

# HOPE NEWSLETTER

## March 2026



### HOPE AND SHELVE PARISH NEWS - Services in March

March 1<sup>st</sup> 9am Holy Communion at All Saints, Shelve

March 8<sup>th</sup> 9am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Hope

March 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Worship Together at All Saints, Shelve

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity, Hope

March 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Group Palm Sunday Service at St George's, Pontesbury

The snowdrops seem to have been particularly beautiful this year. Great clumps of these delicate flowers are blooming in Hope and Shelve churchyards, as well as along the lanes. They are a sign of hope that spring is at last on its way.

We seem to have had more than our fair share of wet and gloomy weather recently – not to mention Storms Bram, Goretti and Chandra. Though the snowdrops are flowering now, and the daffodils soon will be, there are still many traces along the Hope Valley of the damage caused by the storms.

In the church year, we have entered the season of Lent, when we are encouraged to take time to reflect on our own weaknesses. We never have to look very far to see these - like potholes, they keep reappearing even when we thought they had been dealt with! But we do not need to despair. As the days lengthen (the origin of the word Lent), and we get nearer to Easter, we experience more light (and hopefully more sunlight!).

The message of Easter is that there is hope even in our weakness, and the promise of new life, even in the darkness.

Rev Fran Brealey

[revfran@btinternet.com](mailto:revfran@btinternet.com)

07948 676581

### BRIC A BRAC WANTED

If you have any clean, unbroken bits and pieces that you are considering taking to a charity shop or that might otherwise end up in landfill please consider donating them to Hope Village Hall.

We have a bric a brac table at the community café each Wednesday lunchtime, selling items at more than reasonable prices as part of our efforts to raise funds for the hall.

Drop off at the hall when the cafe or table tennis is on or contact us and we may be able to arrange collection locally.

Email: [treasurer@hopevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@hopevillagehall.org.uk) Or call Sarah on 07790 100462

Thank you



Thank you from us all

PAY **Severn Hospice**  
Two Thousand, Five Hundred and  
Ninety Two Pounds

FOR YOUR KIND DONATION OF

**£ 2,592.00**

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARDED TO

**Debbie Davies—Cakes, Coffee and Bingo!**

DATE **29 January 2026**

512394

### Thank You

Janet, Debbie, Clare & Duncan would like to thank everyone who supported and donated in any way at our Christmas Coffee Morning, Bingo and Wednesday Cake sales. Also, a massive thank you to everyone who helped us on the day without your help it wouldn't be possible. We are so pleased with the final amount raised which was £2592.00 Hospice at Home is a charity very close to us as a family and always will be.

We have also been raising money for Lingen Davies, A total of £805 was taken in. Again, a massive thank you for all the support received.

**Shropshire Council have designated full-day closures of Hopesgate crossroads on Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th March 2026, for carriageway repairs. According to their closure/diversion map, the only way to reach Hope Village Hall will be from the A488 at Hope.**

The **Sabrina Mobile Library** visits Hope Village Hall on Route 3, alternate Wednesdays from 1pm to 1.50pm.  
4th & 18th March



### USE IT OR LOSE IT

**Don't forget the mobile Post Office van calls at Hope Village Hall every Thursday @ 10.15 am**



Dear Tracy

I write to thank you and everyone in the community of Hope, Shelve and Stiperstones for your recent donation of £805.00 raised from your variety of fundraising activities. Your money will enable us to support more people impacted by cancer, fund more projects to benefit them, and deliver more cancer services throughout our community.

Last year Lingen Davies marked 45 years of making a positive difference to people living with cancer in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Mid Wales. As we plan for the future, we remain committed to that mission, as well as developing our reach in the wider community.

As you are probably aware, we recently launched our largest ever appeal – a £5million Sunflower Appeal to grow cancer care for patients throughout Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Mid Wales through the development of a Lingen Davies Cancer Centre in Telford's Princess Royal Hospital by 2029. This will include a dedicated chemotherapy day unit, outpatients clinics, and lung and urology services – in addition to those currently delivered at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Our LiveLife Cancer Awareness work and the successful Cancer Champions programme has seen more than 800 volunteers across the region take part in training so they are better able to hold everyday conversations with peers about the signs and symptoms of cancer, and the importance of attending screening invitations. We all know the early a cancer diagnosis can be given, the better.

This year we have invested £100,000 in a new Wellbeing Programme to provide a wide range of holistic therapies for people in the region living with and beyond cancer. These include yoga, tai chi, horticultural sessions, wild swimming, creative sessions, walking tennis, sound baths, Nordic walking, Renew and Restore in Nature with Fordhall Farm, and the excellent iCan Cancer Rehabilitation Programme. These sessions are delivered across the region with further information available on our website.

There are many ways you can support us now and in the years to come – from taking part in events, volunteering your time, becoming a Friend of Lingen Davies, or thinking of us in your Will. For more information please visit the website [www.lingendavies.co.uk](http://www.lingendavies.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Louise Dawson  
Head of Finance and Compliance

We exist to make a positive **difference**  
to lives affected by cancer in **Shropshire,**  
**Telford & Wrekin & Mid Wales.**

The Fundraising Office  
Lingen Davies Cancer Fund  
The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital  
Telford, Shropshire, TF1 1UG  
01827 555555  
[www.lingendavies.co.uk](http://www.lingendavies.co.uk)

## Heather's Report for February 2026

### Roads and Potholes

Since the change in administration last May, we have filled over 21,000 potholes. The move to bring more work 'in-house' -using teams directly managed by the Council is paying dividends, as is the greater use of more efficient contractors such as Multevo.

There is much still to do, however, and the frost, snow and rain of the last few months will have opened up many new potholes. Please report any potholes on 'FixMyStreet' and copy me in! People will need the reference and date from this site to claim any damage to your vehicle.

### 20 MPH outside of schools

As we go to press, work will have started on the new 20mph limit on the stretch of road outside Chirbury School. A similar limit is due to be put in outside Worthen School and Cllr Ruth Houghton and I are pressing for a date for Norbury School, where the current limit is 60 mph.

### Destruction of Wildlife Habitat

Residents were justifiably appalled at the recent destruction of a possible barn owl roost and nearby gorse and other vegetation in Pennerley. There are a great many patches of wood, scrub and old buildings across our area which provide a haven for wildlife but are vulnerable to destruction. I am currently in discussion with Shropshire Council Officers and others to see if these are any protections are available for sites like this for the future.

### A490 landslip

As we approach the 6<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Chirbury to Churchstoke landslip, we have some more definite news of work on it to start. A scheme is being drawn up to move the road over. They will then start to develop a site programme. They will also work on what road closures will be needed to do the work. They are confident that some of the work can be done using the current traffic lights. They are also hoping to start some of the advanced works and these will include hedge and Tree removal.

### Heather

Heather Kidd, Shropshire\_Councillor for Chirbury and Worthen (including Westbury)

[Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk), 07980 635518 also on Facebook

### Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association

The Trading Post re-opened on 7th February with a good stock of seed potatoes, onion and shallot sets and various pea, bean and beetroot seeds. We received our bulk load of multi-purpose compost, which has a reduced peat content, and this is on special offer for the purchase of three bags or more. We also have two varieties of peat-free potting compost and a good stock of growbags, as well as three grades of John Innes potting composts and ericaceous compost, plus various fertilisers.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30 pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall. We are looking to appoint a new Chair and someone to look after the publicity as well as new people to join the Committee. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Association then talk to anyone at the Trading Post on a Saturday morning and/or come along to the AGM. Refreshments will be available after the main business of the meeting is concluded.

We now take payments by card (debit or credit) as well as by cash to make life easier for us all.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

# Black to Green

**Charting how Funerals Have Changed from Victorian Times to the Present and Why ...  
... with a few Quirky Things Thrown in!!**

A fun, fresh talk with funeral director Victoria Allen who brings her wit, warmth, and wealth of experience to a talk that transforms the way we think about the end of life. She lifts the lid on farewells and why the end of life doesn't have to feel so... dark.

## Why come along?

If you've ever wondered what a modern funeral director does, how the industry is changing, without losing tradition or dignity, this talk is for you. Victoria's down-to-earth style makes even the darkest topics feel surprisingly bright.

**When:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (7:00 for 7:30pm)  
**Where:** Brockton Church Rooms  
**Price:** £8.00 for non-members (Members free)  
**Contact Linda Sagar on 07840-365474.**



Open Meeting

## THE LAST MISSION

by Andy Hill

**u3a**

Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



A compelling and unmissable account of the last mission of a WWII bomber that ended over Norway in 1945. u3a member Andy Hill, shares uncovered research, eyewitness testimony, and insights from his visit to Arendal in Norway - alongside the personal story of his grandfather, who served on the flight.



**Wednesday**  
18 March 2026



**Time**  
2.00 PM



**Minsterley Parish Hall**  
SY5 0EH

Free entrance  
Refreshments available  
[pontesbury.u3asite.uk](http://pontesbury.u3asite.uk)



**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

At our next Open Meeting on **Wednesday 18th March 2026 2pm** at Minsterley Parish Hall, we'll be welcoming u3a member **Andy Hill** who will present **The Last Mission**, an absorbing exploration of the final flight of a WWII bomber brought down over Norway in 1945. Andy pieces together a vivid and moving account of the operation.

The story is also a deeply personal one. Andy's grandfather served on the aircraft, and although family memories provided fragments of the tale, it was only through extensive research—and the help of a dedicated group of Norwegians who have spent years investigating wartime crashes—that the full narrative came to light.

Informative and reflective, this talk offers a unique perspective on a wartime story that still resonates today.

Following the session, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a. **Members and Non-Members are welcome.**

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals with a focus on those not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 25 interest groups covering a variety of activities, from history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball and table tennis ...

## West Mercia Police report

### **CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED**

#### **CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE**

**16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

<b>CRIME REPORTED</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Burglary	Uninhabited property broken into, untidy search made, unknown if anything taken	Bentlawnt	Occurred twice, between 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Theft	Historical offence of money being taken without permission	Snailbeach	

### **LIVESTOCK WORRYING**

Over the last month, we have received a report of two Ewe's, which are in lamb, being attacked by a dog in a field on the outskirts of Bishop's Castle.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep, worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep (this act is being amended as of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to define more clearly 'attack' and 'worrying' as stress alone can injure or kill livestock). Certain types of working dogs are exempt from being under close control in a field of livestock, as long as they are performing the role in question.

A farmer/person with permission to graze on the land has the legal right under the Animals Act 1971 to shoot a dog to stop it from continuing to worry livestock.

Lambing season is now commencing, which historically coincides with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs, particularly where the farmland has rights of way passing through it.

Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept under close control around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that the dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.

### **OPERATION WHITEBEAM – RURAL CRIME**

During the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> February and into the early hours of the 11<sup>th</sup> February, officers from across South Shropshire carried out another phase of Op Whitebeam.

This proactive policing approach focuses on identifying and disrupting criminals' intent on targeting our rural communities. Alongside enforcement activity, officers visited vulnerable locations to offer crime-prevention advice, discuss protection tactics, and provide reassurance through high-visibility patrols.

We don't post about every operation we run, but we do want our communities to know that this work is ongoing, consistent, and something we are fully committed to. We continue to work closely with partners and the public to prevent offences and keep our rural areas safe.

As is often the case; while searching for one thing we encountered another: officers arrested a male for suspected drug driving and possession of cannabis, and one vehicle was seized. The team also supported response colleagues at several incidents throughout the evening.

We had no reported burglaries during this time and it's this high visibility the we know deters offending. We will persist in the fight against rural crime.

If you would like to come along to any of the Hope Village Hall committee meetings please do, they are open to all!

Next meeting—Wednesday 18th March @ 2pm (After the community café)

# THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE



## 2026 Season

### The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2026 season on Wednesday 1st April

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Our team of staff are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase as are books, maps and walk leaflets.

#### Opening hours:

<b>MONDAY &amp; TUESDAY</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY to FRIDAY</b>	<b>12 noon – 4pm</b>
<b>SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY</b>	<b>11am – 4pm</b>

**Closed Bank Holidays**

**Craft workshops and group meeting are welcomed to hire the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and evenings.**

**Contact details** for our Secretary Lin Brown 01694 781634      [bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk)

## Staffing The Bog Visitor Centre

Staff work their first 26 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate for those who chose to be paid.

**Under 18 £8.00      18 – 20   £10.85      Over 21   £12.71**

Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If interested please email Lin Brown our secretary [bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk)

Students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are **paid for all their working hours** at the appropriate rate for their age.

# Connie's Coffee Shop

**TUESDAYS**  
**1-3pm**  
**BROCKTON CHURCH**  
**ROOMS**

*All profits will go to a different charity  
each month*

February - SEVERN HOSPICE

March - MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

April - HOKEY POKEY HEDGEHOG RESCUE

May - CUAN WILDLIFE RESCUE

June - THE ME ASSOCIATION

July - THE HARRY JOHNSON TRUST

## Connie's Coffee Shop

Worthen local Heidi has started a 'coffee shop' in Brockton Church rooms which will be open every Tuesday between 1 – 3pm. Each month's funds raised will be going to a different charity.

Heidi says, "The idea came about after a bad 2025 personally, and finally being diagnosed with ME/CFS. I wanted to open the coffee shop to help others whilst I'm able as ME is very unpredictable. No-one knows what's around the corner.

It's called Connie's after my nan, who was quite well known in Worthen, and of course Aston Rogers, my family home. Nan was the most selfless, kind and loving person you can possibly imagine.

There are so many worthwhile charities out there it's impossible to choose just one to support".

Tea also available, plus of course cake!

## HOPE VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

**THURSDAY EVENINGS**  
**6.30 TO 8PM**



**Table Tennis**  
**(2 tables available)**

**Or Darts**



We have bats etc., available but bring your own if you can. Small charge to cover refreshments.

## We'd like your help to put wildlife on the map!



### What is iRecord?

iRecord is an online recording website and App that you can use to share and collate your wildlife records, including your incredible photos.

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group encourages everyone to record all the wildlife you see. Through iRecord, your records are shared with those who need them to inform monitoring and conservation efforts, both locally and nationally. It's a fantastic learning tool that will help you to identify what you are seeing and great way to put our local wildlife on the map



### **It is a great way for you to:**

- Record all the wildlife you see, wherever you are
- Securely store and keep track of your records
- Share your sightings with the community
- Benefit from checks and reviews by experts
- Explore maps, reports and graphs of your data
- Explore information shared by other recorders in your area and/or for species groups you are interested in
- Contribute to science and conservation
- Contribute to our quarterly iRecord report for the Rea Valley area



**Join in the fun and download the iRecord App from your App store today!**

# Rea Valley

## Curlew and Other Birds Survey



We have been surveying Curlews since 2014. The area is Stapeley Hill to Brockton in the west, across through Minsterley and Pontesbury to Plealey, south to Cothecott Hill and then westwards over the Stiperstones and Hope Valley. It is divided up into 26 2x2 kilometre squares.

Participants take on one (or more) of the survey squares, and make three visits, about 3 hours each, around 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May and mid-June.

**We need more helpers, please.**

We found 7 pairs of Curlew in 2025, but the population appears to have gone down by half since we started in 2014.

The survey is easy to do. Participants stay on public rights of way, unless landowners' permission is obtained to leave them. Simple instructions and a map of the square to record observations are provided, and there will be a fieldwork training session for those that want to come on the last weekend in March.

Participants are also requested to mark observations of Lapwing, Kestrel, and Cuckoo, and breeding evidence for Red Kites, on their survey maps, but that's an optional extra.

A meeting will be held at Minsterley Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, to consider the 2025 results in more detail, and make plans for 2026. All welcome, but it's not necessary to attend. If you intend to come, please email Leo Smith for more information beforehand.

The results are fed into the Shropshire Ornithological Society's Save Our Curlews Campaign. See <https://www.shropshirebirds.com/index/bird-conservation/save-our-curlews/>

**We need more helpers, please. If you're interested, or want more information, email Leo Smith ([leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)), or ring 07791 901732**

**Come to the Gathering! An evening of Praise, Singing and Christian Fellowship  
Third Tuesday of the Month at Marton Village Hall  
7:00pm for refreshments and 7:30pm start ALL WELCOME**

# REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

## MONTHLY WALKS : 2026



Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group at our monthly local walks - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

**Free to attend and no booking required.**

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan**  
10am - 1pm  
Stapeley  
Saunter

Mitchell's Fold Car  
Park  
cabbages.update.quantity

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
10am - 1pm  
Snailbeach  
Woods  
Walkabout

Snailbeach Car Park  
works.plenty.ecologist

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
10am - 1pm  
Earls Hill  
Lope

Pontesford Hill Car  
Park  
marginal.owns.transcribes

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Apr**  
10am - 1pm  
Gatten  
Yomp

Gatton Daffodil Car  
Park  
hedge.scales.freshest

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
10am - 1pm  
Buxton Hill  
Stroll

Viewpoint Car  
Park Tankerville  
games.cheeses.strongman

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jun**  
10am - 1pm  
Minsterley  
Mooch

On street, Minsterley  
mush.harsh.factories

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Jul**  
10am - 1pm  
Hinton Hike

Station Road Car  
Park, Pontesbury  
irritated.swift.freedom

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug**  
10am - 1pm  
Pulverbatch  
Plod

Pulverbatch Car Park  
wriggle.disbelief.housework

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sep**  
10am - 1pm  
The Hollies  
Bimble

Snailbeach Car Park  
works.plenty.ecologist

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
10am - 1pm  
Hope Valley  
Amble

Hope Valley Nature  
Reserve Car Park  
movements.ankle.logs

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
10am - 1pm  
Eastridge  
Excursion

Eastridge Wood Car  
Park  
buzzards.uniforms.swift

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
10am - 1pm  
Stiperstones  
Stomp

Stiperstones Inn Car  
Park  
foods.grownup.overdone



**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg](http://www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg)



**More Information**

[www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/)



**JOIN US  
TODAY!**

Email: [reavalleycwg@gmail.com](mailto:reavalleycwg@gmail.com)



Active and vibrant Whatsapp  
group also available

# REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

## EVENTS : 2026



Join other friendly members at one of our fantastic specialist events. Experts will be on hand to help us identify and understand what we are seeing.

Free to attend but booking essential. Book via [reavalleycwg@gmail.com](mailto:reavalleycwg@gmail.com)  
Donations welcome.



**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Marvellous Mosses**  
(with Dan Wrench)  
**10am-1pm**  
Meet: Pontesford Hill Car Park



**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Wildflower Walk -**  
**Beechfield Dingle**  
**10am-1pm**  
Meet: Brockton



**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**Birdsong for**  
**Beginners- Nature's**  
**free concert**  
**9:30am-12:30**  
Meet: Pontesford Hill Car Park



**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**A morning with Great**  
**Crested Newts & Moths**  
**07:30am-09:30am**  
Meet: Habberley



**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Evening Bat Walk**  
**9:15pm - dusk**  
Meet: Poles Coppice Car Park



**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Dragonfly Picnic (with**  
**Sue Rees Evans)**  
**10:30am-2pm**  
Meet: Habberley Village Hall



**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
**Swift Talk & Walk**  
(with Julie Cowley)  
**8pm - dusk**  
Meet: Minsterley Village Hall



**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
**Swift Walk**  
**9pm - dusk**  
Meet: Brockton



**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Bat & Moth Night**  
**8.30pm - dusk**  
Meet: Snailbeach Car Park



**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Fantastic Fungi (with**  
**Rob Rowe)**  
**10-1pm**  
Poles Coppice Car Park

**JOIN US  
TODAY!**



**More Information**  
[www.shropscwgs.org.uk/reavalley-wildlife-group/](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/reavalley-wildlife-group/)



**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg](https://www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg)



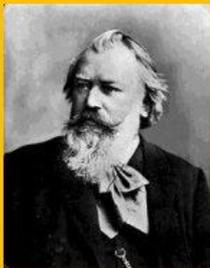
# MARCHES CHOIR

*Cantorion Aberteifi*

## MARCHES SINFONIA

St. John's Church, Bishops Castle

*Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026, 7:30pm*



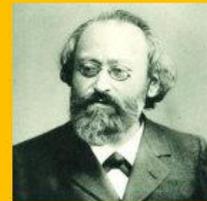
# BRAHMS

*Ein Deutsches Requiem*



## MENDELSSOHN

*Hebrides Overture*  
*Hear My Prayer*



## BRUCH

*Violin Concerto (Adagio)*

Nicholas Morris ~ *Baritone*

Rebecca Thurgur ~ *Soprano*

David Gregory ~ *Violin*

Alistair Auld ~ *Conductor*



Tickets £15 on 07806 433394 or online from TicketSource

Children and Students FREE

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



**Worthen & Brockton Flood Action Group  
invites you to attend**

## **Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Emerging Ideas Consultation Public Meeting**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Doors Open 6:30pm  
Worthen Village Hall, SY5 9HT**

**We have invited speakers from the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS) team to present their Emerging Ideas Consultation, and hear feedback from our community.**

The SVWMS, led by Environment Agency, Shropshire Council, Powys County Council and Natural Resources Wales, is looking to develop a strategy for long-term water management within the Upper Severn catchment with benefits to:

- Reducing flood risk
- Enhancing and preserving wildlife and the environment
- Supporting communities thrive



Presentations and discussions will be on the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme's Emerging Ideas Consultation, looking at the balance needed between Nature-based Solutions, and formal engineering.

**Whether you are at flood risk, a farmer, landowner, business owner or just interested in hearing more, please come along to learn about SVWMS and share your views.**

For more information about the Consultation, please visit [severnvalleywatermanagementscheme.commonplace.is/](https://severnvalleywatermanagementscheme.commonplace.is/)

For more information about this meeting, or to register your attendance please email [sophie@floodforum.org.uk](mailto:sophie@floodforum.org.uk)

# THE PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SHREWSBURY



The Abbey, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6BS

Tel: (01743) 232723

[www.shrewsburyabbey.com](http://www.shrewsburyabbey.com)

## SHREWSBURY ABBEY – THE CATHEDRAL THAT NEVER WAS

**Where:** Shrewsbury Abbey

**When:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm for drinks, talk at 7pm

**Speaker:** The Rev Canon Dr. William Price

**Tickets:** Free, but please book via Shrewsbury Abbey website, click on 'Events', then click on this event title.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1926, a hundred years ago to the day, if not to the minute at the time of this talk, a vote to create an Anglican Diocese of Shrewsbury, with Shrewsbury Abbey becoming its cathedral, was defeated by a single vote in the House of Lords. It was alone amongst the six new dioceses proposed in the 1920's not to come to fruition.

Historian, The Rev Canon Dr William Price, Anglican priest, and sometime Lecturer in Church History at the University of Wales, Lampeter, will give an illustrated talk focussing on the various attempts to create an Anglican Diocese of Shrewsbury, dating back to Henry VIII himself at the Reformation, this attempt in 1926 and yet again as recently as 1988.

The talk promises to be fascinating for anyone interested in church or social history in Shropshire, across the Dioceses of Lichfield and Hereford, and for miles around.

The evening in the Abbey will begin with wine and nibbles on arrival from 6.30pm. Fr. William's talk will follow at 7pm. His presentation will be shown on a large screen and amplified through the sound system/loop.

For free tickets go to the Abbey website, click on 'Events', then click on the event title above to go to the page where you will find the ticket website link.

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## Capital Punishment Exhibit – Shrewsbury Prison

A new Capital Punishment Exhibit has opened at Shrewsbury Prison, offering the public a rare and reflective insight into one of the most challenging chapters in Britain's justice system.

The exhibit is free to enter and open to all visitors, with access via the prison café. No attraction ticket is required.

At the centre of the exhibition are two exceptionally rare and significant artefacts connected to Britain's most well-known executioners. On display are the life mask and bronze cast hands of Albert Pierrepoint, alongside the life mask and hands of Harry Robinson, another senior executioner of the era. Created for official record-keeping and study, these objects have never previously been displayed to the public.

Albert Pierrepoint was Britain's most prolific executioner, carrying out hundreds of executions during the mid-20th century. His career spanned a period of growing national unease about capital punishment, and his later reflections questioned its value as a deterrent. His life and work mirror the wider shift in public attitudes that led to the suspension of executions in 1965 and the permanent abolition of the death penalty soon after.

Rather than focusing on spectacle, the exhibit explores how capital punishment functioned as a system. Original documents, official correspondence and administrative records reveal how executions were authorised, scheduled and recorded as part of everyday prison routine.

*"Capital punishment is one of the most difficult subjects in Britain's legal history, and it's important that it's approached with care, context and honesty. This exhibit is not about spectacle; it's about understanding how execution became part of everyday institutional life, and how attitudes to justice and punishment have changed over time. By making this exhibit free, we're inviting people to engage with this history openly, whether they planned to visit the prison or simply stepped inside out of curiosity." Joel Campbell, CEO and Founder of Cove Group.*

Displayed within the walls of a former working prison, the exhibit places these materials firmly in context, encouraging visitors to reflect on justice, responsibility and social change.

The Capital Punishment Exhibit is accessible via the Shrewsbury Prison café, with on-site parking available (charges apply) and easy pedestrian access from Shrewsbury town centre. Visitors may view the exhibit independently or choose to purchase tickets to explore the wider prison attraction.



## Have You Used a Virtual Ward? Healthwatch Shropshire Wants to Hear From You

**More people across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are receiving hospital level care in the comfort of their own homes thanks to the NHS Virtual Ward service. Healthwatch Shropshire now wants to hear from anyone who has used the Virtual Ward or supported a family member who has received this type of care.**

The independent health and care champion has launched a short online [survey](#) to understand how well the service is working and to help raise awareness of a model of care that many people still know little about.

Virtual Wards support patients who are well enough to stay at home but still need regular clinical monitoring. A dedicated team of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals check in with patients each day using a mix of home visits, telephone calls and digital monitoring equipment. This means people can rest and recover in familiar surroundings while still receiving expert care. You can watch a short video on the service by clicking [here](#).

The Virtual Ward was introduced locally in February 2023 as part of the NHS 10 year plan. Two years on, Healthwatch Shropshire is gathering real experiences to help show how the service is supporting people in the community and where improvements may be needed.

Claire Hobbs, Director of Nursing and Clinical Delivery at Shropshire Community Health Trust, said:

“Since the Virtual Ward was launched in August 2022, more than 9857 people across Shropshire have received care through the service. We are keen to work closely with Healthwatch Shropshire as an independent feedback service to understand what people’s experiences have been like. Listening directly to patients and families will help us show the value of the Virtual Ward and inform the public about how this model of care is supporting people in their own homes.”

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer at Healthwatch Shropshire, added:

“It is vital that the public’s real-life experiences are taken into account when decisions are being made about how healthcare services are run. By sharing their views, people who have used the Virtual Ward can help shape how this service develops locally and ensure it truly meets the needs of our communities.”

Healthwatch Shropshire is keen to hear from anyone who has received Virtual Ward care or supported a friend or relative using the service. All feedback will help build a clear picture of how the Virtual Ward is working in Shropshire and will be used to inform the public about its impact.

### **Take part**

Anyone with experience of the **Virtual Ward**, either as a patient or carer, is encouraged to complete the survey online by clicking [here](#)

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Bishop's Castle Medical Practice	01588 638285	Montgomery Medical Practice	01686 668217
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	01743 261000	NHS Non-Emergency Helpline	111
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Shropshire Council Welfare Support	0345 6789078	Shropshire Council Bereavement Support	0345 6783028
National Grid (Fault Report/Status)	0800 6783105	Environment Agency (Incident Hotline)	0800 80 70 60
Severn Trent Water (Report Problem)	0800 7834444	Shropshire Highways (Report Problem)	0345 6789006
Shropshire Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 2787894	Shropshire Rural Support	0300 1232825
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Society	0800 1884444	Farming Community Network	01788 510866
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Articles—[editor@hopenews.uk](mailto:editor@hopenews.uk) or [sarah@hopenews.uk](mailto:sarah@hopenews.uk)

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