Village Pump

December 2012 / January 2013 **Edition: 102**

A newsletter for Atcham, Berrington, Betton, Brompton, Cantlop, Cross Houses and Eaton Mascott

Published by Berrington Parish Council on behalf of the parishes of Atcham & Berrington

Berrington Parish Council

Berrington Parish Council consists of nine elected or co-opted Parish Councillors:

Claire Wild (Chair); Huw Roberts (Vice-Chair); Andrew Powis; Richard Ward; Sue Mason; Richard Purslow; Ted Jones; Jerry Greene; Liz Rowlands

Notice of Berrington Parish Council Meetings are posted on the notice boards in Cross Houses and Berrington.

The Parish Council is keen to make the improvements you want, let us know what you think. Why not come along to one of our meetings. Guests are always welcome. If there is a local issue that concerns you then feel free to ask one of the Councillors for help in representing you in this matter.

Berrington Parish Clerk:

Mrs Lorna Pardoe,
Home, Back Lane, Longnor, Nr Shrewsbury SY5 7PP
Tel: 01743 718695 email: berringtonpclerk@btinternet.com

Atcham Parish Council

Atcham Parish Council consists of seven elected or co-opted Parish Councillors:

Bob Wood (Chair); Colin Morris (Vice Chair) Jayne Caswell, Kate Adney, Helen Trow, Colin Wildblood, (there is one vacancy).

Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

Kate Adney - kateadney@btinternet.com
Jayne Caswell - jayne@caswell1950.fsnet.co.uk
Colin Morris - colinmorris113@googlemail.com
Helen Trow - helensmith22@tiscali.co.uk
Colin Wildblood - c.j.wildblood@btinternet.com
Bob Wood - gubandcheryl@tiscali.co.uk

Atcham Parish Clerk:

Roger Pittaway,
74 Priory Ridge, Shrewsbury SY3 9EJ
Tel: 01743 355452 email: atcham@shropshireparishes.org.uk

News from your Shropshire Councillor Claire Wild

PLACE PLANS

At the last Berrington Parish Council Meeting the following priorities were identified for our Place Plan: The Church at Berrington, Berrington Parish Hall, Extension to Community Centre for Storage, Solar Panels for Community Centre, Improvements on the Allotments, Painting Cantlop Bridge, Improvements to Brompton Playing Fields, Footpath/Cycle path to Shrewsbury, Improving parking in Noel Hill Road, Upgrade the Zebra Crossing to a Pelican Crossing at Cross Houses. If you have any further ideas for improvements tour Parish or wish to comment on those above please contact either myself or any Parish Councillor. Atcham will be identifying their Place Plan priorities soon so please feed your ideas to me or members of Atcham Parish Council.

PLASTICS RECYCLING

To date you have only been able to recycle your household plastic bottles at the kerb side. You will now be able to include plastic pots, tubs and trays with your plastic bottles in the same box as your tins and cans.

There are still many plastic items that cannot be accepted. These include all types of black plastic, all types of plastic bags, wrappers and films and all other non-packaging plastic items such as toys, washing-up bowls, buckets etc.

Please rinse out all plastic packaging. A quick rinse reduces the risk of smells and prevents contamination of the other recyclable materials.

You can order another recycling box if you need extra capacity.

DOG FOULING

The Dog Warden will be carrying out patrols in the area between now and Christmas due to an increase in the number of people who are not clearing up after their dogs have fouled pavements and playing fields. There is also an issue with people bagging their dog mess but then discarding the bags on paths. Please note that the Fixed Penalty Fine for not clearing up after your animal is £80 reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days, and if a person is picking up the waste but then leaving it behind this then becomes litter with the same Fixed Penalty Fine.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS, CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

If you are considering starting any clubs or associations in the area or have an idea for a project that would benefit our community please get in touch with the Community Action Officer team who would very much like to hear from you.

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

Tel: 01743 253077

Email: communityaction@shropshire.gov.uk

POLICE CONTACT INFORMATION Our Local Police Team is PC Dave Harte and CSOs Lyn Birch and Mark Barnes Tel: 0300 333 3000 ext 69008

There is also a team e-mail address which will reach all three officers: shrewsburyruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

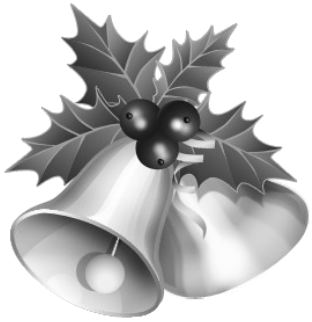
You can always contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 if you wish to remain anonymous.

My best wishes for the Festive Season

Claire

Tel: 01743 762313 Mob: 07800 587249

E-mail: claire.wild@shropshire.gov.uk



Minutes of the Atcham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12th September 2012, in The Malthouse, Atcham at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs A R Wood (Chairman), J Caswell, K Adney, C Morris, H Trow & C Wildblood also SV Cllr C Wild, Mr A Home-Roberts from Atcham Grange & Mr R A Pittaway (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: PC Ray Foster advised he had moved location and been replaced by PC D Harte.

DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS: None

REPORTs: Cllr Wild advised that the magazine costs would be invoiced at year end. Also, recommendations for inclusion in the parish Place Plan should be with SC by end of the year so it was agreed these would be finalised at the November meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 11th July 2012 that had been circulated by the Clerk were accepted by all who were then present and signed by the Chairman.

ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:
LJC Jubilee tree planting project – 6b. Cllr Wood reported that all was now in place for 16th September. 120 invites had been sent; Mrs Julie Adney had agreed to do the tree planting and the holes had been dug; 12 metal hurdles, generously supplied by NT, were now in place; the inscribed stone had been concreted in position; trees, guards & posts would be delivered on the day and refreshments afterwards had been organised. The Chairman thanked Cllr Morris and National Trust most profusely on behalf of all parishioners. It was agreed the Clerk would reimburse Cllr Caswell the full cost for catering supplies.

Councillor vacancy – 6c. After some discussion Cllr Morris Proposed Alastair Home-Roberts to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Cllr Adney and all in favour. The Clerk will commence procedures and also provide a new Councillor contact list to all.

PLANNING MATTERS:
Notification of an enforcement case regarding the large spoil heap on land near Mytton Hotel. Cllr Home-Roberts reported that all was perfectly legitimate and he held all the necessary licences. The rubble would be used for agricultural purposes.

Installation of sewage treatment plant with boundary fencing by NT**.** Permission Granted.

Notification of application for Relocation of tea room; conversion of residential cottage to form bookstore affecting a Grade II Star Listed Building by NT.

Notification that the application for the Erection of conservatory to rear and porch to front 9 The Glebe, Atcham, had been granted.

FINANCE:
Lloyds/TSB bank statements showed balances of £4,440.09 (current) & £2,218.84 (deposit).
Clerk's Jul/Aug WFHA £6 + expenses £5.26 = £11.26. Cheque approved nem con.
NPower Apr-Jun charges - £66.24. Cheque approved nem con.
Mazars: audit fee - £60.00. Cheque approved nem con.
Charles Shaw: Jubilee stone carving - £653.00. Cheque approved nem con.
Jubilee event catering - £82.60. Cheque approved nem con.

CORRESPONDENCE:
The Clerk reported details of the current and future IT support by SC to parish councils.

PARISH MATTERS:
The Clerk explained his reasons for informing the Chairmen of his 3 parish councils that he would be retiring at the end of March 2013. It was agreed that having one clerk responsible for all 3 local councils worked well and efficiently and so any replacement must be prepared to take on the joint role. The Clerk and Cllr Wild would liaise over initial preparations and procedures with the eventual involvement of all 3 parish councils.

The Clerk had contacted Upton Magna Clerk over replacement of the old Atcham street lights and was advised to seek an alternative quote to that already received from Eon. The Chairman will investigate costs of replacing all lights with long life LEDs and the possibility of a grant from the LJC.

Cllr Morris suggested that as the new metal hurdles were valued at £200 each they be placed on the Assets Register and insured. The Clerk will pursue.

Cllr Trow reported some improvement in parking problems along Malthouse Lane since her contact with The Mytton Hotel and their erection of appropriate signage.

Cllr Trow reported overgrowth across the footpath on the corner by The Glebe flats. The Clerk will pursue.

NEXT MEETING & CLOSE:
The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 14th November 2012 in The Malthouse, Atcham at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

ATCHAM PLANNING INFORMATION

APPLICATIONS

Reference	12/03930/FUL
Alternative Reference	HJW/GW/3891
Address	Salop Leisure Ltd Emstrey Atcham Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6QS
Proposal	Change of use of land from caravan sales to plant centre to include erection of polytunnel and covered plant area
Status	Pending Consideration

DELEGATED DECISIONS

Reference	12/02539/LBC
Alternative Reference	PP-02014179
Address	7 Atcham Shrewsbury SY5 6QE
Proposal	To apply a shelter coat of lime render with insulating foil behind on both side and rear elevations
Status	Permission Granted

Discharge of Conditon 3 (External Joinery), 4 (External Rainwater Goods), 5 (Roofing Materials/Ventilation), 6 (Brickwork), 8 (Lanscape Scheme), 9 (Hardsurfacing and Landscaping), 10 (Access Details), 12 (Access Details) 13 (Car Parking/Turning Areas attached to planning reference SA/06/0600/F - Conversion of traditional farm buildings into 7 residential dwellings with associated alterations, erection of building for parking/storage and alterations to existing vehicular access following demolition of existing buildings (amended description).

Emstrey Bank Barns Atcham Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6QP
Ref. No: 12/03417/DIS | Validated: Fri 17 Aug 2012 | Status: Discharge Conditions Part Approved

Discharge of Condition 4 (Drainage, Metal Rainwater Goods), 6 (Walls, Brickwork, Repairs), 7 (Joinery). 8 (Colour Scheme), 11 (Walls, Brickwork) attached to Listed Building Consent SA/07/0361/LB - Internal and external alterations in association with conversion of traditional farm buildings into 7 residential dwellings following demolition of existing buildings affecting a Grade II Listed building.

Emstrey Bank Barns Emstrey Bank Atcham Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6QP
Ref. No: 12/03411/DIS | Validated: Wed 15 Aug 2012 | Status: Discharge Conditions Part Approved

SPEED CONCERNS IN CROSS HOUSES

Following a request from Berrington Parish Council Shropshire Council have recently undertaken a speed check on the A458 in Cross Houses opposite the old Fox Pub. The table opposite gives details of the findings but in short there is good compliance with the posted speed limit with only 10% of traffic exceeding 30mph.

Direction	Posted Speed Limit	Total Vehicles	Mean Speed	85%ile Speed	Daily Average 24 Hour Traffic Numbers
To Shrewsbury	30mph	30326	29.6	33.8	4332
To Cressage	30mph	30044	28.9	33.1	4292

OVER 60s
PUB LUNCH CLUB

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month to enjoy each others' company for an hour or two over a delicious meal which is very reasonably priced and therefore affordable for members.

Our next meetings are

Wednesday 12th December (Christmas Lunch)

and

Wednesday 9th January

At **The Bell Inn, Cross Houses**

For further details please contact: Freda on 761285 or Jean on 761066

HELP Freda has been running the Pub Lunch Club since 1998 and would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking over running the club. If you are interested please contact Freda on 01743 761285

COST OF FOOD ROCKETING?

Ever thought of

GYO

Growing Your Own?

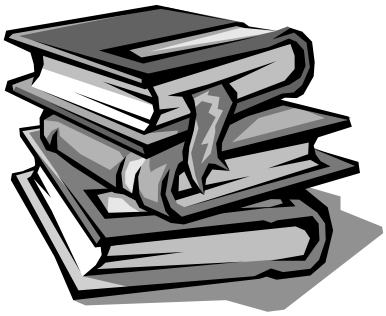
You could be growing your own fruit and vegetables at a fraction of the cost in the shops.

Interested in having your own allotment?

Even if you are a beginner, there are plenty of other allotment holders willing to give advice.

To book your plot at the Cross Houses Allotment contact **Cameron Moffett on 01743 761443**

The Mobile Library

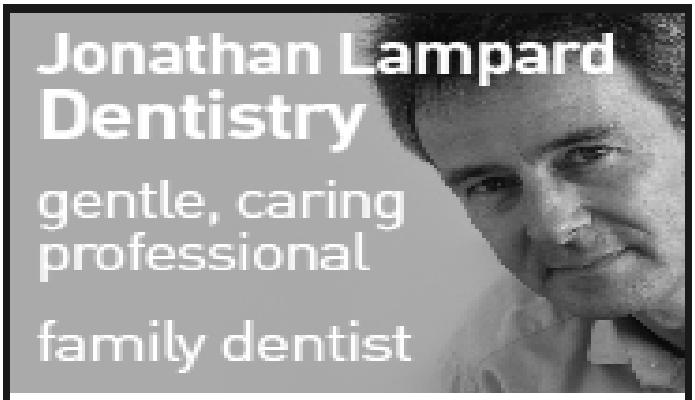


Will be in **CROSS HOUSES**

Every other Friday morning by the kiosk 9.15am—9.40am

That's 7th & 21st December 2012 and 4th & 18th January 2013

Telephone 01743 255024 for further details.



Accepting new patients for
emergency treatment and registration
Daily emergency appointments
Preventative and
Cosmetic Dentistry
Telephone Advice
Hygienist
Children seen on NHS

Oxon Dental Care.
Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath,
Shrewsbury, SY3 5AH
(on-site parking)

01743 34 30 30
www.lamparddentistry.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON ON WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

1) Welcome by Chairman: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2) Present and Apologies:
Present:

Councillor C Wild Chairman	Councillor H Roberts: Vice Chairman
Councillor L Rowlands	Councillor S Mason
Councillor T Jones	Councillor R Purslow

Apologies: Councillor Sue Mason.

3) Public Comments: There were no members of the public present. However the clerk had been copied into an e-mail from Tamara Hayman to the Chairman of the Council and Mike Davies, Traffic Technician at Shropshire Council, stating her concerns over traffic speed and inconsiderate driver behaviour at the zebra crossing.

The clerk was asked to request that the Police monitor the speed on the A458 through the village. It was agreed that the clerk request a speed count on the road. The clerk to bring the matter to the attention of PC Dave Harte and the Highways Agency. it was also agreed that she ask what are the monitoring cameras at Atcham and on a lamp-post at Cross Houses

4) Declaration of Interest: None were declared at this point

5) Confirmation and acceptance of minutes from 18th July 2012: It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed By Councillor S Mason and seconded by councillor H Roberts. All agreed.

6) Matters arising: Clerk to report only on items not listed on the agenda: The clerk reported that following the July meeting she had written to Councillors A Powis and J Greene to ask if they were still willing to be continue councillors as they had not attended any meeting for twelve months. As apologies had been received at the Annual meeting in May they were still councillors but the six month rule meant that in November they would be disqualified as councillors if they did not attend or send apologies.

She also stated that she had not received any response from either councillor. Correspondence had been received from the Clair Porter \head of Legal at Shropshire Council stating that after November there would be no by-elections due to the forthcoming elections next May and any casual vacancies could be filled by co-option if the council wished. Councillors Wild and Purslow were aware of two people who were interested in becoming councillors and it was agreed that in November they would co-opt two new councillors.

The six month rules states that if a member fails throughout six consecutive months to attend any meetings of the council or of its committees or subcommittees of which he is a member, he ceases automatically to be a member unless either he has a statutory excuse or his failure to attend the council. The period begins with the last period attended.

7) Community Regeneration Officer Report: Rachel asked if Cllrs had any ideas for activities for the Under 5's.

She explained the importance of the Place Plans for highlighting the priorities for the settlements for the distribution of CIL monies. The next parish council meeting will be held at Berrington Village Hall to obtain feedback from residents on what their priorities were. The councillors highlighted some concerns.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs
The Church at Berrington
Berrington Parish Hall
Extension to Community Centre for Storage
Solar Panels for Community Centre
Improvements on the Allotments
Painting Cantlop Bridge
Improvements to Brompton Playing Fields
Footpath/Cycle path to Shrewsbury
Improving parking in Noel Hill Road
Upgrade the Zebra Crossing to a Pelican Crossing at Cross Houses.

8) Police Report: There were no police present and no report had been received.

9) Financial Matters:
i) Bank Reconciliation for Month End July, August 2012.A copy was circulated to all councillors for their information. The Chair agreed and signed a copy for the records.

ii) Accounts for payment: It was agreed that these be paid. Proposed by Councillor H Roberts and seconded by Councillor L Rowlands.

000833	Lorna Pardoe	Sal & Exp Aug Sep 2012	639.78
000834	HMRC	PAYE	138.80
000835	Pink skips	Recycling skip	69.60
000836	Mazars	Audit Fee	162.00
Total cheques for payment			**1010.18**

iii) To receive External Audit Report. This was received by the council. Proposed by Councillor R Purslow and seconded by Councillor T Jones

iv) To consider Parish Council Insurance cover. This to be considered at the next meeting.

10) Planning Matters:-

Clerk to report on earlier applications:

Reference:12/02217/FUL

Address: Pool Cottage, 12 Berrington, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.SY5 6HA

Proposal: Proposed replacement dwelling. *After discussion Council had no objections to this application- Pending decision*

Permission Granted

Reference:12/02014/FUL;

Address: Meadow Bank Farm, Cantlop, Cantlop Road, Shrewsbury.SY5 7DB This was held over from May meeting in order that councillors could seek the views of local residents.

After discussions with local residents Council decided they could not support this application- Pending decision

Permission Granted

New Applications:

Reference:12/02840

Address: Gardeners Cottage, Berrington, Shrewsbury.SY5 6HA

Proposal: Erection of a detached 4-bay garage/garden store with self-contained ancillary accommodation; balcony on first floor front elevation; to include the removal of 16 trees*The Parish Council has grave concerns over the size and scale of the development and after discussion it was agreed the council was unable to support this application.*

Pending decision

Reference: 12/03289/FUL

Address: 77 Cross House, Shrewsbury, SY5 6JJ

Proposal: Erection of new porch to front elevation.

Permission granted

Reference:12/03018/FUL

Address: Cantlop Cottage, 63 Cantlop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.SY5 6HH

Proposal: Erection of a 3 bay detached garage. *Permission granted*

Reference:12/03880/FUL

Address: Station House, Berrington, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY5 6EZ

Proposal: Erection of livestock/storage building (revised scheme)After looking at the revised plans a discussion was held and it was agreed to offer No Comment to this application.

13) Asset Register:

Amendments had been agreed at the July meeting an amended copy to be agreed and signed for the records. The Chairman Councillor C Wild signed a copy for the records

14) Street Lighting: The clerk reported that following confirmation of the street lighting inventory she was now in a situation to begin the transfer from N-Power to Shropshire Council for the council's energy supplies.

She reported that she had reported two street lights that were no working at 60-62 The Chestnuts and also outside No 1 Tudor Close. Councillors reported the following light needed attention.

The light opposite the junction to Berrington on the A458 was off .

The light outside No 1 Tudor Close was off.

Two lights that were burning all day were Outside the Old Shop and also on the shop side of the pedestrian crossing in Cross Houses.

Following the switch to part night lighting the street light in the Community Centre car park was still on all night.

15) Correspondence Received:

16) Parish Matters: Any matters within the parish from members.

Councillor L Rowlands reported that the company who hosted the Parish Council's website had gone into liquidation. *It was agreed that the clerk look into a website within the Shropshire Council Website facility which was free for parish councils.* Councillor Rowlands was to look into retrieving information from the previous webhosts.

It was reported that there is dog mess under the Horse Chestnut trees at the Chestnuts. It was also reported that someone was putting their dog mess in a bag but then leaving it in the field on the footpath between the shop and the Cattery. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the clerk request an visit from the dog warden at 7.30 am. *Councillors asked clerk to find out how much an on the spot fine for dog fouling was.*

It was reported that the 8.00 am bus is full at Crosshouses and if it is very full the bus does not stop. Councillor Wild explained that when the students at the 6thform had settled into their new lesson schedule there is was likely there would be a staggering of people on the early buses.

It was asked what had happened to the proposal for a clock on the front of the Community Centre. It was explained that this was still ongoing as they were limited to what they could put up as the Community Centre is a listed building.

It was reported there is a lot of noise from Ed Davies at Bourton Farm who is operating outside his licence hours.

It was reported that two very large Lorries had been seen going to the Davies place on the Acton Burnell Road. *It was agreed that the clerk write to the clerk of Condover Parish Council to bring this matter to their attention*.

The fence at the Community Center was considered. The clerk had received two quotes for the repair of the fence but was instructed *to request a different quote from one of the contractors to obtain 2 like for like tenders to be decided at the next meeting in October.* The clerk reported that she had received the £2,000.00 grant from the LJC to-

Toddler Time at Cross Houses

(Parents & 0 - 5's Group)
At the Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury

Contact: 07968 291088

Make Thursday mornings a special time for you and your child.
Join us for a drink and a chat whilst your child has fun.
New members always welcome, we're a friendly lot!
Only £2.00 for the first child and 50p each for any extra children and this includes a drink and a biscuit for all of you.
Open Thursday mornings form 10am until 12 Noon.

See you there!

Chapel Bingo

Saturday 15th December

Enquiries to Sue Mason on

01743 761423

wards to cost of repairing the fence. This had been credited to the account direct but the correspondence had the previous clerks address on even though it had been e-mailed to the present clerk.

Audit Commission	Reappointment of Mazars as External Auditors	Noted
Laura Ward -Shropshire RCC	Notification of potential funding / publicity opportunity	
Steve Ashall Play Space consultant with EIBE Play	Introduction of Play Equipment	Noted
Shropshire Council	Community Tree Planting Scheme	
Nicola Hindley Shropshire Council	Letter re penalty for Community Centre Land registration	
HMRC	Notice of Penalty fine	Letter to N Hindley at Shropshire Council requesting they sort this matter out
Shropshire Council	Local Councillor vacancies and Police & Crime Commissioners elections	To be noted and for two Notices to be displayed
Shropshire Council- Nicola Hindley	Copies of letters sent to Birmingham Stamp Office re Penalty Fine for Crosshouses Chapel Community Centre	
Shropshire Council- Gill Jones	LJC grant letter for funding re Cross Houses Car Park fencing	
Elliott Davies- Severnside Housing	Communication re Cross Houses fencing	
Renee Wallace Shropshire RCC	Request from marketing student to do volunteering in Shrewsbury between 16th July and 31st August	Noted
Matt Muir- Shropshire Council	Letter detailing steps towards transfer of energy supplier from N-Power to Shropshire Council	Councillors to note. Clerk to take appropriate steps.
Graham Moore- Shropshire Council	Inclusion of Street lights at Chestnuts Cross Houses into the part night lighting scheme form Mid July	Noted
Rob Goss	Car Parking Fee £150 received	Noted
Shropshire Council	LJC Meeting 24th September Pitchford Village Hall at 7.30 pm	

The clerk was asked to get quotations for 33 8' concrete posts, 32 6' gravel boards

32 5'high by 6' long feather edged fencing panels from Taffs & Woodland Timber.

17) Shropshire Council Report- There was nothing to report that had not been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

18) Date and Time of next Meeting– Wednesday 17th October 2012 at Berrington Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. *It was agreed that the clerk invite Helen Howie to attend the meeting at Berrington where the Place Plan would be considered.*

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm

MacMillan Coffee Event

THANK YOU

Sue Mason & Shellie Williams would like to thank everyone who baked cakes and helped out at the MacMillan Coffee Event in October. Despite a low attendance the event raised £150 for the MacMillan Trust.

BERRINGTON PLANNING INFORMATION

APPLICATIONS

Reference	**12/04334/HRM**
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Address	**Villa Farm Condover Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 7DG**
Proposal	Remove two sections of hedgerow (170m and 190m)
Status	Pending Consideration
Appeal Status	Not Available
Appeal Decision	Not Available

Reference	**12/04323/DIS**
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Address	**The Gables Cross Houses Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6JJ**
Proposal	Discharge of Condition 3 (External Materials) attached to planning permission 09/02371/FUL - Erection of two detached dwellings
Status	Pending Consideration
Appeal Status	Not Available
Appeal Decision	Not Available

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR VILLAGE PUMP DELIVERY HELPERS

Without the help of a dedicated delivery team you would not receive your copy of the Village Pump. So the next time you see someone delivering your copy of The Pump, pop your head out of the door and say thank you to them. In the meantime the Parish Council would like to say a public thank you to: Tony & Jenny Knapp , Fiona & Phil Hibberd, Jean Law, Sue Mason, Richard & Sharon Purslow, Annette Turner, Jill Meredith & Vi Habberley.

Many Hands Make Light Work

If you could spare the time every other month to deliver the pump in your area please contact Liz Rowlands on 01743 762341 e: liz@village-pump.co.uk

ATCHAM MALTHOUSE BOWLING CLUB

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING UP THE SPORT OF CROWN GREEN BOWLING or THINKING OF RETURNING TO THE GAME AFTER A BREAK, *IF YOU ARE:-*

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR SOCIAL BOWLING AND LEAGUE BOWLING, WE ARE INVOLVED WITH THE WEM LEAGUE AND THE TANNERS LEAGUE. WE COULD DO WITH INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH THESE AREAS TO KEEP THE TEAMS GOING

Contact Vernon Jolly 01743 235362 or Colin Wildblood 01743 762374

Neighbourhood Service Agreement (NiSA) – for Cross Houses

The neighbourhood of Cross Houses has been identified as one of the next communities to benefit from a Neighbourhood Service Agreement delivered by Severnside and local partner agencies.

The NiSA is to be produced by Severnside Housing in consultation with residents and partner agencies such as Ward Councillors, Police and Shropshire Council etc.

The purpose of the NiSA is to help all agencies understand the area of Cross Houses and to tailor their services to resident's needs and aspirations with the aim of making the neighbourhood a cleaner, safer and ultimately a more pleasant place to live.

All agencies involved in the NiSA will agree a level of service they will provide for the area which will be set out in the NiSA document.

It is hoped that many residents of Cross Houses will also become involved in the NiSA and agree their own set of standards that each resident will abide by.

It has been demonstrated with past NiSA's that these agreements strengthen a community's desire and ability to deal with any issues that may arise within the community.

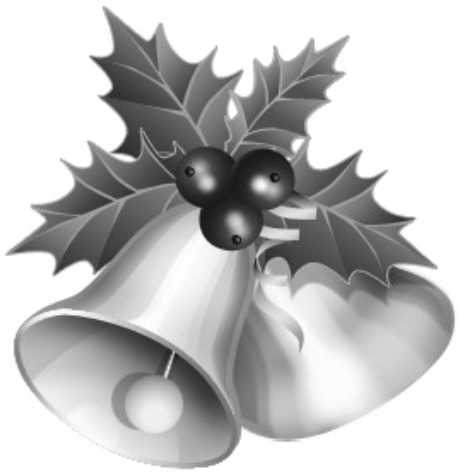
Consultation with Cross Houses residents is due to start in November by-way of distribution of questionnaires. Please can residents take the time to let us know what matters to them in Cross Houses.

Elliott Davies

Severnside Housing

The Bell Inn

Old Wenlock Road, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury, SY5 6JJ.
Tel: 01743 761 264



UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Introducing our exciting new chef, Andi.

Traditional homemade food served daily
Over 60s Pub Lunch Club
Bookings taken for Christmas lunches
The home of cask conditioned ales
Take away menu available
Sunday Lunches

We wish all our customers a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Battlefield Household Recycling Centre

Vanguard Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire Sy1 3TG
01743 452150

Opening Hours:

9am to 7pm Mon to Fri & 9am to 6pm Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays (up until 30th October)

9am to 5pm Mon to Fri & 9am to 5pm Weekends and Bank Holidays (from 31st October)
Open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Kerbside Collections

Garden Wheelie bin for green waste, collected one week along with your three recycling boxes.

	BOX 1 Paper Newspaper Magazines Junk Mail
	BOX 2 Glass Bottles Glass Jars
	BOX 3 Drinks Cans Food Tins Foils and Aerosols White Plastics

The colour of the box does not matter, however what you put in each box does.

The following week your household waste wheelie bin for non recyclable rubbish will be collected.

Unsure of your collection day or which bin to put out? Check the Bin Day Finder, log on to **www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste/binday/**

or **Telephone 0345 678 9007**

CARDBOARD RECYCLING FACILITY AT THE BELL PUB LAST WARNING

The Parish Council had arranged for a cardboard recycling skip to be placed at the Bell Pub Cross Houses for two months. Unfortunately other rubbish has been placed in this skip and consequently the operator has refused to collect the cardboard and the Parish Council will have to pay to have it removed. There has also been a quantity of general rubbish left by the recycling skips which is unfair on the Landlord of The Bell. Please do not misuse this facility and ruin it for others. If this happens again the skip will be removed permanently. Thank you in advance.

We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience or disturbance caused from our fund-raising Ball on the 1st December at Eaton Mascott Hall. Thank you for your good-will and understanding.

Many Thanks
The South Shropshire Hunt Ball Committee

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Puncture repairs to full servicing.

Adults & children's bikes

We will come to you
Call Yim – 01952 510917 / 07950 397335

Whalebone: Origins Tour

Saturday 8th December 2012, 7.30pm
Cressage Village Hall, Cressage,
Shropshire SY5 6BY

Admission: £7.50 (£4 concessions for children)

For tickets call 01952 510429, or buy online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/whalebone

Refreshments available

For more information see
www.whalebone-music.com

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Example Quotation

Typical cost of rewire for a three bedroom semi detached house **£1975 NO VAT**
(RCD Consumer Unit, 15 dual sockets, 2 smoke alarms, 1 heat detector, outside light, roof space light, 10 lights, cooker & shower circuits.)

Typical cost of Inspection & Testing (House) **£75 NO VAT**

Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice

Practice News

Dec 12 / Jan 13

As of **November 2012**, the Practice contact numbers changed to:

Much Wenlock: **01952 726011**

Cressage: **01952 511166**

To assist the Practice in managing our new telephone system effectively please restrict calls between **8.30 am** and **10.00 am** to requests for **appointments** or **home visits** only.

Please contact the practice between the times listed below for the following services:

Repeat Prescriptions – Please ring between 10.30 – 12.00 noon

Test Results – Please ring after 2.00 pm

General Enquiries – Please ring after 10.00 am

Please note that the former 0844 numbers will still be "live" for six months giving patients information on the new geographic numbers for the Practice.

Please note for the foreseeable future the former 0844 contact numbers for the Practice will remain live and will direct patients to the new geographic numbers.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN ORDER YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS ONLINE?

Just visit our website;

www.muchwenlockandcressagemp.co.uk

select Repeat Prescriptions from the list on the left hand side of the page and complete the repeat prescription request form, making sure to enter which surgery you are registered with.

For those without access to the internet prescriptions can be ordered via the following methods;

- By post
- By hand
- By fax

By telephone

Please note that telephone requests are restricted to the hours of 10.30 am - 12 noon Monday to Friday. We request patients adhere to these times as we have staff available to deal with the requests and any queries.

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR

From October 2012 the Practice is taking part in a six month pilot scheme commissioned by the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group to provide a link to co-ordinate the support offered within the community from the voluntary sector, in partnership with the Practice. Christine De Souza, one of our Health Care Assistants, will be undertaking this non clinical role for the duration of the pilot and will be accepting referrals from GP's for patients they feel would benefit from signposting to community support.

If you lead, or are involved in a supportive community group please contact Christine with details of the service you provide and contact details, as Christine will be setting up a database containing information on local and national support groups in order to signpost people in need of a assistance to the most appropriate organisation.

Christine can be contacted at the Practice or via email: community.muchwenlock@nhs.net

Down Memory Lane
with Mrs Mia Clubb

When Mrs Clubb came to the village in March 1929 it only consisted of one street, there were no houses down Brompton Lane as we know it, just fields. She came to Berrington station from her home in Machynlleth as a trainee nurse at Berrington Hospital. She remembers getting off the train and asking the stationmaster where Berrington Hospital was, he pointed and said "that big building over there". She thought to herself 'what a big building for such a small village'.

She recalls the village starting from the hospital and turning right, the first house was the doctors house (now known as The Gables, home of the Armitt's) Doctor Curtis was the doctor in charge at the time. Next was the shop The County Stores that was then run by Mrs Lindop, she also had the house above (Greenmantle had not been built then). Then came Russell Place, owned by Mr Dixon who also had a hardware shop at the top of Wyle Cop. No. 1 was lived in by Mr Sidney Yates the coalman, No.2 Mrs & Mrs Clubb (later to be her in-laws), No.3 Mrs & Mrs Bennett, No.4 two sisters, the Miss Wilson's and No.5 Mr & Mrs Pea and their daughter, he was a butler in Shrewsbury at the Judges residents his wife and daughter were maid and cook. Then of course there was the Station House.

Coming back down in to the village, across the road from The Fox were farm cottages, Mr & Mrs Jones, Mrs Reeves parents and a Miss Griffiths and her mother who took in washing, she washed the nurse's uniforms.

Next the butchers shop which had been owned by Mr Arthur Yates, he had just sold up to Mr James Davies who put his son Lou in to run it. He moved into the house across the road. Mrs Clubb always remembers the butcher's shop because Mr Yates had his name in tiles on the front. Mr Yates had moved to farm the Coton' s.

There were two more cottages, Mrs Ginny Jones and family and Mr & Mrs Tipton, then came another shop run by the Miss Machins and they baked lovely pork pies 'as big as a saucer and cost a shilling (5p)' they also had a bakery she recalls. Then came the white house we know as the old shop and post office, but she couldn't remember who lived there.

Tudor Cottage came next; this was a lovely black and white house where a Mrs Bromley lived. Mrs Clubb recalls how artists would come and sit the other side of the road all day and paint pictures of this house. Mrs Bromley later sold the house to a builder who knocked it down and built Tudor Close and Mrs Bromley moved into one of the bungalows.

On to what we know as Wrekin View, a Mr & Mrs Ware lived there and up the back was another cottage were Mr & Mrs Morris lived, their daughter still lives in the village. Next is of course The Bell, Wakefields were the landlords. Another cottage next where Mr & Mrs Lewis lived, also a Mr & Mrs Bromley, this cottage was knocked down to make a car park for The Bell. Miss Yates lived in the next bungalow, previously she had lived at The Bell, but Mrs Clubb was unsure if she was landlady or just lived there until the bungalow was being built.

Next came Sam Cobblers house opposite that there were three thatched cottages, people who lived in those cottages still lived on in the village after they were gone. There were three or four cottages heading back towards the hospital now, including a slaughterhouse, which was pulled down when Mr Davies bought the butcher shop and built a new one. In place of the old slaughterhouse Mrs Rubbin Lloyd built the houses we see there now, he later built another house and the bungalow "Autumn".

The Chapel came next, which is now a house, then a row of houses next to Caradoc view. The first house used to be the post office owned by Mrs Brown who married Rubbin Lloyd. Mr & Mrs Jones and their son lived in the two other houses in the row and Mrs Edgar lived in the other, she took in lodgers off the railway. Mrs James Davies owned Caradoc view, the new slaughter house was behind here, handy for the butchers shop across the road. At the Fox, the landlord was Mr Lewis who lived there with his wife.

We are now back at the hospital and as you went through the gate, on each side there were buildings where the tramps could stop for the night, men on the left and women on the right. Mr & Mrs Dodd were the Master and Matron and they looked after the tramps. This part of the hospital was known as the workhouse and the tramps were given a bath and a good meal. The following day they would have to work in the gardens or take coal to the wards, also take dressings and other items down to the boiler room to be incinerated. The following day they would be sent on their way to either Ironbridge or Morda.

Mrs Clubb also remembers there was a good cricket team in the village, they had a pitch in the fields opposite the hospital, the cricket pavilion was - until recently- in the grounds of the old school at Berrington. She joined Cound tennis club where she met her husband Mr Walter Clubb.

She trained at the hospital for two years then went down to London for her exams, which she passed. She didn't come back to Berrington hospital to work instead she went to a nursing home in Quarry Place, Shrewsbury.

She came to live at Russell Place when her in-laws died. When Mr Dixon put the houses up for sale they bought it for around £300. They had no electricity or running water, they had to use a pump on the back yard which was for all the houses, so there wasn't always enough water, then they had to fetch it from a tap outside the hospital (where the bus stop is now). They had to pay for the electricity to come across the road; Mr Armitt from the Gables connected the water pipes up there later.

Mrs Clubb had seen a lot of changes and had a lot of happy times in Cross Houses. She moved into the Group Dwellings in her later years and lived there until she was 93.

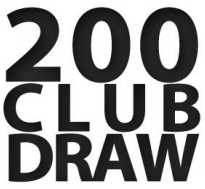
Sue Mason used to go down to the Group Dwellings and light Mrs Clubb's fire each morning and listen to her reminisce over a cup of tea. Sue thought she should pass on these wonderful memories to you all and hopes you enjoy them; perhaps you even have some of your own to add.

BERRINGTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

We are looking for more members to join the lottery - £1 per month.

Chance to win monthly prizes of £15, £10 and £5 with funds going to support the churches at Betton Strange and Berrington.

Details from Heather Ward on 01743 761044



BERRINGTON CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP

Berrington Church is seeking new volunteers to help with the upkeep of the church. In particular they are looking for volunteers to clean the church on a rota basis. If you could spare a few hours every few months please get in touch with Dean Harris on 01743 762244.

The Parish of
All Saints, Berrington
Newsletter for December 2012 / January 2013

The Reverend Judy writes…….

Christmas is a time for giving and loving and thanksgiving. For many this year, perhaps, the festivities will be less extravagant. For many it will just be a case of adding to the increasing debt on the credit card. Everyone seems to have such high expectations of Christmas and thinks that the only way to achieve this is to buy more and more expensive gifts, and eat and drink far too much, in order to make it a good Christmas.

And yet by doing so, we are in great danger of missing the very essence of Christmas. Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child on earth in a mean stable, was God's way of making us take note – this wasn't any child, it was God's Son, who was to grow up and show us God's love…his love for each one of us.

The Shepherds thought is was such GOOD NEWS that they left their sheep on the hillside to check out the story the angels told them. The Wise Men travelled over hundreds of miles following a star – an unusual phenomenon in the night sky – risking danger, to find the Christ Child. Surely we can spare some time to find him for ourselves?

The gift God gave us, we emulate in gifts we give to others. Within each gift is our love given to others. Genuine love and thought that goes with the choosing and wrapping of a gift, does not need the actual gift to be expensive. It is the stopping to think about a specific gift for a particular person that makes any giving so special. How I dislike to hear "I've done so-and-so off my list" or "I've only got 5 things to get and I'll be done". Love and thought for those to whom we give gifts is never "done". It continues forever, or should do. A small token gift, made or bought with care and thought, and given with great love, is worth far more that a gift that is expensive which has been bought without much care or thought, but is impressive. Real love doesn't need to impress.

So fill your Christmas this year with love and thought, with care and kindness, and above all, thanks. Thanks be to God for the gift of his Son, born as a baby who showed us what love is really about. Hear the GOOD NEWS of Christmas – God's love is FREE for EVERYONE. Wrap it up in festive wrapping and bows if you like, but remember that Jesus is the gift for us all.

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas

God bless

Rev Judy

GROUP DWELLING SERVICE

Holy Communion will be given at the Community Hall, Noel Hill Road, Cross Houses on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 11am.

ALTAR FLOWERS

January Mrs F Donnelley Mrs M Merville

CHURCH CLEANING

December Cheryl King **January** Jean Law

Services in the Parish of Berrington for December 2012 & January 2013

Sunday 2nd December ADVENT

9.30am Betton Strange Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 9th December ADVENT 2

11am Berrington Eucharist

Sunday 16th December ADVENT 3

3pm Betton Strange Candlelit Carol Service

Monday 17th December

6pm Cross Houses Community Centre

CRIB SERVICE - very suitable for young children as well as adults!

Wednesday 19th December

7.30pm Berrington Church

Candlelit Carol Service followed by refreshments

25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

11am Berrington Church Family Eucharist

Sunday 6th January Epiphany

9.30am Betton Strange Eucharist

Sunday 13th January The Baptism of Christ

11am Berrington Eucharist

Sunday 27th January Epiphany 4

10am Cross Houses Family Service

With every blessing for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

God bless

Rev Judy

Berrington Church 200 Club Winners

1st £15, 2nd Prize £10, 3rd Prize £5

August	**1st**	T Weaver	**2nd**	D Harris	**3rd**	P Whittall
September	**1st**	T Morgan	**2nd**	H Coggins	**3rd**	A Rands
October	**1st**	D King	**2nd**	J Preece	**3rd**	G Taylor
November	**1st**	B King	**2nd**	M Saull	**3rd**	R Wills

URGENT APPEAL

FRIENDS OF BERRINGTON CHURCH

"The Friends" would like to thank you all for your support at our Table Top Sale in October; we raised £282 which is a great start to our fundraising efforts. Quotes are now in from the contractors so we are just waiting on replies to various grant funding requests we have made.

At our last meeting we discussed various ways of fundraising locally during 2013 and beyond. We will be advertising events in The Pump, on our Facebook Page "Friends of Berrington Church" and our website www.friendsofberringtonchurch.weebly.com You can contact us at berringtonchurch@yahoo.co.uk or phone Mark Harris 01743 761642 or Tracy Weaver 01743 761795 if you would like more information.
Thank you

The Friends of Berrington Church

Fundraising Funday 2013

The Friends of Berrington Church would like to invite you to join them in organising a village Funday next summer.

If like us, you are raising money to repair a Church roof or you are would like to raise money for your own nominated charity, Macmillan, PDSA, Guide Dogs or your local football team, village hall or club, help us plan a day to remember.

We will centre the event at the Chapel Community Centre as well as including various locations around the village. So come on, let's put our ideas together and have fun raising money for our own group or charity.

Contact berringtonchurch@yahoo.co.uk

or phone Tracy 01743 761 795

West Mercia POLICE
SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL POLICE TEAM

Rural Watch

West Mercia Police

If you have information relating to any criminal activity you can pass this on by calling either

West Mercia Police on 101 or anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

101 The New
Non Emergency Number

Your Local Policing Team

PS Darren Smith,
PC Dave Harte
CSO Dave Baron
CSO Lyn Birch
CSO Mark Barns

West Mercia CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111 Working in partnership with the police

DRINK DRIVING

On the run up to Christmas, the campaign to target people who drink and drive will increase. The police urge all those who wish to enjoy a drink to avoid using their cars when out enjoying a drink or a meal. However to the few drivers who feel they can get away with drinking and driving in rural areas. We have one message. **You will be targeted and prosecuted if caught.**

The local policing team will continue to visit all the pubs across the area monthly to ensure we understand any issues they may have.

SEAT BELTS & MOBILE PHONES

May I remind all those who fail to wear Seatbelts or use mobile phones whilst driving that you will be prosecuted if caught. Driving a van does not make you exempt, nor does driving a tractor whilst using a phone make you exempt. Unless you have a valid reason for not wearing a factory fitted seatbelt you will get reported. Those who fail to do so may find themselves being prosecuted.

Speeding

Speeding can KILL please consider those that live in the rural community and drive with due caution and consideration

Throughout the Autumn the Local Police Team will conduct random speed checks throughout the area. I also urge all parents to act with due care and caution when dropping off and picking up children outside the schools as these are often areas of congestion.

POLICE WARNING AFTER CAR KEY BURGLARIES

As the evenings begin to slowly draw in, West Mercia Police is urging local residents to review their night-time security measures to keep their property safe and secure.

Burglary numbers remain relatively low in West Mercia, but there has been a recent spate of car key burglaries across the force. Local residents can reduce their chances of being targeted by taking a few simple steps to keep themselves and their property safe:

Lock windows and doors before going to bed

Don't leave your front door unlocked for relatives who are out and about - it is much safer to give them a key.

West Mercia Police has an active operation in place to target car key burglars but you can help by keeping your car keys safe at night and out of reach of your letterbox.

A well-lit home gives the impression that someone is at home. Leave a light on while you are out during the evenings.

If you have a garage for your car please use it

Don't leave side gates open or unlocked

Keep all Sheds and Garages Locked.

Keep Valuables out of sight.

Keep car keys out of sight.

Www.westmercia.police.uk

FUEL THEFT

Fuel theft is once again blighting the area. With the increase in the cost of diesel, red diesel kept on farms has become a target for theft. Please take precaution to secure your stocks of fuel.

Heating Fuel is an easy target. Try and hide you tank and keep a close eye on the levels in your tank.

Metal Theft

Metal theft continues to cause problems across Shropshire with some very dangerous activities committed by offenders, such as the removal the metal drain covers and the stealing of live power cables. Anyone with information is urged to contact either police on 101 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Staying Safe During the Festive Season

If you need to arrange transport home after a night out, either book a taxi or use a black cab. A good idea when using a cab or a taxi to go home at night, or even a car belonging to someone you have only just met. Is to TEXT the car registration number to a friend prior to getting in to the vehicle?

Look after each other on a night out. Do not leave a friend who is very tipsy or drunk to walk home on their own, especially near to deep water or rivers.

Never leave your drink unattended. Leave it with a friend or visit a restroom between drinks.

Burglary is Now The NO 1 Priority for West Mercia Police

You can help us by helping yourself to keep YOUR property secure.

Lock Doors and Windows

Lock Sheds and Garages

Lock Your Car

Keep valuables out of site both in your car and Home

Don't leave shopping on view in an unattended car

Don't Allow the Thief the chance to get Free Christmas Presents

Pontesbury Police Station
Minsterley Road
Pontesbury
Shrewsbury

Phone: 0300-333-3000

E-mail:
david.harte@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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Our extensive menu includes:

Whitebait with a dressed salad £4.50

Baked brie topped with homemade chutney £3.95

Fresh beer battered cod with hand cut chips £6.50

Field mushroom and cheese omelette with hand cut chips or salad £6.25

Homemade steak and kidney pie £7.95

For a full menu please take a look at our website www.theredlionlongden.co.uk

SUNDAY LUNCH

Two courses £8.95 / Three Courses £10.50. Ordinary menu is also available on Sundays.

The Red Lion, Longden Common, SY5 8AE Tel: 01743 718 889

IMPORTANT

Deadline for the Feb/Mar issue is the Thurs 17th January 2013

THE PUMP - ADVERTISING

Current advertising rates are:
1/2 Page: £10 per edition or £45 per annum
1/4 Page (Portrait) £7.50 per edition or £30 per annum
1/4 Page (Landscape) £7.50 per edition or £30 per annum
1/8 Page (Landscape) £5 per edition or £15 per annum

Please note—due to a rise in printing costs there will be a price increase for the next issue.

The Village Pump is a bi-monthly publication of 700 copies. Advertisements need to be paid for in advance. If you would like to place an advert in the Village Pump then please contact the Editor, Liz Rowlands via email or in writing to: Pump Editor, Old Farm, Cantlop, Shrewsbury SY5 6HQ
e: liz@village-pump.co.uk t: 01743 762341.
Cheques should be made payable to Berrington Parish Council and sent with the advertisement copy to Liz at the above address.

Magazine Editor:
Liz Rowlands, The Old Farm, Cantlop, SY5 6HQ
t: 01743 762341 e: liz@village-pump.co.uk

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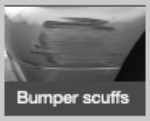
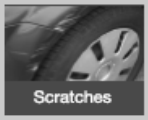

Bumper scuffs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Shrewsbury Office 01743 271697
www.berrybros.com

The Fairy on the Top of the Christmas Tree

One Christmas, a long time ago, Santa Claus was getting ready for his annual trip; but there were problems …… everywhere. Four of his elves were away sick and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones. So, Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then, Mrs Claus popped in to tell Santa that her mother was coming to stay for Christmas; which stressed him even more. After a while, he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and run away, heaven knows where to.

Then, when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards broke and several large toy- bags fell to the ground, scattering their contents all over the place. Needless to say, Santa was not in the best of moods. Suddenly, the doorbell rang and he went to the door expecting another problem. But when he opened it, there was a little fairy with a great big Christmas tree that she had brought especially to cheer him up. The angel greeted him very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas Santa Claus. Isn't it just a wonderful day? I have a beautiful tree for you. See, isn't it just the loveliest Christmas tree you've ever seen? Where would you like me to put it?"

Thus began the tradition of the little fairy on top of the Christmas tree.

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Thank you.

RJ's

~ DOWN TO EARTH ~

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Quick Christmas Cake Recipe—Thank you Delia!

Ingredients

1 lb (450 g) currants
6 oz (175 g) sultanas
6 oz (175 g) raisins
2 oz (50 g) glacé cherries, rinsed, dried and finely chopped
2 oz (50 g) mixed candied peel, finely chopped
3 tablespoons brandy, plus extra for 'feeding'
8 oz (225 g) plain flour
½ level teaspoon salt
¼ level teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
½ level teaspoon ground mixed spice
8 oz (225 g) unsalted butter
8 oz (225 g) soft brown sugar
4 large eggs
2 oz (50 g) almonds, chopped (the skins can be left on)
1 level dessertspoon black treacle
grated zest 1 lemon
grated zest 1 orange
4 oz (110 g) whole blanched almonds (only if you don't intend to ice the cake

Method

You need to begin this cake the night before you want to bake it. Weigh out the dried fruit and mixed peel, place it in a mixing bowl and mix in the brandy as evenly and thoroughly as possible. Cover the bowl with a clean tea cloth and leave the fruit aside to absorb the brandy for 12 hours.

Next day pre-heat the oven to gas mark 1, 275°F (140°C).Then measure out the rest of the ingredients, ticking them off to make quite sure they're all there. The treacle will be easier to measure if you remove the lid and place the tin in a small pan of barely simmering water. Begin the cake by sifting the flour, salt and spices into a large mixing bowl, lifting the sieve up high to give the flour a good airing. Next, in a separate large mixing bowl, whisk the butter and sugar together until it's light, pale and fluffy. Now beat the eggs in a separate bowl and add them to the creamed mixture a tablespoonful at a time; keep the whisk running until all the egg is incorporated. If you add the eggs slowly by degrees like this the mixture won't curdle. If it does, don't worry, any cake full of such beautiful things can't fail totaste good! When all the egg has been added, fold in the flour and spices, using gentle, folding movements and not beating at all (this is to keep all that precious air in). Now fold in the fruit, peel, chopped nuts and treacle and finally the grated lemon and orange zests. Next, using a largekitchen spoon, transfer the cake mixture into the prepared tin, spread it out evenly with the back of a spoon and, if you don't intend to ice the cake, lightly drop the whole blanched almonds in circles or squares all over the surface. Finally cover the top of the cake with a double square of silicone paper with a 50p-size hole in the centre (this gives extra protection during the long slow cooking).

Bake the cake on the lowest shelf of the oven for 4½-4¾ hours. Sometimes it can take up to ½-¾ hour longer than this, but in any case don't look till at least 4 hours have passed. Cool the cake for 30 minutes in the tin, then remove it to a wire rack to finish cooling. When it's cold 'feed' it – make small holes in the top and base of the cake with a cocktail stick or small skewer, then spoon over a few teaspoons of brandy, wrap it in double silicone paper secured with an elastic band and either wrap again in foil or store in an airtight container. You can now feed it at odd intervals until you need to ice or eat it.

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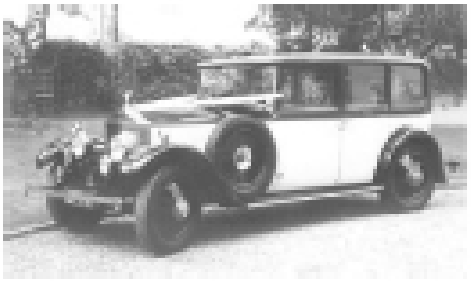

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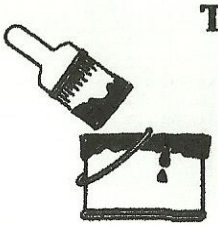
TWENTY CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

Q.(1) How do you know Santa is a man?
Ans. No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.
Q.(2) Why is Christmas just like a day at the office ?
Ans. You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.
Q.(3) What do monkeys sing at Christmas ?
Ans. Jungle Bells, Jungle bells.. !
Q.(4) What do you give a train driver for Christmas ?
Ans. Platform shoes !
Q.(5) What did the big candle say to the little candle ?
Ans. I'm going out tonight !
Q.(6) What is the best thing to put into a Christmas cake ?
Ans. Your teeth !
Q.(7) What did Adam say on the day before Christmas ?
Ans. It's Christmas, Eve !
Q.(8) What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month ?
Ans. The letter "D" !
Q.(9) Why did Robin Hood steal from the rich ?
Ans. Because the poor didn't have any !
Q.(10) What do snowmen wear on their heads?
Ans. Ice caps!
Q.(11) How can a snowman lose weight?
Ans. He waits until it gets warmer!
Q.(12) What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Ans. Snowflakes.
Q.(13) What goes red white red white red white?
Ans. Father Christmas rolling down a hill!
Q.(14) What do you call a man who claps at Christmas ?
Ans. Santapplause!
Q.(15) What is Father Christmas' wife called ?
Ans. Mary Christmas!
Q.(16) What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?
Ans. Santa Pause!
Q.(17) How many presents can Santa fit into an empty sack?
Ans. Only one - after then it is not empty any more.
Q.(18) What king is the children's favourite at Christmas time?
Ans. A stocking!
Q.(19) What kind of bird can write?
Ans. A pen-guin!
Q.(20) Why does Santa have 3 gardens?
Ans. So he can ho-ho-ho.



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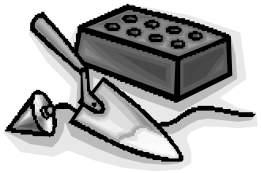

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