

Pontesbury Parish Newsletter



March 2023

Issue No: 295

PONTESBURY GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Nothing says that it is spring more than the garden waking up into growth and the Trading Post re-opening to provide local gardeners with the materials that they will need; the Trading Post opened on Saturday 4 February and is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road, opening every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon, from now until the end of October.

Trading Post new stock of seed potatoes is available and details of the varieties are on the Facebook page. There are also pea, bean and beetroot seeds, onion and shallot sets, as well as plenty of all the other materials that you will need to get sowing and growing.

The bulk delivery of multi-purpose potting compost has arrived and the usual offer of a reduced price for three bags is in place; we also have peat-free multi-purpose compost but this isn't on special offer due to the ongoing difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies. As usual there will be people on hand to help carry the heavy stuff to your car.

Why not visit the Trading Post on a Saturday morning and buy your gardening supplies locally.

Spring

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Once you have read your parish newsletter, please don't throw it away, please bring it back to the Pavilion. We have many people coming into to pick up a copy but not enough to go around. Many thanks

**Closing Date for the April 2023 edition is
10th March 2023**

Please email contributions to deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk

Pontesbury Parish Councillor in the Spotlight

Name: Nick Hignett

Occupation: Shop-keeper

Pontesbury Parish Council role: Vice Chairman of Pontesbury Parish Council, member of the following Council Committees, Planning, Finance and General Purposes, Personnel & Pavilion Committee, as well as Snow warden for Pontesbury.



What ward do you represent? Pontesbury Ward
[Shropshire Councillor for Rea Valley Ward]

Why did you become a parish councillor? I have lived in Pontesbury all of my life, running a family business, established in 1919 by my Grandfather. My roles have included - Governor and PTA member of Pontesbury Primary School, PTA Member of Mary Webb School, 11 years as a retained firefighter at Minsterley-achieving the rank of Leading Firefighter, Chairperson of Pontesbury Players Drama Group, Trustee of Pontesbury Public Hall. The progression to standing as a Parish Councillor in 2005 seemed somewhat inevitable!

If you had enough money to fund a project in Pontesbury parish, what would you do? Pontesbury is an incredible place to live, but I would fund the provision of a central car park (at least 50 spaces) with a village green, leading down to the brook, to encourage more visitors to sample the incredible walks and scenery surrounding us.

There is still a vacancy for the Pontesbury ward of the parish council following a resignation. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact your local councillor or the Parish Clerk. Further useful information about what is involved in being a councillor can be found on the parish council website www.pontesburypc.org.uk

Pontesbury Parish Council News

March sees the Annual Parish Meeting taking place, on Monday 13th March, 6.30pm at Pontesbury Public Hall. This is a meeting for members of the electorate to come and find out what is happening in the local area with reports from various community organisations and the local policing team. It is also a chance to raise any matters of concern relating to the parish. All reports will be uploaded to the parish council website in advance of the meeting so that they can be read and any questions brought to the meeting.

There is still a vacancy for the Pontesbury ward of the parish council following the resignation of Cllr Lynette Charles. If you would be interested in becoming a councillor please contact your local councillor or the Parish Clerk. Further useful information about what is involved in being a councillor can be found on the parish council website www.pontesburypc.org.uk

The next parish council meeting will be an Extraordinary meeting held after the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 13th March, approx. 8pm at Pontesbury Public Hall.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 2023 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.

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. All new planning applications for the area are listed on the parish council website.

The next Pavilion Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20th March, this is a small committee of 5 councillors who oversee the running of the Pavilion and report back to full council. Everyone is able to attend a parish council meeting, with 15 minutes near the beginning of the meeting for anyone to speak and raise any parish matter with Councillors.

the PAVILION

Pavilion News March 2023 - What's On

On the **1st and 3rd Thursday each month**. Drinks and biscuits are provided and there is no charge to join in.

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

2nd and 16th March at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm

'Get Active' Feel-Good Friday 24th March 2023 from 10am - 1pm

With stalls and information about local groups, activities and events to help you to 'Get Active' in 2023.

Free refreshments, free event, lots of people to speak to and information about activities - to name a few:-

Longden Tennis Club - Over 55s Walking Football - u3a groups - Badminton Club - Pilates with special books and information from Pontesbury Library

Come along and see how you can 'Get Active'



Coming soon ... STORIES FROM THE HILL

A Friends of the Hill Exhibition about our hill from April to May 2023

at The Pavilion Community Hub & Library, Hall Bank, Pontesbury

Further information
yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk
More details in April's newsletter

Carer's Support Morning - Friday 31st March 2023 - from 10.30am

.... with an interactive session on Ways to Well-Being. Evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing.

We'll be exploring how these can help you as carers look after yourself in this month's session.

Questions about dementia? Worried about your memory? It's good to talk!

David Latcham from Alzheimer's Society will be at the Pavillion at Pontesbury from 9-10.45am on Thursday 23 March to talk to anyone and dementia and memory loss.

Whether you have concerns for yourself or those you know, or simply want to know more about what support is available, David is happy to talk and provide helpful answers and information.

You can turn up on the day, or contact David directly on david.latcham@alzheimers.org.uk or call 01952 250392

Get in touch today
shropshire@alzheimers.org.uk
0333 150 3456



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

Grow your own Food Event

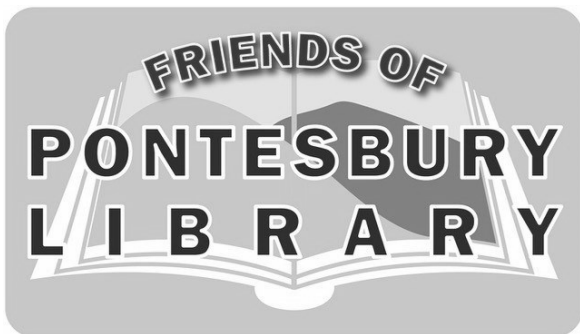
This is planned for April 22nd at the Pavilion to promote the idea of growing your own food, whether you have a large garden or just a window box!

Part of the event will be a seedling and spare seed stall for either exchanging or for taking for free to avoid waste and share resources.

Why not start growing food crops now in small pots (maybe using recycled materials) in green houses, windowsills or sheltered spots – get the children or grandchildren involved perhaps, or join up with neighbours. Runner beans, peas and sunflowers for example are good starters for beginners and children. For the more experienced who might end up with more than they can plant out, just bring them along on the day.

Please garden sustainably. Here is some advice from the RHS on growing seeds sustainably using peat free compost: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/using-peat-free-compost-for-seeds-and-cuttings>

Looking to hire a room, the Pavilion has rooms, large and small to hire.
Please contact Anna Lawson, admin@pontesburypavilionc.co.uk or call in for a chat.



News from the Friends of Pontesbury Library

The Friends of Pontesbury Library have been busy planning a number of events to welcome in the Spring, each of them an opportunity to gather and to support our library.

At our coffee morning in February the lucky lottery winners were:

1st Stephanie Short
2nd Maggie Challinor
3rd Sandra Hallett

On March 4th we are delighted to welcome local artist Lyn Evans to our coffee morning. Lyn displays her work and goods for sale in Connections and other independent shops, and this will be a chance to hear how she creates her beautiful pictures of local landscapes out of torn fragments of paper. Come along from 10am to enjoy tea or coffee and cake and to meet Lyn. The lottery will be drawn as usual.

On April 1st, probably before the next newsletter reaches you, our regular coffee morning and lottery draw will take place, then on April 15th, in the afternoon, we have a special treat; Songs and Stories for Spring presented by Mary Keith and Sal Tonge. This will be a unique, family friendly event. Details and information for ticket sales are on the poster below and on display in the Pavilion. We are planning to hold the annual plant sale on Saturday 29th April – so as everything begins to come to life this month, save all your spare seedlings and cuttings. This event is always hugely popular and a big fundraiser for the library.



Saturday 15 April, 3-5 @ The Pavilion, Pontesbury, SY5 0RF

Join singing leader Mary Keith and local story teller Sal Tonge for an engaging, interactive afternoon of songs and stories to welcome in the spring. Mary and Sal have been leading these sell-out seasonal sessions in N Shropshire and are now heading south! Mary will help bring a spring zing to your vocal cords with gorgeous harmony songs, taught by ear, and Sal will tantalise your ear buds with terrific tarradiddles and tall tales!



£10, to include seasonal refreshments.

Contact yvonne@pontesburylibrary.co.uk

Online payments to Friends of Pontesbury Library,
Lloyds Account 30-97-62 account no. 02573511.

Use your surname as ref.



March in the library

If you ever search for British awareness days and events you will know that March is packed with them. Our library service often works with other organizations, by supporting them with displays to raise awareness. So, now I have confessed to not always thinking of the themes myself, March is International Women's History Month and 8th March is International Women's Day. I also spotted on the calendar that 21st March is World Forestry Day, quite apt, as the Pavilion will be hosting displays and information about the history of Pontesford Hill.

So, happy St David's Day, St Patrick's Day,

Mother's Day and
hello Spring!



The Library Owl



10th March 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.

**Luncheon Club -
Friday 24th March 2023 -
12 noon in the Public Hall**

**Ladies, it's time to keep
the date: 5th August**

Prosecco & Afternoon tea -
more details to follow



**Do you have some spare time to help
your community?**

If you would like to volunteer OR you (or someone you know) would like a service, please leave a message on:

07944 891953

Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours need volunteers, if you can spare an hour a week to pick up prescriptions, have a chat over the phone or visit someone who is isolated, please call us on the number above, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you

100 Club - February 2023 Lucky Winners

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| £25 | Neville Lewis |
| £15 | Clare Thomas |
| £10 | Charlotte Wootton |



Cost of living help

Increases in the cost of food, fuel and utilities is affecting many households in Shropshire and we know that it is a worrying time for everyone.

To help, we have brought together a number of useful links, tips and pointers on where and how people can find help across the county.

(www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/) and also www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/cost-of-living-checklist/

This will help people see the range of services we and our partner organisations have on offer. This includes a benefits calculator so that people can check whether they're getting the benefits they're entitled to, advice about energy bills and reducing energy costs from the Marches Energy Agency, as well as information about how to manage debt from Citizens Advice.

To find out more about energy bills updates that you may be entitled to, please have a look on our website (<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/energy-bills-rebate/>).

Anyone worried about their bills or staying warm at home can also call Marches Energy Agency on 0800 112 3743 or email advice@mea.org.uk

Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury WI makes music, Recycling Rackets, and Junk



Pontesbury WI held its meeting on Monday 13th of February. We were pleased to be joined by Mal Brown who presented "Recycling Rackets and Junk".

Well the ladies certainly made a noise while they mastered how to play some very strange instruments, all made out of "recycled junk". We also had an opportunity to make our own instruments. What a fun afternoon we all had. Congratulations to Sheila Bower who made music out of a six foot tin can instruments. However Shona Wood, Barbara Scott and Sheila stole the show with a rendition of a fairy tale played on large oil drums while wearing comical hats. Thank you Mal for an enjoyable afternoon, we really did have a good laugh. During the afternoon we also held a successful Bring and Buy.

The flower of the month was won by Maxine Pittaway 2nd and 3rd place went to Lena Rowson. Our raffle was won by Joan

Rogers who took home a lovely houseplant. Thanks to our hostesses this month, Sandra Gray, Lorna Wright, Margaret Marsden and Barbara Scott. The cakes and sausage rolls were great!

Our January Christmas lunch at the Horseshoes was a lovely event organised by our secretary Lena Rowson. Every member received a Christmas gift organised by Shona Wood and Maxine Pittaway. Some members went on a trip this month to the Archives. This was a most interesting event and well worth a visit. Well Pontesbury WI members, we really do have pleasurable times.

If you would like to join the WI 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

Raising Money for Lingen Davies Charity

My name is Jeanette Hamer, I have lived in Pontesbury all my life, and on Saturday 23rd April I will be running the London Marathon (my first ever Marathon) for the Lingen Davies Cancer Charity in memory of my brother-in-law Alan Hughes (Yoizzer) who passed away last September. Fund-raising events are:-



Thursday 16th March, - Quiz night at Pontesbury Public Hall, doors open at 6.45, quiz starts at 7.30 - £3 per person with a maximum of 6 per team, there will be a cash prize for the 1st team & a prize for the 2nd team, along with a raffle

Saturday 25th March - coffee morning from 10am till 12 noon at Pontesbury Pavilion, along with a cup of coffee or tea & a slice of cake there will also be a cake stall & tombola with some great prizes.

Saturday 15th April at 7pm a live online raffle draw, more details will follow but we been lucky enough to have lots of amazing local businesses who have very kindly donated prizes.

If you'd like to know more details contact via Facebook or by my mobile number 07983 616892 - Thank you, Jeanette

Pontesbury Women's Club

Tuesday 14th March

A member of the police force will speak to us

on the subject of
'Cyber Crime and Fraud'

Tuesday 11th April

The PWC AGM

Followed by an Easter Quiz with Eggs!

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 next meeting of the West Shropshire Flower Club is on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 – with a talk by Louise Jones - Elements.

Meetings are at Westbury Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

A Warm Welcome during the cold winter months. Each morning of the week through December & January, there is a warm building open where tea and coffee (and perhaps a little more) will be served. There is no charge for this and people are welcome to pop in for a short time or the whole session. Venues are open for this as follows:

Mondays 10-12 The Pavilion
Tuesdays 11-2 Pontesbury Baptist Church
Wednesdays 10-12 Congregational Church
Thursdays 10-12 St George's
Fridays 10-12 St George's

Any queries to Greg at
rectorpontstip@gmail.com or 07902 794653 or to
the venue in question

Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours

For Food Parcels, Pop-Up Larders, Luncheon Club and help with prescription deliveries:

Call: 07944 891953 for a confidential chat

Everyone is welcome at Wain House, Habberley for the **St Mary's Lent Lunch. Friday 3rd March, 12.00 till 1.30pm.** Soup, cake, coffee/tea and fellowship! (Donations for the much-needed work of Birmingham City Mission)

Rea Valley Congregational Churches

Since "lockdown" representatives of the three Rea Valley Congregational Churches Marton, Minsterley and Pontesbury have met at regular intervals and the churches host services for all three congregations, when there is a fifth Sunday in a month.

On Saturday morning 15th April there is a Table Top Sale at Pontesbury Congregational Church and we invite any organisation who wishes to raise funds to join us.

To book a tablespace, which costs £10, please contact
janewardropper@btinternet.com.

A Warm Welcome at the HEAT HUB
Every Tuesday 11 – 2 pm
Pontesbury Baptist Church
Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

A warm welcome and a safe place this winter!

Hot drinks and refreshments free of charge / Free Wi-Fi / Games & Magazines / Children's toys / Easy Access / Toilets available

All welcome!
More details at:
www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

St George's Church is looking for a **new Webmaster** to take on the technical responsibilities associated with running the church website. The day-to-day upkeep of the site to ensure that all information is current is managed by others. A job description can be provided. For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Greg Smith on 07902 794653 or at rectorpontstip@gmail.com

St. George's Church www.st-george.org.uk

Services and activities for March 2023

5th 10.30am Morning Worship
7th 2.30pm Tea Service
12th 10.30am Holy Communion
19th 10.30 am Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)
26th 10.30am Holy Communion

Congregational Church Services - March 2023

5th March 10:00 - Deacons
12th March 10:00 - Rev Debbie Martin
19th March 10:00 - tba
26th March 10:00 - Rev. Debbie Martin
NB The Chapel will operate as a 'Warm Place' each Wednesday 10:00 -12:00
All Welcome

Pontesbury Baptist Church Chapel Street, SY5 0RJ www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

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

Our services are open to *everyone*, so you don't have to book ahead or inform anyone you're coming. There's no dress-code, please just come as you are. We have no set or reserved seats, you're welcome to sit wherever, and with whomever, you like.

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

For more information about the wider work of our church, or if you want to get in touch with our Pastor Mike Wells, please use the following email address: info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk

Why peat free!

Our homes and gardens have an important role in the fight against climate change. Help preserve vital peatland by going peat free.

Peat has been a major ingredient of the compost used in gardening for many years. This peat is dug out of wild places, damaging some of the last remaining peatlands in both the UK and overseas in places like Eastern Europe.

This process also releases carbon into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change. Sadly, more than 94% of the UK's lowland peat bogs have been destroyed or damaged, and a wealth of wildlife has disappeared along with it. This vital habitat isn't easily replaced.

Peat-free growing media, including compost and soil conditioners, are increasingly available. Peatlands are amazingly wild places, home to rare and unusual plants, birds and insects. Peat forms at an incredibly slow rate, accumulating on average only 1mm a year - that means it takes 1,000 years for one metre of peat to form!

The key component of peat is a moss called sphagnum, which forms multi-coloured carpets across the landscape and breaks down very slowly under the waterlogged conditions.

Why are peatlands important?

Our UK peatlands store an amazing 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon. They cover just 3% of land area but in that pack 30% of all soil carbon! In a healthy state, they are also beautiful, dramatic landscapes, home to rare and endangered wildlife such as large heath butterflies and wading birds like dunlin. But there is even more to peatlands, as they help to alleviate flooding, by slowing the flow of water and filter water, making it cleaner when it comes to our water processing plants - and eventually into our taps. 70% of drinking water comes from upland areas dominated by peat.

For more information about how to go peat free see <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/natural-solutions-climate-change/peatland>



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group



THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE

**The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2023 season
on Wednesday 29 March**

The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for you to enjoy.

Our team of volunteers are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase as are books, maps and walk leaflets. This season we plan to reintroduce a series of half day craft workshops which will be advertised on the website and in local newsletters.

Staffing The Visitor Centre

'Volunteers' work their first 30 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate for those who choose to be paid. Our pool of volunteers, ranging in age from 16 to 80+, needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If interested please email Lin Brown.

School students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are paid all of their working hours at the appropriate rate for their age. Students interested in joining the team please email Lin Brown.

**Opening hours Tuesday – Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm**

Website www.bogvisitorcentre.com

**Contact details for our Secretary Lin Brown
bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk**



0800 112 3743
advice@mea.org.uk

Anyone worried about their bills or staying warm at home can call Marches Energy Agency on 0800 112 3743 or email advice@mea.org.uk



On a low budget? Want to save money

Visit shropshirelarder.org.uk to find out about low cost or free food and help with debt, benefits, housing and more in Shropshire.

JUST ONE THING to help save our planet

Tip No 12: **Plant Seeds, Grow Food**

Growing your own food is a real win-win situation, It's cheaper, less food miles, freshly picked, plus grown by your own requirements and if you have too much you make new friends by sharing.

Don't worry if you only have a small garden, seeds can be grown in all sorts of containers, make a few holes in the bottom of a used plastic tub, fill it with compost, then add the seeds and water. Wait for the magic! Ref: www.rhs.org.uk/container-gardening



Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

P3

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP PONTESBURY GROUP



We need your help!

The 'Pontesbury P3' (Parish Paths Partnership) is a group of local volunteers working in partnership with Shropshire County Council helping landowners meet their obligations to maintain public footpaths across their land. With materials provided by the council, the team provides volunteer labour one morning per week to keep footpaths open and maintained - only with permission of the landowners of course.

The team is always on the lookout for footpaths, stiles, bridges, fingerposts etc. needing maintenance work in the Pontesbury Parish area and beyond as far as Longden, Minsterley, Snailbeach and Pulverbach.

If you see anything that the team could possibly repair or improve, please contact them at pontesburyp3@gmail.com

For each report they preferably require:

a) Grid reference (or What3Words); b) A photograph; c) Path number (Route Code) available from the map here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3st5vwxd> (Shropshire outdoor recreation map).

All work is undertaken by volunteers on a part time basis and no time commitments can be given with respect to commencement or completion of repairs or maintenance work.

Pontesbury Gardeners' News

It's been a good start to the year with lots of people at the Trading Post on Saturday mornings. We have a good number of seed potatoes still available, and it's not too late to get them started: just lay them out in seed trays, or egg boxes, in a light, frost-free room and let the shoots develop so that they have a head start when planted out in late March and early April.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 7 March, at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall, and we hope to see more Members attending. There will be refreshments available at the end of the meeting where we'll all get a chance to chat and catch up after the winter.

The Trading Post, in Station Road, is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon until the end of October.

NATURAL ENGLAND - Notes from the hill

Spring is in the air and our resident birds are now singing again in the early morning. Many birds of prey are also carrying out their courtship displays as they pair up ready for the nesting season to come.

Red kites are showing well on the Stiperstones at present, as they cruise around effortlessly on the up-draft along the hill. They are superbly adapted to their life of carrion feeding, being lightly built so that they can fly without expending any energy, their angled wings and long forked tail allow them great manoeuvrability in the air, and their excellent eye sight allows them to spot carrion or small mammals from a great height.



Red kites have been a great British conservation success. Persecution reduced them to a few breeding pairs in central Wales. By the 1980s, the red kite was one of only three globally threatened species in the UK. Today the Welsh population has recovered to a population of 1800 breeding pairs, about 7% of the world's population.

As the weather improves and the hill dries out, we will be carrying out some controlled burning of the heather. However, one of the key reasons for burning is to reduce the amount of fuel on the hill should we have a summer wildfire, allowing it to be more easily controlled.

Our first event of the year is our annual scythe peening workshop. Sunday the 2nd of April offers the chance to get your Austrian scythe into peak condition for the coming mowing season. It will be at our workshop at Rigmooeak starting at 10am, free of charge.

We will also be having our first open day at the cottages at Blakemoorgate since its closure during Covid lockdown. The cottages will be open on Easter Sunday from 11am to 3pm, so do drop in.

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a



Our Local History interest group welcomes all Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a members (and those interested in joining the u3a) to a talk by Penny Ward on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings; the first iron framed building and blueprint for the skyscrapers that followed, at Minsterley Parish Hall on the 21st March 2023 at 2pm with a cost of £6 maximum, but this could reduce to £5, depending on numbers, to cover costs and hall hire. Refreshments will be available. Penny Ward studied Archaeology at Cardiff in the 1970s and managed the Shropshire Historic Environment Record for several decades until her retirement in 2016. She has been involved with the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings since 2005, when English Heritage (now Historic England) took over the site and asked for volunteers to assist

on Heritage Open Days. Her talk will tell the story of the site, from the revolutionary use of cast iron in its construction at the end of the eighteenth century, up to the latest phase in its existence which began in September last year when the ground floor of the now restored Main Mill building opened to the public. It will also give some account of the Flax Mill's Bleach Works at Hanwood.

Please contact Susan Lockwood if you wish to attend so she knows how many people to cater for. Phone: 01743791082; Email: susanlockwood345@btinternet.com.

Pontesbury & Minsterley Road Verge Proposal

The area – location and background

The parish councils of Minsterley and Pontesbury, together with Pontesbury Climate Group and the unitary councillor, Nick Hignett, are developing the idea of restoring the road verge between Minsterley and Pontesbury species-rich grassland.

Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) and the Stepping Stones Project support this project and Shropshire Council Highways are being consulted.

The road verge in question is a c.700m stretch of the road between Minsterley and Pontesbury, mainly to the south side of the A488.

A well-used public footpath runs the entirety of the length of this verge, subdividing the verge into two strips – one immediately adjacent to the road, and often on quite a steep slope, and another, flatter section between the path and the adjacent field.

Rationale and context

Over the last 60 years, 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost. Road verges offer a real opportunity to help reverse this and, if managed correctly, could form long, linear meadows. These would provide habitat themselves but also help to link up fragments of remaining meadow.

..... each month, further updates on this proposed project will be included in the newsletter.

Make the most of life, join our u3a

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

- 20 plus interest groups in our local u3a; something for everyone
- start at any level
- a warm welcome
- meetings are in person or by zoom, depending on the group
- new groups are formed when sufficient members express interest

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Art History | Cycling | History | Photography | Table Tennis (Minsterley) |
| Bridge | Family History | Italian | Pickleball | Table Tennis (Pontesbury) |
| Café Society | Folk Music | Literature | Play reading | Walking (long) |
| Cinema & Social | Gardening | Local History | Recorded music | Walking (short) |
| Creative writing | Geology | Painting & Drawing | Short Tennis | |

learn, laugh, live

Contact
 Steve Anderson
steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com
 07861 531 186
u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley



The Duke

Cert: 12a - 96 mins



Doors Open
Sat 4th Mar - at 7.30pm

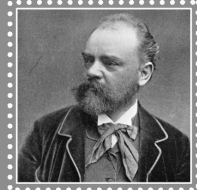
Habberley Village Hall

Admission: Adults: £6.50 Child: £3
Enquiries: 07977 127161

Bar and popcorn before film starts.

THE DUKE is based on real events from 1961. It's an uplifting story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage.

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Matthew Goode, Anna Maxwell Martin



Schubert Mass in G Dvořák Mass in D

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Alistair Auld, Conductor

Saturday March 18th

7.30 pm

St John's Church, Bishops Castle

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www.marcheschoir.org.uk



Minsterley Eisteddfod celebrates its 60th anniversary this year and the committee are excitedly preparing to make this diamond event extra special. We are so proud of our Eisteddfod's history having developed this unique event from humble beginnings to something which attracts competitors from far and wide. Eisteddfod weekend **commences Saturday 18th March at Minsterley Parish Hall** where a warm welcome will await all our competitors and spectators alike. Open to the public all day, come and enjoy the amazing variety of talent on show.

Our array of classes caters for all ages: from the very young to the 'ever young'. We host competitions for an array of art forms, offering actors the chance to recite poetry; singers and instrumentalists the chance to perform solo or ensemble pieces; classes for writers to flex their pens with short stories, poems, limericks, hymn tunes, hymn words and musical compositions. This year's limerick 'My granny won't visit again ..' has inspired some excellent entries, available to view along with all written work

As this is such a special year we will have displays charting our sixty year history and a book available to purchase.

We conclude our weekend with a **celebrity concert on Sunday 19th March** featuring Rhos Male Voice Choir, under the direction of James Llewelyn Jones. The concert will feature special guests, local soprano Joanna Cooke and mezzo soprano, Sadie-Beth Holder, with the mesmerising talents of violinist Jody Smith and is guaranteed to be a great musical extravaganza.

Tickets are available by contacting Mrs J Blyth on 01743 791908 or any other committee member.

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By the women of Taiwan



"I have heard about your faith"
Ephesians 1:15-19

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Pontesbury Hill**

Friday 3rd March 2.30pm

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Rea Valley Probus Club

2023 Meeting Dates:

8th March
 12th April

Venue & Time:
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A request from the Pontesbury Parish Newsletter Editor:

Please can you send all articles, adverts, event posters in the following formats, please do not send in .pdf:

Word .jpg
.png Publisher

Please do not send .pdf documents, because I have to cut and paste these documents, due to the inability to amend .pdf documents. Sometimes I have to recreate the whole document, this takes a lot of time.

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MARCH 2023 DIARY

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Every Tue | 10-12am | Rea Valley Foodbank | Holy Trinity Minsterley |
| Every Wed Term-time only | 10am to 12 noon | Sea Change Drop-In for parents/carers of under 5s - free session with cuppa | Pavilion |
| Every Thu | 10-12am | Rea Valley Foodbank | St George's Church |
| Thu 2 Mar | 11am - 1pm | Get Creative Morning - Free with refreshments | Pavilion |
| Fri 3 Mar | 12 noon - 1.30pm | St Mary's Lent Lunch. | Wain House, Habberley |
| Fri 3 Mar | 2.30pm | World Day of Prayer | Methodist Church |
| Sat 4 Mar | 10.30am | Friends of Pontesbury Library Coffee Morning | Pavilion |
| Sat 4 Mar | 7.30pm | Flicks in the Sticks film showing of 'The Duke' 12A Doors Open at 7.30pm | Habberley Village Hall |
| Mon 6 Mar | 6.30pm | Planning Committee Meeting | Pavilion |
| Wed 8 Mar | 1.00pm | Probus Club Meeting | Arscott Golf Club |
| Fri 10 Mar | 10.00- 12.00 | Community Good Neigh- bours Coffee Morning | The Plough Inn |
| Sat 11 Mar | 10-12.00 | Repair Café | St George's Church |
| Mon 13 Mar | 2pm | Pontesbury WI | Public Hall |
| Mon 13 Mar | 6.30pm | Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting | Pavilion |
| Tue 14 Mar | 7.30pm | Pontesbury Women's Club | Public Hall |
| Thu 16 Mar | 11am to 1pm | Get Creative Morning - Free with refreshments | Pavilion |
| Thu 16 Mar | 6.45, quiz starts at 7.30pm | Quiz night at it's £3 per person - teams of 6 | Public Hall |
| Sat / Sun 18/19 Mar | | Minsterley Eisteddford | Minsterley Parish Hall |
| Tue 21 Mar | 2pm | u3a talk by Penny Ward on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings | Minsterley Parish Hall |
| Thu 23 Mar | 9am to 10.45am | Advice about Dementia & Alzheimers - Drop-In | Pavilion |
| Fri 24 Mar | 10am to 1pm | Feel-Good Friday 'Get Active' | Pavilion |
| Sat 25 Mar | 10am to 12 noon | Coffee morning in aid of Lingen Davies charity with a brew & a slice of cake | Pavilion |
| Fri 31 Mar | 10.30am | Carer's Coffee Morning - join us for free refresh- ments & expert help | Pavilion |
| Fri 31 Mar | 12 noon | Good Neighbours Luncheon Club | Public Hall |
| APRIL 2023 DATES | | | |
| Sat 1 Apr | 10.30am | Friends of Pontesbury Library Coffee Morning | Pavilion |
| Sat 15 Apr | 3-5pm | Songs & Stories for Spring | Pavilion |
| Fri 7 Apr | | Good Friday | Pavilion CLOSED |
| Mon 10 Apr | | Easter Monday | Pavilion CLOSED |
| Sat 15 Apr | 7pm | live online raffle draw in aid of Lingen Davies | Online |



‘Get Active’ Feel-Good Friday 24th March 2023 from 10am - 1pm in the Pavilion

With stalls and information
about local groups, activities
and events to support you to
'Get Active' in 2023.

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information about activities - to
name a few:

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u3a groups
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all info, dates, adverts &
articles to
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