



SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

March 2023
Where do we come from

Free

The British (serves 60 million)

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures

And let them settle,

Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.

Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years

Add lots of Norman French to some

Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings,

then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans,

Dominicans, Trinidadians and Bajans

with some Ethiopians, Chinese,

Vietnamese and Sudanese.

Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians

And Pakistanis,

Combine with some Guyanese

And turn up the heat.

Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,

Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some

Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese

And Palestinians

Then add to the melting pot.

Leave the ingredients to simmer.

As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish

Binding them together with English.

Allow time to be cool.

Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,

Serve with justice

And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one

ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.

by Benjamin Zephaniah



Lots of useful information
this month

- 3. Bog Centre News
- 5. Notes from the hill
- 7. Rea Valley Wildlife
- 9. From our MP
- 11. Marches Choir
- 13. Pontesbury Churches
- 15. Councillor Vacancy
- 16. Library Services
- 17. Amesbury Archer
- 21. West Mercia Police
- 23. Sudoku
- 25 Heather's report
- 27. Childrens



The Editor

I recently visited the Salisbury Museum to see their exhibition of pre-historic finds from around Stonehenge. I was particularly interested in the Amesbury Archer of whom there is an article on page 17.

It started me thinking of all the different peoples who have crossed the channel or the North Sea to land on our shores .

This month's trivia looks at a few of these people, all of whom have brought some of their characteristics into the British DNA melting pot. From Neanderthals, Celts, Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Danes and Normans to later visitors from all over the world we are truly a rare mix.

St. Luke's

There will be a coffee morning at St Lukes on the 1st April
Donations of cakes would be very welcome and if anyone can help on the morning can they please contact Joan or Pam.



Our modern Elizabethan photo search
is underway.

We are looking for photos, colour or
black and white, or newspaper clips of
any of the events, fashions, and
people that have shaped our villages
over the last 70 years.

Some ideas that spring to mind are:

- The Coronation
- End of rationing
- National service
- Local factories and businesses
- Anniversaries and Galas
- Local sports teams
- The coming of television
- New houses
- Pontesbury School opening

Landlords and Landladies at the pub

Shops and shop vans

Bog school closing

The White Hillocks and the mines

Back to Purple

Village Hall and the playground.

Village of the year

Millennium weekend

Garden weekend

Civil War day

New chapel

Clearing the pine woods

Christenings, weddings and funerals.

and more - contact Geoff if you can
help.

01743 791999



THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE



The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2023 season on Wednesday 29 March

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Our team of volunteers are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase as are books, maps and walk leaflets. This season we plan to reintroduce a series of half day craft workshops which will be advertised on the website and in local newsletters.

Staffing The Visitor Centre

'Volunteers' work their first 30 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate for those who chose to be paid. Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If interested please email Lin Brown.

School students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are paid all of their working hours at the appropriate rate for their age. Students interested in joining the team please email Lin Brown.

Opening hours Tuesday – Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm

Contact details for our Secretary Lin Brown bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Website www.bogvisitorcentre.com



Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a

Our Local History interest group welcomes all Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a members (and those interested in joining the u3a) to a talk by Penny Ward on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings; the first iron framed building and blueprint for the skyscrapers that followed, at Minsterley Parish Hall on the 21st March 2023 at 2pm with a cost of £6 maximum, but this could reduce to £5, depending on numbers, to cover costs and hall hire. Refreshments will be available.

Penny Ward studied Archaeology at Cardiff in the 1970s and managed the Shropshire Historic Environment Record for several decades until her retirement in 2016. She has been involved with the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings since 2005, when English Heritage (now Historic England) took over the site and asked for volunteers to assist on Heritage Open Days. Her talk will tell the story of the site, from the revolutionary use of cast iron in its construction at the end of the eighteenth century up to the latest phase in its existence which began in September last year when the ground floor of the now restored Main Mill building opened to the public. It will also give some account of the Flax Mill's Bleach Works at Hanwood.

People of our own species, **Homo sapiens**, may have reached Britain around 44,000 years ago. Like their predecessors, they were hunter-gatherers who made and used stone tools. At the time, sea levels were lower, and Britain was connected to northern Europe by land.

The last ice age was still under way: at times the temperature fell so low that sheets of ice covered the country and made it uninhabitable, driving people and animals to seek warmer environments further south. The ice reached its greatest extent around 26,000 years ago, and life for humans was impossible in Britain until it had retreated again around 11,600 years ago.



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Notes from the hill

Spring is in the air and our resident birds are now singing again in the early morning. Dunnocks are one of the first of our song birds to start up in the spring with their jaunty high pitched ditties. Many of the birds of prey are also carrying out their courtship displays as they pair up ready for the nesting season to come.

Red kites are showing well on the Stiperstones at present, as they cruise around effortlessly on the updraft along the hill. They are superbly adapted to their life of carrion feeding, being lightly built so that they can fly without expending any energy, their angled wings and long forked tail allow them great manouverability in the air, and their excellent eye sight allows them to spot carrion or small mammals from a great height. Although known as carrion feeders they will also take mice and voles. Earthworms also play a large part in their diet which is why they can often be seen in large numbers along with buzzards on freshly tilled soil.

They are rarely confused with any other bird , although they are a similar size to a buzzard their angled wings and forked tail will identify them immediately. If seen close up their rusty red body and whitish head are unmistakable.

Red kites have been a great british conservation success. They once bred across much of the UK, but persecution over a 200-year period saw numbers fall, and as they became rarer they increasingly became a target for egg collectors, reducing them to a few breeding pairs in central Wales. By the 1980s, the red kite was one of only three globally threatened species in the UK.



Today the Welsh population has recovered to a population of 1800 breeding pairs, about 7% of the world's population. Alongside this have been a number of reintroductions and now after 30 years of conservation work red kites can be seen once again in most English Counties.

As the weather improves and the hill dries out, we will be carrying out some controlled burning of the heather. This varies the structure of the heathland which benefits a variety of invertebrates, lichens and birds. However, one of the key reasons for burning is to reduce the amount of fuel on the hill should we have a summer wildfire, allowing it to be more easily controlled. So if you are up the hill and see smoke, surrounded by strange people in orange boiler suits, you will know what's going on.

Our first event of the year is our annual scythe peening workshop. Sunday the 2nd of April offers the chance to get your Austrian scythe into peak condition for the coming mowing season. It will be at our workshop at Rigmoroak starting at 10am, free of charge.

We will also be having our first open day at the cottages at Blakemoorgate since its closure during Covid lockdown. The cottages will be open on Easter Sunday from 11am to 3pm, so do drop in.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak.



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old customers and new .

Around 11,600 years ago the temperature began to rise very rapidly and the ice that had covered most of Britain began to retreat to the Arctic. The first settlers entered Britain across Doggerland, the lowlands of what is now the North Sea, probably following animals such as reindeer, or travelled in boats along the Atlantic coast to the western parts of Britain. As the climate continued to warm, sea levels rose, and from around 8,500 years ago Britain became an island.



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Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

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



We are going to start looking again for Curlew and Lapwing at the end of March. If you would like to do something to help stop them disappearing from the local countryside, we would like your help, please.

We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them.

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group area extends from

Brockton, Minsterley, Pontesbury and Plealey in the north, to Rorrington, Hemford, and Stiperstones, Cothecott and Wilderley hills in the south, and includes the Rea and Hope valleys, and Habberley brook.

We have looked for Curlews and Lapwings since 2014. In 2021, we found 12 breeding pairs of Curlews, but didn't find any nesting Lapwing. We hope to find the same number of Curlews again, and more Lapwing.

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, and more about our plans for 2023, will be explained at the meeting.

Community Wildlife Bird Group meeting
7.30pm, Tuesday 21st March
Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, SY5 0EH
All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Rea Valley pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

If you want to help, but can't get to the meeting, please email me: leo@leosmith.org.uk

Leo Smith

Pontesbury Gardeners' News

It's been a good start to the year with lots of people at the Trading Post on Saturday mornings. We still have a good number of seed potatoes still available, and it's not too late to get them started: just lay them out in seed trays, or egg boxes, in a light, frost-free room and let the shoots develop so that they have a head start when planted out in late March and early April.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 7 March, at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall, and we hope to see more Members attending. There will be refreshments available at the end of the meeting where we'll all get a chance to chat and catch up after the winter - being busy at the Trading Post has meant that we may not have had as much time as we would like to talk to everyone on Saturday mornings.

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon



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St
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Place

Our health service has been in the news lately, and not always for the best of reasons. The service is under pressure following COVID-19 and high levels of seasonal flu. We all admire the immense dedication of those who work in our NHS, as shown when we came together during the pandemic to clap their commitment.

I have spoken to staff across the NHS in Shropshire in recent weeks, who have made me aware of the pressures. This is mainly due to the rise in demand for healthcare as our population ages, compounded by the backlog of treatments not able to be done during the pandemic. But this is also due to staffing shortages, with high vacancy levels in many areas and specialities, and recruitment into rural areas among the most difficult to fill. These pressures have led to unprecedented strike action by health workers. This is not all about pay, but pay demands are a big part of the present disputes.

So, what is the Government doing?

Well, first increasing the budget for both the NHS and social care significantly, by £7bn over the next two years. The Department for Health and Social Care budget for 2023/24 will be £182bn, one in every six taxpayer's pounds planned to be spent by the Government. To put this into context, there was a claim on a bus in 2016 that the NHS would get an extra £350million a week. In this coming year, NHS England will get almost £600m a week more than in 2016/17.

Secondly, increasing the number of doctors and nurses working in the NHS. When I was Health Minister, we increased the number of training places for doctors and nurses by 25% each. These additional nurses are joining the workforce now, and the doctors are in training roles. Last year, the number of nurses increased by 10,500 and the number of doctors by 4,700.

Third, on pay, every member of the more than 1.2m staff on the NHS pay scales (pretty much everyone other than doctors & dentists), received a £1,400 pay rise from last April, which was an 9.3% increase for the lowest paid. Health unions should engage with the Independent Pay Review Board and NHS employers to make their case that the coming year settlement should reflect more of the inflationary pressures we have seen since last April, rather than focusing on the year before.

I have long called for a Long-Term Workforce Plan and am pleased the NHS is finalising such a plan to be published soon, which will consider the number of staff needed to address patient need.

There are 23,000 more primary care staff working in general practice than in 2019, with a 19% increase across practices in the Ludlow constituency. This is a good start, but the NHS requires reform of various working practices, which currently work against filling rotas, such as experienced consultants and doctors retiring early due to high pension taxes and far too much reliance on agency staff.

There is also a new Urgent and Emergency Care Plan for acute hospitals, intended to tackle hospital discharges, increase bed capacity, and reduce pressure. With an investment of £1bn, the investment will deliver 5,000 more beds and over 800 more ambulances.

We need the NHS more than ever, and there is clearly an enormous amount to do to get back on track. But I believe the commitment is there from the public, staff, and Government to ensure the NHS has a healthy and viable future.



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Throughout the Neolithic (New Stone Age) and Bronze Ages, from around 6,000 to 3,000 years ago, people continued to pass back and forth across the English Channel, importing their distinctive styles of pottery and metalwork. These people may have included the first farmers at the start of the Neolithic Age. Or they may have been some of the ‘Beaker people’, who introduced characteristic decorated pottery, developed copper working and traded metal with other parts of Europe.



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The Marches Choir present Dvořák and Schubert

On Saturday March 18th, the 80 strong Marches Choir of Bishop's Castle, joining with Cantorion Aberteifi from Cardigan, West Wales, will take to the concert platform for their Spring Concert. They will present a feast of choral music from composers of the late 19th Century, with a Czech - Germanic flavour that will delight audiences with a taste for rich, sonorous harmonies and deeply moving melodic beauty.



The featured work is by Antonin Dvořák, one of the most influential composers of his era, whose Mass in D exemplifies his exquisite and refreshing style of writing. With the inclusion of Czech folk song and modes, Dvořák's Mass captures the essence of the familiar movements (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and so on) and employs a startling variety of harmonic variety in the sometimes unconventional but effective chords and key changes. There are some lovely solo sections within the work which will be performed by Caroline Clarke (Soprano) and selected choir members.

The Te Deum, a shorter but equally large-scale work, is uplifting and forward-looking in its lively setting of the text which is one of praise and celebration.

Dvořák poured heart and soul into this music and the result is two perfectly crafted works which will both move and thrill the listener.

Schubert's Mass in G is a beautiful work, never ostentatious but melodic and devotional in style. Schubert was a highly gifted lyrical composer with an exquisite sense of melody and drama, both of which are displayed in this short mass - a choral gem.

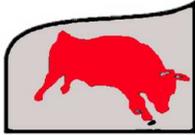
The Marches Choir will again be joined by the Marches Sinfonia for this uplifting concert. A treat for all music lovers!

The venue is St John's Church, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AF, with the concert starting at 7.30pm. Tickets (£15, children and students free) are available by calling 01588 650315 or online via www.ticketsource.co.uk, and can also be purchased from choir members or on the night."

And Then There Were None

Ten strangers arrive on an island invited by an unknown host. Each of them has a secret to hide and a crime for which they must pay. The strangers include a reckless playboy, a troubled Harley Street doctor, a formidable judge, an uncouth detective, an unscrupulous mercenary, a God-fearing spinster, two restless servants, a highly decorated general and an anxious secretary. One by one they are picked off. Who will survive? And who is the killer? Copies of an ominous nursery rhyme hang in each room, the murders mimicking the awful fates of its 'Ten Little Soldier Boys'.

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group presents, by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd., an amateur performance of *And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie, at St. Nicholas' Hall at 7:30 on Wednesday to Saturday, May 31st to June 3rd. Tickets cost £12 (£6 for under 16s) and are obtainable from Robert Currie (01743 790123), Helen Bryant (01743 247450) or the Drama Group's phone (07951 862881).



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From the year 43, Roman influence transformed the way of life of people in southern and eastern Britain. The rulers organised agriculture and economic activity, some based on slave labour, around villas in the countryside. They expanded towns and built roads to speed the progress of their legions between military forts. Yet in the more remote areas of western and northern Britain, life continued much as before. Only small numbers settled: as the Empire collapsed, Rome withdrew the legionaries and high-ranking officials.



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Dear Friends

This week I was in Birmingham again. I'm looking for a permanent care home for my much-loved Aunt. So, on Wednesday, after shortlisting four homes, I went visiting. Unusually the M6 was quiet, so I was early for my first visit which gave me chance to look online again at the second home which I decided not to visit. Out of the three remaining homes, two were suitable – both had pros and cons but both provided good accommodation with lots of activities for my aunt who is a very sociable woman. Over the next few weeks, after assessments, aunt will move to her new forever home and then my cousin and I will begin the daunting task of clearing out aunt's flat. I'm sure many of you will have been in the same position and realise how difficult it is.

And then tonight, I was reminded of the gospel reading from last Sunday – Mathew 6, 25 -34.

Jesus says some wonderful things about not worrying about clothes to wear; what we will eat or drink. And the passage ends with this "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own".

How true is that. With blessings Pam

Pontesbury Churches Group



Foodbank

An encouragement to continue to support the work of the foodbanks in Minsterley and Pontesbury after we ran out of food at Pontesbury last week. There are collecting points at St George's , Hope and Holy Trinity.

St George's Meadow

The newly established meadow in St George's churchyard is growing well. In order to give the green hay seedlings a better chance of flourishing, another cut is planned. We will need volunteers to rake away the mown grass as mulch for the newly planted hedge. Mowing is planned for Saturday 4th March at 10.30 a.m. Please bring your own rake and wheelbarrow or builders bag.

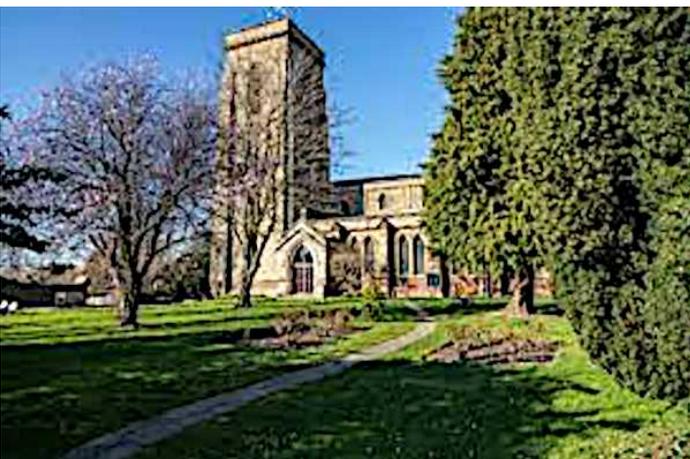
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

Many will have been appalled at the terrible earthquake that has killed thousands in Turkey and Syria. One way of responding to this tragedy is via Tearfund. Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

Palm Sunday

This year, as last year, we will be dramatizing the Passion Gospel at St George's on Palm Sunday. This requires a cast of thousands (well twenty anyway). If you would like to take part, having even a non-speaking part or would like to help out behind the scenes, please speak to Greg asap. Having failed to find a donkey last year, I am immensely grateful to Sarah

Edwards who has successfully sourced one for this year.



Carbon Footprint

Many thanks to Gerald Worrall for his hard work in calculating the carbon footprint of St George's, just over 21 tonnes of CO2 a year is our best estimate. This is the first step towards reducing the footprint. If you want to undertake this challenge as an individual, then you can visit <https://www.climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/>

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The population of Britain fell from a few million to fewer than one million people after the Romans left in the 5th century. Over the next few centuries, groups of Angles and Saxons arrived from northwest Germany and southern Denmark, taking advantage of this 'failed state' and establishing Anglo-Saxon as the dominant culture in England. The invaders did not wipe out the existing population; instead, they seem to have integrated with them.

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that ONE VACANCY has occurred in the office of Councillor for the Hope Ward, and Worthen with Shelve Parish Council intends to co-opt.

You can stand for Councillor you are over 18 and meet one of the following criteria:

- you are registered as a local government elector for your area, or
- you have lived in the area for at least 12 months, or
- been a tenant or landowner for at least 12 months, or
- your main or only place of work has been in the area for at least 12 months

About Your Parish Council The role of your Parish Council is to work towards improving the well-being of its community and providing services at the most local level. They work to represent their local community, deliver services and strive to improve quality of life. Worthen with Shelve Parish Council provides services such as;

Maintaining Closed Cemeteries in Hope and Worthen and the War Memorial in Worthen
Maintaining and Managing Hope Burial Ground
Bus shelters
Street Lighting
Crime reduction
Public Toilets in Snailbeach
Liaising with Shropshire Council on many issues such as safety and condition of roads and road signs, litter bins, planning applications and flooding.

Councillors attending monthly meeting make decisions on the works and direction of the Council, this means deciding where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. They are the voice of the people, representing the view of the people on bodies that affect the wider community such as the Police and Shropshire Council.

If you are interested in being a Parish Councillor then please contact the Clerk for further information and an application form. All completed applications must be received by 17th April, 2023.

All candidates are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings which are held on the last Monday of each month.

Email: clerk@worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk

This notice is dated the 22nd day of February 2023

Sarah-Jane Smith, Clerk to the Council .

Pontesbury Library

The Pavilion, Hall Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury SY5 0RF

Opening hours

Monday	10am to 1pm
Tuesday	10am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	2pm to 5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am to 1pm

01743 250610

pontesbury.library@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries

This library has car park, ramp access,
and accessible public toilet.

At Pontesbury Library

You can borrow:

- books for babies, children, young people and adults, in hardback, paperback and large print
- talking books on CD and tape for children and adults
- language courses in books and on CD
- Books on Prescription, fiction in other languages, books for readers with dyslexia and skills for life material
- E-books and E-magazines

You can use:

- computers to access the internet, send emails and produce documents
- Wi-Fi
- reference books and the online reference library
- photocopier
- the Home Library Service if you cannot come to the library
- the Health Zone

You can find out about:

- your local area
- events
- courses
- Council services.

You can take part in:

- Story Times
- reading group
- volunteering.

You can see:

- displays
- local history material.

Shropshire Libraries charges

Hire charges

- Talking books and language courses - £2.70, 3 week loan

Items returned late

- Adult books - 25p per service day.
- Children's books - no charge.
- Audio-visual items - charge equivalent to hire fee/period overdue.

There is a maximum fine of £5 per book, £10 for audio-visual items.

Requests

Items in stock at Shropshire Libraries – £1

Requests are free for children, full-time students under 19 and concessionary members.

Inter-library loan (borrowed from another library authority) - £20 for books, £16 for periodical articles

For more details of charges please ask a member of staff or visit the Shropshire Council website

BECOME A FRIEND OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY

FOPL membership is free!

By becoming a Friend of Pontesbury Library you are demonstrating your support for our campaign to sustain a library service for the whole local community in the Rea Valley area. Thank you.

As a member you will:

- * receive regular updates about our fundraising & social activities
- * get a 20% discount on a variety of FOPL purchases e.g. event tickets
- * be entitled to attend AGM & Committee meetings

Just complete and submit the simple online application form, but we'd also encourage you to join our Library Lottery as one way of donating to the campaign .

Sabrina Mobile Library

The van comes to our area on alternate Wednesdays

8th March, 22nd March

Hope Village Hall	1.00pm
Snailbeach Village Hall	2.00pm
Stiperstones Inn	2.30pm
Tankerville Pottery	3.15pm
Shelve Lower Farm	3.45pm



The Amesbury Archer

8000 years ago a huge earth slip followed by a violent tsunami split what is now Great Britain from the European mainland. Ever since visitors, invaders, or immigrants to our island have had to cross the sea by boat or plane. I recently went to see the remains of man who made the journey from the Alps to Southern Britain bringing with him the skills and knowledge for a new era, the bronze age.

In the spring of 2002 what started as a routine excavation was undertaken in advance of the building of a new school at Amesbury in Wiltshire. By the end of the excavation the richest Bronze Age burial yet found in Britain had been discovered. The Bronze Age man discovered there had been buried not far from the great temple of Stonehenge. He was a man who owned and could work the new and magical metals of gold and copper. And he had come from what is now central Europe, perhaps around the Alps. Was he a king of Stonehenge?

What no one knew then was that the grave, the burial of the Amesbury Archer as he has come to be known, was to be the most well-furnished Early Bronze Age burial ever seen in Britain.

The bones of the man found inside showed that he was a strong man, who had lived to be 35 to 45 years old - a good age to have reached in the Early Bronze Age. For much of his life he had been disabled as the result of a traumatic injury to his left knee. This had caused an infection of the bone, which would have left him in constant pain, as the injury would have discharged every day of his life, and it would have smelt. The tooth abscess that had penetrated his jaw would have smelt too. But he survived, walking with a pronounced limp and carrying his weight on his right leg.

At his death, his mourners buried him in the way that was typical of the time, on his side and slightly curled up, as if he was asleep. The offerings placed beside him - the accoutrements of a hunter or warrior and other symbols of status - are also typical of the time. What is atypical is the sheer quantity of these grave goods.

Some of the objects hint how he was dressed or adorned when he was buried. By his head were two gold hair clips. On his forearm was a black coloured sandstone wrist-guard, or bracer. This both protected his arm from the recoil of the bow he would have used when hunting or fighting and acted as a symbol of status. Next to the wristguard was a bone pin, which may have held a cloak, perhaps of leather. A copper knife was also found, partly covered by his torso, this may have been placed by his side, or worn in a sheath on his chest.



I photographed the Archer at Salisbury museum. You can clearly see one leg is longer than the other. The pottery buried with him are associated with the 'Beaker' people who originated in south east Europe but who spread across the continent 5000 years ago bringing with them new skills in metal work, agriculture and house building

Computer Problems?



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Setting up a PC out of the box can be challenging, it often ends up in confusion resulting in a machine that is a pain to use. The manufacturers don't make it any easier, bombarding the user with multiple choices and unnecessary software.

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Contact: Rob
Tel: 01588-650567
Mobile: 07765-240718
Email: robwestonnet@aol.com

From the 8th century, Vikings from Norway and Denmark mounted raids all around the coasts of Britain and fought the Anglo-Saxons for control of the English kingdoms. While Norwegian DNA is still detectable in northern groups, especially in Orkney, no genetic cluster in England corresponds to the areas that were under Danish control for two centuries. The Danes were highly influential militarily, politically and culturally but may have settled in numbers that were too modest to have a clear genetic impact on the population.



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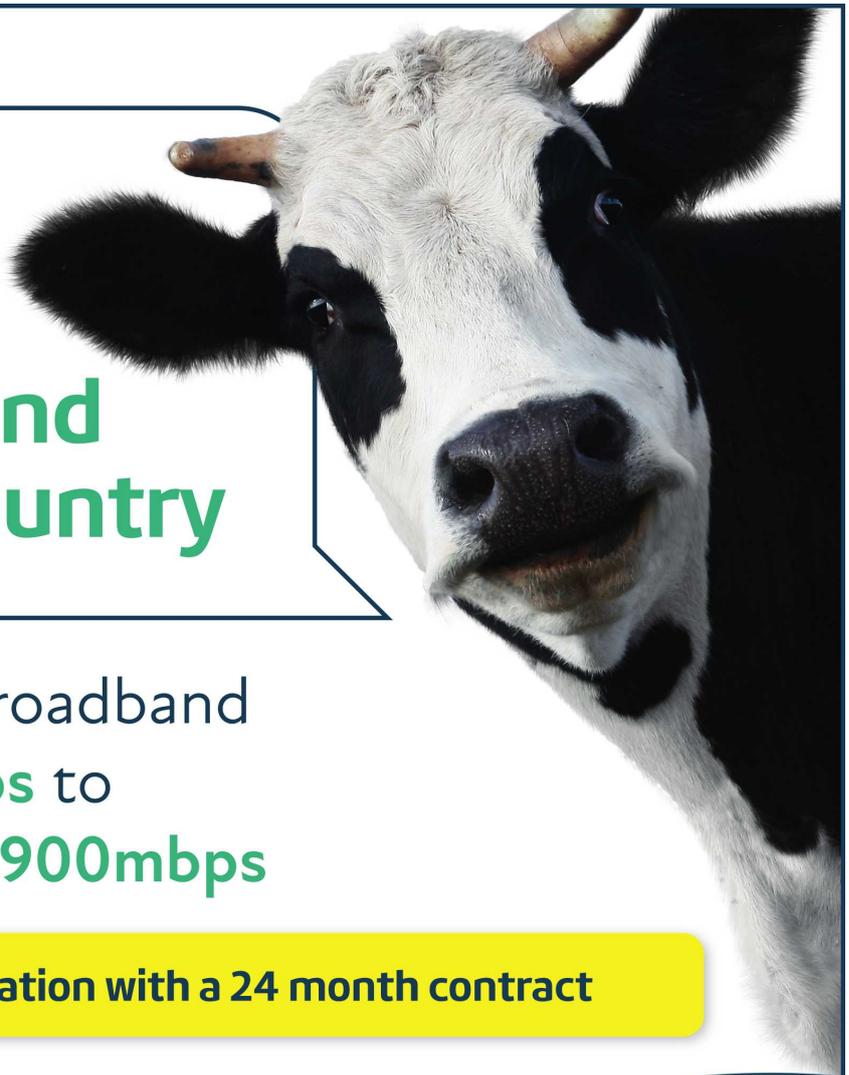
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Beautiful location with wonderful views.



In 1066 William Duke of Normandy defeated the last Anglo-Saxon King, Harold, at the Battle of Hastings. Norman rule transformed the English language and culture, but there is no genetic evidence to suggest that more than a small number of elite families settled in Britain.

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West Mercia Police contact numbers

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

Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Twitter: @SouthShropCops

Facebook: Bishop's Castle Policing Team Rural Watch



Team details

Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt 0640 Jenni Price

Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 3331 Stuart Cooté

Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 21056 Matt Howell

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown

Team Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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

17th January 2023 – 15th February 2023

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Livestock worrying	Flock of Ewe's chased, with one being visibly attacked and killed	Mucklewick Hill, between Nind and Shelve	Occurred during late January
Theft	Livestock trailer stolen (holds 8 – 10 sheep) from a field	Wagbeach (just falls on Shrewsbury section)	Trailer likely used to steal quad bikes which were stolen from farms in Grimmer, Minsterley overnight on the 12 th – 13 th January
Assault x2		Worthen	

LIVESTOCK WORRYING

Lambing season is now starting where historically it has coincided with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs. We have recently received reports of Ewes being attacked or chased and later dying in the Hemford and Shelve areas.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep, worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep. Dog Owners, either living locally or simply visiting the area for a walk, have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept on a lead around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that the dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.



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After the Middle Ages, Britain's developing global connections as an aggressive imperial and commercial power led millions of its people to migrate elsewhere in the world, and eventually brought new settlers to Britain. As in the time of the first settlers, changing political, economic or climatic circumstances have kept people in restless movement – unsettled – as they seek new opportunities, or try to escape famine, persecution or war.



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What do you call a Roman emperor with bad allergies?

Julius Snaesar

Who is in favour of bringing Roman numerals back into use?

I for one.

My Roman doctor said I needed an IV.

I asked: "Four what?"

You ever hear the one about the Ancient Roman cannibal who devoured his wife?

He was Gladiator

I can't Remember How to Write 1, 1000, 51, 6, and 500 in Roman Numerals

I M LIVID

My girlfriend looks like a Roman Goddess..

Pale, No arms.

A Roman walks into a bar. He holds up two fingers and says...

"Five beers, please!"

Why shouldn't you study French philosophy before Roman poetry?

Because that would be putting Descarte before the Horace.

Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar. "Get out of here!" shouts the bartender..

>!"We don't serve your type."!<

The weather proved a teaser!

The emperor asked "Could this be rain?",
But the answer was "Hail, Caesar"

I used to wonder why my history teachers loved to teach about the Roman Empire so much. I think I get it now.

They both hated vandals and goths.



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www.heatherkidd.org.uk

FLOODING IN HOPE, SNAILBEACH OR STIPERSTONES.

Worthen and Shelve Parish Council has now bought a stock of flood sacks. If you have experienced any flooding and would like some, drop me a line.

VOTER ID

From 4 May 2023 voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. No elections are planned in the Shropshire Council area this year, but from February 2023 onwards anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID - known as a Voter Authority Certificate at www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

BISHOPS CASTLE HOSPITAL

There is an NHS Public Engagement Event on Wednesday 1st March at the Methodist Hall, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. There will be 2 sessions either 2 to 4.30pm or 5.30 to 8pm. More details to follow by email, social media, posters and flyers. Please use this opportunity to have your say on the health services that we need in our local area especially our hospital in Bishop's castle.

ROADS 1: ACTION ON LANDSLIP ROAD RESTRICTION AFTER 3 YEAR WAIT

Shropshire Council is going to complete road repairs on the A490 near Chirbury three years after a landslip made one lane of the road unusable.

I have been putting pressure on the Council, almost from day one on this one. Since the landslip in February 2020 we have had a number of studies and some lengthy discussions but little action on an actual repair. All we have had is temporary traffic lights which have cost the taxpayer a significant amount over the last 3 years.

Now at long last we have a promise of action. Shropshire Council is looking to undertake the repair during the period April to September 2023. Given the complexity of the job this will probably mean the closure of the road for some of that period. The important thing is we get a fully functioning road back by the end of the summer.

ROADS 2: MONTGOMERY DISRUPTION

Although outside our area I thought I'd better warn people that there is going to be major disruption from early May till December 2023 in Montgomery. This is to replace the water main along the B4385 through Montgomery. Heather

Key Phone Numbers

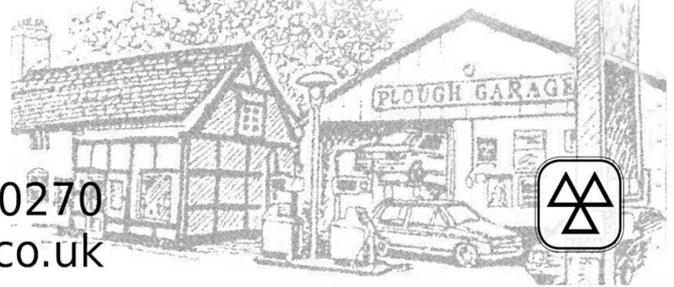
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Until recently we had only tantalising postcards from the past, in the form of archaeological finds and much later written accounts, to tell the stories of the early arrivals. Our family journeys are written in our genes, and now genetic analysis can provide new clues to our diverse origins. Geneticists are working side by side with geographers and archaeologists to piece together the evidence of Britain's earliest occupants.

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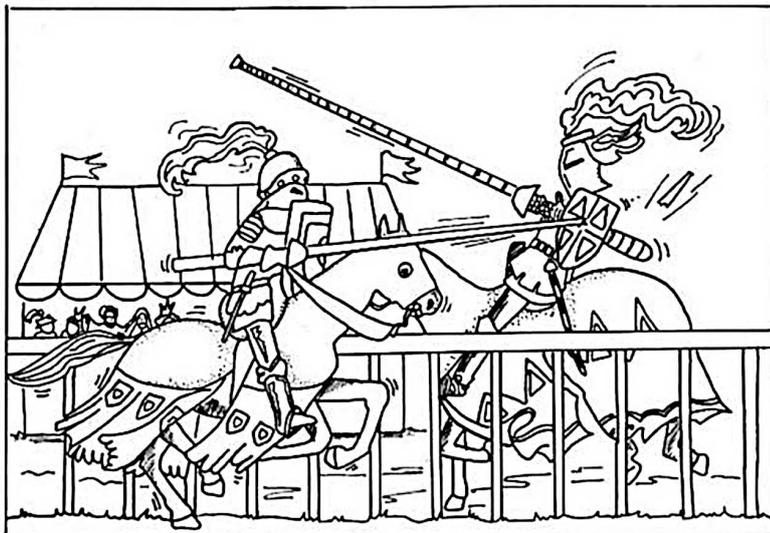
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 O T Z S L U G J O G F I R F O O F F T A N D E T
 U A Z C A E L B B P O T T G L V C O Y E I T P W
 P K L H K D I F L C V S N Y R C K S R U H N Z B
 A T P A R P E F E U P U U D I I Y M T G L N E U
 Y Y E I T U X S E C K O O R N V E R I H N I F D
 R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

TOURNAMENTS	JOUSTING	KNIGHTSCODE	FALLENHEROS	BATTLEFIELDS
AWAYFROMHOME	COUNTRYMEN	SCARY	PROTECTORS	FAMILIES
BANNERMEN	CHAINMALE	HORSES	TRAINED	FIGHTER
LOYALTOKING	FEARED	KNIVES	AXES	SWORDS
CRUSADES	CASTLES	LANDS	FAVORED	HONORABLE
NOBLE	BATTLES	SHIVELRY	VALOR	ARMOUR

From WordMint

In the days of yore, a knight on an important mission, rode his horse so hard that it became lame. Spying a village ahead, the knight headed straight for the stables there.

"I must have a horse!" he cried, "The life of the King depends upon it!"

The stable keeper shook his head. "I have no horses," he said. "They have all been taken in the service of the King."

"You must have something—a pony, a donkey, a mule, anything at all?" the knight asked.

"Nothing. . . unless. . . no, I couldn't..."

The knight's eyes lit up. "Tell me!"

The stable keeper led the knight into the stable where they saw an enormous dog! It was almost as large as the knight's horse. But it was also the filthiest, shaggiest, smelliest, dog the knight had ever seen.

Swallowing, the knight said "I'll take it. Where is the saddle?"

The stable keeper was adamant. "I can't do it." he told the knight.

"Why won't you give me the dog?" cried the desperate knight.

The stable keeper replied, "I wouldn't send a knight out on a dog like this."

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

Pontesbury to Clun 745 A		Ludlow to Clun 745 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		

Clun to Ludlow 745 B		Clun to Pontesbury 745 A	
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

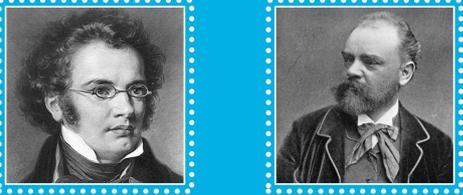


775 Tuesdays only

Pontesbury to Bishops Castle 775 A		Newtown to Bishops Castle 775 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		

Bishops Castle to Newtown 775 B		Bishops Castle to Pontesbury 775 A	
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



Schubert Mass in G Dvořák Mass in D

**Marches
Choir
and Sinfonia**
Alistair Auld, Conductor

Saturday March 18th
7.30 pm
St John's Church, Bishops Castle

Tickets £15 on 01588 650315
and from TicketSource
Children and Students FREE
www.marcheschoir.org.uk




BINGO

Family Fun Night

**In aid of
Hospice at Home**

FRIDAY 17th MARCH 2023
Doors Open from 7.00pm
(Eyes Down 7.30pm)
Hope Village Hall

Bingo Books
£10 for 6 or £5 for 3
To include a strip of raffle tickets

Donations of Raffle Prizes would be greatly appreciated.
Please contact Clare (790419) or Deborah (891414)

Refreshments will be available on the night

SpArC Bishops Castle Leisure Centre Open Day

Saturday 11th March 10am – 2pm

Come and try our facilities and activities....

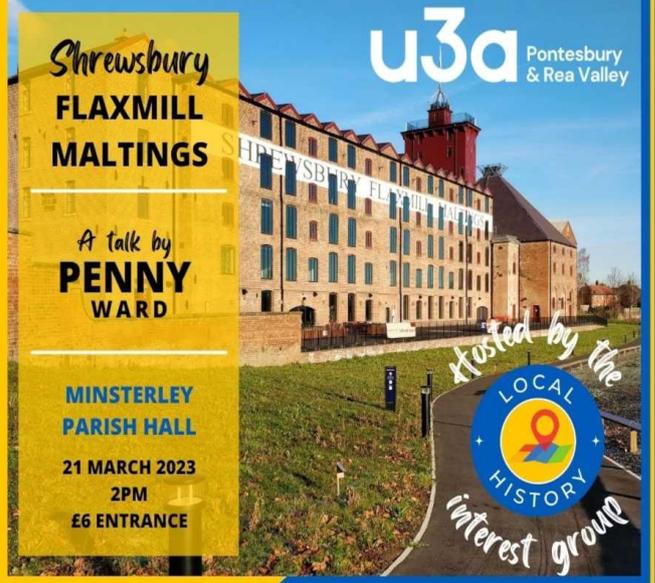
- * Meet the Team * View the Facilities
- * Find out about our Exercise on Referral program
- * Plus specialised Classes

FREE Activities throughout the day will include:

- * Gym Tours in our Brand New State of the art Gym – powered by Technogym
- * Pool Inflatable Fun sessions (please pre-book)
- * Membership information & Offers
- * Fitness Class Taster Sessions
- * Bouncy Castle Fun
- * Plus Much More....




For More information:
Tel: 01588 630243
Twitter: BishopsCastleLC
Facebook: bishopscastleleisure
Email: sparc.leisure@shropshire.gov.uk

**Shrewsbury
FLAXMILL
MALTINGS**

A talk by
**PENNY
WARD**

**MINSTERLEY
PARISH HALL**

21 MARCH 2023
2PM
£6 ENTRANCE

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Hosted by the
**LOCAL
HISTORY
interest group**