



April 2022

Newsletter

Issue no. 285

April Diary

- Sat 2 Wildlife Gardening** Talk by Nancy Lowe. The Pavilion 2:00.
Mozart's Requiem The Marches Choir. St John's Church, Bishop's Castle. 7:30.
- Sun 3 National Peening Day** Workshop at Ridgemore Oak 10:00.
- Mon 4 Planning Committee meeting** The Pavilion 6:30.
- Thur 7 FoPL talk by Simon Cooter** Library in The Pavilion 6:30. See page 7 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.
- Mon 11 Pontesbury WI** Pontesbury Public Hall 2:00. Visitors welcome.
Parish Council meeting The Pavilion 7:30.
- Tue 12 Last day to provide feedback on draft Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan**
Launch of St George's Explorers See page 10.
Pontesbury Women's Club Visitors welcome. Public Hall 7:30. See page 9.
- Wed 13 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbach 12:45
- Wed 20 U3A Open meeting** Minsterley Parish Hall 2:00. See page 9 for details.
- Thur 21 Curlew Country Circuit** See page 8 for more details.
- Fri 22 It's All About The Beatles** Hope Village Hall 7:00. See page 9 for details.
- Wed 27 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Sat 30 Slim Chance** Pontesbury Public Hall 7:30. See page 9 for details.

Future Events

Post your future events here to avoid clashes

- May Sat 7 Grand FoPL Spring Plant Sale** The Pavilion 10:00 – 1:00. See page 7 for details.
- Tue 10 Pontesbury Women's Club** Visitors welcome. Public Hall 7:30. See page 9.
- Wed 11 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbach 12:45.
- Thur 12 Spring into the Garden** Pontesbury Gardeners Association event. Public Hall 7:30.
- Sun 22 Pontesbury Open Gardens** A chance to see village gardens in aid of St George's Church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. 12:30 – 4:30.
- Wed 25 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- June Thur 2 – Mon 6 Art exhibition and sale** St George's Church.
- Sat 4 Callow Run** As part of Hope Church Fête. See Hope Newsletter for more information.
- Sun 5 Jubilee celebrations** See front page.
- Wed 8 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbach 12:45.
- Wed 22 Flower Club** Visit.
- July Wed 13 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbach 12:45.
- Wed 27 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.

Help for those suffering in wars

Kathy Hall, Treasurer and Trustee of local charity Operation Sabre, has asked me to include an update about their collection for Ukrainian refugees: "On Wednesday we did a collection (for Ukranian refugees) of food and cash contributions outside Hignett's; on Thursday we dispatched aid. We had a big vehicle of food donations and collected £500 A big thank you." *Kathy*

Other victims of war also requiring urgent help are Afghans and Yemenis. You can donate to help Afghan victims at afghanaid.org.uk, and Yemeni victims at islamic-relief.org.uk. The British Red Cross, the UK's largest provider of services for refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable migrants and survivors of trafficking, is currently running emergency appeals for both these areas (donate.redcross.org.uk) as is the Disasters Emergency Committee (dec.org.uk).

Editor

Continued from front page

Bogey Lane will be closed on 5 June so that pedestrians can walk safely along that route.

A great variety of musical acts will be part of the party on the School Field to bring a great atmosphere to our jubilee celebrations; everything from folk to rock, ukuleles to jazz, middle of the road and pop. We're not overlooking our younger musicians either – their talents are being showcased by the Rock Music School, Whitchurch and the 'Good Grief' Quartet. Music starts at 3.30pm

There will be a bar, barbeque, Grazing Brew Box Pizza Oven, junior baking competition, Little Rascals disco dome, stalls and lots more.

What do we need from you

If you have not completed a form for your float, car, scooter, stall please do so asap – available by email from Nicki, deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk or you can pick one up from Hignett's or Anna at the Pavilion. Please use the same contact links if you would like a stall at the event, to either sell your handicrafts, baking/jams to promoting your local organisation to get members and raising awareness of what is happening in Pontesbury.

Remember to order your bunting to decorate your house, make your 'British themed' scarecrows to line the carnival route with both bunting and Scarecrows.

Bring your chairs, tables and picnics onto the field and join us for an evening of entertainment. Go even greener and bring along your own plates and cutlery when you get your food from our stalls.

If any local businesses would like to sponsor the event, we have sponsorship opportunities, from £100 to £1,000. Just get in touch with Nicki via email deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk and she will explain how to get involved.

Nicki Young, Deputy Parsh Clerk

- Sun 31 Afernoon teas** St George's Church.
- Aug Wed 10 Probus Club** The White Horse, Pulverbach 12:45.
- Wed 24 Flower Club** Westbury Village Hall 7:30.
- Sun 21 Garden open for National Garden Scheme** Chris and Bill Neil, Edge Villa, Edge,



Pontesbury Celebrates Platinum Jubilee

Plans are now in full swing organising the Pontesbury event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The Carnival route has now been planned.

- Leaving Mary Webb School at 2pm
- Travel down alongside the cemetery
- Turn left then right onto Stallion Lane
- Then turn right and then left onto Main Road
- Travel past School Green following the one way system down onto Minsterley Road
- Turn left onto Ashford Drive making our way around the estate to the end
- Then turn back onto Main Road past the Horseshoes Pub
- Up Hall Bank to the top turning Right onto Chapel Street
- Then left onto the road leading to the cemetery
- Then right turning into Linley Avenue, following route around the avenue
- Turn left past the Primary school
- Right past Mary Webb School
- Travel down Bogey Lane and turn into the Mary Webb school field.
- Parking stewards will be there to park the floats.

Come and join in the fun, line the streets and wave flags and banners and cheering the carnival along. So far, the carnival has vintage cars, floats, alpacas, 1st Rea Valley Scouts on bicycles, Pontesbury Runners, The Plough Inn with a Brit Awards float and a float from Allcare. For a float application please email deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk or call into the Pavilion and speak to Anna.

Any children that are part of the carnival must be accompanied by an adult, decorate your pushchairs and join the fun, dress up, be a king or queen for the day and wear those crowns with pride.

To ensure things run smoothly, we are asking if people would please move cars onto drives, off the carnival route before 1pm on the 5 June.

After the Carnival join us on the Mary Webb school field: parking is via the top entrance to the field top of Bogey Lane – if you are walking you can enter through the gate at the bottom of the field opposite the Nags Head pub – stewards will be positioned to assist with safely crossing the road.

Continued on back page

St George's Extended Churchyard

Dear Friends

St George's Extended Churchyard (known locally as Pontesbury Cemetery) is the legal and financial responsibility of St George's Church. Our primary aim in managing the churchyard is to be a blessing to the wider community, essentially the parish. This aim encourages us to keep two things in view:

- 1) To provide a final resting place for the mortal remains of all residents of the parish who seek it, regardless of their historic involvement or lack of it with St George's Church
- 2) To maintain an environment that is pleasing to visit for all visitors

In our attempts to fulfil this aim, we have to keep in mind two heavy responsibilities. The cost of maintaining the churchyard falls exclusively on the church, with no assistance from any outside body. That cost, currently £5k, is shared between our members, although the benefits of the churchyard are shared with the whole community. There is some income in relation to occasional burials, but this falls a long way short of the annual bill for grass cutting etc.

Secondly, the rules and regulations that govern the churchyard are made by the Diocese and leave us with almost no flexibility as to what is permitted and what is not. Permission giving is delegated to the Rector, but the rules by which he is bound are very tightly defined. The most important requirement, and one not always observed is that only fresh-cut flowers should adorn the grave rather than ornaments or plantings. This is to enable ease of mowing and to provide an environment acceptable to all.

There are three things you might consider doing to support us

- a) Join a soon-to-be-established Friends Group that will seek to support the church in achieving its overarching aim
- b) Understand that the enforcement of regulations is a legal expectation placed upon us
- c) Make a one-off or regular donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard

If you have any questions or comments regarding this, please contact Greg Smith at rectorpontstip@gmail.com or on 07902 794653

Greg Smith

Closing date for copy for the **May** edition is **Apr 10th** (please include a contact phone number)
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Getting support in Pontesbury area

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

Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator
h.tazewell@nhs.net
Coronavirus Helpline
0345 678 9028

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

Local Support & Prevention Fund
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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

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Keep Shropshire Warm
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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
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Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline
0300 303 1191

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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
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Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin
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Tree and hedge planting

Clockwise from front right, Cllrs Fletcher, Lewis, Hignett and Ken Jenks from Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group planting an oak tree on School Green to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Many thanks to Shropshire Council for providing the tree and Geoff Manley and Siobhan Reedy (Shropshire Council Tree Officer) for helping to transport the tree and dig the hole!

The Climate Action group also received some hedging from the Shropshire Council Community Tree Scheme which has been used to finish the hedge by the Ark nursery and infill a hedge by the Station Road play area. Many thanks to Ken, Phil and Liz who battled the cold and rain to get them in the ground.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk



Pontesbury Parish Council meetings

March saw the Annual Parish meeting where reports were heard from Shropshire Council, Friends of Pontesbury Library, Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours scheme, Pontesbury P3 group, Pontesbury Sports Association, local policing team, Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action group, various village halls around the parish. Chair Cllr Duncan Fletcher wished to thank these groups and the many volunteers around the parish who work so hard to keep the parish the vibrant community it is. Cllr Fletcher completed his report saying "despite the turbulence we have experienced with covid and the troubling times we find the world is in, I am sure we all are proud to be part of our wonderful Parish of Pontesbury and as a community we will maintain all the support and help for each other. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped their fellow residents over the past couple of years. This strong community spirit will enable us to bounce back ever greater and more resilient as a community". All reports are available to read on the parish council website.

Councillors also received an update on the consultation for the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan. If you haven't read it and/or had your say go to www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk, you have until 12 April to submit your feedback and be entered for the prize draw, see right. There is a display up in The Pavilion with more information and a copy of the draft plan.

The parish council has been particularly busy in the last few months, working in partnership with Minsterley and Hanwood councils, to get the ANPR cameras installed. A further report about this can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. This has been a very positive project and shows the benefits of combining resources with our neighbouring parishes.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 11 April, 7.30pm at The Pavilion. Please note we are returning to the 7.30pm start for the summer months.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 4 April 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

A Priceless Prize

A priceless prize awaits one of the respondents to the draft Neighbourhood Plan which all households should have received as part of the March newsletter. This very important consultation on future development in the parish runs

until 12 April and so if you have not already responded the Steering Group will be delighted to receive your comments. All responses will go into a lucky dip to win a unique framed colour print of Emma Lawrence's superb cover illustration of Pontesbury village for the Neighbourhood Plan. If you have not received a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan full details and a response form can be found at www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk. A member of the Steering group will be available at Pavilion between 10 and 12 on Saturday mornings 26 March, 2 and 9 April to answer your queries.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk



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

Tip No. 2 Shop Locally

The goods you buy don't have to travel as far to reach you and you don't have to travel as far to reach them!

Less food miles means less fuel used, therefore cutting carbon emissions and air pollution.

Local produce is usually fresher, there is often less packaging and less waste. Added to this, you'll be supporting the local economy and, if you walk or cycle to the shop, you'll be improving your health too.



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group



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PALZ UK ... a lifeline...
www.palz.org.uk


In the middle of a pandemic PALZ UK provided a lifeline for people with Alzheimer's.

When people discover that they or their partner has Alzheimer's they are often lost as to what to do next. How to cope. Many people have discovered that the support of others in a similar situation, and the opportunity to socialise at the PALZ UK bi-monthly meetings to have been most beneficial. Liz Holdsworth, Chair of PALZ UK is keen to 'spread the word' about the Shropshire-based charity which aims to help people who have held challenging and demanding jobs, and are now living with Alzheimer's (or dementia from other causes).

Liz Holdsworth (pictured right) said: "PALZ UK meetings take place every two months, at the Conference Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. During the pandemic we had monthly Zooms meetings. People can enjoy a range of interesting Guest Speakers providing intellectual stimulation to those who just happen to have Alzheimer's or any other cause of dementia. Supportive friends and family very welcome and attendees tell me that they find the meetings a rewarding and enjoyable experience. It is free to attend, and there is free parking with coffee and light refreshments. We have had a variety of interesting speakers and the meetings increase self-respect, confidence and mental stimulation in a friendly atmosphere. When time allows please visit the PALZ UK website where you be able to see how we started and what our ambitions are in the UK – namely to establish additional groups in different towns and cities. We would really appreciate the chance to publicise PALZ UK so that others can receive the help they deserve".

Liz continued: "After establishing a successful local Shropshire Group the next step is to create other groups across the UK. To enable that ambition we have created a Starter Pack which is available online on the website www.palz.org.uk The PALZ UK Starter Pack contains for example, an illustration of typical potential contacts; the PALZ UK Model, an Action List and an indication of the support that will be provided to set up a group. So please tell others of our plans. Thank you".

To find out more email info@palzgloab.org.uk or please visit the website www.palzug.org.uk
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Philip J Davies, PALZ UK Trustee



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

Upcoming Events

April 2022

Country & Western Afternoon with Tony Hughes - 1st April 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Plough Inn to secure your place book a table on 01743 221 232

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

Coffee Morning – 18th April 10am – 12pm - Minsterley Parish Hall

Trip to Coed-Y-Dinas – 29th April – 11am pick up 3.30pm Return £6.00

May 2022

Coffee Morning 13th May - 11am - 12.15pm - Plough Inn

If you would like to come to our Coed-Y-Dinas trip please contact
Carol a ring on 07815 910 231 or Sharon on 07940 988 951

All are welcome to come along.

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

Community Good Neighbours Club 100

Congratulations to our February Club 100 Winners!

Mike Barton	£30.00
Georgina Mansell	£25.00
Joy Jones	£20.00
Chris Cousins	£15.00
Chris Cousins	£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 March, 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 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.

Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury WI met on Monday 14 March. Our guest speaker was Martin Wood Shrewsbury Town Crier who spoke about Haunted Shrewsbury. This was a very interesting talk about the many old buildings in Shrewsbury where ghosts have been sighted. Martin had a wealth of interesting facts on why certain venues were highlighted on Shrewsbury Ghostly tours.

Martin kindly judged the single stem of the month competition. Both 1st and 3rd places went to Marion Burgess with some beautiful blooms. 2nd place went to Shona Wood. The raffle was won by Edith Pinches who

took home a wonderful bunch of yellow roses.

Pontesbury WI are always looking for new members, this week we had two new prospective members join us, we hope they enjoyed our hospitality.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 11 April at 2 o'clock. Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Walton talking about the Antarctica. If you would like to join us new members are most welcome. We meet at Pontesbury Public Hall. Please contact Irene Windows President on 791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway, Events Organiser

Flower Club

West Shropshire Flower Club member and demonstrator Penelope Harrison 'Nature's Bounty' showcased the wonder of the flower world. She started with a natural look, an arrangement within a willow structure of Magnolia branches to give outline, yellow chrysanthemum and orange tulips, then dressed with ivy for movement and fruit for shape variety. Her take on tropical paradise had wonderful flowing yellow calla lilies and bright gerberas within tropical foliage, dried tropical leaves were added which had been both platted and woven creating intricate forms (this led to the audience wanting to know how these were achieved and requests for a workshop to learn). The natural feel continued with a skeletal willow globe, which enclosed flowering daffodil and grape hyacinth bulbs pinned down and covered with moss. This created a really original and contemporary design which would make a dramatic table centrepiece. Penelope's next design interpreted water with a cascading design of blue lisianthus, statice and veronica with eucalyptus and ruscus through a midealino stick spiral. Continuing on the contemporary theme she went on to show a couple of quick foam free designs. Anemones and pussy willow in an elevated wired test tube ring and a collection of pots with sinuous wire bound bear-grass decorated with hypericum berries. In her final design she created a spectacular mass of multi headed white lilies surrounded by gorgeous large headed white roses and carnations.

The next meeting will be on 27 April 2022 Jane Pugh – *Up-cycle* at Westbury Village Hall at 7.30.

Julia Brion



What's Happening in your Pavilion?

We continue to be busy in the Pavilion, more groups are coming forward to offer activities and drop-ins – it's great to feel the buzz of the building on busy days.

The regular groups that welcome new members are:

Wednesday mornings: 10:00 – 12:00 Sea Change Trust family drop-ins with free activities and cuppa

Alternate Wednesdays: 11:00 – 13:00 Age UK Dementia Support Café

Thursday mornings: 10:00 – 11:00 Chair-based exercises to promote strength to avoid slips, trips and falls, run by Dan Lewis Fitness

The Good Neighbours Scheme continues to meet in the Pavilion and many new groups are starting.

There is a Library Reading Group, please contact Bev, the Library Branch Manager for more information.

During March and until 12 April, Pontesbury Parish Council are seeking your views on the Neighbourhood Plan, printed in the newsletter in March. Councillors will be in the Pavilion on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon to hear your views, help you complete the questionnaire and answer any questions about the Neighbourhood Plan.

If you haven't been into the Pavilion garden recently, do come and visit this Spring to admire the changes. The Parish Council have replaced the wooden gate with a beautiful new ironwork gate made by Andrew Trow.

In addition, new patio furniture made from recycled plastic has been purchased, with thanks to Shropshire Council's Welcome Back Fund (European Regional Development Fund monies, administered through Shropshire Council). Parasols, chairs and tables will make sitting in the patio area much more comfortable in the hotter weather – great if you just want to come and sit and chat to friends, eat your lunch, or read your newspaper or a book. The area is also available for events and outside meetings – just get in touch with Anna or Nicki to find out more.

We have also added some extra trellis and planters to provide community gardening opportunities, initially working with Age UK and people attending their drop-in sessions, again thanks to the Welcome Back Fund. With these and the existing planters provided with funding from Pontesbury Co-op funding, and beautifully planted by Friends of Pontesbury Library gardeners, we will have year-round interest. A big thank you to all of the gardeners and other volunteers involved who have worked hard to make this great community space so colourful and welcoming.

Lastly, the Welcome Back Fund also provided monies for the new cycle racks which were installed just in time for the 'Spring back on your bike' event organised by the parish council and the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action group, in March.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk



The Welcome Back Fund
received monies from the
European Regional Development Fund



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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 (SYS ORF)

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

ANPR project

For the first time in both Shropshire and the West Mercia Police area, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras are going up in three villages this week in a bid to deter speeding drivers, following the award of an £18,600 grant from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

Pontesbury, Minsterley and Great Hanwood parish councils made a successful joint bid for the funding as part of efforts to tackle speeding traffic in their villages. It's the first such funding award in the West Mercia area.

This money is being match-funded by each parish council and is the result of the many requests received to try and persuade drivers of all vehicles to slow down when passing through these rural villages, which all lie on the A488.

The funding means one ANPR camera will be placed on a Shropshire Council street-lighting column in each village, in locations that will benefit most from a reduction in speed.

Each camera uses the very latest in ANPR technology. Unlike conventional 'speed cameras' ANPR can record a vehicle's speed, number plate, time, date and photograph it. The software can also record offenders, who could be visited by the police. They can and will also be used to fight rural crime, and build an intelligence picture.

In a joint quote, the chairs of the three parish councils and the local Shropshire Councillors – Geoff Rogers, Duncan Fletcher, Roger Evans and Nick Hignett, said:

The three parishes of the Rea Valley and local Shropshire Councillors have formed a partnership,

SAFER SPEED SHROPSHIRE, and have worked closely together to get this scheme implemented and we are extremely grateful to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Shropshire Council who have all been instrumental in getting it off the ground. We are also grateful for the assistance provided by Charles Pedrick, who has been involved in a similar scheme in Gloucestershire.

All three parish councils are aware that speeding traffic is an issue of real concern to residents throughout the area.

It's hoped that more such cameras will be introduced in Shropshire in the future.

Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk



An ANPR camera is installed.

Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or

witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, we won't bombard you with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

We'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends and colleagues to register too? Let's get talking!

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to make a report please contact West Mercia Police via the West Mercia Police website or dial 999 in an emergency.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

**West Mercia
POLICE**

Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

In memory of Su Sycamore

Thank you to all the friends and neighbours who shared both their sadness for the loss of Su as well as their fond memories of her.

David Wilson

In memory of Bill Clayton

Connie, Gary, Jayne and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, letters and flowers you sent on Bill's passing. Also for all the help and kindness when Bill was ill and for visiting him.

We are very lucky to have so many wonderful friends. Donations in memory of Bill were £900. Thank you to everyone.

Connie Clayton

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 April:

Date:	Morning service 10:30	Evening service 6:30
3	Rob Jack	Mike Wells
10	Mike Wells	Mike Wells
17	Mike Wells	Mike Wells
24	Mike Henson	Mike Henson

Congregational Church

www.pontesburycongs.com

Sunday Services for April, at 10:00.

3	Rev. Mike Wells, Pontesbury Baptists
10	Palm Sunday service at St George's
14	Maundy Thursday joint service led by Minsterley Congs.
15	Good Friday joint service with Marton Congs
17	Easter Day – to be arranged
24	Rev. Debbie Martin

Methodist Church

The services for April are as follows:

3rd	at 10.45am with Mr Nigel Gibbon
10th	at 10.30am at St George's Church
17th	at 10.45am with Rev James Eaton-Challinor to include Holy Communion.
24th	at 10.45am with Church Members

St George's Church

www.st-george.org.uk

Services for April:

3	10.30am	Morning Worship
5	2.30pm	Tea Service
10	10.30am	Holy Communion, dramatised Passion
12	2.00pm	St George's Explorers, Easter Egg Hunt
	7.00pm	Seder Supper
14	7.00pm	Foot washing
15	10.00am – 12 noon	Messy-like Church
	7.00pm	Tenebrae
17	10.30am	Holy Communion
24	10.30am	Holy Communion



Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey

Firstly, profuse apologies for the incorrect date given for our March meeting in last month's Newsletter.

We made strenuous efforts to publicise the correct date, and hope everyone who was interested found out the right date in the end.

The Lapwing and Curlew survey is now under way, but it's not too late to join in. We are trying to find out how many breeding pairs there are, and their location, to try and help with their conservation. To volunteer, get survey instructions or ask for details of an on-the-job training session, please contact me.

The area covered 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.

Even if you can't join in the survey, it would be a big help to know the location of any Curlew, Lapwing or Kestrel you see or hear, between now and August, please.

For further information, or to send a report, please email Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk)

Leo Smith

Pontesbury and District Crown Green Bowling Club

We are looking to welcome new members to our Crown Green Bowling Club – whether you have experience or are a complete novice there is a place for you in our inclusive club. We maintain two bowling greens, one to the rear of the Nag's Head public house and the second adjoining the cricket pitch.

For those interested in competitive bowling, as the 2022 league season approaches we are intending to field a total of twelve teams across the Tanners, Wem and Senior Citizens leagues which allows us to offer competitive bowling across a range of abilities.

For those who may be new to the game and want to give it a try, or if you are just interested in spending time bowling non-competitively, then help and support will be given to get you up-and-running.

If interested you can contact our club secretary at pontesburybowlingclub@btinternet.com or on 07904 580703.

Martin Green

St George's Explorers

On Tuesday April 12th, St George's Church is launching a new service, aimed at families and all those who love the outdoors. We are calling it St George's Explorers, with an emphasis on exploring God's world and the Christian faith

Our first meeting is at the church on 12th April at 2 p.m. and will include an Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds, followed by songs, story and refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you then. Any enquiries to Greg Smith at rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Greg Smith

Friends of Pontesbury Library news

Library Visits from Pontesbury CE Primary School

The Library doors were flung open to welcome Years 1 and 4 for introductory visits to the wonders of their local library. Beverley Link, Library Manager, led the activities explaining how to join the library, look after books and find the ones you'd be really keen to read. There was also the opportunity to use the computers, hear stories, have snacks and colour in 'take-away' bookmarks. Children took membership forms away with them for parents/carers to enable the pupils to get their library cards. (Grown-ups, if the forms have gone astray you can also join online via <https://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/>) FoPL volunteers enjoyed the children's visit almost as much as the children did! We hope to see them again soon. More visits are planned this term for the rest of the school, and we hope to invite other schools in the Rea Valley from the summer term onwards.

March Library Lottery Winners – to be in it to win it go to www.pontesburylibrary.co.uk!

1st Miles Davies, 2nd Janet Walsh, 3rd R.S. and S. Kelly

Not to be missed

SIMON COOTER from NATURAL ENGLAND, Thursday 7th April 6.30 pm at the Community Library in the Pavilion, Hall Bank. Refreshments to be served.

Following the formal FoPL AGM business we are to welcome Simon Cooter from Natural England is able to join us. He'll be talking about the Natural England organisation and his work in the local area. You will probably know Simon from his regular column Notes from the Stiperstones in this newsletter. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be an FoPL member to attend, but there will be a chance to join or renew your membership if lapsed.

Simon says: "This year we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the first National Nature Reserve. The Stiperstones was acquired by what is now Natural England in 1982 so is 40 years old this year.

I will be talking about how people have, through history, shaped the hill and the wildlife that it is home to today, how people continue to manage it and how everyone can continue to help maintain this iconic part of the Shropshire Hills."

Calling all gardeners! Advance notice

Spring plant sale Saturday 7 May from 10am – 1pm in the Library Garden.

How are your gardens growing now the Spring weather has arrived? While you're busy digging and weeding please remember FoPL welcome donations of plants and seedlings to help fundraise to keep our library running. You can leave donations at the Library Garden from 10am – 4pm on Friday 6 May or from 9am – 10am on the morning of the sale. There will be the usual delicious refreshments and amazing book stall. Look out for posters nearer the time and do please remember to save the date! Thank you.

FoPL



The children enjoying their library visit



Photo John Beaty



WELCOME TO TAKE FIVE OVER TEA

The aim of *Take Five over Tea* is to encourage families to sit down with parents/grandparents and anyone else they think may be vulnerable to financial fraud whether in their own home, or online, and then discuss the advice provided.

Fraud and Scams have a devastating impact on all those who fall for them, and this is a summarised format of the *Take Five* toolkit to help families set up their own discussions.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

We all think we are savvy when it comes to fraud and scams, but the truth is any one of us can fall for one, especially in the heat of the moment. Criminals are increasingly becoming more sophisticated, using many tactics to gain our trust and make it harder for us to spot the obvious signs of a scam as easily.

By taking the time to talk to your loved ones, including those who are not online, they have a much better chance of spotting a scam, and more importantly, preventing themselves from falling for one.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST FRAUD AND SCAMS

If you receive a request to provide personal or financial information whether that's over the phone, in an email, online or through social media always remember:

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

Stop and think - It could protect you and your money.

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 ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- Avoid disclosing security details
- Emails, Phone Calls and Texts may not be authentic
- Always make direct contact with any organisation by using a genuine phone number
- Stop and Challenge any unexpected requests
- Protect others by reporting Fraud and Scams

If you've fallen for a scam, report it to **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040** or via actionfraud.police.uk.

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.

Forward **Fake Emails** received to report@phishing.gov.uk.

SOURCE: TAKE FIVE

A full PDF leaflet can be downloaded from **Take Five** at:
Take-Five-Over-Tea-Loved-Ones_2021_FINAL.pdf (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

Notes from the Stiperstones

It's always nice to write the first spring addition of Notes from the Hill, heralding the awakening of the hill's wildlife after the winter. The first curlews are back, and I can only assume that it was one of the chicks reared by Curlew County that dropped in the other day next to the office, as it arrived back calling to the exact location where the rearing pens were placed last year. Curlew Country are holding a sponsored walk across the Stiperstones on the 21st April to help raise funds for their work, see www.curlewcountry.org for more information.

The nesting birds are returning to the hill to set up their territories and that starts off our bird survey work. Bird surveys rely upon the territorial behaviour of birds at this time of year, particularly the males who announce their territorial rights by singing their hearts out. Us humans consider this delightful and write poems about the lovely song of the skylark or odes to nightingales, "blithe spirits...with unbodied joy". However, in reality, these birds are shouting warnings to others of their kind to stay away, or else!

Once the birds have found suitable nesting habitat, like the heathland of the nature reserve, they will mark out an area in which they can find enough food to bring up a family of hungry chicks. This will often be done by finding suitable perches from which to sing from, for example the stonechat will find suitable vantage points on gorse bushes and small trees. However, some birds like meadow pipits and skylarks, that nest where there are no song perches, will find suitable spots from which to launch their aerial song flight. Skylarks usually sing on their way up and then hover for ages above their chosen spot, while meadow pipits fly directly upwards and then sing while parachuting slowly back to the ground.

Other birds that will be nesting on the ground include red grouse, snipe and possibly curlew, while reed buntings, whitethroats, tree pipits, stonechat and whinchat will all nest, if not on the ground, close to it.

Birds that nest on the ground are extremely easily disturbed by dogs running loose, so when visiting the nature reserve please keep dogs on a lead and on the path. Once a bird is flushed off a nest its eggs or young chicks will often be targeted by predators such as crows, and even if not, if it is constantly disturbed it will usually abandon the nest. So, although the hill has open access, the best way for you to help the wildlife of the hill, is to keep to the public rights of way and ensure that your dog does too.

If you would like to learn more about the birds of the Stiperstones we are running a number of events this year:

Sunday 8th May – Dawn chorus walk at 5.30am followed by optional breakfast at the Stiperstones Inn. £7.50 plus breakfast.

Saturday 14th May – Birds of the Stiperstones walk with the Upper Onny Wildlife Group. Free.

Wednesday 25th May – Evening wildlife walk at 7pm with Dave Pearce. £7.50.

For more details email: Stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk or follow our Facebook page.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmores oak



Funding for farmers and landowners in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Launched last summer, the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has so far awarded £176,529 to 14 projects in the Shropshire Hills AONB. The grants support one-off farming projects which deliver benefits to nature, climate, people and place.

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is providing support and administering the programme locally. As we approach the second year of this 3-year funding programme, we are encouraging farmers and landowners in the Shropshire Hills to take a fresh look at the land they own or manage.

Are there areas that are difficult or expensive to farm? Could these spaces be better managed for wildlife? Are there areas suitable for 'slow the flow' measures which help with natural flood management? Could repairs help to conserve an historic site or monument, or are there opportunities to interpret a site of interest and/or encourage appropriate public access?

We would love to see this funding used to deliver large nature, climate or access projects across a number of farms, and we are encouraging farmers and landowners to think beyond their boundaries. Example projects might be to work to restore an area of upland peatland and manage it extensively with cattle, or habitat creation and management for a specific threatened species.

Looking at your land in a different way can be a daunting task. A good starting point is to make sure you know what you already have in terms of good and potential wildlife habitat, historic monuments, or what public rights of way or watercourses cross your land? We can help with this, or you can access the information yourself on MAGIC maps, an online mapping tool, which highlights priority habitats, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), historic monuments etc

We will be holding a webinar in April to update farmers, landowners and land agents on the funding programme and answer questions - for more information on this please get in touch by emailing shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk.

There is also lots of information about the funding programme on our website, including summaries of the projects which have been supported to date, see <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/farming-in-protected-landscapes>

Stephanie Hayes

Curlew Country Circuit Thursday 21st April 2022

Join a 13 mile fundraising walk, with a shorter route for families, taking in beautiful Shropshire Hills scenery and Curlew hotspots. Learn more about these fantastic birds and raise funds to help Curlew Country secure their future by continuing their vital Curlew recovery work. To find out more and book your place visit www.curlewcountry.org

Polly Owen, The Enterprise Initiative

Saturday 30 April 7:30 Pontesbury Public Hall

SLIM CHANCE

Celebrating the music of Ronnie Lane

with
TIN SOLDIERS

tickets £15 from
www.seetickets.com/tour/slim-chance-pontesbury-shropshire



(Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!)
A presentation by Bill Powell

in HOPE VILLAGE HALL (SY5 0JB)

FRIDAY 22nd APRIL
at 7.00 pm

Admission: Adults £7, under 16's £4 (primary age free)
Refreshments included
Tickets and information available from Wynford Wyke - 01743 791320 and Joyce Graves - 01743 891901

Enjoy an evening of music & history of the fab four!
Proceeds to Hope and Shelve Churches

Pontesbury & Rea Valley
u3a

Come and join us for our next Open Meeting on
Wednesday 20 April 2022 2.00pm
at Minsterley Parish Hall

"Show & Tell"

A face-to-face version of our successful Zoom event last year.

Can you identify the mystery objects?

Have you got any items at home whose use is not immediately obvious?
Have you got any items at home that are special, unusual or have a bit of history attached?

Join us for an afternoon of interest and fun – maybe bring an item along for people to guess or learn about.

Meet up with friends, old and new – and find out about the u3a if you're not already a member

To find out more contact Susan Lockwood:
susanlockwood345@btinternet.com
Phone: 01743 791082
Mobile: 07854 110271
I look forward to hearing from you

Pontesbury Women's Club

Tuesday, 12 April
AGM with Easter Quiz and Hot Cross Buns

Tuesday, 10 May
Charlie Bell will tell us about the 'Stepping Stones Project' which aims to create and link wildlife-friendly spaces between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones

PWC meets at 7.30pm on second Tuesday of the month at Pontesbury Public Hall. Visitors and New Members are always welcome.

CELEBRATE EASTER @ Pontesbury Baptist Church

EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday 17th April

Services at 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Preacher: Pastor Mike Wells

Tea & coffee will be served after both services, free of charge.

You don't need to book ahead or inform anyone you're coming – just come as you are!
All are welcome!

Website: www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

Address: Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ