

## February Diary

- Thur 3 Time To Talk Day** Coffee morning hosted by Pontesbury Co-op, the Pavilion, 10:30 – 11:30. See front page.
- Cruckton Art Group restarts** Cruckton Village Hall 2:00 – 4:00 every Thursday until 7 April. See page 7 for more information.
- Sat 5 Trading Post reopens**
- FoPL Coffee morning** Library in the Pavilion, from 11:00. All welcome.
- Mon 7 Planning Committee meeting** The Pavilion 6:30
- Tue 8 Pontesbury Women's Club** Meetings are cancelled while Covid infections are high.
- Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Mon 14 Pontesbury WI** Pontesbury Public Hall 2:00. Visitors welcome.
- Parish Council meeting** The Pavilion, 6:30.
- Wed 16 U3A Zoom talk** Landscapes from the air. See page 8 for details.
- Wed 23 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.

## Future Events

Post your future events here to avoid clashes

- Mar Tue 1 Pontesbury Gardeners Association AGM** Public Hall 7:30.
- Sat 5 Habberley Village Hall event** Music with Oysland 7:30. See page 9 for details.
- 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.
- Thur 12 Spring into the Garden** Pontesbury Gardeners Association event. Public Hall 7:30.
- 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.
- Sat 27 Pontesbury Gardeners Association Annual Show** Public Hall 2:30.
- 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.
- Wed 26 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Nov Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.

Continued from front page

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](mailto:ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk). All new planning applications for the area are listed on the parish council website.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk

## Bring Out Your Bunting Pontesbury Celebrates

### Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee

We are asking everyone in the community to decorate their houses/businesses over the Jubilee weekend in flags, Union Jack bunting and to have on display a 'British' themed scarecrow.

Your street could have it's own theme.

Get your thinking caps on and remember to order your flags and bunting early.

Sharon Davies

## 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



February 2022

## Newsletter

Issue no. 283

## Christmas Busk

The annual busk outside Hignett's raised £260.77 for the Lingen Davies appeal.

This event has taken place for many years, and in that time the people of Pontesbury have raised thousands of pounds for local charities. A big thank you from us and from Lingen Davies Appeal for your generosity. As always, the acknowledgement from the charity was posted in Hignett's shop.

The Pontesbury Buskers

## New Year's Honours List

Chrissie Simmons who lives at 5 Ashford Drive, Pontesbury, has been awarded a MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours list. Chrissie, who is the housekeeper and health and safety co-ordinator at Conover College, receives her MBE for services to young adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities and other complex needs during Covid-19. She still can't believe it as she sees it as 'just doing my job'. Well done, Chrissie, a day at the palace awaits.

Anthony Hordley

## Time to Talk day

Thursday, 3 February

Time to Talk day is the nations biggest mental health conversation. It's a day for families, friends, colleagues and communities to come together to talk, listen and change lives.

Pontesbury Co-op are inviting you to a coffee morning at the Pavilion, Pontesbury 10.30 until 11.30am, a time to meet up and have a coffee and a chat. There's no charge but any any donations will go to MIND.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sharon Davies

## Pontesbury Parish Council: January meeting

Our January Parish Council meeting focussed on the budget for 2022–23 and setting the precept. The Parish Council agreed an increase of 20.68% which equates to an additional 46p/week on a Band D property. The councillors consider in great detail the costs of providing/maintaining the services currently offered such as the play area, public toilets, streetlights, grounds maintenance, newsletter production and the Pavilion Community hub. 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.

Many costs such as energy, maintenance contract charges and materials are set to rise in the next 12 months and the precept needs to be set to accommodate these additional charges. One of the main outgoings for the council is staffing costs in order to provide the range of services undertaken on behalf of the community and discharging the legal duties placed on a council. The legal and financial framework that a public organisation operates within is increasingly complex and appropriately qualified and trained staffing are necessary. In addition, increased staff time has been involved in running a public building and the range of activities on offer. The Pavilion is now being used daily to provide valuable support and cultural activities for local residents. If you haven't been in yet, please do come along to see what is on offer. Read more about the events taking place in the Pavilion on page 5.

If you have any questions/comments about the precept/2022–23 budget (available for viewing on the parish council website) please contact [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk)

The councillors also approved plans to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June (see item at the end of this article), and a project working with Hanwood and Minsterley Parish Councils to install ANPR cameras throughout the three villages. These cameras will help to tackle persistent speeding vehicles along the A488.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 7 February 2022 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk, [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk), if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues.

Continued on back page

Closing date for copy for the **Mar** edition is **Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** (please include a contact phone number)  
Email contributions to [pontesburynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pontesburynewsletter@gmail.com) or hand in at the Post Office.  
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**You can now order a new bin to replace your black recycling boxes.**

The new bin – which is optional – will make it easier for you to recycle your plastic, cans and glass. **But it is not for paper and cardboard, please continue to use your blue sack for these materials.**

The bin which will have a purple lid is being introduced following requests from residents and will help us all to recycle more.

### How to order your new bin

Visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste)

Please only call us if you cannot access the online request form as we anticipate that our phone lines will be very busy.

The number to call is 0345 678 9007.



## Shropshire Larder: how to keep yourself fed

Visit [shropshirelarder.org.uk](http://shropshirelarder.org.uk)

Shropshire Larder ([shropshirelarder.org.uk](http://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



@ShropFoodPov

Twitter: @ShropLarder and

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Sign up to our newsletter to keep up to date on the situation and the support available.

## 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](mailto:advice@mea.org.uk)

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## Pontesbury Plant and Seed Swap

The Pavilion garden in Pontesbury now houses a Plant and Seed Swap, provided by the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group.

Please bring along your unwanted or surplus plants and seeds and leave them on the shelves, or help yourself to anything that takes your fancy.

Some native plants are available, as well as other pollinators plus vegetable and flower seeds.



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

## Please Respond

Soon each household will receive a shortened version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan for a legally-required six weeks consultation. Kindly note the following:

1. The Neighbourhood Plan is a community project which requires responses to this draft version.

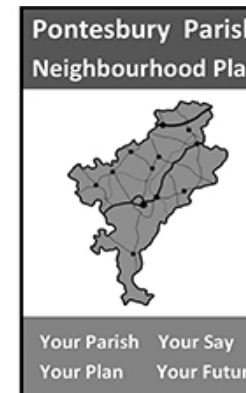
2. A full version of the draft will be available online or can be requested via the Clerk. It is strongly recommended that you read the full plan as it contains background information, evidence and justification for the policies which are the most important part of the plan.

3. All responses will be recorded and, where appropriate, modifications will be made to the plan.

4. The full plan contains additional illustrations which not only complement the policies and explain the importance of good design but remind us of the character and beauty which the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to safeguard.

5. A reminder that all responses will be entered for a prize draw to win a unique framed print of Emma Lawrence's cover illustration.

Allan Hodges



## Firewood available

After Storm Arwen, the Friends of Pontesford and Earl's Hill have more firewood available. We have unseasoned hardwood in split 9 inch lengths or unseasoned softwood (suitable for enclosed stoves) in 4 foot cordwood lengths. It is no longer legal to sell unseasoned wood, so we are offering loads of 0.9 cu metre in return for donations of £75 a load for hardwood and £40 a load for softwood. Local delivery is free. The wood will need to be stored and seasoned before burning. Contact [pontesfordfirewood@gmail.com](mailto:pontesfordfirewood@gmail.com)

Quentin Shaw

## 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](mailto:darren.jukes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) – 101 ext 7702076

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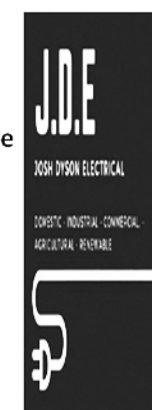


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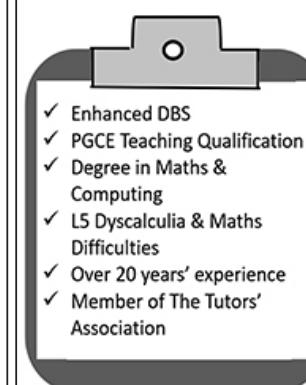
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## Community Good Neighbours

### Upcoming Events

#### February 2022

Coffee Morning - 11<sup>th</sup> February 11am – 12.15pm – Plough Inn

Coffee Morning – 18<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 12pm - Minsterley Parish Hall

Bingo 18<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm for 7.00pm start – Pontesbury Public Hall

#### March 2022

Coffee Morning - 11<sup>th</sup> March 11am – 12.15pm – Plough Inn

Afternoon Tea – 25<sup>th</sup> March 1.00pm -2.30pm return – Shrewsbury Golf Club

Coffee Morning – 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12pm - Minsterley Parish Hall

All are welcome to come along.

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

### Afternoon Tea

Following on from a successful and enjoyed visit to Shrewsbury Golf Club at Christmas we are going back for Afternoon Tea on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

If you would like to come along and sample Jane Wilde's lovely food, please give Carol a ring on 07815 910 231 or Sharon on 07940 988 951

The cost is £15.00 per person which includes a coach from one of the pick-up locations detailed below.

Crown & Sceptre 12:00pm

Co-op Minsterley 12:05pm

Bottom Hall Bank Pontesbury 12:10pm

Top Hall Bank Pontesbury 12:15pm

We aim to arrive at 1:00pm and return 2:30pm



Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District



The use of this vibrant community building continues to increase. Regular events include:

Age Uk fortnightly socials providing support for people living with dementia

Sea Change providing craft and chat activities for new parents

Elevate gentle exercise sessions

U3A creative writing and geology groups

Library reading group

Good Neighbours Scheme social events

Library rhyme/story time

Friends of Pontesbury Library events/talks

Exhibitions by local artists

Seed and plant swap (permanent stand in the Pavilion garden; see page 3)

To find out more about how to get involved/hire the building or what is going on visit the website [www.pontesburypavilion.co.uk](http://www.pontesburypavilion.co.uk), follow us on facebook or pop in to pick up a monthly events round up.

*Nicola Young, Deputy Parish Clerk*

### Pontesbury Gardeners Association

The Trading Post re-opens on Saturday 5 February. Seed potatoes, pea, bean and beetroot seeds will be available, as well as plenty of all the other materials that you will need to get sowing and growing. Our bulk delivery of multi-purpose potting compost should have arrived and the usual offer of a reduced price for three bags will be in place; this offer doesn't apply to peat-free compost due to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies. As usual there will be people on hand to help carry the heavy stuff to your car.

Some dates for your diary:

1 March: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall

12 May: Spring into the Garden, 7.30 pm in the Public Hall

27 August: Annual Show, 2.30 pm in the Public Hall

A reminder: subscriptions for 2022 are now due: £2, or £1 if you are retired.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon, from now until the end of October.

*Rob Dixon*



### News from the Library

When I think of February, three things come straight to mind – Valentine's Day, Pancake Day and Half Term. This year that thought has been confused by Shrove Tuesday falling on 1 March, so I am down to two.

Love! Obviously, hearts and romance will be a theme, but there is also the love of literature and the love of cake. These go well together especially for a coffee morning.

*'She Walks in Beauty' by Lord Byron*  
She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;

**Half term** We will have a craft event for the children, which might be as an event or just an activity. Look out for posters. We had to put a temporary hold on Rhyme Times for preschool children, but we will be resuming these in March, fingers crossed.

*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 Club 100

Congratulations to our January Club 100 Winners!

Kathy Sherry £25.00  
Helen Tivnen £20.00  
Stuart Evans £15.00  
Mary Edwards £10.00

If you would like to be in with the chance of winning one of these cash prizes and have yet to join Club 100, please contact Sharon Davies or via our Email/Facebook/Telephone number listed below.

In February, we have cash prizes of £30.00, £25.00, £20.00, £15.00, and £10.00 up for grabs!

Each draw will be made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and winners will be contacted via telephone and advertised on our Facebook page, 'Community Good Neighbours Pontesbury' and here in the Parish Magazine the following month.

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.



Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District



Right: Ben Jones and his team at Wood Matters chipping the first of over 50 Christmas Trees for the Chip it for Charity event.

## 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

## KEEP SHROPSHIRE WARM CAN HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY THIS WINTER

Our specialist advisors are here to help with:

**Fuel bills, tariffs, and discounts**

**Accessing grants and funding**

**Urgent support in a crisis**

And much more!

Give us a call today on 0800 112 3743

or email advice@mea.org.uk



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

## 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.



## Pontesbury Baptist Church

[www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

Our church is open twice every Sunday – at 10:30am and 6:30pm – and you're very welcome to attend our services. No need to book in advance – come as you are! Every sermon is also available to watch for free via our website or on our YouTube channel.

### Services for February:

Date: Morning service 10:30 Evening service 6:30  
6 Mike Wells Rob Jack  
13 Martin Wells Martin Wells  
20 Mike Wells Mike Wells  
27 Mike Wells Songs of Praise

## Congregational Church

[www.pontesburycongs.com](http://www.pontesburycongs.com)

Sunday Services for February, at 10:00.

6 Deacons  
13 Rev. Debbie Martin  
20 Rev. Carolyn Chadwick  
27 Rev. Debbie Martin

## Methodist Church

The services for February are as follows:

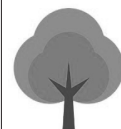
6th at 10.45am with Mr Wesley Morris  
13th at 10.45am with Church Members  
20th at 10.45am with Rev Richard Hall to include Holy Communion.  
27th at 11.00am at Worthen Methodist Church

## St George's Church

[www.st-george.org.uk](http://www.st-george.org.uk)

Services for February:

1st	2.30pm	Tea Service
6th	10.30am	Group Service Minsterley
13th	10.30am	Holy Communion
20th	10.30am	Holy Communion
27th	10.30am	Holy Communion



Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

## 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 be exchanged 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](http://www.goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk)

Email: [help@goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk](mailto:help@goodneighbourspontesbury.org.uk)

Telephone: 07944 891 953

Sue - Secretary for Community Good Neighbours

## Friends of Pontesbury Library

### Chip it for Charity

We had an excellent start to 2022 with plenty of trees being chipped for recycling. In fact, over 50 trees went through the shredder and we raised over £220 in donations during the morning. Thank you to everyone who brought their trees down to the Trading Post in the rain to help keep the library going in the Pavilion. And a special big thank you to Ben and the team (see left) at Wood Matters Ltd for giving up their Saturday morning and shredding the trees for us. There are plans afoot for another Chip It event in the summer to recycle woody garden rubbish and provide brunch and music on site.

January's FoPL library lottery was drawn on the same day. Here are the lucky winners:

1st John Lakelin  
2nd Margaret Marsden  
3rd Pat Fear

### New Year, New Books

FoPL has used some of their Coop Community Fund grant to add new books to the children's library. We've also purchased some reference books that explain the fascinating history of libraries. It's strange to think that libraries haven't always been taken for granted, but campaigned for, fought for and safeguarded to give precious access to a world-wide wealth of knowledge. These days this, of course, includes free access to the internet and all Shropshire Libraries online resources e.g. magazines, newspapers, talking books.

### Upcoming event – Saturday 5 February

FoPL Coffee Morning at the library. All are welcome to join us from 11 o'clock onwards. The cake is always delicious and with Valentine's Day just around the corner the event could well have a romantic theme. Love is in the air!

### Get involved

We would love to welcome some new members to our committee. Although fund-raising is a serious business, the committee work is good fun and members get a real sense of satisfaction every time some money is raised. You can get involved as much or as little as you like depending on the time you have available and if you're new to the area then getting involved with FOPL is a great way to get to know people. Just contact [yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk) or call in and speak to Library Manager Beverley Link.

FoPL

## Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury Womens Institute met on Monday, 10 January. We held our annual Beetle Drive hosted by Sue Brookes followed by refreshments. Our thanks to Sue for organising this fun event. Our single stem competition was awarded to: 1st Maxine Pittaway, 2nd Shona Wood, 3rd Marion Burgess. Marion also won the Beetle Drive.

Our secretary wrote this lovely poem that I will share with you. It tells the story of our WI since 2020.

*In 2020 we had such a do.  
Our WI was cancelled because of some unknown flu;  
No summer outings, No Christmas cheer  
And all of a sudden 2021 was here  
Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June all sped by  
But we still did not have our WI.  
We depended on the monthly mags and  
Irene and her E mail :Tags  
Some of us did Skype and others some Zoom chats.  
But in sunny July we donned our frocks and hats  
Because, you guessed it, our WI was back.  
14 months of lockdown and no money in the pot  
With all the rules would our members be back or not  
There is still a lot of doubt that leaves a frown  
As legislation states there may be another lockdown  
But until such time we will meet with a smile  
Enjoying monthly tea and cake and friendship for  
a while  
We will don our masks, stay two metres apart  
But we will smile and feel happier in our hearts  
Six more months have gone by with a lot of worry  
and fear  
But let's all hope that 2022 can be a much  
happier new year  
We have Beetle Drives, and Bring and Buy  
And without doubt we will get to enjoy  
Some really nice proper Pub Grub  
Through Jan and Feb in our friendly Pontesbury  
WI club.*

Secretary LR.

Next month we will be meeting on 14 February. During this meeting we will be holding a Bring and Buy as well as a Tropics Event.

If you would like to join us at Pontesbury Public Hall, please contact Irene Windows, President, on 791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway events organiser



## Notes from the Stiperstones

It is an unusual day when ravens are not seen on the hill, and at this time of year they are pairing up and settling down to breed. These spectacular fliers are worth watching closely at the moment, as they like to show off their flying skills to their mates by flipping onto their



backs in a barrel roll, which has given them the accolade of the best upside-down fliers of any bird in the world. This is a picture of how one actually looks when it is flying upside down.

They are one of the earliest birds on the hill to start nesting, with egg laying sometimes starting in mid-February. With the incubation period being 20 to 25 days, they can be feeding young as early as mid-March.

Ravens are our largest members of the crow family and substantially bigger than the other black crows, the carrion crow and rook. They are powerfully built with black feathers, a hefty bill and a shaggy feathery ruff around their throat, however the most obvious identification feature when flying is their diamond shape tail; crows and rooks have rounded tails. They also typically have a very deep "cronk" call, although they do produce a range of different sounds.

Being scavengers, they will eat carrion and food waste, and in the past were often protected and valued as natural 'bin-men'. They would have been seen in large numbers with red kites around mediaeval cities, feeding on human waste.

Once widespread, ravens were driven to the west and north of Britain through persecution. However, their numbers have recovered over the past 50 years and it is estimated that there are 7400 breeding pairs in the UK, spreading out further eastward across the country. The raven is fully protected in law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Being large and black, ravens frequently feature in folklore and literature, usually in a rather sinister way as harbinger of death. However, in many cultures ravens are seen, quite rightly, as highly intelligent birds with a playful and mischievous character. They have great social skills, not only with their own species but also with wolves. Known

in many cultures as the 'wolf bird', they have even been known to play with wolf pups. Their mutually beneficial relationship with wolves is well documented, with ravens leading wolves to their prey and alerting them to dangers and then being rewarded by sharing the spoils.

Although the wolf has been lost in the UK, the raven has remained with us and reminds us of when our country was a lot wilder.

*Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoores*



### Pontesbury Women's Club

Rising numbers of Covid infections in Shropshire and the vulnerability of some of our members led us to cancel our meetings in December and January.

We hope to resume meeting as soon as possible and hope to welcome new members so look out for notices in the Newsletter.

Alternatively, phone Gilly Boarer on 792812 or June Tune on 821772

### Pontesbury and Rea Valley u3a

**We learn something new every day in u3a**

... 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.

Come and join us on

**16 February**

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a via Zoom for a memorable presentation

by Ric Morris

of an illustrated talk

**'Landscapes from the air' - Hot Air balloons over Shropshire.**

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

# OYSLAND



**EXUBERANT, SOULFUL KLEZMER**

**SAT 5TH MARCH  
HABBERLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**7.30PM**

**TICKETS £12**

**AVAILABLE FROM:**

**WWW.ARTSALIVE.CO.UK**

**CALL: 01743 790179**

**WWW.OYSLAND.CO.UK**

Oysland are a 5-piece, London Klezmer band who embody the new generation of Jewish roots music. Serving an exuberant and soulful cocktail of wedding tunes and lamenting lullabies.

Swooping with panache through centuries of forgotten music, Oysland preserve all the original heartfelt melodies, foot-stomping beats and echoes of a bygone era.

A firm feature on the London Klezmer scene they play regularly at festivals and venues throughout Europe and the UK.

They also have a wealth of experience playing for Jewish Weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, dances and other parties and functions.

## Iyengar Yoga in Shropshire



### Yoga Class

**Snailbeach Village Hall**

**Tuesdays 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.**

Suitable for all levels

For details contact:-

Liz on 01743 790698 / elizabethknowles1@gmail.com

## Bingo, Bangers

### & BYO Beer



**Saturday February 12th**

**7 pm**

**at St. George's Church**



Enjoy some fun, super special hot, hot, hot, hotdogs, bring something from your special reserve to drink.

Tickets £5 to include food, from

Mary Worrall, Tel 01743 791069

Bingo cards £1 each.

Come and enjoy some fun in a safe environment.

