

Pontesbury Parish Newsletter



April 2023

Issue No: 296

Friends of the Hill present **STORIES FROM THE HILL**

An Exhibition illustrating the delights of
Pontesford and Earl's Hill as told by
experts and the local community
from week beginning
10th April to end of May 2023
**The Pavilion Community Hub &
Library, Hall Bank, Pontesbury**



Further information

yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk

Closing Date for the May 2023 edition is 10th April 2023
Please email contributions to deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk



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All the team from Pontesbury
Parish Council wish you all a
Happy Easter.

Pontesbury Parish Councillor in the Spotlight

Name: Councillor Sharon Davies

Occupation: Support Worker and Volunteer

Pontesbury Parish Council role: Councillor, member of Pavilion Committee & Newsletter Working Group

What ward do you represent? Pontesbury

Why did you become a parish councillor? Initially to understand where my council tax was being spent but have come to realise how much work the council actually do for the community.

If you had enough money to fund a project in Pontesbury parish, what would you do? A youth club with lots of facilities for all ages

Favourite film: Love actually

Favourite food: Steak

Music that would get you up dancing? Abba

There is still a vacancy for the Pontesbury ward of the parish council following a resignation. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact your local councillor or the Parish Clerk. Further useful information about what is involved in being a councillor can be found on the parish council website www.pontesburypc.org.uk



Pontesbury Parish Council News

The Council held its Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 13th March, 6.30pm in the Pontesbury Public Hall. Members of the electorate came to find out what is happening in the local area and reports from various community organisations and the local policing team were presented.

The Chairman presented a report on the work of the parish council and Shropshire Council, local policing team representative, the Sports Association, Community Good Neighbours Scheme, Parish Paths Partnership (P3 Group) & Pontesbury Climate Emergency Group also reported their annual news, along with news from the village halls at Habberley and Cruckton, and the Public Hall in Pontesbury. 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.

There is still a vacancy for the Pontesbury ward of the parish council following a resignation. If you would be interested in becoming a councillor please contact your local councillor or the Parish Clerk. Further useful information about what is involved in being a councillor can be found on the parish council website www.pontesburypc.org.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in **Tuesday 11th April 2023** at the new time of 7.30pm, in line with British Summertime.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 3rd April 2023 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.

Everyone is able to attend any parish council meeting, with 15 minutes near the beginning of each meeting for anyone to speak and raise any parish matter with Councillors.

Once you have read your parish newsletter, please don't throw it away, please bring it back to the Pavilion. People from outside our Parish are interested in what's going on in our vibrant village, so please bring your newsletter back and let's invite them to our events.

Many thanks

the PAVILION

Pavilion News

April 2023 - What's On

Get Growing!

The Pavilion, Pontesbury
Saturday 22nd April
10am - 1pm

An event organised by Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

Activities include:

- Meet the Street Allotment guys and find out about community food growing
- Planting activities for kids and adults!
- Learn how to make compost with a Master Composter
- Garden Organic advice about what to grow, where and when
- Seeds and food plant seedlings to take away
- Tea, coffee and cake available



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group



garden organic
master
composter



Get Growing!

Come along to a "get growing" event at the Pavilion, Pontesbury on April 22nd. 10.am to 1pm

Would you like to grow your own food, or fancy having a go in a small way this year? Whether

you have just a window box or a huge garden or something in between come along and get some tips on how to get going. Seed and seedlings available to take away to start you off. Planting and potting activities for children to get all the family involved.

Are you interested in community food growing? Come and meet the Street Allotment guys from Shrewsbury (streetallotmentproject.org) and find out how and what for.

Meet a Master Composter and learn how to make your own compost for free from household waste.

Find out where to access gardening products such as peat-free compost and seeds locally, how to grow plants and food crops in a nature friendly way.



How to prevent food waste in the home, and how to cut down on road miles for food products we buy (and why all this matters).

Don't have a garden, or have too much space in yours for your use? Come along and sign up for a garden-share scheme.

If you have spare seeds or seedlings this year please bring them along to share or swap.

Refreshments available. Want to join in with planting or helping out? Please get in touch – you will be very welcome. (contact: elizabethknowles1@gmail.com)



"Home computing made easier" courses to be run at the Pavilion by Greg from Shropshire Technology

Beginners on Tuesday mornings 10.30-12pm
Improvers on Thursday afternoons 1.30-3pm

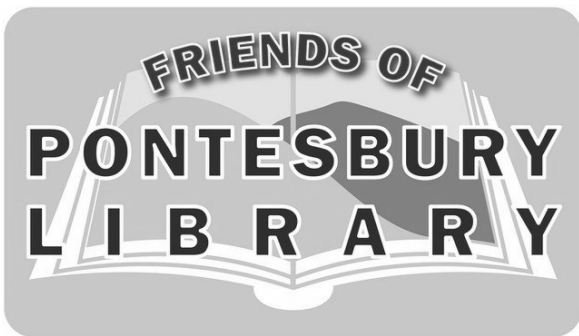
- Courses start on Tuesday 25th April and Thursday 27th April.
- Refreshments will be provided.
- Bring your own laptop or one can be provided for the sessions at no extra cost.
- To keep the sessions friendly and safe there is a maximum number of 8 people per session.

See full article elsewhere in the newsletter.

We hope to see you at the 'Get Creative groups' on:

6th and 20th April at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm
Drinks and biscuits are provided and there is no charge.

Looking to hire a room, the Pavilion has rooms, large and small to hire.
Please contact Anna Lawson, admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk or call in for a chat.



News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

A vibrant display of colour greeted those who came to the March coffee morning, with local artist Lyn Evans displaying her fabulous artwork in the form of coasters, cards and prints. She gave a fascinating talk about the process of creating these beautiful images entirely from tiny fragments of torn paper, and the morning was very well attended. The lucky lottery winners were:

1st prize Janet Walsh

2nd prize Robert Davies

3rd prize Wendy-Jane Walton

The Friends of the Library have a variety of events coming up in April, as Spring really gets under way.

On the 1st, the coffee morning will feature poet Michael Carding and his recently published book 'Loopy Lines', a collection of poems celebrating Shrewsbury and its surroundings. It promises to be a fascinating event, and the lottery will be drawn as usual.

On April 15th at 3pm, we have a feast of stories and songs presented by the marvellous duo Sal Tonge and Mary Keith. This will be an entertaining, family-friendly event. Buy tickets at the library, or by paying online as detailed in the poster.

On 29th April we have our annual plant sale, a great opportunity to stock up for your garden, and to share any plants or seedlings surplus to requirements, as detailed in the poster.

On 6th May the library will be open as usual, with the smart TV showing the coronation coverage live from London. The Steve Knightley concert in Minsterley in February attracted an appreciative audience, and after costs, £140 was donated to the Friends of Pontesbury Library.

FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY

PLANT SALE
Saturday 29th April 2023
10am to 1.00pm
at the Pavilion in Pontesbury

PLANTS, SEEDLINGS, BOOKS, CAKES

REFRESHMENTS & TOMBOLA

Donations of plants, books, cakes and tombola prizes are most welcome during library opening hours and from 10am to 4pm on Friday 28th April (please leave outside if no-one is there). Plants can also be left from 9am to 10am on Saturday 29th April, the morning of the sale.

Further information from pontesburylibrary.co.uk
FaceBook: Use Pontesbury Library
yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk

SEEDS
SUNFLOWER
Pontesbury

Well so much for the 'welcome to spring,' launch back in to Rhyme Time. It was snowed off! Let's give it another go for April, we will just expect April showers, but hopefully some sun in between.

There will be Easter craft for school children during the school holidays. We hope they will make some lovely flowers to brighten the junior area for spring.

The FoPL annual PLANT SALE will be on the 29th April. There will be plenty of gardening books on display to inspire you all to prepare for spring in the garden or allotment.

Shropshire library service offers digital support for residents who are 65+ - a 10-week course, assisted by local volunteers. Please speak to the library manager if you feel this would be of benefit to you.

Following my awareness day revelation from March. We have St Georges day and Shakespeare's Birthday on 23rd April, which is also World Book Night.

Happy Easter from The Library Owl





**Community
Good
Neighbours**
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

News & Events

100 Club - March 2023 Lucky Winners

£25	Dai Davies
£15	Kath Sherry
£10	Graham Bromley

14th April 2023 Coffee Morning

10:30am to 12:00pm - Plough Inn
All are welcome to come along.

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



In 2023, Pontesbury & Rea Valley District Community Good Neighbours are the local cause being supported by you, local members of the Co-op.

All you have to do is become a Co-op member, ask in store - it costs just £1. Every time members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, 2p for every pound spent goes to you and they give the same to support the local cause - US - the Community Good Neighbours Scheme.

So login into your Co-op members account, choose Pontesbury & Rea Valley District Community Good Neighbours as your local cause, and let's raise much needed funds together.

We rely wholly on donations and grant funding for our crucial work and you can make direct donations to our bank account:

Account No: 74008633 Sort Code: 51-61-06

Thank you so much

Coronation Luncheon Club

Friday 28th April 2023 -
12 noon in the Public Hall

**Ladies, it's time to keep
the date: 28th July 2023**

Prosecco & Afternoon tea
more details to follow



in memory of Wendy Beesley & Alan Hughes
raising money for Lindgen Davies & Little Rascals

A massive thank you to **The Atherton Trust** and the **Public Hall Committee** for providing funds to enable the Community Good Neighbours to purchase a Bain Marie for the Luncheon Club.

This large portable machine will help us deliver more hot meals for the Luncheon Club.

The Bain Marie will be stored in the Public Hall and is free for anyone to use for their events.

Do you have some spare time to help your community?

If you would like to volunteer OR you (or someone you know) would like a service, please leave a message on:

07944 891953

Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours need volunteers, if you can spare an hour a week to pick up prescriptions, have a chat over the phone or visit someone who is isolated, please call us on the number above, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you



**'A team of local
volunteers able to offer a
helping hand within the
community.'**

Pontesbury WI afternoon of fun

Pontesbury WI met on Monday the 13th of March. We were joined for the meeting by Yvette Openshaw our new WI adviser and we presented two charity cheques for £300 each. Shona Wood and Maxine Pittaway were thanked for organising fund raising activities to support our charity donations. Emma Wilde from Pontesbury Dementia Support Group said the £300. Would make a real difference to their Group, who regularly meet in the Pavilion to give both the Carers and the person with Dementia a time to relax, have fun and enjoy each other's company.

Janet Walsh Representing Friends of Pontesbury Library also received £300. Janet said how important having a library in Pontesbury is. However every year it becomes harder to raise much needed funds.

Pontesbury WI were pleased to support these worthy local groups.

Barbara Scott a WI member entertained us all with songs, craft and exercise. We all had to make a New Zealand Poi, which we then used to exercise with. We all had such fun ensuring we did not use the Poi in a dangerous manner.

Yvette judged our stem of the month competition. The winner was Mary Crowther. 2nd place Maxine Pittaway 3rd place Lena Rowson. Mary Crowther also won the monthly raffle.

A big thank you to our hostesses this month Lena Rowson, Joan Morris, Mary Crowther, Margaret Marsden and Barbara Scott. We all enjoyed lovely sausage rolls and cakes.

Pontesbury WI will have a Coronation Tea to celebrate Charles being crowned. The event will take place on Monday 15th of May at the event we will be entertained by Paul Rushworth a magician.

Our next meeting will be held on the 17th April where we will be holding a plant sale for both indoor and outdoor plants. If you would like to join the WI we meet on the second Monday afternoon of the month at Pontesbury Public Hall.

Please contact Irene Windows President on 01743 791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway Events Organiser



Raising Money for Lingen Davies Charity

My name is Jeanette Hamer, I have lived in Pontesbury all my life, and on Saturday 23rd April I will be running the London Marathon (my first ever Marathon) for the Lingen Davies Cancer Charity in memory of my brother-in-law Alan Hughes (Yozzer) who passed away last September. Fund-raising events are:-



Saturday 15th April at 7pm a live online raffle draw, more details will follow but we been lucky enough to have lots of amazing local businesses who have very kindly donated prizes.

If you'd like to know more details contact via Facebook or by my mobile number 07983 616892 - Thank you, Jeanette

Pontesbury Women's Club

Tuesday 11th April

The PWC AGM

Followed by an Easter Quiz with Eggs!

Tuesday 9th May

Herbal Health

A talk by Hannah Charman

PWC meets at 7.30pm on

The second Tuesday of the month

At Pontesbury Public Hall

Visitors and New Members are always welcome

JUST ONE THING to help SAVE the PLANET

Tip No. 13 Start Your Own Compost for the Garden

What do you do with your waste fruit and veg peelings, crushed egg shells, loose tea leaves, ground coffee? Make your own small compost heap! Find a relatively shady, under-used corner of the garden, put together a structure to contain your heap and begin with a few twigs to aerate the pile. Add grass cuttings, dried leaves and shredded newspaper. Regularly turn them over and top up with decomposable items, but not meat and dairy products. [see 10 easy steps from Country Living]



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

A Warm Welcome during the cold winter months there is a warm building open in the mornings where tea and coffee (and perhaps a little more) will be served. There is no charge for this and people are welcome to pop in for a short time or the whole session. Venues are open for this as follows:

Mondays 10-12 The Pavilion
Tuesdays 11-2 Pontesbury Baptist Church
Wednesdays 10-12 Congregational Church
Thursdays 10-12 St George's
Fridays 10-12 St George's

Any queries to Greg at rectorpontstip@gmail.com or 07902 794653 or to the venue in question



Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours

For Food Parcels, Pop-Up Larders, Luncheon Club and help with prescription deliveries:

Call: 07944 891953 for a confidential chat

St. George's Church www.st-george.org.uk

Services and activities for April 2023
 2nd Palm Sunday 10.30am
 4th 11am Explorer's 2.30pm Tea Service
 6.30pm Passover
 6th Maundy Thursday 6.30pm foot washing and vigil
 7th Good Friday 6.30pm Tenebrae
 9th Easter Day 10.30am Holy Communion
 16th 10.30am Holy Communion
 23rd 10.30am Holy Communion
 30th 10.30am Holy Communion

Pontesbury Congregational Church

Services for April

2nd April Palm Sunday at St. Georges
 6th April Maundy Thursday 7pm Joint Service at Minsterley
 7th April Good Friday 10.30am Joint Service at Marton
 9th April Easter Sunday 10 am Rev Debbie Martin, Communion
 16th April 10am Deacons
 24th April 10 am Rev. Debbie Martin
 30th April 10 am Rea Valley Congregational Churches joint Service

Rev. Debbie Martin

Wednesday 10- 12 Warm Space for all, coffee and fellowship

NB The Chapel will operate as a 'Warm Place' each Wednesday 10:00 -12:00

Methodist Services for April are as follows:

2nd April 10.30 am at St. Georges
 9th April 10.45 am with Rev. Richard Hall to inc. Holy Communion
 16th April 10.45 am with Mrs. Helen Pearson
 23rd April 10.45 am with Church Members
 30th April 2.30 pm at Wattlesborough Methodist Church

Rea Valley Congregational Churches

TABLE TOP SALE

In Aid of Christian Aid
 On Saturday 15th April
 10 am – 12 noon
 at the Pontesbury Congregational Church.
 Everyone welcome
 Why not raise money for your Club or Charity
 At the cost £10 per table.
 Contact Jane Wardropper
 790489 or
 janewardropper@btinternet.com
 for more information or to book a tablespace

St George's Church is

looking for a **new Web-master**. For further information please contact Greg Smith on 07902 794653 or at rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Pontesbury Baptist Church Chapel Street, SY5 0RJ www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

We have services twice every Sunday - at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm.
 Our services are open to *everyone*, so you don't have to book ahead or inform anyone you're coming. *There's no dress-code, please just come as you are. We have no set or reserved seats, you're welcome to sit wherever, and with whomever, you like.*
 In addition, every service is streamed live via our website, and recordings of previous sermons are available on our church website and our YouTube channel.

For more information about the wider work of our church, or if you want to get in touch with our Pastor Mike Wells, please use the following email address: info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk

A Warm Welcome at the HEAT HUB

Every Tuesday 11 – 2 pm
 Pontesbury Baptist Church
 Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

A warm welcome and a safe place this winter!

Hot drinks and refreshments free of charge / Free Wi-Fi / Games & Magazines / Children's toys / Easy Access / Toilets available

All welcome!
 More details at:
www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk



Saturday 15 April, 3-5 @ The Pavilion, Pontesbury, SY5 0RF

Join singing leader Mary Keith and local story teller Sal Tonge for an engaging, interactive afternoon of songs and stories to welcome in the spring. Mary and Sal have been leading these sell-out seasonal sessions in N Shropshire and are now heading south! Mary will help bring a spring zing to your vocal cords with gorgeous harmony songs, taught by ear, and Sal will tantalise your ear buds with terrific tarradiddles and tall tales!



£10, to include seasonal refreshments.



Contact yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk

Online payments to Friends of Pontesbury Library,

Lloyds Account 30-97-62 account no. 02573511.

Use your surname as ref.

FILM NIGHT...
at Habberley Village Hall
 Saturday 22nd April, doors open
 7.30pm for 8pm start!

Presenting...

The Baker
 Cert: 12A - 86 mins

“A Killer Comedy! Speciality Cakes Made to Order”

Admission: Adults: £6.50
Children: £3.00
 Pay on the door!

- INTERVAL
- Licensed bar
- Popcorn available

Enquiries: 07977 127161

A film starring: Damian Lewis, featuring Michael Gambon

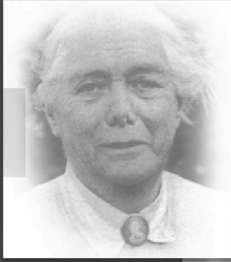
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED USED STAMPS!

I just wanted to drop you a quick message to thank everyone for your fantastic efforts collecting stamps to help Community Resource continue their work supporting people and communities facing difficulties.

Your wonderful support has helped people in Shrewsbury by:

- Making sure that people living with a physical disability stay connected with those around them who share similar experiences, via the Shrewsbury Musketeers and Maidens Group, which get together every Wednesday to enjoy activities including exercise classes, pottery, art, quizzes, games, numerous cups of tea, chatting and lots of laughter!
- Ensuring continuation of the Shrewsbury Care and Share programme which offers essential support to people with dementia and the family members who care for them. The Shrewsbury group meets at St Peter's Hall in Monkmoor on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. The group offers mutual support and understanding in a safe and comfortable place with like-minded people. They offer respite care, as well as physical and mental stimulation for the Dementia sufferer, helping to boost their wellbeing.
- Enabling the continued provision of the Hearing Loss Support hub, for those adjusting to wearing a hearing aid, at Shrewsbury Library on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Each attendee is provided with helpful information, any advice they may need, support, and practical help around the maintenance of their hearing aids. They can also be signposted to other services for more support that might be needed.
- Assisting in the smooth running of the Shrewsbury Sight Loss Opportunity Group (SLOG), which meets at St. Chads Church Hall on the 4th Monday of every month (Feb to Nov). This group offers all kinds of interesting and adventurous activities to encourage people with sight loss to keep active, meet and make new friends, stay confident, and have some fun. They also allow people with varying degrees of sight loss to come together to share lived experiences and problems they have encountered. This helps people to overcome any difficulties they are facing, as they feel supported and listened to.
- helping to facilitate the running of the Sight Loss Cycling Group, which meets at Sundorne Sports Village on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, to bring together people with varying degrees to sight loss to experience cycling. The sessions are led by a qualified cycle coach, who has experience working with people with sight loss. There is access to a number of adapted bikes, as well as tandems and tricycles - a bike for everyone. During winter, when it's too cold to cycle they often go crown green bowling or meet at the village for a coffee and a chat.

Thank you once again for faithfully saving all your used stamps and taking them to the box in the Post Office. It is a very worthwhile thing to do. Keep up the good work. The stamps raise a lot of money for local charities. With thanks, *Sheila Crowther.*



Aggie

The extraordinary story of Dame Agnes Hunt, founder of Oswestry's world-renowned Orthopaedic Hospital, told in her own words.

Performed by Alison Utting

With kind permission from Derwen College



Wed
2pm

learn, laugh, live

u3a

Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites both members and non-members to our next Open Meeting on Wednesday 19th April 2pm at Minsterley Parish Hall where Alison Utting will give a performance on the early life and personal experiences of the amazing Dame Agnes Hunt, or "Aggie" (31 Dec 1866 – 24 Jul 1948). Entrance is free and refreshments will be available.

Minsterley Parish Hall

Free

Refreshments available

u3a

Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome

Learning for fun and friendship, for the retired and semi-retired

Dame Agnes Hunt was a phenomenal woman. She established the practice of orthopaedic nursing and co-founded the world-renowned orthopaedic hospital at Oswestry. She also set up an award-winning specialist college to provide further education for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

Severely disabled herself, Agnes overcame huge obstacles in her mission to help others. Her indomitable personality and self-deprecating humour are woven through her remarkable autobiography, 'This Is My Life', which forms the basis of this 40-minute dramatic monologue written and presented by Alison Utting. The focus is Aggie's youth, training and personal life, rather than the history of the hospital and college.

This book, along with two other books about the history of the hospital - 'A Breath of Fresh Air' and 'Healing and Hope' - will be available for cash purchase at £10 if you wish. It is sold by the RJAH League of Friends and all proceeds will go to them.

The u3a promotes lifelong learning across a wide range of activities and subjects and which fosters friendship and fun, open to anyone who is older or retired or not in full-time employment. Website: u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley.

"Home computing made easier" courses to be run at the Pavilion by Greg from Shropshire Technology

After many requests, ShropTech is pleased to announce a new series of courses to improve your knowledge and confidence in using computers and the internet. With so many changes and updates to computers and their software it is often confusing to spot the right box to click in all the pop-up messages.

Greg will show you how to detect and avoid electronic scams which are now becoming much more common and more sophisticated. We will look at managing your files and keeping them safe with different types of back-ups.

The course will be run at the Pavilion and will start on Tuesday 25th April and Thursday 27th April. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your own laptop or one can be provided for the sessions at no extra cost. To keep the sessions friendly and safe there is a maximum number of 8 people per session.

Beginners on Tuesday mornings 10.30-12pm Topics covered: computer security – antivirus/antimalware programs, using email software / webmail, shopping online, word-processing, file management, backing up to a cloud, saving photos from a phone/tablet to a computer

Improvers on Thursday afternoons 1.30-3pm Will include: using additional antivirus/antimalware software to scan your computer and keep it in great order. Using spreadsheets to keep track of your finances and hobbies, editing photos and getting them ready to print – either online or taking them to a shop on a memory stick, solving connection issues with WiFi and printers and using web cams for video calling (zoom and teams)

Previously the courses have been run in recurring 8-week cycles with flexibility within each course to focus a little more on particular topics if the majority would like to. The courses are bookable in 4-week blocks at £80 per person for the 1st four sessions with an option to continue for the 2nd 4-week block.

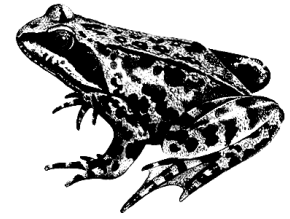
To book or for more information or if you are unsure which course would suit you best please contact Greg on 01743 790968 or email greg@shroptech.com

NATURAL ENGLAND - Notes from the hill

We have been seeing frog spawn on the hill since February, and with the warm weather it was probably earlier than usual. The frogs obviously didn't see the sudden dump of snow coming in March.

Common frogs hibernate through the winter, usually on land underneath rotting logs or in a pile of stones, although sometimes they can lie dormant at the bottom of ponds.

They breed in ponds and ditches during the spring but spend much of the rest of the year feeding in damp habitats such as woodland, gardens, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. They can be found all over the hill, even though there aren't many ponds for them to spawn in. Once you do discover a pond it is usually rammed full of their eggs laid in big clumps. This is very different from the toad that lays ribbons of spawn. At this time of year, they head to their spawning pools where they pair up so that the males can fertilise the eggs as they are produced by the female. Incredibly a female frog can lay as many as 4000 eggs in one spring. Once hatched the tadpoles take about 16 weeks to turn into little froglets that are ready to venture onto land.



The next two events on the hill are:

- The miners cottages at Blakemoorgate will be open on Easter Sunday from 11am to 3pm, so do drop in (no charge).
- We are also taking bookings for our Dawn Chorus guided walk by local naturalist Dave Pearce. Sunday 7th May 6am-8.30am with optional breakfast at the pub. To book email stipestonesevents@naturalengland.org.uk (Cost £7.50, not including breakfast). *Simon Cooter and Natural England staff at Rigmoores*

A BEAUTIFUL SPRING WALK FROM CRUCKMEOLE

Distance 3 1/2 miles. Time 1 1/2 hours. Delightful footpaths, or green lanes, great views, plenty waymarks and kissing gates.

From Cruckmeole Old School turn left along pavement in direction of Hanwood for 50m. Cross main road to kissing gate and footpath sign. Go across field to stile. Cross railway line and climb gently ahead up field, following hedge to your left. Over stile, again follow hedge on your left and fence on right to reach another stile which accesses golf course. Continue ahead and gently uphill through trees and follow signs until reaching post with many footpath signs on golf course. [As a check, look left and you will be in line with stile on side of Pound Lane]. Turn right along golf course aiming for tallest tree in 50m. From tree continue in same alignment aiming for stile at edge of golf course just beyond small fir tree. STOP 20m before stile for great panoramic view of the Parish and Breiddens. Over stile, turn 45 degrees right for 30m to reach far side of short line of hedgerow trees and follow downhill with trees on your left leading shortly to twisting path through rough grass and over stile in fence. Look ahead and aim across field on currently obvious path to gap left of small wood, where you turn right along field edge track to reach gate on right to enter lower golf course. Walk to left of small clump of trees on mound, through trees and bend left. In more open stretch go left of another mound and trees, reaching above a small pool where path bends right to follow on your left and below the old railway line. Exit golf course by gate and immediately left over railway bridge to follow lane through hamlet of Old Shorthill to reach main road.

With care cross over and follow left for short distance to first bend where turn right down lane which leads over Rea Brook, via footbridge and continue as lane bends left. Just before gate and driveway to house turn right uphill for short distance to kissing gate and follow left down wooden steps with handrail, turn right through floor of wood to kissing gate. Bear left over boggy depression, aim for isolated kissing gate in middle of field and then aim for kissing gate near Rea Brook which is at left end of fence marking field boundary. Through gate go diagonally across field aiming for left side of long low metal farm building. Go through kissing gate and turn right along lovely green lane. At top look back for splendid view. Through 2 kissing gates ahead go up field aiming for kissing gate to left of line of hedgerow trees. Through gate walk downhill close to hedge on your right. At bottom go through gate and turn right under railway bridge to follow rough lane for 600m to reach beautiful half timbered house and ford - lovely spot to linger. Soon reach road junction and turn right to reach starting point.

Pontesbury & District Gardeners Association

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon until the end of October.



Sunday 16th April 2-5pm. Garden open for National Garden Scheme - Plants for sale.

Chris and Bill Neil. Edge Villa, Edge, Yockleton SY5 9PY Home made teas. Admission £5, Child free.

Sunday 20th August 2-5pm. Garden open for National Garden Scheme -Plants for sale

Chris and Bill Neil. Edge Villa, Edge, Yockleton SY5 9PY Home made teas. Admission £5m Child free.

Next meeting of the **West Shropshire Flower Club** is on Wednesday 26th April 2023 – Club evening on Leaf manipulation. Meetings are at Westbury Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

Wildlife Gardening Club Welcomes New Members

Shropshire Nature Gardens Club, based near Pontesbury, are currently welcoming new members to join us for this year's season of wildlife garden visits, plant and seed swaps. Beginning in March and continuing right through the growing season, we meet up every month to explore one of our beautiful members' gardens. These garden visits are always full of inspiration, lots of lovely gardening chat and the chance to swap interesting plants and seeds with other Shropshire gardeners. This year, we have even more on offer, with special club discounts on Natural Gardening workshops and group visits to large visitor gardens both here in Shropshire and outside the county.



If you would like to join us, please visit the Natural Gardener website to find out more and to sign up.
www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk/nature-gardens-club

Natural Gardening Workshops

Find out how to create a buzzing wildlife garden with Natural Gardener Nancy Lowe this Spring. On the 18th April at 10-00-12.30, Nancy will be hosting a Gardening for Pollinators workshop in her home garden near Pontesbury, demonstrating how a range of gardening styles can be put to use in creating a welcome home to these vital insects.



This workshop will teach you how to see your garden like a pollinating insect. You will learn how to look at any garden and quickly be able to see how suitable it is for pollinating insects and where the areas for improvement may be. With Nancy's focus on teaching plant features, rather than lists of plant names, no prior plant knowledge is needed in order to come away feeling much more confident in choosing great plants for your garden.

With the plant ID and propagation techniques you'll have learnt on this workshop, **you will return home with all the knowledge and skills you need to fill your garden with a fantastic mix of plants that are** perfect for your visiting pollinators. Your own wildlife haven!

Sign up and find out more on Nancy's website:

www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk/learn



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Rea Valley Probus Club

2023 Meeting Dates:

12th April

Venue & Time:

Arcscott Golf Club at 1pm


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Trips (local coaches and pick-ups)

Saturday 8th April – Bletchley Park - £56 (students cheaper) inc ticket

Saturday 22nd April – Bury's famous market - £28

Saturday 13th May – Malvern Spring Garden Show, £56 inc ticket

Tours (local coaches and pick-ups)

4th June - 7 days – Northern Ireland, includes Giant's Causeway & Titanic, Belfast and much, much more

16th August – 4 days – Sidmouth, Exmouth – DB&B - £460

31st August – 5 days – Oban, Scotland - £625

APRIL 2023 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Every Tue	10-12am	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Wed Term-time only	10am to 12 noon	Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with cuppa	Pavilion
Every Thu	10-12am	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Sat 1 Apr	10.30am	Friends of Pontesbury Library Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Mon 3 Apr	6.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Thu 6 Apr	11am - 1pm	Get Creative Morning - Free with refreshments	Pavilion
Tue 11 Apr	7.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion
11 Apr to 31 May		Stories from the Hill Exhibition	Pavilion
Tue 11 Apr	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 12 Apr	1.00pm	Probus Club Meeting	Arcscott Golf Club
Fri 14 Apr	10.30- 12.00	Community Good Neigh- bours Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn
Sat 15 Apr	10-12 noon	Table Top Sale	Congregational Church
Sat 15 Apr	3-5pm	Songs & Stories for Spring	Pavilion
Sat 15 Apr	7pm	Online Raffle in aid of Lingen Davies Charity	Online
Sun 16 Apr	2-5pm	National Garden Open- Edge Villa,	Yockleton SY5 9PY
Mon 17 Apr	2pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Tue 18 Apr	10am - 12.30	Natural Gardeners Workshop, nr Pontesbury	www.thenaturalgarden.org.uk/learn
Wed 19 Apr	2pm	u3a talk early life and personal experiences of Dames Agnus Hunt	Minsterley Parish Hall
Thu 20 Apr	11am to 1pm	Get Creative Morning - Free with refreshments	Pavilion
Sat 22 Apr	10am - 1pm	Get Growing Event	Pavilion
Sat 22 Apr	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks film showing of 'The Baker' Doors Open at 7.30pm	Habberley Village Hall
Tue 25 Apr	1030 - 1230	Home Computing Made Easier - Beginners	Pavilion
Thu 27 Apr	1.30 - 3pm	Home Computing Made Easier - Improvers	Pavilion
Fri 28 Apr	10.30am	Carer's Coffee Morning - join us for free refresh- ments & expert help	Pavilion
Fri 28 Apr	12 noon	Good Neighbours Coronation Luncheon Club	Public Hall
Sat 29 Apr	10am - 1pm	FoPL Plant Sale	Pavilion

Get Growing!

**The Pavilion, Pontesbury
Saturday 22nd April**

10am -1pm

An event organised by Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

Activities include:

- Meet the Street Allotment guys and find out about community food growing
- Planting activities for kids and adults!
- Learn how to make compost with a Master Composter
- Garden Organic advice about what to grow, where and when
- Seeds and food plant seedlings to take away
- Tea, coffee and cake available





PLANT SALE

Saturday 29th April 2023
10am to 1.00pm
at Pontesbury Library

PLANTS, SEEDLINGS, BOOKS, CAKES



REFRESHMENTS
& TOMBOLA

Donations of plants, books, cakes and tombola prizes are most welcome during library opening hours and from 10am to 4pm on Friday 28th April (please leave outside if no-one is there). Plants can also be left from 9am to 10am on Saturday 29th April, the morning of the sale.
 Further information from pontesburylibrary.co.uk
 Facebook: Use Pontesbury Library
 yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk



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REMINDER: May Newsletter deadline is 10th April 2023, all info, dates, adverts & articles to
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