

March Diary

- Tue 1 Beetle Drive** West End Room, St George's Church 7:00. See page 9 for details.
- Pontesbury Gardeners Association AGM** Len Simpson Room, Public Hall 7:30.
- Fri 4 World Day of Prayer** Pontesbury Congregational Church 2:30. See page 9 for more info.
- Sat 5 Library Lottery Coffee morning** The Pavilion 11:00 – 1:00.
- Habberley Village Hall event** Music with Oysland 7:30.
- Mon 7 Planning Committee meeting** The Pavilion 6:30.
- Tue 8 Pontesbury Women's Club** Visitors welcome. Public Hall 7:30. See page 9.
- Wed 9 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Mon 14 Pontesbury WI** Pontesbury Public Hall 2:00. Visitors welcome.
- Annual Parish Meeting** The Pavilion 6:30. See front page for details.
- Sat 19 Minsterley Eisteddfod Day** Minsterley Parish Hall.
- Pontesbury Cycle Event** The Pavilion 10:00 – 2:00.
- Fundraising Day** The Plough Inn 2:00. See page 9 for details.
- Sun 20 Earls Hill 60th Anniversary Party** Summit at dawn. See page 9 for more info.
- Minsterley Eisteddfod Celebrity Concert** Minsterley Parish Hall 7:00. See page 3 for more info.
- Wed 23 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Community Wildlife Bird Group** Meeting about Curlew count. Minsterley Parish Hall 7:30. See page 11 for details.
- Thur 24 Pontesbury Sports Association AGM** Sports Ground pavillion 8:00.
- Sat 26 Shrewsbury Brass Band** Concert, St, George's Church, 7:30. See page 9 for details.

Future Events

Post your future events here to avoid clashes

- Apr Sat 2 Wildlife Gardening** Talk by Nancy Lowe. The Pavilion 2:00. See page 11 for more info.
- Mozart's Requiem** The Marches Choir. St John's Church, Bishop's Castle. 7:30. See page 13 for more info.
- Sun 3 National Peening Day** Workshop at Ridgemore Oak 10:00. See page 8 for details.
- Sun 10 Garden open for National Garden Scheme** Chris and Bill Neil, Edge Villa, Edge, Yockleton SY5 9PY. Home-made teas. Adm £5 chd free. Plants for sale. 2:00 – 5:00.
- Tue 12 Pontesbury Women's Club** Visitors welcome. Public Hall 7:30. See page 9.
- Wed 13 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.
- Wed 27 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- May Sat 7 Grand FoPL Spring Plant Sale** The Pavilion 10:00. See page 7 for details.
- Wed 11 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbatch 12:45.

Continued from front page

Grazing Brew Box are bringing Percy the Pizza Oven and there will be other stalls, a Disco Dome from Little Rascals and the 1st Rea Valley Scouts are planning some activities. More details to follow as plans are finalised. If you would like to have a stall please contact Anna at The Pavilion (info@pontesburypavilion.co.uk) or deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk. Please note there is no charge for these stalls, the only requirement is that you are local.

We have a baking Competition sponsored by Allcare, Pontesbury. Entry by four different age groups 4 to 6 years old, 7 to 10, 11 to 13 and lastly 14 to 16. Recipes are being prepared by Michelle Hughes. Entry form details to follow in the next newsletter.

We are asking as many people as possible to have a 'British' themed Scarecrow in their garden and to decorate your house in bunting and Union Jack flags, these are to be up and in the gardens anytime from 20 May onwards this will give people plenty of time to walk around and have a look – please join the Facebook group (Pontesbury celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II) if you have social media and you can post pictures of your scarecrows.

Each newsletter between now and June will update you on how things are progressing and how you can become involved. This is a 'huge' community event and your input is important. We hold a monthly meeting at the Pavilion and our next one is on March at 6pm.

We intend to set out a programme of events for the four-day weekend – 2 – 5 June – which will be in the May newsletter. If you belong to a club and are planning your own celebration please let us know so we can add it to the programme of events. If you are a local business and would like to sponsor any part of the Pontesbury Platinum Jubilee event we would love to hear from you.

Lastly be aware if you are ordering goods online for the Jubilee that it is spelt correctly as it seems that a lot of stuff for sale is not spelt correctly.

Platinum Jubilee Working Group contact details
Sharon – sdavies@pontesburypc.org.uk
Duncan – dfletcher@pontesburypc.org.uk
Nick – nick.hignett@shropshire.gov.uk
Roger – roger.evans@shropshire.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk, Nicki Young – deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk
Nicki Young, Deputy Parsh Clerk

Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **1 March**, so we hope that you manage to see this before then. It will be held at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall.

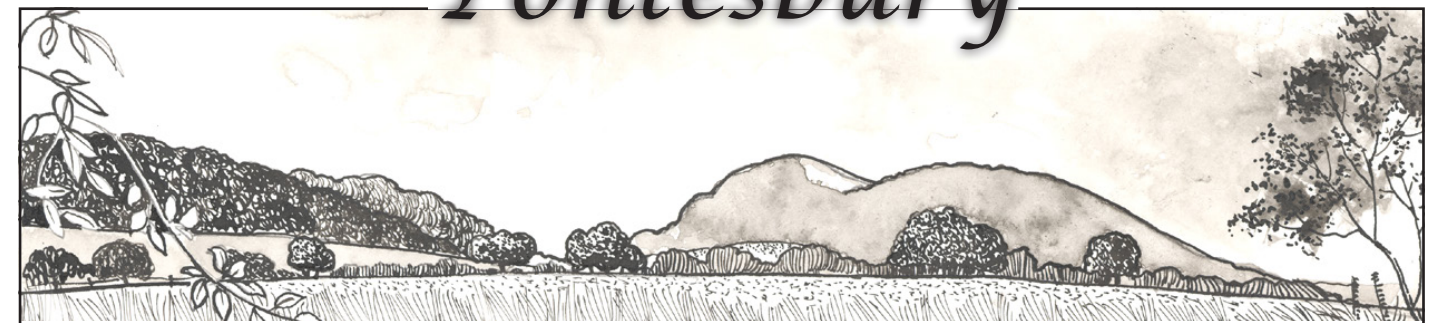
It has been good to see so many people at the Trading Post since we opened at the beginning of February. The new stock of composts and potato seeds is taking up a lot of space and being busy at this time of year has meant that we may not have had as much time as we would like to talk to everyone.

There are still seed potatoes available, and it's not too late to get them started; just lay them out in seed trays, or egg boxes, and let the shoots develop so that they have a head start when planted out in April.

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

Rob Dixon

Pontesbury



March 2022

Newsletter

Issue no. 284



Plan For Our Future

Inside (centre 12 pages) you will find a detachable summary of the draft Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan. As indicated in previous Newsletters the Neighbourhood Plan applies to the whole Parish. The essence of the Plan is that it is a community document which reflects the views of the Parish. Hence it is important that it demonstrates community involvement including your responses to this draft. The summary indicates how to respond. A member of the Steering Group will be available on Saturday mornings at the Pavilion between 10 a.m. and 12 noon to answer queries or receive your responses if you choose not to answer on line.

The Steering Group will value not only comments about the policies but also local detail which will strengthen the evidence and justification for the policies.

Allan Hodges

Pontesbury Celebrates Platinum Jubilee

Plans are well under way organising the Pontesbury Platinum Jubilee event on Sunday 5 June. A Carnival will travel around the village starting at 2pm from the Mary Webb School and finishing on the Mary Webb School Field opposite the Nag's Head. A route is in the planning stage, but more details in the next newsletter. The Parish Council have set up a working party to organise and coordinate these events, so please get in contact with councillors listed at the bottom of this article.

Floats, vintage cars, tractors, motorbikes, scooters are all invited to join the carnival procession. All businesses and local groups are encouraged to get involved and submit a carnival vehicle or float. Please pick up the application form from Anna at the Pavilion, Hall Bank or email deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk.

When the Carnival ends the fun begins on the Mary Webb school field, parking for cars will be at the top of Bogey Lane into the Mary Webb field (entrance by the driveway to the project) or if you are walking up you can enter the field via the gateway opposite the Nag's Head – stewards will be present to stop traffic if needed.

Bring your chairs and picnics (even bring your own plates, cups and cutlery – saving on waste) there will be musical entertainment from local bands and singers; a licensed bar and a barbeque. The day is about coming together to celebrate as a community, so entry to the events is free and all food will be reasonably priced.

Continued on back page

Pontesbury Parish Council

At February's meeting the councillors approved the terms and conditions of the new Pavilion Working Group who will oversee the management of the building and continue with parish council staff, to develop the programme of activities. There were also updates on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the ANPR camera project and exploring a potential new project to create a wildflower meadow along the cycleway linking Pontesbury and Minsterley. A new Emergency Plan working group has been set up to mobilise a rapid response to an emergency such as the flooding incidents in recent years.

On Monday 14 March we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting at which local organisations will be giving an update on what they have been doing throughout the year and the parish council chairman Cllr Duncan Fletcher will give his annual address. It is your chance as electors in the parish to come and ask the parish council any questions you have or highlight any issues you would like addressed. We look forward to welcoming you to the meeting.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 7 March 2022 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.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk

Closing date for copy for the **Apr** edition is **Mar 10th** (please include a contact phone number)
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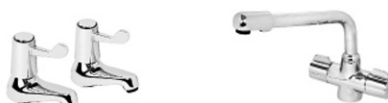
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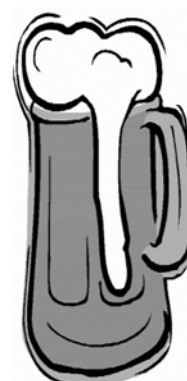
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Getting support in Pontesbury area	
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Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator h.fazewell@nhs.net Coronavirus Helpline 0345 678 9028	Food Surplus food share tables across Shrewsbury
Shrewsbury Food Hub Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk	
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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.

Fraud and Scam Bulletin from West Mercia Police

Romance Frauds

Nearly 9,000 victims of dating scams were reported to Police in 2021 and the estimated loss to victims was nearly £100m. More concerning is the fact that this is only the tip of the iceberg, as many victims do not report the scams through embarrassment or shame, or even do not realise that they are victims at all.

How does it work?

Romance frauds involve a criminal engaging in a romantic relationship with the sole aim of manipulating their target in order to devastate them financially.

Fraudsters will use any tactics they can to identify and exploit a victim's vulnerabilities, hopes and romantic aspirations; engaging in emotional and psychological manipulation long before any financial exploitation takes place.

By the time the fraudster asks for money, the grooming process means that the victim is unlikely to recognise their intentions as criminal, and believe that they are in a genuine romantic relationship, despite often not having met their "partner".

Many scammer approaches are happening outside of Dating Sites and Apps as well, including social media, poetry forums and even phoning wrong numbers to engage in conversation.

Criminals go to great lengths to use fake profiles in an attempt to build seemingly genuine relationships, before appealing to your compassionate side to ask for money.

Warning Signs

- Criminals use fake identities to trick you into sending them money
- Is their profile inconsistent with what they tell you?
- Have they asked you for money before you've met in person?
- They may claim to be stuck overseas or pretend to need money for a personal or family emergency
- Take Five before making loans or giving gifts to someone you've never met

So beware of romance scams when looking for love online. Check if someone is really who they say they are by reverse image searching their profile picture (possible on the search bar of some image search engines).

Take Five To Stop Fraud

- Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit:

- <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
- <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Wild Flower Meadow

Marches Meadow Group has teamed up with the Parochial Church Council of St. George's Church in Pontesbury to create a new meadow on the unused area of the burial ground on Bogey Lane, Pontesbury. After a slightly delayed start the meadow is now underway. Recently John Brayford (better known as JP, who initiated MMG) and Amber Bicheno prepared the site by mowing and harrowing to create bare soil.

We can now sit back and watch the grass grow into the first hay crop, hopefully with a good sprinkling of yellow rattle plants. Our thanks to the Stepping Stones Project for funding this project through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund 2 award.

Marches Meadow Group



Minsterley Eisteddfod

Minsterley Eisteddfod takes place the weekend of 19 – 20 March at Minsterley Parish Hall where everybody is welcome to join us.

Saturday 19th will see Eisteddfod Day provide a wonderful variety of talents on stage through-out the day and we invite you to come along at any time to see us, while on Sunday 20th we present our Celebrity Concert at 7pm. This year we're delighted to welcome the renowned John's Boys Male Chorus who were the 2019 Choir of the World, at Llangollen Eisteddfod and Male Voice Choir Winners at the National Eisteddfod of Wales among many other accolades.

They will bring with them their soloists and we know that we will be treated to a wonderful evening of music covering many genres and styles.

Tickets at £15 each are available from Mrs J Blyth on 01743 791908 or any committee member. You can also get in touch by email at minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com and full details of what the Eisteddfod has to offer can be found on your website minsterleyeisteddfod.com

Tickets will be limited to two hundred this year to enable us to spread out a little more and hopefully make our audience feel more comfortable. Other Covid 19 precautions will also be in place, parking is free and refreshments are available on the Saturday with wonderful hampers to be won in Sunday nights raffle.

Lesley Holder

Unwelcome visitors

A reader from the village has asked me to include this item. She, along with several neighbours, has had one of her outbuildings visited by rats recently. She has had safe boxes put down to address the problem. It seems that bird food put out on bird tables often gets scattered below the table, inviting various others to share the treat.

While she still feels that, with programmes like Winterwatch on TV and the RSPB Garden Bird Watch, feeding birds is a good thing to do, her advice is to clear the surrounding ground of crumbs and seeds on a regular basis.

Can I add, please regularly disinfect bird tables to reduce any disease transmission.

Editor

JUST ONE THING.....to help save the planet

Tip No. 1 Turn down your central heating room thermostat

The Department of Energy estimates that turning down your central heating room thermostat by 1 Degree Celsius for 8 hours will save approximately 1% of the total energy used and so, will reduce your bills.

Taking this one stage further, The Committee on Climate Change Recommends that we should aim to reduce our room thermostats to 19 Degrees to help the planet



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group



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For your own satisfaction with the end result, don't make type too small and don't include a lot of white space. Neither the editor nor Pontesbury Parish Council is responsible for the legibility of ads if you have supplied an unsuitable pdf.

Please note, I don't have MS Publisher so will be unable to read ads sent in this way. Ed.

The Marches Choir

Mozart's Requiem

Saturday 2 April, 7:30

The Marches Choir of Bishop's Castle, 15 additional singers from Cardigan in West Wales, the Marches Sinfonia and a host of professional soloists and musicians are combining forces to bring an exquisite evening of choral and orchestral music to the town on Saturday, 2 April. The concert is devoted entirely to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose tragically short life produced such a prolific output of inspired music, including Operas, Symphonies, Concertos, Choral and Chamber Music.

The featured work will be the *Requiem in D Minor*, composed at the very end of Mozart's life. The work is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest choral pieces of all time, displaying dramatic contrasts of expression, from the most subtle and beautiful turn of phrase as exemplified in the heart-rendering 'Lachrimosa', to the equally captivating power of the thunderous 'Dies Irae' and the dramatic 'Rex Tremendae'.

The brilliant and evocative *Violin Concerto No 4 in D, K 218* is one of Mozart's best-loved works for violin and orchestra, and the Sinfonia will be joined by the gifted young violinist, Ayla Sahin who makes a welcome return to Shropshire following her previous appearance in 2018. Opening the concert is the jubilant C-major antiphon *Regina Coeli, K. 276*, a most delightful example of Mozart's early choral works, full of boundless energy.

St John's Church, Bishops Castle.

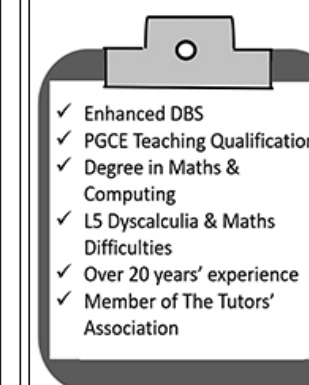
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Address: Asterley
Mobile: 07581519426
Facebook: [Fb.me/LBMathsTuition](https://www.facebook.com/LBMathsTuition)
Email: LB.Maths@outlook.com





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 will 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

Community Good Neighbours Club 100

Congratulations to our February Club 100 Winners!

Kath Oldfield	£30.00
Rosemary Swain	£25.00
Wendy Whitelaw	£20.00
Evie Edwards	£15.00
Stuart Evans	£10.00

Each draw will be made on the 1st 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.

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

Community Good Neighbours

Upcoming Events

March 2022

Coffee Morning - 11th March 11am - 12.15pm - Plough Inn

Afternoon Tea - 25th March 1.00pm - 2.30pm return - Shrewsbury Golf Club

Coffee Morning - 25th March 10am - 12pm - Minsterley Parish Hall

April 2022

Coffee Morning - 8th April 11am - 12.15pm - Plough Inn

Coffee Morning - 18th April 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 25th 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



After a quiet January, due to the rise in COVID cases, regular groups are now settling back into their weekly routines:

- Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon (term-time only) free parent/carer and pre-school drop-in with activities run by Sea Change.
- Alternative Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm, Dementia Support Café run by Age UK.
- Thursday mornings from 10am, Elevate run chair-based exercise groups to help personal strengthen to help avoid those slips, trips and falls.

Regular maintenance will take place, including jet-washing the patio ready for the warmer months to come, when groups and individuals can make use of the calm area. We can also report that the Council has spent some Welcome Back Fund on new patio furniture, so that there is more seating and a table to enjoy that sunshine.

With thanks to FoPL gardeners who continue work on the planters, to make the patio such a fine and colourful area when in bloom - your work is much appreciated.

Last, but by no means least, the latest exhibition in the Meeting Room is by local artist, Gill Scriven. It's free to view, so please pop into the Pavilion and take a look at Gill's excellent art in colour, everyone is welcome.



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

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk

Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury Woman's Institute met on Monday, 14 February. The meeting was started with tributes from our President Irene Windows for Betty Singleton and Su Sycamore, two WI members who had sadly passed away. Both members had contributed greatly to the life of Pontesbury WI.

A successful bring and buy event took place with members bringing along unwanted items to sell. *See photo on the right.* Our speaker this month was Kelly Avery talking about Tropics. Tropics was established to help create a healthier, greener, more empowered world. The company was established by Susie Ma, who drew inspiration for her products from her grandma. After moving to London as a teenager she started selling beauty products. All these products are made from natural materials. Susie appeared on the BBC Apprentice back in 2011. Alan Sugar was impressed with her and invested in her company becoming a 50/50 partner. The company now do considerable work for charity. The WI members all enjoyed sampling the products as well as enjoying Kelly's informative presentation.

Kelly judged the single stem flower competition. First place went to Marion Burgess. 2nd place Shona Wood and 3rd place Mary Crowther. Congratulations to all three. Maxine Pittaway won the raffle and went home with beautiful flowers on Valentine's Day.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 14 March at 2 o'clock. Our guest speaker will be Town Crier Martin Wood who will be telling members all about Haunted Shrewsbury. If you would like to join us, new members are welcome. We meet at Pontesbury Public Hall. Please contact Irene Windows President on 791903 for information.

Maxine Pittaway, Events Organiser



Flower Club

On a cold January night, the Flower Club was entertained by Carron White's tongue-in-cheek demonstration 'A Healthy Lifestyle'. She kicked off with her favourite desert - peaches and cream (fruit is one of your 5 a day!), followed by a healthy salad and stress-free holidays. Her next arrangement took an exotic twist, and the good night's sleep arrangement came with all sorts of tips and suggestions. A more unusual regimented arrangement split the room on 'acceptability'. Her last arrangement was a handtied around a piece of contorted willow and using a vine nest support, showcasing the wide variety of flowers used during the evening. Throughout the evening she had the room in stitches with her stories of a rather accident-prone life, egged on by the audience.

The next meeting will be on 23 March 2022 Lizzie Harratt: Hope Springs Eternal. All meetings at Westbury Village Hall at 7.30.

Julia Brion



News from the Library

We had a lovely coffee morning on Saturday 5 Feb, heart-shaped delicious cakes provided as usual by the Friends catering division. There were engaging conversations about recycling, and IT help from Steve. Steve is a volunteer, offering regular IT help, he will be at the library on Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30. If you need help setting up an email, downloading an APP or any other support, pop along and ask Steve!

During Half Term we had a bird craft for the children, who produced some lovely bright rocking birds. We will plan another craft for the Easter Holidays. Rhyme Time will return at 2pm on Thursday 10 March. Rhymes with shakers and stories for all pre-school children.

We look forward to seeing you this spring in the library, hopefully we will have some sun and daffodils for you to enjoy in the Pavilion garden.

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	



Steve Clarkson IT/Computer Specialist, FoPL committee member

As an IT Professional for over 25 years I would like to Volunteer my services to any member of the Pontesbury Library who needs help and/or advice on any of the following:

- Computers, Laptops, Tablets
- Mobile Phone Applications
- Internet, Email, Forms
- Desktop Publishing, Spreadsheets, Microsoft Word
- Hardware, Printing, Network Connectivity

I will be in the Pontesbury Library at 10:30am every Saturday morning or you can contact me on:

oscarclarkson@hotmail.com or 07999 527856

Please drop by for a friendly informal chat and see if there is anything I can do to help.

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 @ShropFoodPov Twitter: @ShropLarder and @ShropFoodPov 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



**Barnabas
money advice**

Money Problems?
Talk to someone today!

FREE Debt Advice
Appointments Only
Friday mornings 10.00 - 13.00
at Pontesbury Library (SY5 0RF)

To book an appointment:
Call: 0750 766 3251
Email: barnabasmoneyadvice@gmail.com

FREE

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

Keep Shropshire Warm

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

Wildlife Gardening Club Launch

A new gardening club is opening its doors to members this year and would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in wildlife gardening here in Shropshire. The Nature Gardens Club offers the chance to meet up with fellow wildlife gardening enthusiasts for garden open days in real, Shropshire gardens. Expect everything, from aspirational wildlife havens packed with ideas and inspiration, to everyday family gardens looking for club assistance to help attract more wildlife visitors.

Typical garden open days may include garden tours, an opportunity to share or learn new skills in garden work parties, garden planning sessions to help beginner wildlife gardeners decide on future directions, plant and seed swaps, citizen science wildlife spotting events and lots more.

Club host Nancy Lowe, a gardener and wildlife garden designer from Lea Cross explains "This is as club for beginners and experienced gardeners alike, giving us a format where we can help each other out in creating a patchwork of high quality wildlife gardens across the county. Visit the Natural Gardener website to find out more and to sign up!"

More information can be found at:

www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk/ngclub-info

Liz Knowles



Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

**How many Curlews and Lapwings are there?
Please help us to find out.**

We are going to start looking again for Curlew and Lapwing at the end of March. If you would like to do something to help stop them disappearing from the local countryside, we would like your help, please. We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them.

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group area extends from Brockton, Minsterley, Pontesbury and Plealey in the north, to Rorrington, Hemford, Stiperstones Cothecott and Wilderley hills in the south, and includes the Rea and Hope valleys, and Habberley brook.

We have looked for Curlews, and Lapwings since 2014. Our work was disrupted by Covid-19 in the last two years, but we are starting again this month. We hope to find the same number of Curlews as we did in 2019 (9 – 10 pairs) and more Lapwing (only one).

The survey only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come. Results from previous years, and more about our plans for 2022, will be explained at the meeting.

Leo Smith

WILDLIFE GARDENING

A talk by Nancy Lowe

Nancy will be giving a talk about her approach to wildlife gardening, combining ecological principles with horticultural best practice to create gardens that are thriving havens for local wildlife. Whatever your gardening style or level of experience, Nancy draws on her experience as a gardener to provide tips that will suit your garden. During the talk, she will explain a broad range of techniques that can be used to maximise wildlife benefits within both traditional and non-traditional garden formats and using techniques suitable for beginners and experienced gardeners alike.

The talk will be held at

**The Pavilion in Pontesbury
on Saturday April 2nd, at 2pm**

£2.50 entrance to cover costs.

All are welcome!

Community Wildlife Bird Group

meeting on

**Wednesday 23 March, 7.30pm,
Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, SY5 0EH**

All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Rea Valley pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/

If you want to help, but can't get to the meeting, please email me: leo@leosmith.org.uk

Pontesbury Baptist Church

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 March:

Date:	Morning service 10:30	Evening service 6:30
6	Mike Wells	Robert Morris
13	Mike Wells	Rob Jack
20	Mike Wells	Mike Wells
27	Mike Wells	Gordon Craig

Congregational Church

www.pontesburycongs.com

Sunday Services for **March**, at 10:00.

6	Deacons
13	Rev. Debbie Martin (with Communion)
19	Memorial Service in memory of Betty Singleton
20	Hannah Moore (Shrewsbury Youth for Christ)
27	Rev. Debbie Martin

Remembering Betty Singleton

Sadly, Betty died in Cornwall on 7 January aged 95 and was cremated there on 21 January.

Betty had lived in Pontesbury for a large part of her adult life and raised two daughters, Janet and Ruth here, initially living on Brook Road where she lived with husband Don, and latterly Brookside. Husband Don, an architect, died many years ago.

During her working life, Betty was a nurse and medical secretary. Following retirement she played a full part in village life, was a very loyal member of the Congregational Church, the Women's Institute and many other organisations and was widely known and universally loved. Remarkably, she was to be seen trundling her trolley around the village well into her 95th year (2021) but towards the end of that year it all got too much for her and she moved to Cornwall to be close to her daughter Ruth where she settled well. However illness soon caught up with her and she died peacefully at Ruth's home. A very good and long life, very well lived. Betty is very much missed, may she rest in peace.

There will be a short service of celebration of Betty's life at Pontesbury Congregational Church at 10:00 on Saturday 19 March and it is hoped that members of the family will be present. All are welcome to join us at what should be a really good celebration.

Bob Boden



Methodist Church

The services for March are as follows:

6th	at 10.45am with Mr Andy Skitt
13th	at 10.45am with Church Members
20th	at 10.45am with Rev James Eaton-Challinor to include Holy Communion.
27th	at 10.45am with Church Members

St George's Church

www.st-george.org.uk

Services for March:

1st	2.30pm	Tea Service
2nd	6.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
6th	10.30am	Morning Worship
13th	10.30am	Holy Communion
20th	10.30am	Holy Communion
27th	10.30am	Holy Communion

News from St. George's Church

It's just over a year since Revd. Greg Smith became Rector here and moved into the Deanery with wife Fran (and Daisy, the Scottie dog). Now, we have confirmation that Greg will soon have a Curate to train, as well as all his usual duties (no peace, then!). Richard Lonsdale is nearing the end of his course at Cambridge and takes up this post in July. Richard and family (wife Claire and children Moray and Liv) will be living in the Vicarage at Minsterley but his ministry covers Pontesbury as well and he will soon become a familiar face here.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, it's pretty much a case of business as usual at St. George's. Elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter you will see details of the annual Beetle Drive (Tuesday 1 March) and the concert here by the Shrewsbury Brass Band (Saturday 26 March). Next month, there will be a series of services to celebrate Easter, in addition to our regular Sunday morning worship: all are welcome!

Finally, please remember that St. George's is open during the day, every day. Feel free to call in if you need some moments of peace and quiet to collect your thoughts.

Allen Marsden, Churchwarden

Smart TV ideas, anyone?

Friends of Pontesbury Library were delighted to welcome Co-op Pioneer Sharon Davies, Pontesbury Co-op Manager Helen Watts and Duncan Fletcher chairperson of Pontesbury Parish Council to see the new smart TV in the Library at the Pavilion. It has been funded by the Co-op Local Community Fund through Co-op card contributions. As well as displaying notices and information the TV can be used to support all sorts of community interests as it is linked to the internet e.g. illustrating talks and presentations, viewing sports like the Winter Olympics, listening to concerts, stories and songs from CBeebies. We even hope to screen the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 4th June at an extended coffee morning. Behind Helen, Duncan and the committee members, the TV's screening the amazing photography from David Attenborough's 'Green Planet.'

All ideas for using the smart TV welcome. Contact yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk

Sharon Davies

Friends of Pontesbury Library news

Snow White Panto

A huge thank you to Pontesbury Players for letting us run the panto raffle again this year. Audiences helped us raise £435 towards keeping our library open. We all enjoyed the show, especially the sketch depicting the library. (Oh no you didn't! Oh yes we did!)

Love Your Library

Coffee mornings are held at the Library on the first Saturday of every month when the Library Lottery is drawn. So our February coffee morning took on a Valentine theme – love poetry and books, heart-shaped cakes and muffins. The library was full as community members enjoyed refreshments, good company and incidentally raised nearly £100 to keep our library going. Many congratulations to the Valentine Quiz winner of the bubbly & chocolates, Val Whitall.

February's Library Lottery Winners

1st Viv Boden 2nd Barbara Griffiths 3rd Peter Croxton

We realise that owing to challenges during the pandemic many of you haven't had the chance to visit the library yet, but it's a wonderful building and a way to find out what activities and events are going on in our community. There's also a mini FoPL library in development with some books perfect for reading aloud. See the books on the right for a couple of suggestions.

We're aware many children have missed school reading sessions during lockdowns so we're also inviting parents to join the library and help children rekindle the joy of reading and being read to. MEMBERSHIP IS FREE! FoPL and Library Manager Beverley Link look forward to welcoming you all. Here's a reminder about opening times:

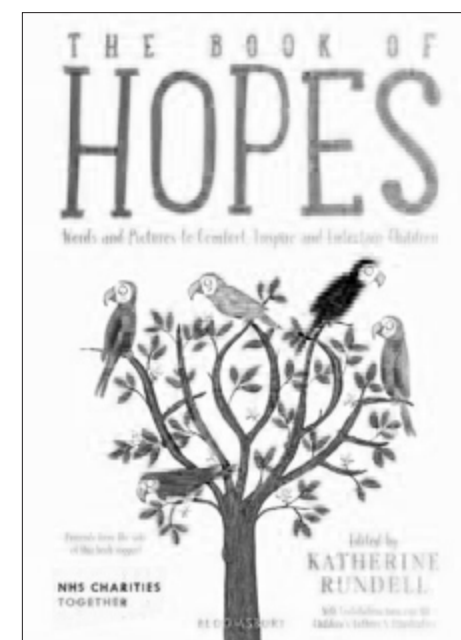
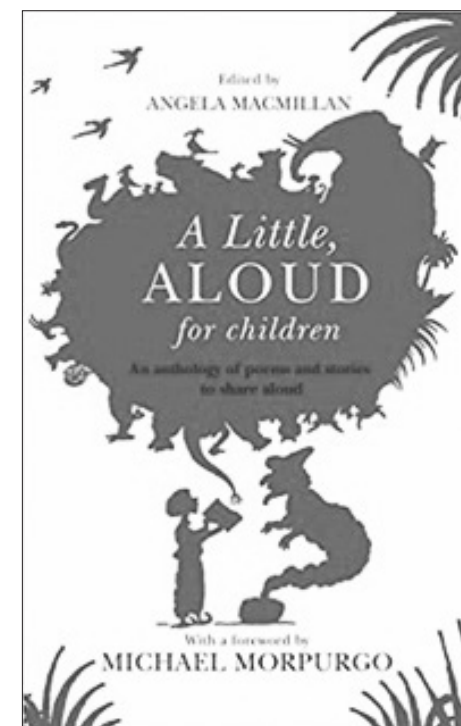
Monday 10am – 1pm; Tuesday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm;
Wednesday closed; Thursday 2pm – 5pm;
Friday closed; Saturday 10am – 1pm

Coming soon

Saturday 5 March: Library Lottery Coffee Morning 11am – 1pm. Speaker tbc, watch out for FaceBook posts and posters.

Saturday 7 May: Grand Spring Plant Sale from 10 o'clock at the Pavilion. Get ready! FoPL very much appreciate donations of any seedlings and plants you can spare as the gardening season begins. Just leave them at the Library Garden from 10am to 4pm on Friday 6 May or from 9am – 10am on the morning of the sale. Thank you.

FoPL



Are you caring for someone with dementia? Do you sometimes feel tired or overwhelmed? Or worry about how long you can continue to care?

Caring for someone living with dementia can be one of the most rewarding things you do in life and **AT THE SAME TIME** be one of the most challenging. To continue to be able to care for your loved one, safely, for as long as possible, you also need to care for yourself.

This short course focuses on **YOUR** needs as the carer: how to reduce your stress, build resilience and take care of yourself. It will help you:

- ❖ understand dementia
- ❖ explore the role and challenges of caring
- ❖ learn tips and practical care skills that make a difference
- ❖ manage your stress and practice self-care



Frances Salles and Karen Cromwell each bring together 30 years of experience working therapeutically in health and social care, including working with seniors and people with dementia, and with a focus on stress management and self-care. They have a warm and personal approach and a gentle humour.

Part 1: 2nd March morning or afternoon ♦ Part 2: 9th March morning or afternoon

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott SY1 4NG, (car park on site)

Cost £65 includes both sessions (limited number of reduced places available)

The course is split over 2 sessions of 3 hours each, to make it easier for you to arrange alternate care. We will ask you on booking whether you prefer a morning or afternoon session 9.30 – 12.30 or 2 – 5)



For more information or to book your place:

Phone: Karen 07716 450707 or Email: francesalles@hotmail.com

Rounders, anyone?

Are you sporty? Do you like playing competitive rounders or would you like to give it a go?

'The Plough Girls' is an established team which plays in the 1st division of the Minsterley & District Rounders League. We are looking for a couple of new members to join our friendly team.

If you are interested then please get in touch on 07792351400 or find me, Lesley Holder, on FaceBook. We'd love to hear from you.

Lesley Holder



Notes from the Stiperstones

This year is being celebrated as the 70th year since the first National Nature Reserve was created in England. That nature reserve was Yarnier Wood, now part of the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths NNR, renowned for its western oak woodlands full of pied flycatchers and wood warblers.

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve was acquired, by what is now Natural England, and declared in 1982 which makes this year our 40th anniversary. The NNR was formally opened in a ceremony led by Prof. David Bellamy who was a big presenter of natural history programmes at the time. It was the first National Nature Reserve to be declared in Shropshire and is now joined by Fenn's Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses, Wem Moss and part of the Wyre Forest.

There are presently 225 NNRs in England, the largest being the Wash, known for its huge number of wading birds, at almost 8800ha and the smallest being Horn Park Quarry, a geological site in Dorset, at 0.32ha. Natural England Manages about a third of the NNRs in England with the rest being managed by approved bodies such as the RSPB, National Trust and Wildlife Trusts.

The Stiperstones NNR can boast that it is important for all of the above, as it has its own western oak woodland at Snailbeach and although we no longer have wood warbler, the pied flycatchers are doing very well. We have our own important geological record with a rich and unique trilobite fossil record and of course we have our own wading birds in the form of snipe, woodcock and curlew.



Although curlews feed on the NNR, it is some years since curlews have bred here, but the Upper Onny and Rea Valley Community Wildlife Groups monitor their population in the surrounding area, along with several other target species. The surveys start at the end of March and more helpers are needed. If you would like to hear more and get involved you could come along

to one of the groups meetings, they both start at 7.30pm or email Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk).

• Upper Onny (Monday 14 March, Bishop's Castle Town Hall, High Street SY9 5BG).

• Rea Valley (Wednesday 23 March, Minsterley Parish Hall).

March tends to be the time when conditions become right to carry out some heathland burning on the hill. Although this management seems destructive, it is a key management action that, along with the cut areas of heather, helps reduce the risk of large scale fires occurring in the summer, when they can be much more destructive. Our fires are what are known as 'cool fires' that are controlled and only take off the upper part of the heathland plants, allowing them to regenerate again quickly. A bit like coppicing trees in a woodland.

For the scythes out there, Sunday 3 April is National peening day. So if anyone has a blunt Austrian scythe they could bring it along to our workshop at Rigmoroak and I will teach them how to peen. Starts at 10am, free of charge.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak

The Bog Visitor Centre A Community Interest Company



The Centre will open for the 2022 season on Wednesday 30 March. Our team of volunteers are looking forward to welcoming visitors with information and refreshments. 'Volunteers' work their first 30 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate. Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period.

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm

Contact our secretary Lin Brown for more information about volunteering at: bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Jerry Hughes

Landscapes Review

An opportunity to build on the success of AONBs & National Parks

As part of the Government's 25-year Plan for the Environment, an independent review of designated landscapes in England (National Parks and AONBs) was led by the journalist Julian Glover and published in 2019.

Since Julian's visit to the Shropshire Hills in February 2019, expectations have run high about this once in a generation opportunity to build on the success of AONBs and National Parks, by modernising their legal and operating framework and increasing their capacity.

The Government recently published its response to the Review and are taking forward many of the ambitious proposals to support AONBs and National Parks to deliver more for nature, climate, people and places.

The Government's response is accompanied by a 12-week consultation to seek views on some of the major proposed actions, which include:

- legal changes to update the purposes of designated landscapes to include a greater focus on recovery of nature as well as improved health and wellbeing for all parts of society
- a strengthened role for protected landscape bodies to support the shift in agriculture to new policies and land management schemes
- a greater influence in planning decisions as statutory consultees

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership has welcomed the Government's response but shares the concerns of the National Association for AONBs that more needs to be done on funding. The AONB Partnership is drafting a response to the consultation, and we encourage others to do the same.

It's an opportunity for people to shape how protected landscapes will deliver benefits for people and nature for years to come. The deadline to respond to the consultation is 9th April 2022. For more information, please click on this link <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/our-work/aonb-family/glover-review-of-designated-landscapes>

Stephanie Hayes

Plough Inn, Pontesbury FUNDRAISING DAY

In Aid of Macmillian

Sports day style competitions
Duck race down the brook

Brave The Shave
Raffle
+lots more

19th March, 2pm onwards

For more information see Amy

Raffle tickets and competition entries can be bought now at the Plough!

Beetle Drive

with
Pancakes

Tuesday 1st March

West End Room
St. George's Church

7pm

£5 per ticket - available from



Val 790587
Mary 791069
Heather 790359



Welcomes you to a

Brass Band Concert

on Saturday 26th March

at 7.30pm

in St. George's Church, Pontesbury

Tickets available on the door,

£10 adult, £5 under 16

Earl's Hill 60th Anniversary Party

at dawn on the summit
Sunday, 20 March

Celebrate the arrival of Spring

Earl's Hill became the first Shropshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve in 1962, the same year that the Trust was founded. This year there will be lots of celebrations.

Start it all off by joining the Friends of the Hill at the summit trig point to greet the dawn at 6:14am on Sunday 20th March.

Please arrive at the Hill on foot or share a car to avoid car park congestion.

Bring your own hot drink and we'll provide the Hignett's buns.

PONTESBURY CYCLE EVENT

At the Pavilion, Pontesbury

Saturday 19th March

10am-2pm



Pontesbury Women's Club

Good news! We are now meeting again

Tuesday, 8 March

Emma Lawrence will be leading us in a workshop on 'Drawing Wild Flowers'

Tuesday, 12 April

AGM with activities tbc

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

Visitors and New Members are always welcome.

Notice of AGM

Pontesbury Sports Association

is holding its Annual General Meeting in the pavillion at the Sports Ground on Thursday 24 March commencing 8.00pm

Barry Challinor, Secretary

CRUCKTON ART' GROUP

Meet at Cruckton Village Hall on Thursdays 2.00 to 4.00.

On 3rd and 10th March we have a tutor on the subject, colour mixing and landscape water colour

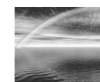
Non members welcome to these tutored sessions. £5.00 each session

Contact:

Richard Martinali 790245

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

By the women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland



This year's theme is
HOPE

Based on the words of
Jeremiah, Chapter 29 verses 1-14

"I know the plans I have for you"

Pontesbury Congregational Church

Friday 4th March 2.30pm

Followed by refreshments

Everyone is very welcome!

As well as Pontesbury and Pontesford, the designated Neighbourhood Plan includes these settlements.



Cruckmeole and Arscott



Lea Cross and Shorthill



Asterley and Farley



Polemere near Edge and Hinton



Looking towards Habberley



Plealey

Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Response form



This is a formal consultation on the Pre-Submission Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

This consultation runs from March 1st 2022 – April 12th 2022.

All responses to this consultation must be received in writing prior to the end of the consultation period. Comments and the name of the person that submitted the comment, will be published exactly as written when the plan is submitted to Shropshire Council under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Anonymous responses will not be accepted nor will any responses that are considered to contain inappropriate language, defamation or are deemed to be offensive. If your comment is not accepted we will notify you, as long as contact details have been provided and your consent has been given.

Before completing this form, please consider submitting your comments using the online form at www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk. Submitting your comments online will help with our organisation and will save valuable volunteer time. Alternatively, please use the consultation response form sent to each household inside the March edition of the Parish Newsletter. These can either be placed in the designated box inside the Pavilion or handed to your local Parish Councillor.

Please note that fields marked with a * are required. Failure to provide required information may result in your response not being considered.

Comments to be received by 5:00pm on 12th April 2022 at the latest.

About you

First name* _____ Last name* _____

Company name and position (if relevant) _____

Address * _____

Postcode* _____ Email _____

Please tick all of the following that apply to you.

I live in the parish ☐ I work in the parish ☐ None of these ☐

I am a statutory Consultee ☐ I am an agent ☐

Consent

Your comments will be read carefully and taken into account when making any modifications to the Draft Plan.

Please note that by completing this response, you accept that Pontesbury Parish Council can store the personal data you have provided in this form and use it in the preparation of the neighbourhood plan.

If you would like to be entered into the prize draw for an original framed Emma Lawrence print of Pontesbury, please tick the box ☐

Objective F4. Carbon reduction

GRE4 Carbon Reduction

Development in Pontesbury will support the transition to a zero-carbon economy by the following measures designed to meet a high level of sustainability and energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions and relevant development proposals will include a statement setting out how the development will achieve this, including where appropriate:

1. The compliance of energy efficiency standards exceeding building regulations by at least 19%. (LA 4.100-4111); for example the use of thermally efficient and environmentally sustainable building materials, and the siting of buildings for maximum passive solar gain.
2. The use of low carbon heat sources e.g. air/ground heat pumps and solar PV, avoiding the use of fossil fuels,
3. Generate a proportion of its energy on-site from renewable and low carbon energy sources and set out a minimum percentage of this to be achieved. (Merton Rule policy)

The installation of community renewable energy generation will be supported where the following criteria are met:

1. Biodiversity improvements/habitat enhancement are planned in from the start of the project
2. Generation facilities will result in a significant reduction in community carbon emissions over their lifetime;
3. Developments of renewable energy generation facilities are led by and meet the needs of the local community;
4. The business case for each facility is sound, and is reasonably required to meet community objectives; and
5. Each facility is installed in such a way that land can be used and subsequently returned to its existing use over time, as more efficient technologies are developed.

Where appropriate selection of suitable locations for such facilities is based on choosing sites:

1. Of low ecological value and wildlife impact;
2. Where land requirement can be minimised by adopting less space intensive technologies;
3. Where the land can be shared by renewable energy facilities and some agricultural use as appropriate;
4. Where the noise, smell and visual appearance of the installations are minimised such that they do not cause unacceptable nuisance; and where on-site compensatory measures can be taken to reduce any residual impact.

Foreword

We need your help!

The aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to give local communities a greater say in the future of their local area. It does so by being an important influence in deciding planning applications. A Neighbourhood Plan is a powerful tool as it has statutory force which must be taken into consideration as a material planning concern when planning decisions are made by Shropshire Council. Also, a Neighbourhood Plan makes clear to a potential developer what is required for an application to be supported by the Parish Council.

It is important to note that a Neighbourhood Plan has to have regard for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), must contribute to sustainable development and be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Shropshire Local Plan.

So far, the Steering Group responsible for drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan has received great help from hundreds of residents in both formal and informal consultations. We are now legally required to undertake a 6 weeks consultation on our draft plan and your responses are vital in enabling the plan to proceed to vetting by Shropshire Council, an examination by an independent Inspector and finally a Referendum of the whole parish on the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

In making your invaluable comments, please bear in mind that the Neighbourhood Plan is designed to fill in the gaps and provide local detail which supplements and not duplicates Shropshire's Revised Local Plan. If you find important omissions it may well be that it is already adequately covered by the revised Local Plan. As the Shropshire Local Plan strictly limits development outside Pontesbury village, the focus of some Neighbourhood Plan policies is on this village. However, most policies have a direct or indirect impact on the whole of the parish.

You may wish to respond to only one section of the draft plan but please feel free to comment on several. All comments will be analysed and where appropriate, changes made to the draft. Much time and effort has gone into producing this draft which is based on your previous responses.

Below you will find a summary of the draft Neighbourhood Plan including the policies which are the most important part. Full copies and accompanying reports can be inspected at Pontesbury Pavilion, viewed online at <https://www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> or requested from clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk.

With your continued contributions we hope that the final Neighbourhood Plan will not only give our parish a much greater influence in our future development than previously but that it will heighten the awareness of all of us to the wealth of beauty and historic interest in the parish and so contribute to all of our health and well-being.

Introduction

"Cherish the past, adorn the present, build for the future."

Insufficient attention to these words of wisdom from Clough Williams-Ellis, the eminent 20th century architect and champion of landscape planning has contributed to a mixed reception to recent development in our parish and widespread wariness regarding future building.

The Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan shares his passionate belief that successful and welcome development will promote beauty, happiness and sustainability. Cherishing the past means respecting the built and natural landscape and integrating new builds into it.

Good planning strengthens a sense of identity and community. Development that adorns the present will enhance our beautiful parish so that people continue to be happy living in and visiting Pontesbury.

At the heart of our Neighbourhood Plan is the desire to make future development contribute positively to the beauty of our surroundings and so help our wellbeing. Our watchword is BIMBY [Beauty In My Back Yard] not NIMBY. Our parish beauty is to be found not just in a breath taking vista of an unspoilt landscape from the summit of Earls Hill but displayed in a profusion of wild flowers, well maintained hedgerows, noble oak trees or a well-proportioned, finely detailed building as is well seen in Plealey village.

But "What is this life, if full of care we have no time to stand and stare?" [William Davies]
In a busy world we need to ensure that there is enough beauty to encourage us to slow down, stand and stare. There must be ample well maintained cycle ways and footpaths to facilitate a leisurely enjoyment of our surroundings. Development is not just about the actual appearance of a building, or a change of land use, but also its impact on our surroundings. As we build more homes, we must also provide well-maintained cycle ways and footpaths to reduce our reliance on cars, and to facilitate a leisurely enjoyment of our surroundings.

Clough Williams-Ellis's 3rd exhortation - to build for the future - is even more important today. We must build sustainably so that we hand to future generations not just a lower carbon footprint but also enhanced beauty, with our distinctive local character intact. By devising policies which emphasise high quality design, safeguard local services, enhance rural surroundings and promote the local economy we believe the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan will contribute significantly to beauty, happiness and a sustainable future. Everyone needs nature, beauty, history and space, but nature needs help, beauty needs protecting, Pontesbury's history needs to be respected and space must be protected.

In return for welcoming development, we expect these needs to be met. It often takes the views of outsiders to make us appreciate fully what is on our doorstep. Bill Bryson, an American in love with rural England, reminds us that our much-envied countryside has taken many generations of hard work to build up, and that the least we can do is to look after it and pass it on to future generations. Derry Brabbs, the landscape author and photographer, describes the Central Welsh Marches including Pontesbury Parish as "a national treasure" to be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Policies

The following policies were devised to reflect the views of the Parish. They will be taken into account when decisions are made about new development through the planning process. All policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, Shropshire Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans will be considered and not just a single policy when Shropshire Planning Authority decides whether or not to approve an application.

- A. Community Amenities**
 - COM1 Community Amenities
- B. Landscape and Local Character**
 - LAN1 Conservation of Pontesbury’s Rural Character
 - LAN2Conservation of Pontesbury’s Historic Character
 - LAN3 Protection of Plealey and Habberley Conservation Areas
 - LAN4 Visual Amenity
 - LAN5 Separate Identities of Settlements
 - LAN6 A488 Development
- C. Housing and Design**
 - HOU1 Housing design
 - HOU2 Enable the provision of small sized homes and affordable homes

F. Green Environment Policy

Objective F1. To protect Local Green spaces

Policy GRE1 (Local Green spaces):

The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces where new development is ruled out except in very special circumstances.

LGS1	Pontesbury School Green
LGS2	Mary Webb School Playing Field
LGS3	Pontesbury Play area
LGS4	Pontesbury Sports Association Field
LGS5	Pontesbury Village Green
LGS6	Pontesbury Cemetery
LGS7	Church Close Green, Cruckton
LGS8	Cruckton Hall Sports Field

Objective F2. To protect and enhance natural habitats and wildlife and increase biodiversity

GRE2 Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity

Proposed developments may be considered if they are planned and designed to protect and enhance local wildlife species and habitats including those that are undesignated. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how these will achieve *at least* a 10% net gain for biodiversity. This includes:

1. Preserving or creating wildlife habitats, including trees and hedgerows on their boundaries,
2. Establishing and maximising wildlife corridors linking up to local green infrastructure assets through the use of native planting,
3. Retaining ancient, veteran and mature trees and hedgerows as well as trees that have amenity value. Where trees must be lost they should be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 with a preference for native trees/fruit or nut trees,
4. Provide features in areas of open space which increase and enhance natural habitats and native wildlife e.g. wildflower areas, bird and bat boxes, fruit/nut trees,
5. Where on-site net gain for biodiversity is not feasible then other areas specified by the Parish Council may be appropriate to add such value to the local Nature Recovery Network,
6. Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), using natural features such as drainage ditches and ponds.

Objective F3. To reduce Pollution

GRE3 Pollution

Development in Pontesbury will support the transition to a zero-carbon economy, so development proposals will be required to include effective measures to minimise pollution by:

1. Being sited in an acceptable place in relation to the existing highway network.
2. Increasing opportunities for walking and cycling.
3. Supporting changes of land or building use which encourage local food production for local consumption.
4. Minimising light pollution particularly for development sites outside or on the edge of the existing settlement.

Policy MOV1 (Highway links and connection):

Developments that seek to enhance / improve Public Rights Of Way (PROW), including pedestrian and cycle links will be supported.

1. Development should promote the protection and maintenance of the existing PROW to provide easy, accessible traffic-free routes for non-motorised users throughout the local area and to improve active travel links between homes, services and amenities.
2. Upgrading of pathways to allow access to the countryside for everyone, including people with reduced mobility.
3. Developments in proximity of an existing PROW or area of public access (e.g. the Council owned stretch of dismantled railway north of Pontesbury (Fig 1) or the Thieves Lane Bridleway east of Cruckton (Fig 2)) must include access points for all forms of active traveller to the right of way.

Objective D2. To improve car parking in Pontesbury

Policy MOV2 (Parking):

1. Development proposals that result in the loss of off-street public car parking will not be supported. Alternative schemes will be considered if equivalent or improved parking capacity is provided elsewhere.
2. Retail, commercial or business developments that provide appropriate parking facilities that avoid or minimise ‘on street’ parking will also be supported.
3. Opportunities, where possible, to provide electric vehicle charging facilities for both commercial and domestic development in line with requirements in the Shropshire Local Plan will be supported.

E. Employment and Business Policy

Objective E1. To encourage small scale economic development including farm diversification which brings landscape benefits.

Policy EMP1 (Small scale employment and farm diversification):

Subject to respecting the character of Pontesbury village and the landscape character and historic heritage of the rest of the parish and an acceptable impact in terms of traffic changes and the amenity of residential properties, the following will be supported:

1. The development of new, small scale businesses which are well screened and sit unobtrusively in the landscape. New industrial activity will be supported within the existing Malehurst Industrial Estate or in the area adjoining it.
2. The diversification of farm and rural businesses which can demonstrate environmental improvement including biodiversity with particular reference to hedges, hedgerow trees and ponds, maintain the tranquillity of its surroundings and where appropriate improve the provision or condition of footpaths.
3. Tourist accommodation in the form of glamping, camping and touring caravans on sites in or adjacent to settlements and which do not exceed 10 pitches. Multiple sites in close proximity will not be supported.
4. Proposals to promote or provide facilities for home working and businesses operating from home.
5. The sustainable re use of redundant or disused buildings of sufficient character in accessible locations to be used for high quality tourist accommodation or small scale economic development

- D. Movement and Transport**
- MOV1 Highway Links and Connections
 - MOV2 Parking

- E. Employment and Business**
- EMP1 Small-Scale Economic Development and farm diversification

- F. Green Environment**
- GRE1 Local Green Spaces
 - GRE2 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity
 - GRE3 Pollution
 - GRE4 Carbon Reduction

A. Community Amenities Policy

Objective A1. To enhance facilities and services for a vibrant community.

Policy COM1 (Community Amenities):

1. Specific Community Amenities and Facilities in Pontesbury Parish are shown below in Table 1, which is included in the main document (online) and includes shops, restaurants, churches, school and other amnetieis enjoyed by the community. Proposals for the enhancement or protection of community amenities will be supported.
2. Changes of use or redevelopment of community amenities will be supported where:
 - The proposed use will provide equal or greater benefits to the community, or
 - Any replacement facilities are built in sites which are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling, and have adequate car parking, or
 - Evidence is provided to demonstrate that the facility is no longer required.
3. Proposals for new community facilities in appropriate locations will be supported, particularly if they contribute to the health and wellbeing of the public.

B. Landscape and Local Character Policy

Objective B1. To conserve the character and beauty of the rural landscape of the parish

Policy LAN1 (Landscape Character):

1. Development in the parish outside the Pontesbury village development boundary will be supported if it meets the requirements of SP9 in the revised Local Plan (Development in the Countryside) and maintains or where possible enhances the landscape character of the parish as expressed in the Landscape Character Statement.
2. Development proposals likely to have a significant impact on the rural character of the neighbourhood area should demonstrate how this has been taken to account by the proposal.

Objective B2. To conserve the historic heritage of the parish

Policy LAN2 (Conservation of the Parish’s historic heritage):

Development will be supported which, where appropriate:

1. Conserves and enhances the significance and setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets in the parish
2. Residential conversion of heritage assets which involve minimal alteration or rebuilding which are not isolated spots and are close to services and facilities.
3. Development in or adjacent to Cruckton Village which respects the contribution made to the historic environment by the owners of Cruckton Hall in terms of the Hall, Home Farm, boundary walls, tree planting, road alignment, linear shape of village and pattern of footpaths and where design draws inspiration from the six County Council small holdings set up after the break-up of the Cruckton Hall estate.

Objective B3. To safeguard the character of the conservation areas of Plealey and Habberley

Policy LAN3 (Conservation areas):

Developments proposals will be supported which conserve and enhance the character and settings of Plealey and Habberley Conservation areas by:

1. Safeguarding the listed buildings , highlighted views into/out of the Areas, open spaces, hedges forming soft boundaries between gardens and fields, layout of buildings which line roads with little back development and other key elements of their character as outlined in the Shropshire Council Character Appraisals
2. Designing new buildings whose siting, scale and external appearance – with special regard for materials and fenestration – complement existing structures and do not appear obtrusive or suburban in character.
3. Developers must provide clear evidence as to how their proposals have taken into account the character of each conservation area. Proposals that fail to respond adequately to their context or reduce the character of the conservation area will not be supported.

Objective B4. To safeguard amenity views

Policy LAN4 (Safeguard amenity views):

1. Development will be supported which respects the following highly valued amenity views by demonstrating how the key features of the view have been safeguarded so that the view can continue to be enjoyed. The views are identified on map in Appendix page of the full draft.

View 1	Plealey Village
View 2	Cruckton Terrace
View 3	Arscott Golf Course
View 4	Field beyond Pontesford Hill car park
View 5	Grove Lane, Pontesbury
View 6	Pontesbury Hill Road

Objective B5. To maintain gaps between settlements

Policy LAN5 (Maintain gaps between settlements):

1. In order to maintain the landscape character and separate identity of the settlements of Cruckmeole and Hanwood, and Pontesbury and Minsterley, development will not be supported if it leads to the coalescence of the settlements.

Objective B6. To conserve the character of the land adjacent to the A488

Policy LAN6 (Conserve character of the land adjacent to the A488):

1. Proposed development along the A488 between Cruckmeole and Pontesford will be supported if it meets the requirements of SP9 in the revised Local Plan (Development in the Countryside) and maintains or enhances the landscape character of the land bordering the road, respecting the sporadic distributions of buildings.

C. Housing and Design Policy

Objective C1. New housing in Pontesbury village respects variety of styles and materials.

Policy HOU1 (Housing design):

1. New development in Pontesbury village will be supported which demonstrates high quality design by maintaining and enhancing the character/appearance and historic interest of the village as expressed in the Character of Pontesbury village statement.
2. Important design aspects which require a sympathetic response include:-
 - General village characteristics in terms of layout and greenery.
 - Maintaining views of church tower and hills
 - Inclusion of some of the existing architectural details, especially window design, doorways and chimneys.
 - Variety of materials in treatment of boundaries and buildings without creating an over fussy appearance. A predominance of brick is acceptable with building variety being achieved through colour, texture and bonding. Village distinctiveness is strengthened by use of stone in boundary walling.
 - Larger scale development should maintain a village feel by being broken down into distinct areas and the inclusion of a focal point such as a green.
 - Historic interest is strengthened by naming new developments or streets after aspects of the history of the village for example, Quarry Close or Snailbeach Avenue refer to its industrial past.

Objective C2. To enable the provision of small sized homes and affordable homes

Policy HOU2 (Provision of small sized and affordable homes):

1. A small infill development of between 2 and 4 houses within Pontesbury village development boundary will be supported if one or more houses are suited to the needs of younger or older generations subject to clear local evidence of housing need and in conformity with other relevant policies.

D. Movement and Transport Policy

Objective D1. To support a safe, accessible network of roads, cycle ways and footpaths to promote healthier lifestyles, access to the countryside and improve active travel between homes and amenities.