

# Hope Bagot Summer 2020 Newsletter



## Public Footpaths

Thankfully we have lots of public footpaths in the Hope Bagot area but many of them are now deteriorating due to age. A stile and footbridge has recently been replaced very promptly by Shropshire Council after a request by a local resident.

The stile, which has a dog friendly hatch way built in, is very popular and we'll be asking Shropshire Council for this sort of stile in future.



Quite often the stile can be intact but the posts supporting the step up to the stile have rotted and on this occasion the step and posts have been replaced after a walker from Coreley provided a kit to a local residents. The picture shows before and after (note the socially-distanced cows).



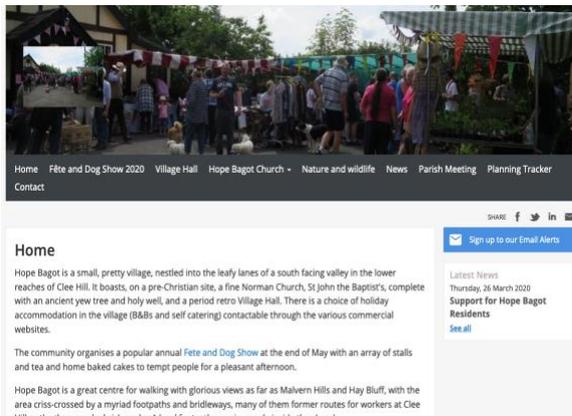
Unfortunately walkers are increasingly finding that some footpaths in the surrounding areas have been deliberately blocked (which is a criminal offence) and this was raised at the recent Parish Meeting annual meeting. It was agreed that a request would be made to Shropshire Council both to address deliberate blocking and to improve signage and repair broken stiles and to work with neighbouring parishes in order to ensure a viable footpath network.

## Motocross events

Usually this newsletter struggles to find anything to report other than natural events and bird sightings. Unfortunately, however, we are having to report the controversial issue of a local landowner holding motocross events which have caused disturbance and stress to residents of both Whitton, Hope Bagot and Nash.

Because of the controversial nature Rosie and Jim have decided not to include any more detail in this newsletter other than to confirm that Hope Bagot Parish Meeting and concerned residents of Whitton and surrounding areas will be making representations to Shropshire Council and others. We will keep readers updated on any developments.

## Hope Bagot website



The Hope Bagot website [www.hopebagot.org.uk](http://www.hopebagot.org.uk) is maintained by a local resident with the support of the village and is not controlled by the Parish Meeting, the Church or any other organisation. The domain name was originally held by another resident and all attempts to change the name over via the domain name provider are proving fruitless so we may well just allow the

domain to elapse and then take it up again when it becomes generally available – it may mean that [www.hopebagot.org.uk](http://www.hopebagot.org.uk) goes 'off air' for a short while at some point in future.

## Fate of the Fête

The Fête was sadly cancelled this year due to C-19 and there hasn't been any alternative fundraising activity to support either the village hall or the church (through the Parochial Church Council). Next year is a complete unknown and, if it looks like social distancing will still apply, the Fête committee will need to consider next year's event in that light.

## Badgers in the hills

We have plenty of badgers around Hope Bagot and this skull was found outside of an active badger sett. Presumably a badger had died at some point and the skull kicked out by other badgers digging.



## Caring for God's Acre carry on

It's been a gorgeous show of wildflowers in the churchyard this years and on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July the great CfGA team came and cut and raked the grass. Because of C-19 they wished to work without village assistance and brought their own food and drink. We just look forward to the day when, once again, we can host a meal in the churchyard for these fabulous volunteers – here's a picture from 2018 just as a reminder of old times....



Don't forget that Jim is our investigative reporter so if you see anything of interest let him know at [hopebagot@gmail.com](mailto:hopebagot@gmail.com).

