

Snailbeach & District Village Hall Newsletter

August - October 2026

Issue 6

delivered free to over 300 homes in
Snailbeach & District.

Copy date for next issue is 10th October



MOUNTAIN SONG
HICKMAN GREENWAY

*"The real thing!
High Voltage,
golden era Bluegrass
delivered with expertise,
panache and authenticity."
- Charlie Dore*

*High lonesome
harmonies from
the heart of
the hills.*

Mountain Song play golden era Bluegrass and traditional Appalachian music. This acoustic-guitar duo brings the spirit of the American mountain settlers to life with fast and fiery picking, soaring harmonies and a classic Bluegrass repertoire that blends gospel, fiddle tunes, and the signature high 'n' lonesome sound.

**LIVE AT
SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL**

20TH AUGUST | **ENTRY £7**

DOORS OPEN 6:45PM | **MUSIC STARTS 7:30PM**

BAR OPEN ALL NIGHT

Chairman's Notes

I write this as we go into the second heatwave this year, I hope you all are managing ok.

At the village hall we are progressing with the refurbishments to make the hall fully accessible. Plans for the changes to the toilet area are being considered and when agreed will be tied in with the changes for the porch and put out to tender. It all takes time but we hope to have things finalised as soon as possible.

Elsewhere bollards have been erected at the Lower Works end of the play area, there is still some work required but hopefully this will be completed fairly soon. Keys for entry beyond the bollards will initially be held by Jo Jeays (contact details in Village Hall's Who's Who on page 3). As we move forward other keys will be available and we will let you know where they will be kept.

It seems very early but, as the newsletter is quarterly, I feel I should let you know now that the Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30pm, Thursday 19th November. As always everyone is welcome to come along and witness the election of the officers and trustees of the committee. I would like to stress that we will always give a particularly warm welcome to anyone who would like to assist in providing a venue for the community to enjoy.

Wishing you all the very best for the rest of the summer and beyond.

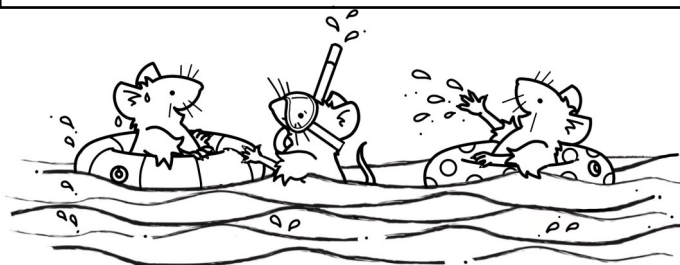
Ray Harper

"Everyone has feelings, except for snakes and head teachers."
- Donna, age 9

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and the world laughs at you."
- Rob, age 8

"Moses came down with the Ten Amendments, which were God's Bill of Wrongs."
- Susie, age 7

"Doctors automatically know what's wrong with you. They have a sick sense."
- Beau, age 10



Events in the Village Hall



A huge thank you to Stiperstones' own Sonia Nash for two excellent talks on A.I. and keeping safe on-line. Around thirty people attended her talks in May and June.

Upcoming events

Sat 1st August Snailfest Event (see page 13)
A country-themed disco.

Thur 20th August Mountain Song (see page 1)
An evening of authentic Bluegrass, country and Appalachian music inspired by the mountains, wide-open landscapes and the spirit of the American West.

Flicks in the sticks

Upcoming screenings

Wed 9th Sep - *What We Did on Our Holiday* (pg 8)
Thu 15th Oct - *Song Sung Blue*
Wed 18th Nov - *Sheep Detective* (to be confirmed)
Thur 3rd Dec - Christmas Special - *Die Hard*

Entry £5 | Doors open 6.30pm | Film starts 7.00pm

More than just a film night! Enjoy a licensed bar, hot dogs and a midway interval for ice creams, refreshments and a friendly chat with friends and neighbours. It's the perfect way to enjoy a great film and spend an evening together in the community.

Coming events in the hall

Village Hall A.G.M. Thursday 19th November
Christmas Fair Saturday 28th November
Carol Singing Sunday 13th December

The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. [Please don't blame the editor for the spelling].

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.

Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote *Donkey Hotel*. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*. Since then, no one ever found it.

Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and also declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." He was a naturalist for sure. Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handle was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Bethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf that he wrote loud music and became the father of rock and roll. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Bethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up.

Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits but I don't know why.

Charles Darwin was a naturalist. He wrote the *Organ of the Species*. It was very long, people got upset about it and had trials to see if it was really true. He sort of said God's days were not just 24 hours but without watches who knew anyhow? I don't get it.

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	Tarra 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 16)
Friday afternoons:	Table tennis (see page 16)
2nd Thursday:	WI (see page 16)
Sundays:	early morning exercise class (see advert page 18)

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, church events, 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.

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 surgery:

Friday 7th Aug - Craven Arms

Friday 4th Sept - Bridgnorth



Hills Ford Stages Rally comes to Shropshire in September



Residents across the Stiperstones hillside may have heard that the Hills Ford Stages Rally is coming to Shropshire this September. The event, which takes place over the weekend 19th – 20th September, is one of the country's leading closed-road rally events and will bring competitors, rally teams, officials and visitors into the county for a weekend of motorsport, community activity and local celebration.

For residents in and around Snailbeach and the Stiperstones, it is important to stress that the village, the Stiperstones and its car park are not on rally stages or closed roads. They will remain accessible using the normal open-road network. Affected residents are being provided with detailed information relevant to their locations.

The rally cars will start from Shrewsbury town centre on Saturday, before travelling to Weston Park for an afternoon of rally action. Weston Park will also host a small Rally Show in the build-up to the stages, with further details to be announced, including opportunities for local traders and businesses to become involved. On Sunday, crews will tackle a series of special stages on closed public roads across parts of Shropshire.

As with any major event taking place across a rural area, there may be increased traffic on some local routes over the weekend, particularly from

visitors travelling to and from the wider rally area. The organising team is working closely with local communities, parish representatives, landowners, emergency services and Shropshire Council to ensure the event is delivered safely and with as little disruption as possible.

Households and businesses directly affected by any road closures will receive detailed information directly from the rally's Communities and Business Liaison Team. This will include closure timings, access arrangements and contact details for anyone who needs assistance or has a question.

The Hills Ford Stages is a not-for-profit event, organised by volunteers, and is keen to make a positive contribution to its new home in Shropshire. Alongside the rally itself, the event is working with local businesses, accommodation providers, schools, colleges and community groups to help create opportunities and encourage visitors to explore the county responsibly.

Further information, including event updates, spectator guidance and community news, will be available nearer the time through the Hills Ford Stages website and social-media channels.

The organisers would like to thank local residents for their welcome and support as preparations continue for what they hope will become a positive regular event for Shropshire

Steve Andrews
Media Officer

www.hillsfordstages.co.uk



The wee girl is our little mascot Daisy who didn't think she was allowed to wave the flag for cars



Extracts from the latest newsletter from Stuart Anderson

July marks the second anniversary of my election as the M.P. for South Shropshire, and it remains an absolute honour to represent the people and places that make our area so special. As I continue to listen, support, and deliver for my constituents, I am reminded every day of how lucky I am to have the privilege of representing the most beautiful part of our incredible nation.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who has taken the time to contact me, attend meetings and events, or simply share their views. Whilst I remain focused on the year ahead, this anniversary provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on some of the work which has already been done.

The state of our roads has been a key focus in 2026. I have pushed relentlessly for better repairs, secured support for local areas and backed the rollout of a Road Warden Scheme by Shropshire Council following my campaign. In response to a significant number of complaints from constituents, I have also raised concerns about Royal Mail delays and unreliable deliveries at the highest level with Royal Mail chiefs and continue to press for improved services in our area.

When it comes to rural areas, I have called for increased support for off-grid energy users following the conflict in Iran. I have also backed calls to scrap the 10% Sales Commission for South Shropshire's park home owners, recently leading to a much-needed Call for Evidence from the Government. Improving broadband and mobile connectivity, especially in harder-to-reach areas, remains a key part of my work in Parliament, and I have had meetings with Ministers to push for meaningful action. Protecting nature also remains a primary focus. Having secured a vital extension to the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, I am now campaigning for South Shropshire's waterways to be cleaned up as a matter of urgency.

I have also used my position to push for a significant increase in defence spending. Having criticised the Government's Defence Investment Plan for failing to deliver for our armed forces, I was recently chosen to represent the UK at the NATO Summit in Ankara alongside leaders such as President Trump and President Zelensky. We

discussed issues including ongoing support for Ukraine and strengthening NATO alliances.

These are just a few areas which I have been focused on over the past year. I look forward to continuing all of this exciting work in the year ahead.

Stuart Anderson
Member of Parliament for South Shropshire
Tel: 01746 555025
Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk



Stiperstones Fell Race 7.30pm Wednesday 8th July

21 junior runners and 106 adults raced in temperatures above 30C in this annual fixture. The race started from the mine, and the course took the runners around the top of Perkins Beach dingle and back down past Resting Hill Chimney. The winner completed the course in 29mins 47sec.

More details at <https://merciafr.club/>.

Tim Parker
tim.parker111@gmail.com



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

13th Sep 9.00am Holy Communion
4th Oct 10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving -
GROUP service - followed by
refreshments in the village hall.

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

2nd August. Dr. John Woolley
16th August. Sheila MacInally

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



Sunday 28th June marked the end of worship
at Stiperstons Methodist chapel. More than forty
people attended an open-air service at the chapel in
glorious sunshine, followed by a picnic. The chapel
was built on land donated by Emily Griffiths, who
performed the opening ceremony on 2nd May 1993.



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.



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/>.

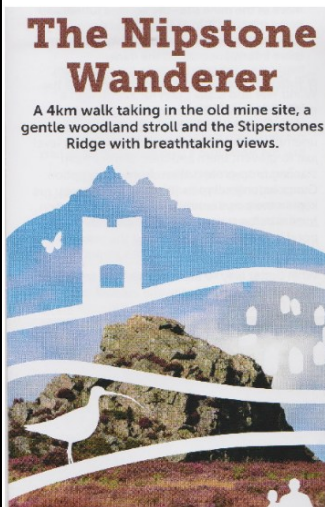




The Shuttle Bus runs at weekends throughout summer and into the autumn and is a great way to travel from the Stiperstones to Bridges and up across The Long Mynd to Church Stretton. **Remember use it or lose it!**



A **jetty** has been placed on the western reservoir making a view point for watching the numerous dragonflies and damselflies at this time of the year. This area of the site has many habitats and is a quiet and peaceful place to sit and watch wildlife such as the many and varied types of butterflies. Call in at the Centre for a free leaflet/poster for butterflies found in South Shropshire.



The Nipstone Wanderer starts beside the western reservoir, a walk taking 1 - 1½ hours that includes woodlands, open field and moorland passing the Nipstone Rock with wonderful views of Corndon Hill to the west, the Long Mynd to the east and the rocky outcrops of the Stiperstone ridge to the north.

Pick up a leaflet at the Centre.

Last Autumn in partnership with Shropshire National Landscape our project was to create pathways and seating on the Bog Mine Heritage site. Also to develop digital 3D imaging of how the site might have appeared at the height of the lead and barytes mining. This year's grant will enable us to complete the project with the placement of information boards on the mine site and an interactive computer display inside The Bog Visitor Centre.

Jerry Hughes

Secretary - Lin Brown

www.bogvisitorcentre.com

email: bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

01694 781634

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Snailbeach
Shrewsbury
SY5 0NS

Mobile: 07785 531910

Email: andybatch36@hotmail.com

The Methodism in our Midst

A few years ago, my husband and I came to live in Worthen, on the Valley's other side. We were surprised to find a spiritual home within the Methodist Chapels. Surprised (because we are Anglicans on paper) though we often worship where we sense we are meant to be. I was looking for afternoon services; my husband was co-opted as an occasional organist-cum-pianist. We stayed because we received a warm welcome, and, as Chapel folk often worship together across the Valley, we were soon enveloped by Snailbeach's charms as well.

The congregations that now seem small and unassuming were not originally so. Singing rang loudly across the Valley, not unexpected so close to Wales. Methodism itself has a rich musical heritage. Charles Wesley's hymns transcended denominations long ago, now forming the mainstay of many hymn books. It seems Charles wrote over 9,000 hymns, mostly edited and published by his famous brother John, who wrote a few hymns himself but is better known for his preaching and as the principal founder of Methodism. Both brothers also advocated social action, and caring for vulnerable members of society is still a hallmark of Methodism today.

What may be less widely known is that Methodist preachers were itinerant and rode from service to service on horseback, which seems an unlikely match for the deeply rooted folk inhabiting these parts. Yet even today though no longer on horseback, the local preachers and ministers take services along the length and breadth of the local Circuit.

A predisposition towards outside 'field-preaching' is perhaps a more obvious match for the area, and one still echoed annually. My husband and I have attended several outside services, usually known as Camp Meetings, dating back to 19th century practice. Since we moved to the area in 2016 these Camp Meetings have sometimes totalled forty to sixty attendees from across the Valley, including folk who cannot always make a Sunday Service.

Snailbeach Chapel was set up to serve the local mining community, and though we currently meet in the adjacent Schoolroom, the Chapel's community links are still clearly felt.

Anyone joining a Snailbeach Methodist Sunday Service can expect a warm welcome, a love for singing and a focus on preaching. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal, yet we have often been amazed at how much we have learnt from both occasional and regular preachers. Most of all we have been greatly impacted by the strength, faith and resilience of this seemingly small community, and the deep bonds of love that have helped them, and us, weather numerous storms along life's way.

We are currently updating local Chapel records across the Rea Valley. If you, or anyone you know, have personal stories or historical information that we can include about Snailbeach Methodist Chapel, we would love to hear from you.

Domini Lucas

jeremyanddomini@gmail.com

01743.623308



Rosamund Pike, David Tennant, Billy Connolly, Celia Imrie, Ben Miller.

12A

What We Did On Our Holiday

Doug and Abi take their children on a family holiday. Surrounded by relatives, the children innocently reveal the ins and outs of their family life and many intimate details about their parents. It's soon clear that when it comes to keeping a big secret under wraps from the rest of the family, their children are their biggest liability. Find out how the rest of the family cope and see if the holiday will ever end.

Snailbeach Village Hall
SY5 0NX

**Wednesday
9 September**
7.00 pm

Tickets
Standard: £5.00

PONTESBURY MONDAY NIGHT BADMINTON CLUB



Every Monday - 7pm - 9pm
£35 per term

arts 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

Enquiries: 01743 791327

Doors open 6:30 pm 15-20 minute interval halfway through the film Popcorn, snacks & hot dogs available Licensed bar serving wine, beer & cider

arts
alive



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."



PRESENT LAUGHTER by Noel Coward

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *Present Laughter* on Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th October at 7.30pm, and a matinee on Saturday 31st October at 2.30pm at our usual venue, St. Nicholas' Hall.

Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* is a sparkling comedy of wit and sophistication. Set in 1939 it follows the charming yet self-absorbed actor matinee idol Garry Essendine: suave, full of charm and charisma, and too old, says his ex-wife, to be having numerous affairs. His line in harmless, infatuated debutantes is largely tolerated but playing closer to home is not. With sharp dialogue, larger-than-life characters, and plenty of farcical moments, this delightful play offers a hilarious glimpse into the world of show business and the chaos of celebrity life. With his birthday rapidly approaching, Essendine is poised to set off on a literal tour of

CONCERT

Of One Accord

AND

TOM BARNES

of Johns' Boys

SATURDAY
12TH
SEPTEMBER
AT 7PM

AT
HOLY TRINITY MINSTERLEY



TICKETS TO BE
PRE-BOOKED (£12),
AVAILABLE FROM
MARIE EDWARDS
ON 791508



RAFFLE
AND
REFRESHMENTS
ON SALE

Africa and a figurative midlife crisis, and his entire team—including an indifferent staff of servants, a wry personal secretary, a set of entangled business associates and a bemused ex-wife—is in hurried preparation for both. The actor's expertly assembled life is upended when a predatory fan, an obsessed playwright and a young woman with more than Essendine's resume on her mind are simultaneously thrown into the mix, all vying for the self-obsessed actor's attention. As things spin wildly out of control, Essendine must scramble to keep his house of cards standing—and decide whether there's room in his life to love anyone but himself.

Tickets cost £12 (£6 for under 18s). I cannot buy tickets for you as I shall be away, but they can be obtained through the Drama Group website on info@abbeydrama.com or by telephoning 01743 247450.

Robert Currie

Heather's Report

May

Roads.

Following on the resurfacing done at Aston Piggot and the Brockton to Rowley Road, the road between Westbury and Vennington is next, with the Marche Road being done as I write this.

In late summer/autumn, the Rorrington to Priest Weston Road will be resurfaced and the A490 at Sheargrove Bridge (north of Chirbury) will receive significant work to stabilize the road edges.

Shropshire Council is also introducing a new, more stringent regime for inspecting road repairs made by contractors. For too long road repairs have not been inspected properly, allowing indifferent workmanship to go unchallenged, with poor repairs opening up after far too short a time. So to make sure future repairs are of a high standard the Council is introducing a team of inspectors to inspect all completed road repairs. If they below standard, they will insist that the work be redone.

This has already proved its worth on the A489 near Churchstoke when a contractor top dressed over a pothole; the inspector is insisting that this be repaired properly at the contractor's expense.

20mph limits outside of schools

A 20mph speed limit outside Long Mountain School in Worthen will be put in place in August.

Destruction of habitat in Pennerley

I have been contacted over the last few months by residents of the Pennerley area, distressed at the wholesale clearance of gorse and scrubland in the area. Everything above the ground on this 5-acre site has been removed, including the grass, totally destroying valuable habitat for birds, insects and mammals.

I have spoken to the Planning Department of Shropshire Council and the site is not an SSSI or covered by any other protection. I have, however, managed to get the signage for the public footpath running across the site restored.

We need to work together now to find a way to protect sites like this for the future. As a first step, please let me know of any similar land of value to wildlife e.g. woodland, heath, scrub etc. that you think might be under threat and also if you would like to take part in a group to move this project on.

June

Roads

i. Road repair projects continue with Lower Lane in Chirbury being done in August and Priest Weston to Rorrington following in the Autumn.

ii. More resources are being allocated under emergency powers to tackle potholes, including two extra specialist gangs. These repairs will be largely permanent, with the work checked by Council Officers to ensure quality.

iii. The Council is now using two 'multihog' pothole machines to enhance the rate of repair.

iv. All these measures have substantially increased the rate of repair. 1,123 potholes were filled in the week ending the 8th June alone.

Buses

Several bus services subsidized by Shropshire Council have altered recently. These do not include the 552 & 553 Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle service, which continues as normal. The enhanced 558 Shrewsbury to Montgomery service will start by September.

Litter Bins and grass cutting.

Shropshire Council is now working to take the above services back 'in-house', as the contractors at present are failing to deliver an efficient service. I have pressed them to regularly empty bins at Chirbury shop, Brockton Play area (and cut the grass!) and Westbury. Please let me know if any remain uncollected.

July

The Local Plan

The Local Plan (for housing development) under the Government's new guidelines has now gone out to consultation around the process. The maps of land attached to it are just those of pieces of land put forward for the last withdrawn plan. More land will be added for consideration and will go out for formal consultation in May. Many of those sites will not be approved at that stage. The whole process should take thirty months to complete.

Project Gigabit

Openreach has given me indicative timescales for the completion of the Project Gigabit-funded roll-out of full-fibre broadband networks in the five main telephone exchange areas that serve our area:

Chirbury 2027, Churchstoke 2027,

Worthen 2028, Pontesbury 2029,

Halfway House 2029.

If you have any queries, contact them on connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk.

Potholes

The potholing crews are now permanently filling more than 500 more potholes per week than are being created.

There are many roads that need overlays and resurfacing and there are certainly some around Blackmore, Caus and Hem Lane (to name a few) that need more than potholing. Time and funding are issues but I am pressing for them to be put in the capital programme.

Teams out doing permanent pothole fixes can now add any more of the correct size on to their tablets. They take a picture, fill it, take another picture and then they can be paid. Common sense at last.

Bins and Grass Cutting

Please report any full bins and uncut grass on FixMyStreet and let me know, please. I will chase them too.

Buses

The Government gave Shropshire £200k less this year and the retendering has meant that some buses have had to be stopped. We are lucky and as you know, the 558 will be an improved service with the later return for workers, but also an extra service in the day. The bus company will also change to D&M.

One of the services stopped is Meole Brace Park and Ride as its costs were just too great. Oxon continues and the Hospital shuttle will also continue from there to the hospital.

The Council Finances

The Council continues to work on balancing the books, and is gradually cutting overspends. Last year meant there were no reserves left and those are now gradually being replenished.

The Government is now putting pressure on the Council to sell all unused property. There will be more considered. This will reduce borrowing, which has to be paid back at approximately 11% (interest and repayment).

Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor for
Chirbury & Worthen Division
Tel: 079806 35518

email: heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

The Stiperstones Inn Upcoming Events 2026

Knitter Natter
10am Every Tuesday!



Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 7th September

Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 14th September

Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 5th October

Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 26th October

Big Money Bingo
7.30pm Monday 2nd November

Pub Quiz
8.00pm Monday 30th November

Music is given us with our existence. Above other arts it can be possessed without knowledge

- Yehudi Menuhin

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music

- Aldous Huxley

Crooner: a fellow who uses his mouth to sing through his nose

- Groucho Marx

There are certain things in which mediocrity is not to be endured, such as poetry, music, painting, public speaking

- LaBruyere

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

16th April - 16th July

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Abduction of pet (dog)	Victim has reported that their pet dog has gone missing, believed stolen	Nind	7-year-old female Corgi went missing on the morning of 13 th May.
Assault		Chirbury	Suspect arrested at the scene
Dog worrying livestock on agricultural land	Walker strayed off the footpath with dog off lead; dog has chased cattle resulting in one cow having to be destroyed and another receiving treatment	The Knolls, Stiperstones	Occurred 12.40hr 3 rd May. Walker was female and the dog was a black Labrador
Malicious communications		Chirbury	
Dog worrying livestock on agricultural land	Sheep attacked by dog whilst on a walk, sheep had to be destroyed	Stiperstones	Owner identified and payment offered
Harassment		Hope Valley	
Theft	Parcel stolen after delivery	Pennerley	Occurred between 13 th - 15 th April
Assault	x 2	Bentlawnt	
Stalking		Bentlawnt	
Stolen vehicle located	Stolen Toyota Hilux located and seized for forensics	Snailbeach Village Hall	Vehicle was stolen in a car key burglary near Shrewsbury in May
Criminal damage	Damage caused to sign	Hemford	
Theft of livestock	40 ewes stolen from farmland	Rorrington	Occurred between May and 15 th July
Harassment		Meadowtown	
Harassment		Marton	
Malicious communications		Priest Weston	
Assault		Brockton	Suspect arrested
Assault		Leigh	Suspect identified
Assault		Bentlawnt	Suspect identified
Assault	Following a road rage incident that started in Churchstoke	Chirbury	Picture obtained of the suspect
GBH		Brockton	Suspect arrested

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money.

Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

Seven arrests in crackdown on serious organised crime

Six men were arrested on Thursday 25th June during a pre-planned operation in Shropshire linked to modern slavery, rural burglary and drugs supply.

Officers carried out nine warrants at addresses in Donnington, Lightmoor, Madeley and Broseley, following a two-year investigation into an organised criminal gang that was targeting Shropshire. West Mercia Police officers were joined by teams from Dyfed-Powys Police, Cheshire Police and Northumbria Police across the addresses.

A total of six men, aged between 24 and 45, were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary and theft. Five of the men were also arrested on suspicion of human trafficking. One man was further arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of drugs and on suspicion of possession of a firearm, and one man was also arrested on suspicion of being in possession of class A drugs.

A seventh man was later arrested on 29th June for burglary, conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to conceal / disguise / convert / transfer / remove criminal property. All have now been charged with the offences which relate to incidents between September 2024 and December 2025 in Shropshire and elsewhere in the country.

During the operation, a quantity of drugs and criminal property was seized from the addresses.

County lines & Cuckooing

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal gangs (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

These OCG's exploit vulnerable people, including children, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs, often referred to as 'drug running'. OCGs often use levels of violence and intimidation to protect the 'county line' and control them.

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is involved in county lines:

- Repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
- Having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them

- Getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
- Decline in school or work performance
- Significant changes in emotional or physical well-being

Cuckooing is the practice where criminals take over a vulnerable person's home to use it as a base for illegal activities, such as drug dealing, with more isolated rural properties being exploited for use in drug manufacture.

If you're concerned about drug-related crime in your area or think someone may be a victim of drug exploitation, please call us on 101, email bccar.snt@westmercia.police.uk or report online www.westmercia.police.uk



Dust off your cowboy boots and join us for a fun-filled evening of country music, dancing and great company.

If you'd like to help organise this event or get involved with future **SnailFest** activities, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact **Wendy Drummond** via Facebook Messenger.

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).

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.

If you employ a tradesman and appreciate the quality of the work, please invite them to advertise in this newsletter. Advertisers' payments help keep our costs down.

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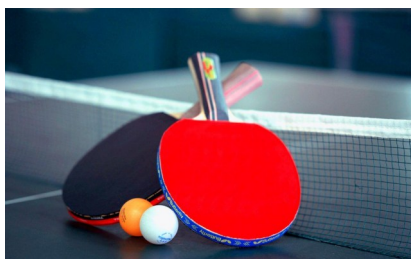
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Snailbeach Table Tennis

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.

13th Aug Annual dinner (The Castle Hotel, B.C.)
10th Sept Charles Darwin - "Snowing Butterflies"
8th Oct AGM and beetle drive

SHROPSHIRE



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

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd 30th August
6th, 20th September
4th October.

The longer Perkins level trips are on the first Sunday of the month and need to be pre-booked.

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.

We will be playing at the Minsterley show on 15th August. Do come and support us!

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:

5th, 19th August
2nd, 16th, 30th September
14th, 28th October

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something for everyone to enjoy and explore! And
more are started if there is sufficient interest.

- Art History
- Astronomy
- Board Games
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Dining Club
- Embroidery
- Family History
- Folk Music
- French Conversation
- Gardening
- Geology
- History
- Literature
- Local History
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Play Reading
- Poetry (Full)
- Table Tennis
- Tech Made Easy
- Walking (Long)
- Walking (Short)
- Wine Tasting
- Wood Carving



Join us at one of our next Open Meetings!

Visitors welcome

When: Wednesday 16th September 2026 2pm
Where: Minsterley Parish Hall
Talk: **Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue**
with *Heather Chave*

When: Wednesday 21st October 2026 2pm
Where: Minsterley Parish Hall
Talk: **Confessions of a Teenage Skull Collector**
with *Ric Morris*

*Please note: There is no Open Meeting in August,
though many of our individual interest groups
continue to meet.*

Interested?

Scan the QR code, visit our website
or call **Steve** (Membership
Secretary & Chair) on
07861 531 186.



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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 Barracks	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
Shrewsbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12		15:57	16:37		17:12	17:52
Ratbrook Oakfield Rd jct	07:47	08:22				11:12					14:47		16:37			18:22
Hamwood, Canadoc 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
Hamwood, Cook 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 & sceptr	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
Superslones, adj Pub					11:05			14:10				16:25		17:05		18:50

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