

# BOMERE HEATH AND DISTRICT NEWS

February-March 2024



***A new look for a new  
generation of readers!***

***In this issue:***

*The story so far...*

*News from our  
community groups*

*Directory of advertisers*

*Anagrams*

*Pet of the month!*

Photograph by Hayley Matthews of Matthews Moments Photography

*This edition (and previous ones) are also available online at  
[www.bomereheath.co.uk](http://www.bomereheath.co.uk) under 'Church, Groups and Clubs'.*

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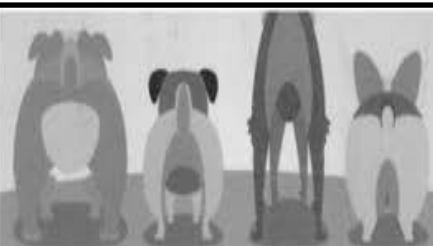
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# Bomere Heath and District News



*Is a joint publication managed by the Methodist and Anglican churches of Bomere Heath, Leaton and Albrighton with Battlefield.*

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## February- March 2024



Welcome to our new-look issue! We're deeply grateful to members of the Bomere Heath community who, over past six months, have met with us to work on a new format and to broaden our contributions. We hope you enjoy the result!

As we welcome a new era in community news, I'd like to warmly invite you to get involved with the magazine. In particular, we're hoping to have a different person provide a seasonal photograph for the cover of each edition, and we are always on the look out for a pet to feature. We also welcome any feedback or suggestions. In many ways, this is just the beginning of our endeavours- we hope that over the coming months we will continue to think creatively about how we can make this magazine reflect the community it serves, so that it is a valuable resource and reference point for local life, as well as something to make you smile when it splats onto the doormat month by month! If you think you might be interested in helping with any of the above, then do just send an email- [bomeremag@gmail.com](mailto:bomeremag@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you...

Meanwhile, do enjoy this issue- especially our new contributors and the splash of colour here and there. We're deeply grateful to all of you who have provided articles, adverts, delivered copies or who have just helped us along the way. Thank you!

Hannah Lins (Content Coordinator for this edition)



Our next edition will be April-May 2024, with a copy deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> March.

*We now have a directory of contacts at the back of our mag, so please do look there for all other contact details.*



# Bomere Heath Village Hall

We welcomed in 2024 with the marvellous news that Keltek Critical Infrastructure, who are working for Severn Trent Water on the lead replacement pipes scheme in the village, have very kindly paid for the hire of the Coffee Machine for 2024. We are incredibly grateful for this kind donation that secures the volunteer run coffee shop for another year. Fergus and Madeline are our contacts at Keltek and Madeline asked us to pass this message on, more information on their charity work can be found on our website if you would like to know more.

*Fergus and I run a charity with the proceeds all coming directly from Keltek. We would like the people of Bomere Heath to know that their great support of us with this scheme and your support at the Village Hall over the past months has enabled us to build a new borehole to supply Ndiwa girls secondary school in Ndiwa village, Kenya and supply two thousand girls with water.*



The wonderful group of BHVH volunteers have been busy starting to organise 2024 community events. The aim is to bring the community together and raise funds for the Village Hall Charity for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hall. Tickets are available now on [thelittleboxoffice.com/bhvh](http://thelittleboxoffice.com/bhvh) for:

- Valentines Ceilidh (Gaelic Dance) - 17 February - £15/ticket (includes entry and raffle ticket). Enjoy a fun night of dancing with family and friends with the local band 'Odd Socks'. Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start.
- Spring Quiz - 2 March - £16/team of 4, £20/team of 5 or £24/team of 6. A fun quiz with games and a raffle. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.

In addition there will be Easter Monday Fun on 1 April with events for children and adults, more details to follow shortly.

In addition to finishing the toilet replacement and the day to day running of our village hall the Management Committees aim for 2024 is to secure funding towards a more sustainable and affordable heating solution. All ideas or support welcome!

## CHURCH SERVICES

Anyone is welcome at any of our services- we are here for you! Each one lasts about an hour, and our service times are below:



Date	Bomere Methodist Church the redbrick church at the top of the bank on Baschurch Road, SY4 3PN	Holy Trinity, Leaton the parish church- Berwick Road, SY4 3AP	The Mission Church the white building in the centre of the village- Shrewsbury Road, SY4 3PN	St John the Baptist, Albrighton the sandstone church opposite Albrighton Hall Hotel- SY4 3HP
4 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	10.45am* →	No service	9.15am
11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	10.45am* →	9am	No service
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday service, 6.30pm			
18 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	10.45am* →	No service	9.15am
25 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	10.45am* →	9am	No service
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	10.30am	10.45am	No service	9.15am
10 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	10.45am	9am	No service
17 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	10.45am	No service	9.15am
24 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	10.45am	9am	No service
28 <sup>th</sup> March			Agape Meal- 7pm	
29 <sup>th</sup> March Good Friday	10.30am		2pm- Last Hour at the Cross	
31 <sup>st</sup> March- Easter Day!	10.30am	10.45am	8am	9.15am

\* Leaton Church services will be held at the Mission Church, Bomere Heath at 10.45am throughout February.

To find out more about the wider life of the local churches, go to our websites:

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

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





The **Methodist** Church



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## REGULAR HOSPITALITY

<b>Coffee and Play</b> Every Tuesday in term time, 8.45am-10.15am The Mission Church	<b>Coffee, Craft and Chat</b> First Wednesday of the month, 10am-noon The Methodist Church	<b>Tea and Cake</b> Third Tuesday of the month, 2pm-4pm The Methodist Church 	<b>Stepping Out Café</b> Last Wednesday of the month, 2.30pm-4pm The Mission Church 
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Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

### PANCAKE AND QUIZ NIGHT

Mission Church, Bomere Heath, 7.30pm

Tickets £5 from 01939 290637

Bring your own drinks -glasses provided

**Clerk to the Parish Council- Mrs. S. Horton- 01939 290200**

**Village Hall Booking Secretary- [secretary@bhvh.co.uk](mailto:secretary@bhvh.co.uk),  
07717 210219**

**Holy Trinity Leaton (Wardens)- Mrs P. Hall- 01939 290637;**

**Mr P. Leddington - [p.leddington@outlook.com](mailto:p.leddington@outlook.com)**

**The Mission Church in Bomere Heath- Mrs P. Hall- 01939 290637;**

**Mr P. Leddington - [p.leddington@outlook.com](mailto:p.leddington@outlook.com)**

**St John the Baptist Albrighton (wardens)- Mr D. Jagger- 01939 291900; Mrs. C. Kirk- 01939 291023**

**The Methodist Church in Bomere Heath-  
[bomereheathmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:bomereheathmethodist@gmail.com)**

**The Methodist Minister- Revd. S. Macneill-Cooper-  
[shalome.macneill-cooper@methodist.org.uk](mailto:shalome.macneill-cooper@methodist.org.uk)**

**The Anglican Minister- Revd. H. Lins- [revhannahlins@gmail.com](mailto:revhannahlins@gmail.com)**

**We've come a long, long way together...**  
**And we're keeping going!**

What's your vintage? I'm 1978, and the magazine is older than me! It began in the early 1970s, so may well be a grand 50+ years old by now. All that time ago, in amongst the flares and ABBA, the Revd. Michael Hill had the idea of creating a parish news- a joint venture between what was then three church denominations in the village. Much of the housing in and around Brook Road was still new- the village had grown quite quickly, and so it was an important moment to build a sense of community. The Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican churches worked together to coordinate the local news and updates.

In those earliest days, entries were typed up onto stencils and then the copies were printed using a Gestetner machine (which was kept under the stairs in the secretary's house!). There were just 200 copies back then- our print-run now is over 800. Once printed, the (rather large) pile of pages was taken to the Methodist Church Hall to be



stapled together before distribution. As the years went by the magazine grew- more local businesses advertised in it for a small fee, and the print-run was outsourced to a printer in Hadnall. An annual coffee morning was held to raise funds so that the magazine could be delivered free to every home in the Parish.

A lot has changed since then! But we are so indebted to those faithful visionaries who began our magazine, and who made sure it was a gift to the community, rather than something that had to be paid for. Some of those original volunteers have passed away, but many are still with us- and to all of them we say a big, heartfelt thank-you ☺☺. They have given us a rich history and an amazing heritage.

What began in a cupboard under the stairs has certainly broadened its reach since then! But some things have remained the same. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who work hard every issue to make sure the whole process goes to plan. Even with the evolution of technology, there's no escaping the hard-graft that goes into putting all the pieces together and enabling the completed mag to soar through your letterbox.



And in our new-look magazine there is continuity and change. We recognise that village life looks quite different to how it did 50 years ago, and we want to reflect that in our content. We've also introduced a bit of colour... but actually, it's a step backwards! In fact, the magazine covers used to be in colour and changed month by month. The design that has been used in recent years, which shows the three churches in the village, was created by Helen Woodman.

Though the Presbyterian Chapel has now sadly closed, local churches are still united in their understanding of the importance of life together. There is a saying that there is no 'I' in 'Christian' (yes, I recognise there are two!)- the message being that we are never alone, and that is a key part of the Gospel we commend. We believe in God who is community, who calls us to live well together- not as isolated little islands, with no sense of place; but as people of *this* place- *this* community. We hope it is a place where people care for one another, where they know where to find help if they need it and where they feel that they belong. If the Bomere Heath and District News goes some way to giving that hope a helping hand, then our work is done!

### **Updates from our local surgeries**

**Prescott Surgery Patient Newsletter is available  
at <https://prescottsurgery.co.uk/> .**



**The January/February edition contains an update on  
the patient survey, along with a detailed response from the surgery.  
There is also information about winter wellness, hospital pressures  
and the *Think Which Service*.**

**Surgery opening hours are 8.30am-6pm, Monday to Friday.**

# BOMERE HEATH TENNIS CLUB

We have now joined the Lawn Tennis Association Shropshire North Leagues in 2024. On 10 Dec 2023, Leaton Church had a Christmas Tree Festival and Sue Harris submitted an entry. After a prolonged period of rain and poor weather, we had a game on Tue 09 Jan 2024, even the Shropshire Council gritter went past us twice!!

**Looking forward to you joining us and sharpening your tennis skills -  
Tuesday evenings at 1830.**



## PICKLEBALL

With the weather not being pickleball friendly, we now play at Shrewsbury Sports Village, playing at 0930 on Wednesdays and 1030 on Saturdays. Pickleball Central UK held a doubles competition on Wed 03 Jan 2024 and Jemma Southall and John Brownlie narrowly missed the top spot. On 27-28 Jan 2024, Pickleball Central UK held an Central England Pickleball Festival at Aldersley Leisure Centre WV6 9NW - @WV\_active @AldersleySport which we will report on in the Mar 2024 Parish News.

We are always welcoming new members & beginners sessions held at Shrewsbury Sports Village (and other venues) over the Winter each week. All details can be found on the website [www.pickleballcentraluk.com](http://www.pickleballcentraluk.com). We are so appreciative of The Tennis Club allowing us to place lines on the court through the summer & are so thankful to tennis players for their support



## **Shrewsbury Men's Shed**

Shrewsbury Men's Shed has over 40 active members and is one of Shropshire's newest sheds and one of over 900 in the UK that come under the umbrella of the UK Men's Sheds Association. Shrewsbury Men's Shed is an independent charity that is run by its members.

You can find us on the West Mids Showground in one of the stable blocks which has been converted from scratch by our members with the kind support of many local sponsors and businesses.

The finishing touches are nearly complete: we have a large social area, a wood workshop, a metal workshop and a forge. We hope to have a fully operating kitchen soon as well a large greenhouse.

Sheds not only counter isolation amongst men (and not exclusively older men) who may be retired, bereaved, lonely or simply at a loose end, but most of all are fun. They also give a sense of purpose and achievement and are a valuable community resource.

A sample of our activities has included building birdboxes for the RSPB, a mud kitchen for a local school, providing hot meals and of course, restoring the noticeboard for Bomere Heath Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to drop by and see us – we are open between 9am to 4pm Mon-Fri. Just go through the Showground main entrance and follow the signs. You can also phone us on: 07956 283878.



*An opportunity to meet  
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**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February – 10.30 – 12.00pm. Bomere Village  
Hall, Shrewsbury Road. Refreshments provided.**

## **Tales from the Vets**

### **By David Jagger**

### **R I P JOEY**

Eight-year-old Peter was the devoted owner of Joey, a beautiful blue budgerigar. He had been given Joey as a 5<sup>th</sup> birthday present. Peter had begun to notice that Joey was gradually changing shape. His chest appeared to be becoming more prominent. Apart from this he seemed to be well and his usual chirpy self; eating his millet seed and chewing away on his cuttle fish.

Peter talked to his mum about Joey's chest swelling, which she had also noticed. This had also given her concerns but she had not wanted to worry Peter.

Eventually it was decided that Joey should be taken to the veterinary practice which looked after their aged spaniel.

Joey was transported in a small cardboard box with small holes punched into it so that he would not be short of air and he arrived at the practice for the morning surgery at nine o'clock. As he was the first to arrive Joey was called into the consulting room by a young nurse. The vet on duty was welcoming and chatted to Peter about Joey, telling Peter that although he treated all animals, he did have a particular interest in birds.

Joey did not seem at all bothered about being handled and allowed the vet to carry out a careful examination. Later, out of hearing of Peter and his mother the vet commented to the nurse that instead of this being a budgie with a growth this was more accurately a growth with a budgie attached to it! The vet explained to Peter and his mother that such growths were not uncommon in budgies and that the only course of action was surgical removal or putting to sleep. The risks of anaesthesia and surgery for small birds were discussed and Peter and his mother decided that Joey should have a chance.

After the other patients had been seen Joey was prepared for surgery and anaesthetized by allowing him to breathe a mixture of Halothane (anaesthetic vapour) and oxygen. The operation which the vet had carried out on several previous occasions had gone without a hitch and blood loss had been minimal. The anaesthetic had been turned off and the vet was just starting to congratulate himself when Joey gave a small sigh and expired. Budgie CPR is difficult but maximum effort was used to try to revive him but with no success. Vet and nurse surveyed the little body with great

sadness.

Everyone was aware of the risk but the thought of telling Peter was miserable.

At lunch time, without telling anyone, the young nurse disappeared down into town and returned half an hour later with a little cardboard box with holes in it. Before opening it, she explained to all that on the whole most blue budgies are pretty hard to tell apart and that could we not ring Peter's and say that Joey was ready to be collected. An in-depth ethical discussion ensued which did not prevent the call being made Peter and his mother arrived to pick up Joey Mark II. Expecting to see a delighted Peter the nurse notice that he looked unimpressed. Asked if he was pleased to get Joey back, he said: "Not really, I was sure he would die so I sold his cage".



### **Book Club News**

The Bomere Heath Bookclub started in January 2020, we somehow kept it going through the pandemic and, gratefully, we are still here in 2024. We meet once a month in our village pub to discuss the book choice for that month. Each member chooses a book, and then leads the discussion. We've read everything from historic and crime novels, to time travel and biographical and autobiographical.

The bookclub gives you the chance to broaden your horizon and enjoy books you might otherwise not have considered. Apart from that, we're a friendly bunch of readers who enjoy an evening out to chat about books and having a drink.

- We meet every 4th Monday in the month
- (This year the club meetings fall on a Bank Holiday, but that's not a problem)
- At the Red Lion Inn in Bomere Heath at 20.00 hrs
- We are happy to welcome new members, and have a couple of places still available - for more information please contact Liz Payne on 01939-290494



Bomere Heath & District Parish  
Council is on Facebook -  
[www.facebook.com/pg/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/)



## BOMERE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

There is always an open invite to members of the public, should you like to attend as a member of public you are very welcome, but spaces can be limited. If so, please contact the clerk to book a space.

Below are extracts from the Parish Council meeting at Bomere Village Hall on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### Community News

#### **Community Christmas Tree,**

The Parish Council have been working on a Community Christmas Tree for some time and we were please to erect a Christmas Tree & Lights on the Shrewsbury Rd this Christmas. The fine specimen was kindly donated by Leaton Estate, we wish to thank the team at the Christmas Tree Farm for delivering the tree. Councillors decorate the tree with lights and we hope that you liked the festive addition to the Bomere Heath Village.

The intention is to make it an annual occurrence.

#### **Community Events**

The Parish Council intend to fund and aim to facilitate a community event committee to host a Fete in 2024 and are hoping that we can financially assist an event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day Landings on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Should you wish to be involved, please contact the PC Clerk to register your interest. It is only with the support from the community that these events can be held.

#### **Planning**

We reviewed 1 application this period.

Full Feedback can be found on the Shropshire Planning Portal.

The PC has been requested to re-review the proposal for the Galliers Land to the south of the village and issue an updated set of comments

#### **Finance –**

The **precept** for 2024/25 was discussed and the PC unanimously agreed that due to cost pressures and the deficit between income and



expenditure that in 2024 there would be an increase to the Precept. (This is the allocation from the Council Tax) In recent years the PC has tried to minimise costs, but an expectation is that there will be an increase of 50p - £1 per household. This will generate an estimated £1200. This will be visible on the Council Tax Statement.

### **Youth Club**

The Parish Council has continued to fund the youth club and the club is boasting a weekly participation of 20 – 25 children from over 50 children that is a vital asset to the younger children, however, the volunteer numbers to support the group and keep the club operating has dwindled forcing the club to close on 2 occasions in the last 8 weeks.

SYA (Shropshire Youth Association) are concerned that without the volunteer numbers, the group won't be sustainable, even with the funding support from the PC.

If you have the capacity to assist or are a parent/carer of children attending and could help out on a Thursday evening, this would be a valuable asset to the group and may be the difference between the club continuing and closing.



The next meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 7.30pm** in **Bomere Heath Village Hall**.

We will post the agenda for this meeting on the website nearer the time. If you wish to have a comment read aloud on an issue, please contact the Clerk in writing and give 5 working days' notice so it can be placed on an Agenda. [clerk@bomereheath.co.uk](mailto:clerk@bomereheath.co.uk)



### **News from last term**

We had a very busy Autumn Term in school!

There were many exciting events and lessons and we are going to share them with you in the Parish Newsletter.

In our Art lessons in KS2 we all did weaving inspired by Annie Albers but in Wrekin Class, Years Five and Six, we made our weaving on a wood frame that we had to hammer nails into - it is called a loom. The weaving was very hard for most people in school, but everyone managed to do it. We got to take them home and give them to a special person.

In our Design and Technology learning, in KS2 we all learnt about cams (cams are devices which can convert rotary motion into linear motion). We all made a moving toy designed about Christmas or the Anglo Saxons. We had to make a background, foreground and add some information!

We have visited the beautiful Leaton church for Harvest Festival and Christingle, the Year Five and Six pupils also visited Christ Church at Bayston Hill. Every week, Pimhill go to Forest School - even if it is muddy and wet. Grinshill, Stiperstones and Wrekin Year Fives went to Tatton Park to experience life as an Anglo-Saxon! Pimhill and Haughmond had a great day out at Aston Hall in Birmingham.

In KS1, in Pimhill and Haughmond classes, the children were practicing the Nativity (Twinkly Nativity) for 4 weeks before putting on a magical show for the parents. KS2 got to watch and admire their hard work; we all enjoyed the performance! The whole school had a Christmas treat as we all got to see Jack and the Beanstalk panto at Theatre Severn!

We also had some sad news as our PE teacher Miss Ryan and our Teaching Assistant Mrs Norris have left. Many of us were sad, they will be missed and we wish them good luck in the future.

In Sports, our Year Three and Four team won the local Dodgeball tournament, and our Year Five and Six Netball and Dodgeball teams competed very well.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about our news at Bomere Heath School.

Written by a Year 6 pupil

### **ANAGRAMS- by Year 5 pupil**

**Can you solve these? They are all Shropshire Hills.**

**ILHPLMI**

**AGHNOHDUM**

**HGLSNLRII**

**IEOTSTEPSRSN**

**NEIRKW**

## Bomere Heath Garden Club

Next meeting is

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

in the Wale Room at 7.30.p.m.

Talk—Mynd Hardy Plants—to be  
held in the Wale Room



Thursday 28th March, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Talk—Ann Harrison—Winter Interest

Visitors and new Members always Welcome

Further information from Anita 07985 082172

## **BOMERE HEATH LADIES CLUB**

Bomere Heath Ladies Club meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Red Room in the Village Hall (unless we are out on trips etc). We enjoy trips, speakers and quiz evenings amongst other events.

Why not join us - our annual subscriptions are £15 and £2 at each meeting attended.

Why not come along and give us a trial. Guests £3 per meeting

**Tuesday 13th February (Note change of Tuesday)**

**AGM & Bingo.**

**Tuesday 5th March, Meal at the Red Lion ,Battlefield.**

**7pm for 7.30pm.**

**If you would like to join us, please call me,  
Ann Misselbrook, 07776 099587**



## Pet of the Issue



### Introducing Mutley!

He's a rescue dog taken from a drug den in Lincolnshire when he was 10 months old.

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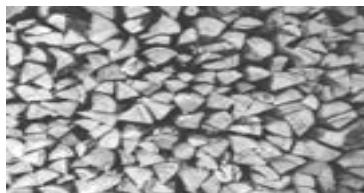


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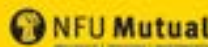
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