

SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL

*Including the communities of Sheriffhales, Lilyhurst, Burlington, Heath Hill,
Weston Heath, Redhill and Chadwell*

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Jennifer Cree, 35 Kingsford Park, Sladd Lane, Wolverley, DY11 5TA

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www.sheriffhales-pc.gov.uk

15th January 2025

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL, THE PRESS AND
THE PUBLIC**

You are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting of Sheriffhales Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11^h March 2025 at Sheriffhales Village Hall.

Yours faithfully

Cllr J Horne

Chairman of the Council

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome and report**
- 2. Community presentations / reports**
- 3. Minutes** - To confirm the Minutes of the Sheriffhales Annual Parish meeting held on 12th March 2024.
- 4. Matters Arising from the minutes**
- 5. Parish Council Report**
- 6. Questions arising from the public relevant to the reports or with regards to the parish.**
- 7. Date of next meeting – 10th March 2026**
- 8. Close**

This is not a Parish Council meeting. It is an opportunity for the residents to ask questions to the Parish Council of any matters that concern them.

Please can you forward your reports either by post or email to the Clerk with details above prior to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 12th MARCH 2024 AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillors: Mr J Horne (Chairman); Mrs S Whittam; Mr Gordon Tonkinson, Mr Alan Edwards, Mrs A Sutcliffe, Mrs L Edwards, Mrs P Hodgetts and Unitary Cllr Mr K Turley.

Members of the public present

Apologies: Cllr Mr D Himsworth and Mr Neil Pulker

1. Chairman's welcome and announcements

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and the Council to the meeting. He introduced the members of the Council to the public.

2. Community presentations

SHERIFFHALES INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Why short mat? Because the mat length is a minimum of 12.2 metres and a maximum of 13.75 metres.

Short mat bowling was brought across the water to England from Northern Ireland in 1967 by George Dix who was captivated by the game from his first experience and saw the potential of the game as an activity to be offered to members of Sports and social clubs in England. In 1969 a local league was formed in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

From these humble beginnings the English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA) was formed in 1984 after an inaugural meeting held on 10th March and the first actual meeting of the Association was held on the 29th April.. The game is played in broadly the same way as lawn bowls and indeed many players participate in both games. The bowls themselves and the smooth soled heelless footwear are the same as those used outdoors.

So what now of our own Club here in Sheriffhales? Are we successful? We were first formed in October 1994 so this year we celebrate 30 years of our existence. That I think speaks for itself. We meet each Monday in the Village Hall from 7.30pm prompt for 2 hours except Bank Holidays, Christmas and New Year. The only other time we fail to meet is due to bad weather.

We currently have vacancies for a limited number of players regardless of age, gender or ability. You do not need to have had any previous bowling experience and all equipment can be provided, you only need to bring a pair of flat soled shoes to change into and you are offered two weeks free of charge to establish whether you feel the game is suitable for you or not. Annual membership currently stands at £12 plus our weekly charge of £2 towards hall hire and refreshments.

If you feel you would like to try your hand at this fascinating and leisurely activity all details can be obtained from the Chairman - Bryant Rudolph on 01952 460480 or 07811 694086.

He added to his report that the club bowl every Monday evening just for fun on a Monday evening for 2 hours, they have 2 vacancies for their group at this time. The new chairman is Tom Neath.

St Marys Church - Rev Chris Thorpe addressed the meeting and submitted the reports below. He reports on the significant stage of the life of St Marys Church, they have a real challenge as the roof on the tower needs to be remade, and the bell housing has been damaged and the bells. Water is welling up inside the church, and is a very big problem. What we need to do is redirect the water from the tower with new guttering's and also the drains need to be repaired as they have collapsed. They are looking to put a new ring drain around the church. The flooring has rotted and a stone floor is being put down. They are looking to reorder the church at the same time to make it a more useable space. The project have valued the works at £200,000 and they are looking for grants to fund this project and run fund raisers to get donations. The other major project is the cemetery, and they have planning permission to extend the cemetery to allow more burials in the Parish. They will consult on the layout etc with the community. The

time scales for the work is depending on the fund raising possibly 2 years, and the church will be closed whilst this work takes place.

St Mary's Church Sheriffhales



Weathering the Future

A Hundred Years Ago



The people of Sheriffhales have cared for their church since the 12th Century. It stands as a testament to the courage and foresight of this community. For generations, through wars and famines, plagues and disasters, our church has stood as a beacon of hope, marking countless family moments, baptisms, weddings and funerals, the highs, and lows of family and community life.

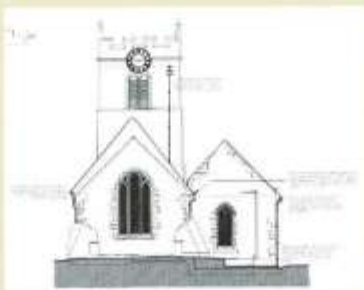
Exactly 100 years ago this year, St Mary's Church Sheriffhales had a major refurbishment. After the appalling losses of the First World War, it was decided to make a statement of hope for the future, to refurbish the church. A new stained glass East window, in memory of John and Ann Hammonds, was installed. All the

panelling in the Chancel, including the Rood Screen with cross, altar and reredos were made in memory of the old vicar Charles Bradburne. There was a new eagle lectern, and offering plate donated by G. A. Nock. It was a huge job, intended to equip the Church for the coming century. An act of confidence in the future.



Now we stand on the threshold of a new refurbishment. To protect our ancient parish church for the future we need to face some of the challenges of climate change.

Tower and Bells



This time the task is to make the tower weatherproof, to put a new roof on it. Over several decades water has come in and affected the wooden bell frame which is now beyond repair and must be replaced with a steel frame. For hundreds of years the bells have called people to worship, but they were originally orientated the wrong way, and they have gradually weakened the tower structure. They need to be reorientated by 90 degrees and a steel ring beam installed to strengthen the tower.

Gutters and Drainage

We will also be redirecting the water collection on the tower roof to stop it cascading down the sandstone walls; installing new pipes, hoppers and guttering that can cope with today's increased rainfall in a fast-changing climate.

For decades, we've had to deal with water seeping into the church, and as the rainfall has increased due to climate change this has been getting worse in recent years. We will remove drainage that is not working and will be installing a new French drain around the church to take water away from the building.

Flooring and Pews

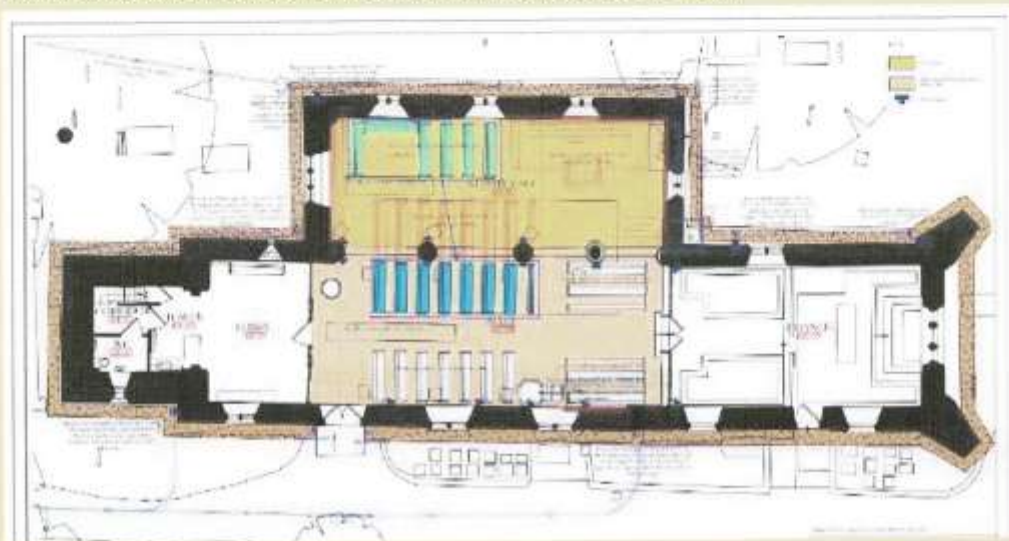
Much of the wooden parquet flooring has rotted, so we will be installing a new stone floor, and repositioning pews to create a community area. We will take out the long pews and move the short pews from the north aisle into the nave. This will retain the traditional feel of the main worship space.



Replacing the Organ

One of the contributing factors to the damp has been the organ, which blocks out an entire window, and affects air circulation in that part of the church. Experts tell us that the organ, that was installed in the 1950s, from another church, has come to the end of its life, and is beyond economic repair.

So, we will be removing it to address the damp problems and to reinstate a new floor, and we will replace it with another suitable instrument. This will allow the church to be used more flexibly opening up the entire north aisle for all sorts of community activities. Alongside the Community Choir and Playgroup, we will also be able to host smaller groups, meetings and activities throughout the week.



Heating

The existing heating system was very forward-looking in its time, and its radiant heat has proved to be a cost-effective way to heat the church just for the times when people are in the building. However, the units are now obsolete and inefficient. They are costly to repair because they are so high (5m) in the building. We have worked with the Diocesan Heating advisor and reviewed all our options. They have recommended using the same technology, radiant heat, but in modern units, positioned much nearer to the people. These will reduce the amount of electricity we draw from the grid, and, combined with our existing PV panels will help us to reduce our carbon footprint for the future.



The Next Hundred Years

Saint Mary's Church is the most significant historical building in the parish. It is a real asset. We keep the church building open every day as a sanctuary, a place of peace and quiet to take a moment out of a busy day. You can pop in and light a candle and offer a prayer. You can drop in with friends and make yourself a coffee and have a chat. The church belongs to the whole community and this work will ensure that it is available to our children and grandchildren to continue to mark life's moments. We believe that our generation can be as forward looking and as courageous as those who lived here a century ago.

Funding

We have been hugely grateful to SACREC who have granted us £20,000 which has enabled the development surveys, specifications and drawings to be created. We are now about to launch the fund-raising campaign, and approaching major funders, that will make this whole project possible. We estimate that the project will cost in the region of £200,000, but this will only be confirmed once tenders are returned and will also depend on how long it takes to raise the funds. To achieve this the whole community will need to work together.

How can I help?

On the back page of this leaflet there is a Community Survey. Potential funders will look for evidence of support from our wider community, so please take some time to fill in the survey and to return it to us. You can write your responses and drop them into church.

You can ask questions and seek further information by talking with one of the PCC members. If you would like to be involved, we would be glad of it, many hands make light work! Do drop an email to the Vicar at chris@christhorpe.org or phone 07855 844608 if you would like to get more involved.

You could plan a fundraising event, especially among wider communities of family and friends or at work.

You might ask your employer if they have a Corporate Social Responsibility budget or capacity to match fund.

Bell Ringing – if you are interested in learning to ring the bells why not come and try! Contact Dan Matthews on 07493700654 to find out more.

Weathering the Future



Community Support

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Email. _____

Do you value the historic nature of the building?

yes ☐ no ☐

Do you support the plans to repair and restore St Mary's Church Sheriffhales?

yes ☐ no ☐

Do you want St Mary's Church to be available to future generations?

yes ☐ no ☐

Do you enjoy the bells being rung?

yes ☐ no ☐

Donate

By online banking: Payable to Account: 21270451 Sort code: 40 34 34 Account name: Sheriffhales PCC

By cheque payable to Sheriffhales PCC, marking the envelope "Weathering the Future" to Paul Heminsley Woodside Cottage, 10 Lilyhurst, Sheriffhales, Shifnal TF11 8RL

Gift Aid If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the form below and give it to one of the church staff or post it to The Treasurer Paul Heminsley Woodside Cottage, 10 Lilyhurst, Sheriffhales, Shifnal TF11 8RL. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given (at current rate), at no extra cost to you or us. Thank you.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title _____ Full Name: _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Fundraising

If you would like to register your fundraiser with us please contact Catherine Rogers on families@shifnalbenefice.org.uk to let us know what you are doing.

Join the Team

If you would be interested in joining the team, please contact Jo Matthews on stm_admin@shifnalbenefice.org.uk

Services and Festivals January – June 2024 Services at 10am

Deep Winter Limited Opening Times
During January and February we will only be offering Festival Services – so please watch out for services at St Andrew's Church in Shifnal.

28th January **Shine a Light**
Family Service for Candlemas
Community Choir

14th February **Ash Wednesday**
service at 12 noon in church

18th February **Plough Sunday**
with the Community Choir

10th March **Thank God for your Mum!**
Mothering Sunday Service

17th March **St Patrick's Day**
Holy Communion

24th March **Palm Sunday**
Palm Crosses and Holy Communion

29th March **Good Friday Messy Church**
10.30am in St Andrew's Church
Service of the last Hour
in St Andrew's Church
2.00pm

31st March **Easter Day**
with the Community Choir

7th April **Easter 1**
Holy Communion

14th April **Easter 2**
Holy Communion

21st April **Easter 3**
Holy Communion

Annual Parish Meeting
Cheese and Wine Evening
Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm Sheriffhales Village Hall

28th April **Easter 4**
Holy Communion

5th May **Easter 5**
Holy Communion

12th May **Rogation Sunday**
with the Community Choir

Parish Weekend Away at Upton Magna
10-12 May – camping
11th Day Away Together – led by Rev Fi Iddon

19th June **Pentecost**
Holy Communion

26th May **Trinity Sunday**
Holy Communion

2nd June **Trinity 1**
Holy Communion

9th June **Trinity 2**
Holy Communion

16th June **Number one Dad!**
Father's Day Service
with the Community Choir

23rd June **Trinity 4**
Holy Communion

30th June **Trinity 5**
Holy Communion

7th July **Celebrating Sheriffhales**
Jam Jar Festival
with the Community Choir
30th June

St Mary's Playgroup
Fridays in Term Time 9am-11am
All Welcome
Contact Jo Matthews for more information
Tel 07841286915

Community Café
Fridays in Term Time 3.15pm- 4.30pm
All Welcome
Contact Jo Matthews for more information

Follow us on Facebook 📺

Minister at Sheriffhales

Paul Warrender

07970 917728

pwarrender@hotmail.co.uk

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals contact
Rev'd Chris Thorpe on 01952 463694
or on chris@christhorpe.org

Sheriffhales Parish Magazine – Report for Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 12th May 2024

1. Background

- a) The Parish Magazine has been provided since 1983, is compiled by volunteers and printed at Sheriffhales Primary School.
- b) 90 copies are currently printed for those residents without technology, and distributed by a team of volunteer deliverers.
- c) Approximately 150 copies are currently emailed.
- d) A survey in 2019 revealed that the magazine is a valuable asset to the community, providing a monthly vehicle for timely local information, advertising events, businesses and stories from around the area.

2. Budget and Charges – these have been set at a 'not for profit' level to cover the annual costs.

- a) An annual application to SHCE (Sheriffhales Community Energy, formerly SaCREC) has secured funding which enables the magazine to continue to be free along with the revenue from advertisers.
- b) There is a charge to Advertisers of £20 per year. It should be noted that many businesses advertise merely to support the production of the magazine.
- c) The printing cost is approximately £600, with the administration costs covered by a contribution of £220 from the Parish Council.
- d) This is the only cost other than a small sundries budget, as all other services are provided by the volunteers.

3. Current situation

- a) The content of the magazine relies heavily on contributions from the community and local business support from advertising. Without this content the magazine would not exist, and thanks must go to the advertisers, regular contributors and of course the people who distribute it.
- b) The magazine currently has a vacancy for an assistant editor.

Barbara Barlow – May 2024



Women's Institute presentation to Sheriffhales Parish Council Meeting – presented by Linda Boddison

Good evening my name is Linda Boddison and I am the current secretary for Sheriffhales WI. Thank you for inviting us to your meeting to share a brief history of the WI and what we do in our local group.

The WI began in 1897 when a Canadian woman campaigned for the education of women in domestic science and child care following the death of her child. In Britain the first meeting was held in 1915 and was brought to life to revitalise rural communities, to encourage women to become more involved in the production of food during the first world war. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK and as well as local activities there are national campaigns challenging issues of national interest and bringing about change.

Sheriffhales WI was formed in May 1952 and meetings were held at that time in the social centre. Mr Slater from Sheriffhales Manor donated a building from the prisoner of war camp along Manor Drive, but due to increasing running costs the WI relocated to the Church Hall prior to the building of the Village Hall.

Kathleen Fellowes was the founder President and her daughter Margery Nuttall continued the family tradition being the President and treasurer several times.

Over the years members won many prizes at county shows, once gaining 100 % at the West Mid Show, the only WI to achieve that mark. Rounders and darts teams were very successful and hand bell ringers toured care homes entertaining residents.

Our Sherifffhales Federation continues the traditions and we now hold our meetings here in the Village Hall on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7.30pm.

So what do people think of when they think of the WI? Jam and Jerusalem? Calendars? Well we still sing Jerusalem as WIs did back in 1924 but we like to think we have moved into the modern age as well as holding onto some traditional values. We have plenty of jam in our cakes but calendars, well lets just say there are none imminent. WIs all over the country are encouraging a younger generation and we are always thinking of innovative ideas to make our WI interesting and welcome change so that we are moving with the times. At our monthly meetings we update members on news from our county branch and discuss plans for upcoming events. We have a wide range of activities including guest speakers, crafts, dancing and exercise and of course there is always plenty of tea and cake!. This is WI after all! We also organise theatre trips and days out and have been involved in some of the community events within the village. Last year we visited the glass and lace museums in Stourbridge and our activities included a glass workshop where we all made beautiful glass ornaments . We had speakers from victim support and a blind person talking about his life experiences and his journey to owning a guide dog. We found all the speakers throughout the year to be informative and inspiring.

Annually we have a birthday party to celebrate the founding of Sherifffhales federation and in the autumn we hold our harvest supper which is always a fabulous evening with an ample supper and desserts.

Our member numbers are increasing month by month and currently we have 28 in total with more planning to join this year. Members from outside the village are also welcomed and we have a few who travel quite a distance to be with us.

We are a friendly group who give support to each other and just have fun so we would love to invite anyone who is interested in joining us to come and give us a try. The first two meetings are free to attend so prospective members can try us first before becoming a fully paid-up member.

Tonight, we have an information table with examples of our craft work and details of our monthly activities so please take a look and come over for a chat if you would like any further information.

Thank you for listening and I hope this information has been helpful in letting you know what we get up to in the village and we look forward to continuing our good work in the community. Thank you.

SHERIFFHALES COMMUNITY CHOIR – presented by Caroline Haves

Sherifffhales Community Choir was formed in 2018 by Rachel McConnachie, a professional singer and musician. The members, currently a group of 22 people meet on a Monday evening during term time at St Mary's Church, with tea and coffee served from 7.30pm for members to socialise beforehand and singing from 8.00-9.30pm. The rehearsals are enjoyable and social evenings, having a positive impact on mental wellbeing.

We organise a number of community events such as carol singing around the village, which is well received by those who struggle to get out along with fundraising concerts for the church and local causes. In addition, we support the church by singing in services throughout the year. Our repertoire is a mixture of sacred and secular music and always includes a few well-known songs for audience participation in events and concerts.

The choir welcomes everybody who has an interest in choral singing. By sourcing appropriate musical arrangements and giving choir members a rigorous training the choir has achieved what at first seemed unimaginable. Members, who previously had little or no experience have found that their skill has grown immeasurably.



Growing hearts and minds

Sherifffhales Primary School and Preschool

*We want our children to grow to be happy,
healthy and resilient citizens who contribute
to the world with respect, kindness and determination.*

Presented by Justine Keeling-Paglia acting head teacher

Sheriffhales Primary School has been at the heart of the village for well over 100 years. It has grown over the decades to include buildings which are Tudor, Victorian and modern, which give it a setting full of charm and homely feel. Major refurbishments were undergone in 2023, giving a fresh, comfortable indoor environment for each class. A new class was opened, to make room for developments this year.

The grounds, tucked away behind St Mary's and the Village Hall, give the children space to play and explore on grass and in woodland, and to learn in our new school garden. The garden, opened officially by the High Sheriff in June 2023, features raised beds, potting table classroom and firepit, so the whole school can grow, harvest and cook their own crops. The outdoor learning theme is woven through the whole curriculum, for all year groups, so all our children enjoy the experience of loving to learn about the world around them.

Sheriffhales has children from age 4 – 11, mostly from Sheriffhales and Shifnal. From April, we will expand our provision to include a preschool for 3-year-olds. The new classroom area includes an infants' bathroom and a fabulously resourced outdoor area, giving an outstanding self-contained unit for Preschool and Reception children. Places for April and September terms are already full, and we have many children already on the waiting lists for 2024 and 2025. The preschool will meet a need in the community for high quality, reliable Early Years provision, allowing many more families to access work knowing their children are in the very best professional care.

The curriculum inside the school has been completely rewritten and highly experienced staff have been recruited, delivering an exciting and ambitious learning experience. Music is a major feature at the school, with a third of children taking musical lessons and enjoying our new, termly concerts. Sport is also a highlight (we employ a professional PE coach) and our children take part in a wide variety of tournaments and events, proudly representing their school in new kit.

The word has spread about our school, and our numbers have grown from 66 in September 2022, to 96 in September '24 with our 10 Preschoolers: we are now a thriving school! We have featured several times in the local press and television; as our reputation continues to attract more pupils, we also help to enhance the reputation of the beautiful village to which we are so proud to belong.

Further information about Sheriffhales Primary School and Preschool can be found on our new website www.sheriffhaleesschool.org or by contacting the school office.

PTFA – Sheriffhales Primary School

Helen Duffey addressed the meeting with regard to the PTFA – they are trying to help school with raising funds and supporting them. The Christmas event was well received, the community café runs every week. They funded the school allotments at a cost of £7000. Any help from the community is always welcome.

Sheriffhales Village Hall – presented by Mrs P Hodgetts.

Sheriffhales Village Hall is a registered charity and is administered by a volunteer management committee. It was rebuilt and opened in 2011.

In 2023, the hall completed and opened 'The Potting Shed'. A smaller meeting room, bar, lounge for approximately 20 people. It has a separate access and own facilities, so it can be hired during the week and separately to the main hall.

The main hall usage remains the same with school being the primary user. Church and community café have the hours to allocate. WI, Bowling Club and the Parish Council all have monthly bookings.

We are building a new website to enable people to see what the hall has to offer, see availability and book it all online.

The hall remains supported by the volunteer committee members to run it for the community, however, the need for active volunteers to get involved is always needed and appreciated.

Sheriffhales Support WhatsApp Group presented by Mrs Pippa Hodgetts

The group has been running since March 2020. Initially a Community Covid support and help group to get everyone through the pandemic. It very quickly took on a life of its own and is now a community group chat to share information, events, thoughts, sales and general 'chit chat' of what is going on within the Parish.

We now have 147 members and always welcome new people. Over the past 4 years, we have all shared Jubilee's, Deaths, Coronations, Charity Bake Sales, Litter Picking, Fly tipping, Pot Holes, Sheep out, dogs and cats lost and a lot of laughs.

The Parish Councillors on the group regularly share the information of the various channels to report issues to Shropshire County Council, according to the group's topics.

If anyone would like to join the group, please contact Pippa Hodgetts.

SHERIFFHALES LADIES BOOK CLUB UPDATE – presented by Ellie Edmonson

The inaugural meeting of the Sheriffhales Ladies Book Club was in June 2017 and the group continues to flourish almost seven years on. We even managed to continue regular 'check-in' meetings on Zoom during the pandemic. Not an ideal format but it kept things going! The aim has always been to gather together, from the village and the surrounding community, ladies that have a shared interest in books and reading in an informal, friendly and fun group. There is always plenty of time to chat about other things, get to know or catch up with neighbours and, yes, wine is involved! There are no subscription costs for the club, although members purchase or source from the library any books to be read and sharing is always encouraged.

With gatherings being held in members' homes, the success of the club has relied on volunteers kindly stepping forward to host and it is lovely to reflect that, with everyone's generosity, finding a venue has never been a problem. Over the last couple of years, a programme has been published for the year ahead, in order that ladies have the dates well in advance, with lots of competing priorities in busy lives.

Currently, we meet every six weeks and all communications are done using a WhatsApp group. This year, as a group, we have agreed to alternate between either reading our own choice of a book within a selected genre (e.g. classics, historical fiction, mystery, biography, etc) or everyone reading the same book, the selected read being picked from a shortlist provided beforehand using a voting system.

At the meetings, everyone has the opportunity to share their individual views and observations in a very non-academic and non-judgemental way. Discussions are often lively and always interesting! And if you have not read the book, it is absolutely no problem at all! You are bound to pick up recommendations for future reading and will be encouraged to try something new. In December, we always round off the year with a lively and sociable Christmas Party that last year was held in the small function room in the Village Hall.

There are currently 28 members registered with Book Club, of which about 15 ladies attend regularly. If members are unable to come along for a while due to other commitments, you are always able to start attending again whenever you feel you want to. New members will be assured of a warm welcome. So, if you are interested in joining Book Club or would like more information before committing, please do not hesitate to call Elly Edmondson on 07792 323130. Happy reading!!!



SHERIFFHALES LADIES BOOK CLUB PROGRAMME FOR 2024



DATE OF MEETING	HOST / VENUE	GENRE OF BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION
Wednesday 17 th January	Jane – Keepers Cottage, 16 Sandy Lane	Mystery / Thriller / Horror / Crime
Thursday 29 th February	Sue - The Firs, Kettlemore Lane	'Pot Luck' from selection provided by Elly
Wednesday 10 th April	Elaine - 33 Marsh Lane	Classics
Thursday 23 rd May	Jacqui -	'Pot Luck' from selection provided by.....
Wednesday 3 rd July	Nicky - Little Porches 42 Sheriffhales	Historical Fiction / Romance
Thursday 5 th September	Elly - Greenacres, Church Lane	'Pot Luck' from selection provided by.....
Wednesday 16 th October	Annabel – Brewers Oak Farm	Biography / Non-fiction
Thursday 28 th November		'Pot Luck' from selection provided by.....
Thursday 12 th December	Village Hall - Christmas Party!!!	N/A

Library report

Brookes Mobile Library in numbers

- 9 Routes
- 72 stops
- 2 weekly schedule

Apr – Dec 2023 Brookes Mobile

Visits: 4113

Enquiries: 2295

Active users: 320

- Loans: 11667
- 18 regular borrowers in Sheriffhales Parish

Each Mobile

- Has a dedicated driver who builds personal relationships with users and responds to their requests and needs. Therefore any absences are noticed and welfare checks are made if necessary
- Works to a set timetable so provides a catalyst for a community gathering point
- Driver can signpost to support Health and Welfare support
- Driver has undergone Safeguarding training
- Has lift access
- Has broadband connectivity reliant on mobile phone signal
- Sells stamps

Mobile libraries are key to Shropshire Libraries' delivery of the

[Libraries Connected's Universal Offers](#) covering:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Culture & Creativity
- Reading
- Information & Digital
- Children's Promise
- Vision and Print Impaired Promise

All of which directly correspond to the Priorities (the Four Healthies) within [the Shropshire Plan](#)

Resources available

- Online Library Catalogue
- Delivery of Requests
- Fiction & Non Fiction book stock
- Health Zones holding selected titles and information supporting
 - Reading Well Collections
 - Autism
 - Memory Bags
- Educational resources such as
 - Storysacks,
 - Let's Get Ready Bags
 - Booktrust resources to share with families and schools
 - Summer Reading Challenge
- e-library support and information
- local events and activities noticeboard

Partners who have travelled with us

- Community Policing
- Fire Service
- F-Word – Falls Prevention Team

- Natwest Bank – Scams Awareness
- Shropshire Local

Mobile Service helps to

- **Reduce Social isolation:** Comments received after recent phone calls to let users know the mobile library is off the road due to gearbox failure

“...I haven't seen anyone for a couple of weeks, I was so looking forward to the Library visit, but these things can't be helped”

“oh dear I haven't seen anyone since you were last here, except my brother, He brought me some books from our cousin, so at least I have something to read. I will miss our chat”

‘Customer used to stay on the mobile library for the duration of the visit (probably only 10 minutes), to borrow books but also to chat, often delaying the next stop. Doug identified through the conversations that she was somewhat socially isolated. Lives in a rural area, with no car, and has some caring responsibilities for her husband.

In order to further meet her need for that social interaction, and so he didn't have to rush her off the vehicle to get to his next stop, he re-arranged his route so he could take his lunch immediately after. He now stays there for a sociable lunch break with her (she provides the pot of tea!)

- **Cost of Living Support and reducing isolation**

“I am a carer for my disabled husband and live 4-5 miles from my nearest library. I visit the mobile library (Brookes) which is my absolute saviour.

The driver is absolutely fantastic and keeps me in touch if there are any changes. I order my books online and collect and return to the van. It's one of only two trips out a month I manage alone as I can't leave my husband long but a 5 minute walk to the van to fetch and return my books is precious 'me time'.

Being able to read keeps me sane and as I am no longer working I couldn't afford to buy my books. I often request sewing or craft books and these inspire me to do something for myself which is so crucial when you're a carer.”

- **Support Educational attainment:** Comments received from a rural school and nursery when mobile library off the road

“Oh that's disappointing. We look forward to your visit. The children really enjoy choosing books to share with the class”

“Oh no!! This is very sad news!! I hope it's fixed soon, our Little Explorers love visiting! They get excited about so many books to choose from”

- **Support Educational attainment:**

Young person proudly told me they had passed entrance exam to Newport High School. *“Thank you for coming to my village, being able to use the Mobile library made a huge difference as I was able to get the books needed for required reading list as well as all the years of reading just because I like it. I'm not able to get to another library because it's not open when Mum or Dad could take me, but Mum can pop out from work to collect from here.*

- **Inclusive and Accessible service and increasing Wellbeing:**

Compliment for Owen Mobile and Doug from a borrower who takes her 93 year old neighbour to the mobile. Her neighbour is a concessionary borrower with a visual impairment and limited mobility. The borrower is able to access the mobile thanks to the platform which can be lowered and raised, preventing the need to climb stairs. The borrower would like to make it known how much of a difference this makes to her neighbour, as it means that she is able to take a seat in the mobile library which allows her to feel part of the borrowing process while Doug helps choose audio books and is an enjoyable trip away from home.

Route 3 Alternate Wednesdays

1	Sheriffhales; Village Hall	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM
2	Lilyhurst; Plant Centre	11:05 AM to 11:20 AM
3	Heath Hill; Hand Lane layby	11:25 AM to 11:45 AM
4	Kemberton; opposite Grooms Lane	12:00 noon to 12:25 PM

5	Norton; Village Hall	12:40 PM to 12:50 PM
6	Nordley; Binnal Barns	13:50 PM to 2:05 PM

24 January 2024
 7 February 2024
 21 February 2024
 6 March 2024
 20 March 2024
 3 April 2024
 17 April 2024
 1 May 2024
 15 May 2024
 29 May 2024 (no visit, vehicle maintenance)
 12 June 2024
 26 June 2024

St Mary's Playgroup, Sheriffhales – presented by Catherine Rogers

St Mary's Playgroup was set up in 2022 when The Montessori Preschool at the Village Hall closed, with the idea to enable the children who attended this setting to continue to meet each other and socialise. Initially it ran in the afternoon on a Thursday for children and their parents or carers in the Beasley room at church. There was no charge to attend the group, and the running of it was and continues to be voluntary. The aim was to benefit the community and so we were extremely grateful to the church for allowing us to run it from the building at no cost.

We have always been a small group, averaging three to four children a session. We continue to meet at church but now on a Friday morning between 9 and 11am. This has allowed some mums who drop off older children at school, to then attend with younger siblings. We have a growing group of 1 or nearly 1-year olds who love to natter to each other at the tables! We also have a few children who are looking to attend Sheriffhales Primary School in future years.

Activities are set up with a theme in mind, normally based around a special day or time of year i.e. Mother's Day. We are not a religious group but will on occasion do activities based loosely around religion. We like to decorate the church too when we have made things for a certain event that will be celebrated. We often have singing or story time and endless tea, coffee and snacks for all!

As a group, we welcome anyone who would like to pop in for a chat, with child or without!

Sheriffhales Community Café presented by Catherine Rogers

The Community Café was originally started by members of St Mary's Church in 2013 to provide an opportunity for the community to meet up on a Friday afternoon, as well as raise money for church funds. It was very popular with parents, grandparents and pupils of Sheriffhales Primary School who would run across at home time and form a queue for the pick and mix tuck shop!

Sadly, the Covid crisis forced the café to close, but our group of volunteers were delighted to reopen the café in term time in November 2022.

It remains very popular, with parents who gather to chat over tea, coffee and cake and children who love tuck shop as a treat on a Friday afternoon.

We encourage the local community to attend and see a handful of them on and off throughout the term but would love to see more!

We have a small but diminishing group of helpers and are always on the lookout for more volunteers and bakers.

Sheriffhales Solar Farm presented by Mr Peter Bonsall

It went into full community ownership in 2022, 2.6 million pounds has been raised to do this. He reported that the farm was connected in 2016, £55,000 went to the village hall extension, £24,000 to the church £17,000 to the school,

£9,000 to feed the Parish during covid £4000 into a taxi service for residents, £5000 towards the oak benches, £4500 for a new lawn mower to cut all the grass within the Parish. They have allocated £10,000 for fuel poverty in the Parish, and they are trying to partner with a relevant charity to help implement this. Reserves of £35,000 which can fund projects, website has all the details. They are looking into putting electricity back to the community by running an EV charging point at the Village Hall, they are looking at a possible community shop also with this type of project as they go hand in hand. The solar project should run to 2040.

Shropshire Councillor – Kevin Turley

He said the evening was a tribute to the community of Sheriffhales and a lovely evening of positivity.

Shropshire Council are looking at 300 voluntary redundancies, getting hold of officers is a challenge now and its going to get harder. Sheriffhales needs to be looking at Shifnal and pull together as a community.

The key things from Sheriffhales are the road state with potholes and speeding. The A41 capital investment programme is in place, Crackley Bank has improved with the new traffic lights, Vehicle activated signs to slow traffic down are needed and being looked at by the Parish Council.

Cllr G Tonkinson reported that the Old Blacksmiths Yard in Sheriffhales is an issue, and SANDEP are stopping developing of this area. This is in the hands of Shropshire Council.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Sheriffhales Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th March 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2023, having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no Matters arising.

5. Parish Council Report

Chairman Cllr J Horne presented the following report.

Tree maintenance took place and a dead tree removed at Heath Hill was completed through the Environmental Grant.

The annual Parish Meeting was held in March 2023.

3 new councillors joined the council in April, Pippa Hodgetts, Lorraine Edwards and Sharon Wittam.

A new community orchard was started in Heath Hill.

In May we saw the Coronation of King Charles 3rd and celebrations started with a barn dance. On Sunday we had an afternoon tea and prizes were given out for the House Decorating Competition. The Parish Council helped financially for the events. Every household in the Parish received a commemorative Coronation Coin.

We had a minutes silence for Tony Lane in July.

6. Questions arising from the public relevant to the reports or with regards to the parish.

Mrs Bonsall asked what why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan what is it.. explain

Cllr G Tonkinson reported that the 20mph zone is required in the village, and he has been asked to look at this.

Norman – signs that are erected for speeding need to be able to prosecute speeding drivers. Cllr A Edwards reported that the speed camera van is in the Parish more and more. In the past Cllr P Bonsall reported that the costs were in excess of £100,000 for cameras to record speeds in and out of the village and that was several years ago.

Cllr Mrs P Hodgetts reported that Community Speed-watch is being set up in the Parish and the checks etc are going forward now. More volunteers are needed to do speed-watch every day.

A member of the public reported that at Heath Hill is also an issue for but speed-watch cannot operate over 40mph, a campaign needs to start to reduce the speed limit in the area from 60mph, then speed-watch can operate in this area.

The Police commissioner has been to the Parish, and the main point discussed was driving and speeding, and his visit has prompted more visits from the speed camera van. The road strips on the road to monitor speed are required.

On the A41 the noise of the speed of the traffic is increasing, and a speed limit reduction would be ideal, a developer is still awaited to implement safety measures as part of their planning application. Cllr G Tonkinson lives near this road and double white lines are required on the main section of the road there are still no quarry signs which should be in place.

The grass needs to be cut at Heath Hill, and a further tree needs to be removed. The work will be undertaken this year using the Environmental Grant funds which will be applied for by the Council in April at the start of the new financial year.

The new mobile library van is coming to the village tomorrow at 10.00am to 11.45am , and the parish need to support this service or it will be lost. It's a use it or lose it.

7. Close

The Chairman thanked the members of the Parish Council and the public for attending the meeting. Meeting closed at 9.00pm.