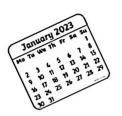


SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS

Feb 2023
Time and tide wait for no man





January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain,





Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes loud and sh

April brings the primrose sweet,

Scatters daisies at our feet.

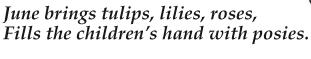
March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil.





May brings flocks of pretty lambs, Skipping by their fleecy dams.







Hot July brings cooling showers, Apricots and gillyflowers.

August brings the sheaves of corn, Then the Harvest home is borne.





Warm September brings the fruit, Sportsmen then begin to shoot.

Fresh October brings the pheasant; Then to gather nuts is pleasant.



Dull November brings the blast, Then the leaves are falling fast.



Chill December brings the sleet, Blazing fire and Christmas treat.

The Garden Year by Sara Coleridge

Lots of useful information this month

- 3. We need your help
- 5. BC Website
- 7. Ancient trees
- 9. My kind of clocks
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A belated happy new year from the SDN. I didn't have too much time on my hands this month so I thought I would write about time. Clocks have fascinated me although I never wear a watch. I seem quite good for getting a feel for what time it is whether I wake in the middle of the night or am working outside during the day.

or as Dr Zeus said

"How did it get so late so soon? Its night before its afternoon. December is here before its June. My goodness how the time has flewn. How did it get so late so soon?"

St. Luke's

The craft fair at Snailbeach Village Hall 24th November

St Luke's Snailbeach held a competition to name the Laura Ashley 'doorstop' in the shape of a fox, clutching a bottle of Prosecco.

The lucky winner was Mrs Sue Pinches of Stedment calling it 'Frinton'.

Thank you all for supporting us with £55 raised A date for your diary.

1st April 2023

Coffee morning at Snailbeach Village Hall in aid of church funds.

10.00am to midday

Allwelcome

Contact Joan Evans for details 01743 791374



Help for St Luke's

St. Luke's is a festival church which means that we have services on all the main church dates – Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas. We also still have services for baptisms; weddings; wedding blessings and funerals. We're a small congregation and willing but we would appreciate some help. There are three ways you could help:-

- 1. Would you be willing to help with mowing/strimming the graveyard at St. Luke's?
 - 2. Would you be willing to help with cleaning the church?
- 3. Would you be willing to help support us financially? This could be a one off donation or a regular amount. I know these are difficult times for us all but any help would be appreciated.

If you are able to help St Luke's in any way, please contact Rev Pam Bickley via email revpambickley@gmail.com or phone 07887 531174

We still need your support

Jack Foley wrote the article below in 1988.

We are still producing and distributing for free the Snailbeach District News 35 years later

We still rely on your support for advertising revenue, generous donations, news and interesting content, and deliveries.

The News is run as a non-registered charity, this is because our turn over is less than £5000. We still have certain obligations to ensure that we show transparency with our accounts and so that we can apply for grant funding should any become available.

To this end we need an Annual General Meeting, this year's was poorly advertised and consequently poorly attended and was not guorate.

We are holding another meeting Monday 20th February 7.30pm at the Stiperstones Inn.....we hope that a few more of our volunteers, supporters or advertisers can attend to keep our affairs in order.

Kind donations from Tankerville Pottery, Pat Carr and Nipstone Campsite

ISSUE NO. 8

JANUARY 1988

EDITOR: J A FOLEY

As we set off into the New Year it seems a good time to look back to our first issue in June. At the time we had no real idea of the reception that the Newsletter would receive. Since then we have been bowled over by the interest shown by you all, interest that has been expressed in the form of items for publication, donations to meet the cost of production and verbal messages of encouragement and appreciation.

In 1988 our continued success in turning out a Newsletter that retains its interest depends on yourselves, in that local news and articles about local events, past, present and future, can only come from local people. So do try to send in as much as possible, bearing in mind that the Editor will straighten out any hiccups in the spelling etc. if necessary. Closing date for copy is the 15th of each month.

The Newsletter has managed to stay solvent almost entirely on the donations received from our readers. That has been a source of great encouragement and we thank everyone who has contributed. Again, the survival of the paper depends on these donations, so do please keep the funds coming in.

Eastridge Woods Survey

By the time we go to press the results of the Eastridge Woods survey will have been discussed at the Village Hall. You can view all the results at https://www.forestryengland.uk/eastridge-woods-

Forestry Commission

Eastridge Wood

welcome in the wood

If you have driven here. First off home

to overnight Pathing or Camping

community-survey-results

Matthew Carr 29th September 1940 - 13th December 2022

Pat and family would like to thank everyone for the support, love and care shown to them in the last year, leading up to Matthew's passing in December.

Thank you for the attendance at Matthew's funeral and also at the evening wake 'with an Irish flavour' - if it were possible and Matthew was watching us - he at Snailbeach Village Hall. I am sure that would have loved it and would have been tapping his feet and singing his heart out.

Thanks also to Dr. Simon Nightingale - Humanist Celebrant - for the way he took his time to listen to my wishes, presiding over the service and giving us the opportunity to have a beautiful funeral enabling us to display our sadness but also to celebrate Matthews life. Our thanks also that Simon was happy to include, in fact suggested, that we have a special few moments to enable people of faith to pray.

Thank you to Lara and Philip for the beautiful Supper, and to Philip and Geoff for producing the order of service.

Thank you for the community spirit which was shown by our local residents who stayed until the end of the wake and then took over clearing tables, chairs and the general tidying of the Village Hall before we left. We are so privileged to belong to such a caring community. Thank you for your generous donations in Matthews memory which to date stands at £598.70p and will be shared between the two chosen charities Christie's Ovarian Cancer Fund and Dementia UK.

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings. Janus presided over doors and gates, which feels appropriate for the new year. He is often depicted with two faces - one looking forward and the other looking backward. Notably, January was the last month to be added to the calendar, which originally had ten months and began in March.



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Successful showcase of stunning new visitor website

Enterprise House launched its impressive new visitor website, www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk, at a showcase event on 16th January which saw members of businesses and organisations from across the area come together for its unveiling. Those present had the opportunity to view the website's stunning images, fantastic films and comprehensive content all aimed at boosting awareness of all the area has to offer and enticing visitors to the area. Bishop's Castle and Beyond is ready to inspire visitors who can start planning their next trip today using their own bespoke itinerary planner.

Along with attracting new and return visitors to the area, the comprehensive website is also an opportunity for the many independent businesses, attractions and locations throughout South West Shropshire to be seen like never before.

The Bishop's Castle and Beyond project delivered by Enterprise South West Shropshire, in partnership with Bishop's Castle & Clun Tourism Group, has been funded by Shropshire Council's Economic Recovery Programme, and was a truly collaborative project involving a wide range of local businesses in the project development and delivery. Any business wanting to find out more about listing on the site are invited to register or email info@bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk.



Enterprise House & The Web Orchard Project Team with Delia Yapp from Shropshire Council.



Polly Owen from Enterprise House with Local Councillors; Heather Kidd and Ruth Houghton, and Delia Yapp from Shropshire Council



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February is named after a Roman purification festival called februa, which occurred around the fifteenth of this month. Februa literally means "month of cleansing" – a fitting title considering that February was once the last month of the year. Much like the New Year's Resolutions of today, a "month of cleansing" seems like a good way to say goodbye to the old and usher in the new.



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Ancient woodland restoration in the Shropshire Hills

Ancient woods are some of our most valuable habitats. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms. Birds and mammals, including vulnerable and threatened species, also rely on ancient woodlands.



Around 5% of the Shropshire Hills AONB is classed as ancient woodland, but two thirds of this is Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These are ancient woodlands which have been largely felled and replanted with non-native species. Although damaged, these sites still have the complex soil of ancient woodland and can be restored with careful management.

PAWS woodlands in the Shropshire Hills are mostly conifer trees which are now mature. These may have value when extracted, while also restoring the woodland to a more natural state. In partnership with the Woodland Trust, we have secured funding from the Forestry Commission to work with woodland owners to actively restore PAWS and ancient semi-natural woodlands in the AONB.

The Ancient Woodland Restoration Project will identify priority and at-risk woodlands in the Shropshire Hills and engage with their owners, offering advice and condition assessments, fund practical management and support woodland products or timber marketing/sales. The project is intended to be at no cost to woodland owners and easy to access with minimal paperwork.

If you own woodland in the Shropshire Hills, you can check whether it is classed as ancient or PAWS by looking on the online Ancient Woodland Inventory. There is a link to it, along with more information about the project on our website at The AONB's ancient woods are some of our most valuable natural assets. (shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

To register your interest in the project as a woodland owner, please email our Natural Environment Officers mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk, or Rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk.



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SJP Approved 25/11/2022

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My kind of clock

An automaton clock or automata clock is a type of striking clock featuring automatons. Clocks like these were built from the 1st century BC through to Victorian times in Europe. A Cuckoo clock is a simple form of this type of clock.

The first known mention is of those created by the

Roman engineer Vitruvius, describing early alarm clocks working with gongs or trumpets. Later automatons usually perform on the hour, half-hour or quarter-hour, usually to strike bells. Common

figures in older clocks include Death (as a reference to human mortality), Old Father Time, saints and angels. In the Regency and Victorian eras, common figures also included royalty, famous composers or industrialists.

More recently constructed automaton clocks are widespread in Japan, where they are known as karakuri-dokei. Notable examples of such clocks include the Nittele Ōdokei, designed by Hayao Miyazaki to be affixed on the Nippon Television headquarters in Tokyo, touted to be the largest animated clock in the world. In the United Kingdom, Kit Williams produced a series of large automaton

clocks for a handful of British shopping centres, featuring frogs, ducks and fish. (from Wikipeadia)



I love these clocks and if any one is with me they have to wait to watch the different characters appear. Telford Centre has one of Kit Williams's clocks with a large frog.and Wells Cathedral clock is beautiful with the moons and stars and jousting knights.

I can remember 'Guiness Clocks' with their famous toucan and whole zoo of mechanical animals. These clocks toured the seaside towns of Britain during the 50's and 60's and one was even sent to the USA.

My favourite though is in Berlin. The clock is made of a series of globes which fill and empty with coloured water. I made a group of students wait for twenty minutes until the hour was reached to see the animation at its best – they didn't seem as impressed as I expected.





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March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. In ancient Rome, war was ceased during the time of celebration between the old and new year. Since March was the earliest part of the year when the weather was mild enough to begin waging war again, it was originally the first month.





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Small grants available for projects relating to the Shropshire Hills landscape and its conservation.

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund is open for applications.

The Fund supports projects to deliver practical conservation work in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and/or involve young people in activities relating to the conservation of the area.

Last year, over £12,000 was awarded to eight local projects, including heathland restoration, rejuvenating black poplar trees, which are nationally rare and have a stronghold in the Shropshire Hills, supporting 2 local Community Wildlife Groups taking action to improve the breeding success of curlew, and funding hedge laying courses in the parish of Clee St Margaret.

This round of funding is for projects starting in April 2023, and must be completed by 31st March 2024. Grant awards range from £500 up to £2,000, and project can be up to 75% grant funded – the remainder can be made up of in kind and volunteer time contributions as match funding, as well as cash.

Deadline for project ideas is 20th February 2023, and full application 13th March 2023.

For more information visit our website <u>Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation</u> <u>Fund</u> or contact Stephanie Hayes, 01743 254746 or email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk

PONTESBURY GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Nothing says that it is the new year more than the garden waking up into growth and the Trading Post re-opening to provide local gardeners with the materials that they will need; we open on Saturday 4 February. We are situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and are open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon, from now until the end of October.

Our new stock of seed potatoes is available and details of the varieties are on our Facebook page. There are also pea, bean and beetroot seeds, onion and shallot sets, as well as plenty of

all the other materials that you will need to get sowing and growing. The bulk delivery of multi-purpose potting compost has arrived and the usual offer of a reduced price for three bags is in place; we also have peat-free multi-purpose compost but this isn't on special offer due to the ongoing difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies. As usual there will be people on hand to help carry the heavy stuff to your car.



Some dates for your diary:

7 March: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall 18 May: Spring into the Garden, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall

26 August: Annual Show, 2.30 pm in the Public Hall

A reminder: subscriptions for 2023 are now due: they are still £2 for the year, or £1 if you are retired.



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Here are a few different theories about where April gets its name. Some believe that April is derived from the Latin base apero – meaning "second" – because it was once the second month of the year. Others say it comes from another Latin word, aperire, which means "to open" and is suggestive of the opening of buds and flowers during springtime. Still others claim that April was named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, beauty, and procreation.



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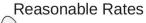
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NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill



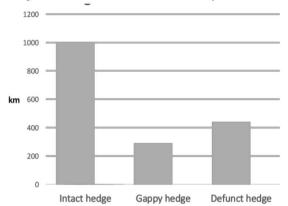
We have had some cracking weather up on the Stiperstones recently, as I drive to work from lower elevations which are shrouded in fog, I come up hill and emerge out of the damp mist and into bright sunshine. This is my favourite time to be on the hill, looking down on a white sea of cloud with just hilltops like the Wrekin poking up out of it like desert islands. I am always surprised that more people are not up here too, enjoying the sunshine, but I guess they look out of the window at home and see the fog and think it's not a good day for going out.

These hilltops showing through the blanket of fog look like stepping stones particularly across the Onny Valley to the Long Mynd and they show to me where is the potential for upland habitat to be created, which could act as real stepping stones for our wildlife to spread across this landscape. If only all those tops merging from the mist were covered in heather linking up the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd.

The Stepping Stones project, headed up by the National Trust, is all about re-creating these wildlife corridors and habitat stepping stones in this part of the Shropshire Hills. One of their big projects this winter is to plant lots of hedges. Hedgerows are a key feature of the



Shropshire Hills landscape but have been, and still are, disappearing at an alarming rate. They are not generally being removed through digging them up, but through no longer being valued and so not being maintained as either stock proof barriers or wildlife havens.



During lockdown I set myself the task of mapping all of the hedgerows in the Stepping Stones project area from aerial photography. From the results I found that nearly half of the hedgerows were either classed as gappy or completely defunct. Although the other half were classed as intact, if they were looked at from the ground many of them would be tightly trimmed, single species hedgerows, little use as shelter for grazing animals or wildlife and trimmed so tightly in autumn that they would bear no berries to feed out winter birds.

Some species of bird like the yellowhammer, our hedgerow canary, have been shown to benefit greatly from thick hedges in which it can find enough protection to nest. This farmland bird is indeed our canary in the coalmine and is on the red list of birds of high conservation concern in the UK due to its breeding population having declined by more than 50% over the last 25 years. Hedgerows are not the only reason for their decline, but their proper maintenance would go a long way to helping them recover.

If you would like to help to plant some hedgerows in the area, get in touch with the Stepping Stones project at john.adams@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Yellowhammer

Feb 2023

13

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May is named for the Greek goddess Maia. She had a son, Hermes, with the god Zeus, and she was an earth goddess and a goddess of growth, which explains her connection to this springtime month.



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<u>February Parish Magazine Article</u> <u>Philip Dunne MP</u>

Local planning issues often fill my postbag and can be a source of significant concern to local residents affected by an application and rightly so.



Planning issues are at the heart of our communities, permitting the very homes we live in, the schools our children go to, the hospital we visit and the roads that take us there. That is why reforming the way our outdated and bureaucratic planning system works is so important. Many people complain to me that it is not currently delivering for the people locally that use it or the communities that need good homes to live in.

Most people recognise that we need to build more houses, especially affordable homes, across the country. In Shropshire sadly many young families are forced into renting for longer than they want to and struggle to find suitable homes when they can afford a mortgage. But that also means we need to build the right homes in the right places.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which finished its passage through the Commons before Christmas, recognises that it is communities themselves who are best placed to make decisions on local development. The Bill will modernise the planning system for the 21st century and give residents a louder voice to ensure that development reflects community preferences. Under the reformed system, local plans will be given more weight and the plan making process will be sped up.

This will not only give communities like ours in South Shropshire more certainty that the right homes will be built in the right places but will also give more assurance that areas of environmental importance will be respected in decisions on planning applications and appeals and crucially, will remove centrally imposed house building targets.

The legislation puts communities at its heart. It will introduce a requirement for local planning authorities to produce design codes for their areas, which will have full weight in planning decision making. Digitising the planning system will make it easier for communities to access the system and help groups typically underrepresented in planning decisions to make their voices heard in their area. This compliments ongoing pilots which are testing new digital initiatives, such as online 3D maps and QR code systems to enable residents to interact with the system in new ways.

A new Infrastructure Levy will also be introduced to help fund the schools, GP surgeries and road improvements needed, which has been a regular concern in local planning applications in South Shropshire. The levy will be set locally to allow Shropshire Council to tailor it to our local circumstances. There will be a consultation on the workings of this new levy, which I was pleased to have confirmed will also be available to ensure water supply and treatment improvements can benefit.

The Government remains wholeheartedly committed to the benefits of neighbourhood planning. The new Bill will strengthen neighbourhood planning and give these plans greater weight in planning decisions. The legislation will also help even more people to get involved in neighbourhood planning by introducing a new tool for parish councils and neighbourhood forums called a neighbourhood priorities statement. This will allow communities to identify priorities and preferences for their area which the local authority will be obliged to take into account when preparing its local plan.

It is our neighbourhoods that feel the impact of planning most immediately. I am hopeful that these reforms will genuinely empower people from all backgrounds to get more involved in decisions that shape where we live.

Obituary Matthew Dion Carr

Shortly before Christmas Snailbeach lost a celebrity and one of those larger than life characters. Matthew Dion Carr, Matt to many of us, sadly died in the Radbrook Nursing Home on December 13th. Matt came into our lives over 40 years ago when he began courting his future wife, Pat. Matt was not the sort of person the village was used to and some tongues started wagging; "Who was this fella that 'Pat' is seeing? He was wild-looking, bearded, with long hair, rocking double denim and talking with a funny accent. That however was not the worst of it, He couldn't lay a brick, dig a hole, wire a plug, or kick a football. What was Pat doing?" In the early days Pat would ask Matt to park at the bottom of 'Clink' to stem the gossip. It was not long though before Matt had endeared himself to family and friends with his soft Irish brogue and smart wit.



Matt in uniform with his grandfather's medals

Matt was living in Telford at the time' having separated from his first wife Sue and their two children Sarah and Rebecca but Matt was no stranger to living in a rural setting. Born in the small village of Kilkeel, in the 'Kingdom of Mourne' County Down, Northern Ireland.

Matt and his younger sister Julie. were raised by his mother and Grandparents Alice and Robert Scott in Ballinran . He was only 15 months old when his parents separated but he formed a very special bond with his grand parents. He was always very proud of his Grandad who had earned the Victoria Cross while fighting in South Africa. Private Robert Scott and private James Pitt of the Manchester Regiment had held their dugout without food or drink for 15 hours while under heavy fire from the Boers. They were both awarded this most prestigious of medals by Lord Kitchener

himself. Matt's grand father was later to serve in the RAF and be awarded the DSM during the Second World War and this was to inspire Matthew to enter the service as soon as he could. It seems he was quite a naughty boy, relating how being sent to school wearing bottle green knee length trousers with a dark brown balaclava hat which he hated. Granny had lovingly knitted the hat with a peak reinforced with cardboard from a Kelloggs Cornflakes box. He remembered trying to rip it up, not an easy thing to do. He also recalled being involved with playing with matches with his friend Robbie Hannah and setting fire to the school wood store. He also talked of Julie sitting on him when they were children and his revenge was to tie her to a tree and then he went and made a bow and arrow within her sight. He took aim and shot her and he became very alarmed when the arrow actually stuck in her chest. He believed he was punished for this by being locked in the outhouse for the night by Grandad.

Matt joined the Royal Air force as a boy entrant and was stationed at RAF Cosford for 2 years. He used his time wisely and qualified as an Air Wireless Technician serving from 1955 -1970. The Air force enabled him to travel to Singapore, Ceylon , Goose Bay (Labrador, Newfoundland) and Germany.

His mum Betty re-married in 1950's to John (Jack) Donaldson McCombe . They had two children Ellen and John. Matt and Julie really loved their relationship with Stepfather Jack who had taken them both on as young teenagers.

Although Matthew loved Snailbeach and Shropshire for the 43 years he lived there, the Mountains of Mourne were always in his heart and he said that he felt as if he was going home whenever he was going to Ireland. His Irish accent would always strengthen the minute he got onto the Irish Ferries heading for 'Home'.

Matt was in Rock and Country Music Bands for most of his life. In the 1960's 'The James Boys' of

Wolverhampton and 'The Inn Crowd' Londonderry. He took a break for a few years and then went back to singing with 'Sailplane', 'Indiana Rain' and also sang with 'Tom and Chrissy Argyle' and and their boys Sean and Paul.

Pat and Matt were married at Bishops' Castle in 1982. Pat's children remember travelling there in An Old Humber Sceptre, which Matt had taken upon himself to hand paint, Blancmange Pink and Brown. Pat and their children were soon involved in Matt's music and his hobby, video. He had always loved cameras and had worked in Dixon's for a short time. He was one of the first people in Snailbeach to have a Video Camera and took to recording Weddings officially and family parties unofficially where the accursed camera would appear like Rod Hull's emu to record an embarrassing moment. However the batteries on these early camera's were very small and so he made a connection with a long lead from his camera to a motorbike battery and Pat remembers trailing along behind him carrying the heavy battery in a posh leather case.

Matt soon became well known locally as he got a job in Minsterley as one of the local postmen. He loved that job, back then there was a lot less pressure on the Postie and he would spend the days nattering to people, enjoying cooked breakfasts and cups of coffee at various people's homes, and a small sherry by the side of the Aga at the Stiperstones Inn.

In 1985 after watching and being touched by Live Aid, Matt decided to organise a Country Music Live Aid event at the Ice rink in Telford. A mixture of country music 'for one night only'. Back then he was fairly unknown, but he sorted the venue and bands and raised plenty of money for charity. Off the back of this, he was interviewed by the BBC, and some switched-on producers recognising that they had uncovered somebody very precious and talented. The following week, they offered him a job and Matt began his Monday night Show 'Music with a Country Flavour' on BBC Radio Shropshire.

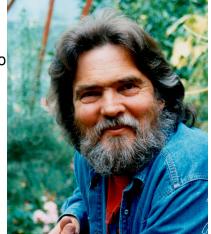
It wasn't long before his Country show was rolled out across all the local BBC stations and Matt was offered the Saturday and Sunday Morning slots too. He dreamt up the Wrekin Wrangler 'the hardest quiz on your Wireless' and he regaled his listeners with stories and risqué jokes that often left the BBC producers worried for their jobs.

During his time at Radio Shropshire Matt interviewed many famous people including Robin Knox Johnson who rowed the Atlantic Single handed. Cynthia Payne (Madam Cyn) who joked that she would rather give a man bacon and eggs than any sexual services. PJ Proby. Ken Bruce, Ken Hom and The Green Goddess, Diana Mirren also shared Matt's humour across the airwayes.

Matt achieved 26 years on the BBC, and along with Pat was invited to Buckingham Palace for his achievements.

Matt and Pat were great travellers despite Matt's refusal to fly on commercial airlines, believing they were not maintained to RAF standards. They covered the length and breadth of Britain and

Ireland in a variety of camper vans, coach toured around Europe and cruised the Mediterranean and the Rhine. In later years Matt's illnesses, parkinsonism and COPD restricted their travelling until eventually Matt was admitted to hospital and then the nursing home in which he died. Matt was always the wordsmith and remained so to the end. He was visited daily by Pat, Helen, Robert and his daughter by his first marriage, Sarah, and by some of his many friends, still discussing music, photography, past memories and news from the Daily Mail. Loved by his children and adored by his wife he will be sadly missed.



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June is named after Juno, the wife of Jupiter and queen of the gods. Juno was the patroness of childbirth and marriage, which is fitting for what has long been the most popular month for weddings.



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July was the birth month of Julius Caesar, for whom the month was renamed following his death in 44 B.C. Previously, July was called "Quintilis," which is Latin for "fifth" and referred to the fact that, with the calendar year beginning in March, July was the fifth month. July was also the first month to be named after a real person, rather than a Roman or Greek deity.



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Team details

Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt 0640 Jenni Price
Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 3331 Stuart Coote
Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 21056 Matt Howell
Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss
Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown

Team Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

West Mercia Police contact numbers

Emergency: 999 Non Emergency: 101

Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting): 101, Extension 7704901

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

Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111 **Website:** www.westmercia.police.uk

Twitter: @SouthShropCops

Facebook: Bishop's Castle Policing Team Rural Watch



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

16th December 2022 - 16th January 2023

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Suspicious Circumstances - Vehicle fire	Toyota RAV 4 set alight after trespassing on land and becoming stuck. Vehicle had been witnessed driving on land around Bishop's Castle prior to the fire	Marrington, Chirbury	Occurred late evening 1st January. Vehicle believed to be used by a Welsh gang involved in poaching and hunting mammals (Hare's) with dogs. Liaison with Dyfed Powys Rural Crime Team
Criminal damage	Damage caused by guests at local hotel	Bromlow	
Assault		Worthen	
Harassment		Pennerley	
Criminal damage	Domestic related	Worthen	
Harassment		Snailbeach	
Harassment		Worthen	
Burglary	Honda TRX 520 quad, 1 Stihl chainsaws and 2 Husqvarna chainsaws stolen from farm outbuildings	Grimmer, Minsterley	Occurred between 00:00 – 08:00 13 th January 2023
Burglary	Farm outbuilding entered and Honda TRX 420 quadbike stolen	Grimmer, Minsterley	Occurred between 00:00 – 07:30 13 th January 2023. Neighbouring property of the above burglary
Assault		Leigh	
Livestock attack	Ewes chased by a dog resulting in death or complications with lambing	Hemford	Believed to have occurred on a number of occasions in the last month. Enquires ongoing to identify the dog owner

Burglaries and thefts

The last month has seen some further reports of burglaries and thefts in the area where quad bikes and Land Rover Defenders have been targeted.

During the early hours of 31st December 2022 a Land Rover Defender 90 was stolen from a drive in Bishop's Castle.

Offenders have entered the vehicle without a key and pushed it off the drive, they have then bump started it by pushing it down a bank. The offenders are believed to be a gang from the West Midlands area, enquires are ongoing and proactive work is being undertaken to target the offenders.

In the early hours of the 13th January, two neighbouring farms on the outskirts of Minsterley were targeted and two Honda quad bikes were stolen from outbuildings. An investigation is still underway by the Serious Acquisitive crime team based at Shrewsbury Police Station around thefts of quads and plant machinery within Shropshire.





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August is the only other month named after a historical figure – Augustus Caesar, who was the nephew of Julius Caesar and the first emperor of Rome. Much like July, August was previously called "Sextilius," meaning – you guessed it – "sixth." It was Emperor Augustus' legacy which eventually gave rise to the adjective august, meaning "respected and impressive." Additionally, July and August were both allotted thirty-one days to reflect the importance of the leaders that they represented.



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A medium and a tricky puzzle today

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Si	ido	ku

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	4				1			
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						5		8



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3			7			1	6	
		5			6	7		
	6						4	
		3	2			5		
	3	7			8			2
			3				1	
2				5			8	

It is about time you knew this Science of timekeeping

The science of timekeeping is known as horology.

Easter celebration date
Easter is normally celebrated on
the first Sunday after the first full
moon that occurs on or after the
Spring Equinox.

Light year

Contrary to popular belief, a light year is not a unit of time but a unit of distance. The International Astronomical Union defines a light year as the distance light travels in a vacuum in one Julian Year. In astronomy, a Julian Year corresponds to exactly 365.25 days.

A New York minute

The phrase in a New York minute refers to a very short period of time or an instant. Legend has it that the phrase originated in Texas in the late 1960s. The phrase was popularized by TV personality Johnny Carson who joked that a New York minute was the time between a traffic light turning green and the car behind one's car honking.

A Jiffy

Jiffy is usually used to indicate a very short period of time, but it is formally defined in the fields of Physics and Chemistry as the time required for light to travel a centimeter. Also known as a light centimeter, a jiffy is equal to about 33.3564 picoseconds.

Friday 13th frequency
Any month in the Gregorian
Calendar that begins on a Sunday
will have a Friday, the 13th, and
there is at least one Friday the 13th
in every year. A single calendar
year can have up to 3 Friday the
13ths.

Most frequent nouns
According to the Oxford English
Dictionary, time is the most
frequently used noun in the English
language.

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heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk Facebook: Heather Kidd www.heatherkidd.org.uk BISHOPS CASTLE HOSPITAL. Working with the health and hospital authorities, Cllrs Ruth Houghton, Nigel Hartin and I are arranging a public meeting about the future of Bishops Castle Hospital. It will be held on 1st March 2023 at the Methodist Hall in Station Street, Bishops Castle and will have senior officers from the hospital in attendance. There will be two sessions – one in the afternoon and another in the early evening. I will circulate the precise details well in advance. Your views will be vital.

SUPPORT. The poor weather and the cost-of-living crisis have combined to give many a tough time over the Christmas period. If you are struggling to pay bills in the new year do get in touch, I know of many agencies and voluntary groups that may be able to help.

Two key sources of help in our area are:

i. The foodbanks in Pontesbury and Bishop's Castle. You can contact BC direct on 07549 127071 or bishopscastlefoodbank@gmail.com but need to be referred to Pontesbury. Drop me a line if you do.

li The South Shropshire Furniture Scheme. They can provide furniture (including white goods) free or at reduced prices if you are struggling. Call 01584 877788

SALT BINS. If your local bin has been emptied during the recent harsh weather drop me a line and I'll ask to get it refilled.

WASTE COLLECTION. Veolia have made a shambles of waste collection reorganisation use of the new purple bins in parts of our area.

If you are still having collections missed or your purple bin is yet to arrive report this to Customer Services at Shropshire Council but also email/ring me/ message me.

Heather

Key Phone Numbers

NHS Help 111 Worthen Medical

01743 891 401

Pontesbury Medical

01743 790 325

Shropshire Council

0345 678 9000

Care in the Community

0121 318 5138

Citizen's Advice

0344 499 1100

Rural Support

0300 123 2825

Age Concern 01743 233 123

Samaritans (Free)

116 123

Western Power

(Power Cut) 105

Severn Trent (emergency)

0800 783 4444

British Gas

0800 111 999

Universal Credit

0800 328 5644

Child Benefit

0300 200 3100

Pensions

0800 731 0469

HMRC Covid 19 support

0800 024 1222

Care in the Community 0121 318 5138

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Board Games Night 7.30pm Monday 13th Fabruary

Big Money Bingo 7.30pm Monday 27th February

Big Money Bingo 8.00pm Monday 6th March

Board Games Night 7.30pm Monday 13th March

Big Money Bingo 7.30pm Monday 27th March

Tel. 01743 791 327 to book!

The Dawdle or Dash

A big thank you to everybody who helped make it such as great day. Just like old times. Congratulation to Callum Mitchelmore who won the event and to Sara Willhoit of Mercia who set a new womens record. It was great to see so many junior women taking part with four under eighteen girls finishing in less than 30 mins, Bethany Trow, Mackenzie McCourt, Maggie Preece and Chloe Stuart.

Youngster Liam Bennett just beat veteran Graham Chidley to be first local and our green goddess Sally Tonge was first lady.

Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised £830 which was shared with Lingen Davies and Severn Hospice.



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September, October, November, and December come from the Latin words septem, octo, novem, and decem, meaning "seventh," "eighth," "ninth," and "tenth." Though their root meanings now make them feel out of place in the calendar year, prior to the addition of January and February, they were indeed the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months.





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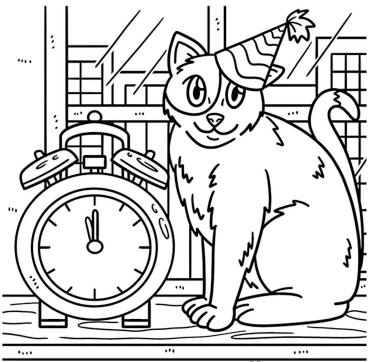
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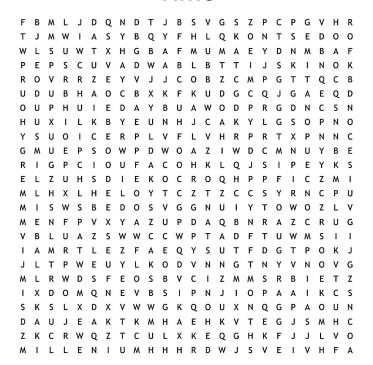
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Time



age	backwards	calender	century
clock	day	decades	hour
instant	millenium	minute	months
once upon a time	past	precious	second
stopwatch	travel	weeks	years

From WordMint

I downloaded a colander app instead of a calendar and now my battery keeps draining.

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 24 days.

A friend got fired from his job at a calendar factory. All he did was take a day off .

On the 13th day of the 13th month I realised I'm never going to buy a cheap calendar again.

My calendar won't last long. It's days are numbered.

Someone has removed the fifth month from all of my calendars. I'm dismayed.

Finally realised my calendar was printed upside down. Then we had an interesting turn of events.

My calendar only has dates like the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th. It's very odd.

A stationery store was broken into. Box files, wall calendars and appointment diaries were stolen.

Police suspect highly organised crime.

Someone stole my calendar. Bad news for them... They have to attend my mother-in-law's party next weekend.

552/553 Bishops Castle Stiperstones Shrewsbury Monday - Friday

								000000000000000000000000000000000000000										
Notes (SCH - School Days Only)			scн		scн													
Bishops Castle, opp Boars Head				07:30				09:40			12:20		13:30			15:40		
Bishops Castle Salop Street Jct				07:32				09:42			12:22		13:32			15:42		
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct				07:36				09:46			12:26		13:36			15:46		
Llan Turn Jct				07:40				09:50			12:30		13:40			15:50		
White Grit, Jct				07:44				09:54			12:34		13:44			15:54		
Gravels				07:47				09:57			12:37		13:47			15:57		
Норе				07:50				10:00			12:40		13:50			16:00		
Stiperstones, opp Pub	06:50	07:20	07:50		08:23				11:15					14:35			16:50	
Snailbeach, Village Hall	06:54	07:24	07:54		08:27				11:19					14:39			16:54	
Plox Green, Crossroads	06:56	07:26	07:56	07:56	08:30			10:06	11:21	11:55	12:46	13:05	13:56	14:41		16:06	16:53	
Minsterley, opp crown & sceptre	06:58	07:28	07:58	07:58	08:33	08:50	09:25	10:08	11:23	11:57	12:48	13:07	13:58	14:43	15:10	16:08	16:58	17:35
Pontesbury, Hall Bank	07:03	07:33	08:03	08:03	08:37	08:55	09:30	10:13	11:28	12:02	12:53	13:12	14:03	14:48	15:15	16:13	17:03	17:40
Mary Webb					08:40										15:26 SCH			
Lea Cross, Opp Jct	07:08	07:38	08:08	08:08		09:00	09:35	10:18	11:33	12:07	12:58	13:17	14:08	14:53	15:30	16:18	17:08	17:45
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:11	07:41	08:11	08:11		09:03	09:38	10:21	11:36	12:10	13:01	13:20	14:11	14:56	15:33	16:21	17:11	17:48
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:13	07:43	08:13	08:13		09:05	09:40	10:23	11:38	12:12	13:03	13:22	14:13	14:58	15:35	16:23	17:13	17:50
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:18		08:18							12:17					15:40			
Shrewsbury Hospital		07:48		08:18		09:10	09:45	10:28	11:43		13:08	13:27	14:18	15:03		16:28	17:18	17:55
Copthorne Rd, adj Barracks	07:23	07:53	08:23	08:23		09:15	09:50	10:33	11:48	12:22	13:13	13:32	14:23	15:08	15:45	16:33	17:23	18:00
Bus Station Stand N	07:30	08:00	08:30	08:30		09:22	09:57	10:40	11:55	12:29	13:20	13:39	14:30	15:15	15:52	16:40	17:30	18:07

Notes (SCH - School									-		_							
Days Only)												SCH			SCH			
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:25	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:35		15:45	16:25	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:10
Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:32	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:42		15:52	16:32	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:17
Shrewsbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12			15:57	16:37		17:12	17:52	
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:47	08:22				11:12					14:47				16:37			18:22
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:42	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	14:52		16:02	16:42	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:27
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:44	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:19	14:54		16:04	16:44	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:29
Lea Cross, adj Jct	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:47	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	14:57		16:07	16:47	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:32
Mary Webb		08:36 SCH										15:20						
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:38	09:18	10:33	10:53	11:28	12:28	12:58	13:58	14:28	15:03	15:21	16:13	16:53	16:53	17:28	18:08	18:38
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre	08:07	08:42	09:22	10:37	10:57	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:07	15:27	16:17	16:57	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:42
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	10:59	11:34	12:34	13:04	14:04	14:34		15:29	16:19	16.59	16:59		18:14	18:44
Snailbeach, Village Hall					11:01				14:06			15:32	16:21		17:01			18:46
Stiperstones, adj Pub					11:05				14:10			15:35	16:25		17:05			18:50
Норе	08:15			10:45			12:40			14:40				17:05			18:20	
Gravels	08:19			10:49			12:44			14:44				17:09			18:24	
White Grit, Jct	08:23			10:53			12:48			14:48				17:13			18:28	
Llan Turn Jct	08:27			10:57			12:52			14:52				17:17			18:32	
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct	08:31			11:01			12:56			14:56				17:21			18:36	
Bishops Castle Salop Street jct	08:33			11:03			12:58			14:58				17:23			18:38	
Bishops Castle, adj Boars Head	08:35			11:05			13:00			15:00				17:25			18:40	

From 6th January 2020

552/553 Saturday

					atur	uay			
	07:30		09:30		12:15			15:50	
	07:32		09:32		12:17			15:52	
	07:36		09:36		12:21			15:56	
	07:40		09:40		12:25			16:00	
	07:44		09:44		12:29			16:04	
	07:47		09:47		12:32			16:07	
	07:50		09:50		12:35			16:10	
07:05		09:20					14:45		
07:09		09:24					14:49		
07:11	07:56	09:26	09:56	11:40	12:41	14:00	14:51	16:16	16:55
07:13	07:58	09:28	09:58	11:42	12:43	14:02	14:53	16:18	16:57
07:18	08:03	09:33	10:03	11:47	12:48	14:07	14:58	16:23	17:02
07:23	08:08	09:38	10:08	11:52	12:53	14:12	15:03	16:28	17:07
07:26	08:11	09:41	10:11	11:55	12:56	14:15	15:06	16:31	17:10
07:28	08:13	09:43	10:13	11:57	12:58	14:17	15:08	16:33	17:12
07.33	08:18	09:48	10:18	12:02	13:03	14:22	15:13	16:38	17:17
07:38	08:23	09:53	10:23	12:07	13:08	14:27	15:18	16:43	17:22
07:45	08:30	10:00	10:30	12:14	13:15	14:34	15:25	16:50	17:29
	20.05	10.05	10.15	10.00	10.15	44.45	15.10	47.00	17.10
08:00	08:35	10:05	10:45	12:30	13:45	14:45	15:40	17:00	17:40
08:07	08:42	10:12	10:52	12:37	13:52	14:52	15:47	17:07	17:47
08:12	08:47	10:17	10:57	12:42	13:57	14:57	15:52	17:12	17:52
08:17	08:52	10:22	11:02	12:47	14:02	15:02	15:57	17:17	17:57
08:19	08:54	10:24	11:04	12:49	14:04	15:04	15:59	17:19	17:59
08:22	08:57	10:27	11:07	12:52	14:07	15:07	16:02	17:22	18:02
08:28	09:03	10:33	11:13	12:58	14:13	15:13	16:08	17:28	18:08
08:32	09:07	10:37	11:17	13:02	14:17	15:17	16:12	17:32	18:12
08:34	09:09	10:39	11.21	13:04	14:19	15:19	16:16	17:38	18:14
	09:12				14:21			17:40	
	09:15				14:25			17:45	
08:40		10:45				15:25			18:20
08:44		10:49				15:29			18:24
08:48		10:53				15:33			18:28
08:52		10:57				15:37			18:32
08:56		11:01				15:41			18:36
08:58		11:03				15:43			18:38
09:00		11:05				15:45			18:40



	745 Mc	ndays and Frid	days
Pontesbury to Clu	ın 745 A		
Pontesbury Shop	08:50		L
Minsterley	08:55		C
Норе	09:00		L

Min Нор 09:03 Gravels White Grit 09:05 Lydham 09:10 09:15 09:20 Bishops Castle Colebatch Clun 09:30

Clun to Ludlow 745 B						
Clun	09:35					
Clunton	09:38					
Little Brampton	09:40					
Lydbury North	09:50					
Aston on Clun	10:03					
Long Meadowend	10:05					
Craven Arms	10:10					
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	10:25					

Does not run on Bank Holiday except Good Friday



Ludlow to Clun 745	В
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	13:15
Craven Arms	13:30
Long Meadowend	13:35
Aston on Clun	13:37
Lydbury North	13:50
Little Brampton	14:00
Clunton	14:02
Clun	14:05

Clun to Pontesbury 7	
Clun	14:10
Colebatch	14:20
Bishops Castle	14:25
Lydham	14:30
White Grit	14:35
Gravels	14:37
Норе	14:40
Minsterley	14:45
Pontesbury	14:50





775 Tuesdays only

Pontesbury to Bishops Castle 775 A		
Pontesbury Shop	09:30	
Minsterley	09:35	
Plox Green	09:38	
Норе	09:40	
Gravels	09:45	
White Grit	09:48	
Llan Turn	09:51	
Bromleys Mill	09:55	
Lydham	09:57	
Bishops Castle	10:00	

Bishops Castle to Newtown 775 B		
Bishops Castle	10:05	
Church Stoke	10:20	
Blue Bell	10:25	
Sarn	10:30	
Kerry	10:40	
Newtown	10:50	

Newtown to Bishops Castle 775 B		
Newtown	13:50	
Kerry	14:00	
Sarn	14:10	
Blue Bell	14:15	
Church Stoke	14:20	
Bishops Castle	14:35	

Bishops Castle to Pontesbury 775 A		
Bishops Castle	14:40	
Lydham	14:43	
Bromleys Mill	14:45	
Llan Turn	14:49	
White Grit	14:52	
Gravels	14:55	
Норе	15:00	
Plox Green	15:02	
Minsterley	15:05	
Pontesbury	15:10	



Telephone 01743 791208

Stiperstones Carol Singers

I would like to extend a massive thank-you to the residents of the Stiperstones for their generous donations during our carol singing evening. We raised approximately £216.58 on the night and additional donations raised the total to £312.00, for The Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal. Special thanks to Malcolm & Lorna (the best mince pies thanks Lorna), Helen & Tom, Mary & Barry and John & Elspeth for their kind hospitality which was very greatly received. Sorry that Malcolm couldn't join ús due to Doreen's illness, I hope she is better soon and thank you for the goodies that you passed to Elspeth.

We all had a lovely night, the weather was kind to us for a change, hopefully we will see you all next year to do it all again.

Wendy Whitelaw and carol singers.

.ingen Davies Showdrop at Winsley Hall Westbury SY5 9HB Come Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th February 2023 £5 Adults Children Free Refreshments available 10.30am - 4pm Dogs on leads welcome For further information please contact the dinate Fundraising Office on 01743 492396 We exist to make a positive difference to lives affected by cancer in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin & Mid Wales
Davies Cancer Fund CIO Registered Charity Number 1160

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped, donated and supported at our Christmas Coffee Morning, Bingo evening and Wednesday cake sales at the Village Hall Café in aid of Hospice at Home.

A big thank you must also go to the following businesses who kindly donated prizes for a raffle

Efes

Claires Flower shop Double Vision Cakes

Tanners Wines

Laurens Soap Shack Stiperstones Inn Severn Hospice
One Thousand, Six Hundred & Thirty
Five Pounds.

Cutrecard of Memorarous Associator to

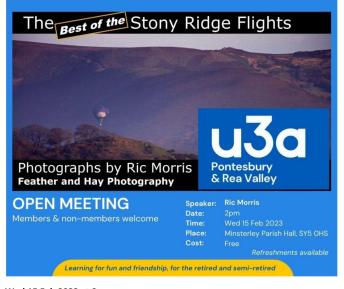
Debbie Davies

20/12/2022

A fantastic amount of £1635.00 has been taken into Hospice at Home. This is such an overwhelming amount which we couldn't believe we raised.

This is a charity which is very close to us as a family as they cared for both John Bennett and John Davies to enable them both to have there final days at home, to which we were very grateful. Thank you all once again.

Janet, Debbie and Clare



Wed 15 Feb 2023 at 2pm Minsterley Parish Hall

Join Ric Morris with Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a at 2pm on Wednesday 15 February 2023, at Minsterley Parish Hall, at our next Open Meeting, for a feast of aerial photography of the Stiperstones area.

The show features rarely seen images captured from Espiritu hot air balloon flights during the early 2000s. We fly south from Plox Green along the Stiperstones ridge on an evening in late summer 2001 before doubling back on a second flight northwards from Linley Hill, in the crisp early morning light of spring 2004.

Our gorgeous Shropshire countryside and villages change subtly from season to season and from year to year, so as these are all photographs from around 20 years ago, why not spend an afternoon enjoying the landscape of our recent past from a whole new perspective!



The u3a is a charity that promotes lifelong learning across a wide range of activities and subjects and which fosters friendship and fun, open to anyone who is retired or not in full-time employment. Our Open meetings are available to both members and non-members alike. Please come and join us for a fascinating presentation.

For more information check our website: u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley.