

# Pontesbury Parish Newsletter

November 2023

Issue No: 302

## Congratulations!



“Radio Shropshire Make a Difference Awards’ ceremony was held on Friday 29th September at The Anstice Hall in Telford.

Our very own Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours Scheme volunteers were nominated for ‘Work in the Community Category’ and were shortlisted to the last four out of over 100 nominations.

Along with Sharon Davies, Chair of Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours Scheme, are Alison Brookes, Kim Dillow, Carol Leighton & Kim Wootton. They were invited to have Afternoon Tea whilst listening to both inspiring and humbling stories from Groups or individuals in Shropshire. Congratulations to everyone who volunteers for Rea Valley Good Neighbours Scheme - runners up for Work in the Community category. The award was graciously received on behalf of everyone who volunteers and Sharon Davies, Chair, said “we are all delighted to be recognised for the work that is done in our community’.

**B B C RADIO**  
**SHROPSHIRE**

make a  
*difference*  
awards  
2023

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

# Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)

A local resident has recently been hospitalised with Leptospirosis, also called Weil's disease. Weil's disease is an infection you can get from animals, soil or water.

**How you get leptospirosis?** The risk of Weil's disease is linked to areas where rats are or have been present and particularly canals, rivers, watercourses, culverts and sewers. Leptospirosis is contracted from the urine of infected rats. The bacteria get into your body through cuts and scratches or through the lining of the mouth, throat and eyes after contact with infected urine or contaminated water. You can also catch it if you touch an infected animal's blood or flesh, usually from working with animals or animal parts. It's very rare to get leptospirosis from pets, other people or bites.

**Most people who get leptospirosis have no symptoms, or mild flu-like symptoms. But some people get seriously ill.**

**Non-urgent advice: See a GP if:** You might have been exposed to infected pee, water, or soil and have: a high temperature, or you feel hot and shivery, have a headache. been feeling sick or being sick, have diarrhoea, body aches and pains, red eyes, a loss of appetite. Leptospirosis can often be treated by your GP. You'll usually be given antibiotic tablets to treat the infection. Most people recover in a few days or weeks.

**Urgent advice: Ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you have:** yellow skin (which may be harder to see on black or brown skin) and whites of the eyes (jaundice), a rash, been unable to pee, swollen ankles, feet or hands, chest pain and / or shortness of breath

## How to avoid getting leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is rare in the UK. You have a higher chance of getting it if you do outdoor activities like water sports or you work with animals or animal parts. There are things you can do to reduce your chances of getting leptospirosis: washing cuts and grazes immediately with soap and running water; cover all cuts, abrasions and other breaks in the skin with waterproof dressings and/or gloves; avoid hand to mouth/eye contact; clean any wounds as soon as possible; cover any cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters; wear protective clothing if you're at risk through work; shower as soon as possible if you've been in potentially infected water. [from NHS and Health & Safety Executive websites]

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To advertise in Pontesbury Parish Newsletter, please contact: [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)

## Pontesbury Parish Council

At the October council meeting the councillors approved a contract to convert the remaining Sox streetlights to LED. This will significantly reduce the energy used for streetlighting and therefore contribute towards the council ambition of becoming carbon net zero by 2030. LED lighting will also reduce maintenance costs. The subject of EV charging points was also raised and the feasibility of having charging points in the parish will be explored further. The council also considered a report by the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group (PCEAG) outlining the aim of having a community growing space to enable people who wanted to grow more food to be supported in doing this. There is a parish council/PCEAG group looking at possible sites and how to take this forward. If you would like to find out more about community growing please contact the Parish Clerk or Liz Knowles. PCEAG, via email [elizabethknowles1@googlemail.com](mailto:elizabethknowles1@googlemail.com).

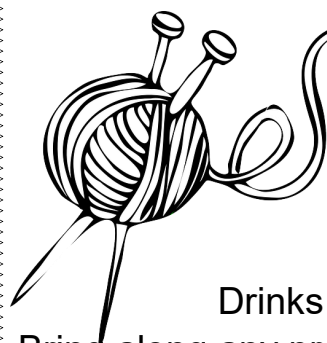
The parish council agreed an initial donation of £1000 towards the changes to the Pontesbury Sports Association Pavilion to update the facilities, and £250 towards hedge planting around the public open space off Hall Bank.

Autumn is a busy time for the parish council, reviewing the Strategic Plan and what actions will be taken in the next financial year and then setting an appropriate budget. The Parish Council Strategic Plan can be viewed at [www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk).

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 13th November at 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Hall Bank. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 6th November 2023 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 at <https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> 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.

# the PAVILION

## Pavilion News November 2023 - What's On



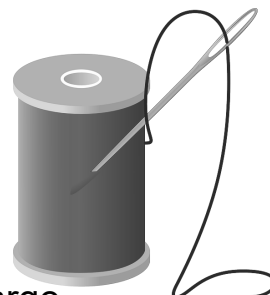
We hope to see you at the  
**'Get Creative groups' on:**

**Thursday 2nd & 16th November  
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.



### Carer's Support Morning - Pavilion, Hall Bank, Pontesbury

**Friday 24th November 2023 - from 10.30am**

Unpaid carers are welcome to attend and we aim to bring information you, the carer, wants to know about. The sessions are held on the last Friday of each month, 10.30-12.00, they are free to attend and refreshments are served, thanks to the Community Good Neighbours volunteers.



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



**Pontesbury Dementia  
Support Café**

Alternate Wednesdays in the  
Pavilion

1st, 15th & 29th Nov @ 11am

Pontesbury Library Opening hours		
Monday	10am - 1pm	
Tuesday	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday		2pm - 5pm
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10am - 1pm	
Sunday	Closed	

**Shropshire Libraries** learn imagine discover  
www.shropshire.gov.uk  
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

**Pontesbury Library November News** - I have finally put the finishing touches to the 'Abbess of Pontesbury's' mini exhibition. I found the quote, giving the name to Lily Chitty in a Cambrian History Group paper. It's been very interesting gathering documents and artwork, I could never find room and time to display everything I have learned. Come along to the coffee morning on the 2nd November to find out more about her work.

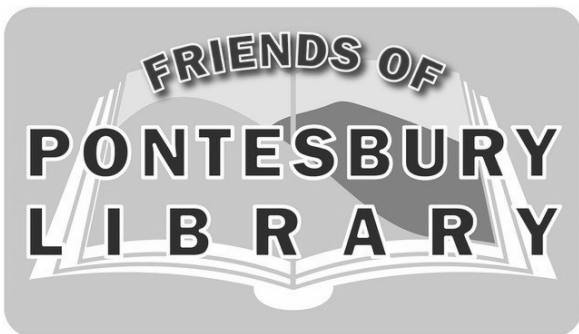
Last month's coffee morning was a celebration of Green Libraries Week. Thank you to the those who helped make that special, we had a lovely basket of produce grown locally showing just what can be achieved. We also had some information from the climate group about their plans to create community gardens.

Pontesbury Library is still growing, our active borrower numbers are up by 20% since leaving the old building by the school. There are lots of new faces in the village who come along and join, commenting on what a lovely library it is. We are one of the 21 within Shropshire Library Service, your library card gives you access to all those libraries as well as online services, including the Cloud Library. We look forward to welcoming you all! Sorry we had to cancel October's rhyme time. It will be back 9th November 2pm. The library



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 October coffee morning, with the theme of growing, was very well supported, and a quiz on food miles and food waste threw up some very surprising and sobering answers. Phil Bradshaw, from Pontesbury Climate Group had prepared a display and gave a fascinating talk about a new community growing project that has the backing of Shropshire Council, with support from Pontesbury Parish Council. The project will start with some beds to grow vegetables on the green strip behind the nursery fence on Cricketers Meadow. Anyone with an interest in growing, whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned gardener, can get involved. The Friends of Pontesbury Library are very pleased to be collaborating with this project.

Our lottery draw was performed using the good old-fashioned tombola machine and the lucky winners were: 1st Helen Critchley / 2nd Mike & Terri Fletcher / 3rd Robert Chambers

Our next coffee morning, on the 4th November, will feature some little known Pontesbury history, to coincide with an exhibition on the life and times of Miss Lily Chitty, a local historian and artist. We are also very excited about the forthcoming Elvis tribute concert on 15th December in the Public Hall. Tickets are now on sale in the Library during opening hours, Hignett's and Pontesbury Post Office, and also online at [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk). We expect a sell-out show so get your tickets early.



### SNOW PEOPLE'S PARADE (snow animals not excluded!)

### Two free Christmas decoration workshops

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November &  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**at the Pavilion & Library from 10.30 am -  
12.30 pm**

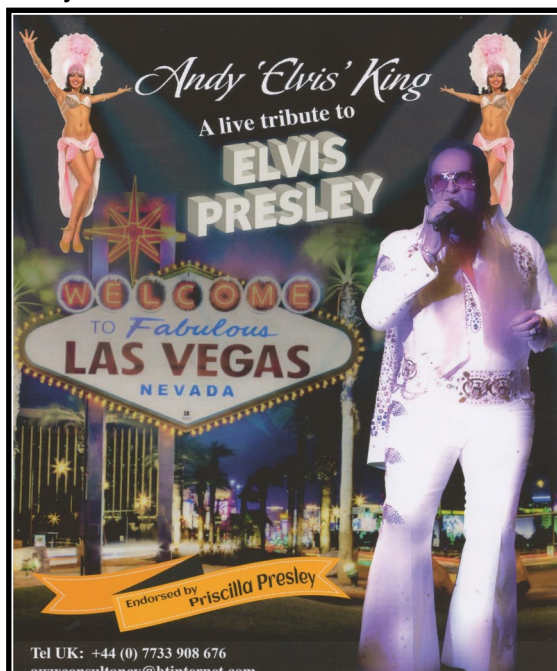
Help decorate the Library and Pavilion for Christmas and take away some ideas and decorations for yourselves. All children and grownups welcome.

Places are limited so booking advisable either directly at the Library and/or via email to the Library Manager Beverley Link - [pontesbury.library@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:pontesbury.library@shropshire.gov.uk)

or Anna Lawson, Pavilion Administrator

[admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk](mailto:admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk)

or call 01743 250610



### Pontesbury Public Hall

**Friday 15th December 7.30pm .**

**Tickets £12 from Hignetts, Library,  
Connections, [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**

**Bar, Raffle Proceeds in aid of Friends  
of Pontesbury Library**

Friends of Pontesbury Library hold a Coffee Morning at the Pavilion on the first Saturday of each month at 10.30.

The next date is Saturday 4th Nov



The next  
Rhyme Time  
will be on  
**9th November**  
starting at 2pm.

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



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

## News & Events

### November 2023

**Friday 10th November 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.

#### **Good Neighbours Men's Club**

We run a club for men which meets monthly in the Pavilion in Pontesbury. We play draughts and dominoes, have refreshments, and chat. If you would like to find out more please leave a message for Rob on 07720 010353.

#### **Future Events**

**Luncheon Club Friday 24th November 2023**

Public Hall from 11.45am to 1.30pm -

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

**Christmas Lunch Wed 20th December**

The Corbet Arms, Uffington, £30 including coach & two courses

#### **Rea Valley Good Neighbours - Mobile Phone**

As Chairperson of Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours, I regret to inform you that the on-call mobile phone service will be ending on 30th November. It has not been an easy decision, but during the last three months we have noticed that calls have been less frequent and the requests have been more for sign-posting for other services. Please note that this means there will be no further deliveries of prescriptions.

During the last three years the phone has received calls for prescriptions, errands, transport requests, food parcels and sign posting for many vulnerable groups within the community. We have had three dedicated on-call volunteers taking the calls and volunteers delivering and assisting with the requests we receive. I personally wish to thank them for all their hard work on behalf of the community.

Good Neighbours will continue with our successful Luncheon Club, which is once a month during the winter period, Coffee and Chat referral group, Gentleman's referral group. The Coffee Mornings at The Plough are the second Friday of each month and whilst these groups are well attended, they will continue with the help of our volunteers.

We also still assist in befriending through the local surgery, and volunteers attend the carers group to serve refreshments and now the Foodbank is established in both Minsterley & Pontesbury there is no longer a need for food parcels.

We are not going away we are just concentrating on the groups that have developed and grown. During the next two months we will be giving more information on where you can access help.

#### **Make A Difference - Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours**



*Pictured: Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours Chairperson, Sharon Davies, with the runners-up award for Work in the Community category*

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

**Services and activities for November**

Services for November

5th 10.30am Morning Worship

7th 2.30pm Tea service

12th 10.15 am Holy Communion  
(Remembrance Sunday)

19th 10.30am Holy Communion

26th 10.30am Holy Communion

**Pontesbury Baptist Church** [www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30am and 6:30pm.

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

For 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.

**TABLE TOP SALE**

**PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**10am – 12 Noon**

**Pontesbury Congregational Church Services  
for November 2023**

All services start at 10am

5th November 10am Deacons

12th November 10am - Rev. Debbie Martin

19th November 10am - Rev Ruth Leigh

26th November 10 am Rev Debbie Martin

Wednesdays 10.45 – 12 Noon - Warm Space

Tea and Coffee and Fellowship all are welcome

**Methodist Services for November 2023**

5th Nov 10.45 am with Church Members

12th Nov 10.15 am at St Georges

19th Nov 10.45 am Rev Richard Hall with Holy Communion

26th Nov 10.45 am with Mr Wes Morris

**Advent Course**

Over 4 weeks, commencing Thursday November 30th at 1.30pm. The Prayer Course is being offered at The Deanery, Main Road, Pontesbury, SY5 0PS.

In four sessions, we will be exploring The Lord's Prayer, using resources provided by 24-7 Prayer, featuring Pete Greig videos. We will be looking at different types of prayer: adoration, meditation, petition and listening as well as why some prayers seem to be unanswered.

A warm welcome and refreshments are provided. For further information, please contact Greg on [rectorpontstip@gmail.com](mailto:rectorpontstip@gmail.com) or 07902 794653.

**Pontesbury  
Congregational Church**  
**Come and join us for Carols  
with the Carillion Choir**  
**On  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
At 7.30 pm**

**A date for your diary!**



**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**

**Sunday 17th December**

**at 5pm**

**All are welcome!**

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

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

Pontesbury Baptist Church, Chapel Street, Pontesbury,  
SY5 0RJ



**Sunday 26th November 6:30 pm**

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

**With Pastor Mike Wells**

**All are welcome!**

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



# Oasis

*FREE lunch & companionship for  
anyone living in Pontesbury, Minsterley  
and surrounding villages, who has  
been recently bereaved*

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 12pm - 1.30pm

Minsterley Methodist Chapel,  
Horsebridge Rd, Minsterley

Transport Available | Friends & Family Welcome

For more information, contact Heather Ryder  
on 01743 790359 or [ryder928@btinternet.com](mailto:ryder928@btinternet.com)

## An Introduction to Oasis

There are few of us who will not experience the loss of a loved one during our lives. Whether that loss is sudden or expected, we are likely to be devastated, and then face a long period of adjustment, of learning to live without the person who is so important to us. Family and friends can be helpful, but this can feel like a journey we are making alone.

Even though grief is universal, it is not always easy to find places where we can share our sorrow with others. Oasis was set up to be such a safe space for the recently bereaved, a place where people are welcome to talk about their loss, their feelings, the ways they are coping (or not). No-one has to say anything, unless they want to, but even though everyone's grief is different, those who come have had similar experiences and so everyone's contributions can support us on our journey of grief.

We do not provide counselling but can signpost people to helpful resources and organisations.

Oasis is run by volunteers from local churches and takes place from 12-1.30pm at Minsterley Methodist church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. However, it is open to those of all faiths and none. A free light lunch is provided.

For more details see our advert, or contact Rev Fran Brealey [ryder928@btinternet.com](mailto:ryder928@btinternet.com), Associate Minister Stiperstones and Pontesbury churches.

# JOY OF CHRISTMAS FAIR

Venue: Shrewsbury School Quod



**SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER 11 - 4**  
PERFECT PRESENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
ADMISSION £5 CHILDREN FREE TO INC MINCE PIE & MULLED WINE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO FOOD BANK PLUS SHREWSBURY REGISTERED CHARITY No 1160839

WELLBEING  
VEHICLE



**Shropshire Mental Health  
Support  
is bringing the Well-Being  
Bus on  
Monday 13th November  
10 - 2pm  
Pavilion Community Hub &  
Library**

Our vehicle is touring Shropshire with free MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT from our trained staff and volunteers.

This vehicle contains literature and information about other services in our county. For more information please call 01743 368647.

## Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury WI met on the 9th of October. Our meeting started with a tribute to Val Jones a WI member who had sadly passed away. Irene Windows President, lead the tribute and we also had a minutes silence in her honour.

Our guest speaker Leslie Scase crime writer. Leslie has written many books about criminal life in the Victorian Age. He spoke to us about crime and punishment during the late Victorian Age. It was very interesting to hear how local Shrewsbury people who committed crimes were treated. It was very interesting to hear how drugs were so readily available with so little control. Criminal acts however were very similar to today's Britain but without the technology now to aid the crime fighting. Punishment however was very different. Even children could be sent to adult prisons.

After the talk Leslie judged our flower of the month competition. 1st place went to Maxine Pittaway; 2nd place Sue Ward; 3rd place Lena Rowson. Our raffle for a beautiful bunch of roses donated by Marion Elliot was won by Barbara Scott, 2nd place went to Shona Wood.

This month we held a Autumn flower arranging competition to pick who will represent Pontesbury WI at our group competition to be held on 18th October at Westbury Village Hall. First place was awarded to Lena Rowson; 2nd place Maxine Pittaway; and 3rd place Shona Wood. Lena will now be our representative in the flower arranging competition.

We are looking forward to this Shropshire West Inter WI competition where 8 different Shropshire WIs will compete against each other as well as having an evening of food and entertainment.

Our next meeting is a very special event. We are holding our annual craft fair. This will be held on Monday 13th of November at 2pm. This is an open event where everyone is welcome. Refreshments and a raffle as well as lots of WI stalls will be available, this is always an enjoyable event so why not join us.

The next craft club will be held at 10am on 24th October at the Cock Inn Hanwood.

Our WI meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 2pm at Pontesbury Public Hall. Please contact Irene Windows President on 01743791903 for further information.



### Pontesbury Women's Club

If you would like an entertaining  
Tuesday evening.....

Tuesday 14th November  
Anne Whysall – Pontesbury's gifted  
florist- will help us to make our own  
Christmas Swags

We will also be holding a sale of  
cakes to raise money for Macmillan  
Nurses

Tuesday 13th December  
Our Christmas Celebration!  
A delicious Buffet, Music and a Quiz.

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** Sally Taylors demonstration 'Sallying Forth' for our September meeting, going out to do something different, certainly was. She started with a garden boarder inspired 'sort of' parallel style arrangement full of classic English garden plants, delphiniums, stocks and large pink roses, softened with garden foliage, and set against an arched window backdrop. Then she jumped into contemporary mode with both the design and flower choice. This had a bold central placement created from large fatsia leaves and a mass of large hydrangea heads. From which heads of hydrangea extended very wide horizontally with wired grouped carnations along their length and extending vertically, giving space in the design. The final embellishment was small dark pink anthuriums bursting from the central mass. Whatever next, well a simple foam free arrangement of agapanthus and calla lilies, kept in place by threading stems through a globe of wire into a heavy metal container, simple but stunning. She then showed how using two plants in bulk can achieve an effective design, a stack of laurel was placed (more than anyone would normally use) into which a large multi-headed cymbidium orchid sat, with another cut in two

pieces to give weight centrally, it didn't need anything else and had nothing to take away the full impact of the orchid. Her last design was an idea for a top table at a wedding, with a large linear arrangement of bi-coloured gerbera - Hippy Chic, dusky apricot cream stocks, lisianthus and roses within draped foliage, a metal bowl container was placed in the middle to hold a hand-tied arrangement of the same flowers (which could have been the brides bouquet!).

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

The next meeting of the West Shropshire Flower Club is on 22 November 2023 – Mark Entwistle – Believe in the Magic

December Newsletter deadline is 10th November 2023, all info to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)



# Festive Flowers

A talk and demonstration by much loved local florist Ann Whysall



Wednesday 2pm  
Minsterley Parish Hall

Refreshments available  
Free entrance

**u3a** learn,  
Pontesbury laugh,  
& Rea Valley live

*Anne Whysall*  
FLORISTS

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

Our guest speaker for November is our very own local florist Anne Whysall. Many of you will remember (and miss) her lovely shop with its wonderful window displays and the varied flowers, plants, candles and fancy goods.

Although the shop has gone, Anne is still in business and will be coming to talk to us about flowers, flower arranging and her experiences over the years running a floristry business. She will be doing an arrangement while she talks which will be raffled off at the end of the event.

As usual there will also be the chance to chat with u3a friends over coffee/tea and biscuits and a catch up on u3a news. Non-members are also welcome.

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



## PONTESBURY PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Now come on you  
rats from around the  
town

Though your coats  
be black, or your  
coats be brown  
If you slink in sewers  
or hide in holes

Then come out here and rock and roll!



Yes, it's pantomime time soon and this year Pontesbury Players have chosen THE PIED PIPER of HAMLIN, to be performed at the end of January in your village hall written by local farmer Martin Jones. The Players are a lively and diverse group of people and have built up excellent facilities in the village hall including a costume and prop store, a comprehensive lighting and sound system, and a large storage area for scenery.

We put on plays throughout the year together with our strong junior section, but the pantomime after Christmas is the BIG ONE with a great reputation.

We would love to welcome new members to our group, on stage, off stage, set design and painting, costume design, lighting, and musicians of any ability, particularly for the Panto.

If you want to have some fun in the dark days of

winter, then make a start by coming along to the panto reading and auditions on Monday, 6th November in the Public Hall at 7.30pm or you can email me at [martinjones1949@gmail.com](mailto:martinjones1949@gmail.com).



## A Christmas Concert

with **Shrewsbury Brass Band**

and special guests

**Minsterley School Choir,**

in St. George's Church Pontesbury

on **Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Tickets available on the door:

£10 (£5 for under 16s), refreshments inc.



## NATURAL ENGLAND

A strange machine has been noticed by local people up at Blakemoor-gate which has got a few people speculating as to what is going on. The answer is that we are drilling a borehole to see whether we can provide a reliable water source for the grazing animals at the north end of the hill. Water has been in short supply for a number of years now, as the natural springs have been drying up and the grazing commoners have increasingly had to bring water up to their animals on a daily basis through the summer.

Grazing on the heathland is largely carried out by two local farms which have common rights on the hill. Summer grazing is vital for the maintenance of the heathland habitats found on the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve and without it the heathland would slowly change to woodland, and we would lose our specialised heathland wildlife.

The climate change predictions for Shropshire are for increasingly dry and hot summers so this water shortage problem is not going away and if anything is likely to become worse. This is why we have made the decision to sink the borehole.

There is no guarantee that we will find water but thanks to grants from the Farming in Protected Landscapes fund and some match funding from Our Upland Common project we will hopefully be able to make the site more resilient to the inevitable results of climate change.

### Notes from the Hill



## Do you walk round Earls Hill? Recruiting volunteer goat watchers.

We have an exciting plan to use six billy goats for conservation grazing on the Earls Hill scree from January 2024, to suppress scrub and restore habitat for butterflies and invertebrates. We'd like a community of local people who walk that way to check on the goats each time they pass. As a taster, we have arranged a "meet and greet the goats" session on Sunday 19th November 2pm-4pm. If you are interested in attending, please email [secretarypontesfordhillfriends@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypontesfordhillfriends@gmail.com) for details.

You can get a sneak preview of the (very cute) goats themselves at <https://mossyoaks.co.uk/our-animals>

## Do you have old photographs of the Earls Hill scree and the Craft valley?

We all seem to agree that there is more bracken and bramble creeping up the Craft valley and invading the scree slopes, but are we right or just misremembering the past? Butterfly Conservation Grayling Group would like to have a more objective assessment of what has happened in the last fifty years. They have started by looking at shots from the film 'Gone to Earth' from 1953 but they would love to see more photographs. Have you got views of the scree or the Craft in the background of your old family photos or climbing shots? If so and if you are happy to share, please email [jenny.joy17@outlook.com](mailto:jenny.joy17@outlook.com)

Pupils from **Pontesbury CE Primary School** celebrated their Continent Day in style. Each classroom in the school is named after a continent and each class spent a day studying their continent in more detail. Children dressed up as iconic buildings or landmarks; outlines/maps; traditional dress; flags; food items; famous people or animals associated with the continent. We had the Eiffel Tower, surfers, French fries, pandas and penguins. Teachers arranged some great activities from food tasting to map work; boomerang designs to a safari in our forest school area. Everyone really got involved and the children had a great day learning about their class's continent.



Congratulations to Mr Tom Lowrie-Herz , who has been appointed as Head of Pontesbury Primary School.



# Haydn Nelson Mass Pergolesi Magnificat

## Marches Choir

and Sinfonia

Alistair Auld - Conductor  
Hannah Davey - Soprano

**Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>**

7.30 pm

St John's Church, Bishops Castle



Tickets £15 on 07806 433394  
and from TicketSource

Children and Students FREE

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



## The Marches Choir present a feast of 18th Century Music

The Marches Choir present a feast of 18th Century Music on Saturday 25th November.

The choir, together with the Marches Sinfonia, professional soprano soloist Hannah Davey, and additional singers from Cardigan in West Wales, will present Haydn's 'Imperial Nelson Mass', alongside Mozart's hauntingly beautiful 'Laudate Dominum' and Pergolesi's 'Magnificat' and 'Flute Concerto in G', with soloist Chris Lacey.

Musical Director Alistair Auld says "this concert is full of uplifting melodic charm and often charged with a surge of energy that is characteristic of these three 18th Century composers, whose lives span the Baroque and Classical eras of music."

St John's Church, Bishops Castle, 7.30pm.  
Tickets £15 (children and students free) from 07806 433394,  
online via [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), or  
on the door.

## MINSTERLEY EISTEDDFOD PRESENTS *An Autumn Evening of song* with



*Joanna Cooke*



*Felix Ashley*



*Sadie Beth Holder*

**Saturday, November 4th**

At The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace

7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

**TICKETS: £15**

Includes complimentary drink

For tickets, contact Jill Blyth:

Tel 01743 791 908, [jillblyth@aol.com](mailto:jillblyth@aol.com)



Ticket costs in aid of Eisteddfod funds  
Charity No: 103 8356

## Wend's Winter Wonderland Charity Night

In Memory of Wendy Beesley

Friday 8th December

19.00 - 00.00

Pontesbury Public Hall

Tickets £25

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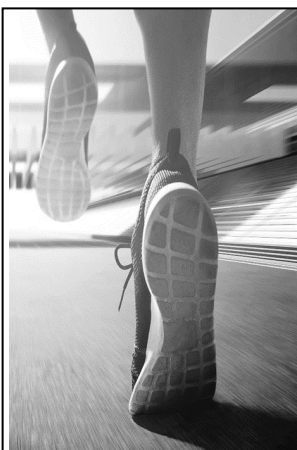
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## Rea Valley Probus Club

Meeting  
Dates:

8th Nov  
13th Dec

Venue &  
Time:

Arscott Golf  
Club at 1pm



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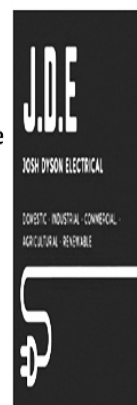
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## **NOVEMBER 2023 DIARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
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	Public Hall
Every Wed Term-time only	1000-1200	Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with refreshments	Pavilion
Every Thu	1000-1200	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Every Fri	10am	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
Wed 1st Nov Wed 15th Nov Wed 29th Nov	11am	Dementia Support Café	Pavilion
Thu 2nd Nov Thu 16th Nov	11am	Get Creative Group	Pavilion
Sat 4th Nov	1000-1200	FoPL Coffee Mornings	Pavilion / Library
Sat 4th Nov	1000-1200	Table Top Sale	Congregational Church Hall
Sat 4th Nov	7pm	Minsterley Eisteddford presents An Autumn Evening of Song	Trinity Centre, Meole Brace
Mon 6th Nov	6.30pm	Pontesbury Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Mon 6th Nov	7.30pm	Pantomime Auditions	Public Hall
Thu 9th Nov	2pm	Rhyme Time	Pavilion / Library
Fri 10th Nov	1030-1200	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn
Sat 11th Nov	1000-1200	Repair Café	St George's Church
Mon 13th Nov	1000-1200	Well-Being Bus visits Pontesbury	outside Pavilion
Mon 13th Nov	2pm	WI Craft Fair	Public Hall
Mon 13th Nov	7.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion
Tue 14th Nov	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club - Floristry	Public Hall
Wed 15th Nov	1.00pm	Probus Club Meeting	Arscott Golf Club
Wed 15th Nov	2pm	u3a - Talk on Festive Floristry	Minsterley Parish Hall
Sun 19th Nov	11am to 4pm	Joy of Christmas Fair - in aid of Foodbank	Shrewsbury School Quod
Wed 22 Nov	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club -Mark Entwistle – Believe in the Magic	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 24 Nov	10.30am	Carer's Coffee Morning - join us for free refreshments & expert help	Pavilion
Fri 24 Nov	11.45am	Community Good Neighbours Luncheon Club - Tickets Only	Public Hall
Sat 25th Nov	7.30pm	Marches Choir & Sinfonia	St John's Church, Bishops Castle
Sun 26th Nov	6.30pm	Songs of Praise	Baptist Church
Mon 27 Nov	6.30pm	Pavilion Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Thu 30 Nov	1.30pm	Advent Course starts - 4 week course	The Deanery, Pontesbury
Fri 8th Dec	7pm to mid-night	Wend's Winter Wonderlight Charity Night	Public Hall
Fri 15 Dec	7pm	A Christmas Concert with Shrewsbury Brass Band	St George's Church, Pontesbury
Fri 15 Dec	7.30pm	A live tribute to Elvis Presley	Public Hall

Closing Date for submissions for December edition of Pontesbury Parish Newsletter is Friday 10th November 2023. Please send all articles to [deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesbury.pc.org.uk).

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