



SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

February 2021
Happy New Year

Free



A barely done fillet steak, a crunchy pavlova, a box of chocs, a fine french claret and a wonderful partner; just close your eyes forget the lock down, forget the cold and the damp, just close your eyes and a romantic Valentine's weekend in Paris awaits inside.



Whats in this months issue?

Aparty from musings of Paris and items of affection:-

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From the editor

This month I have tried something a little different. Threaded through the adverts are little snippets of 'pleasure' to try and help us through this next lockdown. Follow the hearts for a glimpse of what many of us might be missing over the Valentine's weekend.

We have had distribution problems owing to the lockdown and so we have reduced the print run. Copies are available in the shop and if you think you can spread the news a little by taking a copy to a friend or neighbour who didn't get their regular delivery, we would be very grateful.

As always these days the newsletter is available online at www.snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk
The deadline for March is Feb 21st
articles to
sammy@snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk



I first went to Paris on the traditional school trip. A long overnight coach and ferry journey with no onboard toilets and too few stops. It turned into a traumatic trip as our French teacher died of a heart attack. For our honeymoon we took the boat train from Waterloo with confetti spilling out of our luggage and no money. We could only afford a small room with a creaky bed and a bathroom down the hall that you had to pay 4 francs extra for.

Since then we have been many times by coach car and the brilliant eurostar. We stayed with our teenage children in a very french hotel on Montmartre next to a nightclub. We loved the crowds and stalls surrounding Sacre Coeur where Lara had her portrait sketched in the street.



On one of George and Joan's first Longmynd excursions we were treated to a luxurious Sofitel Hotel a glass bubble lift and naked Germans in the spa!

We have cycled around the deserted city late on a sunday evening and walked our feet off around the shops and galleries - c'est si bon

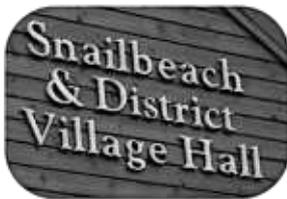


Thanks for Kindness

Yesterday (January 5th), I had to go to Pontesbury. I sat on a bench at St. George's while waiting for the return bus. When I got home, Lara Sproson phoned to say a lady had picked up, from that bench, an envelope addressed to me. Lara would arrange to collect it from her and return it to me. 30 minutes later, Elaine Uttley delivered it to me.

The envelope contained papers whose loss would have seriously inconvenienced me. My grateful thanks are due to the lady who spotted it and to Lara and Elaine for collecting and returning it. Their kindness averted problems that my carelessness would have caused me. In these troubled times, such care and generosity form welcome signals of hope.

Robert Currie, Snailbeach



Well, we eventually managed to hold the Annual General Meeting (just before we were completely closed down again). I am pleased to report that the committee has been strengthened by the inclusion of four new members, who I am sure will be bringing new vitality to our work once we are able to get going again. Welcome to Anne-Marie and Carl Fleming, Jenny Mix and Rod Burt. The only other change is that I have stepped down as Chairman. I am remaining on the committee but, at least for the time being, wish to take a slightly less active role. My congratulations and support go to my successor, Julian.

The committee now is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Julian Bromhead |
| Vice-chairman | Ray Harper |
| Secretary | Pam Bickley |
| Treasurer | Maria Marks |
| Bookings Secretary | Maria Marks |
| (assisted by Ray Harper if required) | |
| Health and Safety | John Davies |

Trustees

Tim Hockley
Margaret Price
Pam Davies
Anita Evans
Caroline Harper
Carl Fleming
Anne-Marie Fleming
Jenny Mix
Rod Burt

The Sub Committees (namely Catering, Entertainment, Play Area and Building and Maintenance) will be confirmed at the next meeting (to be held if possible in February). For your information the sub committees are mainly made up from the trustees but others with specific interests or perhaps skills can be co-opted onto sub committees without being on the main committee. So if you feel you have something to offer please step forward. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best for 2021 and beyond.

**Ray
Harper**

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Tel: 01588-650567
Mobile: 07765-240718
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Getting to Paris - Our favourite way is Eurostar, you can now book direct from Birmingham. The London terminal is now at St Pancras, probably the city's most beautiful station. Check in always seems easier than at airports with fewer endless queues.

The latest trains have a top speed of 320 km/hour and it is a remarkable experience flashing through the french countryside. Arriving in Paris you find yourself at le Gare du Nord right in the middle of the city. Who knows what adventures await us.

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Pontesbury Gardeners' News

At the time of writing we are in 2021's version of lockdown, whose rules are a little different to those that operated in March. Within the current rules garden centres are allowed to open, so we expect to be opening the Trading Post on Saturday 6 February as planned. However, this may have to be reviewed if the Government's rules change.

Membership fees are due at this time of year: £2 per member, or £1 for those who are retired. As we were closed for an important part of last year we are extending the membership of those who renewed for 2020 to include 2021 as well.

We are expecting deliveries of seed potatoes, onion and shallot sets, pea and bean seeds before our opening date, as well as our bulk delivery of multi-purpose compost. During last spring's lockdown so many people commented on the beneficial value of open outdoor spaces, and in particular their gardens, so we hope that we can help everyone get the best out of their plots this year, and look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday mornings.

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

SHROPSHIRE ORGANIC GARDENERS

Note there will be no Potato Day at Wattlesborough this year

Price: 20p per tuber

Here's How it Works

Ordering your seed potatoes will be done by using an order form on this site. Price per tuber is 20p.

Please ensure you provide contact details (phone and/or email) when you order.

Keep checking back on here for updates as we are working as hard as we can to comply with the restrictions we are all facing at this time.

We will continue taking orders for the seed potatoes through February and March and will arrange collection times and points around the county. Please ensure we have your contact details.

Click on the link below to download the Potato Ordering Form

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Sort Code: 55-81-16

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If you do not do on-line banking or would just prefer to send the order with a cheque:

Please make Payable to:

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Send to:

Rachel Strivens

4, Pentirvin

Nr Minsterley

Shrewsbury SY5 0EZ

If you have a query:

email: shropsorgs@gmail.com

Tel: 01743 891607 – Rachel, Chairwoman



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A box of chocolates will help us pass the time. Early South American cultures drank chocolate 2500 years ago but we had to wait for the Spanish explorers in the 16th Century to bring over the first cacao beans and begin our love affair with this food of the gods.

The most expensive chocolate is made by the Amedei chocolatier of Tuscany, Italy. It has won many awards and is the basis of the Golden Opulence Sundae, a \$1,000 dessert sold at the Serendipity 3 restaurant in New York City and mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records.



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Sign up for farmer workshops on environmental schemes in the Shropshire Hills AONB

Do you farm within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? Are you interested to know the latest on environmental schemes which you may be able to join? The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is helping farmers in the area to access this information.

Coming up in February and March is a national online workshop aimed at farmers in AONBs and National Parks to focus on Countryside Stewardship as a route into the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. The workshop won't provide chapter and verse on ELM, as the scheme is still being designed. However it will focus on what you can do now through environmental schemes to keep money coming in as the Basic Payment Scheme is reduced.

The workshop will be repeated 3 times and will include:

- information on changes to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme structure, including new options for upland farmers

- practical information and signposting

- hearing from farmers currently in agri-environment schemes about what works and doesn't work for them.

- update on the forthcoming 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme.

When the dates are fixed and registration opens we will circulate details of how to register. To join our farmer mailing list for this and future updates please telephone us on 01743 254740, or email .

Welcome to a new way of getting together in 2021. We are the local **u3a** for those of you living in south Shropshire, within reach of the Rea Valley, anywhere between Bishop's Castle northwards to the A5 and other villages in the surrounding area. We are still open, active and keeping our members engaged in a variety of endeavours (while the restrictions on face-to-face activities are still in force due to the pandemic) including guests speakers monthly via Zoom, emails, Skype chats, telephone calls and a 3-weekly newsletter. We offer a variety of social, cultural and study opportunities for mature people (retired or semi-retired over the age of 55), all run on a voluntary basis by our members for our



members. To find out more please contact Susan Lockwood on 01743 791092, 07854110271 or by email susanlockwood345@btinternet.com

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When staying in Paris we prefer to be right in amongst everything. Small hotels or apartments give you easy access to the the tourist delights. If you have watched the hilarious film Le Weekend you will know what we mean. We think we stayed in the same street here we amused the cafe owner at the top of the hill by trying in my best GCE french to ask for bread and olive oil. A snack common in Spain but obviously unheard of in France. It took many tries for him to bring what we wanted. On spotting us the next day he shouted across the street "Pain à l'huile d'olive" and gave us a Parisian shrug.



Dave Ashworth

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Joe Rowson of 5 Crows Nest, Snailbeach.

28.12.1944 – 28/11/2020

Joe was born at the Crows Nest in December 1944. He was surrounded by aunties and uncles and an adoring Granny. One of his earliest memories was of Auntie Molly Rowson pulling him on a sledge through the deep snows of 1947.

He attended Minsterley school and then Mary Webb school. He was quiet, well behaved and very bookish as a boy. It came as quite a surprise when at fifteen he announced that he was going to join the Navy to become an engineer. He was too young and had to wait a year. So he worked for Morris's delivering groceries on a bike, Granville style. At sixteen he joined the navy at HMS Ganges in Ipswich and loved it. His career took him all over the world. He was involved in the Icelandic cod wars and spent time in the Middle and Far East. He always returned with presents for the family and smart suits for himself. He was always a very generous man.



After twelve years in the navy, Joe came home and never really wanted to travel very far again. He worked at Rolls Royce in Shrewsbury and then at the creamery in Minsterley. He met and married Cath in 1981 and she moved to Crows Nest with her children Daniel and Anna.

Joe was a staunch member of the Shropshire Steam Society and loved taking part in the Steam Rally. He travelled with Cath and the children to other rallies around the UK.

Joe had a lovely singing voice and was always interested in music. He played a bass horn in the Snailbeach band, and at other times he had a banjo and an electric organ. In later life he listened to all sorts of music on tape and cd.

He retired early after his first heart attack and was never fully well again. He still went to steam events but over time was able to do less of the physical things that he enjoyed with the engines and driving. He was probably never happier than when he was driving David's steam Lorry with the Morris logo on its side.

Cath died in 2009 and Joe's health has been very poor in the last few years. He was befriended by Glenys and an army of carers who looked after him well and enjoyed his company. He certainly enjoyed theirs.

Sadly Joe picked up the Corona Virus when he was recently admitted to hospital. He died on the 28th of November 2020. He is much missed by Glenys, his carers, and the families of Daniel and Anna and Pat and Sue .

We would like to say thank you to all who stood on the road side and paid their respects to Joe as his funeral cortege passed through the villages on his final journey. It really meant a lot to us and we know he would have been touched by your kindness.

Also thank you for your donations which amounted to £500 + for the British Heart Foundation.

We hope to have a memorial service at Snailbeach Methodist Chapel with internment of his ashes - as per his wishes - at a later date when it is considered safe to do so.



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On our honeymoon the budget would not stretch to an expensive restaurant. We had croissants and coffee on the street (unheard of in UK at this time) and watched crazy french drivers negotiate a tiny roundabout with horns blaring.

One evening we splashed out on a grilled tomato for Susan and a grilled sardine for me. On a later visit we did have steak; a whole fillet was cooked in front of us and a generous serving passed to our plates, we soon despatched this and were offered more, we accepted not knowing if the price would go up. We probably could have eaten the lot had we been braver.



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If you're an SWS customer, make sure you register your property for a Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher and we'll contact you when we're ready to uplift your community.

We have a full range of Gigabit connection packages for residential and business; the packages are not exclusive, so feel free to choose the package that suits you.

SO, REGISTER NOW! Express your interest in a Gigabit connection today by visiting www.secureweb.co.uk or call 01743 627 027.

Would you have survived the pandemic if you couldn't read?

For many of us the restrictions on our lives have provided the perfect opportunity to catch up on a novel we've been meaning to read, or take up baking, learn a new a new skill, or even become a teacher for our children. In fact, one way or another we've all probably spent a lot more time reading.

But it's not been this way for everyone. Many adults missed out on the opportunity to learn to read at school during the short period of time when the basic foundations of this skill are learned. In fact, research shows that over 7% of adults didn't learn to read at school and most of them have never caught up.

It may be one thing not to be able to enjoy the pleasure of reading a new title by a favourite author, but stop for a minute and think how different things would be if you couldn't read forms, shop online, apply for grants or benefits, follow medicine instructions, help children with home schooling, or follow the ever-changing Covid-19 guidelines. Many people who struggle with reading usually rely on the help of others on a daily basis but with the recent

increased levels of social isolation a lack of support has left many people coping alone.

Help is at hand! Read Easy Shropshire Hills is a local charity which provides free one-to-one coaching for people in South Shropshire and the Welsh Borders who struggle with reading. We match up each new reader with a trained reading coach and they work at their own pace without pressure through our reading programme. In normal circumstances coaching takes place at a quiet location but early in the pandemic we introduced coaching online, or by phone and many of our readers can carry on learning even when they can't see their coach in person.

We can now also sign up anyone who wants to start our programme by phone or online so there's no need for them to leave their own home. So, if it's not possible, or convenient, for new readers and their coaches to meet face to face we can get everything going remotely.

It's never too late to learn. please get in touch to find out more. For a confidential conversation, call Amana on 07707 762653 or email amana@readeasy.org.uk
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Our hairdressers are all in lockdown. All those of us whose locks are getting out of control or whose 'natural' colour is beginning to fade wish them a speedy return to business as soon as it is safe to do so.

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Even a very unfashion conscious man like me could not fail to be impressed by the elegance of French women. On the outside their attention to detail and accessories is clear but what about beneath those chic Parisian suits and dresses. Nylon stockings made their debut in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1939 as German tanks were driving up the Champs Elysée. After the war French ladies would have instantly fallen in love with this synthetic fabric made of "carbon, water and air." I would like to think that many of the ladies visiting the fashion houses on Boulevard Houseman now are still wearing stockings and not tights.

Letter from Westminster – February 2021

This month marks one year since the Coronavirus reached our shores, and the remarkable transformation our society has undertaken due to its devastating impact over the past 12 months.



The whole country has come together to try to stop Covid in its tracks, and restore some sense of normality to our lives. But at the heart of this great national effort has been our NHS, who have endured 12 months of intense pressure, saving lives from Covid while also maintaining as much as possible the regular service on which we all rely.

Philip Dunne MP

So I wanted to take this column to offer my sincere thanks to all those who have played their part – doctors, nurses, and all NHS and care staff, as well as those who have come out of retirement to volunteer. Volunteers have played a key role in supporting the NHS this year, whether in delivering healthcare or the vaccination programme, or helping people who have been shielding to secure supplies. I am pleased the government has swept away some of the bureaucratic issues that were preventing people from taking part.

Like many, I spent much of 2020 having meetings through Zoom, including with our local NHS leaders and public health directors. I suspect for most public health directors around the country, the idea of having to deal with a pandemic was hoped to be a remote possibility. So I am grateful that we have been so well served in Shropshire, with an effective test and trace system that has acted swiftly to curtail outbreaks, including last year in few local care homes, some businesses, and rather publicly at a site in Craven Arms. There is no question that swift coordinated action stopped greater spread of the virus into Shropshire's wider population.

Local GPs and primary care staff have also been crucial in the roll out of the vaccine in South Shropshire, and the inspiring vigilance of care home staff has ensured that two thirds of care homes in Shropshire remained covid-free last year.

I also pay tribute to the work of the Armed Forces, who have stepped up to offer logistical and medical support, such as providing ambulance drivers, as well as personnel to man testing centres around the country.

As a former Hospitals Minister, I am well aware of the pressure that exceptional events can put on local healthcare systems, let alone a global pandemic that has morphed into an increasingly contagious variant. So I can only commend and thank the resilience of all those involved in keeping our health services going, but particularly all those working in our NHS.

We are not through this pandemic, but each vaccine into an arm is another light to brighten the end of the tunnel. I know everyone involved in care and health will continue to do their utmost to keep us safe this year, as they did last year. So it is up to all of us to step up too, and stick to the rules, follow the guidance, and take whatever steps we can to break the chain of infection. That way we hasten the return to normality in the months ahead.

Harry Coyle

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NATURAL ENGLAND Notes from the hill

In the last few weeks the hill has seen sub-zero temperatures and frequent falls of snow. Being out on site has been a bit strange particularly on days when the green countryside around has been bathed in sunshine, contrasting with the hill sitting under its cold blanket of snow and fog.

We saw a lot of people visiting the hill during the snow, but now that it has gone and the country has gone into lockdown things have calmed right down. The nature reserve is still open but, following Government guidelines should only be used by local people for exercise.

The wildlife of the Stiperstones are adapted to the unpredictable weather that the hill experiences at this time of year and have found various strategies to cope with the harsh environment. The most obvious strategy for many creatures is to move to lower altitudes and many birds either migrate to sunnier countries like the cuckoo which heads off early to central Africa, notably the Congo. The cuckoo can head off earlier than other migratory birds as it has handed over the responsibility of child care to foster parents, by laying its eggs in other birds' nests. In persistent hard weather many birds that nest on the Stiperstones, like skylarks and meadow pipits will move away to lower lying land and can often be found along the coast where the insect feeding is still good. Some resident birds will change their diet from insects to seeds and plant material which is more plentiful in and around farmland in the winter months.

However, the really tough birds, such as red grouse, remain on the hill throughout the winter and have adapted to survive in the harshest conditions. They have dense insulating plumage which prevents heat loss, and their feathers even extend down to their toes. They survive on eating the shoots of heather and other plant material which is available even when the snow blankets the top of the heather plants.



Some creatures that are limited in their migration and can't find a food source in winter, like bats and dormice decide to sleep out the winter, although on warm winter nights bats can often be seen feeding again. Many reptiles and amphibians like common lizards and newts will burrow down to depths where they will not freeze and only emerge again when conditions are suitable. Insects also do this but can also overwinter in various states such as egg, larva, pupa or adult. We will all have seen queen wasps, the only survivors of the hive, which overwinter as adults ready to emerge in spring to start a new colony. They will go into a semi-hibernation called diapause, from which they will emerge if the heating in your house wakes them. Some butterflies overwinter as adults too, by producing an antifreeze in their blood and the brimstone butterfly is one of these, often overwintering in ivy, it is one of the first to be seen emerging in spring.

Our rugged Exmoor ponies can also cope with the toughest of winters. These ponies are the closest relative to the original horses of Europe and have survived in the uplands since the last ice age. In winter they grow an extra layer to their brown coats that protects them from the wind and rain.

They also have an impressive digestive system which allows them to eat and process large amounts of rough vegetation including bramble and shrubs which other horses would ignore. This winter fodder allows them to create heat in their bodies throughout the winter months.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak.



A TALE OF TWO KITTIES

Chapter 3: The move to Sohar

Rosa McCombe

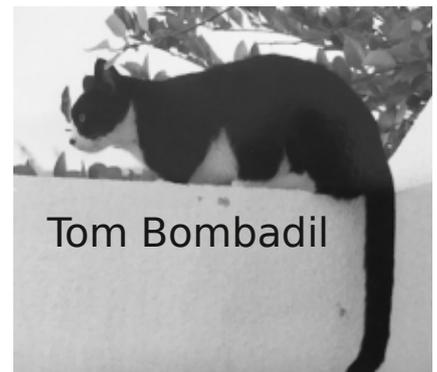


Sohar was a small coastal town 2 hours north of Oman's capital Muscat, and 2 hours south of Dubai and the United Emirates. It was a sprawling bustling place, very different from my previous home in Sur. Everywhere in the country, roundabouts were a unique feature. Each had a distinctive sculpture in the middle. The strangest one I saw had imitation palm trees, this in a land bursting with natural date palms. Another had a giant open treasure chest with gold jewels and coins spilling out. Occasionally I would drive the 2 hours through the desert to IKEA and the sophisticated shopping malls and exquisite souks. The gold souk was like something out of the Arabian Nights. However Dubai was very busy and the traffic was horrendous, I couldn't wait to get back to the peace and quiet of my home.

I and the kittens moved into our new accommodation, a 4 bedroomed villa. It had 5 bathrooms, 2 European and 3 Arabic. The tiny kittens were very shy and frightened to begin with and immediately ran and hid. The following day I went to work and left them to explore the house. My hours were 6am to 2pm to avoid the intense sun. All shops, banks and government offices closed at 2 and except for government offices they opened again from 5pm to 10 pm. When I arrived home I spent a couple of hours trying to find the kittens. I was convinced they had fallen down one of the Arabic toilets. These are porcelain trays with foot stands marked out on either side of a deep hole. Finally to my great relief they crawled out from under the false bottom of an Indian chest. I later put upside down coke bottles into the holes of the toilet to prevent kittens falling in and cockroaches crawling out.

As the kittens grew more confident I left the living room window open. They could jump in and out to explore the walled garden. Geckos were abundant and the kittens frequently caught them. The wily lizards would drop their tails, which continued to wriggle and keep the attention of the attacker, while the gecko escaped to live another day and grow another tail. Often Tom Bombadil would sit on top of the wall watching life outside the garden but he never wandered beyond.

A friend called one day and invited me to the cinema. He was a Bollywood fanatic and this 'cinema' was a wooden construction built on a number of tiered platforms in the open air. We had to climb up rickety wooden steps to reach our platform. When the film started I was amused to see the cars driving along the road below, go behind the screen and out the other side.



It was so hot from March to November that the only respite was to drive up into the mountains, called jebels. It was so much cooler and a group of us would camp overnight. On one occasion we met an old goatherd who was knitting as he walked.

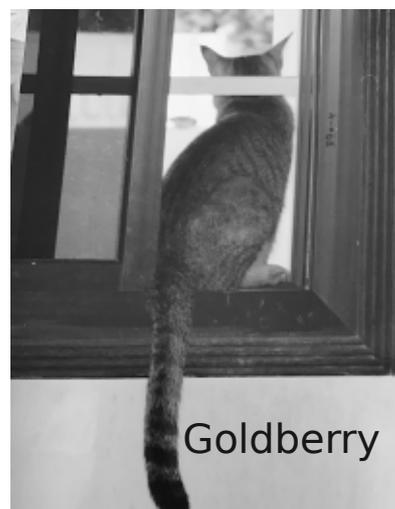
I was in Sohar when the Gulf war started. British troops were training in the deserts of southern Oman. As I drove around different villages visiting and observing my teachers, I wondered what the reaction of ordinary Omanis would be seeing an English woman in their midst. It was comforting when they waved and smiled. The Sultan had been educated in England and later served as an officer in the army. There was a good connection between our countries. He loved the Scottish bagpipes, but I was still surprised to see a band of pipers playing at the start of camel racing anywhere in the country,

During Ramadan nobody was allowed to be seen eating or drinking in public. One weekend, on our way home from a beach camping trip, one of our group bought us all ice-cream from a village shop. It was very hot so we ate them in our vehicles. Two teenage boys passed by and tutted and waved their fingers at us indicating that we should not be eating. It went without saying, we were in their country, we had to abide by their rules.

You could never tell an Omani that you liked something of theirs because they then felt obliged to give it to you, Once I told one of my female teachers that I liked her perfume. The next day she brought it to me, it was an expensive oil from Muscat. Another time I mentioned that I loved dates and that evening her husband brought me a huge drum of compressed dates.

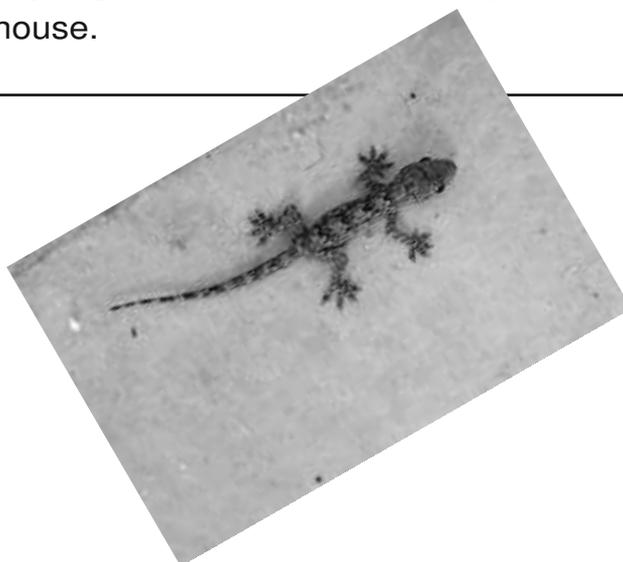
I loved working in Oman, the people are kind and hospitable and they have a great sense of humour. I discovered so much of the country and lifestyle. No matter where I was, I always felt safe.

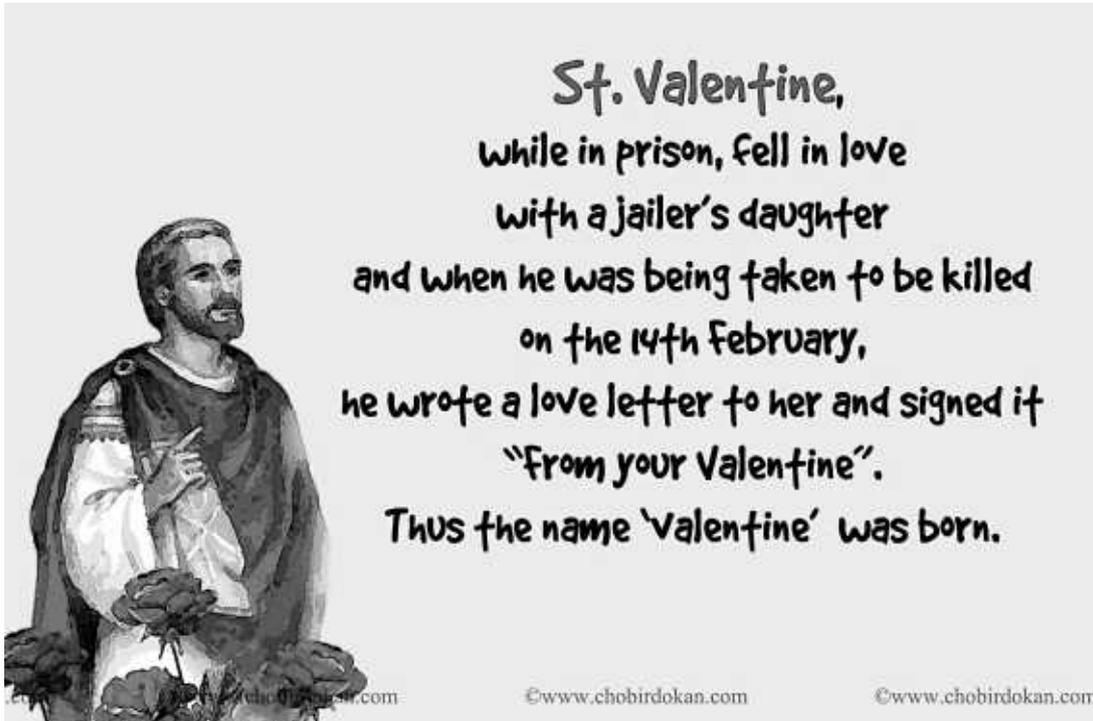
I had vowed to take the kittens with me when I left Oman. Our next adventure was going to be a few months in Spain renovating an old farmhouse.



Goldberry

©Jan 2021





**St. Valentine,
While in prison, fell in love
with a jailer's daughter
and when he was being taken to be killed
on the 14th February,
he wrote a love letter to her and signed it
"From your Valentine".
Thus the name 'Valentine' was born.**

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.

The legends attributed to the mysterious saint are as inconsistent as the actual identification of the man.

One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test.

St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision.

Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. Asterius broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days and became baptized, along with his family and entire 44 member household. The now faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

St. Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). According to the popular hagiographical identity, and what is believed to be the first

representation of St. Valentine, the Nuremberg Chronicle, St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. However, other tales of St. Valentine's life claim he was executed either in the year 269, 270, 273 or 280. Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole in his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini. The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

Although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognized as a day for love, devotion and romance. Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Relics of St. Valentine can be found all over the world. A flower-crowned skull of St. Valentine can be found in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In 1836, other relics were exhumed from the catacombs of Saint Hippolytus on the Via Tiburtina and were identified as Valentine's. These were transported for a special Mass dedicated to those young and in love.

Fr. John Spratt received a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836 containing a "small vessel tinged" with St. Valentine's blood. This gift now stands placed in Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Other alleged relics were found in Prague in the Church of St Peter and Paul at Vysehrad; in the parish church of St. Mary's Assumption in Chelmno Poland; at the reliquary of Roquemaure in France; in the Stephansdom in Vienna; in Balzan in Malta and also in Blessed John Duns Scotus' church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, Scotland. St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14.

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From the Shropshire Star

By Dominic Robertson

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has launched an appeal for money so it can buy 12 acres at one of the county's most treasured beauty spots.

The trust is raising money so it can buy 12 acres of little fields on The Stiperstones above Tankerville, Pennerley.

The restoration and protection of natural habitats on The Stiperstones is one of the trust's most cherished projects, which began with the 'back to purple' heathland recovery scheme more than 20 years ago.

John Hughes, development manager at the trust said: "Much has been achieved during this period and now we have an opportunity to ensure the protection of another delightful piece of land."



The Stiperstones, is of the most picturesque landscapes in the county, and now Shropshire Wildlife Trust is trying to raise money to buy a section of the National Nature Reserve.

The land has been put up for sale by a local landowner, who is very keen that it should continue to be managed to conserve its character and wildlife.

It lies within the National Nature Reserve, below the Devil's Chair, with views west over Hope Valley and north to Perkins Beach – a Stiperstones landmark.

Mr Hughes added: "We would really appreciate every donation – there are currently very few grant funding opportunities for land purchase – so we are relying completely on the generosity of our supporters.

"It is a place of great charm, with much to explore and wonder at – and it is an integral part of The Stiperstones landscape."

Donations can be made securely online at shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk, by phone on 01743 284299 or by cheque payable to Shropshire Wildlife Trust and posted to 193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AH.

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Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) - for a Zero Carbon Shropshire.

“The year is 2030, and reality has finally hit. We have lost the battle. Remember when you used to turn the lights off to ‘save the polar bears’? Well, they are no more... at least not where they used to belong. In future, zoos are more like a history book of what life once was. This is evidence of the biggest war mankind has ever lost, the one against itself. “

This is a quote from a member of the young SCAP team, a clarion call for all of us who do not want to see our planet destroyed, who want to leave the Earth in better shape than they found it for future generations.

This is SCAP’s mission, to reach all of us in the county – individuals, councils, businesses, industry, farmers, MPs - with the message that the climate and ecological emergency is here now, we need to inject a sense of urgency in what we are trying to do about it, and that we all have a part to play.

We are a not-for-profit organisation formally launched in August 2020.

Right now, we have more than a hundred volunteers from all walks of life. We involve business enterprises, landowners, charities, councils, community organisations and individuals. Together we have been working to make and implement a plan, a “call to action,” suitable for a zero carbon Shropshire through:

- rapid decarbonisation,
- large-scale restoration of biodiversity and natural habitat,
- development of resilient and inclusive communities and enterprises for a sustainable future.

Our plan is a statement of where we are today, where we must get to, and how we can get there.

Learn the 5 R’s: refuse, reduce, reuse, rot, recycle:

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

Our Ambition for Shropshire

Each year starting right away
Shropshire will need to achieve the following:

The infographic lists ten targets for Shropshire:

- 20,000 homes insulated to high standards suitable for switchover and switch from gas or oil heating to using heat pumps
- Investment of £200M in Shropshire renewables
- 500 acres of solar farms (or wind farm equivalent) installed and powering the grid and private wire demand
- 2,000 electric car charge points for community car share and car club vehicles
- 8,000 acres of Shropshire marginal land re-wilded or planted with woodland
- 10% reduction of car use by shifting to active travel public transport and reduced commuting
- Recovery, renewal and protection of 10% of Shropshire peatlands and wetlands
- 10% reduction in waste collection volumes by reducing short life purchases and single use packaging and promoting re-use of materials
- 10% of highways budgets dedicated to shifting from car to prioritise active travel
- 500 miles of new hedgerow laid

Going zero waste is a great step towards combating climate change. Practicing the 5 R’s of zero waste can help. You’ve probably heard of the three R’s: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. But there are two more that are equally important. Lets break it down:

REFUSE: Avoid single use plastics and paper products by saying no thank you, opting for reusables.

REDUCE: Downsize what you purchase, opting to be more mindful of what you really need.

REUSE: Always find a way to keep an item out of the landfill by keeping it in great condition, repairing or upcycling it when it breaks.

ROT: Set up a box for your food scraps, or find a food scrap drop off center (like a farmers market, or community garden) near your house.

RECYCLE: Properly recycle any plastic, , glass or that comes into your life you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse by researching your state’s recycling laws.

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Paris has everything a shop-aholic could desire. The awe inspiring dome of the most famous department store Gallery Lafayette, Montmartre's bustling material shops piled high with fabrics from all over the world, the Flea Market with antique furniture and weapons piled high in tiny stalls, the book and art sellers ranged along the banks of the Seine provide an experience second to none.

Many shops still close for lunch, an important part of a Parisians' day. We were surprised to see market stall holders layout a table with fine napkins and wine glasses to enjoy their meal in style.

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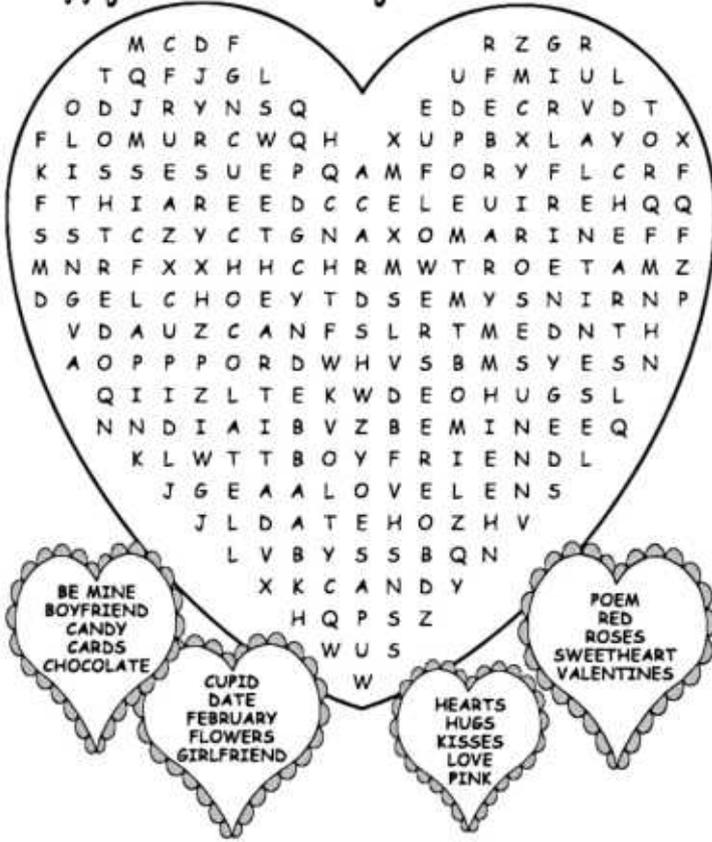
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Happy Valentine's Day!



HATE

There are many ways of getting from HATE to LOVE by changing 1 letter at a time but always keeping a proper word. It can be done in 3 steps but longer routes can be more satisfying.



colorie moi sil te plait





When we first went to Paris a bottle of wine was for Christmas or birthdays. In Paris we found the wine often cheaper than Coca Cola. The French have seen their trade abroad hit hard by New World wines and even some produced in the UK. In French supermarkets little space is given to imported brands. Here you can find a flagon of cooking wines costing a few francs side by side with a beautifully boxed claret that you would need to take out a mortgage for. Tanners website quotes "To our minds, Bordeaux still produces the best value Cabernet and Merlot-based wines in the world!"

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HEATHER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021

COVID-19. We are living through some challenging times at present with high infection rates across the country including here in rural Shropshire. There has also been a great deal of confusion about certain issues including the roll out of the vaccination programme locally and what is happening with our schools.

I am chasing up the authorities hard and these issues and will send out any updates via Facebook, emails or my website: www.heatherkidd.org.uk. If you would like to join my emailing list for emails and bulletins then drop me a line on heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

GRITTING. The recent cold weather caught Shropshire Council as poorly prepared as usual. This year we had the added complication of their contractors being told not to grit minor roads even where we had vulnerable people needing to get to the doctors.

The provision of grit in grit bins has also been hit and miss with may not refilled last autumn. If you know of any bins that need filling or re-filling then please get in touch.

Best wishes,
Heather Kidd,
Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen Division,

Tel: 07980635518, email:

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk,

www.heatherkidd.org.uk., Facebook too!



Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

SGT 2382 Damien Kelly

PC 21056 Matt Howell

PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

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Police contact numbers

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16th December 2020 – 14th January 2021

CRIMES REPORTED

- Sending letter with intent to cause harassment Chirbury
- Causing intentional harassment Snailbeach
- Criminal damage Stiperstones Offender arrested
- Sending letter with intent to cause harassment Pennerley
- Attempt Fraud Victim scammed into sending money via post Snailbeach - Package intercepted. Enquiries ongoing.

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And to finish our tour a night cap of coffee, a view across the Seine to the Eifel Tower and a goblet of Brandy.

Cognac and Armagnac are both French brandies made from white wine grapes. Both Cognac and Armagnac are made from a shockingly undrinkable wine. However, Cognac typically only uses the Ugni Blanc grape, while Armagnac uses three additional grape varieties: Folle blanche, Colombard, and Baco Blanc. This thin wine is then distilled for both brandies. Bon nuit and we hope you enjoyed our little virtual Valentine's holiday.



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Strange goings on underground at Snailbeach

Network Rail is part of a consortium of three universities and three private companies developing an autonomous reconfigurable drone for the inspection of confined spaces known as Prometheus.

As part of this project the consortium has been undertaking baseline surveys both above and below ground at Snailbeach Mine using laser scanning and photogrammetry techniques. In addition to the baseline survey, some preliminary underground trials have been carried out using prototype drones.

Throughout the survey work and trials the consortium has been greatly assisted by volunteers from the Shropshire Mines Trust. Ultimately the point cloud survey data captured by the Prometheus drone will be compared with the baseline survey to establish whether the required precision and accuracy requirements can be met.

Snailbeach Mine has been chosen for the trials as it provides a challenging but safe environment that is representative of less accessible mine workings that exist near the railway.



Network Rail and the other consortium members are very grateful for the support we have received from local residents, landowners and farmers during the completion of this work. The use of the village hall has also been of great benefit.

Further information about the project can be found at: [.www.prometheusdrone.co.uk](http://www.prometheusdrone.co.uk).

Network Rail

Somewhere or Other

By Christina Rossetti

*Somewhere or other there must surely be
The face not seen, the voice not heard,
The heart that not yet—never yet—ah me!
Made answer to my word.
Somewhere or other, may be near or far;
Past land and sea, clean out of sight;
Beyond the wandering moon, beyond the star
That tracks her night by night.
Somewhere or other, may be far or near;
With just a wall, a hedge, between;
With just the last leaves of the dying year
Fallen on a turf grown green.*

Love and Desire

*Love has no desire but to fulfill itself.
But if you love and must needs have desires, let
these be your desires;
To melt and be like a running brook that sings its
melody to the night.
To know the pain of too much
tenderness.
To be wounded by your own
understanding of love;
And to bleed willingly and
joyfully.
—Kahlil Gibran*



I love being married

Marriage is like going to a restaurant. You order what you want, then when you see what the other person has, you wish you had ordered that.

Marriage is full of surprises but it's mostly just asking each other, "Do you have to do that right now?"

"The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret." — Henny Youngman

The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship are "I apologize" and "You are right."

I need to start paying closer attention to stuff. Found out today my partner and I have separate names for the cat.

"Marriage is like a video game. Starts off easy, then gets harder, and eventually you go online and find a way to cheat." — Chris Burns

The only one of your children who does not grow up and move away is your.

"My wife, Mary, and I have been married for forty-seven years, and not once have we had an argument serious enough to consider divorce. Murder, yes, but divorce, never." Jack Benny

"Marriage is a bond between a person who never remembers anniversaries and another who never forgets them."

"When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife." Prince Phillip

"A good marriage is one where each partner secretly suspects they got the better deal."



"Some mornings I wake up grumpy. And some mornings I just let him sleep."



And a few facts

A marriage ceremony typically ends with a kiss because in ancient Rome, a kiss was a legal bond that sealed contracts, and marriage was seen as a contract.

At Italian weddings, it is not unusual for both the bride and groom to break a glass. The number of shards will be equal to the number of happy years the couple will have.

Brides carry or wear "something old" on their wedding day to symbolize continuity with the past. The "something blue" in a bridal ensemble symbolizes purity, fidelity, and love.

In many cultures around the world -- including Celtic, Hindu and Egyptian weddings -- the hands of a bride and groom are literally tied together to demonstrate the couple's commitment to each other and their new bond as a married couple (giving us the popular phrase "tying the knot").

Guests in ancient times would tear off part of the bride's gown as tokens of good luck, leading to the tradition of the bride throwing both her garter and her bouquet

Wedding rings are worn on the third finger of the left hand because the Romans believed that a nerve led directly from there to the heart.

oh and don't forget Lovers who kiss their partners in the morning are said to live five years longer than those who don't.



A lockdown Valentine's Day

What to buy when the shops are shut (From the Reader's Digest Canada)



"I mean, OK, if you really want to do something to show me you love me this Valentine's Day, you can just make me something."

Please don't get me anything for Valentine's Day. I mean it. I don't need anything.

I don't need you to give me material things to show me how much you love me. I know you love me. That's all that matters!

I mean, OK, if you really want to do something to show me you love me this Valentine's Day, you can just make me something. Handmade gifts are the best! I would love nothing more than a thoughtful handmade Tiffany diamond ring or card.

If you do make me a card, you don't have to write a love poem in it or anything like that. I don't need all that mushy stuff. Besides, not many words rhyme with my name, Robin. Bobbin? No, that's not good for a poem. Maybe try love. Dove ... glove ... in awe of ... I don't want to put words in your mouth.

(Don't have a lot of money? Try getting one of these cheap, but thoughtful, Valentine's Day Gifts.)

I for sure don't need a pretty heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day. You never know what is inside each piece, so you have to take a little bite out of all of them just to find the one you like—which is all of them. But no, I can't eat them anyway, because I'm trying to not eat sweets. Unless it's a special occasion.

Some women like getting adorable red or pink teddy bears for Valentine's Day. You know, the ones that have I Love You embroidered on them. But not me! I can't even imagine where I would keep something like that, besides on my bed or on the couch or in the back window of my car or on my desk at work. Where would I put something like that?

I don't need to go out for a fancy dinner on Valentine's Day. Even if we wanted to get a table at a fancy restaurant for Valentine's Day, we wouldn't be able to now. It's too late. Right? Are you sure? Maybe we should call around.

You did? Oh. Well, there's no need to make a special romantic candlelit dinner for me at home. I don't need a perfectly cooked filet mignon with mashed potatoes and asparagus—I'm fine with leftovers or frozen pizza. No Fuss is my middle name! For sure, don't worry about making a delicious creamy cheesecake with cherry topping for dessert. Cheesecake is hard to make. (There are really easy recipes online.)

Oh, and definitely don't get me red roses for Valentine's Day. Yuck! Who would want red roses? Pink roses are prettier. But as I said, please don't get them for me. They will just die anyway, and I would be able to really enjoy them for only a week or so—well, probably longer if I put an aspirin in the water. They would probably stay pretty for almost two weeks. Maybe three. But don't get me any. I don't need them.

And don't even think about planning a surprise romantic Valentine's weekend getaway. I don't need to be whisked away for a fun trip to know that you love me. That would be just too much planning! How would I pack for a surprise trip? You would have to pack a suitcase for me, and then I would have to wear what you packed for me. Like a bikini.

Or my comfy flats that would make it easier to walk on the cobblestones in, say, Rome.

Or that blue sweater (in the third drawer on the right side of the dresser, beneath the gray shawl) to keep me warm during those chilly February nights in Paris.

But I know you, and I'm sure you are sensible and know a surprise romantic trip would not be something I would enjoy at all.

It's a cruise, isn't it? You booked us on a romantic cruise?

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

**Great French Love Songs
sung by?
(initials and date given)**

- 1 La Mer CT 1975
- 2 Je t'aime JB & SG 1969
- 3 I remember it well HG & MC 1958
- 4 La vie en rose EP 1946
- 5 Que je t'aime JH 1969
- 6 Mourir d'aimer CA 1971
- 7 Ne me quitte pas JB 1959
- 8 Pour que tu m'aimes encore CD 1995

Find them on youtube to play with your bubble companion on Valentine's night

- Answers
- 1 Charles Tenet
 2. Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg
 - 3 Hermione Gingold & Maurice Chevalier
 - 4 Edith Piaf
 - 5 Jonny Hallyday
 - 6 Charles Aznavour
 - 7 Jacques Brel
 - 8 Celine Dion

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

An easy and a tricky one
©Astraware Limited.



Of no use to one Yet absolute bliss to two. The small boy gets it for nothing. The young man has to lie for it. The old man has to buy it. The baby's right, The lover's privilege, The hypocrite's mask. To the young girl, faith; To the married woman, hope; To the old maid, charity. What am I?

A KISS

Happy New Year to all members .

Seems unbelievable that nearly a year has gone by and we have been unable to meet or enjoy any of our outings and little extras especially as it was our 50th anniversary year .

Whilst this year is looking more hopeful to resume our meetings we still have to be patient and hope that the vaccine will give us all some kind of normality .

We are pleased that you enjoyed your surprise xmas gift bags of the mug and plant (grown by Sue J) to celebrate our 50th it is hoped we are able to have some more of our planned activities when we meet again.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to our members that have not been well Joan and Doreen and anyone else I have missed .Our condolences go also to Ann Perkins whose dad has passed away at the amazing age of 105 What changes he must have seen in his lifetime .

We trust that you are able to keep occupied its unfortunate that the weather has not been so kind to us this lockdown but please be vigilant and keep safe .

Joyce Graves

New members welcome

**Snailbeach
W. I.**

*Clun Valley Quaker Meeting
(Bishops Castle, Clun and
surrounds)*

*Currently taking place on zoom.
If anybody would like details of
times etc. or just to find out more
about Quakers, please ring the clerk
on 01588 630409.*

**Key Phone
Numbers**

**NHS Help
111**

**Worthen Medical
01743 891 401**

**Pontesbury Medical
01743 790 325
Shropshire Council
0345 678 900**

**Care in the
Community
0121 318 5138
Citizen's Advice
0344 499 1100
Rural Support
0300 123 2825
Samaritans (Free)
116 123**

**Western Power
(Power Cut)
105**

**Severn Trent
(emergency)
0800 783 4444
British Gas
0800 111 999**

**Universal Credit
0800 328 5644
Child Benefit
0300 200 3100
Pensions
0800 731 0469
HMRC Covid 19
support
0800 024 1222**

Minsterley Motors

Telephone 01743 791208

552/553 Shrewsbury to Bishops Castle

Monday to Friday

| 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 | |
| Cophome 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 | | 08:28 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 | | |

From 6th January 2020

552/553 Bishops Castle to Shrewsbury

Monday to 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 | 11:56 | 12:46 | 13:06 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | 15:38 SCH | | | |
| Lea Cross, Opp Jct | 07:06 | 07:36 | 08:06 | 08:06 | | 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 |
| Cophome 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 |

From 6th January 2020

Saturday

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |

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 |

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 |

Temporary Post Office
 Stiperstones Inn
 12.15 to 2.15
 Tuesdays only



*The life that I have
Is all that I have
And the life that I have
Is yours*



*The love that I have
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.*

*A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause
For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.
Leo Marks*

