

# CORVEDALE NEWS

*THE CORVEDALE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE*

**FEBRUARY 2023**



*Winter morning in Munslow - Jill Wardle*

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**£8.00 per annum**

**Digital Only £5.00 per annum**

## Community Contacts



## SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

To access information and advice:

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

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

**FREE Citizens Advice Consumer  
Helpline:** 0808 223 1133

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

**On the web**  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://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](mailto:philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk)

54 Broad Street, Ludlow, SY8 1GP

## SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

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

Cabinet Member for Health and Communities;

Executive member, Rural Services Network;

Shropshire Council 01588 672 192

## COVID-19 SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

If you are in need of help the following resources are available:

- Your local **parish councillors**
  - [ShropshireLarder.org.uk](http://ShropshireLarder.org.uk)
- **Shropshire Council** on 0345 6478 9028 or at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- **Corvedale Helping Hands** - email [corvedalehelpinghands@gmail.com](mailto:corvedalehelpinghands@gmail.com)

## Church Contacts



### Church of England

Rev'd John S Beesley  
St Michael's Rectory  
Munslow  
SY7 9EU  
tel: (01584) 841488  
[revjbeesley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:circuitoffice2803@gmail.com)

*Copy for March 2023 Magazine*



To make sure your contribution is included in the March 2023 magazine, please send by email to [editor@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@corvedalenews.co.uk) by **TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2023** at the latest.

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**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](mailto:photos@corvedalenews.co.uk).

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

*Our Domestics*

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

**FINANCE.** If you have an outstanding subscription, please pass it to your distributor. If this is not possible, you can contact our Treasurer (giving your name and address): Martin Jones, Yew Tree Cottage, Corfton Bache, SY7 9LE.

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Mrs N Brentnall	Holdgate Pool Farm, Brookhampton	Brookhampton
Mrs M Buckingham	The Old Rectory, Abdon	Abdon
Mrs D Clinton	Sunnycroft, Peaton	Peaton, Peaton Strand
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Mrs C Evans	Aston Munslow	Aston Munslow
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Mrs F Sutton	Millichope Lodge, Beambridge	Beambridge/ Millichope
Ms N Fuller	Mill House, Bache Mill	Bache Mill
Ms S Walters	Roseford, Bache Mill	Middlehope

*What's on in the Dale*



**RSPB Walks & Talks**

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

**WALKS**

- **Haughmond Hill**  
Wednesday 8th February, 10.30am
- **Soudley Wood**  
Sunday 19th March, 9.30am

**Corvedale Folk Club**

**at The Corvedale, Corfton  
on Monday 27th February  
at 7.30pm**

and on the 4th Monday of  
each month thereafter

Free entry! Everyone welcome!

For further information contact  
Ian on 01584 841 331

**Wild about Westhope**

**Tree Planting**

**Sunday February 26th**  
**10am—2pm**

*Come and plant a tree  
All ages are welcome  
Free refreshments*

*Parking at Westhope  
Green Burial Carpark  
SY7 9JL*

*For further information  
Wildaboutwesthope@gmail.com*

**CORVEDALE TOTS**

**For Bumps, Babies, Toddlers & Parents!**

**MONDAYS 10AM-12PM**  
**TERM TIME ONLY**

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

**£2.50 PER FAMILY**

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

**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**

*What's on in the Dale*



## Weekly Whist Drives



Every Monday

All ages and abilities welcome

Doors open 7pm  
Start 7:30pm

£3 to include half time refreshments

Westhope Village Hall  
SY7 9JL



## CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP

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

For the first six months of the year, we will be choosing books selected by group members, starting with *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Then we will be discussing books selected from the annual library list.

Please contact [cathburley@hotmail.com](mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com) if you would like to join us.

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

**Next meeting 9th February 2023.**



## FORTY YEARS ON

*A retired Dean reflects on his life in words & music*

Michael Taviner, recently retired Dean of Hereford, is coming to Diddlebury Church on **Friday 17th February** at 7.30pm to give us a performance of his celebrated 'one-man show'. As well as being an excellent raconteur, Michael is also a very accomplished pianist and will be telling us about his varied life through the songs and words of such people as Noel Coward, John Betjeman, and many others.

Not to be missed; tickets are **£10.00**, obtainable from churchwardens or on the door. Refreshments will be served.

Do come along for what will be a very enjoyable evening and help to support the Corvedale churches.

Andrew Pike - 01584 861 361



## The **EDGE** CHAMBER CHOIR presents . . .

# Earthrise

by Alec Roth



**Saturday 11th February at 7.30pm  
St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow**

Music Director: Ros Crouch  
Organ: Catharine Boyd-Moss

**Tickets: £12** (Under 16 free)  
available from the Ludlow Assembly Rooms Box Office (01584 878141) and on the door

A concert of music, including 'Earthrise' by Alec Roth and 'Let them not say' by Chris Hutchings, inspired by the beauty of the Earth contrasted with music to make us think about the harm we do to our wonderful planet.



[www.edgechamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.edgechamberchoir.org.uk)  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter @edgechoir



Diddlebury Village Hall

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall



WHAT'S ON at DVH?



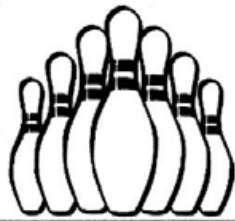
**Where the Crawdads Sing**<sup>(15)</sup>  
Mystery Drama  
Based on best-selling novel  
7.45 pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
Diddlebury Village Hall

Abandoned by her family at a tender age, a solitary girl attempts to fend for herself, much to society's dismay. Soon, she finds herself framed for her former boyfriend's death.



**Ticket to Paradise**<sup>(15)</sup>  
Comedy  
Julia Roberts, George Clooney  
7.45 pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Diddlebury Village Hall

A man and his ex-wife race to Bali, Indonesia, to stop their daughter from marrying a seaweed farmer. As they desperately try to sabotage the wedding, the bickering duo soon find themselves rekindling old feelings that once made them happy together.



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7.00pm  
Skittles evening:  
a fund-raising event for the Autumn Show.  
Contact: John Woodhouse: 07980 207253



**Bee Friendly Gardening**  
Corvedale Garden Group Talk  
10 am Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Diddlebury Village Hall  
Everyone is welcome

Looking for the perfect venue?



DVH is a light, bright, modern venue with large and small halls, dedicated bar, large fully-equipped professional kitchen, excellent disabled access, on-site parking, and full premises licence.

It offers flexible and affordable facilities for family celebrations and events, business meetings, regular activity classes, and social events.

Call 01584 841265

Email [dvhallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:dvhallbookings@gmail.com)

Facebook @diddleburyvillagehall

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

	<p>The Corvedale Choir is a mixed-voice community choir whose members enjoy singing a wide variety of music together, whilst not taking themselves too seriously. Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information</p>	<p><b>Mondays</b> 19.30-21.30</p>
	<p>The Blue Hills Choir meets weekly to sing classical music. All are welcome to join this friendly choir. Contact Ros Crouch: <a href="mailto:ros.crouch@gmail.com">ros.crouch@gmail.com</a> for more information</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays</b> 10.00-12.00</p>
	<p>Tai Chi - benefits include improving balance, lowering blood pressure, feeling calm and energised, and improving core strength. Contact Enid Gill: <a href="mailto:enidgill21@hotmail.com">enidgill21@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Thursdays</b> 10.00-11.00</p>
	<p>The Corvedale Book Group enjoy lively discussions of the books obtained from the Shropshire Library Service. Contact Cath Burley: <a href="mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com">cathburley@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</b> each month 19.30</p>
	<p>Physiotherapist-Led Pilates. Contact Beverley Chumber: <a href="mailto:beverleychumber@sky.com">beverleychumber@sky.com</a> 07967 814412</p>	<p><b>Fridays</b> 09.15-10.15</p>

If you'd like to run a regular activity or class in our warm and spacious hall, we'd love to hear from you.

*Westhope Village Hall*



Happy New Year! We had a very busy calendar of events over the festive season. The Christmas whist drive and prize draw was well attended with several new players. Everyone was greeted with a glass of mulled wine, we had some lovely festive refreshments at half-time. We literally had a full house for our Christmas Bingo which was a great success. The grand prize of a Christmas hamper for the one-off full house quickie at the end of the evening was won by Barbara Welch. On 23rd December we held our first Family Christmas Party and wow what a lovely afternoon! Father Christmas arrived to give all the children a present. Music and games were enjoyed by all and followed by drinks and nibbles. Due to the success of this event we plan to make it an annual fixture.

On **Thursday 6th April** we are starting a community lunch where everyone of all ages can come and enjoy a friendly natter and a lovely home cooked two course lunch with tea/

coffee to finish. Licensed Bar. 12.30pm for 1pm. £10 per person. Call Betty on 07860 447 397 to book a place.

Our joining of the Clee skittles league has proved very popular. We have a great selection of players in our team. So far, we have won two matches and lost two. Not bad for novices.

Our improvements to the village hall are ongoing. Updating all exterior doors and a disabled ramp are our next projects to be completed in the Spring. Huge thanks to Diddlebury Parish Council for their very kind and generous grant. Next on the agenda will be to upgrade the ladies and gentlemen's toilets.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us during 2022 which has helped us make all these improvements.

*Betty Manley*



**CORVEDALE TOTS**

*Mondays 10am - 12 noon. Term time only*



**YOGA with SUE PUGH**

*Now every Wednesday 4.15pm - 5.15pm*  
Sue is fully qualified and insured. We have a couple of spaces available please contact Betty on 07860 447 397



**WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB**

Re-starts 2nd March with Bingo  
All enquiries to Kath, 01584 841 254.



**CREATIVE & CRAFT GROUP**

*Cancelled.*



**WHIST DRIVES**

Every Monday at 7.30pm.  
Very popular, all abilities welcome.



**MONTHLY BINGO**

Last Friday of each month, doors open 7pm.  
Eyes down 7.30 pm. Refreshments and licensed bar. **Next dates: January 27th and February 24th**



**COMMUNITY LUNCH**

New Venture starting on **Thursday 6th April**, 12.30pm for 1.00pm.

All enquiries contact Betty on 07860 447 397 or Amie on 07486 414 742.  
Our village hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required.

*Abdon Village Hall Events - February*

- Mon 6th*      **Tai Chi, 7pm - 8pm**      £5 per person.
- Sat 11th*      **UFO (Un-Finished Objects) Craft Morning, 10.30am - 12.30pm.**  
Bring along your unfinished projects. Join us and learn a new craft skill or teach your craft skills to someone else. Please supply your own materials.
- Mon 13th*      **Tai Chi, 7pm - 8pm**      £5 per person.
- Mon 20th*      **Tai Chi, 7pm - 8pm**      £5 per person.
- Sat 25th*      **Coffee Morning, 10.30am - 12.30pm.**      Join us for coffee, cake, and a chat. Everyone welcome!
- Mon 27th*      **Tai Chi, 7pm - 8pm**      £5 per person.

**Abdon Village Hall is a WARM WELCOME HUB.** This is a place where people can gather in the winter to keep warm and receive a warm welcome. We will be holding 'Warm welcome hubs' at Abdon Village Hall on the second and last Saturdays of each month from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Come and join us for coffee, cake, and a chat.

**Abdon Village Hall Bookings**

Contact Helen Audin: 01746 712 365 or [abdon.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:abdon.villagehall@gmail.com)  
Or visit our website for the booking form and details: [www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk](http://www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk)

*Culmington Village Hall Activities & Events - February*

Culmington Village Hall is currently closed due to flood damage. Hopefully reopening in March. Watch this space!

*Munslow Village Hall (aka Beambridge Clubroom)*

We are holding further **warm hub coffee mornings** at the village hall during February. Previous events have been well attended and enjoyed by all.

**The upcoming dates are:**

Thursday 9th February, 10.30am to 12.00 noon      Thursday 23rd February, 10.30am to 12.00 noon

Come and join us at this warm and friendly event. This is a chance to meet up with friends and enjoy a delicious cup of coffee or tea. We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

*Lesley Dobson*

*Corvedale Garden Group Programme 2023*

New members welcome for one or more talks / visits. Contact [cathburley@hotmail.com](mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com)

10.00am start (except for July visit).

Distance from The Swan, Aston Munslow

<b>February 11th</b> Debbie Vivers	<b>Talk at Diddlebury Village Hall</b> Bee Stepping Stones - can you make your garden more bee-friendly?	£5.00	03 mins	1.4 miles
<b>March 11th</b> Andrea Cowan Taylor	<b>The Vern</b> , Marden, Hereford HR1 3EX 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.	£15.00	44 mins	29 miles
<b>April 15th</b> Anne Durston Smith	<b>Lower House Farm</b> , Sutton, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8RL Spring garden, box parterre, herbaceous borders, vegetables, cutting garden, haha, wildlife pond.	£7.50	38 mins	23 miles
<b>May 13th</b> Simon Cain	<b>Hurdley Hall</b> , Churchstoke SY15 6DY 2 acres around 17C house + 18 acre Rounton Nature Reserve. Coronation meadow, mixed borders, orchard, ponds, topiary, kitchen garden, woodland.	£10.00	31 mins	20 miles
<b>June 10th</b> Owen Towndrow	<b>Hereford Cathedral Gardens Tour</b> , HR1 2NG Private visit to late 15C award-winning gardens. Courtyard and Cloister gardens, Vicar's Choral garden, Dean's garden and Bishop's garden. Guided tour of cathedral, Mappa Mundi, Chained Library. Gardens only £7.00. Refreshments extra.	£19.00	48 mins	33 miles
<b>July 15th</b> Clare Greener	<b>Talk at Wall Flowers</b> , East Wall, Much Wenlock. TF13 6DU 4 acres of cut flower fields. Talk on propagation, plants and use; offers weddings, workshops and 'pick it yourself' NB This visit is 2 - 4pm	£10.00	13 mins	6 miles
<b>August 12th</b> Grant Chaplain	<b>Kyre Park</b> , Tenbury Wells, WR15 8RW Capability Brown 1754 landscape. Follies, lakes, waterfalls, ponds. Medieval Deer Park, Norman dovecote, ruins, grade 2 barn and bistro, antiques. Refreshments extra.	£3.50	39 mins	24 miles
<b>September 16th</b> John & Brenda Morgan	<b>Pont Faen House</b> , Farrington Lane, Knighton LD7 1LA Late summer colour, 3/4 acre garden, rudbeckias, alstromeria, deep borders, arches, shady walk.	£6.00	30 mins	20 miles
<b>October 14th</b> Robert Bland	<b>The Leasowes</b> , Cound, Shrewsbury SY5 6AF 10 acre garden, rhododendrons, azaleas, beautiful borders, 5 lakes, arboretum, unusual trees	£5.00	40 mins	29 miles
<b>November 11th</b> Tamsin Westhorpe	<b>Talk at Diddlebury Village Hall</b> "How to select plants for a Spring garden. Practical tasks to achieve perfection." Tamsin is curator and gardener at Stockton Bury Gardens. RHS judge, garden writer and former editor of The English Garden.	£10.00	03 mins	1.4 miles



*What's on in the Dale - Dates for Your Diary - February 2023*



Please note that the deadline for all submissions to the News is Tuesday 14th February 2023.

Please note: Culmington Village Hall is currently closed to most events due to a leak

**Regular Weekly Activities**

Every Mon	<b>Corvedale Choir</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
<del>Every Mon</del>	<del><b>Coffee Morning</b></del>	<del>Culmington Village Hall</del>	<del>10am - 11.30am</del>
<del>Every Mon</del>	<del><b>Bridge Club</b></del>	<del>Culmington Village Hall</del>	<del>12.30pm - 5pm</del>
Every Mon	<b>Tai Chi</b>	Abdon Village Hall	7pm
Every Mon	<b>Westhope Whist Drive</b>	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
Every Tues	<b>Blue Hills Choir</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Tues	<b>Corvedale Artists</b>	Beambridge Club Room	10am
<del>Every Tues</del>	<del><b>Chair Yoga</b></del>	<del>Culmington Village Hall</del>	
<del>Every Wed</del>	<del><b>Working at Home Lunch Club</b></del>	<del>Culmington Village Hall</del>	<del>12.30pm - 2pm</del>
Every Thur	<b>Tai Chi</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every Fri	<b>Physiotherapist-Led Modified Pilates</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	9.15am

**February 2023**

2nd Thu	<b>Munslow Parish Council Meeting</b>	Beambridge Clubroom	7.30pm
7th Tue	<b>Culmington Parish Council Meeting</b>	Culmington Village Hall	7.00pm
8th Wed	<b>Munslow WI Meeting</b>	Beambridge Clubroom	2.30pm
8th Wed	<b>RSPB Walk</b>	Haughmond Hill	10.30am
9th Thu	<b>Warm Hub Coffee Morning</b>	Beambridge Clubroom	10.30am
9th Thu	<b>Corvedale Book Group</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
9th Thu	<b>Hayton &amp; District WI Meeting</b>	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
11th Sat	<b>Corvedale Garden Group Talk - Bee Friendly Gardening</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	10.00am
11th Sat	<b>Un-Finished Objects Craft Morning</b>	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
11th Sat	<b>Skittles Evening</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.00pm
11th Sat	<b>Edge Chamber Choir Concert</b>	St Laurence's Church, Ludlow	7.30pm
16th Thu	<b>Flicks in the Sticks - Where the Crawdads Sing</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.15pm
17th Fri	<b>An Evening with Michael Tavinor</b>	St Peter's Church, Diddlebury	7.30pm
22nd Wed	<b>Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
22nd Wed	<b>Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting</b>	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
23rd Thu	<b>Warm Hub Coffee Morning</b>	Beambridge Clubroom	10.30am
24th Fri	<b>Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
24th Fri	<b>Bingo Night</b>	Westhope Village Hall	7.00pm
25th Sat	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
25th Sat	<b>Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir Concert</b>	Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock	7.30pm
26th Sun	<b>Footpath Maintenance Group</b>	TBC	9.30am
26th Sun	<b>Tree Planting</b>	Westhope Green Burial Ground	10.00am
27th Mon	<b>Folk Club</b>	The Corvedale, Corfton	7.30pm

**ACTIVITIES & CLASSES:**

Abdon Village Hall - 5      Culmington Village Hall - 6      Diddlebury Village Hall - 4      Westhope Village Hall - 5

## Church News



## Letter from the Rectory

February this year once again brings the start of Lent as we begin our preparations for Easter, which this year falls on 9th April. It is a season which many of us tend to think of as being rather miserable, and it often comes at a time of year when the weather is grotty. We may have chosen to observe Lent by giving up something that we enjoy and, although it's only forty days (plus Sundays), it can feel like a really long time!

Before we begin it, it is perhaps worth reminding ourselves that Lent is there to help us to prepare spiritually for the coming of the risen Christ at Easter, and there are better ways to do this than by giving up biscuits and snapping at people. There will, as previously, be services of Compline on Wednesday evenings: the service lasts about half an hour and can provide a calm space in which to come to God and pray. Everyone is welcome to join us whether you think of yourself as a churchgoer or not.

If you are giving up something for Lent, you could perhaps spend the money you have saved by buying something to contribute to the food bank. There are now collecting boxes in the churches at Abdon, Culmington and Diddlebury and contributions can also be left at the Rectory. The cost of living situation means that whilst some of us can choose to go without during Lent, others are going without because they have no choice. Pope Francis said 'You pray for the hungry and then you feed them - that is how prayer works' and the food banks in Ludlow and many other places provide an essential lifeline for families in need.

The forty days of Lent also remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. Time that he used at least in part to reflect on the form his future ministry might take. We may have things in our lives on which we also need to reflect and Lent can be a good time to do that. If you need a quiet space, the churches are open daily and are there for you (even if, at this time of the year, you may have to wrap up well!). You are welcome to use them for time out, and to join us when we gather in worship.

## Stamp Collection for Leprosy Mission

For several years now we have collected stamps as a way of raising funds for the Leprosy Mission. They have now written to say that they are going to stop collecting stamps as their value has dropped to a point where it is no longer worth doing. The last box will be sent off at the end of February, so if you have any stamps lurking that you have been intending to contribute please make sure that they are with us as soon as possible.

We could continue to collect stamps for another cause, although I imagine that the reduction in their value will affect other charities in the same way. If you know of a charity that is going to continue collecting used stamps please let me know.

Rev'd John Beesley

## 2022 Hamper Draw

Many thanks to all who supported the parishes' Hamper Draw again this Christmas – to those who gave contents for the hampers, meals out and other prizes, those who sold tickets (in icy weather) and those who bought tickets. In total we made £1,241 which has been shared between the parishes and goes to help with the ever-increasing costs associated with running the churches.

Thanks too, to all who supported the Christmas Tree Festival at which the Hamper Draw took place. Diddlebury Church looked lovely and it was an enjoyable couple of evenings.

Rev'd John Beesley

## St Catherine's, Tugford

It seems ages since early December, particularly for those of lengthening years and increasingly short memories, but others tell me how much they enjoyed our Christmas Music evening at Tugford. This was the first time we have been able to hold it since 2018 due to Covid but once more our little church entertained well over 100 people and 20 performers.

The latter principally comprised our old friends *Stream of Sound*, generally agreed to be singing better than ever. In addition, we had our own Ros Crouch, also in fine voice despite singing at Shrewsbury the previous night, with John Brentnall ably accompanying, all interspersed by the usual seasonal readings and carols. We even managed to squeeze in a piece by Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's best-known poet, for our new Ukrainian friends. The evening raised £860 which will be shared between all the Corvedale group churches.

For those who can't wait another two years for the chance to hear *Stream of Sound* again, they are performing a stage show entitled *Widow of this Parish*, based on life in the West Midlands in the last century and told through folk songs, at the Midlands Arts Centre on **Friday 3rd February** at 7.45pm. MAC is in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, just opposite Edgbaston cricket ground. Hopefully, those interested will already have picked this up through Martin Jones's Google group email notices. You can also hear them on BBC Radio 3 on **Sunday 5th February**, time unknown but probably around tea-time.

Colin Porter

## Flowers and Brasses - Diddlebury

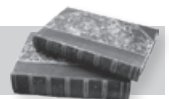


## February 2023

5th Mrs Speight  
12th Mrs Speight

19th Mrs Speight  
26th Mrs Worthington\*  
\*Brasses only

## From the Registers



## Baptism

20th Nov  
27th Nov

Charles Ian George Morris  
Frederick Daniel Hughes

Diddlebury  
Diddlebury

*Caring for God's Acre***Can you Believe It Is Already February**

I can hardly believe it is February already. But look out of the window and the signs are already there. At a recent Churchyard Task Team outing, the first one of 2023, we found a primrose in flower - yes, in January!

So, what can we expect in February, particularly in our churchyards? Still sleeping or hibernating will be hedgehogs, bats and, if you are lucky, dormice, with eyes shut tight until the weather gets warmer. They are fortunate to live in such a special environment. This is what we nurture at Caring for God's Acre.

The first signs of spring are appearing. Bright green catkins hang in huge numbers from the hazel trees, each made up of 240 individual flowers and loads of pollen. They are stunningly beautiful, standing out as colour on a leafless tree. They are also striking against the nearby dark green ivy, a plant crucial to winter around your local church. The thick foliage offers cover and warmth, while berries are scooped greedily by blackbirds, thrushes, redwings, and blackcaps.



I think of February as the raucous, noisy month. The birds that started practising their newest song in late January

are still trying to fine tune it. They are trying to attract that best looking hen in the hedge or tree or feeding on that convenient bird table. The robin's song is pleasant; they have been singing throughout autumn and keep singing until the summer, when they take a 2- or 3-month sabbatical! As the days get lighter (yes really) you will hear the blackbird singing his heart out - look up and spot him at the top of a tall tree, his blackness shimmering in the winter sun on a good day.

Some birds sing beautiful music but can be drowned out by the grating, rasping noise (we cannot dignify it as music) of the rooks. They return to the habitats of last year, repairing nests which have deteriorated and building new ones as they prepare for parenthood again. They work in colonies in tall trees, usually oak or ash. The noise as they build will be replaced by an even louder racket as babies appear and the feeding frenzy begins. I love the din they make but I am not sure everyone would agree with me.

*P.S.* You will be getting 10 hours and 48 minutes of daylight by 28th February!

*Anni Holden Calver*

*Trustee of Caring for God's Acre  
and a member of the Churchyard Task Team*

*Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group*

**Corvedale News Subscriptions 2023**

As advised in previous issues the subscription price for your Corvedale News is now **£8.00 per annum**. Subscriptions for electronic copies remain unchanged at £5.00 per annum.

May we remind you that subscriptions are due annually in advance and should be **paid in full by the end of March 2023, at the latest..**

**If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2022**, please let your distributor have your outstanding money as soon as possible if you wish to continue receiving the Corvedale News.

Subscriptions can be paid online using the bank details below or cheques can be posted to the Treasurer: *Mr Martin Jones, Yew Tree Cottage, Corfton Bache SY7 9LE*

Account Name: *Corvedale News*  
Sort Code: *30-90-49*  
Account Number: *54132260*

When paying your subscription in either of the above ways, please add in your name and your location (e.g., JONES, CORFTON) so that the Treasurer can identify the person sending in the money. **This is vitally important.**

*The Corvedale News Team*

**Poetry Corner****All over for another year**

The tree has gone, the cards are down

Happy faces turn to frowns

As gales blow in from the East

Forgotten now the Christmas feast

The baby in the stable bare

And shepherds hiding from the glare

In the School Nativity

Where children fidgeted with glee.

The Carol Service what a success

People saying, 'the best yet!'

'All the planning has paid off,'

Says Dad as he dons his brand-new socks

Goes out into the Winter wind

As he goes, he utters 'roll on Spring'.

*Jenny Rose*

*Corvedale Book Group****Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stewart**

*Shuggie Bain*, read at Book Group in December 2022, is Douglas Stuart's first novel, and to many peoples surprise won the 2020 Booker Prize. Set in Glasgow in 1981 it describes the tough years when the shipyards and pits were all but closed, work was in short supply and some people lived in tenement blocks, trying to survive. Agnes Bain had hoped for better things and had escaped her parents' home through marriage. Now, three children later, she is back in the high-rise council flat whilst her husband has found another woman. She dreams of a different, better life, of escape. Sadly, the men she chooses to spend time with, for assorted reasons, do not or cannot help her. On her good days, she is well dressed, caring, nicely spoken, with a pride in herself, her daughter and two sons. On her bad days, she lets alcohol become her friend and becomes pitiful, drinking to escape sadness. A vivid picture is drawn of her sitting, drinking, smoking, playing cards and trying to win enough from her friends to pay off her catalogue debts for her life on the 'never-never.' Her daughter and her sons try desperately to help her stay sober. Her second husband, Shug, a taxi driver, promises her a new life on an 'out of town' estate. This would be an escape for the five of them who have no privacy crammed in with her God-fearing parents. When Agnes drunkenly acknowledges how her relationship with Shug began, she also acknowledges that his late nights at work probably mean he has other women.

She packs and moves with him as instructed, and he abandons her. The promised land, their new home, is on the edge of a slag heap, where the spoil hills and pools of water do little to distract from the corner shop where everything is bought on tick until benefit day. Shuggie, the youngest, is marked from the outset as different, a mother's boy who doesn't like football but likes dancing, dolls, hairdressing and 'My Little Pony.' School is rough, the teachers rougher. He doesn't fit in. He is bullied. Catherine, the eldest, resolves never to become like her mother and, in her teens, holds out for marriage into a better family. She escapes to South Africa, to another sort of oppression. Alexander, 'Leek', is a silent, focused adolescent with an artistic gift which gains him the offer of a university

***Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell**

Little is known of William Shakespeare's private life. Most people will have heard of his wife Anne Hathaway, her cottage at Shottery and her having the 'second best bed.' William and Anne had three children: Susanna, Hamnet and Judith. Maggie O'Farrell reports that she had wanted to write a novel about the family and the missing years of Shakespeare's life for a long time. *Hamnet* was published in 2020 and won the Women's Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Fiction. It was the Book Group's read for January 2023 and it is well worth a read.

place. He stays to protect his mother for a while and tries to coach his younger brother in survival skills. Brushing Agnes' hair, putting on her makeup, dancing with her and giving her hugs to offset her abandonment, is the better version of little Shuggie's duties. Wiping up vomit and urine, undressing his mother and ignoring the signs of men's sexual abuse is another.

In the unfamiliar environment the family is targeted as different. Agnes initially tries hard to maintain standards. Loneliness pulls her down into the cackle of women who watched and waited to draw her into their daily drinking and gambling routines, to make her one of them. Agnes pulls herself out, for a while. She works, earns a living, stays sober. Shuggie and Leek help for as long as they can; they love their mother. They need her affection. If they could have rescued her, they would have done. It doesn't end well. Her next man destroys her gains. The pattern repeats itself, unrelentingly.

The prose is graphic, raw, honest, grim. The abuse of women, children, and men too, is impossible to ignore. It goes up and down the generations. With little money and rare employment women have no self-esteem. Glasgow as a setting was as poor as the East End of London we had described to us the month before in *Still Life*, but in *Still Life* there seemed to be some hope and some positive and loving relationships. Both books questioned how people survived in a world where there were few ways of making money and people were rarely kind to each other. *Shuggie Bain*, however, was more autobiography than created fiction. It was unremittingly ugly in tone and frightening in the lack of intervention from any statutory body which might offer respite or rescue. The characters were all depicted at their best and at their worst. Douglas Stuart's description of the women is powerful, although they are powerless. There was not a happy conclusion. Perhaps that was the point.

*Shuggie Bain* won the Booker Prize in 2020. It won 'Book of the Year' and 'Debut book' at the British Book Awards 2021.

The story starts with *Hamnet* as a boy, coming down a flight of stairs. He is described and the scene is set. He lives in a house next door to his grandparents, Mary, and John Shakespeare. His grandfather's glove making business operates from home. Today both houses are quiet, unusually so. *Hamnet* explores, momentarily forgetting that his twin sister Judith is unwell and has asked him to get help. No one is there. His grandfather, when he returns, is brusque and violent, as he was with Will. *Hamnet* escapes and checks on Judith again, seeing something he fears. He dashes out to try to find his mother, his grandmother, the physician, running

*Corvedale Book Group Continued...*

and running, a small boy, desperate, fearful, and alone. Where is everyone? The title suggests this fictional story is about Hamnet. It is, but it is also about his mother.

Anne - or Agnes as the novel calls her - was brought up on a farm outside Stratford-upon-Avon, and was very familiar with the fields, woods and streams of a country life. Her early childhood was secure and happy. She was loved by her parents and her brother Bartholomew, and she learned herbal lore from her mother who was a healer. Her mother died in childbirth. Her father took another wife and had more children. Life became less happy. Her father died. Agnes resisted her stepmother's attempts to bring her up in traditional ways. She was wild, fey, cared for animals, tamed a hawk, and gathered plants for herbal cures.

John Shakespeare, a former council member, lost his position in Stratford society by dodgy dealing and fell into debt. As part of that debt, Will, a grammar school pupil, came to tutor Agnes's stepbrothers, when he was not working in his father's business. Will was an academic, a dreamer, a disappointment to his irascible father who beat him regularly for his distractions from the job in hand. Will (17 years old) and Agnes (26) met, fell in love and a marriage deal had to be struck. Bartholomew insisted the couple had to have a home of their own, so a narrow property was created next to John and Mary's house. Susanna was born and later the twins. Agnes came to recognise that Will had to escape from his father and persuaded him to go to London. At the point the story opens, he became a playwright, gradually making a mark on Elizabethan society.

Meanwhile, as the story recounts, a pandemic was beginning to spread again. Maggie O'Farrell recounts the course of the transmission of the plague which eventually kills one of the three children. Having vividly described

the story of the two families, the marriage, the adjustment difficulties of being a daughter-in-law, or having a daughter-in-law, of trying to cope financially in challenging times, of developing a relationship as a couple under the parental roof, the perils of childbirth, we come to the main focus of the story. Loss.

How does a couple, their living children, the wider family cope with the death of a child? After a violent and devastating, rapid demise, the parents are left helpless and grieving in different ways. How will they all survive such a lengthy, physically, and emotionally painful grief which separates and isolates each from the other? Do they survive? Read on to find out.

The novel is a sensual one: the written words paint a picture of daily Elizabethan life in a certain household - the smells, the sounds, the tasks, the emotional and practical constraints. The majority of the group enjoyed it immensely. Several of us had already read it twice. The detailed writing was described as exquisite by one member. The level of observation drew you in. The sustained engagement with the impact of loss on a family was challenging, but realistic. It raised a discussion about the pulls of various kinds of love, that between a couple and that between a parent and a child. Other people in the group found the description overly elaborate and over long. What will you think?

For our next meeting on **Thursday 9th February**, we will be discussing *Before the coffee gets cold*, a 2015 novel by **Toshikazu Kawaguchi**. Set in a café in Tokyo, customers are allowed to travel back in time, provided they return before their coffee gets cold!

For further information about Book Group please contact me at [cathburley@hotmail.com](mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com)

*Cath Burley*

*Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir*

Our Christmas concert on 10th December at the William Brookes School went really well with a full audience enjoying mince pies and mulled wine as well as the singing! If you were there, thank you and I hope you enjoyed it and will come to hear us sing again.

Sadly, the Christmas break saw us lose one of our oldest and longest serving members, with the passing of Len Kelly. Len had been a great servant to the choir for over 40 years, holding quite a few posts of responsibility over the years and being a major contributor with his lovely tenor voice. We were honoured to be asked by his family to sing at his funeral in January, and were able to remember him through two of his favourite choir songs, Morte Christi, and Working Man.

As we look forward into Spring, the choir has several concerts to prepare for. The first is the return of The Flint

Ladies Choir to Much Wenlock following our visit to them a few years ago. They are a relatively young group having formed in 2013 but have a substantial membership and a growing reputation for the quality of their work. We will be singing together in **Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 25th February at 7.30pm**. Tickets, £10, are available from choir members or from Penny Farthing in The Square. Please consider joining us.

Finally, as always, we are keen to keep recruiting new members to our group to maintain the tradition of a male voice choir in the town. No previous experience is necessary, just a willingness to give it a go! Use the points of contact below or simply turn up at William Brookes School on any Tuesday evening at 7.20pm.

*Dick Langford,*  
01952 728 758, [chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com)

### *Time to get walking again!*

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Shropshire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/shropshire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/shropshire) has loads of walks to download and print, FREE, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Shropshire (part of the Walking in England

website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home, or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)  
[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

### *Ancient woodland restoration in the Shropshire Hills*

Ancient woods are some of our most valuable habitats. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of plants, fungi, insects, and other micro-organisms. Birds and mammals, including vulnerable and threatened species, also rely on ancient woodlands.

Around 5% of the Shropshire Hills AONB is classed as ancient woodland, but two thirds of this is Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These are ancient woodlands which have been largely felled and replanted with non-native species. Although damaged, these sites still have the complex soil of ancient woodland and can be restored with careful management.

PAWS woodlands in the Shropshire Hills are mostly conifer trees which are now mature. These may have value when extracted, while also restoring the woodland to a more natural state. In partnership with the Woodland Trust, we have secured funding from the Forestry Commission to work with woodland owners to actively restore PAWS and ancient semi-natural woodlands in the AONB.

#### **The Ancient Woodland Restoration Project**

will identify priority and at-risk woodlands in the Shropshire Hills and engage with their owners, offering advice and condition assessments, fund practical management and support woodland products or timber marketing/sales. The project is intended to be at no cost to woodland owners and easy to access with minimal paperwork.

If you own woodland in the Shropshire Hills, you can check whether it is classed as ancient or PAWS by looking on the online Ancient Woodland Inventory. There is a link to it, along with more information about the project on our website: [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/our-work/projects/ancient-woodland-restoration-project](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/our-work/projects/ancient-woodland-restoration-project)

To register your interest in the project as a woodland owner, please email our Natural Environment Officers:

[mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk)  
or [rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk).



### **Corvedale News Treasurer**

The current Treasurer is retiring shortly and so the Corvedale News team is looking for a new Treasurer, who would become part of our team.

#### **The Treasurer...**

- receives subscription money from the local distributors of the magazine and pays it into the bank (Lloyds) where it has an internet account
- pays invoices (about a dozen each year)
- keeps simple financial records and prepares a receipts and payments account annually
- attends team meetings - three or four a year - and produces financial information as required
- liaises with other team members and distributors as necessary.

As most of the team business is conducted electronically the Treasurer needs to be reasonably computer literate and preferably familiar with simple spreadsheeting e.g., in Excel.

If you are interested in taking on this role please contact Martin Jones,  
[lizandmartinj@gmail.com](mailto:lizandmartinj@gmail.com) or on 01584 861 238.

*Corvedale School*

With lovely Mel Ibbott moving on to pastures new before Christmas we have a vacancy to add to our lunchtime staff. We have advertised a couple of times through the usual council website channels but failed to attract any interest. We're hoping it may suit someone local to home. We need to recruit a Dinner Hall Supervisor; the role involves the safe supervision of pupils during the lunch period in the hall. This includes setting up the tables, service, supervision whilst eating meals and clearing down after lunch - wiping and putting away tables, sweeping and mopping the floor. To be honest the hours are not very sociable, 11.45am to 1.15pm every day (and the pay is not great either!) but we can offer a happy working environment, working within a fantastic team along with a school of wonderful children. If you are interested, please get in touch.

At the start of term each class teacher sent home Class Newsletters, with information on their topic and focus for the Spring term. They are also available to read on our school website.

We had a marvelous Christmas at School. Our youngest children in the Nursery, Class 1 and 2 gave two performances of their musical nativity for their mums, dads, and grandparents. At our Carol Service in St Peter's Church in Diddlebury the children from Class 3 dazzled everyone with their singing as they performed eight Christmas songs while the congregation joined in with several well-known Christmas carols. Children and staff enjoyed a marvelous Christmas lunch courtesy of Heather our cook. On the final day of term, we all trooped off to Ludlow Assembly Rooms to watch their amazing pantomime, Jack, and the Beanstalk. The trip was subsidised through funds from the Supporters of Corvedale School (SOCS) committee; everyone was able to attend. Once again, many thanks to the committee.

We have recently reviewed our school rules. It was not

that there was any problem with our rules, it is just that the ones we had were quite wordy and not something anyone could remember very well. It was decided to simplify things and use three rules, short and sweet: Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe. We have been discussing with the children what they mean and look like in school. For example, for children to be ready means they are ready for lessons, they have everything they need to hand. It means they are sitting in the right place and ready to listen to their teachers. It also means at break time they have put their coat on and been to the loo before going outside. It means they stand still and quiet when the bell is rung. They also need to do this to be safe. Being safe means being responsible for their own actions to keep themselves and others free from harm. Although we encourage children to take risks it means being careful so that no-one comes to any harm. Finally, being respectful not just to adults, but to other children and most importantly themselves. These are just a few examples, and we will explore their meaning and importance more in school during the next few months.

The popular Baby and Toddlers group will continue this term on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am - 11.30am: £2 per family per session. Mums and dads, come along for a coffee, cake and natter while your little ones play.

We still have places left for next year's reception class. If your child is due to start school in September, why not consider Corvedale CE Primary School? It is not too late to apply for a place.

For more information on what is going on, to keep up with the latest happenings/news at school, visit the school website - [www.corvedaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.corvedaleprimary.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook. SOCS and Nursery have their own pages and are on Twitter @CorvedaleSchool.

*Jonathan Brough, Headteacher*

## Volunteer wanted in Middlehope

For years Laurie Robinson has kindly put all Diddlebury Parish Council's notices, agendas etc on the Middlehope Notice board for me.

Sadly, he has now left Middlehope.

Is there anyone else in Middlehope to whom I could email the notices, and who would be prepared to print them out and put them on the notice board?

Help would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Jean de Rusett, Clerk to Diddlebury Parish Council, on 01547 519 282 or by email at [diddleburypc@gmail.com](mailto:diddleburypc@gmail.com)

## Ludlow Racecourse Fixtures 2023

Please note the following scheduled dates for race days at Ludlow this year. You may want to make a note to avoid the racecourse on these days or plan an alternative route!

Wednesday 8th February	Sunday 14th May
Wednesday 22nd February	Wednesday 11th October
Thursday 2nd March	Thursday 26th October
Thursday 23rd March	Thursday 9th November
Monday 3rd April	Monday 27th November
Wednesday 26th April	Wednesday 6th December
Tuesday 9th May	Wednesday 20th December

## Corvedale Garden Group

### Is my garden good enough?

Corvedale Garden Group is growing. It was lovely to see almost thirty people turn up at Diddlebury Village Hall on 19th November 2022 for a humorous and entertaining talk by David Morgan, National Garden Scheme County Organiser for Worcestershire, who began and ended his presentation with a poem. He also encouraged us all to take time to sit and enjoy our gardens with a glass of wine. At the end of a busy gardening year, that sounded like a good plan for 2023.

How many of you have visited a garden opened under the National Garden Scheme's Yellow Book? We were treated to some background history, the work of the organiser, and what is required if you were to open your own garden under the scheme.

The history of the NGS dates to 1859, when William Rathbone found there was no provision to care for his wife at their Liverpool home, despite her incurable disease. He paid for live-in nurses. In the 1860s he began a campaign to establish a national district nursing service. Florence Nightingale approved. In 1887 Queen Victoria donated £70,000 for her 50th Jubilee and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, now the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI), was born. By 1925 the charity was facing financial difficulties due to the need to train new nurses and provide pensions for those reaching retirement. In 1927 Miss Elsie Wagg had an innovative fundraising idea: people could open their private gardens for one shilling (now five pence). She convinced King George V to open Sandringham and Spetchley Park, Blenheim Palace and 606 other gardens followed suit. 160,000 visitors raised £80,000 plus. After the war district nurses were absorbed into the NHS. The National Trust, short of gardeners and needing to convert vegetable plots back to ornamental gardens after the war, approached the QNI for help. The QNI used some of its proceeds to sponsor gardening apprenticeships. The last one, at Hanbury Hall, ended only a few years ago. The one shilling fee ended in 1964. By 1980 the QNI had sufficient funds, so the National Garden Scheme was born. It raises thousands of pounds each year for Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK, Parkinsons UK, The Carers Trust and other charities. Some of our visits this year have contributed to the £3 million + they have raised so far. Garden owners, who often supply tea and delicious scones or cakes, can use money from refreshments and plant sales to support local charities, thus raising another quarter of a million pounds.

The Charity has a small core staff of a CEO, Financial, Administrative and Marketing Staff and some National

Support Officers to support the volunteer county organisers and their teams. The Yellow Book, now renamed The Garden Visitors Handbook, and the associated website allows visitors to book their outings and view presentations about gardens that are further afield. Most open gardens are decided upon by early Spring for the following year, but the website also hosts local pop-up gardens too.

David then went on to talk about how gardens join the scheme, whilst tempting us with views of gardens across Worcestershire that we could add to the Corvedale Garden Group Programme. When he visits potential gardens, he looks for those which would supply visitors with 30-40 minutes interest. Sometimes this relates to the range, variety, and diversity of the ornamental or productive planting, the garden design, and sometimes the size of the garden. On other occasions it can be the planting schemes, seasonal interest, or rare plants. Additional interesting structures - water features, bridges, gazebos, garden railways, or walls displaying china plates, mug, and tea pot trees - provide novelty, quirkiness, and food for thought. Some gardens provide extensive landscapes or trees, others offer massed planting behind small urban houses. All are welcomed.

Health and Safety is a serious concern. Safe parking, for sometimes two hundred visitors, needs to be in proximity. Access needs to be around, not through, the house. Signage is available to help people discover the gardens and look out for hazards. Where one garden may be too small to open alone, neighbours could offer to open as a 'garden group.' Other gardens offer plant sales, wildlife experiences or talks as well as tea and cake to tempt people to stay longer. David encouraged us all to think of joining the scheme – or to use it more. It is also possible to fundraise on a smaller scale by inviting family and friends to visit your garden for 'The Great British Garden Party' this summer. Donations will be put to effective use.

After applauding David for his excellent talk, we provided the necessary tea and cake (with thanks to all who turned up with delicious baked offerings). People mixed and mingled and talked for some time.

Our next talk is on **Saturday 11th February** at 10.00am at Diddlebury Village Hall. Debbie Vivers will be talking about how to make our gardens into Bee Stepping Stones across south Shropshire and about the bilberry bee on the Long Mynd. Do join us for that or the other visits on the 2023 programme. For more information, please contact [cathburley@hotmail.com](mailto:cathburley@hotmail.com).

*Cath Burley*

## Westhope Clover Club

The Clover Club met at The Swan, Aston Munslow on 1st December for a delicious Christmas lunch. Sincere thanks to Ben and his team for looking after us so well.

We are now closed for two months, meeting at Westhope on **Thursday 2nd March**. Wishing all our members health and happiness for the new year.

*Kath Woodhouse*



*Women's Institute***Hayton & District WI**

Happy New Year to all our readers! We hope you had a very merry Christmas 2022, a positive January and are all set for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling rest of 2023!

We, as a local institute, had a very enjoyable Christmas celebration with a dinner at the Three Horseshoes Pub in Wheathill on Thursday 8th December, having previously celebrated the 75th anniversary of our Hayton & District WI Institute with a tea party on November 20th. The whole of 2022 had been full of monthly meetings with interesting speakers, all so ably planned and arranged by our Programme Secretary, Rosemary Lloyd, as well as other outings and events, gratefully organised by Institute members.

2023 proposes to be another eventful year with a jam-packed programme of speakers being currently sourced and planned, so watch this space for future synopses of each speaker's contribution! We are always open to new members - if not to join us straight away, then most welcome to come along for a taster or two before deciding if you want to join us. If you don't already know a current member to accompany you, contact details are offered below so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We shall start our monthly meetings this year on **Thursday 9th February** with a talk by retired Librarian, Adrian Williams, including some extracts from his books, and the next on **Thursday 9th March** with a talk by Dr Nigel Baker entitled *Paddling in the Past*. All monthly meetings commence at 7.30pm at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent SY8 2AT.

Contacts for further information:  
Club President - Phyllis Steventon - 01584 823436  
Club Secretary - hayton.district.wi@gmail.com

Louise Gough

**Munslow WI**

Our Christmas meeting took the form of Desert Island Discs. Ros played several pieces of music chosen in advance by some members. Before each piece was played, members gave their reason for choosing the piece. Most were reflective of the past and all were enjoyed. Whilst this was happening, we enjoyed a Bring and Share afternoon tea.

Our big event of the season was a Tea Party for the children of the vicinity. This proved to be a tremendous success with



twenty children and their parents attending. A very skilled magician was the hit of the afternoon, very ably assisted by Shiv aged three, Cosmo - four and Evvie - six. Party games and a lovely traditional tea completed the afternoon.

Our recent AGM was well attended. Annual reports were heard from President, Secretary and Treasurer. We have quite a full programme for the coming year and as our institute are Group Convenors, we will be organising the Group dinner and one or two other exciting events! After tea/coffee and scones we left feeling more positive about the year ahead.

We are just a small institute but always incredibly pleased to welcome new members or visitors. We meet on the **second Wednesday evening of each month at Beambridge Clubroom**. During the Winter months we meet at 2.30pm in the afternoon. For more information, please call me on 01584 841 251.

Jenny Rose

**Shropshire Hills Landscape Conservation Grants****Small grants available for projects relating to the Shropshire Hills landscape and its conservation.**

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund is open for applications.

The Fund supports projects to deliver practical conservation work in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and/or involve young people in activities relating to the conservation of the area.

Last year, over £12,000 was awarded to eight local projects, including heathland restoration, rejuvenating black poplar trees, which are nationally rare and have a stronghold in the Shropshire Hills, supporting two local Community Wildlife Groups taking action to improve the breeding success of curlews, and funding hedge laying courses in the parish of Clee St Margaret.

This round of funding is for projects starting in April 2023 and must be completed

by 31st March 2024. Grant awards range from £500 up to £2,000, and project can be up to 75% grant funded - the remainder can be made up of in-kind and volunteer time contributions such as match funding, as well as cash.

**Deadline for project ideas is 20th February 2023, and full application 13th March 2023.**

For more information visit our website Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund:

[www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund)

Or contact Stephanie Hayes, 01743 254746 or email [stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk)





## Cost-of-Living Help

Many people in Shropshire are worried about rising costs. There are three key things we, at Shropshire Council, want everyone to know:

- If you or someone you know is worried about money or is struggling right now, you're not alone.
- There may be simple steps you can take to cut costs or maximise your income.
- If you're getting into debt or your mental health is suffering, don't wait to get help. Help is available at any stage.

Our cost-of-living help webpage has further information on the help available see:

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/)

Our 'Worrying About Money' leaflet can help you identify who to turn to for support in Shropshire:

[www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shropshire](http://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shropshire)

Are you concerned about food costs and whether you can afford food? Here are some places to go for help, including to check that you're claiming all the financial help that you're entitled to:

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/worried-about-food/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/worried-about-food/)

- Food and milk through the Healthy Start Scheme
- Free school meals
- Find a foodbank
- Shropshire Larder
- Groceries discounts and offers
- Food Sharing tables in Shrewsbury when and where
- What you can make with the food you have
- Family £1 recipe meal plan
- Simple hacks, tips and guidance to save food and money
- Low energy cooking recipes and tips
- Recipes for small kitchens
- Guide to cooking with a kettle
- Cooking on a Bootstrap, just £1 or 50p a day and Good to Know

If you're in crisis with no food, call the Welfare Support team **0345 678 9078** (option 2) Monday to Friday 8:45am to 5.00pm. Out of hours contact: EDT **0345 678 9044**.

You can expect a warm welcome from our Welfare team and place to rest at more than 50 safe spaces across Shropshire this winter.

To help residents stay warm and safe this winter, Shropshire Council and partners have compiled a range of venues, including libraries, village and town halls, community centres and faith buildings, where residents can go during each venue's normal opening hours, enjoy the facilities, and keep warm. Each venue has different opening times and facilities, so please check these details beforehand using the 'Warm Welcome locations' webpage:

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/a-warm-welcome-in-shropshire/warm-welcome-locations/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/a-warm-welcome-in-shropshire/warm-welcome-locations/)

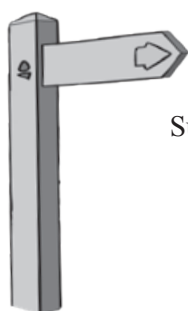
You can just turn up and find a place where you feel comfortable to relax.

At all Warm Welcome venues, you'll find:

- A warm welcome where you can enjoy the venue's facilities alongside other users
- Easy access for all
- A warm environment where you can sit and enjoy a peaceful activity
- Most venues have toilets either in the building or close by. Please check directly with the venue before your travel.
- Information to help with rising energy costs, financial support, and the rising cost of living

Please check the Warm Welcome locations page regularly for updates and changes to venues and opening times.

If you run a community building that you'd like to offer as a 'Warm Welcome' venue this winter, please email [shropshirecostofliving@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirecostofliving@shropshire.gov.uk) to find out more.



## 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.

Also, 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:

**FEBRUARY: Wednesday 22nd, Friday 24th, Sunday 26th**

## Corvedale Garden Group

### Bumblebee Steppingstones In Your Gardens - Synopsis

The greatest ally of bumblebees is the public; through sympathetic appreciation of their beauty and importance; directly through our gardens and our influence on our local area.

Agriculture desperately needs bumblebees, but the paradox is that farming practices are not currently supporting them. The switch from hay to silage production has had profound effects with extensive loss of wildflower habitat. Gardens provide steppingstones, with the potential to offer a continuous succession of

flowers through the season together with nesting and hibernation sites that will not be disturbed.

The Stepping-Stones project in the Shropshire Hills has been monitoring bumblebees on the dry heath and adjacent meadows for the last three years, with particular focus on our local rarity, the bilberry bumblebee. The project aim is to create and link wildlife-friendly spaces in the project area and beyond. Gardeners can play a vital role in this vision, so we invite you to find out how you can participate.

**Find out more at the Garden Group Talk - Saturday 11th February - 10am - Diddlebury Village Hall**

## The Corvedale Kitchen

### Pheasant Sausage Rolls - Ian Davies

#### Ingredients

250g pheasant breasts, minced	1 tbsp coriander
100g chorizo, minced	1 tbsp chopped parsley
1 tbsp smoked paprika	1 tbsp thyme
Half an onion, thinly diced	2 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 carrot, thinly grated	2 eggs
1 tbsp crushed chillies	500g pre-rolled ready puff pastry



#### Method

1. In a large bowl mix all the ingredients together, except for the puff pastry and one of the eggs.
2. Lay the pre-rolled puff pastry out on a flat surface that has been covered in a thin layer of flour. Sprinkle a little flour on the top side before applying the mixture in equal long shapes. Whether you like thin, or fat sausage rolls is completely up to you.
3. Whip the last egg up in a small bowl and apply the wash to the visible pastry and roll the pastry over the mixture.
4. Spread the egg wash over the top of the sausage roll.
5. Cook in the oven at 175°C for 15-30 minutes (depending on size), and leave the sausage roll to rest for ten minutes before diving in...

**Notes:** For 2 pheasant breasts (125g) halve the ingredients. For a milder flavour use less chorizo.

## Dog Fouling - Please clear up after your dog.

There has been a notable increase in dog fouling throughout the Corvedale and especially in and around Diddlebury village. Whilst most dog owners are responsible citizens and clear up after their dogs there are obviously some people who are not adhering to the law.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis - a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizure and can cause salmonella in cattle.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

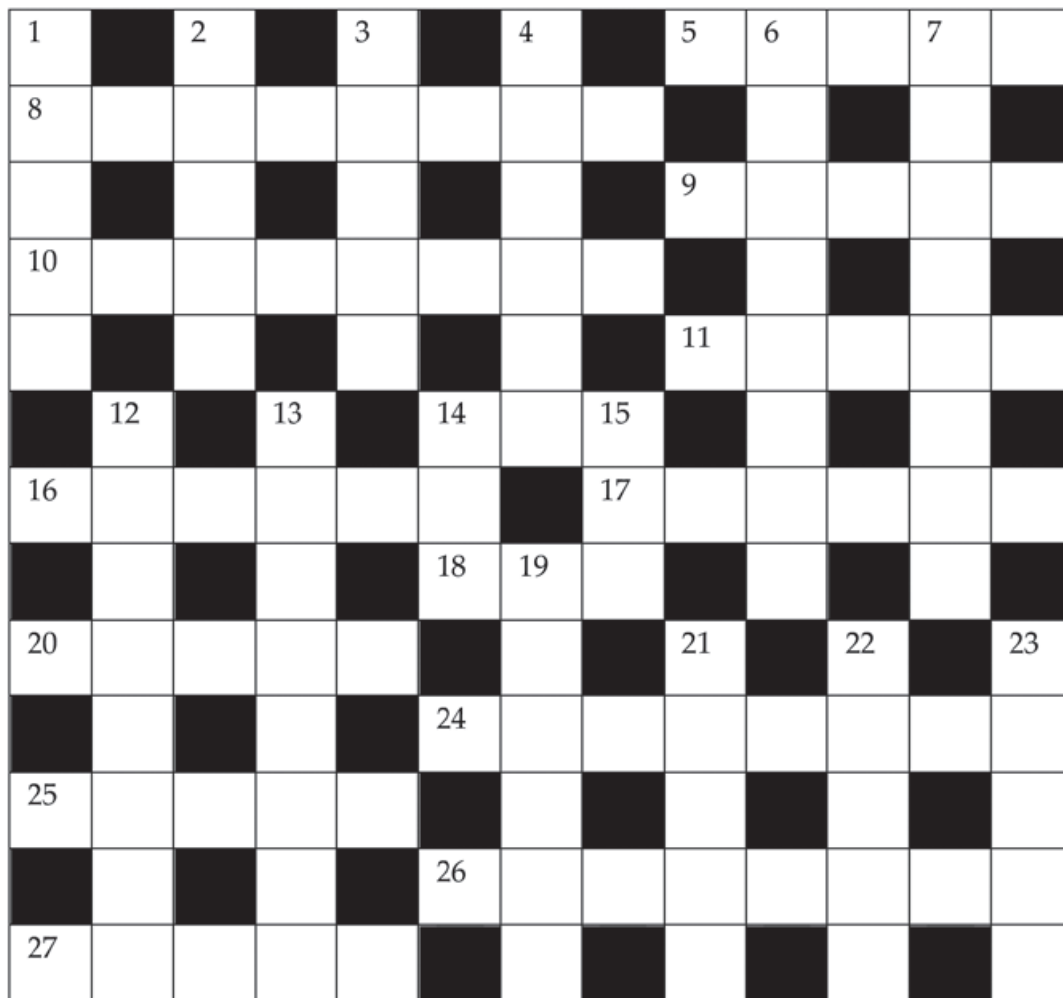
**Bag it, bin it!**

## OLD CORVEDALE

If you have an interesting photograph of 'Old Corvedale' which you would like to share with us, we should be happy to consider including it in a future edition of the Corvedale News.

Please email us at [photos@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:photos@corvedalenews.co.uk).

February Crossword - by Artemonas



ACROSS

- 5) Singers reported some paper (5)
- 8) Rehearse act among the broken piers (8)
- 9) Sailor confuses Sue to treat her badly (6)
- 10) Offhand royalist? (8)
- 11) Some bring no men in the garden (5)
- 14) Consumed a turkey egg first (3)
- 16) Fat man is doomed (5)
- 17) Totally ineffective flute I broke up (6)
- 18) Little chunk of habitat (3)
- 20) Big son loses great big animal (5)
- 24) Amusing story from one cadet (8)
- 25) Somehow I bit a bone (5)
- 26) Change titles to something sharp (8)
- 27) Drive off quietly during Scottish dance (5)

DOWN

- 1) A small kiss is a small thing (5)
- 2) Fried hot veal, cut in two (5)
- 3) Second story is no longer new (5)
- 4) Agree when shipped (6)
- 6) A resident is in a Northern Beirut disturbance (8)
- 7) Be like part of the Empire's emblem (8)
- 12) Womanly artist seen in good weather (8)
- 13) Church in role could make gas (8)
- 14) White garment from the lab? (3)
- 15) Newt left as lake disappears (3)
- 19) I get in drunk and start a fire (6)
- 21) At the start something caused a little dark burn (5)
- 22) Footwear said to be stolen goods (5)
- 23) Have no medicines containing poison (5)

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD:

- ACROSS:** 1) Road; 3) Moo; 5) Bamboo; 8) Zimmer; 9) In and out; 10) Stacking; 11) Tigger; 12) Aquarium; 14) Bistro; 16) Argyll; 19) Downcast; 21) Envied; 22) Extracts; 24) Narrated; 25) Alight; 26) Nestle; 27) Dad; 28) Moon
- DOWN:** 1) Razes; 2) Democracy; 3) Martini; 4) Owing; 5) Bran tub; 6) Brought; 7) Outermost; 12) Agamemnon; 13) Mid; 15) Socialism; 17) Governs; 18) Ladette; 20) Wetland; 22) Ended

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

## Are you a member of the Corvedale Google Group?

The Corvedale Google Group was set up some years ago as a means of disseminating information of interest to those living in the Corvedale. Its area corresponds roughly with the distribution of the Corvedale News i.e., primarily the parishes of Abdon & Heath, Culmington, Diddlebury and Munslow, although you don't have to live in one of these parishes to join. I send out information about road closures, flood warnings and other local news items. Additionally I try to include information about forthcoming events and send out reminders shortly before they actually take place.

There are currently 220 members in the Group. To join, simply email me at [martinggen@gmail.com](mailto:martinggen@gmail.com) and you will start receiving messages; on average, perhaps, about one

a day. It's absolutely free and there is no advertising!

At the same time, if you think there is something which would be of general interest please email me and I will consider sending it out, even if you are not a member of the Group.



Three caveats: the Google Group is not a forum for discussion: it is for disseminating information only. Secondly it does not publicise purely commercial events.

*Martin Jones*

**ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY 2023 CROSSWORD:**

**ACROSS:** 5) Quite, 8) Practise, 9) Abuse, 10) Cavalier, 11) Gnome, 14) Ate, 16) Fatal, 17) Futile, 18) Bit, 20) Bison, 24) Anecdote, 25) Tibia, 26) Stiletto, 27) Repel.

**DOWN:** 1) Speck, 2) Halve, 3) Stale, 4) Assent, 6) Urbarite, 7) Resemble, 12) Feminine, 13) Chlorine, 14) Alb, 15) Eff, 19) Ignite, 21) Scald, 22) Booty, 23) Venom.

## PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

### Get featured on the front cover of the Corvedale News.

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](mailto:photos@corvedalenews.co.uk)

## Parish Councils

### ABDON AND HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of the minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 7.30pm at Abdon Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs C Yarwood, P Hartley, M Whalley, R Price: W Richards (clerk) and 6 members of public. Later Cllrs G Trim and C Motley (Shropshire Council) joined the meeting.

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Open Session:** No matters were raised.

**Apologies:** There were none.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 13th October 2022 were read by the Chair and unanimously approved.

**Finance:** The balance as at 2nd December 2022 was £6119.27. Payment of the Clerk's wages of £240 for October-December was agreed.

**Budget and Precept:** The budget for 2023-2024 was discussed and approved. It was agreed that there should be no precept.

**Planning Application:** 22/05271/FUL (validated: 22/11/2022) Land at Upper House Farm, Abdon, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9HZ. Proposed erection of a lean-to agricultural storage building. Applicant: Mr D Banks (c/o Agents). The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had visited the site. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed (apart from one abstention) to object to this application.

**Insurance Renewal:** The Clerk will forward questions to Councillors and quotes received before the next meeting.

**Village Hall Mirror:** There would be a meeting the following week to make a decision. Cllr Motley will confirm the funding and installation regulations. Members agreed to use CIL funding as this is a safety issue due to the increased traffic on that road.

**EV Charging Point:** Cllr Whalley has been working on this. The Clerk has had no response from Shropshire Council about this: Cllr Motley will investigate.

**Correspondence:** It was agreed to advertise the marquee in 'West of the Clee' and the 'Corvedale News'. The tree with problems at Tugford had been removed.

**AOB:** Cllr Motley explained CIL money. The Parish currently had a balance of £1943.24.

**Items for consideration for the next meeting:** EV charging and Village Hall Mirror.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:18

**Next meeting: 11th May 2023 at Abdon Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm**

*For full version of minutes please see the website or contact Clerk.*

*Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk: [abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com](mailto:abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com) Tel: 07813 271 274 [www.abdon.org.uk](http://www.abdon.org.uk)*

*Parish Councils Continued...***CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL****Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 3rd January 2023**

**Attendance:** Cllrs Mr I Steele (Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Mrs M Holland, Mr M Seabrook and Ms J Watts.

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Mear and J Turley.

**Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None.

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

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Community Governance and Boundary Review:** The Clerk had not heard from Diddlebury Parish Council regarding Seifton. A letter had been sent to Stanton Lacy Parish Council regarding Vernolds Common and this will be discussed at their next Parish Council meeting on the 19th January.

**Update on Site Meeting with Shropshire Council Highways Engineer:** Nick Newton from Shropshire Council met with Cllr Steele and the Clerk to look at the site of a second Vehicle Activated Sign at the north-eastern entrance to the village (which he supports) and the parking at the Laundry Works. The Clerk will contact him before the next meeting to have an update on his plans.

**Update of Application for Funding for second Vehicle Activated Sign and Powers to Purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign:** An application was made to the Police and Crime Commissioner but there is not sufficient funding in the pot. It will be resubmitted in April.

**Review of Overflow Pipe Report on Seifton Lane and Communications with Shropshire Council Flood Manager:** The Clerk said she had informed John Bellis that the Parish Council support the installation of an overflow pipe on land on Seifton Lane. He has, however, responded that they will only look at delivering this if there are additional upstream measure to mitigate downstream impacts.

**Neighbour Policing Team Report on Children Crossing the B4368:** The Clerk reported that a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team had visited the centre and discussed road safety with the manager. She will write to the centre to advise that the Parish Council is very much in support of any road safety measures that they may propose.

**Black Poplar near the development site adjacent to Culmington Farm:** The clerk will contact the Shropshire Council planning team Arborist to look at the effects of the drainage on this tree.

**Environment Agency and Fire Service visit to the Laundry Works:** The clerk reported that Sebastian Littlefair from the Environment Agency and a representative from the Fire and Rescue Service will be visiting the site to look at pollution and fire risks. It is hoped that a report will be available for the next parish council meeting.

**Reports from Members: Shropshire Council** - Cllr Motley reported that the government appears to be beginning to understand the pressures

on Social Care. The hospitals have declared a 'Critical Incident' and the Social Care teams were deployed to the hospital to assist with discharge. She thanked the parishes who had put on 'Warm Hubs' and the Shropshire Council website has lots of information to support those struggling financially. Shropshire Council still has to make £50 million of cuts but they have a plan of action.

**Village Hall** - Cllr Mear sent a report. There was a leak in the village hall which has damaged the ceiling in the kitchen, and it is closed to most meetings as they wait for the insurance claim to be settled and repairs to be completed.

**Flood Committee** - Cllr Byng had tabled a report. The National Flood Forum is meeting with the Environment Agency to consider the bridge and need for de-silting. John Bellis had confirmed there is still money to be spent on future schemes, possibly a continuation of the 'Slow the Flow' project. There are ring-fenced monies for Culmington. Recent modelling work has suggested that the leaky dams could be 40% more effective than expected over large-scale flood events as well as smaller events. Andy Keyland had been to Westhope to look at the problems in that area and is applying for funding for road resurfacing. Drain clearing on the B4365 near the Pottery is still outstanding as are the repairs to the drains and pipes. Please report issues to 'Fix My Street'. There had also been a meeting between Andy Keyland and John Bellis to consider the Barn Development to Culmington Farm. The Clerk was asked to report a blocked drain and ditch on Castle Barn Bank.

**Finance:** There was £9,118.62 in the cash book as at 31 November 2022 which reconciled with the bank account. There was an underspend as at that date for this financial year.

**Environmental Maintenance Budget:** There was no further funding available from Shropshire Council. Resolved: to increase the Environmental Maintenance Budget by £200 for this financial year.

**Budget and Precept for 2023-2024:** The budget included an expected grant of £4344 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to be spent on the second Vehicle Activated Sign and the purchase of a new laptop for the Clerk. A budget of £10,954 and precept of £4864.96 were agreed. The precept represents a charge of £28.23 for a band D council taxpayer or approximately 44p less than last year.

The NJC Pay Award for 2022-2023 has been backdated to 1st April 2022 and Annual Leave for the Clerk increased from April 2023.

**Auditor:** The appointed auditor from 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 will be PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**Donations Awarding Policy, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and Record Management Policy:** The policies and scheme will be adopted.

**Items For The Next Meeting:** Flooding on the B4368; appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2023-24.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 7th February 2023 at Culmington Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm**

*Heather Coonick, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow, SY8 2BE  
07817 607 355 • culmingtonpc@gmail.com • www.culmington.org*

**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL****Summary of the draft minutes of Diddlebury Parish Council's meeting - Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at Diddlebury Village Hall**

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

**In attendance:** the Clerk and Unitary Cllr Cecilia Motley.

**Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th October 2022 were approved by councillors and three matters arising were dealt with.

**Request for an Asset of Community Value Registration relating to the Sun Inn, Corfton:** It remained unclear whether the Sun Inn fitted the criteria for an ACV. Given there is one public house in the parish and two others nearby, plus two village halls available for community use, the Chairman proposed there was no need to pursue this matter further

and councillors unanimously agreed with that proposal.

**Reports: Chairman's Report:** The Chairman had responded to complaints from Bache Mill residents about lorries blocking the lane and considerable deposits of mud on the highway due to the housing development works. He had raised the matter with the developer, who was taking steps to deal with the complaints. He had spent time on the ACV matter and had dealt with complaints from a resident about drainage issues arising from the DVH car park resurfacing works. He had discussed alleged development plans with Mr Wilkes. He had continued his negotiations with Highways about the necessary works to Bouldon bridge, and he had represented DPC at the Remembrance

**Parish Councils Continued...**

Day service.

**Unitary Cllr Motley** reported on the three concurrent boundary reviews being carried out in Shropshire: the constituency boundary review, the divisional boundaries review, and the parish/town council boundaries review. She suggested work on the parish boundary reviews should await the outcome of the divisional boundaries review, as they might lead to changes in parish/town boundaries. She said the government's financial settlement for Shropshire would not be made available until 21st December 2022.

**Flood Action Group:** Cllr Martyn reported on the multi-agency meeting which took place on 31st October. Mr Keyland had been urged to complete the Bouldon bridge works. The water gauges in Bouldon had been re-set. The supply of sand bags for Mill Lane residents required storage facilities which were dry and secure. Costs for suitable sheds range from £200 to £1200. No site had yet been identified for the location of the necessary shed.

**Westhope Village Hall:** Cllr Watson said renovation works continued: the lighting had been upgraded and quotations obtained for the replacement of two outside doors and the ramp. She was in negotiation

**Next meeting: Wednesday 25th January 2023 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 Rusett*

*No 12 Church Street, Brampton Bryan, Nr Bucknell, Herefordshire SY7 0DH. Tel: 01547 519 282 email diddleburypc@gmail.com*

**MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL****Draft minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 1st December 2022 at Beambridge Clubroom**

**Present:** Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Nigel Dobson and Graham Williams; H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllrs Antonia Bury, Val Fotheringham, Chris Meeson, Ed Povey and Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council).

**Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

**Public Forum:** There were no members of the public present.

A presentation by Janet Cobb about the 'Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project' was deferred until March 2023.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising from those minutes that are not covered on the agenda:** None.

**Urgent Items:** A planning application had been received but too late for inclusion in the agenda for this meeting. The Clerk will liaise with the Chair to decide whether to call an extraordinary meeting.

**Reports:** **Cllr Archer** reported that Shropshire Council is providing a replacement for the Queen's Jubilee tree. Cllr Dobson will collect it and arrange with Millichope Estate for it to be planted.

**Cllr Motley** (Shropshire Council) had sent a report which the Clerk read out. The Boundary Review Team has informed Shropshire Council that it expects not to increase the numbers of Unitary Councillors. She now has a new portfolio which includes Health Care. There is a revenue deficit which the Council is working on now.

**Beambridge Club Room** Cllr Dobson reported that there is a new committee with Alan Golden as Chair.

**Correspondence:** A letter about Footpath 32 was noted.

**Heritage 'At Risk' Register:** Cllr Archer will discuss Broadstone Chapel with the Rector.

**Update on the Defibrillator:** It is not possible to install this in the telephone box at The Crown. A resident of Munslow is willing to have the defibrillator sited at their property. The Clerk will contact Shropshire Heritage team to ascertain if this site is acceptable.

with Airband, exploring the possibility of a free Broadband connection for the hall.

**Highways/Environmental Issues:** To help combat the issue of speeding on the B4368 through Corfton, it was agreed that DPC would purchase a second speed indicator device.

**Communications & Correspondence:** Ten items were considered and debated.

**Finance Report for November 2022:** Cheques totalling £1658.74 were approved for payment. DPC held a balance of £24,827.48 following payment of the approved cheques. Cllr O'Boyle approved the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statements and DPC's cash book.

**2023/2024 Precept Budget:** Councillors considered a first draft of DPC's 2023/2024 Precept Budget. Last year's budget was £8,655. The 2023/2024 budget is likely to be in the region of £6,550 and it will be finalized and adopted at the 25th January 2023 meeting.

**Any Other Business:** No matters were raised and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

**Update on Environmental Maintenance and New Tasks:** The report was checked, and the Clerk has reported the blocked drain near Little Thonglands.

**Update on Beambridge Club Room and Renewal of Lease:** The lease will be available for the Parish Council meeting on 2nd February 2023.

**Security Light at Beambridge:** Cllr Williams reported that this issue had now been resolved.

**Support for the 'Warm Hub':** The first Warm Hub session had been well attended. The Clerk will investigate funding from Shropshire Council.

**Highways:** The replacement Vehicle Activated Sign at Aston Munslow is due in January 2023. An application has been submitted to West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner for a match-funded grant for a second mobile VAS but with no result as yet. Should the grant be at least £800 the Clerk will purchase the sign using earmarked funds from the budget. If it is below £800 the grant application will be resubmitted in April.

The Clerk reported that Nick Newton (Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer) is still waiting for the report on the Joint Parishes Highways Proposals to be revised. He has agreed to a joint meeting of all of the parishes concerned once the report is published.

**Finance:** A review of the accounts, bank reconciliation and budget was deferred to the next meeting.

The Banking Mandate, which gives the Clerk limited signatory powers and the signatories for internet banking access was signed by two of the signatories.

Payments were approved and made to D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) £119, H Coonick Reimbursement (Domain Renewal, Postage, CiLCA Training) £190.43, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection (wreath) £25.

**Precept for 2023-2024:** The proposed budget and precept for 2023-2024 were agreed at £5,633 (a 0% increase on 2022-2023).

**Items for the Next Meeting:** Update on planning application; Update on Vehicle Activated Signs; Review of the accounts, bank reconciliation and budget.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2023 at Beambridge Club Room, starting at 7.30pm**

*Minutes & Agendas are available on [www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.munslowparishcouncil.co.uk), or via the Clerk on [munslowpc@gmail.com](mailto:munslowpc@gmail.com) or 07817 607 355*

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**Corvedale Brownies have joined Craven Arms Brownies and meet on one Saturday a month at the Discovery Centre, 10.30am until 1pm.**

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



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*Contact Numbers for Local Services*

(Phone numbers are on the 01584 exchange unless otherwise noted)

	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b><i>Local Services and Emergencies</i></b>			
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	841346	happy4clive@gmail.com
Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit (out of hours 111)	Community Hospital	874297	
Shropdoc (out of hours service)	Doctors Co-operative	111	
Ludlow's Doctors' Surgeries	Station Drive Portcullis	872461 872939	
Craven Arms Medical Practice		01588 672309	
Police (non-emergency)	PC 2693 Grant	07773054602	stephen.grant@westmerci.pnn.police.uk
Voluntary Car Scheme (9.00am to 12 noon weekdays)	Craven Arms Good Neighbours	01588 673732	
<b><i>Clubs and Societies</i></b>			
Abdon Wildlife Group	Miles Leach	07810 810400	milesleach712@gmail.com
Blue Hills Choir	Ros Crouch	841053	ros.crouch@gmail.com
Corvedale Artists	Juliet Hole Ann Hankinson	01299 832603 01584 841460	
Corvedale Book Group	Cath Burley		cathburley@hotmail.com
Corvedale Choir	Ros Crouch	841053	ros.crouch@gmail.com
Corvedale Community Environmental Group	Rebecca Bull		peter17bull@btinternet.com
Corvedale & District Autumn Show	John Woodhouse	07980 207253	
Corvedale Folk Club	Ian Fotheringham	841331	
Corvedale Garden Group	Cath Burley		cathburley@hotmail.com
Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group	Jenny Vine	841596	jvcedarwood@hotmail.co.uk
Munslow Parish Community Speed Watch	Rebecca Bull		peter17bull@btinternet.com
Diddlebury Dancing Group	Sally Woodhouse	841265/ 07813 019010	sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk
Wednesday Badminton	Val Fotheringham	841331	
Westhope Clover Club	Kath Woodhouse	841254	

*Continued...*

*Contact Numbers for Local Services*

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	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b><i>Parish Clerks and Websites</i></b>			
<b>Abdon &amp; Heath Parish Council Clerk</b>	Wendy Richards	07813 271274	abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com
<b>Culmington Parish Council Clerk</b>	Heather Coonick	07817 607355	culmingtonpc@googlemail.com
<b>Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk</b>	Mrs Jean de Rusett	01547 519282	diddleburypc@gmail.com
<b>Munslow Parish Council Clerk</b>	Heather Coonick	07817 607355	munslowpc@gmail.com
<b>Diddlebury Parish Website:</b>	www.diddleburyparish.co.uk		
<b>Corvedale Google Group:</b>	This is a free service and issues purely local information such as road closures, flood warnings and so on to its members on an occasional basis. It also alerts members to new items appearing on the DPC website. If you would like to join this service, send an email to: <b>Martin Jones - martingcn@gmail.com</b>		

***Village Hall/Club Room Bookings***

<b>Abdon Village Hall</b>	Helen Audin	01746 712365	abdon.villagehall@gmail.com
<b>Abdon Village Hall website:</b>	www.abdonandheathparish.org		
<b>Beambridge Club Room</b>	Frances Sutton Peter Turner	841654	pturner767@msn.com
<b>Culmington Village Hall</b>	Jeff Williams	01584 861849	culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com
<b>Diddlebury Village Hall</b>	Sally Woodhouse	01584 841265	sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Diddlebury Village Hall website:</b>	www.diddleburyvillagehall.org		
<b>Diddlebury Church Room</b>	Jan Kennedy	841372	jan_kennedy@icloud.com
<b>Westhope Village Hall</b>	Betty Manley	07860 447397	mbm3049@icloud.com

***Children's and Youth Organisations***

<b>Corvedale Brownies</b>	www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter'		
<b>Corvedale School, Playgroup and Nursery</b>	Jonathan Brough	841630	admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

***Women's Institutes***

<b>Diddlebury &amp; Westhope WI</b>	Jane Cockburn	841483	pmc1989@btinternet.com
<b>Munslow WI</b>	Jenny Rose	841251	gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk

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



# The Corvedale Group of Parishes

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

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

	February 5th 3rd Sunday before Lent	February 12th 2nd Sunday before Lent	February 19th Sunday next before Lent	February 26th Lent 1
<b>Abdon</b>		9:45 HC		6pm EP
<b>Broadstone</b>			8:30 HC	
<b>Culmington</b>	11:15 HC		6pm EP	8:30 HC
<b>Diddlebury</b>	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS
<b>Holdgate</b>	8:30 HC			
<b>Munslow</b>	6pm EP	11:15 HC		9:45 HC
<b>Tugford</b>			9:45 HC	

**Key:** HC = Holy Communion, EP = Evensong, FC = Family Communion.

**Wednesday 22nd February** Ash Wednesday 7:30pm Holy Communion at Abdon

**Wednesdays in Lent** Compline and Address at 7:30pm:  
March 1st at Culmington March 8th at Holdgate