

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

AUGUST 2023
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



Thick-legged flower beetle - 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:
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)
0808 278 7894

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

**FREE Citizens Advice 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

54 Broad Street, Ludlow, SY8 1GP

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



SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL SUPPORT AND 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**.

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

COPY FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the **September 2023** magazine, please send by email to editor@corvedalenews.co.uk by **FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST 2023** 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 **FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST 2023** 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.

FINANCE If you have an outstanding subscription, please pass it to your distributor. If this is not possible, you can contact our Treasurer (giving your name and address): *Tony Bennett, Lower Middle Barn, Corfton, SY7 9LB*.

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Ms N Fuller	Mill House, Bache Mill	Bache Mill
Ms S Walters	Roseford, Bache Mill	Middlehope

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE



CORVEDALE TOTS

For Bumps, Babies, Toddlers & Parents!

MONDAYS 10AM-12PM
TERM TIME ONLY

BABY AREA, TODDLER AREA, BALL PIT, PLANNED ACTIVITY
AND SELECTION OF RIDE ON TOYS.
HOT DRINK AND CAKE INCLUDED.



£2.50 PER FAMILY



WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL,
WESTHOPE,
CRAVEN ARMS,
SY7 9JL



Weekly Whist Drives



Every Monday
All ages and abilities welcome

Doors open 7pm
Start 7:30pm

£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 10th August 2023



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

Corvedale Folk Club

at The Seven Stars, Broadstone

on Monday 28th August

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

Culmington and District Flower and Produce Show

in Culmington Village Hall
SY8 2DA



Sunday 20th August



Fruit & veg

Flowers & plants

Cookery & drink

Floral art

Arts & crafts

Children's classes

Eggs & herbs

Family class

Superb prizes in our sponsors' raffle!

Refreshments

Schedules / entry forms available in June from
Culmington Village Hall, All Saints Church, Cyril Bason,

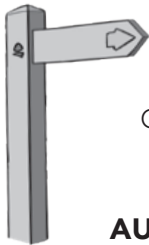
Judy McNally 01584 861 403
and Janet Stuart 01584 861 289

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:

AUGUST: Wed 23rd, Fri 25th, Sun 27th



Arts@StLaurence – July 2023

Further information: [Recitals and Concerts – St Laurence \(stlaurences.org.uk\)](http://Recitals and Concerts – St Laurence (stlaurences.org.uk))

Organ Recital

Saturday 5th August
1.00pm

Peter Dyke

Hereford Cathedral

Free Entry – Donations Welcome



Saturday 12th August 1pm

Young International Musicians

Free Entry

Saturday 19th August

1.00pm

Athena Duo

Emily Hopper – Harp; Emily Hicks – Flute

Free Entry – Donations Welcome



Saturday 26th August
7.00pm

The Cory Band

The World's No 1 Brass Band

Tickets £18

From: <https://coryband.com/events>



Saturday 3rd September 7.00pm Jonathan Scott Organist "The Planets"

Tickets £10 from Ludlow Assembly Rooms or on the Door

Arts@StLaurence 2023

Out of this World

Featuring *The Planets*
by Gustav Holst

Organ Concert

Jonathan Scott

Bridgewater Hall

Saturday 2nd September at 7pm



Tickets £10: Ludlow Assembly Rooms or on Door



CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - AUGUST

Coffee Morning

Monday 7th and every following Monday, 10am - 11.30am
All welcome! Mug of tea or coffee for £1 with free refills plus a biscuit or two.

Bridge Club

Monday 7th and every following Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm
Contact Peter Whitehead pst.whitehead@gmail.com

Lunch Club

Thursday 17th, 12.30pm for 1pm
A delicious two-course meal for only £10 plus a raffle and a bar. Contact Gwyn Edwards, 07891 904 501 / 01584 861 666.

Culmington & District Flower & Produce Show Sunday 20th, 2pm.

All the family can join in. Schedules from Culmington Village Hall, All Saints Church, Cyril Bason and Craven Arms Discovery Centre. Place entries by 10:00am on the day and Show opens at 2:00pm. Refreshments and raffle.

Contact: Janet Stuart: 01584 861 289 / 07840 806 122
Judy McNally: 01584 861 403.

Burger and Bap Night

Friday 25th, 6pm
Enjoy a tasty beef burger for £5. The bar will open at 6pm and food will be available from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Contact Gwyn Edwards on 07891 904 501 or 01584 861 666

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL



We've had a busy month in July.

We are pleased to say the numbers at our whist drives continue to increase, so we have now decided to start at 7.15pm instead of 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Our regular Yoga sessions on a Wednesday afternoon will now take a break until 6th September. Tots and toddlers will finish also until the new term in September.

We had a fun skittles night hosting the Corvedale group of Churches. Thank you all for attending, it was enjoyed by all.

The hall has also been used for two wakes following services at Westhope Green burial ground. We always welcome the bereaved families and prepare the hall with crisp white tablecloths and provide freshly prepared refreshments if required. All enquiries welcome.

The time has now come for our refurbishment of the kitchen, cloakrooms, and toilets which we are very excited about. Work is due to begin on 31st July.

The August skittles evening will be on Saturday 12th instead of Friday 11th August at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Refreshments and licensed bar available. Why not come along and have some fun? The Clee Skittles League resumes again in October. Our skittles players are all keen to get skittling again, and our first match is at home against Culmington. Fingers crossed we won't end up at the bottom of the league this year. But it's the community spirit and the taking part which matters most and not necessarily winning, although it would be nice to win occasionally!

Our monthly Bingo has been postponed for the short term. We will update our plans for the Autumn very soon.

The next Westhope Community Lunch will be on Thursday 7th September 12.30pm for 1.00pm start. A delicious two-course lunch with tea/coffee for just £10 pp. All ages welcome. All enquiries 07860 447 397.

All enquiries contact: Betty on 07860 447 397. Our village hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required.

Betty Manley

WESTHOPE DATES AT A GLANCE

Social Skittles Evening - Saturday 12th August, 7.30pm.

Community Lunch - Thursday 7th September
12.30pm for 1pm. 2 courses for £10pp.

Rummage Sale - Saturday 16th September

Harvest Supper - Saturday 14th October

RSPB Walks & Talks

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

WALKS

Friday 11th Aug - 6.30pm
Corvedale Walk and Social Evening

Sunday 13th Aug - 10am
Moth Morning on Brown Clee



Corvedale & District AUTUMN SHOW Saturday, 9th September 2pm-4pm

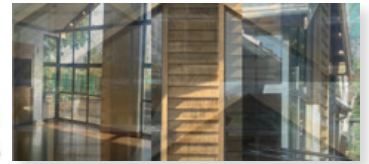


The show schedule can be downloaded at diddleburyparish.co.uk
or email ross.stokes@icloud.co.uk

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall



WHAT'S ON AT DVH?



Diddlebury Village Hall

New Season Starts

7.45 pm Thursday 21st September

Doors & Bar Open: 7.15 pm

Tickets: £5 (Card machine)



6 pm every Tuesday

£5 per class

To book contact CAT

07817 448832


@zumbawithcatx

zumbawithcat@outlook.com

Corvedale & District

Autumn Show

Saturday 9th September



Corvedale Festival

Sunday 17th September @ 3.00 pm

St Peter's Church, Diddlebury

Stream of Sound Youth Choir

conducted by Caroline Price

A concert of a *cappella* choral music

Traditional and contemporary song

from the West Midlands, songs based

on the theme of the sea, and a

selection of contrasting world-

harmony pieces

The concert will be followed by

Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall



Corvedale Festival

Consort de Danse Baroque

7.30 pm Wednesday







20th September

Harvest Supper

Save the date!

Saturday 21st October



	<p>The Corvedale Choir is a mixed-voice community choir whose members enjoy singing a wide variety of music, whilst not taking themselves too seriously.</p> <p>Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.</p>	<p>Mondays</p> <p>19.30-21.30</p>
	<p>The Blue Hills Choir meets weekly to sing classical music. All are welcome to join this friendly choir.</p> <p>Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.</p>	<p>Tuesdays</p> <p>10.00-12.00</p>
	<p>Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance workout that is primarily an aerobic workout — and it's all about having fun.</p> <p>Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448832</p>	<p>Tuesdays</p> <p>18.00</p>
	<p>Tai Chi — benefits include improving balance, lowering blood pressure, feeling calm and energised, and improving core strength.</p> <p>Contact Enid Gill: enidgill21@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Thursdays</p> <p>10.00-11.00</p>
	<p>The Corvedale Book Group enjoys lively discussions of the books obtained from the Shropshire Library Service.</p> <p>Contact Cath Burley: cathburley@hotmail.com</p>	<p>2nd Thursday</p> <p>each month</p> <p>19.30</p>
	<p>Physiotherapist-Led Pilates.</p> <p>Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814412</p>	<p>Fridays</p> <p>09.15-10.15</p>

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	7.30pm
Every Tues	Blue Hills Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tues	Corvedale Artists	Beambridge Club Room	10am
Every Tues	Zumba	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Thur	Tai Chi	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Fri	Physiotherapist-Led Modified Pilates	Suspended until September	9.15am

AUGUST 2023

5th Sat	Organ Recital	St Laurence's, Ludlow	1pm
5th Sat	Kington Operatic Society Concert	St Michael's, Munslow	7.30pm
6th Sun	Evensong with The Derby Singers	St Michael's, Munslow	6.30pm
9th Wed	Diddlebury & Westhope WI	Elsich Manor	7.30pm
9th Wed	Munslow WI	TBA	7.30pm
10th Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
11th Fri	RSPB Walk & Social evening	The Swan Inn, Aston Munslow	6.30pm
12th Sat	Garden Group Visit	Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells	10am
12th Sat	Social Skittles Evening	Westhop Village Hall	7.30pm
13th Sun	RSPB Walk - Moth Morning	Brown Clee	10am
17th Thu	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
19th Sat	Athena Duo	St Laurence's, Ludlow	1pm
19th Sat	Munslow Church Fete	The Old Rectory	2pm
20th Sun	Culmington Flower and Produce Show	Culmington Village Hall	2pm
23rd Wed	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
25th Fri	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
25th Fri	Burger & Bap night	Culmington Village Hall	6pm
26th Sat	The Cory Band	St Laurence's, Ludlow	7pm
27th Sun	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
28th Mon	Corvedale Folk Club	The Seven Stars, Broadstone	7.30pm

ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:

Culmington Village Hall - 6

Diddlebury Village Hall - 7

Westhope Village Hall - 6

The deadline for all submissions to the News is Friday 18th August

CHURCH NEWS



LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

As we continue our journey through the Sundays after Trinity, we find that August begins with a celebration: on 6th August when we will mark the Transfiguration. This was the occasion on which Jesus went up a mountain with Peter, James and John. He was changed in appearance as they watched, whilst the three disciples saw him talking to the Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah before a voice from heaven identified Jesus as the son of God. The story can be read in full in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 9. The account we will hear in church on the Sunday will end before they come down from the mountain, but I think what follows is equally important. Having left the mountain they are confronted by a crowd and by a man who seeks healing for his son.

On the mountaintop the three disciples saw Jesus for who he really was, as he was changed by the glory of God. What, I wonder, are the experiences that change us? Many of us gather each week in the churches to worship God, and one of the questions we might ask ourselves is about how our relationship with God changes us. To an extent this is an unanswerable question, but hopefully our relationship with God helps us to be better versions of ourselves and to be more fully the people He created us to be.

Having come down from the mountain, Jesus was plunged back into the reality of the messy world in which he lived – and it's the same for us. Just as Jesus couldn't stay on top of the mountain, removed from the world, neither can we. As Christians it is essential that we are part of the world around us, contributing fully to society and doing our bit to make the world a better place. Even so, it is good to take time out occasionally to re-charge in whatever way works for you. Our churches are open daily if you'd like to use them as a place for time out to re-charge, or you are welcome to join us on Sundays whenever you like.

Rev'd John Beesley

ST PETER'S, DIDDLEBURY

Many thanks to all who provided prizes, ran stalls and spent money at Diddlebury Church Fete on 1st July. We made the splendid total of £745.



Liz Jones

ST MICHAEL'S, MUNSLOW

A recent inspection of the electrical system in the church has revealed that it is in need of a significant amount of work.



We are currently seeking quotes for this, so we will soon have a clearer idea of the extent of the work, and its cost. In the meantime, we are starting on the challenge of raising funds!

Saturday 5th August at 7:30pm there will be a concert in Munslow Church given by Kington Operatic Society – an evening of songs from the shows and from the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. Tickets, priced £8.00 to include an interval drink, are now on sale and will be available on the door.

Sunday 6th August we will be joined by the Derby Singers for Evensong at 6:30pm (note the change of time). The Derby Singers have joined us at Diddlebury each year for some time now during their week in Ludlow when they sing the services at St Laurence's. This year they have had to shift

their dates slightly, and can't do a whole week, so we are particularly grateful to them for fitting us in. Do join us for the relatively rare opportunity in these parishes to enjoy a full choral Evensong.

Munslow Church Fête will be held in the grounds of Munslow House (The Old Rectory) on **Saturday 19th August** from 2.00pm – our thanks again to Mr and Mrs Kay for their hospitality. There will be the usual selection of stalls, activities and refreshments. If you might be able to help with a stall or an activity, we would be delighted to hear from you. If you can help by providing produce, cakes, plants, items for sale or prizes for the draw we would also be very grateful – please leave them at the church, at the Rectory or with stallholders. Whilst the proceeds from most of the stalls will go to the costs of running and maintaining Munslow Church, we would be very happy if you wanted to run a stall for another cause. Please let us know if you can help run a stall or help to set up / clear away on the day. Thank you!

Rev'd John Beesley (841 488)
& Barbara Bowers (841 348)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

25th June Rose Barbara Povall Diddlebury

Weddings

24th June Heather Scott & Jim Alderson Culmington
24th June Claire Gonnely & Tom Holloway Diddlebury

Funeral

3rd July Robert and Patricia Lloyd Diddlebury

FLOWERS & BRASSES

August 2023

6th & 13th Liz Jones 20th & 26th Janet Yapp

2023 CORVEDALE FESTIVAL

Preparations are well underway for the second edition of the Corvedale Festival and there has been a steady stream of ticket purchases over the last few weeks. To get yours please contact the festival office on corvedalefestival@gmail.com, or by phoning Ruth on 07745 825 700. Tickets are also available from TicketSource at www.ticketsource.co.uk/corvedale-festival. Further details of the festival programme can be found at www.corvedalefestival.org or in our brochures which are widely available.

If you would like to support the festival additionally there is a three tier Supporters Scheme, details on the website or by contacting the office as above. Benefits at the lowest level include a free programme and an invitation to the opening night drinks reception! We would be very grateful for any help that you can give.

We hope to see you in September for more great music, dance, literature, and art – a warm welcome awaits - and food and wine to boot!

Ruth Henley, Secretary, Corvedale Festival

THE GREAT STORM

CORVEDALE, JULY 16TH 1876

Recent thunder and lightning accompanied by heavy rain has been of no surprise at this time of year but imagine the scenes in the Corvedale on Sunday 16th July 1876 when a devastating four-hour storm wreaked havoc. The storm was 'viewed by many with the greatest apprehension, the thunder being absolutely appalling in its intensity and the long duration of each peal, and the vividness of the lightning... very startling'. Reported in the Shropshire newspapers^[1], the storm was accompanied by hailstones up to 'four or five inches in circumference, appearing as large as good sized pocket watches'.

Whilst damage was reported across much of the county, the Corvedale seems to have been at the epicentre and suffered the worst destruction: 'The rain came down in a perfect deluge, inundating the meadows, and swept almost everything before it. The hailstones were as large as eggs and scarcely a window escaped. At the School House, Munslow, 149 panes of glass were broken, and a portion of the walls washed down. The rain ran through the Vicar's house like a brook, and the post office was flooded. Mr Cox, Holdgate, lost two cattle, Mr Hotchkiss, Abdon, one bullock, and Mr Hotchkiss, Tugford, five lambs. Acres of hay, wheat and turnips were destroyed, waggons washed from sheds, and scarcely an apple left on the trees. On Monday morning scores of rabbits were found dead in the fields, and fish were picked up in the meadows.' 'At Tugford two bridges were washed away... the Lodge Farm, the house of Mr Tanner... was surrounded by water for a considerable distance on all sides, all his fowls being swept into the Corve'. 'Mrs Clifton, of Beambridge, had a large meadow of hay swept clean away, and on the farm of Mrs Craig, of corn that promised to yield 30 bushels to the acre there is not an atom left'. Damage suffered by the principal farmers, listed in the newspapers, amounted to over £7,500, approximately £700,000 today^[2].

The worst devastation seems to have been reserved for Millichope Park: 'The whole of the glass in the long range of conservatories being wholly destroyed and the loss is estimated at nearly £1,000' (£93,000 in today's terms). There are some 12,500 postcard sized panes of glass in the iron-framed curvilinear greenhouse, recently restored at Millichope. This was the second time in eight years the greenhouses and contents had been devastated by a hailstorm although... 'the havoc then made, serious as it was, was as nothing compared with the damage done on Sunday. The glass of all the stovehouses [heated glasshouses], greenhouses and vineries, the cucumber and melon frames (some thousands of squares in all) were for the most part smashed in by the heavy hail, and the valuable fruit, plants, and flowers destroyed'. Head Gardener Mr Haynes was working desperately to prevent the dams on the lake bursting whilst Second Gardener Mr Joseph Smith climbed to the hall roof to attempt to clear the gutter channels, clearly in great danger from the "flashes of forked lightning, the loud crashes of thunder overhead, the battering of hailstones, and the breaking of glass in all directions". Despite his efforts, water 'rushed through the windows, soon flooding the lower apartments, the water at the same time forcing its way... into the principal rooms. No fewer than 115 squares of glass, 56 of which were stained, were entirely demolished by the hail. The gardens and pleasure grounds of Millichope are 29 acres in extent, including a walled kitchen garden of three acres, and they have long been admired for their singular beauty, but when visited on Wednesday last, they presented a complete wreck'. Mr Smith believed that 'more than half the pheasants and partridges on the land were killed by the hail'.

Today, such a devastating and unusual weather event would, no doubt, be attributed to climate change, but 147 years ago, on that remarkable Sunday 'many people were completely terror-struck... several solemnly affirming that they thought the world was coming to an end'.

[1] Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News, 22nd July 1876, P.5.Col.5.

Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal and Salopian Journal, 26th July 1876, P.7.Col.6

[2] Bank of England inflation calculator

Steve Wood

Storm over Aston Munslow - Becky Bull



CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP



Despite the threatened rain, twenty-five of us ventured over Wenlock Edge to Apedale to meet Clare Greener and Andrew Henderson of Wall Flowers: Seasonal Blooms, East Wall and to see how they grow beautiful flowers for people looking to celebrate weddings, birthdays and other special occasions. Getting out of the cars by a polytunnel full of flowers, we were immediately escorted through their garden to the tea pavilion where, against the background of raindrops, Clare told the story of how in 2020 they finally brought her long-term dream into reality. They created flower beds on a two-acre plot which had been the holding land for sheep and cattle before they met the local butcher. The site is nestled under Wenlock Edge and gets its fair share of local weather, as we found out. The well fertilised land was ploughed once and has been maintained since by the 'no dig' method advocated by Charles Dowding. Four plots were well protected on all four sides by rabbit netting, a wind break of trees and high hedgerows, newly established hedgerow, and wind protective fencing in the first half acre.

The ploughed plots were covered in cardboard and membrane to suppress weeds and encourage worms and other invertebrates to work the soil. Compost produced on the farm is added to improve the organic matter in the soil. In between crops 'cover crops', e.g. phacelia, are used to add nutrients to the soil. This improves drainage in winter and increases water retention in summer. The flowers are grown organically, fed where necessary with organic foliar feeds and seaweed solutions. The field boundaries are left wild to encourage habitat for beetles and ladybirds to eat pests. The seeds not needed to feed overwintering birds are collected and the stalks and leaves left to compost the soil for another year. Half the area grows flowers for 'Pickety Pick' visitors to pick their own bunches of flowers, as well as flowers for weddings and events; the other half grows shrubs and perennials to increase seasonal interest in the bouquets. Tulips and other species vulnerable to mouse attacks are grown in borders

near the house, where the resident cat can help patrol and deal with invaders. Birds are encouraged to manage aphids. The flowers encourage a variety of pollinators. Beyond the four plots a further half acre is devoted to sunflowers, which last year were sponsored to raise money for Ukraine. Seeds are sown in two small greenhouses on Valentine's Day and small plug plants planted out on the field the third week of May. Then it's up to the soil and the weather. Clare and Andrew try hard to respect the land they care for, seeking to do their part in helping the environment and reducing climate change by trying to 'grow more, on less, using less'.

The rain stopped and we walked down the lane to the field to be treated to a view with swathes of colour. Delphiniums, larkspur, eryngiums, multi-coloured achillea, ammi majus, nigella damascens, scabious: all in tones of blues, whites and purples. Calendula, pollen free sunflowers, rudbeckia, bells of Ireland, poppies, and roses added to the colour palette with shrubs such as physocarpus adding rich burgundy tones to the wealth of green to offset the flowers. Sated, we walked back to the pavilion for pots of tea and a choice of lemon drizzle, apple or almond and raspberry cake. Clare answered questions cheerfully despite having been up at 5.00am to do flowers for a big wedding locally.

Clare also offers events and courses. From September 8-10th there will be a flower farm tour with the opportunity to collect seed and have tea and cake. Small groups can contact Clare to arrange their own picking sessions or there is a course on 2nd September on how to 'sow, grow, cut and condition' your flowers. For more information see <https://wallflowers.uk>.

Our next visit on **Saturday 12th August** is to Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8RW. Grant Chaplain will tell us about the development of the Park gardens which still include a Norman dovecote, remnants of a medieval deer park and an overall 1754 Capability Brown landscape with lakes, waterfalls, ponds, and later follies. Entrance is £3.50 each and you can choose your own refreshments, available in the Grade 2 listed barn which now houses antiques and the bistro. Please let me know by Saturday 1st August if you would like to attend so I can confirm numbers.

Cath Burley, cathburley@hotmail.com



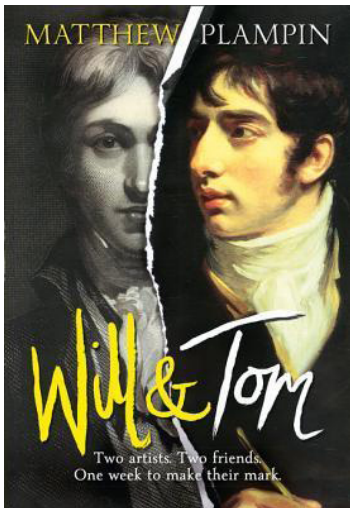
CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP



WILL AND TOM BY MATTHEW PLAMPIN



Mathew Plampin



Mathew Plampin has a PhD from the Courtauld Institute of Art and lectures and writes about 19th century art. In this novel his knowledge and way of describing the process of creating a painting and how light and colours shine through was one of the highlights of the book.

Will and Tom describes the life of two young artists, Will (JMW Turner) and Tom (Thomas Girtton) who are both in the early stages of their careers and trying to develop portfolios which will be sufficient to get them into the Royal Academy of Art. They are experimenting with watercolour as a medium, which in this period was called 'drawing' and watercolour brushes were referred to as 'pencils' to distinguish them from real pictures which were painted in oils. Sketches were often made in the open air but then developed into paintings in the studio later. It was unusual to paint in-situ.

Will and Tom had trained together. The story starts with Will arriving in 1797 at Harewood Hall in Leeds, home of the Lascelles family. He has been following Tom on a northern tour to gain sketches for his portfolio. He is hoping to get a sizeable commission to help to support himself and his parents. He is from a working-class background and is shy, awkward, and defensive on this, his first stay in a 'stately home.' The initial chapters are given over to his settling-in period there as he tries to understand this new level of society to which he has just gained access. He is annoyed at being given what he sees as an inferior room. He struggles to understand the social etiquette of dining and hasn't the requisite small talk to make conversation. He is brusque and appears oafish as the venue and the way he is treated do not meet his expectations of, as an artist, being an honoured guest. He is further puzzled and annoyed to hear that Tom will be joining them. He sees this as unwanted competition and becomes angry and paranoid. Tom has previous experience of patronage and life in stately homes, carries himself and his career more lightly and has the ability to integrate with the family. Will is very frustrated and does himself no favours but gets his commission and rises early each morning to work on the six pictures he is asked to produce. He is conscientious and serious about his work.

The subplots in the story relate to the family's financial

background, having been based in slavery and their acquisition of wealth has led to collecting houses, ceramics, paintings, and people who can enable them too to rise. Beau Lascelles, who will one day inherit, is working to ingratiate himself with the royal family and to gain a seat in the House of Lords. He has been trolled by his sister Mary Ann's unsuitable relationship in London and the family retreat to the country is a way of smoothing over this. The slavery theme is picked up by Will's interactions with Mrs Lamb, the pastry cook, who wants him to help her campaign for the abolition of slavery.

The novel was enjoyed by the group who enjoyed the depiction of 'upstairs/downstairs' life and the intrigues and social mores that this revealed. We all thought that the depiction of the process of painting was enlightening about Turner's early and later works. We had not known about Thomas Girtton as an artist, who is now recognised to have had great talent. He might well have surpassed Turner if he hadn't died young. We thought the novel also revealed the differences between the soft power of women to influence their environment and the more dominant financial, political, and physical power of men. It was a good read.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 10th August** when we will be reading *Natives* by Akala.

Cath Burley, cathburley@hotmail.com

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE TIDY-UP

Having tidied up the centre of Diddlebury village last year, a larger group of residents got together on a lovely warm evening this year to attack the overgrown paths in St Peter's churchyard. It took a lot of hard work, but it was worth it to see the paths clear of weeds and thick matted grass and moss which had been building up over the years. The evening finished with celebratory drinks and nibbles sitting outside the parish rooms.

The next task will be tackling the overgrowth in the Diddle brook so keep a look out for the date to come and join us working hard for our village then having some fun at the 'after party'!

Kim Simm



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

HAYTON & DISTRICT WI



Our July meeting was very well supported with most members able to attend. After the business meeting was concluded, we welcomed Lin and Mike Brown, our speakers for the evening, who gave us a very entertaining talk entitled 'Adventures up the Family Tree', a light-hearted talk featuring some of the amazing stories uncovered over thirty years of amateur genealogy. This research into their own family histories has been, and still is, a pursuit Lin in particular loves to undertake, not only about her own and Mike's families, but she is happy to help anyone who is keen to research theirs. Some of their ancestors were very colourful characters indeed. During our time for questions, some of our members had interesting stories to tell about their own family histories. It was, all in all, a fun evening everyone enjoyed, and it sounded as though some members might be keen to start or continue their own research!

The club competitions this month, judged by our speakers, included the best-of-the-most-unusual 'something (brought in by members) beginning with the letter *f*', won by Sue Parker with some 'farthings'; in 2nd place Eileen Pritchard with her 'family tree' (funnily enough!); and in 3rd place a 'family photo of her father' brought in by Joyce Randle. The second competition was the 'flower of the month' with Phyllis Steventon and Barbara Wright in joint 1st place with a Lily and Dahlia respectively and in 3rd place Joyce Randle with a 'Rambling Rose' - well done ladies!

Not to be forgotten, in the very important roles of hostesses for the evening, both of whom very ably prepared and served the refreshments, were Viv de Haan and Shirley Bullen – thank you ladies. Shirley kindly stepped in as, unfortunately, our Rose was unable to join us as she'd hoped to. We all hope to see you with us again very soon Rose.

With no meeting in August, our next will be held on **Thursday 14th September** at 7:30pm including a talk by Emma Spenser entitled, 'The Women's Land Army', all about the history and experiences of the amazing women who signed up for the incredible work they did during and following WWII from 1939 until 1950. A talk not to be missed! As usual, we look forward to seeing our members and any guests, as well as all ladies reading this who are available and interested in joining us at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent SY8 2AT. We are an all-inclusive club. If you would like further information about the WI, including membership and our club in particular, please contact either our President, Phyllis Steventon on 01584 823 436 or our Club Secretary, Amanda Brooks at hayton.district.wi@gmail.com.

Louise Gough

DIDDLEBURY & WESTHOPE WI

Members gathered for our monthly meeting on a fine July evening in Culmington Village Hall to meet up with friends, catch up with WI News and listen to an interesting speaker.

The newly formed craft group had met at Seifton Court where a very patient tutor, Joy Williams, guided us through a lesson in Macrame. Some of us proved more nimble-fingered than others, but good fun was had all round and we all went home with a Macrame lantern, perhaps to use at our summer garden party. Planning for our exhibit at Burwarton Show is well advanced, so fingers are firmly crossed!

After a short chat about our next craft meeting and walk we welcomed our speaker, Hannah Charman.

Hannah is a fully qualified medical herbalist and her talk explained how originally herbs had been judged by their 'signature', for example yellow flowers signify liver medicine, and how modern research has found that these ancient traditions hold a kernel of truth. She then told us how what we often consider weeds can be used to help relieve stress and build up our immune systems, and alleviate many other problems caused by our modern ways of living. Our members will be regarding their nettles, dandelions, and common garden herbs with perhaps a little more kindness in future.

We will be celebrating our 100th birthday next month at Elsie Manor by kind invitation of our WI member Amanda Martin and her husband so we will be hoping the sun shines for us. Anyone who is looking for new interests, new friends, some fun and some serious discussion is very welcome to join us at Culmington Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7.30pm.

Mary Holland

MUNSLOW WI

Plenty of entertainment this month. Four of us attended Clee St Margaret's 80th birthday party where a female impressionist took on the guise of brilliant entertainers - Joyce Grenfell, Victoria Wood and Pam Ayres to name just a few. Such amusing entertainment gave us an appetite for a very tasty buffet supper. Later the same week we enjoyed delicious pizzas and other delights at the Crown Inn, Munslow, prepared and served by Jayne and staff with Richard manning the pizza oven.

We hope for good weather for our August meeting which will be in a member's garden, venue to be decided upon. We generally meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

For more information call me on 01584 841 251 or email gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk.

Jenny Rose

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Don't forget that we still need photos for the cover page. Send us your photos, from landscapes to local goings-on. We're looking for pictures that capture the essence of living in the Corvedale and surrounding community. Please send all photos to:
photos@corvedalenews.co.uk

COME ALONG TO SING ALONG

Do you enjoy singing? Do you know it is good for you - activates the brain and releases happy feelings? If you would like to discover, or re-discover, the joy of singing with others, there are three local choirs who would love to hear from you.

Edge Chamber Choir, rehearsing in Ludlow on Thursday evenings, is an auditioned choir specialising in works by mainly 20th and 21st century composers. **The Blue Hills Choir**, focusing on popular classical works from, mainly, 16th to early 20th centuries, and the **Corvedale Choir**, singing a wide range of music from West End shows and 'pop/rock', rehearse in Diddlebury on Tuesday mornings and Monday evenings respectively.

One of the bass voices from the Edge and Blue Hills choirs, Jonathan Phillips, sets out what drew him to joining these two choirs and the enjoyment he gets from it:

"I had not sung, except in private occasionally, and certainly not regularly, for many years when I saw the advert to join a new local choir in the Corvedale which was going to focus on popular classical music. A sort of Classic FM for singers, I found myself a member of a small and friendly band of like-minded folk led by local musician and singer Ros Crouch which soon christened itself the Blue Hills Choir.

I had a long history of singing starting at school and university with Gilbert and Sullivan operas, where I progressed as my voice broke from one of the 'sisters, cousins, and aunts' to the 'Sergeant of Police'. I then travelled through various choirs, ensembles, and choral societies as I moved from city to city in my career, but then it all became very much more part of my past than my present. So, it was as I approached retirement and was wondering how to fill some vacant time that Blue Hills led me to rediscovering that lost hobby.

And what a joy it has been! Ros has taken a group of individuals with a wide range of musical ability from 'not much' to 'a bit more' and gently coached us into a competent choir capable of tackling some quite challenging pieces from the popular classical repertoire. We are also extremely fortunate to benefit from the exceptional patience and skills of our accompanist, pianist, and organist Martin Scott. So, for any prospective members out there this choir offers auditionless entry and the opportunity to rekindle or discover a new the pleasure and health benefits that come from making music with others whatever your previous experience.

Unsurprisingly, there turned out to be more strings to Ros's bow and one such is Edge, a group that I was somewhat in awe of because of its rather rarified reputation and a repertoire of incomprehensible contemporary choral music! So, I didn't spend too much time thinking about it for two reasons: firstly, I was still working on rehearsal night; secondly, I can't sight-read music; and... oh yes, thirdly I don't like incomprehensible contemporary choral music - for me, the earlier the better!

Well, things change and the departure of one bass from Edge coincided with my retirement from work, and sight-reading turned out to be a skill that one acquires over time and for which the bar was fortunately not set ridiculously high. As for the repertoire, it stretches back to composers who were still breathing when I and other 'senior' choir members were born! Not exactly 'early', but hey, what's a few centuries

between friends? Catherine Boyd-Moss, our accompanist, is an amazing organist and pianist whose playing is often one of the highlights of our concerts. Ros, our conductor, and musical director, brings not only her own experience and knowledge to Edge but also, I think, the odd piece of wisdom gleaned from singing with the internationally renowned Midlands-based Ex Cathedra choir. One thing I had not realised about the 'modern' repertoire is that the music owes much to earlier genres and has a great deal in common with the early music that I love. So, for those of you who are fascinated by crazy time signatures, funky rhythms, and weird harmonies, come along to Edge and give us a try - it really is a first-rate choir. You'll need to put in a bit of work and application, but the sense of achievement and satisfaction of performance is uplifting."

All three choirs are looking for more singers. They are very friendly groups differentiated only by the style of music they sing. If Jonathan's experience has whetted your appetite to join one or more of these groups, we would love to hear from you. The choirs are now having their summer break but will return to weekly rehearsals in September. To find out more, please contact the Musical Director, Ros Crouch at ros.crouch@gmail.com.

Maureen Morter

CARING FOR ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CULMINGTON

As with many rural communities, regular church attendance is small. We all lead busy lives but that doesn't necessarily mean that the church has no meaning or value to us, particularly when, as in Culmington's case, it is literally in the heart of the village.

Maybe you have walked around the churchyard in glorious sunshine, evening twilight, spring rain or winter snow. Perhaps you visit the church for a relaxing walk with your dog, friends, family, visitors, children, and grandchildren. You may have gone inside to sit for a few quiet minutes, look at the flowers especially at festival times of Easter, Harvest and Christmas when the church is 'fully dressed'. Or been present at more formal events of weddings, christenings or funerals.

Many people visit the church from all over the country and abroad when on holiday, or visiting friends or family, or researching family history. Comments in the visitor book pay testament to the appreciation of the church always being open and cared for.

With this in mind, do you have a couple of hours to help clean and put fresh flowers in the church once a year? Or an interest in nature and the ability to help maintain the churchyard grounds? You may have skills and interests to undertake small repairs or maintenance jobs.

We have a list of needs to keep All Saints, Culmington in good order - some annual, some regular, some occasional and some random!

So if you feel you can offer a little something to help with maintaining our historic, beautifully simple church for everyone to enjoy, please get in touch with Avril Lines 01584 861 339, Andrew Pike 01584 861 361, or Val Hardwick 01584 861 658. Thank you.

Avril Lines

CORVEDALE PAST & PRESENT

ANCIENT WISDOM / NEW LANDSCAPES?

A couple of weeks ago Martin and I set off to Hertfordshire to attend an event called 'Groundswell'. It was quite a long journey and the plan was to stop in Northamptonshire to see some ancient wall paintings at a village called Slapton.



The church was pretty small and nothing could prepare you for the rush of amazement. On a traditional site on the north wall was an ancient St Christopher bearing an infant Christ. The figures were huge!

One of the great misconceptions about the Middle Ages is that people did not travel. Of course, this was true for some, but many travelled huge distances for a variety of reasons. These journeys were a thing of excitement, nervousness and

danger and also a metaphor for the human journey. The spiritual associations were never missed and St Christopher was much in evidence. Modern journeys are by many degrees faster, safer, and more prosaic, although they also may have significance. A summer journey through England gives you an opportunity to study a surprising variety of modern landscapes.

I was thinking about all of this when we arrived at the event. More amazement was in store. It was quickly evident it was huge: in fact, 6,000 people were tenting, motor homing, or glamping. All had come to talk about the soil, food, the health of plants and animals, the natural world and – by extension – human health. The really exciting thing was the predominant age group; it seemed to be about 30 to 35! The planned events were, to say the least, engaging but as always at such times, the visceral excitement came from meeting people in coffee queues or nattering to your neighbours while fiddling around with your tent (it had already been established that nothing could possibly go wrong in the canvas department!).

I recall arguing in an article last year that wood pasture was the predominant ancient landscape in this country: indeed England in general and the Welsh March in particular have many ancient pollarded and coppiced trees which attest to this.

Although I had not marked it on my programme I came across the talk on silviculture (literally 'growing among trees') by chance, but quickly I became 'rooted to the spot': here was ancient wisdom and modern business in tandem.

People love being among trees. Our minds are calmed and also, we are told, the human biome (all the bugs that live within us that help make us what we are), thrive. Small surprise then that the animals which some of us eat to sustain ourselves also love trees: they forage, they shade and shelter

themselves, they drink from watery swards, are tranquil, and gain protection from pests.

Three young commercial farmers, one of whom was from Yeo Valley Dairy (I mention this as you will probably have heard of that outfit) were talking about raising animals among trees, either ancient woodland or planted forestry.

These were no time-expired old farts dreaming about 13th century Shropshire. These were hard-headed young farmers interested in growth metrics, stock densities, pest burdens, lactation performance, compaction mosaics, animal behaviour, group dynamics, water movements, trace minerals, veterinary bills, mob-grazing patterns, sun stress and drought. At times they could barely disguise their excitement, despite stressing that there is so, so much to learn.

There is also, I gather, great interest in trees rows, and growing plants which benefit from their 'wood web' of fungal mycelia whilst also producing a wood crop. This is an ancient technique in some tropical climes, which is now being adopted in western lands.

This is but one example of the many exciting topics discussed and if you are thinking 'all well and good, but that will never happen here' you might be interested to know that of the 6,000 present there were, to my knowledge, at least a dozen folks from this 'neck of the woods', if you will pardon one more root and branch allusion.

Peter Cornah

petercornah@gmail.com / 01584 823 858 / 07786 232 434

P.S: Medieval church wall paintings are a fascinating subject and they occur in surprising numbers countrywide. You don't have to initially buy expensive books to kindle an interest: there is a wealth of good information on the internet, though you may (be warned!) want to buy the books later!

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



The Clover Club met at the Discovery Centre for our July meeting. Twenty-one members enjoyed a delicious cream tea and enjoyed browsing around the many goodies in the shop. There is no meeting in August.

For our September meeting we will, once again, be joining the **Westhope Community Lunch** at 12.30pm on **Thursday 7th September** at Westhope Village Hall. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

CORVEDALE AND DISTRICT AUTUMN SHOW

Don't forget to pencil in your diary the Corvedale & District Autumn Show. This year it will be held on the second Saturday in September (**September 9th**), a week later than normal. The show schedule can now be downloaded from the Diddlebury parish website (www.diddleburyparish.co.uk) or requested by email from ross.stokes@icloud.com

Ross Stokes

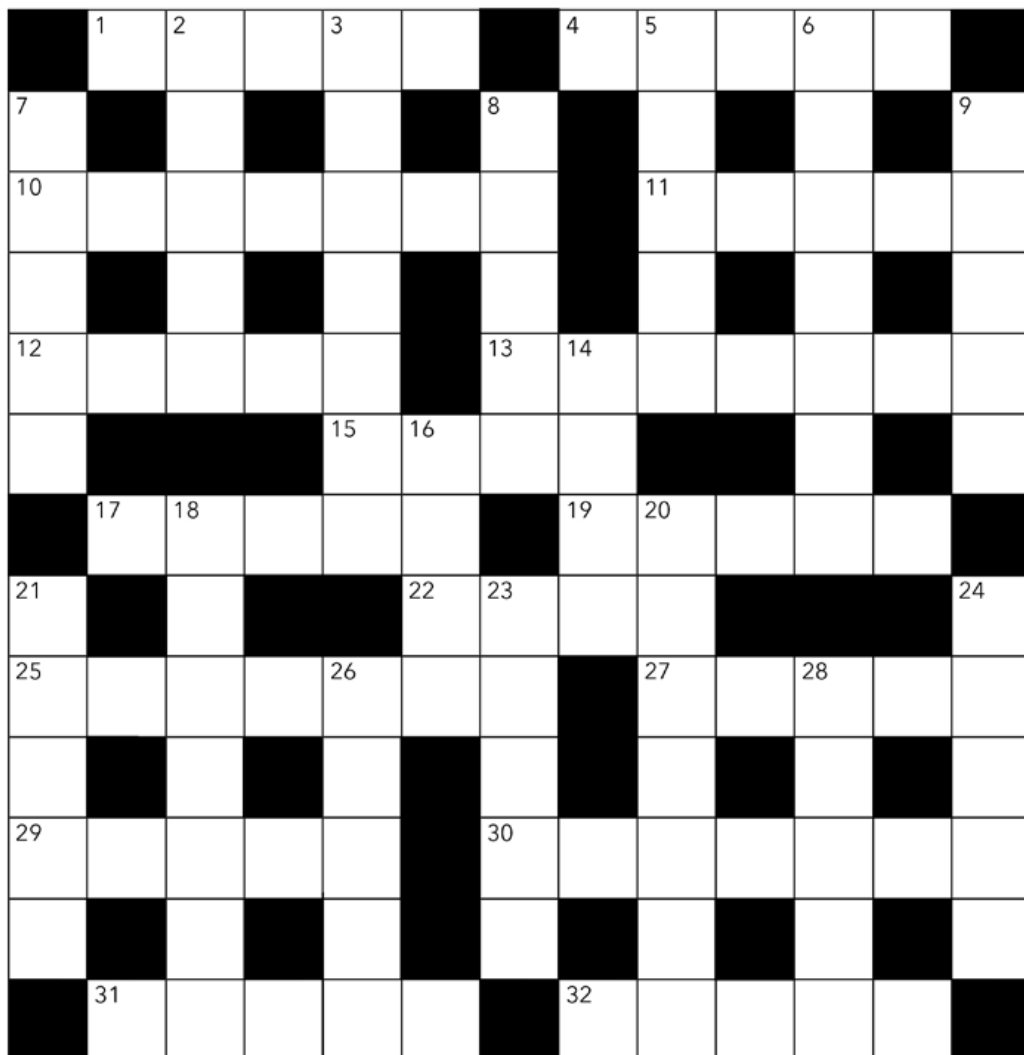
AUGUST CROSSWORD

BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword
can be found on page 27 in this
edition of the magazine.

ACROSS

- 1) Look at a road surface in the Kent area (5)
- 4) It's partly up to me say to have large books (5)
- 10) A German was an odd boss (7)
- 11) Delete a period of time before the beginning of September (5)
- 12) She sounds joyful (5)
- 13) Invigorating British sport? (7)
- 15) Land mass in the Far East (4)
- 17) Shock from a man's car engine (5)
- 19) Perhaps it's Oxygen around me for fun (5)
- 22) I declare Vera is confused (4)
- 25) Reprimand troubled nurse after church (7)
- 27) Figure out love's mystery (5)
- 29) Change the finish after noon (5)
- 30) A statesman spills no tears (7)
- 31) Celebrity king runs naked (5)
- 32) A very fast Navy? (5)



DOWN

- 2) Singer was back in choir one Thursday (5)
- 3) A full-time soldier keeps good time (7)
- 5) Musical is staged first on probably every rainy afternoon. (5)
- 6) Take a look at this test in English (7)
- 7) Hit a fishing boat (5)
- 8) Diver ordered beer after gaining first place (5)
- 9) Pretend iron is part of a gin mixer (5)
- 14) Fury at the right time (4)
- 16) It's rare to dance at the back (4)
- 18) Happy with what's inside (7)
- 20) Some planes race back to see the Gunners (7)
- 21) It's not rubbish to a dealer (5)
- 23) I never see it's always in poetry (5)
- 24) Central part of an organ (5)
- 26) Less than two foreign articles (5)
- 28) Tiler is puzzled by measurement (5)

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2023 AT WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: Cllr A Rattu.

In Attendance: The Clerk, Unitary Cllr C Motley and three members of the public.

Election of Vice-Chairman for 2023-2024: Cllr Robert Povall was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Election of a representative for Diddlebury Village Hall Committee: Cllr S Povall was elected.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting, both held on 24th May 2023, were approved by councillors and one matter arising was dealt with.

Reports: The Chairman reported that he had completed two surveys, including the Town & Parish Council Police Survey for 2023. He had also spent a lot of time dealing with road closure issues in Peaton/Bouldon, which he would deal with fully under Highways & Environmental issues.

Cllr Motley said she has been working on finding a replacement for Philip Dunne MP who is standing down at the next election. The consultation period for the Local Government Boundaries Commission closes on 10th July 2023 with SC objecting to the current proposed boundary changes. The government is encouraging local authorities to amalgamate to form larger units: an approach has been made to SC by Birmingham and the Black Country, proposing a West Midlands Combined Authority. SC is not keen on the proposal and is exploring possible amalgamations with rural Welsh neighbours, Powys and Montgomeryshire.

SC currently has to find £51 million of budget cuts in this financial year. She reminded land owners that they are responsible for trees on their land which might fall onto the highway. Ash die-back is a particular concern. The science is still out on how long land should be left before trees can be replaced: five years is a figure being mooted. Councillors felt that SC was not producing enough publicity about this issue.

Westhope Village Hall: Cllr Watson advised that Westhope Village Hall will be closed for at least one week in early August as the kitchen and lavatories are being refurbished.

Planning: 23/02130/FUL for the erection of an extension to an existing agricultural building at Sunnyside Farm, Corfton was considered and supported by the parish council.

23/02081/CPE seeking a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing agricultural building at Clowes Farm, Great Sutton, was noted.

Highways/Environmental Issues: Signs asking drivers to slow down and be aware of children playing at The Moors and Moors View have been obtained and Cllr Martyn will erect them. Whether any other measures could be taken to protect children playing in the street from speeding

drivers was considered: the matter would be reviewed in September to see if the new signs have had any effect on slowing down traffic.

The B4368 Highways Traffic Modelling Study commissioned by Mr Nick Newton, Traffic Engineer at SC, had not been delivered as promised, as Mr Newton has expressed himself dissatisfied with the report and was seeking funding for a second report. Cllr Motley said he had been ordered to make the initial report available to Munslow Parish Council by the 6th July 2023. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Newton seeking a copy for DPC also.

Communications and Correspondence: Nine items of correspondence were considered.

Consideration of revisions for the Place Plan: The Chairman had been in contact with Vicky Turner at SC advising her that the current form produced by SC for parish council responses was lacking in clarity and he had requested a revised form. Parishioners had so far suggested two projects: (1) a cycle track/footpath from Mill Lane to the Corvedale Inn, and (2) a playground in Diddlebury village. As the parish council owned no land a playground would be dependent on either a benefactor granting land, or purchase via a CPO. The matter would be further considered in July.

Parish Plan Steering Group: The Chairman reported that Mr Ian Davies had now stood down as Chairman of the PPSG: a successor had not yet been found. The Parish Council thanked Mr Davies for his many years of service. The possibility of producing an up-to-date Parish Plan was considered. The previous one was grant-aided and SC gave a lot of analytical assistance with data obtained from DPC's questionnaire which had been sent to all parishioners. This help may not be available now. The Chairman would discuss the matter with Vicky Turner and see what, if any, help would be available from SC.

Finance Report: The Finance Report for June 2023 was considered. Cheques totalling £509.79 were approved for payment. DPC held a balance of £26,062.67 following payment of the approved cheques. Cllr O'Boyle approved the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statement 370 and DPC's cash book.

Any Other Business: The Chairman would investigate the possibility of producing a brief history of every man cited on the war memorial.

Cllr R Povall noted that mail deliveries appear to be occurring on only three days a week. The postal collection times have also changed from 11am to 9am.

He had raised this with the Mail Sorting Office in Craven Arms and had been told they had 12 staff vacancies which they cannot fill, hence the reduced service.

Next meeting: Wednesday 26th July, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall. There will be no meeting in August.

Agendas and full copies of the Minutes can be viewed by visiting the Diddlebury Parish Council website www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs J de Ruset, No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH • Tel: 01547 519 282 • diddleburypc@gmail.com

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 2023 AT 7.00PM AT CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL.

Attendance: Councillors Mr A Pike, (Vice Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear, Mr I Steele, and Ms J Watts.

Election of a Chairperson: Cllr Carol Byng was elected as temporary chair to preside until a new chair is elected at the next meeting. Chairs of meetings will be elected at the beginning of each meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Mary Holland, Mathew Seabrook and John Turley, and Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) Cllr Andrew Pike apologised and left the meeting after the previous item.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Jackie Watts re item relating to the VAS post.

Public Involvement Session: No members of the public were present.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 were approved and signed.

Community Governance and Boundary Review: The Council would write a joint letter with Stanton Lacy Parish Council inviting residents from the specific properties in Vernolds Common to attend Stanton Lacy and Culmington Parish Council meetings to make their views known on the proposed changes. The Boundary Review would be placed on the agenda for every Culmington Parish Council meeting until the review is complete. There had been no further action except regarding Vernold's Common.

Second Vehicle Activated Sign: It was agreed to contribute £808.04 towards the cost of a Vehicle Activated Sign for the Eastern entrance to the village. The Clerk had informed the Traffic Engineer of the request to have the sign closer to the speed limit roundel but had not had a response.

Desilting of Seifton Brook in Summer 2023: Cllr Byng had met with Mrs Jayne Disley from the Flood Action Group to review the level of silt in Seifton Brook. It was deemed not necessary to desilt this year unless there was heavy rain in the period up to September when the licence to desilt ceased for the year. This would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Place Plan: This was deferred to the next meeting.

Renewing the Parish Plan: Deferred to the next meeting.

Reports: Cllr Motley had given apologies.

Village Hall: Cllr Mear said the first committee meeting since the hall had reopened would be on 7th June. The AGM is on the 20th June and members of the public would be very welcome to attend. The kitchen had been upgraded and there would be concerted efforts to fundraise for the planned extension. She thanked Mr

Lynes for his assistance with the plans for the extension. Lots of events were scheduled and the committee was planning a Parish Ball for 2024. She wanted to thank everyone who had been involved in getting the hall reopened.

Flood Committee: Cllr Byng submitted a report. The Environment Agency had approved funding for this financial year so the Flood Forum could now decide on with whom it should form a partnership. Additional modelling would be needed re the leaky dams as the present ones were not massively effective. Bigger ones may be needed. Andy Keyland would be asked for an update re the Seifton Batch resurfacing. He was planning to meet the developers of the barn building project to discuss the flooding of the entrance to the churchyard. Another underground chamber and drain had been discovered in Culmington House paddock. Gully cleaning was due to be carried out in the week beginning 22nd May towards the racecourse. The drain outside the pottery would also be dealt with. John Bellis would like to be informed when a decision had been made by the Parish Council regarding desilting Seifton Brook. Desilting under the bridge by Culmington House was still on the agenda and the FAG stressed that it must be done.

South Shropshire Area Committee: Cllr Carol Byng would attend the next meeting.

Finance: Payments were authorised to H Coonick (Reimbursement for Easily Domain for the Website) £18.00, Clerk's Pay April-June £755.95 and Travel £18.45, SALC Affiliation Fee £212.64. Zurich Insurance had offered a lower quote of £214.00 based on a new 'smaller parishes scheme' which was accepted.

The Internal Auditor's Report was accepted.

The Annual Governance Statement, Annual Governance Statement and Certificate of Exemption were signed.

Dates for the Notice of Notice of Public Rights were set at 3rd July to 11th August 2023. Notices would be displayed on the notice boards and website.

Clerk's New Contract: The Clerk left the meeting for this item. It was agreed that the Clerk's salary, subject to satisfactory performance, should progress automatically through the range LC1 annually. Otherwise, the contract was agreed. The contract will be signed at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Munslow Parish Council had written to inform the Council that the report of the Shropshire Council Survey of the B4368 carried out in Spring 2022 would not be published and the Traffic Engineer was seeking funding for a second survey.

Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th July 2023: a. Diversion of HGV's along B4365. b. Closure of Bishops Castle Community Hospital c. Desilting Seifton Brook.

www.culmington.org Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO Telephone: 07817607355, culmingtonpc@gmail.com Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

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flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Flood Action Group

Clive Martyn, 01584 841346,
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Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit
Community Hospital, 01584 874297

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Station Drive Doctors' Surgery
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Munslow WI
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PARISH CLERKS & WEBSITES

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@gmail.com

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

Diddlebury Parish Website
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abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Beambridge Club Room
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Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

Culmington Village Hall
Jeff Williams, 01584 861849,
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Diddlebury Village Hall
Sally Woodhouse, 01584 841265,
sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk,
www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Diddlebury Church Room
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jan_kennedy@icloud.com

Westhope Village Hall
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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group
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DOWN:

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2023

	6TH AUGUST The Transfiguration	13TH AUGUST Trinity 10	20TH AUGUST Trinity 11	27TH AUGUST Trinity 12
ABDON		9:45 HC		6pm EP
BROADSTONE			8:30 HC	
CULMINGTON	11:15 HC		6pm Songs of Praise	8:30 HC (BCP)
DIDDLEBURY	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS
HOLDGATE	8:30 HC			
MUNSLOW	6:30pm (note time change) EP sung by the Derby Singers	11:15 HC		9:45 HC
TUGFORD			9:45 HC	

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