



Friday 14th February is St Valentine's Day and at the Pavilion we are encouraging you to look after your heart, body and mind.

Please see inside newsletter for articles on getting your blood pressure checked, getting involved with local groups and going on nature walks. There is so much to be a part of to help you look after yourself.



WHEN DID YOU LAST GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED?

High blood pressure is the major cause of heart attacks and strokes in people over 40 in the UK. It often has no symptoms. In fact, 1 in 4 people with high blood pressure do not know they have it.

**GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED AND
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS.
FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKING & ADVICE
The Pavillion, Pontesbury
21st Jan; 18th Feb; 18th March
11am to 1pm**



!Good News!

Pontesbury Parish Council are pleased to announce that at the January parish council meeting Councillors considered the budget for 2025-26. We are pleased to announce a **2.59% decrease** in the precept for 2025-26 without any corresponding cutting back on services offered.

This budget also includes the refurbishment of the public toilets and installation of solar panels on the Pavilion roof.

**DEADLINE for March 2025 issue is:
Wednesday 12th February 2025**

Coloured copies of the newsletter can be read at 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 - Happy New Year to everyone from the parish council.

2025-26 precept for Pontesbury - At the January parish council meeting Councillors considered the budget for 2025-26. We are pleased to announce a 2.59% decrease in the precept for 2025-26 without any corresponding cutting back on services offered. This has been achieved mainly by prudent investment of reserves and a good rate of interest received.

Highways Concerns - Councillors raised several concerns about the state of highways in the parish, reported by councillors and local residents, and have requested a site visit with Shropshire Council Officers. Cllr Hodges has written a piece about the particular issues being experienced in the Cruckton area. [see page 9]

Concerned about potential traffic offences? - A local resident attended the meeting to raise the concerns about the behaviour of some drivers using the mini-roundabout as you enter Pontesbury from Minsterley. The resident has been in touch with Cllr Fletcher (Chair, Parish Council), Cllr Nick Hignett (Shropshire Councillor for the area) and the local policing team. Cllr Hignett and the parish council hope to have a site visit with Shropshire Council Highways Officers soon. In the meantime, the local policing team have explained that there is a West Mercia operation called Operation Snap. As part of Operation Snap, members of the public can report and submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences via a secure online form. (Use <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> or the link can be found on the parish

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council website www.pontesburyparishcouncil.org.uk) This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly, to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Pontesbury Library - It was agreed to increase the contribution made by the parish council (in conjunction with Friends Of Pontesbury Library) towards the running costs of Pontesbury Library. Shropshire Library Service are very pleased that in Pontesbury the library visit and book loan figures have both risen compared to the same period last year. The parish council is very proud of the successful partnership between FOPL, the library service and the parish council (who fund and manage the Pavilion building), to provide this much used and loved community facility.

Planned Capital Projects - 2025 will be a busy year for the parish council who hope to carry out refurbishment works to the public toilets and will be installing solar panels at The Pavilion. We apologise for the ongoing closure of the public toilets. The remedial works following the vandalism are proving more complicated than originally thought, partly due to the ageing doors. We hope to have them open in the next few weeks and then refurbished completely by the end of the year.

Local Elections in 2025 - 2025 will also bring local elections at parish and county level. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor please come and find out more at one of our council open days, planned for Spring 2025. These will be advertised in the newsletter in.

The next **Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 9th February** 6.30pm at The Pavilion and the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 9th March** at Pontesbury Public Hall.

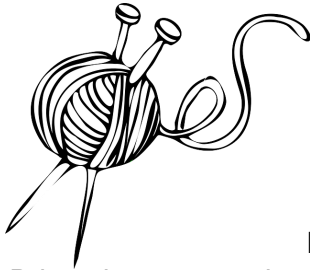
The next **Planning Committee meetings** will be held on **Monday 2nd February** and Monday 2nd March 2025 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues.

Rea Valley Probus Club

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, www.reavalleyprobus.org.uk. **Next meeting 12th February 2025**

**Welcome
2025**



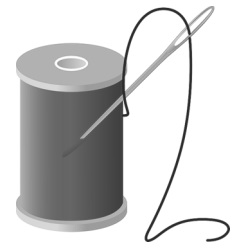


We hope to see you at the new time for
'Get Creative Group':

at The Pavilion from 2-4pm on
Mondays 3rd & 17th February 2025

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.



Rhyme Time

Thursday 13th February

at 2pm to 2.45pm

Pontesbury Library @ the Pavilion

Rhymes, stories and songs for
children under five years old

Pontesbury Carers Support Group

Friday 28th February 2025

Join us in a relaxed and informal meeting
where we share information and chat with a
cuppa and cake, starting 10.30am. It's all free,
with experts on hand to answer questions.



Pontesbury Dementia Support Group

Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

12th & 26th February 2025
at the new time of 2- 4pm

!Book Donations! While the library appreciates the sentiment of people kindly donating unwanted books, we thought it a good idea to share some guidance with you.

The library is one of 21 with in the Shropshire Library service and the majority of stock is supplied by them. We can accept some donations for stock that are new, or nearly new in excellent condition. We have a small trolley of donations that we sell to help raise funds for the Friends. We can accept small numbers for this, no more than a carrier bag full.

The library is within the Pavilion building, which does not have any storage space for old books. The library is also single staffed, and staff do not have the capacity to sort or dispose of large numbers of books that are left here. We would therefore ask anyone with potential donations to discuss it with library staff before leaving them at the Pavilion.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.
Library and Pavilion Staff.

February in the library!

I'm sure some of you will remember the Lily Chitty talk of November 2023. We packed the library to the doors with villagers keen to listen to Caroline's talk and share their own memories of 'Lal's' life.

At the time it appeared that we were not the only people interested in her story, others had rediscovered her too. Archives had named a new room after her and Shrewsbury Museum had prepared a display, which is now a touring exhibition, it will be here in April. We hoped that anyone with paintings or artifacts would be willing to share them again, or even photos that we could copy. Please email/pop in the library to let us know.

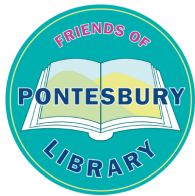
The Friends have been adding to our mini library, we have some nice new books, Chris Hoy, Alison Steadman and Jeremy Clarkson to mention a few and they also have bought a collection of Classics.

We will be moving on to spring themes soon, snow drops and daffodils. Our local artist Gill will be running some craft sessions to help brighten our space.

The Library Owl!

Pontesbury.library@shropshire.gov.uk





News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

Recycling Christmas trees – Chip it for Charity We raised over £200. Thanks to the Ark Nursery for use of their car park and to Ben Jones and his Wood matters team for doing the chipping and to all those who brought their trees.

Despite the cold weather the first 2025 coffee morning went very cheerfully and raised £70.

Saturday 1st February, 10.30 till 12 is the date for the next one. The library coffee mornings are held regularly on the first Saturday in the month, when anyone can purchase tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes and enjoy a chat. The library lottery is drawn on these occasions. The lucky winners at the last two meetings were :



December	January
First.....Roy & Sheila Bower, ticket no. 39	First.....Val Sinclair, ticket no. 189
Second.....Sarah Twells, ticket no. 174	Second.....Jacqui Clark, ticket no. 77
Third.....Ken Jenks, ticket no. 78	Third.....Adrian Windows, ticket no. 6
Bonus.....Sandra Hallett ticket no. 127	Forms to join in the lottery are available in the library.

Coming soon.....Writing Competition Advance notice of our short story competition which will be judged in June with winners to be announced at the Pontesbury Festival. There will be four age categories -

- Primary children -11 year olds and under
- Secondary students -11 to 16 year olds
- 16 to 18 year olds
- Adults

Since we are tying this in with the Pontesbury Festival we are setting a local based title— **“It happened in Pontesbury...”** We look forward to all sorts of interpretations on this theme , fact or fiction, historical, romance, fantasy, science fiction....writers can let their imaginations fly! But only up to 500 words. See display in the library and further details in March Newsletter.

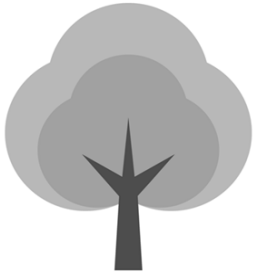
Art Workshops Many thanks to Minsterley School for their delightful contributions and to the children and adults who came to Christmas Forest workshops. The big collage picture is staying up for a while.



8th and 22nd March, 10.30 -12.30 - Spring decoration workshops.

Spring Plant sale - Not yet! But it will very soon be time to start sowing seeds in preparation!

Lastly, the Friends of the Library are still in need of a new Chairperson. Yvonne Davies who is standing down will be happy to talk to you about the role. Get in touch - yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk.



Community
Good
Neighbours
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

News & Events

February 2025



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

Coffee Morning - Friday 14th February 2025 All are welcome to come along 10:30am to 12:00pm at The Plough Inn

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

GN Community Luncheons - 28th February

All at the Public Hall – ticket only. Tickets can be bought in advance from Hignetts and any GN groups. GN would like to thank the Public Hall for their ongoing support.

Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours Review of 2024

2024 has been another very busy year for the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours organisation, with fifteen dedicated volunteers and five committee members working extremely hard on a wide variety of activities to support the community.

The monthly Coffee Mornings at the Plough in Pontesbury are very well supported and continue to be a success, with the smaller groups at the "Coffee and Chat" meetings and the Gentlemen's Club providing support to those who prefer to meet in an environment where this a smaller group of like-minded individuals. Often those who attend the smaller groups then have the confidence and the desire to attend the larger Coffee Mornings and the Luncheons, which is great to see.

The Luncheon at the Public Hall in Pontesbury has had another successful year, with around forty people attending, and the events will continue to be organised until March 2025. The Committee would like to thank the volunteers who work tirelessly either cooking, serving, helping behind the scenes, setting up the hall, clearing up afterwards – the Luncheons would not be possible without the time given by these people.

The Good Neighbours group supported the Carers' Event this year with the provision of a donation for a buffet lunch and some musical entertainment, which was well received by those who attended.

Good Neighbours still has three volunteers befriending vulnerable individuals in their homes. Other events and activities in 2024 included the provision of Easter Eggs for Severn Hospice, donations of biscuits to the Rea Valley Food Bank at Christmas for hampers, provision of emergency food parcels for families under special circumstances, and additional support for vulnerable families with further food bags being created and provided. Pontesbury C of E Primary School were supported by us providing bags of compost for a garden project. Pontesbury Sports Association have also been supported by the Good Neighbours group this year with the purchase of new flooring and equipment. This year's Christmas Meal was held at The Gates at Ford, where 56 guests and nine volunteers enjoyed a three-course meal. The Good Neighbours committee organised the post-lunch musical entertainment and provided transport to and from the event. The feedback from those who attended was tremendous, with some describing it as "the best one yet".

The "Festive Friends" activity, supported by the Good Neighbours group, once again ensured several individuals who would otherwise have been alone at Christmas were able to share a festive meal with others on Christmas day.

The Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and 2025 promises to be just as busy as previous years. With regular meetings, luncheons, coffee mornings and smaller groups continuing to provide the support to the Community that is so desperately needed.

The Committee would like to record its thanks to the Pontesbury Co-Op, Pontesbury Parish Council, Hignett's, Pontesbury One Stop, The Plough at Pontesbury, and to all members of the community who have made donations to the Good Neighbours group, and to those from the community who help out in so many ways. The ongoing activities of the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours would not be possible without the support from all these individuals, groups and companies.

St. George's Church

www.st-george.org.uk



Services and activities for February 2025

2nd 10.30am Holy Communion
4th 2.30pm Tea Service
6th 3.30pm Messy Church
9th 10.30am Morning Worship without communion
7.00pm Meditation Service at Longden.
13th 3.30pm Messy Church
16th 10.30am Holy Communion & Children's Church
20th 3.30 pm Messy Church
23rd 10.30am All Age Family Service

Coffee Stop every Friday 10-12noon.

Pontesbury Baptist Church

www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

February Preachers

	10:30 am	6:30 pm
Sunday 2nd February	Mike Wells	Scott McMahon
Sunday 9th February	Tim Smylie	Tim Smylie
Sunday 16th February	Rob Jack	Mike Wells
Sunday 23rd February	Mike Wells	Martin Wells

We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 am and every Sunday evening at 6:30 pm - 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



SONGS OF PRAISE

Pontesbury Baptist Church

Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

Sunday 2nd March 6:30 pm

Discover the extraordinary stories behind the hymns!

With Pastor Mike Wells

Light refreshments served free of charge!

www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

The Methodist Services February 2025

2nd Feb 10.45 am with Mr Mike Hallworth to inc Holy Communion

9th Feb 10.45 am with Rev Sheila MacInally

16th Feb 10.45 am with Dr John Woolley

23rd Feb 10.45 am with Mrs Helen Pearson

PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SERVICES

February 2025

Sunday 2nd Feb 10am Rachel Coward
Sunday 9th Feb 10am Rev. Debbie Martin
Sunday 16th Feb 10am The Deacons
Sunday 23rd Feb 10am Rev. Debbie Martin

Tuesday's 10am Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday's 10am Warm Space/Coffee and Chat

All are welcome

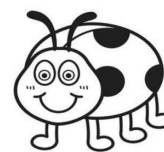


66

Beetle Drive

with

Pancakes



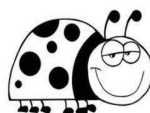
Tuesday 4th March

West End Room

St. George's Church

7pm

£5 per ticket - available from

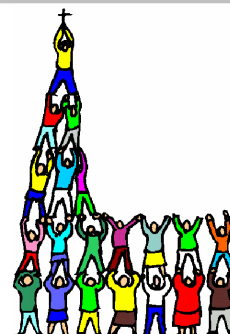


Val 790587
Mary 791069
Heather 790359



Further Church events
over the page ...

Deadline for March 2025
edition is
Wednesday 12th February
2025



St George's Church Pontesbury



Free

Messy New Year

Weekly on Thursdays
starting 16th January
3.30pm - 4.45pm

For families and friends to
enjoy stories, crafts and fun.

Followed by shared hot food

Free

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



Pontesbury WI met on the 13th January Pontesbury WI welcomed Phil Wilkins from Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes. He gave a most interesting talk about the excellent work this volunteer group do in supporting the NHS. The blood bike riders and their support team are truly the unseen emergency service.

Our December meeting was our WI Christmas Party, we were entertained by Paul Ray a singer magician. This was an excellent afternoon and enjoyed by all the members who attended.

Pontesbury WI craft club next month will be held on February 18th at 10am at the Cock Inn, Hanwood. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our next WI committee meeting will be held on the 10th February, our guest speaker will be Chris Eldon Lee talking about " Serious Name Dropping" . If you would like to join us please contact our President Irene Windows on 01743791903 for further information. Maxine Pittaway Events Organiser

Happy New Year from Pontesbury WI.



Pontesbury Public Hall

Pontesbury Women's Club

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

Tuesday 11th February

Fran Smith 'The Life of a Vicar's Wife'

Tuesday 11th March

Amanda Roberts 'Mindful Matters'

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



Deadline for March 2025 edition is Wednesday 12th February 2025 please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to deputy@pontesburywc.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 please!



Free Climate Workshop



Saturday 15th March



1pm - 4pm



Pontesbury Pavilion



Free refreshments

Hosted by Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group



arts
alive FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS

Kinky Boots

Cert: 12a - 102 mins



Fri, 21st Feb - 7.30 pm

Marton Village Hall

Admission: Adults: £5 Child: £2.50

Enquiries: 01743 792790 or 07810 230860

Film £5. Film + Fish/chips £10. (Fish & chips must be pre-ordered). Bar and refreshments available from 7.00 p.m.
All enquiries to 01743-792790 or 07810-230860.

Based on a hilarious true story this refreshing, feel-good comedy follows the story of a family of shoe makers who choose to break away from their normal conservative style in order to save their business from bankruptcy. Fun and original, it's a must-see movie that proves the best way to fit in is to stand out!

Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Joel Edgerton and Sarah-Jane Potts



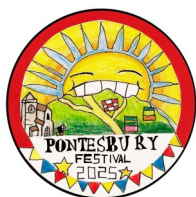
FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

'Save the Dates....

Pontesbury Festival 2025

27th - 29th June 2025



Some of you may remember being invited to be part of the planning group for this exciting venture – a celebration of our wonderful village of Pontesbury through music, art, drama, history, sport, poetry, craft, gardening and of course fun, friendship and community spirit.

The planning group has been hard at work over the last few months and arrangements for the festival are well in hand. There will be a range of events across the weekend and throughout the village with something for everyone.

So, we now invite you to:

- √ make a note of the dates of the festival on your calendar and in your diary
- √ get in touch if you would like to be involved in helping with the festival – in any way
- √ look out for further information about the programme of events – coming in the next newsletters and via Facebook
- √ tell your friends and family about the festival

For further information or to get involved contact

Greg: rectorpontstip@gmail.com
or Janet: walshjanet601@gmail.com

West Shropshire Flower Club Meeting Dates 2025:

Wednesday 26th February – Cynthia Preston Jones – Dedicated follower of fashion

Wednesday 26th March – Jackie Jones – It's a dog's life

Wednesday 23rd April – Lyne Rowlands – Flowery Adventures

Wednesday 28th May – Jane Cowan – Animal magic

Wednesday 25th June – Visit

Wednesday 23rd July – Sioned Hughs – It's a wonderful world

Wednesday 27th August – Workshop

Wednesday 24th September – Anne Russell – A walk in the park

Wednesday 22nd October – AGM

Wednesday 26th November – Vanessa Wellock – Glad tidings

All meetings at Westbury Village Hall and start at 7.30pm



Minsterley Eisteddfod takes place on the weekend of Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd of March at Minsterley Parish Hall.

On Saturday our stage will see hundreds of competitors displaying an amazing array of talent starting with children as young as four going through to adults in the evening. We have classes for reciters and singers both solo, groups and choirs as well as instrumental classes which always presents a wide variety of instruments.

Come and be entertained, the performances are guaranteed to make you smile, soothe your soul and bring a tear to your eye and we are open to the public all day long. We have plenty of parking and a café providing hot & cold beverages, cakes, snacks and freshly made sandwiches. Also, in the café you will find all our written work on display for you to enjoy.

The last class of the evening is the Open Choirs Competition which is always a glorious celebration of music and a fitting climax to the day.

On the Sunday the Cantorion Sirenian Singers will lead our celebrity concert with soprano Chloe Hare-Jones and local artist, tuba player Annie Morris. The concert starts at 6.30pm and doors will be open at 5.45pm. All tickets are reserved at £20 & £15 and are available from Jill Blyth on 01743791908.

Details of all that Minsterley Eisteddfod has to offer are available on our website minsterleyeisteddfod.com and you can email us at minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com with any enquiries.

Shropshire Council Matters - Shropshire Councillor report from Nick Hignett.

Shropshire Council continues to relocate from Shirehall to the Guildhall in Frankwell, with all meetings expected to be on the new site from February.

The Government has announced the draft financial settlement for the next year. Council Officers are working through the details to produce a medium-term financial strategy before a decision is made on the Council Tax for 2025/2026.

Shropshire Archives will be reducing public opening to one day a week (Thursdays) temporarily while staff work to inventory and relocate 55,000 boxes of corporate records, currently held at Shirehall.

The 2nd planning application for Smithfield regeneration project has been submitted, regarding plots between Smithfield Road and Raven Meadows.- Application number 24/04476/EIA is on the Council's planning register, with a decision due to be made in March.

Contact details; nick.hignett@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone 07896 882727

CRUCKTON WARD NEWS reported by Cllr Allan Hodges

1. The Parish Council is aware of the problems caused to Cruckton residents by the worsening road flooding near Cruckton School [Fitzroy Academy]. Whilst it does not have the power to take direct action - this is the responsibility of Shropshire Council - it has repeated its previous requests for swift remedial action. Also, it has explored the possibility of a public meeting with the responsible flooding officer of Shropshire Council.

2. The requests by Cruckton residents, as revealed in last year's survey, for speed restrictions and reduction in HGV passing through the village were forwarded to Shropshire Council. The response was that as a result of budget restrictions and legal obligations Cruckton's concerns would be given future consideration but could not be given high priority compared with similar requests elsewhere in the County where there are a high number of accident injuries. It may be possible to get some action via the CIL money generated by recent developments in the Parish.

3. The six low cost starter homes next to the former Hare and Hounds pub have attracted considerable interest. They are for sale at approximately 20% below market price. Local people were given first option and then people outside the Parish were given the opportunity to purchase the remaining properties. In the future, behind these six affordable homes, there will be four fairly large houses at near open market value in order to make the development viable.

Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association The Trading Post re-opens on Saturday 1st February and the bulk delivery of multi-purpose compost, both reduced-peat and peat-free, has arrived and a special offer on three bags or more of the peat-reduced compost is in place. There is a good stock of seed potatoes as well as pea, bean and beetroot seeds and onion and shallot sets. Details of which varieties we will have are not available yet, but we do know of one variety that we won't have: Pink Fir Apple potatoes have grown in popularity over the last few years but are not available this year.

As well as our opening date of 1 February here are more dates for your diary:

11 March: Annual General Meeting, held at 7.30 pm in the Len Simpson Room of the Public Hall, where refreshment will be provided after the main business of the evening has been concluded.

26 June: Spring into the Garden, held in Pontesbury Public Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. This has been moved from our usual May date to tie in with the Pontesbury Festival (more details of this appear elsewhere).

23 August: Garden and Craft Show, held in the Public Hall, and open for viewing at 2.30 pm. Entry free.

'MISS PLYMLEY RECOLLECTS'



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

A Shropshire woman invites you to share her memories of a busy and fascinating life in Georgian and Regency Britain.









learn,
laugh,
live

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



Many will remember the amazing performance of "Aggie" by Alison Utting. Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a are doubly delighted that we can welcome back Alison for her new performance of "Mrs Plymley Recollects".

Join Katherine Plymley for tea in 1816 as she chats about her experiences. From her home in rural Shropshire to Anglesey, Bath and London, Katherine kept journals of her experiences. Through her words witness the first steam engine, the excitement of Bath, and the fight to abolish slavery, as well as the delights of her family and village life. Meet the Ladies of Llangollen, William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Telford, and many others.

All welcome; the meeting is open to members and non-members and followed by refreshments and the chance to catch-up.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

Shropshire is one of the most beautiful counties in England. The farms that make up and manage this beautiful pastoral scene are run by farmers and their families who are in one of the most stressful and isolated of occupations which has one of the highest levels of suicide in the UK.

Many of the farms are multigenerational family businesses with up to three generations working together with all the ups and downs of family businesses with the added complication of living on top of each other. They also have to endure not just the vagaries of the weather, and the continually changing government regulations and the dominance of supermarket controlled prices.

The charity **Shropshire Rural Support** is here to support farmers, their families and people living and working in our rural community at times of need. We cover both business issues and personal matters such as bereavement, loneliness, domestic abuse, succession and divorce. Our role is to get the caller to a safe place where they can access the help.

The 24/7/365 free phone helpline 0300 123 2825 ensures readily access to our confidential service. For those who prefer text messaging they can text SRS to 85258.

Doing nothing is not an option. If you know of someone you are worried about, please encourage them to get in touch or visit www.shropshireruralsupport.org.uk



Walking Tennis is starting at Longden Tennis Club!

Tennis Shropshire are promoting walking tennis as a fantastic activity to help people who may struggle with movement, coordination or are new to exercise. It's a great way to start to get a little more active. The sessions take place in a fun, sociable and supportive environment. Walking tennis uses lighter racquets, softer slower balls and slightly adapted rules, including allowing two bounces. These rule changes mean that walking tennis is immediately accessible to all - even if you have never tried tennis before.

Weekly sessions at Longden Tennis Club will start on 10th January 2025 with everyone welcome to come and try it out. You do not need any special clothing - just come along as all equipment will be provided.

We would love to see you on court! Please get in touch if you want any more information on these walking tennis sessions. Contact David Parry on dparry.tennis@gmail.com or 07711501359.

Pontesford Hill Public Consultation summary Forty people braved a freezing night in November to join the Friends of Pontesford Hill for a public consultation on the future management of the hill. It was an exciting and informative evening: thank you very much to all of you who attended and to those who contributed by email.

In general, people expressed confidence & strongly supported action to improve the existing habitats and to increase diversity; supporting two new fence lines: one to protect animals on the scree slope from dog attacks, and one to enclose the summit of Pontesford Hill, allowing grazing there to re-establish the acid grassland, and potentially increase the area of the SSRI at some point in the future.

People were broadly happy with our gradual "coppice coup" process of felling plantation conifers and encroaching sycamore along the bulldozer track to replant with mixed deciduous woodland trees, in particular hazel to encourage dormice, which also favours woodland flowers and birds by opening up the woodland canopy. Supporting also a new coup area behind "the dens" where children play, to try to restore the lost bird life there. They emphasised that they wanted a gradual process over years, with no clear felling.

During the discussions, we were issued with some new challenges: It was pointed out that our bird boxes, originally used to encourage spotted flycatchers, are now only encouraging great tits and blue tits, which will outcompete the endangered willow tits. This is important as there are historical records of willow tits on the west side of the hill, and a bird which may have been a willow tit was visiting a bird feeder on Grove Lane last year. Our coppice coups on the bulldozer track are ideal habitat, and we have been asked to enhance them by manufacturing nest sites out of decaying silver birch trunks. At the same time, we will remove the old birdboxes to reduce the competition from more robust tits.

The "upper ant hill meadow" habitat is declining due to lack of sheep grazing, and is in danger of losing its SSSI status. The issue here, as everywhere else, is the conflict between sheep grazing and dog walking. It was suggested that we ask The Dogs Trust for advice on the way forward, and we had many offers of help with management of stock and signage. People were very proud of the volunteer goat warden scheme we used last year, and we have offers of future help.

The final message was that public affection for the Hill remains as strong as ever, and people want more information about what is going on. We will try to address that communication gap via the village newsletter, posters and social media.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group AGM is taking place on **Wednesday 12th February at Minsterley Parish Hall at 7pm**. The AGM will include a round-up of all group activities throughout 2024, our full iRecord wildlife report, various speakers sharing information about exciting wildlife volunteer opportunities and information on future walks and events planned. Refreshments are provided.

Monday Night Badminton Club

7pm – 9pm

£28 per term

Mary Webb School Pontesbury
SY5 0TG

A fun social club, a small amount of Badminton experience required.

Members must be 16 or over.

7-9pm
in the Sports Hall.

Please come along and give this fun club a go.

Snowdrop Walk
Lingen Davies Cancer Fund

February 15th & 16th 2025

Winsley Hall
Westbury
SY5 9HB
10:30am - 4pm

Cakes and refreshments available
Dogs on leads welcome

£5 entry per person (children go free)
Tickets available on the gate and in advance

WWW.LINGENDAVIES.CO.UK/SNOWDROPWALK

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS : 2025



Join our friendly members at our monthly local walks - discovering local flora and fauna together. Walks are on the third Saturday of every month in the winter and in the summer alternate between Saturdays and Wednesday evenings.
Free to attend and no booking required.

Sat 18th Jan 10am-1pm Snailbeach Car Park <small>Juror.pampering.zooms</small>	Sat 15th Feb 10am-1pm Eastridge Woods Car Park <small>slamming.pursue.teaches</small>	Sat 22nd Mar 10am-1pm Gatton Daffodil Car Park <small>butlers.nicely.digestion</small>	Wed 16th Apr 5:30pm-7:30pm Brockton Car Park <small>native.broadcast.fullly</small>
Sat 17th May 10am-1pm Poles Coppice Car Park <small>relations.alley.costumes</small>	Wed 11th Jun 6:30pm-8:30pm Minsterley Village Hall <small>household.revise.helps</small>	Sat 19th Jul 10am-1pm Hope Village Hall Car Park <small>melons.tortoises.threaten</small>	Wed 13th Aug 6pm-8pm Eastridge Woods Car Park <small>slamming.pursue.teaches</small>
Sat 20th Sep 10am-1pm Mitchell's Fold Car Park <small>midwinter.mural.dizziness</small>	Sat 18th Oct 10am-1pm Snailbeach Car Park <small>Juror.pampering.zooms</small>	Sat 15th Nov 10am-1pm Pontesford Hill Car Park <small>hoot.signed.cobbled</small>	Sat 20th Dec 10am-1pm Stiperstones Inn Car Park <small>foods.growthup.overdone</small>

Pontesbury Countryside Sites Management

Introduction;

As well as caring for Poles Coppice Countryside Heritage Site, Shropshire Council Parks and Countryside Team also look after the former Nils Quarry, which features areas of species-rich grassland rich in orchids, a pond, woodland and views of rock faces



Fields at Poles Coppice Photo credit John Handley

Works undertaken this year

Visitor facilities The entrance signage at both car parks for Poles Coppice were very faded so new panels were purchased which details the history, wildlife and walk routes that are open to visitors. Another job that is planned is the repair of the picnic table at Poles Coppice to replace rotten legs and make it more accessible to wheelchairs

Grassland management The meadow at Nils Quarry was cut and collected in October to create a healthy sward for wildflowers to prosper. This was using new kit that has been sourced by the Parks and Countryside Team

Access for All Grant Success The team have successfully applied for a grant to upgrade the paths at Nils Quarry, because they are so level, they make an excellent option for people with mobility problems. 175m of path will be upgraded (cleaned back and re-surfaced) and 180m of new path will be created to make a circular route for people to use. Thanks to the Shropshire Hills Protected Landscape for their generous funding for this project. Works are planned for early 2025

Wildlife Surveys In order to better manage the habitats of both sites, we undertake regular monitoring of wildlife and are very lucky to work with a dedicated bunch of volunteer recorders known as the Joy of Wildlife Group. Within the group are experts in many different types of invertebrate and plant. The group regularly visit Poles Coppice and will be visiting Nils Quarry in February 2025

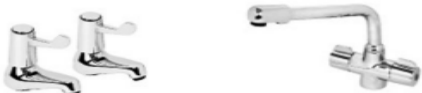
Young Rangers The Young Rangers scheme continues to yield huge benefits for local young people. Recently the team have installed a new bench at Nils Quarry and a welcome board will be coming soon

Financial position; Budgets at Shropshire Council remain very tight and with little light on the horizon for non-statutory services like Parks and Countryside. With that in mind, Pontesbury Parish Council have agreed a grant of £2500 for financial year beginning April 2025

A big thank-you! Thanks to Pontesbury Parish Council for your ongoing support with the management of Poles Coppice Local Nature Reserve. Any questions about site management, please contact Edward Andrews (Country Parks and Heritage Sites Manager) edward.andrews@shropshire.gov.uk

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Hedge planting day at Pennerley



Come and help us plant a new hedge on land next to the **Stiperstones**. We will be planting a mix of native species on Monday the **3rd February 2025**.

If you can help we will be meeting at the Bog Centre car park for a **10am start**.

Come for as long as you like and bring a friend, we will be planting all morning, finishing after lunch.

Tools will be provided but if you can **bring a spade** that would be useful.

Bring outdoor clothing, lunch and a flask, we will provide toilets and weather permitting **a great view**.

To help us with the organisation, it would be good if you could let us know you are coming by contacting:

stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk or call 01743 792294



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to deputy@pontesburyipc.org.uk. Please only
send .jpg, .png or Word pictures - no .pdfs
please!



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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.

FEBRUARY 2025 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Regular Weekly Events			
Every Mon	6.30-7.30pm	Pontesbury Runners (advanced/intermediate)	Meet corner of Brookside & Minsterley Rd
Every Mon	6.00-7.15pm	Yoga	Ponts Congregational Church
Every Mon	7.00-9.00pm	Monday Badminton Club	Mary Webb School, Sports Hall
Every Tue	10.00 - 12.00	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30-1200	A Welcome Brew	Baptist Church
Every Tue	2pm	Tai Chi	Public Hall
Every Tue	8—9 am	Pilates for Core Strength	Public Hall
Every Wed	10.00-12.00	Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with refreshments	Pavilion - Term-time only
Every Wed	10.30-12.00	Coffee/Chat and Fellowship	Pontesbury Congregational Church
Every Thu	10.00-12.00	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
Every Thu	2pm	Short mat bowls	Pontesbury Public Hall
Every Thu	3.30-4.45pm	Messy Church	St George's Church
Every Thu	7-9pm	Rea Valley Woodcarvers (Term-Time Only)	Minsterley Parish Hall
Every Thu	7-9pm	Badminton Club	Mary Webb School, Sports Hall
Every Fri	10.00	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
Every Fri	10.00-12.00	Coffee Stop	St George's Church
Every Sat	7.30pm	Whist Drive	Yockleton Village Hall
Monthly Events			
Sat 1st	10.30 -12.30	FoPL Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Mon 3rd	10am	Hedge Planting at Pennerley	Meet at Bog Centre car park, Stiperstones
Mon 3/17th	2-4pm	Get Creative Group - free & refreshments	Public Hall
Mon 3rd	6.30pm	Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Mon 10th	2pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Mon 10th	6.30pm	Pontesbury Full Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion
Tue 11th	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 12th	1pm	Rea Valley Probus Club	Arscott Golf Club
Wed 12/26th	2-4pm	AGE UK Dementia Support Group	Pavilion
Wed 12th	7pm	Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group AGM	Minsterley Parish Hall
Thu 13th	2pm–2.45pm	Rhymetime for children 0-4years/parents	Pontesbury Library in the Pavilion
Fri 14th	10.30-12.00	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	The Plough, Pontesbury
Sat 15th	10am - 1pm	Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group Walk	Meet Eastridge Woods car park
Fri/Sat 15/16th	10.30-4pm	Lingen Davies Snowdrop Walk	Winsley Hall, SY5 9HB
Tue 18th	11-1pm	Blood Pressure Checks - FREE	Pavilion in Pontesbury
Wed 19th	2pm	U3a talk "Miss Plymley Recollects"	Minsterley Parish Hall
Fri 21st	7pm	Flicks in the Sticks "Kinky Boots"	Marton Village Hall
Wed 26th	7.30pm	Flower Club "Dedicated follower of fashion"	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 28th	10.30-12.00	Carer's Group meeting	Pontesbury Pavilion
Fri 28th	12 - 2pm	Community Good Neighbours Luncheon	Public Hall
Fri 29th	10.30-1200	Pontesbury Carer's Support Group	Pavilion
Fri 29th	11.45-13.30	Good Neighbours Community Lunch	Public Hall
March 2025			
Sat 1st	10.30	FoPL Coffee Morning	Pontesbury Pavilion & Library
Sun 2nd	6.30pm	Baptist Songs of Praise	Baptist Church
Tue 4th	7pm	Beetle Drive	St George's Church, West End Room
Sat 15th	1-4pm	Climate Change FRESK event	Pontesbury Pavilion