

January Diary

- Mon 4 Planning Committee meeting** The Pavilion 6:30.
- Wed 5 Jubilee Celebrations meeting** The Pavilion 6:30.
See page 8 for details.
- Thur 6 Short mat bowling** Public Hall 2:00.
- Sat 8 Chip it for Charity** Trading Post, Station Road 9:00 – 12:00. See page 1 for details.
- Mon 10 Pontesbury WI** Pontesbury Public Hall 2:00.
Visitors welcome.
- Parish Council meeting** The Pavilion, 6:30.
- Tue 11 Tai Chi** Pontesbury Public Hall 2:00.
Pontesbury Women's Club Visitors welcome. Public Hall 7:30.
- Thur 13 Short mat bowling** Public Hall 2:00.
- Fri 14 Good Neighbours Coffee morning** Plough Inn 11:00 – 12:15.
- Wed 19 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Thur 20 Short mat bowling** Public Hall 2:00.
- Wed 26 – Sat 29 Pontesbury Players Panto** Snow White.
See page 9 for details.
- Wed 26 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.

Future Events

Post your future events here to avoid clashes

- Feb Tue 8 Pontesbury Women's Club** Visitors welcome.
Public Hall 7:30.
- Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Thur 10 Good Neighbours Coffee morning** Plough Inn 11:00 – 12:15.
- Wed 23 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Mar Tue 8 Pontesbury Women's Club** Visitors welcome.
Public Hall 7:30.
- Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Sat 19 – Sun 20 Minsterley Eisteddfod**
- Wed 23 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Apr Wed 13 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 27 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- May Wed 11 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 25 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- June Sun 5 Jubilee celebrations.**
- Wed 8 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 22 Flower Club** Visit.
- July Wed 13 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 27 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Aug Wed 10 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 24 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Sept Wed 14 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 28 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Oct Wed 12 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.

Continued from front page

reduce energy consumption and help us in our ambitious target of being carbon neutral by 2030. Consultation on our draft Neighbourhood Plan will take place early in the new year and, of course, we are making plans for the Queen's platinum jubilee festivities in the summer.

We as a Parish Council work closely with our community organisations and residents to take forward the projects we are involved with, and a team ethos is very much the way forward. We are fortunate to have such a large range of proactive community groups and support organisations within the parish. This strong foundation will enable us to bounce back from the trials of the last two years. As a Parish Council we will continue to promote and support these local groups and organisations through events and grants.

The Parish Council are represented on both the Shropshire Association of Local Councils and on the executive committee of local councils, with Telford and Wrekin. This gives us a voice regionally and access to a wider forum in which to raise issues and bring back solutions and good practice.

I feel very positive about the year to come and all that we will achieve together as a community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for pulling together to support each other through the past year and wish you all a healthy and peaceful new year from Pontesbury Parish Council.

*Duncan Fletcher, Chairman,
Pontesbury Parish Council*

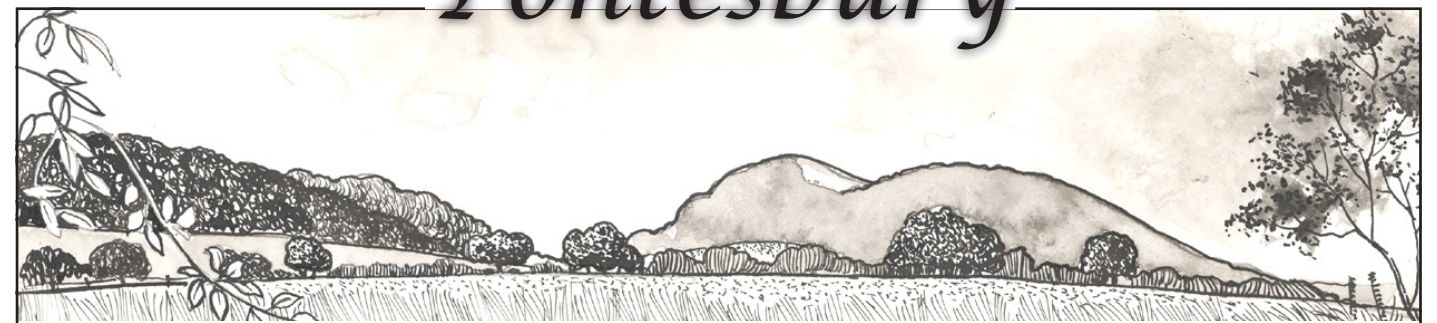
- Wed 26 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Nov Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 23 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Dec Wed 14 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.

Send in your dates

If club secretaries would like to send me a list of dates when you plan to meet, I will enter them in the diary. If the COVID situation means we once again have to protect ourselves, and events can't take place, the diary won't appear in the Newsletter.

Editor

Pontesbury



January 2022

Newsletter

Issue no. 282

Reindeer everywhere!

The 'Make your own Reindeer' day was a great success. We made over 70 reindeer in three hours. Some of the reindeer migrated round the village from the green to the church and elsewhere.

Thank you for the donations to Shropshire Wildlife Trust: £297.15 and 5 Euros. A big thank-you also to our amazing volunteers, who did all the preparatory work at the same time as a massive effort to clear the footpaths of fallen trees after Storm Arwen.

Quentin Shaw, Chair of Friends of Pontesford and Earl's Hill.

Chip it for Charity!

Turn your Christmas Tree into chippings for a suggested £1 donation to raise much needed funds for the Community Library in Pontesbury

Saturday 8th January 2022

9.00am to 12.00noon

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New year, new challenges and new resolutions

New Year is the time we look back on the previous year and also set out our plans for the future. This is no different for the Parish Council.

Highlights of the year for the Parish Council include seeing the Pavilion opening up fully along with the local policing team taking up residence and the library continuing to operate successfully from its new home. The building is already proving to be a community asset as a source of information and support to local people as well as being a great social space. The building has been used by the library reading group, for U3A events, Age UK, drop-ins for new parents, Elevate exercise classes and exhibitions by local artists to name but a few. More details about what has been going on can be found in the article on page 5.

Throughout the year we saw many local events happening again after an absence in 2020. I'm sure this was welcomed by many residents as well as the Parish Council. The Community Good Neighbours Scheme was very active in encouraging people to meet up again safely at its coffee mornings at The

Plough. The Friends of Pontesbury Library provided a wonderful programme of events throughout the year culminating in Father Christmas visiting in early December, which was enjoyed by all age groups! A big thank you to everyone locally who has supported neighbours and organised events. We are fortunate to all live in a wonderful parish where there is such a strong sense of community.

Potential projects for the future are laid out in the draft Parish Council Strategic Plan which we will be consulting you as the community on, in Spring this year. We have listened to comments, desires and wishes expressed to us by residents and projects include the installation of a speed camera, working with Shropshire Council on flood alleviation measures and improvements to road junctions. We are also working on longer-term projects like the refurbishment of the play area and village toilets.

Other projects are to ensure greater efficiency and value for money e.g converting all of the streetlights to LED. This will save money on maintenance and

Continued on back page

Closing date for copy for the **Feb** edition is **Jan 10th** (please include a contact phone number)
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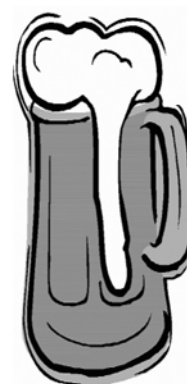
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Shropshire Partners in Care

Support if you are struggling financially

Work, Skill, Money Guide

Shropshire Council have recently developed a guide which aims to support residents with matters concerning Work, Skills and Money. The guide covers the whole cycle of job loss, financial support, housing, and upskilling for people who are looking for work. The guide can be located via the following link – <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/work-skills-and-money-guide/>

Help with food or heating

If you are in need of some help with food please either contact the Community Good Neighbour's Scheme (see details on page 6) or Shrewsbury Foodbank who offer a wide range of support including help with food. The FOOD BANK AT BARNABAS IS OPEN:

Monday, Tuesday and Friday (not open on Bank Holidays)
9.30am – 12pm

01743 343336 / 0742 174 5857. <https://www.barnabascommunityprojects.org/shrewsburyfoodbank> also lists other support available, such as help with cooking, budgeting and employment.

<https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/> also lists support available to you.

Anyone worried about their bills or staying warm at home can call Marches Energy Agency on 0800 112 3743 or email advice@mea.org.uk



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New Winter Support Service

Shropshire Council, in partnership with its health colleagues has commissioned a Winter Support Service to help residents across Shropshire who are vulnerable, and potentially vulnerable during the coming months.

The service can offer assessment and ongoing support to people identified as needing help, including:

- Transport returning home from hospital
- Settling people in at home following discharge from hospital
- Fitting of low-level equipment e.g. key safes and pendant alarms
- Collecting and delivering medications
- Shopping and delivery
- Wellbeing home visits
- Hot meal delivery
- Companionship for isolated or lonely people

The service cannot offer a crisis response or personal care, but it will work as part of the health and care system to ensure that people get the support that they need through appropriate referrals and signposting.

From 1 November, Shropshire residents, and those who support people in the community, will be able to call the Winter Wellness helpline on 0345 678 9012 in order to find out more and be referred where appropriate.

Winter Wellness, Shropshire Council

Shropshire Larder: how to keep yourself fed

Visit shropshirelarder.org.uk

Shropshire Larder (shropshirelarder.org.uk) is the most comprehensive directory of services for people living in Shropshire on a low budget. It has information on how to access a foodbank or community food project, and how to eat well on a budget. It also covers how to get support with benefits, housing, and debt. Please help us make sure this info is reaching everyone who needs it.

Please follow and share. Facebook: @ShropshireLarder and

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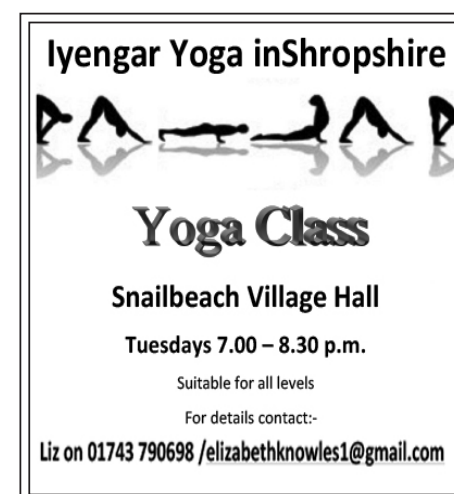
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Thank you

I would like to say thank you to an unidentified male passerby and to Sean, the bus driver, who both picked me up when I foolishly caught my cap as it was blown away and missed the pavement as I was getting off the bus. They were very kind.

Ted Berthelemy

Lucky Us!

Hundreds of local residents have told the Neighbourhood Plan Steering



Group how much they value the unspoilt beauty and rural character of Pontesbury Parish. Judging by recent house sales, the expansion of Shrewsbury, population increase and likely central government policy there will be no

shortage of demand from outsiders seeking to benefit from future development in our parish.

Change, of course, is inevitable but the scale, location and character of it can be influenced by the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. This will stress the importance of future development fitting in with the present local character which we treasure and seek to preserve, for future generations.

For the Neighbourhood Plan to achieve its aim we require a high number of responses to the consultation which will now be posted to you in early January. Don't forget that all respondents will have a chance to be the proud owner of a unique, framed, coloured print of Pontesbury village.

Allan Hodges

Parish Council meeting

Our December Parish Council meeting was cancelled following advice from National Association of Local Councils and government advice about Plan B in response to the rise in cases of the Omicron variant. We will await further guidance about future meetings but there is a meeting scheduled for Monday 10 January at 6.30pm in The Pavilion, Hall Bank. The agenda will be posted on www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk in the week before the meeting. *Please note the change of time of the meeting. We are trialling an earlier start during the winter months.*

The January meeting is where the budget and precept level are set and there is much activity during November/December looking at the annual running costs and funding for future projects around the parish. The Parish Council endeavour to provide value for money. There is always the balance between the need to move forward and maintain the facilities/services that make this parish such a vibrant and thriving place to live, with keeping costs down.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 January at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues.

If you wish to comment on a planning application please use the Shropshire Council planning portal at <https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> Or pass your comments through Cllr A Hodges at ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk. All new planning applications for the area are listed on the Parish Council website.

Lunts Chemist

A resident recently sent the following email to the Parish Council.

"I would like to suggest that the village pay tribute to, and thank the staff of, Lunt's Chemist in Pontesbury for all they are doing to help us through Covid. The extra work placed upon them in providing both the 'flu and booster jabs is enormous and the working conditions they have faced with the alterations must have been horrific. Throughout the whole time they have been cheerful and helpful".

The Parish Council wholeheartedly agree and also wish to thank all of the many volunteers throughout the village who work tirelessly to support their neighbours and undertake many good deeds. We were saddened to have to postpone the thank you party organised for volunteers, and look forward to rescheduling this celebratory event early in Spring.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk

Local Policing

Local Policing Charter – <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/campaigns/campaigns/2019/local-policing-charter/> Click on 'Your area' (these are a bit out of date but should be updated shortly)

Crime Reporting – <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting – <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Rural Crime Officers – can offer advice around farm and outbuilding thefts, target hardening (where to spend your money on security to get the best value for money) and issues such as poaching and wildlife crime.

PC Darren JUKES – darren.jukes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk – 101 ext 7702076

PC Phillip NOCK – phillip.nock@westmercia.pnn.police.uk – 08457444888

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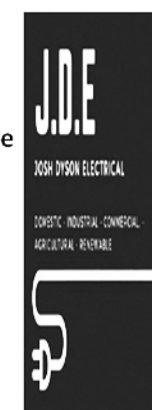


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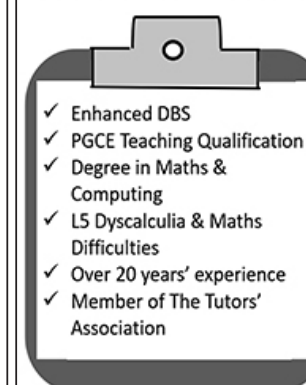
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Tree-planting event in Clun Valley

Do you have a tree-planting project in mind but don't know how to go about it? A recent, very successful, event at a farm in Clun could provide some answers.

A quiet Clun valley farm was host to a very unusual mix of visitors at the start of National Tree Planting Week (Saturday 27 November to Sunday 5 December 2021). By the end of the day over 100 young oaks had been planted by people from four different continents as part of a shared effort to help wildlife and fight climate change.

George Reiss who helped organise the visit explained: "We collected hundreds of acorns in the Stretton area last autumn when there was a bumper crop, and we then potted and grew them on in Wolverhampton with the help of refugees and asylum seekers who live there. Many of the young trees are now ready to go in the ground, and it was lovely to bring them back to Shropshire."

On a bitterly cold day with a cutting wind, local volunteers were joined by refugees from El Salvador, Ethiopia, and Iran to plant the young trees. Linda Hale from Bishops Castle said "everyone worked hard and it was lovely to chat to our visitors and find out more about their lives." Meanwhile an Iranian volunteer posted "it was very good to plant trees and we liked it very much to make new friends."



For some of the visitors from the warmest countries the hard winter weather was a new challenge. One woman said "in El Salvador the average temperature is about thirty degrees centigrade, and if the temperature goes down to twenty degrees then people think it is really cold; so two degrees is like nothing we have ever experienced before."

For others the visit was a return to familiar ways. Awal was a farmer in a mountainous part of rural Ethiopia with 50 cows and 200 coffee bushes, but he had to flee from violence during which members of his family were attacked and killed. "We tend to assume that people who live in cities in this country must have lived in cities in their previous life, but it's not always so. Asylum seekers are told by our Home Office that they have to live in towns and cities, and are given no choice about it, so a trip to the countryside gives a refugee from a farming background a chance to reconnect with the things he knows best," said Mr Reiss, who is a trustee of the charity Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary.

Local man Steve Hale who also helped with the planting said, "we know that oak trees are a very big part of our traditional landscape and are wonderful for wildlife too. They're also seen as increasingly important in the role they can play in reducing the effects of climate change. So it was great to work together locally with people from other countries and continents to do something practical and positive about this worldwide problem. It was a powerful reminder that we all have something to offer."

The day was such a success that the organisers are already thinking about doing another similar event in the early part of next year.

Patrick Dickson

Strength and balance

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at The Pavilion, Hall Bank

Delivered by local, experienced exercise instructors

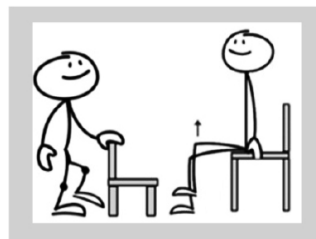
Aimed at those 60+ who feel a bit unsteady on their feet and want to

improve their strength and confidence coming out of lockdown

Classes are designed to be safe, beneficial and most of all...enjoyable!

Want to get involved?

The Elevate project is available on referral from your GP, Health Professional or by self-referral for older adults who have difficulties maintaining their balance.



Get in touch with us:

Full information, including the referral form is here www.energizestw.org.uk/elevate or contact the Energize team on 07852 871589 / elevate@energizestw.org.uk



Feel Good Friday

Use of the Pavilion has increased since the inaugural Feel Good Friday event on 19 November 2021.

Feel Good Fridays will be held quarterly and each event will have a distinct theme. The event held in November, was specifically for Older People and Carers. Thirteen organisations confirmed attendance and the people-counter registered 183 people in attendance, but naturally this is halved for entrance and exit, and minus the stall holders, we estimate that 40+ people attended the event.



Very many thanks to the Co-op, Helen Watts and Sharon Davies, for providing tea, coffee and service with a friendly smile, people very much enjoyed sitting down with a cup of tea whilst waiting to speak to an organisation. PCSO Sarah Edwards supplied some splendid homemade biscuits, which were eaten with well-deserved praise, so many thanks to Sarah, too, it was a real team effort.

The organisation Energize STW gained five new customers for their Elevate programme, held in the Pavilion on Monday afternoons, and four new couples will be attending the Age UK Dementia Support Café, held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 11:30 – 13:30.

Sea Change Trust report growing numbers for their free family activity sessions on Wednesday mornings.

Christmas Stars and Lights

Thank you to FoPL and the star makers who have decorated the Pavilion. Thanks also to Daren Davies for donating the Christmas tree outside the Co-op and Andrew Trow for supplying the tree ground fixings. Once again, Brian Simmons has done a fantastic job with the Christmas lights on School Green, so a big thank you to him for organising this and to John, who lives in School Green, for his giant Christmas star light.

Nicola Young, Deputy Parish Clerk

News from the Library

Happy New Year !



This time last year, we only opened to visitors for one morning then moved into lockdown 3. However, we did manage to keep our customers supplied with Ready Reads collections. If you are still struggling to get out and about, we still offer this service, check online or email the library.

I thought I'd share some positive statistics with you. The library service is still down on pre-pandemic figures but gradually recovering and Pontesbury Library is up there at the top for Shropshire.

Looking at April to November totals, the loan figures are 9,497 for 2019 and 8,960 for 2021.

Visits April to November were 4,900 in 2019. For 2021 it's 4,645!

We hope 2022 will bring positive news and we will be able to hold Rhyme Time and other events.

The Library Owl

Pontesbury Library Opening hours

Monday	10am -1pm	
Tuesday	10am -1pm	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday		2pm - 5pm
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10am -1pm	
Sunday	Closed	





Community Good Neighbours Pontesbury & Rea Valley

How can we help you?

If you are feeling isolated from the community, lonely or just wanting to meet new friends in your area, Community Good Neighbours can help you reconnect with like-minded people in the local area. We can help you in any setting you'd feel safe and comfortable in, be it one of our monthly coffee mornings, a small gathering, a garden, or even just regular weekly telephone calls.

Our team of friendly local volunteers are also able to help you if you are unable to collect prescriptions from the Dispensary at the Doctors or Lunts Pharmacy. They can also assist you by delivering your groceries, especially via the 'Click and Collect' service at the Co-op Pontesbury, this service ensures that no money has to exchange hands and deliveries can be left at a safe distance on your doorstep if you are unable to collect yourself.

If you think you or someone you know may benefit from our support, call 07944 891 953 and leave your name and number and we will get back to you.

You can also contact us via **Facebook**, search **Good Neighbours Pontesbury** to add us a friend or **'Community Good Neighbours - Pontesbury and Rea Valley'** to join our group.

Website: www.goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk

Email: help@goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk

Telephone: 07944 891 953

Sue - Secretary for Community Good Neighbours

Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury Womens' Institute met on Monday 13 December for our Christmas meeting. Mr Paul Braken organist from St George's Church played for our carol singing. We all enjoyed the singing but we were no competition for St George's choir.

As part of our meeting, we had a Christmas table decoration competition which was judged by Paul Braken. A worthy winner was Mrs Shona Wood who won the annual Pipkin Trophy and Rose bowl. Mrs Sue Brookes was awarded the Single Stem Award for 2020-21 gaining the most wins throughout the year. She was also a very worthy winner.

The WI have been busy this month. We decorated a tree at St George's Church - Mrs Shona Wood, Mrs Maxine Pittaway and President Irene Windows organised the decorating.

On Saturday 20 November, we had a craft stall at the Co-op store Christmas Market. Many thanks to all the people who supported the WI and to Maxine Pittaway and Shona Wood who facilitated the event.

On 19 November, members went to the Iron Works Oswestry for afternoon tea. Members who attended all enjoyed a wonderful time with good company and excellent food. Our thanks to the Iron Works for making us feel so welcome.

It has been an unusual year for the WI with so few face-to-face meetings. Members did keep themselves busy, for example knitting scarves for Shropshire WI challenge. However, we are pleased to be back together and enjoying each other's company.

We will be holding our Christmas lunch after Christmas this year on Tuesday 25 January. We are all looking forward to lunching at the Horseshoes in Pontesbury.

We will still be meeting on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting is due to be held on 10 January at 2:00. If you would like to join us at Pontesbury Public Hall please contact Irene Windows WI President on 791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway, Events Organiser

Pontesbury Monday Night Badminton Club

Pontesbury Monday Night Badminton Club meet on Monday nights at Mary Webb School. We play from 7pm to 9pm. We are a friendly group of various ages and playing standards. We return from the Christmas break on 10 January and we are looking for new members to join us. We do have a minimum age limit of 16 but no upper age limit. Because we accept people of any standard, you could be a complete badminton novice.

We can offer some coaching to help improve your game. If your New Year's resolution is to be more active then why not give badminton a go. Your first night is free. So it will cost you nothing to find out if you enjoy playing badminton. Membership fees are £25 per school term. If you would like further information, please contact Nigel Oakley 07821643685.

Nigel Oakley



WI decorated tree at St George's Church Trees and Cribbs Festival

Getting support in Pontesbury area

Community Good Neighbours, Pontesbury and Rea Valley
Tel: 07944 891953

General

Get in touch with a local Good Neighbour for a friendly chat, small errands and support to stay active and connected within the community.

Assistance for Pontesbury patients of all ages in need of help, support and advice by signposting to other useful services.

Covid-19

Shropshire Council helpline for all non-health COVID related enquiries.

Food

Shrewsbury Food Hub
Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk

Surplus food share tables across Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury Food Bank
01743 343336

Food parcels, debt advice, returning to work, digital inclusion, lifeskills. Referral needed.

Local Support & Prevention Fund
0345 678 9078

Money, Utilities

Council helpline which can help with essential living costs such as food, housing and bills.

Citizens Advice Shropshire
0344 499 1100
Universal Credit Helpline 0800 144 8444

Confidential advice and help to solve problems with debt, benefits, housing, legal matters & employment.
Need help claiming Universal Credit? Call their dedicated Help to Claim helpline.

Keep Shropshire Warm
0800 112 3743

Advice and grants for people struggling with heating and energy bills

Shropshire Council Housing Support 0345 678 9005

Housing

Support on all housing matters particularly rentals and homelessness.

Sevenside Housing
0300 300 0059

Housing association. Advisors may also be able to help with debt, employment and benefits.

NHS Referrals & Advice Line
0800 196 4501

Mental Health, Drugs & Alcohol
For local mental health services

MIND helpline
01743 368647

Mental health support

Shropshire Recovery Partnership
01743 294700

Drugs and alcohol support

Shropshire Rural Support
0300 123 2825

Mental health support for farmers and the rural community

Samaritans
116 123

Free 24/7 helpline

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline
0300 303 1191

Families and Relationships

Support for anyone suffering from domestic violence

West Mercia Women's Aid 0800 783 1359

24hr helpline for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

Crossroads Together
01743 341995

Wide range of support for unpaid carers.

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin
01743 233123

Confidential advice for older people, their families and carers.

Get support if you are caring for someone Unpaid carers

Information and support for unpaid adult carers in Shropshire is now being delivered by the new Shropshire Carers team within Shropshire Council. Carers needing information or support can contact the team on 01743 341995 or email the Shropshire Carers inbox Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk

You will be able to speak to a trained carer advisor.

Mobilise carers support

A short blog on dealing with change and uncertainty:

<https://bit.ly/323TIX0>

A guide to some of the routines that helped us get through Lockdown (Pt 1):

<https://bit.ly/324iJS6>

A basic 'emergency plan' to get you started:

<https://bit.ly/382F4DI>

James Townsend,
CEO and Co-Founder, Mobilise
james@mobiliseonline.co.uk
07816 779635

Bereavement Support for Shropshire Residents – Call 0345 678 9028

A new service has been launched to support people who are experiencing and suffering from bereavement and loss. The offer is open to any Shropshire resident who has been bereaved by either a recent death or previous loss.

The Bereavement Support Service is operated by Shropshire Council and community voluntary partners Samaritans, CRUSE, Severn Hospice and Crane Quality Counselling. The service can be accessed through self-referral by calling 0345 678 9028.

Congregational Church

www.pontesburycongs.com

Sunday Services for January, at 10:00.

2	Deacons
9	Joint Service at St George's
16	Tim Bateman
23	Rev. Debbie Martin
30	Joint Congs. Service Rev. Debbie Martin

St George's Church

www.st-george.org.uk

Services for January:

2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship
9th	10.30am	Holy Communion – Covenant Service
16th	10.30am	Holy Communion
23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion
30th	10.30am	Group Service with Holy Communion Minsterley

Flower Club

RHS Chelsea Flower Show medal winner Julie Pearson from Bolton presented her Christmas Demonstration 'It's a Little Festive Crafty' at the November meeting, crafty being a play on words for making staging or items, or sourcing them from reasonably-priced sources!

She started off the meeting with a traditional two-piece design. Seasonal foliage was dressed with white gladiolus, roses and ammi, followed by some stunning pink Roselily type Oriental Lilies, so called for their fully double blooms which boast so many petals that they resemble Roses and are pollen free, so good for people with cats! Things then went very contemporary with a twig door hanging, supporting upside down amaryllis and a fab orchid. Another hanging arrangement had a multitude of small handtied bunches of orchid, anthuriums, beargrass and rose held in finger crocheted nests. Then a horizontal timber beam supporting a line of aspidistra leaves manipulated as test tube holders, housing sunflowers over which drifted yellow Oncidium orchids. Craft really came into its own with a melted wax stand made to anchor tubes and canes providing a framework of support for baubles of bold coloured gerberas, eryngium, clematis and dendrobium orchids. Her final showstopper pulled out all the tropical tricks with a bold assortment of palm and Monstera leaves then wowed the audience with masses of bright Heliconias, the ultimate exotic flowers.

On 26 January, Carron White will present 'A Healthy Lifestyle'.

The following meeting will be 23 February featuring Penelope Harrison 'Nature's Beauty'.

All meetings at Westbury Village Hall at 7.30.

Julia Brion

Upcoming Events

January 2022

Coffee Morning - 14th January 11am-12.15pm - Plough Inn

Date to be confirmed - Coffee Morning – Minsterley Parish Hall

February

Coffee Morning - 10th February 11am – 12.15pm – Plough Inn

Date to be confirmed - Coffee Morning – Minsterley Parish Hall

All are welcome to come along.

For all upcoming events please view our Facebook page for all updates.

Community Good Neighbours News

Wow! What a month December was. The panto visit was a great success and very much enjoyed by all. Thank you to our volunteers for organising this event and to all the lovely people who came along and made it so enjoyable.

We would also like to thank all those who helped with our community larder events, from the generosity of those who donated food, gifts, toiletries, to the Book Trust for donating so many books for children, to Friends of Pontesbury Library who donated goodie bags for all those who used the service. Thank you also to the invaluable team of volunteers who came together to help run the events. Your help as always, is very much appreciated.

We would like to thank all those that came along to the Mini Christmas Market in the Co-op carpark, we raised an amazing £500.00 for Community Good Neighbours. We also had a staggering amount of people sign up for '100 Club', the draw for which will be the 1st of each month, each winner will be contacted directly, and the winners announced on our Facebook page. Our first draw will be January! If you would like to sign up, please contact us directly using any methods detailed below.

We would also like to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support, Amy at The Plough Inn for the use of the pub for Coffee Mornings, The Rotary Club and Pontesbury Parish Council for their continued support. We would also like to thank Gawain at Smiths Butchers, who kindly donated 3 joints of meat and Nick Hignett for donating a lovely fruit basket for our Christmas Bingo prizes

We also had an amazing donation from Theresa at the Horseshoes, who provided 20 Christmas Day meals for local people. We are beyond grateful for such generosity, and we know that your kind donation made some people very happy.

We would not be able to help in the way we are without our community, and we thank you all for your constant support.

secretary@goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk or our website www.goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk
Telephone: 07944 891 953

You can also contact us via Facebook, search Good Neighbours Pontesbury to add us a friend or 'Community Good Neighbours - Pontesbury and Rea Valley' to join our group.



Friends of Pontesbury Library

Happy New Year from the Friends of Pontesbury Library!

2021 saw our lovely new library open officially at the Pavilion. Our sincere thanks to all those of you who've helped us over the year. Your support is much needed to keep our library going and very much appreciated.

Recent Events

- The FoPL Book Sale, part of the Good Neighbours Christmas Fayre, raised nearly £150. We also received a large cheque (physically and money-wise) from the Co-op Community Fund towards our activities. This represents the money raised via the Co-op Card scheme – every time you get Co-op points on your card, FoPL gets points too! We are a nominated charity again this year so please, if you haven't already got one, do get a Co-op card and nominate FoPL.

- Star Workshops A huge effort from all the children of St Thomas & St Anne CE Primary, Hanwood, The Ark Nursery, Pontesbury, and Pontesbury CE Primary who filled our library with beautiful, colourful Christmas stars. Thank you. And more thanks to everyone who attended the workshops at the Pavilion to help with overall library decorations, and organisers Sara Robinson and Gill Scriven who achieved such stunning results.

Coming Up

- Chip it for Charity on Saturday 8 January outside The Trading Post on Station Road 9am – 12pm. Bring your Christmas tree down, make a donation to FoPL and then leave it for shredding.

- FoPL Raffle at the Pontesbury Players' village pantomime, set to go ahead 26 – 29 January. Donations of prizes can be left at the Pavilion, Library or at Hignett's. Hope to see you at there!

And finally:

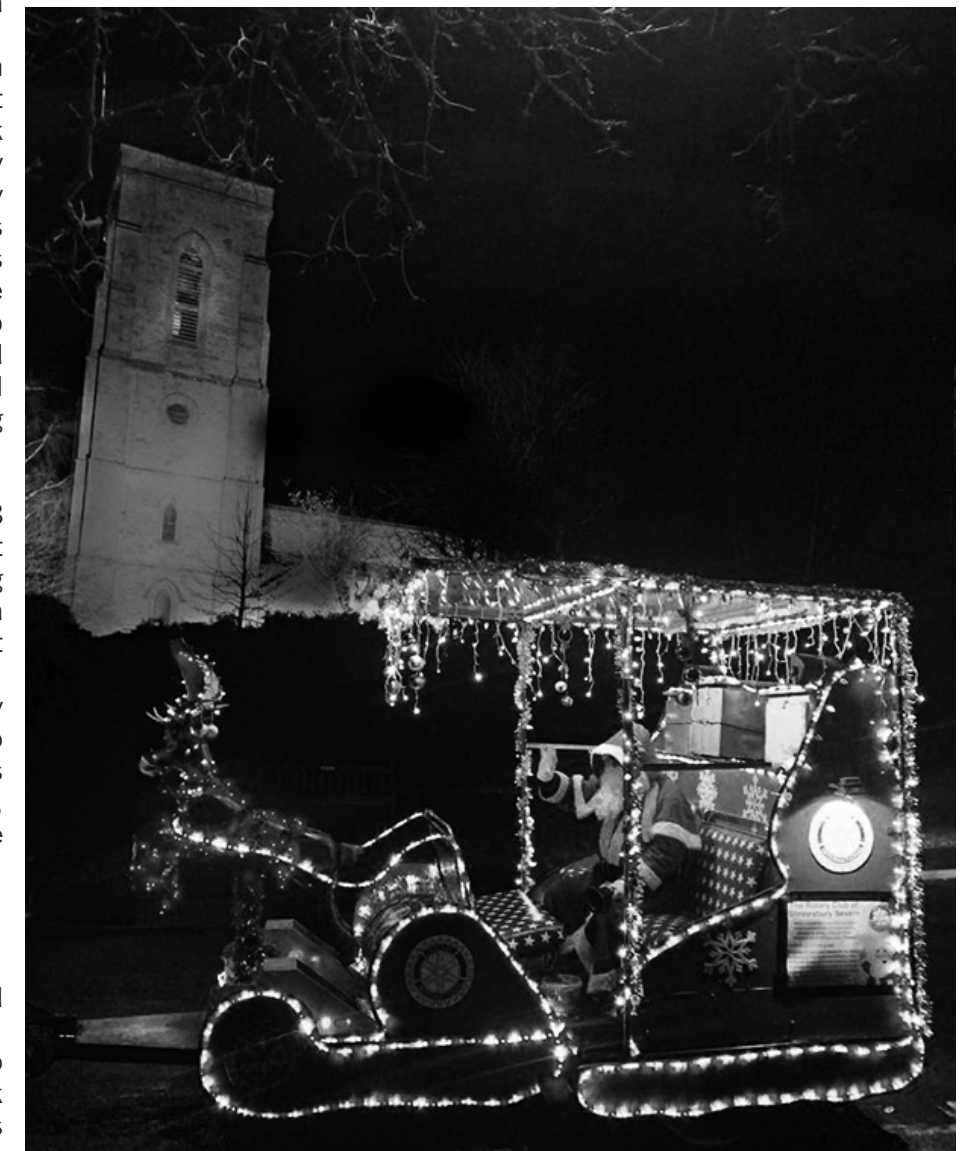
- Santa's Tour of Pontesbury

Luck was on our side second time around enabling so many of you to bring your families along to meet Santa on his sleigh. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise funds along the route and to Rotary Shrewsbury for providing the amazing sleigh.

FoPL



Stars in the Library



The amazing sleigh!

Notes from the Stiperstones

We have had two exciting bird records just before Christmas: the first was a snow bunting which is only the second record for the reserve. This one was a splendid male bird and couldn't



Snow Bunting

be missed, particularly with the amount of white showing on its wings when it flew in front of us as we passed by Shepherds Rock. However, even when not flying, they look like a very wintry sparrow, with pure white underparts, the rusty brown back just spreading round onto the breast. These Scandinavian birds are usually found in large flocks when they visit our coasts in winter, so I can only assume that this one had blown off course following some of the December storms.

The storms did not cause too much damage this time, although the compost toilet that used to be up at Blakemoorgate cottages is no more. It was retained on site after the cottages were restored in 2010, and considering it was only a flimsy wooden shed it has not done badly. We don't plan to replace it.

Things we are hoping to replace early next year are the panels at the Knolls car park, which should give a nice new welcome to the reserve, whilst encouraging visitors to act responsibly with the wildlife of the site in mind, for example by keeping themselves and their dogs on the public rights of way wherever possible. This revamp just happens to coincide with the 70th anniversary of National Nature Reserves. We are working on what else we should do to mark this anniversary, although it's tricky making event plans in the present situation.

It is always nice at this time of year is to look back, and recount a few of the successes over the last year:

- 'Stepping Stones' received funding from Green Recovery Challenge Fund.
- A new post of Visitor Warden is appointed at the Stiperstones.
- 'Our Common Cause' project contracts a shepherd for the Stiperstones.
- The Shropshire Hills hay meadow festival was a great day at a new venue.
- It was one of the best years I have known for flowering plants on the hill.
- Breeding snipe were at their highest level on the hill.
- Small pearl-bordered fritillaries had a great year, too.

So finally, to the second exciting bird record, just off the site, and picked up on a trail camera positioned so as to record pine marten activity. This was another northern bird more likely to be from Russia than Scandinavia, although the population in eastern Finland is increasing rapidly, a red-flanked bluetail, a first for Shropshire. Unlike the snow bunting this bird could easily be overlooked. In summer, it is striking with, as its name describes, bright orange flanks and azure head, back and tail. However, in winter it looks much drabber and not unlike a robin without the full red breast and, like a robin, tends to skulk around under foliage. Its usual wintering grounds are east of the Himalayas to Japan, so it is a long way from home and a very unusual record.

Happy New Year from Simon Cooter
and the Natural England staff at Rigmooeak

Pontesbury Women's Club

Tuesday, 11 January

'Acting on Impulse'

is the title of Adrian Preater's talk.

Adrian will tell us how he became an actor and leave us in no doubt about some of the realities of an acting career!

PWC meets at 7.30pm on second Tuesday of the month at Pontesbury Public Hall.

Visitors and New Members are always welcome.

Pontesbury and Rea Valley u3a

We learn something new every day in u3a

New Year, New Opportunities . . .

. . . for those retired or who work part-time - open a new chapter in your life - join Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a - with 23 interest groups - meeting face-to-face (walking groups, photography, gardening, geology, table tennis, Flicks in the Sticks to name a few) or via Zoom (such as history, local history, painting and drawing) - pursue a new hobby and make new friends.

Please contact Susan Lockwood:
susanlockwood345@btinternet.com
Tel: 01743 791082
Mobile: 07854 110271
for more information.

Save The Date!

Sunday 5th June 2022

Pontesbury Jubilee Celebrations Carnival & Party in the Park

One of the BIGGEST events ever seen in Pontesbury

We are looking for entertainment for children!

Can you face paint?

Do you run a puppet show or organise circus skills?

Do you have a vintage vehicle?

Are you a member of a local band that can perform?

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

We invite you to represent your group at our next meeting on Wednesday 5th January 2022, 6.30pm in The Pavilion, Hall Bank, Pontesbury

Can you volunteer to steward or help with the event in any way?

Please contact Sharon Davies by email: sharondavies@outlook.com if you or your organisation want to get involved.

PONTESBURY PLAYERS

26TH~29TH JAN

2022 PANTO

Snow White

©malcolm whittall by

AT PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL

7.30 PM

PLUS 2.30 SAT PM MATINEE

TICKETS ON SALE AT: Hignetts shop, Pontesbury 01743 790228

★ ADULTS: £5 ★

YR 11 & UNDER: £4 ★

RAFFLE ★ BAR