

Snailbeach & District Village Hall Newsletter

February - April 2026

Issue 4

delivered free to over 300 homes in
Snailbeach & District.

Copy date for next issue is 10th April

Christmas in the Village Hall

By the time you read this, Christmas will be a happy memory. But just to remind you, we had two events to celebrate the Christmas season. The first was the Christmas Fair on the 29th November.

A wonderful turn out from our local community again – people popping in to buy Christmas presents; enjoy a turkey roll and simply to chat with friends old and new. Our stall holders did well and they all commented on what a lovely atmosphere there was on the day. The Village Hall made over £700 profit which will be used this coming year.

I had stall holders contacting me in early summer to book their table so if you're interested for this year – don't leave it too late!!

The second event was held on Sunday 14th December, an hour or so of carol singing. David Young was our organist again (thank you David) and we had over forty people join in the singing. It was a mixture of gentle carols and more lively Christmas music – particularly the Twelve Days of Christmas!!

Mince pies and drinks were provided free by the committee and there was also mulled wine available to soothe the vocal chords. A wonderful community event which we will definitely repeat again this December – come and join us; we'll send the date out in our autumn newsletter.



Pam Bickley

Chairman's Notes

Sadly, towards the end of last year a number of families in the area lost loved ones and our thoughts go out to them.

New Year is a time when we should be looking to the future with hope and whilst it is not always easy it is my wish that we can go forward into 2026 with the trust that it will be a better year.

I would like to share an old Irish saying with you:



"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

I wish everyone a happier and more prosperous new year.

Ray Harper

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)													SCH			
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:25	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:35	15:45	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:10
Copthorne Rd, opp Barricks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:32	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:42	15:52	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:17
Stewsbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12		15:57	16:37	17:12	17:52	
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:47	08:22				11:12					14:47		16:37			18:22
Hanwood, Canobie View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:42	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	14:52	16:02	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:27
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:44	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:19	14:54	16:04	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:29
Lea Cross, adj jct	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:47	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	14:57	16:07	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:32
Mary Webb		08:36 SCH														
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:38	09:18	10:33	10:53	11:28	12:28	12:58	13:58	14:28	15:03	16:13	16:53	17:28	18:08	18:38
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre	08:07	08:42	09:22	10:37	10:57	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:07	16:17	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:42
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	10:59	11:34	12:34	13:04	14:04	14:34		16:19	16:59		18:14	18:44
Snailbeach, Village Hall					11:01				14:06		16:21		17:01			18:46
Superstones, adj Pub					11:05				14:10			16:25		17:05		18:50

08:00	08:35	10:05	10:45	12:30	13:45	14:45	15:40	17:00	17:40
08:07	08:42	10:12	10:52	12:37	13:52	14:52	15:47	17:07	17:47
08:12	08:47	10:17	10:57	12:42	13:57	14:57	15:52	17:12	17:52
08:17	08:52	10:22	11:02	12:47	14:02	15:02	15:57	17:17	17:57
08:19	08:54	10:24	11:04	12:49	14:04	15:04	15:59	17:19	17:59
08:22	08:57	10:27	11:07	12:52	14:07	15:07	16:02	17:22	18:02
08:28	09:03	10:33	11:13	12:58	14:13	15:13	16:08	17:28	18:08
08:32	09:07	10:37	11:17	13:02	14:17	15:17	16:12	17:32	18:12
08:34	09:09	10:39	11:21	13:04	14:19	15:19	16:16	17:38	18:14
	09:12				14:21			17:40	
	09:15				14:25			17:45	

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St Luke's church
(part of Minsterley Parish)
upcoming Sunday services

15th March	9.00am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion
5th April	9.00am	Easter Sunday Holy communion

There are services every Sunday in Holy Trinity church Minsterley.

For details please contact Rev Greg Smith
(07902 794653 or email: rectorpontstip@gmail.com)
or visit www.stiperstonschurches.org.uk.

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

1st February Dr. John Woolley.

15th February Domini Lucas

We meet in the schoolroom adjacent to the chapel. All are welcome.

See the chapel notice board for details of later dates. For further information please contact
Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

Lord's Hill Chapel

Sunday services:

10.30am and 3.00pm in the schoolroom building.

Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting:

7.30pm in the schoolroom building.

For further details please contact

Stephen Ford (01743 588407)
stephenford323@hotmail.com

Andrew & Catrin Evans of The Green Farm, Stiperstones; married at St Peter and St Paul church, Fitz, on 6th September 2025.
Our congratulations to them.



Rea Valley Transport Scheme

The scheme is now fully operational, enabling residents of the area to access medical appointments including Pontesbury & Worthen surgeries, and Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry hospitals. The scheme also undertakes whenever we can to get people to opticians, dental and other wellbeing appointments e.g. support groups where possible.

Please note that the scheme is not set up to help with emergency appointments or to assist with other transport requests such as shopping.

Our drivers are all volunteers, but are insured, DBS checked and safely recruited. However, they are not medical professionals. Your driver will collect you from your home address and take you in good time for your appointment. To request transport, please contact our scheme administrator, Emma, at reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com or by calling 07468 115939. If possible please give us a minimum of a week's notice of when and where your appointment is.





Monitoring by the Environment Agency has shown that Snailbeach White Tip contributes about 25% of the zinc pollution to the Minsterley catchment, polluting Wood Farm Brook, Minsterley Brook and Rea Brook.

Snailbeach was mined for lead and zinc until the early 1900s, with small scale mining for barytes continuing up until the mid-1950s.

After closure the tip was left largely as it was until Shropshire County Council undertook a reclamation scheme in the 1990s, primarily to address concerns over potential risks to human and animal health. This involved re-profiling and capping the tip together with new drainage, including carrier and filter drains, settlement tanks and open ditches.

A buried French drain (a trench filled with clean gravel) has also been installed around the perimeter of the tip to collect seepage, and directs it towards a small pond, constructed to settle out silt prior to discharge off the site.

To enable delivery of the statutory Environment Act metal mines target and the interim Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) target, we are developing a pilot-scale mine water treatment scheme at White Tip. We aim to utilise the existing sediment trap pond and this will allow us to trial treatment approaches, gather performance data, and inform the design of a potential full-scale scheme.

The Environment Agency is currently monitoring how much pollution is coming from these sources:

Boat Level

Boat Level has been identified as a key source of mine water contamination to the Hogstow Brook, which joins Minsterley Brook south of Waterwheel.

The old drainage tunnel (also known as a level or an adit) discharges water from The Bog, Pennerley, Tankerville and Nipstone mines into Hogstow Brook. As well as being the main drainage tunnel, it also served as a haulage level, with small boats transporting the ore out of the mines.

Roman Gravels

Roman Gravels has been identified as being a key source of metal pollution to Hope Brook and further downstream in Minsterley Brook.

Although a reclamation scheme was carried out by Shropshire County Council in the 1990s, there are still issues with rainfall washing metals out of the mine wastes, including:

- unrestored spoil heaps along the banks of Hope Brook
- a large 250-metre-long culverted spoil tip
- spoil on the site of the Roman Gravels Mine

Wood Adit

Wood Adit has been identified as being a key source of mine water contamination to Hope Brook and subsequently Minsterley Brook.

The old mining tunnel is 3.5km long and drains the Roman Gravels, Ladywell and White Grit mines, discharging to Hope Brook, near Oakedge, in the Hope Valley.



The new flow monitoring structure with telemetry that we installed at nearby Boat Level in 2024.

What is the Water and Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) programme?

The WAMM programme was set up in 2011 to begin to clean up the approximately 1,500km of English rivers polluted by abandoned metal mines. It is a partnership between the Environment Agency (EA), the Mining Remediation Authority (formerly called the Mining Remediation Authority) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Metal mines played a major part in Britain's history, but abandoned mines now pollute our rivers, harm aquatic life and can have an adverse impact on economic activity. In 2023 Parliament used the Environment Act to set a statutory (legally-binding) metal mines water target to halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned metal mines by 2038. Defra's 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan set an interim target to build eight mine water treatment schemes and twenty diffuse interventions by 2028.

Why does the WAMM programme want to build a mine water treatment scheme at Minsterley?

The EA has determined that 44km of rivers in the Severn Uplands management catchment (Minsterley Brook and Rea Brook) are polluted by zinc, cadmium and lead from abandoned metal mines.

Monitoring by the EA shows that White Tip is one of the priority sources of metal pollution, contributing approximately 25% of the total zinc load under normal flow conditions, so the WAMM Programme is investigating potential options for a mine water treatment scheme to address this.

Will this work have an impact on wildlife or biodiversity?

Before proceeding with any works, we will undertake ecology surveys, checks and consult with stakeholders, like Natural England and others, to understand and mitigate any impacts on local wildlife and ecology.

How will this project affect residents?

The mine water treatment scheme currently being proposed is relatively small scale and we do not expect it to affect residents. We will share more details of the proposed work when they are available.

Will you need planning permission for this work?

Subject to further advice and consultation it is expected that the works will be completed using the EA's Permitted Development Rights.

How long will the project take?

We are aiming to have a pilot scale mine water treatment scheme running before the end of March 2026. We expect to operate this trial for at least two years and will be regularly reviewing results and will share information on how well the scheme is removing metals.

We will need to do some preparatory works over the next few months before we can install the trial scheme.

What are you doing about other sources of metal pollution in the catchment?

The WAMM Programme has installed a new flow monitoring structure at Boat Level to improve our data on how the flows change in response to rainfall. We are measuring flows on a semi-continuous basis and we are also monitoring water quality each month.

We have installed a new flow monitoring structure at the Wood Adit so we can monitor how the flows change in response to rainfall. We are also monitoring water quality and levels of metal pollution in mine waters, Minsterley Brook and Rea Brook from upstream of Roman Gravels to where the river meets the River Severn in Shrewsbury. We have carried out topographical surveys at the Roman Gravels mine waste site so we can understand if metals are being released into the river by erosion.

Editor's note:

This article taken from the Environment Agency website, January 2026. For up to date information see www.miningremediation.co.uk/project-spaces.

We had hoped to bring you some photos of the work in progress, but somehow that phrase seems rather optimistic.

Dear All,

I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year. My report is about roads this month:

Winter gritting.

I've asked for this to be reviewed. The current scheme is outdated, and much of it fails to deliver a satisfactory service, particularly in rural areas. As we face a severe funding shortage, we will work closely with Towns and Parishes to utilize our resources as effectively as possible.

Road Repairs.

Some good news! In November the Department for Transport (DfT) announced Highways Infrastructure funding allocations for 2026/27 to 2029/30. The Council will receive £34.7m funding in 2026/27, increasing to £49.7m by 2029/30. We are already working on plans to make sure that this money is spent efficiently.

More good news.

The unnamed road from Rowley to Brockton will be closed from 26th March to 31st March for a thorough resurfacing scheme by Shropshire Council.

Shiregrove bridge A490.

The contractors did the core sampling just before Xmas. Unfortunately the survey has shown that the ground below the surface is basically very wet, hence the subsidence on both sides of the road. A new design scheme will be needed for the road back to a safe standard being drawn up. This and the repair should take about 4-6 months to deliver. I am also talking to Council Officers regarding the traffic management setup. Heavy-duty barriers may be installed so that people or vehicles can't move them, and residents can drive safely in the centre of the road. It will also stop the traffic lights from being tampered with.

Some failures in communication around the closure of the A488 in storm Goretta are being investigated with a view to making them more reliable for the future.

Best wishes,

Heather Kidd
Shropshire Councillor



REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MARVELLOUS MOSSES - SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY



Join us as we shrink into the wonderful world of bryophytes!

Discover the intricate world of mosses and liverworts at an upcoming bryology event featuring expert bryologist **Dan Wrench**. This session offers a unique opportunity to explore the biodiversity of an often-overlooked species in their natural habitat.



**Meet: Pontesford Hill Car Park
10am - 1pm**

This event is free, but donations are welcome

**Pre-booking is essential as spaces limited. email:
reavalleycw@gmail.com**



f Facebook
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More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/reavalley-wildlife-group/



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2026**

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From the editor

This Newsletter is now available on line - together with the previous year's issues. In the absence of a village website it is available on the church website; www.stipierstoneschurches.org.uk. Choose "St. Luke's Snailbeach" and find the "News and Notices" button on the left hand side.

Any other offers to host this newsletter online will be gratefully received!

More adverts this time - please support these local businesses where you can. The income from advertising (see back page) helps meet the cost of this newsletter.

If you or your group are planning something locally please do send it to us for inclusion in the next edition. Likewise if you have news, an announcement or report that you wish to share.

David Young



Snailbeach Village Hall has been the venue for indoor nights away for 1st Rea Valley Beaver Scouts since 2015. It provides a warm and secure venue for the Beaver Scout Colony with the essential facilities of male/female toilets and wash hand basins and the very well equipped kitchen.



Adults and children use 'pop up' tents which gives the children a sense of adventure and ticks the box to introduce them to independence of nights away where they can begin to learn life skills that may eventually take them across the world. But for a six year old, Snailbeach is a huge adventure for what may be their first night away from home without family. We take a walk in the beautiful local area and explore the history of the local mine works. Remarkably the weather is nearly always very kind even if wellies are needed to run in the nearby park. The children and adult volunteers love the freedom that 24 hours together allows to play, complete badge work and make happy memories. We are grateful to the hall committee for the use of the venue and the opportunities this has given to many local young children

Dawn

reavalleybeavers@gmail.com



Rea Valley
foodbank

Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

To access the Foodbank, or find out more, call Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488) or email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

You can also be referred by a GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, etc. See website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/>.

A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees"

"What did she say?" asked the friend, amazed.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"



Tom Basden, Sian Clifford, Tim Key, Carey Mulligan

The Ballad Of Wallis Island

An eccentric lottery winner, who lives alone on a remote island, dreams of getting his favourite musicians back together. His fantasy turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

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CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE
16th September 2025 – 15th January 2026

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Marton	
Aggravated vehicle taking	Vehicle taken from property without consent and damage caused to it	Worthen	Suspects arrested, enquires ongoing
Stalking		Marton	
Blackmail		Hope Valley	
Assault		Stiperstones	
Malicious communications		Churchstoke	
Assault		Chirbury	
Person in charge of a dog dangerously out of control - no injury	Dog on dog incident	Worthen	
Wounding with intent to so / grievous bodily harm	Historic report		
Threats to kill		Brockton	
Owner / person in charge of a dog allowed to be dangerously out of control causing injury	3 dogs have attacked a person walking their dog causing an injury	Brockton	
Burglary (dwelling)	Mid renovation property broken into via window, tools stolen	Rowley	Early hours of 14 th January
Assault		Brockton	
Harassment	On 2 occasions, animal blood has been placed on external door handles of property	Hemford	Occurred over the Christmas period
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place	Dog has got loose and attacked victim's dog around the neck	Worthen	

They Pose as Your Bank – then send a ‘Courier’ to steal everything.....

Following a spate of offences, we remind you what Courier Fraud is, and how you can stay safe.

Fraudsters are contacting members of the public claiming to be the Police or in some cases your bank. They say that there has been a fraudulent payment made from your bank account, or that you need to withdraw large sums of money or high value items such as watches or gold to help resolve the problem. They will then send a courier to collect the money/bank card or even ask you to transport the money to another location. This is known as ‘courier fraud’ and is one of the most common types of telephone fraud in Britain.

They may attempt to gain your trust by asking you to ring the Police/Bank who will be able to offer further assistance; this makes the call seem genuine when in fact the fraudster keeps the line open so you are unknowingly reconnected to them. They may ask you to clarify your bank details including your PIN.

If you do receive such a call, end it immediately; if you are concerned that you have been the victim of a courier scam, we recommend that you inform your bank immediately, not using the number the fraudsters provided but by using a trusted number such as on the reverse of your bank card. When doing this we recommend that you wait at least ten minutes if using the same landline you have received the call from, or by using a mobile phone.

Here is the

LOST CHAPTER IN GENESIS

So God asked him, "What is wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be woman.

He said, "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it."

Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

The rest is history.

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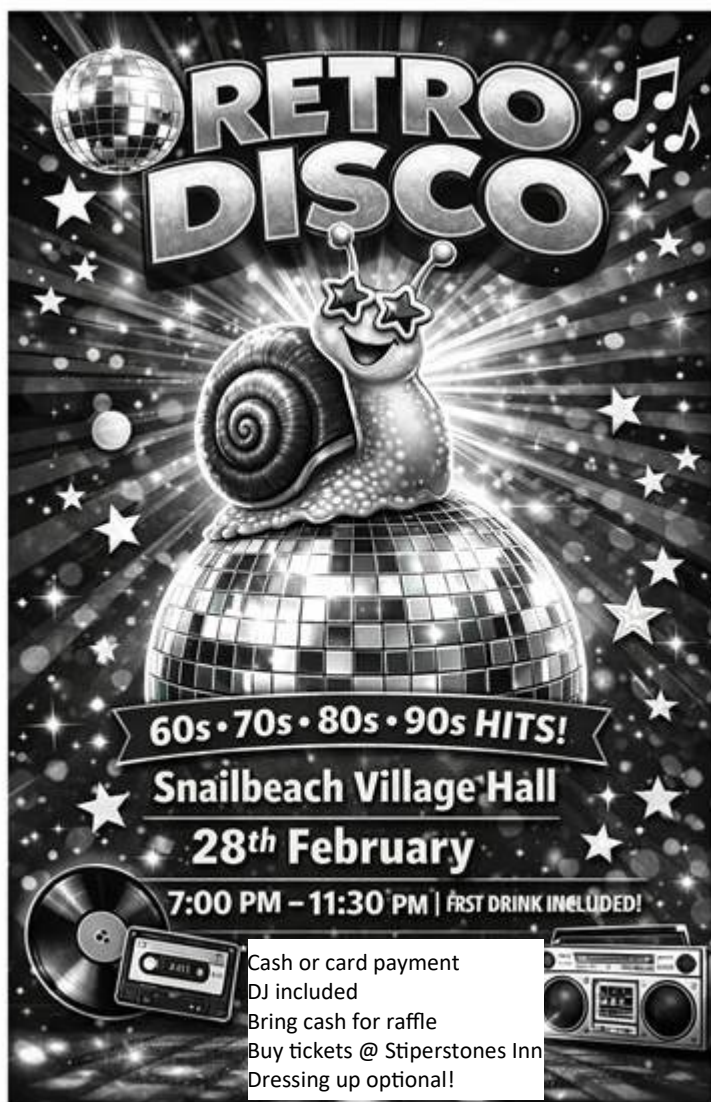


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Play area access from car park

The slope through the wood from the village hall car park down to the play area is going to be renovated, thanks to a National Lottery grant. Our contractors plan to start the work on Monday 26th January. They will be allowing a month for the work to be completed and during this time the existing path will be closed off to the public.

They will be completing the work between the hours of 7.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday but do not envisage making much noise before 8am. They may work Saturdays depending on how they get on with the workload.

The play area can be accessed via the gate at the bottom of the car park.

With Valentine's Day coming....

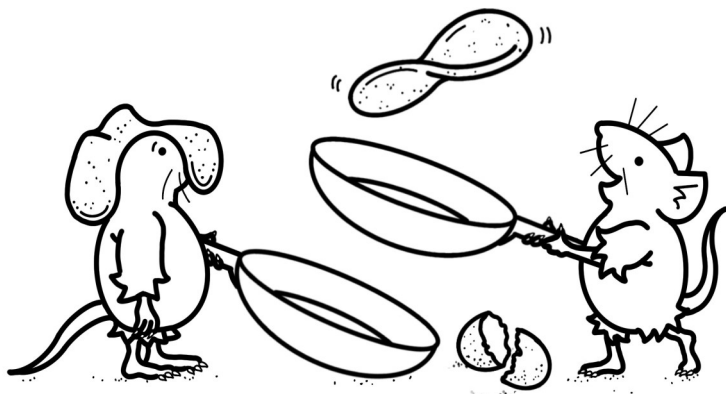
Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - Anon

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning hand-springs, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - Helen Rowland

What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - William M Thackeray

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.

- Antoine De Saint-Exupery



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Snailbeach Table Tennis Club

The start of the new year continues to bring new players along for a bit of fun and exercise.

Some 2025 stats and facts.....

- Average number of players 11
- Most players in a week 16
- Total different players 30
- Snailbeach beat Pontesbury U3A for the first time, in a cake-fueled match.

January and February charge is just £1 per session. One of our members has enjoyed it so much he has set up a similar club in Westbury (Mondays at 2.30pm) which, like Snailbeach, welcomes players of all standards.

We play at 1.30pm on Fridays in Snailbeach Village Hall. Just turn up and someone will show you the ropes if you are unsure, and maybe get to know some new people.

Andrew Maher

Snailbeach mine visitor centre



Open days are dependent on volunteers being available, and updates are provided on the mine's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.shropshiremines.org.uk>. The first scheduled open day is Sunday 5th April.

Shropshire Mines Trust is looking for new members and further details can be found at [Home | Shropshire Mines Trust](#). Work parties are held at Snailbeach mine most Thursday afternoons.

Julian Bromhead

Stiperstones Brass Band

Stiperstones Brass continue to rehearse on Monday evenings during term times at the village hall. The training band begins at 7.30 and the main band at 8.00 and we welcome novice or experienced brass players, we also have a vacancy for a percussionist.

Julian Bromhead

Snailbeach WI

Be inspired & widen your
circle of friends

Come and see what we have to offer.

Give it a try—
you might be surprised!



We meet in Snailbeach Village Hall, SY5 0NX,
on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm
(2pm Dec, & Jan)

For more information contact Sue:

tel: 07375 463536

e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com



The WI is a member organisation where visitors who are thinking of joining are more than welcome, but the meetings are generally not open for anyone to attend.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 12th February | Scam awareness and staying safe |
| 12th March | The murder at Hogstow Hall |
| 9th April | Women's walking football |

The Mobile library

We have the benefit of the mobile library every fortnight. To contact the service visit: www.Shropshire.gov.uk/libraries or ring 01743 255024.

The library stops at:

Snailbeach Village Hall	2.00 - 2.20pm
Stiperstones Inn	2.30 - 2.55pm
Tankerville Pottery	3.00 - 3.20pm

Scheduled Wednesdays are:

- 4th, 18th February
4th, 18th March
1st, 15th 29th April

The Stiperstones Inn



Events

Knitter Natter

Tuesdays 10.00am - 11.30am

Hillside Hookers

Crochet Group

Thursdays 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Big Money Bingo

7.30pm Monday 2nd February

Pub Quiz

8.00pm Monday 23rd February

Big Money Bingo

7.30pm Monday 2nd March

Pub Quiz

8.00pm Monday 30th March

Family Easter Bingo

7.00pm Monday 1st April

Pub Quiz

7.30 pm Monday 20th April

Abuse - see it for what it is.

The ENOUGH campaign

Every day, women and girls across the UK experience abuse, but abusive behaviours can be hard to spot. They are often pretending to be something else. Control is camouflaging as care. Manipulation is mistaken for love. Sinister behaviours can slip by unnoticed.

If you've experienced or witnessed abuse, you have the right to report it. Whether or not to report is your choice.

You can report abuse to the police, but that's not your only option. There are other organisations that can listen, take your experiences seriously and help you get support.

For more information and advice, please follow the link <https://enough.campaign.gov.uk/> or search 'Enough Campaign'.

Why should people go out and pay money to see bad films when they can stay at home and see bad television for nothing? - Samuel Goldwyn

When you begin to wonder if something is worth what it costs, you have reached middle age.

- Herbert V Prochnow

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so when you die, the world cries and you rejoice. - Native American saying

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill

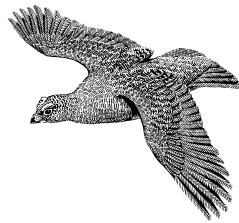
Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction. - John F Kennedy

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. - Martin Luther King Jr

Notes from the hill

So, as winter takes hold on the Stiperstones for another year and another year comes to an end, I am hanging up my warden boots and retiring from the hill after 16 years of having the pleasure of looking after it. My family and I fell in love with the hill and the area as soon as we headed over here from the flatlands of Lincolnshire. We were welcomed into the Shropshire Hills by so many people and have made many friends here. 16 years is the longest we have remained in one place, and we are now firmly rooted here in Shropshire. However, it is time to hand the reins over to someone else and I'm in the fortunate position to be handing them over to someone that I have every confidence in, - Chris Parker. Fortunate too that I have a handover period with Chris so hopefully I can introduce him to all the wonderful people associated with the hill and the role of site manager of one of the best National Nature Reserves in the country.

Over the last 16 years you may not have noticed much change, but there are a number of things that I am particularly proud of being part of including: the restoration of the miners cottages at Blakemoorgate as part of the 'Once Upon a Hill' project, the close involvement in a number of landscape scale schemes including the Stiperstones and Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme which resulted, amongst other things, in the formation of the Marches Meadow Group and Curlew Country which are still going strong today. I have helped set up four hay meadow festivals and probably trained and introduced more than 200 local people to the joys of scything, which I will continue to do.



In partnership with the National Trust, we launched the Stepping Stones Project which has seen some great outcomes for nature and saw the creation of the Middle Marches Community Land Trust which has gone on to secure land for nature conservation, such as the purchase of Minsterley Meadows.

With the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, we ran a project restoring the wet flushes on and around the hill, habitat that is so important for rare flowers and butterflies and we have worked with the Trust to help purchase key areas of land around the hill. We have added some areas of land abutting the hill, two of which have been purchased with your help, through crowd source funding.

We have worked closely with our common graziers to encourage more cattle grazing on the hill. Recently with help from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape we have helped facilitate this through the construction of fencing and water sources and the provision of satellite positioning collars.

This has all culminated in the recent extension of the National Nature Reserve to an area over three times the size of the hill that Natural England manage, and I am expecting great things from the newly created Stiperstones Landscape National Nature Reserve partnership, for nature and for the people who use and live around it.

We live in a spectacular place, rich in nature that we can be really proud of, and there are so many ways that everyone can get involved and support this outstanding area. I for one will certainly continue to do so.

Simon Cooter
and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak

**Shropshire Hills
Conservation Fund
open until
mid-February**



The Fund is a small grant pot, administered by the Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust, to support projects which help to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.
- Deliver educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and conservation, especially involving young people.

The Fund is open for applications. It's aimed at community groups, and grants range from £500 to up £2,000. If you have an idea for a project, please complete the short project idea form on our website. We will then contact you to discuss your idea and recommend whether it should progress to full application. Deadline for expression of interest is 13th February.

Visit our website for more information, or contact Steph Hayes from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team, on 01743 254746 or email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk.

Village Hall who's who

Chairman	Ray Harper	ray156harper@gmail.com		
Deputy Chair	Rodney Burt	rodneymburt@icloud.com or 07397 516631		
Secretary	Pam Bickley	revpambickley@gmail.com		
Hall bookings	Jo Jeays	snailbeachvhbookings@gmail.com or 07815 733730		
Treasurer	Lara Sproson-Jones	treasurer.svhall@gmail.com		
Newsletter	David Young	newsletter.svhall@gmail.com		
Trustees	Julian Bromhead	Anne-Marie Fleming	Carl Fleming	Sharon Hammond
	Caroline Harper	Tarrah Lewis	Sue Parker	Justyna Jones

In event of emergency contact any of the trustees.

Village Hall events and bookings

Regular bookings:

Monday evenings:	Band practice (see page 11)
Friday afternoons:	Table tennis (see page 11)
2nd Thursday:	WI (see page 11)
Sundays:	early morning exercise class (see advert page 10)

Advertising in the Snailbeach & District Village Hall Newsletter

Our annual rates (4 issues) for commercial adverts:

- Whole page £50
- Half page £25
- Quarter page £12

Please contact the editor on 01743 537081 or email newsletter.svhall@gmail.com.

Booking Snailbeach Village Hall

The trustees of the village hall want to encourage local people of all ages with varied interests to make use of the village hall. In the last year the hall has been used for many activities including birthday parties for locals from 2 years to 90 years old, exercise classes, an overnight stay for a local Beaver group, a base for D of E awards, regular band practice and Friday table tennis.

Currently we have regular weekly bookings on Monday evenings and Friday afternoons and monthly Thursday WI meetings. We would be delighted to have regular bookings at other times of the week.

Hire charges (which vary according to the nature of the activity) are from £12 an hour, for example the charge for a child's party with use of the kitchen is £50; use of hall only for the day is £70.

For further details please contact e-mail SnailbeachVHbookings@gmail.com or phone me on 07815 733730.

Jo Jeays

Local representatives:

Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

contact: clerk@worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk

Shropshire councillor for Chirbury & Worthen

Heather Kidd MBE

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel 01938 561651 or find me on Facebook



M.P. for South Shropshire

Stuart Anderson MP

stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 01746 555025

75a High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX



Upcoming MP Coffee Morning:

Friday 6th February 11.30am -13.00pm
in Ashford Carbonell Village Hall from