

# CORVEDALE NEWS

*THE CORVEDALE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE*

£5.00 per annum

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*Winter in the Corvedale*

*February 2021*

# **YOUR LOCAL PARISH COUNCIL IS HERE TO HELP**

Help is on hand from your local parish councillors. If you or anyone you know of is in need of help or wants to help during the current Coronavirus crisis, please contact your local parish councillor who will initially try to coordinate help. It is not going to be a short crisis and obviously as time goes on and the Government/Shropshire Council adapt and legislate, things will change.

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CONTACT NO</b>
Gary Trim	Abdon and Heath	07977 431112
Rowland Price	Abdon and Heath	07974 972364
Chris Yarwood	Abdon and Heath	07977 912322
Chris Snow	Abdon and Heath	07791 851515
Lee Durnall	Abdon and Heath	07496 227557
Mike Woodhouse	Bache Mill	01584 841265
David Hedgley	Bouldon	01584 841068
Stephen Povall	Corfton	01584 861623
Jacki Watts	Culmington	01584 861473
Andrew Pike	Culmington	01584 861361
Tom O'Boyle	Diddlebury village	01584 841690
Amie Watson	Diddlebury village	07486 414742
Robert Povall	Seifton	01584 861284

**NEED HELP WITH FOOD PROVISIONS,  
FINANCES, OR MENTAL HEALTH?**

**FIND INFORMATION ON LOCAL RESOURCES  
ON PAGE 14**

# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Corvedale Helping Hands

If you, or anyone you know of, is need of a 'helping hand' and would like to take advantage of these kind offers of assistance, please feel free to contact any one of the people listed below.



Location	Name	Contact	I am happy to help with...			
			Picking up shopping	Collecting prescriptions	Urgent errands	A friendly phone call
Abdon	Margaret	01746 712296				✓
Aston Munslow	Linda	01584 841723	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aston Munslow	Peter	01584 841443		✓		✓
Aston Munslow	John	07718 637001	✓	✓	✓	
Beambridge	Mary	01584 841381	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corfton Bache	Carole	01584 861855	✓	✓	✓	✓
Culmington	Jayne	01584 861387	✓	✓	✓	✓
Culmington	Peter	01584 861339	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diddlebury	Carole	01584 861554	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diddlebury	Robert	01584 861554	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diddlebury	Tony	07779 323845	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diddlebury	Johanna	01584 841359		Ditton Priors	✓	✓
Diddlebury	Becky	01584 841588	Morning/Evening			
Diddlebury	Helene	01584 841017				✓
Diddlebury / Bache Mill	Karen	01584 841393	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diddlebury / Bache Mill	Sharon	01584 841346	✓	✓	✓	✓
Earnstrey	Ragni	01746 712282				Not Mon/Wed/Thu
Holdgate	Claire	07837 361196	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holdgate	John	07866 565966	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holdgate	Harry	07528 458680				✓
Lower Corfton	Karen	01584 861607				✓
Lower Corfton	Ray	01584 861607				✓
Middlehope	Colin	01584 841513	✓	✓	✓	✓
Munslow	Brian	01584 841719	✓	✓	✓	
Peaton/Bouldon	Nic	01584 841753	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peaton/Bouldon	Lesley	01584 841753	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seifton	Loren	01584 861873	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seifton	Mark	01584 861754		✓		
Seifton	Bryan	01584 861433	✓	✓	✓	
Stanton Lacy	Ann	07901 935435	✓	✓	✓	✓

If you would like to join the team of volunteers please send details of your name, the village where you live, your phone number, email address and the kind of help you are able to offer to  
[corvedalehelpinghands@gmail.com](mailto:corvedalehelpinghands@gmail.com)

### Copy for March 2021 Magazine

To make sure your contribution is included in the March 2021 magazine, please send by email to [editor@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@corvedalenews.co.uk) by **MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2021** at the latest.



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**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 [photos@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:photos@corvedalenews.co.uk).

**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

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**FINANCE.** If you have an outstanding subscription, please pass it to your distributor. If this is not possible, you can contact our Treasurer (giving your name and address): Martin Jones, Yew Tree Cottage, Corfton Bache, SY7 9LE.

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Mrs V Hardwick	Sparchford Cottage, Sparchford	Culmington Part 1
Mr D Hedgley/ Mrs M Holt	Bouldon	Bouldon, Wynett's Bank

Name	Address	Area Served
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Mrs S Lewis	The Moors, Diddlebury	Diddlebury Part 1
Ms C Morgan	6 North Sutton Cottages	Sutton
Mr G Neden	Diddlebrook Barn, Diddlebury	Diddlebury Part 2
Mrs A Donnelly	The Ashlings, Munslow	Munslow
Mrs F Sutton	Millichope Lodge, Beambridge	Beambridge/ Millichope
Ms N Fuller	Mill House, Bache Mill	Bache Mill
Mr L Robinson	Lower Middlehope Barn, Middlehope	Middlehope

## Community Contacts



### SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

You can access information and advice at our South Shropshire Bureau by calling into the Ludlow Youth Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow:

10am - 3pm  
Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

or by ringing the  
Countrywide Telephone Advice Line:  
03444 991100

10am - 3pm Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday  
and  
Tuesday 10am - 6pm

or [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Patients of Shrewsbury Road Doctors' Surgery in Craven Arms are able to book appointments directly with the existing CA outreach by contacting the surgery.

### PHILIP DUNNE

*Member of Parliament  
for the Ludlow Constituency*

54 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1GP

tel: 01584 872187

fax: 01584 876345

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54 Broad Street, Ludlow, SY8 1GP

### SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CORVEDALE

Cllr. Cecilia Motley

Councillor, Corvedale Division  
Portfolio Holder, Rural Services  
& Local Communities

Shropshire Council  
01588 672192

### 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 ring Jenny Vine on 01584 841596 to confirm work location. Also, if any local walkers in the Corvedale notice any stiles or steps in poor condition, please report back to Jenny.

**Due to the latest lockdown working parties are suspended until further notice.**

## Church Contacts



### Church of England

Rev'd John S Beesley  
St Michael's Rectory  
Munslow  
SY7 9EU  
tel: (01584) 841488  
[revjbeesley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:circuitoffice2803@gmail.com)



## Church News



## Letter from the Rectory

As I write this we are several weeks into the third lockdown, with no real idea of when it may end. In some ways this could seem like the most challenging of the lockdowns so far - the cold, wet weather limits what we can do outside, which perhaps mean we see fewer people; the new variant of the virus leads to more depressing headlines and there's nothing like Christmas on the horizon which might cheer us up. Even so the vaccination programme continues and whilst it won't make an immediate difference to what we can go out and do, there is perhaps a feeling that better times are on their way.

The first lockdown began during Lent last year, a time of year when we have services of Compline once a week in the churches. We moved these services online and committed to keeping them going during the lockdown. If you haven't tried them yet the services are on our YouTube channel (look for 'The Corvedale Churches') and are available for anyone to watch - I aim to upload one every Wednesday. Compline is the last of the services in the monastic day and many people find that it is both timeless and calming. Each of the services begins with a short address and at present I am focussing on the psalms set for each Sunday. The psalms are ancient texts which are not easy to date - about half are ascribed to King David, who reigned about 1000 years before the birth of Christ. They have been used in Jewish and Christian worship for centuries. Some of them we sing as hymns: think of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' a setting of Psalm 23 or 'All People That on Earth do Dwell' (Psalm 100). In the psalms we find the whole range of human emotions - joy, despair and everything in between. There are psalms of praise and psalms of lament. There are older translations which are beautiful and poetic, and there are more modern translations which may be easier to understand. They are, perhaps, a comforting reminder that whatever we might be feeling, we are not alone in feeling it. You may have a favourite psalm - mine is psalm 121, which begins *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.* If you've never spent much time reading the psalms I would encourage you to have a look. One verse which seems worth remembering at this present time is Psalm 30, verse 5: *heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning...*

Rev'd John Beesley

## Used Stamps

Over the past month or so you may have received more stamps than usual. We continue to have collection boxes in all the churches for used stamps which are passed on and used to help raise funds for the treatment of Leprosy - something which is easy for us to do but can transform the lives of those who suffer from this treatable disease. Thank you for your help.

## Food bank

The latest lockdown will inevitably have led to a continued call on the food bank. The box for contributions of food is still in the church porch at Diddlebury and there is now a collection box in the church at Culmington too. The boxes are emptied regularly and the food is taken to the food bank in Ludlow. In 2020 the Ludlow food bank gave out 560 food parcels (up from 471 in 2019) - altogether they contained enough food to feed 1202 people for a week. All contributions are very gratefully received.

## Flowers and Brasses - Diddlebury



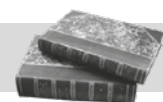
## February 2021

7th	Mrs Speight	14th	Mrs Speight
21st	Mrs Hankinson*	28th	Mrs Hankinson*

\*Brasses only

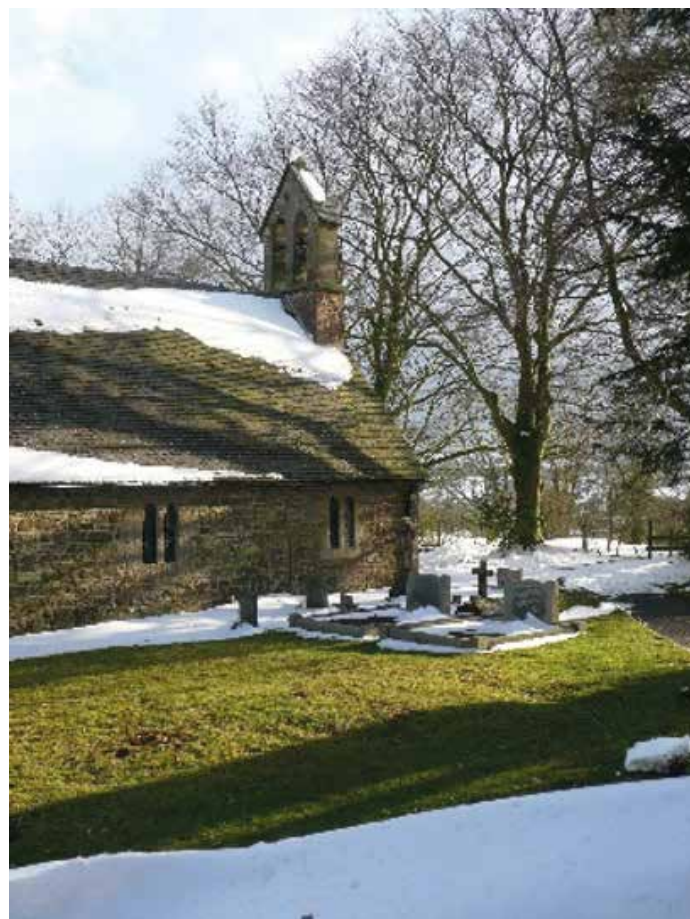
Please only do this if you feel you are able to

## From the Registers



## Funerals

30th November	Eve Lawley	Diddlebury
16th December	Hugh Scurfield	Abdon



## *Mike Greene, Corvedale News Editor 2015-2016*



Many of you will know that Mike Greene died recently.

For several years the Corvedale News had been edited by the Lintons: first Elizabeth and then by her husband, Patrick. Then, in June 2015, Patrick died and the News suddenly needed a new editor.

Enter Mike Greene, of Mole Hollow, Diddlebury. At very short notice he volunteered to take up the reins. It was a difficult job at a difficult time and Mike gave of his best to keep the show on the road.

As it turned out, Mike would only edit the magazine till the following February. Although he was no longer editor he continued to contribute pictures and remained an avid reader. His later years were blighted by a long, slow, physical deterioration but he was very stoical about it. He remained mentally untouched by his illness, including nursing a fierce hatred for Windows 10. A well-educated and much travelled man (he had been a water engineer by profession) he was able to turn his hand to any practical problem.

It was extremely sad for everyone who knew him to see the long, slow physical deterioration he endured: it took away everything he loved to do most. He also contracted (and recovered from!) coronavirus.

Our thoughts are with Tonia, Matt and Victoria.

*The Corvedale News Team*

## *Munslow Women's Institute*



The ladies of Munslow WI have been busy writing poetry this month.

### **Giftings by Barbara Archer**

All of us are gifted but in many different ways  
Some can sow or knit or stitch all the hours away

Others have a gifting of cooking up a pot  
Of wonderful delicious food, I like that quite a lot

Gardening is another gift or singing songs of joy  
Or painting lovely landscapes which others can enjoy  
But most of all the thing I like the very very best  
Is time to rest and watch the world...

'Be Happy' that's the Best!

### **Lockdown by Maggie Teague**

We're in another lockdown,  
I can't believe it's true,  
And it's likely to last longer,  
Than numbers one and two!!!

We're generally law abiding,  
Here along the Dale,  
We don't have raves and parties,  
Cos that sets us up to fail!

The thought of sitting here alone,  
For the next four weeks or so,  
It's really unbelievable,  
Cos I'll lose my 'get up and go'!

So come on all you party goers,  
Stay at home for just a week,  
And see the difference that you'll make,  
And restore the life we seek!!

### **Soldiering on by Jenny Rose**

Lockdown, lockdown is all we hear  
Isolation some can't bear,

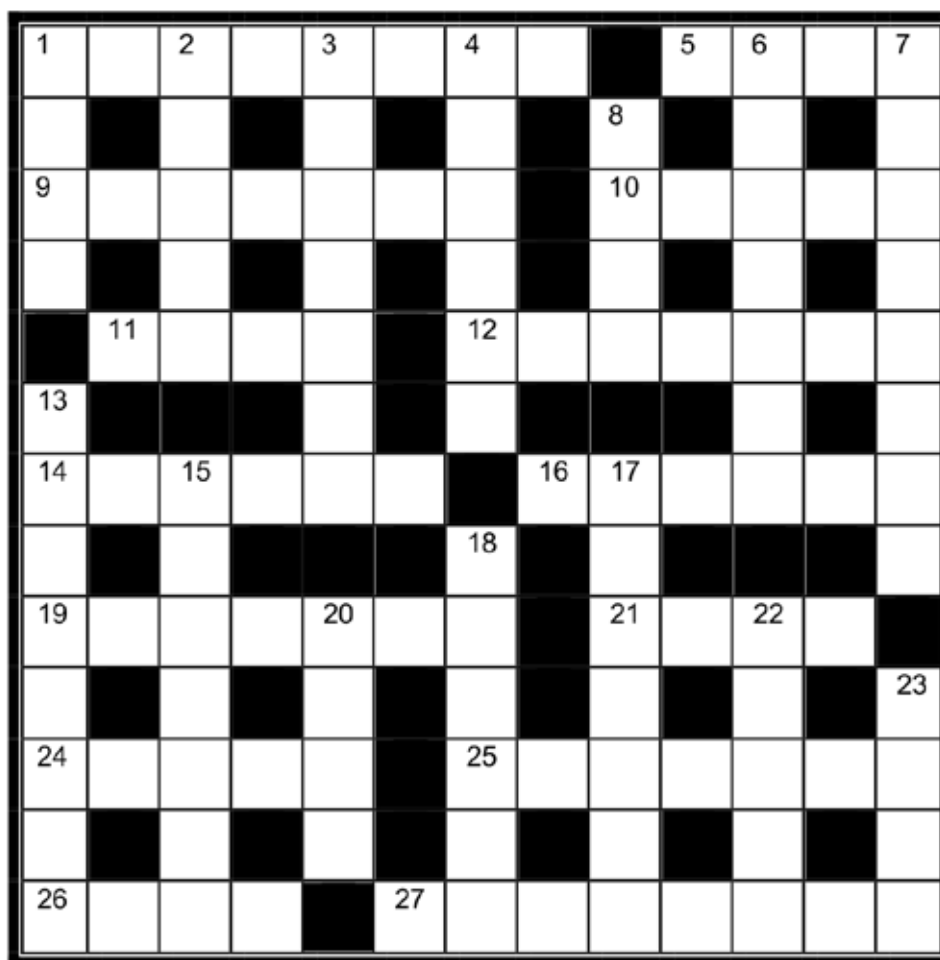
But here we are five weeks on  
Wondering where those weeks have gone.

Families exercising in lovely weather  
Relishing the time of being together.  
Some are sad as it's made them poor  
Others say 'just like the war.'

Neighbours helping one another  
Sticking to the rules, really no bother.

The Lewis family stocking up  
In their friendly garage and shop  
Saving us from near starvation  
In this blessed isolation!

Which hopefully won't last much longer  
And we'll come through it feeling stronger,  
Then we'll all look back and say  
Aaaaah remember those days...

*February Crossword - by Artemonas***ACROSS**

- 1) 1 down worn when passing death sentence (8)  
 5) Originally something troubling your eye? (4)  
 9) I'd trek to the east to see this 1 down (3,4)  
 10) See 24 across  
 11) Left winger sets a brisk pace (4)  
 12) How a Belgian became a Bengali (7)  
 14) & 16) Scared, thrash this 1 down (6,6)  
 19) 1 down Spanish weapon? (7)  
 21) Dreadful, dreadful ride (4)  
 24) & 10) Her fencing is knocked down by 1 down (5,5)  
 25) Noise level of the bed lice? (7)  
 26) See 23 down  
 27) Alienate Edward – that's odd (8)

**DOWN**

- 1) Flier in prison? (4)  
 2) Summer reptile? (5)  
 3) Might know a 26 in the pattern (4,3)  
 4) As 'e ran round the sports grounds (6)  
 6) Turn mat around to fit (7)  
 7) Mere heap around bits and pieces (8)  
 8) Not leg on a dyke (4)  
 13) Army command loses Ron but still has means to see (8)  
 15) Very thin ale sent to be changed (7)  
 17) Cure dad by giving examples (7)  
 18) European vegetables (6)  
 20) Wild talk from Russian worker (4)  
 22) 1 down's hood? (5)  
 23) & 26) Suit belt is twisted for 1 down (4,4)

**ANSWERS TO DECEMBER CROSSWORD:**

**Across:** 1) Cabman; 4) Raises; 9) Liverpool Street; 10) Hatter; 11) Bus stop; 12) Continue; 14) Shoddy; 15) Sphere; 18) To and Fro; 21) Motor Car; 22) Cinema; 24) Heathrow Central; 25) Danish; 26) Aspect  
**Down:** 1) Chicago; 2) Bleat; 3) Aspirin; 5) Assists; 6) Stratford; 7) Steeped; 8) Cobble; 13) The top ten; 16) Proceed; 17) Encores; 18) Thrown; 19) Archers; 20) Rampart; 23) Nitre



### *Sweet Quiz*

**Answers are all well known sweets**

*Answers will appear in the March edition of the Corvedale News.*

*By kind permission of Mrs Jean Drakes*

- 1 Wogan's medal.
- 2 George Cross Islanders.
- 3 Horsey set's favourite sport
- 4 Hunter's reward.
- 5 Long Run
- 6 Clever Clogs
- 7 Dining Al Fresco
- 8 Wobbly little ones.
- 9 Giggle
- 10 13th letter doubled.
- 11 Nutty Politician.
- 12 Ten Pins.
- 13 Subject
- 14 Gem of orange perhaps
- 15 Man at the races
- 16 Olde worlde musicians
- 17 Two layered transport
- 18 Maybe the best Oxford, Regent or Bond
- 19 Leo's favourite drinking place.
- 20 Man or dog he follows the clues.
- 21 American coin
- 22 The cows pathway to the parlour
- 23 Scrooge's favourite word
- 24 Not so loud
- 25 Planetary Ban
- 26 Rotate
- 27 Quenchers
- 28 Lift up
- 29 Joins things together
- 30 Brave people

## Poetry Corner

**Some verses for February.** If you have written any poems, or have any favourites you would like to have printed in future editions of the Corvedale News, please send them to [editor@corvedalenews.com](mailto:editor@corvedalenews.com)

Geoff Neden

### Louis MacNeice: Bagpipe music (1938)

*This ballad is more of a philosophical battle with the tragic ending being the depletion of time and wasting away as masses of people do not achieve their dreams*

It's no go the merrygoround, it's no go the rickshaw,  
All we want is a limousine and a ticket for the peepshow.  
Their knickers are made of crêpe-de-chine,  
their shoes are made of python,  
Their halls are lined with tiger rugs and  
their walls with heads of bison.

John MacDonald found a corpse, put it under the sofa,  
Waited till it came to life and hit it with a poker,  
Sold its eyes for souvenirs, sold its blood for whisky,  
Kept its bones for dumb-bells to use when he was fifty.

It's no go the Yogi-Man, it's no go Blavatsky,  
All we want is a bank balance and a bit of skirt in a taxi.

Annie MacDougall went to milk, caught her foot in the heather,  
Woke to hear a dance record playing of Old Vienna.  
It's no go your maidenheads, it's no go your culture,  
All we want is a Dunlop tyre and the devil mend the puncture.

The Laird o'Phelps spent Hogmanay declaring he was sober,  
Counted his feet to prove the fact and found he had one foot over.  
Mrs Carmichael had her fifth, looked at the job with repulsion,  
Said to the midwife 'Take it away; I'm through with  
over-production'.

It's no go the gossip column, it's no go the Ceilidh,  
All we want is a mother's help and a sugar-stick for the baby.

Willie Murray cut his thumb, couldn't count the damage,  
Took the hide of an Ayrshire cow and used it for a bandage.  
His brother caught three hundred cran when the seas were lavish,  
Threw the bleeders back in the sea and went upon the parish.

It's no go the Herring Board, it's no go the Bible,  
All we want is a packet of fags when our hands are idle.

It's no go the picture palace, it's no go the stadium,  
It's no go the country cot with a pot of pink geraniums,  
It's no go the Government grants, it's no go the elections,  
Sit on your arse for fifty years and hang your hat on a pension.

It's no go my honey love, it's no go my poppet;  
Work your hands from day to day, the winds will blow the profit.  
The glass is falling hour by hour, the glass will fall forever,  
But if you break the bloody glass you won't hold up the weather.

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### Elizabeth Coatsworth: On a night of snow

*This poem is particularly apt given the weather*

Cat, if you go outdoors, you must walk in the snow.  
You will come back with little white shoes on your feet,  
little white shoes of snow that have heels of sleet.  
Stay by the fire, my Cat. Lie still, do not go.  
See how the flames are leaping and hissing low,  
I will bring you a saucer of milk like a marguerite,  
so white and so smooth, so spherical and so sweet-  
stay with me, Cat. Outdoors the wild winds blow.

Outdoors the wild winds blow, Mistress, and dark is the night,  
strange voices cry in the trees, intoning strange lore,  
and more than cats move, lit by our eyes' green light,  
on silent feet where the meadow grasses hang hoar-  
Mistress, there are portents abroad of magic and might,  
and things that are yet to be done. Open the door!

*By permission of The Marsh Agency Ltd., on behalf of the  
Estate of Elizabeth Coatsworth*

### Denise Levertov: What wild dawns there were

What wild dawns there were  
in our first years here  
when we would run outdoors naked  
to pee in the long grass behind the house  
and see over the hills such streamers  
such banners of fire and blue (the blue  
that is Lilith to full day's honest Eve) -  
What feathers of gold under the morning star  
we saw from dazed eyes before  
stumbling back to bed chilled with dew  
to sleep till the sun was high!

Now if we wake early  
we don't go outdoors - or I don't -  
and you if you do go  
rarely call me to see the day break.  
I watch the dawn through glass: this year  
only cloudless flushes of light, paleness  
slowly turning to rose,  
and fading subdued.

We have not spoken of these tired  
risings of the sun.

*Denise Levertov, New Selected Poems  
(Bloodaxe Books, 2003) [www.bloodaxebooks.com](http://www.bloodaxebooks.com)*

*And finally...*

### Metamorphosis: ©Ovid

Though a small mutation  
Of something East Asian  
Brings back isolation  
And much dislocation  
The swift preparation  
Of immunisation  
Has allowed medication  
To salvage the Nation

*This poem is in the public domain*

*Corvedale Book Group****Howard's End is on the Landing by Susan Hill***

Whilst the 2020 December Book Group meeting did not feature the sharing of festive food, drink and conversation, as we had at Diddlebury Village Hall 12 months ago, we were able to celebrate that more than half of the group had regularly met and enjoyed discussing the books (provided by the library service) by Zoom. I would like to thank the library service for their strenuous efforts to cheerfully arrange the collection and return of books for the majority of the period and group members for coping with my attempts to make the Zoom meeting invitations work. We did improve our skills! It gave us all a sense of connection and continuity when many of our other activities had closed down.

'*Howard's End is on the Landing*' by Susan Hill was a very appropriate choice for 'lockdown year'. Susan Hill had published her first novel by the time she was 18 when she commenced her degree at King's College London. She has been writing for over 50 years and has authored 37+ books and developed a publishing house. She writes broadly but tends to focus on the gothic novel. '*Howard's End*' describes a year in which she took a step back from the literary world of book reviews, radio programmes and judging literary competitions, to reflect instead on the books in her own house and to reread and in some cases reorder them.

Her chapters are themed in relation to the ways in which she and her husband and children had collected and grouped their books. Each chapter is a reflection on a category of books, her autobiographical connection to them and the links they provided to other authors, many of whom she had met and spoken with, or even knew intimately. As part of this reading she read books she had acquired but not opened, as well as rereading, sometimes for the umpteenth time, her favourites. Like us all she had some authors she liked, some she refused to read and some she detested - e.g. Jane Austen. In the end she produced a list for herself of 40 books she could not live without and lists these as

an appendix. As some reviewers point out, the list in general related to her life experience and largely consists of white, Anglo Saxon texts. It, therefore, does not have the diversity of covering more recent, or historic, European, American or World literature.

Many of us found sections of the book that we enjoyed. It helped us to recall books and authors we had loved at different stages in our lives and provided long lists of possible others to try. The chapters included her reflections on picture books and children's books, spirituality, poetry, Thomas Hardy, Virginia Woolf, Roald Dahl, John Le Carré, Sebald, Charles Causley, Patrick Leigh Fermor, travel books, diaries, compilations. She talked of the smell and feel of books, the sensuality of reading and was adamant in her rejection of e-readers. She commented too on the ragbag and random collection of humorous, informative or random books we have all been given as gifts and somehow still keep. In her discussion on the lack of balance in numbers of books written and published by male and female authors, she provided a long list of the latter, some of whom we are still to discover and read. Some of her writing felt crisp, insightful, connected; other parts irritated as meandering and too focused on name dropping. Maybe that merely reflected the life she had lived and the people with whom she had worked or had encountered. Although autobiographical in tone, as an artifice, we didn't really feel the book gave us a grasp of Susan Hill the person. We did envy her making the time to read full time for a year. If one kept this book, over the years it would be one to dip into and to connect you with reading phases you might have had in the past.

We had our own discussion afterwards about the books we had, where we kept them and in what groupings, whether we had unread books, and which we would choose to keep or not. We talked of our childhood/adolescent experiences of borrowing library books and of reading by torchlight. It was, as always, a stimulating evening.

*Cath Burley*

## DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Diddlebury Parish Council has a contract with a local resident, Mr Gary Trim. He is our EMO (Environmental Maintenance Officer) and carries out minor maintenance work around the parish, excluding along the B4368.

If you are aware of any ditches which need clearing, vegetation which needs to be cut back, road signs, bus shelters, noticeboards or bridge railings which need cleaning, repainting or repairing, please let either the Chairman or the Clerk know, so that instructions can be passed on to the EMO.

Chairman - 01584 841068 Clerk - 07513 780268

*Corvedale Book Group****Take Nothing With You* by Patrick Gale**

This 'coming of age' novel, discussed by the Book Group at its January virtual meeting, is a gentle, sensitive, extremely well-written story of recognising and coming to terms with the ways in which the young protagonist is different to his peers. It was universally enjoyed by all group members as a real page turner. The characters were well drawn and contrasts between them were described in affectionate detail.

The story starts with Eustace facing the fact that he is about to have treatment for a possibly fatal condition at the point he falls in love for the first time. As he makes his plans to go to hospital he shares his concerns about meeting his lover-to-be in the flesh for the first time with Naomi, who has been a friend since childhood.

Eustace was brought up in a care home in Weston Super Mare, which his parents had started as a way of caring for his grandparents, who were funded by the other residents living in the property. His grandmother was a ballerina and Eustace wanted ballet lessons. Instead, he began cello lessons with the flamboyant and charismatic Carla Gold. He practises assiduously for this new goddess from another world, as his mother enjoys a developing friendship with his teacher. Carla lives with two male friends in a bohemian house in Clifton, Bristol. It is a startling contrast to the nursing home and he is treated as an interesting person and encouraged to try new things. Carla wants him to go to a cello 'bootcamp' with her former teacher Jean, who encourages young proteges and dangles in front of him the prospect of a scholarship. It is here he meets Naomi. He is enthralled by the beauty of making music with other people who share his passion for the cello. We learn with

him as he gains in skills to manage the technical and emotional aspects of playing an instrument.

At school he is about to make the transition from a small private school where he feels a fish out of water. His only friend, Vernon, is a similar misfit, as he is a young carer for his father, a famous artist who is living with Parkinson's disease. As the boys form a bond and begin to develop their sexual identities, they hear they are both to go to the local comprehensive school. The transition is well described as Vernon teaches Eustace ways to change his name and the language he uses to survive.

To tell more would be a spoiler. The themes and subthemes of the book cross and recross almost like musical themes in the score of a symphony. There are unexpected highlights and great lows. The small vignettes of certain interactions are beautifully drawn and offer an awareness of the author's observational powers. At one point he describes how single children 'watch and wait' in the world around them: Eustace does this. His point of view in the early part of the book is very naïve and unquestioning of his parents' stormy relationship, his mother's friendship with Carla, the connection between Louis and Ebrahim in Bristol. Vernon is his educator and protector as he slowly works out he is homosexual. When things change between his parents, he is touched that his father, whom he had viewed as a buffoon, is able to be strong and be there for him.

The book ends as it began, with an older Eustace and the opportunity to find love again in later life.

Our next read is by **Jasper Fforde, *The Eyre Affair***. This will be a total contrast when we come to discuss it on **Thursday 11th February at 7.30 by Zoom.**

*Cath Burley*

***Dog Fouling*****PLEASE CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

There has been a notable increase in dog fouling throughout the Corvedale and especially in and around Diddlebury village. Whilst most dog owners are responsible citizens and clear up after their dogs there are obviously some people who are not adhering to the law.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizure and can cause salmonella in cattle.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

**BAG IT, BIN IT !**





*Munslow Parish Community Speed Watch (CSW)*

30

**CSW sessions:** Despite the wintry weather and limited daylight hours during December, some intrepid members of the team ventured out to continue the task of raising public awareness of road safety issues. We vary the sites in Munslow for our speed watch sessions so we can monitor traffic entering the village from both Craven Arms and Bridgnorth directions. It was observed that drivers entering Munslow from the Bridgnorth direction, are not always aware that the 30mph sign is some way out before the village itself.

Local residents have also commented that, during these current travel restrictions, some drivers are taking advantage of the quieter roads and driving at increased and dangerous speeds through our villages. Inclement weather and Covid-19 restrictions have hampered the start of our January sessions but Mercia Police motorbikes with attached speed cameras continue to patrol the B4368.

**NPCC National seatbelt and mobile phone campaign:**

The campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the risks to road users' safety, will take place during two separate fortnights sometime in 2021. Training for the team will be provided by West Mercia Police and our CSW team is keen

to be involved with this initiative.

**Training:** Mark Booth (our Mercia Police liaison officer) has offered to arrange some speed watch training sessions as soon as possible in the New Year. Anyone who is interested and has a spare hour, will need to complete a simple security form which can be obtained from me at the email address below.

**Munslow road signage:** As the result of persistent lobbying of the appropriate Council departments by some of our local residents, the damaged road signs at the entrance to Munslow on the Craven Arms side, have now been repaired.

Finally, on behalf of your Munslow Parish Community Speed Watch team, I would like to thank all the road users who have played their part in 2020 to keep the B4368 a little safer, whether it is being more vigilant of your own speed through our residential areas, writing to Shropshire Council or Highways or liaising with other influencers about your concerns. We appreciate all your efforts.

Whatever journeys you undertake in 2021, please ensure that you travel responsibly and arrive safely.

*Rebecca Bull (peter17bull@btinternet.com)*

*The Corvedale Kitchen***Zabaglione**

A wickedly rich, classic, Italian dessert. As the principal components are cholesterol, refined sugar and alcohol it is not for the faint-hearted and perhaps not to be eaten every day. Not difficult, but care needs to be taken not to overcook it so as not to finish up with alcoholic scrambled eggs.

Serves 2, generously.

**Ingredients**

3 egg yolks

3 heaped tablespoons icing or caster sugar

75ml liqueur (see below)

Zest of lemon

**Method**

- 1) Whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl till smooth. Add sugar and whisk again till thoroughly incorporated into the yolks. Add the liqueur.
- 2) Place bowl over a saucepan of barely simmering water and whisk vigorously as mixture thickens. When it reaches the consistency of thickish custard, remove from heat and pour into ramekin dishes.
- 3) Grate a little lemon zest onto the tops. Eat immediately or cover and chill in a fridge. Traditionally served with biscotti but fine on its own (especially straight out of the bowl!)

Traditionally the liqueur is either Limoncello (best) or Marsala – both widely available at supermarkets. I suppose medium sweet sherry would make a reasonable substitute.

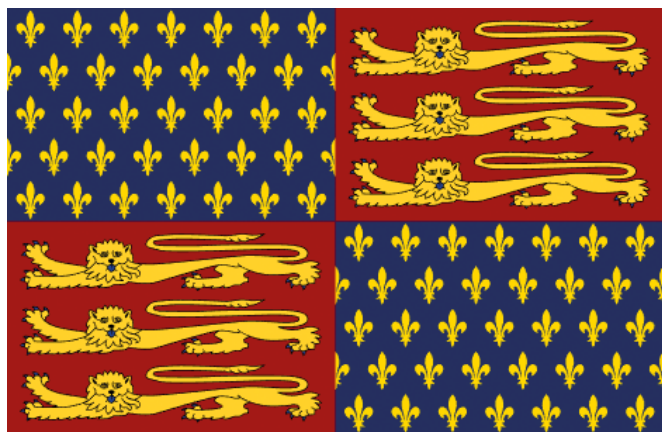
*Martin Jones*



***Don't forget! If you have any favourite recipes you would like to share, do email them to editor@corvedalenews.co.uk. Please don't include anything that's tricky to make, has too many ingredients, or contains anything we can't spell, pronounce, or buy locally!***

*Corvedale Past and Present***Now, would like the good news or the bad news?**

I just cannot just resist things in our past which are really important, but which, for some reason, are just not well known at all, and, if you will bear with me I am going to go for a particular 12 months when we stood at a mighty crossroads, even if people didn't know it at the time. 1340-1341 is going to affect a lot of locals round here for a long time, so let's look at a couple of things and try and work out whether these were good or bad. I am not going to decide for you: that is up to you.



First fact: King Edward III (tall, athletic, 'well favoured', intelligent, charismatic and astonishingly fertile) stands in front of a mighty assembly in the 'friendly town' of Ghent and unfurls a flag. It was his new royal 'standard' and it was dynamite! Hitherto it had been just the familiar 3 lions in characteristic pose (known as 'leopards' I think), but now it was quartered, and those old leopards occupied just 2 quarters. The others showed the Fleur-de-Lys – the device of the Kings of France. To be blunt, Edward was claiming to be King of France as well as of England. He had been emboldened by an extraordinarily horrific but successful sea battle at Sluys in the Netherlands, months before. Before you decide... please bear in mind that this act sparked the so-called Hundred Years War, a pan-European conflict in which, initially, English soldiers became the most feared of any, particularly the longbow men. At school we perhaps learned about Crécy and Poitiers to name but

two battles. But what of the cost locally? Our villages were in trouble on multiple fronts and the haemorrhage of men and materials can hardly be imagined. With a large resident Welsh population (the most deadly of the archers), was this very acute here? You might like to remember that Edward's new Royal Standard was not withdrawn till the nineteenth century! Is this event affecting our lives up to and including the day you are reading this or is it obscure and irrelevant?

Second fact: Edward got home to one of those perennial political crises that troubled almost all medieval English kings: but this was a bad one. He and his chief minister, one John de Stratford, who was also Archbishop of Canterbury (that's how things were in those days) were standing up and shouting at each other in a way that reminded everyone of Henry II and Thomas à Becket, and that didn't end well! It was a great relief to all, and in retrospect a great milestone, when the whole thing was settled in parliament, which ever-after had some control over the king's rule – and a good thing no doubt that a civil war was averted. However, the king did get to negotiate a monster tax deal with a new strategy. It was calculated in each village and often overseen by monasteries. Priors were very powerful in our area and you might have the suspicion that the wool industry, so important locally, was hit more systematically than before, at the worst possible time. Not only the trade, but also the '*man in the cottage*' had to give up to the new commissioners '*the ninth sheaf, the ninth fleece and the ninth lamb.*' The only good thing was that at last it was recognised that the fine wool of the Shropshire Hills should be judged by value and not by weight - 'about time too!' do I hear you say?

P.S. Pitched battles only became common in the later Middle Ages and they were not for the faint-hearted! Sea battles were by far the worst of all... if your side was losing you couldn't run away: the only option was to jump and risk drowning!

P.P.S. The last time the crown had organised such a tax before was the '*Saladin Tithe*' of 1187.

*Peter Cornah*

**No mean trade**

We have navigated our way through the shortest day and night of the year, and as you read these words we can look forward to Spring. For many, nothing heralds the promise of the new season more than the appearance of lambs in our fields.

Locally, there is an extraordinary tale to tell about the sheep which walked our hills in the Middle Ages, particularly up to the middle of the 14th century.

It's well known that wool was 'the wealth of England' for many centuries but the production was not uniform, varying from place to place and time to time. So what might we have seen on the South Shropshire Hills in, say, the year 1377? The year is not random, as in this year, the English government made a grab for all the wool in England, compulsorily purchasing it in order to raise war funds. The figures still survive and the wool of Herefordshire and Shropshire was the most costly in the realm of England.

Anyone walking the open hills that year would see sheep,

*Corvedale Past and Present (continued)*

and many of them, but they would be in for a shock. The sheep were so small! If you had weighed those fleeces at the shearing season, you would have been using ounces not pounds. However, the quality of the short-haired wool was famed all over Europe and beyond. It was known as the 'Lemster Ore', and it was indeed a golden fleece – but why? You could easily draw the analogy with a fine wine – all the elements needed to be right, starting with the soil and the climate and the topography, and it seems that the exposed hills of the Welsh March were ideal. Even so it did not happen by accident. One way and another, a great deal is known about wool production at this time, and the one thing that may seem surprising to us is the high degree of organisation that was achieved in order to produce that very best of wool.

Flocks needed to be managed carefully. The prized wool-producer was the wether – the castrated male, (the bell-wether was a bell-wearing wether that might be identified quickly to check if the flock was becoming distressed). Good management was thought to include 'folding' the sheep at night and specialisation of flocks into breeding and milking sheep (hogs), the ewe lambs, and wool producing wethers. Indoor lambing was thought to be essential, as was careful shearing and, critically, good packing of this prized wool so it reached the cloth weaving centres in the Low Countries of Europe in the best condition. This was how vast fortunes could be, and were, made, and the finest wool cloth in Europe could be woven.

Of course, all this needed infrastructure as well as manpower and equipment, and not only enclosures but also sheep housing - the sheepcote, not that we should

expect such buildings to have survived. I often walk onto Clee Liberty via the Yeld Car Park and you immediately enter a funnel shaped piece of land, presumably useful in corralling stock. If you keep the southeastern boundary to your right you will come across a series of rectangular enclosures (SO 572 838), and I do wonder why these are there and how old they are. It is very difficult to say, though: they were certainly present on 19th century maps. It did just cross my mind that these hedged and banked enclosures could have a much older history and perhaps even point to a time when 'wool was king' and our area was a mightily important producer. They are certainly in a prime location for what was no mean trade!

*Peter Cornah*

P.S. Sheepcote is a common name, I don't know of any in this area, but buses going to central Birmingham go to the Sheepcote Road Bus Station. I hope that like me you cannot resist listening to these small echoes of a distant past!

*Diddlebury Village Hall*

[www.diddleburyvillagehall.org](http://www.diddleburyvillagehall.org)

**VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

**DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
DIDDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL'S (DVH) COVID-19 RESOLUTION OF  
5TH SEPTEMBER 2020, ONCE AGAIN APPLIES.**

As before the DVH committee will continually monitor the Government's guidelines. If there are alterations or updates to the guidelines, the DVH committee will implement any necessary changes to the proposed use of the hall.

*Westhope Village Hall***VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

**DUE TO THE LATEST COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ALL ACTIVITIES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL  
RESTRICTIONS CAN BE LIFTED, WHEN HOPEFULLY, WE BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD.**







# SHROPSHIRE LARDER

**FIND THE SUPPORT YOU NEED IN SHROPSHIRE!**

**WANT HELP TO EAT WELL ON A BUDGET?**

**WANT TO FIND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH CAN SUPPORT YOU?**

FOOD BANKS • COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS • HOUSING DEBT • BENEFITS • BUDGETING • WELLBEING OLDER PEOPLE • CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**VISIT**  **SHROPSHIRELARDER.ORG.UK**

**STEP UP SHROPSHIRE** 

## Financial support during lockdown

Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team is here to help all residents across the county during the pandemic

If you need financial support, help is available:

- Test and Trace payments of £500** are available for people on low income who need to self-isolate
- If you are of working age and receive council tax support**, you have been awarded up to an additional £150 hardship payment on your council tax bill
- If you have been financially affected by coronavirus**, you may be eligible for grant funding

Call us on 0345 678 9078 to find out more

Visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits) for further information

For further support visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Shropshire Council Helpline on 0345 678 9028

      [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

**STEP UP SHROPSHIRE** 

## Food provision during lockdown

Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team is here to help all residents across the county during the pandemic

Did you know there are lots of local groups and services available to help you access food parcels, secure delivery slots and other essentials:

- Shropshire Larder** – [www.shropshirelarder.org.uk](http://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk)
- Call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline** for help to access food phone 03456 789 028
- Mid-Counties Co-Op** also offer delivery slots – call 0800 435 902 to book

**For all other food and support needs visit** – [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/) or call 03456 789 028

For further support visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Shropshire Council Helpline on 0345 678 9028

      [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

**STEP UP SHROPSHIRE** 

## Looking after your mental health during lockdown

Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team is here to help all residents across the county during the pandemic

Looking after your mental health is important, and there are lots of local services available to support you and your loved ones:

- [www.togetherall.com](http://www.togetherall.com)** – an online community for Shropshire residents who are stressed, anxious or low
- Shropshire MIND** – Call 01743 368647 or email: [manager.shropshiremind@gmail.com](mailto:manager.shropshiremind@gmail.com)
- Samaritans** – call 116 123 for a confidential safe place to talk about whatever is getting to you
- Young Minds Parents Hotline** – 0808 8025544 (9.30am – 4.00pm) free, confidential online support any adult worried about the mental health of a child or young person
- Free bereavement counselling** – 0345 678 9028
- Kooth** – free safe and anonymous online support for young people: [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)
- Childline** – call 0800 1111

For further support visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Shropshire Council Helpline on 0345 678 9028

      [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)



*Notices From Diddlebury Parish Council*

# DPC NOTICES

## SMARTWATER KITS

By now, hopefully, every household in the parish will have received their SmartWater kit. We have just five spare kits, so if anyone has not received a kit please contact the Clerk on 01568 770741, email [diddleburypc@gmail.com](mailto:diddleburypc@gmail.com).

It is an essential part of your SmartWater protection that the sticker enclosed with your kit is displayed prominently somewhere on your property where potential thieves are likely to see it. The knowledge your property is SmartWater protected is the biggest deterrent to thieves. The Parish Council is currently working with the Police on the location of road signs warning thieves they are entering a SmartWater protected area.

## PRIVATE ADVERTISING SIGNS PLACED ON THE VERGES OF THE HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council receives many complaints from residents that signs and sandwich boards advertising local events or businesses are placed on the verges of the highways, especially on the B3468 by Mill Lane and at Pedlar's Rest. These signs often obstruct the view of the highway, forcing drivers joining the highway to pull out onto the main road to look for oncoming traffic – creating an accident waiting to happen.

The Parish Council is advised by Shropshire Council's Highways Department that the following law applies to non-statutory signage on the highways:

**Signs of less than 0.6sq m for temporary events are allowed for a short period. For longer periods signs must be no bigger than 0.3sq m. Outside these sizes permission must be sought from the Planning Department. All signs must be clean, legible and must not obstruct the visibility of road users.**

Advice can be obtained initially from the Customer Services Team:

0345 678 9000, or by email from [planning.southern@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning.southern@shropshire.gov.uk).

## *Community Led Housing Scheme (CLHS)*

Diddlebury Parish Council (DPC) has resolved to investigate a possible CLHS for the parish. Such schemes aim to create entry level properties or small developments which are truly affordable for local residents or for former residents wishing to return to the parish who have previously been unable to find suitably priced properties within the parish. Houses generally can be rented or purchased but must offer a significant discount to market value rents and property prices.

CLHS typically run in conjunction with a specialist provider such as a housing association which has protocols to ensure that they meet the affordable criteria over the long term. The biggest challenge to this scheme is identifying suitable land within the parish. Examples of land that could be used for this purpose are small parts of accessible fields, large redundant gardens or redundant buildings or farm complexes. If you own such a site and are interested in its use for a CLHS then DPC would like to hear from you. People's views on such a project are also welcome.

Contact the clerk of DPC at: 1, Pipe Aston Barn, Pipe Aston, Ludlow, SY8 2HG Tel:01568 770741 or email [diddleburypc@gmail.com](mailto:diddleburypc@gmail.com)



*Sutton Court and the Powell family***Part One: Enter the Powells**

From the outside Sutton Court has all the appearance of a plain, and even somewhat austere, early Victorian country house, its low pitched slate gables reminiscent of the Grecian style which had not yet been fully replaced by Gothic in the public taste. It was in fact described as 'newly built' in a county directory of 1845, though this work amounted to placing remains of a much earlier house within the shell of a new building. These remains included some Jacobean oak corbels similar to those in Diddlebury and Culmington churches, and a massive fireplace bearing the date 1473, of which more will be said below. From its style, we may assume that the house was designed and built by one of the firms of architect-masons operating in Ludlow at the time. Mathew Stead and Son of Ludford are the most likely candidates, although Edward Blakeway Smith of Corve Street is another possibility.

Sutton Court is basically a one-family house, the home of generations of Powells until the untimely death from pneumonia of Lionel, the last male of the line in 1931. When the Powells first arrived at Sutton Court is something of a mystery. The Powell family 'legend' states that they arrived in 1473, the date on the Hall fireplace. Here a problem immediately arises, for the date is inscribed in large Arabic numerals. At this time, particularly in a rather backward area like Shropshire, I would have expected the date to be expressed in Roman numerals, or in the rather odd style of Arabic numerals where the figure 4 is written like the top half of an 8. The style of the numerals at Sutton is rather like that found on contemporary German woodcuts, and I suspect that it is a pious forgery from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century when the house was transformed by the importation of Elizabethan panelling and fireplaces.

We must therefore try to tease out when, and from whence, the Powell family first came to Sutton. I shall not attempt here to deal with the history of Sutton before the Powells, as this is very complex and not yet fully worked out. What I can say fairly categorically is that, despite the family 'legend' and a rather suspicious mid-nineteenth century pedigree, there is no evidence to connect the Powells with Little Sutton before the year 1690. There is also strong evidence to suggest that they were not there. Even a reasonably prosperous farmer would have been unlikely to escape the net of the tax collectors, yet none of the surviving taxation records of the mid-seventeenth century include the name of Powell at Little Sutton. Even more convincingly, two very thorough documents concerning tithe obligations contain no Powell references. In particular, the tithe book of Nicholas Proude, vicar from 1657 to 1662, meticulously notes the obligations of every householder down to the last hen but includes no Powell at Sutton. We may safely assume that the family had not arrived.

The records do, however, include Thomas Harris, a yeoman who died in 1687. Two years later his widow Susannah married one Rowland Powell at Wistanstow, and in January 1692 the baptism of their first son, John, is recorded at Diddlebury. It is possible that Rowland Powell was descended from a Meredith Powell of Lydbury North, though as I have already noted, the pedigree on which this is based is somewhat suspect. Powell, unlike his deceased father-in-law, is styled 'gent.' in the parish registers, although he would seem to have been a tenant of neighbouring landowners, and it is not clear when or if he owned the Court at this time. If ever the estate records become available the mystery may be resolved. Rather than the Powells being an ancient gentry dynasty which had been established for two centuries, as family tradition states, they were in fact an interesting example of a family which rose from the ranks of the yeomanry into 'county' society. Rowland Powell had begun this process by the time-honoured process of marrying into land, and presumably augmenting his estate by judicious purchases. In March 1731 Rowland died, and was buried in Ludlow. His widow survived another fifteen years, before joining her husband there in 1746. Their son John followed his father as master of Sutton Court.

*To be continued.*

© Martin Speight

## JOIN OUR TEAM



**The Corvedale News has successfully recruited a new secretary to the team but we would still like an additional person to join the small group of volunteers who produce the magazine.**

**We normally have just two or three team meetings a year.**

**If you'd like to join us, we'd love to hear from you.**

**Please email  
editor@corvedalenews.co.uk**

### *Old Corvedale*



This photograph was provided to the Corvedale News by Norman Pearce, landlord of the Sun Inn at Corfton.

The photo shows Jack Watson (a previous landlord at the Sun Inn) with his son John on his right. It also shows two of John's friends, who are currently unidentified. The photograph dates from around 1948.

This photograph was given to Norman by Jack Watson's niece who lives in Newcastle and who visited the Corvedale on holiday. The photograph clearly shows that in 1948 the B4368 came right up to the front door of the pub!

*If you have an interesting photograph of 'Old Corvedale' which you would like to share with us, we should be happy to consider including it in a future edition of the Corvedale News.*

## **CORVEDALE NEWS NOTICE: HARD COPIES**

Last year during lockdown we had to suspend delivery of hard copies to most people who had no internet access. The system was by no means perfect and so we have come up with the following solution.

### **IF YOU HAVE NO INTERNET ACCESS:**

Please ring either Geoff (01584 841815) or Liz & Martin (01584 861238) as soon as possible and leave the following details:

- Your name
- Your address
- From which church you would like to collect your hard copy (Abdon, Culmington, Diddlebury, Holdgate, Munslow or Tugford).

**IF WE CAN ONLY DELIVER A FEW HARD COPIES YOURS SHOULD BE IN THE CHURCH PORCH OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**PLEASE ONLY TAKE THE COPY WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.**



### *Readers' Photos February's theme is 'Winter'*



*Broncroft - Guy Owens*



*Dusk on Christams Eve at Burwood - Patsy Rainsford*



*Linda Fow*



*Christmas Morning from Flounders Folly - Colin Stanford*



*Snow covered Brown C*



*Stokesay Castle - Helen Paris*



*A Foggy Winter Morning i*

## PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

For the March 2021 magazine we would love to receive your photos on the subject of

## WINTER (AGAIN!)





ler



*The Diddle Brook in Winter - Geoff Neden*



*Diddlebury in Winter - Geoff Neden*



lee - Ian Davies



*Stokesay - Lisa Coleman*



*Winter in Diddlebury - Geoff Neden*



n Middlehope - Jon Stanford



*Delbury Park - Jayne Husband*



*Motley on a Frosty Morning -  
Clare McNally*

ive

We will continue to have a different theme for the magazine each month. Also, please let us have any pictures which you would like us to consider for use as a cover photo of the Corvedale News.

Please send all photos to: [photos@corvedalenews.co.uk](mailto:photos@corvedalenews.co.uk)

### *Parish Councils*

#### CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

##### **Draft Minutes of Culmington Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2021 (conducted remotely).**

**Present:** Cllr Steele (Chair), Cllrs Pike, Cllr Alderson, Cllr Holland and Cllr Norton.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council) and Heather Coonick (Clerk).

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mear, Seabrook and Turley.

**Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** there were none.

**Public involvement session:** (Agenda Items only) No members of the public were present.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Culmington Parish Council held on 3rd November 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** Cllr Pike wanted to thank Mr Jubb for his many years of support for the community and to wish him well. The Clerk reported that a card had been sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Reports:** Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council) reported that she hoped that there will soon be some clarity on farming regarding Brexit. She had been informed that vaccinations were being rolled out across Shropshire although infection rates in this area are low compared to the rest of the West Midlands. Grants of up to £9,000 for businesses affected by Covid are being made available. Cllr Motley has been informed that when canvassing for the planned elections in May only leaflet drops would be allowed. The Financial Settlement for Local Government has been decided but the Rural Services Delivery Grant remains the same. The Rural Service Network have responded with dissatisfaction as this does not recognise the extra costs in running services in a rural area.

Cllr Steele (Flood Action Group) reported that Shropshire Council had not yet taken any action on the overflow pipe and Cllr Turley was very dissatisfied. It is not clear if the B4365 drains had been jetted. He would be attending a FAG meeting this week and would ask John Bellis for an update on these issues. He also reported that one of the leaky dams in Seifton Batch had been breached and that once the 'Slow the Flow' money ceases in March 2021 the responsibility for maintaining the dams will go over to the landowners. A bund has been placed behind no's 1 & 2 Seifton Lane.

Cllr Mear (Village Hall) sent a report stating that the Village Hall remains closed and this will be reviewed after lockdown has lifted.

**Correspondence:** the census is planned for 21st March 2021.

**Finance:** the Finance Report and the Bank Reconciliation

were approved unanimously. The current account balance is £12,217.54.

**The following payments were approved:** J Williams (Footpath Group) £69.96 and H Coonick (Clerk) Salary for Oct-Dec £814.32 (which includes any payment to Inland Revenue).

**Budget for 2021/2022:** the draft budget was considered. The need for a reserve was discussed and agreed to be necessary, and it will hold the money set aside for the election. It decided to set a precept of £4,664.00 for 2021/2022 which will be an increase of less than 4% on last year. This was agreed unanimously.

**'We Don't Buy Crime' SmartWater Initiative:** the Clerk reported that 65 kits had been requested by parishioners but another 20 more need to be registered before free posters will be installed by the Police and Crime Commissioners department. Almost every property has been leafletted at least once.

**Lorries parking on the road:** Councillors are very concerned about the road safety issues of lorries parking on the B4365. The Clerk was asked to write to the police requesting they look into the matter.

**Speed Sign:** a post for the Speed Sign needs to be erected by Kier on behalf of Shropshire Council. This was requested by Culmington Parish Council in October 2019 and has been followed up by requests to Shropshire Highways by Cllr Motley, Graham Oliver (Police and Crime Commissioners Community Ambassador) and by Philip Dunne. MP with no success so far.

**New Site for Parish Council Notice Board:** Cllrs Pike and Steele reported that a larger replacement board had been found and will be positioned at the end of the garages near Fern Cottage in Culmington, either in the verge or attached to the wall.

**Internet Banking:** the council considered the guidance from the Financial Regulations and decided to support the use of Internet Banking and asked the clerk to set this up.

**Risk Assessment:** the council considered the Risk Assessment and agreed to adopt it.

**Environmental Maintenance Grant:** options for 2021-22 were discussed and it was decided that a mixture of minor and major maintenance works would be appropriate, including the use of machinery to clear ditches. This would be considered further at the February meeting when the Clerk will present an application for the grant.

**Items for the Next Meeting:** Environmental Maintenance Grant.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7:00pm.**

*Heather Coonick, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow, SY8 2BE  
07817607355 • culmingtonpc@gmail.com • www.culmington.org*



## *Parish Councils (continued)*

### **DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Summary of the draft Minutes of Diddlebury Parish Council's Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 via Zoom.**

**Present via Zoom:** Cllr D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllrs O'Boyle, Woodhouse, S Povall, R Povall, Watson.

**Apologies** were received from Cllr S. Thomas.

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Unitary Cllr C Motley and three members of the public. The Clerk was unable to join the meeting until 7.50pm due to technical difficulties and Cllr Watson kindly took the Minutes in her absence.

**No declarations of interest were made.**

**The Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting of 28th October 2020 were approved and signed.

**Matters Arising** included a report from the Clerk about various highways matters. The Clerk had contacted Highways and Planning departments for advice about private signs and advertisement boards placed on highway verges. The response advised signs of less than 0.6sqm for temporary events are allowed for a short period. For longer periods signs must be no bigger than 0.3sqm. Outside these sizes permission must be sought from Highways. All signs must be clean, legible and must not obstruct the visibility of road-users. If DPC has any issue with signs, they should contact Highways. It was agreed that the signage regulations should be printed in the Corvedale News and sent to the Tally-Ho Inn.

There is still an on-going issue with HSBC which the Clerk and Chairman are addressing.

A vote of thanks was given to the Clerk for all her work on organising the distribution of SmartWater kits to all households in Diddlebury Parish. A question was raised why the names of occupiers had to be provided to the Police, when the labels used to send the kits out were addressed to The Occupier. The Chairman advised that for data protection reasons the kits were sent to The Occupier of each property but the occupiers' names had to be provided separately to the Police as the kits had to be registered to individual named householders not just to their properties. The Clerk and the Chairman are now liaising with the Police on the provision of signage advertising the fact that Diddlebury is now a SmartWater protected area. It is essential that all households prominently display their SmartWater sign on their home.

**Reports:** The Chairman had liaised with Gary Trim about potholes in the DVH car park and they are being filled. He had liaised with Mr Jack Wrigley who will pay for a mirror on the B4368 opposite the turning to Bache Mill. He continues to pursue SC for DPC's CIL payment. He met Shropshire Star's representative and Unitary Cllr David Evans about BT's provision / maintenance of telephone kiosks.

Unitary Cllr Motley reported, inter alia, on the revised Local Plan Section 18 consultation: it affects urban areas more than rural ones. The next stage is before the SC Cabinet on 7th December. It seems the government may be in retreat on its radical planning reforms in the light of the many objections raised to them. She has been elected Chair to the Rural Services Network. The Chancellor has announced rural councils will receive more money for adult and social care but suggests council taxes be raised by 5% to help with the shortfall in government funding.

Cllr Woodhouse reported Diddlebury VH had received a more competitive quote for resurfacing the car park, which will require £10,000 match-funding - a far more achievable figure in terms of grants. A grant application is about to be submitted: he thanked the Chairman and Cllr Motley for their assistance with it.

**Planning applications:** *20/04274/FUL* - application for the erection of a two-storey extension to the side of Lower House Farm, Middlehope, Craven Arms, SY7 9JT. DPC supported this application.

*20/02197/VAR* - Variation of Condition No. 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 16/03628/FUL dated 04.07.17 relating to the Old Poultry Sheds, Corfton. After very detailed discussion and consideration of this application for further variations to the original planning permission, DPC objected to the application and detailed reasons were agreed for submission to the planning officer in support of the objection.

**Community Led Housing Scheme:** The Chairman and Mr Davies of the PPSG proposed that a notice be placed in the Corvedale News seeking willing landowners prepared to sell land for affordable homes. The text is to be agreed by the Chairman and Mr Davies following discussions. It was agreed that the Parish Plan will not be updated.

**Correspondence & Communications:** 12 items of correspondence were considered.

**Finance:** The Finance Report for November 2020 was considered. Cheques totalling £3,843.30 were approved, which included £2,306.88 for the SmartWater kits. Cllr O'Boyle verified the cash book/bank statement reconciliation.

The Clerk had circulated to all members a first draft of the Precept Budget for 2021/2022, which was discussed at length. A further draft of the budget will be presented to the council on 27th January 2021 for finalization.

**Appointment of an auditor:** Members unanimously agreed to the appointment of Mrs. S. Hackett as auditor for the year 2021/2022.

**Next meetings: Wednesday 27th January 2021, 7.30pm (but log on at 7.15pm) & Wednesday 24 February 2021, 7.30pm (but log on at 7.15pm).**

**Please follow the log-in/joining instructions which will be appended to the Agenda.**

*Agendas and full copies of the Minutes can be viewed by visiting the Diddlebury Parish Council website at:*

*www.diddleburyparish.co.uk or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett, No. 1 Pipe Aston Barns, Pipe Aston, Ludlow SY8 2HG.*

*Tel: 01568 770 741. email: diddleburypc@gmail.com*

### *Parish Councils (continued)*

#### **MUNSLOW PARISH COUNCIL**

##### **Summary of minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Munslow Parish Council held on Thursday 7th January 2021 via Zoom**

**Present:** Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Linda Charie, Mike Kelly, Chris Meeson, Val Fotheringham, Buster Evans, David Marston, Antonia Bury, Ed Povey; Shropshire Councillor Cecilia Motley; Clive Leworthy (Clerk).

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Charie for the first 10 minutes due to IT problems.

**Apologies for absence:** None.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Minutes** of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th November 2020 were approved.

**Matters Arising from those minutes that are not covered on the Agenda:** None.

**Reports:** the Chair had written to Kevin Atkins regarding the road markings which had not been finished but had not yet received a reply.

Cllr Motley reported that due to Covid a number of staff were now redeployed from their normal roles to cover Covid-related work. This would obviously cause difficulties and delays as staff work to assist vulnerable members of the community, deal with loans etc. SC is still waiting to see how Brexit may impact on their activities.

Local Elections were at present still planned for 6th May but this could of course be impacted by Covid. The election period would commence on 15th March.

**Finance:** the accounting statement was approved.

The Budget for 2021/2022 was agreed and the precept will be held at £5,633.

Payments of the Clerk's Salary for December of £156.67, expenses of £14.39 and HMRC £39.20 were approved (all for December 2020).

**Shropshire Council Environmental Grant Scheme:** Members considered various options but decided to defer any decision on this till the February meeting.

**Planning:** there were no new planning applications.

**Highways:** the Clerk had completed and submitted the required financial papers and the invoice for the VAS, which has been ordered. He will ask SC to install the post.

The Chair thanked the Highways working group for producing an excellent report, which had been circulated to Council prior to the meeting. Various aspects were considered and it was agreed that the whole report needed to be discussed in detail before sharing it with Shropshire Council, Police and residents.

It was agreed that members would email Val Fotheringham with the five options from the report that they view as most important /support. It would then be reviewed again at the February meeting.

**Notice of change of date of May meeting:** as the Local Elections are scheduled for 6th May the new date for the May meeting will be Thursday 13th.

Full Minutes are available on the Council website.

#### **Next Meeting: Thursday 4th February 2021**

*Clive Leworthy, Clerk, Munslow PC tel. 04528 164345, email [munslowpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:munslowpcclerk@gmail.com) [www.munslow.org.uk](http://www.munslow.org.uk)  
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#### **ABDON AND HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7:30pm.**

*ABDON & HEATH PARISH COUNCIL ([www.abdon.org.uk](http://www.abdon.org.uk)) Balaam's Heath, Baucott, Brookhampton, Holdgate & Tugford.  
Wendy Richards - Parish Clerk: [abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com](mailto:abdonandheathclerk1@outlook.com) Tel: 07813 271 274*



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[Brisbanej@hotmail.com](mailto:Brisbanej@hotmail.com)  
Meadow Cottage, Diddlebury, Nr Craven Arms



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## Schools and Children's Activities



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Contact Elaine on (01694) 771677.

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

*We are very proud of our **outstanding** Ofsted  
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Corvedale Brownies have now joined  
Craven Arms Brownies and meet on  
one Saturday a month at the  
Discovery Centre, 10.30am until 1pm.

Please contact Catherine Crowther for dates:

01584 861276

[Catherinecrowther@gmail.com](mailto:Catherinecrowther@gmail.com)

### Contact Numbers for Local Services



(Phone numbers are on the 01584 exchange unless otherwise noted)

	Contact	Phone	Email
<b><i>Local Services and Emergencies</i></b>			
Electricity Problems/Power Cuts	Western Power	0800 6783 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	Geoff Neden	841815	gneden@googlemail.com
Ludlow Minor Injuries Unit (out of hours 111)	Community Hospital	874297	
Shropdoc (out of hours service)	Doctors Co-operative	111	
Ludlow's Doctors' Surgeries	Station Drive Portcullis	872461 872939	
Craven Arms Medical Practice		01588 672309	
Police (non-emergency)	West Mercia Police	101	contactus@westmercia.police.uk
Voluntary Car Scheme (9.00am to 12 noon weekdays)	Craven Arms Good Neighbours	01588 673732	
<b><i>Clubs and Societies</i></b>			
Abdon Wildlife Group	Penny Unitt	01746 712530	t.unitt741@btinternet.com
Blue Hills Choir	Ros Crouch	841053	ros.crouch@gmail.com
Corvedale Artists	Juliet Hole Ann Hankinson	01299 832603 01584 841460	
Corvedale Badminton Club	Val Fotheringham	841331	
Corvedale Book Group	Cath Burley		cathburley@hotmail.com
Corvedale Choir	Ros Crouch	841053	ros.crouch@gmail.com
Corvedale Community Environmental Group	Rebecca Bull		peter17bull@btinternet.com
Corvedale & District Autumn Show	John Woodhouse	07980 207253	
Corvedale Folk Club	Ian Fotheringham	841331	
Corvedale Garden Group	Cath Burley		cathburley@hotmail.com
Corvedale Footpath Maintenance Group	Jenny Vine	841596	jcvedarwood@hotmail.co.uk
Munslow Parish Community Speed Watch	Rebecca Bull		peter17bull@btinternet.com
Diddlebury Dancing Group	Sally Woodhouse	841265/ 07813 019010	sallyewhome@yahoo.co.uk
Westhope Clover Club	Kath Woodhouse	841254	

*Continued...*

*Contact Numbers for Local Services*

(Phone numbers are on the 01584 exchange unless otherwise noted)

	Contact	Phone	Email
<b><i>Parish Clerks and Websites</i></b>			
Abdon & Heath Parish Council 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	01568 770741	diddleburypc@gmail.com
Munslow Parish Council Clerk	Clive Leworthy	07528 164345	munslowpcclerk@gmail.com
Diddlebury Parish Website:	www.diddleburyparish.co.uk		
Corvedale Google Group:	<p>This is a free service and issues purely local information such as road closures, flood warnings and so on to its members on an occasional basis. It also alerts members to new items appearing on the DPC website. If you would like to join this service, send an email to:  <b>Geoff Neden - gneden@googlemail.com</b></p>		

***Village Hall/Club Room Bookings***

Abdon Village Hall	Penny Unitt	01746 712530	t.unitt741@btinternet.com
Beambridge Club Room	Frances Sutton	841654	
Culmington Village Hall	Jeff Williams	07561 838271	culmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com
Diddlebury Village Hall	Sally Woodhouse	07375 326381	dvhallbookings@gmail.com
Diddlebury Village Hall website:	www.diddleburyvillagehall.org		
Diddlebury Church Room	Tonia Greene	841493	
Westhope Village Hall	Betty Manley	07860 447397/ 861617	mbm3049@icloud.com

***Children's and Youth Organisations***

Corvedale Brownies	Catherine Crowther	861276	
Corvedale Primary School	Jonathan Brough	841630	admin@corvedale.shropshire.sch.uk
Playgroup & Nursery	Colin Jones	841707/841630	

***Women's Institutes***

Diddlebury & Westhope WI	Jane Cockburn	841483	pmc1989@btinternet.com
Munslow WI	Jenny Rose	841251	gandjrose@mypostoffice.co.uk

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



# The Corvedale Group of Parishes

**ABDON - BROADSTONE - CULMINGTON - DIDDLEBURY - HOLDGATE - MUNSLOW - TUGFORD**

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Due to the lockdown there is a change to the pattern of services.

There will be a service of Holy Communion in one of the churches each Sunday at 9:45am:

**February 7th** Diddlebury

**February 14th** Holdgate

**February 21st** Culmington

**February 28th** Tugford

On **Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday)** there will be a service of Holy Communion at 7:30pm in Diddlebury Church.

If the coronavirus situation changes locally, we may have to cancel some or all of these services.

**To check that a service is happening and to book a place if you'd like to come, please contact Rev'd J Beesley (01584 841488 or email [revjbeesley@gmail.com](mailto:revjbeesley@gmail.com)). We have to keep a record of attendance for track-and-trace purposes.**

At 11am each Sunday there will be a service on Zoom – please email Rev'd J Beesley if you'd like the link to join these services – everyone is welcome, whether you have joined us before or not. We will continue to upload services to the Corvedale Churches' YouTube channel.

The churches will remain open daily for private prayer, except in the week following a service when we have to keep them closed. Again, this may have to be reviewed if the current restrictions are changed.

