

# the PAVILION

## Pavilion Community Hub & Library, Hall Bank, Pontesbury SY5 0RF ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

2023-2024 has been another successful year for the Pontesbury Pavilion Community Hub & Library and as thoughts of the pandemic and lock-down became distant memory, people started to come back out into the community and use of the Pavilion grew.

The Building Assistant, Anna Lawson, continues to produce the monthly event sheet which is now sent to over 50 people per month. The recent Parish Council survey for the Pavilion saw many people sign up to receive this information.

Weeks in the Pavilion are now quite busy, some of the groups below meet weekly and some monthly:

- Monday: U3A Family History; U3A History Group and Dan Lewis Fitness runs 2 classes
- Tuesday: U3A Geology group meet monthly
- Wednesday: Sea Change - group for families with pre-school children; Age UK STW Dementia Group - run on alternate Wednesday mornings; U3A English; Wine Tasters meet in the winter months only
- Thursday: Dan Lewis Fitness - chair-based exercises for the over 55s; U3A Creative Writing; Library Book Club; Get Creative - free crafting group; Good Neighbour's Scheme Men's Group - men of a certain age meet to play cards, dominoes, read the paper and generally socialize
- Friday: Carer's Group meet monthly, still well supported by Shropshire Council older people's team, Community Care Coordinator, Age UK STW and Alzheimer's Society.

### New Office for 2023

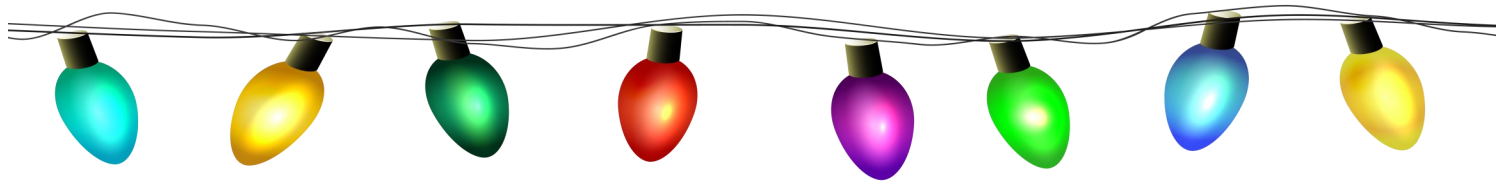
A couple of new projects have been completed this year - Pontesbury Parish Council staff now have a dedicated office space. This aids the working environment for the staff as it provides a private space for any confidential conversations, enables a quiet working environment and sets aside shelving for all Parish Council paperwork and files.

To assist with the move into the office all the items from the store room had to be moved into a shed. There is now dedicated shelf space for FoPL, the cleaning items and all the chairs have been stored successfully in the shed too - it is actually quite spacious and is holding a lot of equipment and paraphernalia.

Alongside the shed are two new water butts which are collecting all the rainwater from the shed guttering, so we can use this to water the patio plants in the summer months, all assisting with the Council's aims to become net zero by 2030. And we continue to recycle plastic, paper & cardboard as well as soft plastics, which was introduced in 2023.

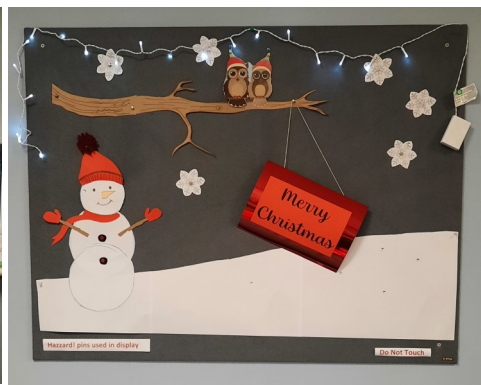
A new waste & mutli recycling contract has just been signed with Veolia.





Christmas was again a celebratory time in the Pavilion. The Parish Council provided a Christmas tree for the central space between all buildings. This was decorated by stars and lights, and a big thank you to everyone who helps with this, including Andrew Trow & Councillor Duncan Fletcher.

The Friends of Pontesbury Library (FoPL) ran workshops for children with the theme “Snow People” which decorated the Pavlion throughout the festive season - a few photos below:



### Day-to-Day Running of the Pavilion

Both the Deputy Clerk and the Building Assistant continue to work closely to run the behind-the-scenes operations of the Pavilion. There has been a concentration to update all Risk Assessments in 2023.

The Pavilion Committee continues to meet on the last Monday of each month and is chaired by Councillor Duncan Fletcher, with Councillors, Nick Hignett, Roger Evans, Sharon Davies and Adrian Windows as Committee members. The Committee have just voted to have quarterly meetings.

The Pavilion Committee oversee the work in the Pavilion, along with receiving reports and quotes for larger projects. This committee has delegated responsibility for up to £5,000 project spend, with all other projects with a higher spend, along with contractual agreements being recommended to full council for formal resolution.

### Events of Note in 2023-2024

February - Shropshire Homes hired the meeting room for one weekend to promote their new homes

March - Shropshire Council held a team meeting in the building

Jeanette Hamer hosted a coffee money to raise further money to support her London Marathon funding target.

April - Friends of Pontesbury & Earls Hill held a launch event to showcase an exhibition of the hills in celebration of the work that has been done to secure the hills for the community's future.

Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group ran a “Grow Your Own Food” event

April - Songs & Stories for Springtime

April - May Shroptech ran computer courses for beginners.

## Room Hire

Hiring of the rooms in the Pavilion has increased, from a total number of bookings in last Financial Year of 397 to the total number of bookings for the current Financial Year increasing to 490, which includes paid hiring and hiring not paid for, ie, for Council meetings, Council events, Committee meetings. This equates to an average of 40 bookings per month.

Therefore, as the bookings have increased so has the income, with the projected income from Pavilion room hire totalling £5,000 by the end of March 2024.

| Financial Year            | No of Bookings | Income from Room Hire   |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Mar 2022 - 10 Mar 2023  | 397            | £3,848.62               |
| 1 Apr 2023 - 29 Feb 2024  |                | £4,590                  |
| 1Apr 2023 - 31 March 2024 | 490            | Projected income £5,000 |

Annual income is also received from:

- Shropshire Library Service = £5,000 per annum to hire the Library shelving space and office during Library opening hours (18 hours per week)
- West Mercia Police = £4000 for rental of the dedicated Local Policing Team office and 24/7 access to the building plus a proportional contribution to service charges



**Promotion** The staff team continue to work to raise the building's profile, advertise events on the SMART TV, noticeboards, promotions in the Village Newsletters and on a dedicated Facebook page, which has 680 followers and linked with many local Facebook pages and, of course, the monthly events sheet which is emailed out to over 50 people.

**Climate Emergency** The Pavilion Committee has received an Energy Efficiency Report from Marches Energy Agency and have set a budget in 2024-2025 to professionally review the roof structure and obtain an expert report on the installation of solar panels.

**Safe Space** The Pavilion is now a registered Safe Space, and cards with information on have been passed onto people in the community. This initiative is certainly working as a person was recently brought to the Pavilion and, working with the local policing team, family were contacted and the person was reunited. This lead onto information being provided about partner organisation assistance that was available.

**SUMMARY** Use of the Pavilion building has increased and more people are now visiting this lovely community building. In recognition of the building & the promotion, the Council is being approached by more and more businesses for training hirings, along with more regular hirings and services being provided for the community. The Pavilion continues to be an asset for the whole of Pontesbury Parish as well as surrounding communities in the Rea Valley area.