

THE CORVEDALE NEWS

AUGUST 2025
The Corvedale's Community Magazine



Spotted Flycatcher Silhouette - Jill Wardle

Printed Copy £8.00 per annum

Digital Copy £5.00 per annum

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & SUPPORT

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

To access information and advice:

FREE Shropshire Adviceline: 0808 278 7894
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

Specialist Debt Team: 01742 280 019
(Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

FREE Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133

FREE Universal Credit: Help to claim:
0800 144 8 444

On the web: www.citizensadvice.org.uk



SUPPORT & RESOURCES

There is a wealth of information and resources available on the Shropshire Council website: **www.shropshire.gov.uk**

From information about household recycling, planning applications, and highways to help with Cost-of-Living and Benefits. Help and information can also be obtained by phone: **0345 678 9000**.

STUART ANDERSON

**Member of Parliament
for the South Shropshire Constituency**

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187

Fax: 01584 876 345

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

Cllr. Colin Stanford

Councillor, Corvedale Division

colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk
07966 459 412

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

LIST OF DISTRIBUTORS & AREAS

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Ms S Lewis	New House Farm, Peaton	Peaton, Peaton Strand
Ms C Morgan	Ludlow	Sutton
Mrs P Baynham	Garage Cottage, Westhope	Westhope

COPY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 MAGAZINE

To make sure your contribution is included in the September 2025 magazine, please send by email to corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com by **MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2025** at the latest.

ADVERTISEMENTS If you would like to advertise in the Corvedale News or amend an existing advertisement, please contact our Advertising Manager by **MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2025** at the latest for inclusion in the next issue: corvedalenewsadvertising@gmail.com. All adverts must be in electronic format and sent in either jpg or Word format.

PICTURES We are always very pleased to receive high quality pictures of scenes or events around the Corvedale to add to our library for use on the front cover. Email to colin.pitcher@hotmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE If anyone knows of other events taking place within their immediate area in the next few months, could they please let the Editor know so these may be included in the Dates for Your Diary.

OUR DOMESTICS

DON'T FORGET If you are aware of anyone who does not receive the Corvedale News in your area but would like to, please have a word with your distributor.

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info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk Unit 1, Craven Arms Business Park, Craven Arms, SY7 8NR. Tel: 01588 673972

VERY, VERY OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025!

Firstly, to all of those who have paid your subscriptions – a big thank you.

To those of you who have not paid – well the Corvedale News Team like to think you've forgotten to pay! But we still have over £1,200 of subscriptions that remain unpaid.

If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact Colin Pitcher by email at colin.pitcher@hotmail.com

Corvedale News Cost: Paper subscription is £8 per annum. Electronic subscription £5 per annum.

You can make your payment in three ways: -

1. Online:

Account Name: Corvedale News (Business Account)
Sort Code: 30-90-49
Account Number: 54132260
Reference: Please use your surname and your location e.g. SMITH, PEATON

3. By post:

Make your cheque out to: THE CORVEDALE NEWS
Print your name and address on the back of the cheque and post to:
T Bennett, Corvedale News Treasurer
Lower Middle Barns
Corfton, Craven Arms
SY7 9LB

2. Your Corvedale News distributor:

Hand your cash or cheque over to your distributor.

The Corvedale News Team

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rev'd John S Beesley
St Michael's Rectory
Munslow
SY7 9EU
Tel: (01584) 841488
revjbeesley@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Canon Christopher Walsh
St Peter's RC Church
Henley Road, Ludlow
SY8 1QZ
Tel: (01584) 872906
st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net

METHODIST CHAPEL

Craven Arms: for service times and ministers, please contact the Shropshire and Marches Circuit Office
Tel: (01743) 874923
circuitoffice2803@gmail.com

More useful contacts can be found on page 31

LOCAL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

 **Mini Moos** 

Baby and toddler group

Every Monday
10-12 term time
£2.50 per family

Baby area
Toddler area
Ride-ons
Craft activities
Song time
And lots more

 **Diddlebury Village Hall** 

*Find us on Facebook
Mini Moos baby and toddler group*

 **Weekly Whist Drives**



Every Monday
All ages and abilities welcome

Doors open 7pm
Start 7:15pm

£3 to include half time refreshments

Westhope Village Hall
SY7 9JL



ENJOY SINGING?

CORVEDALE CHOIR is looking to recruit new members who love to sing.

WHO?
We are a mixed voice community choir based in the Corvedale. Our Musical Director is Ros Crouch. All songs are taught - an ability to follow music and a desire to sing is all that's required.

WHEN and WHERE?
Monday evenings 7.30 to 9.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall during school term times

WHAT?
We sing an eclectic mix of harmony songs with a supportive, friendly and fun group of local people. We have an annual summer concert and support a carol service in church at Christmas time. And we raise money for good causes at the same time.

INTERESTED? For further information contact Avril Lines avril.fossilsinshropshire@gmail.com Or 01584 861 339

Or join us any Monday evening for a taster.

CORVEDALE BOOK GROUP


Corvedale Book Group welcomes new members! It costs less than £5 a month to cover room hire fees and Shropshire Library loan fees.

For the first six months of the year, we will be choosing books selected by group members. Then we will be discussing books selected from the annual library list.

Please contact cathburley@hotmail.com if you would like to join us.

Second Thursday of the month
7.30pm - 9pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.

Next Meeting: Thursday 14th August



CORVEDALE ARTISTS

meet every Tuesday
from 10.00 am until 1.00pm in
Beambridge Village Hall

Portrait Model and Still Life
provided at each session
with tuition, or bring your own artwork

 £8.00 per session

A warm welcome awaits new members of all abilities so why not come along?

For further information
telephone 01299 832 603

CORVEDALE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP 

Working parties are usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month and the following Friday and Sunday, beginning at 9.30am.

Please contact Katharine Wale on 07866 408 897 or katharinewale59@gmail.com to confirm work location.

If any local walkers in the Corvedale notice any stiles or steps in poor condition, please report back to Katharine.

Wednesday 20th August
Friday 22nd August
Sunday 24th August

RSPB Events

More info can be found on the RSPB local group website.

WALKS

Saturday 9th August
Pwll Penarth - 10.30am

Thursday 18th September
Whixall Moss - 10am

TALKS will resume in the autumn on the first Wednesday of each month at our new venue of Wistanstow Village Hall.

Wednesday 17th September
Social Evening

Wednesday 15th October
Tour of India - Steve Dawes



Culmington Lunch Club

Meet new friends
Catch up with old friends
whilst you enjoy a delicious, freshly-cooked, 2-course meal



All for just £12

Bar

Every third Thursday of the month
12.30pm for 1pm

Culmington Village Hall

To book your place contact:
Gwyn Edwards on 01584 861666 or 07891 904504

Raffle

ORGANISING AN EVENT OR RUN A LOCAL CLUB?

Contact the editor to include your poster in the next edition:
corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST 2025

7th	Thu	Children's Workshop	Culmington Village Hall	10am
8th	Fri	Skittles Night	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
9th	Sat	RSPB Walk	Puill Penarth	TBC
9th	Sat	Garden Group Visit	Brooches House, Craven Arms	10am
12th	Tue	Family Walk	Stiperstones	TBC
13th	Wed	Munslow WI Meeting	TBC	2pm
14th	Thu	Messy Church	St Peter's, Diddlebury	11am
14th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
14th	Thu	Abdon & Heath Parish Council Meeting	Abdon Village Hall	7.30pm
16th	Sat	Munslow Church Fete	The Old Rectory, Munslow	2pm
16th	Sat	Clee St Margaret Summer Fair	Clee St Margaret	2pm
17th	Sun	Culmington Flower and Produce Show	Culmington Village Hall	TBC
18th	Mon	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
19th	Tue	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir Rehearsal	William Brookes School	7.15pm
20th	Wed	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
22nd	Fri	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
24th	Sun	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
30th	Sat	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am

SEPTEMBER 2025

2nd	Tue	Culmington Parish Council Meeting	Culmington Village Hall	7pm
3rd	Wed	Community Lunch	Westhope Village Hall	12.30pm
3rd	Wed	Clover club	Westhope Village Hall	12.30pm
3rd	Wed	Munslow Parish Council Meeting	Munslow Village Hall	7.30pm
5th	Fri	Millichope Desert Island Discs	St Peter's, Diddlebury	7.30pm
6th	Sat	Corvedale and District Autumn Show	Diddlebury Village Hall	2pm
7th	Sun	Beefy Boys	Culmington Village Hall	TBC
11th	Thu	Corvedale Book Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
11th	Thu	Hayton & District WI	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
13th	Sat	Un-Finished Objects Craft Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
15th	Mon	Corvedale News Copy Deadline		
17th	Wed	RSPB Social Evening	Wistanstow Village Hall	TBC

SEPTEMBER 2025 (CONTINUED)

18th	Thu	RSPB Walk	Whixall Moss	10am
19th	Fri	Catwalk Collective Fashion Show	St Laurence's Church Ludlow	TBC
24th	Wed	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
24th	Wed	Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting	Westhope Village Hall	7.30pm
24th	Wed	Quiz Night	Diddlebury Village Hall	7pm
26th	Fri	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am
27th	Sat	WI Day	Shrewsbury Abbey	TBC
27th	Sat	Coffee Morning	Abdon Village Hall	10.30am
28th	Sun	Footpath Maintenance Group	TBA	9.30am

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Every	Mon	Convedale Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	7.30pm
Every	Mon	Coffee Morning	Culmington Village Hall	10am-11.30am
Every	Mon	Bridge Club	Culmington Village Hall	12.30pm - 5pm
Every	Mon	Whist Drive	Westhope Village Hall	7.15pm
Every	Mon	Mini Moos - Baby & Toddler Group	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every	Tues	Blue Hills Choir	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every	Tues	Convedale Artists	Munslow Village Hall	10am
Every	Tues	Zumba	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every	Weds	Yoga	Westhope Village Hall	9.45-10.45am
Every	Weds	Yoga	Culmington Village Hall	6pm
Every	Weds	Line Dancing	Onibury Village Hall	7pm & 8pm
Every	Weds	Pub Night	Stanton Lacy Village Hall	8pm
Every	Thur	Tai Chi	Diddlebury Village Hall	10am
Every	Thur	Pilates Beginners/Intermediate Class	Diddlebury Village Hall	6pm
Every	Fri	Physiotherapist-led Pilates	Diddlebury Village Hall	9.15am

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES:

Abdon - Page 8 Culmington - Page 8 Diddlebury - Page 7
Munslow - Page 8 Westhope - Page 8

The deadline for all submissions to the News is Monday 18th August.

WHAT'S ON IN THE DALE



Corvedale & District AUTUMN SHOW

Diddlebury Village Hall
Saturday, September 6, 2025
2pm-4pm




The show schedule
is now available.
ross.stokes@icloud.com
01584 841694



BODENHAMS nina & co RETAIL THERAPY eclectic



SAVE THE DATE
19.09.25

the
**CATWALK
COLLECTIVE**
FASHION SHOW

returns to...
St Laurence's Church
Ludlow. Proceeds to the church

Culmington and District Flower and Produce Show

in Culmington Village Hall
SY8 2DA



Sunday
17th August



Fruit & vegetables	Flowers & plants
Cookery & drink	Floral art
Arts & crafts	Children's classes
Eggs & herbs	Family class

Superb prizes in our sponsors' raffle!

Refreshments

DVH and St Peter's Church Diddlebury presents a

HARVEST SUPPER



HOG ROAST

NEW DATE!!!

SAT. 11th OCTOBER

More details to follow

SAVE THE DATE!

DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org What's App/call - 07396 730342 Facebook: @diddleburyvillagehall.org

SAVE THE DATES










Sept 24 **QUIZ Night**
 Oct 11 **Harvest Supper**
Hog Roast
 Oct 29 **QUIZ Night**
 Nov 22 **Chilli & Live Music**
 Dec 10 **Christmas QUIZ**
 Dec 19 **Carols & Mince Pies**
 Dec 31 **Stefano's**
Hootenanny

For more information on
What's coming up @ DVH
 Scan the QR Code with your phone
 camera to take you to the
 Forthcoming Events page on our
 website: diddleburyvillagehall.org



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

New season starts
Wednesday
15th October

	The Corvedale Book Club Meet to discuss their latest book choice. Contact Corvedale.book.group@gmail.com	Thursday 14th August 19:00
	Our 1st QUIZ of the 2025 Winter/Spring season – don't miss out! Teams of 4 - £10 per team Booking essential 07396 730 342 or diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com	Wednesday 24th September 19:00 for 19:30
Chilli & Live Music Night	Chilli, jacket potatoes, all the trimmings, barrel of beer, full bar & the return of JON & Mick the fantastic guitarists!!! Veggie chilli available or beans 'n cheese for non chilli fans.	Saturday 22nd November
	Mini Moos Baby & Toddler Group – term time only £2.50 per Family	Mondays 10.00 - 12.00
	The Corvedale Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Mondays 19.30 - 21.30
	The Blue Hills Choir Contact Ros Crouch: ros.crouch@gmail.com for more information.	Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00
	Zumba Contact Cat: zumbawithcat@outlook.com /07817 448 832	Tuesdays 18.00
	Tai Chi Contact Enid Gill: 07877 250 275 hello@goldenthreadscic.com	Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00
	Pilates with Tina Bookings only via pilateswithtina@outlook.com	Thursdays 18:00 – 19:00
	Physiotherapist-led Pilates Contact Beverley Chumber: beverleychumber@sky.com 07967 814 412	Fridays 9.15 - 10.15

ABDON VILLAGE HALL

AUGUST EVENTS

Un-Finished Objects (UFO) Craft Group

UFO is having its summer break so no meeting in August. UFO will start again, as usual, on the second Saturday of the month, **Saturday 13th September**, 10.30 - 12.30.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 30th August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Our coffee morning will continue as usual, on 30th August 2025, the last Saturday of the month, lively chat, coffee and, of course, cake!

Abdon Village Hall Bookings

Contact Margaret Buckingham: 01746 712 296
or abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Or visit our website for the booking form and details:
www.abdonandheathparish.org.uk

WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

The first draw of our 2025 lottery took place on 9th June and the winners were Helen Walker £150, Harry Morris £100 and Darcy Thomas £50. The second draw will take place in December.

A skittles social evening was held on 11th July, with players getting ready for the coming season of the local league. The next **Skittles Night** is on **8th August** at 7.30pm. Come along and enjoy a game of skittles and a drink from the bar. Everyone welcome.

Our **Race Night** scheduled for **9th August** has unfortunately been postponed until the Autumn. Date to be confirmed.

Weekly Whist Drives continue every **Monday** at 7pm for 7.15 start. New players are always welcome.

There will be no **Yoga** during August. Classes start again on **Thursday 4th September**.

Wednesday 3rd September will see our next **Community Lunch** 12.30 for 1pm. A delicious home cooked lunch with dessert, tea/coffee all for just £12pp. Come along and join us. All ages welcome.

We are starting to accept donations for our **Rummage Sale** on **Saturday 4th October**. Please call 07860 447 397 to arrange a drop-off or collection.

All enquiries Betty 07860 447 397 or Moira 01584 861 663 or 07542 947 440.

Betty Manley

NEW ADVERTISERS

Simon's Home Improvements - Page 25
Logs 2 Your Door - Page 27

CULMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

REGULAR EVENTS

Coffee Morning

Every Monday, 10am - 11.30am

Come along for a cuppa (coffee or tea) for just £1. Good company, free refills and biscuits!

Bridge Club

Every Monday, 12.30pm - 5pm

Contact Richard Smith richard.smith404@btinternet.com

Yoga

Every Wednesday, 6pm - 7.15pm

Contact Jennifer Gennard 07968 817 643

AUGUST EVENTS

Children's Workshop

Thursday 7th August, 10am - 12.30pm

Children must bring an adult to enjoy a morning making entries for the Culmington Show – refreshments and some materials provided. Contact Kat Griffiths to book – katgriffiths2016@gmail.com

Culmington & District Flower & Produce Show

Sunday 17th August, 2pm, with presentations at 3.30pm
Entries to be staged 8am - 10am.

Admission free. Full range of horticultural, cookery and craft categories for all ages to enter – individual and family. Entry forms available from Culmington village hall, Culmington church and Cyril Bason's, Craven Arms. Entries by Friday 15th August please.

Lunch Club

Please note no lunch club in August or September.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Beefy Boys are back again!

Sunday 7th September

MUNSLOW VILLAGE HALL

We held another very successful fundraising event at the end of June. Richard and Jane at the Crown Inn in Munslow were kind enough to host a cream tea in the pub's lovely garden. Thirty-six mainly local people enjoyed scones made by Richard with cream and jam. Our local bakers, as usual, came up trumps supplying delicious homemade cakes which were available for a small donation. It was a lovely sunny afternoon enjoyed by everyone who came to support us. We thank all of you for helping to raise £350.

We hope to repeat this event at some time in the future, and we are very grateful for the generous support of Jane and Richard. A quiet few weeks follow for us now and we will be letting everyone know when our coffee mornings will resume later in the year.

Lesley Dobson

CHURCH NEWS

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

As someone who spent the first part of his career in teaching, I still find that I think of the year as being split into three terms, even though much of what I do carries on whether it is term-time or not. The school holidays are arranged around Christmas, Easter and the summer, defining the summer as late July and all of August. We sometimes forget that the school summer break was originally timed to allow children to help with the harvest, and I have seen Victorian school log books showing that the summer break only started when crops locally were ready to be brought in. In those circumstances, of course, at least some of the children would have swapped one type of work for another, and whilst we may be told that 'a change is as good as a rest', it probably didn't feel that way at the time.

Inevitably, the summer cannot be a time of rest and relaxation for us all: if your work is tourism-related the summer is probably your busiest time. If you work in farming you have crops to harvest (weather permitting) or livestock to look after, or both. If you're the rector you find that many couples like the idea of a summer wedding in a pretty part of the countryside...

We live in a time in which we are constantly bombarded with the news (much of it gloomy), with emails and with more information than we know what to do with – all of this, quite often, on top of whatever demands are made on us by our work. This, I think, makes it more important than ever for us to take some time out – time to focus on those people or things that are important to us, time to relax, time to enjoy just 'being', whether that's at home or somewhere special to us. The Bible reminds us that having spent six days creating, God rested on the seventh day, and the importance of sabbath rest is highlighted at various points as we read the scriptures. Whenever and however it comes, it is important that we all look for opportunities to take some time to rest, to relax and to remember what it is that makes us the people we are. I hope that, at some point, such an opportunity comes for you.

Rev'd John Beesley

REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

13th July Cooper David Brick Diddlebury

WEDDINGS

12th July Fabianne Hamilton and Jak Lewis Diddlebury

FUNERALS

21st June Diana Haywood Diddlebury

FLOWERS & BRASSES

AUGUST 2025

3rd Janet Yapp

10th Janet Yapp

17th Wendy Ross

24th Wendy Ross

MUNSLOW CHURCH

Saturday 16th August will bring **Munslow Church Fête**, from 2pm onwards, in the grounds of the Old Rectory (or in the church if wet). We hope to have all the usual stalls, activities and refreshments. If you might be able to help with a stall or an activity we would be delighted to hear from you – or if you can help by providing plants, cakes / produce or items for sale. Whilst the proceeds from most of the stalls will go to the costs of running and maintaining Munslow Church, we would be very happy if you wanted to run a stall for another cause. Please let us know if you can help run a stall or help to set up / clear away on the day.

Rev'd John Beesley

FROM THE MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church will take a different form to normal – weather permitting we hope to have a BBQ and games from 11am to 1pm on **Thursday 14th August** in and around Diddlebury Church. If it rains (as it did last year) we'll come up with a backup plan, but at the same time. We'll hope to see you there.

Rev'd John Beesley

MILLICHOPE DESERT ISLAND DISCS

**Friday 5th September
at 7.30pm**

St Peter's Church, Diddlebury

Admission £12.50
to include a glass of wine.

John Brentnall will be interviewing
Lindsay Bury in the style of Radio 4's
Desert Island Discs to find out about
his life and times.

WESTHOPE CLOVER CLUB



There's no meeting of the Clover Club in August. Our September meeting is at Westhope on **Wednesday 3rd**. This will be our anniversary meeting, to celebrate the beginning of our 48th year. We are again joining the Westhope Community luncheon dinner, 12.30 for 1 o'clock. Everyone very welcome.

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841 254

ORGANISING AN EVENT OR RUN A LOCAL CLUB?

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poster in the next edition:
corvedalenewseditor@gmail.com

CORVEDALE GARDEN GROUP



A hardy group of fourteen of us turned out on Saturday 12th July, equipped with sun hats and sunscreen to bravely explore Ivy Croft, near Ivington, Leominster in the heat. The first challenge was finding our way there along the Herefordshire lanes because of diversions. It is a four-acre garden, surrounding an earlier cider house, which we first visited in the early days of the Garden Group as it is famous for its extensive, exquisite snowdrop collection. Roger Norman greeted us warmly and explained how he and his late wife had developed the garden over a number of years and had added to the



acreage since 1997. There is a small formal garden around the house and conservatory with pleached pear trees, neatly trimmed yew and a gravel garden humming with bees on the marjoram and thyme and bright with day lilies. From there the garden extends to the two greenhouses, sheltering a wide range of succulents, pelargoniums and geraniums in addition to some tender ferns. The plant nursery and

potting gardens are bordered by pleached apples. Moving further into the main gardens are bright herbaceous borders with established shrubs and trees adding structure and form. There are several willow sculptures. A woodland area is bisected by a stream and contains a pond with ferns and

trilliums making the most of the shade. Numerous seating areas were scattered around the garden offering shady spots to sit and gaze peacefully. The peeling bark of silver birch and copper brown paperbark maple added texture, as did a number of mature evergreen trees. We spotted a mulberry tree and an unusual crab apple. The clematis grow prolifically here in hues of blue, purple and pink, spreading up the walls, along hedgerows and plant supports. At the rear of the garden is a rewilded area of longer grass and nettles providing a habitat for birds, insects and smaller mammals. Having explored in a leisurely manner we collected drinks and cake from the barn and sat to chat together. For more information about openings under the National Garden Scheme in August and September check out www.ivycroftgarden.co.uk

Our August meeting, on **Saturday 9th August** is at Brooches House, Craven Arms at 10am, entry £2.50. We are looking forward to meeting Julia and Anthony Wood who will share their garden with us. It has been a 40-year labour of love. There are herbaceous borders, rose beds, lawns and terraces with beautiful views towards the Stretton Hills. Five recently acquired acres have added kitchen and soft fruit sections, a wildlife pool, and large areas of wildflower meadows with grassland walks. Please contact Alison Benbow at corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com if you would like to join us. New members always welcome.

Cath Burley



THE TALLY HO INN BOULDON



FOOD TIMES

WED 6-8PM

THUR 12-2, 6-8PM

FRI & SAT 12-2, 6-8:30PM

SUNDAY 12-4PM

WWW.THETALLYHO.CO.UK

01584 841830

JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS

FISH SPECIALS NIGHT - FRIDAY 8TH AUG

TALLY HO B.B.Q - FRIDAY 22ND AUG

MUSIC BINGO + FISH & CHIP SUPPER

6PM - MONDAY 25TH AUG

THE CORVEDALE SUPPER CLUB

A SET 2 COURSE MEAL

ONCE A MONTH

£15.00 PER PERSON

SEND US YOUR DETAILS

TO BE ADDED TO THE MAILING LIST

NEXT DATES 14TH AUG + 18TH SEPT

HAYTON & DISTRICT WI

On an extremely hot July evening - part of those odd heatwave weeks we've been having, sadly inconsistent and raining at the wrong time for some, yet good for those farmers and gardeners out there who long for rain in the midst of a heatwave - we were happy to welcome Shropshire born Mark Bardsley with his *Shropshire Poems and Illustrations*. Mark is well known for his humorous poetry and funny animal illustrations. His books include *Dogs, Crazy Animal Poems* and *When I was Young and Foolish and Bloom Town*. He enjoys author visits in schools and loves sharing his take on poetry and art with children. He makes frequent public appearances signing his books, reading hilarious poetry and drawing lightning sketches of pets from phone photos, which he did for a few of us. He has since sent me an 'off the cuff' poem of his experience at Hayton and District that night:

*As a peach-faced buck moon rose over Hayton's Bent,
I convened with a delightful company of WI
To tickle their lug 'oles with me poetry.*

*The lot of a writer and illustrator is somewhat sedentary,
So an evening of oration, sketching and prancing about,
Makes a refreshing break from the drawing table.*

*My animal verses and tales of family foibles,
Tempered with a sprinkling of more sober Shropshire pieces,
Was rounded off with the customary book signing and,
In my case, on-the-spot pet caricaturing.*

*My audience was vibrant, sparky and giggled in all the right places,
For which I thank them very much.*

A swelteringly high temperature evening was had by all!

Mark Bardsley: www.markbardsleyillustration.co.uk

The usual monthly competitions were judged as follows: the Flower of the Month 1st prize was given to Eileen with her Buddleia, 2nd to Joyce with her Dahlia and 3rd to Jan with a Geranium. The Item beginning with the letter V prizes went to Jan with a violet, Eileen with vinyl and Joyce with 'VE Day Celebrations.'

With no meeting in August, our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 11th September** at 7:30pm with a talk by Christopher Harper, entitled *Severn Trent Water – Going With The Flow*. All meetings, except for December this year and January 2026, are held at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Hayton's Bent, SY8 2AT. For anyone interested in attending our WI branch meetings, for just a look-see and meet everyone, to listen to one of our speakers (£5 for non-members) or to join us as a member, please contact the following committee members for further information: Phyllis Steventon, Branch President, 01584 823 436, or Jennette Arnold OBE via email at haytonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and not too hot summer.

Louise Gough

MUNSLOW WI

Munslow WI met at Munslow Village Hall on the evening of 9th July for a French-themed evening, beginning with a French quiz covering history, geography, fashion and personalities. Members then shared anecdotes about their experiences in France, with some recounting memories of happy days when they lived in the country. The evening ended with everyone enjoying a delicious array of French snacks which included expertly made palmiers and a pear tarte tatin.



The next meeting of Munslow WI will be the garden party, at 2pm on **Wednesday 13th August**, hosted by one of our members. The group will be celebrating its 95th anniversary – it will be a jolly occasion! Please get in touch with our Secretary, Val Hardwick on 01584 861 658 if you would like more information.

Wendy Brogden, wendy@brogden.info

DIDDLEBURY AND WESTHOPE WI

We have our two summer meetings to catch up on in this month's report, June and July, and they were most enjoyable, too.

In June, the WI gathered together for one of our DIY meetings where food is taken and shared by members, with the chosen theme of Spain on this occasion. The lovely weather we've been having can only have added to the atmosphere! Jacqui did her usual excellent job of composing a quiz which members thoroughly enjoyed, especially by Mary, who triumphed and answered all questions correctly!

The business portion of our July meeting recapped on a fun craft meeting at Joy's when we enjoyed a felting afternoon. We also looked forward to the Ludlow North group arrangements in September and October and the WI day at Shrewsbury Abbey on **Saturday 27th September**.

July saw Kate, a First Responder from Ludlow, attend our meeting. She is a member of a volunteer group that supports the ambulance service once they are trained. Volunteering for so many hours per week, once signed on for work, with the ambulance service informed, they can get to incidents quickly to offer support. The group is funded by donations and training undertaken in Sandwell. Kate quite obviously loved her role and gave us a very comprehensive view of her work as well as practical demonstrations of CPR and using a defibrillator. We had huge admiration for the work that she and her team do, and she encouraged us all to do something should we ever find ourselves in such a situation. Despite the serious side of the meeting, we thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Lovely tea and cake completed our evening and a final look at Kate's very jazzy vehicle before we all went home. Our thanks also go to Janet who kindly arranged for Kate to attend the meeting.

In August we are meeting in Bushmoor for a garden crawl and to share food on a hopefully sunny evening. We are all looking forward to a fun evening. As always, if anyone would like to come along to our meetings as a visitor or to join as a member they would be very welcome. The visitor fee is currently £2. Please do ring Joy Williams, our secretary, if you would like any further information on 01584 861 849.

Jayne Disley

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

It has been a pleasure to attend many of the local parish council meetings over the past month and needless to say there are a great many concerns about potholes and highways problems. I am pleased to see many new pothole repairs completed yet there are many more to do. We now expect work to commence shortly to repair the road at Bouldon where the stream has eroded the roadside.

Part of my council induction training included a very useful session by the highways department when it was explained exactly why the repairs we see often appear piecemeal and not coordinated. By law, the council is required to fill dangerous potholes as a matter of priority whereas the longer-term plans to resurface roads are not seen as urgent but are of course just as important and will be longer lasting. Clearly the department's budget is tight and with over 3,000 miles of roads and lanes to look after this will be an ongoing dilemma between the roads we all need and the money that can be found to pay for them.

I am pleased to say that I have been asked to join the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (AONB) Partnership as a representative of our area, and I look forward to our first meeting in Craven Arms in a couple of weeks' time. There is an on-going public consultation on a new five-year plan,

entitled '*Thriving in Balance with Nature*' which closes at the end of July. If you would like to contribute you can find the link at www.shropshirehills-nl.org

We really enjoyed Diddlebury Open Gardens – what an incredible effort from so many volunteers who helped by stewarding visitors, driving the complementary shuttle buses, manning the car park, serving delicious cakes and hot drinks and most of all those who were kind enough to share the beauty of their private gardens with us all.

Please do get in touch if you think I can help. Colin Stanford colin.stanford@shropshire.gov.uk, 07966 459 412.

Shropshire Councillor for The Corvedale including Cardington, Abdon and Heath, Acton Scott, Clee St Margaret, Culmington, Diddlebury, Eaton and Hope Bowdler, Munslow, Rushbury, Stanton Lacy and Stoke St Milborough.

If you would like more information about Shropshire Council services, please visit our website or sign up for email updates.

Colin Stanford



MOVE OVER HELLS ANGELS

Last Autumn I went to the Culmington Church Tower Appeal Auction of Promises. Usually I am very conservative at these events and come away with a Boots gift voucher or similar, but something made me bid for 'a ride on the Bishop of Hereford's Harley Davidson' And I won it! My husband Paul looked stunned. A retired Vicar knocking on in years on the back of a Bishop's motorbike. What was I thinking?

And so it was on Saturday 21st June Bishop Richard duly picked me up from Diddlebury on his magnificent Harley Davidson and whisked me off on a tour around the roads of the Corvedale. It was an amazing experience which I will never forget.

My leg joints complained about getting on the bike, so I needed a bit of help. And I wondered if I could actually clutch onto the Bishop if I got scared! But once away up Mill Lane I was living the dream, and once again I was the rebellious teenager of yesteryear! With the roar of a Harley and the lyrics of *Born to be Wild* by Steppenwolf in my head I had a whole hour on the back of the bike!

Thank you Culmington church and the Bishop of Hereford for the experience

Sharon Constable. Retired Vicar and ageing rock chick



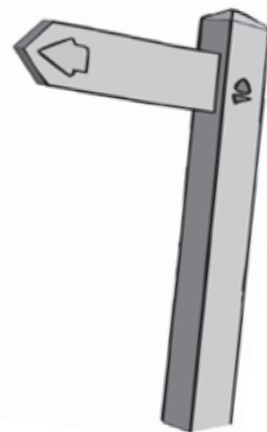
CORVEDALE FOOTPATH & MAINTENANCE GROUP

If you know of a problem or issue with a local footpath, especially if it is on the Corvedale Three Castles Walk or the Shropshire Way, please contact the Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group. We aim to keep our footpaths accessible to local and visiting walkers and generally have up to 3 working parties per month. New members are always welcome, so if you would like to join us for a one-off or longer-term commitment please do get in touch.

Our next working parties are:

Wednesday 20th August, Friday 22nd August, Sunday 24th August.

For more information, or to report a problem with a local path, please contact Katharine Wale at katharinewale59@gmail.com or on 07866 408 897.



GREEN IDEAS TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN ON SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

The long-awaited summer holidays are here. Children are eager for the time at home to play and relax. But it can be anything but relaxing for parents and grandparents. After the first couple of weeks, entertaining children can be both exhausting and expensive.

So here are a few ideas to pass sunny days away and help children to connect with nature...

We know it's important for children to play outside, it develops them physically and by running, climbing and exploring it helps them stay active. It improves balance and coordination and the time in sunlight helps the body produce that important vitamin D.

Green spaces have a calming effect on children, especially woodlands: they improve their mood and lowers stress. Research has shown that time in nature improves concentration and stimulates their imagination.

We find that spending more time amongst animals, plants and eco systems helps children to connect with other living things and will hopefully inspire them to care for their natural environment when they get older.

Painting outside is fun: when my grandchildren were little they loved painting each other's bodies! Cheap rolls of lining wallpaper can be rolled out in the garden and footprints, leaf prints, rolling painted pebbles, stamping with sticks etc. produces lovely textures. Outside painting can be big. Use chalks on paving slabs and fence panels, the marks can easily be hosed off.

Make a kite: there are lots of design ideas on the internet. Flags are fun to make too, a centre piece in the garden or small ones on lollipop sticks for a trail. Rip up some old cotton sheets or pillowcases to make them.

Collect small twigs that resemble a person, then wind wool around them to make different characters... you could have a go at stickman or even a scarecrow. Carving sticks is fab. Experiment with different branches to find a species that carves well, some are much easier to carve than others. Again you can wind wool, fabric and beads to decorate your handmade walking stick. You could make a holly wooden spoon for cooking.

Bee hotels create great habitats: look at the one in Sainsbury's car park in Ludlow and see just how many bees have used it for a base. There are lots of designs again on the internet, but a tin can works very well as the base.

Children love water, but so do garden creatures in this hot weather. Ponds don't have to be expensive with liners etc. Any household item that will hold water will make a small pond. Be creative in making it a habitat, with rocks, stones, sticks and plants, but if it has steep sides, do provide a ramp as an escape route. Put it in a shady place and top it up regularly. If you do make one, creatures will find it surprisingly quickly.

Growing plants from seeds is interesting, try runner bean seeds in a jar, cress on a damp cloth... or even in an eggshell decorated with a face. Cut the tops off root vegetables and watch them re sprout in a dish of water. These quick result growing projects can then be transferred to veg growing in the garden.

Enter vegetables or flowers the children's section of Clee St Margaret's Summer Fair on **16th August** at 2pm or Culmington Produce Show the following day, also at 2pm or the Corvedale Show on **6th September**.

Collecting and pressing wildflowers was popular in the 1960's, and it's still ok to do if you make sure it's not a rare species! Having a competition to see who can collect the most different species of grass is challenging when you are out for a walk too.

Rummage in the recycling bin and make a sculpture out of disposable cartons and boxes. Empty milk cartons can be shaped into great bird feeders and water sources, which can be hung from a tree.

Decorating trees by winding fabric around tree trunks and branches is an ancient art form in eastern countries, but wool plaited or crocheted in lengths looks interesting dangling from branches in the breeze.

If you are lucky enough to have a butterfly net, purchase a butterfly chart from FSC, they are suitable for children to use outside when identifying species. The bee chart is really good, and you will be amazed at the variety bees in the UK. Take part in The Big Butterfly Count organised by the Butterfly Conservation Charity to help scientists monitor their population, taking place now.



Making charts of what you see, or writing a journal is an important record of what's around your local area. You can even upload your species list to irecord, an UK recording website.

Mammal tunnels are fascinating. Take a length of square drainpipe and put a piece of paper inside. Make an inky pad of charcoal and vegetable oil to put at the entrance and see what creature has tiptoed through overnight: the little feet leave great tracks to identify. Check if your local wildlife group has a moth trap you could borrow. A parent might even be able to make a simple one. Moths are a fascinating species; there is such a variety of them flying at night. Make use of binoculars, a magnifying glass and a camera to record what you see.

Scrappies store, in Church Stretton, is a wonderful place to grab bargain craft equipment. It has a section where you can fill a basket for about £5. You will find items like card, jars, remnants of wool and fabric, pens and surplus items from retailers. Well worth a visit.

Check out visits and events organised by Shropshire Wildlife Trust shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events.

There's a family walk at the Stiperstones on **12th August** stiperstones.eventsnaturalengland.org.uk

All of these ideas can be Googled for more details, but most of all we hope your summer is filled with sunny days being busy in nature.

Sue Crichton and Sue Steer

MUSINGS ON LIFE...

THE PROF AND THE LAND-WHISPERER

Please let me tell you about two things that have happened to me recently: one made me cough and splutter a bit, and one made me smile from ear to ear!

I used to work in a hospital in Banbury, north of Oxford, and sometimes we were blessed with a Friday lunchtime talk from an Oxford luminary. It was a few years before the millennium that we heard from a professor of genetics from that ancient seat of learning. What a story he entranced us with! The vast billions that were being spent on laying bare the human genome were going to take us to a new place where all the secrets of our life – individual and communal – would be explicable, including (of course) our diseases. The trouble is that this description of the future was almost completely wrong, and I now know that some wise people were saying so all along.

I wonder what 'The Prof' did post-2000 when he learnt that the human at the 'lofty apex of creation' had a genome that was comfortably less interesting than the food he was eating at The Oxford Balti House! I suspect he did not throw his hands in the air and go and stack shelves in Tesco.

So, although hundreds of genomics labs went bust, I understand there has been a quarter-century rear-guard action and, of course, in unusual instances, genetics are really important. This promotion of genomics has been so successful, (inevitably so we may think in view of the big interest battalions at its beck and call) that a few weeks ago our government announced its intention to study the genome of every baby born in this land.

Who will weep with me for the generations yet unborn?

A few days later I read the story of a 22-year-old girl who had been given the 'gift' of a free read of her genome by the lab she worked for. She had something like an 11% chance of developing a cardiomyopathy (a heart condition that I would not recommend), by the time she reached middle age. Put yourselves in her shoes for a second.

Where will the government get its army of sages to impart such information to parents who have just received the miraculous gift of child, or will a text message be the pragmatic industrial answer?

Earlier this month Sue and I went to an 'event' – Groundswell – which started life as part of the regenerative agricultural movement but also attracts people from many walks of life who are longing for the right changes in our world. There we encountered 'The Land Whisperer.' It was land in the wider context; life in the soil and the animals and plants that lived on the surface of the land. He started with some interesting science about the electromagnetic waves produced by our own brains. We have been able to detect these pulsating energy fields for some time. As the name suggests they are alternating energy, electricity and magnetism, and there are characteristic modes of this energy in high activity, and, in relaxed, meditative or calm states, a 'Dynamic Grace State.' These low frequency waves are the ones to encourage. We are now told that we are not alone in emitting and being sensitive to such energy. So, we can enter a room and sense the mood in a split second, and a small animal can have an immediate calming effect on a child. We are, however, perhaps only at the start of relearning a larger kinship with animals and plants, who also produce their signature energetics.

The upshot of all this is that the landscape and everything within it has not only the ability to be in equilibrium with itself but also to offer to communicate with us. The ultimate challenge might be to strike up a deal with the wasp that wants a chunk of your jam sandwich!

This is what I suspect – that we have always had these abilities but, for most of us, they have been pushed well below our consciousness in our 'developed' western world. Or perhaps not totally: how many of your family and friends talk to their animals or even their plants? They do so as they know it's an effective bidirectional communication. Few of us (yet) have ancestral facility to whisper to the land or negotiate with animals and plants, but somehow it just seems a little less dotty.

The key, we are told, is love and gratitude and longing.

If you sense some whispering coming I would recommend 'Subtle Energies of Nature' with Patrick MacManaway on YouTube as an introduction.

Peter Cornah

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Our final concert of the summer took place on a very warm Saturday evening last month at St Chad's church in Pattingham. Fortunately, it was relatively cool inside the building, and we sang to a full, appreciative audience. This was the first time that they had held such an event as part of their fundraising efforts which supported the church and two other local charities, raising over £1,000.

The month was also marked by the sad passing of one of our long-standing members after his battle with cancer. Tony Mathers had always been an active contributor to the choir, fulfilling many roles including that of chairman and Patron's secretary. It was a true honour to be asked to sing at his funeral at Holy Trinity Church and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. This proud Welshman will always be fondly remembered by the choir for his love of a good

singsong in the pub, especially when he had the opportunity to sing his favourite Max Boyce solo! RIP Tony.

The choir is now enjoying a summer break and will reconvene on **Tuesday 19th August** with concerts to follow in September and October.

The benefits of group singing for improved health and companionship are well documented. Here at the choir we would like to extend that opportunity to all through holding an evening for non-members on **Tuesday 7th October**. More details on how to express an interest in attending will be in the next issue.

Dick Langford
01952 728 758

rlangfordchoir@gmail.com



THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE BY ABI DARE

We started July's meeting with a discussion about *The Salt Path* which had been in the media all week. We had read *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn recently and some of us had seen the film, starring Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs. It had been disappointing to learn that we might have been 'scammed' by our wish to hear a tale which had a happy ending. If Raynor Winn has been lying about it, it can't be a comfortable place to be. I personally feel sad that she may have inadvertently put undue pressure on people with Corticobasal Degeneration, a truly horrible neurological condition, by implying if they did lengthy and difficult walks they would extend their lives and improve their health. Time will tell...

We then moved on to discuss this month's read, *The Girl with the Louding Voice*. I had read and enjoyed it a couple of years ago and now enjoyed the re-read. Despite some difficult content it is an optimistic story about Adunni's resilience. Written in the first person, Adunni speaks colloquially but powerfully to make her presence felt. It is a story of adversity but clearly billed as fiction. Adunni is a 14-year-old Nigerian girl, whose caring mother had fairly recently died of, possibly, tuberculosis. She has an older brother, a mechanic, and a younger brother, Kayus, whom she tries to look after and protect. Her mother gave her a lot of love and a strong value base, reminding her that a good education was critical. She had tried to make her husband promise on her death bed that Adunni could continue her schooling. Grieving too, and not coping financially, Papa had other ideas. He 'sells' his daughter to a man in an adjacent village as a third wife, for four goats, two bags of rice, some chickens, money for rent and a new television. Adunni, unlike her friends Ruka and Enitan, does not see marriage and the wedding preparations as an occasion to be joyous, but rather as her opportunities in life shutting down.

She moves villages, leaving her home, friends, family and schooling only to be berated and physically bullied by first wife, Labake, and befriended by pregnant second wife, Khadija. Adunni's husband, Morufo, makes it clear on her first night that she is a commodity who had one purpose, to get

pregnant and produce a son and heir as soon as possible. He describes the rota he has set up to gratify: his medication, alcohol, and alcohol fueled sexual desires. Khadija, too, had been married off by her father when he became sick with diabetes and could no longer work. Pregnant with her fourth child, with three previous daughters, Khadija believes Morufo cannot conceive sons and resumes an affair with her boyfriend Bamidele to get pregnant by 'a real man.' His family have sons but are cursed that they will lose children in childbirth unless they bathe in the river with special soap. Khadija helps Adunni to use a form of contraception, so she does not become pregnant, but as her pregnancy nears its term she becomes unwell and asks Adunni to accompany her to find Bamidele and the special soap. Sadly, her labour starts early, and she dies. Adunni panics, fearing she will be blamed, and runs away when she discovers Bamidele has a pregnant wife and isn't returning as promised. Adunni goes to her mother's friend who asks her son to help. Mr Cola 'sells' Adunni into domestic slavery in Lagos, where she tries to discover what happened to Rebecca, the housemaid who was there before her. She is befriended by the cook, beaten by Big Madam her employer and at risk from her employer's husband, Big Daddy, who is unemployed, entitled and a sexual predator. Adunni has to work around the clock to survive. She is befriended by Ms Tia, a doctor's wife whom she helps in return. Ms Tia helps Adunni to improve her English and to apply for the Ocean Life scholarship for her education. Adunni uses Big Madam's library to improve her knowledge, reading the Nigerian Book of Facts and the Collins English Dictionary to broaden her linguistic skills.

The book raised many questions for us and provoked a lively discussion – about gender roles, sexuality, lack of educational opportunities for girls, bullying and exploitation, but also about friendship, resilience and self-belief. It is well worth a read.

When we meet in August we will be discussing **Sandi Toksvig's *Between the Stops***. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Cath Burley, cathburley@hotmail.com

MANEESH

from the kitchen of Martin Jones

These soft, slightly sweet flatbreads are found all over North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean. This makes three loaves but it's easy to scale down. It goes very well with salads.

INGREDIENTS

- 500g plain white flour (not strong flour) + extra for dusting
- 10g salt
- 25g sugar
- 10g dried yeast
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 360ml warm water
- 6 tbsp sesame seeds
- 1 tbsp honey

METHOD

1. Dissolve the sugar in the warm water and stir in the yeast. Cover and leave for 10-15 minutes until it has frothed up.
2. Mix the flour and salt together. Add the yeast mixture and the olive oil. Mix together well to form a really soft, sticky dough.
3. Put some flour on a worktop and flour one hand. Scoop out the dough and throw it at the worktop (literally!). Then scoop it up and repeat. Continue for 10 minutes by which time nearly all of the stickiness will have gone and you will have a very soft, smooth dough. Put in a warm glass bowl and leave in a warm place for about an hour or until the dough has doubled in size (if your oven has a 40°C setting you can put this on for the first half hour of rising).
4. Take three baking trays and oil them. Divide the dough into three. Place each piece on a tray and pat it down into a circle about 5-6mm thick. Add a little hot water to the honey and, using a pastry brush, paint the loaves with the honey mixture. Scatter the sesame seeds over the tops. Leave the loaves to rise for about 20 minutes in a warm, draught-free place.
5. Preheat the oven to 210°C fan. Put the trays in and bake for around 15 minutes till the loaves are brown and crusty on the outsides but not burnt.
6. When baked, remove from the trays and cool on a wire rack. Eat as soon as the bread is cool.

DIDDLEBURY OPEN GARDENS 2025

Diddlebury Open Gardens held on Sunday 29th June was a resounding success, attracting nearly 400 visitors from various locations, including Shrewsbury, Hereford, Telford, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Mid Wales. The village was filled with visitors, and the car parks, efficiently managed by a dedicated team of volunteers, remained full throughout the day.

In the Vintage Tea Rooms the team worked diligently to provide a continuous stream of visitors with homemade cakes, teas, and coffees while also in the hall, RBSA artist Val Alexander was delighted to receive lots of interest and commendations for her art exhibition

Visitors could be seen queuing to board one of the three shuttle buses provided by The Buzzard and Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride, which transported them to and from the 'showstopper' garden in Upper Corfton all afternoon. Donation buckets on the buses raised £60, and Diddlebury Village Hall will also make a generous donation for the excellent and valuable service they provided.

In the gardens of Tithe Barn, a team of volunteers managed a highly successful and profitable plant sale, featuring hundreds of quality plants, many of which had been grown by garden owners Eileen and Derek Matthey.

The event featured twelve garden owners from Diddlebury village, Lower Corfton, Upper Corfton, and Pedlars Rest, who had worked tirelessly since early spring to present their gardens at an exceptionally high standard. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by the numerous visitors who praised the beauty and interest of the gardens.

Through entry fees, the bustling tea rooms, the plant sale, and Jean's Open Gardens quiz, the event raised substantial funds. These proceeds will make a significant contribution towards the ongoing maintenance and operation of Diddlebury Village Hall, ensuring it continues to serve as a vital hub for the community.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to all garden owners, volunteers, and participants for their generosity donating cakes and plants, and their enormous contributions of time to

the event's outstanding success. The day not only celebrated horticultural excellence but also demonstrated the strength and warmth of the Diddlebury community.

Huge thanks also go to the vast numbers of visitors who travelled to Diddlebury to visit our gardens and in doing so helped support our Village Hall. We have received some fantastic comments from our visitors including:

'So many lovely gardens and people pleased to answer any questions. Had a great afternoon . Thanks to all involved.'

'We thoroughly enjoyed our visit! We came away with a few plants and plenty of ideas for our own garden! We're inspired to copy some of the unique planters for growing vegetables. The atmosphere around the village was lovely - so pleased the sun shone! Well done and thank you!'

'It was a wonderful day and thank you to all the organisers and especially the hard-working gardeners who welcomed us into their beautiful gardens. They were all stunning and full of inspiration! So pleased it was such a success'

'What a wonderful event this was. Thank you so much to all those involved for your very hard work that went into making the afternoon possible and so very enjoyable.'

Kim Simm



Elsich Barn Farm



Orchard House



The Old Byre



Glebe Cottage



Merry Brook



Millfield



The Tithe Barn



Shepherd's Barn



Corvedale School



Some of the gardeners on tour



Delbury Farmhouse



The Orchard

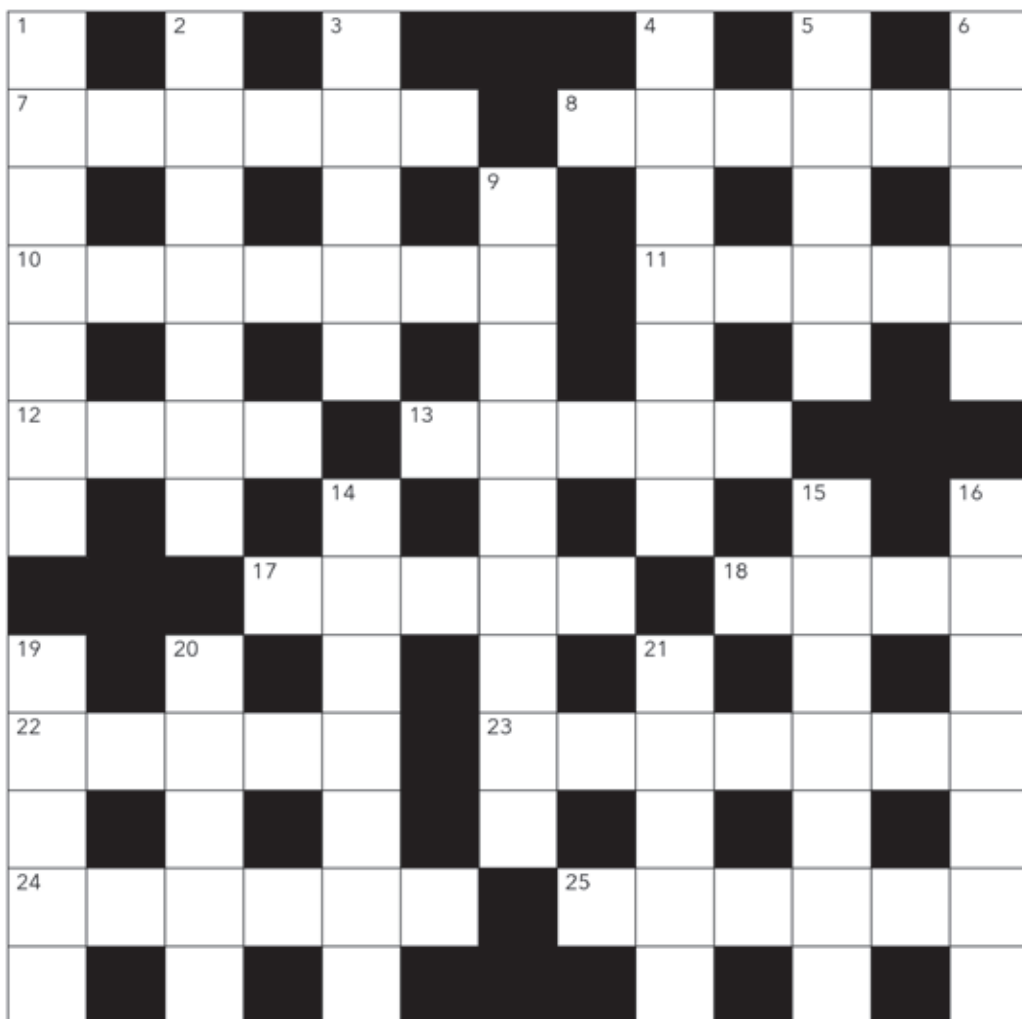
AUGUST CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY ARTEMONAS

Answers to this month's crossword
can be found on page 21 in this
edition of the magazine.

ACROSS

- 7) Part of some Scottish islands are the stars of weddings (6)
- 8) A flea, perhaps, comes in use in winter (6)
- 10) Unpleasant person sounds like they spend all day dress-making (2,3,2)
- 11) Hit the drug (5)
- 12) Pleasant French city (4)
- 13) Summer snake? (5)
- 17) Obviously above the junction (5)
- 18) Month loses the top of the architectural design (4)
- 22) Die awkwardly in the car, but add a proviso (5)
- 23) A French lieutenant on Valium entered Dunkirk first but was rejected (7)
- 24) Accent of most of shoes (6)
- 25) First and last beer has a plant (6)



DOWN

- 1) Treating badly is wrong in a small insect (7)
- 2) Money matters for vandalised café and inn (7)
- 3) Prepared to sound a bit rusty (5)
- 4) Put down woman in square (7)
- 5) Shock a very quiet little man (5)
- 6) Underwear for King Edward? I'd put a stop to that! (5)
- 9) Flu downer? No it's great (9)
- 14) Late to devour drug perhaps (7)
- 15) Journeys to wild party in magazine? (7)
- 16) Gorge on cheese? (7)
- 19) Takes hold of George raising a big smile first (5)
- 20) Poem on at the cinema? (5)
- 21) Much of the jacket creates a fire (5)

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 2025 AT WESTHOPE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr D Hedgley (Chairman), Cllrs T O'Boyle, R Povall, S Povall, A Rattu and R Morgan.

Apologies: Cllrs A Watson and C Martyn.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Colin Stanford, Corvedale Division Shropshire Councillor, and six members of the public.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr A Rattu declared an interest in the planning applications 25/01457/FUL and 25/01458/LBC and left the room whilst the applications were discussed and voted on.

Co-Option of a Ninth Councillor: Dr William Watts of Sutton Hill Cottage, Stanton Lacy was duly co-opted and welcomed as the ninth member of Diddlebury Parish Council.

Public Involvement Session: Mrs K Worthington raised queries about the new houses at 3 – 4 Mill Lane, and she advised of the blocked footpath from the bridge on B4368 to Bache Mill.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2025 were approved and four matters arising were dealt with.

Reports: The Chairman reported that Hereford Diocese was intransigent in its refusal to allow the erection of the WWI information board by the War Memorial in the churchyard so he was seeking to site it on the pavement by the church gate instead. This month he had dealt with an SC questionnaire, highways matters in Bouldon and blocked footpaths in Middlehope.

Corvedale Cllr Colin Stanford said he was keen for there to be better communications between SC and parish councils. At a recent SC Cabinet meeting it had been agreed not to proceed with the North West Relief Road around Shrewsbury: £39 million has been spent on consultant's fees, but no land had been purchased nor had any work commenced. DPC asked that their dismay at this wasted £39 million be conveyed to the Cabinet. Potholes were raised as they fill Cllr. Stanford's inbox. He had ascertained that only potholes of a certain depth had to be repaired by SC by law. He had attended his first Planning Committee meeting and was disappointed that an application supported by the relevant parish council had been refused permission by the Committee. No Conservative or Reform councillors had been offered any significant roles at SC. He had been appointed to the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee but the role conferred no power. He

had been in touch with the Chairman and Highways over the proposed road closure in Bouldon.

Planning Matters: 25/01457/FUL and 25/01458/LBC – applications for the erection of a single storey extension, part demolition of a garage and replacement with a studio and erection of 18 solar panels on the roof of an existing building, plus listed building consent for the proposed works at Bache Mill House, Bache Mill. Councillors supported these applications.

25/01873/FUL – application for the demolition of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and replacement with four dwellings at 3-4, Mill Lane, Diddlebury. Representatives from Connexus Housing attended and said three houses would be available for rent (applicants must have applied to Home Point and be local) and one would be an affordable shared ownership property. It was hoped they would be available for occupation by the end of 2026.

Councillors considered the plans and documents and raised various issues with the Connexus representatives and, when satisfied, supported this planning application.

Communications and Correspondence: 12 items were considered and noted.

Highways and Environmental Matters: DPC had received notification that the public highway in Bouldon would be closed during weekdays from 26th August to 19th September so that repairs could be carried out to the retaining wall alongside the stream. The Chairman and Cllr Stanford would hold a meeting with Highways to see if better arrangements could be made about the road closure timings.

Finance Report for June 2025: Cheques totalling £507.57 were approved for payment, after which DPC held funds of £21,052.51 including ring fenced and third-party funds. Payment of the 2025 – 2026 Precept and the VAT reclaim had now been received. The Cash Book/Bank Statement reconciliation was approved by Cllr O'Boyle.

Any Other Business: No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 23rd July 2025, commencing at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.

Agendas and full copies of the Minutes and finance reports can be viewed by visiting the Diddlebury Parish Council website at www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs J de Russett at No 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH. Tel: 01547 519282. Email diddleburypc@outlook.com

MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 2ND JULY 2025

Present: Cllrs Richard Arnold, Stuart Rowbotham, Nigel Dobson, Val Fotheringham, David Marston and Graham Williams. Cllr Barbara Archer joined the meeting after the National Landscape consultation, having attended the South Shropshire Area Committee meeting beforehand.

In Attendance: Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Cllr Richard Arnold was elected as the temporary chair.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Ed Povey, Chris Meeson and Barbara Archer until later in the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Forum (limited to 15 minutes): A member of the public asked about the Nature Recovery Strategy. The Council explained that Mr Mike Kelly had given a presentation at the previous meeting about the Parish Council's duty regarding the Natural Environment and its unique position in supporting the nature recovery process. A plan would set out showing how the parish wanted to protect, manage and improve nature within the parish.

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2025 – with minor amendments – were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Reports: Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford encouraged the Council to respond the Call for Information Survey mentioned below. He wished to share information on highways after attending an information session. Roads generally had a lifespan of 25 years but if repairs could be carried out promptly within the first 10 years their lifespan could be extended. The Council had a legal requirement to fill potholes deemed to be dangerous, and as the team was short of money other potholes nearby might not be filled at the same time. The team was trying to improve Fix My Street, the system used by public to report potholes and other issues. Work on the Northwest Relief Road would be paused as costs had escalated. The

Council was also introducing a charge for Telecare (a range of assistive technologies designed to support individuals to live independently). He spoke at a planning committee meeting on behalf of another parish so was very willing to represent the views of the Parish Council. He would sit on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Group. Plans for the kerbside collection of food waste had been delayed.

Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson reported that the walk and cream tea at The Crown had been very successful and raised £410 for the village hall. A working party was being organised to redecorate the hall. An increase in the cost of wifi by Voneous meant that the wifi in the hall would be cancelled. Cllr Fotheringham raised the issue of clashes of events with other parishes and whether there was a way to prevent this.

Burial Ground: Mrs Anne Donnelly was thanked for having supported the Caring for Gods Acre Team on their visits to the Munslow Burial Ground. A new contact was being sought to greet the team and ensure the working party visit went ahead without any problems. A request for volunteers would be published on the website, Corvedale News, Facebook and WhatsApp Group.

Tree Works in the Munslow Burial Ground: After reviewing three quotes, Oli Francis would carry out the required work after the end of August. He would complete a planning application on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed to make a payment of £1,300 for the tree work and £50 for the planning application.

Parish Nature Recovery Plan: A request would be made via the website, Facebook page, Corvedale News and WhatsApp Group for people to form a working group interested in working on a plan.

Shropshire Hills National Landscape Consultation: The Council would not make a comment.

Call for Information Survey from Cllr David Minnery, Shropshire Council Chair, Transformation and Improvement Overview Committee: Councillors discussed the survey and the clerk would complete it based on their responses.

New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: To cut back the verges on Park Lane later in the summer and the brambles around the seat and notice board in the car park in Aston Munslow.

Risk Assessment: The new assessment was adopted.

Finance: Members were satisfied that the present insurance schedule was sufficient. The Clerk would review and decide on most appropriate quote and make the payment for the new insurance before 1st September 2025.

As at 13th June 2025 the bank account held £13,492.96. Expenditure was within budget. The VAT reclaim would be made before the next meeting in September.

Payments were authorised to: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) inv 785 £90.25, H Coonick (Clerk - reimbursement for stationery, stamps, software) £78.26, Arboretum Ltd (Burial Ground tree works planning application) £50.00.

Items for the next meeting: a. Nature Recovery Plan b. Caring For Gods Acre Volunteer c. Installation of Village Gateways d. South Shropshire Area Committee Report.

Next Meeting: 7.30pm Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at Munslow Village Hall

Minutes and Agendas are available on www.munslow-pc.gov.uk or from the Clerk on munslowpc@gmail.com or 07817 607 355

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY 2025

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mr A Lewis, Mrs J Mear, Ms J Watts, Mrs J Williams.

In Attendance: Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council) & H Coonick (Clerk).

Apologies for Absence: Mr I Alderson (Vice Chair).

Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting: None.

Public Involvement Session: No members of the public were present.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June 2025 were approved as being correct and were signed by the Chair.

Reports from Representatives: Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford said he was keen that the council responded to the letter from Shropshire Council re partnership (see below). Plans for the North-West Relief Road had been paused whilst the Council considers alternatives. The Highways Team had a general lack of resources. Potholes that were deemed dangerous to road users were prioritised which was why those nearby had not been repaired at the same time. He was concerned that the voice of Parish Councils was not being given high enough priority by the planning team and was aware of proposed changes by the government which might make parishes' views even less important: this was concerning.

Emergency Plan – This was deferred to the next meeting.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Mear said H Coonick was now the treasurer. Station Drive Surgery Care Coordinators would be attending the Village Hall to discuss meeting the needs of patients in rural areas and everyone was welcome to attend. The trustees were discussing the fencing of part of the grounds to provide a safe area for children during outside events.

Flood Action Group – Cllr Byng said the next meeting would be in September.

South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Byng would attend the next meeting (on 2nd July) and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Highways: Cllr Byng reported issues with coaches struggling to turn into the grounds of Manor Adventure and causing problems on the B4368. There was concern that Manor Adventure staff were not wearing high visibility jackets when assisting the children to cross the B4368, and they needed to cross at a different point to allow vehicles time to slow down. The Council would write to Manor Adventure inviting them to the next meeting for an update and to raise these issues.

The clerk had met with Nick Newton, Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer. They had looked at the traffic speed through Seifton and Culmington. He had suggested that it would be possible to reduce the speed to 30mph with buffer zones of 40mph reaching beyond Clay Lane and beyond the present speed limit on the southern end, but this would depend on a survey of traffic speeds. He anticipated that a traffic count budget would be available this year, allowing him to place strips for a survey. Having the signs upgraded to

yellow-backed signs would depend on where potential buffer zones started. He was not convinced that the verge width available would be adequate to accommodate village gateways large enough to be effective and not affected by hedge/verge overgrowth. If the traffic count did show sufficient evidence to support a reduction in the speed limit there would need to be a consultation with the police, parish council and public in the next financial year.

Expenditure of the Neighbourhood Fund: Repairs to All Saints' Church – the Council would contribute £1,000 toward the repairs to the tower.

Repairs to the drainage system and installation of a fence at Culmington Village Hall – a contribution of £1,000 would be made, especially as the Parish Council was Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall.

Village Gateways to the west of Culmington Village: The Clerk had discussed the installation with Morville Parish Council who had recently installed such gateways. The cost was likely to be in the region of £3,250. The Police and Crime Commissioner may give a grant towards the cost which would need to be matched by the Parish Council. No decision would be made until the possible changes to speed limits and signs had been decided.

Waste Bin for the bus shelter in Culmington Village: It was agreed to purchase a waste bin to be installed on the outside of the bus shelter for no more than £100.

Defibrillator at Seifton: The Council would seek permission from the owner and tenant for the possible installation and apply for free defibrillator/cabinet from charity. Cllr Caine raised the possibility of the purchase of a Lifevac to be used during choking incidents.

A new approach to partnership with Town and Parish Councils: Councillors discussed Shropshire Council's letter and the Clerk would respond.

Finance: The bank account held £12,806.02 as at 17th June 2025. Expenditure had been within budget. A grant of £750 had been received from Shropshire Council for Environmental Maintenance and a reclaim of VAT for £721.96 would be made before the next meeting. Cllr Disley (non-signatory) signed the bank reconciliation.

Payments were authorised to: H Coonick (stationery and stamps reimbursement) £31.80, D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) inv 788 £95.

Items for the next meeting: a. Emergency Plan. b. Update on Telephone Box.

Any other business: The Council would invite the West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Team to attend a future meeting.

Cllr Caine reported issues with children walking along the B4365 to the bus shelter. A letter would be sent to the school asking for them to be picked up nearer their homes where the school bus has previously collected children.

Cllr Mear reported that Mr John Turley had had a very enjoyable time at the Shropshire Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party and thanked the Parish Council for its nomination in recognition of his service of over 55 years as a Parish Councillor.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Heather Coonick Clerk/RFO Telephone: Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE 07817607355 culmingtonpc@gmail.com www.culmington-pc.gov.uk

ABDON PARISH COUNCIL

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th August 2025.

Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk: abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com Tel: 07813 271 274

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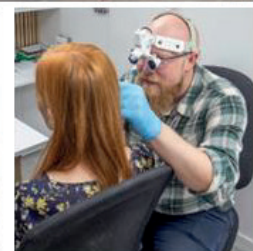
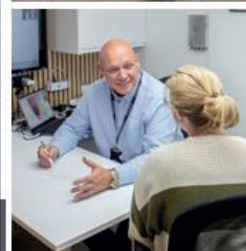
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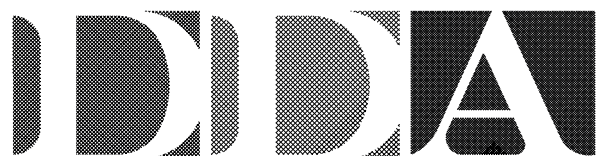


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Angie Lennox
07977 108391 for Appointments

COMMUNITY LINKS

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If you represent a local Corvedale group and would like it to be added to this list, please contact the Editor.

LOCAL SERVICES & EMERGENCIES

Electricity Problems/Power Cuts

National Grid
01584 870 747 (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm)
0800 6783 105 (outside normal hours)
Power Cuts call 105

Water Supply Problems

Severn Trent Water, 0800 783 4444

County Flood Management

Shropshire Council, 0345 678 9006,
flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Diddlebury Parish Flood Action Group

Clive Martyn, 01584 841346,
happy4clive@gmail.com

Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit

Community Hospital, 01584 874297

Shropdoc (out of hours service)

Doctors Co-operative, 111

Station Drive Doctors' Surgery

01584 872461

Portcullis Doctors' Surgery

01584 872939

Craven Arms Medical Practice

01588 672309

Police (non-emergency)

PC 23440 Henry King-Salter
henry.king-salter@westmercia.police.uk
07483 140311.

Voluntary Car Scheme - 9am - noon

Craven Arms Good Neighbours,
01588 673732

Craven Arms Recycling Centre

To make an appointment visit -
www.shropshire.gov.uk/
recyclingcentrebooking
or telephone 0345 678 9007

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Corvedale Brownies

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter'

Corvedale School, Playgroup and Nursery

Neil Davda, 01584 841630,
admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

Abdon & Heath Parish Clerk

Wendy Richards, 07813 271274,
abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com

Culmington Parish Council Clerk

Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,
culmingtonpc@googlemail.com

Diddlebury Parish Council Clerk

Mrs Jean de Rusett, 01547 519282,
diddleburypc@outlook.com

Munslow Parish Council Clerk

Heather Coonick, 07817 607355,
munslowpc@gmail.com

Diddlebury Parish Website

www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

Corvedale Google Group

This is a free service and issues purely local information such as road closures, flood warnings, planning applications, local events and so on to its members on a regular basis. If you would like to join this service, please email Martin Jones: martingcn@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL/CLUB ROOM BOOKINGS

Abdon Village Hall

Margaret Buckingham, 01746 712296,
www.abdonandheathparish.org,
abdon.villagehall@gmail.com

Munslow Village Hall

Frances Sutton, 01584 841654
Peter Turner, pturner767@msn.com

Culmington Village Hall

Avril Lines, 01584 861 339
culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com

Diddlebury Village Hall

www.diddleburyvillagehall.org

Hall booking enquiries:

bookdvh@gmail.com

General information:

diddleburyvillagehall@gmail.com

WhatsApp/text/phone:

07396 730342

Diddlebury Church Room

Jan Kennedy, 01584 841372,
jan_kennedy@icloud.com

Westhope Village Hall

Betty Manley, 07860 447397,
mbm3049@icloud.com

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Abdon Wildlife Group

Miles Leach, 07810 810400,
milesleach712@gmail.com

Blue Hills Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale Artists

Juliet Hole, 01299 832603
Ann Hankinson, 01584 841460

Corvedale Book Group

corvedale.book.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Choir

Ros Crouch, 01584 547 385,
ros.crouch@gmail.com

Corvedale & District Autumn Show

John Woodhouse, 07980 207253

Corvedale Garden Group

corvedale.garden.group@gmail.com

Corvedale Footpath

Maintenance Group

Katharine Wale, 07866 408 897,
katharinewale59@gmail.com

Community Environmental Group

Rebecca Bull,
peter17bull@btinternet.com

Westhope Clover Club

Kath Woodhouse, 01584 841254

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Diddlebury & Westhope WI

Joy Williams, 01584 861849
f_j_williams@btinternet.com

Munslow WI

Wendy Brogden, 01584 841 649,
wendy@brogden.info

Hayton & District WI

Phyllis Steventon, 01584 823 436



CONTACTS



THE CORVEDALE GROUP OF PARISHES

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST 2025

	3rd August Trinity 7	10th August Trinity 8	17th August Trinity 9	24th August Trinity 10	31st August Trinity 11	6th September Trinity 12
Abdon		9:45 HC		6pm Evensong	10am Group Service of Holy Communion at Holdgate	
Broadstone			8:30 HC			
Culmington	11:15 HC		6pm Songs of Praise	8:30 HC (BCP)		11:15 HC
Diddlebury	9:45 HC	6pm EP	11:15 HC	11:15 FS		9:45 HC
Holdgate	8:30 HC					8:30 HC
Munslow	6pm EP	11:15 HC		9:45 HC		6pm EP
Tugford			9:45 HC			

Key: HC = Holy Communion, EP = Evensong, FS = Family Service