

# Pontesbury Parish Newsletter

June 2024

Issue No: 309



**6th June 2024:  
80th anniversary of  
D-Day and the start of  
the Battle of Normandy**

Picture & information  
courtesy of RBL

Early on 6th June 1944 off the coast of German-occupied France, lay an armada of more than 7,000 naval vessels.

Above them in the skies that day, would pass thousands of aircraft on more than 14,000 sorties, bombing targets and dropping or landing some 24,000 airborne personnel behind enemy lines. Their mission: to capture key bridges, neutralise coastal batteries and secure vital roads ahead of the main landings.

## **Royal British Legion D-Day 80 - Commemoration Events**

RBL are marking the 80th anniversary with events in the UK and Normandy on 5th and 6th June 2024, as well as with community events around the UK.

Normandy veterans, families of the fallen, descendants of Normandy veterans, and members of the public are invited to join in commemorating D-Day 80.

Pontesbury will be commemorating and you are invited to join in locally with the following events:

Thursday 6th June 2024

- 1.30pm Schools planting time-capsules remembering the 80 years commemoration and providing their ideas for the future.
- 6.30pm National church bell-ringing with the Flag of Peace flying over Pontesbury
- 9.15pm St George's Church, Pontesbury, will have its floodlights turned to the sky as a national beacon of light is lit all around the country.

**Coloured copies of the newsletter can be read online  
[www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk/pontesbury-newsletter](http://www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk/pontesbury-newsletter)**

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

**Pontesbury Parish Council** The May parish council meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Councillors received the Parish Council Annual Report for 2023-24 which is included on the middle pages of this newsletter for everyone to read, highlighting all the important work that has been taking place throughout the last year. Cllr Duncan Fletcher was re-elected as Chair of the Parish Council and Cllrs Michelle Trow (Cruckton ward) and Nick Hignett (Pontesbury Ward) were re-elected as Vice-Chairs.

One of the decisions the council made was to reduce the number of newsletters to 10 per year with a bumper edition for December and January events in order to avoid the problems/delays with trying to print an edition over the Christmas shutdown period. Councillors stressed that this bumper edition will include all of the important January events in the parish, not just focus on Christmas. A budget was set for D-Day celebrations happening locally – more information on the front page of this newsletter. Councillors also heard about some distressing anti-social behaviour in the bus shelter at the top of Hall Bank. Looking at options for tackling this will be on the June council agenda. If you witness any anti-social behaviour locally, please do report the incident to the local policing team or call 101 and also contact the parish council so that these issues can be discussed and action taken.

There is a vacancy on the parish council for the Pontesbury Ward and if you are interested, please get in touch with the Clerk – [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk) or call 01691 661157 for more information.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 10th June, 7.30pm at Cruckton Village Hall.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 3rd June at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto: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 or pass your comments through Cllr A Hodges at [ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk). All new planning applications for the area are listed on the parish council website.

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## COMING SOON! RESIDENT'S SURVEYS IN CRUCKTON, CRUCKMEOLE AND POUND LANE

Pontesbury Parish Council, in response to requests from local residents, are working to tackle speeding in the lanes around Cruckton, Cruckmeole and Pound Lane.

Firstly the parish council will conduct a resident's survey to gauge support for their proposals to introduce a 30mph speed limit between Cruckmeole and Cruckton, along with restrictions for HGVs using this road. The parish council is also looking at Quiet Lane status for Pound Lane and Shorthill.

Finally the council are considering a request for a 40mph limit on the Montgomery road in the parish. Councillors will be delivering a brief questionnaire to local residents at the beginning of June. There is also an opportunity for you to come along to the parish council meeting at Cruckton Village Hall on 10th June at 7.30pm to discuss these proposals.

**Rea Valley Probus Club – 2024 meeting dates:** All meetings are at Arscott Golf Club, on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. For further information and contact details please visit our website, [reavalleyprobus.org.uk](http://reavalleyprobus.org.uk)

12 June 2024	10 July 2024
4 August 2024	11 September 2024



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

**at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on  
Thursday 6th & 20th June 2024**



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 Carers Support Group**

**Friday 14th June 10.30 -12 at Pontesbury Pavilion**

Celebrating Carers Week and all that unpaid carers contribute to families and communities across the UK You are invited to a special event for carers and for the person you care for if you want to come together. Join us for music and song when we will be going back to the 60's when music was at its best, and we will be singing along to The Beatles, Cliff Richard, The Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly and maybe even a bit of Country. There's such a wide choice to choose from.

If you're feeling up to it, there'll be opportunity to have a dance and show us your moves. Bring your singing voice and your dancing shoes.

**We look forward to seeing you all there - Refreshments included.**

For more information contact Shropshire Carers Support Team : 01743 341995  
Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk

## **Friday 28th June Carers Group**

Join us in a relaxed and informal meeting where we share information and chat with a cuppa and cake.

We will also have a visit from Lynne Cawley, CEO Healthwatch Shropshire and herself a carer - to speak to us about the role of our local Health and Social Care Watchdog.



**Pontesbury Dementia  
Support Group**

**Alternate Wednesdays in  
the Pavilion**

**12th & 26th June**

## **Pontesbury Library News**

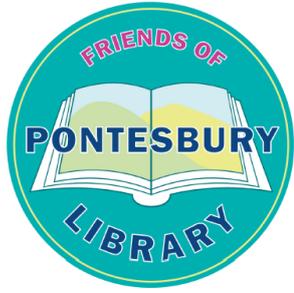
It's the time of the year when we start planning for the school holidays. The Summer Reading Challenge guides us towards our activities. This year "Marvellous Makers" celebrates children's creativity. We will be preparing some craft ideas in the library. The sign up will be at the beginning of July, so come along and join the library now. To get ready and find out more about it, scan this code and look at the website:



If you have holidays planned for June, we always have a small selection of preloved paperbacks for sale to squeeze into your suitcase. A bargain at 50p! When I've finished mine, I leave them for someone else to enjoy, usually checking the mini library to see if my choice was popular, and of course tidy the shelves.

Rhyme time will be Thursday 13th June at 2pm.





# News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

**A big thank you to all who helped make the FOPL Plant sale on Saturday 4th May such a success -** to everyone who kindly donated plants, books, cakes and tombola prizes, to all the volunteers who prepared on Friday and manned stalls and served refreshments on Saturday, and to everyone who came and participated. It was a grand day – luckily no rain! - and the money made will go to support the library. This is specially important at this anxious time, as we wait to hear what cuts Shropshire Council may find it necessary to make to libraries. (Consultation is now taking place over the future of school library service – go to [change.org](http://change.org) Save Shropshire School's Library service to find out more.)

The Library lottery was drawn and the lucky winners were Helen Critchley, Simon Tune and Christine Moore.

**FOPL AGM** - We would like to welcome as many members as possible to the AGM which is on Thursday 20th June at 6.30pm in Pontesbury Community Hub & Library, The Pavilion, Pontesbury. Drinks and nibbles will be served and our local band 'Tin Soldiers' will entertain with music and chat. Non-members welcome too!

**Next Coffee Morning** As usual, there will be a coffee morning with delicious cakes on Saturday 1st June at 10am in the Pavilion, when the lottery will be drawn. Lottery tickets cost a minimum of £1 a month.



Tombola Time



& of course PLANTS!!



..... not just plants - scrummy cakes too



& more books!



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

#### Coffee Morning - Friday 14th June 2024

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

All are welcome to come along.

**Gentleman's Club** Play cards, read the paper and catch up with other men. Call Rob Davies on 07720 010353 for more info.

#### Schoolboy Callum runs 140 miles in memory of sister Poppet

A Shropshire schoolboy has taken on a 140-mile running challenge in memory of the sister he never had the chance to meet.

Callum Hilditch of Halfway House, near Shrewsbury, is running the distance from Hope House children's hospice, near Oswestry, to Tŷ Gobaith in Conwy, and back, over three months – a total distance of 140 miles. So far, he's covered more than half the distance and is on track to raise £400 for the charity which supports children with life-threatening conditions and their families.



Callum, aged 14, is a Year Nine pupil at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury. He has no previous running experience. However, he was keen to take on the feat to recognise how the hospice supported his mum after the loss of his unborn sister, who he named Poppet.

His Mum Jessica said: "Callum's been running four miles, three times a week, through some miserable weather. I'm so proud of him.

"Hope House is very personal to me. I gave birth to a sleeping baby in 2015 when Callum was just eight years old.

"The counselling I received from Hope House helped me through an incredibly tough time.

"At my 20-week scan, it was shown that my baby had two rare conditions that affected her heart and development. I lost her when I was 28 weeks pregnant on 12th March 2015."

The counselling support at Hope House helped Jessica through the grief of losing her daughter, who was named Poppet by brother Callum.

"The grief of losing my unborn baby was horrendous and finding a counsellor who I felt comfortable with and could talk to freely had a major impact on getting my life back," she said. Jessica has taken part in previous charity events for Hope House.

She said: "I wanted to give something back to Hope House. If Poppet had been born she would probably have also needed Hope House's services. I wanted to give back to other families who need the hospice's support."

Callum, who is better known for his drumming and tap-dancing skills, has been logging his runs on running app Strava. He can also use the charity challenge as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Hope House area fundraiser Bekki Fardoe said: "We are grateful to Callum and his family for their support. We're enjoying following his progress on his Facebook page and are so impressed with his running and fundraising efforts. Hopefully he'll be able to enjoy running in some drier spring weather before he completes his challenge next month.

"Personal fundraising challenges like Callum's mean the world to us, and without them we wouldn't be here for the local families that really need us."

If you can help sponsor Callum in his challenge then please visit

[www.hopehouse.org.uk/callums-memory-run](http://www.hopehouse.org.uk/callums-memory-run)



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



Services and activities for June 2024

2nd 10.30am All Age Worship  
4th 2.30pm Tea Service  
9th 10.30am Morning Worship with  
Hymns and Children's Church  
16th 10.30am Holy Communion & Children's  
Church  
23rd 10.30am Holy Communion  
30th 10.30am Group Service Habberley

**Pontesbury Congregational Church**

Services for June 2024

Sunday 2nd June 10am Church Anniversary  
Service Elizabeth Burns  
Sunday 9th June 10am Rev Debbie Martin  
Sunday 16th June 10am. Howard Robinson  
Sunday 23rd June 10am Rev Debbie Martin  
Sunday 30th June 2.30pm Anniversary  
Songs of Praise at Marton Congregational  
Church

**Wednesday 10.30 - 12**  
**Coffee and Chat and Fellowship**  
**All Welcome**

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**

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

We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30am and 6:30pm – 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 aged 11 and under during our morning service.

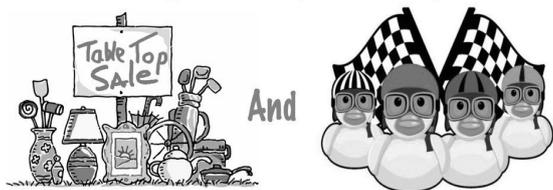
In addition, every service is streamed live via our church website, and recordings of previous sermons are available on the website and our YouTube channel.

If you'd like more information, please email:  
[info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk](mailto:info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

**The Methodist Services for the June 2024 are:**

2nd June with Church Members  
9th June with Mrs Helen Pearson  
16th June with Mr Mike Hallworth inc Holy  
Communion  
23rd June with Mr Alan Priestley  
30th June with Rev Richard Hall

**St George's Church, Pontesbury**



**Saturday 1st June**

**Table Top Sale 10am - 12pm**  
**and Duck Race**  
**(£1 each, race at 12pm)**

**Refreshments will be served**

Book a table for £10 from Mary Worrall 01743 791069

**St George's Church, Pontesbury**

**July 22nd - 26th**

**Holiday Club for Primary School Age**

**Craft, stories,**

**Songs and activities**

**Cost £25 for 5 sessions**

**Booking forms from**

**Pontesbury Primary School,**

**or Mary on 01743 791069**

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**

**Chapel Street, Pontesbury**

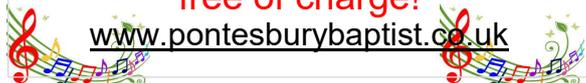
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 6:30 pm**

**Discover the extraordinary  
stories behind the hymns!**

with Pastor Mike Wells

**Light refreshments served  
free of charge!**

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



**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



**Welcome to  
The Coffee Stop**



**Fridays, 10 - 12 Noon**

**St George's Church  
Pontesbury**



June  
**19**

Wednesday 2pm  
**Minsterley Parish Hall**  
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH  
*Refreshments available*  
*Free entrance*

# HOW WOMEN PIONEERED THE GUITAR



Presented  
by  
**Marko  
Ivanovic**

**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

learn,  
laugh,  
live

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites members & non-members to the 19th June Open Meeting, where our speaker is charismatic musician and u3a member, **Marko Ivanovic**, talking on **How Women Pioneered The Guitar**.

The guitar is the most popular instrument in the world today. It is also the instrument which changed the world. But most people are not aware that it was women who pioneered the guitar. Marko will tell the fascinating story of these women and the history of the guitar. A talk not to be missed!

Afterwards, there will be the chance to chat with u3a friends over coffee/tea and biscuits.

Our u3a is a UK charity which helps retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun, with over 20 interest groups.

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

*Bizet's*  
**Carmen**  
*A concert performance of highlights*

THE MARCHES CHOIR  
Singing our hearts out

**MARCHES CHOIR**  
Directed by Alistair Auld

**WALCOT HALL  
BALLROOM**  
Lydbury North SY7 8AZ  
**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>  
JUNE at 7.30pm**

TICKETS £15 (children and students free)  
on 07779 314609 or online from TicketSource

[www.marcheschoir.org.uk](http://www.marcheschoir.org.uk)

## Marches Choir sings Carmen!

On Sunday 30th June, the Marches Choir, together with opera singers from Aberystwyth, will present a concert performance of excerpts from Georges Bizet's 'Carmen' in the ballroom at Walcot Hall, Lydbury North.

Carmen is one of the most popular operas in the classical opera repertoire, with Habanera and Seguidilla, the Flower Song and the Toreador Song being among the best known and loved of all operatic arias. The opera is full of exuberant melodies, with emotions running high, thanks to its depiction of love, obsession, jealousy and pride. Because of the musical stature of Carmen, the opera stands out as an obvious choice for concert performance. Unlike previous Opera galas given by the Marches Choir, where numerous extracts from several operas were performed, this year they will present a one-opera evening. The performance will have a narrative thread, following the intriguing story of Carmen, with all the main musical highlights. The roles of the fiery gypsy Carmen, the jealous lover Don Jose and the proud matador Escamillo will take centre stage with the choir, to bring the story to life.

This thrilling opera with its sparkling music will be set in the magnificent surroundings of Walcot Hall Ballroom, a perfect setting for a wonderful evening of musical entertainment!

The concert will start at 7.30pm, and tickets, £15 (children and students free), are available by calling 07779 314609 or online via [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), and can also be purchased from choir members or on the night at the venue.

**PONTESBURY WI** met on 13th May for our AGM and WI meeting. The afternoon started with a detailed treasurer's report from Shona Wood, Treasurer. This was followed by our secretary's report about our monthly meetings and outings. The President, Irene Windows, gave a comprehensive report about the year in the life of Pontesbury WI, reported that Maxine Pittaway had won the Ethel Broadhurst Press report for Shropshire for the 2nd year, and also outlined the Pontesbury WI charity donation of £500 to Pontesbury Public Hall and other charity donations made. The committee was re-elected: Irene Windows, President for a further year; Mary Crowther, committee member resigned from the committee & Irene Windows presented Mary with flowers and thanked her for 10 years of service to the committee. Our speaker this month was Bernard O'Connor who spoke about training ladies to be secret agents in World War Two. All WI members agreed the training was far too difficult for any of us to become spies especially if you were caught, tortured or killed. Lena Rowson gave the vote of thanks to Bernard for his informative talk.

Our next meeting of the craft club takes place on 18th June, taking place at the Cock Inn, Hanwood at 10am to 1pm. Anyone is welcome to join us.

The next Pontesbury WI meeting is on Monday 10th June. Our guest speaker will be Emma Spencer who will talk about the Woman's Land Army.

### **Pontesbury Women's Club**

If you would like an entertaining Tuesday evening come along to our meetings

#### **Tuesday 11th June**

Mike Haynes

'Everything you've wanted to know about Supermarkets!'

#### **Tuesday 9th July**

Victoria Graham

'The Biscuit Club'

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

Visitors and New Members are always welcome

### **TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

#### **Saturday 3rd August**

Plough Inn, Pontesbury

#### **Afternoon Tea**

Entertainment from Dave Falstaff  
Tickets £25 to include bubbly on arrival  
Irish Bingo, Lucky number & Raffle  
all Proceeds to Severn Hospice

Tickets can be purchased from:  
The Plough Inn, Ali Brookes, Kim Dillow,  
Carol Leighton, Kim Wootton & Sharon Davies

**Deadline for July edition is Monday 10th June**- please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk). When submitting an article, please remember the 250 word limit and a photograph if you have one. Please only send .jpg, .png or Word pictures - no .pdf please!

### **West Shropshire Flower Club**

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

The next meetings are:

26th June – Visit

24th July – Becca Morris – Around the world

In April West Shropshire Flower Club celebrated our 40th Anniversary, with a demonstration given by National demonstrator, Elizabeth Graham, 'Floral Time Travel' with a large design arranged in the 'traditional' floral foam with red roses & bamboo.

### **JUNIOR PONTESBURY PLAYERS**

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

## **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

ABRIDGED BY LEON GARFIELD  
ADAPTED BY SUZANNE SPICER

## **SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**3PM** AT **PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL**

Tickets from ~  
**Hignetts shop, Pontesbury**  
790 228

Adults : £5

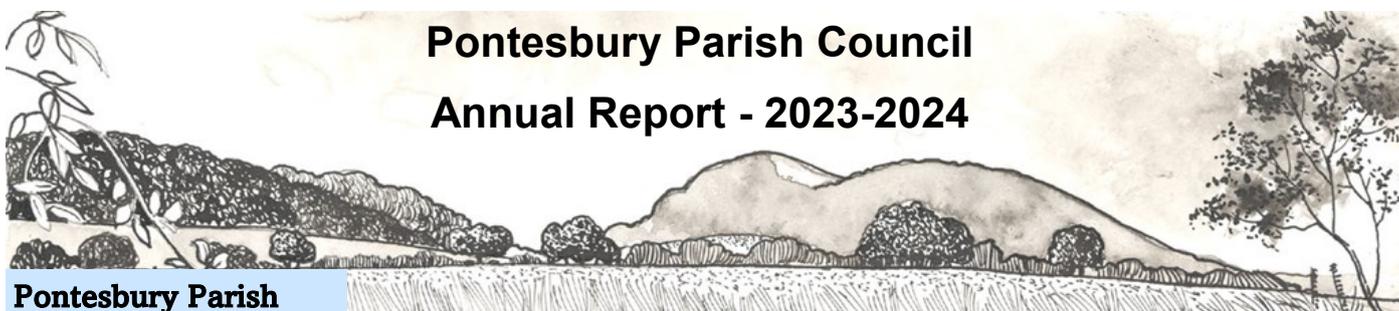
Children : £3

Family (2 Adults, 3 Children) : £15

**Cake & Refreshments included**

# Pontesbury Parish Council

## Annual Report - 2023-2024



### Pontesbury Parish Councillors

#### Asterley Ward

Cllr Dave Gregory  
01743 792697

#### Cruckton Ward

Cllr Allan Hodges  
01743 861127

Cllr Michelle Trow –  
07967 308910

Cllr Charles Sandells –  
01743 860217

Cllr Adrian Windows  
01743 791903

#### Habberley Ward

Cllr John Pritchard –  
01743 790344

#### Plealey Ward

Cllr Roger Evans –  
01743 791002

Cllr Peter Heywood –  
01743 860722

#### Pontesbury Ward

Cllr Duncan Fletcher  
(Chairman) –  
01743 792000

VACANCY –

Cllr Nick Hignett  
(Vice Chairman) –  
01743 790228

Cllr Neville Lewis –  
01743 790625

Cllr Douglas Jones –  
01743 791470

Cllr Sharon Davies –  
07940 988951

Cllr Neale Manning –  
07713139312

## Chairman's Report

The Parish Council is fortunate to have a strong team of councillors who are committed and hardworking, all sharing the same ideology of working to support our community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our two Shropshire Councillors, Cllrs Nick Hignett (vice chairman) and Roger Evans. They both work very hard to be the voice of our local community at county level and are very approachable. I am grateful for all the work they do in our community and particularly for our parish council.

We are also fortunate to have an experienced staff team of Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer all having worked in the Town & Parish Council sector for more than five years. We also have Anna, much-loved public face of The Pavilion. Our well used community building has continued to develop into a vibrant cultural, information and support hub within the Village, which also serves residents from many surrounding settlements. We work closely with the Library Manager and the Friends of Pontesbury Library who continue to raise the profile of the library within the Pavilion. Having the local policing team based in the building continues to pay dividends in terms of supporting local residents.

The Council team have worked hard this year, as in other years, to maintain essential community services such as streetlights, public toilets, the play area, public open spaces in the village including the many trees the parish council are responsible for. The parish council are consulted on many strategies and planning applications and I am always impressed with how much time and effort councillors put into reading, discussing and making decisions on how to respond to these in order to reduce or enhance the impact on our area and provide a voice for local residents.

Highlights of the year for me have been the additional benefits we have gained for the community e.g. the ANPR cameras and their impact on slowing traffic through our area, beginning the conversion to LED of the 123 streetlights the council looks after, taking over the public open spaces on the Cricketer's Meadow development to provide a community orchard and garden and working with local residents on plans to benefit wildlife here and along the cycleway linking Minsterley to Pontesbury.

I would also like to thank Cllr Amy Brookes for her time on the council and wish her well in her new endeavours. There is now a vacancy for the Pontesbury Ward, so if you feel you have the enthusiasm and interest to join our team, please get in touch with the Clerk.

I finish by thanking all the volunteers in our community who give their time freely and are involved in the many activities taking place in the parish. I am sure we are all grateful to be part of our wonderful parish of Pontesbury and as a community we will work hard to continue to support and help each other. I am proud to be part of such a thriving and vibrant community.



Cllr Duncan Fletcher

### Parish Council Staff

Parish Clerk – Debbie Marais 01691 661157 [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk)  
Deputy Clerk – Nicola Young [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)  
Finance Officer - Caroline Higgins [finance@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:finance@pontesburypc.org.uk)  
Pavilion Assistant – Anna Lawson [admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk](mailto:admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk)

## What the Council Have Achieved this Year

**Planning Applications** – The council have been consulted on 77 applications and in the majority of cases our decisions have agreed with that of Shropshire Council planning officers/Planning Committee. In September 2023 the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan was supported by 86% of the voters in the Local Referendum and as a result, it has now been adopted by Shropshire Council as part of their Development Plan which means that it will help to decide future planning applications relating to our parish. The Steering Group for the plan put in many hours of hard work to bring this plan to fruition.

**Newsletter** – Thanks to the hard work of the Newsletter editor, the Deputy Clerk, and the team of volunteers who work hard to deliver the now 1700 newsletters each month – the number of copies printed was increased from 1500 to meet demand.

**Streetlights** – Conversion to LED for all of the 123 streetlights the parish council is responsible for, is well underway and will bring benefits in terms of a decrease in energy use and maintenance costs. This project will be completed by Summer 2024.

**Hall Bank Public Open Spaces** – ownership of the green open spaces on the Cricketer's Meadow development has now been transferred to the parish council. A working group of councillors and local residents has been set up to develop this area for wildlife and to provide accessible green spaces for all to use. A Community garden has been built behind the Ark Nursery, by the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group (with funds from the parish council and Save Our Shropshire). Thanks to a donation of fruit trees from Shropshire Council and a band of willing volunteers, a community orchard has been planted in the area adjacent to the play area off Station Road.

**Community Grants:** Grants have been awarded this year towards:

- The upkeep of Poles Coppice
- Remembrance wreath
- Pontesbury Sports Association for work to update the sports pavilion off Bogey Lane
- Hedge/tree planting and wildflower verge creation
- The Community Garden near the village green behind the Ark nursery and The Pavilion

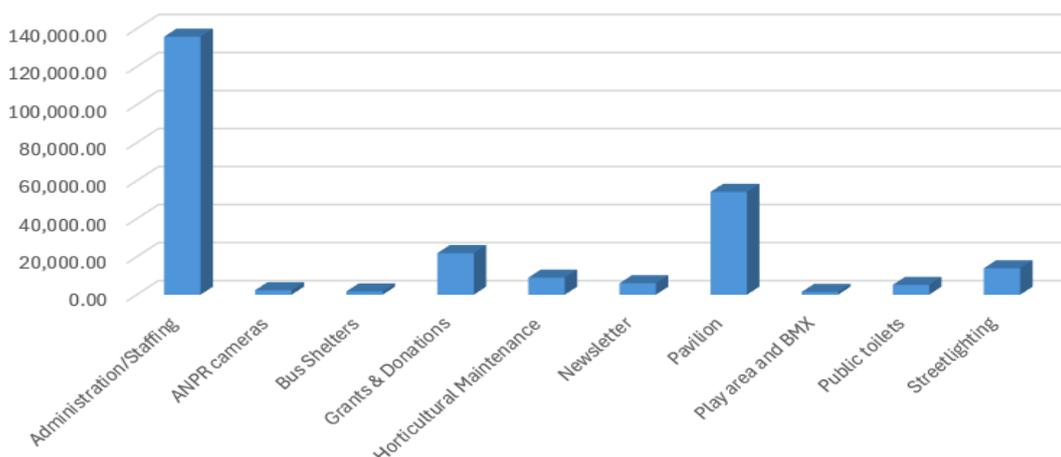
**Hall Bank junction improvements** – the Parish Council have been working with Shropshire Council Highways department, and their consultants WSP, looking at traffic calming measures in Pontesbury. A public consultation has taken place and along with a public meeting in March. We are awaiting revised plans which take into consideration the feedback from local residents. The Parish Council have also been working with Shropshire Council Flooding Officer and Shropshire Rural Housing to look at flood alleviation measures needed within the village. Some of these measures could potentially be incorporated into the works done on the junction at the bottom of Hall Bank.

**Looking forward to 2024-25.....** both the well-used play area and public toilets will soon need refurbishing and working groups have been set up to look at inclusive designs and funding sources for these big projects.

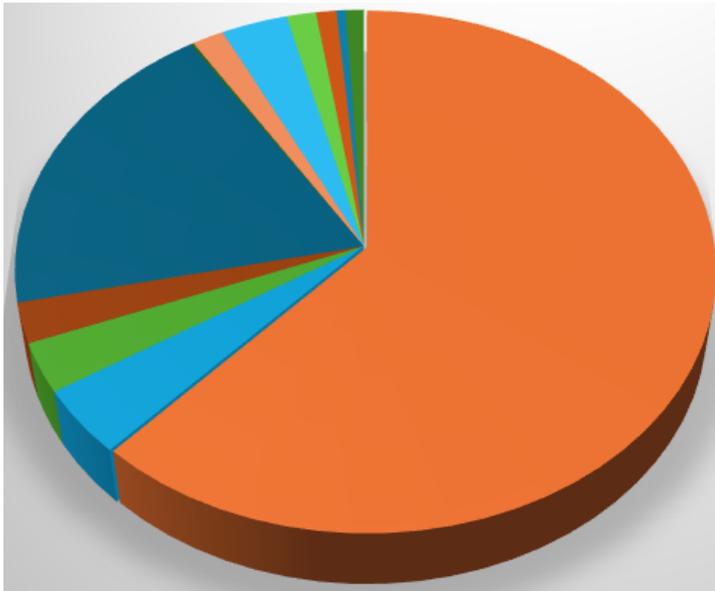
The parish council will produce an action plan for reaching carbon net zero for its activities by 2030. This means examining the running of The Pavilion and public toilets, what contractors are used and all other council activities to reduce or offset carbon emissions.

The parish council are also working with local groups to organise D-day celebrations and a 2025 Pontesbury Festival.

**Pontesbury Parish Council Payments 2023-2024**



## Pontesbury Parish Council Receipts 2023-2024



Precept	£207,780
Savings interest	£13,856
Grant for Pontesbury Youth Group	£10,250
CIL	£8,330
Hall Bank maintenance grant	£65,000
Trading Post	£525
Pavilion room hire	£5,435
Police & Crime Commissioner	£11,325
Shropshire Library Service licence	£5,000
FOPL Library contribution	£3,500
Environmental Maintenance Grant	£1,500
Newsletter advertisements	£3,127



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

### The Pavilion Community Hub & Library

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

**Day-to-Day Running of the Pavilion** Both the Deputy Clerk (Building Manager) and the Building Assistant continue to work closely to run the behind-the-scenes operations of the Pavilion

The Pavilion Committee continues to meet regularly and is chaired by Councillor Duncan Fletcher, with Committee members Councillors, Nick Hignett, Roger Evans, Sharon Davies, Michelle Trow and Adrian Windows. The Pavilion Committee oversee the strategic work of the Pavilion, along with receiving reports and quotes for larger projects.

**Safe Place** The Pavilion is now a registered Safe Place, and cards with information about the initiative have been passed onto people in the community. Please collect yours from the Pavilion.  
[www.safeplaceshropshire.com/](http://www.safeplaceshropshire.com/) Safe Place Shropshire is a network of 'short term safe havens' for people who may need additional support and assistance when they are out and about in the community.

**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.

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. 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.



**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.

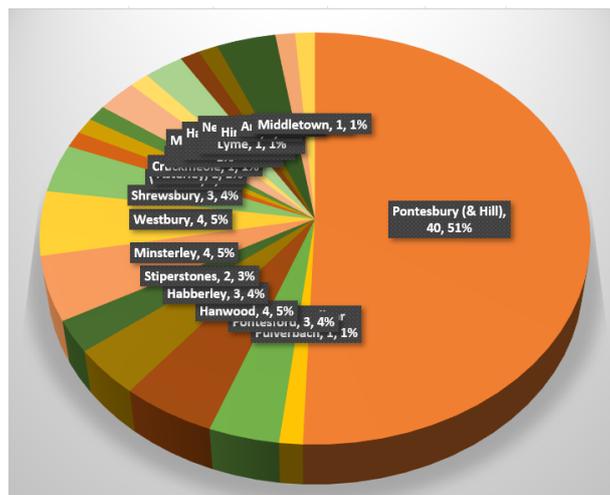
Therefore, as the bookings have increased so has the income, with the projected income from Pavilion room hire totalling £5,000 by the end of March 2024.

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

### Visitors to the Pavilion

This pie chart shows how many people travel from different areas. In total people attending the Pavilion travel from 20 different areas, naturally 51% of visitors (40 responses) come from Pontesbury & Pontesbury Hill, then 4.5% from each area of Minsterley, Hanwood and Westbury.

Of the parish villages, the majority of people attending come from Pontesbury, with 3.4% coming from Habberley, 2.3% from Cruckton and 1.1% from Cruckmeole.



Longer term projects the council wishes to undertake can be found in the Parish Council Strategic Plan 2023-2026, on the parish council website [www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk).

# Sports & Activities

## NEW WALKING GROUP –

Organised By Jess  
(Good Neighbour Group)

**Friday 14th June**

Young, old, families & pets  
welcome

**4pm from School Green**  
1.5mile gentle stroll



Worthen Wolves Under 16 Charity Cup winners  
1-0...against Sparta FC - goal scored by Josh Carr

Pontesbury Rounders Team - Winners of the Nicola Fawcett Cup



## Have a go at archery

Everyone welcome 8 to 80+

Dates:  
Sat 11th May  
Sat 8th June  
Sat 13th July  
Sat 10th August

£10/hour  
10am to 12pm

All equipment  
is provided



No booking required, just turn up on the day, or for more details:

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

[secretary@longmyndarchers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@longmyndarchers.co.uk)

New House Farm,  
Church Stretton, SY6 7JH



Worthen Juniors football club's (above) first ever senior side was set up this season playing in the Shrewsbury Sunday league. We have 25 players signed on with ages between 16 to 46. After a very long season due to all the rain we finally managed to get all our games played and won the league, playing 20 league games winning 17 of them, 2 draws with just the 1 defeat. A very good first season in men's football and we are looking forward to next season. All support next season is welcome @ the Pontesbury Sports Ground.



Ever thought of trying something new, With our best archers competing in Paris this summer, why not see what you can do. All you need to know is on the poster above, so come and 'Have a Go' at one of the oldest sports in the world and if you like it you could even sign up for one of our beginner's courses.

**Deadline for July edition is Monday 10th June**, please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to: [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)

When submitting an article, please remember the 250 word limit and a photograph if you have one. Please only send .jpg, .png or Word pictures - no .pdfs if possible please! Thank you



## Pontesbury Fell Race 2024

The Pontesbury Fell Race will take place on Wednesday 12th June at 19:30

This is an annual event organised by Mercia Fell Runners, and held under Welsh Fell Runners Association rules, with kind permission from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

The race starts from the school playing field on Bogey Lane. The route is 6km long and includes two tough climbs and two steep challenging descents of Pontesford and Earl's Hill. Although a suitable introduction to fell running, this event is not a fun-run.

A shorter junior race will also be held before the Senior race, starting at 18:50 with age categories for U9, U11, U13 & U16 year-olds.

Race entries are available on the evening.

For further details please contact Oliver Cox - [olivertcox@gmail.com](mailto:olivertcox@gmail.com)



## Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

Celebrating wildlife in Pontesbury; Minsterley, Pulverbatch, Stiperstones and Hope Valley

The Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) was set up to help local people help local wildlife. The group provides a chance to learn and get that little bit closer to some of our most fascinating plants and animals. Our area contains an array of different habitats that houses a multitude of wildlife gems.

Participating in the group will provide an opportunity to find out more about the distinctive wildlife of Rea Valley and surrounding areas, and to share your local wildlife knowledge and discoveries with like-minded people who are passionate about our local area.

We have botanists and birders, moth and butterfly fanatics, reptile and mammal lovers and general natural history enthusiasts.

How to join the Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group - it's free and open to anyone who lives or works in the area and has an active interest in nature.

Please contact the secretary at [reavalleycw@gmail.com](mailto:reavalleycw@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list. If you provide your phone number, you can also be added to our active WhatsApp Community group. We also have a growing Facebook page (search Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group).

Can you help us purchase **Minsterley Meadows** for future generations?

There is an exciting opportunity to purchase two meadows on the outskirts of Minsterley to safeguard them for future generations.

**Why are Minsterley Meadows important?** Amongst many other species, the meadows support the largest colony of green-winged orchids in Shropshire. This has led to a designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the Government's nature conservation body, Natural England.

**Who would own the Meadows?** The meadows would be owned by the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, a local community-led Trust dedicated to helping to create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside.

**How much does the Appeal need to raise?** At this stage we are asking for pledges of support only. The target to raise is £240k to include all costs.

**How do I make my pledge?** Pledge your support now by email:

[info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk) or by post to: Middle Marches Community Land Trust, Enterprise House, 22 Station Street, Bishops Castle SY9 5AQ

**How do pledges work?** If we reach the funding target and are successful in acquiring the meadows, we will then ask you to make your promised donation (with gift-aid if you are a UK taxpayer). However, a pledge is not binding and if you cannot afford to make the full (or any) donation, we will understand.

Please include your name, contact details, the amount you would like to pledge and whether you would like to be kept informed of the progress of the appeal.



## MINSTERLEY MEADOWS APPEAL

### FUNDRAISER EVENT

#### THE NATURAL GARDEN

**Minsterley Parish Hall, Sunday 7 July, 10am-3pm**

Join Nancy Lowe for a day about natural gardens - that hum with life, where gentle, organic gardening methods are used to control pests and weeds; where enjoyment of a beautiful and bountiful environment can be shared with birds, butterflies, frogs, hedgehogs, ladybirds and other welcome wildlife visitors. Nancy is an RHS qualified organic gardener, ecological garden designer and permaculturalist

**PROGRAMME**

10.00 am: Registration, tea/coffee

10.30 - 12 noon: Nancy Lowe, The Natural Gardener ([thenaturalgardener.org.uk](http://thenaturalgardener.org.uk))

12 noon - 1pm: Picnic lunch

1pm - 2.30pm: Walk to Minsterley Meadows

**Can you help us purchase Minsterley Meadows for future generations?**

We have an exciting opportunity to purchase two flower-rich meadows on the outskirts of Minsterley, Shropshire to safeguard them for future generations. Amongst many other species, the meadows support the largest colony of green-winged orchids in Shropshire which has led to their designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the government's nature conservation body, Natural England.

The meadows adjoin Callow Lane and are well used by local people. The meadows would be owned by the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, a local community-led Trust dedicated to helping create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside. The Marches Meadow Group would help manage the meadows.

This appeal is supported by Minsterley Parish Council, CPRE Shropshire, Friends of Pontesford Hill and other local groups.

Donations to the Minsterley Meadows fund can be made here or in cash on the day

## Love Your Churchyard!

Come and celebrate Love Your Burial Ground Week with us on Saturday 15th June between 10am and 1pm at Bogey Lane Cemetery.

This time is dedicated to observing and recording plants and animals in our village cemetery. Come along and count bugs, identify flowers and enter into a competition to find the oldest gravestone! Drinks and snacks provided.

No need to register, just turn up and join in - meet us by a small marquee near the entrance!

## Pontesbury Primary School

Children at Pontesbury CE Primary School are taking part in the village D-Day 80, time capsule project. Children across the school are adding information about what life is like now and making their predictions of what life might be like in the future. They look forward to burying this on 6th June 2024 near the War Memorial.

Pontesbury CE Primary School's Year 6 class took part in the Shrewsbury Bookfest this year which provides children with a fantastic opportunity to meet new authors and their books, through different activities whilst also promoting a love and enjoyment of reading – which our children certainly have shown. Two of our children received awards for their artwork and letter writing skills and were presented awards at Theatre Severn in front of a packed out audience, judges and some of the authors! The ceremony was also live-streamed so that children in school could enjoy it too. We are extremely proud of Molly and Isabelle for their efforts and the recognition they have received through their awards, and we are also proud of the whole class for their engagement in this project.



**Letter Writing Competition Winner:**

**Isabelle**

Pontesbury Primary School

Inspired by: "The Boss of Everyone"

**2nd Place:**

**Molly**

Pontesbury Primary School

"The Piano at the Station"



**SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS** Pontesbury Parish Area is covered by 2 Shropshire Councillors, myself (Nick Hignett) and Roger Evans.

We are intending to submit a report to each Parish Newsletter providing information on matters relevant to residents. So here goes....

**Fostering Fortnight** runs from 13th-26th May. The Council are holding online and face to face events for this.

The 6-week **consultation on proposals for garden waste** ended on 20th May. Over 17,000 responses were received concerning a possible annual charge of £52 for green bin collection.

Consultation on the **Schools Library Service** closes on 7th June. This is a non-statutory service which 65% of schools subscribe to. The service is operating at a loss at this time. Shropshire Council is going ahead with a "**dog constraints Public Spaces Protection Order**" which will ban dogs from fenced play and sports areas, requiring them to be on a lead when on highways. Enforcement will empower Officers to ask for a dog to be on a lead in Public Areas or when acting aggressively. A fixed penalty notice of £100 could be issued for failing to clean up after a dog fouling a Public Area. It is likely the order will come into force on 1st June.

The aforementioned Consultations are all part of the Council's aim to achieve £62m of savings this year due to ever-rising demands for Social Care and Housing, as well as rising costs from continuing high levels of inflation.

Check the Shropshire Council website for more details on everything, or speak to your local Councillor. Nick Hignett.

Shropshire Councillor for Rea Valley Ward.

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Dear Advertisers

Many thanks for continuing to support the local Pontesbury Parish Newsletter, the distribution has now increased to 1,700 copies and is still hand-delivered to the majority of residents in the parish, this includes Pontesford, Plealey, Asterley, Cruckton, Cruckmeole, Arscott, Lea Cross, Habberley and Malehurst and the residents to the south of Hanwood Primary School. Additional copies are placed in Hignett's, Pontesbury Pavilion & Library and the Post Office, where anyone can collect a copy.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who hand-deliver the newsletters, no matter what the weather.

The Parish Council have agreed to reduce the number of issues per year, from 11 to 10, therefore there will continue to be no newsletter issued in August. The biggest change is that the December & January edition will now become one bumper joint edition.

If you have paid for either August or for separate editions of December and January, your payment will be adjusted and moved onto the next month - you will not miss a month of advertising.

The newsletter is also included online, and all adverts will remain in colour online, if you wish to update your advert with a colour version, please email:

deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk - any questions, get in touch!



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Pontesbury Parish Newsletter please get in touch with Nicki, deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk. The costs of advertising depend upon the size of the advertisement and where you live or where your business is based.

You can advertise for one month to a full year of 10 months (there is no newsletter in August and one newsletter for December/January) - you choose how many adverts.

### Article & Advert Submissions for July 2024

The deadline for submissions to the July issue of Pontesbury Newsletter is Monday 10th June - please email:

deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk for enquiries regarding advertising or to submit an article - please forward your colour adverts by this date.



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## JUNE 2024 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Regular Weekly Events</b>			
Every Mon	6.30-7.30pm	Pontesbury Runners (advanced/intermediate runners)	Meet corner of Brookside & Minsterley Road
Every Tue	10am to 1200	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30-1200	A Welcome Brew	Baptist Church
Every Tue	2pm	Tai Chi	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 Thur	1000-1200	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Every Thur	7-9pm	Badminton Club	Mary Webb School
Every Fri	1000	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
Every Fri	1000-1200	Coffee Stop	St George's Church
<b>Monthly Events</b>			
Sat 1st Jun	1000-1200	Table Top Sale & Duck Race	St George's Church
Sat 1st	1000-1pm	FoPL Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Sun 2nd	6.30pm	Songs of Praise	Pontesbury Baptist Church
Mon 3rd	6.30pm	Pontesbury Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
<b>Thu 6th</b>	See front page	<b>Pontesbury Commemorates D-Day 80</b>	War Memorial and St George's Church
Thu 6th & 20th	1100	Get Creative Group - free, refreshments provided	Pavilion
Sat 8th	1000-1200	Have a go at Archery	Long Mynd Archery Club
Mon 10th	2pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Mon 10th	7pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting	Cruckton Village Hall
Tue 11th	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 12th	1pm	Rea Valley Probus Club	Arscott Golf Club
Wed 12th	7.30pm	Pontesbury Fell Run meet	Bogey Lane School Playing Field
Thur 13th	2pm	Rhyme Time	Library, Pavilion
Fri 14th	1030-1200	Good Neighbour's Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn
Fri 14th	4pm	New Walking Group meet	School Green
Sat 15th	1000-1pm Drop-in	Love Your Churchyard	Bogey Lane Cemetery
Wed 19th	2pm	U3A	Minsterley Parish Hall
Thur 20th	6.30pm	FOPL AGM with Tin Soldiers	Pavilion
Mon 24th	6.30pm	Pontesbury Festival Meeting	Pavilion
Wed 26th	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club - Visit	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 28th	10.30-1200	Pontesbury Carer's Support Group	Pavilion
Sun 30th	3pm	Pontesbury Players perform A Midsummer Night's Dream	Public Hall
Sun 30th	7.30pm	Marches Choir sing Carmen	Walcot Hall Ballroom
Sun 7th Jul	1000-3pm	Minsterley Meadow Appeal - Fundraiser	Minsterley Parish Hall
3rd Aug		Tickets on Sale Now - Afternoon Tea in aid of Severn Hospice	See page 8

Closing Date for submissions for July 2024 edition of Pontesbury Parish Newsletter is Monday 10th June 2024. Please send all articles to [deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk)

Please use the same email address if you would like to advertise and we will send you a form.