A **light-hearted** look at how your body is put together and functions, because that seriously changes everything!

A discussion led by
Peter Cornah
(villageadamandeve.uk)

When?
Tuesday 23rd April 2024
2.30pm

Where?
Clee St. Margaret Village Hall

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP

THE VERN AT MARDEN

After a long period of grey, wet days we were delighted that the weather on 9th March was dry, and the soaked land wasn't too waterlogged to prevent us walking on it. We had cancelled this visit last year due to snow. The garden didn't disappoint. The owners welcomed the thirty attendees warmly and were very generous with their time, information and, later, their tea, coffee, and cake. Despite the weather in the preceding weeks the gardens were well presented, too. We were each given a detailed history of The Vern and a map of the gardens.

The gardens, which are situated alongside the River Lugg, under Dinmore Hill, had been designed by Percy Caine in the 1920s for Richard Saher de Quincey. He was famous for breeding Hereford cattle. Some of his bulls sold for £20,000 apiece. Percy also designed Darlington Hall and Falkland Palace. At The Vern he made the Georgian walled garden into a formal garden and planted the banks of maple, camellia, viburnum, rhododendron, and magnolia, many of which were in flower. There was a second renovation in the 1950s by James Russell (1920-1996), who ran Sunningdale nurseries and worked at Castle Howard and Eaton Hall, Cheshire. His contribution was to add more rhododendrons, azaleas, and bamboo. There was a huge aviary for hummingbirds which, with breeding Sealyham terriers, were a passion for de Quincey.

The current owners took on the property in 2017 when the gardens were quite derelict. It became a family project. The walled garden has been cleared of bird cages and now produces a copious alphabet of fruit and vegetables. The

walls are now covered in new fruit trees, alongside the cordon apples and pears, and the grapevine has been renovated. There were sheep and hens there too. One of the neatly set out beds is a wildflower meadow. The former sunken garden has been made into a carefully graded and colourful rose garden waiting to come into bloom. The two formal beds have been restyled with a wealth of purple, blue and white flowers waiting to emerge later in the year.

For our visit, the woodland walk down to the lake was a highlight, with red and yellow cornus setting off the greens of the newly emerging willow. The magnolias and camellias were spectacular, all underplanted with a feast of hellebore, trillium, wild daffodils, leucojum, snowdrops, crocus and scilla. Later there will be wild garlic, lily of the valley, wild leeks, foxgloves, and dog tooth violets. The Monet-style bridge over the water was too slippery to cross so the furthest reaches of the garden will have to wait for drier days. There are marginal plants there and magnificent *Gunnera manicata*.

We had our refreshments in one of the glasshouses alongside a huge pond of carp and chatted about our visit with the owners who happily answered our questions. We will hope to visit another year when more is in bloom having thoroughly enjoyed the winter structure and the emerging spring garden.

On **Saturday 13th April** we will visit The Leasowes at Cound, where we hope the rhododendron and azaleas will be in flower. This ten-acre garden has five lakes, an arboretum of unusual trees and beautiful borders. Please let me know ten days beforehand if you would like to join us.

WALKING IN THE CORVEDALE

Walking in the Corvedale offers a delightful experience, with picturesque landscapes, charming villages, and historical sites. The Corvedale is characterised by rolling hills, meandering streams, and quaint countryside scenery. Walking in the countryside can be a refreshing and rejuvenating experience, offering a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. You will encounter a variety of natural wonders and scenic views.

By following these tips and precautions, you can enjoy a safe and rewarding walking experience in the Corvedale, immersing yourself in its natural beauty and rural charm.

Trails and Pathways: Follow established trails or footpaths to explore the countryside safely and respectfully. These paths often lead you through the most scenic areas while minimizing your impact on the environment. A big thank you to the volunteers in the Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group, who are regularly out repairing stiles and clearing footpaths.

Historical Sites: Many countryside areas are rich in history, with ancient ruins, old churches, and quaint villages waiting to be discovered. Take the time to learn about the local history and culture as you explore.

Tranquil Scenery: The countryside offers picturesque landscapes with rolling hills, lush green fields, meandering streams, and dense forests. Take the time to appreciate the beauty of nature around you. Enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside as you listen to the soothing sounds of nature, such as birdsong, rustling leaves, and the gentle flow of water. It's an excellent opportunity to clear your mind and find inner peace.

Wildlife Encounters: Keep an eye out for wildlife such as birds, rabbits, squirrels, and maybe even the occasional fox or hare. Binoculars can enhance your experience by allowing you to observe wildlife from a distance without disturbing them.

Flora and Fauna: Take note of the diverse plant life around you. Depending on the season, you might see colourful wildflowers blooming in the meadows or trees adorned with vibrant autumn foliage.

Weather Considerations: Be prepared for changing weather conditions, especially if you're walking for an extended period. Bring appropriate clothing, sunscreen, water, and snacks to ensure your comfort and safety.

Leave No Trace: Respect the environment by following the principles of Leave No Trace. Take any litter home with you, stay on designated trails, and avoid disturbing wildlife or damaging vegetation.

Safety Precautions: Inform someone of your plans before setting out, especially if you're walking alone. Bring a map or GPS device and familiarize yourself with the area in case you get lost.

Take Breaks: Sit and admire the scenery, take photographs, or simply breathe in the fresh countryside air.

More Information: The Diddlebury Parish Website (/Community/Walking the Corvedale) lists some walks including some starting from around our churches. More trails would be appreciated. It also lists details of the Footpath Maintenance Group. South Shropshire Ramblers regularly walk in the area and welcome guests (see their website for dates).

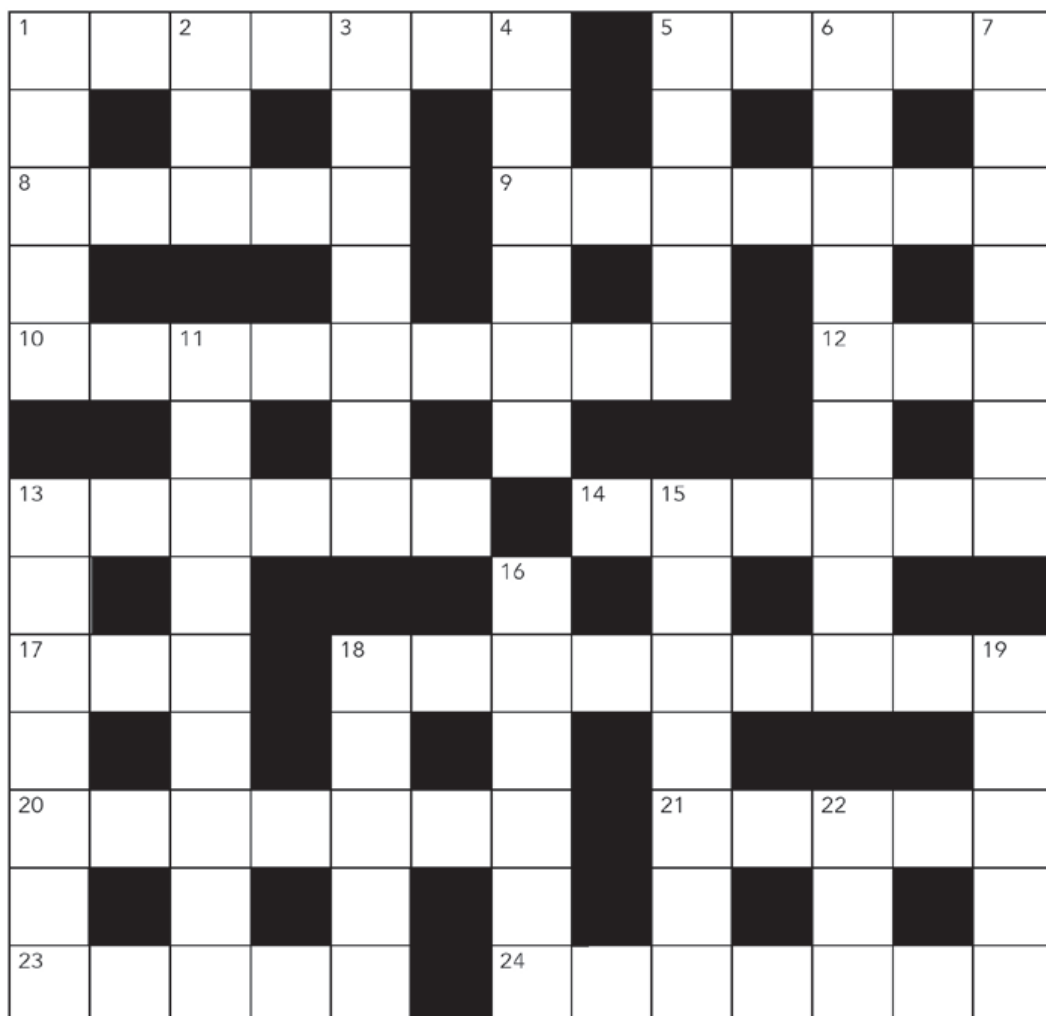
APRIL CROSSWORD

BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword
can be found on page 24 in this
edition of the magazine.

ACROSS

- 1) Strong smelling Greek in
turmoil (7)
- 5) Each avocado carried
the seeds of destruction
(5)
- 8) Shed tears before
exercise in the vaults (5)
- 9) Progress a loan (7)
- 10) Is Lourdes so trouble
free from smells? (9)
- 12) Feel very bad about a
street in Paris (3)
- 13) Iron lady is shaken by
slander (6)
- 14) You can let it break up a
knife (6)



- 17) Is able to go in a metal
box (3)
- 18) Cat swallowed MP from
France (9)
- 20) Impersonate a senior
cleric (7)
- 21) Norway only changed
the fabric (5)
- 23) Clothing for some
equestrian event? (5)
- 24) Delight in French church
worker (7)

DOWN

- 1) Minister cut the odd page (5)
- 2) Cathedral you can at last rely on (3)
- 3) In the meantime there's possibly
merit in it (7)
- 4) Stares at fizzy lagers (6)
- 5) Workers homes? (5)
- 6) Clever tin construction is part of a
pump (9)
- 7) Student its in mortar. Be lenient. (7)
- 11) Of Cambridgeshire perhaps, I've
always been rude (9)
- 13) Dead cop troubled by ten-footer (7)
- 15) Calendar girl on returning container
(7)
- 16) Little devil mixed up Dee's hamper
(6)
- 18) Carcasses oddly are coarse (5)
- 19) Doctrine of equal return (5)
- 22) Love each afternoon starting in the
meadow (3)

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

I reported last month on Shropshire Council's budgetary problems and how the Council proposes to tackle them.

One of the potential proposals was to reduce the county's Waste Recycling Centres from five down to two. This has worried many local residents who are concerned that such a step would lead to an increase in fly tipping and impact our efforts to mitigate climate change.

I would like to emphasise that this is one of a number of cost-saving measures that we are considering. It is not something we would ever do lightly. We know the Craven Arms Waste Recycling Centre is used by a large number of people from towns and villages within a wide radius of Craven Arms. There will be detailed analysis on cost savings and a public consultation before any action is proposed.

When service cuts are threatened, they often hit rural communities hardest. Rural residents are already disadvantaged compared with towns as we pay the same rates of Council Tax for fewer services. I'm not suggesting we want our lanes blazing with streetlights, but it is a fact that we miss out on services which town dwellers take for granted such as public transport and access to healthcare; we suffer insufficient and overpriced housing and patchy broadband - and the costs of school transport and delivering social care are much higher in rural areas due to the distances that have to be covered.

I chaired the Rural Services Network for eight years, constantly pressing successive governments to take the issue of rural disadvantage seriously when drawing up the annual Local Government Settlement. We had some success with the introduction of the Rural Services Delivery Grant which has helped to support us in Shropshire, but there is still a worrying lack of understanding from government about costs of service delivery in the rural areas and how the situation could be improved.

However, rural communities are resilient and adept at problem solving. With difficult times ahead we need to build on these qualities and work collaboratively to solve problems. Some parishes complain that their small size (population rather than geography!) means they are often overlooked for grant funding applications. This is one area

where collaborative working can be a good solution, with neighbouring parishes working on joint funding applications which help improve amenities. The Corvedale parishes have been collaborating really effectively. Neighbouring parishes have set up Flood Action Groups - indeed Culmington parish pioneered this work and Diddlebury and Stanton Lacy are also involved. The same three parishes are working jointly on Emergency Planning whilst Munslow and Diddlebury are working together with the Council's Traffic Engineer on traffic calming measures along the B4368; and Rushbury and Eaton/ Hope Bowdler parishes have decided to merge under the provisions of the current Community Governance Review.

Our village halls are doing a great job at collaborating with each other to publicise all the various events that go on around the Corvedale and beyond. It's had the effect of bringing people in from all over the south of the county to enjoy the myriad entertainments provided by our excellent village hall committees.

As Shropshire Council works its way through its difficult budget position, I will be working with the Corvedale and Apedale parishes to see how we can ensure that the Division gets its fair share of any funds that become available and come up with solutions to help make people's lives easier in these difficult times.



Cecilia Motley
Councillor,
Corvedale Division
Cabinet Member,
Adult Social
Care & Health,
Shropshire Council

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs J Mear (Temporary Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr M Seabrook, Mr I Steele, and Mr J Turley.

In Attendance: Mrs C Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Apologies for Absence: Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr Ian Alderson and Mrs M Holland.

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: Cllr Seabrook declared an interest in the item raised in the public session and left the meeting for that item.

Public Involvement Session: A member of the public asked about the possibility of joining the sewage system from properties at the entrance to Sparchford Lane to the new system being installed at the Culmington Farm site. Cllr Motley advised

them to contact Shropshire Planning who would tell them which department to contact.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th February 2024 were approved as being correct and were signed by the Chair.

Community Governance and Boundary Review: The letter about Seifton Batch had been received by DPC and the minutes of the meeting recorded that Cllr Povall 'would need to discuss the matter with the new owners of the Old Chapel before we can respond.' The DPC Chairman doubted whether it was open to DPC to change the designation of Seifton in the Local Plan from a Community Cluster to Open Countryside.

The Clerk said letters had been hand-delivered to six properties in Vernolds Common and she had not had any contact since then. There had only been one person who had attended the Stanton Lacy meeting and expressed a wish to remain in Stanton Lacy Parish. Shropshire Council would carry out a formal

consultation in 2025.

Shropshire Council would be told that Culmington Parish agreed to extend the parish boundary to cover the six properties presently in Stanton Lacy Parish.

Reports from Members: **Cllr Motley** reported that due to the financial difficulties there would be redundancies for SC employees. The strategy for library provision, which is statutory, had already been completed. They were considering reducing the number of household recycling centres and charging for the collection of green waste bins, cutting the number of council buildings and accelerating the move from Shirehall.

Cllr Mear said the Village Hall Committee was networking with other village halls. The most recent event attracted different people. The WiFi issues were still ongoing.

Cllr Byng reported that the Flood Action Group had received a letter from the National Flood Forum suggesting a meeting between the FAG and the Parish Council to improve communication. The Clerk would write to Jayne pointing out that a communication system between the FAG and the Parish Council was already in place and they saw no need for a meeting with the National Flood Forum.

The Clerk said that South Shropshire Area Committee had received a presentation by Planning Enforcement regarding their new protocol. Investigation of enquiries was mandatory but the powers available to the council were discretionary. When considering enforcement action the team would consider public interest, having regard to the risk and planning harm arising from an alleged breach.

Highways: The post for the Speed Indicator Sign at the eastern entrance to Culmington Village had still not been erected by Shropshire Council. The Clerk would write to the PCC to request an extension to the period for the expenditure of the grant.

The council would like to thank Mr Jeff Williams and the team for repairs to the footbridge at Seifton Lane and the scouts for the work on the Church Walk.

The Council would apply to Shropshire Council for a grant of £1,000 matched with £1,000 from the Parish Council funds for the period April 2024-March 2025 for Environmental Maintenance.

The Environmental contract would be revised to state that no pesticides would be used by the contractor and the hourly rate would remain at £18 per hour for 2024/2025.

The manhole cover on Seifton Lane had been reported on multiple occasions to Shropshire Council. A further report with an image would be submitted on Fix My Street.

Cllr Steele said repairs had been carried out on a section of Seifton Batch but not the section where the road has subsided. After contacting Lezley Picton (Shropshire Council Leader) repairs to that section had been completed.

Shropshire Council Outdoor Partnership team had visited the blocked bridleway and would take action if necessary.

Council Specific Email Addresses: If councillors wished to have specific email addresses (as recommended by NALC) they would provide them to the clerk. It was resolved not take a '.gov' domain at this point due to the increased cost.

Website Pages: Two volunteers had come forward to update the village hall and flood action group pages of the website. The site is password-protected and the Clerk would oversee access to the site.

Finance: It was agreed to donate £15 each to Ripples, Dial-a-Ride, Midlands Air Ambulance and Ludlow Hospital League of Friends.

Payments Authorised Were: Direct debit of £35 for Data Protection Fee, D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) £51 and H Coonick (Clerk) for Salary £834.60 for January to March and £32.85 for travel from November to February

Chairperson for the Next Meeting: Cllr M Seabrook was elected as temporary chair.

Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 (please note later time): Speed Indicator Device.

Note: A card of condolence would be sent to Cllr Mary Holland on the sad death of her husband Mr Martin Holland.

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DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2024 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllrs S Povall, R Morgan, C Martyn, T Pardoe, T O'Boyle, A Watson, A Rattu.

Apologies: Cllr R Povall.

In attendance: The Clerk and Shropshire Councillor C Motley.

Declarations of Interest: None were made.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 24th January 2024 were approved by councillors and one matter arising was considered.

Reports: **The Chairman** said the fencing contractors would commence their work at the school for the new public-access playground during the Easter holidays. He was awaiting site visits with two more surfacing contractors to obtain additional quotations for the all-weather surfacing. He had had further discussions with the owner of Jack's Cottage, Bache Mill. He had liaised with Cllrs Rattu and O'Boyle about DPC's response to the issues raised at the meeting between various parties at Beambridge, which had considered speed measures on the B4368.

Cllr Motley had had discussions with the Wrigleys about the possibility of a parking space for Jack's Cottage in Bache Mill.

They were unable to say whether a space might be available until their Bache Mill development was completed.

She spoke about the proposed budget cuts SC would be forced to make due to a £62 million shortfall in funding for the next financial year. As adult social and child care consumed a huge amount of SC's budget and there are statutory duties which cannot be cut or curtailed, other budget cuts were being explored, including cuts or closure of libraries, leisure centres, household recycling centres, school transport and taxi transport for some school age children. SC would be opening a consultation process about the proposed cuts on 29th February 2024 for residents to have their say. Councillors expressed their concerns about the proposed budget cuts to Cllr Motley,

Flood Action Group Report: Cllr Martyn reported that there were problems with the login system for the flood alarms, which were currently being investigated by the Flood Forum Team. He estimated that 50% of the drains in the parish were blocked. The Chairman asked councillors to draw up lists of problem flooding areas so DPC could explore possibly paying a private contractor to jet clear some of the drains.

Diddlebury Village Hall Report: Cllr S Povall gave an update on current events at the hall. The Chairman said that due to ill health Sally Woodhouse had stood down from the DVH committee after many years of loyal service. On behalf of parishioners, the Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Mike and

Sally Woodhouse for their tireless efforts on the renovation work for the new hall and their promotion and management of the hall spanning many years.

Louisa Powell Alms House Trust: Cllr O'Boyle, having recently been voted to the role of a Trustee of the charity, gave a report on a recent management committee meeting he had attended. There were some 30 alms houses in Ludlow belonging to various charities but all administered by Mr Eric Williams. Cllr O'Boyle was impressed by the good management of the properties revealed at the meeting. The Louisa Powell alms houses are available to persons from the Diddlebury area who fulfil the age and income criteria and come from an agricultural background.

Planning Matters: The Chairman and Cllr O'Boyle would have a discussion with Mr Jack Wrigley about the unsightly connection of telephone/broadband services to the Malt House.

Highways/Environmental Issues: Following the recent multi-party meeting at Beambridge, Cllrs Rattu and O'Boyle had drawn up an excellent report setting out various inexpensive measures they suggested could help reduce the speed of vehicles through the Corvedale - and this parish in particular - on the B4368. It was agreed the report would be discussed with Munslow Parish Council and then submitted to the Highways Department's engineers for their consideration. Cllr Martyn raised concerns about a recent early morning motor rally which had taken place in this parish, with little or no warning given to many residents who were awoken at 3am due to the noise. A letter will be sent to the Telford Auto Club asking for better notification and better compliance with the rules relating to noise and speed in the future.

Public Access Playground: Funding for the project was discussed. With a further tranche of CIL funds due in April from SC, DPC would hold Neighbourhood Funds of £21,946.43 and a VAT refund of £860 could be added. The Friends of

Corvedale School and DVH would be invited to contribute to the playground and Cllr Watson had lodged a grant application for £7,500. Until all the quotes were in, the total sum needed for the project could not be ascertained.

Communications And Correspondence: Seventeen items of correspondence were considered. In Cllr R Povall's absence the issues relating to boundary changes between Diddlebury and Culmington PC could not be progressed and were deferred to the next meeting.

Finance Matters: The Finance Report for February 2024 was considered and cheques totalling £500.63 were approved for payment, after which DPC would hold funds totalling £23,081.93. Cllr O'Boyle verified the reconciliation between DPC's cash book and bank statement 378.

Audit 2023 - 2024: In preparation for the forthcoming audit, the councillors reviewed and approved DPC's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Register of Assets and the Strategic Risk Assessment.

Any Other Business: Local groups, charities and organisations were reminded that DPC would consider requests for small donations at the March meeting. Requests should be sent to the Clerk or Chairman.

Cllr Rattu suggested DPC should consider the provision of an electric car charging unit somewhere in Diddlebury, ideally in the DVH car park.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 20th March 2024, 7.15pm at Westhope Village Hall.

Agendas and full copies of the minutes can be viewed on the Diddlebury Parish Council website www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs J de Russett at No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH, Tel: 01547 519282, diddleburypc@outlook.com

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www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter'

Corvedale School, Playgroup and Nursery
Jonathan Brough, 01584 841630,
admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Diddlebury & Westhope WI
Joy Williams, 01584 861849
f_j_williams@btinternet.com

Munslow WI
Jenny Rose, 01584 841251,
gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILS

Abdon & Heath Parish Clerk
Wendy Richards, 07813 271274,
abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com

Culmington Parish Council Clerk
Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,
culmingtonpc@googlemail.com

Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk
Mrs Jean de Rusett, 01547 519282,
diddleburypc@outlook.com

Munslow Parish Council Clerk
Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,
munslowpc@gmail.com

Diddlebury Parish Website
www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

Corvedale Google Group
This is a free service and issues purely local information such as road closures, flood warnings, planning applications, local events and so on to its members on a regular basis. If you would like to join this service, please email Martin Jones: martinggc@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

Abdon Village Hall
Margaret Buckingham, 01746 712296,
www.abdonandheathparish.org,
abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Beambridge Club Room
Frances Sutton, 01584 841654
Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

Culmington Village Hall
Avril Lines, 01584 861 339
culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com

Diddlebury Village Hall
www.diddleburyvillagehall.org
Hall booking enquiries:
bookdvh@gmail.com
General information:
diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com
WhatsApp/text/phone:
07396 730342

Diddlebury Church Room
Jan Kennedy, 01584 841372,
jan_kennedy@icloud.com

Westhope Village Hall
Betty Manley, 07860 447397,
mbm3049@icloud.com

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Abdon Wildlife Group
Miles Leach, 07810 810400,
milesleach712@gmail.com

Blue Hills Choir
Ros Crouch, 01584 547385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale Artists
Juliet Hole, 01299 832603
Ann Hankinson, 01584 841460

Corvedale Book Group
Cath Burley,
cathburley@hotmail.com

Corvedale Choir
Ros Crouch, 01584 547 385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale & District Autumn Show
John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

Corvedale Folk Club
Ian Fotheringham, 01584 841331

Corvedale Garden Group
Cath Burley,
cathburley@hotmail.com

Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group
Jenny Vine, 01584 841596,
jvcedarwood@hotmail.co.uk

Community Environmental Group
Rebecca Bull,
peter17bull@btinternet.com

Diddlebury Dancing Group
Sally Woodhouse,
01584 841265, 07813 019010
sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk

Westhope Clover Club
Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

If you represent a local Corvedale group and would like it to be added to this list, please contact the Editor.





THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

	7TH APRIL Easter 2	14TH APRIL Easter 3	21ST APRIL Easter 4	28TH APRIL Easter 5	5TH MAY Easter 6
ABDON		10am Group Service of Holy Communion at Abdon		6pm Songs of Praise	
BROADSTONE			8:30 HC		
CULMINGTON	11:15 HC		6pm Evensong	8:30am HC	11:15 HC
DIDDLEBURY	9:45 HC		11:15 HC	11:15 FS	9:45 HC
HOLDGATE	8:30 HC				8:30 HC
MUNSLOW	6pm EP			9:45 HC	6pm Evensong
TUGFORD				9:45 HC	

Ascension Day, Thursday 9th May – Holy Communion at Broadstone at 7:30pm

Key: HC = Holy Communion, EP = Evensong, FS = Family Service