

Village Views

August 2021

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ACTON BURNELL, PITCHFORD, FRODESLEY, RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY

WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome Rachel and Lois (and junior assistant Elsie) to our volunteer editorial team. They will be focussing on handling advertising in Village Views and the annual Directory, so if you have a business you'd like to publicise to our local community, please get in touch with them. You can contact them on villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com or **07891 945704** for more information on placing ads in either Village Views or the annual Directory.

Chris Harrison, Karen Fisher, John Glover, Rachel and Lois Johnson

Hi! We are Rachel, Lois and Elsie Johnson, your new 3 generational Village Views advertising team. We were happy to see the volunteer role advertised in the last edition and see it as a way to get to know more people in our new community. We are looking forward to exploring the local area and plan to start by having meals in the local pubs (and hopefully selling some ads)! Please say hi if you see us!



ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BASH

As you are aware we haven't held the fete and bash for the last 2 years. The church is still very much in need of funds and hopefully we will be able to arrange a 'Bash' at the end of September. As soon as I have a date it will be posted on the face book page.

If anyone has any brilliant ideas let me know: jillfaulkner@btconnect.com

Jill Faulkner

FRODESLEY BRIDLEWAYS

A request from the Parish Council and the owners of Bentley Ford Farm.

Further to the short announcement in the last issue of Village Views it has been noted that the section of bridleway avoiding the farmyard at Bentley Ford Farm has not yet been completed. Riders (horses and cycles) are respectfully requested not to use this route until a new track has been opened and walkers are also advised to avoid this section. Bentley Ford Farm is a busy farm with livestock and vehicles frequently in the yard and, of course, ever present bio-security concerns. Recent discussions with Shropshire Council have been positive and it is hoped that we will not have to wait too much longer for this final section of the route to be completed.

VACCINATION CENTRES

If you, or someone you know, has not yet had their Covid vaccination, you may be interested to know that 'walk-in' vaccination centres are being set up across Shropshire and Telford. Booking is not necessary, and you do not need to be registered with a GP, or provide proof of address, immigration status, ID or an NHS number. A few personal details may be taken so that there is a record of who has been vaccinated.

Some clinics are only for certain age groups, so please check details before attending. Information on clinics, including their location, dates, times, age group being vaccinated and vaccine being used, can be found by going to www.stwics.org.uk/our-priorities/covid-19-vaccination-programme/walk-in-clinic-times



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At its meeting on 13 July 2021 the Parish Council decided approve a grant of £15,000 to the Pitchford Village Hall Committee from the Lightsource Community Benefit Fund. This grant is subject to an agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee and will be used to fund urgent repairs to the hall's gable ends. The Parish Council urges people to make use of this important community resource once it reopens.

The Parish Council has received an update from Airband that work to make superfast broadband available to properties in Ruckley and Langley should be completed by the end of the financial year. We hope that a representative from Airband will attend the next Parish Council meeting on 14 September 2021 to answer questions about this project. Visit www.connectingshropshire.co.uk for more information about which properties are covered by this work.

ACTON BURNELL SHOP AND POST OFFICE

The shop and Post Office is currently open on Mondays and Thursdays only, from 9am to 1pm, and from 2pm to 5pm. Days and times may be subject to change, so please look out for further announcements on the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page, and check for notices on the shop door.



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 18th October.

Please contact villageviews@hotmail.com with any news or villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to place an advert.

CRESSAGE FOOD SHARE

If you or someone you know is struggling to put good quality food on the table, or if you want to help cut down on food waste, please take a look at Cressage Food Share. The Food Share Project receives donated food from stores and supermarkets that would otherwise go to waste, and offers it to local families.

The weekly Cressage pop up food share event is open to all. Just bring your bags along and pay £2 per person in your household. The pop-up shop will continue to run through the summer and is open on Wednesdays from 1pm to 1.45pm in the car park of Cressage Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, search for 'Weekly Cressage Pop-Up' on Facebook, email team@foodahreproject.org.uk, or telephone 07775 505434.

SHEARING TIME!

After 10 months of growing his lockdown hair and beard, John Davies has been sheared in aid of two local charities. He has so far raised £2500, to be shared between Lingden Davies Cancer Fund, whose aim is to improve cancer services in Shropshire and Shropshire Rural Support, who offer confidential support during periods of anxiety and stress to people in rural areas of the county. These wonderful charities make a difference to Shropshire people during times of need. John would like to thank everyone for their support and donations so far, and if anyone would like to see the video of the shear or would still like to donate, please visit his justgiving page:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joanne-davies-755



RIDE AND STRIDE

Historic Churches Ride and Stride on Saturday 11th September.

Each year the Ride and Stride takes place to raise money for local churches and the Historic Churches Trust. Churches can apply to the Trust for funding towards projects so it is important that it is supported.

The aim is for people to either cycle, walk, run, ride a horse or even go by car and visit as many churches as they can during the day, getting sponsorship for their efforts.

Any monies raised are divided between your local church and the Trust. Whether you are feeling fit or unfit following the lockdown, it's a good way to get out and about and see all the wonderful buildings, so if anyone would like to take part contact your local organiser. I can find the details for you and I am the organiser for Acton Burnell, so please contact jillfaulkner@btconnect.com

Jill Faulkner

News from Pitchford Village Hall

After what seems an extremely long and protracted length of time, we feel we are finally getting somewhere with the necessary improvements to the Village Hall which should give some longevity, at least in the medium term, to its function as a useful and valuable community asset.

As you will be aware, various reports from engineers confirmed what is obvious to the untrained eye, that the structural integrity of the hall has been a real issue. The gable ends are bowing out, the floor is subject to heave and when you add to this the poor heating and rather aged facilities and furnishings, we reached the only conclusion we could that was that the Hall had reached the end of its useful life without significant input of funds to sort these problems out.

Clearly, without the agreement from the trustees at Pitchford Hall to extend the length of time we can have the facility, we could not even attempt to apply for rebuilding grants which in itself would be difficult given that many of these have shrivelled away in recent years. As such, the only option as we fight to keep our only 'open to all' facility for the community, is to take a sticking plaster approach.

We are therefore extremely pleased, and indeed over the moon, to announce that the Parish Council have given us a donation from the Lightsource Fund to pay for the majority of the building works needed to stabilise the gable ends. A massive thanks goes out to them for this and it is very much appreciated by the Committee. This actually provides us with an *extremely effective* 'sticking plaster', a good and practical medium-term solution which should give the building a significant number of useful years ahead. At the same time, various grants which have come our way from Shropshire County Council and others, have allowed us the chance to initiate significant improvements to the heating which should make the Hall warm enough to use throughout the winter months which was difficult to do before. Add to this the aim to re-position the entry point to the building, improvements to the flooring in the toilet end, new double-glazed windows in the kitchen, the purchase of new tables and a better sound system, we think we have the makings of a much more usable facility.

The hall therefore, is at present, open for business, i.e. hiring for various private events and meetings. Contact Mike Price for details if you wish to take advantage of your facility. However, we have decided

to postpone the re-opening of Pub nights until probably October (or earlier if we can) to allow the building works to take place. A grand re-opening in the autumn is our objective, which may also coincide with the judging of the Grand Onion Competition (so you have up to two more months to add your magic mix to your entries!) but as always, these ambitions are subject to the vagaries and whims of those on whose services we are dependent and are therefore subject to change. We will let you know of any further developments in the November version of this newsletter or earlier via the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page if news arrives in the interim.

As usual, if you have any other queries, feel free to contact the following:

Mike Price: Chairman
PVH Management Committee
email: price622@btinternet.com
mobile: 07740 067955

Chris Jones: Secretary
PVH Management Committee
email: csjay@btinternet.com
mobile: 07538 744807

Jeanette Reaney: Tote Organiser
email: jeanettereaney@hotmail.com
mobile: 07971 780963



What's on



10th August

A 'Cava and Canapes' guided tour of Pitchford Hall. Tour begins at 6.30pm. Admission is £25 per person, and tickets can be obtained from www.tickettailor.com/events/pitchfordhall/546094/

13th-15th August

The Twenty Twenty Gallery, based in Ludlow, is planning a **summer art exhibition** in The Orangery at Pitchford Hall. Take a look at www.twenty-twenty.co.uk/2021/art-in-the-orangery-pitchford-hall-13th-15th-august-2021/ for more information.

14th-15th August

Runners and walkers are invited to take part in the **Shropshire Way 80k Festival**. Choose from the SW80K (50 miles in 24 hours), the Mammoth (a trail marathon to be completed within 12 hours), the Half-Mammoth (covering 13 miles in 6 hours), or the Tusker's Coliur Run (a fun event for all the family!). Booking via www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=7087. For more information visit www.facebook.com/ShropshireWay80K/

15th August

A 'Cocktails, Mocktails and Canapes' afternoon will be held at Oak Apple Farm Shop from 2pm to 5pm in aid of St Mark's Community Hub Project and Church. Tickets are £12, and include two mocktails or cocktails and canapes. Please contact Clare at Frodesley Hall Farm **07855 786958** or Paddy on **07548 983275** for tickets.

22nd August

The gardens at Pitchford Hall will be open to the public as part of the **National Garden Scheme**. Visitors will have the chance to see the walled garden and Pitchford Orangery, the borders surrounding the South Lawn, the arboretum, a newly planted traditional Marches apple orchard and the grass terraces that run down to the Row Brook framed by the cascade and weir. Pre-booking is required, and the entrance fee is £7.50 for adults (children go free). To book please go to <https://bookings.ngs.org.uk/book/Ode2a73a-f111-eb11-80f7-00155d9dea00/>

27th-30th August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival returns to the Showground in Shrewsbury. Tickets are available online at www.tickets/shrewsbury-west-midlands-showground/2021-08-27-12-00 or by telephone on **0115 807 7900**. If you had tickets for 2020, these will still be valid – just bring them along with you to the festival.

1st-12th September

Check out works by local artists on the **Secret Severn Art Trail** around Coalbrookdale, Jackfield and Broseley. Go to www.secretsevern.co.uk/open-studios-2021/ for more information and to download a map and guide to featured artists.

4th-12th September

The **Ironbridge Walking Festival** offers the chance to take part in walks from 3 to 20 miles, each one graded from easy to hard. Five of the walks (on 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 12th September) are dog friendly, so you can take your four legged friend along with you. Numbers are limited to 20 per walk. Places are free, but you do need to book in advance by going to www.ironbridgewalking.co.uk/WALKS/DAY5/day5.html and following the links for each walk.

10th-12th September

Ludlow Food Festival takes place in the grounds of Ludlow Castle, with more than 180 exhibitors showcasing local food and drink. Tickets £12 for adults and £4 for children over 5. Go to www.ludlowfoodfestival.digitickets.co.uk/tickets to book a place.

11th September

Get sponsored to visit as many local churches as possible on foot, by bike, on horseback or by car, and raise money for local churches and the Historic Churches Trust. Contact Jill Faulkner on jillfaulkner@btconnect.com for more information.

12th September

A **Charity Tractor Run** in aid of Shropshire Rural Stress Support and St Mark's Church, Frodesley, will be leaving Frodesley Hall Farm at 10am. Tractors and other followers can take part for a fee of £15 per vehicle. Entry fee includes a BBQ at 3pm. Please call **01694 731237** or **07976 436753** for more information or to book a place.



PICNIC GET-TOGETHER

There will be a chance to get together with your friends and neighbours at Evenwood Cottage on 7th August. Katrina and Rob are kindly hosting a 'social picnic' from 12 noon in the field at her home to raise money for Cancer Research.

Please bring your own picnic, chairs and tables, and a gazebo or brollies if the weather is sunny, as there is no shade! Coffee, tea, cakes and ice creams will be available, and there will be some family games to try! Admission is £5 per family – please pay on arrival.

If you would like to volunteer to help out on the day, please email Katrina on katskrafts30@gmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM **COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS** SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

Extension of COVID-19 Local Support Grant for vulnerable families for the Summer Holidays

The Government has announced a further and final extension of the COVID-19 Local Support Grant for vulnerable families. In Shropshire the funding will – amongst a range of measures – enable eligible children to receive free school meals during the school summer holidays.

The scheme was first introduced in December 2020, when it was called the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, before being renamed and extended from mid-April to mid-June 2021. The latest extension to the end of September 2021 is providing a further £160 million of funding to local councils on

top of the £210 million provided nationally to date.

Shropshire Council has applied its allocation of funding in a number of ways to support vulnerable families impacted by the pandemic. A key area of support is in relation to food costs during the school holiday periods, in particular for those eligible for free school meals. The council has supported families with food costs during the Christmas 2020 holidays, spring half-term, the Easter holidays and Whitsun half-term.

The new funding will enable this model of support to be extended to cover the six-week summer holiday period. No action is required from parents as the allocation of

funds will be provided through the schools and early years settings as in the previous holiday periods.

The funding has also been used to provide hardship grant support for families and vulnerable individuals in meeting other costs such as the cost of fuel and utility bills. Anyone in the Shropshire Council area who is struggling to meet their essential bills as a result of the pandemic can contact the council on **0345 678 9078**.

If there are any issues you feel I can help on, please do not hesitate to contact me by email dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk, by mobile on **07902 408400**, on facebook [dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell) or Twitter [@dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell).

Dan Morris

CHURCH NEWS

Now that the country has 'opened up', we notice that people are still being cautious and in our churches we are doing the same by continuing as we have been during the lockdown and gradual roadmap times with a few minor changes.

We have gone back to the pre-pandemic pattern of services, but with a couple of minor alterations. The evensongs at Conover and Frodesley have been withdrawn and the remaining Frodesley monthly service will often be a 'Festival Church' service (usually at 3pm) with the intervening months being an 11.30am Holy Communion service. This month, we will be having a Lammas Service during and after which a Lammas loaf and cider are consumed— what more encouragement to you want to attend that one?!

Gel and wipes will still be available in church, masks will still be able to be worn but will not be mandatory and singing will be allowed, but with restraint and socially distanced. We will also make sure there is adequate ventilation through the buildings. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals will return without any restrictions, except those which are voluntary, e.g. the individual decision to wear a mask.

With these guidelines, I am trying to cautiously open some things up in a safe way, but at the same time keep some of the precautions in place where it would seem to be right to do so. I want to assure everyone, that our churches are safe to return to as long as we take whatever precautions we are comfortable with.

AUGUST SERVICES

- 1st August: **Pitchford Church** Holy Communion at 11.30am
8th August: **Acton Burnell Church** Holy Communion at 8.45am
Frodesley Church LAMMAS Service at 3pm
15th August: **Acton Burnell Church** Evensong at 6.30pm
29th August: **Acton Burnell Church** Holy Communion Service at 10am (for all churches)

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

- 5th Sept: **Pitchford Church** Holy Communion at 11.30am
12th Sept: **Acton Burnell Church** Holy Communion at 8.45am
Conover Church Confirmation Service at 10am with the Bishop of Hereford
19th Sept: **Frodesley Church** Holy Communion at 11.30am
Acton Burnell Church Evensong at 6.30pm

OCTOBER SERVICES

- 3rd Oct: **Pitchford Church** HARVEST CELEBRATION at 11.30am
10th Oct: **Acton Burnell Church** Holy Communion at 8.45am
Frodesley Church HARVEST CELEBRATION at 3pm
17th Oct: **Acton Burnell Church** HARVEST CELEBRATION at 6.30pm
31st Oct: **Conover Church** Holy Communion 10am (for all churches) with the Archdeacon of Ludlow, The Ven. Fiona Gibson

Please note that these arrangements may change if Government rules and regulations change. We have not made a decision about the Harvest Supper yet, but will advertise as usual if we feel able to hold it nearer the time.

Geoff Garrett, Rector

ENJOYING SUMMER WITH YOUR PETS

By the time we go to press, it may be that the tropical weather of July is no more than a distant memory. However, if the heatwave continues into August, you may find the following advice from vets and animal charities helpful.

The hot weather during July brought with it a number of reports of pets (particularly dogs) suffering from the heat. Vets advise that even at 20 to 23°C, dogs can be at risk if they are very active, especially those who are overweight or have breathing difficulties. At 24 to 27°C extreme caution should be taken when exercising all dogs, but particularly those who are large, flat-faced (such as pugs and bulldogs), or very young. At 28 to 31°C exercise can be dangerous for all dogs, but can be life-threatening for larger breeds and puppies, and for flat-faced breeds.

Owners should also check the temperature of pavements before venturing out with their dog in hot weather. If it's too hot for you to rest your hand comfortably on the pavement for 5 seconds, then it's too hot for a dog's paws.

Dogs who become overheated should be moved into the shade, encouraged to drink, and sprayed with cool (not cold) water. Soaking blanket or sheet in cool water and allowing the dog to lie on it can help them cool down.

Cats will usually find a shady spot from which to enjoy the sunshine, but if your cat spends a lot of time outside you may want to provide a 'cat hide' (which can be as simple as a large cardboard box) so that they have somewhere to get out of the sun. And

although cats often seem to drink very little, make sure water is available for them both inside and out.

Caged pets, from outdoor rabbits and guinea pigs to indoor hamsters and gerbils, can be at risk, as cages and runs can quickly become hot. For outdoor pets, make sure their cage and pen is in the shade. A plastic bottle, filled with water, frozen, and then placed outside their cage near their sleeping area, can cool their sleeping quarters and give them somewhere comfortable to escape to. The same idea can be used for indoor pets. Make sure indoor cages are not kept in a greenhouse, conservatory or porch during hot weather, as the temperature can rise unexpectedly quickly and dangerously in these areas.

KATHERINE PLYMLEY 1758-1829

Katherine was the eldest child of Joseph Plymley, an apothecary, and Diana Flint, who was related to Sir Richard Corbett of Longnor Hall. Joseph, born in 1716, had been apprenticed at 16 to Mr John Thornton, a Shrewsbury apothecary. Joseph's parents died before he was 20 leaving him poor. When his employer took on his own son as a new apprentice, Joseph sought his fortune working as an apothecary in London.

A few years later he returned to Shropshire to become the partner of his old boss John Thornton whose son had died. When John Thornton died in 1751 he left most of his fortune to Joseph. At the age of 35 Joseph was now a wealthy man and could indulge his hobbies of natural history and painting, which had been encouraged by the Corbett family in Longnor. Sir Richard Corbett was delighted when Joseph formed an attachment to his relative Diana Flint, whose mother Jane had become his housekeeper when she became a widow with four young children. Diana had been a friend of Elizabeth Edwards and spent weeks at a time visiting the family at Frodesley Lodge.

In 1756 at the age of 40 Joseph sold his business and married Diana who was then 31. Sir Richard (being unmarried) was so pleased with the union that he built them Bank House just across the road and the Cound Brook from Longnor Hall where he lived.

Katherine grew up with her two younger siblings Joseph and Ann in a cultured and artistic home. Katherine inherited her

father's gift for portraying butterflies and insects and her journals reveal her love of nature as well as the breadth of her reading and her deep interest in current affairs. Sir Richard, who lived till Katherine was 16, would have broadened and enriched the children's minds having been an MP, who also travelled widely and was interested in the latest inventions. Katherine visited the local landowning families such as those of Sir Edward Smythe at Acton Burnell Hall as well as his relatives who now lived in Frodesley Lodge. Her journals make it clear that she also took an interest in the local villagers.

In 1784 her brother Joseph's wife Jane died at just 24 years old. Katherine and her sister Ann proceeded to care for their brother's three infant children, sadly without the help of their mother Diana who had died in 1779. They went on to home educate the children as they grew up and later 10 younger nieces and nephews after their brother remarried. Katherine enjoyed home educating the children as it gave extra impetus to her life of self improvement, concentrating on such topics as religion, education, moral philosophy and biography. Her younger sister Ann, born in 1761, although rarely in good health herself shared an interest in their father's apothecary business and continued to dispense medicines to local people after their father died in 1802.

Katherine produced over 400 water colour paintings of butterflies and moths from egg to adulthood which were often drawn from life as she maintained the insects and their food through their life cycle. She kept up with scientific developments and was in communication with academics such as

the entomologist Frederick William Hope. Her writings survive in 210 notebooks which include 9 memoirs of her father, 29 travel journals and 138 diaries covering the period from 1791 till 1827. Her diaries give accounts of her opinions, and an insight into the attitudes and preoccupations of society as well as more factual information. Not surprisingly she strongly believed that girls should be educated. Katherine met and wrote about the ceramic's entrepreneur Josiah Wedgwood, the anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson, the architect Charles Bage, the botanist Theophilus Houlbrooke, and the playwright and philanthropist Hannah More, and the travel writers Thomas Pennant and William Gilpin. Her travel journals include accounts of repeated visits to Bath and London, a tour of North Wales and travels to Oxford, Cambridge and Penzance. In 1792 she met the two Ladies of Llangollen who had fallen in love with each other in Ireland and fled their families disdain to live out their lives in Wales. She describes some of Herschel's telescopes in 1796 and the first trials of Richard Trevithick's steam locomotive in Penzance in 1803.

Katherine lived to 71, dying just 6 weeks after her younger sister. Neither had married and they had spent their lives together. Their brother went on to live another 9 years before dying at the age of 79.

Memorials may be found in the churches at Leebotwood and Longnor. Some of Katherine's paintings are on permanent display in Shrewsbury museum and her writings are to be found in the Shropshire archives.

Ron Repath

THINGS TO BE DOING IN YOUR GARDEN RIGHT NOW (EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A GARDENER) by *Chris Harrison*

It's not too late to sow a few seeds for salad crops – lettuces, rocket and radishes often do better in cooler weather. If there are no spaces in your borders or vegetable plot, then a large container makes a perfect home for some 'cut and come again' lettuce.

While perennials are growing strongly, you may want to think about taking some cuttings. Snip the top few centimetres of new growth using sharp secateurs. Remove the bottom few leaves and pop into a pot of damp compost. Water well and then cover the pot with a clear plastic bag (this traps the moisture and provides the damp environment cuttings prefer). Place in a warm, light spot. As soon as you see signs of growth, remove the plastic bag and water the cutting. It should be ready to pot on in a few weeks, giving you a new young plant for free!

As the summer turns to autumn, it is time to think about pruning. Many perennials can be cut back hard once they have finished flowering (although you may want to wait a while before cutting back any that have decorative seedheads). Lavender in

particular benefits from a hard pruning in autumn – but don't cut back into old wood, as it may not regrow.

It is also time to look ahead to next spring. Now is the time to order bulbs for spring flowers – daffodils, narcissus, tulips and irises. If you fancy growing something a little more unusual, try the impressive crown imperial (*fritillaria imperialis*), which stands a dramatic 1.2m tall, with orange or yellow bell shaped flowers. This fascinating plant is pollinated by blue-tits, and is the only plant grown in the UK where this is the case. But beware – some people find the scent reminiscent of foxes!

Now is the time to watch out for young frogs and toads which have left the ponds where they hatched and developed, and will be hunting in overgrown and shady parts of your garden. Take care when weeding and digging, as they are well camouflaged.

Garden birds such as blackbirds may have a last brood of chicks as late as August, so protein rich food like mealworms or fat balls will be a welcome treat for harassed feathered parents.

Butterflies can be seen as late as September in many gardens. Peacock, painted lady and cabbage whites are the most common, but you may also spot orange-tips, small tortoiseshell or small blue butterflies..

Deadheading perennial plants in your garden will help keep the flowers coming into autumn, providing valuable nectar for late-flying butterflies and other insects.

If you are sitting out on warm evenings, you may see an increase in the number of bats swooping over your garden. Young bats born earlier in the year are now weaned and are out and about catching insects for themselves, while their parents are looking for mates, ready for the autumn mating season (although the young won't be born until next June!). Growing insect friendly plants in your garden helps provide them with the food they need as they get ready for hibernation.





Local Strolls: The Plush Hill Circular

Off out to play again and this time going for a 5 mile-ish stroll on the north-eastern flanks of the Long Mynd, taking in some of the wonderful scenery lying just 15 minutes from our 'patch' and on largely lesser used paths. Of course, there is some absolutely stunning physical geography on yet another field trip! Well, what did you expect?!

This round trip takes us from Womerton, past Jinlye and up to the far end of Long Batch before returning back down to the Batch Valley and then the playground that are the lower slopes of Plush Hill and is fairly gentle except for a couple of steepish valley exits.

Taking the minor road to the right, signposted "Lower Wood" from the A49 going south from Leebotwood, travel along the narrow and winding road up to the cattle grid which marks the edge of the Long Mynd's open countryside, just past which, on the left-hand side, is a small car park.

Amble up the green at the back of the car park, angling off to the right where you will pick up a track down to a 'T' junction in the road opposite Womerton Farm. Apparently, this unique looking building figured in an older episode of Grand Designs on Channel 4! It is from here that you get a first sense of the landscape on this, the northern end of the Mynd. It seems to seduce you onto its gentle slopes and gives you a feeling of what is to come.

Wander down to this junction and over the steeper road to a path which takes you back up onto the valley side. Beyond the large open area is a small wood with a gated fence. Head for this but keep to the left of the enclosure and its gate and follow the crest of the valley side with the fence on your right which takes you past a hidden house in a stunning location.

The small valley to the left may not look too inspiring, but a closer look tells you something about the processes which have shaped this classic 'V' shaped gully. These distinctive Batches which litter the eastern flanks of the Mynd were formed at the end of the ice age when a much wetter climate coupled with rapid melting of snow and ice, produced powerful fast flowing streams running off the Long Mynd towards the east. This water rushed down the slopes which were much higher up than the area it drained down to, meaning it had a lot of what is called 'potential energy'. This energy caused the river to erode vertically as it tried to cut down to the level of the valley below. This in turn allowed the steeper sides of the valley to 'sludge' into the stream which took the

debris away making the valley sides gentler thereby accounting for its cross-sectional 'V' shape. Vast amounts of sediment were washed onto the floor of the Stretton Valley covering in parts the moraine left behind by the glacier that had now gone. These batches are now no longer developing at the same rate as rainfalls have significantly decreased and therefore so has the run-off. Having said that, they are still being modified as you can see if you look at the very bottom of this valley where you can see the smaller post-pluvial stream cutting its own valley at the bottom of the older post glacial fossil valley. Cool eh?

Follow the path along negotiating a couple of boggy bits and you come out onto the side of the open expanse that is Plush Hill. On the eastern side of the Stretton valley and on your left is Caer Caradoc and The Lawley. Their shape is partly down to the volcanic rocks from which they are made, marking them in striking contrast to the gentler slopes you are currently on which are made from softer former sea bed sediments. Keep walking until you reach a path junction by a large boulder and turn right. Turn left along the road to the house, just before which you turn right.

Here things get a little more tricky as you enter a confusing network of paths and pathlets! Follow the inset map which details these and once you cross the point where five paths meet, you will see a small outcrop of rock up and to your right. This is "Jonathan's Rock".

This is so called after a Welsh cattle drover who, while about to take some cattle from Bala to London, met a good-looking young maid called Megan. To cut a long story short, on his way back to Bala, he found she had moved to All Stretton where he went to visit her on a subsequent trip. On a third visit however, he found that she had been killed when a horse pulling a trap bolted and the body of the broken-hearted Jonathan was found under this outcrop which now bears his name. Poor bloke.



Big Dog and 'The Rat' looking for bones at Jonathan's Rock.

Moving swiftly on, there is a very small path veering off to the right of the small path by the rock which takes you back up to the plateau and main track. A little further on is a small wooden signpost by what appears to be a rampart. This is a 'Cross Dyke'. It travels along the whole of the eastern flanks of the Mynd although sections in valleys are missing. About a metre high and about 3 metres wide, it is unlikely to be defensive but probably



Robin's Lye ridge with Jinlye and the Wrekin beyond

simply marks the boundary between different areas of farmland. It was built in the Iron Age and dates from about 1500-1300 BC making it about 3,500 years old. Wow!

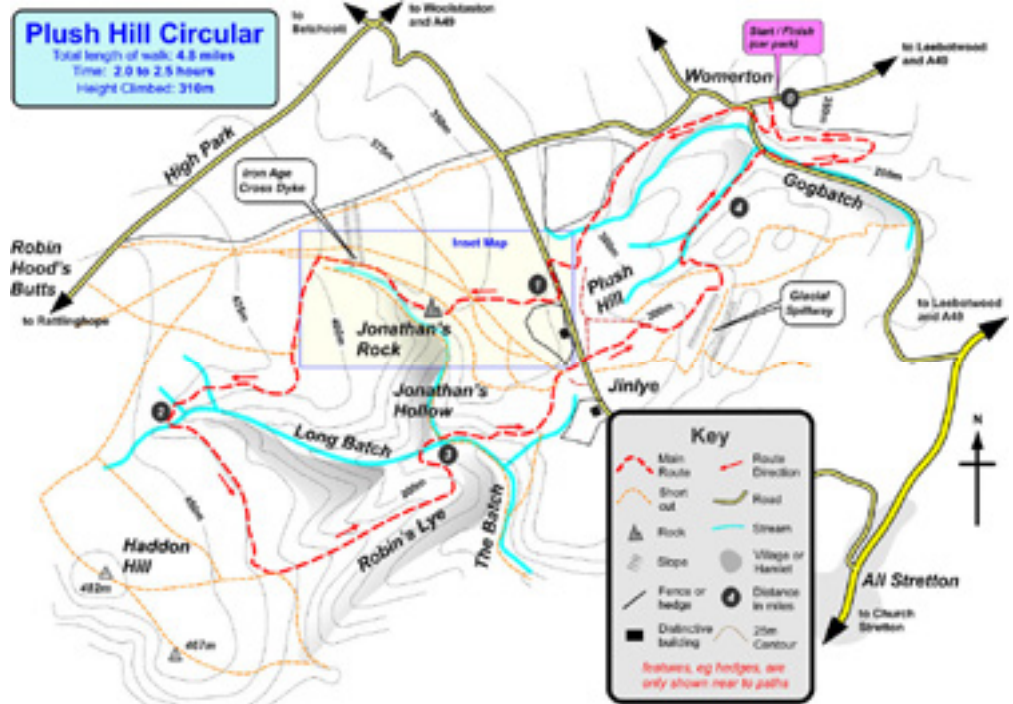
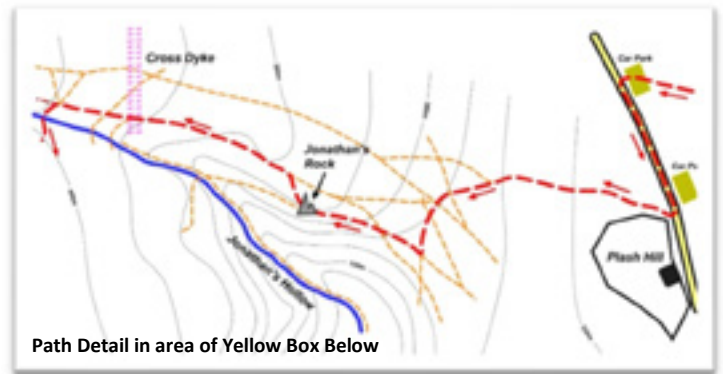
From here, carry on until you reach the third turning on the left where you leave the main path and go down to a very wide and obvious crossing of the stream that enters Jonathan's Hollow. Cross this and carry on along a wonderful open path across the plateau. You will soon come to a distinctive junction where a path curves away to the right. Ignore this and carry on and you will quickly arrive above Long Batch where the path turns to the right and gently eases down the eastern slope of the valley, yet another of the spectacular batches mentioned before.

After crossing a couple of drinking points for the dogs and splashing points for the children, you reach the base of the valley where you cross the stream and head up on the other side and onto the lower flanks of Haddon Hill. In front of you lies the classic triple of Caradoc, Lawley and The Wrekin. As you move forward, you will notice a long spur heading out into the valley to your front and left. This is a wonderful ridge which you will amble along just after you cross a shallow side valley on your track about ¼ mile after the river crossing. Here, the path does a 'U' bend and as soon as you reach the top of the other side, your path leaves to the left of the main one and down to the ridge, called Robin's Lye.

At the end of the ridge, the path veers round to the left and down to the valley floor where you cross two more streams before crossing the valley path and heading up the slope past a signpost conveniently labelled "Jinlye". Halfway up is a large sycamore tree which offers fantastic shade if you want a rest from the slope and the sun (or even the rain!). At the top, you pop out behind Jinlye House and walk over a boardwalk before reaching a gated fence at Plush Hill where you turn right and up to the road.

Cross the road and carry straight on into the playground that are the lower flanks of Plush hill. There are several tracks, but follow the widest and most obvious, which, after a couple of hundred yards, does an 'S' bend and leads you to your right at which point, a weird little valley appears below you.

This is a glacial spillway and is one of the less obvious effects of the glacier which once occupied the Stretton Valley. The Long Mynd had several spurs jutting out from its side down into the valley. Most of these would have been covered by the glacier when it was at its highest. Meltwater streams would flow along the edge of the glacier, powered by summer ice melt along with water flowing off the Mynd. As these streams flowed, like any other river, they would cut down into the ice forming valleys on the glacier. However, as they did so, they would cut into the projections of land sticking out from the side of the Mynd just under the ice and so these too would be eroded. As the ice melted and the height of the glacier's surface decreased, these projections of land would be uncovered showing these strange cuts across them. Although they look like small valleys, they start out of nowhere and suddenly end. That is what you see in front



This area, to me, is a perfect kiddies playground. Lots of small knolls and bumps, little valleys and a place I would have found magical as a nipper. This is earmarked for future grandchildren!!

At the far end of the spillway, turn left, cross a small col and head down the slope in front of you to the valley floor which you walk along to the road in Gogbatch. This is another less known little gem of the Mynd. Why pay £7 to park in the Carding Mill Valley with 58,000 others all crammed in and tussling for their own bit of stream to dam, when you can get exactly the same landscape and virtually no one to destroy the peace! Perfect picnic site!



The Plush Hill Spillway

Finally, the sting in the tail. Cross the stream and head downriver and you'll see a path climbing gently up and across the side of the valley. This last climb brings you up to another plateau where you meet a fence along which you turn left and follow this for about 5 minutes back to your car. The Yew Tree pub is just down from here. Enjoy your well-earned pint and lust over the glacial features of the Mynd!!

What's that bug: Mayflies

Mayflies belong to the order Ephemeroptera and are the most primitive winged insects. There are about 51 species in the UK and 3100 species worldwide. They are usually found near water with their wings held together above their bodies and carrying two to three long tails (a cerci pair with/ out central filament) after emerging between May-June. They undergo simple metamorphosis passing from egg, nymph, subimago to imago (adult). The aquatic nymphs resemble the adults with reduced wings. Mayflies fall into three main groups, burrowing, stream and small mayflies, depending on whether the nymphs prefer running or stagnant water.

Do they live for one day only?

The aquatic nymphs may develop over a few weeks or years before the subimago emerges. The imagines (adults) may live for a few hours or days depending on species, and

their main role is to reproduce and disperse. Upon emergence, males will engage in swarming flights. Flying up and down until they enter a nuptial flight with the female. The manner of which the eggs are laid (oviposited) is species specific, some may drop their eggs into the water or dip below it or even dive-in to lay.

What do they eat?

Mayflies only feed as nymphs because the adults cannot with their 'sealed' (vestigial) mouthparts. Nymphs may feed on algae, smaller- or micro- organisms, and organic matter. There are reports of cannibalistic behaviour.

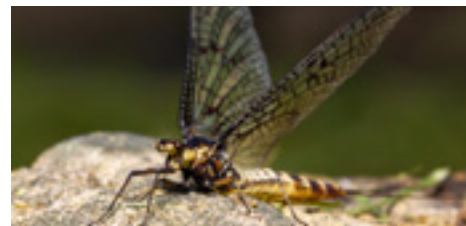
What's the point of mayflies?

Mayflies are beautiful flying insects and, on top of that, are an important food source to fish as discovered by anglers. For example, trout anglers may buy artificial mayfly baits in different colours and sizes prior to fishing

season. Trout learned to distinguish between species and respective life cycle. They will only approach the water surface if the angler used the right artificial mayfly that matches the colour, development stage and emergence period of the species that it tries to replicate.

Another factor is that some mayflies are indicators of water quality because their nymphs have specific habitat preferences, where some can only successfully develop in clean oxygenated water.

Ana Natalio and Nick Antill





Croft & Oakes
CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Are you worried about how the current situation is affecting your pension, savings or investments?

Why not book a free initial socially distanced or remote consultation with a locally based Independent Financial Adviser with over 25 years experience.

Please contact **Keith Croft** on **07815 075793** or email **keith@croftandoakes.co.uk** to arrange your appointment.

www.croftandoakes.co.uk

Registered office
Suite 7 Business Development Centre,
Stafford Park 4, Telford, TF3 3BA



KARKLOOF
Tree & Garden

<p> Garden Services</p> <p> Tree Surgery</p> <p> Bespoke Timber Products</p>	<p>Garden maintenance and clearing Hard landscaping Hedge trimming</p> <p>Fully insured ground based tree surgery Qualified to NPTC Standard Wood chipping</p> <p>Garden furniture Raised beds Planters</p>
--	---

Richard Denyer
Tel: 07721 889 718
Email: richard@karkloof.co.uk



ACE
Farm Supplies

Agricultural Merchants and Garden Machinery Sales, Service and Repair

Husqvarna Automower® • Specialist Animal feed
Garden Tools and Compost • Calor Gas Cylinders
Animal Health Products • Fencing Materials
Equine Supplies • Shavings • Coal and much much more

Free local Delivery Service | Open to the Public

Unit 85, Condover Ind. Estate, Shrewsbury SY5 7NH
Tel: 01743 718955 | Fax: 01743 718966
Email: acefarmssupplies1@btconnect.com
Mon-Fri 8.00am – 5.00pm | Sat 8.00am – 12 noon

Something to share? Services to sell? An event to publicise?

Make sure the locals know all about it by putting an item in Village Views. Information on community, charity and not-for-profit events is included free of charge. Contact Chris Harrison on villageviews@hotmail.com or call **01694 731120**.

A full year's advertising in Village Views (four editions) is charged at £25 for a 61mm by 61mm black and white advert, or £50 for a double size advert (126mm by 61mm). Full colour advertising in the annual Village Directory is also available at £25 for a quarter page advert, £50 for half a page, or £100 for the full back page of the Directory. Regular Village Views advertisers can take advantage of a special offer of a quarter page advert for only £15.

For more information, or to discuss an advertisement, please email **Rachel and Lois Johnson** on villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com or call Rachel Johnson on **07891 945704**



Ridge Fuels...

SUPPLIERS OF COAL, LOGS AND GAS BOTTLES

COAL AVAILABLE IN OPEN TOP SACKS AND PRE PACK BAGS

ALL FUELS AVAILABLE INC SMOKELESS FREE DELIVERY

RING US ON **01743 241122**
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.ridgefuels.co.uk



LOGS2
YOUR DOOR

Hardwood Logs

Free local delivery

Seasoned, Barn Stored & Kiln Dried

Visit our website for our full range of logs, coal and kindling

01746 785606 **www.logs2yourdoor.co.uk**

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Local and reliable service

£45 per sweep
Free Smoke Tests
Certificates issued

Contact **07805 643422** or
www.StantonSweeps.com

