



THE VILLAGE PUMP

August - September 2026

No. 184



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



Berrington Parish Council

Atcham Parish Council

Website: www.berringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@berringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Members: Henry Carpenter (Chair)
Hamish Eccles (Vice-Chair)
Amy Yeomans
Sharlene Hess
Marcia Rathbone
Andrew Abbott
Charlotte Morris
* Vacancy *
* Vacancy *

Meeting Dates: 7pm on 1st Thursday of the month
Thursday 3rd September 2026
Thursday 5th November 2026
Thursday 7th January 2027

Venue: Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerringtonParishCouncil

Website: www.atchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Alison Utting

Email: clerk@atchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Members: Laura Dixon (Chair)
Stephen Cook
Cathy Ritchie
Gareth Jones
Martin Ruston
Rob Trow
Glen Perks

Meeting Dates: Usually 7:30pm on 2nd Wednesday
every other month
Wednesday 9th September 2026
Wednesday 18th November 2026

Venue: The Old Malthouse, Atcham

Facebook: www.facebook.com/atchampc

Please note whilst the above dates were correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change, with details provided on the Berrington or Atcham Parish Council websites and the agenda prior to each meeting.

The Village Pump

The Village Pump is published every two months and distributed to 700 households in the parishes of Atcham and Berrington. Our printing costs are met by income from advertising. Distribution is carried out by a team of volunteers. If you feel you could help your community by delivering the Pump in your area please contact the editor. The more volunteer deliverers we have the smaller the area to deliver.

Advertising rates are:

Full Page: £25 per edition or £110 per annum
1/2 Page (Landscape): £12.50 per edition or £55 per annum
1/4 Page (Portrait): £10 per edition or £45 per annum
1/4 Page (Landscape): £10 per edition or £45 per annum
1/8 Page (Landscape): £7.50 per edition or £30 per annum

**Deadline for submissions
for October edition:
25th September 2026**

If you represent a not-for-profit organisation or are organising a local event, we do not charge for advertisements in these cases.

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: thevillagepump@outlook.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Please note ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISEMENTS DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ARTICLES IF SPACE IS LIMITED.

Do you have an idea for an article, would like an event or something of interest to be shared in the magazine? Then please contact the Editor, Andrew Abbott, at thevillagepump@outlook.com.

Cover photo: Longner Hall © Graham Burnett (cc-by-sa/2.0) geograph.org.uk/p/425841



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There seems to be a lot to include in this month's issue, so thank you to all who have contributed content.

Thanks to Sam Devine-Turner for the great article on the Tawny Owls at Berrington Hall. I'm sure many of you will have heard their presence at night time in the Cross Houses and Berrington areas over recent months.

The Village Pump is a community magazine, supported by local advertisers and the parishes of Atcham and Berrington. In order to support local growth and innovation, and acknowledging the pressures faced by new businesses, we're pleased to announce that from the next edition onwards, we will offer three months' of free advertising to any start-up business within the parish of Atcham or Berrington and those immediately bordering our parishes. Please send an email to thevillagepump@outlook.com for further info.

This month's cover photo features Longner Hall in Atcham, which is periodically open for pre-booked tours – see <https://www.historichouses.org/house/longner-hall/visit/> for further information.

We are still looking for people to help with the delivery of The Village Pump; help is greatly appreciated.

Andrew Abbott

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO PUBLICISE OR A STORY TO TELL?

We want to hear from you!

Please email article submissions or
event promotions to
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*It could be local history, news, anecdotes, photographs,
events, gardening tips, obituaries, recognition of a good
deed... The Village Pump is your local forum!*



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Road resurfacing and line painting: Mostly complete. Clerk to ask Highways about the remaining marking at the junctions, and ask for removal of temporary signs.

Village gates: These have now been installed. Feedback welcome, as are any suggestions for whether residents would like to see further signage or planters added.

Safety measures at Emstrey Bank: The double white lines have been installed. Cllr Coleman to follow up about whether any further signage is pending, to replace temporary 'no overtaking' signs. The ongoing campaign for a speed reduction on this stretch of road is currently on pause as we wait for the outcome of the Salop Leisure planning application.

Vehicle Activated Signs: Jason Hughes (Street Lighting & Traffic Signals Manager at SC) has approved removal of the existing defunct signs and replacement with new units by the Parish Council. We now await his department's removal of the old units.

Bin emptying (Old Bridge and layby): This has been done, but not as often as it needs to be, especially during summer months when they need weekly emptying. Cllr Coleman to raise this with SC/Keir. Councillors and residents are encouraged to continue reporting overflowing bins (with photos) via FixMyStreet.com.

Phone box: Clerk still trying to get the maintenance jobs done by BT Openreach.

River matters: The planned session with the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, and riparian landowners, has been put back because of full agendas (planning applications) and will be planned for the autumn.

Planning: After discussion, APC resolved to support the Mytton and Mermaid overflow car park application with the following comments:

Atcham Parish Council supports the application. The majority of parish councillors fully support the proposal, primarily as it is much needed to relieve the parking problems within the village and there is no alternative plan available. Residents have been battling inconsiderate and dangerous parking within the narrow lanes of Atcham for years and have repeatedly approached the Parish Council seeking solutions. The parish council feels that this proposal, amended to reduce visible impact and blend into the environment, is a well-considered approach and an improvement on the previous proposal.

Some reservations have been expressed by residents, with some concerns raised about the visual impact and worries about possible anti-social behaviour on a site that has already seen ASB incidents in recent years. But overall the parish council feels that this is a sympathetically designed proposal to help alleviate ongoing problems that affect both residents and visitors to the village and that have a significant impact on the built and natural environment in and around Atcham.

(Prop: MR, Sec: SC. 4 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.)

There were no further planning applications received in advance of this meeting.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th September 2026.

Do you have any comments? Or a new idea that might benefit the community? Please come along to one of our meetings or contact the Clerk. Don't forget to let us know if you have any community news that you would like us to share online. Photos of the village and surrounding countryside are also welcome, so if you snap a good view do send it to us.

Website: atchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: Atcham Parish Council

Parish Councillors: Laura Dixon (Chair), Stephen Cook, Gareth Jones, Martin Ruston, Rob Trow, Cathy Ritchie, Glen Perks

Clerk: Alison Utting 01691 622093 clerk@atchamparishcouncil.gov.uk





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Atcham
 Betton
 Cantlop
 Eaton Mascott
 Berrington
 Brompton
 Cross Houses

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 - 9 inclusive.

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Hills Ford Stages rally comes to Shropshire this September

Residents across Atcham and Berrington Parish may have heard that the Hills Ford Stages Rally is coming to Shropshire this September.

The event, which takes place over the weekend of 19–20 September, is one of the country's leading closed-road rally events and will bring competitors, rally teams, officials and visitors into the county for a weekend of motorsport, community activity and local celebration.

For residents in Atcham, Berrington, Betton, Brompton, Cantlop, Cross Houses and Eaton Mascott, it is important to stress that the parish is not on a rally stage or within a road-closure area. Local roads will remain open as normal, although there may be increased traffic on some routes over the weekend as visitors travel to and from the wider rally area.

The rally cars will start from Shrewsbury town centre on Saturday, before travelling to Weston Park for an afternoon of rally action. Weston Park will also host a small Rally Show in the build-up to the stages, with further details to be announced, including opportunities for local traders and businesses to become involved. On Sunday, crews will tackle a series of special stages on closed public roads across parts of Shropshire.

As with any major event taking place across a rural area, the organising team is working closely with local communities, parish representatives, landowners, emergency services and Shropshire Council to ensure the event is delivered safely and with as little disruption as possible.

Households and businesses directly affected by any road closures will receive detailed information directly from the rally's Communities and Business Liaison Team. This will include closure timings, access arrangements and contact details for anyone who needs assistance or has a question.

The Hills Ford Stages is a not-for-profit event, organised by volunteers, and is keen to make a positive contribution to its new home in Shropshire. Alongside the rally itself, the event

is working with local businesses, accommodation providers, schools, colleges and community groups to help create opportunities and encourage visitors to explore the county responsibly.

Further information, including event updates, spectator guidance and community news, will be available nearer the time through the Hills Ford Stages website and social-media channels.

The organisers would like to thank local residents for their welcome and support as preparations continue for what they hope will become a positive regular event for Shropshire.



Above: Residents getting involved at the 2024 rally



Many residents will have noticed how unusual this summer has felt. Lawns have turned brown far earlier than normal, garden plants have needed extra care, and streams and ponds have shown the effects of a prolonged lack of rainfall. Across much of England, exceptionally dry weather and periods of high temperatures have combined to create challenging conditions for both the countryside and water supplies. Reports have suggested that July 2026 may rank among the driest Julys in the historical record for some areas of England and Wales.

The impact of these conditions can be seen throughout the landscape. Farmers have faced concerns about crop yields and increased fire risk during harvesting, while lower river levels have affected waterways and navigation in some locations. After months of below-average rainfall, the ground has become increasingly dry, meaning that any brief shower tends to make little difference to overall conditions.

For those of us in the Midlands, the situation is particularly relevant because our water is supplied by Severn Trent Water. The company's reservoir levels have fallen steadily through the summer. According to Severn Trent's published figures, overall reservoir storage stood at 68.5% on 3 August 2026, compared with over 90% during the spring.

The wider region has also been affected by drought conditions. News reports at the beginning of August noted that the West Midlands had been officially declared to be in drought, with reservoir storage, river flows and groundwater levels continuing to decline.

Despite these pressures, Severn Trent Water had not introduced a hosepipe ban as of early August 2026. Customers were, however, being encouraged to use water carefully and avoid unnecessary consumption wherever possible.

Simple measures can make a real difference. Collecting rainwater when available, watering plants in the early morning or evening, fixing dripping taps, and avoiding wasteful use of hosepipes all help to reduce demand. While individual actions may seem small, collectively they can ease pressure on water resources during dry periods.

Of course, the British weather is famous for changing quickly, and a period of sustained rainfall would help replenish soils, rivers and reservoirs. However, experts point out that recovery from a long dry spell takes time, particularly when water levels have been depleted over several months.

For now, the parched appearance of gardens and fields serves as a reminder that water is a precious resource. As we enjoy the remaining weeks of summer, a little extra care in how we use it will help ensure supplies remain secure for everyone.

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References available upon request



MYTTON AND MERMAID

Following refusal of the original Planning Application, a revised scheme has been submitted to Shropshire Council for an overflow car park for the popular Mytton & Mermaid pub in Atcham. This is the third attempt to secure permission for additional parking.

The original scheme for the overflow car park, which is on land to the west of the River Severn and accessed via the old bridge (now a footbridge) has seen the number of spaces reduced from 93 to 62.

The arrangement of the car park has seen it moved further away from the river, with an earth mound and planting designed to minimise the visual impact of the development – which was one of the main concerns about the original

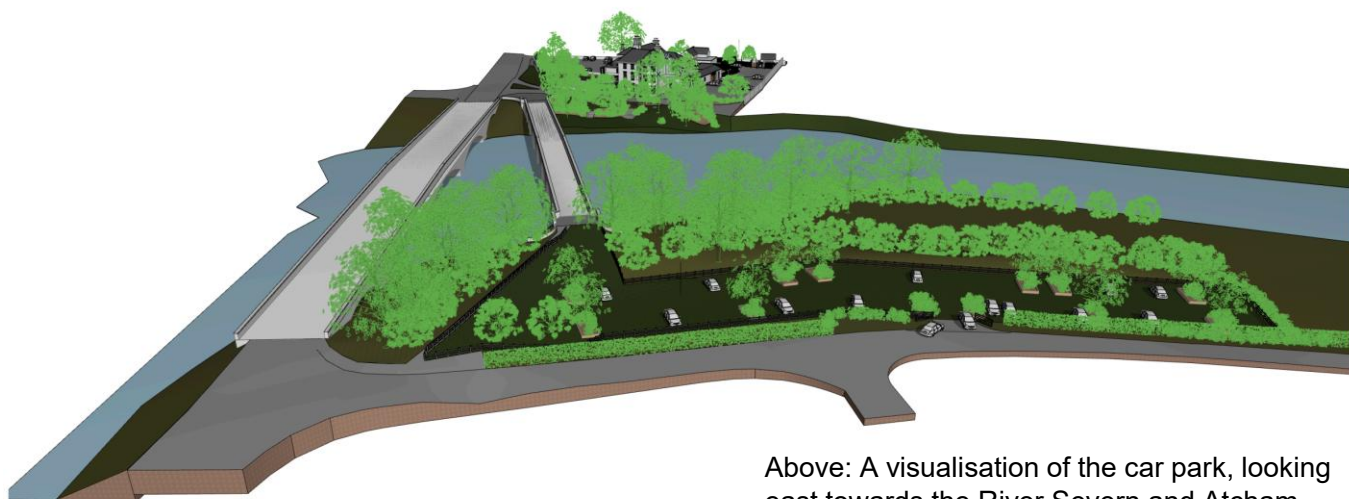
application, in particular in relation to heritage assets in the locality. Access to the river from the car park has been removed.

At the time of going to press, there were 105 comments in support of the proposal and 9 objecting to it on the Planning Portal (application reference 26/02360/FUL). The agent for the application also submitted a letter detailing 496 comments in support of the car park, one objection, and five with 'no box ticked' from consultation cards which were made available to customers at the venue in recent weeks.

Atcham Parish Council has resolved to support the revised application.



Above: An overview plan of the car park (the lane to Cross Houses runs along the top edge)



Above: A visualisation of the car park, looking east towards the River Severn and Atcham.



IN BRIEF

Planning Permission Granted in Cressage

On 16 July, Outline Planning Permission was granted for 60 dwellings on land to the west of Harley Road in Cressage (reference 25/03043/OUT). The application drew widespread objections (32 against, 1 for). As the application was for outline permission, the developer must submit further assessments before construction can commence.

Did you know?

Plastic plant pots and seed trays, which often come in greys, black and brown cannot be recycled. This is because they are made of a specific type of dark / rigid plastic which cannot be automatically detected by sorting machines, whilst it also keeps soil residue out of the recycling waste stream. Therefore, if you are unable to take them to a local garden centre which *may* be able to reuse them then they should be disposed of in your general waste bin.



Shropshire Great Outdoors Annual Survey 2026

The Annual Shropshire Great Outdoors Survey gathers information about how people access the great outdoors in Shropshire. The survey is led by The Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Service; the part of Shropshire Council that maintains and develops recreational access, conserves and enhances the natural environment and encourages people to improve their wellbeing by being active outdoors. The service maintains and protects public rights of way, country parks, countryside and heritage sites, greenspaces and play areas, and supports the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership. The survey is open until 27/09/2026 and can be filled in online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3HR7VV>

Did you know?

Atcham is in the bottom 5% of Shropshire parishes for footpath access

Risk of wildfires

As we continue to experience a very dry summer, the risk of wildfires in the countryside remains high. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services Community Fire and Safety Officer John Round says: "We have seen an increase in the number of fires."

"The dry weather always brings an increase in fires and this year is worse than most because of the high levels of sunshine."

The golden rules are:

- Don't throw cigarettes or matches out of a car window
- Ensure cigarettes are properly put out when walking in the countryside
- Ensure bonfires are well away from hedges and fences and have a hosepipe or bucket of water close by just in case
- Do not use disposable barbecues in grassland areas or open countryside

Solar Eclipse

Wednesday 12th August

On Wednesday 12 August 2026, a solar eclipse will be visible across Shropshire as part of a total solar eclipse that crosses Iceland and northern Spain. From Shropshire, the event will be seen as a deep partial eclipse, with roughly nine-tenths of the Sun covered at maximum, creating an eerie late-afternoon dimming and turning the Sun into a thin crescent low in the western sky. Across the UK, the eclipse is expected to begin shortly after 18:00, peak a little after 19:00, and end around 20:00, although exact timings vary by location. While we will not experience totality, **this will still be one of the most impressive eclipses visible from Britain in decades**, so clear western horizons will be essential.

Condover Bridge to close for repairs

Condover Bridge (south of the village on the road to Ryton) will be closed from 3 – 10 August 2026 for repair work. The work will include taking down and rebuilding the right end of the upstream parapet and general repointing following a road traffic collision. More info: <https://one.network/?tmi=GB45189094>

Boreton Bridge to close for repairs

Condover Bridge (south of the village on the road to Ryton) will be closed from 3 – 10 August 2026 for repair work. The work will include taking down and rebuilding the right end of the upstream parapet and general repointing following a road traffic collision. More info: <https://one.network/?tmi=GB45189094>



BERRINGTON CHURCH RESTORATION

In April 2026, the Grade I listed All Saints' Church in Berrington, Shropshire became the newest member of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) collection, which now numbers 358 churches across England.

As the national charity protecting historic churches at risk, the CCT occasionally takes on new churches through a process known as 'vesting'. This procedure is a statutory process governed by the Church of England whereby redundant churches of high historic or architectural quality are transferred into the care of CCT.

All Saints' dates to the 13th century, with some later alterations and a church is referred to in Berrington in the Domesday Book of 1086 which is thought to have been on the same site. Notable features inside the church include a working clock, which is still wound daily and a rare 13th century carved oak effigy of a cross-legged knight which lies in a tomb recess in the south aisle. The font dates to the 12th century and is thought to be an upturned column capital from the nearby Roman city of Wroxeter.

As with all new vestings, conservation and building work will need to be undertaken before the church can be opened to the public.

CCT's Conservation Project Manager Kathryn Moore said: *'We are planning to start work in May which should take around six months to complete. Scaffolding will be erected to allow for a full re-roof, in addition to new rainwater goods, masonry repairs and window repairs. Internally we will be repairing the ceiling and floors and conserving the monuments including the font and knight effigy and upgrading the electrical supply and toilet facilities.'*

A major priority for CCT is to engage with the local community throughout the work at the church. To express an interest and find out more about getting involved, please contact north@thecct.org.uk.

As of July 2026, restoration work is ongoing, with the following tasks having been undertaken:

- All Gravestones and tombs have been protected prior to scaffold erection.
- All redundant under pew bar heaters have been removed and pews have been



Above: Berrington Village Church. Credit: CCT

protected.

- Pews in the South Isle have been removed ready for inspection of the floor make up.
- The Organ has had the stud wall and polythene covering completed with an access door to the Eastern side.
- Temporary roof scaffolding is nearing completion; there has been a few hold ups and changes due to scaffold design issues this has caused a little delay with the roof stripping.
- All Ridge tiles have been removed under a watching brief; all ridges remain intact with no losses.
- All guttering and down pipes have been removed with the Down pipes stored for reuse. Some of the down pipe ears have had failed historic weld repairs that will require re-welding.
- The cross has been removed (before it fell down) from the Eastern gable and has been taken to our Masons for measuring up and profiling for quotation.
- Roof stripping to recommence starting with the chancel.
- Septic tank has been emptied and inspected. The tank itself is in good working condition. There is however a recommendation for an inlet manhole and an outlet manhole to aid in any further maintenance work.
- Temporary Tap installed in place of broken water heater for the use of filling IBC tanks for kentledge to the scaffold.



LOCAL WALKS

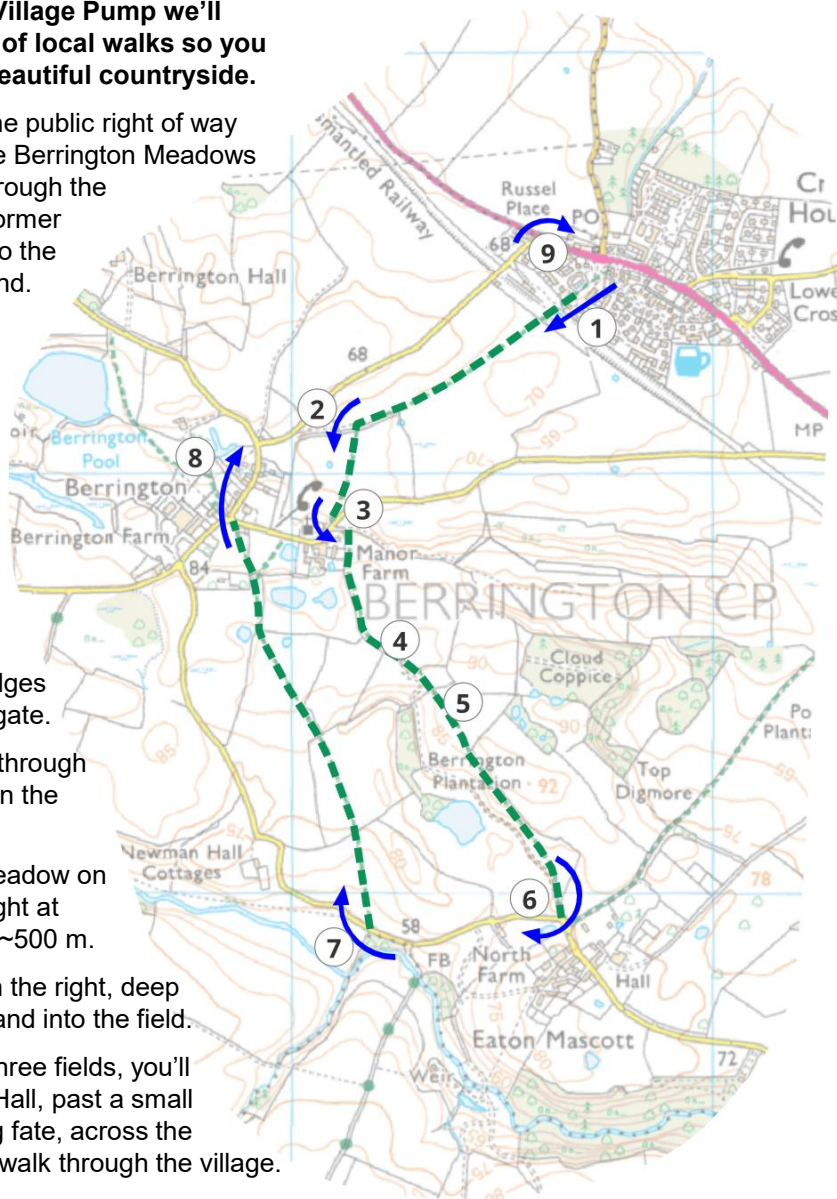
Over the coming editions of The Village Pump we'll feature instructions for a number of local walks so you can maximise enjoyment of our beautiful countryside.

1. Starting in Cross Houses, join the public right of way near the attenuation pond on the Berrington Meadows development and head south through the Leylandii trees and across the former railway line, ensuring you stick to the path in this section on private land.
2. Continue through the centre of the field up towards the church in Berrington.
3. When you meet Church Lane, turn left and then immediately right. At this point, two private drives converge with a field track; ensure you take the left-most track (the one without gravel).
4. Head through the gap in the hedges and down the hill to the kissing gate.
5. After the gate, continue directly through the centre of the field to a stile on the opposite side.
6. After you've walked across a meadow on the side of a sloped field, turn right at Eaton Mascott and continue for ~500 m.
7. Look for a small wooden stile on the right, deep in the hedge. Step up the bank and into the field.
8. After following the path across three fields, you'll pass behind Berrington Village Hall, past a small paddock. Go through the kissing gate, across the board bridge over the ditch and walk through the village.
9. The lane from Berrington to Cross Houses is very quiet and an easy walk. At the end, turn right and follow the path along the A458 back into Cross Houses.

Total distance: ~4.8 km (3 miles)

Approx. duration: 1 hour

Please follow the countryside code and keep dogs on a lead where requested.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parish Paths Partnership

We are looking for volunteers to help clear vegetation, replace stiles with kissing gates, and maintain watercourse crossings such as board bridges.



A community-based scheme supported by the county council, supplying tools, training, and financial help to keep local Public Rights of Way open, safe, and well-signed.

If you can help, please get involved.



PLEASE CONTACT US:
thevillagepump@outlook.com



Church Services and News from St. Eata's at Atcham

There is a Eucharist (BCP) every Sunday at 11am. Everyone is most welcome at this Service. Tea, coffee and cake is served on alternate Sundays.

Sunday 16th August – Service at 11am

Sunday 23rd August – Service at 11am

Sunday 30th August – Service at 11am

Sunday 6th September – Service at 11am

Sunday 13th September – Service at 11am

Sunday 20th September – Service at 11am

Sunday 27th September – Service at 11am

Sunday 4th October – Service at 11am

Sunday 11th October – Service at 11am

Sunday 18th October – Service at 11am

Sunday 25th October – Service at 11am



Dates for your diary

Saturday 12th September – Ride + Stride: the Church will be open and providing refreshments from 10am until 12:00 noon for those participating in Ride + Stride for Churches. This is a national event organised by National Churches Trust and raises funds by collecting sponsorship money for doing a walk or a ride. All are welcome to participate.

Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Sunday Service at 10:55.

Coffee Mornings: in Church on the 1st Friday of each month from 10:30 onwards.

The Church Fete and Duck Race was once again a major success raising a little over £6,000 for the Church fabric. Thank you to all who helped in many, many ways and a very big thank you to all who attended and supported the event.

✠ Berrington with Betton Strange ✠ Church Preen ✠ Cressage ✠ Cound ✠ Easthope ✠

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For details of services, more information and contact details regarding the Wenlock Team of Parishes please visit www.wenlockchurches.co.uk or call 01952 727396



Photo Competition

Would you like to see your photo featured on the cover of The Village Pump?

Then enter the Summer 2026 photo competition!

Simply take a photo at any time during the summer months and submit it to

thevillagepump@outlook.com.

The winning photo will be featured in the next edition of The Village Pump.

Eligibility: Photo must be taken in the parishes of Atcham or Berrington. All photos must be the original work of the entrant. Entries must not infringe upon the trademark, copyright, moral rights, intellectual rights, or rights of privacy of any entity or person. The editors decision is final.



**Interested in
growing your
own vegetables
and fruit?**



Your nearest allotment site is on the Chestnuts estate in Cross Houses and we will have some plots available for 2026.

Call Cameron on 01743 761443 for details.

Cound & District Crafters

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at Cound Guildhall 10am - 12 noon. £5 per session, different crafts each meeting.

Everyone is most welcome - new ideas can be incorporated and tried so please come along and join us.

Please contact Sue on 01743 761355 or email sueshedden52@gmail.com for more information.



BERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE GATEWAYS

New Village Gateway entrances to Cross Houses have been installed at both ends of the village on the A458. It is hoped these will enhance the entrances to the village and contribute to efforts to slow traffic on the main road.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

James Healey, who is organising the Community Speed Watch scheme, updated the parish council on progress. West Mercia Police have still yet to respond.

BYWAY FROM CANTLOP TO CANTLOP MILL

Councillor Eccles advised that for over a year now he had been campaigning to get the path to Cantlop Mill made passable. Shropshire Council has acknowledged the issue but it is being passed from department to department and is now back with Highways, although this will never be a road. Councillor Coleman is on the case to ensure that the matter doesn't fall into a black hole and will speak with Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership team.

BERRINGTON SOLAR FARM

An update was provided on attempts to seek community benefit from the forthcoming solar farm. Flour not Power (a local residents' action group in Berrington who fought against Econergy's plans for the solar farm) settled in December 2024. It is believed that Flour not Power attempted to secure a benefit for the Parish but Econergy wasn't interested. There is a document stating that a compensation scheme was agreed between the developer and Flour not Power.

It was agreed that although it is highly likely that the matter is now closed, the Clerk would write to Econergy to determine if there is any prospect of negotiating some form of community benefit package.

TREES IN CROSS HOUSES

Councillor Morris has been pushing for work to trim the trees in Cross Houses between The Chestnuts and the main road, which has now recently been completed.

BORETON BRIDGE

The damaged Boreton Bridge (which is Grade II listed) is being repaired from July - August.

CROSS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTRE

The parish council is continuing to look for volunteers to help with the running of the Chapel Community Centre. The more who get involved, the lighter the load will be.

Whether you can help with providing access / locking the building up, checking the tidiness between bookings or fixing a leaking tap, any and all support is appreciated.

Please contact the parish council at berringtonpc@gmail.com for further information.

WELCOME TO JAMES ADNEY

Berrington Parish Council has had two casual vacancies advertised for some time, with the vacancies being advertised in The Village Pump, on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards.

One application was received and as the applicant met the eligibility criteria to become a parish councillor, the vacancy could be filled by Mr James Adney.

Berrington Parish Council continues to have one casual vacancy.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2026.



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jrwright@hotmail.co.uk**



Wildlife at Crabapple

Crabapple Community is an earth-conscious, low-impact community living at Berrington Hall. The community owns and cares for wildlife-rich land including permaculture gardens, woodland, orchards, grassland and hedgerows. The land is home to many different species including barn owls, grass snakes, weasels, deer, bats, flycatchers and house martins, to name only a few.

Sam, a Crabapple member, has lived as part of the community for over four years. A passionate naturalist, she writes about her encounters with the wildlife of these lands.

I sit, still and silent, beneath the Tall Oak on a warm spring afternoon. Beams of sunlight push through the gently wavering leaves, creating a glittering effect. I gaze up in awe at the four

beautiful fluffy creatures sitting amongst the twisting branches. I sit in deep gratitude and astonishment. One of them turns to look down at me, and the big, black eyes of the tawny owl chick seem to stare into my soul.

We are lucky at Crabapple to be a home to nesting tawnies every year. We're usually alerted to their presence later on in the year, when the chicks are branching out further from their nest site and begin their incessant begging for food. Some years, we've heard them wake at 2 in the afternoon and begin their squeaky broken-dog-toy begging calls, ceasing only at 7 the following morning. As long as I've been here, there's only ever been two chicks. But this year has been a good vole year, and plentiful food means plentiful healthy babies.



Streaks of oak-tree-bark brown adorn the oldest chick. Were he not out in the day amongst the sunlit leaves, he would be totally camouflaged nestled against the trunk or branches. The two middle-aged chicks, which we've named The Twins, huddle closely together, almost inseparably so. It's hard to tell where the fluff of one butt ends and the fluff of the other begins. As one of the twins continues gazing at me, I see in detail the wisps of baby feathers bloating their face, a big, soft, round ball of grey. The youngest chick, barely emerged from the nest, sits far apart from the others. Their

head is tucked down into or in front of their body, and their colouring is incredibly pale; they look like a glowing white orb floating in the leaves.

Suddenly, the eldest whips his head round and projects small, desperate squeaks from his sharp beak. His head dips and wobbles, he pulls his wings out from his body and he flies awkwardly across to a nearby ash tree. He lands loudly and clumsily, a mess of streaky brown. The twins urgently follow suit, and I guess that a parent is nearby, about to bring them some delicious voles. I think it's time I leave them to enjoy their breakfast in peace.



Atcham & Cross Houses Mobile Library



CROSS HOUSES

Lower Cross, 10:10 – 10:40

Friday 14th August & 28th August

Friday 11th September & 25th September

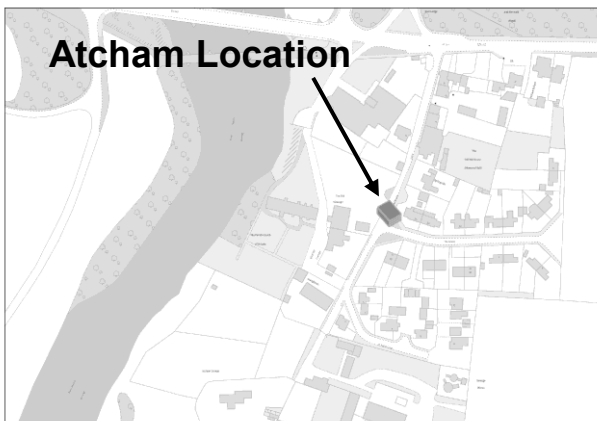
ATCHAM

By The Glebe, 13:20 – 13:35

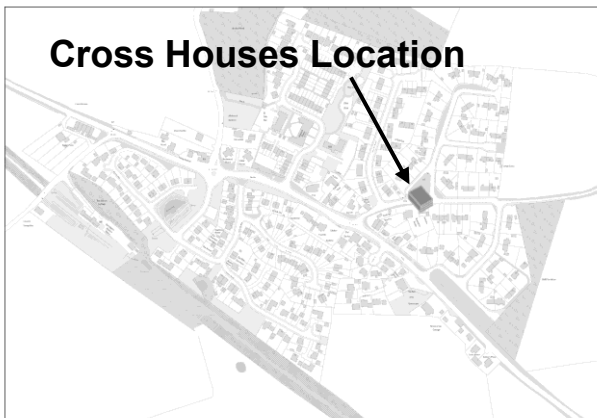
Friday 14th August & 28th August

Friday 11th September & 25th September

Atcham Location



Cross Houses Location



CROSS HOUSES BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading and would like to discuss your ideas and thoughts with like minded people - then please come and join our small, free, friendly and local book club.

For more information, please call Sue on **01743 761355** or email sueshedden52@gmail.com.

Reading List 2026

18th June – The Deadly Detective Agency by Ann Parker

16th July – Salmon Fishing in The Yemen by Paul Torday

August – Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus OR Death in the Crypt by Fliss Chester

17th September – The Countdown Killer by Sam Holland

15th October – Come Sundown by Nora Roberts

19th November – When Breathe Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

17th December – A Christmas Railway Mystery by Edward Marston

ADVERTISE IN THE PUMP

Want to see your business featured in The Village Pump? Get in touch – thevillagepump@outlook.com. Rates can be found on the inside cover on Page 2.

The Village Pump is widely read by people throughout the parishes of Atcham and Berrington and beyond – and unlike a social media advert which is passed in the flash of an idle scroll, not to mention your advertising money not staying local, people value The Pump and return to it time and time again... and your money is reinvested into the local community.



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Monthly Tuesday Meeting: 7pm - for 7.15pm start
Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month
(No Meetings in August)

Our evenings include Practical Sessions, Club
Demonstrations and Occasional Talks.

Pop along one evening to see us, everyone is made very
welcome. Visitors fee £5

Knowledge of flower arranging is not essential.
Between us we help each other and also learn from one
another.

For information about the club and events please visit our website
<https://www.columnflowerclubshrewsbury.co.uk>



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or use our Cound and District Tennis Club Homepage QR Code



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Please contact Club Coach Graham Hart on 07960 970 017 or email
hartg734@aol.com

Or find us on Facebook!

Summer Events

Until September 6

Pokémon TCG Mega Evolution Trail at Attingham

Get active outdoors on our Pokémon Trading Card Game Mega Evolution Trail. Team up as a family to search the gardens for each Mega Evolution Pokémon, discover their powers, and complete your own challenges. Trail sheets will be available to collect on the day. Normal admission applies (free for National Trust members).

Until September 27

Attingham Unearthed | The Finds

Step into the Silver Vaults at Attingham and uncover the story of a remarkable archaeological journey. Attingham Unearthed 2025 brought together expert archaeologists, dedicated volunteers and local community groups, all working side by side to explore the hidden history beneath the parkland.

25 July – 9 August

Church Stretton Arts Festival

The 2026 Festival runs from 25th July to 9th August. This year we are celebrating 60 years since the Festival was founded, and we have a wonderful selection of events lined up. Full details of what's on offer can be found on the Arts Festival Website strettonfestival.org.uk.

13 August, 14:00

The Jungle Book, Shrewsbury Castle

Immersion Theatre bring their trademark energy to an entertaining musical adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling family favourite, The Jungle Book! Bring your own seats, or arrive earlier if you plan to sit on the grass or a blanket, to ensure we can offer a space at the front. Umbrellas are not permitted as they can block the view of others.

<https://www.theatresevern.co.uk/whats-on/the-jungle-book/>

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Between 1817 and 1896 the world experienced a series of Cholera epidemics. Global deaths totalled millions, with estimates over 200,000,000. More than 140,000 people died in England, mostly in London.



The epidemic was caused by the *Vibrio Cholerae* bacteria which is still found in contaminated, dirty water across many regions of the world affecting an estimated 4 million people each year.

In response to the UK epidemic the British Government enacted the 1878 Water Act requiring 'occupied dwelling-house within their district, has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for consumption and use for domestic purposes for the inmates of the house.'

The landowner at Eaton Mascott offered a small piece of land in Berrington village to locate the new pump.

The Board of Guardians of the Atcham Poor Law Union, an association of local rate payers, business owners, lawyers and clergy took ownership of the land and managed the development of Berrington's water supply. They also arranged for the village's water pump and trough to be enclosed by a three-sided red brick wall. The water pump is one of more than one hundred water pumps in Shropshire. Attingham Park has one on the estate and pumps can be found in the villages of Easton Mascot, Cantlop, Cound and Upper Cound.

At some point in the past the responsibility for the pump was passed from the Board of Guardians of the Atcham Poor Law Union to Atcham Rural Council. The Council was disbanded in the 1970s.

Later in 1986 the pump, trough and walls were assigned Grade II listed status by National Heritage, England. They are now protected by law

for their special architectural or historic interest. They also are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Areas Act 1979.

Yet sometimes across the years the pump, trough and walls fell into disrepair due to the unstable ground under the structure. And as the pump is located close to a right of way, the path regularly needed to be closed for safety concerns.



The pump in disrepair in 2020

Over the years local residents have worked to repair, renovate and care for the pump.

1973 – Bill Powis, a local resident, arranged for the pump to be completely renovated.

1980 – Mrs Rosemary Willday, another local resident, tidied the area around the pump and planted flowers in the trough with the permission of the vicar of Berrington church.

2000 – A local resident arranged for ground work to be repair and the pump resettled. But the groundwork was still unstable and within a short period of time the pump began to fall into the ground once again.

In January 2026 I asked if the Parish Council was willing to gift the cost of groundwork to the village to create a permanent solution to the routine collapse of

the ground under the pump. This was agreed.

In May 2026 the local building contractor Jake Smith at JSB Building completed the ground work.

The pump is now secured in place. Local residents have helped paint the pump and also fill the trough with summer flowers.

The right of way across the meadows had been closed for





over four years. It was reopened on 1st May 2026. It is a short and lovely walk.

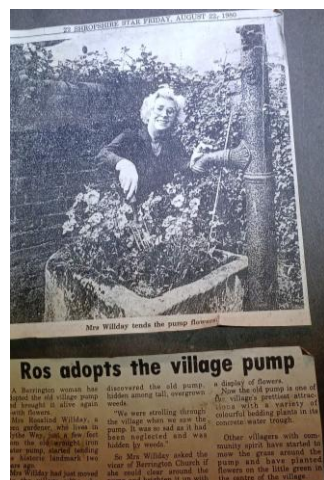
After nine months of planning, consultation and construction work it will soon be time for the next phase of the renovation. The Grade II listed red brick wall needs to be rebuilt.

Thank you to all involved so far, for your advice, guidance and support. You have all helped renew this precious piece of our history once again.

Thank you to the Parish Council, Claire Wild, Councillor Susan Coleman, Dr Andy Wigley at Shropshire



Council Heritage, Mick Crowe, Jake Smith, Sue and Mark White, Richard and Oscar Purslow, Henry Carpenter and the village residents who kindly painted the pump a wonderful racing green.



Above left: The repaired and painted pump in June 2026

Above: Rosemary Willday

Marcia Rathbone

Berrington Resident and Parish Councillor

WATER SAFETY

Even though Shropshire is the largest land-locked county in England, hot weather can tempt many people to go for a swim in some of the many rivers, ponds, lakes and reservoirs in the area.

However, water can host hidden dangers, which include:

- Temperature (cold)
- There may be hidden currents
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- It can be deep

- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- There are no lifeguards
- It is difficult to estimate depth
- It may be polluted and may make you ill

Advice for staying safe around water

- Keep away from the water's edge and closely supervise young children at all times.
- Never swim in open water when there are no life-guards present.

- Don't jump or dive into open water; submerged objects such as rocks may not be visible and can cause serious injuries.
- Be aware that there may be strong currents, even where the water surface appears calm.
- Weirs, locks, pipes and sluices are especially dangerous.
- Take note of warning signs, safety information or flags near the water's edge.

- Get out of the water as soon as you start to feel cold.
- Water can be very cold even in summer, causing cramp and breathing difficulties – these can affect even the strongest swimmer.
- Wear the recommended safety equipment for your activity, e.g. life jackets / helmets.
- Alcohol may impair your ability and judgment.



ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

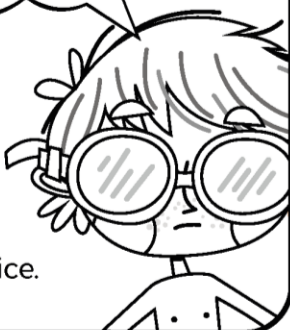


ROYAL
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Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess your surroundings.
Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go with friends or family.
Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



In an emergency:

CALL 999

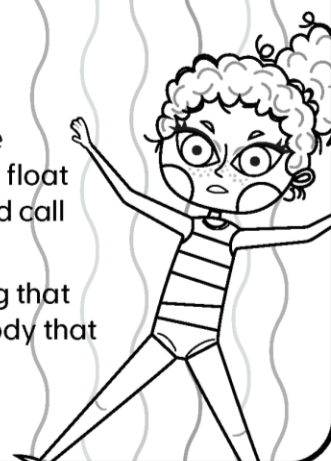
If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
Don't enter the water to rescue.



FLOAT

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help.

Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



Enjoy Water **Safely** | **Free From Drowning**



THE VILLAGE PUMP, AUG-SEPT 2026

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills.
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News from your Shropshire Councillor Susan Coleman

Financial Situation

The financial situation at Shropshire Council continues to be of grave concern and cuts to services are being felt. Most objection has been to the closing of the Meole Brace Park and Ride. I spoke to the Portfolio Holder for transport who assured me that they had researched in depth the number of journeys and because the government has cut £200,000 from our transport budget, we could not afford a bus contract for 3 Park & Ride services and this was the least used throughout a whole day so will stop in November when the new bus contract starts

Highways

Highways concerns still take up much of my time. Please report potholes, faulty street lights, fly tipping or other highways issues on **Fix My Street** (www.fixmystreet.com). That way the number and complexity can be monitored but if you don't see them repaired within three months please contact me with the reference number so that I can flag to highways officers.

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

I was pleased to be elected as Vice Chair of the Fire Authority in June. The full authority meets four times a year and we have three other subcommittees: Strategy & Resources, Performance & Scrutiny and Audit & Standards who meet regularly to monitor service delivery and finances and report back to the main authority: look out for our Fire Station Open Days this summer in Shrewsbury August 29th, Telford August 8th and Wellington August 15th.

The Fire Service is a great career for women and men and Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service is currently recruiting for new fire fighters so do share that message.

Out and About

I write this just after Buildwas Summer Fete and Dog show which attracted a good turnout and I stocked up with some plants and enjoyed delicious home-made cake and a cuppa! The same weekend saw Atcham Fete and Duck Race too, so I was busy! Berrington has its Jazz night coming up so we hope the dry weather is on the menu that day too.

Follow me on Facebook to see what else I'm doing as your Councillor and email me with any concerns that you have and I will try my best to help you.

Cllr Susan Coleman

Working hard for communities in the Severn Valley division of Shropshire Council

Email:

susan.coleman@shropshire.gov.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CllrSusanColeman

Phone:

07843 111539



Knit & Natter

AT
CROSS HOUSES

We are a small group of very friendly ladies who meet on the third Monday of the month, 10am - 12 noon at the Community Room, Noel Hill Road for a chat and to make items for charity events which we run twice a year for local causes - everyone is welcome and you don't have to worry about ability - we are all different and learn from each other whilst having a laugh.

We welcome new members, please come along and join us.

For more information please contact Sue on 01743 761355 / 07773 161635 or email sueshedden52@gmail.com



The Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses Room Hire Rates 2026

Day / Session	Rate
Mon to Fri	
Morning	£40
Afternoon	£40
Evening	£40
Sat & Sun	
Day	£50
Evening	£65

Standard sessions consist of 4 hours.

Bookings can be made for timings outside of the session, subject to consideration for other bookings. We try to be as flexible as possible. Costings may be adjusted accordingly. Please request a firm price when booking.

You will be invoiced at the confirmation of the booking with 14 days to pay after the event. Please ensure the invoice number is quoted. Information regarding access to the building on the day will be sent to you beforehand.

The hirer must be 21 years old or over. Any event must have an adult over the age of 21 present for the whole event.

Please ensure curtains are closed in the main hall for evening rentals, as the hall faces a residential building.

Please do not park in the six parking spaces on the right side as you enter the car park as these belong to residents and visitors of the apartments opposite.

Music must cease at **12:00 midnight**. The evening session must finish by **12:30am**.

Please read the terms and conditions for the end of session.

Enquire online through
<https://hallbookingonline.com/chapel>

Email: chapelcommunitycentre@gmail.com



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YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Berrington Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help with the running of the Chapel Community Centre. The more who get involved, the lighter the load will be. It's a great way to get involved in your local community and help keep an important community asset up and running.

Whether you can help with providing access / locking the building up, checking the tidiness between bookings or fixing a leaking tap, any and all support is appreciated.

Tasks may include:

- Providing access to the building;
- Helping manage bookings;
- Tidying / maintenance;
- Inspecting communal areas;
- General housekeeping.

Please contact the parish council at berringtonpc@gmail.com for further information.

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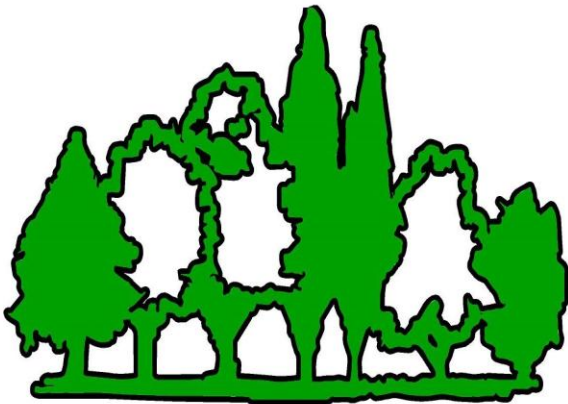


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MUCH WENLOCK & CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

Our very own Dr Jess Harvey, has been named national winner of the leadership award at the inaugural NHS Excellence Awards.

The awards, delivered by NHS England, celebrate the people, teams and organisations driving improvement, innovation and collaboration across health and care in England. Winners were announced during a ceremony at NHS ConfedExpo in Manchester in June.

The judges recognised Dr Harvey for her engaging, evidence-led style of leadership, recognising her work with the Primary Care Network to implement several initiatives successfully as part of a push to improve neighbourhood services. Judges said the breadth of activity and impact made her nomination stand out.

Dr Harvey said: "I am incredibly honoured to receive this recognition. It means a great deal. I feel very fortunate to do a job that I genuinely love and to have had so many opportunities to make a difference. Most importantly, I am privileged to work alongside so many talented and dedicated people. They have supported me throughout my career, and many of the projects I have led or been involved in simply would not have been possible without them. This recognition is as much a reflection of their contribution as it is mine.

Her achievements include helping create a Community Health and Wellbeing Centre in Highley by relocating and refitting Highley Medical Practice within the local leisure centre, securing healthcare into the heart of one of Shropshire's most deprived communities.

South East Shropshire Stoma Group News

A South East Shropshire Stoma Group supporting patients in the local area has been set up. The inaugural meeting was held at the Methodist Church in Much Wenlock on the 22 June and a further meeting has been arranged for 9 November 2026. For further information please contact the Practice and we will pass details on to the group organiser.



Bank Holiday Closure

Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice will be closed on Monday 31st August. If you require medical assistance during these times, please call 111.

Much Wenlock & Cressage COCO Volunteer Service

Compassionate communities is a local initiative to tackle loneliness and isolation. It is free and open to all.

We are all different, so the type and amount of care and support we can give varies greatly, but at the heart of what we do is befriending. Here is an idea of the kind of support we offer: Befriending, visiting, listening and chatting. Reading or listening to music. Playing games. Shopping for or together.

Walking the dog or feeding pets. Attending appointments together. We need volunteers, if you can spare as little as an hour every couple of weeks, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the practice 01952 726011.





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NATURE RECOVERY ON THE ATTINGHAM ESTATE

Attingham Park is well known for its historic mansion and beautiful parkland, but a major nature recovery project is now underway across the wider estate. Covering around 1,500 hectares of woodland, parkland, farmland and tenanted farms, the Attingham Nature Recovery Project aims to make more space for wildlife while helping people reconnect with nature on their doorstep.

Led by the National Trust, the project looks ahead over the next decade and seeks to restore nature-rich habitats, support more sustainable farming practices, capture carbon and improve the landscape's resilience to climate change. The long-term vision is for healthier soils, more wildflowers, thriving wetlands and woodlands, and hedgerows filled with birdsong.

Practical work is already taking place across the estate. Rangers and volunteers have begun restoring ponds, which provide valuable habitats for plants and animals while also helping with water storage and flood management. Woody debris barriers are also being installed, drawing on techniques developed through the Shropshire Slow the Flow project.

Woodland creation has been another important focus. At Lower Betton Farm, more than 16,000 saplings have been planted to establish Lambart Wood, creating new habitat alongside developing wildflower meadows. Recent monitoring has shown kestrels and tawny owls making use of specially installed raptor posts, an encouraging sign that

wildlife is responding positively to the changes.

The project is supported by the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Demonstrator Programme through a three-year funding agreement involving the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council.

Volunteers, local groups and students have also played an important role, helping with ecological surveys and habitat creation.

As the project develops, the aim is not only to enhance biodiversity but also to create a healthier, more resilient landscape for future generations to enjoy.

By 2034, the National Trust wants to see Attingham's soils teem with earthworms and insects, supporting the production of high-quality local food. Meadows will burst with wildflowers, and wetlands, woodlands and hedgerows will be alive with birdsong.

The National Trust recognises the project as ambitious and has called for partners and local communities to turn the plans into action on the ground. To find out more or get involved email attingham@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Above: How the fields between Cross Houses (on the right) and the River Severn (on the left) could be transformed by the plans.





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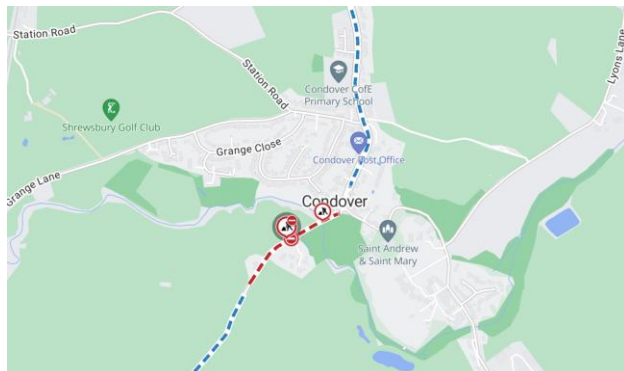
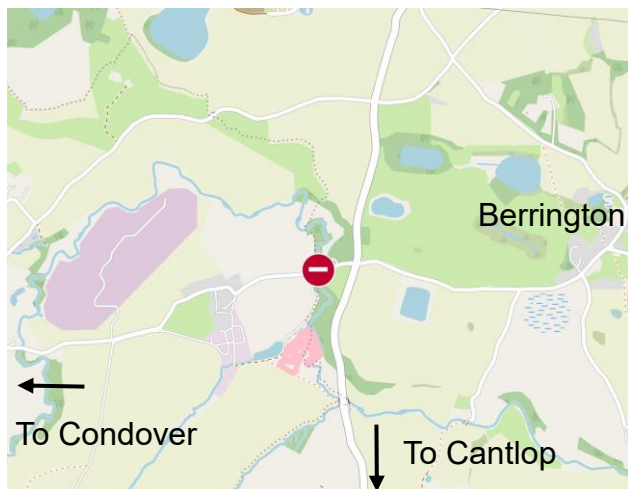


UPCOMING ROADWORKS / POINTS TO NOTE

When? 27th July to 21st August 2026
Where? Boreton Bridge
Why? Bridge Repairs
Reference: UJ215BR-1509043

Road Closure to enable bridge repairs

When? 3rd August – 10th August
Where? Condover Bridge
Why? Road closed for bridge repairs
Reference: UJ215BR-1508218





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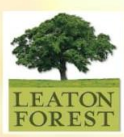
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Atcham Parish Council Clerk	01691 622093	NHS Direct	111
Cressage Surgery	01952 511166	Samaritans	01743 369696
Marden Surgery	01743 241313	Shropshire Council	0345 678 9000
Riverside Surgery	01743 367891	Severn Trent Water	0800 783 4444
Shrewsbury Police Station	0300 333 3000	Shropshire Home Point	0300 303 8595
Bromford Housing Association	0330 1234 034	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride	01743 450350
Homes Plus	0800 048 8955	Shropshire Highways	0345 678 9006
Councillor Susan Coleman	07843 111539	Bins & Recycling (missed collections)	0345 678 9007
Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7894	Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	01743 261000
Age UK	01743 233123	Princess Royal Hospital, Telford	01952 641222
Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 2000 247	National Grid (Emergency)	0800 6783 105
Cruse Bereavement Care	0808 808 1677	National Grid	0800 096 3080
Berrington Parish Council Clerk	07379 213308	RSPCA (Cruelty Hotline)	0300 1234 999
Gas Emergency Services	0800 111 999	Floodline	0345 988 1188
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	Dog Fouling (Reporting) – Longden Road Depot	0345 678 9006
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111		



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