

Snailbeach & District Village Hall Newsletter

May - July 2026

Issue 5

delivered free to over 300 homes in Snailbeach & District.

Copy date for next issue is 10th July



Play area access

The path through the trees down to the play area from the village hall car park has now been completed, thanks to a National Lottery grant. The surface is now safe for wheelchairs and pushchairs, and the path extends into the play area.

At the other end of the playing field access, bollards will shortly be installed to prevent unauthorised entry by vehicles, which has caused damage in the past. If access is required in the future it will be necessary to book it with one of the Village Hall team.



Chairman's Notes

I hope you have all had a good Easter. Those of you who have ventured into the Play Area will have seen the greatly improved access. This makes the area accessible to all and we are now looking to provide appropriate features so all can enjoy it.

We have received planning permission for the new porch (again accessibility is behind the desire to improve the village hall) and we will be going ahead with the build shortly. Any builders out there who would like to tender should contact Pam Bickley.

The last step will be to provide fully accessible toilets (with baby changing facilities, etc.) to bring the hall up to required standards. We have agreed to start this project with the porch improvements, and we will get plans drawn up as soon as possible.

There will be some disruption while works are undertaken and it may be necessary to shut the hall for a while but we are hoping to keep it to a minimum. All in all this is a very exciting time in the life of the hall and I hope you will enjoy the outcome.

Ray Harper

Events series in Village Hall

This month sees the start of new monthly events in the village hall - see page 4 for details. The first meeting is on Tuesday 12th May and uncovers the scary new world of A.I.

There are also plenty of other local events advertised this month - starting on Saturday 2nd May - but you'll have to scan through this newsletter to find out more!



Thursday 30th April 7.00pm -
Flicks in the Sticks: The Penguin Lessons

Tuesday 12th May 6.30pm -
AI Uncovered: What It Does and What It Means for You

Thursday 28th May 7.00pm -
Flicks in the Sticks: Hamnet

Tuesday 9th June 6.30 pm -
A Practical Guide to Scams, Fraud & Online Threats

Tuesday 21st July 7.00pm -
'Shropshire and Beyond'
Landscape Photography Evening with John Wayward



Leaton Forest Firewood

Locally Grown, Traditionally
Seasoned Firewood

Barrow Bags
Premium grade, £50
B grade, £45

Bulk Bags
Premium grade, £150.00
B grade, £125.00

Kindling £8.00

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order through our website;
[www.leatonforest.co.uk/
firewood-log-sales/](http://www.leatonforest.co.uk/firewood-log-sales/)



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Village Hall who's who

Chairman	Ray Harper	ray156harper@gmail.com		
Deputy Chair	Rodney Burt	rodneyfburt@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 15)
Friday afternoons:	Table tennis (see page 15)
2nd Thursday:	WI (see page 15)
Sundays:	early morning exercise class (see advert page 18)

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

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.

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 8th May 10am - 12noon
Cleobury Mortimer



Upcoming MP surgery:

Friday 22nd May - Bridgnorth
Friday 5th June - Condover



AI UNCOVERED

What It Is, What It Does & What It Means for You

12TH OF MAY

6PM DOORS – 6:30PM START

Discover the truth about Artificial intelligence, with national AI expert Sonia Nash for you:

- ✓ What AI is and how it affects you
- ✓ The AI you already use every day
- ✓ The rise of Agentic AI
- ✓ Addressing concerns: risks & benefits
- ✓ How AI can improve everyday life



SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL
£5 entry – Coffee and tea included
 No prior knowledge needed. All welcome!



DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!

A Practical Guide to Scams, Fraud & Online Threats

9TH OF JUNE

6PM DOORS – 6:30PM START

Learn how to spot and avoid online threats & scams:

- ✓ Phishing emails and fake websites
- ✓ Phone scams and banking fraud
- ✓ Protecting personal information
- ✓ Staying safe online
- ✓ Simple, practical advice



SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL
£5 entry – Coffee and tea included
 No technical experience needed. All welcome!



Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, Emily Watson, Joe Alwyn

12A

Hamnet

HAMNET tells the powerful love story behind the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. After losing their son to the plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England. A healer, Agnes must find the strength to care for her surviving children while enduring profound loss. The film was primarily shot in Herefordshire, with Weobley chosen for its beautifully preserved Tudor-era landscapes and architecture.

Snailbeach Village Hall SY5 0NX	Thursday 28 May 7.00 pm	Tickets Standard: £5.00
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SHROPSHIRE & BEYOND

An Evening of Photography

21st July


Doors Open: 6:30pm • Talk Starts: 7:00pm

WITH JOHN HAYWARD
Professional landscape photographer

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ Beautiful landscape photography presentation
- ✓ Prints, books, calendars, jigsaws & greeting cards for sale

£5 ENTRY
Refreshments Available:
Coffee & tea for sale



Enquiries: 01743 791327
 Door opening time 6:30 Refreshments, popcorn hot dogs during interval

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk





QR CODE FRAUDS

QR Codes have been around for several decades now but have become more prominent in the last few years. It is also forecast that in the near future QR codes will be gradually replacing bar codes on products.

So once again criminals are seizing the opportunity to use malicious QR Codes to steal money, and personal information.

The majority of QR code scams reported so far have been in open spaces such as station and car park machines, so always check the QR code sign to see if appears to have been tampered with, or has another label stuck on top of it.

However, QR codes are now appearing in greater numbers in phishing emails, often now called "Quishing." Criminals realise that the public are now more aware of the dangers on clicking on links in unsolicited emails, so are using QR codes instead to direct the recipient to a malicious website.

Whilst most of these QR codes are genuine, it is always worth just taking a few minutes to carry out the following checks.

- Preview the QR code link. The URL should appear on your phone when you scan a QR code. Make sure the URL seems legitimate and that it isn't a misspelling of a real URL.
- Check for tampering. If you're scanning a QR code in a public place, like a restaurant or a car park ticket machine, make sure the QR code doesn't have a sticker on top of the original. If in doubt, try paying by a different method where possible.
- Check the website. If you follow the QR code link, does the website seem professional. Low-quality images and typos are always signs of fake websites. Look for a lock symbol next to the URL or https:// in the URL to show these are genuine.
- When in doubt, contact the company. If you receive an unusual email or letter in the mail from a business with a QR code, contact the business to determine if the message is legitimate.
- Never scan or open QR codes from unknown sources. Whether you're approached online or in the street, don't scan QR codes from people that you

don't know. And always lookout for "too good to be true" messages, such as gifts or free products if you scan their QR code.

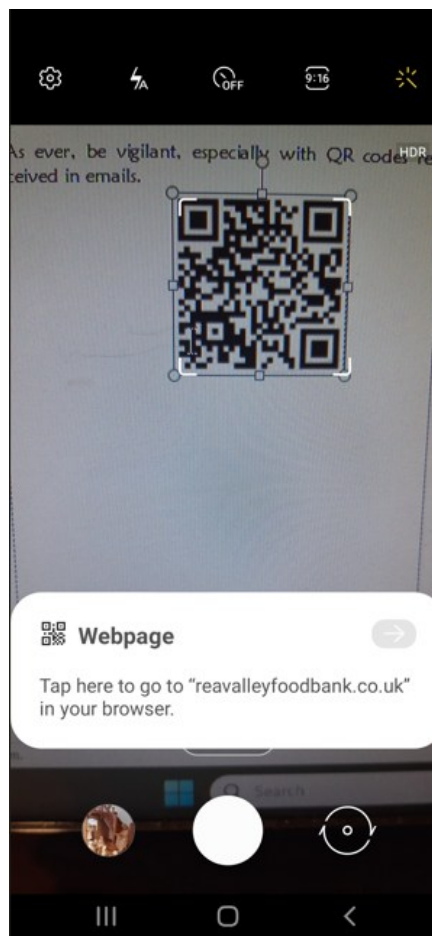
- If using a downloaded App to scan QR codes, make sure you obtain it from a trusted source such as Apple or Google Play Store. However most modern phones have a built-in scanner anyway.

A further use of QR codes to defraud victims by criminals is known as "BRUSHING". Typically, this is used to create false consumer reviews by sending out "gifts" to multiple recipients then using those names and addresses to create favourable consumer reviews in their name unknowingly.

A twist to this type of fraud however is to include a QR Code inside the package which claims to let you know who sent the "gift".

NEVER scan this QR code as it can potentially download all the personal and financial information on your phone including any bank account details if you have Banking Apps on your phone.

As ever, be vigilant, especially with QR codes received in emails.



This screenshot shows my phone camera looking at a QR code allegedly from Rea Valley Foodbank. You can see that the white box shows the name of the website I will be taken to if I click on it. If in doubt I can look up that website 'manually' rather than clicking the link.

In this case it IS genuine and you can click on it to donate to the Foodbank!

See advert opposite for a chance to learn more about scams and how to avoid them!



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

3rd May 3.00pm Afternoon service
12th July 3.00pm Welcoming the new curate,
Rev Ian Williams

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.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk.

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

3rd May Rev Richard Hall
17th May Domini Lucas

We meet in the schoolroom adjacent to the chapel. All are welcome. See the chapel notice board for details of later dates.

Advance notice -

The final service at Stiperstones Methodist Church will be held on 28th June at 3.00pm. This will hopefully be outside - please bring a chair.

Following our recent Gift Day at Minsterley, over £1,000 was raised for the outreach in the Rea Valley Church group. Our thanks to all who supported us

For further information please contact

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

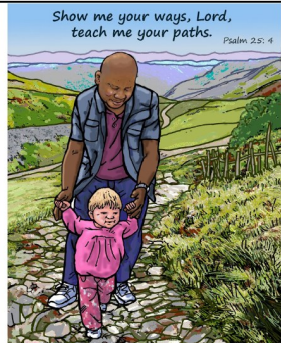
Snailbeach & District is within the parish bounds of the Stiperstones church group.

The parish magazine includes local news and events and is published each month. It is available for 80p, or an annual subscription of £9.

To find out more, or to subscribe, contact the editor on 01743 537081 or email MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com.

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group: Hope & Shelve, Snailbeach, Habberley
incorporating news from the Chirbury Hills benefice: Chirbury, Middleton, Leighton, Marton, Corndon Marsh, Trelystan.



May 2026

80p



Rea Valley Transport Scheme

The scheme enables you to access medical appointments including Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry hospitals. We undertake whenever we can to get people to opticians, dental and other wellbeing appointments.

Our drivers are all volunteers, but they are not medical professionals. Your driver will collect you and take you in good time for your appointment. To request transport, please contact our administrator, Emma, at reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com or call 07468 115939. Please give us a week's notice.

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



**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/>.

The availability of CPADs (community public access defibrillators) in our area

In 2022 I wrote an article for SDN about defibrillators in our area, following the deaths of two people whose companions found local defibrillators out of action. Subsequently money raised through donation boxes in the shop, pub and visitor centre was given to the pub and visitor centre to help towards maintenance. Another local resident ensured some unusable defibrillators became functional.

CPAD, or Community Public Access Defibrillator, is an automated external defibrillator (AED) stored in a secure cabinet in a public location for emergency use. Defibrillators in the UK are sometimes kept in locked cabinets to prevent theft, vandalism or damage, ensuring they are available and functional during a cardiac arrest. While many are in unlocked, 24/7 accessible cabinets, others require a 4-digit code provided by 999 operators to prevent misuse.

Sites with defibrillators are encouraged to register their devices with The Circuit, the national defibrillator network endorsed by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). This allows all 14 ambulance services to locate the nearest registered defibrillator when a bystander calls 999 in response to an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The Circuit also sends maintenance reminders to defibrillator guardians (the individuals responsible for looking after the defibrillator). There is little point installing a CPAD if no-one is available to maintain it. Some CPADs are either mistakenly unavailable, or available but with the wrong information or access codes. If a CPAD is used in an emergency it becomes unavailable until batteries are replaced.

Evidence from The Circuit showed that less than 1% of unlocked cabinets are vandalised, which is less than for locked cabinets. NHS England, BHF, Resuscitation Council UK, St John Ambulance and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives recommend “public access defibrillators should be placed in unlocked cabinets allowing immediate access in an emergency.”

The National Patient Safety Team reviewed several reports where members of the public who had been guided to a CPAD could not get the unlock code or where the incorrect code was held by the ambulance control centre. For more information see

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/accessing-community-public-access-defibrillators-cpads/>

Each year there are over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK, but many defibrillators are not used in an emergency because ambulance services do not know where they are.

Less than 1 in 10 people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by up to 10%.

Over 100,000 defibrillators are registered on The Circuit. However it is estimated that tens of thousands of defibrillators are not registered yet. Registering is quick and free:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/national-defibrillator-network-the-circuit>

Defibfinder (www.defibfinder.uk) draws information from The Circuit. Another site called HeartSafe (a British company supplying AED defibrillators and pads) also maintains a locator site: www.heartsafe.org.uk.

Location	Registered with	Available
Stiperstones Inn	The Circuit	All times
Bog Visitor Centre	The Circuit (due to battery needing replacing)	Unavailable
Snailbeach Vil. Hall	The Circuit	All times
Habberley Vil. Hall	Heartsafe	not known
Minsterley Vil. Hall	The Circuit	All times
Lords Hill	The Circuit	All times
Norbury Vil. Hall	The Circuit	All times
Bridges	The Circuit	All times
Hyssington Vil. Hall	The Circuit	All times
Lydham Village Hall	?	Unavailable

Alyson Small
04.02.2026

*Today is the oldest you've ever been,
yet the youngest you'll ever be,
so enjoy this day while it lasts.*

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE RACES

Snailbeach Village Hall



Feel the Rush –
The Race is On!

MAY
8 

Enjoy exciting races on the big screen, sponsor a horse, place small bets, and cheer on your favourite. There will also be a raffle, bar and chances to win great prizes throughout the evening.

6:30PM – DOORS OPEN
7PM – FIRST RACE

Adult Ticket – £6
Child Ticket – £4
(includes hot dog)

To book tickets or for more info contact
Tarah – 07443 033676
tarrah.lewis@shropshirepcas.co.uk

In aid of Shropshire PCAS
Charity Number : 1187362

The Minsterley and District Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all the competitors who entered the numerous classes and to congratulate the winning performances at the event on Saturday 21st March.



We hope that spectators enjoyed the celebrity concert on Sunday 22nd March too. The concert this year was dedicated to the memory of Bronwen Evans MBE who we sadly lost in September 2025. She had been a serving committee member for more than half a century and will be fondly remembered locally by her moniker “Mrs Eisteddfod.” Her passion for providing an opportunity for children and young people to perform in front of an audience, giving them skills to take forward into their personal and professional lives, will be her legacy.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many friends who help out in various ways during Eisteddfod weekend as it would be impossible to stage the festival without your support.

Claire Penrose

(Assistant General/Committee Secretary)

Shropshire PCAS - A Shropshire-based free to use, 100% independent and confidential advocacy service

PCAS (Person Centred Advocacy & Support) is a small, local charity which provides advocacy support for adults with any disability to maintain independence and improve their quality of life. We'll guide, support, and help protect vulnerable adults with disabilities with face-to-face support in their own homes throughout Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

For more information visit our website:
www.shropshirepcas.co.uk, or call: 01691 658008

Tarah Lewis

PONTESBURY MONDAY NIGHT BADMINTON CLUB



Every Monday - 7pm – 9pm
£35 per term
Sports Hall, Mary Webb School Pontesbury
SY5 0TG

A fun social club, a small amount of Badminton experience required.
Members must be aged 18 or over.

Please come and join us to play on a Monday evening

Any questions please contact pontesburymnbc@aol.com



"FESTIVE FRIENDS"

Community Christmas Day event



Christmas seems a distant memory now but we've had plenty of time to get comments and feedback from those who attended ~ and we can definitely say that

"Festive Friends" 2025 was a great success!

Over 50 guests and volunteers enjoyed drinks and mince pies followed by a traditional two course lunch on Christmas Day at Norbury Village Hall near Bishop's Castle.

A special 'Thank You' to Wendy Lund and Val Littlehales who provided music and entertainment, the magnificent Quiz organisers and the wonderful team of volunteers who made it such a special event for people who might otherwise be alone or find the day challenging.

Planning has already begun for Christmas 2026 (!!)

This year we are particularly looking for a qualified First Aider/Carer to join us and also someone licensed to drive a minibus for transporting our guests to and from the venue. If you think **you** could give some time to "Festive Friends" 2026 do contact

festivefriends@smquakers.org.uk

for more details.



Festive Friends is an initiative of
Clun Valley Quakers



The Visitor Centre reopened for the season on Wednesday 1st April



The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors, and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Our team of staff are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase, as are books, maps and walk leaflets.

Opening hours

Mon - Tues Closed
Wed - Fri 12 noon - 4pm
Sat - Sunday 11am - 4pm

Closed Bank Holidays

Craft workshops and group meeting are welcomed to hire the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and evenings.

Staffing The Bog Visitor Centre

Staff work their first 26 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate (for those who chose to be paid):

Under 18	£8.00
18 - 20	£10.85
Over 21	£12.71

Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If you are interested please email Lin Brown our secretary: bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk.

Students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are paid for all their working hours at the appropriate rate for their age.

Jerry Hughes

Secretary - Lin Brown
www.bogvisitorcentre.com
email: bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk
01694 781634



Brew With a View Café



Our Year 6 pupils from Norbury & Stiperstones Schools will be hosting their own cafés, on the following dates:

The editor only just received this advert; please support the school if possible, and we'll hope to show next year's dates in better time!

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 @ Stiperstones School

Brew on The Border Café



Our Year 6 pupils from Chirbury School will be hosting their own cafés, on the following dates:

Monday 17th November 2025 @ Marton Village Hall

Friday 6th February 2026 @ Chirbury Village Hall

Friday 1st May 2026 @ Chirbury Village Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME! 11am-2pm

The cafes will include light lunches, cake and hot & cold beverages.

Please spread the word and come and support the children and our schools 😊

Hope and Shelve Parish



Summer Fete

**Saturday June 6th
2-4pm at Leigh Manor,
Minsterley SY5 0EG.**

FREE ENTRY!

raffle

refreshments

sideshow

stalls

music from the

Stiperstones Brass Band



Heather's Report

February

Roads and Potholes

Since the change in administration last May, we have filled over 21,000 potholes. There is much still to do however, and the frost, snow and rain of the last few months will have opened up many new potholes. Please report any potholes on 'FixMyStreet' and copy me in! You will need the reference and date from this site to claim any damage to a vehicle.

Destruction of Wildlife Habitat.

Residents were justifiably appalled at the recent destruction of a possible barn owl roost and nearby gorse and other vegetation in Pennerley. There are a great many patches of wood, scrub and old buildings across our area which provide a haven for wildlife but are vulnerable to destruction. I am currently in discussion with Shropshire Council Officers and others to see if these are any protections available for sites like this for the future.

A490 landslip

As we approach the 6th birthday of the Chirbury to Churchstoke landslip, we have some more definite news of work on it to start. A scheme is being drawn up to move the road over. They will then start to develop a site programme. They will also work on what road closures will be needed to do the work. They are confident that some of the work can be done using the current traffic lights. They are also hoping to start some of the advanced works including hedge and tree removal

March

Blue Badges

We inherited quite a backlog of applications for these, when we took over in May. We are drafting in new staff and those arrears will now be coming down. By law any application must be processed within 12 weeks, so Shropshire has now introduced 3 months grace for every badge holder. This means that you can use badges for up to three months after it expires on Shropshire Council sites (car parks and on street parking) without getting a ticket. Shropshire Council is also trying to persuade the hospital to extend its period of grace from 1 to 3 months.

Road Repairs

As we go to press the Rowley Road should be being resurfaced, with the landslip on the same road stabilised and repaired in the autumn. Other roads hopefully to be resurfaced over the next few months

include the Rorrington to Priest Weston Road and the road from Alberbury to the Powys Border. This is in addition to work being done by our pothole gangs - increasingly 'in-house', council-employed teams who we can manage more effectively.

Also, Shropshire is extending the contract of one particularly effective contractor - locally-based MULTEVO - who use state-of-the-art machines to resurface whole strips of potholed roads. From 1st April, their work is now being extended from A and B roads to C-class side roads.

Lastly, the Council has secured money from the government specifically (i.e. ring-fenced) to improve our roads. We will receive an additional £1.2m in 2026/7 and £5.3m on top in 2027/8.

Heating Oil Prices

Congratulations to Lara from the Stiperstones Inn for appearing on national and Regional TV to highlight how the current hike in oil prices will impact on those of us in rural areas who rely on oil or (like me) propane.

Economic Development

Last some of you may have heard of the Government's initiative to set up Combined Authorities involving different councils. This is not an attempt to merge Councils but rather an attempt to get neighbouring Councils (e.g. Shropshire and Telford) to work more efficiently on economic development.

April

Roads

The road from Brockton to Rowley has now been completely resurfaced. The next roads to be resurfaced will be Rorrington to Priest Weston and Marche Lane in Westbury. These should be done over the next few months.

The Landslip on the A490 Between Chirbury and Churchstoke: at long last we have some progress here. The landowner has agreed to sell some land so that the road can be moved away from the edge of the precipice. I will keep you informed of developments

A490 at the Shiregrove Bridge: major repair work will start here in the next few months.

Significant potholing work has been done is Aston Piggot and Aston Rogers

SpArC

I was really pleased to visit SpArC recently to see the pool project underway. Whilst the pool is being prepared for the new insulated pool tank, work will also take place on replacing the pool hall roof, which is currently in a very poor condition.

Securing the improvements to the swimming pool in Bishop's Castle has truly been a joint effort between the local community, Shropshire Council and Government. The work should be finished sometime in June when it will reopen to the public. Work on insulation and further air-source heat pumps to save energy will continue until November.

I am really proud to have been involved in this project and would like to thank the SpArC Trustees and everyone in our local community for all their hard work in raising £250k towards this project. The Trustees will continue fundraising to enhance the sound and the seating in the theatre.

20mph limits outside of schools

This programme is currently underway. I would have preferred that Norbury, currently with a 60mph limit, be done first followed by Worthen. However, the programme set by the previous administration included Chirbury in the first phase. After representations from Cllr Ruth Houghton and myself, council officers are drawing up a 30 mph scheme for Norbury which will include parking. All should be completed this financial year

Flooding

The B4386 Chirbury to Westbury Road has been selected as one of the pilot projects for a county-wide scheme for tackling flooding caused by run-off during severe rainstorms. This will include mapping all the drains and areas that flood regularly so that targeted action can be taken.

Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor for
Chirbury & Worthen Division
Tel: 079806 35518

email: heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

Two men were working for the council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill it in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging the hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-man team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

The Stiperstones Inn Upcoming Events 2026

Knitter Natter
10am Every Tuesday!



Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 4th May

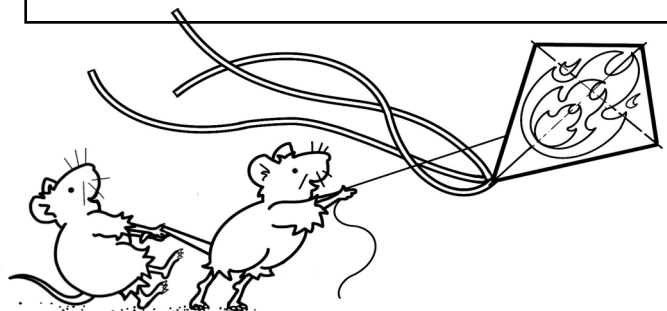
Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 25th May

Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 1st June

Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 29th June

Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 6th July

Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 27th July





Police contact numbers

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE**

16th January 2026 – 15th April 2026

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Uninhabited property broken into, untidy search made, unknown if anything taken	Bentlawnt	Occurred twice, between 2 nd Feb – 9 th February 2026
Theft	Historical offence of money being taken without permission	Snailbeach	
Arson	Caravan set on fire by child in care	Hampton Beech	Occurred on 3 rd March. Fire brigade called by carers, suspect interviewed and admitted to the offence
Off-roading (ASB)	Group of motorbikes riding over Stapeley Hill and Black Marsh, the group were also reported as shouting at member of the public	Hemford	During the afternoon, 14 th March
Theft	600 litres of heating oil stolen	Priest Weston	Occurred 3 rd March – 12 th March
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control causing injury		Worthen	

House burglaries

During recent months there have been a number of house burglaries in our policing area. Thankfully, house burglaries are rare, however it's always vital to secure your home whenever you leave it. Burglars often target homes that they think will contain valuables (a common target is jewellery), that aren't overlooked, appear unoccupied at the time and have windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.

Here's what we recommend before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways

- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn on lights in the evening
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure any side gates that give access to the rear of the property are locked.

If you are going away for a period of time -

- leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appears occupied
- get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property and to take in parcels
- consider asking your trusted neighbours to close curtains after dark and park a vehicle on your drive
- remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries.

Preventing Heating Oil Theft

With the cost of heating oil rising over recent weeks due to the conflict in the Middle East, so has the risk of being targeted by heartless thieves looking to steal it. Below are some steps to help prevent the theft of heating oil -

Location of the tank - The tank's position can have a significant effect on its vulnerability. If it's too close to the house and overlooked, then the thief may consider the chances of being seen too high. If it's close to the road or other access points, then it may be an easier target. Many tanks are hidden behind the garage or other structures which could be an advantage to the thief. Therefore, the following security measures should be considered:

Padlocks - Robust closed shackle padlocks offer the most resistance to bolt croppers.

Oil level gauges - Consider using oil level gauge alarms, these remote-control alarms activate if the tank level suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full.

Proximity alarms - Battery operated motion sensor alarms can make an audible alarm and some can also alert designated mobile phones that monitor activity that's detected around the tank.

Security lighting - If your tank is visible from your home, this can deter thieves. Low level 'dusk to dawn' or motion detection lighting can be an effective crime deterrent.

CCTV - This can be set up to watch over an isolated tank and also act as a deterrent to thieves.

Defensive planting - Consider the planting of thorny bushes to prevent entry to the tank, also the addition of walls, fences or trellis can help to hide the shape or site of a green heating oil tank.

Report it

If the crime is happening now call 999 - if you are unsure, we'd rather hear about it and decide if a theft is occurring

If it is safe to do so, take photos of suspects or the number plate of their car (do not approach suspects as they have been known to use violence). If the crime has already happened then you can report it online www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/.

LIVESTOCK WORRYING

In February we received a report of two ewes, both in lamb, being attacked by a dog in a field on the outskirts of Bishop's Castle. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep; worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep (this act is amended as of 18th March 2026 to define more clearly 'attack' and 'worrying' as stress alone can injure or kill livestock).

A farmer/person with permission to graze on the land has the legal right under the Animals Act 1971 to shoot a dog to stop it from continuing to worry livestock. Lambing season historically coincides with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs, particularly where the farmland has rights of way passing through it.

Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept under close control around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that your dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.

OPERATION WHITEBEAM - RURAL CRIME

During the evening of 10th - 11th February officers from across South Shropshire carried out another phase of Op. Whitebeam. This proactive policing approach focused on identifying and disrupting criminals intent on targeting our rural communities. Alongside enforcement activity, we visited vulnerable locations to offer crime prevention advice, discuss protection tactics, and provide reassurance through high-visibility patrols.

We don't post about every operation we run, but we do want our communities to know that this work is ongoing, consistent and something we are fully committed to. We continue to work closely with partners and the public to prevent offences and keep our rural areas safe. As is often the case, while searching for one thing we encountered another: officers arrested a male for suspected drug driving and possession of cannabis, and a vehicle was seized.

We had no reported burglaries during this time and it's this high visibility that we know deters offending. We will persist in the fight against rural crime.

From the editor

Online

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

E-mail

We will continue to deliver paper copies to every home in the district, but we can now send out copies by email. If you live out of our area (or would just like an electronic copy anyway) please let me know (see page 3 for details).

Adverts

More adverts this time - please support these local businesses where you can. The income from advertising (see page 3) helps meet the cost of this newsletter.

Articles and news

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, or an announcement or report that you wish to share.

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Snailbeach Table Tennis

The end of April will see our return fixture against Pontesbury U3A. As current trophy holders, the Snailbeach team has been undergoing daily 5 mile runs and intensive coaching sessions to stay ahead of the game....?!

We play at 1.30pm on Fridays in Snailbeach Village Hall. Genuinely, no expertise is required – anyone is welcome. Just turn up and someone will show you the ropes if you are unsure. The cost is just £2 per session and you are guaranteed a laugh and maybe get to know some new people.

For more information please contact me on SnailbeachTT@gmail.com.

Andrew Maher

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.

14th May	Resolution debate
11th June	Craft workshop - crafty ribbon
9th July	The Bog - a lost settlement

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>. Scheduled open Sundays are 3rd, 24th May; 7th, 14th June; 4th, 12th, 19th 26th July.

Shropshire Mines Trust is looking for new members and further details can be found at www.shropshiremines.org.uk. 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 7.30pm and the main band at 8.00pm and we welcome novice or experienced brass players, we also have a vacancy for a percussionist.

Julian Bromhead

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:


13th, 27th May
10th, 24th June
8th, 15th July

OPEN MEETING **u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley

learn, laugh, live


COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

Presentation by Dan Cornes



Behind the familiar war graves lies a remarkable story, from quiet village churchyards to great memorials.

Discover how the Commonwealth War Graves Commission began, and how it continues to honour 1.7 million lives lost in two world wars.




Wednesday
20 May 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association 

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our May social evening "Spring into the Garden" as a number of the stallholders were unable to attend. We hope that some of the plant sales will be held at the Trading Post in the near future.

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

Rob Dixon
robodixon@btopenworld.com

u3a - University of the Third Age

"U3a is one of the largest membership organisations in the UK. Our members come together to learn for fun in retirement. Through u3a, members make friends and find community."

Pontesbury u3a has about forty different 'interest groups' for a whole range of activities. The meetings advertised here are all open to everyone, whether or not you are a member.

AGM 2026

MY LIFE AS A MICRO-ARTIST



Between heartbeats and hilarity: the extraordinary life of world-famous micro-artist and celebrated speaker, Graham Short



Wednesday
15 July 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

AGM & OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

learn, laugh, live **u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley

AGM & OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome


learn, laugh, live

OPEN MEETING **u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Talk: **Jon King**

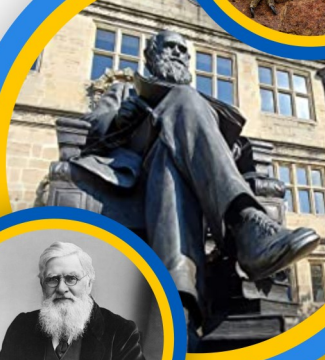
THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP OF CHARLES DARWIN & ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

COLLABORATION, CONFLICT & GENIUS



The extraordinary friendship that shaped one of history's greatest scientific breakthroughs – and the generosity that defined it.

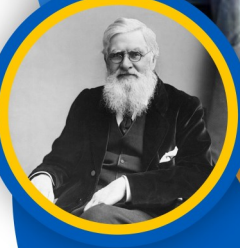
With **Jon King**, Founder of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival and author of *Charles Darwin in Shrewsbury – The Making of a Marvellous Mind*.



Wednesday
17 June 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall SY5 0EH



Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn, laugh, live

REA VALLEY BIG GREEN DAY IN PONTESBURY

SATURDAY MAY 2ND 2026 10.AM TO 3.30PM
START AT SCHOOL GREEN TO GET YOUR MAP!

Plant Sale at the Pavilion

Children's Activities at St George's

Meet an Owl!

Stalls at the Public Hall

BIRDSONG WALK. 9.30 PONTESFORD HILL

talks and refreshments

community garden tours

Family workshop - Why Nature Matters

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

with bake sale and tombola

16 May 2026
10am - 12.30pm

on the Crown & Sceptre bank
 Minsterley

Stiperstones Fell Race
7.30pm Wednesday 8th July

This annual run, organized by Mercia fell runners' club, starts at Snailbeach mine in a couple of month's time. This is part of a series of summer Shropshire hill races organized by the club.

If you want to take part in the race or can offer to marshal or assist, please contact me. More details at <https://merciafr.club/>.

Thank you.

Tim Parker
tim.parker111@gmail.com

Thank all our friends and neighbours in the community for the lovely help for us in the time I was in hospital and all you still do.

I am not fully recovered yet, it takes time, need to get over the 6 weeks period to get out of the dangerous time as it can happen again. Done just over two weeks since it did happen so have to take it easy to make sure.

Rodney & Jenny

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TUESDAY

5.30 pm

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£5 entry

Join us for a


Clothes Swap

good quality clothes and accessories

20th June | 2 - 4.30pm
Snailbeach Village Hall

• Raffle • Refreshments • Cakes •

Proceeds to Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



On Saturday 20th June we are holding a Clothes Swap at the village hall from 2.00 - 4.30pm. If you've never been before, this is what happens: bring along good quality clean clothes (not jumble) that you no longer want - also scarves, shoes, hats and jewellery.

The first half hour is spent putting clothes on rails and accessories on tables. After that its time to check what is on the rails and try on!! Always fun and there will be refreshments available to buy - tea, coffee, cake and prosecco. There will be a raffle too.

The cost is £5 and all proceeds are going to Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley.

If you have any questions please email me.

Pam Bickley
revpambickley@gmail.com

Stuart Anderson Member of Parliament for South Shropshire



I have stepped up my campaign to improve postal services in South Shropshire by meeting with Royal Mail bosses in Ludlow. Talking face to face, I expressed urgent concerns about the huge impact that missed delivery rounds and late letters have on rural communities which completely rely on a reliable postal service to stay connected and well-informed. Back in February I led a Westminster Hall debate in Parliament on the unacceptable state of postal services in rural areas and stated that "I will not stop until every letter is delivered on time."

South Shropshire is home to so many beautiful stretches of river, including the Clun, the Onny, the Severn, and the Teme. Hundreds of constituents have contacted me in recent weeks to express deep-rooted concerns about the prevalence of waste and sewage in waterways across the nation. I have spoken publicly about this issue on a number of occasions, but following this renewed expression of interest from constituents I have raised it again. The latest classifications show that one in seven English bathing sites are still polluted, including the bathing site upstream of Dinham Bridge at the River Teme in Ludlow. So I have urged ministers to intensify efforts to improve the quality of our bathing waters as a matter of urgency.

Finally, in London I recently enjoyed meeting with Shropshire residents at the Parliamentary Repair Cafe event. There are a number of fantastic repair cafes around our constituency, including in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Highley, Bishops Castle, and Church Stretton. *[Editor's note - there is also one in Pontesbury most months, but this is not in the MP's constituency]*. Supported by a growing network of volunteer repairers, these groups help people fix broken items for free to avoid unnecessary waste. I am fully supportive of this mission, and I was grateful for the opportunity to learn more about how repair cafes bring people together whilst helping to protect our environment.

I continue to hold regular advice surgeries across South Shropshire, offering you the opportunity to raise personal problems and get support on a wide range of issues. I am also holding monthly 'MP Coffee Mornings' which provide a relaxed chance for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. Come along, say hello, and raise any local or wider issues you'd like to discuss. Dates and locations are advertised on my website or you can phone my constituency office at 01746 555025.

I produce a regular newsletter to keep constituents updated with my work in South Shropshire and Westminster; sign up on www.stuartanderson.org.uk.

