

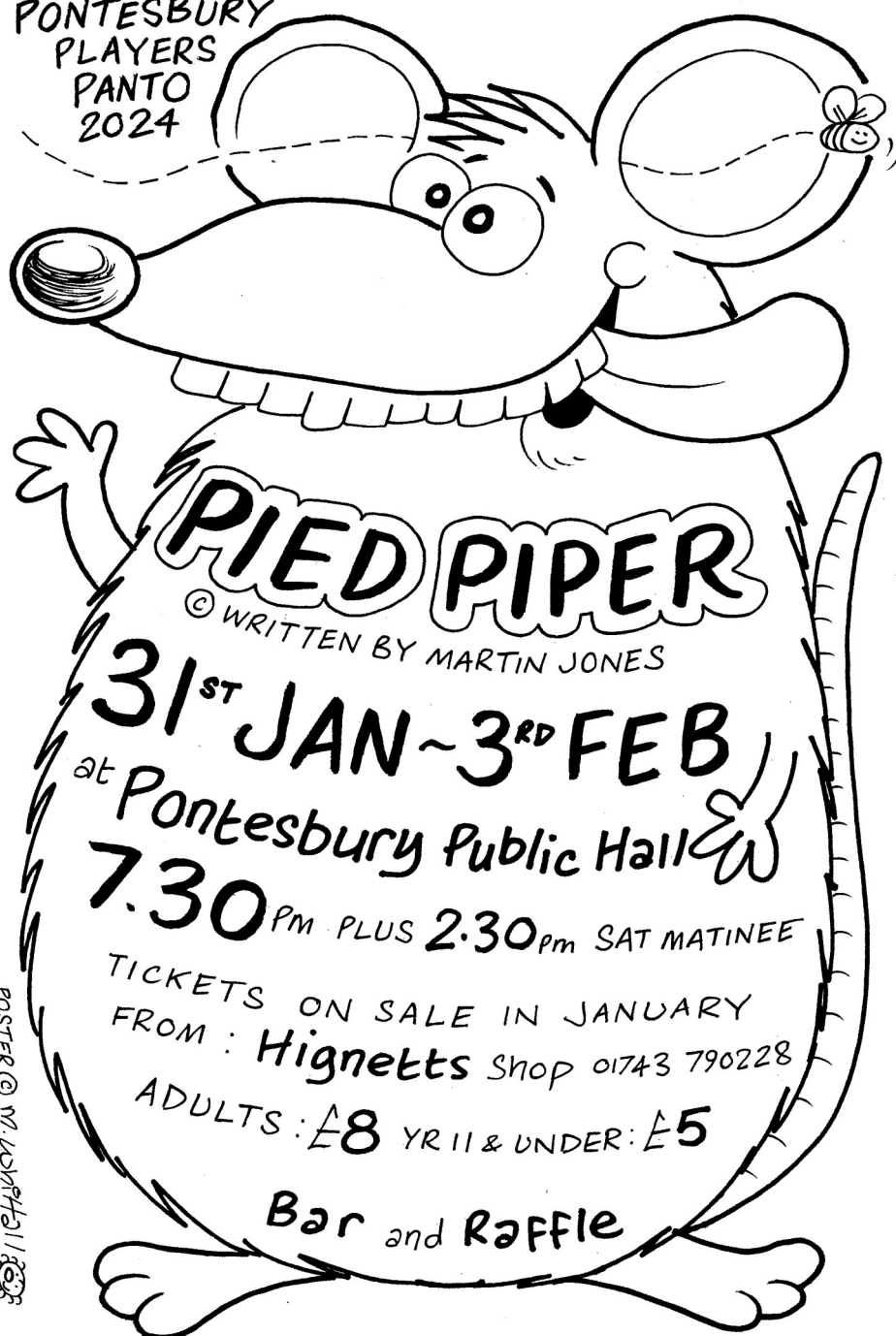
# Pontesbury Parish Newsletter



January 2024

Issue No: 304

PONTESBURY  
PLAYERS  
PANTO  
2024



**PIED PIPER**

© WRITTEN BY MARTIN JONES

**31<sup>ST</sup> JAN ~ 3<sup>RD</sup> FEB**

at Pontesbury Public Hall

**7.30 PM PLUS 2.30 PM SAT MATINEE**

TICKETS ON SALE IN JANUARY  
FROM : Hignetts Shop 01743 790228

ADULTS : £8 YR 11 & UNDER : £5

Bar and Raffle

POSTER © M. WINTHROP 2011



**Happy  
New  
Year  
2024**

People from outside the Parish are interested in what's going on in our vibrant villages, so please bring your newsletter back to the Pavilion to be reread. Many thanks

# Pontesbury Parish Council wishing you a very Happy New Year.

At the December council meeting the Councillors received an update about the proposed traffic calming measures in Pontesbury. There is to be a public meeting held on Monday 15th January, 6-7pm at The Pavilion, where residents can hear about the responses received to the consultation and an update on the plans. A Shropshire Council Highways Officer will be in attendance.

The council is still looking for local residents to get involved in various community initiatives below, please contact [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk) if you are interested in one or more of them. Thank you to the people that have put themselves forward so far. Meetings about the different initiatives will be held early in the New Year.

D-Day celebrations. The council is looking to organise something to commemorate D-day and is looking for local residents who would like to get involved in planning an event

The parish council have recently taken ownership of the green open spaces on the Hall Bank development. Various ideas have been put forward about how these areas could be developed to benefit wildlife and for community use. The council would like to hear from anyone in the parish of Pontesbury who would like to join a working group to take ideas forward.

The well-used play area off Station Road needs to be reviewed and equipment replaced. If you have skills/ interest in this area, please do get in touch.

The parish council approved a grant towards the building of a new community garden which is to be built near the Village Green behind Ark Nursery and The Pavilion. This is an exciting project to learn more about food growing in the community garden and also at home. If you are interested in getting more involved please contact the Parish Clerk.

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**Deadline for February edition is Friday Friday 12th January** - please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)

A grant was also awarded to Pontesbury Sports Association towards the continuing refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion. Councillors felt it was really important to support this well-used facility.

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 8th January 2024 at 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Hall Bank.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion.

Pontesbury Parish Council and the Pavilion re-opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

*Happy New year*

Pontesbury Library re-opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 after the festive season.



## Pontesbury Library

### Opening hours

Monday	10am -1pm	
Tuesday	10am -1pm	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday		2pm - 5pm
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10am -1pm	
Sunday	Closed	



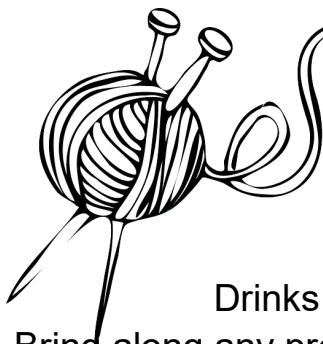


[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)  
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

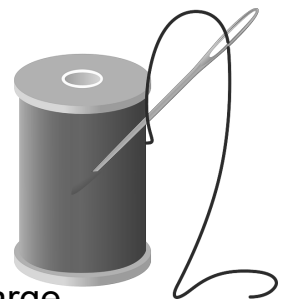


# the PAVILION

## Pavilion News January 2024 - What's On



We hope to see you at the  
**'Get Creative groups' on:**  
**Thursday 4th & 18th January 2024**  
**at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm**



Drinks and biscuits are provided and there is no charge.

Bring along any project you are working on and have a chat with fellow creators.

Everyone welcome.

**Pontesbury Carer's Support Group** meet on the last Friday of every month in the Pavilion - next meeting on Friday 26th January from 10.30am to 12 noon. Unpaid carers are welcome to attend and we aim to bring information you, the carer, wants to know about.

At the last group meeting in November 2023, we had an interactive music session. It was really appreciated and very much enjoyed by everyone, bringing much needed light relief to the carers and the music session especially seemed to help distract from the daily impact and stress of caring. The 'cared for' who attended the group also appreciated the music, especially those that usually find it difficult to join in easily due to memory issues, so this was really positive.

There were about 13 carers at the group, plus 4 'cared for' - this included 3 new carers. However everyone fully joined in the music session and they are all hoping to come again to the next group.

Music uses different parts of the brain from language, so can be used to communicate with people with dementia, even if they no longer speak or seem to understand others' words. As a result, it can help them express feelings and ideas and interact with others. It also reduces social isolation and encourages more physical activity through dancing or moving to the music. It appeared to help everyone connect with the group and allowed group members to try something different - hopefully learning that they may now use music at home to help themselves and person they support.

Adrian, the music leader took his time to emphasise how everyone can continue to use music at home to improve quality of life, not just for themselves but also for the person they support.

Thank you to Pontesbury Parish Council for providing the funds to pay for the Interactive Musician.

For more information please email [celia.mcintyre@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:celia.mcintyre@shropshire.gov.uk)



**Wednesdays 10-12am –**  
**Sea Change Trust Family Drop-in & Craft –**  
**FREE Term Time Only**

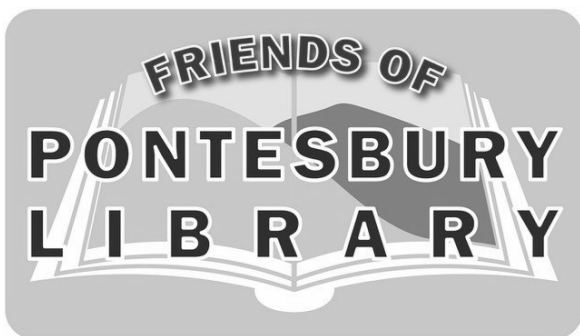


**Pontesbury Dementia Support Group**

Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

10th & 24th January @ 11.30am

For all Pavilion enquiries please contact Anna at: [admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk](mailto:admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk)



## News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

Our last coffee morning of 2023 was once again a very successful occasion. Congratulations to our lucky lottery winners:

1st Pat Hignett / 2nd Daphne Williams / 3rd Ken Jenks

On 15th December Andy 'Elvis' King gave us a fabulous evening of entertainment and a considerable boost to the FoPL funds. *[Pictured from left to right: Wendy-Jane Walton, Andy "Elvis" King, Yvonne Davies]*

The first coffee morning of 2024, on the 6th January, will coincide with 'Chip it for Charity', which this year is going to take place in the car park by very kind permission of The Ark Nursery. Ben Jones of Wood Matters will be there with his massive machine that shreds your shriveled tree into fine chippings, giving it another lease of life as useful mulch for the garden. A donation of £5 is suggested for each tree shredded, and all proceeds go to FoPL. You can bring your tree, get hot coffee and cake, and take away chippings for mulch, all in a single trip, between 10.00 - 12.00. No artificial trees or decorations please! **Ben will NOT be in Station Yard as he has been in previous years.**

The FoPL mini library has books to lend that have been purchased with our own funds and are not part of the Shropshire Libraries stock. We aim to carry current titles and bestsellers, and would welcome donations of good quality books that are no longer required – just bring them into the Library during opening hours or deposit in the returns box with a note saying 'donation'.



Happy New Year from us all at the Friends of Pontesbury Library.

### Chip it for Charity!

Turn your Christmas Tree into chippings and please make a donation to raise much needed funds for the Community Library in Pontesbury

**Saturday 6th January 2024**  
10.00am to 12.00noon  
**Ark Nursery Car Park, Hall Bank, Pontesbury**

Great for:

- Kindling
- the garden

Suggested donation £5

**FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY**

For more info. contact Ben: 07974 300328

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle

### Rhymetimes

Second Thursday of the month  
at 2pm- 2.45  
Songs and shakers!

The next Rhyme Time will be  
on Thursday  
11th January starting at 2pm.





Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

## News & Events

### January 2024

#### Future Events

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



#### Coffee Morning - Friday 12th January 2024

10:30am to 12:00pm - Plough Inn

All are welcome to come along.

#### Next Luncheon Club - Friday 26th January 2024

11.45am to 1.30pm - Public Hall

Two course lunch for £8 - tickets from Hignett's or coffee mornings at The Plough - entrance with Tickets Only please



A huge thank you to One Stop Pontesbury for donating two food hampers to families in Pontesbury.

Accepting the Parcels are Sharon Davies [left] from GNS & Little Dragons [right]

The aim of the Rea Valley Community Good Neighbour Scheme is to link a volunteer with a person who may be in need of a Good Neighbour volunteer for:

\* A friendly chat \* A phone call \* Doing small errands such as medication collection \* Support to stay active and connected within the community \* Sign posting to local support

**St. George's Church**  
**[www.st-george.org.uk](http://www.st-george.org.uk)**

**Services for January 2024**

2nd	2.30pm	Tea Service
7th	10:30 a	Holy Communion – Confirmation Service
14th	10:30 am	Holy Communion
21st	10:30 am	Holy Communion
28th	10.30am	Holy Communion
28th	7.00pm	Plough Service

**Pontesbury Congregational Church**  
**Services for January 2024**

7th January	10am	Deacons
14th January	10am	Rev. Debbie Martin
21st January	10am	Olwen Lethbridge
28th January		Rev. Debbie Martin

**Wednesdays 10.45 – 12 Noon**  
**Warm Space**

Tea and Coffee and Fellowship all are welcome



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH  
PONTESBURY INVITES YOU TO A  
PLOUGH SERVICE TO CELEBRATE  
AND PRAY FOR OUR FARMING  
COMMUNITY

28th January 2024 at 7pm

Come and hear stories of hopes, plans  
and challenges for the coming year from  
our farmers.

Service followed by a light supper.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**

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

We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm – where we sing hymns of worship, hear the Bible read, pray and listen as God's Word is preached.

Everyone of all ages is very welcome! You don't have to book ahead and there's no dress-code - please just come as you are. We run a creche for toddlers and a Sunday School for children under the age of 11 during our morning service.

If you'd like more information, please email:

[info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk](mailto:info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

In addition, every service is streamed live via our church website and recordings of previous sermons are available on the website and our YouTube channel.

**Methodist Services for January 2024**

7th January	10.45am	Rev. Brian Spencer
14th January	10.00am	at Minsterley Methodist
21st January	10.45am	Church Members
28th January	10.45am	Mr Wes Morris

*A Welcome  
Brew*

**COMMUNITY DROP-IN**

**Tuesdays 10.30am - 12pm**

A place to come along, grab a drink  
and have a chat. Free refreshments  
and activities.



All ages welcome





## THE REA VALLEY FOODBANK TEAM WISHES YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2024

As we continue to extend the work of the Foodbank, we welcome new VOLUNTEERS. If you would like to know more about volunteering then please contact::

Jon Newson 07973 209856 or email him at [jnewson@daimon-bs.co.uk](mailto:jnewson@daimon-bs.co.uk)

The Rea Valley Foodbank supports anyone unable to meet their food bills and will provide a weekly parcel of food and other essential household goods until financial circumstances improve. You need a referral to ensure that your parcel meets your needs, but it's really easy, just call

Greg 07902 794653 Richard 07922 830488

Alternatively, GP's and schools are able to make referrals

### DONATION APPEAL

As with every other Foodbank in the country, donations are getting less and less as everyone is affected by the high cost of food and energy. We desperately need in-date tinned and packet foodstuff, toiletries, cleaning products, pet food and nappies. If you are able to donate and can help us to help others in our community please drop off at the following venues.

Pontesbury Co-op – we are really grateful to both the Co-op and people who donate there. All donations which go into the Co-op bin are solely for our local Rea Valley Foodbank.

Hope and Worthen – we began our Community Aid Appeal in both Hope and Worthen village halls and it was well supported so we are continuing with the appeal into 2024. These are the darker months when many clients struggle so your support not only feeds the households that need assistance but it also sends a message that we care as a community. Members of our team will be there to receive donations on the following dates:

Hope Village Hall, 10 January 12.00 – 2.00pm

Worthen Village Hall, 17 January 8.30 – 11.00am

If you would like more information then please email [support@reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk](mailto:support@reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk)

**A Wonderful Night** Thank you to all the people who turned up to the Christmas bash on 8th December at Pontesbury's Public Hall, to everyone who brought raffle tickets and to all of you who made donations, either financial or to the raffle. The night was absolutely perfect, and we were so overwhelmed by the level of support shown to the event.

We must also give special thanks to Jenny's Catering and The Plough Inn Pontesbury, for helping the night run so smoothly and making sure everyone was properly watered and fed, and of course to The Ronaldos for making it such a fun night and putting on, as they always do, such an amazing show.

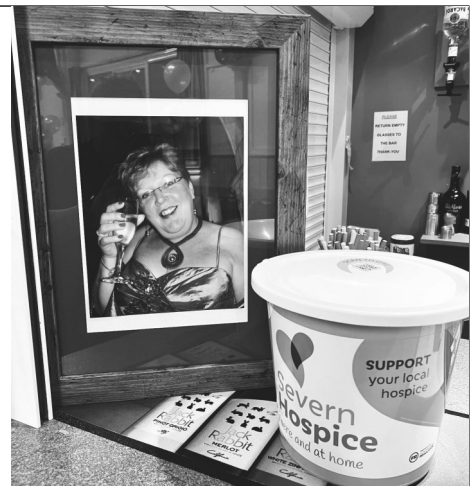
The event, titled Wend's Winter Wonderland, after Wendy Beesley who died last year from bowel cancer, raised a massive £2,700 for The Severn Hospice charity.

Severn Hospice gave Wend so much help in the last year of her life, she used the complementary therapy they offered such as reflexology, arts and crafts and singing groups. She made good friends with others who were going through exactly the same as she was and she would meet up with them for a chat in the wonderful coffee shop they have at the centre. They even offer bereavement counselling for the families who have lost a loved one.

We think it's fair to say it was a night enjoyed by everyone, which raised money that will go towards helping other people and their families, like us, in their time of need.

Thanks again. We hope you had a happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2024.

The Beesley Family





Happy New Year and all the best for 2024  
from **Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a!**

When I did this last year I suggested that for some of the newsletter readers, a good new year's resolution would be to join our wonderful organisation. I'm delighted to report that many of you did just that and our membership has just tipped over the 200 mark – a significant increase on last year.

The u3a is for the retired or semi-retired (or even those of you thinking about retirement and have the time) who want to continue learning, developing skills and socialising amongst like-minded individuals in their community. There are no exams and we learn together – when you join, we like to think you will make an active contribution to the running and development of the organisation and/or the groups you join.

Our u3a has over 20 different interest groups, with several more in the pipeline.

And if we don't have what you fancy, a new group could most likely be organised if there is sufficient interest. We also hold monthly Open Meetings with visiting speakers.

Our u3a community is more than just groups though. Real friendships and support networks have developed and there really is something for everyone. Information about us is available at The Pavilion in Pontesbury and on our website ([u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/welcome](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/welcome)).

So, forgive me for repeating myself, but why not add 'joining the u3a' to your new year resolutions. You can come along to a "taster session" or Open Meeting. Or send an email to our membership secretary, Steve Anderson ([steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com)), or myself ([japa.walsh1@btinternet.com](mailto:japa.walsh1@btinternet.com)) if you want to find out a bit more about us.

**Janet Walsh (Chair)**

## Make the most of life, join our u3a

Our u3a is part of a worldwide charity where retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun and friendship:

- 20 plus interest groups in our local u3a; something for everyone
- start at any level
- a warm welcome
- new groups are formed when sufficient members express interest



Art History



Cycling



History



Photography



Table Tennis 3  
(Pontesbury)



Astronomy



Family History



Italian



Pickleball



Walking (long)



Badminton



Folk Music



Literature



Classical  
music



Walking (short)



Café Society



Gardening



Local History



Table Tennis 1  
(Pontesbury)



Creative  
writing



Geology



Painting &  
Drawing



Table Tennis 2  
(Minsterley)



**learn, laugh, live**

**Contact**

Steve Anderson

[steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com)

07861 531 186

[u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley)



**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



## Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury WI has had a very busy time since our last meeting in November for our Craft Fair. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had our craft club on 21st November where we started making material hearts for our contribution to St George's Church Christmas tree festival. The theme being Love so it was very appropriate that every WI member made a heart for the display on our tree.



At our craft club held on 5th December we made Christmas Wreaths, as well as having a stall in the Plough Christmas Market which was very busy. Our meeting on 11th December was the Christmas celebration, with guest entertainer Foley Gabriela, we even sang Jerusalem with Gabriela's ukulele, that was a first. We had a wonderful time singing Christmas songs and Gabriela certainly knew how to make everyone happy with music and laughter. During the event we had a Christmas Quiz, the winner was Rosemary Robinson who also won the Christmas raffle.

Our main competition to make a Christmas table decoration was won by Lena Rowson. We enjoyed a lovely buffet and a Christmas cake made by one of our members. In all we had an excellent afternoon as well as making time for our formal meeting!

The 2024 programme was distributed with many excellent guest speakers booked. We are a busy active club who enjoy many activities and outings.

Our WI meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 2pm at Pontesbury Public Hall. Our next meeting will be on 15th January with Graham Kerr talking about Singapore. The WI craft club is held on the 3rd Tuesday, 10am to 1pm, at The Cock Inn, Hanwood, with the next session on 16th January 2024.

Please contact Irene Windows President on 01743791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway. Events Organiser.

### Pontesbury Women's Club

If you would like an entertaining  
Tuesday evening

After New Year  
**Tuesday 9th January**  
A Fish 'n Chip Supper  
With 'Show & Tell'

**Tuesday 13th February**  
Michelle Luter will demonstrate how  
she produces her beautiful glass  
designs

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

**West Shropshire Flower Club** The flower club had a real treat at its Christmas Demonstration in December with the fabulous Mark Entwistle, and his Believe in Christmas demonstration. He started with a bang, a huge red tropical Christmas arrangement with a Heliconia, an eye watering number of Aranthera orchid stems, Alpinia ginger flowers and anthuriums. He then went on to show that a Christmas arrangement can be made in any colour. Floating above a cloud of low gypsophila were delicate orange Heliconia, with orange sprayed birch twigs, orange mini gerbera and mokara orchids lower still. To add that Christmas feel white and metallic orange baubles elevated on sticks within the arrangement. His 'traditional Christmas arrangement' had white delphiniums bursting star like and purple carnations kept long for impact and

colour giving space and volume in the arrangement, finished with white Singapore orchids. Next Christmas design, pink lilies flowed through the upright design, with spray roses and hypericum berries to give contrasting shapes, cerise Singapore orchids, gold Pennisetum grass on a stand with pink baubles and a matching wreath. Then to more traditional Christmas Red, within the traditional Christmas foliage of ivy, holly and conifer, were gorgeous red gerberas, gold anthuriums and red birch twigs. For his final design he went contemporary country house arrangement, everything was grouped to provide a stronger feature, white snapdragons, green chrysanthemums, white carnations and Singapore orchids and softened with balls of white hydrangea. Most of these arrangements were accompanied by additional matching placements, which resulted in the stage being packed full of wonderful flowers by the end of the evening and much anticipation for the raffle!

Meetings are at Westbury Village Hall starting at 7.30pm, visitors welcome.

The next meeting of the West Shropshire Flower Club is on 24th January Kathleen Russell- Out of the attic.

Following 2024 meetings are:

28th February – Dorothy Monks – As you like it.

27th March – Club evening – Pavé design

February 2024 Newsletter deadline is Friday 12th January 2024, all info to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)

## Pontesbury Primary School

The children of Pontesbury CE Primary School enjoyed celebrating Christmas this year. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils performed 'Christmas with the Aliens' which was out of this world! Key Stage 2 held a carol service at St George's Church and retold the nativity story alongside some singing of traditional carols.

School has been busy with other lovely Christmas activities - we held a House Day, where the whole school mixed up the age groups to make Christmas Decorations, wore Christmas jumpers and had a delicious Christmas dinner cooked by our wonderful kitchen team. On the last day of term, we all went to the church for a Christmas service led by Reverend Greg.

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year.



Photo: The reindeer display created by children and staff at our After-School Club.

**PONTESBURY SPORTS ASSOCIATION** On Saturday 13th April the Pontesbury Sports Association will be hosting an open day to show off all the work that has been carried out to the building over the last few months.

It will be a time to celebrate all the Sports that are on offer in our Community Cricket, Football, Rounders & Bowls.

The plan is to showcase all of the above sports allowing people to take part – there will be a rapid Rounders Tournament consisting of teams made up of 5 Women and 5 Men from the age of 12 upwards playing in a knockout tournament.

The Bowling Green will be open and the Bowlers will be looking for new recruits, Ladies and Mens Cricket will be organising something along with the footballers.

There will be a Bar, Barbeque and Music.

Put the date in your diary – more details to follow.

### Pontesbury Thursday Night Badminton Club

Pontesbury Thursday Night Badminton Club are looking for a few new members to join us. We play at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on Thursday nights between 7pm and 9pm.

We accept anyone of 18 years old or older and any playing standard. The cost is currently £15 per month or £5 per week for a 3 week trial period. If you have any queries then please let me know.

If you are interested in playing then please email [naoakley01@gmail.com](mailto:naoakley01@gmail.com) or call 07821643685 for further information.

### Worthen Juniors Men's

#### Football Fixtures below:

7th January Away Vs Weston Rhyn

14th January TBC

21st January Away Vs The Harries

28th January Home Vs Crown AFC (Cup)

4th February Home Vs Cross Foxes

11th February Away Vs Wem Athletic

**All games 10:30 kick off.**

### Rea Valley Probus Club - meeting dates in 2024

All meetings are at Arscott Golf Club, on the second Wednesday of each month, at 1pm.

10 January 2024	10 July 2024
14 February 2024	14 August 2024
13 March 2024	11 September 2024
10 April 2024	9 October 2024
8 May 2024	13 November 2024
12 June 2024	11 December 2024

**TAI CHI** - The Tai Chi class in Pontesbury Public Hall is at 2.00 pm every Tuesday. The class starts again on Tuesday 9 January 2024. Do come along and join us at any time. We stop for a cup of tea and a chat at around 3pm, and then continue until four. Anyone is welcome - especially those who came once or twice and then gave up - and, of course, any newcomers.

## NATURAL ENGLAND Notes from the Hill

The hill is still very wet after such a wet run up to Christmas, however the damage to the tracks in Perkins Beach caused by storm Babet have now been repaired and are open again. If visiting the reserve over the Christmas break listen out for red grouse, as they start to become more vocal as the days lengthen.

The Stepping Stones project has been working on restoring habitat connections across the area for nine years now. During that time, it has worked with farmers to create whole farm plans that look at the farm business whilst also looking at the potential for conservation improvements. It has helped community wildlife groups in the area develop and has led a host of volunteers in a range of conservation projects. For me, one of the best outcomes from the project has been seeing community volunteers and farmers coming together through tree and hedge planting days.

The project focuses on five key habitats: heath and acid grassland, where the Stiperstones and Long Mynd have the largest areas; native woodlands including upland oak woodlands; ffridd, which is the scrubby wooded hillsides which are generally an undervalued wildlife rich habitat; wildlife friendly wetlands such as marshy areas, wet woodland, streams and rivers; grasslands, after we have lost so many of these flower rich sites.

To promote the restoration and best management of these five habitats the project has listed a number of important species as flagships for each of them and to start with it has chosen 12 species and produced conservation action plans for each of them:

Dipper / Willow tit / Snipe / Tree pipit / Small pearl-bordered fritillary / Bilberry bumblebee / Upland dragonflies / Dormouse / Otter / Cowberry / Devil's bit scabious / Yellow mountain pansy

Each species has a species champion who will help push forward some of the actions identified in the plans.

On Friday the 23rd of February at Norbury Village Hall, there will be a conference where you can meet the species champions, hear about these exciting creatures, and find out what you could do to help, not only with the conservation of these species but the habitats that they represent.

Details on how to book will soon be available, so look out for posters or check out the National Trust Stepping Stones webpage

*Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak*



Middle  
Marches  
Community  
Land Trust

## SAVE OUR MINSTERLEY MEADOWS

**PUBLIC MEETING: SATURDAY 6 JANUARY 2024**  
**MINSTERLEY VILLAGE HALL, 10AM TO 12 NOON**

Join us for a public meeting to gauge interest amongst the local community for a fund-raising appeal to purchase this important site as a community asset forever.

Minsterley Meadows consists of two flower-rich hayfields (around 13.5 acres in all) on the eastern outskirts of Minsterley just off Callow Lane. They are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England for their important plants.

Alongside a range of meadow plants is the striking feature of thousands of rare Green-winged Orchids which flower in late May - the largest Green-winged Orchid site in Shropshire.

The hedges are thick and full of birdlife and there are several large old oak trees on the boundaries which form a corridor through to Callow Hill woods, hillfort and quarry.

More information about the site can be found here:

[Estate agent details](#) (Roger Parry)  
[Natural England designation](#)

Marches Meadow Group

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**10.00am to 12.00noon**  
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Suggested donation £5

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Portland Financial Planning offers advice on a full range of services from savings and investments, inheritance tax, pension and retirement advice to later life and long-term care planning. We offer prospective clients, a free, one hour initial consultation where we explore their requirements and assess how we may assist them in meeting their financial aims.


Over the years we have gained many loyal clients who have greatly valued our open honest advice. As a nation we can be guilty of being reluctant to talk about money, we need to overcome this if we are to provide ourselves with all the knowledge and means to ensure a financially secure future.

Knowledge is power, don't listen to hearsay and gossip talk to the people who know the facts!

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# **JANUARY 2024 DIARY**

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Every Tue	10am to 1200	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30am-1200	A Welcome Brew	Baptist Church
Every Tue	2pm	Tai Chi - restarts on 9th January 2024	Public Hall
Every Wed	1000-1200	Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with refreshments	Pavilion - Term-time only
Every Thu	1000-1200	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Every Thu	7-9pm	Badminton Club	Mary Webb School
Every Fri	1000	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
<b>Tue 2nd Jan</b>	6.30pm	Pontesbury Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Thu 4th & 18th Jan	1100	Get Creative Group - free, refreshments provided	Pavilion
Sat 6th Jan	1030-1230	FoPL Coffee Mornings	Pavilion / Library
Sat 6th Jan	1000-1200	Chip It For Charity	The Ark Nursery Car Park
Sat 6th Jan	1000- 1200	Save Our Minsterley Meadows Public Meeting	Minsterley Village Hall
Mon 8th Jan	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion
Tue 9th Jan	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 10th Jan	1pm	Rea Valley Probus Club	Arscott Golf Club
Thu 11th Jan	2pm	Rhyme Time	Pavilion / Library
Fri 12th Jan	1030-1200	Good Neighbour's Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn
Mon 15th Jan	2pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Friday 26th Jan	10,30 - 1200	Pontesbury Carer's Support Group	Pavilion
Fri 26th Jan	1145- 1300	Good Neighbour's Luncheon Club	Public Hall
Wed 24th Jan	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club	Westbury Village Hall
Sun 28th Jan	7pm	Plough Service	St George's Church
<b>31st Jan 2024 to 3rd Feb 2024</b>	Various times	<b>PONTESBURY PLAYERS PANTOMIME - PIED PIPER Oh Yes It Is!!</b> Please see front page for ticket info and times.	Public Hall

Closing Date for submissions for February 2024 edition of Pontesbury Parish Newsletter is Friday 12th January 2024. Please send all articles to [deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk).

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