

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



Snowy scene in Munslow - Jill Wardle

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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COPY FOR FEBRUARY 2024 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the **February 2024** magazine, please send by email to editor@corvedalenews.co.uk by **TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 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 **TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 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.

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OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

To those who have already paid your subscriptions for 2023 – a huge thank you! The paper subscription is £8.00 per annum. The electronic subscription is £5.00 per annum. If you are not sure if you have already paid, please contact Colin Pitcher by email at colin.pitcher@hotmail.com. If you have not already paid 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 house name and location e.g. SMITH, MILL FARM, PEATON*

2. BY POST:

Make your cheque out to: CORVEDALE NEWS

Print your name and address on the back of the cheque and post to:

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Corvedale News Treasurer
Lower Middle Barns
Corfton
Craven Arms
SY7 9LB

3. YOUR CORVEDALE NEWS DISTRIBUTOR:

Hand your cash or cheque over to your distributor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

We have decided 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. 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 14th December
and Thursday 11th January 2024**



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 18th December 2023
and Monday 22nd January 2024

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:

NO WORKING PARTIES IN DECEMBER



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 CHURCH

Christmas Fair

2pm Saturday
2nd December

at

Diddlebury Village Hall

Gifts, Prizes, Teas
Santa's Grotto



Men From Off



"Fairly close harmony singers" who will amuse, entertain and impress you with traditional and contemporary Shropshire songs and seasonal wassails

appearing at

Culmington Village Hall
Ludlow SY8 2DA

Friday, 8th December

Tickets: £5 (in aid of Village Hall Funds)

Bar open from 6.30pm till late - Concert 7.30pm

For more details contact: John - 01584 861802

STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL

EVENTS DECEMBER 2023

Pub Night every Wednesday from 8.00pm

Community Coffee Mornings

First and third Wednesday of the month 10am - 12noon.

For more details ring Phyllis 01584 823 436

Hayton & District WI

Second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

For more details ring Phyllis 01584 823 436.

New Year's Eve with 'Elvis'

Steve Knight joins us again to celebrate the arrival of 2024.

Info and tickets: AJ Gatehouse 07971 916 167

For more info.

Email: slvh.info@gmail.com

or Facebook: Stanton Lacy Village Hall Events

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - DECEMBER & JANUARY

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

Saturday 9th December 2023, 10.30am to 12.30pm

In January 2024, the UFO group will meet, as usual, on second Saturday of the month - **13th January 2024**, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Coffee Morning

We do not have a coffee morning in December, but we will be back in 2024, as usual on **Saturday 27th January 2024** from 10.30am! Happy New Year.

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

CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - DECEMBER

Christmas Fayre

Friday 1st December

£2.50 per adult to include tea/coffee and mince pie.

Accompanied children are free and get a gift from Santa.

Carols from the Tenbury Town Brass Band. Come along for

some festive fun and buy some Christmas treats. From 6pm onwards. Book a stall for £10. Contact Jo on 07872 109 936 or 01584 861 486.

Coffee Morning

Monday 4th and every following Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Everyone welcome! Mug of tea or coffee for £1 with free refills plus a biscuit or two.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Monday 11th, 10am - 11.30am

The usual drink and chat but with mince pies! How can you resist?

Bridge Club

Monday 4th and every following Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Peter Whitehead pst.whitehead@gmail.com

The Men from Off

Friday 8th December

A fairly close harmony group of singers who perform folk, shanties and the like. Bar open at 7pm, performance starts at 7:30. Tickets £5. Contact John Hart on 01584 861 802.

Can Do Crafts - Nordic Felt Decorations and Christmas Rag Wreaths

Saturday 9th December, 10am to 12.30pm

£25 includes all materials and refreshments. Contact Rosemary Jones to book your place via Facebook or on 07837 609 229.

Christmas Lunch Club

Thursday 14th, 12.30pm for 1pm

Celebrate Christmas with a festive meal!

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.

New Year's Eve Party!

Sunday 31st

See in the New Year with friends. Music and bar.

Contact Jo on 07872 109 936 or 01584 861 486 or Janet on 01584 861 289.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS - JANUARY

Coffee Morning

Monday 8th and every following Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Everyone welcome! Mug of tea or coffee for £1 with free refills plus a biscuit or two.

Bridge Club

Monday 8th 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.

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall




arts alive **FLICKS IN THE STICKS**

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (12a)
Harrison Ford & Phoebe Waller-Bridge
7.45 pm Thursday 21st December
Doors & Bar Open: 7.15 pm
Tickets: £5 (Card machine)



Oppenheimer (12)
Starring Cillian Murphy
7.15 pm Thursday 11th January
Doors & Bar Open: 6.45 pm
Film starts 7.15 pm
Tickets: £5 (Card machine)

Christmas Quiz





Wednesday 6th December
7.00 pm Bar opens
7.30 pm Quiz starts
Teams of 4
Booking essential
via DVH Facebook page
or 01584 841265

Diddlebury's Glamorous Night with the Stars

HOLLYWOOD 

Entertainment, Tex-Mex Supper, Fun Quiz

Saturday 20th January £15pp Dress Glitzy
Diddlebury Village Hall Bar opens 7.00 for 7.30pm
To book: call 01584 841265 or DVH Facebook page

	St. Peter's Church Diddlebury Xmas Fair Gifts, tombola, bottle stall, cakes, teas plus visit from Santa	2 pm Saturday 2nd December Santa arrives 3 pm
	RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Geoff Hall – Shropshire & Beyond	19.30 Tuesday 12th December
	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: enidgill21@hotmail.com	Thursdays 10.00-11.00
	The Corvedale Book Group Contact Cath Burley: cathburley@hotmail.com	2nd Thursday each month 19.30

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

We would like to thank everyone for attending the defibrillator training morning on Saturday 18th November. It was a highly informative session, and everyone went away with a lot of statistics and knowledge about cardiac arrest and, of course, knowing how to use the defibrillator. The defibrillator is located on the wall facing the road at our village hall if it's ever needed to help save a life.

Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching and events for 2024 are now being arranged.

In the new year we are launching a Centenary 100 Lotto. £12 per entry for the year with the following cash prizes: 1st Prize. £150 2nd Prize £100 and 3rd Prize £50 drawn twice a year. If you would like to join please ask any member of our committee or telephone 07860 447 397.

The arrangements for the centenary celebrations on 9th June 2024 are still ongoing. There will be a hog roast, children's activities, music, and entertainment. Further details in the new year.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support during 2023, as we go from strength to strength.

A very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to you all!

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

DECEMBER (AND FUTURE) EVENTS

Whist Drives

Every Monday, starting at 7.15pm.

£3 entry. All abilities welcome. Our numbers continue to grow so come along and enjoy a very light-hearted and sociable evening.

Yoga with Sue Pugh

Every Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30pm.

All enquiries Sue Pugh 07432 349 933 or Betty 07860 447 397.

Christmas Prize Bingo

Saturday 9th December, 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Lots of festive prizes to be won. Mulled wine, festive refreshments and licensed bar will also be available.

Christmas Whist Drive

Monday 11th December, 7pm for 7.15pm start

£3 with mulled wine and festive refreshments.

Race Night

Saturday 20th January

Tapas Evening & Show

Saturday 16th March

Centenary Celebration Party

Sunday June 9th



Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!
from Mark, Sarah & All of The Tally Ho Team

To view our menus or to see what events we will be hosting across Christmas and new year, please check us out on Facebook - The Tally Ho Inn Bouldon or Instagram - tallyho.bouldon for more details.

Christmas Food Service Hours

1st - 23rd Dec - Normal
Xmas Eve - 12-5:30pm
Xmas Day - 12-2pm (Drinks Only)
Boxing Day - 12-5pm
28th-30th Dec - Normal
New Years Eve - 12-5:30pm
New Years Day - 12-4pm

To Book call us on 01584 841830 or visit our website at www.thetallyho.co.uk

JAN
Join us in January & get 10% off your bill when dining
Quoting 'Corvedale Deaf' when booking (excludes sundays)

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 Tues	Blue Hills Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tues	Corvedale Artists	Beambridge Club Room	10am
Every Tues	Zumba	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every Wed	Yoga	Westhope Village Hall	3.30pm
Every Thur	Tai Chi	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am

DECEMBER 2023

1st	Fri	Christmas Fayre	Culmington Village Hall	TBC
2nd	Sat	Diddlebury Church Christmas Fair	Diddlebury Village Hall	2pm
6th	Wed	Christmas Quiz	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
7th	Thu	Clover Club Christmas Lunch	The Swan, Aston Munslow	12 noon
7th	Thu	Munslow Parish Council Meeting	Beambridge Clubroom	7.30pm
8th	Fri	The Men from Off	Culmington Village Hall	From 7pm
9th	Sat	Un-Finished Objects Craft Group	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
9th	Sat	Can-Do-Crafts - Felt Decorations & Rag Wreath	Culmington Village Hall	10am
9th	Sat	Christmas Bingo	Westhope Village Hall	7pm
11th	Mon	Christmas Whist Drive	Westhope Village Hall	7pm
12th	Tue	RSPB Talk - Shropshire & Beyond	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
12th	Tue	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir	William Brookes School	7.30pm
13th	Wed	Munslow WI	Beambridge Clubroom	7.30pm
14th	Thu	RSPB Walk	Bromfield	10am
14th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Beambridge Clubroom	10.30am
14th	Thu	Christmas Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
14th	Thu	Carol Singing	Manor Orchard, Culmington	6pm
14th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
14th	Thu	Hayton & District WI	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
18th	Mon	Corvedale Folk Club	The Seven Stars, Broadstone	7.30pm
18th	Mon	Christmas Tree Festival	St Peter's, Diddlebury	4pm
19th	Tue	Christmas Tree Festival	St Peter's, Diddlebury	4pm
21st	Thu	Flicks in the Sticks - Indiana Jones	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
31st	Sun	New Year's Eve Party	Culmington Village Hall	TBC
31st	Sun	New Year's Eve Party with 'Elvis'	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	TBC

JANUARY 2024

2nd	Tue	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7.00pm
4th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Beambridge Clubroom	10.30am
9th	Tue	RSPB Talk - Caring for God's Acre	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
10th	Wed	Munslow WI	Beambridge Clubroom	7.30pm
11th	Thu	Flicks in the Sticks - Oppenheimer	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
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 Group	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
18th	Thu	Warm Hub Coffee Morning	Beambridge Clubroom	10.30am
18th	Thu	Lunch Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm
18th	Thu	Abdon & Heath Parish Council Meeting	Abdon Village Hall	7.30pm
20th	Sat	Hollywood Theme Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
20th	Sat	Race Night	Westhope Village Hall	TBC
22nd	Mon	Corvedale Folk Club	The Seven Stars, Broadstone	7.30pm
24th	Wed	Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group	TBC	9.30am
24th	Wed	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
26th	Fri	Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group	TBC	9.30am
27th	Sat	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
28th	Sun	Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group	TBC	9.30am
28th	Sun	RSPB Walk	Discovery Centre, Craven Arms	10.15am

ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:

Village Halls: Abdon - Page 6, Culmington - Page 6, Diddlebury - Page 7, Stanton Lacy - Page 6, Westhope - Page 8

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

By the time you get to read this, Advent will be almost upon us. Advent Sunday, which this year falls on 3rd December, marks the beginning of the new church year. The weeks that follow form the season of Advent, which this year is the shortest it can be because Christmas Day falls on a Monday. The season of Advent tends to get lost in the rush to prepare for Christmas, but it is a time of year in which we aim to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ, thinking not only about the annual celebration of his birth, but also about his second coming and the Day of Judgment. In mediaeval times many churches had a Doom Painting. It showed Christ sitting in judgement whilst the blessed were led by angels to heaven and the damned were led by demons towards a monster and the flames of hell. We might see that as an attempt to frighten people into following the rules, but it can also prompt us to wonder about what Christ would think of the way we live if he were to return to earth now. Advent is a time in which we can reflect on that and on how we might adjust our lives so that we are ready to greet Christ when he comes. If it helps you to take time out from the daily rush which is life today, there will, as usual, be services of Compline on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm.

We will prepare for Christmas in a different way at the Christmas Tree Festival on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December in Diddlebury Church: do join us for an enjoyable Christmas event and a chance to see the church beautifully decorated. Details of the Christmas services are elsewhere in the magazine and you are welcome to join us at any of them.

January brings us to the Sundays after Epiphany when we think about Jesus being revealed to the world – an ongoing task and one in which, as the church, we share. You are welcome to come and join in that task with us.

When we get there, I wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Rev'd John Beesley

FLOWERS & BRASSES

DECEMBER 2023

3rd * Kath Worthington
10th* Kath Worthington
17th* Sharon Constable
24th* Sharon Constable

* Brasses only

JANUARY 2024

7th Liz Jones
14th Liz Jones
21st Liz Beazley
28th Liz Beazley

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

31st October Laura Murphy and Ryan Wall Diddlebury

Funerals

23rd October Dorothy Corfield Diddlebury
10th November Sam Radford Diddlebury

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

In what now seems to be becoming a tradition, we will be holding another Christmas Tree Festival at Diddlebury Church on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December. This year we are having a theme of 'Christmas Trees and Angels'. You are

invited to come and enjoy the decorated church any time between 4pm and 9pm on Monday or Tuesday. Seasonal refreshments will be available. At 8pm on Monday 18th we will have the draw for this year's Corvedale Parishes Hamper Draw (see below) and Corvedale School will be holding their Carol Service in the church on Tuesday 19th at 6:30pm. Admission to the Christmas Tree Festival is free, but we will have a plate out and any donations received will be shared between the churches.

If you would like to decorate a tree to go in the church, or if you can lend us an angel (you can have it back afterwards ready to enjoy it at home over Christmas) please get in touch.

Rev'd John Beesley

CORVEDALE PARISHES CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW 2023

Once again this year, the Corvedale Group of Churches is holding a Christmas Draw with luxury hampers and other prizes. Last year's draw made £1,241 which was shared between the churches – the Hamper Draw makes a real difference to the ever-increasing costs of running the churches and we are very grateful to all who contribute in any way.

Please support us by donating an item for a hamper (please leave it at The Rectory or in one of the churches), selling tickets and, most importantly, buying tickets. Why not come and join us at Diddlebury Church on Monday 18th December to enjoy the Christmas Trees and see if you have won a prize...?

Many thanks, as always, for your help and support.

Rev'd J Beesley

DIDDLEBURY CHURCH



Once again Christmas is on the horizon, and so, of course, is the **Diddlebury Christmas Fair**. As in the last couple of years, the village hall will be the venue, on **Saturday 2nd December** from 2pm until 4pm. All the usual attractions will be there, and there will be delicious cakes to buy, as well as useful gifts, books, and the chance to win on the draw, the tombola and other competitions. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be available for refreshments. Keep the date in your diary and bring the family.

This is also the season for our annual Christmas hamper draw. As usual, in addition to the mouth-watering hampers, there will be a range of other attractive prizes, including a weekend in a holiday flat in Barmouth! Tickets will be a pound apiece, and will be available from churchwardens, clergy and others from Sunday 26th November. The draw will take place at 8pm in Diddlebury church on **Monday 18th December** after the Corvedale School carol service. All proceeds to the Corvedale Group of Churches.

Monday 18th and **Tuesday 19th December** will also see the third **Christmas Tree Festival** in Diddlebury Church. This year the theme will be Christmas trees and angels, so expect some exciting arrangements. The trees will be open for viewing between 4 and 5pm on both days so that the school children may inspect their handiwork (the church would normally close at sundown.) Don't miss this!

Martin Speight

HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

Another eventful year having passed by it was time for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th November. Aside from standard AGM business led by President, Phyllis Steventon, Secretary, Amanda Brooks and Minutes Secretary, Dorothy Williams, including Treasurer Joyce Randle's presentation of the branch's audited annual accounts, we held reviews of last year's speakers, outings, and events. We were then well prepared to consider the future of our branch. It's good to say that, after a loss of membership last year, the result turned out to be very positive and our WI branch will therefore carry on! Phyllis Steventon was re-elected as President for another year, current committee members were happy to stay in their roles and new members stepped up to join the committee to support certain roles - all with great enthusiasm for taking the branch forward.

Amanda Toon offered her well-thought-out plan for the forthcoming Christmas Wreath Making Day on 27th November: a group of us agreed to go foraging for fresh foliage on the preceding Friday and other confirmed attendees offered to supply further items, so, along with homemade soups and breads to share for lunch, this creative challenge promises to be great fun!

Others present at the meeting offered excellent suggestions for speakers for next year's programme. On Monday 13th November, Jennette Arnold and I attended the Shropshire Federation WI's 'Speakers' Day' event in Shrewsbury, and we agreed on three interesting speakers to schedule into next year's programme - hopefully they're not all snapped up!

After all the formalities and discussions at the AGM, we all shared and enjoyed a variety of tasty homemade soups accompanied by fresh baguettes and the meeting concluded with the usual competitions. A very positive evening with all members looking forward to the year ahead!

Forthcoming events include Christmas lunch at the Charlton Arms in Ludlow with each attending member offering a contribution to our Secret Santa. In January, we will enjoy a New Year's social get-together and on **Thursday 8th February 2024**, we have a talk by Mellie Lewis, Holder of the National UK Collection of Aeoniums, a species of succulent plants with a wonderful botanical history behind them. To conclude the 2023/24 programme, a talk by Dr. Nigel Baker, Archeologist and Canoeist, is scheduled for our meeting on 13th March. Nigel couldn't come and talk to us at last year's meeting in March because weather conditions caused us to cancel, so we hope he makes it to us this time and we get to hear of his experiences excavating next to and under the River Severn and other UK rivers.

For any information about our branch or coming to enjoy any meeting you might be interested in or for anyone considering joining (or rejoining) this inclusive, friendly, ladies club with much to look forward to, please contact our Secretary, Amanda Brooks on hayton.district.wi@gmail.com or phone our President, Phyllis Steventon on 01584 823 436. We look forward to welcoming you.

Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling 2024.

Louise Gough

MUNSLOW WI

After the remarkably successful group Ceilidh in September followed by a delicious dinner at The Swan – also a group event - we weren't sure what to expect at November's meeting when we were once again joined by members from Diddlebury and Westhope WI.

Barbara, who took the meeting in Loraine's absence, introduced Bev Harris who lives locally and is a retired teacher of Forensic Psychology. Bev talked about the factors that affect the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. She explained how our perception of what we see can change depending on our experience, expectations, and beliefs and how this in turn can influence our recall of events, leading to inaccuracies. Bev talked about the importance of investigating and understanding the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, as misidentification of suspects can lead to wrongful convictions. We were told of the work of 'Innocence Project', an American organisation which works to exonerate those in the USA who have been convicted of crimes that they did not commit, frequently due to eyewitness misidentification. Bev talked about how research has informed the legal justice system and its processes so that police questioning techniques and practices can obtain more accurate information. Finally, we learned that, despite popular beliefs held in the past, children can give accurate accounts of their experiences. Bev's interesting talk led to many questions which she was happy to answer. She was warmly thanked by Val.

The monthly raffle tea, coffee, and cake, provided and served by Christine and Sheila, rounded off a very pleasant afternoon.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and are always happy to welcome visitors as well as new members. For more information call me on 01584 841 25.

Jenny Rose



The Corvedale News team would like to wish all our distributors, readers, and contributors a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Next issue: February 2024

RSPB Walks & Talks

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

WALKS

14th December - Bromfield

28th January - Secret Hills Discovery Centre



TALKS 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

12th Dec Geoff Hall - Shropshire and Beyond

9th Jan Harriet Carty - Caring for God's Acre

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

While readers who are seasoned church crawlers will doubtless be familiar with hatchments, those lozenge-shaped heraldic paintings which may still be seen in a reasonable number of churches, I suspect that many readers will have little knowledge of what they represent, and how they were used. To understand their origins, we must first go back to medieval times.

When a person was granted ('achieved') a coat of arms, these 'achievements of arms' would, at his death, often have been displayed in the church and in his house before and during the funeral. Sometimes replica armour and heraldic garments would be displayed permanently in the church afterwards. The earliest known example of this is the achievement of Edward the Black Prince (1376) in Canterbury Cathedral. A few examples of funeral helmets survive around the country, of interest to antiquarians and, unfortunately, to thieves. By the early seventeenth century the display of actual or replica armour was gradually replaced by painted 'achievements' commonly known as 'hatchments'. The custom of displaying these heraldic lozenges probably originated in the Low Countries, where many may still be seen in both Catholic and Protestant churches. Seventeenth century Dutch paintings of church interiors generally show numbers of hatchments adorning walls and pillars. It is interesting to note that one of the earliest examples in this country is to be found in Old St Chad's, Shrewsbury, dating from 1623. The golden age of hatchments lasted from 1700 to 1850, after which the number erected declined rapidly. Nonetheless, over a hundred were put up in the last century, and one was placed in the church at The Snead, near Bishop's Castle in the last twenty years.

A number of customs quickly developed around the use of hatchments, which played an important role in the process of mourning. The hatchment would be placed outside the deceased person's house and remain displayed for a month after the funeral. It was then normal for it to be placed in the church, where it would remain until it decayed or was ejected by an unsympathetic vicar. On occasions they went instead to the house of the deceased, where some may still be seen. While there are still many churches with hatchments, they are generally a fraction of the number which were originally to be seen. There are now three examples surviving in the six churches of the Corvedale Group, one in Culmington and two in Diddlebury, which will be discussed below. However, a drawing made by the Rev. Edward Williams in 1791 shows that there were six in Munslow church at that time, and another watercolour made some sixty years later shows three above the east window of the north aisle.

It is highly unlikely that many readers will have seen the two examples in Diddlebury, as until earlier this year they were largely concealed by the organ in the vestry. The Cornwall family lived at Delbury Hall from 1742 until 1845 and took

over the family chapel which had been erected in 1609 by the Baldwyns, previous owners of the estate. Here the family attended church in some state, with their own fireplace and other creature comforts! The family monuments and hatchments were placed in the chapel, while the bodies were interred in the adjacent railed enclosure in the churchyard. The two hatchments commemorate Bishop Folliot Herbert Walker Cornwall, successively Bishop of Bristol, Hereford and Worcester, who died in 1831, and his son Frederick Hamilton Cornwall whose death occurred in 1845. That of Bishop Cornwall is the only example of an episcopal hatchment in the county, and something of a rarity. The arms of the Diocese of Worcester (ten red medallions) are shown on the left, with the arms of the Cornwall and Herbert families on the other half of the shield. His son's arms are the same those of his father, without, of course those of the diocese.

In January, following last year's five-yearly inspection by the church architect, the hatchments were taken down for examination by Annabelle Monaghan, who previously restored the Royal Arms. Unfortunately, she found considerable damage, which is why I am currently approaching a number of grant-awarding bodies to see if they could contribute to the total cost of nearly £10,000 which is needed to conserve and repair them. However several of the trusts which I am approaching would like to see evidence of some money raised by the parish, and if any readers would like to make a contribution to the restoration, our treasurer, Liz Jones, the Vicar or I would be very pleased to receive it.

Provided that sufficient funds can be raised, these two hatchments will be repaired and conserved, and then placed on the west wall of the church where the Royal Arms hung before it was re-sited. They will then be visible to all and add a touch of colour to this part of the church.

In our next issue I hope to say something about the history of the Cornwalls and how their time at Delbury Hall came to an end.

©Martin Speight 2023

Images Below:

The Diddlebury hatchments when taken down for inspection by Annabelle Monaghan earlier this year.



The arms of F H Cornwall



The arms of Bishop Cornwall

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

ST NICHOLAS



This is the last month of the year and we are very certain it is winter. The shortest day is just three weeks away and the weather is promising to misbehave, too. But Christmas is coming and that is exciting (although sometimes exhausting!).

So here is some stuff to keep you positive between now and the big day. Father Christmas is a big player at Christmas. He is known more widely in the world as Santa Claus – St Nicholas. Facts are what we need next.

Originally 'Santa' was a Bishop in fourth century Myra (now Delme, in Turkey), who made a significant mark on the world of that time. By the sixth century, churches all over Europe were being dedicated to him. From the ninth century in the East, and the eleventh in the West, he was the pin-up boy of saints.

He is the Patron Saint of sailors, children, archers, merchants, brewers, pawnbrokers, and repentant thieves, not to mention unmarried people and students dotted all around Europe! And his piety and generosity were unbounded. The legendary story of his help to the merchant who had three daughters and no money for their dowries is still told in many parts of the world. A bag of gold coins came flying through the window, not once but three times as the merchant married them off with the apparent approval of good old Santa! Do you now understand why bags of chocolate money are part

of Christmas? Traditionally they should be handed out (but secretly) on 6th December, the feast day of St Nicholas.

St Nicholas, as patron saint of children, has become Father Christmas. In America he became Santa Claus which is derived from the early Dutch pilgrims to that then New World who called him 'Sinte Klaas'. The new name instantly included the Spanish speaking children.

St Nicholas is quite extraordinary. It is accepted that he was a real person and he was known to have visited the Holy Land when Bishop of Myra. While there he is believed to have stayed in the crypt in Bethlehem where the birth of Jesus took place. The spot is still marked by a large old church dedicated to – yes, you guessed it – St Nicholas.

The rest of his 'life' appears to be legend, embroidered over centuries from his existence in Myra in the fourth century to nineteenth century America. But never mind, it's a story we all love and have enjoyed its secrets over time in maintaining this amazing persona. And what child is not going to enjoy that moment on Christmas Day when they wake to find that Santa has delivered!

Anni Holden-Calver, Trustee of Caring for God's Acre
and member of the Churchyard Task Team,
Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group

MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

On 15th October we were pleased to be able to provide teas at the Open Garden day at Millichope Hall once again. This proved to be a very popular event at which we served tea, coffee and homemade cakes, generously donated by the wonderful bakers of Munslow. Around two hundred people enjoyed their teas and a look around the beautiful gardens.

We would like to thank Frank and Antonia Bury for the opportunity to use this event to raise money which will be divided between the Henry Angell-James Memorial Trust, which donated a defibrillator to Munslow village, and the village hall.

Our thanks also go to all those who gave their time and effort in setting up and taking down the tables etc... and

to cake makers, and those who served the tea and cleared up. Thanks also to all who came along to support this sunny event. How lucky we were with the weather!

We held our first warm hub coffee morning on 16th November, which we are delighted to report was really well attended by around twenty local people. Keep coming, folks! The next date is for our Christmas coffee morning with mince pies and cake on **Thursday 14th December**.

We continue into January with hubs on 4th and 18th January 2024. All these coffee hubs are on Thursdays between 10.30am and 12 noon. Hope to see you all there.

Lesley Dobson

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

October saw the Harvest Supper at Diddlebury Village Hall where a buffet with lovely salads and puddings, generously donated by our community, was enjoyed, followed by a good session of enthusiastic dancing by some of the guests.

November heralded our second ever Street Food Night. More than one hundred and twenty people turned up to our first curry night and what a night it was! With delicious Punjabi curries and snacks from the renowned ZainZ Catering on offer we knew we'd be in for a treat, and they certainly didn't disappoint. To serve so many people so quickly was a real feat, and they did so with a smile. The hall and bar were buzzing, and it was wonderful to see so many new faces enjoying themselves.

This will be the last of our street food evenings for the year, but rest assured we will be running them regularly throughout

2024 and ZainZ Catering will be warmly welcomed back.

In the meantime save the date in your diary for our Hollywood themed night on **Saturday 20th January**. It will be all things Hollywood-glamour, entertainment, a fun quiz and a Tex Mex supper, and of course the dress should be GLITZY so dust off your party outfits in readiness.

Tickets will be available shortly so keep a look out on Facebook and the Google group to not miss the perfect start to 2024.

Kim Simm



CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER - A TALK BY PIP SMITH

In a last-minute change from our advertised speaker, Tamsin Westhorpe, (who will speak on a future occasion), Pip Smith kindly agreed to speak at short notice. Pip is a landscape designer based in Droitwich, who gives regular talks to garden groups and has had exceptionally good reviews www.pipsmith.co.uk

Although Saturday was a beautiful autumnal day, the weather since has reminded us that winter is close. Pip started by encouraging us to go out and really look at and enjoy our gardens across the winter months and to take photographs using the low winter sun to best effect. He then showed a series of beautiful photographs celebrating the benefits of thoughtful planting for this time of year and very kindly provided everyone with a detailed planting list. Pip had worked for several years as head gardener at Wollerton Old Hall near Market Drayton. He showed photographs from there, from RHS Wisley, Bodnant, Cambridge Botanic Gardens, Trentham gardens and gardens belonging to his clients. We came away feeling inspired.

He talked about the importance of choosing plants for structure, colour contrast, texture, and scent. He encouraged us to think about layers of trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, bulbs, and annuals and to use these to create eyelines and vistas through the garden to draw the eye to the winter features we want to highlight. These might include a paved path, door, gate, window, building, fountain, or sculptures. Water features could add reflections which would create depth or sparkle. Using trees with distinctive bark and late season leaf colour, fastigiate or columnar trees and trees which can be clipped into topiary balls, columns or pyramids will provide the first level of interest. He suggested we consider a variety of conifers and deciduous trees with spectacular bark including *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple), *Prunus cerasifera* (Tibetan cherry), *Betula Jackmanti* or *Betula Trinity College* (Silver birch) and *Myrtus communis* (Myrtle). In a bigger garden, using hedging of different heights also creates formal structures such as garden rooms. Winter frost looks spectacular on the leaves of *Taxus baccata* (Yew), *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) and *Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam). These can be clipped into formal and fanciful shapes.

Once the trees and hedging are in place evergreen shrubs will provide a variety of greens as a backdrop at the next level and deciduous shrubs add form and texture, drawing the eye through to the features you want to highlight beyond this. He also suggested using perennials with woody stems which would not collapse in frost, e.g., *Phlomis russeliana*, and those with seed heads, e.g., *Dipsacus fullonum* (Teasel) and *Lunaria annua* (Honesty), which can provide structure until spring and allow both birds and insects to overwinter. The *Cornus* family too offers beautiful stem colour of blacks, emerald greens, oranges, yellows, and reds to complement the greens or the white branching stems of the bramble *Rubus cockburniensis*. Interspersing these with waving grasses adds both texture and depth. They too look spectacular in the frost, e.g., *Miscanthus sinensis* and *Anemanthele lessoniana* (pheasant grass).

Although gardens are not at their most colourful in winter, creating colour contrasts which are enhanced by winter

sunshine could be part of our planting. Pip encouraged us to consider not only winter clematis, honeysuckles, hellebores, and a variety of bulbs but also evergreens with berries, e.g., *Hedera helix* (Ivy), *Sarcococca confusa* (Winter box), *Skimmia japonica* 'Reevesiana' or 'Kew green.' Later in the season, moving into spring, the Hamamelis family offer a variety of colours ranging from traditional yellows and oranges to deep red, e.g., *Hamamelis* 'Diane,' 'Harry' and 'Ripe Corn.' Although many of his clients request he does not use yellow plants, Pip felt that, in winter and early spring, bright yellows were a mood lifter. Narcissus (daffodils) are the obvious example, but eye-catching yellows would include *Mahonia* 'Winter sun' and *Edgeworthia grandiflora*. Where specific plants or trees provide specific interest, consider purchasing good garden lighting.

Scented plants on arches, at doorways and alongside pathways add a further dimension to the garden: plant *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postill' against a sheltered wall, *Jasmine nudiflorum* (winter jasmine) over an arch with *Lonicera fragrantissima* (winter honeysuckle), *Sarcococca hookeriana* or *Sarcococca confusa* along path edges.

We digested the talk and some of the forty-two members attending asked interesting questions after we had stood in silence to mark Armistice Day. We then had delicious refreshments and time to chat as we bought raffle tickets. I would like to thank everyone who attended, with special thanks to those who set up chairs and tables, made cakes, served refreshments, donated raffle prizes, and sold the raffle tickets. The morning felt a good end to the Garden Group year.

We next meet on **Saturday 4th February 2024** at 10.00am for a talk on aeoniums. Details of the programme are below or contact me at cathburley@hotmail.com for a copy.

Cath Burley

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP 2024 PROGRAMME

All distances and times are from The Swan at Aston Munslow. New members welcome. 10am Starts

February 10th - Mellie Lewis

'A botanical journey beyond my wildest dreams'

Discovering Aeoniums in the Canary Islands.

Holder of the National Plant Collection

Diddlebury Village Hall • 03 mins • 1.4 miles • £7

March 9th - Andrea Cowan Taylor

5 acres designed by Percy Cane for Roger de Quincey.

Spring bulbs, magnolia, rhododendron, azaleas, HaHa.

Lake and River Lugg, walled kitchen garden, rose garden.

The Vern, Marden, nr Bodenham HR1 3EX

44mins • 29 miles • £15

April 13th - Robert Bland

10 acre garden, rhododendrons, azaleas, beautiful borders, 5 lakes, arboretum, unusual trees.

The Leasowes, Cound, Shrewsbury SY5 6AF

23 mins • 16 miles • £6 • BYO refreshments

May 11th - Jo Salmon

Playwright John Osborne's former home.
Azalea & rhododendrons, Coast Redwoods, pond,
kitchen garden, 26 acre bluebell woods.

The Hurst, Arvon Centre, Clunton SY70JA
22 mins • 14 miles • £8

June 8th - Katherine Moynes

Parkland, woodland, lake, mixed borders
Victorian walled garden, roses, peonies.

Eyton Hall, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, TF6 6ET
41 mins • 23 miles • £12

July 13th - Pamela & Alistair Thompson

SW facing 3/4 acre garden looking out to Abberley Tower.
Mixed flower borders, Shady woodland planting,
lawns & seating, 'Shed of the Year' runner up.

Pear Tree Cottage, Wichford WR66YX
56 mins • 34 miles • £6 • Partial Wheelchair Access.

August 10th - Katy Tanner

Historical garden on former Cluniac Priory Garden rooms,
kitchen parterre, formal terraces, woodland walks,
specimen trees, fernery, panoramic views.

Preen Manor, Church Preen, SL67LQ
22 mins • 10 miles • £12

September 14th - Owen Towndrow

Private visit to late 15th C renowned gardens.
Courtyard, Cloister & Vicar's Choral Garden,
Dean's Garden & Bishop's Garden.

Cathedral Gardens Hereford HR1 2NG
48 mins • 33 miles • £7 • Refreshments available at cafe

October 12th -

Mr & Mrs William Corbett-Winder

5 acre traditional garden, stunning views wide
herbaceous borders, box edged rose parterres,
formal topiary, woodland garden.

Vaynor Park, Berriew Welshpool, SY218QE
46 mins • 29 miles • £6

November 9th - Kevin Alviti

Unusual Fruit and Vegetables

An entertaining speaker with examples of produce.
Diddlebury Village Hall • 3 mins • 1.4 miles • £10

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



Kath welcomed twelve members to the November meeting, including a new member, Annie. Kath then introduced Jacqui who gave an interesting and delightful talk on her life as an air traffic controller. Jacqui had us all laughing with her many stories and incidents. Our December meeting is on **Thursday 7th December** at The Swan, Aston Munslow for our Christmas lunch and party from 12 noon for 12.30pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

DIDDLEBURY FLOOD ACTION GROUP

STORM BABET SUMMARY

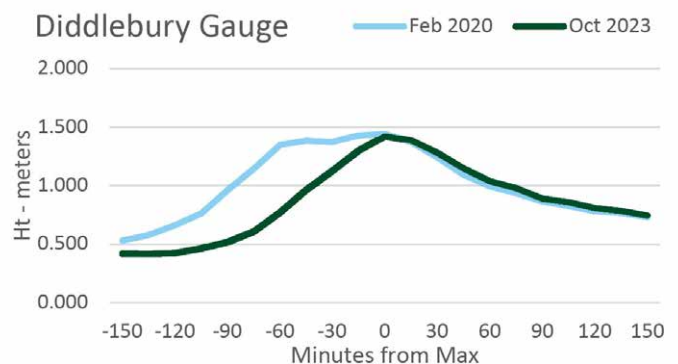
Friday 20th October 2023, Storm Babet, saw a busy day in Diddlebury Parish. It rained 'cats and dogs' causing our rivers and tributaries across the parish to rise rapidly. Unfortunately, once again, a number of properties suffered flooding inside their homes. Known incidents of internal flooding occurred in Bache Mill - 3 properties, Diddlebury - 2 properties, Bouldon - 2 properties. There were possibly other unreported incidents. Many gardens suffered in the floodwaters, with bridges being destroyed and many garden plants lost.

The roads were flooded at the bridges on the Corve, the B4368 and at the bottom of Mill Lane, causing travel around the parish to be disrupted.

Many volunteers helped neighbours in trouble, particularly at the Tally Ho in Bouldon and the B4368 bridge in Diddlebury.

Did the leaky dams make a difference?

Difficult to say, as there is no monitoring of water levels being held behind the dams. What can be done is compare the water level at the B4368 bridge in Diddlebury during Storm Babet (2023) and Storm Denis (2020).



This shows an initially slower rate of rise in 2023 than that in 2020, although the impression of many was that the water level appeared to rise faster in 2023 and the stream levels seemed higher. The levels then lowered at similar rates after both storms. The maximum level may be a function of the position of the gauge.

Clive Martyn, Chair, Diddlebury Flood Action Group



CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

HOMEGOING BY YAA GYASI Ref: Asantemanmn.org



This is a fascinating family saga with a difference. It is a 2016 debut novel by a Ghanaian American writer who was highly acclaimed for her work. It tells of the nine generations of descendants of Maame, an Asante woman, through the different lives of her two daughters and their subsequent families.

The Asante, a matrilineal society, were part of a 13th century kingdom in central Ghana which became known as the Ashanti Empire of Akan people. The empire further developed across the two hundred years from 1701-1901 to cover Côte d'Ivoire, Gold Coast and Togo. It became wealthy and powerful from the slave trade and the gold trade. As they were successful warriors, the slave trade was very profitable for the Ashanti in Africa and Europe. Their culture was renowned for its amazing gold work, woodcarving, and bright, vibrant textiles. The Asante people speak Tui, which is part of the Kwa group of Niger-Congo languages.

The 'Golden Stool' mentioned in the book is believed to have come down from heaven in the 1700s to become the Asantehene's throne. It is also believed to hold the souls of the nation. The Golden Stool must never touch the ground and can never be sat upon; new kings are raised and lowered over the stool without touching it. It is now held in the Ashante Royal Palace in Kumasi, Ghana. The people sent their king, Prempeh, into exile in the Seychelles in 1896 in preference to losing it to the British. They refused to become a British Protectorate until 1 January 1902. The Gold Coast was incorporated into the British Empire as a British Crown colony in 1821. It became a Dominion of the British Commonwealth on 6 March 1957, achieving independence in 1960 under Kwame Nkrumah who led the country until the 1966 coup. The current Asantehene is Otumfuo, Osei Tutu II who



acceded as 16th king in 1999.

Returning to the novel, Maame's two daughters and their families have vastly different lives, but their experiences highlight the impact of both the African and the British slave trades. While Esi is held captive in the dungeons of Cape Coast Castle, unbeknownst to each other, her half sister Effia marries James Collins, the British Governor in Charge. Their son's white blood sets him apart and his descendants carry that difference overtly or covertly over the years. Across the generations the story covers many aspects of the slave trade from kidnaps, abductions and forced marriages, to sea voyages, plantation lives, the Slave Railroad, indentured service as miners, the escape from the north to the south of America, finding work in the jazz age in Harlem, succumbing to drug abuse, protesting about black rights, and becoming part of an educated middle class. The importance of oral history and family heritage which runs through both strands of the novel is held by Akua 'The Crazy Woman' who heard voices but gave her granddaughter love and hope.

We found the book fascinating as it made us consider the history we were taught from a different perspective. The subject matter was not always cheerful, but the characters were engaging, and the thread of resilience ran through the script. The chapters, which could stand alone as short stories, were almost factual rather than descriptive or emotional in their content. Nevertheless, there was a strong emotional reaction to parts of the story. Having a variety of lead characters and voices was an interesting approach. It continued to challenge assumptions and attitudes about power, wealth, class, and racial difference. It is well worth a read.

The book we will be discussing at our meeting on **Thursday 14th December** is *'This is going to Hurt'* by Adam Kay, a venture into life as a doctor in the NHS.

Cath Burley

BRINGING WARMTH TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF CHARITY COMMUNITY RESOURCE



As the wintry weather sets in we turn our thoughts to those in our community who are vulnerable to the biting cold and the financial strain of rising energy costs. Community Resource's 'Warmer Winter Appeal,' embodies the spirit of compassion, unity, and support that defines your parish.

What is the Warmer Winter Appeal?

Our 'Warmer Winter Appeal' is a heartfelt effort to provide warmth and comfort to local vulnerable households who find themselves at risk of fuel poverty during the colder months. For over a decade, Community Resource has been dedicated to supporting those in need, and this campaign is an extension of that commitment.

Why Does It Matter?

Rising energy costs, coupled with the economic challenges of recent times, make it increasingly difficult for many households to afford the basic necessity of a warm and comfortable home. The 'Warmer Winter Appeal' is our

response to this challenge, a way to ensure that no one in our community has to endure a cold and uncomfortable winter.

How Can You Get Involved?

- **Donate:** Your generous contributions to the 'Warmer Winter Appeal' will go directly to providing essential support to households in need. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference.
- **Spread the Word:** Share this initiative with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Encourage others to join us in making a positive impact in our community.

Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing fuel poverty in our community. As the days grow colder, let us come together in the spirit of giving and support.

To make a donation please visit - www.justgiving.com/campaign/shropshirefuelpoverty or email our Fundraising Manager – stacey.teece@community-resource.org.uk to discuss other ways to make a gift.

CORVEDALE PAST & PRESENT

A NAUGHTY BOY AND A GENIUS

Charles 'Gas' Darwin was a naughty boy and Shrewsbury-born genius who got things right and got things wrong!

We all know that the chap is best known for sailing around the world and providing us with a new theory called 'Evolution.' okay, he was not the only one worrying at the same ideas at that time, but that is not the only thing we should remember about this Shropshire lad.

Charles had an interesting grandfather who had interesting friends. Erasmus Darwin was part of the 'Lunar Society,' a sort of supper club of scientists and industrialists in the 18th century who, interestingly, met at the time of the full moon. Another member of the circle was Josiah Wedgwood. Charles later married into the wealthy Wedgwood family, becoming a gentleman farmer and having interesting ideas about earthworms!

I suppose most people still believe in evolution, although, strictly speaking, no one should 'believe' any scientific proposal; it should be constantly questioned. The current view, however, is that Charles got the mechanism of evolution completely wrong, due to things he couldn't have known about at the time. This doesn't make him any less a genius, though. He propelled human thought in new directions.

As he came from a well-off middle-class family, Charles went to Shrewsbury School, where he couldn't stand the predominantly classical education. Like his grandfather he wanted to be pushing the bounds of knowledge. He was always courting trouble for doing his own scientific experiments, which presumably was what got him the nickname 'Gas,' though it may have been trouble with flatulence. History does not record!

Charles, and his contemporaries who thought about it, believed that the inheritance of genetic material passed on from our parents was immutable and unchangeable during our lifetimes. Today we are told that our genes are changing all the time to produce vital chemicals for our body. Radically, this is said to be wrought by the great cloud of viruses that inhabit our body and the whole world in unknowable numbers and seem to be striving for maximum diversity in the world (they must get quite depressed when they visit local high streets).

So, what of the humble earthworm? Settling down to family life after his world travels Charles got very interested in these

beasts of the soil. People thought he'd gone slightly dotty, but it seems that he primed a strand of thought that is of immense importance today. He realised that over time worms not only help to produce new soil, but continually burrow and leave casts on the surface.

Perhaps this was the first inkling of why, for instance, Roman structures may be metres below the present-day surface. This was a stimulus to stratigraphy, the study of earth layers, which is very much a tool of modern-day archaeology.

Massively important though they are in soil production, with the movement of organic materials from the surface, aeration, and dynamic hydration of the soil, they do this in conjunction with astonishingly diverse lifeforms. Meet the Moss Piglet...



Worms are part of a universe of life below our feet of which we know very little. No doubt it's every bit as remarkable as the Attenborough worlds above the ground and in the sea. Certainly, all these worlds seem wholly interdependent.

Earthworms were pretty slow to come to the party. We're told that billions of years ago when the earth was literally boiling hot, some specialist bacteria gobbled up enough carbon dioxide to cool the whole earth in a sort of 'reverse greenhouse' effect. They set about initiating the story of soil.

Sadly, over our time on earth humans have not always made a good soil story. The globe is littered with civilisations that thrived on soil fertility but ultimately failed, leaving arid, rocky or desert places. What of the present age?

There is huge number of quotations about how vital soil is from the sages of the ancient world down to the present. Perhaps the most telling is the common derivation of 'human' and 'humus' – soil. Earth, our planet takes its name from 'earth,' the world's protective skin. 'Adam' and 'Eve' are derived from the Hebrew words from soil and life, whilst we have named ourselves 'Homo Sapiens Sapiens.' Man from soil, wisest of the wise?

Peter Cornah

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Do come along and hear the choir sing under the Corn Exchange at the Christmas Fayre in Wenlock **Saturday 2nd December** at 11am. We'll be performing a mix of some of our favourites and a number of seasonal pieces. We always look forward to this event, both as a support for the fayre and the town and a great way to lead into the Christmas period.

We'll be entertaining the Much Wenlock and Cressage Medical Practice Wellness Group on Tuesday **5th December** in the Priory Hall, and then holding our own Christmas concert on **Tuesday 12th December**. This is a **FREE** concert and will be held from 7.30pm at William Brookes School where mulled wine and mince pies will be served, and the bar will be open! Entry is by ticket only, a number of which will be available at Penny Farthing in the Square for collection on a first come, first served basis. Please do consider joining us for what is

always an enjoyable way to get in the mood for Christmas.

After a short holiday break, the choir will be back at practice on **Tuesday 2nd January**. This would be a good time for anyone who may be considering joining us to come along. The winter months are a quiet period for concerts, and we usually concentrate on building our repertoire with new pieces, so new and established members of the choir are in the same boat! Don't be put off if you've never sung before as many of us started in the same way and have grown in confidence over time. Support will be given, and you will be eased in gently. Please contact us beforehand or simply turn up at 7.20pm on any Tuesday evening.

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

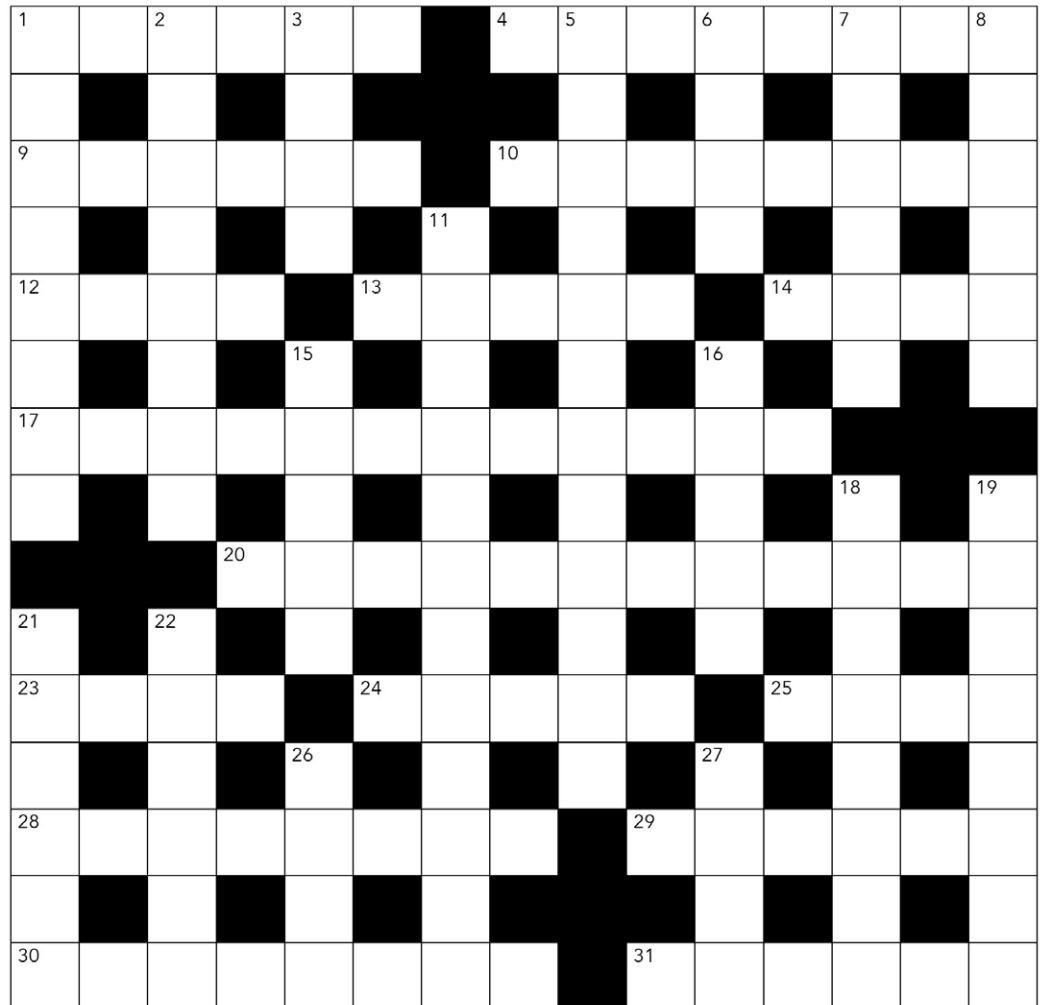
DECEMBER CROSSWORD

BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword
can be found on page 31 in this
edition of the magazine.

ACROSS

- 1) Henry hurts round bird (6)
- 4) Bird's headgear that might have been worn by judge in murder trial (8)
- 9) Flat poet's initials can lead to activities (6)
- 10) Tag a riot caused by one such as this (8)
- 12) Partly directed ourselves to the stern (4)
- 13) Initially first in line towards her grime (5)
- 14) Only three of them form nasty riot (4)
- 17) Weak tool could fly away (12)
- 20) Peter is ill. PS he found some night fliers (12)



- 23) Navy woman is very small bird (4)
- 24) Age around 49 but still very nimble (5)
- 25) Drag up some sauce (4)
- 28) Animal skilful enough to be tolerated (8)
- 29) Crashes car, back to front, and it shot up (6)
- 30) Perpetually without a clock? (8)
- 31) Played instrument and made channels? (6)

DOWN

- 1) Sad and suety for the Shroves (8)
- 2) Totally supporting the French road, but with remorse (8)
- 3) At the start she is trying each place (4)
- 5) Truly run fast – I'm at Cathedral city (12)
- 6) Trim little Eliza – that's sweet! (4)
- 7) Reacts when changing to cooks (6)
- 8) Copy the bird (6)
- 11) Late pm in winds finds birds (12)
- 15) Ninety nine pass first with pain (5)
- 16) Man will fade away (5)
- 18) Nice sea-plant battered about (8)
- 19) Calmed beast you reported to older people (8)
- 21) Couple have piece that's cheap (3-3)
- 22) Deprive of wind but remain composed (2,4)
- 26) Recorded washed out bucket (4)
- 27) No friend has a gemstone (4)

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING ON TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Councillors Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr Ian Alderson, Mrs M Holland, Mr I Steele. In Attendance: Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Temporary Chair), Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear, Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: None.

Public Involvement Session: None.

Minutes: To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meetings held on 17th October and 24th October 2023. RESOLVED that both were a correct record and signed by the vice chair.

Community Governance and Boundary Review:

Consideration of potential changes to parish boundaries at Seifton Bache: Councillor Byng and the Clerk had met with Cllr Robert Povall (Diddlebury Parish Councillor). Cllr Povall would propose to Diddlebury Parish Council that either they agree a change of boundary at Seifton Bache or that Diddlebury Parish Council request that Seifton is removed from its 'Cluster' and becomes 'Open Countryside' for planning purposes. The Clerk has not heard from Diddlebury Parish Council regarding the outcome of their last meeting.

Highways: Decide on the site of the speed indicator device at the eastern entrance to Culmington village. RESOLVED: to request that the post for the sign is situated to the south of the pottery on the western verge.

Reports from Members: Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the results for the first two quarters of the financial year show a saving of £10 million. The Council is making savings by redesigning services. The Social Care teams are speeding up discharges from hospital. There is now a demand responsive bus service in the Pulverbatch area which is a trial, and she hopes it will spread to other areas.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Mear had sent a report. There have been some great new events over the last few months. They are still receiving donations as a result of the tractor run.

Correspondence: Sherry Woolgrove – Storm Babet – Councillors were not aware of any homes being flooded during the storm.

Shropshire Council – telephone box at Vernolds Common although in Stanton Lacy Parish it is within the area that may be transferred to Culmington as a result of the boundary review. RESOLVED: to inform Stanton Lacy Parish Council that they would prefer the telephone box to be retained with its telephony as the area is very remote and has poor mobile phone coverage.

To consider work on the sweet chestnut tree in Culmington village: Deferred to the next meeting.

Finance: Consider the draft budget for finalisation at the January 2024 Meeting: The draft was considered, and minor alterations requested. It will be presented again at the January meeting and the precept will be set.

Authorise payments to: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance Inv 419) £68, H Coonick, (clerk salary including the pay award backdated to 1st April 2023 £899.60 and travel expenses for Oct-Dec £10.80).

Elect a Chairperson for the Next Meeting: Cllr Matthew Seabrook will remain as temporary chair.

Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd January 2024: a. Budget and precept b. Bio-diversity Statement c. work on the sweet chestnut d. community governance review.

DRAFT MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillors Mr Ian Alderson (Temporary Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear, Mr M Seabrook, Mr I Steele, Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.

In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Apologies for absence: Cllr Mrs M Holland and Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council).

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: none.

Public Involvement Session: a member of the public stated that the planning application referred to below would have a detrimental effect upon Seifton House, a listed building. A previous application had been refused due to its position. There was insufficient information regarding the materials to be used. They asked the council to oppose the application.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chair.

Planning: 23/04139/FUL: erection of 1 no detached dwelling and detached single garage, land to the north of Seifton House, Seifton. The Council resolved to object to this application for an open market home as Culmington parish, including the settlement of Seifton, does not belong to a Community Cluster.

Elect a Chairperson for the Next Meeting: Cllr M Seabrook was elected as chair for this meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillors Mr Matthew Seabrook (Temporary Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear, Mr I Steele and Ms J Watts. In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mr J Turley and Mrs M Holland: Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council).

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: None.

Application for a Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence at New House Farm for MDC Transport Service:

The licence applicant, Mr Mathew Caine, explained that there was already a licence for five lorries and this application would increase the number to twelve vehicles and fifteen trailers based at New House Farm on Clay Lane. They would return weekly rather than daily and, when returning, they would stagger their arrival. There would be a slow increase to twelve lorries. They would be parked at the rear of the buildings and there was good access onto the road. He, and the owner of New House Farm, were keen not to upset neighbouring occupiers. Lorry washing water goes into a tank which is emptied regularly.

Councillors were reassured that the applicant had put in place methods to deal with traffic accessing the site. It supports local employment and farm diversification where appropriate. It was agreed that the Council would write to Shropshire Council to support this application.

Next Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO Telephone: 07817 607 355, culmingtonnpc@gmail.com | www.culmington.org
Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE

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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

MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023

Members: Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Nigel Dobson, Val Fotheringham, Andy Johnson, David Marston and Graham Williams. In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Edward Povey, Antonia Bury, Chris Meeson, and Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council).

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Forum: No members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 5th October 2023: Cllr Nigel Dobson was added to the list of members in attendance and at item 13.4, last sentence. 'Wild Goose' was added before 'nursery'. Subject to these amendments the minutes were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Urgent Items for discussion at the discretion of the Chair: Cllr Archer wished to thank Cllrs Williams and Meeson for the work they had done in the parish during Storm Babet.

Reports: **Cllr Archer (Chair)** reported that she would be attending a service and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the War Memorial in Munslow at 11am on 11th November. Aston Munslow Village Shop had raised £14.72 for the defibrillator: this will be used to help maintain the defibrillator in Munslow. She thanked everyone who had made donations.

Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council) has sent an update on the B4368 report. Manpower and financial resources were scarce, with only one engineer covering the south of the county, which mitigates against trying to deal with all the problems at the same time. Given these constraints, Derek Buchanan (Shropshire Council) had proposed that the report be broken down into component parts recognising the different characteristics of the individual parishes. He had suggested that efforts should focus initially on Munslow and Diddlebury, the parishes that had initiated the route study in the first place, and prioritise meetings with them by the end of November/early December. He suggested the following programme for Munslow and Diddlebury: a. Respond to the comments already received with a summary report that covers key issues and constraints raised in the report and the subsequent comments. This response should be finalised and issued by the end of the following week (Friday 10th November) or Monday 13th November at the latest. b. Get a meeting in the diary for end of November/early December which would allow parishes time to review the report and set up a mutually convenient meeting date. This timeline would take into account that Munslow parish council meets early in the month whilst Diddlebury meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

Cllr Dobson (Beambridge Club Room) reported that the AGM was on 21st November when ideas for future events would be welcome. The coffee mornings were starting again. £650 was raised at the Millichope Open Garden teas and coffees stall

which would go partly to the Club Room and partly to the Henry Angell-James Memorial Trust which donated the defibrillator.

Highways: A joint meeting with Shropshire Council and representatives from Diddlebury Parish Council was agreed to discuss the B4368 Report from Shropshire Council. The Clerk would inform Derek Buchanan and ask that they also involve the police in the proposed meeting.

Vehicle Activated Signs: The Aston Munslow (western entrance) vehicle activated sign (VAS) owned by Shropshire Council had now been replaced and was working. The mobile VAS sign reported that 85% of vehicles are passing at below 32mph whilst the sign was in Munslow.

Review of Environmental Maintenance and New Tasks: The drains on the B4368 in Hungerford and Broadstone needed jetting. The Clerk would report this to Shropshire Council.

Planning: Members agreed to support the following applications: **23/03773/FUL** - Erection of part single storey/ two storey extension to rear and single storey extension to side (resubmission) and change of use of land to domestic curtilage. Brook House, Munslow, SY7 9EZ. **23/03977/FUL** - Erection of flat roof single storey rear extension. Dale View, Aston Munslow, SY7 9ER. **23/04210/FUL** Installation of free-standing greenhouse to south-east The Racehouse Aston Munslow SY7 9EN. **23/04175/LBC** Alterations to remove existing window and replace with new french doors, blocking up of an existing external door opening to allow a small kitchen area to be formed in place of existing utility room affecting a Grade II Listed Building The Swan Inn Aston Munslow SY7 9ER. **23/03969/FUL** Installation of new entrance steps, platform lift and cellar access Aston Hall Aston Munslow SY7 9ER.

Update on the Washwell: The minutes of meetings in 2006 were reviewed and it was agreed a. to write to English Heritage to establish why the Washwell had not been listed and b. to apply to the Land Registry to request a change to the entry for the Washwell to return it to public land.

Update on the Website: The website will remain free until April 2024.

Finance: The draft budget was reviewed. Maintenance of the three vehicle activated signs owned by the Parish Council should be added to the budget. The environmental maintenance contribution should be increased from £500 to £600 and the Burial Ground (Munslow) maintenance should be increased to £1,000. Once the budget was finalised in December a report would be put in the Corvedale News to explain the planned expenditure and the precept. Payment was authorised to D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv. 421 – £114.75.

Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Thursday 7th December 2023 at Beambridge Village Hall: a. budget and precept setting b. B4368 report and meeting.

Minutes and Agendas are available on www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk or from the Clerk on munslowpc@gmail.com or 07817 607355

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2023 AT DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: Cllrs T Pardoe and R Morgan.

In attendance: The Clerk, Unitary Cllr C Motley and four members of the public.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

Public Involvement Session: Mr J Farley and Mrs J Vine, on behalf of the Corvedale Walking and Footpaths Committee, asked DPC to assist them by holding the CWFCs funds in a ring-fenced third-party funding arrangement as they are having banking difficulties. DPC agreed to provide this assistance.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th September 2023 were approved by councillors. Matters Arising included the Chairman's report on SC's Emergency

Planning meetings and the lack of a response from the Craven Arms sorting office to DPC's request for an explanation of the poor standard of service of mail deliveries and collections.

Reports: The Chairman said he had attended Chris Jackson's funeral. He reported on his continuing work on a display to be sited alongside the war memorial and brought draft copies of the documents for councillors to peruse. He was meeting the Headmaster and Governors of the school the following day and would raise the playground proposal with them. He had helped the Tally Ho pub and other properties on 20th October when Bouldon had been inundated with flood water.

Cllr Motley reported on the outcome of the Constituency Boundaries Review. It would not affect the Corvedale Parish boundaries other than that Cardington would become a Corvedale parish. The review of parish boundaries could now proceed and any proposals should be submitted to her in writing. She and the Chairman had met on the 22nd October to review the flood damage caused by the 20th October floods. She congratulated Cllr Rattu on his heroic efforts, over many hours in driving rain, to clear the drains on the bridge on the B4368. His efforts, and those of other volunteers, kept traffic safe and prevented houses in The Moors from being flooded. Councillors added their appreciation of Cllr Rattu's efforts and of the other members of DPC and the community who had given assistance during the floods.

Flood Action Group Report: Cllr Martyn reported at length on the floods of 20th October. The Tally Ho, which had never before been flooded, was inundated with water as were six other houses and a farm in Diddlebury parish. He was preparing a comprehensive report on the flooding for discussion at the January meeting of the National Flood Forum. He would also produce a list of what resources were available within the parish which residents could draw on in the event of future floods, such as stocks of sandbags etc. and details of what steps householders could take to protect their properties. He was unable to say how well the leaky dams had worked as there was no way to capture data from them.

Westhope Village Hall. Mrs Kath Worthington reported that the recent Macmillan coffee morning had raised a significant sum of money. The Harvest Festival supper had been attended by 48 people. A full programme of skittles, bingo and whilst drives is scheduled this winter to help raise funds for the ongoing refurbishment of the hall.

Diddlebury Village Hall. Cllr S Povall reported that luckily the hall has escaped any flood damage. The Harvest Festival

supper was well attended and a curry night is scheduled for the 17th November

Planning Applications: 23/04417/OUT - an outline application for the erection of three affordable homes and associated drainage works and access on land adjacent to the car park at Westhope College, Westhope was considered by the councillors and the application was supported by them.

Highways/Environmental Issues: The effects of the flooding in October had been considered elsewhere. The continuing problems of speeding drivers and non-residents utilizing scarce parking places at The Moors/Moors View were further discussed. The proposed Bouldon highways operations and works to remedy the collapsing bank and water mains problem had been discussed by the Chairman, and Mr Keyland of Highways at a site meeting. Mr Keyland's proposed works were scheduled to start in the spring, since when the October floods have intervened, making the situation far worse and more expensive to remedy.

A complaint about a pothole in Bache Mill, which damaged two tyres on a resident's vehicle, was discussed. It has long been the subject of reports to Highways.

Communications and Correspondence: Thirteen items of correspondence were considered and dealt with as necessary.

Parish Boundaries Review: Cllr R Povall had met with Culmington Parish representatives. The only issue between the parishes is the fact that Seifton is partly in Culmington and partly in Diddlebury, which have different planning designations. It was felt the matter could be sorted out with the Planning Department rather than via a boundary change.

Finance Report: The Finance Report for October 2023 was considered. Cheques totalling £641.15 were approved after payment of which DPC held the sum of £24,236.74. The HSBC bank statement had not been provided by the bank, so the cash book/bank statement reconciliation could not take place. The Clerk enquired whether new funds were being sought in the 2024/2025 Precept, as she was drafting a preliminary budget for consideration in at the November meeting. £4,000 worth of items were discussed.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd November 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.

Agendas and full copies of the Minutes can be viewed by visiting the Diddlebury Parish Council website at 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 519 282. diddleburypc@outlook.com.

Please note DPC's new email address

ABDON & HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT ABDON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs P Hartley, B Lewis, R Price, C Yarwood (chair): Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council). W Richards (clerk), one member of the public.

Open Session: Nothing was raised.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Apologies were received from Cllr Whalley.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023 were read by Chair and unanimously agreed as being correct.

Finance: The balance as at 4th October 2023 was £10,403.44. There had been many hirings of the marquee and £5,036.21

came from the Neighbourhood Fund payment.

Brown Clee Medical Practice: Cllr Lewis gave an update: there are two groups: PPG (Patient Participation Group) and the Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group. The main issue for the surgery is finding a buyer for the building. The Parish Council had received a request for seed funding of £100-£150 to start a bid to purchase the building. This was discussed and Cllr Hartley proposed waiting for more clarification on plans and the appointment of a new doctor. This was agreed unanimously. A member of the public asked whether there is government guidance for these situations: Cllr Motley responded that there was but this it was changeable.

Highways: Powkesmore potholes needed urgent action. The patching of the top road was inadequate and it needed to be done again. A member of the public had reported that the

drains by Abdon Church were blocked so water was running down to Upper House. Drains on Osley bank were blocked and causing damage to the surface. Earnstrey Hill House had a blocked drain. There was a blocked drain at the bottom of Masseys Bank. Cllr Yarwood said a mini-digger was required to clear culverts and improve ditches. The Neighbourhood fund could be used. The Highway Maintenance Grant was confirmed for another year. It was agreed that the Clerk would get digger quotes. The Clerk would chase Shropshire Council for drain clearance as they will need the machine.

Cllr Motley reported that Shropshire Council needed to make savings. Andy Wilde of Highways was moving to use local contractors and this had resulted in savings. The bypass extension around Shrewsbury had been funded by the Government. The Riverside regeneration plans had been achieved via the Levelling Up fund. The Demand Responsive Transport route was being trialled around Shrewsbury.

Place Plan: There was nothing to report. The funding priorities

for this could be updated at any time so no changes would be requested at the moment.

Correspondence: A request for a change of the footpath route around Earnstrey Hall had been received. The consultation deadline expired on 7 December. Cllr Hartley had met with the applicant and agreed with the proposals on his land. Cllr Hartley proposed support: this was unanimously agreed. A Healthwatch survey for diabetes services would be on the website. The planning officer had recommended refusal of an application in Clee St Margaret for an affordable home. This was discussed and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk would draft a response in support of the application for Councillors' approval.

Item for consideration for the next meeting: (for dissemination of information only) Highways Maintenance Officer.

Date of next meeting: The meeting scheduled for 11th January 2024 would be postponed until Thursday 18th January.

Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk:
 abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com Tel: 07813 271 274

ROTARY TREE OF LIGHT

Again this year, the Ludlow Rotary Club offers residents the opportunity to shine a light in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion or to send good wishes to friends or family.

The Tree of Light, located in Castle Gardens, was lit on Saturday 25th November.

All dedications received by 13th December will be published in the Christmas edition of the Ludlow Advertiser. A complete list of dedications received before Twelfth Night will be recorded on the Ludlow Rotary Club website.

A minimum donation of £5 per dedication is invited with all funds received earmarked by Ludlow Rotary for local community projects.

Forms containing full information on how to submit a dedication may be obtained from St Laurence's Parish Church, Nock Deighton Estate Agents or downloaded from www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk

Barry Forrester



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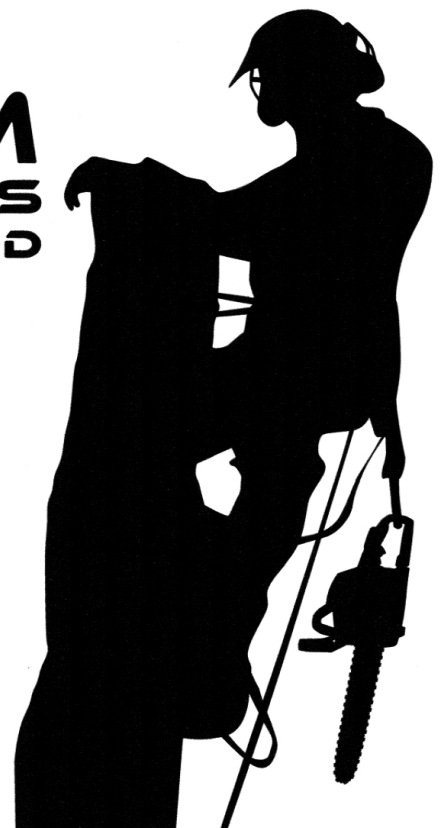
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www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter'



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Shrewsbury Community Transport Initiative Ltd is registered in England & Wales No 3274618

COMMUNITY LINKS

LOCAL SERVICES & EMERGENCIES

Electricity Problems/Power Cuts
Western Power, 0800 6783 105

Water Supply Problems
Severn Trent Water, 0800 783 4444

County Flood Management
Shropshire Council, 0345 678 9006,
flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Flood Action Group
Clive Martyn, 01584 841346,
happy4clive@gmail.com

Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit
Community Hospital, 01584 874297

Shropdoc (out of hours service)
Doctors Co-operative, 111

Station Drive Doctors' Surgery
01584 872461

Portcullis Doctors' Surgery
01584 872939

Craven Arms Medical Practice
01588 672309

Police (non-emergency)
Sgt Jen Price,
jennifer.price@westmercia.police.uk.

Voluntary Car Scheme - 9am - noon
Craven Arms Good Neighbours,
01588 673732

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Corvedale Brownies
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

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@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
Jeff Williams, 01584 861849,
culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com

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

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 841053,
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 841053,
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.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1) Thrush; 4) Blackcap; 9) Events; 10) Agitator; 12) Dour; 13) Filth; 14) Trio; 17) Yellowhammer; 20) Pipistrelles; 23) Wren; 24) Agile; 25) Ragu; 28) Bearable; 29) Sprang; 30) Timeless; 31) Fluted

DOWN: 1) Tuesdays; 2) Ruefully; 3) Site; 5) Legitimately; 6) Cute; 7) Caters; 8) Parrot; 11) Nightingales; 15) Colic; 16) Peter; 18) Pleasant; 19) Assuaged; 21) Two-bit; 22) Be calm; 26) Pail; 27) Opal

THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

ABDON - BROADSTONE - CULMINGTON - DIDDLEBURY - HOLDGATE - MUNSLOW - TUGFORD

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

	3RD DECEMBER Advent Sunday	10TH DECEMBER Advent 2	17TH DECEMBER Advent 3	24TH DECEMBER Advent 4 & Christmas Eve	25TH DECEMBER Christmas Day	31ST DECEMBER Christmas 1
ABDON		9:45 HC			8am Christmas Communion	10am Group Service of Holy Communion at Diddlebury
BROADSTONE			9am HC			
CULMINGTON	11:15 HC		11am Carol Service for the parishes of Culmington and Diddlebury, with the Corvedale Choir at Diddlebury		10am Christmas Communion	
DIDDLEBURY	9:45 HC	6pm EP		3pm Crib & Christingle Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion	11:30 FS Children are invited to bring an unwrapped present to show us (avoid things with small parts!)	
HOLDGATE	8:30 HC		3pm Carol Service for the parishes of Munslow and Holdgate at Holdgate	9pm Christmas Communion		
MUNSLOW	6pm Advent Carol Service	11:15 HC		10am Holy Communion	10:15 Christmas Communion	
TUGFORD			6pm Carol Service for the parishes of Abdon & Tugford		9am Christmas Communion	

Tuesday 12th December at 7:30pm – Carol Service at Westhope

Compline for Advent – Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. December 6th at Tugford, 13th at Abdon, 20th at Culmington

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

	7TH JANUARY Epiphany	14TH JANUARY Epiphany 2	21ST JANUARY Epiphany 3	28TH JANUARY Presentation of Christ in the Temple	4TH FEBRUARY 2nd Sunday before Lent
ABDON		9:45 HC		6pm Songs of Praise for Candlemas	
BROADSTONE			8:30 HC		
CULMINGTON	11:15 HC		6pm EP	8:30 HC (BCP)	11:15 HC
DIDDLEBURY	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS attended by 333 Squadron Ludlow Air Cadets	9:45 HC
HOLDGATE	8:30 HC				8:30 HC
MUNSLOW	6pm EP	11:15 HC		9:45 HC	6pm EP
TUGFORD			9:45 HC		

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