

SNAILBEACH DISTRICT NEWS FEBRUARY 2019

FREE!

PLANNING WARS

An emotive email about planning applications and how these can become divisive has been circulated by local councillor Heather Kidd.

In it she states: “Waging war on individuals, making an application personal helps no one and often divides communities. Shouting at people or threatening them will achieve nothing except bad feeling and long lasting ramifications in communities. They have no effect on Planners and their decisions.”



- **Heather’s plea: Page 11**



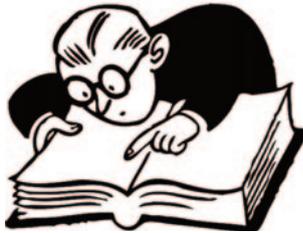
Return of the peregrine falcon

Natural England has reported sightings of peregrine falcons around the Stiperstones over the Christmas period.

The peregrine falcon has survived a government ordered cull in 1940 of some 600 birds, followed by the threat of DDT in pesticides in later years. Simon Cooter writes: “Since the ban of DDT in 1980 this remarkable bird has made an incredible recovery and is now widespread across the UK”

- **Simon Cooter: Page 27**





February

CONTENTS

All our usual features PLUS:

Record breaking Dash

Three records were broken in the 40th running of the Devil's Chair Dash and Dawdle on Boxing Day. Geoff Sproson reports.

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Christmas crackers

Three Christmas events in Stiperstones and Snailbeach raised thousands of pounds for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.

Pages 3, 9, 35

Climate change challenge

Mike Layward casts a critical eye over the zero carbon debate and challenges Government policy.

Page 9

Village Hall success

Maria Marks reviews another successful year, with news of rising bookings, new equipment and committee changes.

Page 19

Roman find at Snailbeach

What happened to a Roman lead ingot discovered adjacent to Snailbeach Farm in 1796? Nick Southwick reports.

Centre spread

Young at heart

Suzie Jackson, aged 11, launches a new page to be written and illustrated by our youngsters and writes about My Village.

Page 29

St Luke's alert

Under-threat St Luke's Church will be in focus at a vital meeting.

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Notes from THE EDITOR



I need some HELP! As the success of the SDN grows with each year, so the number of people wishing to advertise with us grows. It is these advertisers who buy space each year that enable us to print and distribute the SDN free of charge.

I need someone with a basic knowledge of Word documents and XL spreadsheets to volunteer to help me out with the advertising part of the SDN. The task involves creating and distributing annual invoices to our advertisers over July and August and then chasing up the odd 'reluctant' payer. All the templates for invoices and a spreadsheet are already in place and I will sit down with you to show you exactly how it all works. Please contact me by 'phone or email if you feel you can help. My contact details can be found on this page below Contents and also on the back page. Thank you.

Thanks to whoever left the items for publication at the Stiperstones Inn for me to collect. Unfortunately, for mainly technical reasons, I could only use the poem (Page 40).

Please remember that for me to include material (which is always welcome) it should be sent via email, as a Word document that I can edit, or as a PDF document. I can copy and type anything (well, almost anything!) that is handwritten or printed, and left with me at my house, or at the pub, but pieces of paper that include pictures, graphs and tables, etc. don't really work as I have to scan them to import them into my software and the result is, unfortunately, not usually of print quality.

If you need a hand or some advice on how to submit material for publication then either email me, or telephone me, and I'm sure I'll be able to help you. But *please*, do keep sending me material!

On the subject of material for publication, I've received a rather well written piece from eleven year old Suzie Jackson of Stiperstones which you can read on Page 29. In future I'd like to hand this page over to local children to make their own. So kids, send in your artwork, your articles, your stories, your photographs, whatever, and claim the page! There are only two rules... it has to be your own work (I'll sort out any spelling mistakes for you) and it has to be good! So get cracking and see your work in the pages of the SDN. Remember, the hard copy that gets delivered to your door is in black and white, but the version that will be uploaded to the SDN website at snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk will be in full colour! Parents, send in your children's creative pieces, whether they are five or fifteen. Let's see them here in the pages of the SDN.

Patrick Marks

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snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk

NEWSBRIEF



And the winners are...

From left to right: Dave and Sonja Crane, Greg and Margaret McCardell and Susan and Alastair Bates.

Yes folks, this is the winning team of the *Great 2018 Christmas Stiperstones Inn Quiz*. The grinning sextet (somewhat curiously called *The United Nations Stationery Cupboard Christmas Party - including Photo Copier*) walked away with the year's accumulated jackpot of just over £180, narrowly beating four other regular teams. Well done! (and see you next year for the return match - Ed.)

More UFOs over Shropshire?

NEW evidence has emerged of a UFO sighting over land surrounding the Stiperstones and the witness says he is now a believer. It follows a Snailbeach District News report last summer (*June 2018 edition*) in which a photographer described seeing a cluster of strange lights over Habberley, making no sound but moving in what he described as a 'controlled manner'. This was followed up by Stiperstones resident Malcolm Dunbar's account of his own 'close encounter'. (*July 2018 edition*)

The new sighting, reported to the SDN by a Churchstoke man, was over Wentnor.

He told us: "In the mid 1990s - maybe '95 or '96 - I saw what I believe to be a UFO in Wentnor, right outside the Inn on the Green pub. I was travelling West towards Bishop's Castle and out of the left-hand window of my car I saw a single glowing light (like a tennis ball on fire) moving slowly East in the sky towards Shrewsbury right above Wentnor. I was so intrigued that I pulled the car over into a field gate, stopped the engine and watched it move slowly across the sky with no noise. Once it had gone behind the trees on the skyline it was gone.

"The whole event may have lasted 30 or 40 seconds. It was just turning dusk, 7 or 8pm on a very calm late spring day. It is quite an experience once you have realised you have genuinely seen something like this. It has left me with a question that can't be answered but I am now a "believer."

The witness contacted the SDN after watching a TV programme about a 1974 UFO incident in North Wales. He decided to do some online research and came across our June 2018 report.

Shrewsbury has earned a reputation as one of the UFO sighting capitals of the UK, research showing that Shropshire came in fourth place for the number of sightings over the last five decades.

- Have you ever seen a UFO over Shropshire? Email editor.sdn@mail.com

Tales from down under

Snailbeach resident and raconteur Robert Currie has recently returned from his travels around New Zealand and will be giving a visual presentation in Snailbeach Village Hall on Friday, 8th March.

Robert's travels are renowned. The account of his time spent in the frozen wastes of Kamchatka, a region he describes as "hanging off the eastern edge of frozen Siberia" made compelling reading when we published it in March 2017.

The evening promises to be highly entertaining with refreshments laid on. Entrance will cost £5 (£3 under 12's) and proceeds from the evening will be given to St Luke's church.

Doors will be open from 7:00 p.m. to allow everyone time to have a good look around before the entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. Don't miss the chance to let Robert transport you to the other end of the world!

Stiperstones carol singers raise £303

Wendy Whitelaw of Stiperstones writes:

"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 £272.93 on the evening and further donations received raised the total to £303.00, for which I have sent a cheque onto the Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal. Special thanks to Malcolm & Lorna, Mary, John C, Elspeth & John and Malcolm & Doreen for their kind hospitality which was very greatly received. We all had a lovely night and we will see you all next year."

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More Grammar Gripes!

Maria Marks' "Grammar Gripes" article (*Snailbeach District News*, November 2018) has inspired Michael and Elizabeth Dennis to contribute further to the grammar debate.

Michael writes:-

"When I entered the world of scientific publishing it did not take too many raps over the knuckles from my editor for me to start writing '*The data were...*' rather than '*The data was...*'.

'*The data were...*' is probably still preferred in scientific parlance, but whether that is so or not I am now, after a struggle to readjust, reconciled to hearing '*the data was...*' daily on the radio. The trouble is, there are so many of them these days, aren't there, so many of these DATA?

Further, I have two proper gripes: I never want to hear '*This criteria*'. The Singular is '*criterion*'. Nor do I want to hear '*this phenomena*'. One of them is a '*phenomenon*'. Oh, and there's one other thing. Referring to one particular disease-causing organism you can say '*these bacteria*', thinking of many actual individuals. But if you want to refer to just one individual, it's a 'BACTERIUM'.

Thank you. That feels much better now."

(No problem, Michael. Glad we could help! - Ed.)

Michael's wife, Elizabeth, was also encouraged to join in the debate:-

"My chief bête noir is the wrong use of '*I*' when it should be '*me*'. Everyone is told at school that '*Andy and me went to town*' is wrong – it should be '*Andy and I...*' However, this is because '*Andy and I*' are the subject of the sentence. When

this is not the case, for example '*It was given to Andy and I*', this is wrong. You would never say '*It was given to we*', so it should be '*It was given to Andy and me*' or '*us*'."

Elizabeth also went on to mention the confusion about using '*may*' or '*might*'. Although both words are interchangeable when used in sentences, the general rule is to use '*may*' when speaking in the present tense, and with a good deal of certainty, e.g. '*I may not have time to meet you*', and '*might*' in the past tense if there is some doubt, e.g. '*I might have left my keys at the shops*'.

The same rule applies for '*think*' and '*thought*' - '*think*' for present tense, '*thought*' for past tense." **(Phew! Glad we got that all sorted out then! Ed.)**

Maria added **(you can't keep a good griper down! Ed):-**

"Another of my gripes is when to use '*may*' and/or '*can*'.

The use of '*may*' is to ask permission, e.g. '*May I Leave?*' or '*May I borrow a pen?*' or '*May I ask you a question?*'

In short, are you allowing me to do/ask this?

The use of '*can*' refers to capability; am I able to speak or act in this way? e.g. '*Can I sit on this chair?*' or '*Can I read the paper?*'.

In short, yes of course you *can* (are able to) sit on the chair, but you *may* not because dad won't allow it.

(Blimey! I hope that clears up a few things... If any more of you out there in SDN land have any further contributions to make to this ongoing discussion about English grammar, then please do send us your gripes. editor.sdn@mail.com Ed.)

Shakespeare lives on...

Even though you think you might not know much, if any, of Shakespeare's work, you'll be surprised at just how many of his words and expressions you actually use on a daily basis. Shakespeare's scripts contain over 2,200 never-before-seen words. Shakespeare is responsible for inventing a huge amount of the vocabulary we use every day. His language is alive and well and is heard everywhere.

If you ever call someone "**a blinking idiot**" or "**a tower of strength**", or describe them as "**tongue-tied**" or suffering from "**green-eyed jealousy**", or being "**dead as a doornail**" you are speaking the language of Shakespeare.

If you say "**it was Greek to me**" or "**parting is such sweet sorrow**", or that something is "**too much of a good thing**" and that you "**have not slept a wink**" the words of Shakespeare are alive in your mouth.

Other words and phrases we use every day, thanks to the Bard, include - "**barefaced**", "**be all and end all**", "**cold-blooded**", "**dishearten**", "**fashionable**" and "**new-fangled**".

Shakespeare is alive and well!



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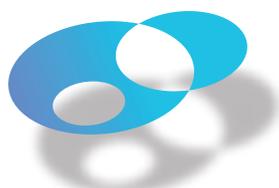
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AMAZING FACTS

To Blow Your Mind



- Ancient Egyptian bakers who cheated their customers were punished by having their ear nailed to the door of the bakery.
- Oxford University was over 300 years old when the Aztec Empire was founded.
- 'Influenza' is Italian for 'influence': heavenly bodies were once thought to affect our own.
- 40% of humanity live in countries where it's illegal to be homosexual.
- Coca-Cola in the Maldives is made from seawater.
- Paper can only be recycled six times. After that the fibres are too weak to hold together.
- More than one in five Americans believes that the world will end in their lifetime.
- There are eight times as many atoms in a teaspoonful of water as there are teaspoonsful of water in the Atlantic.
- The lottery of the Zimbabwe Banking Corporation was won in 2000 by the president of Zimbabwe.
- The busiest polling station in Australian elections is in London.
- By 2025, there will be more English speakers in China, than in the rest of the world put together.

Newsletter Donations

Many thanks to those who sent us donations over the Christmas and New Year period including:

Snailbeach White Stars Football Club
Arthur & Judith
Robert Currie
Mrs. Sylvia Jones
John & Di Jones

If you wish to donate anonymously by direct bank transfer our details are:

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Otherwise donations can be left with Phil or Lara at

the **Stiperstones Inn**
 or with myself at 5, Lower Works,
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Help us to stay a free, secular and independent publication serving the local community.

Thank you.

THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN



Week 1.

...early spring, time to mulch the borders...

Mulch the borders with a thick layer of compost or well-rotted manure to give nourishment through the coming year and aid water retention in the soil. In the mild weather continue to plant deciduous trees and shrubs. Indoor bulbs that have finished flowering can be planted out in odd corners of the garden.

Week 2.

...no time to linger...

Complete pruning of established trees and shrubs as early as possible before bud-burst and mulch liberally with organic matter. Soft fruit will benefit from a dressing of well-rotted farmyard manure. Plant autumn-fruiting varieties of strawberries now so they will have time to establish during the summer.

Week 3.

...give hedges a haircut...

Late February is an ideal time to cut back overgrown hedges before they start producing new growth during the spring. Thin, straggly hedges of hawthorn or privet will benefit from hard pruning now. Be brave; fresh new shoots will soon hide the bare branches and give your hedge a new lease of life.

Week 4.

...plan for next spring...

This is an ideal time to visit flower shows and gardens to see new bulb varieties that you may want to plant yourself in the autumn. Remove faded flower heads from daffodils to prevent seed heads from forming. Don't remove the leaves; let them die back naturally so that the bulbs aren't weakened.

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WHAT'S ON

Saturday February 9th, 7.30 p.m.

Snailbeach Village Hall

Clothing Swap Party

A benefit for the

Jatinga Valley School, Assam

On the spot alterations

Bar and Snacks

Live music

Tickets £6 include a glass of fizz

Friday 8th March, 7.00 p.m.

Snailbeach Village Hall

Robert Currie

gives a talk

and visual presentation of his recent travels in
New Zealand.

Be transported to the other side of the world!

THE SNAILBEACH LIGHT FANTASTIC!

Once again John Jones of Snailbeach has enchanted us all with his fantasmagorical display of Christmas lights that brightened up the whole of the village, and beyond, over the Christmas period. John tells me that his lights have been seen as far afield as China this year! Each year his garden is transformed into a blaze of colour and light that enchants all who stop and gaze in pure wonder. But the lights aren't just there for his, or our, amusement and amazement. John's lights raise large amounts of cash each year for the **Lingen Davies Cancer Fund**. This year the Christmas lights have raised a staggering

£2,375!

So a big 'thank you' to all those who stopped, gazed and dropped cash into the honesty box. And a massive 'well done' to John.

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIENDS OF STIPERSTONES SCHOOL

18th May 2019.

Snailbeach Village Hall

Jordan Brown Accoustic will be playing at the Village Hall as our main FoSS fundraiser this year. Further details in next month's newsletter.

Climate Change: Is our Government so green?

From **MIKE LAYWARD, Stiperstones.**

I found it interesting the two very different articles in the November 18 issue of the SDN. 'Hothouse Earth' which made it clear we are hovering on the edge of a 'precipice' and if we don't take strong action very soon then we could be facing irreversible climate change.

The flip side of the coin was Mr. Dunne's letter from Westminster, which painted a picture of the UK sailing towards a zero carbon future.

I felt there was a lot left out of the letter from Westminster, to which I want to respond.

Since 2015 when our present Government won the election they have massively reduced investment in clean energy in the UK. They have 'banned' onshore wind farms (the cheapest green energy), withdrawn subsidies for solar energy (the feed in tariff closes this year), cancelled the zero carbon homes policy and in 2013 under the Coalition closed the warm front scheme WFS.

The WFS provided government grants for people on benefits or low incomes living in poor quality housing (house owners and renters) the chance to make their houses more efficient and thereby reduce their carbon use through heating. The social effect of this scheme was to remove people from 'fuel poverty'. A recent report (Independent June 18) showed that now 1 in 10 households are in fuel poverty.

Another policy of our Government that is opposed to a zero carbon future is 'Fracking'. This Government see gas from fracking (a fossil fuel) as a short term solution to replacing coal, oil and imported gas as an energy source.

They made it a nationally significant infrastructure project so approval for fracking can be overruled at the local level and decided by the Government. This is what happened last year in Lancashire. The County Council voted against fracking in Preston, the Government overruled this and now fracking has started. Fracking is very unpopular, only 18% of the UK support it, while 85% support renewables (Ecologist July 18)

On top of all of this is the question of subsidies for fossil fuels. Oil and Coal fired power stations receive 30 times the subsidies that green energy receives.

There are changes we can all make in our day to day lives, but to make the big changes we will need to make the UK a low carbon country. We need our Government to bring in the policies and target spending to make this happen. At this time I have no confidence that this Government are making this happen.



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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Some reminders from Heather Kidd

Planning applications can be emotive at the best of times and can affect people lives in many ways. What I do know is that unless it is a big developer the impacts of these are not usually driven by profit – they are often driven by need of one sort or another. Waging war on individuals, making an application personal helps no one and often divides communities. Shouting at people or threatening them will achieve nothing except bad feeling and long lasting ramifications in communities. They have no effect on Planners and their decisions.

Planning applications are decided on Material Planning Considerations – not personal attacks, quantities of objections or emotional appeal. The process is quasi-judicial – a legal process and is decided on policy from a variety of areas both local and national. It should therefore be decided in a balanced evidenced based manner.

Material considerations can include (but are not limited to):

- Overlooking/loss of privacy
- Loss of light or overshadowing
- Parking
- Highway safety
- Traffic
- Noise
- Effect on listed building and conservation area
- Layout and density of building
- Design, appearance and materials
- Government policy
- Disabled persons' accessProposals in the Development Plan
- Previous planning decisions (including appeal decisions)
- Nature conservation

Following areas are not material planning considerations.

- Nobody has a right to a view from their property. We can't control the effects of new development on the outlook from an existing property, except in the general case of residential amenity.
- Impact on the valuation of property.
- The cost of a development is not a material consideration, and we have no jurisdiction to protect developers from expensive projects.
- Loss of trade or increased competition.
- A personal interest or a civil dispute - generally speaking, personal circumstances are not a material planning consideration

The Parish Plan is also a useful tool. I can supply digital copies if you would like one.

These are followed by our Parish Councils when applications come to them.

I hope this helps you all and gives an understanding of how you can object or support a planning application near you.

Heather Kidd

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen

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Heather's usual monthly column appears on page 31.

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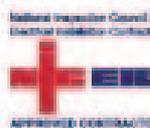
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THE SAMMY MAIL COLUMN - with Geoff Sproson



The first part of a two part 'special' from Geoff discussing the history of the British computer industry and what went wrong...

This month I am going to reminisce about old computers and next month continue with a grumble I have had for 30 years.

As an early geek I owned a Grandstand Pong machine, a ZX81, a ZX Spectrum, a Commodore 64, an Atari console, and a BBC model 'B', all amazing computers at the time and all I believe British. When I returned to teaching, Acorn Computers, a British company already responsible for the BBC 'B', had just brought out the Archimedes range of computers. The chips that controlled these computers were a major step forward and were known as ARM, short for Acorn RISC Machines, where RISC is short for Reduced Instruction Set Computing (don't start yawning yet). Previously most early home computers were based on a Motorola chip that was originally designed to run washing machines! So ground breaking was this British technology that most smartphones and tablets still use developed versions of it today.

Who invented the computer? Most definitely we did. Engineer, Mr Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace, the brilliant female mathematician who

sponsored him, designed a mechanical computer in 1837. It would have worked had the engineering of the day been refined enough to build it. A working model was built in 1991 and can still be



Acorn BBC Micro Model B

seen in the London Science Museum. The first electronic computers were designed and built in the early 50's at the Universities of Cambridge and Manchester based on the work of the brilliant mathematician and code breaker Alan Turing. Alan is now well known for his role in the Enigma Project featured in the films, "Breaking the Code" and the 'The Imitation Game". The role of all those involved in the project that blunted the German U-Boat threat can be discovered at the Bletchley Park Heritage Centre near Milton Keynes.

It was sometime before the US realised the potential behind electronic computer, with IBM still concentrating on comptometers and card

sorting machines.

Sir Clive Sinclair

and Dragon Baron

Alan Sugar led the

world in the

development of

the home

computer until Bill

Gates and Steve

Jobs muscled in.

I bought one of

these British ARM



computers for home on which Saul, my son, started programming at the age of seven and I persuaded my school in Liverpool to buy a suite of them. These computers started instantly, were

virtually virus proof and teachers and educationalists across Britain were producing

brilliant software for all ages and all areas of the curriculum. It was easy to connect these

computers to robots and electronic circuits.

And they could be programmed with no risk of crashing the operating system. Computer

programming was established as a well-respected GCSE at ordinary and advanced level and we truly

led the world in using computers in schools. So what on earth went wrong? That's exactly what I

intend to grumble about next month!

Geoff continues next month with his views about the cause of the current paucity of computer sciences as taught in British schools and universities today.

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Mr. Quips Corner

- Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass ... it's about learning to dance in the rain!
- Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.
- Stalking is when two people go for a long romantic walk together but only one of them knows it.
- I finally found a diet plan that works. It's called 'The Cost of Food'.
- If you're still looking for that one person who will change your life, take a look in the mirror.
- Failure is not falling down, it is not getting up again.
- Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.
- Whatever you do always give 100 %. Unless you are donating blood.
- I changed my password to "incorrect", so anytime I forget and enter the wrong thing, the computer tells me what it is.

I wish I'd said that...

- The fool's brain digests philosophy into folly, science into superstition, and art into pedantry. Hence University education - *George Bernard Shaw*.
- I cook with wine, sometimes I even add it to the food - *W. C. Fields*.
- Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe - *Albert Einstein*.
- We learn from experience that men never learn anything from experience - *George Bernard Shaw*.
- There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe, and it has a longer shelf life - *Frank Zappa*.
- A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice - *Bill Cosby*
- She never lets ideas interrupt the easy flow of her conversation - *Jean Webster*.
- He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others - *Samuel Johnson*.
- He was one of those men who possess almost every gift, except the gift of the power to use them - *Charles Kingsley*.
- It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer - *Albert Einstein*
- Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? - *Mark Twain*.



Pontesbury and Rea Valley U3A

PRV U3A is your local voluntary organisation for people who are no longer in full-time employment and who would like to keep active in mind and body. It is about learning, enjoyment and meeting people. We currently have 22 active Interest Groups with several more in the pipeline. Touch Tennis started in December and is proving very popular on Thursdays. There is serious interest in Pétanque and Architecture and a possibility that 3 more: Wine and/or Beer making; Chatting Crafting or Chess may start as soon as a few more people are interested.

Jane Simms, our groups Co-ordinator, can be contacted on 792500 and would love to hear from people within reach of the Rea Valley who would like to take up a new interest as the year changes. We also arrange 6 Open Meetings a year with interesting presentations, a chance to socialise and occasionally a fun quiz.

We warmly welcome new members and visitors can attend two group meetings before joining - which is an ideal way to see how interesting our meetings are.

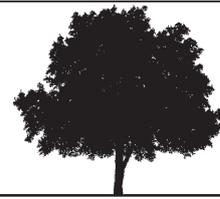
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Check out our new website on: <http://u3apontesburyreavalley.org.uk/index.htm>
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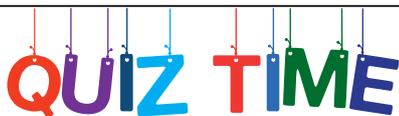


We have quite a few new themes and displays in the library for February. There is a display of local walks with leaflets and books, which may be borrowed. We can also show you some useful websites where you can find walks and print them off on the library computers. Continuing with local studies, we hope to loan material from the Archives for displays together with talks on the mines and railways of Stiperstones, Minsterley and Pontesbury.

The current fiction theme is a collection of books written by unlikely authors, famous people better known for another job. Some are quite surprising. Did you know Vince Cable had written a novel?

We are always looking for new ideas in the library, if you have any suggestions for something that you think may be popular please let Beverley or Kay know.

There will be children's activities in the library during Half Term, keep an eye out for posters and the FoPL 'use Pontesbury library' Facebook page for more information.



From Jenny Aldridge

Jenny reports on the progress of the Snailbeach Village Hall quiz team:

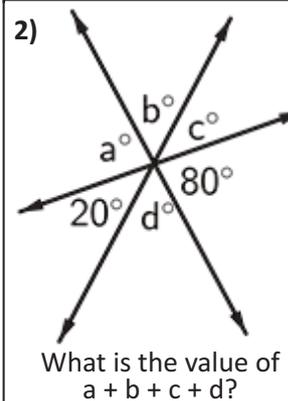
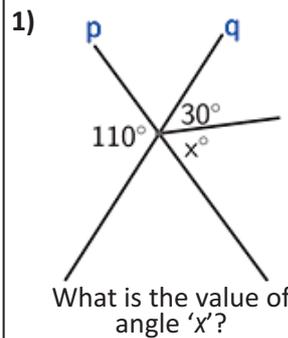
"The next round of the Quiz will be held at Pitchford on Friday 1 February. Representing Snailbeach will be Jenny Aldridge, Susan Bates, Dave Fitzhugh and Jerry Hughes.

In December we had our best result yet: 59 points, top marks on the night and we managed to give all the right answers that we knew, but Hope and Radbrook 'B' also had 59 and Radbrook 'B' won the wine on a tie-break question. We ended up in second place in the second division of the league.

We will no longer be in that position, however, after the January round when every team in our section scored in the thirties and forties, except for Bayston Hill who had 54. We managed 47 and, as has been fairly usual with us, could have had at least four more points if we had not put an incorrect answer when we actually knew the correct one, but we still would not have come near Bayston Hill's score."

We wish Jenny and her team better luck in the next round.

PUZZLES + POSERS



3)

16	-5	5	-1
-6	20	19	1
-6	-2	17	9
16	7	10	7

Which row has three numbers (which may or may not be all next to each other) that add up to 15?

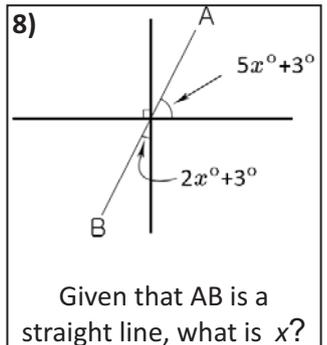
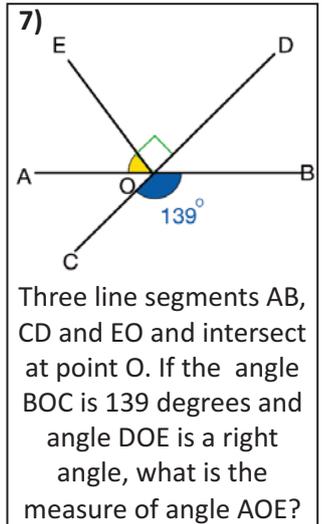
4)

-4	-6	8	-7
12	-4	19	11
9	20	9	4
12	3	1	-2

Which column has three numbers (which may or may not be all next to each other) that add up to 10?

5) If the 1st of April is a Sunday, which day would be the last Tuesday of April?

6) If it is currently 5:00 a.m., then what time will it be in 100 hours?



9) Simplify $24 - (-12) - (-2)$

10) If it is now 1:00 a.m. what time will it be in 1000 minutes?

Answers to PUZZLES + POSERS

- 1) 80 degrees 2) 260 degrees 3) Row 2 4) Column 4 5) April 24th 6) 9 a.m. 7) 49 degrees 8) 12 degrees 9) 38 10) 5:40 p.m.

Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.
Albert Einstein



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From Maria Marks - Treasurer.

Snailbeach Village Hall and residents of Snailbeach and Stiperstones celebrated another successful year in 2018, with hall hire and party bookings continuing to rise. Thank you to all who use the village hall and /or support the various activities being offered. Without the monies raised from hall use it would be difficult to cover cleaning costs and to improve the Village Hall facilities for the community.

2018 saw the establishment of a regular toddler group on Thursday mornings. Thanks go to Anita Edwards and her team for providing this service to mothers and their children.

It has been our aim to improve the **Play Area** with some new pieces of play equipment, and through Lara Sproson-Jones' on line 'Just Giving' site, various fund raising events and generous private donations (which will be matched from Village Hall funds) we have a big enough sum to purchase a large piece of play equipment. Anita and her team are to research which piece of play equipment would be most appreciated for our children's use. It would be great if we could achieve this in time for the Spring or Summer.

Car Park usage continues to increase, but, on making a comparison of year on year voluntary donations placed in the cairn, there has been no increase in funds generated. This, despite new signage requesting donations. Could we please ask that if you or your friends and family are visiting the village hall, or parking cars overnight (which is not strictly allowed, as our insurance does not cover this) you make a small donation - the money generated from the use of the car park helps pay for the regular maintenance and upkeep for the Play Area field, lawn mower maintenance and petrol, grass and hedge-cutting, etc.

Our thanks go to Doug Boulter who regularly checks and empties the car park cairn, and to Graham McMillan and John Davies who work tirelessly to maintain the grounds. Their voluntary help is very much appreciated!

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our chairman, Philip Sproson-Jones, who, due to increasing work commitments, has stepped down. He assures us that he will still be available to help and support the various events. He is replaced as chairman by Ray Harper. Our great thanks go to Phil for all his hard work over the years, and we welcome Ray into his new role. Lara Sproson-Jones and Sal Tonge have also stepped down and we thank them also for their contributions to the success in the running of the Village Hall. Inevitably there is a constant turn around of Village Hall trustees and we genuinely welcome anyone who is interested in being co-opted onto the Committee.

Our next Village Hall meeting is on **Wednesday 13th February at 7.30**. DO come along and find out what the committee is all about- YOUR voice could make a big difference as we constantly try to improve our contribution to the community.

**Saturday, Feb 9 at 7.30 pm
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women's, men's and teen's...
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So where was Sandy the Snail in December?

Phoebe of 'Crosswinds' was the first to find Sandy once more in our December Christmas edition, but she was quickly followed by Georgia Corfield of Prospect Cottages. Sandy was climbing up Andy Batchelor's wall in his advert on page 14. So, well done Georgia and Phoebe! Bet you can't find him in this February edition...

ROMAN LEAD INGOTS

FROM THE SHELVE LEAD MINING DISTRICT OF SHROPSHIRE

BY NICK SOUTHWICK, SNAILBEACH

Over the past two hundred and fifty years four Roman lead ingots (pigs) have been unearthed in the vicinity of the Shelve lead mining district of Shropshire. All had been cast from moulds bearing the inscription "IMP HADRIANI AVG" (Emperor Hadrian Augustus reigned from 117 to 138 A.D) and each one measured 118mm x 550mm x 175mm and weighed approximately 190lbs (86kgs).

One ingot was discovered in 1796 adjacent to Snailbeach Farm whilst costean trenching, one found in 1851 close to the iron age hill fort at Snead, one found in 1767 amongst ancient lead smelting slag adjacent to the Roman Gravels and White Grit lead mines and another unearthed in 1775 near to Aston Farm, Westbury on the ancient road from Shrewsbury to Montgomery.



Snailbeach Ingot at the British Museum - London

What happened to them?

The one found adjacent to Snailbeach Farm was donated to the British Museum by a Mr John Lloyd of the Snailbeach Mining Company on the 25th of January 1798 where it still remains.

The one discovered in ancient lead smelting slag close to the Roman Gravels and White Grit lead mines on the Rev. T.F. More's estate is housed at ***Linley Hall** Shropshire. However, the location of the others (unearthed near to Aston Farm and the one from Snead) have, until recently, remained elusive.

Over the past few years, investigating and trawling through old documents and publications, certain things have come to light regarding the two missing ingots.

****The Snead Ingot**

This was reported to have been found in 1851 whilst digging drainage ditches on the estate of Philip Morris Esq, The Hurst, Nr Clun where it remained in his possession until 1856. The ingot was then acquired for the private collection of Joseph Mayer F.S.A. of Liverpool. In 1867 Joseph Mayer donated the ingot to the Liverpool Museum. However, due to enemy action during the Second World War the museum sustained damage by aerial bombing and the record of the ingot was temporarily mislaid. So, it was of great delight, after recent investigations and communications, via an associate and the assistant curator of the Liverpool World Museum, to discover that the ingot had been located and found to be safely housed in a storage facility of the museum.



The Snead Ingot stored at the Liverpool World Museum

The Aston Ingot

This remains an article for further debate and research. One of the only references found relates to a Roman lead ingot with the cast mark "IMP HADRIANI AVG" being

unearthed near to Aston Farm House, Westbury, Shropshire in 1775 and later obtained by a Mr Probert of Copthorne, Shrewsbury for his private collection. On October the 15th, 1827 after his death, the estate of Mr Probert was sold including the ingot. Unfortunately, further research to date has been unable to trace its whereabouts.

In the Museum at Bath and on display is a Roman ingot which is strikingly similar to the ones unearthed in Shropshire, same inscription, same size and weight. According to archive material it is stated that this ingot was found near to Sydney Gardens, Bath in 1822, but even an archaeologist and historian of the day quoted, "It bears exactly the same inscription of those from Snailbeach, Shelve and Snead so it may be presumed to have come from the Shropshire mines". There are others who believe the ingot to be of Mendip (Somerset) origin from where the Romans

had large lead works at Priddy and Charterhouse. However, all the Mendip Roman ingots discovered are of much earlier date and/or inscribed with different Roman Imperial Emperors' names. There is however a difference regarding this ingot compared to the Snailbeach, Linley and Snead ingots in as much as that the inscribed "IMP HADRIANI AVG" is slightly smaller. So, it is



Ingot on display at the Bath Museum

obvious that it was not cast from the same mould as the Snailbeach, Linley and Snead ingots. The one possible way to prove if the Bath ingot originated from Shropshire would be to obtain permission to carry out a Lead Isotope and Mass Spectrometry analysis. A type of finger printing technique which compares galena (lead ore) from a given mining area to the lead ingot, obviously this

would not prove that the ingot came from Aston but would prove if it were to be of Shropshire origin.

In November 2002 The Shropshire Mines Trust commissioned Barry Ellis to reproduce a Roman lead ingot based on measurements previously taken from the Linley Hall ingot. His expertise in pattern making and casting skills produced an excellent lead ingot, which incidentally, weighed in at exactly 86 kgs. This ingot is now on display in the Visitors Centre at the Snailbeach Mine.

***Linley Hall** with most of its contents has been sold recently. However, it is said that the ingot still remains at Linley Hall in the custody of the new owners.

** Special thanks to the Staff of the Liverpool Museum storage facility for allowing access to view and photograph the **Snead Ingot**.



Roman Gravels/ White Grit Ingot at Linley Hall

Footnote: An ingot had once been exhibited in

the Geology Museum of Birmingham University (now the Lapworth Museum) which before investigating led me to believe that there could have been a fifth ingot, or that the University's ingot was the one found at Aston. However, after inspecting an early photograph of the University's ingot it is quite obvious from damage marks that the University and Linley ingot are one and the same. Charles Lapworth (1842 - 1920) the eminent Professor of Geology at Birmingham University was an associate of the late Rev. T.F. More of Linley Hall. It may be assumed that the Rev. T.F. Moore had at one time loaned the ingot to the university along with spectacular mineral specimens from his estate mines. Sometime later the ingot must have been returned to Linley Hall.

References:-

- Liverpool Museum (Storage Facility) Item M6682
- Archaeological Journal - 1859 Page 32 - 34.
- Archaeological Journal - 1866 Page 279.
- Geography of the County of Shropshire - W.W.Watts 1919 Page 135.
- Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society - 1888 Pages 276-280.
- The Liverpool Geological Society - 1861 Tenth Session Pages 23-29.
- Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum - 1810 Page 77.
- Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society - 1858 Pages 14-16
- An Analysis of Romano-British Lead Pigs - Vincent Gardener 1999.
- Lead Isotope Data - B.M.Rohl - 1996 Oxford University.
- SWAAG - 2012 Item 2389.

Editor's note: But just suppose that all this isn't true? Perhaps all these ingots were part of a gigantic Victorian hoax set up by unscrupulous City businessmen to fleece naive investors into believing that the Shropshire mines were more productive than they actually were? For a fascinating piece of scurrilous conspiracy theory nonsense, visit www.Ludlow.ey.com. The website describes itself as "An irreverent look at the civic shenanigans in the ancient rotten borough of Ludlow, Shropshire"

It certainly put a smile on my face, but take it with a very large pinch of salt!

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SNAILBEACH WHITE STARS F.C.

Jordan Knill with the latest match reports

Snailbeach White Stars 11-3 Loppington

SUMMARY: Third time in quick succession we'd faced the visitors and we managed another win in an eventful game. Plenty of goals, some rough challenges and a few mistakes throughout the game, but three points on the board again. Last home game before Christmas and a victory that keeps us in 2nd behind champions Instones United.

GOAL SCORERS: Adam DAVIES (4), Marcus ASHLEY (3), Jamie HYNE (2), Craig GRIFFITHS (2)

MAN OF THE MATCH: Craig GRIFFITHS – Work horse as always but chipped in with a goal at a crucial time and broke up play all game, nipping around and snuffing out the visitors on the break.

TEAM:

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Joe BYERS, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS, Sam JONES

MID: Reece BENSON, Jamie HYNE, Craig GRIFFITHS, Cory COLE

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Aryn MATTHEE, Ollie DAVIES

Talbot Ketley Bank 2-1 Snailbeach White Stars

SUMMARY: Out of the Senior County Cup at the quarter final stage after a poor away day in Telford. One of those days where nothing went our way. An injury to Wally in goal early in the second half and only having one substitute due to the Welsh ruling didn't help, but the hosts battled hard and certainly gave us a game that merited the win.

GOAL SCORER: Adam DAVIES

MAN OF THE MATCH: Ben MILLINGTON – Out of position due to the shortage of players and asked to play in the holding midfield role. Enjoyed the rough and tumble nature and sticky pitch, snapped into challenges and did all the dirty jobs well.

TEAM:

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Nath JEX, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS, Jack BREEZE

MID: Ben MILLINGTON, Jamie HYNE, Craig GRIFFITHS

ATT: Joe BYERS, Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUB: Ollie DAVIES

Snailbeach White Stars 3-2 Cruckton

Rovers

SUMMARY: What a game. 2nd against 3rd at the top of the Premier Division and the game certainly did not disappoint. 2-0 down at half time against a quality outfit, the boys showed some bottle to battle back and deservedly snatch a huge win and three points.

Thoroughly deserved after the second half display and unlucky not to have scored a few more.

GOAL SCORERS: Manny WILLIAMS, Adam DAVIES, Sam JONES

MAN OF THE MATCH: Sam JONES – Caused problems after switching sides in the second half. Great cross from the right to create the first goal and managed to find the winner for us with ten minutes to go!

TEAM:

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Aryn MATTHEE, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS

MID: Ben MILLINGTON, Craig GRIFFITHS, Jamie HYNE, Reece BENSON, Sam JONES

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Ollie DAVIES, Jack BREEZE, Dan CAMBURN

Snailbeach White Stars 9-0 White Lion

SUMMARY: Big win following the Christmas break and back into the groove with a neat and tidy display. Played some very decent football with almost a full team at our disposal. Into the next round of the league cup which will be important as we look to add some silverware to the cabinet come the end of the season.

GOAL SCORERS: Adam DAVIES (3), Jamie HYNE (2), Marcus ASHLEY, Craig HARRIS, Craig GRIFFITHS, Ollie DAVIES

MAN OF THE MATCH: Jamie HYNE – Scored two very well taken goals and was a constant creative spark with some mazy runs and the odd showboat. Played with confidence and looked sharp.

TEAM:

GK: Wayne WALTON

DEF: Ben MILLINGTON, Owen MORRIS, Manny WILLIAMS

MID: Craig HARRIS, Craig GRIFFITHS, Jamie HYNE, Reece BENSON, Sam JONES

ATT: Marcus ASHLEY, Adam DAVIES

SUBS: Dan CAMBURN, Ollie DAVIES, Nath JEX, Aryn MATTHEE

Iyengar Yoga in Shropshire

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Letter from Westminster

Philip Dunne MP
House of Commons
London
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www.philipdunne.com
February 2019

NHS Long Term Plan

Last month the PM published the NHS Long Term Plan – setting out how it intends to allocate the record extra funding for the NHS in England over the next 10 years. The Plan has been developed and driven forward by clinicians, patients and medical experts, and sets out a 10 year programme to protect the health service for generations to come and improve patient care.

As a former Health Minister, I have seen first-hand the impact that robust forward planning can make to patient care within the NHS. So I am convinced this Plan, backed with the government's investment of £20.5 billion a year into the NHS in real terms by 2023/24, will help transform patient care. There is an appropriate focus on prevention, personal responsibility and promoting good health, with more rapid diagnostics, and a focus on new technologies and treatments to improve care.

I am particularly pleased to see real commitment to bringing the NHS into the digital age. Effective use of technology can help solve many of the issues facing our NHS today and into the future. The steps taken in the Plan will mean everyone in the country will have digital access to their GP, including being able to make appointments, manage prescriptions and view their health records online – helping to streamline the service for everyone, whether IT savvy or not.

This investment will also mean additional staffing throughout the NHS, with tens of thousands more doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Better prevention, detection, treatment and recovery from serious diseases alongside record investment in primary, community and mental healthcare will help improve health outcomes for all patients.

This includes earlier and more rapid diagnosis, new screening programmes and an offer of genomic testing to all people with cancer – so that in 10 years' time, 55,000 more people survive cancer each year. It will also see improvements in the prevention, detection and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including expanding the use of mechanical thrombectomy in stroke care and improving access to cardiac rehabilitation to be amongst the best in Europe by 2028. Over 10 years, the plan will prevent up to 100,000 heart attacks, strokes & dementia cases and ensure 1,600 stroke patients avoid long-term disability each year.

Health and care teams will be expected to work more closely together, to make sure older people are getting the support they need to remain independent, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions.

I was a strong supporter of Freedom to Speak Up champions when I was a Health Minister. So I am pleased to see further commitment in the Long Term Plan to making the NHS more supportive of staff, clamping down on bullying and providing better support services, to ensure the NHS is a world-class employer.

Of course, there is an expectation that the NHS plays its part in cutting waste and uses taxpayers as efficiently as possible. When the NHS is receiving over £120bn per year of public money, even small savings in percentage terms can lead to significant extra funding to put back into patient services. So new digital ways of working and increasing back office efficiency will help save more than £700 million across the NHS.

In coming months the NHS will work with communities to see how this plan will be implemented at a local level, and I shall be pressing to see the detailed impact of this Plan for Shropshire.

Philip Dunne

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NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

Simon Cooter for Natural England staff at Rigmooak.

There have been a few sightings of peregrine falcons around the Stiperstones over the Christmas period. This magnificent bird holds the title of the fastest animal on the planet (discounting humans). When it stoops into a dive to make a kill it regularly reaches 200mph. The name peregrine means to wander and in winter this is what these birds do, moving around the country, often visiting the coast where they prey upon flocks of wading birds in estuaries and saltmarshes. However they can turn up anywhere where there is a good source of food, which is more often than not other birds. For that reason nature reserves are a good place to see them, although large flocks of starlings or pigeons in more urban settings often attract a resident pair.



The female peregrine is considerably larger and heavier than the male, and their prey choices reflect this difference with females taking larger prey items. However they both have a liking for pigeons which make up at least 50% of their diet. It has been this partiality for pigeon that has often brought the peregrine into conflict with man. During the Second World War homing pigeons were used extensively for sending messages and many bomber crews would take a homing pigeon on a raid in case they had to bail out. It was hoped that the message stating their location, particularly if at sea, would trigger a search and rescue operation. The peregrine falcon was deemed to be a threat to this practice and so in 1940 the government issued the Destruction of Peregrine Falcon Order and the Air Ministry carried out a cull of 600 birds. Interestingly airports now employ falconers to frighten away birds that could cause a collision with aircraft.

This cull was nothing compared to the effects of DDT in pesticides which caused the thinning of egg shells, the failure of nests and a crash in the population. Since the ban of DDT in 1980 this remarkable bird has made an incredible recovery and is now widespread across the UK and the winter distribution has doubled since the 1981-84 census.

We will soon be setting up our rota for volunteers to open the Blakemoorgate cottages and we could do with a few more volunteers. If anyone is happy to spare one Sunday by opening and manning the cottages, please let us know and we can add you to our list of volunteers. Training is given and we open the first Sunday of each month April to October 11am to 3pm. (*Contact 01743 792294 or stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk*).

A final piece of good news, following the release of 21 "head started" curlew chicks released from the Stiperstones last year (head starting is where the eggs are incubated, hatched and the chicks reared on to fledging), is that the first head started bird has been spotted. The bird was seen by a birdwatcher in Cornwall. The colour-ringed bird was feeding with other curlews on the Hayle Estuary about 200 miles from its release site. For more information about the curlew country project go to www.curlewcountry.org.uk.

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STIPERSTONES

MY VILLAGE.

BY SUZIE JACKSON - AGE 11

I live in the hidden village of Stiperstones, which is about 15 miles south of Shrewsbury. There are many human and physical features in my settlement.

I will describe these features for you now.

Stiperstones is a tiny village and about 100 people live here. There are about 50 houses in the village and one new, bendy main road going through the middle of it. There is a welcoming pub, a fun primary school, a quaint chapel, an eclectic shop and many traditional farms. It is an ancient settlement and the newest houses are about 10 years old. The original settlement dates all the way back to 1790. There is a trickling stream running down some quiet lanes.

There's many, many hills all around the charming village.

The primary school only has about 30 children and is very small. One class is Key Stage one and the other is Key Stage two. There's also a pre-school which had no-one going to it so it closed, but the school uses it for meetings sometimes. The Mytton flags are just two fields away from my ancient house.

The hills are globally known for natural beauty and a great

place to walk the energetic dog.

Be careful not to let your dog off the lead, though, because there are always lethargic sheep or nesting birds around.

There is a short terrace of council houses called Coronation Cottages. There is a miniature shop in the village which is full of bargains. There are lots and lots of lead mine shafts scattered around the hills. There is a garage owned by a man that lives in the village and he fixes everyone's broken vehicles.

The Stiperstones Inn



Stiperstones is a popular tourist attraction with lots of clean holiday cottages for them to stay in. A popular place for people to meet up is the pub which can get very lively on some nights. I love living here and my hobbies include: playing in the dark woods, lighting fires and camping out (I'm a scout), walking, playing on our high rope swing, biking, playing with clay in the chilly stream and most importantly whinberrying amongst the purple heather.

It is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The area is packed full of rare wild life such as nesting birds, bats down the mine, foxes, badgers and there are frequently owls outside plus much, much more wildlife.

I would strongly advise coming to Stiperstones especially if you have an eager dog to walk or even if you just want a pleasant walk by yourself. Remember not to litter in the wonderful landscape if you want it to stay this stunning place for many more generations to come.



My School



The Snailbeach Lead Mine

Editor's note: This is the first of what I hope will be many more children's pieces published in the pages of the SDN. I intend dedicating this page every month to stories, articles and artwork produced by local children, so, c'mon kids, get writing and drawing and see your work printed here! But remember, it must be good...

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Heather Kidd's Report

THE REALITIES OF OUR PLANNING SYSTEM

Like many residents and councillors across Shropshire, I am very annoyed about the inconsistent, almost secretive, way that the planning system currently works in our area. Effectively some 98% plus of decisions on planning applications are taken by officers behind closed doors. Only a few contentious decisions are decided by the Planning Committee composed of some Shropshire Councillors (though not me).

Usually a planning officer rings me and asks me if I want an application taken to the Committee if it is contentious or the Parish and I disagree with the officer proposed decision. Whether it actually goes to the Planning Committee or not rests with the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee - two Tory councillors from outside our area. These requests are usually turned down and the decision whether to approve the decision is then taken by officers.

This system is unfair and lacks any transparency whatsoever.

Our parish councils and I have many strong representations for or against planning applications only to hear the decision has been taken behind closed doors without further reference to any of us. This has often lead to inconsistent and sometimes inexplicable decisions much to the fury of everyone concerned.

My colleagues in the Lib Dem Group and I have been pushing hard to get a more open and accountable process in place.

RORRINGTON TO WAYSIDE ROAD GETS PART OF THE £7.3 MILLION FROM GOVERNMENT!

This will be closed this spring for works to improve the drainage and the road surface. As soon as I have dates I will send them out in email or on Facebook. Email me at:

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk if you would like to be added to the email list for planning applications, road closures and other local events.

ROAD CLOSURE – DURY LANE

29th January 2019 - 5th February 2019

0800-1600 hrs Resurfacing Scheme.

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here:

<https://roadworks.org?tm=111976768>

Should you have any queries regarding this closure, please call Customer Services on 0345 6789006, or contact the Street Works Team on streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk.

Heather

Heather Kidd, Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen

Tel: 07980635516

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

www.heatherkidd.org

See Heather's article on the emotive side of Planning Applications on **page 11**

Visit

snailbeachdistrictnews.co.uk
for latest updates on local roadworks and closures.

"In war, you can only be killed once, but in politics, many times."

Winston Churchill

Snailbeach Village Hall

Snailbeach Village Hall Booking Fees

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**Robert Currie presents...
Friday, 8th March
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7.00 p.m.**

Robert Currie will give a visual presentation of his recent holiday and travels in New Zealand.

Entrance will cost £5 (£3 under 12's)
Proceeds from the evening will be given to St Luke's church.

Refreshments will be available.

**Doors will be open from 7:00 p.m.
The entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m.**
Don't miss the chance to transport yourself to the other end of the world!



PONTESBURY GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

The winter is almost over and the gardening year can begin: the Trading Post will be opening on Saturday 2 February for those who want to get started now. It's been a mild winter so far and much in the garden is springing in to life – despite the usual sting that winter has in its tail in February. Seed potatoes, pea, bean and beetroot seeds are now available, as well as plenty of all the other materials that you will need to get sowing and growing. Our bulk delivery of multi-purpose compost is filling the place and the usual offer of a reduced price for three bags is in place. As usual there will be people on hand to help carry the heavy stuff to your car.

Some dates for your diary:
5 March: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall
16 May: Spring into the Garden, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall
24 August: Annual Show, 2.30 pm in the Public Hall

A reminder: subscriptions for 2019 are now due: £2, or £1 if you are retired. The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

I know of only one duty, and that is to love.

Albert Camus

The Future of St Luke, Snailbeach

St Luke Snailbeach has now been a 'Festival Church' for over one year. This means there are services on six key festival dates per year, including Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday, as well as being available for the Occasional Offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals). In addition, the church is open every day of the year, thanks to the commitment of Doug Boulter.

At the PCC meeting of Holy Trinity Minsterley & St Luke Snailbeach at **Holy Trinity Church Minsterley on Tuesday 26th February at 7.30pm** we will therefore be reviewing the situation, and the extent to which it is still a viable model to continue with, or not, going forward. In making a decision we will need to bear in mind our limited clergy resources, finances and the volunteer effort required for the upkeep and maintenance of the church building and the graveyard.

People are invited to attend the PCC meeting, for that part of the discussion, or they can pass any comments to me or Doug Boulter. Please do contribute any views you have, including any practical solution for offers of financial and volunteer support.

Revd Giles Tulk

Rector of the Stiperstones Group & Rural Dean

We need your support at this meeting because without community input this little church will close.

V A L E N T I N E

How many words of 4 or more letters can you make out of the name Valentine?

(a gentle reminder to those 'unromantics' - 14th February, flowers and chocs compulsory!)

Without referring to a dictionary, and using each letter only as shown (2 E's and 2 N's). No proper nouns allowed.

The Snailbeach resident score to beat is 60 Longest word 7 letters

ANSWERS listed below.

V- valiant vain, vane, vale, valet, veal, veil, vent, venal, venial, ventil, vina, vine, vial, vile, vint

A – alee, alien, alive, ante, anti, anvil

L- late, lave, lateen, lean, leant, leave, leaven, levant, line, linn, linnet, lint, lenient, live

E- eaten, elan, elate, elite, enliven, even, event, evil, entail

N- nail, nave, navel, neat, nine, neve

T- tail, tale, teen, teal, tile, tine, tinea

I- inlet, invent

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Rising star breaks 30 minute barrier

The Devil's Chair Dawdle or Dash 2018

Geoff Sproson reports



On Boxing Day, 10 year old Bethany Trow of Shrewsbury AC's became the first junior to break the half hour barrier in this, the 40th running of the Devil's Chair Dawdle or Dash. Bethany completed a trio of wins and finished as the fourth lady overall with only 51 runners out of a field of 403 in front of her in a time of 29:04.

With the unseasonable mild weather and a layer of brashed heather over the worst of the stones it was a day for fast times. Mercia's Sarah Willhoit gained revenge on Amy Partridge in the ladies race and in doing so broke Alison Lavender's long standing record dipping under 25 mins for the first time. Veteran Nicola Richards followed with young Bethany splitting the long standing rivalry between Nicola and Anna Bartlett. Under 18 winner Maddison Griffiths rounded off the leading five. First lady over 50 was Telford's ever present Juliet Hoad, while Lesley Schofield, not conceding her true ag, and Lesley Pymm from Bourneville continue to prove you are never too old.

Five local ladies put the Stiperstones lads to shame. Amelia Williams, a previous under 18 winner, and first timers Sal Tonge, Jane Bratby and mother and daughter pair Louise Cook and Neave Wright-Cook all showing the men how it's done.

In the men's event Telford's William Kay did not defend his title and it was left to veteran ERYRI runner Richard Roberts to roll back the years to his previous victory in 2011 and hold off Mercia's topless Andy Watkins, fellow veteran Rob Baker and under 18 winner Tom Wilde from Oswestry. John Atyeo from Mercia just overcame Maldwyn's Paul Beeson and teammate Dave Farrow in the over 50s while Ed Davies made it at least 13 age victories in a row going back to 2005, in the over 60s. Dave Evason posted a remarkable sub 45 min time in the over 70s with grandson Robert still fast enough to finish top 40.

In the junior section Mid Shropshire Wheeler Alex Hart recorded his fourth win in his final year in this age group. His time of 30.15 broke his own boy's record, while first and only Stiperstones man Tim Hockley continues to run personal bests and may still break that 30 minute barrier himself.

We believe the 402 entries is a record as is the 322 finishers. The event raised £1500 for the Severn Hospice and the Lingen Davies Unit. John and Geoff Sproson thank all the competitors and helpers for making this yet another great event.

See you all next year!

Pontesbury - Ludlow - Pontesbury**745 Mondays and Fridays only**

Pontesbury Shop	08:50	Ludlow Assembly Rooms	13:15
Minsterley	08:55	Craven Arms	13:30
Hope	09:00	Long Meadowend	13:35
Gravels	09:03	Aston on Clun	15:17
White Grit	09:05	Lydbury North	13:50
Lydham	09:10	Little Brampton	14:00
Bishops Castle	09:15	Clunton	14:02
Colebatch	09:20	Clun	14:05
Clun	09:35	Colebatch	14:20
Clunton	09:38	Bishops Castle	14:25
Little Brampton	09:40	Lydham	14:30
Lydbury North	09:50	White Grit	14:35
Aston on Clun	10:03	Gravels	14:37
Long Meadowend	10:05	Hope	14:40
Craven Arms	10:10	Minsterley	14:45
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	10:25	Pontesbury	14:50

Does not run on Bank Holidays except Good Friday

775 Tuesdays only

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Minsterley	09:35	Kerry	14:00
Plox Green	09:38	Sarn	14:10
Hope	09:40	Blue Bell	14:15
Gravels	09:45	Church Stoke	14:20
White Grit	09:48	Bishops Castle	14:35
Llan Turn	09:51	Bishops Castle	14:40
Bromleys Mill	09:55	Lydham	14:43
Lydham	09:57	Bromleys Mill	14:45
Bishops Castle	10:00	Llan Turn	14:49
Bishops Castle	10:05	White Grit	14:52
Church Stoke	10:20	Gravels	14:55
Blue Bell	10:25	Hope	15:00
Sarn	10:30	Plox Green	15:02
Kerry	10:40	Minsterley	15:05
Newtown	10:50	Pontesbury	15:10

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26th March	Bournville Village & Cadbury's Heritage Tour	£31.00
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 10.30 am every Sunday

Clun Valley Quaker Meeting

The Community Centre
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 10.30 am every Sunday, **except 1st Sunday**
of month Hazelhurst Community Centre,
 Hazelhurst Close, Clun SY7 8LQ



The **Methodist** Church
Snailbeach Methodist
Church News

3rd March - 2:45 p.m.
10th March - 2:45 p.m.
17th March - 2:45 p.m.
24th March - 2:45 p.m.
31st March - 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome.

Thanks to John and Ann for a
wonderful show of lights over
the Christmas period.

Stiperstones Group C of E Service Rota February 2019

Date	Habberley St. Mary	Hope Holy Trinity	Minsterley Holy Trinity	Shelve All Saints	Snailbeach St. Luke
1st Sunday 3rd February Candlemas Gold/White			10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Christopher (Revd Giles taking 11am Holy Communion at All Saints Worthen)	9.00am Morning Prayer Revd Giles	
2nd Sunday 10th February 4th Sunday before Lent Green	6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer Revd Giles	9.00am Holy Communion Revd Carolyn	10.30am All Age Worship Revd Giles		
3rd Sunday 17th February 3rd Sunday before Lent Green			10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Giles	9.00am Holy Communion Revd Giles	
4th Sunday 24th February 2nd Sunday before Lent Green	10.30am Holy Communion Revd Christopher	9.00am Morning Prayer Revd Giles	10.30 am Holy Communion Revd Giles		

Waste Collection Schedule

Useful Numbers

February 2019				March
Tues 5th	Tues 12th	Tues 19th	Tues 26th	Tues 5th
Black	Green	Black	Green	Black

Mobile Post Office Opening Times
 Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.00am
 Perkins Beach Methodist Church, Stiperstones
 Post Office telephone number:
 08457 223344 (central customer services)

Stiperstones Stores NEW opening times
 Approximately 9.00am - 5.30pm daily
 Tel: **01743 790594**



 Evening all... **Warwickshire POLICE** **West Mercia POLICE**
 Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:
 PC3331 Stuart Coote
 PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss
 PCSO 40387 Calvin Brown
 Local Police Team:
01743 264777
 (Not to be used for reporting crime, incidents or emergencies)
 CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED
 CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONES
 16th December 2018 – 15th January 2019

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Poaching	Males found by landowner, believed to be involved in poaching	Near Pentreheyling	Males used a white Ford Tranist, partial registration DX63...
Assault		Snailbeach	
Theft of heating oil		Pennerley	Exact amount unknown, possibly occurred on more than one occasion since Oct.
Harassment		Hope Common	

Anyone with any information as to whom carried out these crimes please contact Crimestoppers (0800 555111) or West Mercia Police on 101

SPEEDING

Speed enforcement by local officers is being conducted in the 30mph zones of Clun, Clunton, Lydbury North and Clungunford. The Safer Roads Partnership continue to enforce Chirbury, Marton and Worthen with the speed van.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

- Shrewsbury Hospital
01743 261 000
- NHS (formerly Shropdoc)
111
- Pontesbury Medical
01743 790 325
- Worthen Medical
01743 891 401
- Pontesbury Chemist
01743 790 273
- Police
0300 333 3000
- Severn Trent Water
0800 783 4444
- Western Power
0800 328 1111
- British Telecom
0800 023 2023
- Stiperstones School
01743 791 207
- Minsterley Motors
01743 791 208
- Councillor H Kidd
01938 561 651
- Philip Dunne MP
01584 872 187
- Village Hall Bookings
01743 791 633
- Stiperstones Oil Coordinator
01743 792 204
- Snailbeach District News
01743 790 049
- Stiperstones Stores
01743 790 594
- Stiperstones Inn
01743 791 327

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Stiperstones Brass Rehearsals

Snailbeach Village Hall
Mondays 7.45pm
Term times only

Quiz Night

Stiperstones Inn
Last Monday 8.00pm

Knitter Natter

Stiperstones Inn
Tuesdays from 10.00am

Yoga

Snailbeach Village Hall
Tuesdays 10.00am

Iyengar Yoga

Snailbeach Village Hall
Tuesday 7.00pm

Snailbeach & Stiperstones Baby & Toddler Group

Thursdays 10am -12am
Snailbeach Village Hall

Ballroom Dancing

Snailbeach Village Hall
1st & 3rd Thursdays
From 7.30pm
Beginners call 01743 790308

Snailbeach WI

Snailbeach Village Hall
2nd Thursday - 7.30pm

Fit Club

Stiperstones School Playground
Every Sunday 9am
Aerobics Village Hall
6 -7 Wednesdays 80's aerobics
7.15 - 8.15 low impact session.
£6 per hour session.

Minsterley & District Eisteddfod

The 57th. Annual Eisteddfod will be held at
Minsterley Parish Hall on
Saturday, 23rd. March 2019

This will be a full competition day commencing on stage at
9.00 a.m. and continuing until approximately 10.00 p.m.
which will include all ages of competitors in many different
and varied skills.

The adjudicators are:-

**Music - Geraint Roberts, GRSM, ARCM
Philip Dewhurst, BA, PGCE**

Literature - Robert Meadows, BA, PGCE

To conclude the weekend, a celebrity concert will be held on
Sunday 24th. March,
at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets available from 15th. March

For schedules and any further information, please contact:-

Mrs. Jill Blyth

Tel. 01743 791908

or

Mrs. Bronwen Evans

Tel. 01743 791314

or any committee member.

THE BITTER END...

HE GRABBED ME BY MY SLENDER NECK
I COULD NOT CALL OR SCREAM,
HE TOOK ME TO HIS DINGY ROOM
WHERE WE COULD NOT BE SEEN.
HE STRIPPED AWAY MY FLIMSY WRAP
AND LOOKED UPON MY FORM;
I WAS COLD AND DAMP AND SCARED
WHILST HE WAS VERY WARM.
HE PRESSED HIS FEVERISH LIPS TO MINE
I COULD NOT MAKE HIM STOP.
HE DRAINED ME TO MY VERY CORE
I GAVE HIM EVERY DROP.
HE MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY
THAT'S WHY YOU SEE ME HERE;
AN EMPTY BOTTLE THROWN AWAY
THAT ONCE WAS FULL OF BEER.

(From an anonymous contributor!)

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Deadline for inclusion is midday on the 20th of each month.

Wherever possible please submit material to the editor in digital format.