

# SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

MARCH 2019

FREE!

## NEW CHINESE 'SCAM' TARGETS SNAILBEACH

In 2004, a client by name of Mr [REDACTED] set up investment account with our private banking division. He had portfolio of \$11million USD which he invested. In 2005, he instructed that the initial sum (\$11M) be liquidated because he making an investment requiring cash payment in Beijing. We contacted a specialist bank on the mainland; Shengjing Bank, who agreed to receive this money and make cash available to Mr [REDACTED]. However, Shengjing Bank communicated last year that this money has not been claimed. On enquiry, I found out that Mr [REDACTED] passed away in Jiangxi. He has no next of kin and the reason I am writing you is because you have the same surname.

I have access and control to his file so what I plan is that I insert documents that make you the beneficiary of these funds. Shengjing Bank will have to contact you because you are the legal beneficiary. On verification, which will be the details I make available to [REDACTED]. Shengjing Bank will be instructed to make payments to you.

- Unlike most 'scams' that attempt to fool you into parting with cash or your bank details, this one wasn't sent by email.
- It was delivered to an address in Snailbeach by the Royal Mail in a business-like envelope.
- The letter was addressed perfectly correctly.
- It targeted a particular surname and household, not a random email address.

● **Chinese 'scam': Page 5**

## VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN PLANNED

A village spring clean is being organised by Stiperstones landlady and resident Lara Sproson-Jones. It will take the form of a 'litter pick' and is planned to commence at 10 a.m. on Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, the 17th March.

With enough volunteers Lara hopes to get the jump on the *Keep Britain Tidy* campaign's *Great British Spring Clean* planned for two weeks later.

● **Litter Pick: Page 31**





March

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All our usual features PLUS:

### Adventures down under

Robert Currie finds himself on the Lord of the Rings film set and almost gets to swim with dolphins. Follow his New Zealand adventure

Centre spread

### Play area update

Latest news on plans for spending the money in the Village Hall Play Area Fund. Ray Harper reports.

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...as you've never had it explained to you before. But then again...

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### Classroom revolution

Geoff Sproson analyses the changes in computer tuition in our schools and warns of the challenge ahead...for teachers

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### A bright new dawn

Discovering the magic of a bright new dawn over Snailbeach, a sleepless Patrick Marks makes himself a promise.

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### The big clean-up

Lara Sproson-Jones outlines plans for the big litter pick on March 17

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### ...and finally

Snailbeach White Stars have reached a Cup Final. Jordan Knill has the details.

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[snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk](http://snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk)

## Notes from THE EDITOR



Sometimes the job of editing can be a very lonely one. Now I'm not asking for sympathy here, I'm merely pointing out the fact that it's a task that involves hours of staring at a computer screen and banging away at a keyboard hoping that the finished result will be appreciated and, dare I say, even enjoyed, by our readership. So I was overwhelmed last month when, following my request for help, I was swamped with kind offers from everywhere! Thank you to all those who called and emailed me.

As a result I'm happy to announce that I now have two new local people on board whose assistance will make my workload somewhat less stressful. John Gorman of Stiperstones will be taking over the arduous task of preparing and distributing invoices to all our advertisers, as well as chasing up the odd 'reluctant' payer. Roy Anderson of Snailbeach, a former Fleet Street sub-editor, has also been helping me out with proof reading and giving me invaluable advice on layout and content. I have very much enjoyed the hours he has spent with me bouncing ideas around and I hope that this relationship will continue. Meanwhile Audrey Pugh continues to beaver away as treasurer making sure our bills are paid each month and keeping an eye on the bank account. Another new addition to the team is, of course, Geoff Sproson who has set up our swanky new online presence with the SDN website. Definitely worth a visit!

All the work of these volunteers would, of course, be pointless if the SDN didn't get delivered each month, so I'm always indebted to that hardy bunch of people who, whatever the weather, deliver the SDN to your door. The SDN has been around for almost four decades now. Let's keep it alive for many more decades to come!

I'm still on the lookout for 'occasional contributors' to the SDN, so if you feel you could put together a few hundred words on a topic of your choice, let me know. The more variety we have, the better! Help keep the SDN the vibrant local publication it has become.

Sadly we didn't have any response to our request for contributions to our new page dedicated to 'Young Adults and Little People'. I'll continue making this page available, so do encourage your young adults and little people to join in this community newsletter. They have a voice too...

Substitute 'damn' every time you're inclined to write 'very'; your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.

**Mark Twain**

**Patrick Marks**

**5, Lower Works, SY5 0NY**

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**01743 790 049**

**snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk**

# NEWSBRIEF

## An ode to apple theft

Following reports of apple theft in Snailbeach and surrounding areas last autumn (*December 2018 edition*), we have received yet another report of apple theft in the form of an email that simply said:

*"Hi Patrick, All our apples went too.."*

The writer, who wishes to remain anonymous, was moved to compose an ode to the theft that contains an ominous warning to anyone who might consider repeating the scrump next year.

### ***Ode on Apples; Strangely Disappeared.***

*So proud we were of our lovely apple tree,  
Such a bounteous, beautiful sight to see,  
Dripping with fruit both red and gold,  
Such a glorious harvest to behold.*

*Of pies and bakes, crumbles; of these we dreamt,  
And then one night, they all went!*

*All gone, ALL gone after such a show,  
Not one was left, where did they go?*

*Where did they go our apples fair?*

*Maybe there IS a Stiperstones bear,*

*Do badgers climb trees, foxes fly?*

*Hedgehogs scurry to make apple pie?*

*No aliens here, Big Foot perhaps,*

*Apples all gone, not left even a few scraps.*

*O dear, O dear - it's beyond the pale,*

*Perhaps it was that Sammy Snail!*

*O apple thief, if this year you should come about,*

*Then you should be the one to watch out,*

*You'll be the one to run and bound,*

*Because you will have met our new wolfhound!*

- Were you a victim of the great 2018 apple scrump? Email: [editor.sdn@mail.com](mailto:editor.sdn@mail.com)

## Snailbeach author acclaimed

Last April the SDN announced the publication of a new novel 'A Trinity of Ages' by Snailbeach writer Michael Dennis and over the last year the novel has enjoyed success both locally and nationally and has attracted reviews such as "a captivating and brilliant read" and "thought provoking".



Michael Dennis

Robert Currie describes the book as "three strands, each of which is set in a different epoch. Each strand is a gripping story about beautifully drawn characters with whom the reader can empathise. The strands come together in an occult way. The book provokes questions about whether we should accept received wisdom on authority and how relationships between individuals can influence the community in which they live."

Copies of '**A Trinity of Ages**' can be borrowed from Pontesbury library. Copies can also be purchased from The Stiperstones Inn. The novel, published by FeedaRead, is distributed on a 'print on demand' basis and can be ordered direct from the publisher at [FeedaRead.com](http://FeedaRead.com).

You can find out more about Michael at [michaeljohndenniswriter.co.uk](http://michaeljohndenniswriter.co.uk).

## Clothes Swap Party rescheduled

Due to a tragic event in the village last month, Sal Tonge felt it fitting to postpone her Clothes Swap Party due to take place on Saturday, February 9th in the Village Hall. Sal has now rescheduled the Clothes Swap Party to take place at the Village Hall on **Sunday 7th April** between **2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

£6 buys you a ticket and a glass of prosecco. Cakes and cream teas are available. Listen to live music from Brian Carrington and enjoy an afternoon of friendship, buns 'n' buttons, cakes and clothes, teas and t shirts.

Sal especially encourages men to take part in Clothes Swap and there are teenagers wanting to swap too! Come and be a part of it!

This event is to help raise some funds for the **Jatinga Valley School, Assam.**

## The Marches Choir perform Mozart

On Saturday 6th April, The Marches Choir, conducted by Alistair Auld, will present a glorious concert of exuberant choral and orchestral music at **St. John's Church, Bishop's Castle at 7:30 p.m.** They will be accompanied, as always, by the Marches Sinfonia.

The concert will begin with several sacred choral works by Mozart, delightfully moving and full of melodic charm, and will be followed by his Horn Concerto No 3, one of the best loved works in the classical horn repertoire. The programme will conclude with Puccini's Messe di Gloria.

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# CHINESE 'SCAM' TARGETS SNAILBEACH

## Patrick Marks reports

We've all had them, haven't we? Dodgy emails offering you a ridiculous amount of money for helping 'smuggle' dubious fortunes out of a foreign country. They are usually found nestling in your 'Junk' folder amongst the other suspicious adverts for Bitcoins, Russian brides and warnings that your bank account, or some other account, has been 'hacked' and that you must provide your personal details immediately otherwise your account will be closed. We have learned to ignore them – well, most of us have, but sadly there are still many that get sucked into these email scams and lose thousands of pounds. Since the beginnings of email and the internet these scams have been around and have become more and more prolific and sophisticated. The most common one in recent years originated in Nigeria. These scams involve someone overseas offering you a share in a large sum of money on the condition you help them to transfer money out of their country. The scammer will often tell you an elaborate story about an inheritance that is 'difficult to access' because of government restrictions or taxes in their country. This is then usually followed by requests for your bank account details, or for payments to help transfer the money. You will, of course, never receive a penny. Recently a Snailbeach resident drew my attention to a little used method of attempting to scam the unwary. This resident received a business like letter through the post that targeted his surname, not his email address. Posted in the UK it seemed to carry more authority

simply because it *was* a letter and used his full name and address, not simply an email address. And because it was a letter, it was more likely to be read as it wouldn't get lost in an email spam folder. Clever! On reading the letter it quickly became obvious that this was just a new twist on an old theme. It promised a 50/50 share in \$11 million US dollars held in a Chinese bank account belonging to a deceased man with the same surname as our Snailbeach resident. The big giveaway was the lack of a terrestrial return address, either in the UK or China. There was simply an email address containing a man's name. Fortunately, smelling a rat, he passed it on to me. My curiosity got the better of me and I decided to play along. I sent three separate emails from three addresses pretending to be the resident in question. So far I have had no reply. I suspect that this is because his name was not part of the email address I used to respond and this frightened him off.

So beware! The name that was targeted here is a name that is very common in this area, and I suspect we haven't seen the last of this new scam.

*Have you received a similar letter recently?  
Let us know - [editor.sdn@mail.com](mailto:editor.sdn@mail.com)*

*Visit [snopes.com](http://snopes.com) if you want to discover more about urban myths and scams.*

*Visit [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) if you think you have been scammed or need help and advice.*

### More from the 'scam' letter

Please trust me, this is 100% achievable. What I proposing is that we split the money 50/50. The alternative is that the money will go to the government. Nobody gets hurt in this deal, this is a very good opportunity for us. I would like us to have communication by my above telephone and email.

Please I am a family man and I have take risk to contact you but i know in life you have to take any available chance to succeed. If we can be in agreement, we should act quick on this. Please get back to me as soon possible.

I await reply, many thank you.

### Scam warning signs

- You receive a contact out of the blue asking you to 'help' someone from another country transfer money out of their country (e.g. Nigeria, Sierra Leone or China).
- The request includes a long and often sad story about why the money cannot be transferred by the owner. This typically involves some type of conflict or inheritance and they may want to move the money straight into your account.
- You are offered a financial reward, such as a share in the amount, for helping them access their 'trapped' funds. The amount of money to be transferred, and the payment that the scammer promises to you if you help, is usually very large.
- They will claim that a bank, lawyer, government agency or other organisation requires some fees to be paid before the money can be moved. The scammer will often ask you to make payments for the fee via a money transfer service.
- ***If it looks too good to be true, then it usually is...***

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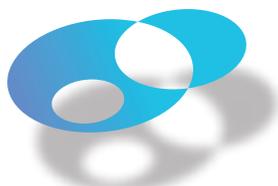
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- Nobody knows who named the Earth.
- 'Time' is the most used noun in the English language.
- People who have had their frown lines removed with Botox find it harder to read difficult sentences.
- There is enough room in the human memory for 300 years of television.
- In Sweden millennials are called 'the Curling Generation' because all obstacles have been brushed from their path by their parents.
- The Queen takes a monogrammed kettle with her on all her foreign trips.
- The film Tron (1982) was not considered for a Best Visual Effects Oscar because the Academy at the time believed that using computers was cheating.
- Thanks to 3-D printing, NASA can now effectively email tools and replacement parts to the International Space Station.
- The deepest hole ever dug is the Kola Superdeep borehole which extends 12km down into the Earth's crust. However, if you scaled the Earth to the size of an apple, this wouldn't break through the skin.
- Football was banned in London in 1314 for being too noisy.
- Shops sell more clothes if their mannequins have a head.

### Newsletter Donations

Many thanks to those who sent us donations over the last month.

**John & Elspeth Gorman  
Mary Jones**

If you wish to donate anonymously by direct bank transfer our details are:

**Sort code: 09-01-54  
A/C no: 05629702**

Otherwise donations can be left with Phil or Lara at

the **Stiperstones Inn**  
or with myself at 5, Lower Works,  
SY5 0NY

*Help us to stay a free, secular and independent publication serving the local community.*

*Thank you.*

*Without you we would struggle.*

### THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN



#### Week 1.

*...pay attention to your pots and containers...*

Lightly prune frost-damaged, container-grown trees and shrubs, taking out dead wood. Top dress by removing the top 2.5 cm of soil and replacing it with fresh compost. Move flowering plants into prominent positions as they start to bloom and, if you have any empty containers, plant up spring bedding displays

#### Week 2.

*...pests...*

Slugs can be troublesome this month but try to avoid using slug bait that is harmful to wildlife. Instead, protect the young shoots of plants such as delphiniums and lupins by placing plastic bottles, with the tops and bottoms removed, around them. Once the plants are established, surround them with a layer of coarse grit.

#### Week 3.

*...sow annuals...*

Many annuals, including marigolds, cornflowers and poppies can be sown in late March. Sow in well-prepared beds and once seedlings have developed two or three pairs of leaves, thin them out to give them ample space for growth. Remember not to handle the seedlings by their stems!

#### Week 4.

*...tend the borders...*

Once the milder weather has warmed the soil, hoe between plants to destroy annual weeds. Water newly planted shrubs and trees if the weather is dry and transplant any plants that need moving. Remove dead flowers from early flowering plants and put out slug traps.

©Judith Glover - "Garden Days"

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- Sal Tonge Tel 01743 792993 [saltonge@outlook.com](mailto:saltonge@outlook.com)  
Like: *Fit After Forty with Sal* on Facebook

# WHAT'S ON

**Friday 8th March, 7.00 p.m.**  
**Snailbeach Village Hall**

**Robert Currie**

gives a talk

and visual presentation of his recent travels in  
 New Zealand.

Be transported to the other side of the world!  
 Tickets on the door £5 adults or £3 for under 12's  
 Call Robert on 01743 790123 for more details

**Saturday 16th March**  
**Priest Weston Village Hall**

***The Brubeck Project (The Neil Maya  
 Quartet)***

Doors open 6.30pm. Starts at 7pm.

Tickets Adult £10.00 Child £6.00 Family £28.00  
 Call: 07753659981, jaycraig@priestweston.com or  
 www.artsalive.co.uk

**Sunday, 7th April from 2pm - 6pm**  
**Snailbeach Village Hall**

***Clothes Swap Party***

A benefit for the

**Jatinga Valley School, Assam**

On the spot alterations

Bar and Snacks

Live music

Tickets £6 include a glass of fizz

**Saturday 6th April, 7.30pm**  
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**Chairman's report  
 from  
 Ray Harper**

## Play area update

As you may be aware the play area behind the village hall requires some tender loving care and replacement equipment. With this in mind there have been a number of fund raising activities and donations made over the last few years and the village hall committee agreed to match the funds raised. While we are continuing to apply for grants and will look to raise further funds in the future we have now reached a point that allows us to take some tangible action.

The "Play Area Fund" now stands at just over £4,000 and although some of this money will need to be used for the upkeep of the existing equipment. This means we can go ahead with the purchase and installation of at least one new piece (these are not cheap).

In order that the new equipment meets the needs of the children it is meant for, we have enlisted the help of the toddlers group who use the hall weekly. Anita Evans, on their behalf, has been busy and has some ideas on what we may see installed shortly (there has been talk of a train engine).

However, before any final decisions are made, she has arranged for a free inspection of the play area by one of the manufacturers. While this inspection will have taken place before publication the results will not be known. For that you will have to watch this space.

## Snailbeach Village Hall

### Snailbeach Village Hall Booking Fees

#### HIRE CHARGES FOR SUPPORTERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups/activities	Normal rate (£)	Pledge rate (£)
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# BREXIT

# EXPLAINED!

Thanks to an anonymous source posted on Facebook.

David Cameron made a promise he didn't think he'd have to keep to have a referendum he didn't think he would lose. Boris Johnson decided to back the side he didn't believe in because he didn't think it would win. Then Michael Gove, who said he wouldn't run, did, and Boris who said he would run, said he wouldn't, and Theresa May who didn't vote for Brexit got the job of making it happen. She called the election she said she wouldn't and lost the majority David Cameron hadn't expected to win in the first place. She triggered Article 50 when we didn't need to and said we would talk about trade at the same time as the divorce deal and the EU said they wouldn't so we didn't. People thought she wouldn't get the divorce settled but she did, but only by agreeing to separate arrangements for Northern Ireland when she had promised the DUP she wouldn't. Then the Cabinet agreed a deal but they hadn't, and David Davis who was Brexit Secretary, but wasn't, said it wasn't what people had voted for and he couldn't support what he had just supported and left. Boris Johnson, who hadn't left, then wished that he had and did, but it was a bit late for that. Dominic Raab become the new Brexit secretary. People thought Theresa May wouldn't get a withdrawal agreement negotiated, but once she had they wished that she hadn't, because hardly anybody liked it whether they wanted to leave or not. Jacob Rees-Mogg kept threatening a vote of no confidence in her but not enough people were confident enough people would not have confidence in her to confidently call a no confidence vote. Dominic Raab said he hadn't really been Brexit Secretary either and resigned, and somebody else took the job but it probably isn't worth remembering who they are as they're not really doing the job either as Olly Robbins is. Then she said she would call a vote and didn't,

that she wouldn't release some legal advice but had to, that she would get some concessions but didn't, and got cross that Juncker was calling her nebulous when he wasn't but probably should have been. At some point Jacob Rees-Mogg and others called a vote of no confidence in her, which she won by promising to leave, so she can stay. But they said she had really lost it and should go, at the same time as saying that people who voted Leave knew what they were voting for which they couldn't possibly have because we still don't know now, and that we should leave the vote to Leave vote alone but have no confidence in the no confidence vote which won by more. The government also argued in court against us being able to say we didn't want to leave after all but it turned out we could. She named a date for the vote on her agreement which nobody expected to pass, while pretending that no deal, which nobody wants, is still possible (even though we know we can just say we are not leaving), and that we can't have a second referendum because having a democratic vote is undemocratic. And of course as expected she loses – by the biggest margin in history. Some people are talking about a managed no-deal which is not a deal but is not a no-deal either. Parliament now slowly implodes...

Thank goodness for strong and stable government.



From CBC.CA  
Tom Janssen/Trouw

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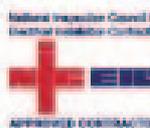
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## THE SAMMY MAIL COLUMN - with Geoff Sproson



Last month I praised the development of computers, both in business and for the home led by UK entrepreneurs and scientists. Why then is PC World not full of British computers instead of American, German and models from the Far East, and why are our schools and universities not full of computer whizzkids?

The source of my gripe about computer sciences in education stems from when our esteemed education secretary, who later went on to become our first woman PM, thought that children in schools should use the same type of computers as they might find in the workplace – maybe a good idea you say. These computers were American and ran software designed by Microsoft. They came with all the Microsoft baggage we are familiar with; slow to boot up, susceptible to viruses, not designed to run electronic systems and curious children could cause them to crash. They were, however, very powerful and came packed with advanced programs like Word, Access and Excel, which are still the bedrock of business computing.

The result of this change over from British education orientated computers to American business orientated computers was soon apparent in the curriculum. Computing lessons became restricted to the 'holy trinity' of word processing, databases and spreadsheets. These programs are brilliant if you are handling large amounts of data, hundreds of records, accounts with many invoices and statements or typing several similar letters. However to laboriously type in ten makes of car with their age, nationality and model and then sort them into order seemed, and was, a pointless exercise and all of those who taught or completed our RSA Clait computing exams can vouch for that. In 2012 the Telegraph reported, *“Earlier this year, the Education Secretary himself warned that the curriculum was not fit for purpose – leaving children ‘bored out of their minds being taught how to use Word and Excel by bored teachers’.* So, which country now has the best computer programmers? A recent report shows China at the top of the tree, followed by Russia, Poland and Switzerland. If this was a football league

table the US and the UK would be facing relegation, in 28th and 29th positions respectively, just behind Chile. Probably enough said.

Computing or IT departments have disappeared from most schools and all the brilliant British computer programmers are mostly self-taught through chat rooms and forums over the internet, with less than 1% of 'A' levels being taken in ICT. Twice as many students take politics and four times as many take sociology. There has been a recent revival with logical programming being introduced in maths and ICT and the increased use of the popular online computer games software, **'Scratch'**. Whether this is reflected in increased examination candidates waits to be seen.



**'Scratch'** is a free programming language and online community where you can create interactive stories, games and animations. It can be found at <https://scratch.mit.edu/> If you want to try some simple programming **Scratch** is available for PC, Linux and some Apple devices. **Scratch 3** release in January 2019 is now also available for mobile devices. In 2014 primary school children in the UK were introduced to the principles of computer programming/coding via the new UK National Curriculum. The UK government finally recognised the importance of coding skills for young children who will be the next generation of computer software engineers. Unfortunately a poll in 2016 suggests 2/3rds of teachers lack the skills to teach coding in schools. Though the UK government is investing in teaching coding, it's never enough and primary school teachers in particular are recognised as needing help.

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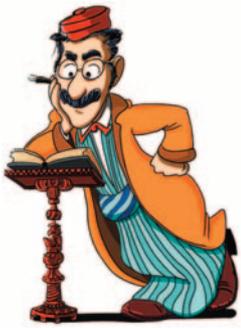
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## Mr. Quips Corner

- Misspell one word and the whole text is urined.
- A clean house is the sign of a broken computer.
- I love what you've done with your hair. How do you get it to come out of the nostrils like that?
- How come "you're a peach" is a compliment but "you're bananas" is an insult? Why are we allowing fruit discrimination to tear society apart?
- I got in a fight one time with a really big guy, and he said, "I'm going to mop the floor with your face." I said, "You'll be sorry." He said, "Oh, yeah? Why?" I said, "Well, you won't be able to get into the corners very well."
- Two dogs are walking along a street. They are passed by a third dog driving a lorry load of logs. One turns to the other and says: "He started fetching a stick and built up the business from there."
- My girlfriend and I often laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.

## I wish I'd said that...

- The beginning is the most important part of the work - *Plato*.
- Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake - *Napoleon Bonaparte*.
- Democracy is the worst system devised by wit of man, except for all the others – *Winston Churchill*.
- I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception - *Groucho Marx*.
- If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? – *Albert Einstein*.
- Nature not content with denying him the ability to think, has endowed him with the ability to write - *A. E. Housman*.
- A great many people now reading and writing would be better employed keeping rabbits - *Edith Sitwell*.
- He'd make a lovely corpse - *Charles Dickens*.
- You've got the brain of a four-year-old boy, and I bet he was glad to get rid of it - *Groucho Marx*.
- I want to reach your mind - where is it currently located? - *Ashleigh Brilliant*.
- He knows so little and knows it so fluently - *Ellen Glasgow*.
- Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses - *Elizabeth Taylor*.



### What do our members think about Pontesbury and Rea Valley U3A?

#### How better to try to describe what U3A does? Ask our members...

"Where do I start? Thank you to all the co-ordinators for their hard work and to all the members who have made the year so memorable."

"I have made new friends and enjoyed the company in the group."

"Friendship and laughter with Table Tennis."

"My overriding joy is the people I met and the warm friendships that developed."

"My enjoyable moments: meeting, greeting, making friends, walking, talking, laughing, learning, tea and cake."

"The Interest Group meetings say everything about PRV U3A, friendship, commitment, dedication and how lucky we are to have members willing to make it such a success."

"A varied year covering all things that were well planned and thanks should be passed on to all the group co-ordinators for the work that they do to make the groups happen."

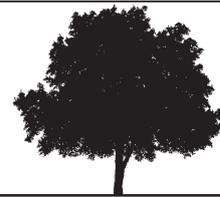
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**or contact 01743 792790 for a friendly chat about Pontesbury and Rea Valley U3A**



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NEWS FROM

# PONTESBURY LIBRARY

from Beverley Link



On BBC iPlayer I accidentally stumbled upon a very old series by Alice Roberts, The Incredible Human Journey. I found it fascinating and binged watched the whole lot in a few days. As with most of my short-lived hobbies I become a bit obsessed with finding out as much as I can till I move on to the next. I have searched the library catalogue for anything related to the subject of human migration and DNA. Chance would have it that 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March is [www.britishtscienceweek.org](http://www.britishtscienceweek.org). One theme being journeys! So, I will be sharing the collection of books I have pulled together and hope some of you will be as fascinated as me. *Shakespeare week* is also in March, there are abundances of Shakespeare plays, books and films around the county libraries. These can be requested for pick up at Pontesbury library. The films may be a useful resource for those studying GCSEs or A levels. Keep an eye out for *what's on* at the library. We have a Teddy Bears Picnic planned for April and the Friends Grand Plant Sale, where there will also be books, crafts and tea and cake.

## QUIZ TIME

from **Jenny Alldridge**

On Friday 1st February three of us went to Pitchford: Jenny Alldridge, Dave Fitzhugh and Jerry Hughes. Susan had been ill and on Thursday she let me know that she would not be well enough to come on Friday. Julian and Reuben were not available and it was rather too late to find another fourth, so the three of us went. As it happened, there was a bar that night so we were not allowed to take our own wine and Jerry recognised a colleague in the barman. So at Jerry's request, when everyone had been served their drinks, John came and joined our team for the night. We came top of our section and won the wine! We also got 20 out of 20 in the fun quiz but so did four other teams and Picklescott won on a tie-break question. The next quiz will be held at Norbury on Friday 1st March. The team then should be Jenny Alldridge, Dave Fitzhugh, Susan Bates and Jerry Hughes.

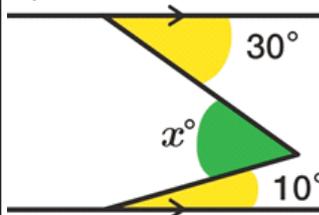
# PUZZLES + POSERS

1)

-8	13	3	-6
17	18	10	20
-5	20	-3	-1
1	19	1	-6

Which horizontal row has three numbers (which may or may not be all next to each other) that add up to 10?

2)



What is the value of angle x?

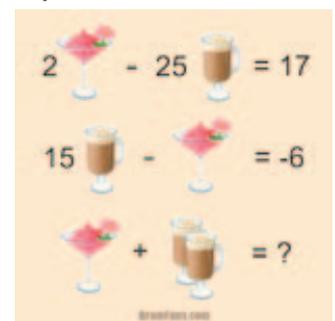
3)

You have three bags, each containing two marbles. Bag A contains two white marbles, Bag B contains two black marbles, and Bag C contains one white marble and one black marble. You pick a random bag and take out one marble. It is a white marble. What is the probability that the remaining marble from the same bag is also white?

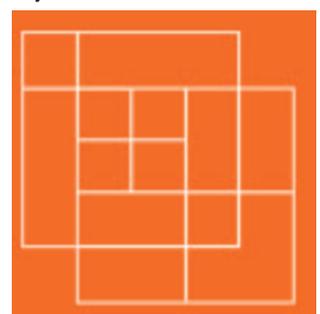
4)

A poor woman and a rich woman are talking about music. The poor woman says she has studied music and can find a song with any name in it. The rich woman says "OK, if you can find a song with my son's name in it, I will give you a thousand pounds. His name is "Demarcus-Jabari." The poor woman gives her answer and is instantly £1,000 richer. What was her answer?

5)



6)



How many squares are there?

7)

If 13=16, 25=210 and 66=612, then 82=??

## Answers to PUZZLES + POSERS

1) Row 1 2) 50 degrees 3) 2 out of 3 possibilities are white 4) Happy Birthday 5) coffee=1, drink=21 so drink + coffee = 22 6) 17 7) 82=84 because 1st digit = 1st digit, 2nd digit = 2nd digit x2.



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## Sleepless in Snailbeach

Patrick Marks rediscovers dawn

**S**ince my retirement some five years ago I have not been what you might call an 'early riser'. Not that I was when I was working, either! My occupation in the entertainment industry usually involved surfacing from my bed at around 11 a.m. Bedtime was usually well past midnight, often much later.

I'd been told that a wonderful thing called 'dawn' happened each day and, apparently, was a wonderful thing to behold. I'd witnessed dawns in my youth, of course, when as a student bedtime often coincided with dawn as I put the final full stop on an essay, already a week late. Or when stumbling home dazed and confused from an all-night party, or from a nocturnal tryst with a member of the opposite sex.

A few mornings ago I was having a problem sleeping and found myself wide awake at 4 a.m. After tossing and turning and looking at the bedside clock every few minutes I gave up on sleep and decided to go downstairs. I'd heard that counting sheep could help with sleep, so I put on some warm clothes and went outside to count how many there were in the fields flanking our cottage.

I don't know who came up with that idea but it just didn't work for me. I couldn't really see properly in the dark and the ones I could see kept walking about so I kept losing track of the ones I'd counted and the ones I hadn't.

I gave up, now wide awake and perishing cold and returned to the kitchen where I mooched around making tea, fiddling with my computer and trying to read but nothing helped. As I sat peering through the window at the solid blackness of night I noticed a strange thing. The sky had started to crack open. Dark blue fissures with striking orange streaks, stretching for as far as I could see, slowly oozed through the black. Dawn was happening!

Opening the French windows for a better look, I noticed how quiet it was. No sound, apart from the odd 'caw' of a crow. Looking for his early worm, I guess. Though it might have been the 'kraa' of a raven; my bird recognition skills are fairly appalling. But I definitely identified a neighbour's noisy cockerel. But that was it. All was still and quiet. I stood and watched as the sky grew steadily brighter and the orange streaks morphed into foamy white clouds set in a blazing blue sky. Quite soon the sun climbed lazily over the top of the Eastridge Woods and, rubbing sleep from its eyes, bathed the village in colour and form. And then, quite suddenly, it was day!

I'd forgotten just how exquisite a dawn can be. The village still half asleep, like a scene from 'Under Milk Wood'. I half expected Willy Nilly Postman to appear at my front door and No Good Boyo to creep across my garden, up to no good...

All thoughts of sleep had now long since gone and I made a promise to myself to do this more often. That is to get up early to watch dawn, not to have more sleepless nights. Whether or not I will keep this promise remains to be seen. Old habits die hard...

**"It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible-black,  
the cobbledstreets silent and the hunched courters'-and-rabbits' wood  
limping invisible down to the sloeblack, slow, black, crowblack,  
fishingboat-bobbing sea."**

**Dylan Thomas, Under Milk Wood**



## Robert Currie shares his adventures in

# NEW ZEALAND

I had intended to sail to New Zealand on a cargo boat. It would have been 2 months of complete idleness, wandering around the deck, reading and looking at the sea. Unfortunately the shipping company cancelled the voyage – they even sold the boat! So, instead, I spent 24 hours on a plane, on a journey broken in Los Angeles, where I negotiated US Customs and Immigration to be allowed back on the same plane two hours later.

At Auckland airport, I discovered that there are stringent regulations against the import of food, plants or animals, to prevent the invasion of foreign species. Even my shoes were wiped clean of the (ample) deposit of mud from Eastridge Wood.



Te Puia mud

At Rotorua, on the sunny North Island, I watched people playing croquet on the green space in the middle of the town. On the outskirts, the geysers and mud pools included tasty-looking caramel-coloured mineral deposits of antimony and arsenic, and an inviting sapphire blue pool whose Ph measured 2.1.

I was treated to some Maori hospitality, which was introduced by the awe-inspiring traditional challenge. There was more Maori culture at Waitangi, the site of the treaty of 1840 which brought New Zealand into the British Empire. This

is next to Paihia, on the Bay of Islands, where I did a Dolphin Encounter cruise. The idea was that I should jump overboard and swim with dolphins, but the dolphins were too weary, having been chased by orcas. Culture of a different kind was next, as I joined a group who were shown around Hobbiton, the set of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. The hobbit holes presented a charming picture of the Shire in Middle Earth. Furthermore, I’m convinced that the beer sold in the “Green Dragon” is by far the best in New Zealand.

On South Island, by contrast, the sun was often hidden by clouds, and the temperature was several degrees cooler. My cousin Keith met me off the ferry at Picton, and he and his wife Gill gave me a most enjoyable and interesting couple of days, showing me the vineries near Blenheim and their beach house on the East coast. Despite the rigorous precautions taken against the invasion of alien species, rats and possums have established themselves in New Zealand, to the detriment of native bird life. The Government makes strenuous efforts to



Mount Cook

eradicate rats and possums. Keith and Gill's affectionate terrier, Pip, is an enthusiastic and, I'm told, savage participant in this campaign. Then I stayed in the foothills of Mount Cook, which Sir Edmund Hillary described as more difficult and dangerous than Everest, on account of its hidden crevasses.



Stewart Island bathing beach

My favourite place in New Zealand is Stewart Island, accessible from the southernmost tip of South Island by an hour-long, stomach-churning hydrofoil crossing. The island is roughly 15 miles square, and completely wild, apart from a coastal settlement called Oban, about the size of Snailbeach. I swam (briefly) off the Bathing Beach, and took a ferry trip and a guided walk through the native forest of Ulva Island.

South Island has two separate climates. To the west of the Southern Alps the prevailing wind blows from the Tasman Sea in the west, producing rain and occasionally snow. Queenstown, 50 miles inland from the West coast, was snowbound for several days of my holiday. To the east of the mountains the rain shadow produces a very dry climate. After a few days on the shore of the lovely, placid Te Anau Lake, I took a cruise along Doubtful Sound, a peaceful narrow inlet bounded by cliffs, some precipitous bare rock, others green with mixed forest, which reminded me of the Norwegian fjords.

All my bed and breakfast accommodation was very comfortable but the most luxurious was undoubtedly the Forest Te Waonui Retreat, where I had full board, including a 5-course dinner. This is in the small town of Franz Joseph, named by the 19th century Austrian explorer Haast, after his Emperor. Here is a glacier where I took a guided walk through native forest. Global warming has caused the glacier to retreat, particularly in the last 20 years, but it is still a spectacularly attractive sheet of bluish ice.



Franz Joseph glacier walk

There followed a coach ride to Greymouth, on the west coast, and a train journey across the Southern Alps to Christchurch. The scenery is really beautiful but unfortunately the heavy rain obscured the view. On my last day I wandered around Christchurch, a pleasant city with trams that have guides to point out places of interest, and the picturesque Hagley Park through which a river runs. I saw people punting but wasn't tempted to try it myself. Christchurch Cathedral and other buildings still show damage caused by the earthquake of 2011 and there is a museum where the story of the earthquake can be seen on film.

New Zealand is a lovely country with varied scenery and friendly, helpful people. Visitors come from all over the world, especially, of course, Australia, South East Asia, China, Korea and Japan but also from Europe and America. It is easy to see why tourism is such a successful industry.

*Robert will be giving a talk and a visual presentation of his travels in New Zealand in Snailbeach Village Hall. For details see What's On - Page 9*

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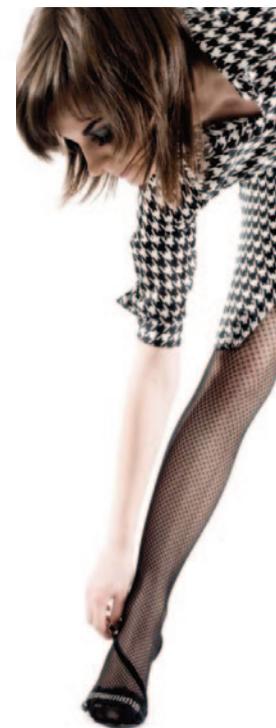
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### **Snailbeach White Stars 12-1 Coton Rovers**

**SUMMARY:** Cup quarter final against Division 1 opposition who'd troubled us in the competition last season. No such issues this year as we put them to the sword with some clinical finishing and good football in very difficult, foggy conditions. Semi-final against Loppington awaits!

**GOAL SCORERS:** Adam DAVIES (7), Marcus ASHLEY (3), Jamie HYNE, OG

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Adam DAVIES – Captain led the way with a very good display and seven goals to boot. That takes his personal tally to 300 for the club at the age of 21, some achievement!

**TEAM:**

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Ben MILLINGTON, Aryn MATTHEE, Manny WILLIAMS

MID: Craig HARRIS, Craig GRIFFITHS, Jamie HYNE, Reece BENSON, Sam JONES

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Ollie DAVIES, Jack BREEZE, Nath JEX

\*\*\*\*

### **Instones United 3-4 Snailbeach White Stars**

**SUMMARY:** Massive, massive win against the only unbeaten side in the league. We managed to beat the perennial winners and current table toppers away from home with a superb performance.

Great game, end to end, but a deserved 3 points.

Win takes us to within 1 point of them at the top.

We were 4-1 up with ten minutes to go but a few jittery moments at the end made for a tense finish.

Nonetheless, the lads defended well to secure the clubs most impressive win since reforming back in 2011. Fantastic!

**GOAL SCORERS:** Adam DAVIES (2), Marcus ASHLEY, Jamie HYNE

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Wayne WALTON/Adam

DAVIES – Tough call this week but both deserve a mention. Adam led the line impressively, scored 2 important goals and worked his socks off. Wally was great in goal, making a few important saves when the scores were level and came out to collect numerous crosses that were launched into the box as the hosts searched for a way back into the game.

**TEAM:**

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Nath JEX, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS

MID: Joe BYERS, Craig GRIFFITHS, Jamie HYNE, Reece BENSON, Sam JONES

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Sam PRICE, Jack BREEZE

\*\*\*\*

### **Snailbeach White Stars 3-1 Loppington**

**SUMMARY:** A strange game for a semi-final.

Visitors were penned in their half for the majority of the game but defended very resolutely.

Eventually the lads' quality told and we managed to get the goals to secure our passage to the final!

**GOAL SCORERS:** Adam DAVIES (2), Craig HARRIS

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Craig HARRIS – Constant threat on the right hand side. Scored the all-important first goal that broke the visitors' resistance and delivered some quality balls in to the area all day.

**TEAM:**

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Nath JEX, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS

MID: Craig HARRIS, Craig GRIFFITHS, Jamie HYNE, Reece BENSON, Sam JONES

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Jack BREEZE, Aryn MATTHEE, Dan CAMBURN

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# Letter from Westminster

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**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**  
**02072192388**  
**[www.philipdunne.com](http://www.philipdunne.com)**  
**March 2019**

## Rural Vulnerability

As Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Rural Services, I hosted last month a Rural Vulnerability Day in Parliament.

Much discussion was focussed around a research report on the State of Rural Services 2018 compiled by Rural England. This took an in-depth look at 8 key areas of rural service provision in contrast with more urban areas, which all resonate here in South Shropshire. These were: buses and community transport; broadband and mobile connectivity; public library services; hospitals; Public Health services; young people's services; shops and online shopping; and public advice services.

Having been banging the drum consistently for rural issues for almost two decades, I was shocked to hear remarks from one MP in January who called fairer funding settlements for rural areas "perverse reverse redistribution", when comparing rural Councils to places like Hackney – which incidentally has a core spending power per dwelling 27% higher than Shropshire.

But this reminded me of the importance of having good data with which we can ensure rural areas like Shropshire continue to be pushed up the government's agenda.

I was pleased Defra Minister Lord Gardiner, who has ministerial responsibility for Rural Affairs, was able to address our meeting. He made clear the government is taking the issue of rurality more seriously. We have for example seen 14 government departments now having a dedicated senior civil servant responsible for considering rural implications of policies. We have also seen some more equitable distribution of funding for important areas such as schools and local government. But this report shows why there is still much more to do.

When it comes to connectivity, as we know all too well, rural areas are improving but still lag significantly behind urban areas. Given obvious transport difficulties compared to urban areas, it is all the more important for rural connectivity to improve, so business and employment opportunities can open up. The research indicated basic phone calls cannot be made inside 33 per cent of rural buildings on all four mobile networks (EE, Three, O2 and Vodafone), compared to 3% in urban areas. This needs to improve.

The report also highlighted that while young people in rural areas fare better than their urban peers in education and mental health, they tend to score worse on a number of key public health indicators - alcohol consumption, smoking, being bullied, and risky behaviour.

So one of the outcomes from the Rural Vulnerability Day is that the APPG will now be taking an in-depth look into why rural children are more likely to have worse public health indicators, and what we can do to help tackle this growing health issue.

The report did highlight growing evidence of services sharing premises and co-locating with each other at 'hubs', enabling rural communities to retain access to services while helping providers achieve some cost savings and generate more footfall – a win/win for all. So this is something we should continue to encourage.

There is clearly more work to do. This powerful State of Rural Services report will help add weight to our campaign for greater funding for rural areas, particularly in the context of the next Spending Review from HM Treasury, expected to take place in coming months. I intend to take a leading role in championing the rural voice in the Spending Review.

*Philip Dunne*

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# NATURAL ENGLAND

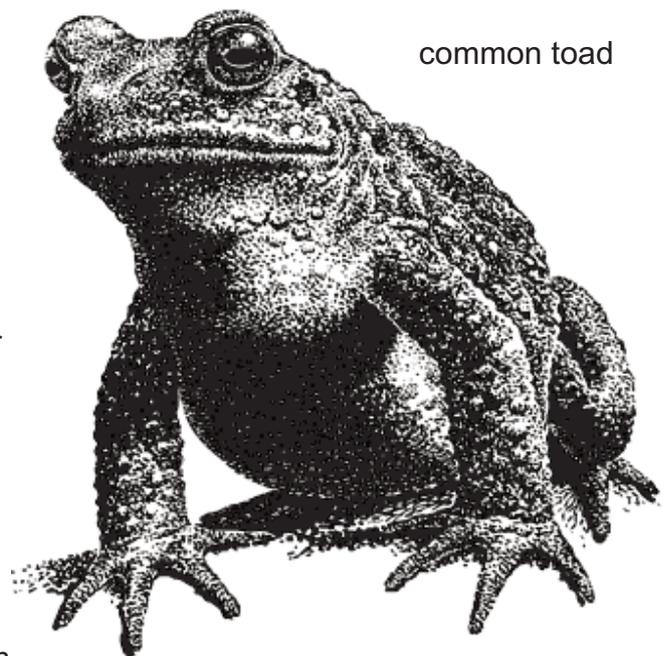
## Notes from the hill

*Simon Cooter for Natural England staff at Rigmooak.*

The warmer weather in March should see some of our amphibians emerging from their hibernation in readiness to mate and lay eggs. We have five species of amphibian in the area, although only three have been recorded on the National Nature Reserve. These are the common frog, toad and palmate newt. The two other species of newts, the great crested and the smooth newt, are found close by for example in the ponds at the Bog.

Our most common amphibian on the hill by far is the common frog. These will now be heading to their breeding ponds, the males sometimes piggy-backing on the females. They take 2-3 years to reach this breeding condition when the male will sing, using its single vocal sac under its chin, to attract a mate. The frog spawn is usually seen in the ponds on the hill in late March when up to 2,000 eggs can be laid by one female. However the cold temperatures and the acid nature of the pools will not support large numbers of tadpoles so only a few of these will survive to become froglets.

Toads are found occasionally but they tend to like deeper pools to spawn in than are found on the hill. However we have on occasion come across one hibernating when we have been repairing some of the stone banks. Piles of stones and rubble are often the favoured hibernation areas for most amphibians, so if you have a pond in the garden it is good to also provide the necessary winter habitat too. Both toads and frogs are excellent to encourage into the garden as one of their favoured foods are slugs, so a pond in the garden not only adds to its beauty, it also helps reduce the garden pests.



common toad

The other amphibian found in many of the pools on the hill is the palmate newt, which is associated with heath and moorland sites with low fertility and low pH. It is distinguished from the similar sized smooth newt by the lack of spots under the chin and the webbed back feet of the males. Both palmate and the smooth newt are considerably smaller than the great crested newt, which has a bright yellow or orange underbelly. The great crested newt grows nearly twice as big as their smaller cousins and in spring the male grows an impressive large crest on its back and tail, making it look quite prehistoric. They also have an elaborate courtship display where a male stands on his front legs in front of a female with an arched back while he waves his tail and crest around wafting pheromones through the water.

The main predators of young newts and the eggs (and of most other pond life) are fish, which is why it is good to avoid stocking fish in garden ponds where providing for wildlife is the aim.

If the weather dries up a bit, you may see smoke coming from the hill, as this is the time that we carry out our controlled burning of the heather. This along with heather cutting benefits a whole range of creatures including providing tender new shoots for the red grouse, reducing shade on the reindeer lichens and opening up warm bare soil for insects.

The first day of the Blakemoorgate cottages being open is the 7<sup>th</sup> April. They will then be open as usual every first Sunday 11am-3pm, until October.

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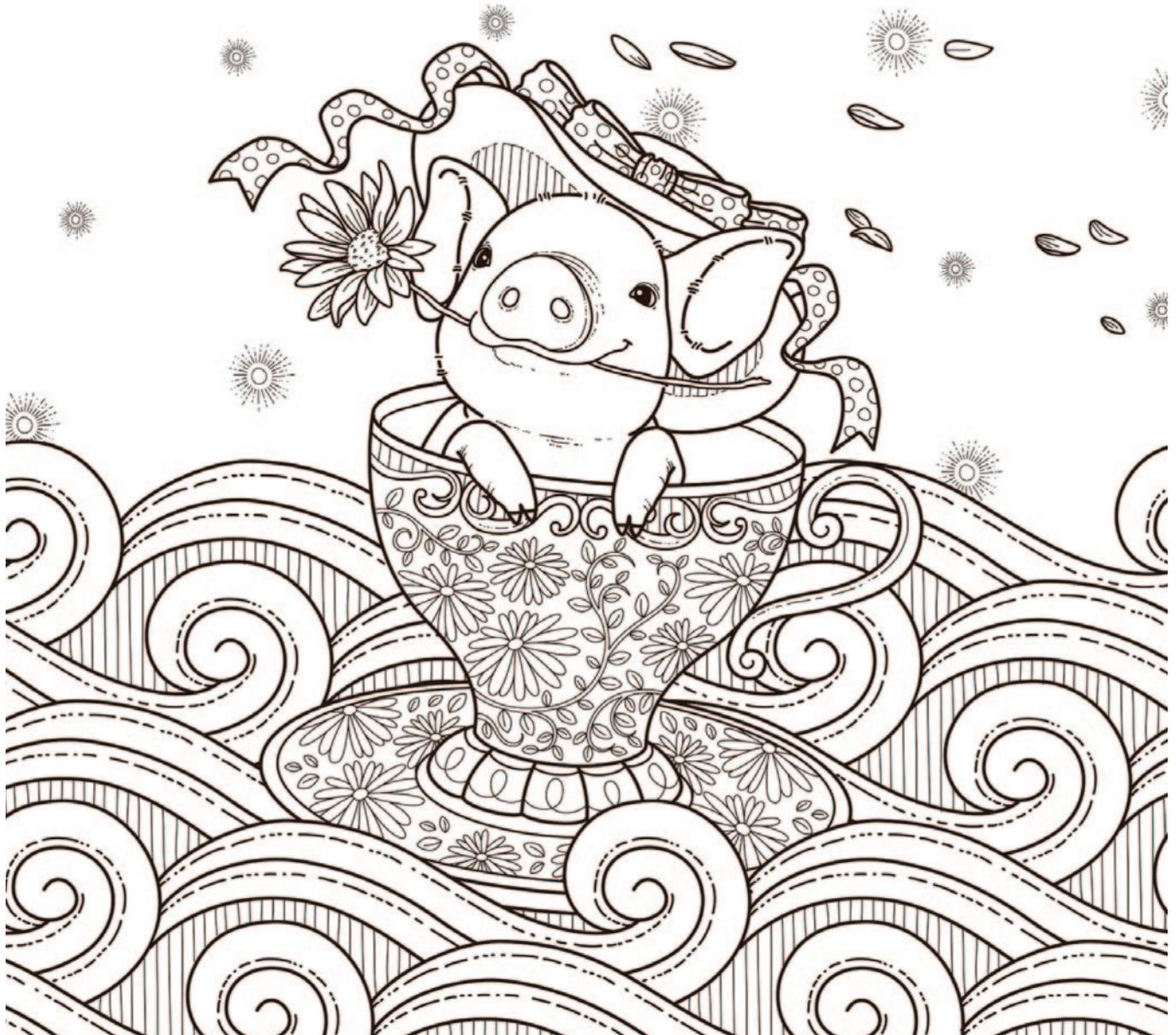
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## The Young Adults and Little People's Page

After Suzie Jackson's stunning inaugural start to this dedicated page, it's all gone a bit flat! We've had nothing submitted for this month, so I've given you something to colour in instead. All submissions to Phil at the Stiperstones Inn to win a pen or a pint (if you're old enough!).

Remember kids, this is *your* page to fill with *your* articles, illustrations and comments.

Don't be shy, give it a try!



### More actual (allegedly) excerpts from G.C.S.E science exam papers

- For fainting: rub the person's chest, or if a lady, rub her arm above the hand instead.
- Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.
- Vegetative propagation is the process by which one individual manufactures another individual by accident.
- A person should take a bath once in the summer, and not quite so often in the winter.
- Humans are more intelligent than beasts because the human branes have more convulsions.
- Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.
- Bar magnets have north and south poles, horseshoe magnets have east and west poles.
- When water freezes you can walk on it. That is what Christ did long ago in wintertime.
- For dog bite: put the dog away for several days. If he has not recovered, then kill it.

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## Heather Kidd's Report

### Building land in Chirbury and Worthen Division

Shropshire Council has 3 types of settlement in its review of where to build houses in our area. These are:-

- i) 'Hubs' – Chirbury, Brockton and Worthen,
- ii) 'Clusters' which are settlements which have opted to have some housing (usually in no more than 2's or 3's) and
- iii) 'Open countryside' - everywhere else which will have no housing except, very possibly, affordable rented homes.

There are a long list of clusters which include locally: Snailbeach, Stiperstones, Crows Nest, Tankerville, Black Hole, Shelve, The Bog, Pennerley Land for building is only allocated in hubs. I organised two well attended public meetings for the hubs. The Parish Councils and myself will now be moving on to work with clusters to see if they continue to want housing built in them and if so what sort of housing. Shropshire Council has now changed the delivery of that housing to reflect the need in those communities. The Parish and I will be working with 'Right Home Right Place' (Shropshire Council's housing needs team) to find out the type of housing needed. That work will start in February/March.

It is so important that local people can stay living in the communities they live in and to find a family home they can afford to buy or rent. Until now Shropshire Council's planning policy has not allowed that. Now is the time to change that! Watch out for meetings and consultations in the coming months.

Best wishes

*Heather*

Heather Kidd, Shropshire  
Councillor for Chirbury and  
Worthen

Tel: 07980635516

[heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk)

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

## St Patrick's Day Litter Pick Sunday 17th March, 10am.

Lara Sproson-Jones writes

There has been some mention recently of a litter problem around our villages. In general I would say we are very lucky and most of the tipping and accidental litter dropping gets picked up by the many individuals who are out walking and litter picking in our villages.

This Spring however, the lovely people at **Keep Britain Tidy** are pushing for a *Great British Spring Clean* and I thought we could get the jump on them by having ours a little early. (Trust me, nobody's mother wants to go litter collecting for Mothers Day!)

So I am proposing a villages clean up at 10 a.m. on **Sunday the 17th March**. With enough volunteers we can divide the villages up into manageable sections and tackle not only the main roads, but the lanes and dingles too. It would be great if people could let me know that they would like to join in - message me, drop into the pub, send a note with your neighbour, or just give me a ring on 01743 791327. But even if you haven't let me know beforehand, just come down and join in.

I have been able to get some Hi-Viz vests, litter picks and gloves from the council, but if you have your own then please bring them with you. Equipment and routes will be available from either the Stiperstones Inn or Snailbeach Village Hall from 9:45am.



### St Luke

### Snailbeach

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### Mothering Sunday

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**Sunday 31st March**

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**PONTESBURY GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

**Pontesbury & District Gardeners Association.**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the evening of 5th March at 7.30 in the Len Simpson room of the Public Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone in the more relaxed, and warmer, atmosphere that the Public Hall offers. After the business of the evening there will be refreshments, consisting of wine and cheese, or other nibbles and softer drinks if you prefer. Looking forward to May, our social evening, 'Spring into the Garden', will be on Thursday 16th May at 7.30 in the Public Hall; more details of who will be selling, or showing what, nearer the time.

The Trading Post is now fully open and functioning well; the stock of multi-purpose compost is selling well, but still taking up much of the floor space. As soon as we have space we will get the first delivery of Pongarmulch, the soil improver made from composted green waste; in the meantime we have a few bags of organic composted farmyard manure which will do a similar job. We have also re-stocked on the range of John Innes composts as well as a peat-free multi-purpose.

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

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**UPDATE MEETING  
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**Mobile Library times:**

Alternate Wednesdays  
March 13th & 27th - 2019  
Snailbeach village hall - 14:00 - 14:20  
Stiperstones school - 14:30 - 15:10

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm**

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**Minsterley Parish Hall**

Featuring guest speakers Richard and Mavis Gulliver with their talk,  
**'The Botanicals of The Botanist Gin'**  
And results from local wildlife surveys  
All are welcome!

**A message from Mary Jones**

Mary would like to thank family and friends for all the lovely flowers she has received. The house looked like a flower shop! Also for all the plants and chocolates, 'phone calls and coming to see me. All is well now and back to work - until the next one...  
Thank you.  
*Mary Jones.*

I own the world's worst thesaurus.  
Not only is it awful, it's awful.

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## **Cash for the Community**

Carol McMillan has brought it to our attention that the **Shropshire Star** is publishing vouchers for "**Cash for the Community**" from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Carol has asked that if anyone locally has the newspaper regularly, would they save the vouchers for her. She intends using the vouchers to support the **Shrewsbury Epilepsy Support Group** who are hoping to collect enough vouchers to be able to submit a claim for money to assist their newly formed support group helping families of people like Carol who have members suffering from epilepsy.

Carol will collect the vouchers from you. **You can contact her on 01743 791605.**

## **CURLEW COUNTRY NEEDS URGENT HELP NOW TO CONTINUE ITS VITAL WORK**

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Curlew Country Research has demonstrated in four years that **curlews can survive**. In the longer term we need **realistic agri-environment funding** to support farmers with breeding curlews, coupled with **predation control**.

This can only be achieved by working **with** policy makers and will take time.

**Please give now: [www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal](http://www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal)**

or send a cheque payable to '**Ground nesting birds Recovery Group**' and send it to Curlew Country, Rigmoroak, Pennerley, Minsterley, Shropshire, SY5 ONE

### **Curlew Facts!**

The Curlew is Britain's largest wading bird, and the UK holds the largest population of the Eurasian Curlew.

The Latin name for the Eurasian curlew, *Numenius arquata*, is derived from the Greek *neos* and *mene*, meaning new moon and the Latin *arcuatus* meaning bow-shaped, both referring to the crescent shaped bill.

Most nests will have been started in April, with at least 1 egg by 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Curlew are very secretive about their nest sites, landing a long way off and walking in through long grass to disguise the location.



**Pontesbury - Ludlow - Pontesbury**

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Minsterley	08:55	Craven Arms	13:30
Hope	09:00	Long Meadowend	13:35
Gravels	09:03	Aston on Clun	15:17
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	09:35	Colebatch	14:20
Clunton	09:38	Bishops Castle	14:25
Little Brampton	09:40	Lydham	14:30
Lydbury North	09:50	White Grit	14:35
Aston on Clun	10:03	Gravels	14:37
Long Meadowend	10:05	Hope	14:40
Craven Arms	10:10	Minsterley	14:45
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	10:25	Pontesbury	14:50

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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	Bishops Castle	14:40
Bromleys Mill	09:55	Lydham	14:43
Lydham	09:57	Bromleys Mill	14:45
Bishops Castle	10:00	Llan Turn	14:49
Bishops Castle	10:05	White Grit	14:52
Church Stoke	10:20	Gravels	14:55
Blue Bell	10:25	Hope	15:00
Sarn	10:30	Plox Green	15:02
Kerry	10:40	Minsterley	15:05
Newtown	10:50	Pontesbury	15:10

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16th March	Bury Market	£19.00
20th March	Tewkesbury Market & Worcester	£18.50
26th March	Bournville Village & Cadbury's Heritage Tour	£31.00
3rd April	Botanical Garden of Wales	£30.50
9th April	Ross-on-Wye, Lunch followed by a scenic cruise down the Wye Valley	£36.00
25th April	Woburn Safari Park	£40.00
30th April	National Tramway Museum	£29.00
11th May	Liverpool, Steam on the Dock	£18.50

Detailed brochures available for more information please call : 01743 791208

Email: [bookings@minsterleymotors.co.uk](mailto:bookings@minsterleymotors.co.uk)

[www.minsterleymotors.co.uk](http://www.minsterleymotors.co.uk)

**Baptist Services**

Sunday services: 10.30 am & 3.00 pm  
 Prayer Meeting/Bible Study  
 Wednesdays 7.15 pm  
 Held in the School Room, Snailbeach  
 Elder: Mr. Joe Evans 01743 790 979  
 All are welcome!

**Quaker Meetings****Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting House**

Corporation Lane, Coton Hill,  
 Shrewsbury, SY1 2NU

10.30 am every Sunday

**Clun Valley Quaker Meeting**

The Community Centre

Grange Road, Bishop's Castle

10.30 am every Sunday, **except 1st Sunday of month** Hazelhurst Community Centre, Hazelhurst Close, Clun SY7 8LQ



## The Methodist Church Snailbeach Methodist Church News

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**March 3rd at 2:45 with Mr. W. Morris**

**March 10th at 2:45 with Mr. S. Bennett**

**March 17th at 2:45 Mrs. R. Powell**

**March 24th at 10:30 Rev. MacNeill**

**Cooper**

**March 31st at 10:30 Led by congregation**

Please note that parking at **Stiperstones Methodist Chapel** car park will not be available for use from **10am March 6th until 4pm March 10th** as the chapel will be in use for that period. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

**Stiperstones Group C of E Service Rota March 2019**

Date	Habberley St. Mary	Hope Holy Trinity	Minsterley Holy Trinity	Shelve All Saints	Snailbeach St. Luke
1st Sunday 3rd March Sunday next before Lent Green			10.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Christopher (Rev'd Giles taking 11am All Age Communion & Baptism of Sophie Matthys at All Saints Worthen)	9.00am Morning Prayer Rev'd Giles	
Ash Wednesday 6th March Purple			7.30pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion Rev'd Giles		
2nd Sunday 10th March Lent 1 Purple	6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer Rev'd Giles	9.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Giles	10.30am All Age Worship Rev'd Giles		
3rd Sunday 17th March Lent 2 Purple			10.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Giles	9.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Giles	
4th Sunday 24th March Lent 4 Purple	10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Giles	9.00am Morning Prayer Rev'd Giles	10.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Carolyn		
5th Sunday 31st March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday Purple	10.30am Group Holy Communion Service Rev'd Giles				9.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Giles

## Waste Collection Schedule

March 2019				April
<b>Tues 5th</b>	<b>Tues 12th</b>	<b>Tues 19th</b>	<b>Tues 26th</b>	<b>Tues 2nd</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Black</b>

### Mobile Post Office Opening Times

As from Tuesday 12th February 2019 the Post Office is operating in the back room of **the Stiperstones Inn at 12:15 to 2:15.**

Post Office telephone number:  
08457 223344 (central customer services)

### Stiperstones Stores NEW opening times

Approximately 9.00am - 5.30pm daily  
Tel: **01743 790594**

## Useful Numbers

**Shrewsbury Hospital**  
01743 261 000

**NHS (formerly Shropdoc)**  
111

**Pontesbury Medical**  
01743 790 325

**Worthen Medical**  
01743 891 401

**Pontesbury Chemist**  
01743 790 273

**Police**  
0300 333 3000

**Severn Trent Water**  
0800 783 4444

**Western Power**  
0800 328 1111

**British Telecom**  
0800 023 2023

**Stiperstones School**  
01743 791 207

**Minsterley Motors**  
01743 791 208

**Councillor H Kidd**  
01938 561 651

**Philip Dunne MP**  
01584 872 187

**Village Hall Bookings**  
01743 791 633

**Stiperstones Oil Coordinator**  
01743 792 204

**Snailbeach District News**  
01743 790 049

**Stiperstones Stores**  
01743 790 594

**Stiperstones Inn**  
01743 791 327



Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

PC3331 Stuart Coote

PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

PCSO 40387 Calvin Brown

Local Police Team:

**01743 264777**

(Not to be used for reporting crime, incidents or emergencies)

***No crime report has been submitted this month but there will be a double edition of the Police Newsletter in April***

### RURAL CRIME.

There has been a spike in burglaries and thefts over the last few months in the rural areas around the patch. Power tools have been the main target.

We urge all not to ignore suspicious behaviour and to try and report it as close to the time witnessed as possible. Many of the local burglaries and thefts do occur during the daytime. See an unfamiliar van parked in a field gate near your village? Car driving slow through the area? Suspicious person seen outside your neighbour's property? Please don't ignore it, call it in on 101.

Ask yourself how easy would it be to gain access to your premises, outbuilding, sheds, tack rooms and farmhouses? Are your locks adequate - could they be forced? Can horseboxes, trailers or vehicles be removed easily without you hearing? Could you describe, identify or have pictures of stolen property if it were recovered?

If you would like some crime prevention advice at your property please email the team on [bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) and we will come out and visit.

Any information can be reported anonymously to crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

### Stiperstones Brass Rehearsals

Snailbeach Village Hall  
Mondays 7.45pm  
Term times only

### Quiz Night

Stiperstones Inn  
Last Monday 8.00pm

### Knitter Natter

Stiperstones Inn  
Tuesdays from 10.00am

### Yoga

Snailbeach Village Hall  
Tuesdays 10.00am

### Iyengar Yoga

Snailbeach Village Hall  
Tuesday 7.00pm

### Snailbeach & Stiperstones Baby & Toddler Group

Thursdays 10am -12am  
Snailbeach Village Hall

### Ballroom Dancing

Snailbeach Village Hall  
1st & 3rd Thursdays  
From 7.30pm  
Beginners call 01743 790308

### Snailbeach WI

Snailbeach Village Hall  
2nd Thursday - 7.30pm

### Fit Club

Stiperstones School Playground  
Every Sunday 9am  
Aerobics Village Hall  
6 -7 Wednesdays 80's aerobics  
7.15 - 8-15 low impact session.  
£6 per hour session.

## Minsterley & District Eisteddfod

The 57th. Annual Eisteddfod will be held at  
Minsterley Parish Hall on  
Saturday, 23rd. March 2019

This will be a full competition day commencing on stage at  
9.00 a.m. and continuing until approximately 10.00 p.m.  
which will include all ages of competitors in many different  
and varied skills.

The adjudicators are:-

**Music - Geraint Roberts, GRSM, ARCM  
Philip Dewhurst, BA, PGCE**

**Literature - Robert Meadows, BA, PGCE**

To conclude the weekend, a celebrity concert will be held on  
Sunday 24th. March,  
at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets available from 15th. March

For schedules and any further information, please contact:-

Mrs. Jill Blyth

Tel. 01743 791908

or

Mrs. Bronwen Evans

Tel. 01743 791314

or any committee member.

## Clothes Swap Party

Cakes n clothes: buns n buttons!

Sunday April 7th at 2 pm

Snailbeach Village Hall

Tickets £6 to  
include a glass of fizz  
from Stiperstones Inn  
Tel 791327

- \* swap womens and mens clothes  
and accessories
- \* Teenagers rail too!
- \* Music from Brian Carrington
- \* Raffle
- \* Afternoon Teas

A benefit for Jatinga Valley School,  
Assam, India.

**Editor/Publisher: Patrick Marks - editor.sdn@mail.com**

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Deadline for inclusion is midday on the 20th of each month.

Wherever possible please submit material to the editor in digital format.