



# SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

April 2024

A changing of the guard

Free



The year 2024 is notable for the large number of elections, with 8 of the world's 10 most populous nations (Bangladesh, Brazil, India, United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, Mexico) voting; countries that are home to nearly half of the world's people will hold elections in 2024. Around 2 billion voters - approximately a quarter of the world's population - are expected to be heading to the polls this year.

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Changes around the world and at home.

I have decided to retire from my role as editor in the summer. This has been a great experience and I have enjoyed the responsibility of taking over one of the most respected newsletters in the county. I hope it is not too daunting a task for another budding, or ageing journalist to step into my shoes.

The SDN is in a strong financial position and computer hardware and software together with plenty of support is available for anyone (or group) who would be prepared to give it a go.

If you want to know more, call me for a chat - no pressure!

**Generous donations from David, Heather, Ian and a very generous gift from Colin Wallsgrove - thank you all.**

**Deadline day April 21st  
sammy@snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk  
01743 791999**

**St. Lukes  
Coffee Morning  
Snailbeach Village Hall  
Saturday 6th April  
10.00am - Noon  
Donations and Tombola Prizes  
gratefully received**

Sometimes you go to a funeral and come away wishing you had known that person better. Jude Butcher's send off was just such a case.

Before moving to Snailbeach with her partner Jo Jude had led an interesting and inspiring life.. Jude and her ex-husband had two boys , Gareth and David. Sadly David suffered brain damage at an early age but Jude fought throughout his life for David to receive the best treatment and life experiences possible, often having to confront service providers to get what she wanted for him.

Gareth was a fiercely competitive sportsman, winning a scholarship to the states.

Jude herself excelled in many sports, including tennis and swimming , she became an excellent coach and inspirational trainer in many disciplines. Her efforts were rewarded when she received a National Training Award presented by one of her Welsh sporting heroes, Colin Jackson.

Gareth now lives in Brazil with his wife Luciana and Jude's two grandsons Lucas and William.

I remember Jude for her time as SDN editor, a lovely lady and sadly missed.



# Snailbeach Village Hall



## Snailbeach and District Village Hall Committee

The Committee is made up of the following people:-

Chair – Philip Sproson-Jones, contact via the Stiperstones Inn

Vice Chair – Rodney Birt

Treasurer – Maria Marks

Secretary – Pam Bickley, or 07887 531174

Bookings officer – Jo Jeays, 07815 733730

Health and Safety – Carl Fleming

Lara Sproson Jones; Pam Davies; Ray Harper; Caroline Harper;

Anne-Marie Fleming; Jenny Mix; Julian Bromhead

Co-opted member – Justyna Jones

As the Village Hall is a charity, we are all Trustees and follow the guidelines laid out by the Charity Commission. We also have a Constitution which goes back to the original committee – it lays out clearly what we are there for.

We meet bi monthly and our AGM is in November. We are always looking for new members and if you are interested, please speak to any of the committee members

### The play area

Last year we had an inspection of the play area by ROSPA (Royal Society for the prevention of accidents) as we had concerns. The report is comprehensive and it identified a number of things we need to improve.

The Committee considered carefully if we wished to continue maintaining the play area or whether it would be easier to remove all the equipment and grass over it.

We have taken the decision to maintain the play area and we have now commissioned Midland Playscape to carry out the improvements noted by ROSPA.

Over the next few months (particularly when we get some dry weather!!), you may notice Nick (Midland Playscape) at the play area – at times he will remove equipment to make the necessary improvements or he will work on site.

On behalf of the Committee, the secretary (Pam Bickley) is exploring grants to enable us to purchase new equipment. Play area equipment is expensive – eg. The train we purchased a while ago cost over £4000! We would also like the play area to be accessible for all children.

If you feel you are able to help us – either financially or practically, please contact Pam on 07887 531174 or email

We would also like your views on what you would like in the play area – children's views as particularly important to us and as the grant process begins, we will ask you to come to the village hall to share your thoughts. Feel free to let Pam know before then if there is something you feel strongly about.

Also once the better weather arrives, you will see Committee members replacing some of the fencing. We will advertise work parties in advance and would love it if you are able to join us.

Many thanks

Pam



Wednesday 2pm  
**Minsterley Parish Hall**  
 A488, Minsterley, SY5 OEH  
*Refreshments available*  
*Free entrance*

**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites members and non-members to our next Open Meeting on the 17th April, where our speaker is **Jonathan Walton**, long term Pontesbury resident, talking about **Politics, Science and Adventure in the Antarctic**.

learn,  
 laugh,  
 live

# POLITICS, SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE IN THE ANTARCTIC

A talk by  
**Jonathan Walton**

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome

**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley



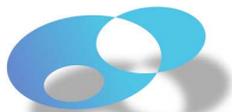
His Antarctic experience includes 20 summer seasons and 2 winters over 50 years. He is the holder of the Polar Medal and current president of the UK Antarctic Club. This exciting presentation includes an overview of the continent of Antarctica plus personal tales of life in a hostile climate with periods of up to 9 months sharing a one room hut with only 3 others.

There will also be the chance to chat with u3a friends over coffee/tea and biscuits.

[u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley)

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Letter from Westminster – April 2024 Philip Dunne MP

With the clocks having changed, and the welcome lighter evenings alongside the beginnings of verdant growth, it feels as though we are finally moving out of winter months and into Spring.



There is a certain sense of renewal that many of us feel at this time of year – particularly those of us who are Christians, noting the story of Easter. Parliament is currently in recess over Easter, providing a welcome opportunity for me to spend more time in the constituency.

Somewhat less idyllic than the blooming greenery of South Shropshire at this time of year, though no less important, is that we also have the new tax year in April. But this year it comes with significant positive news from the government in terms of tax and benefit changes.

At last month's Budget, the Chancellor announced a cut in the main rate of employee National Insurance Contributions by 2p, from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, from 6th April. Combined with the 2p cut which came into effect in January, this will save the average worker over £900 a year. It also sets a clear direction of travel for lower personal taxation.

The main rate of self-employed NICs will also be cut by a further 2p. This means that also from 6th April, the main rate of Class 4 NICs for the self-employed will now be reduced from 9 per cent to 6 per cent. Combined with the abolition of the requirement to pay Class 2, this will save the average self-employed person around £650 a year.

This month also sees the National Living Wage (NLW) increase by 9.8 per cent from £10.42 to £11.44 an hour. This pay boost, worth over £1,800 a year for a full-time worker, is the biggest cash increase in the NLW in more than a decade.

Additionally, this month all working-age benefits, including Universal Credit, will be uprated in line with September 2023 Consumer Price Index Inflation – 6.7 per cent. For pensioners, the basic State Pension, new State Pension, and Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee will be uprated in line with average earnings growth of 8.5 per cent.

To support low-income households with increasing rent costs, this month the Government will raise Local Housing Allowance rates to the 30th percentile of local market rents. This will benefit 1.6 million low-income households, who will be around £800 a year better off on average in 2024-25, and give families greater security and peace of mind.

The Household Support Fund is being extended for a further six months until September this year, with an additional £500m investment, to provide targeted support for the most vulnerable as inflation continues to fall, including the cost of essentials such as food and utilities.

In a further welcome easing of the pressure on household budgets, the energy regulator Ofgem announced the typical energy bill will fall to £1,690 from 1st April, which is £238 lower than the price cap set between 1st January to 31st March this year, and is at the lowest level since Putin's invasion of Ukraine two years ago. This should also help us get a further grip on inflation, which takes so much out of household budgets.

As the end of my time as your MP approaches, I am concerned there has been a creeping sense of pessimism about the fate of our country – which I do not share. I hope the measures outlined above, easing the cost of living, alongside the changing of the seasons, might lead to greater optimism and hope for the future.

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## Notes from the hill

Each month this year I am featuring one of the twelve species for which action plans have been produced by the Stepping Stones Project. These plans can be found on the Middle Marches community Land Trust web site. Each of these species now has a champion that will encourage the delivery of the actions within these plans.

The species I am featuring this month is the snipe. Unlike the willow Tit featured last month, this is one species that we do have on the Stiperstones, and our annual surveys have counted up to 6 pairs on or neighbouring the nature reserve. Considering that the last county wide census estimated a population of 15-20 breeding pairs, the Stiperstones and the Stepping Stones area are obviously very important for the survival of this species in Shropshire.

The snipe is a fairly small, brown stocky wading bird with a straight bill which is used for probing in wet soil for invertebrates. The straw-coloured stripes that run vertically along the head and down the back distinguish it from the similar sized woodcock, which like its name suggests, is more commonly found in woodland and has bars running horizontally across the head. The snipe is most often found in wet places and particularly favours wet rushy pastures, where if disturbed flies off in a characteristic zig-zag fashion.



In winter we get lots of snipe coming to Britain from Europe and from as far east as Russia, presumably because of our relatively warm winter climate allowing the bird to continue to probe the soil for food. Breeding numbers, particularly in the south of England are now very low, however the wonderful display flight and drumming of the snipe can still be heard on still evenings in spring, particularly on the east side of the Stiperstones. It is here, where the springs emerge from the hill, that the wet marshy flushes occur, and it is these that are the favoured feeding and nesting habitats of the snipe. The drumming sound produced by the male is created by the bird repeatedly flying up and diving down. It is in the dive that it splays its outermost tail feathers which vibrate and make a kazoo like sound. Often the female can be heard responding with a chippa-chippa call from deep within the rushes.

Having visited Iceland in the spring, where it is the most commonly heard background noise, it makes you wonder what other sounds of the countryside we no longer hear in the UK.

With the prediction of increasingly hotter and drier summers to come, the snipe will be particularly vulnerable to climate change, so any action to create wet rushy pasture in our countryside will help to keep this wonderful bird within the Shropshire hills.

Any sightings of snipe or any of the 12 featured species within the Stepping Stones area should be recorded using one of the recording apps or websites such as Birdtrack or iRecord, or scanning the QR code. All information will be useful for the conservation of these threatened animals and plants.



*Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmooeak*



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Marlon Village Hall

## Pontesbury Open Gardens



**12.30-4.00pm**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

We are delighted to announce that on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May there will be up to ten gardens open in the village displaying the very best of design, plant growing and pleasure in the gardens of Pontesbury.

Tickets, in aid of St. George's Church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, will be available from St George's Church costing £6 for adults and free for children under 12 years.

Tea and cakes will be on sale at the church and there will be a plant stall in the churchyard. A programme and a map will be available on the day.



### MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL are HIRING CARETAKER

The Trustees wish to appoint a Caretaker whose role will be to ensure that the facilities are clean and safe, and that rooms and equipment are kept maintained in a satisfactory condition for use by local residents and community groups.

Responsibilities will include: regular cleaning, purchasing supplies as needed, emptying of bins, basic maintenance and monthly checks, daily locking of the main gate (early evenings), and providing access and support to Hall Users on some occasions when required.

The Caretaker's post is offered on a 'self-employed' basis, for approximately 28 hours per month (7 hours per week) to be paid monthly. Hours will require arranging around hall bookings and events, with some late nights or early starts when required.

For further information or to apply for this post: Please contact [chair.minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:chair.minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com) or phone 07985719005.

(CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024)

WELCOME TO STIPERSTONES CHURCHES

## Electoral roll update Holy Trinity Minsterley & St Luke's Snailbeach

As our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on 25th April I have to prepare the 2024 Electoral Roll by 10th April. I have placed the updated version of the 2023 Roll in both church porches, and I need to be notified of any changes by 6th April.

The basic condition is that you are baptised and resident in the ecclesiastical parish, OR not resident in the parish but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months. (There are, however, other conditions permitting inclusion on the Roll and so I have also displayed a "for information only" copy of the "Application for Enrolment and Notes for completion" in both of our porches).

Would you please check by 6th April that the Roll is correct; and if not let me know that you wish to apply for inclusion or to withdraw your name from the Roll.

Unless you notify me otherwise the Roll will remain unchanged for 2024. As this is the sixth year of the present Roll it will be abandoned next year and a new Roll prepared. This means that next year everyone will have to complete an application for enrolment if they still qualify and wish to be included in the new Roll.

Colin Edwards, Electoral Roll Officer.  
9 Little Minsterley, SY5 0BW  
[marieandcol@icloud.com](mailto:marieandcol@icloud.com)



*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*

### Coffee Morning Snailbeach Village Hall 10am - 12noon, Saturday 6th April

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A friendly welcome to all. **Joan Evans**



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## ***Democracy in Greece***

Traditionally, the concept of democracy is believed to have originated in Athens in c508 BC, although there is evidence to suggest that democratic systems of government may have existed elsewhere in the world before then, albeit on a smaller scale.

### ***How democratic was ancient Greek democracy, really?***

Ten new groups – or tribes – were created as a way of breaking up the existing power structure with political rights and privileges dependent on one's tribe. What's more, all Athenians had the right to attend and vote in the ekklesia, an assembly which met every ten days. To ensure that even the poorest could afford to attend and participate in the city's political activities, payment was given for attendance from c400 BC.



A deliberative body known as the boule saw 500 randomly selected people (50 from each tribe) meet daily to discuss legislation, which would then be agreed by citizens at the ekklesia.

### ***What role did women play in Athenian democracy?***

Athenian democracy did not extend to women, and they played little role in the political life of the state and had no vote. Athenian girls were not formally educated and their rights were limited.

### ***Was Athenian democracy always a good thing?***

Possibly the most dramatic aspect of Athenian democracy was ostracism, which was common between 487-417 BC. If 6,000 voters were in favour, an Athenian citizen could be sent into exile for ten years, a tactic that was often used to rid the city of a powerful but perhaps unpopular figure.

### ***What are the differences between ancient Greek democracy and democracy today?***

According to historians, there are three differences between today's system of democracy and that of the ancient Greeks: scale, participation and eligibility.

The population of fifth-century-BC Athens is thought to have been around 250,000, yet only about 30,000 were full Athenian citizens and therefore able to benefit from the new constitution. The remaining were slaves, women, children or foreigners. What's more, only men could take part in a democratic government.

### ***How did democracy continue after ancient Greece?***

Despite surviving defeat in the Peloponnesian War in 404 BC, the democratic experiment came to an end in 322 BC, with the failure of the Greek revolt against Macedonian rule following the death of Alexander the Great.

Elements of democracy after Athens can be seen in the Roman world in the third century, Scandinavia in the eighth century, and the Italian communes of the 11th-13th centuries. But full democracy as we know it today was a long time coming.

This content first appeared in the June 2017 issue of BBC History Revealed

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To vote in England, you now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.



This will apply to:

UK parliamentary elections, including general elections, by-elections and recall petitions

Local elections and by-elections

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

The deadline to apply for free voter ID for the elections on Thursday 2 May is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

Accepted forms of photo ID

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

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I wanted to introduce myself to you all as the Conservative Prospective Candidate for South Shropshire. My name is Stuart Anderson and I hope to be elected as your MP in the upcoming general election to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor Philip Dunne MP. After nearly twenty years serving this area as a fantastic local representative, Philip will be missed and is leaving big shoes to fill for whoever comes after him.



I've already had the chance to speak to so many wonderful South Shropshire residents, but with many still to meet it is worth telling you a bit about me first. I've spent most of my life living in the Marches. Growing up in rural Herefordshire, my first job was as a farm hand. I joined the military after leaving school, but I was not there long before getting shot in a training exercise. My army career was nearly over just as it was beginning, yet through gruelling rehab I recovered to continue active service with the Royal Green Jackets now the Rifles, the local Shropshire regiment. I left the military after serving 8 years before going on to work in the Defence and Security Industry around the world.

My army days eventually caught up with me, and I have spoken openly about my severe battles with mental health. It was in these lowest moments that I decided I wanted to get back to doing what I loved most – serving my country. This is why I have entered politics – to use my experiences and my skills to help those struggling like I did and stand up for the freedoms and values that make our country so special. I love our country and want to see that my children can grow up in a country they can be proud of.

I became an MP in 2019, but due to the boundary changes I was displaced and then selected to be the next Conservative Prospective Candidate for South Shropshire. It is great to come back to my Marches roots. South Shropshire is where I live with my family, where my kids go to school and the area that would be an absolute privilege to represent.

What does South Shropshire need? We need to continue Philip Dunne's example of strong local representation, standing up for local voices to unleash rural prosperity, enhance public services, champion our farmers, support local communities and protect the countryside. One example is the £312 million Philip helped secure for the local NHS Hospital Transformation Fund – I want to see wins like this protected and repeated.

I want to be listening, supporting, and delivering for South Shropshire. This means that I will start by listening - I already receive many fantastic emails from residents and hundreds have taken part in my surveys. I would love to hear from you, so please get in touch at [\[redacted\]](#), or go to my website [\[redacted\]](#) to take part in the surveys.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in South Shropshire this year in my campaign to be the next Member of Parliament for this brilliant constituency.

Stuart Anderson

Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Shropshire

## ***The Green-winged Orchids of Minsterley Meadows***

As reported in last month's newsletter Minsterley Meadows is up for sale and the Minsterley Meadows working group is hopeful for the success of ongoing negotiations. If so, a campaign will be launched to raise the necessary funds to purchase the meadows. Minsterley Meadows (SSSI) is a threatened habitat of national importance. It contains an abundance of Green-winged Orchids, characteristic of this type of land, which are nationally scarce.

### **Green-winged Orchids**

Green-winged Orchids (*Anacamptis morio*) are short plants with narrow leaves (height 7-15cm) which live on unimproved grassland. Their name comes from the green veins in the 'hoods' of the flowers. (See photo below). They are mainly a stunning purple but colours can range from shades of purple to pink and even white. These orchids bloom in May and June and are pollinated by bumblebees.



Grasslands such as Minsterley Meadows, the home of the Green-winged Orchid, are ancient habitats which are vulnerable to change. They need careful management and hay cutting at the right time to ensure that they are kept in good condition. Cutting time is from mid-July to the end of August, after the flowers have set seed.

We have a valuable opportunity to safeguard the future of Minsterley Meadows and the Green-winged Orchids. More updates will follow but in the meantime for further information please contact: [info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk)

See website: <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>

### **TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare**



Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform Twelfth Night at 7:30pm on Wednesday 12th- Saturday 15th June 2024.

Ticket prices- Adults £12 Under 18's £6 to include programme and refreshments.

This performance will take place in Shrewsbury United Reformed Church, to which St. Nicholas' Hall is attached.

This modern production of Twelfth Night is set in the 1960s, a time period often considered to be counter cultural; a time of protest, an unpopular war in , the space race to the moon and the assassination of significant political and spiritual leaders such as JFK and Martin Luther King. More familiar themes in the play are gender swapping, supported in this production by the songs of Ray Davies and The Kinks where, to quote their popular song, Lola, 'girls will be boys and boys will be girls'. So, a play written around 1602, styled in the 1960s and performed in 2024 still resonates today. We hope that you come and enjoy this take on one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies.

Tickets can be obtained through the Drama Group website on [info@abbeydrama.com](mailto:info@abbeydrama.com) or by telephoning the Drama Group phone (07951 862881) or Robert Currie (01743 790 123).

Robert Currie and Nick Jones

## ***Pontesbury & District Gardeners Association***



The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 5 March. The Committee and Trustees were all re-elected en bloc and in their annual reports the Chairman, Treasurer and Trading Secretary all commented on how well the Association is doing. A lease on the trading Post was recently signed giving us security of tenure for the next 110 years.

### ***Spring Planting***

April in the garden is the time for potatoes to be planted. Traditionally it was Good Friday when this happened – that day being the first one in the Spring when the workers had a day off. The date for Easter is variable so it might seem a bit haphazard, especially as it falls quite early this year. However the date for Easter is determined by the lunar calendar and there are many gardeners who now plant and harvest by the phases of the moon, so both approaches seem to tie in well together!

There is still a danger of frost until the middle/end of May so look after tender plants and seedlings until then. If you don't have a greenhouse in which to shelter the smaller plants you can wrap them in horticultural fleece when frost is forecast. Looking further ahead to when your soft fruits are ripening and protect them from marauding birds with fruit netting. You can make a protective cage using canes and netting – just be careful if high winds are forecast!

### ***Spring into the Garden***

Don't forget the social evening at 7.30 on Thursday 16 May in the Public Hall. Admission is free, as are the refreshments, so all you have to pay for is anything that you buy from the plant and garden-related stalls that will be there. More information will be in next month's Newsletter.

At this point it is worth reminding ourselves that, although the Gardeners Association has been in Pontesbury for over eighty years, there are people new to the area who may not know how we work. The Association was formed with the aim of promoting gardening in the local area and now its main function is as a co-operative: buying garden consumables in bulk and reselling to members at rates lower than are normally found in garden centres and other retail outlets. The centre of activity is The Trading Post, which is a former railway shed by the old line in Pontesbury, and a view of the building itself is worth a visit.

We only sell a limited range of seeds; because of their perishable nature we concentrate on those for planting in Spring and at the moment we have several varieties of seed potatoes, beetroot, pea and bean seeds and onion and shallot sets, which are sold in whatever quantity you want to buy, as opposed to the pre-packed quantities that you have to get in most retail outlets. We do sell loose grass seed all year round. Occasionally members will bring in surplus seeds or seedlings to exchange or sell for a small donation; these are usually snapped up quite quickly.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

“ The Minsterley and District Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all the competitors who entered the various classes at the event on Saturday, 16 March 2024. We congratulate the winners and hope that both entrants and visitors enjoyed the occasion and gained pleasure from the performances.

The Committee would also like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the many friends who help out in various ways during the Festival weekend as it would be impossible to stage the event without this support. ”

Kind regards,

C Penrose (Assistant General / Committee Secretary) (results over leaf)

**MINSTERLEY and District 61<sup>st</sup> annual EISTEDDFOD**  
**Saturday, 16 March 2024**

<i>Morning &amp; Afternoon Classes</i>	Winners
Instrumental Solo - KS1 & Reception	1st: Ethan McKenzie from Shrewsbury 2nd: Jack McKenzie from Shrewsbury
Instrumental Solo - KS2	1st: Harry Lipson from Ellesmere 2nd: Abigail Pinsent from Hook-A-Gate 3rd: Theo Lipson from Ellesmere
Recitation - KS1 & Reception	1st: Jeremy Hughes from The Corvedale 2nd: Oliver Kerswell from Shrewsbury 3rd: Luna Rudd from St Winefride's School
Recitation - Lower KS2 Years 3/4	1st: Otilie Barnes from St Winefride's School 2nd: Benjamin Hughes from The Corvedale 3rd: Remi Samuel from St Winefride's School
Vocal Solo - KS2	1st: Gracie Kidson from Adcote School
Recitation - Upper KS2 Years 5/6	1st: Margaux Stride from St Winefride's School 2nd: Gracie Kidson from Adcote School 3rd: Toby Jones from St Winefride's School
Children's Choir - Up to & including KS4 (16 years)	1st: Adcote School Choir 2nd: Minsterley Primary School Choir
Original Children's Written Composition - KS2	1st: Robin Hardwidge from Jackfield
Instrumental Solo - KS3	1st: Florence Hughes from Market Drayton 2nd: Martha Franks from Shrewsbury 3rd: Madeleine Livsey from Pontesbury
Original Children's Written Composition - KS3 & 4	1st: Jet Pariera-Jenks From Shrewsbury 2nd: Eliza Spence from Wrekin College 3rd: Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Recitation - KS3	1st: Martha Franks from Shrewsbury 2nd: Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Popular Singing - 18 years & under	1st: Adcote School 2nd: Wrekin Wrens from Wrekin College 3rd: Small Furry Animals Band from Market Drayton
Solo from any Musical Show or Film - KS3 & under	1st: Martha Franks from Shrewsbury 2nd: Douglas Dean from Muxton
Recitation - 18 years & under	1st: Caitlin Holyoake from Shrewsbury 2nd: Annabel Hughes from The Corvedale 3rd: Jayden Joseph from St Winefride's School
Vocal Solo - 18 years & under	1st: Seren James from Adcote School 2nd: Ben Richards from Shrewsbury 3rd: Carolina Phillips from Wrekin College
Open Group Performance from any Musical Show or Film	1st: Small Furry Animals Band from Market Drayton 2nd: Asher and Ben Richards from Shrewsbury

Evening Classes	Winners
Individual Speaking	1st: Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Original Short Story	1st: Esther Evans from Wrexham
	2nd: Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Original Poem	1st: Susan Lees from Snailbeach
	2nd: Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Limerick	1st: Darren Turner from Hertfordshire
	2nd: Di Platts from Whittington and Rowan Richards from Shrewsbury
Original Hymn Words	1st: Janet Walker from Habberley
	2nd: Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Original Music Composition	1st: Madeleine Livsey from Pontesbury
Open Instrumental Solo	1st: Richard Pinsent from Hook-A-Gate
	2nd: Jet Parlera-Jenks from Shrewsbury
Solo from any Musical Show or Film - KS4 & Adults	1st: Charlie Sheppard from Pontesbury
	2nd: Kimee Cleaton from Church Stretton
	3rd: Mya Chogugudza from Adcote School
Open Challenge Vocal Solo	1st: Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
	2nd: Charlie Sheppard from Pontesbury
Open Instrumental Group - KS4 & Adults	1st: Rowan and Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
	2nd: Charlotte Pinsent from Hook-A-Gate and Hannah Livsey from Pontesbury
Open Group Singing any style	1st: The Richards Family from Shrewsbury
	2nd: Craven Arms Men's Chorus
Open Choirs Competition	1st: Of One Accord from Shrewsbury
	2nd: Telfordaires
	3rd: Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir from Gobowen
<u>Special Awards:</u>	
Outstanding Child Instrumentalist	Florence Hughes from Market Drayton
Instrumental Bursary (up to & including KS3)	Ethan McKenzie from Shrewsbury
Outstanding Child in Elocution events	Caitlin Holyoake from Shrewsbury
Outstanding Child Vocalist (KS1 & KS2)	Gracie Kidson from Adcote School
Outstanding Child Vocalist (KS3 & KS4 up to 18 years)	Seren James from Adcote School
Child gaining the most place marks over all final classes	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
Child gaining the most place marks over all final classes who lives within a radius of fifteen miles of Minsterley	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
Best Original Composition in the Children's classes	Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Best Original Composition in the Adult classes	Esther Evans from Wrexham

## ***A new 'super' National Nature Reserve in Shropshire***

Natural England is proposing a plan to create a new National Nature Reserve in Shropshire

On the evening Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Natural England ran an event at Snailbeach Village Hall to gather views on the proposal for a 'super' National Nature Reserve in the landscape around the Stiperstones. The event was really well attended, Natural England staff explained the idea and listened to a range of views. Natural England are interested in hearing what you have to say and will be sharing more information and updates, including on the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve Facebook page.

What does 'super' National Nature Reserve mean?

Natural England is proposing a plan to create a larger National Nature Reserve in Shropshire, extending from the current one at the Stiperstones. It will be managed by partner organisations who will work together to improve the land for nature and wildlife.

Natural England is working with partner organisations who own land near the existing Stiperstones National Nature Reserve. The proposal is that these organisations volunteer their land to make up part of the new larger National Nature Reserve. The areas of land might not necessarily all join up, but the partners who manage the land are committed to working together. It will not include land where the landowner does not want to participate.

A large National Nature Reserve that is managed by partners is sometimes referred to as a 'super' National Nature Reserve.

Has this been done before?

Yes, there are a few examples around the country. The first was the Purbeck Heaths in Dorset. Other examples include the Somerset Wetlands and the Mendip National Nature Reserve in Somerset.

What are the benefits of a 'super' National Nature Reserve?

The key benefits are to improve land for wildlife, improve water quality, slow the flow of water off the hills and store more carbon.

Who is involved?

The proposal is being led by Natural England and being developed in partnership with other organisations. At this stage these include Forestry England, Forestry Commission, Shropshire County Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Middle Marches Community Land Trust, National Trust, Shropshire Hills National Landscape and Natural Resources Wales.

How long will it take?

Natural England are working towards a date of 2025 to finalise what land is included, how it will be managed and complete the declaration process.

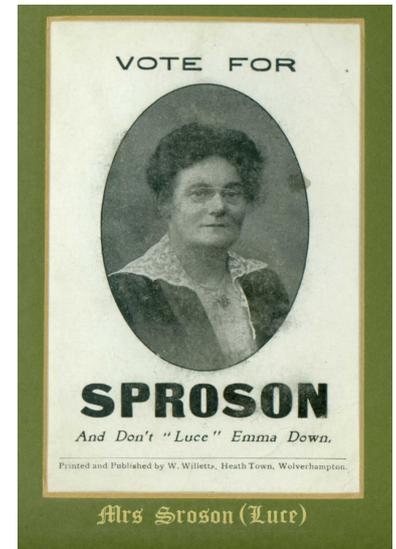
Find out more

To give us your thoughts and find out more, contact [west.midlands.enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:west.midlands.enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) and keep an eye on Stiperstones Nature Reserve Facebook page.

## Red Emma

Emma Sproson was born Emily Lloyd on 13 April 1867 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire. She was one of seven children of Ann, née Johnson, and her husband, John, a builder of canal boats; he was a heavy drinker, and the family lived in extreme poverty. In the mid-1870s the family moved to Wolverhampton and, at around the same time, Emma began to work part-time, running errands or picking coal off the local tips and slag heaps.

In around 1876, at the age of nine, she left home and went into domestic service, although she was able to attend school four days a week. When she was thirteen she obtained a position working in a shop, although she was dismissed after accusing the owner's brother of making sexual advances towards her. Unemployed, she moved to Lancashire to find work; she taught at a Sunday school and joined a church debating society.



Emma returned to Wolverhampton by 1895 with enough money to set up a business—most likely a shop in the front room of the house she began sharing with her mother. She became a member of the Independent Labour Party around this time and, in August 1896, she married Frank Sproson, a postman and the secretary of the Wolverhampton branch of the ILP; he was also supportive of the movement for women's suffrage. The couple had four children, although only three survived: Frank, born in 1899; Chloris, born in 1897; and George, born in 1906.

In October 1906 Frank Sproson invited Emmeline Pankhurst of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) to speak at an ILP meeting. Emma acted as the Chair for the meeting and Pankhurst stayed overnight at the couple's house. Emma joined the WSPU shortly afterwards, and began a letter-writing campaign to local newspapers.

In early-1907 Emma attended suffrage meetings in London and, on 13 February, she attended a WSPU meeting at Caxton Hall, followed by a march to parliament. The marchers tried to force their way into the Palace of Westminster; police intervened and Emma and others were arrested. Given a choice between a fine or a two-week prison sentence, she chose incarceration. The following month she was arrested, again on a march from Caxton Hall to parliament. She was sent to Holloway Prison for a month, where she was visited by Christabel Pankhurst, the co-founder of the WSPU.

In 1919 and 1920 Emma stood in local elections for the Labour Party in the Wolverhampton Park ward, but was unelected. In 1921 she stood in the Dunstall ward, where she was successful; in doing so, she became Wolverhampton's first female councillor. To mark her victory she waved a red flag from the balcony of Wolverhampton town hall, which earned her the nickname "Red Emma". She served on committees dealing with health—particularly mental health—and housing for single mothers. In late 1922 she exposed financial corruption at the local fever hospital, although the subsequent investigation rejected the allegations; she was censured by the Labour Party as a result.

Emma successfully defended herself at the local by-election in 1924, but left the Labour Party before the next election in 1927; she stood as an independent candidate but lost. It marked the end of her activity in political life.[]



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The big headline this month is Shropshire Council's admission that its financial situation is dire and it's going to have to make some drastic cuts to survive.

WHY. Like most Councils in England, Shropshire has been facing a growing adult social care bill (i.e. care of our elderly and children with special needs). Because we are a retirement area and the general population of the UK is ageing, this now amounts to approximately 80% of the Council budget. This has been compounded by a long history of mismanagement by Council administrations going back to 2011 at least. Repeated cutbacks in the grant Shropshire receives from Central Government has made the situation worse.

#### WHAT NEXT.

- i. Shropshire has already announced that it is seeking 300 voluntary redundancies from everywhere except schools.. I only hope that these are carefully selected and we don't lose key staff like we did in 2008
- ii. They are reviewing our libraries and Leisure Centres
- iii. Shropshire is looking to remove at least 2 of the recycling centres across the County – people are concerned that the Craven Arms site will go.
- iv. They are looking to cut money from adult social care, transport for children with educational needs, the highways budget, charging for green bins and stopping food collection.

#### ROADS

What I was appalled to learn during the budgeting process was that the Administration's budget for 2023-24 included a cut of £803,592 in the roads budget this year.

In our division alone we have five landslips, restricting traffic on two major roads (A488 and A490). One celebrated its fourth birthday recently and still no timetable for its repair. In addition to this several stretches of road are almost impassible above Binweston, the Little Weston Road, Lower Lane and the road from Brockton to Rowley to name but a few.

If you have a problem with a blocked drain etc then email me at [Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk) AND report it on 'Fix My Street' at <https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/> The more of us that report a problem, the higher the priority it will get.

Best Wishes Heather Kidd

April 2024

## Heather Kidd

Local Shropshire Councillor

for

**Chirbury & Worthen**  
including Snailbeach and  
Stiperstones

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Facebook: Heather Kidd

[www.heatherkidd.org.uk](http://www.heatherkidd.org.uk)



### Key Phone Numbers

Pont'ry & Worthen Med	01743 790325
Westbury Medical Centre	01743 884727
Bishop's C'le Med Pract	01588 638285
Montgomery Med Pract	01686 668217
Royal Shrewsbury Hospit	01743261000
NHS Non-Emergency Helpline	111
Samaritans Helpline	116 123
Shrop Customer Services	0345 6789000
Shrop Council Benefit	0345 6789002
Shrop Council Welfare	0345 6789078
Shrop C'cil Bereavement	0345 6783028
National Grid	800 6783105
Environment Agency	0800 807060
Severn Trent Water	0800 7834444
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# West Mercia Police

## BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

### Team details

**Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant:** Sgt 0640 Jenni Price  
**Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable:** PC 3331 Stuart Cote  
**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss  
**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown  
**Team Email:** [bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

### West Mercia Police contact numbers

**Emergency:** 999 **Non Emergency:** 101

**Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting):** 101, Extension 7704901

**Report online:** [www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/)

**Crime stoppers:** 0800 555 111

**Website:** [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

**Twitter:** @SouthShropCops

**Facebook:** Bishop's Castle Policing Team Rural Watch



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

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Pub broken into and till removed	Stiperstones	Occurred 02:20 13 <sup>th</sup> Ma CCTV images of offend obtained, enquiries ong
Staking			
Allowing dog dangerously out of control	Dog has forced its way through hedge separating both properties and attacked victim's dog	Aston Pigott	
Theft	Water pump stolen from outside property	Priest Weston	Occurred sometime ove last 3 months
Theft	Diesel siphoned from tractors	Snailbeach	Overnight 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ma
Blackmail		Stiperstones	
Theft	Set of traffic lights stolen, later found discarded with batteries missing	Hope	Overnight 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> February
Theft	Drone stolen	Area of the Hope Valley	Suspects named by vic enquiries ongoing
Malicious communications		Bentlawnt	
Theft	7 lambs stolen, all had blue marking and yellow tags	Nr Habberley	Overnight 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> M.

**Anyone with any information as to whom carried out these crimes please contact West Mercia Police on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111**

### Quad bike thefts

Thefts of quads and other All-Terrain Vehicles from farms by criminal gangs continues to be of a regular occurrence in the county, in particular South Shropshire. On many occasions the quads have been left with keys in the ignition making it easier for the offenders to steal and potentially leaving the victim unable to claim on any insurance.

Please take measures to make the vehicle as difficult as you can to steal.

**WORTHEN WITH SHELVE PARISH COUNCIL.**

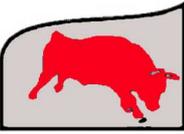
**DATES AND VENUES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2024**

**All meetings are on a Monday evening.  
The Parish Council meeting will commence at 7 pm  
unless otherwise stated**

**Meeting dates can change please look at our website for latest information**

**[www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk](http://www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Hope Village Hall
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Worthen Village Hall
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Hope Village Hall
29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Worthen Village Hall
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Hope Village Hall
24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Worthen Village Hall
29 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Hope Village Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	Worthen Village Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Hope Village Hall
25 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Worthen Village Hall



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- and our pies are something special!  
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## The Stiperstones Inn Upcoming Events

**Knitter Natter**  
10am Every Tuesday!

**Lara's Feeling Crochety**  
Returns in September

---

**Big Money Bingo**  
7.30pm Monday 8th April

**Board Games Night**  
7.30pm Monday 15th April

**Quiz Night**  
8.00pm Monday 22nd April

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**Big Money Bingo**  
7.30pm Monday 6th May

**Board Games Night**  
7.30pm Monday 20th May

**Quiz Night**  
8.00pm Monday 27th May

**Tel. 01743 791 327 to book!**

## Marches Meadow Group



**Sunday April 7th: free scythe peening workshop** at the Stiperstones NNR base 10am to 1pm. No booking required. Come along and join your fellow Shropshire scythers to prepare your blades for the 2024 season. Natural England Office, Pennerley, SY5 0NE. (GR SO357 985; What3Words: /// pegs.sulked.earplugs) Contact Simon Cooter [simon.cooter@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:simon.cooter@naturalengland.org.uk) or [stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk) to be put on the mailing list.

**Sunday May 19th: Annual General Meeting**, to be held at the Bridges pub 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. followed by picnic lunch at Barnes Farm and a walk around the farm. GR for Bridges SO 393 964, What3Words: ///warm.hourglass.dealings)

These events are in the areas of the Camlad, Rea Valley and Upper Onny Wildlife

Groups and are open to anyone interested in plants, whether you are a complete beginner, an experienced botanist or somewhere in between. This year's events are a combination of species recording, survey and informal ID sessions.

The events include several miles of walking, often over rough ground, so a reasonable level of fitness is needed.

**Ancient Trees - Linley Old Moores Wood**

**Sunday 14th April 2pm - 4pm**

A Spring walk to look at the ancient trees.

Meet at Lydham Village Hall, SY9 5HG

What3words:/// wired.receive.faded

## Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

How many Curlews and Lapwings are there? Please help us to find out



Curlew  
© Gareth Thomas

It's not too late to join our Curlew and Lapwing survey. We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them.

We have looked for Curlews and Lapwings since 2014. In 2023, we found 9 - 11 breeding pairs of Curlews, but didn't find any nesting Lapwing. We hope to find the same number of Curlews again, and more Lapwing.

This year we are also looking for Kestrel and Cuckoo.



Kestrel

The survey only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come. Results from previous years can be found on

the Rea Valley pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/)

If you see or hear any of these birds, or if you want to help with the survey, please email me: [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)



Cuckoo

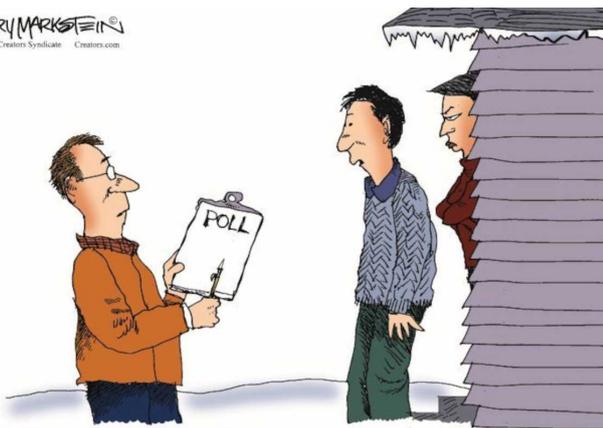
Leo Smith

An easy and a tricky puzzle today.

*Sudoku*  
OF THE DAY

	5	8		4				
	1					9		
3				6	7	1	5	
			9	1		6		
7	4			2			1	8
		6		3	4			
	3	5	2	9				1
		4					6	
				7		8	9	

GARY MARKSTEIN  
2023 Creators Syndicate Creators.com



"I'M NOT ANSWERING BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO KEEP MY CURRENT RELATIONSHIP."

9					2		8	1
						2		7
		8		1				
1	8				3	7		9
	4		6		9		3	
3		9	5				4	2
				3		4		
4		3						
6	9		1					3

Which political party did these post war Prime ministers represent?

- Arthur James Balfour (1902–05)
- Henry C'bell-Bannerman (1905–08)
- H.H. Asquith (1908–16)
- David Lloyd George (1916–22)
- Bonar Law (1922–23)
- Stanley Baldwin (1923–24)
- Ramsay Macdonald (1924)
- Stanley Baldwin (1924–29)
- Ramsay Macdonald (1929–35)
- Stanley Baldwin (1935–37)
- Neville Chamberlain (1937–40)
- Winston Churchill (1940–45)
- Clement Attlee (1945–51)
- Winston Churchill (1951–55)
- Anthony Eden (1955–57)
- Harold Macmillan (1957–63)
- Alec Douglas-Home (1963–64)
- Harold Wilson (1964–70)
- Edward Heath (1970–74)
- Harold Wilson (1974–76)
- James Callaghan (1976–79)
- Margaret Thatcher (1979–90)
- John Major (1990–97)
- Tony Blair (1997–2007)
- Gordon Brown (2007–10)
- David Cameron (2010–16)
- Theresa May (2016–19)
- Boris Johnson (2019–22)
- Liz Truss (2022)
- Rishi Sunak (2022– )

## Read Easy Shropshire Hills celebrates 5-year milestone helping adults learn to read

Just imagine how your life would be if you couldn't read letters, follow medicine instructions, or read a new recipe? Yet, for many people, who missed the opportunity of learning how to read at school, this is the reality they face every day.

### Free, confidential, one-to-one help

Read Easy Shropshire Hills, a local volunteer organisation, has been helping adults who struggle with reading for the last five years. During this period over 35 adults have taken the brave decision to come forward and join their confidential, one-to-one coaching programme.

They are paired with a trained reading coach and work together through reading manuals, in private, at a time to suit them both. It's as easy as that and its free!

What's important is that everyone can learn at their own pace without feeling rushed. There's no pressure, or targets, or exams to worry about and no reminders of what it was like at school.

Read Easy now offers coaching beyond the Shropshire Hills area to cover Shrewsbury and its surroundings, North Herefordshire and East Powys. They also offer coaching online which means that the service is accessible during the day and outside working hours.

### Anthony learns to read at 60

Anthony found learning to read hard when he was young and moving from school to school didn't help. He fell behind his classmates and in later life came to rely completely on his wife, hiding his struggles with reading from the world. He didn't need to know how to read as she took care of everything.

His world fell apart when his wife died suddenly. Anthony had lost his life partner and the one person who could deal with everything which had to be read. He opened up to friend who encouraged him to get in touch with Read Easy.

Anthony says his confidence has grown so much since he started learning to read. He is getting his life and his bills under control. He now reads a newspaper and books and does things he would never have even considered doing in the past. He even has the confidence to go on walking holidays in Anglesey with plans to venture further afield.

### How to get in touch

Learning to read as an adult is life changing. If you know someone who would like to learn to read, contact Bob Tweddle (Shrewsbury area) on 07597 350439 or by email at [shcoordinator3@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:shcoordinator3@readeasy.org.uk) . For south Shropshire contact Steve Gibbon on 07707 762653 or [shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk)



#### Advertisers

There is still some space for adverts in the SDN

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One fifths page - £35

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[sammy@snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk](mailto:sammy@snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk) Tel: 01743 791999





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## RESULTS

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Snailbeach White Stars  
Goalscorers:  
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Cody Rimmer x 2  
Kieran Mulloch  
Seth Ellis  
Harry Harding

Red Barn 3-2 Snailbeach  
Goalscorers:  
Ethan Kinsey  
Josh Lenc  
MOTM:  
Jack Perry



## Christian Aid Week 2024

As my contribution to Holy Trinity Minsterley's efforts to raise funds for Christian Aid this year, I did a sponsored sea-bathe in Folkestone harbour on Tuesday February 20. I bought, not an ice cream, but a large whisky when I emerged from the sea. Some no doubt want to help, but didn't join me for fear of heat exhaustion, or because you didn't know about it. I know that several of you have generously supported me, and I sincerely thank you. I think that, because I decided to do this on the spur of the moment, my advance publicity was inadequate and there must be many who are unaware of this fund-raising effort. I should be very grateful for your retrospective sponsorship. I shall carry a sponsorship form with me when practicable. As an alternative, I have set up a Justgiving page. The link is [www.justgiving.com/page/robert-currie-1706221711874](http://www.justgiving.com/page/robert-currie-1706221711874).

Robert Currie



"I found an alternative-fuel vehicle that runs on fat instead of gasoline! Oh wait, it's a bicycle."



AN ABILITY TO LISTEN IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY...



In the course of my life I have developed five little democratic questions. If one meets a powerful person-- Adolf Hitler, Joe Stalin or Bill Gates--ask them five questions: "What power have you got? Where did you get it from? In whose interests do you exercise it? To whom are you accountable? And how can we get rid of you?" If you cannot get rid of the people who govern you, you do not live in a democratic system.

Tony Benn

## The Suffragettes Word Search

E L E C T I O N D E T S E R R A  
 Z J Y T D D P J Y M P R M R K L  
 R E P R E S E N T A T I O N S J  
 T S E N T P T Y J T K X Y N E J  
 N D N G J N D L R X M X O C V G  
 E P I A P P U B B N L I N B Y V  
 M R L V I T T O B W T E K R B M  
 A O E O B C P S C A I B O B X J  
 I T M T L M I T R D B T R P Y Z  
 L E M E Z N Q T E U S Q O R K D  
 R S E S W M S B I I H L R A W N  
 A T G O X N O G H L I K Y Z X M  
 P T M R O S P L L T O Y N R Q M  
 P E T M I L P M I L B P P A W B  
 N Z E D B J N C W R Q R R Y P D  
 D D Q D Y G S X Z J W M W T J Z

Women	Politics
Votes	Demonstrations
Election	Arrested
Parliament	Politicians
War	History
Country	Emmeline
Representation	Pankhurst
Protest	Disobedience



LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Answers to quiz**  
**Arthur James Balfour Tory**  
**Henry C-Bannerman Liberal**  
**H.H. Asquith Liberal**  
**David Lloyd George Liberal**  
**Bonar Law Tory**  
**Stanley Baldwin Tory**  
**Ramsay Macdonald Labour**  
**Stanley Baldwin Tory**  
**Ramsay Macdonald Labour**  
**Stanley Baldwin Tory**  
**Neville Chamberlain Tory**  
**Winston Churchill Tory**  
**Clement Attlee Labour**  
**Winston Churchill Tory**  
**Anthony Eden Tory**  
**Harold Macmillan Tory**  
**Alec Douglas-Home Tory**  
**Harold Wilson Labour**  
**Edward Heath Tory**  
**Harold Wilson Labour**  
**James Callaghan Labour**  
**Margaret Thatcher Tory**  
**John Major Tory**  
**Tony Blair Labour**  
**Gordon Brown Labour**  
**David Cameron Tory**  
**Theresa May Tory**  
**Boris Johnson Tory**  
**Liz Truss Tory**  
**Rishi Sunak Tory**

## 552/553 Bishops Castle Stiperstones Shrewsbury Monday - Friday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)			SCH		SCH													
Bishops Castle, opp Boars Head				07:30				09:40			12:20		13:30			15:40		
Bishops Castle Salop Street Jct				07:32				09:42			12:22		13:32			15:42		
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct				07:36				09:46			12:26		13:36			15:46		
Llan Turn Jct				07:40				09:50			12:30		13:40			15:50		
White Grit, Jct				07:44				09:54			12:34		13:44			15:54		
Gravels				07:47				09:57			12:37		13:47			15:57		
Hope				07:50				10:00			12:40		13:50			16:00		
Stiperstones, opp Pub	06:50	07:20	07:50		08:23				11:15					14:35			16:50	
Snailbeach, Village Hall	06:54	07:24	07:54		08:27				11:19					14:39			16:54	
Plox Green, Crossroads	06:56	07:26	07:56	07:56	08:30			10:06	11:21	11:55	12:46	13:05	13:56	14:41		16:06	16:53	
Minsterley, opp crown & sceptre	06:58	07:28	07:58	07:58	08:33	08:50	09:25	10:08	11:23	11:57	12:48	13:07	13:58	14:43	15:10	16:08	16:58	17:35
Pontesbury, Hall Bank	07:03	07:33	08:03	08:03	08:37	08:55	09:30	10:13	11:28	12:02	12:53	13:12	14:03	14:48	15:15	16:13	17:03	17:40
Mary Webb					08:40										15:26 SCH			
Lea Cross, Opp Jct	07:08	07:38	08:08	08:08		09:00	09:35	10:18	11:33	12:07	12:58	13:17	14:08	14:53	15:30	16:18	17:08	17:45
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:11	07:41	08:11	08:11		09:03	09:38	10:21	11:36	12:10	13:01	13:20	14:11	14:56	15:33	16:21	17:11	17:48
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:13	07:43	08:13	08:13		09:05	09:40	10:23	11:38	12:12	13:03	13:22	14:13	14:58	15:35	16:23	17:13	17:50
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:18		08:18							12:17					15:40			
Shrewsbury Hospital		07:48		08:18		09:10	09:45	10:28	11:43		13:08	13:27	14:18	15:03		16:28	17:18	17:55
Copthorne Rd, adj Barracks	07:23	07:53	08:23	08:23		09:15	09:50	10:33	11:48	12:22	13:13	13:32	14:23	15:08	15:45	16:33	17:23	18:00
Bus Station Stand N	07:30	08:00	08:30	08:30		09:22	09:57	10:40	11:55	12:29	13:20	13:39	14:30	15:15	15:52	16:40	17:30	18:07

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)												SCH			SCH			
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:25	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:35		15:45	16:25	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:10
Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:32	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:42		15:52	16:32	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:17
Shrewsbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12			15:57	16:37		17:12	17:52	
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:47	08:22				11:12				14:47					16:37			18:22
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:42	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	14:52		16:02	16:42	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:27
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:44	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:19	14:54		16:04	16:44	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:29
Lea Cross, adj Jct	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:47	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	14:57		16:07	16:47	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:32
Mary Webb		08:36 SCH										15:20						
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:38	09:18	10:33	10:53	11:28	12:28	12:58	13:58	14:28	15:03	15:21	16:13	16:53	16:53	17:28	18:08	18:38
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre	08:07	08:42	09:22	10:37	10:57	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:07	15:27	16:17	16:57	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:42
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	10:59	11:34	12:34	13:04	14:04	14:34		15:29	16:19	16:59	16:59		18:14	18:44
Snailbeach, Village Hall					11:01				14:06			15:32	16:21		17:01			18:46
Stiperstones, adj Pub					11:05				14:10			15:35	16:25		17:05			18:50
Hope	08:15			10:45			12:40			14:40				17:05			18:20	
Gravels	08:19			10:49			12:44			14:44				17:09			18:24	
White Grit, Jct	08:23			10:53			12:48			14:48				17:13			18:28	
Llan Turn Jct	08:27			10:57			12:52			14:52				17:17			18:32	
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct	08:31			11:01			12:56			14:56				17:21			18:36	
Bishops Castle Salop Street jct	08:33			11:03			12:58			14:58				17:23			18:38	
Bishops Castle, adj Boars Head	08:35			11:05			13:00			15:00				17:25			18:40	

552/553  
Saturday

	07:30		09:30		12:15			15:50	
	07:32		09:32		12:17			15:52	
	07:36		09:36		12:21			15:56	
	07:40		09:40		12:25			16:00	
	07:44		09:44		12:29			16:04	
	07:47		09:47		12:32			16:07	
	07:50		09:50		12:35			16:10	
07:05		09:20						14:45	
07:09		09:24						14:49	
07:11	07:56	09:26	09:56	11:40	12:41	14:00	14:51	16:16	16:55
07:13	07:58	09:28	09:58	11:42	12:43	14:02	14:53	16:18	16:57
07:18	08:03	09:33	10:03	11:47	12:48	14:07	14:58	16:23	17:02
07:23	08:08	09:38	10:08	11:52	12:53	14:12	15:03	16:28	17:07
07:26	08:11	09:41	10:11	11:55	12:56	14:15	15:06	16:31	17:10
07:28	08:13	09:43	10:13	11:57	12:58	14:17	15:08	16:33	17:12
07:33	08:18	09:48	10:18	12:02	13:03	14:22	15:13	16:38	17:17
07:38	08:23	09:53	10:23	12:07	13:08	14:27	15:18	16:43	17:22
07:45	08:30	10:00	10:30	12:14	13:15	14:34	15:25	16:50	17:29

08:00	08:35	10:05	10:45	12:30	13:45	14:45	15:40	17:00	17:40
08:07	08:42	10:12	10:52	12:37	13:52	14:52	15:47	17:07	17:47
08:12	08:47	10:17	10:57	12:42	13:57	14:57	15:52	17:12	17:52
08:17	08:52	10:22	11:02	12:47	14:02	15:02	15:57	17:17	17:57
08:19	08:54	10:24	11:04	12:49	14:04	15:04	15:59	17:19	17:59
08:22	08:57	10:27	11:07	12:52	14:07	15:07	16:02	17:22	18:02
08:28	09:03	10:33	11:13	12:58	14:13	15:13	16:08	17:28	18:08
08:32	09:07	10:37	11:17	13:02	14:17	15:17	16:12	17:32	18:12
08:34	09:09	10:39	11:21	13:04	14:19	15:19	16:16	17:38	18:14
	09:12				14:21			17:40	
	09:15				14:25			17:45	
08:40		10:45				15:25		18:20	
08:44		10:49				15:29		18:24	
08:48		10:53				15:33		18:28	
08:52		10:57				15:37		18:32	
08:56		11:01				15:41		18:36	
08:58		11:03				15:43		18:38	
09:00		11:05				15:45		18:40	

**Minsterley Motors**  
Telephone 01743 791208

**745 Mondays and Fridays only**

<b>Pontesbury to Clun 745 A</b>		<b>Ludlow to Clun 745 B</b>	
Pontesbury Shop	08:50	Ludlow Assembly Rooms	13:15
Minsterley	08:55	Craven Arms	13:30
Hope	09:00	Long Meadowend	13:35
Gravels	09:03	Aston on Clun	13:37
White Grit	09:05	Lydbury North	13:50
Lydham	09:10	Little Brampton	14:00
Bishops Castle	09:15	Clunton	14:02
Colebatch	09:20	Clun	14:05
Clun	09:30		
<b>Clun to Ludlow 745 B</b>		<b>Clun to Pontesbury 745 A</b>	
Clun	09:35	Clun	14:10
Clunton	09:38	Colebatch	14:20
Little Brampton	09:40	Bishops Castle	14:25
Lydbury North	09:50	Lydham	14:30
Aston on Clun	10:03	White Grit	14:35
Long Meadowend	10:05	Gravels	14:37
Craven Arms	10:10	Hope	14:40
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	10:25	Minsterley	14:45
		Pontesbury	14:50

Does not run on Bank Holiday except Good Friday

**Minsterley Motors**



**775 Tuesdays only**

<b>Pontesbury to Bishops Castle 775 A</b>		<b>Newtown to Bishops Castle 775 B</b>	
Pontesbury Shop	09:30	Newtown	13:50
Minsterley	09:35	Kerry	14:00
Plox Green	09:38	Sarn	14:10
Hope	09:40	Blue Bell	14:15
Gravels	09:45	Church Stoke	14:20
White Grit	09:48	Bishops Castle	14:35
Llan Turn	09:51		
Bromleys Mill	09:55		
Lydham	09:57		
Bishops Castle	10:00		
<b>Bishops Castle to Newtown 775 B</b>		<b>Bishops Castle to Pontesbury 775 A</b>	
Bishops Castle	10:05	Bishops Castle	14:40
Church Stoke	10:20	Lydham	14:43
Blue Bell	10:25	Bromleys Mill	14:45
Sarn	10:30	Llan Turn	14:49
Kerry	10:40	White Grit	14:52
Newtown	10:50	Gravels	14:55
		Hope	15:00
		Plox Green	15:02
		Minsterley	15:05
		Pontesbury	15:10

**Minsterley Motors**  
Telephone 01743 791208

You've read the books and seen the TV programmes,  
now come and hear what it's really like...

### Restoring a Coppice: For Wildlife and a Living

7:30 pm Monday April 15th  
Church Stretton Methodist Church Hall  
24 Watling Street South, SY6 7BG.  
CSTG Members £2, Non-members £4

The bookshelves are full of books on getting back to nature, re-wilding and living more sustainably. All the TV channels have programmes where a celebrity buys a run down farm, croft or wood and converts it to a haven for wildflowers & wildlife and uses the produce to craft beautiful things for the home!

They all make it sound so easy, but what is the reality? Come and find out...

Thirteen years ago Mike Taylor bought a neglected piece of Shropshire woodland and got to work. The wood is now coppiced - a sustainable form of woodland management which has been used for centuries - for the benefit of the woodland plants, birds, mammals and insects. Mike crafts beautiful items from the wood he harvests, using traditional woodworking techniques and tools such as froes, axes, knives and the man-powered pole lathe.



Illustration by Adelaide Tyrol

If you have an interest in trees, woodland management, re-wilding, woodland flora & fauna, or making beautiful things from wood please come along and hear Mike tell his entertaining story.



A Church Stretton Tree Group Talk

**ABBEY FOREGATE DRAMA GROUP**  
WED 12TH TO SAT 15TH JUNE 2024

**William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night**

**SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
COLEHAM HEAD, SHREWSBURY  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON  
07951 862881  
01743 247450  
OR INFO@ABBEYDRAMA.COM

**ILLYRIA**

♀ LOVE ♂



#### ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS

- Be able to use Microsoft Office confidently.
- Unlock the full potential of your devices using The Cloud.
- Use collaborative tools such as Zoom, Teams and calendars etc.

#### COMMUNICATION & LIFE SKILLS

- What employers want and soft skills.
- Standout CV's.
- Professional email writing.

#### HOW TO GET ONLINE SAFELY

- How we use the internet safely.
- Managing your information online.
- Using different devices and effectively using Government websites.

#### DIGITAL MONEY SKILLS

- Understanding Debt.
- Risk and Benefits of using Credit.
- Investment and Saving.

#### INTRO TO CODING

- Introduction to Python and Print Statements.
- Inputs and Variables.
- Make a quiz using inputs.

#### INTRO TO MARKETING AND WEB DEV

- Intro to Digital Marketing.
- Download HTML and Intro to HTML.
- Create Basic Web Page.

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- Communication and Life Skills
- How to get Online Safely
- Digital Money Skills
- Introduction to Coding **ONLINE**
- Introduction to Digital Marketing & Web Development **ONLINE**

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\*two courses will need to be attended\*

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