

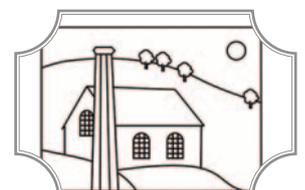
# SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

JULY 2018

FREE!



**There is no August edition, so we'll see you on the other side of summer in September. We hope the sun shines wherever you are!**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Big BBQ Bash

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 4pm onwards.**

To raise money for The Lingen Davies Cancer Treatment Centre at RSH.

Further to my notice in last month's S&DN, here's some more detail.

The BBQ, including some beer and soft drinks, is on us but, clearly, some assistance with drinks and other bits and pieces would help out, along with a few extra chairs.

Regretfully we cannot cater for children so please note that this event is for adults only.

Please feel free to bring anything you wish for the Fun Auction, it can be as daft or serious as you wish.

Also, prizes for the Raffle will be gratefully received.

Finally, to help in our organising food and numbers, PLEASE let us know you'll be coming.

You can call in at The Hollies, ring 01743 79096, or email [bigmaldu@hotmail.com](mailto:bigmaldu@hotmail.com).

Or, if you cannot make it and would like to donate then go on line to;

[www.justgiving.com/Malcolm-Dunbar1](http://www.justgiving.com/Malcolm-Dunbar1)

Many, many thanks.

*Malcolm & Doreen Dunbar, The Hollies, Stiperstones.*

\*\*\*

### Pontesbury Gardeners Annual Show

The Show will be held on Saturday 26 August in Pontesbury Public Hall, opening to the public at 2.30 in the afternoon, but will be open on Friday evening and Saturday morning for competitors to stage their entries. There are categories for cookery, handicrafts, painting and photography as well as those for the normal range of fruit and vegetables, plus children's sections which incorporate gardening, photography and cookery.

This year we have two new trophies to award; Bill and Chris Neil have donated a cup in memory of Miss Jean Swann, a stalwart of the Gardeners Association for many years; this will be awarded to the entrant gaining most points in the needlework sections, a reflection of Miss Swann's enthusiasm for, and skill in, upholstery. The Shropshire Woodcarvers have donated a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the best exhibit in the Item Carved from Wood section.

Schedules and entry forms for this year's Show are now available. They can be collected at the

Trading Post on any Saturday morning, and some are available at shops in the village. Copies of the Schedule in Word and the entry form in Excel can be e-mailed by contacting:

**[robedixon@btopenworld.com](mailto:robedixon@btopenworld.com).**

There will be a plant stall and refreshments, and the afternoon concludes with presentation of prizes at 4 pm, followed by a raffle and an auction of some of the exhibits.

We would like to give many thanks to all those who attended our Spring into the Garden evening in May and made a donation to the charity bucket. We have passed on £100 to Diabetes UK Shrewsbury Kids Group.

### Trading Post

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon; staffed entirely by volunteers you will be sure of a warm welcome and a helping hand to get your bags of compost and fertiliser into your car – or wheelbarrow – if that is your preferred form of transport.

\*\*\*

### Snailbeach Village Halls' Quiz

I am very happy to be able to say that Snailbeach will be in the Quiz again next season. Last year was the first time since the Quiz started that Snailbeach had not entered a team. We are all very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for agreeing to support us once more.

Even though the entries have not yet been submitted, we already have a team for the beginning night of the season on the 12 October - Jenny Alldridge, Dave Fitzhugh, Neil Sherry and Susan Bates.

We also have two or three people ready for November and December.

If anyone else is available on 9th. November or 7th. December and would like to have a go, please get in touch with me. We do have seven people who take part regularly, but they are not always free on the relevant evenings.

*Jenny Alldridge*

*[jenny.alldridge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jenny.alldridge@yahoo.co.uk)*

\*\*\*

### Habberley

#### Annual Village Barbecue

Advance notice of the Annual Village Barbecue - **Friday 20th July**. This year it is important to book your tickets prior to Wednesday 18th July in order for the catering to be organised, we will let everyone know as soon as the tickets are available.

## 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 & Wednesdays*  
*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 pm Wednesdays*

**Kids Football Training**  
*Snailbeach Football Club*  
*Thursday 6pm -7pm*  
*Easter – October excluding*  
*school holidays*



## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



As I write this on the longest day of the year, the sun beams down benevolently from a deep blue sky, occasionally dipping behind a white 'fair weather' cloud. Meanwhile the B.B.C. assures me that over the coming weeks temperatures will rise. It all bodes well for our summer break! Yes, the SDN does not publish in August, so our next edition, following this, will be in September.

I will be sending out invoices for the coming year 2018/19 to all our advertisers during July. Once again, I must thank you all for your continued support. And thanks also to all of you who regularly donate to help keep the SDN afloat. Without you we would struggle...

One of the most satisfying aspects of editing the SDN for me is receiving articles and short pieces from local contributors. Yes, I sometimes have to chivvy people into submitting copy, but it's so worth it! The sheer variety of material and subject matter that we've had over the last 12 months or so is wonderful. We live in a beautiful rural community that is full of character and characters, and this is reflected time and time again in the diversity of styles and content that go to help make our proud little publication a 'must read'.

I often get comments like, "I take it to the loo with me for a good long read" and "I really look forward to it arriving each month" and "I enjoy reading it over my morning cup of tea." Judging by the speed at which the copies left at the Stiperstones Inn disappear, it would seem that visitors to the area like it too! So, please, please keep sending your articles in!

This month's content covers Bitcoins and crypto-currencies (I don't know about you, but my mail box has been bombarded by invitations recently to 'Become a millionaire overnight!'), UFO's over The Stiperstones, a walk along Pilgrims Way, Curlew Country and the new chicks, Lara's piece this month about Cranberry Rock, and a centre spread about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sprosons at the Stiperstones Inn – a fascinating read. Along with the usual funny stuff (I was going to call it 'Summer Funny' because some are not...), the regular letters from Westminster and Heather Kidd, and Phil's colouring page, I trust there's enough to keep you all going until September.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Patrick Marks - Editor

Email: [editor.sdn@mail.com](mailto:editor.sdn@mail.com)

Telephone: 01743 790049



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## Cranberry Rock

The last rock on the main Stiperstones Ridgeline is known as Cranberry Rock. This one is a little more inaccessible as it is surrounded by the streams of boulders created during the ice-age which create a rocky, ankle twisting perimeter. The rock sits at a fork in the ridge-line path, here you can follow the main path to the left and head down to the Knolls carpark, or, you can attempt to find the small and completely unmarked Shropshire way path which goes around the right hand side of the rock and then heads down in the direction of Nipstone good luck finding it though.

Cranberry rock is the only one of the stones named after the local flora, so I thought this would be a good chance to have a look at the berries which grow wild all over the Stiperstones. The wild mountain cranberry is also known as Lingonberry or Cowberry, it grows all over the Stiperstones hills, but the bushes tend to be very small and don't produce very much fruit so the berries are less plentiful than their bigger more prolific Whinberry cousins. The mountain cranberry usually flowers in June and they are a great source of nectar for bees and other insects picking up just as the Whinberry blossoms have dropped. The berries themselves are tart, full of flavour, and remarkably robust, my dad has been known to pick them in the middle of December to make a fresh cranberry sauce for Christmas Dinner!

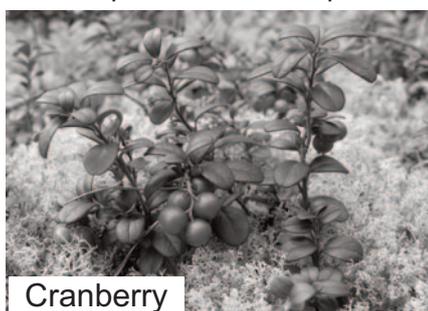
By far the most prolific berry on the hillside is of course the back-breaking, finger staining, omnipresent whinberry. This little berry is well known for its antioxidant properties and has been used as a remedy for everything from poor eyesight to diabetes. Of course it also tastes great (but then I would say that wouldn't I). The whinberry bushes flower in May and produce an abundant crop of purple berries from late June through to August. You can still find berries on the hill right through September, October and even later on in the year. If you want to know when the whinberries are ripening there is no need to climb the hill to look at the plants, simply look down on the ground - when the bird muck turns purple you know that it's time to get picking!

The far lesser known berry of the Stiperstones hillside is the crowberry. At first glance it may look remarkably similar to the Whinberry, but it grows on a type of heather which has a very different leaf structure and the berry itself is much darker, nearly black in colour. As a young picker I was always told to make sure to avoid the crowberry as it was poisonous. My detailed research (google) however does not seem to support this. The crowberry is virtually tasteless I am told and traditionally was a good source of food for various inuit tribes as the vitamin rich berries remain on the plant right through the winter (still not sure I'm prepared to taste them myself). Commercially the crowberry is generally used to create a food dye and is sometimes known as mossberry.

As well as these 3 berries the Stiperstones also produces the more common blackberries, wild raspberries and rowan berries, the first 2 are obviously delicious, the best thing I can say about the rowan berry however is that it won't kill you, and if you could make something nice out of it then those canny scots would have had something on the market years ago!

If you're planning on going foraging this summer make sure you keep an eye out for information on which areas have been sprayed for bracken control, stay off private land and watch out for wasp nests in the undergrowth (I once spent a good minute with several angry wasps inside my t-shirt whilst I tried to find a safe place to put down my buckets of freshly picked whinberries).

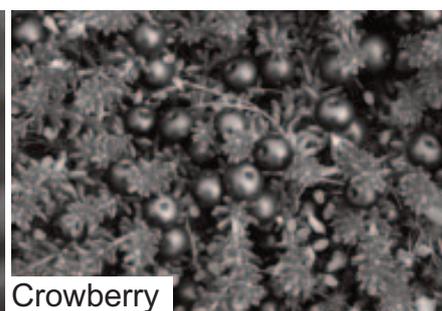
©Lara Sproson-Jones - Stiperstones - May 2018



Cranberry



Whinberry



Crowberry

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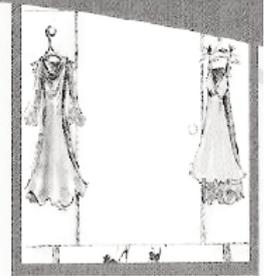


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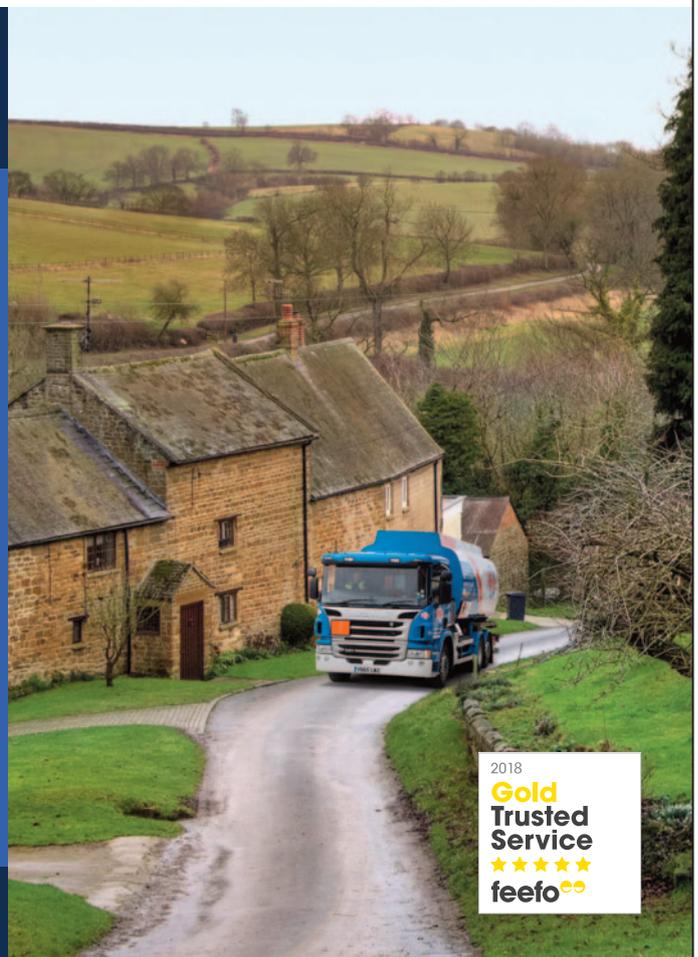
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## Planning applications and permissions.

**Reference:** 18/01516/FUL  
**Alternative Reference:** PP-06854773  
**Application Validated:** Fri 13 Apr 2018  
**Address:** Proposed new dwelling At Little Nest Crows Nest, Snailbeach, Shropshire  
**Proposal:** Conversion and extension of existing garage/workshop to form dwelling, and erection of detached garage  
**Status:** Granted  
**Decision:** Grant Permission  
**Decision Issued Date:** Wed 13 Jun 2018  
**Appeal Status:** Unknown  
**Appeal Decision:** Not Available



## Hay Meadow Festival

Following our successful Hay Meadow Festival last year, we've set the date and are planning this year's event. It coincides with National Meadows Day, Saturday 7th July, at the Bog, Pennerley. You've just a few days left to get practicing for all our competitions... scything, hay rick building and hay bale tossing! New for this year is a 'talk tent' to hear different people speak about what's happening locally to conserve and enhance our wildflower meadow and wildlife. If you're interested in having a stall, or helping out on the day, please get in touch with:

**Alison Kay**

Email: [alison.kay@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.kay@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 or call

**01743 254 740.**

*The raw materials needed to make a desktop computer, including 530 lb of fossil fuels, 50 lb of chemicals and 3,330 lb of water, weigh two tons: about the same as a rhinoceros.*



## This month in the garden...



### Week 1.

#### **...pick herbs for drying just before they flower...**

High summer is here and the garden is in full bloom. The herbaceous border will remain colourful until September if care is taken to remove flowers as soon as they fade. Harvest culinary herbs on dry days just before they flower and cut lavender for drying.

### Week 2.

#### **...in amongst the borders...**

Continue cutting back early flowering plants and, in mild areas, trim delphiniums and lupins to ground level to encourage a second display of flowers. Hoe in fertiliser around clumps of Michaelmas daisies. Watch out for plant diseases in humid conditions and treat quickly to prevent them from spreading.

### Week 3.

#### **...pick herbs on fine days...**

Make further sowings of chervil, dill and parsley in open ground in a sunny position. Pick herbs for drying just before they flower. Lay the sprigs on shallow trays in single layers and dry them in an airing cupboard until they are brittle and crisp. Discard the stalks and store the herbs in airtight jars.

### Week 4.

#### **...plan new borders...**

Now is a good time to assess your garden and plan the overhaul of tired, overgrown beds. Dig over roughly, clearing plants and removing weeds as you work. Light soil can be prepared for autumn planting, but heavy earth will need the effects of winter frost, wind and rain to make deep digging possible.

©Judith Glover - "Garden Days"

You can buy Judith's 2018 "Garden Days" calendar at her website shop

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# AMAZING FACTS

## To Blow Your Mind



- Prisoners waiting to be executed on Death Row in America are given a physical beforehand, to ensure they are fit enough to die.
- Ladybird orgasms last for 30 minutes.
- The Romans split France into 'Trousered Gaul' in the south and 'Hairy Gaul' in the north.
- Per head of population, Britain has 13 times as many accountants as Germany.
- Since 1980, the salaries of executives in FTSE 100 companies have risen by 4,000% compared to 300% for their employees.
- Finnair operates a daily flight 666 to HEL.
- The Hindenburg airship was almost named 'The Hitler'.
- More wine is drunk per head in Vatican City than any other country on Earth.
- Due to a computer error in 1989 41,000 Parisians received letters charging them with murder, extortion and prostitution instead of traffic offences.
- There are more statues of lions in the world than there are real lions.
- Harold Wilson was so poor when he was at university that his mother sent him meat in the post.
- In 1552, Henry Pert died after shooting himself in the face with his own bow and arrow.
- Human teeth evolved from fish scales
- 46% of American adults believe that the world is less than 10,000 years old.
- Lions can get hairballs the size of footballs.

## MIDDLETON CHURCH CONCERT



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During June 2018

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

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

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**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.*

**Malcolm & Doreen Dunbar's Big Summer BBQ!**  
Sunday, 8th July  
4pm 'til very late.  
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## More From Sammy Mail

### Bitcoins

*"It is important to remember that a currency is only as good as the organisation that issues it. If the entity defaults, the currency is worthless."*

This statement applies to the rash of crypto-currencies that seek to stand side by side or even replace the pound, the dollar, the euro, the yen or any other government based currency. It could however equally apply to any of these seemingly safe as the 'Bank of England' monetary systems. All worldwide currencies now rely on faith in the governments concerned, maybe Icelanders, Greeks and Venezuelans have lost a little faith.

I have invested a little of my faith and a little of my pension in these new crypto currencies. I have crept carefully into a jungle of scams, fraudsters and equally intrepid but poorly informed or equipped explorers. I hope I have found some safe clearings amongst the scary creatures out to do me harm and that I will be able to return to my deposits to find my investments still intact.

Never heard of crypto-currencies? Well in 2008 Satoshi Nakamoto, an unidentified person or group had the idea to base a currency on work done electronically on a computer rather than work done by digging metal out of the ground. He named this currency Bitcoin. Bitcoins can be bought or sold as any other paper currency. Its value as with any other currencies depending on who is prepared to pay what, but unlike other currencies there is no stabilising government anchor to ensure that there are no dramatic price changes.

Nowadays 'miners', as those who generate bitcoins are called, work all over the world to generate the quintillions of numbers needed to create a 'block' and so receive bitcoins. Each new block demands more numbers to be generated, while miners could once work with home computers now the computing power needed to generate such mind blowing arithmetic requires it to be done on a near industrial scale. Satoshi Nakamoto's creation sets a limit of 21 million bitcoins, and as this limit is reached the returns for the miners gets less as the computer work needed gets more. It is estimated this limit will be reached in the year 2140, yes 2140.

The original Bitcoin in 2010 was worth 30 cents. Its value remained quite low until 2017 when it spiralled out of control to briefly reach \$20,000 before settling to its current value around \$7000. Millionaires were made overnight, many lost huge amounts and I have lost a little but am still playing.

While the majority of government economists, central bankers and investment companies are still very sceptical about the validity and the future of Bitcoins, some large organisations have decided they cannot afford to be out of the loop while the coin has such a high value and over 20 million investors worldwide. Many world stock exchanges are now operating some form of crypto currency market or offering 'futures' on currency values.

If you would like to creep into this jungle then the first rule is to ignore any adverts from brokers or pseudo brokers to make you a fortune overnight. There are many well established markets you can join, but do so on your own and tread carefully to begin with.

To begin you will need a 'wallet' which is really a file which holds the amount of bitcoins that you have purchased. These wallets can be kept on your own computer, on a special wallet USB stick or online with a 'bitcoin bank'. Every wallet has two keys which are long lists of numbers and letters. These are your security and need to be stashed away, preferably with a paper copy. Many bitcoin owners have lost everything because they have lost their key, had it copied or even lost the computer where the wallet was kept.

I have chosen to keep my coins in an Austrian online site called 'Bitpanda'. Many experts do not recommend using online wallets because you are at the mercy of those in charge. The pressures and complexities of handling my own wallets led me to risk trusting this site which seems to have some government support and has installed bitcoin ATMs in Vienna.

Once you have completed the signing on palaver and have had your own identity verified – you need to send them a copy of your passport and a utility bill – navigating the site is fairly easy and you can start by spending only a couple of pounds. As an extra line of security I use 'Skrill' an online bank to deposit money into and then use this account to make Bitcoin purchases.

I guess most of you will think what a lot of effort to probably lose your money but it has led me to explore this whole Bitcoin jungle and given me more fun than the lottery.

I have only mentioned Bitcoins, but there are now hundreds of other crypto-currencies and tokens such as Ripple, Ethereum, Litecoin and Iota. Even if you are not tempted to invest, browse the web and watch some of the Youtube videos now available.

Stay safe  
Geoff Sproson, Stiperstones.

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1.5 kg Gammon Joint	1kg Gammon Joint
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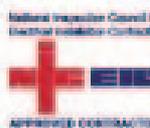


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We do not publish in August so this is the final edition of this year. Our next edition will be in September. This will be the start of the new advertising year 2018/19. If you wish to discontinue advertising with us, then we will be sad to see you go but, *please let us know* before the end of July so that others who are waiting to join us can be allocated space during August.

We will be sending out invoices to you all for the coming year during July. Could you *please* ensure that these are paid in full by August 10th.

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Thank you for your continued support.  
**Patrick Marks - editor.sdn@mail.com**

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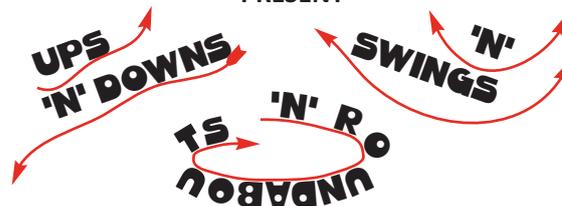
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## Mr. Quips Corner

- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane and going the wrong way.
- When your only tool is a hammer, all problems start looking like nails.
- The last thing I want to do is insult you. But it IS on the list.
- Take my advice — I'm not using it.
- Sure, I'd love to help you out ... now, which way did you come in?
- The problem with trouble shooting is that trouble shoots back.
- Treat each day as your last; one day you will be right.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- The problem with sex in the movies is that the popcorn usually spills.
- Talk is cheap. Until you hire a lawyer.

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

- I've had a wonderful time, but this wasn't it - *Groucho Marx*.
- There are a terrible lot of lies going around the world, and the worst of it is half of them are true - *Winston Churchill*
- The United States invariably does the right thing, after having exhausted every other alternative - *Winston Churchill*.
- A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths - *Steven Wright*.
- Airplanes may kill you, but they ain't likely to hurt you - *Satchel Paige*.
- Be nice to people on your way up because you meet them on your way down - *Jimmy Durante*.
- Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival - *W. Edwards Deming*.
- No man ever believes that the Bible means what it says: He is always convinced that it says what he means - *George Bernard Shaw*.
- If you can't convince them, confuse them - *Harry S Truman*.
- There are no rules here - we're trying to accomplish something - *Thomas A. Edison*.
- I don't recognize you - I've changed a lot - *Oscar Wilde*.



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### **Some old Shropshire dialect.**

#### **The old couple in the pub...**

*"Her was a tittlegoose an' a fussock and 'cos 'er were so slommakin, she dint 'alfronk! 'E was nunchid and a bit of a wankle loplollard. Both were bezzlers and rantipoles. Best keep away from 'em too as they were lungeous pizy folk. But I didna werrit - I'd tak mesell off whenever I see 'em."*

#### **And as it would be spoken today...**

*"She was a foolish, dirty, big, greasy woman and because she was so slovenly, she didn't half stink! He was stunted in growth and a bit of a feeble, lazy man. Both were drunkards and rude, ill-mannered people. Best keep away from them too, as they were malicious, peevish and irritable folk. But I didn't worry, - I'd take myself off whenever I saw them."*



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1lb liver                      1lb flour  
2 eggs                      2 cloves of garlic

- The ingredients need to be well blended together, if available use an electric blender. The mixture should resemble a pate consistency.
- Grease a microwave proof dish and place in the mixture, ensure that the dish is big enough to allow a couple of inches of expansion.
- Microwave on full power for 15 minutes.
- Allow to cool completely, then remove from dish and cut into 1cm cubes
- The treat will keep for several days in the fridge in an airtight container or you can divide it into smaller bags and freeze until required.



Deb Gallimore APDT 01189

# Curlew Calling

*An Update from Curlew Country*



Adult curlew in flight

Curlew Country is now entering its fourth year of operation on the ground, continuing its important work following the end of the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme. The project is now being hosted by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and has been awarded further funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to progress its work this year.

This funding, as well as that from other sources, will go towards a new phase for the project, seeing exciting new techniques being trialled. In 2017 the use of protective electric fencing and predator control helped more

chicks to hatch than had been seen in the two previous years combined. However, getting these chicks to survive to fledgling stage has proven a much more difficult and complex task.

For the population to remain stable, each pair only needs to raise half a chick per year (a better way to measure would be one chick every other year). The two years of close nest monitoring by project ornithologists found that no curlew chicks had fledged successfully in the area, not even reaching these low turnover numbers. It became clear that intervention was urgently needed, before the local population disappeared completely.

The curlew is a bird much loved by the communities around which it lives, and farmers and landowners have been keen to help the project protect and encourage these birds. Their long bubbling call is one that is unmistakable and losing it from the landscape is something everyone agrees we cannot let happen.

The desperate state that has been recorded, not just in Shropshire but across the country, led to the project taking a different approach. This year a licence was granted to head start curlew chicks, this means taking the eggs from wild nests, incubating them and rearing the resulting chicks to fledgling stage. When they are old enough they will then be released back into the wild, offering the population a much-needed boost. Although this is not a long-term solution, it allows the Curlew Country project extra time in which wider issues facing curlew, such as habitat loss and predation, can be addressed.



Curlew cam chicks being fitted with radio tags

Continued over →



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A full clutch of 4 eggs

The eggs for incubation are taken from wild nests found early in the season. All the eggs from the clutch are taken, so that the birds fail and can go on to lay a second clutch. This effectively increases the chances of getting fledgling chicks, and any second nest attempts that are found are fenced for added protection. The eggs from our incubators have nearly all hatched and are now eating their weight in mealworms daily. When they are large enough they will be moved to outdoor pens in meadow habitat similar to that which they would be raised in within the wild.

2018 has also seen the return of Curlew Country's live nest camera, Curlew Cam. The camera was set up on the nest of a different pair to last year, within the Shropshire hills. It has allowed us a

close-up view of this secretive waders nesting habits and helped to reveal behaviours previously unknown to us. Three chicks hatched from a clutch of four eggs, but sadly one died after hatching. The two surviving chicks were fitted with tiny radio tags, which can be picked up by an aerial to relocate them in the coming weeks.

On the first check back both chicks were still alive, with the parents highly agitated and trying hard to distract anybody and anything entering the field. However, on the next visit, the signal led to just two tags in the grass. The tags had been plucked from the bodies of the chicks, suggesting that avian predation was the most probable cause. Sadly, this story is all too common, and highlights the necessity of the projects interventions.



The first chick to hatch from the Curlew Country incubators

The Curlew Country Team are all working around the clock to ensure the chicks that survive get everything they need for the best possible start. Once released they do not breed until their second year, but we hope that some of these birds may even return to Shropshire, allowing us to enjoy their bubbling call for years to come.



Radio tags recovered after the chicks were predated

If you would like to find out more about Curlew Country, you can visit our website: [www.curlewcountry.org](http://www.curlewcountry.org)

or e-mail: [curlewcountry@gwct.org.uk](mailto:curlewcountry@gwct.org.uk)

*Amber Bicheno, Snailbeach, June 2018*

# The Stiperstones Inn

Spring 1968 – I received a letter from my Mum whilst I was in Liverpool at University, it began with fairly ordinary family news and then “Oh by the way we are moving house, your Dad has bought a pub in Shropshire.” On returning home I discovered that Dad, my sister Janet and her husband Brian, and my brother John had been scouring the West Midlands for a business to run together.



Months of indecision had nearly driven my Mum up the wall.



My Dad had been brought up in pubs in Wolverhampton, my Grandfather was landlord of the Three Tuns at Fordhouses and the Golden Ball at Coven Heath. John had worked in retail and on the markets and Brian had been a successful steward at the Oakley Country Club near Brewood. I was still at University and our younger brother Robert had just left school.

August Bank Holiday 1968 – I was sat in the back of my Dad's Bentley as we crawled up this endless narrow country lane towards this country inn which I was assured was up in the hills somewhere. We were being followed by an enormous furniture van, the driver of which was probably far more dubious than me. The leaving landlord Jim Shone and his wife were in their car waiting for a cheque for the stock and we were due to open in 2 hours.

A tall gentlemen, probably in a cardigan with leather buttons, showed my Dad and Brian the cellar, the pumps and the very limited stock of spirits and bottled beers and we were off. Clarry Pope was still a valuable help to the business 20 years later. There was no catering kitchen, very few pubs then did more than crisps, sandwiches and the odd pie.

John meanwhile was running his eye over the 'shop'. A few shelves sparsely stocked with such essentials as lychees, olives and water chestnuts. Stiperstones and Snailbeach women shopped at Owens' above the Crow's

Nest, Molly Wardman's or from the many travelling vans which bought groceries, meat and fish to your door.

Summer 1969 – On returning from University again, I discovered a huge transformation had been performed by Brian in the bar, Janet in the kitchen and John in the shop. The new keg beers, Double Diamond and Whitbread Tankard were served through coolers, the ladies who were now joining their husbands at weekends were drinking Martinis and Cinzanno. Scampi, chicken and sausage in a basket had replaced the sandwiches and odd pies, and John's shop had expanded into the garage and was selling a full range of groceries at supermarket prices.

Christmas 1969 – By now the party was in full swing, you could barely get through the doors on Saturdays or Friday's darts and domino night. Steaks and salmon had been added to the menu and a range of home made sweets included whinberry pie. You couldn't move in the shop for turkeys, toys and decorations and John had started his own delivery service to outlying hamlets and villages. It hadn't escaped the local girls that three eligible bachelors had moved in to the village, and I was the first to be caught, marrying Susan the next autumn, Robert was nearly the next to follow and John is still on the run.



Christmas 1977 – Brian had left the business and Janet and Graham had taken over the bar for a short time but soon he and Janet moved to Admaston to start their new life together and Dad was thinking of selling up. I was teaching in Telford and we had two children, Daniel and Lara.

I had not been seen much behind the bar and Susan had only done some serving but no cooking and it was to many people's surprise that we arrived to take over in the new year. I hope we made a better job of it than was expected, particularly in building up the lunch time trade.



# 50 Remarkable Years



Christmas 1978 – The first Boxing Day Dawdle or Dash takes place, the event is still going strong today.

Summer 1984 – Now with three children, all in school Susan and I decided to return to our careers and left John and Janet who had by now returned to the village with Graham and their adopted son Shaun to carry on.

March 1988 Herbert Hallet Sproson, the Gaffer sadly dies and his name over the door is replaced by John's. John has been the only one of us to have worked the full 50 years and it was well deserved when he was awarded the Shropshire Star pub of the year in 1999. John took full advantage of the new licensing act with the pub now serving food and drink all day every day.



Summer 1998 – With all three children now having left home Susan and I returned to Shropshire and are still in the house we built here 20 years later. Whilst we have worked behind the scenes with gardening, decorating, and cleaning we never returned to 'front of house'.



August 2000 – Violet Roxie Sproson, our Mum dies. Mum never liked the pub side of the business, she never pulled a pint or cooked a meal. She hated the noise and moved out to a caravan and then a mobile home only a few months after we took over. She loved knitting, gardening and working in the shop and she kept the accounts almost until her death. Although always known as Mrs Sproson she was often sought after for advice or medical attention.

August Bank Holiday 2003 – Lara and Phil with their business partner Chris take over the Stiperstones Inn, in

doing so Lara becomes the third generation of Sprosons to run the by now TV famous hostelry. John's empire had grown to include the Post Office and shops at Wentnor and Chirbury. New faces bring new ideas: but despite quizzes and bingo and Stiperstock and Follies and Valentine's specials and afternoon teas and knitting and nattering, and getting married on Halloween, they have not really changed a thing. The pub is as it was, a centre for the community and an attraction for the many visitors that come to see us.



We could not have gone on for half a century without all the wonderful staff that have worked for us over the years. Clarry I have mentioned and at the risk of leaving special people out Liz Humphries, Don and Gloria Rowson, Colleen Payne (Potter), Kim Price, Brenda Williams, Geraldine and Philip Heath, Lynn Trow, Jan Carr, Lynn Jones, Mary and Barry Jones, Sue Chidley and many many more who have all played a role in our success. Along with all the kids and "monkeys" who have earned their first few pounds here.

Thank you to all our staff and customers!

Geoff Sproson, June 2018

*The family would like to invite you to  
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## 50 Golden Years

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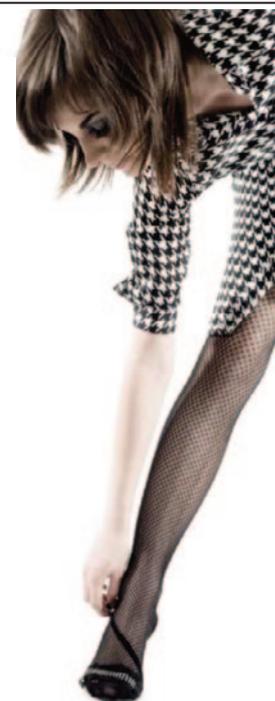
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## NATURAL ENGLAND

### Notes from the hill

I was just about to set pen to paper when I see that someone has sent me a picture of a bee beetle, a magnificent beetle of the scarab family, feeding on a garden rose. I have not seen one of these beetles before, with their distribution curiously focused on Wales or Scotland with few records from England. They are not something that you would miss either as they are large and have bright yellow and black banding on their wing covers.

As the name suggests, this is a beetle that mimics bees. This is known as Batesian mimicry and the idea is that it confuses any potential predator into thinking that this harmless beetle is a dangerous bee that might sting it. There are many insects that also mimic stinging insects like bees and wasps.

The aptly named wasp beetle, for example, is a longhorn beetle that does quite a good impersonation of a wasp and many hoverflies mimic honey bees or bumblebees. I do wonder if this has the opposite effect with humans, who might swat a harmless hoverfly thinking that it is a wasp.

The bee beetle larvae live in rotting birch stumps while the adult beetles tend to be seen feeding on the nectar of flowers such as thistles, or in this case roses.



Common banded hoverfly

Talking of nectar sources it has been good to see many of the road verges in full bloom this year, as usually they are cut just before the peak flowering time. As well as the lovely show of cow parsley earlier in the year, these verges offer links across the landscape for insects to move and colonise new areas.

Verges and nectar sources will be one of the themes of the Hay Meadow Festival on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, to be held at the Bog. As well as the usual scything competitions and other hay related activities there will be some great music, local food, kids activities and lots of stall holders. One addition this year is the "Bee in your bonnet" talk tent where there will be a series of short talks on environmental issues. We are having to charge entry this year to cover costs, but once you are in, all the activities are free.

Work on the hill has been varied but has included a lot of track work after the damage caused by the storms. There is a full breeding bird survey being carried out and we are busy trying to find 50 permanent markers across the hill, so that we can carry out a vegetation survey linked with our climate change monitoring. So if you see us out with a metal detector we are not looking for loose change or the golden arrow, but trying to locate these fixed markers.

The aerial spraying of some areas of bracken will be carried out again in July/August and maps and signs will be put up in the areas concerned. This is our only way of controlling bracken where it is overtopping the heather and bilberry. However if anyone wants to join me in a bit of scything, I have a number of days set aside for scything bracken in July and August.

There are still some places left on the Hebridean fleece felting workshop on Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup> 10am to 4pm. For further details contact: [stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk) or telephone 01743 792294.

I hope to see you at the Hay meadow Festival.

Simon Cooter for Natural England staff at Rigmoroak.



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## Letter from Westminster

July 2018

### Future Fit

Following announcement by the Department for Health before Easter of a huge commitment to improve acute healthcare in Shropshire – at £312m the largest capital investment in healthcare in the county ever – the formal consultation into Future Fit is well underway. The public are able to have their say on how acute healthcare should be delivered in the county for years to come.

Shropshire and Telford CCGs and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust have organised a number of drop in events where the public can learn more about the two options on the table, so they can input their views.

There are two such events in South Shropshire this month, on 4th July at the Bishop Mascall Centre in Ludlow, 3.30pm-7.30pm, and Bridgnorth Leisure Centre on 25th July, 3.30pm-7.30pm – as well as smaller pop-up sessions. So it is worth checking the Future Fit website <https://nhsfuturefit.org> to find out when your nearest event may be. The website also contains a great deal of information about the Future Fit process as a whole, so I encourage readers to take a look.

I was extremely concerned to hear last month reports of activists, purporting to be NHS campaigners, seeking to undermine the consultation process by disrupting public events and intimidating people who turn up to learn more. I condemn unequivocally attempts to intimidate those who seek to engage in the public consultation process, whether online or at public events. SaTH reviewed their security procedures, so I hope future events will not be interrupted.

It appears some are also overtly using the consultation process for political purposes. It has been disheartening but not surprising to see some whose politics mean they cannot bring themselves to welcome this huge sum of funding. But some have even gone further, criticising NHS staff.

This cannot stand unchallenged, as NHS staff and clinicians have put years of work into the Future Fit process - it has been clinician led from the start. Clinicians' motives are clearly what is best for patients – they would not recommend a course of action that would jeopardise patient safety. SaTH also had to take the remarkable step of making a public announcement to counter misleading reports of staff comments.

So I am keen to encourage readers from across South Shropshire to have a rational look at what is proposed, to read the informative consultation documents for themselves.

My own view is that Option 1, with major trauma treated at Shrewsbury, and planned care focussed at Telford, is the best way to cover the whole population of Shropshire for the future, as well as those from mid-Wales who rely on these services. It is the option supported by clinicians.

But there are local residents who will have genuine grounds to support the other option, which would see trauma at Telford and planned care at Shrewsbury. So it is important to contribute to the consultation. This will help to ensure the final decision considers the views of South Shropshire residents.

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Heather Kidd Councillor

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

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The Stiperstones Inn's

# Bingo

8.00pm

Monday 9th July

And the 2nd Monday of every month check out  
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Includes 8 Games of Bingo  
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The Stiperstones Inn's  
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8.00pm Monday  
30th July 2018

£5.00 per team of up to 6 people!  
Cash Prize!



**Party in the Park  
Saturday 21st July,  
Bishop's Castle.**

**Gates Open at  
11am, Music starts  
at 12.00 until-Late**

Party in the Park returns for its ninth year in Bishop's Castle on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July. Organised by **About Music Project**, it's aim

is creating opportunities for up and coming young musicians in Bishop's Castle and the surrounding area.

There will be continuous music from some great bands and musicians.

Line-up this year will be local favourites *Fight the Bear*, *Nuclear Weasels*, *The Wayne Martin Band*, *Mollie Ann & Without Warning*.

From Mid Wales, *Frozen Cabin*, and from Newport, Shropshire, *Young Braves*.

Huge welcome to *Golden Age of TV* an indie art-rock quintet from Leeds.

New young AMP band *Adrenaline Rush* make their debut on stage at 12.00 and from Shrewsbury, *Hatters Ball* fronted by *David Busby*, bring a full set of upbeat party tunes.

Awesome music and a great family day out with something for everyone. As well as the musical entertainment there will be activity workshops for the children, a caricaturist, face painting, Sweet Stall and many other vendors...

There will be plenty of food and drink on offer too with a Vintage Tea Stall, Beer Tent, Freshly made Pizzas, great BBQ food, Vegetarian food and ice creams.

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- 2) *The oldest ladies to row an ocean*
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MARY WEBB SCHOOL & SCIENCE  
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Tickets are on sale for £10 at Pontesbury Library, Hignetts and Connections. There will be a bar and nibbles. This popular event is likely to sell out, so please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.



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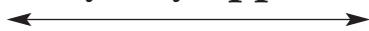
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## UFO'S OVER STIPERSTONES?

Following on from our front cover piece about UFO's over Snailbeach, Malcolm Dunbar of Stiperstones has submitted this strange encounter:-

**The Place:** The Hollies, Stiperstones

**The Time:** 6:15pm

**The Date:** Christmas Day 2006

Towards the end of a lovely relaxing Christmas Day with guests having departed, I decided to draw the curtains in the lounge. Just about to grab the first drape my eye was drawn to a brilliant light in the sky, to the right of Green Hill, moving towards us from East to West.

I called to Doreen straight away and we rushed outside, me grabbing my birdwatching binoculars on the way. Our first impression was of a Jumbo jet on fire as the light was flickering erratically like flames. It was moving at a steady rate, about 2-3000ft up and in a direct straight path.

I got the binoculars on it as it got nearer. What I saw puzzles me to this day.

The light was indeed flame-like and illuminated a dark cylindrical cigar-shaped craft. But they weren't flames, just a fantastic continuous spurting and flickering. The only thing I can compare it with is to imagine sitting to one side of a coal/wood fire at home when you cannot see the actual flames but the effect of them lighting the surrounding grate.

This craft had flame-like behaviour but no flames. The speed was constant, possibly 200mph, its path was direct with no deviation left, right, up or down. It got nearer, almost overhead, and the most spooky thing of all was that it emitted no sound. No engine noise, nothing, silent. The closer it got the better my binoculars did their job and it became clear that this was no

aircraft, lantern, balloon or any normal airborne craft. No, this was something else. My years in the military plus a 35-year 'need to know' career with HMG taught me all about recognition and recall.

The craft passed just overhead before finally being obscured by cloud as it headed Westwards on its determined path. We noted the time, conditions, effect, and began asking questions with no real answers. We both admitted to feeling very, very weird at what we had just witnessed.

Right, time to tell somebody. Who?

Rang BBC Shropshire who noted everything with the 'we'll get back to you'. They did and two days later I was interviewed live on radio. I rang the local paper who published a small article a day or so later. But, the first thing I did was to call RAF Shawbury and get them to note everything I said. I was passed on to the 'duty Corporal'. After convincing him that both Doreen and I were perfectly sober, I described the event in detail. In true squaddie fashion and dry humour, he decided to tell me what it was, "Probably Santa with his arse on fire." I had to laugh but assured him it wasn't.

So, a UFO as far as I'm concerned. But two interesting PS's. The press and radio coverage resulted in a local meteorologist suggesting it was a meteor fireball. It wasn't, and I told him so. His response intrigued me, "That's what we've been told to say."

Secondly, I contacted the British UFO Society with a full description of our experience. I did not get a reply or indeed an acknowledgement.

I rest my case.

Malcolm Dunbar

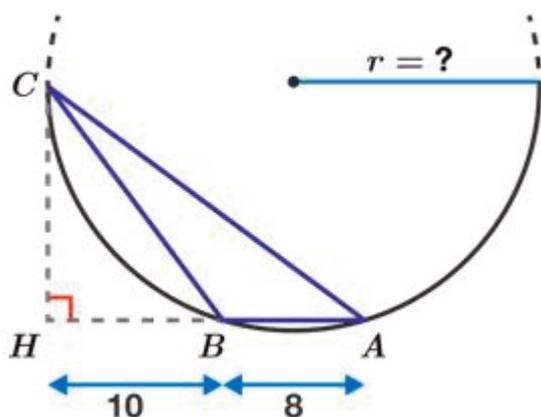
The Hollies

Stiperstones

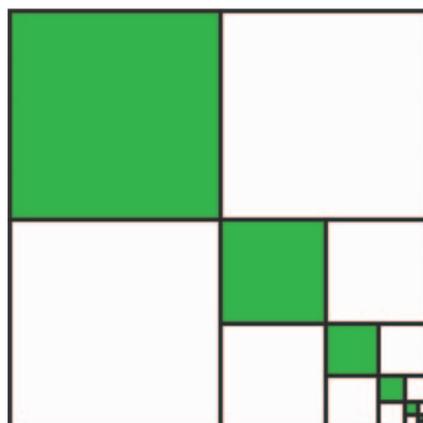
## PUZZLES & POSERS

Answers at bottom of page 40

1) Triangle ABC is inscribed in a circle. The angle ABC is obtuse, and the altitude CH is tangent to the circle. If HB = 10 and BA = 8, what is the radius of the circle?



2) Every coloured square is one quarter of the square it's inscribed in. If the pattern continues infinitely, what fraction of the total figure will be coloured?



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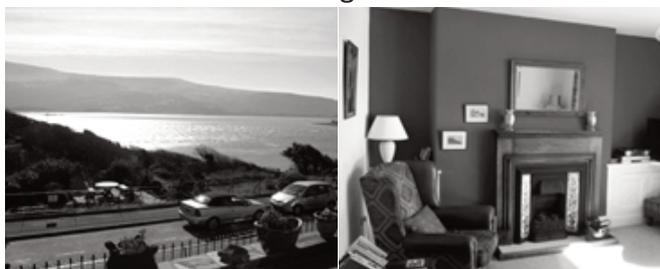
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## Heather Kidd's report.

### Chirbury, Stiperstones and Norbury Schools Federation

Most of our village schools in Shropshire are in a very difficult situation financially (or will be in the next few of years). Although the Government claim that record amounts of funding are going into schools the reality is that funding has only gone up by **something like 2-3%**. Costs on the other hand, mainly imposed upon us by Government ( e.g. pay deals, increases the minimum wage, National Insurance and pension contributions), **have gone up an estimated 16%**.

Falling roles in rural schools – largely due to the lack of 2-3 bedroom family houses - just makes this worse. There are no children going into Stiperstones this September and it is impossible to afford a nursery unless there are 18-20 children in it. Families simply cannot afford to live here in the Countryside.

I would urge everyone in the community to take part in the consultation and have their say. You can pick up a consultation document for any of the schools or you can e-mail me and I will send you one.

We have held/are holding 4 drop in sessions for anyone from the communities involved – and wider. The last one is 7 till 8pm on 2nd July at Stiperstones School Feel free to come along.

The Vice Chair, Rev Pam Bickley, and I will also meet anyone to discuss this.

### Severn Trent

Severn Trent were their usual inconsiderate selves when they tried to close the road between Plox Green and Snailbeach recently. They didn't give anybody any warning and were rude into the bargain. They hadn't even ask the Council permission to close the road. The leak was not visible as it was under the road surface and was putting the bridge structure at risk.

I'd like to thank residents and Council Officers (especially the roads inspector I managed to get up here) who made them see the error of their ways. I eventually had an apologetic man (and even polite!) ring me up and agree to do the work overnight. This they subsequently did and to a good standard too. Lets hope they behave better in future.

### The Future of Our Health Service

The consultation on the location of our future Accident and Emergency Unit has finally got underway. Needless to say I am strongly in favour of Option 1 - basing it at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and not in Telford. Please respond to the consultation. We need to ensure that the voice of rural Shropshire is heard. The consultation documents are at

**[www.nhsfuturefit.org](http://www.nhsfuturefit.org)**.

You can get a paper copy there or by ringing 0300 3000 903 or emailing [nhsfuturefit@nhs.net](mailto:nhsfuturefit@nhs.net). The consultation began on 30th May and runs until the 4th September.

I also have some copies of the consultation document.

### Road Closure from 25th July – Pennerley junction to Pheonix House, Stiperstones.

Businesses and local farmers will be consulted about the closure during the school holidays. Signage will make it clear where the road is closed and which direction access for the Stiperstones Inn and Shop needs to be – that is of course from Plox Green! Access to the Pottery will be more difficult and I have asked for discussions to take place with them. The bus company will also be consulted. There will be a letter drop to those living in the affected area. Fingers crossed!

Best wishes.

**Heather Kidd**

*Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen*  
Tel: 079806 35518

*e-mail [heatherkidd@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:heatherkidd@shropshire.gov.uk)  
[www.heatherkidd.org.uk](http://www.heatherkidd.org.uk)*

**How many County Councillors  
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Fifty. One to change the bulb and 49  
to go on an important fact-finding  
mission abroad to see how it's done.**

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## Walking the Pilgrims Way

*Jon Kean of Tankerville tells of his walk along the Pilgrims Way*



Walking 75 miles over 4 days from Trafalgar Square to Canterbury Cathedral - a challenge to raise funds for St Martins in the Fields Connect Project that works to help people who are homeless.

Over 100 walkers followed the Pilgrims Way made famous by Chaucer. This meant 20 miles of London streets before going under the M25 into Kent. This was hard on the feet, but the relief in seeing greenery and trees almost made it worthwhile.

The organisers had arranged several refreshment stops in churches on the way where we were met with cakes and tea. Was I going to put weight on over the 4 days? The church at Boughton Aluph was especially opened for us. This was an important stop in Chaucer's day where pilgrims would congregate before grouping together to cross Kings Wood which was renowned for outlaws. There was a special porch for them with an open fire to warm whilst waiting. They had lit it for us which gave the church an interesting smell. As the sun shone with some ferocity all 4 days it was hard to know where was warmest –

by the fire or walking through huge mono-culture corn fields. Fortunately the woods were much cooler and quite extensive. Kent rivals Shropshire as our most wooded county. Many of the woods are still actively worked chestnut coppices.

Although the sun reached 30c. each day with no rain, the second evening was marked by thunder, lightning and torrential rain, but my tent stayed dry.

Finally we arrived at Canterbury Cathedral having passed through the countryside where Cheryl was raised near to the cross at Lenham – not an ancient chalk monument, but a tribute to real heroes from WW1.

Canterbury Cathedral is awe inspiring – a truly magnificent building completed without machines. How did they do it? The choir of St Martins in the Fields sang mass, but the reading about

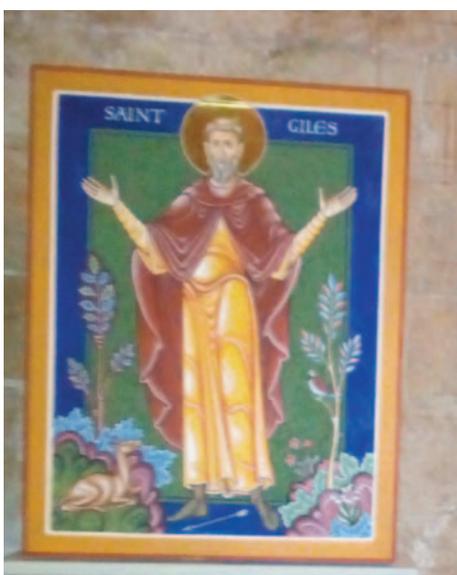
God accepting gentiles because Abraham did not have his foreskin removed until he was a youth was too bizarre for me!

Still it was really good to drop down into the crypts and see the icon of St Giles painted by Aidan Hart who many of you will remember roaming the Stiperstones when he was at the hermitage before Silhouan.

I am pleased to say that over £1200 has been donated to The Connection Project.

This makes my efforts and blisters worthwhile.

*Jon Kean, Tankerville, June 2018*





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

### Stiperstones Stores Opening Times

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Worthen Medical  
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Pontesbury Chemist  
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Western Power  
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British Telecom  
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Stiperstones School  
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Minsterley Motors  
 01743 791 208

Councillor H Kidd  
 01938 561 651

Philip Dunne MP  
 01584 872 187

Village Hall Bookings  
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Snailbeach District News  
 01743 790 049

Stiperstones Stores  
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Stiperstones Inn  
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Evening all...



Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

PC 3233 Anne Gutteridge PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss PCSO 40274 Harry Horlock

Local Police Team: **01743 264 777**

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

No crime statistics have been provided for June, so we've published an article from **Police.Uk** instead that we found of interest.

## Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- Street drinking
- Environmental damage including littering, dumping of rubbish and abandonment of cars
- Prostitution related activity
- Begging and vagrancy
- Fireworks misuse
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles

The police, local authorities and other community safety partner agencies, such as Fire & Rescue and social housing landlords, all have a responsibility to deal with anti-social behaviour and to help people who are suffering from it.

If you are experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour, or have any concerns about it, or other community safety issues, you should contact your local council or call the non-emergency number, 101. In an emergency, call 999.

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## Shrewsbury To Bishops Castle - Monday To Saturday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)													SCH		SCH			
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:30	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:45		15:45	16:25	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:05
Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:37	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:52		15:52	16:32	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:12
Copthorne, opp Hospital				10:18			12:13			14:13				16:38			17:53	
Radbrook Rd, adj College	07:47	08:22	09:02		10:42	11:12		12:42	13:42		14:57		15:57		16:37	17:12		18:17
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:47	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	15:02		16:02	16:42	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:22
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:49	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:20	15:04		16:04	16:44	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:24
Lea Cross, adj Junction	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:52	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	15:07		16:07	16:47	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:27
Mary Webb		08:40											15:20					
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:40	09:18	10:33	10:59	11:29	12:28	12:58	13:59	14:28	15:13	15:21	16:14	16:53	16:54	17:28	18:08	18:34
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre	08:07	08:47	09:22	10:37	11:02	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:17	15:27	16:17	16:57	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:37
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	11:04	11:34	12:34		14:04	14:34		15:29	16:19	16:59	16:59		18:14	18:39
Snailbeach, Village Hall					11:07				14:07			15:32	16:22		17:02			18:42
Stiperstones, adj Inn					11:10				14:10			15:35	16:25		17:05			18:45
Hope	08:14			10:44			12:39			14:39				17:04				18:19
Gravels	08:16			10:46			12:41			14:41				17:06				18:21
White Grit, Turn	08:20			10:50			12:45			14:45				17:10				18:25
Llan, Turn	08:24			10:54			12:49			14:49				17:14				18:29
Bromleys Mill	08:27			10:57			12:52			14:52				17:17				18:32
Lydham, Church	08:29			10:59			12:54			14:54				17:19				18:34
Bishops castle, Salop Street	08:31			11:01			12:56			14:56				17:21				18:36
Bishops castle, adj Boars Head	08:35			11:05			13:00			15:00				17:25				18:40

## Bishops Castle To Shrewsbury - Monday To Saturday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)				SCH														
Bishops castle, opp Boars Head				07:30					09:40			12:18	13:30			15:40		
Bishops castle, Salop Street				07:33					09:43			12:22	13:33			15:43		
Lydham, Church				07:35					09:45			12:24	13:35			15:45		
Bromleys Mill				07:37					09:47			12:26	13:37			15:47		
Llan, Turn				07:40					09:50			12:29	13:40			15:50		
White Grit, Turn				07:44					09:54			12:33	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 Inn	06:48	07:20	07:48		08:23				11:15					14:35				16:53
Snailbeach, Village Hall	06:52	07:22	07:52		08:27				11:18					14:38				16:57
Plox Green, Crossroads	06:55	07:25	07:55	07:55	08:30				10:05	11:21	11:55	12:45	13:05	13:55	14:42		16:05	17:05
Minsterley, opp crown & sceptre	06:58	07:28	07:58	07:58	08:33	08:48	09:25	10:08	11:24	11:58	12:48	13:08	13:58	14:45	15:18	16:08	17:08	17:32
Pontesbury, Hall Bank	07:03	07:33	08:03	08:03	08:37	08:53	09:30	10:13	11:29	12:03	12:53	13:13	14:03	14:50	15:23	16:13	17:13	17:37
Mary Webb					08:40										15:26			
Lea Cross, Opp Junction	07:08	07:38	08:08	08:08		08:58	09:35	10:18	11:34	12:08	12:53	13:18	14:08	14:55	15:30	16:18	17:18	17:42
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:11	07:41	08:11	08:11		09:01	09:38	10:21	11:37	12:11	13:01	13:21	14:11	14:58	15:31	16:21	17:21	17:45
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:13	07:43	08:13	08:13		09:03	09:40	10:23	11:39	12:13	13:03	13:23	14:13	15:00	15:33	16:23	17:23	17:47
Radbrook Rd, opp College	07:18	07:48	08:18			09:08	09:45		11:44	12:18		13:27		15:05	15:38		17:28	17:52
Copthorne, adj Hospital				08:18				10:27			13:07		14:17			16:27		
Copthorne Rd, adj Barracks	07:23	07:53	08:23	08:24		09:13	09:50	10:33	11:49	12:23	13:13	13:33	14:23	15:10	15:43	16:33	17:33	17:57
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:30	08:00	08:35	08:36		09:20	09:57	10:40	11:56	12:30	13:20	13:40	14:30	15:17	15:50	16:40	17:40	18:04

**745 Mondays and Fridays only**

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	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

Does not run on Bank Holidays except Good Friday

**775 Tuesdays only**

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	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

**Minsterley Motors**  
is a family run business and has been an established part of the Shropshire scene for many years. If it's a friendly and efficient service you are looking for, you need not look any further than **Minsterley Motors.** We will be delighted to provide you with a comprehensive quotation at guaranteed prices for all types of coach hire and coach travel and for any size of group.

**Day Trips****Enquiries Call: 01743 791208**  
**July**

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Northern Cotswold	<b>£20</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Trentham Gardens	<b>£22</b>

**August**

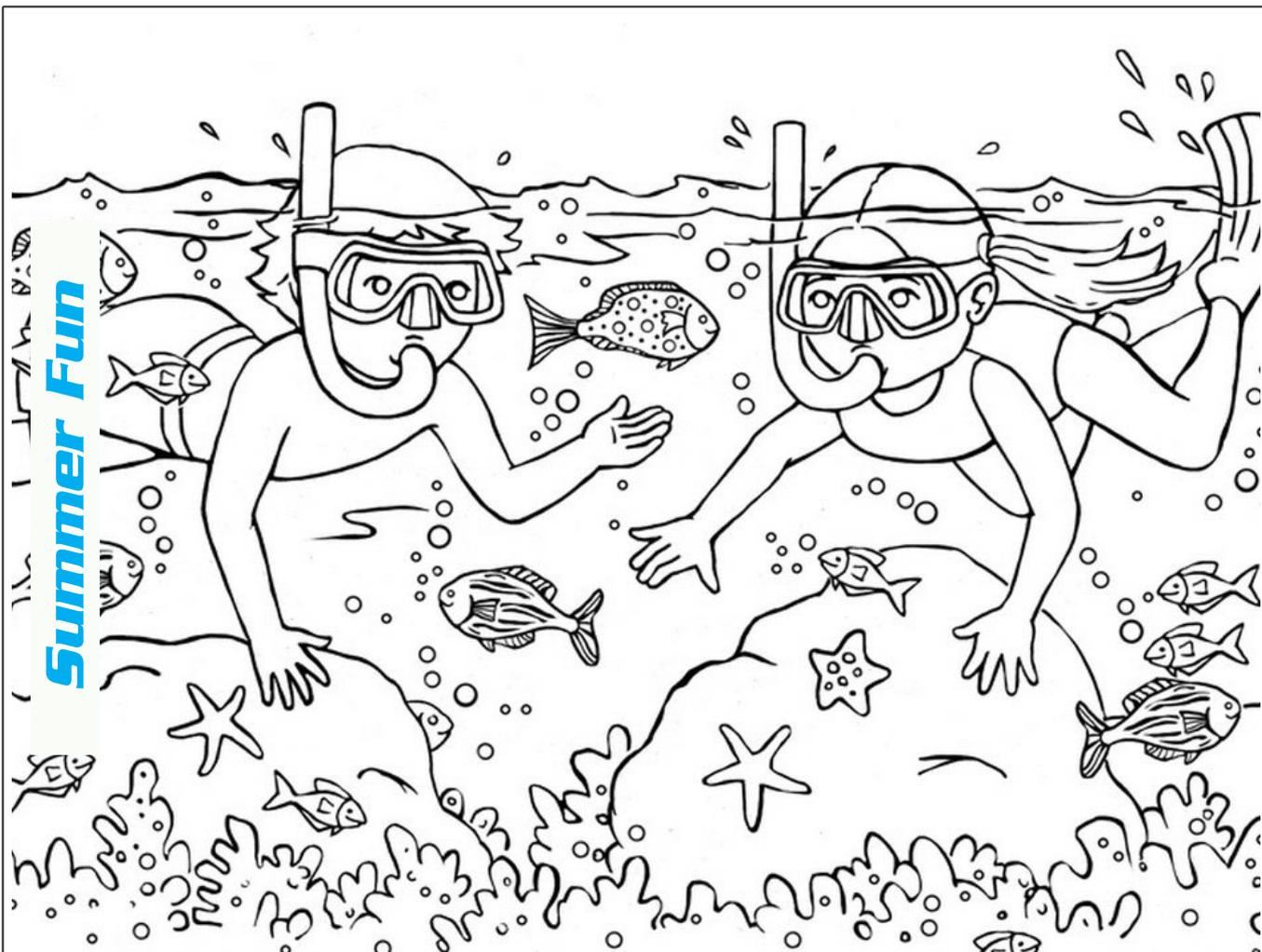
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Warwick & Warwick Castle (Coach only)	<b>£18</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Upton upon Severn River Cruise with Fish & Chips	<b>£32</b>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Portmeirion & Porthmadog	<b>£28</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Chester Zoo or Cheshire Oaks (Coach only)	<b>£16</b>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Hampton Court Castle & Gardens with entry	<b>£25</b>

**September**

<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Llangollen & British Ironworks	<b>£14</b>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Betws-y-Coed & Caernarfon	<b>£19</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Black Country Living Museum with entry	<b>£27</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Brecon Mountain Railway & Monmouth	<b>£34</b>

**October**

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Derbyshire Autumn Colours	<b>£22</b>
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Summer Fun

Please hand your entries to Phil at The Stiperstones Inn,

## Sudoku

## July Trivia

**Birthstone:**  
*Ruby*

**Flower:**  
*Water Lily or Larkspur*

**Star Signs:**  
*Cancer (June 21 - July 20)*  
*Leo (July 21 - August 20)*

*July was renamed for Julius Caesar, and is the seventh month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar, and is 31 days long. In prior years, it was called Quintilis. If you know your latin, that "Quint" thing is screaming "# 5". That makes perfect sense since it was the fifth month in the Roman calendar, which started in March.*

As long as I could remember, I had looked forward to a handful of wonderful events - a total eclipse of the sun, the return of Halley's Comet, and the first trip to the Moon.

I've still never seen that eclipse, and Halley's comet was a disappointment, but my sense of wonder was diamond-bright on that July 20, 1969.

Phyllis Eisenstein

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

After two weeks of wear a pair of jeans will have grown a 1,000-strong colony of bacteria on the front, 1,500-2,500 on the back and 10,000 on the crotch.

**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**

**July**

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1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd July  
 Services at 2.45 pm

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29th July Service at 10.30 am

Everyone welcome

**Stiperstones Group C of E Service Rota July 2018**

Date	Habberley St Mary	Hope Holy Trinity	Minsterley Holy Trinity	Shelve All Saints	Snailbeach St Luke
<b>1st Sunday</b> 1st July Trinity 5 Green			10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Giles	9.00am Morning Prayer Revd Giles 2.00pm Pet Service Revd Giles	
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 8th July Trinity 6 Green	6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer Revd Giles	10.30am Holy Communion Revd Christine	10.30am All Age Communion + Baptism Welcome Service Revd Giles		
<b>3rd Sunday</b> 15th July Trinity 7 Green			10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Giles	9.00am Holy Communion Revd Giles	
<b>4th Sunday</b> 22nd July Trinity 8 Green	10.30am Holy Communion Revd Giles	9.00am Morning Prayer Revd Giles	10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Pam		
<b>5th Sunday</b> 29th July Trinity 9 Green				10.30am (note later start time) Group Holy Communion Revd Giles	

## WHAT'S ON

### Malcolm & Doreen Dunbar's

#### Big Summer BBQ!

In aid of local **Lingen Davies** cancer treatment centre.

**Sunday, 8th July**

4pm 'til very late.

The Hollies, Stiperstones.

All are welcome!

Call: 01743 790966 for details

### Middleton Church Concert

**Sunday 8th July at 7.30pm**

Middleton Festival Orchestra

Ticket - £12.00 includes Supper.

Call on Rachel 01938561364

or Angela on 03330144051.

### Snailbeach Village Hall

#### & StiperStock

"Ups 'n' Downs!

Swings 'n' Roundabouts!"

**Friday 13 July. 7 30 pm**

**Snailbeach Village Hall**

#### Atlantic Ladies

A presentation by

Di Carrington and

Sharon Magrath

**Friday 13th July @ 7.30 pm**

**Mary Webb School, Pontesbury**

Tickets are on sale for £10 at Pontesbury Library, Hignetts and Connections.

#### Party in the Park

**Saturday 21st July,**

**Bishop's Castle**

Gates Open at 11am,

Music starts at 12.00 until-Late

Tickets £10 on the gate

An **ABOUT MUSIC PROJECT**

## How Hot Is It In Hell?

(a true story)

A thermodynamics professor had written a take home exam for his graduate students. It had one question: "*Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Support your answer with a proof.*"

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

"First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So, we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

- 1). If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
- 2). Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Miss Therese Reilly during my first post graduate year, "*That it will be a cold night in Hell before I sleep with you,*" and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and so Hell is exothermic."

The student got the only 'A'.

Puzzles & Posers - Answers  
(1) 14  
(2) One third (1/3)

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

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

You can also leave items for inclusion at the Stiperstones Inn if you wish.