



SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS



October 2020

Free

Community is what we do best



21 years ago the villagers of Stiperstones, Snailbeach, Pennerley and the Bog were walking tall. We had just been awarded the distinction of Community Village of the Year for the whole of England. The award recognised the passion, enthusiasm and dedication of so many people and we were so proud.

To win the award sponsored jointly by Calor Gas and the Daily Telegraph we first had to become Shropshire Village of the year. Every local organisation or group had to submit a report aimed at convincing the judges that we were the best. We realised that we may not be a 'Chocolate Box Village' with thatched rooves and duck ponds but we knew that our strength lay in our community spirit.

Once that first hurdle was overcome all our reports, statistics and photos had to be beefed up to convince the national judges. The amazing charitable fund raising of so many groups and individuals was one of our trump cards plus the willingness of the community to stand up against organisations like the Council and the BBC over school closures and TV masts. It was a great feeling to know that our great community had been recognised.

If you haven't seen them already plaques and a photo of Doug Boulter and Geoff Sproson are on display in the village hall.

Issue 369 October 2020

What's inside this month?

A month of overcoming challenges with the added flavour of apples

A heart warming letter P 4

Where to find the new library P 3

More about Covid from our MP P 9

Heather has news of road works and planning. P 15

A look at the humble fern P13

Shropshire's carbon footprint P 11

Snilbeach White Stars on a new campaign P 27

And a spattering of stories, puzzles, recipes and odd facts.

From the editor

It was our Golden Wedding this month. I was a bit of an incomer when I asked Susan to marry me, and as we appeared to marry in haste a few eyebrows were raised. We were digging in the photo boxes when I found the one of Village of the Year and inspired by the community's response to Ryan's appeal I thought it was a good time to be proud of older achievements as well.

We have travelled the country and much of Europe in those 50 years but despite our several houses 'Home' has always here.

I am glad to let you all know that although there are some restrictions in accordance with Government requirements and advice from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) the Village Hall is now again open for hire.

We are allowing a maximum of 20 people (at any one time so you could have more rotating during a session) to attend controlled events. We retain the right to decline prospective bookings that could be deemed inappropriate in the current circumstances (e.g. parties where social distancing may not be adhered to).

Although we will make sure that the hall is thoroughly cleaned before each hiring it will be the responsibility of the hirer to ensure the safety of attendees during their event. There is nothing too onerous but, for example, social distancing must be observed and regularly touched items (door handles etc.) must be kept sanitised, full details will be provided to each hirer as part of the conditions of hire.

There has been a lot of work done to prepare the hall for a "Covid Secure" re-opening with a deep clean, installation of hand sanitisers, new signage etc. so let us hope there will be no need to take any backward steps from here on.

I hope we can start to see some of our regular users return and that the hall can return to its vibrant position at the centre of the community.

**Ray
Harper**

