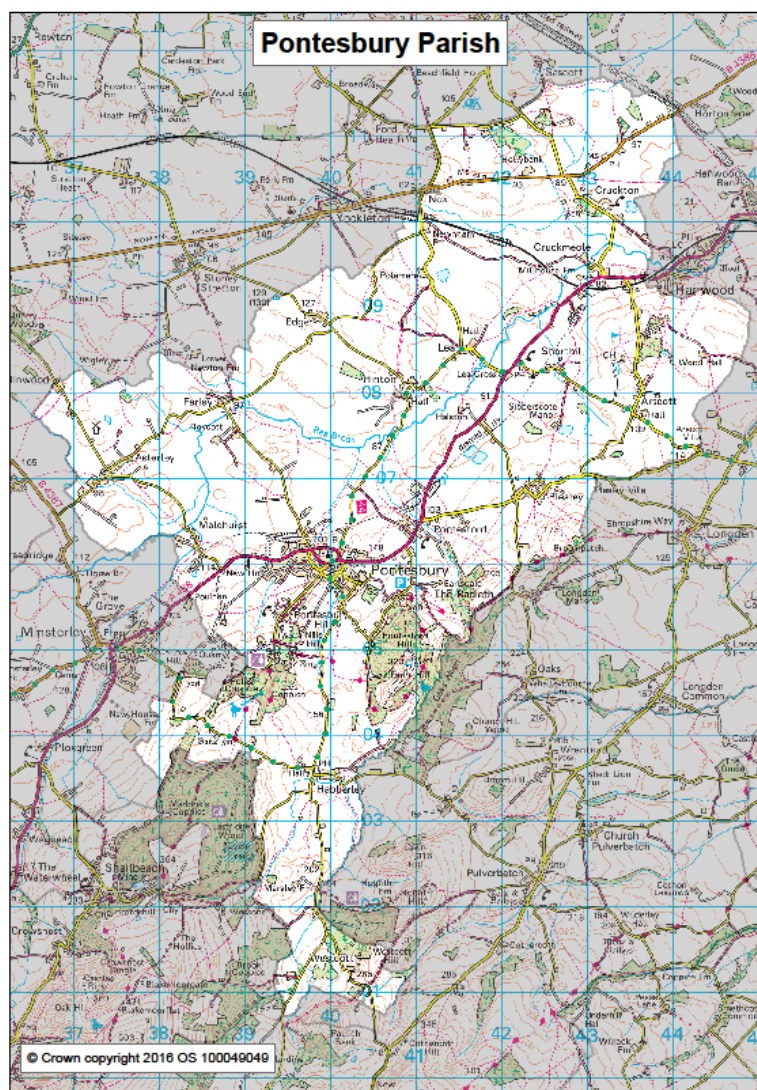


# Pontesbury Parish Newsletter

September 2023

Issue No: 300

## Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum vote 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Pontesbury Parish  
Neighbourhood Plan Area  
Referendum on the  
adoption of the Pontesbury  
Parish Neighbourhood  
Plan will be held on  
Thursday 7 September  
2023 in the Public Hall to  
decide on this Question:

**‘Do you want Shropshire  
Council to use the  
Neighbourhood Plan for  
Pontesbury to help it  
decide planning  
applications in the  
neighbourhood area?’**

..... see page 2 for more information

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

**Deadline for October edition is 11th  
September 2023** - please send all  
articles, requests for adverts and event  
dates to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)

# Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum - 7th September 2023

... cont from page 1

The Referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Pontesbury neighbourhood area. This includes the whole of Pontesbury Parish which means as well as Pontesbury, Pontesford, and Cruckton, it includes all the settlements as illustrated on the map on page 1.

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Monday 21 August 2023:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area.

A persons qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

## Contents:

**Pg 1 & 2** - Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

**Pg 3** - What's On @ The Pavilion

**Pg 4** - Friends of Pontesbury

**Pg 5** - Pontesbury & Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours Diary Dates

**Pg 6** - Church service times/ Congregational Hall Table Top Sale / St George's Open day

**Pg 7** - Pontesbury WI / Pontesbury Women's Club / West Shrop Flower Club / Lea Cross WI Autumn Sale

**Pg 8** - Pontesbury Primary School / Repair Cafe

**Pg 9** - u3a - Manchester Ship Canal / Rea Valley Foodbank

**Pg 10** - Pontesbury Parish Council / Funding available for people not on gas / Pontesbury Library news

**Pg 11** - Get Growing event news / Notes from the Hill/ Earl's Hill Grayling butterfly breeding success

**Pg 12** - The Lost Cairns of the Stiperstones / Tai Chi

**Pg 13** - Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund / Girlguiding in Pontesbury

**Pg 14** - Habberley Village Hall events / Cruckton Village Hall Harvest Supper / Shropshire Woodcarvers Uprooting

**Pg 15** - Marches Growth Hub business advice / Badminton Club / Shropshire Mental Health Support

**Pg 16-19** Business Adverts

**Pg 20** - Dates for your diary - Sep 2023

**A reminder that voters are now required to produce a means of photo identification such as a driving licence or passport.**

Shropshire Council Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view at:

- Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND Monday – Friday during office hours
- Pontesbury Pavilion Community Hub & Library, The Pavilion, Hall Bank, Pontesbury SY5 0RF Opening times – Mon 10am -1pm, Tues 10am – 5pm, Thurs 2pm – 5pm and Sat 10am - 1pm

• These can also be viewed online at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-and-community-led-plans/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/pontesbury-neighbourhood-plan/> or [www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.pontesburyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk)

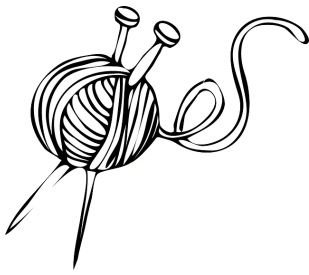
Applications to register to vote or to vote by post or proxy should be made to the Electoral Registration Officer at Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.

**Pontesbury Parish  
Neighbourhood Plan Referendum  
Voting in Public Hall  
Thursday 7th September 2023  
from 7am to 10pm**

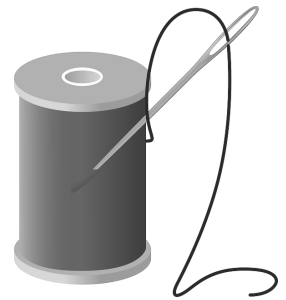


# the PAVILION

## Pavilion News September 2023 - What's On



We hope to see you at the  
**‘Get Creative groups’ on:**  
**Thursday 7th & 21st September**  
**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 28th September - from 10.30am**

Shropshire Council, Age UK STW, Alzheimer's Society, Pontesbury & Worthen Care Coordinator, Pontesbury Parish Council and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours are all working together to support unpaid carers locally. Everyone is 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.

Everyone is welcome to attend and the sessions are a chance to have a cuppa, chat, share information and connect with others who are supporting family or friends



#### Are you able to volunteer?

We have volunteer opportunities at the Pavilion:

The Parish Council is also looking for someone or two people to assist the staff with opening and closing the building when the Building Assistant is away from office.

This would mean evening work, for which the Council will pay an honorarium. For more info please contact Nicki on 07951 205519 or [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk)



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

Free play & activities aimed at pre-school children. Chat and cuppa for parents/carers. Come along and meet other parents/carers.



**Pontesbury Dementia Support Café**

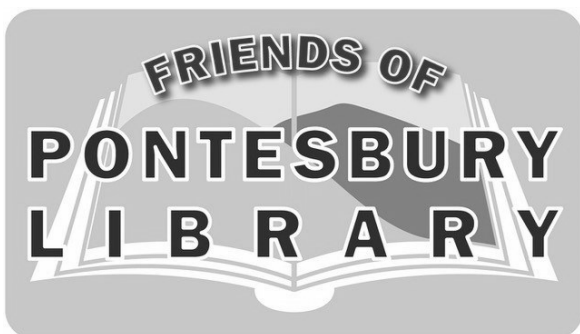
Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

**6th & 20th September  
@ 11am**

For all Pavilion enquiries please contact Anna at:

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





## News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

The summer always seems to fly by, and September brings longer nights and the new school term. The Friends of the library have been busy planning events in our community to support the continuing fundraising to keep our library open and thriving.

The usual coffee morning was held on August 5th and the lucky lottery winners were:

- First prize - Annie Draper
- Second prize - Valerie Whittall
- Third prize - Caro Schiansky

The next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 2nd September, 10.30 to 12.30, when we will also have a special book sale with many exciting fiction and non-fiction titles available.

On Saturday September 9th, in association with Pontesbury Climate Action Group, there will be a Recycling Event in the Congregational Church Hall, from 10am to 12noon. Donations of pre-loved, clean, good quality baby, toddler, children's, and teen clothes and equipment are requested, along with bedding, buggies, highchairs, bikes, toys and almost anything else that accumulates in a household with children. Entry is free and refreshments will be available for a small charge. Any donated items that are not suitable, or are unclaimed after the event will be donated to the Hope House Charity shop. Everyone is welcome to come along and find new treasures.

Rhyme Time - Thursday 14th September at 2pm for the under 5s, and at 4pm Dave Edwards, former professional footballer with Shrewsbury Town, will be presenting medals to children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge.

Looking ahead, we are also very excited about our Christmas concert, on Friday 15th December when The King himself will be gracing Pontesbury Village Hall with his presence for a whole evening. No, not Charles III, but Andy 'Elvis' King, a highly acclaimed tribute act. Andy has very generously agreed to give us a performance, and for the profits after expenses to be donated to FoPL funds. Look out for details of ticket sales in future newsletters, and save the date in your diary.

**Friends of Pontesbury Library hold a Coffee Morning at the Pavilion on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30.**

**The next dates are Saturdays 2nd September & 7th October.**

## Free Recycling Event

**Saturday 9th September  
10am-12 noon in**

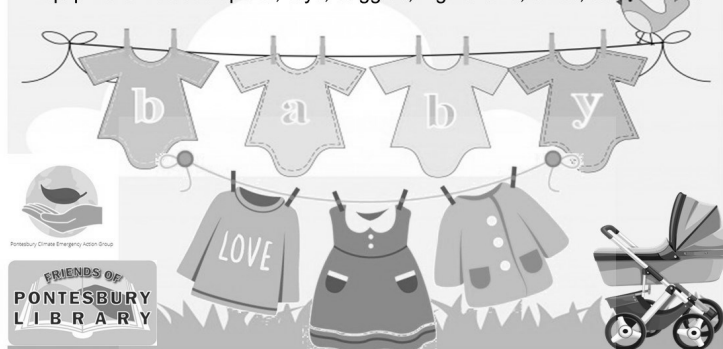
## Congregational Church Hall

**Pre-loved good quality baby, children & teen clothing & equipment event of items no longer needed. Donations are most welcome during Library opening times & on Friday 8th September 2-5pm at the Congregational Hall and 9am on the day.**

**ALL ITEMS FREE TO  
TAKE AWAY**

**Refreshments &  
children's book stall**

Equipment includes sports, toys, buggies, high chairs, bikes, scooters etc



Items not claimed will be donated to Hope House charity

Further information from Pontesbury Library or [yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk)



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group





Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

## News & Events

September 2023

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September** – Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** - Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** – Community Lunch Club  
**RETURNS** cost £8.00.(Public Hall, Pontesbury)

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** - Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>** – Community Lunch Club, cost £8.00.(Public Hall, Pontesbury)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
The Corbet Arms, Uffington. £30.00 includes coach and entertainment by Tom Byrne. Coach leaving at 11.30am.

**Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>** - Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>** - Community Lunch Club, cost £8.00.(Public Hall, Pontesbury)

**Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - Community Lunch Club, cost £8.00.(Public Hall, Pontesbury)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - Coffee Morning 10.30am until 12 noon at The Plough

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - Community Lunch Club, cost £8.00.(Public Hall, Pontesbury)

Pontesbury & Rea Valley Good Neighbours have been nominated for a Radio Shropshire 'Making a difference award' so thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, we will know on the 29th September if we have won.

### 100 Club Winners for July

£25 Fraser Brown

£15 Neville Lewis

£10 Ally Davies

### 100 Club Winners for August

£25 Carol Leighton

£15 Maureen Neven

£10 Ally Davies

### Lunch Club - *please note:*

The Luncheon club will start up again on 27th October – cost is £8 for a two course meal at The Public Hall, from 11.45am – 1.30pm. Please get in touch with Good Neighbours if you wish to attend, you will need a ticket.

Lunch club tickets can be purchased anytime the month before, no ticket no entry. This will enable us to make sure there is enough food.

You can buy tickets at the coffee mornings or by ringing the GN number 07944 891953.

### Christmas Lunch - 20th December

Still room for the Christmas Lunch at The Corbet Arms, this is open to anyone. Entertainment by Tom Byrne  
Contact Good Neighbours on 07944 891953

Please book your places for the Christmas meal asap as places limited.

Phone Rea Valley & Pontesbury Community Good Neighbours number for any info or to book any of the events listed above **07944 891953**

**Pontesbury Congregational  
Church Services for  
September 2023**

3rd September 10am The Deacons  
10th September 10am Rev. Debbie  
Martin  
10th September 3pm Garden Service  
17th September 10am  
Olwen Lethbridge.  
24th September 10am Harvest Festi-  
val, Rev Debbie Martin

Wednesdays 10.45 -12 noon -  
Coffee/tea and fellowship.  
Everyone welcome

**Pontesbury Congregational Church**

Invites you to a

**Garden Service**

followed by refreshments on  
Sunday 10th September 2023 at 3pm

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

Services and activities for  
September 2023

3rd 10.30am Morning Worship  
5th 2.30 am Tea Service  
10th 10.30 am Holy Communion  
17th 10.30am Holy Communion  
24th 10.30am Holy Communion

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**

Chapel Street, SY5 0RJ

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

We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30 am  
and 6:30 pm. You don't have to book ahead, and  
there's no dress-code - please just come as you are.  
Everyone is welcome! 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.

**Methodist Services for September 2023:**

3rd September at 10.45 am with Rev. Richard Hall  
10th Sept at 10.45 am with Mr Andy Skitt  
17th September at 10.45 am Harvest Festival with  
Rev Andrew Champley  
18th September at 7.00 pm Harvest Supper  
24th September at 10.45 am with Church Members.

**Pontesbury Congregational Church**

On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November**, we are planning to hold  
another

**Table Top Sale**

from 10 am to 12 Noon.

Why not book a table for your group or club?

Tea and coffee will be on sale

Tables cost £10 each and should be booked before  
the day.

Contact [Janewardropper@btinternet.com](mailto:Janewardropper@btinternet.com) to book a  
table

and for further information

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**

**10.00am-4.00pm**

**Guided tours, free refreshments, presentations on the church's work and  
activities, live music**

Please see Church noticeboard for full programme

## Pontesbury WI



Pontesbury WI met on Monday 10th July and were pleased to welcome a prospective new member, Julie Cope to her first meeting. New members can attend up to three meetings prior to becoming full members. This month we were entertained by Linda Brown and Mike McGarry who told us about their unusual family tree. The amusing stories were acted out keeping all members amused.

This month's competition was for the best hand-made bag. The winner was Barbara Scott and her bag will be put forward to the Inter WI competition due to take place in October. At our next meeting in September we will be judging homemade pickles, the winning pickle will be our entry in the October Inter WI competition.

Our single stem flower competition saw many entries this month; Lyn our visiting speaker judged the flowers: 1st place went to Lena Rowson; 2nd and 3rd to Maxine Pittaway.

The raffle for beautiful sun flowers was won by Wigley & 2nd place went to Irene Windows. The sun flower is the emblem of the WI and this month every member received a lovely sun flower brooch, hand made by Lorna Wright

On the 16th of September Shropshire WI's will be holding a County Day which shall be held at the Abbey in Shrewsbury. All WI's will be entering competitions on the day which will include flower arrangements and crafts. We will also have lots of sale stalls. The general public are invited to attend. Pontesbury WI have already established a team of crafters who are working hard in preparation for the event.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th September where we will be joined by John Lightfoot from Shropshire Barn Owls. This should be a very interesting and informative environmental talk. Why not join us to see what WI is about. We meet on the second Monday afternoon of the month at Pontesbury Public Hall. Please contact Irene Windows President on 01743 791903 for further information.  
Maxine Pittaway. Events Organiser.

## Pontesbury Women's Club

Our new term starts in September  
– a good time to join us

### **Tuesday 12th September 'My Life as a Vicar's Wife'**

as experienced by Fran Smith.  
PWC will also be holding a Plant  
Sale.

### **Tuesday 10th October Ruth Allen will be bringing IKER and telling us about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'**

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 West Shropshire Flower Club July meeting was a practical workshop using willow to make a willow flower, which is a lovely statement piece for your house or garden. The activity was designed for beginners and those who have made in the past who want to recharge their creative batteries and enjoy sharing new-found skills. The willow had been soaked and prepared for everyone to have a go. The flower uses similar methods to making a small circular basket base, then turns into a decorative flower by adding individual petals. The method was demonstrated step by step, with people following on mass. Despite the poor weather it was a good turn-out, so there were a lot of tables to get round to show the method in detail. There was a wide range of talent in the room and some took to weaving like ducks to water. Instructions were provided, which some found useful. Practically everyone produced something that was flower shaped and some people found it enjoyable enough to take some of the excess willow home to have another go!

Meetings are at Westbury Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The next meetings of the West Shropshire Flower Club are:

27th September 2023 – Sally Taylor – Sallying Forth

25th October 2023 – AGM

22 November 2023 – Mark Entwistle – Believe in the Magic

## Lea Cross WI

are holding an Autumn Fair on

7th October 2023 from 10am

in The Cock Inn, Hanwood.

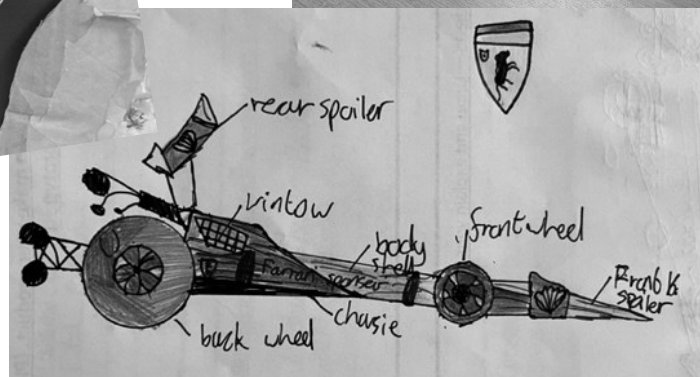
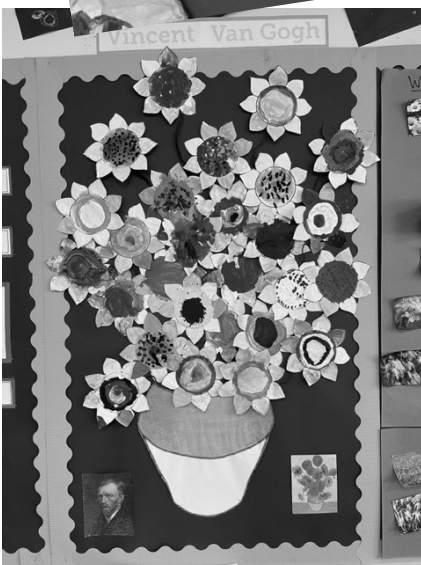
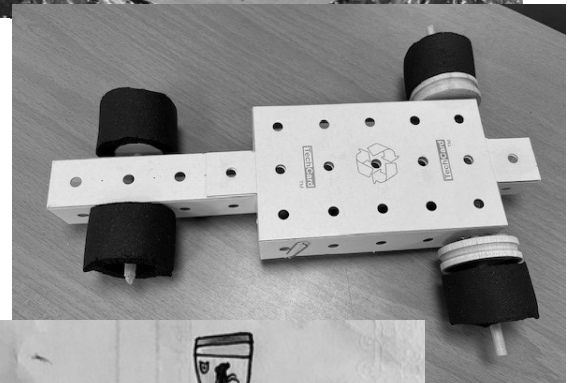
Stalls to include Cakes, Bric a Brac,  
Books, Crafts, etc.

**'Pontesbury Sports Association is undergoing some  
changes to the Pavilion building – look out for more  
details in next months issue of the Village  
Newsletter'**

Pontesbury Cricket Club  
SYS 00D



**Pontesbury Primary School** As we welcome in a new school year, I share with you some of the excellent work our pupils have created in the academic year 2022-23. We're looking forward to another successful year and to welcoming the community to some of our events. If you would like to see more about our wonderful school, please visit our website: [www.pontesburyprimary.org.uk](http://www.pontesburyprimary.org.uk)



### Repair Cafe dates for 2023

Saturdays 10.00 - 12.00hrs (second Saturday of the month on alternate months)  
9th September / 11th November in St George's Church Pontesbury

Repairs need to be bought early to give the volunteers chance to repair while we are open.

# THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL



A fascinating talk on the Manchester Ship Canal, referred to as the Channel Tunnel of the Victorian age, a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long, linking Manchester to the sea.

SEPTEMBER  
**20**

Wed  
2pm - 4pm  
Minsterley Parish Hall  
Refreshments available  
Free entrance



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

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



**Pontesbury & Rea  
Valley u3a**

## – Manchester Ship Canal

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites both members and non-members to its next Open Meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 2pm at Minsterley Parish Hall where we are looking forward to a fascinating talk on the Manchester Ship Canal given by

two volunteers of the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society, custodians of a restored and fully operational 903 built former Manchester Ship Canal tug tender.

The Manchester Ship Canal is a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long linking the birthplace of the industrial revolution, Manchester to the Mersey Estuary, allowing direct trade to world markets for both import and export of goods of all kinds loaded on ocean going ships. The talk will tell of the history of the building of the canal, the people who worked on it, the ships that sailed up it, some of the incidents that occurred and some strange visitors, all contributing to the fascinating and continuing story of this great Northwest waterway as well as the restoration of the "Danny" to its former art deco glory.

Refreshments are provided and, for non-members, the Open Meeting will give you the opportunity to meet with some of our members and ask any questions you may have about the u3a.

The u3a promotes lifelong learning across a wide range of activities and subjects and which fosters friendship and fun, open to anyone who is retired, semi-retired or older. Please see our website for further information: [u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley).



Everyone is affected by the high cost of energy, food and essential household items. The Rea Valley Foodbank is here for all those who are unable to meet their food bills and will provide a weekly parcel of nutritionally balanced meals, along with other household goods. Everything you receive is in date and we can help for a period of time until your circumstances improve!!

You need a referral to ensure that your parcel meets your needs, but it's really easy, just call

Greg 07902 794653 OR Richard 07922 830488

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

Our teams give you a warm welcome when you come to either of these collection points and it would be really helpful if you could bring bags with you to collect your items.

Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley Tuesdays 10am-12.00

St George's Church, Pontesbury Thursdays 10am-12.00



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

**COMMUNITY APPEAL** – We are in great need of in-date food, both men and women's toiletries, pet food and nappies (all sizes) If you can help, please drop any donations into either of the two churches. Many thanks.

**Pontesbury Parish Council** During the summer, despite there not being a full council meeting in August, work continues around the parish. The project to convert the remaining parish council streetlights to LED is at the stage where tenders are being received from specialist companies. A decision about awarding the contract will be made at the October council meeting. The conversion is necessary as the old SOX lamps are no longer manufactured and LED lanterns will result in significant savings with less electricity being used and lower maintenance costs for the lanterns. Less electricity being used will also contribute to the commitment of the parish council to reducing carbon emissions associated with running council services. During the summer, councillors and staff also started to look at prioritising work and projects for the forthcoming financial year and review the Parish Council Strategic Plan. The plan can be found on the parish council website [www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk). The parish council are always looking for feedback from residents on priorities for the year. The council budget and precept can then be set, so that these priorities can be achieved.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 11th September at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Hall Bank.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.30pm 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.

#### **Funding available to Residents who do not have gas central heating ....**

Funding has been made available to help retrofit the homes of residents living off-gas. Fully funded works will include insulation, heat pumps, first-time double glazing, and solar panels.

Some things to note before you submit your expression of interest:

- Grants are currently only available to 'off gas' homes - properties that are not heated by mains gas.
- This is not a crisis/emergency scheme. The grant process does take time. Successful applicants will require several different assessments before measures are installed.
- Applicants must have lived in their property for a minimum of 6 months. Private tenants can apply, although your landlord will need to consent to all works and will be expected to make a financial contribution.
- Residents need to meet certain qualifying criteria, and your property will also need to meet certain criteria. All works are subject to survey and funding availability.

More information on how people can apply can be found: Sustainable Warmth Shropshire - expression of interest <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing/affordable-warmth-and-energy-efficiency/sustainable-warmth-shropshire-expression-of-interest/>

**PONTESBURY LIBRARY** The focus for July and August was the Summer Reading Challenge. It launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, by the second week of the holidays we had 52 signed up. In fact, I had to send urgent messages to our HQ requesting more packs as we ran out twice!

I'm afraid the Obstacle Course was a bit of a wash out the first week we launched it. The rain washed it away. We managed the Giant Snakes and Ladders a few times, which was very popular, especially with grandparents. We had a brilliant Felt Making craft, thanks to Gill Scriven. She created a wall hanging with some of the pieces which can be seen displayed in the junior library. We also had a clay craft session where the children, plus helpers had fun making animals with some natural twigs and leaves and flowers.

The Summer Reading Challenge is finishing off in style this year. We are lucky to have a local sports star, Dave Edwards, of Wolves, Shrewsbury Town and Wales. Dave will be at the library on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm to present medals and certificates to those who read 6 books and completed the challenge. So, if you signed up, don't forget to finish!!

Wishing you all good luck and a happy new school year from the library owl.





## **Community Food growing in Pontesbury**

**Inaugural get together, Wednesday 6th September. The Pavilion 7pm.**

This is an invitation for anyone in the Pontesbury area who is interested in growing food for our community to come to a short meet up in September to discuss possibilities and opportunities.

No expertise needed. Everyone welcome.

Please contact Liz : [elizabethknowles1@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethknowles1@gmail.com) or just come along on the day .

## **NATURAL ENGLAND Notes from the hill**

I am beginning to see some small coveys of grouse on the hill now, so hopefully they have had a good year. Numbers have been recovering well after a very low spring count in 2021 of 7-8 calling males, to this years count of 18-20. Some other birds have already started heading south for the winter, our cuckoos will probably already be back in Africa, as they don't have to hang around to bring up their chicks, having given that duty to a foster bird instead. We are also seeing a passage of wheatears coming through the reserve on their way south.

Some of our management has been delayed due to the wet summer and we are looking forward to a dry spell to let us get the hay crop in from our meadows and to get some bracken spraying carried out. Where we can we cut bracken with mowers or scythes, but that is only possible where it grows on grassland areas. On the heath where the bracken grows over heather and bilberry bushes, spraying is our only option. Across the country bracken growth has increased in recent years likely helped along by increased nitrogen in the air and warmer winters. Both of these factors means that bracken is growing more vigorously resulting in it overtopping and shading out other vegetation and then forming a mulch of bracken litter through which nothing grows but more bracken. In response we spray the dense stands of bracken, where little else grows and all the areas that are sprayed are posted with signs.



Our last opening of the year for the Blakemoorgate ottages will be on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Sept between 11am and 3pm. You can walk up from Snailbeach either via the chimney or past Lords Hill Chapel. A drop in free event.

Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoroak

## **Earl's Hill Grayling butterfly breeding success**

Grayling butterflies have been in serious trouble over the last forty years in England and Wales, with a 92% decline in distribution and a 72% decline in abundance. They are now listed as nationally endangered. The Malvern Hills was one of the three remaining breeding sites in the West Midlands, but no butterflies appeared there this summer and it is feared that they have become locally extinct. The two precious remaining sites are Earls' Hill and the Bog Mines.

In July experts from Butterfly Conservation UK visited Earl's Hill and were delighted to find Graylings still here in abundance: sunbathing, dancing, displaying and laying eggs ready for next year. The experts spent a long time trying to work out just how we had been so successful at preserving their habitat.

It seems that walkers are helping! Erosion on footpaths leaves bare stone and worn grass, which the Graylings love for sunbathing, displaying and even laying their eggs.

The butterflies also need grazing pressure to keep the sward of Sheep's Fescue grass short. Our conservation grazing regime with Hill Radnor sheep and Dexter cattle seems to be ideal.

In the past (particularly just after lockdowns) we had a spate of serious dog attacks on the sheep, with horrible injuries and deaths. Thankfully, things now seem to be improving.

We hope soon to be using GPS collars and a smartphone app which will alert dog owners to the presence of the sheep and cattle. Meanwhile, please continue to keep your dogs under close control. Those sheep have an important job to do. If they stop grazing, we may lose the Graylings forever.

## 'The Lost Cairns of the Stiperstones'

An exciting programme of events is coming to the Stiperstones this Autumn, part of the Our Upland Commons project, a National Lottery Heritage funded initiative, supported by 25 organisations, and led by the Foundation for Common Land. It has also been made possible with grants from Esmée Fairbairn and Garfield Weston Foundations and locally the Millichope Foundation.

The unploughed soils and permanent pastures of common land, managed through long term commoning, have provided ideal conditions for the safeguarding of 3000 archaeological monuments. Stiperstones has 22 recorded Bronze Age cairns, 5 are scheduled. However, there are numerous other features on the hill, not formally identified/dated.

Starting with an introductory walk on the 30th September there will be survey days you can get involved in to identify, record and map some of the unknown cairns (15th, 16th and 23rd October). One of the important scheduled cairns is suffering some (unintended) damage from walkers taking a shortcut, and we will do some work to encourage people to stick to the path.

Led by Matt Williams of Fearn Heritage and Archaeology, booking for all these activities will be essential in case we need to change at short notice, email [info@fearnheritage.co.uk](mailto:info@fearnheritage.co.uk)

On Tuesday 24th October Matt will conclude the programme with a final guided walk and will hopefully have a lot more to share depending on what has been uncovered!!

To find out more about the Our Upland Commons project see <https://foundationforcommonland.org.uk/our-upland-commons>

### TAI CHI

The Tai Chi class in Pontebury Public Hall is at 2.00 pm every Tuesday from Tuesday 5th September until just before Christmas,

Tai Chi is good for health in general, as it boosts the immune system and can help improve memory, balance, circulation, bone density, and indeed stimulates all the major organs. Do come along and join us at any time. We stop for a cup of tea at around three o'clock, and then continue until four.

Jenny Alldridge

## 'Lost Cairns of the Stiperstones'

Programme

Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons



Part of the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve is registered Common Land. Humans have been shaping and inhabiting this landscape for many 100's if not 1000's of years. Join us on a journey to locate, survey, record and protect some of the unknown historical features on the hill including cairns, squatter settlements and earthworks and learn more about them.

Starting on **Saturday 30th September** with an introductory walk across the top from the Knolls car park to Blakemoorgate, Matt Williams from Fearn Heritage and Archaeology will show you, and explain more about, this landscape's rich history. The walk starts at 10:30am and finishes at Blakemoorgate at around 12 noon for you to carry on or retrace your steps at your own pace.

There are thought to be several Bronze Age cairns in the undergrowth which are not recorded properly. Join Matt on **Sunday 15th October** for a day to locate, survey and record these. On **Monday 16th October** you can join Matt for a second day, when we are also planning to carry out some work to encourage walkers to stay on the main public footpath, as an unofficial short cut is damaging the edges of an important scheduled cairn and we need your help!

On **Monday 23rd October** starting at 10am at the Knolls car park, Matt will take a walk focussing on various squatter enclosures. You can come just for the walk or take part in a survey of the Tin House settlement and unrecorded features at Blakemoorgate in the afternoon.

Finally, on **Tuesday 24th October**, Matt will lead a final walk, similar to the walk that started the programme but hopefully filling in some blanks and sharing all the new information from this programme of work. All findings also will be written up in a report and shared with the various relevant authorities and on our website.

**Booking for all of these activities and walks is essential.**

Sturdy footwear and weather appropriate clothing a must.

Email Matt via [info@fearnheritage.co.uk](mailto:info@fearnheritage.co.uk)

This programme will enhance knowledge of the archaeology of the Stiperstones and the common and gives an opportunity to help preserve historic features on your doorstep.

Our Common Cause:  
Our Upland Commons



@4CommonLand

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

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## Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund, 2023-24 is OPEN for Applications



Grants of up to £2,000 available for projects helping to conserve and raise awareness of the Shropshire Hills landscape, its diverse wildlife and rich heritage.

Please get in touch if you have a project in mind:  
email [stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk),  
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For more information & how to apply see [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

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Did you know that Pontesbury has Brownies, Guides and Rangers, just for girls aged 7 to 18?

We meet weekly in term time and do all sorts of activities, from paddleboarding to campfires, craft to geocaching, community service to cooking. For older girls, there is the option to attend or volunteer at large scale events around the world.

The groups are run by a team of volunteer Leaders all local to the area. We have spaces available for girls in all our local groups, so for more information about Guiding or to register your daughter please see our website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), or email us at [pontesbury-guides@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pontesbury-guides@hotmail.co.uk)

1st Pontesbury Guides and Rangers have just returned from summer camp where we went rafting, zip lining and orienteering amongst other activities. We have a further camp planned in October and many other exciting activities planned - why not join us?





# Harvest Supper

£12 per person (children half price)  
for full buffet, choice of desserts, tea  
and coffee - bring your own drinks

Friday, 22 September 2023

7.30 p.m.

Cruckton Village Hall

Pay on the door but please ring Alison Bebb (07950 233880) or Alison Davies (01743 860447) by 13 September to help with planning for catering

See you there!

## SHROPSHIRE CARVERS UPROOTING

After more than 30 years at the Mary Webb School, Shropshire Woodcarvers are uprooting and moving to the more central location of the West Mids Show Ground. We will be using the facilities provided by the Men's Shed group and will still be meeting each Thursday evening, 7pm to 9pm, and each second Saturday of the month, 10 am to 4pm. Please use our website or email [stewart.tilley@btinternet.com](mailto:stewart.tilley@btinternet.com) if you wish to contact us.



Picture: a display of hearts, and some of the members involved. This was the Shropshire Carvers' last group project before moving. Carved by the group for, and now in, the Severn Hospice Shrewsbury.

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\*Limited tickets available!

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## HAS BEEN SHOT

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

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## SHROPSHIRE BUSINESSES URGED TO ACCESS FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The Marches Growth Hub Shropshire is the single point of access to information on the vast range of support available to businesses in the county.

It offers face-to-face advice on business grants, loans and the support available for Shropshire businesses, regardless of size or sector, from pre-start and sole traders to those companies that are established and growing.

Everything is free. Businesses can also subscribe to the newsletter which will keep you up to date with what free support is currently available.

The content of the weekly newsletter varies each week but can include details about free events - and networking opportunities, funding notifications, key initiatives of importance to businesses, support opportunities - which includes 1-2-1 sessions with business advisors, start-up advice, and much more.

The newsletter also alerts subscribers to the Growth Hub's 'Let's do business in...' series. This is an outreach programme which involves both the team and some of their advisors meeting the business community face-to-face in the market towns.

Sometimes people just come in for a cuppa and to chat about a business challenge they might be facing. If we can't solve it ourselves, we generally know someone who can!

If you are a business and haven't subscribed yet you can do so here [www.shropshire.gov.uk/subscribe](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/subscribe)

Simply specify 'business' when asked for your choices. The newsletter normally goes out on a Monday or Tuesday so if you haven't received it by midweek, do check your junk or spam folders.

Find out more about the Marches Growth Hub Shropshire here: <https://www.investinshropshire.co.uk/relocating-and-investing/business-support/>



### Pontesbury Thursday Night Badminton Club

Pontesbury Thursday Night Badminton Club and are looking for a few new members to join us in September. We play at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on Thursday nights between 7pm and 9pm. Places are limited and if we exceed our maximum members limit then we place all others onto our waiting list. We accept anyone of 18 years old or older and any playing standard. The only condition is that you must be able to freely move around the badminton court. 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 07821 643685 for further information. Please do not attend on a Thursday night unless you have been specifically invited as we may be at our membership limit and may have to politely send you away.

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**Shropshire Mental Health Support  
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### Rea Valley Probus Club

Meeting Date: 13th September

Venue & Time: Arscott Golf Club at 1pm

## Local Foster Carers Needed for Local Children

**Start your fostering journey today!**

Closing Date for submissions for September newsletter is Friday 11th August 2023. 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.



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October issue deadline is  
Monday 11th September, all copy to  
[deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk) by this  
date please.

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## **SEPTEMBER 2023 DIARY**

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Every Tue	10am to 12 noon	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue from 5 Sep	2pm	Tai Chi	Public Hall
Every Wed Term-time only	10am to 12 noon	Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with refreshments	Pavilion
Every Thu	10-12am	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Every Thu	7.00-9.00pm	Badminton	Mary Webb School
Every Fri	10am	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
1st Saturday - 2nd September	10am - 12 noon	FoPL Coffee Mornings	Pavilion / Library
Mon 4 Sep	10am to 1pm	Shropshire Mental Health Support Bus	St George's Church
Mon 4 Sep	6.30pm	Pontesbury Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Wed 6 Sep Wed 20 Sep	11am	Dementia Support Café	Pavilion
Wed 6 Sep	7pm	Community food growing event for anyone interested in learning how to grow food	Pavilion
Thu 7 Sep Thu 21 Sep	11am - 1pm	Get Creative Morning - Free with refreshments - bring along your current project	Pavilion
Thu 7 Sep	7am to 10pm	PONTESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM	PUBLIC HALL
Fri 8 Sep	10.30 to 12 noon	Community Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn
Sat 9 Sep	10am doors open	Baby & Children Items Recycling Event - free	Congregational Hall
Sat 9 Sep	10am - 12 noon	Repair Café (please bring repairs in early)	St George's Church
Mon 11 Sep	2pm	Pontesbury WI AGM	Public Hall
Mon 11 Sep	7.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council meeting	Pavilion
Tue 12 Sep	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 13 Sep	1.00pm	Probus Club Meeting	Arscott Golf Club
Thu 14 Sep	2pm	Rhyme Time - stories & songs for pre-schoolers	Pavilion / Library
Thu 14 Sep	4pm	Reading Challenge presentation	Pavilion / Library
Sat 16 Sep		Shropshire WI County Day	Shrewsbury Abbey
Wed 20 Sep	2pm	u3a Manchester Ship Canal	Minsterley Parish Hall
Fri 22 Sep	7.30pm	Harvest Supper	Cruckton Village Hall
Sat 23 Sep	7.30pm	Paul Ray Laughter Show	Habberley Village Hall
Wed 27 Sep	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 29 Sep	10.30am	Carer's Coffee Morning - join us for free refreshments & expert help	Pavilion
Sat 30 Sep	10am to 4pm	St George's Church Open Day	St George's Church
Sat 30 Sep	10.30am	Stiperstones Heritage & Archaeological Walk	Meet Knolls car park
Sat 7 Oct	10.00am	Lea Cross WI Autumn Fair: bric-a-brac, books, cakes, crafts	Cock Inn, Hanwood
Fri 13 Oct	7.30pm	The Bobby Kennedy Experience	Habberley Village Hall