

Village Views

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ACTON BURNELL, PITCHFORD, FRODESLEY, RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY

WELCOME

There is lots to enjoy in this bumper winter edition of Village Views. Please make sure you take a look at the fantastic photos which scooped the prizes in the summer round of the Pitchford Village Hall photo competition, and find out how you can take part in the next round.

We have lots of information on ways to get in the Christmas mood as we head towards December, including places where we are sure Santa will be visiting in advance of the Big Day.

If there is anything you would like to see included in future editions of Village Views, please contact us at villageviews@hotmail.com. Please remember that there is no charge for including information on community events, fairs and performances. If you have a business or service you would like to advertise, please get in touch with Rachel and Lois at villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com.

Chris Harrison, Karen Fisher, John Glover, Rachel Johnson and Lois Johnson

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The new culvert works at Frodesley have disrupted local traffic through much of September and unfortunately were extended well into October. The Parish Council pressed for better handling of the school bus arrangements and also for weekend working to be introduced. This resulted in the road reopening on October 18th in accordance with a revised schedule. The situation was made considerably worse with the closure of the bridge at Dorrington which was hit by an agricultural vehicle. The road is too narrow to allow a temporary barrier to be installed quickly. The bridge is a Grade II listed structure so permanent repairs will take some time. However, a temporary solution which does not impinge on the carriageway is in hand.

The council last met on 19th September. The main items discussed were as follow.

Shropshire Councillor, Dan Morris, advised that Shropshire Council had agreed to work with Monmouthshire, Powys and Herefordshire Councils, forming Marches Forward Partnership with the aim of bidding together for funding for transport and other cross-border projects. Dan also advised that only one Council building (Whitchurch

Library) had been identified as having RAAC concrete in its construction.

Dan also advised that Shropshire Council are planning to build a pyrolosis plant in Shrewsbury. This will use waste timber to produce gas for fuel and a by-product, char, which is used for fertilizer and soil improvement. Three sites are being considered.

Following reports at the last meeting regarding overgrown local footpaths and bridleways information is being collected so that action can be taken regarding any which are not cleared this autumn during seasonal hedge cutting.

Work on traffic calming (village gateways, signage, etc.) has continued and a short report with recommendations was approved and has now been passed to Shropshire Council highways department. The department has confirmed that works for Frodesley are included in the work plan for the current year. Assuming that highways department approves the plans, it should be possible for the village gateways to be installed in the first part of 2024.

The Parish Council gave approval for continued support of Village Views,

and to cover the costs of a CPR and Defibrillator demonstration to be run at Pitchford Village Hall ahead of the October Pub Night. The Frodesley bus shelter replacement was also approved along with refurbishment of the Parish noticeboards. The bus shelter will be replaced over the school summer break in 2024.

Since the meeting the Local Government Boundary Commission have issued their final report. Comments on their draft recommendations seem to have been noted and Burnell Ward will not be combined with Bayston Hill. However, Cardington will move to Corvedale Ward, All Stretton/Smethcott/Woolstaston are now going to be in the Bishops Castle Ward and the Parishes of Hughley/Kenley/Church Preen will now join Burnell.

Papers and draft minutes are available at www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting was set for Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Pitchford Village Hall to start at 19:30.

HELP NEEDED!

Can anyone please help? Acton Burnell Church is looking for a Treasurer, following the retirement of our present one. It is not an arduous task (we don't have that much money!) and you don't have to be a churchgoer, we just need

someone to keep the income and expenditure correctly recorded.

If anyone can offer their help, please contact the secretary at jillfaulkner@btconnect.com.

Thank you.



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 19th January 2024.

Please contact villageviews@hotmail.com with any news or villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to place an advert.

PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION SECOND ROUND

We really enjoyed hosting the summer round of the PVH Photography Challenge which ran from 21st June to 21 August. We received 17 eligible entries, all of which showcased the splendour of our local surroundings and the weird and wonderful weather we have experienced this year.

We received entries from the Lawley, Cressage, Dorrington, Cound, Frodesley, Bayston Hill and Acton Burnell, so a great representation from the 5 mile radius of PVH! As you can see, Pitchford entries had a clean sweep for the top three spots which is proud moment for the village. For any sceptics out there, we can assure you that judging is done anonymously by Head Judge and professional photographer Philip Dunne, alongside PVH Committee member Andrew Roberts and our own Village Views design editor Karen Fisher.

The panel give their time voluntarily to support the village hall and we would like to thank them very much!

We would also like to thank the people who submitted entries this time around. The photographs made a fabulous backdrop to our September pub night.

And so John Glover, our winner from this round with 'My Back Garden', will join James Elgar with his winning photo 'Mount Doom' from the spring the round in the final for 'PVH Photo of the year' to be announced in March next year! Good luck to both of you.

If anyone would like to enter and a chance to win the autumn round and be entered into the final, please submit your entries to Pvhphotochallenge@outlook.com. Round 3 (autumn) opened on 21st September and will run until 21st November. A reminder of the rules:

- Open to individual amateur photographers only
- Photos by phone/tablet or digital camera
- Digital photos only
- There are no groups by age or ability- open to everyone
- Photos must capture scenes from within a 5 mile radius of Pitchford Village Hall
- Photos must be taken within the dates of the round
- Only one entry per person

THE CHALLENGE

Take beautiful photos of our local surroundings that also really capture the essence of the seasons.

Miriam Davies



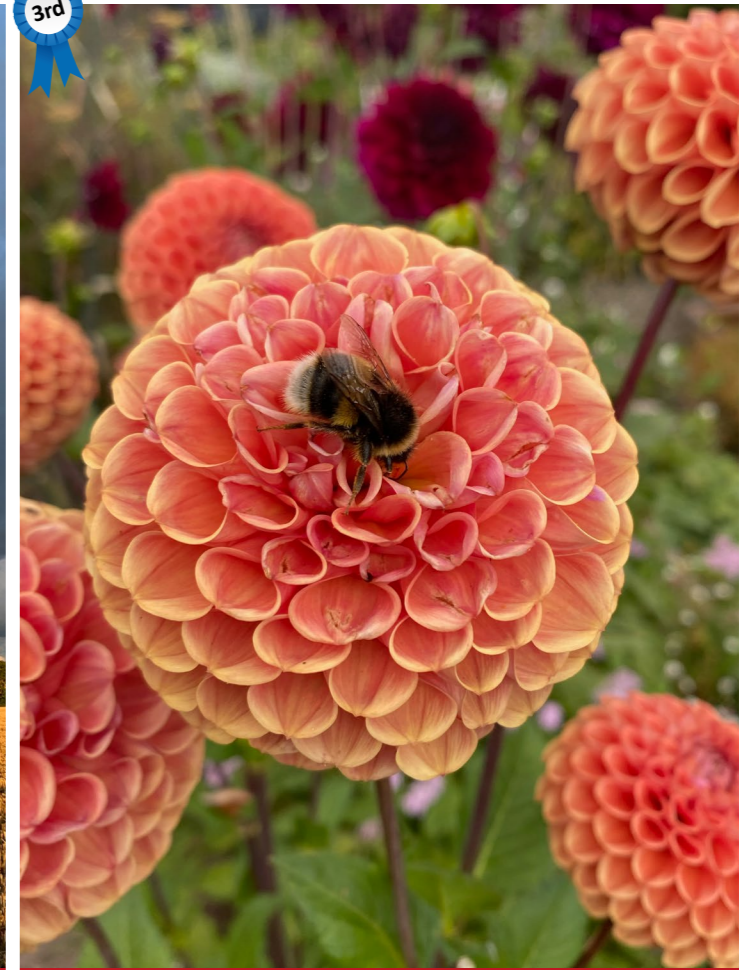
My Back Garden **John Glover**

2nd



Summer Skies and Shadows **Jan Pusiak**

3rd



What Nature Does Best **Jeanette Reaney**

4th



Lawley **Jenny Engwell**

Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Christmas
FAYRE

..... ❀

RYTON VILLAGE HALL
Sunday 19th November
12pm-4pm
Everyone welcome!!!

..... ❀

SANTAS GROTTTO
£5 per child- Booking only
CHRISTMAS STALLS
Perfect for gift buying

..... ❀

RAFFLE MINCE PIES & MORE
Proceeds to support friends of the Fox Inn at Ryton
Stalls from £15

..... ❀

CONTACT CHRISSIE TO BOOK A STALL OR SANTAS GROTTTO
CHRISSEIFOX1@GMAIL.COM

Longnor School
Frost Fayre

December 8th
6pm - 8pm
Longnor CofE Primary School,
Frodesley Road

Come and meet Santa!

Games, Christmas gift stalls, craft stalls,
performances by the children, food and
drinks stall and many more.

What's on

4th & 5th November

Kick off the Christmas season with the Frost Fair at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. Open from 10am to 4pm. Free entry. A wide selection of gifts and crafts from talented local artists and crafts people.

10th November

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Everyone is invited to come along for a natter and a pint, or a civilised exchange of views and a glass of wine. Children, dogs and well-behaved adults all welcome.

18th November

Christmas Fayre at Cressage Village Hall. Doors open at 10am. Meet Santa, enjoy a bite to eat and pick up some Christmas gifts.

19th November

Ryton Village Hall Christmas Fayre will be supporting the Friends of Fox Inn at Ryton. Doors open from 12pm to 4pm. Enjoy a range of Christmas stalls, raffle, mince pies and more. If you have a little one who would like to visit Santa's Grotto there is a charge of £5 – please book in advance by contacting chrisiefox1@gmail.com.

19th November

Cross Houses Christmas Fair opens its doors from 10.30am to 3.30am at Cross Houses Community Centre. Enjoy music from the Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir, a range of craft stalls, and demonstrations from Brompton Cookery School. The money raised will support the Harry Johnson Trust.

22nd November

The Christmas lights go on in Shrewsbury, accompanied by music and activities across the town from 4.30pm onwards. Join the crowds in The Square at 6.30pm. Please note that there will be road closures in the town centre from 4.30pm.

26th November

Gifts, food and festive delicacies will be on sale at the Concord College Christmas Fayre. Guided tours of the campus will also be on offer. Doors open at 1.30pm until 4.30pm.

2nd December

Breakfast Butty morning at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open from 9.30am to 12.30pm, with sausages, egg and bacon cooked to order, accompanied by tea or coffee. To make this truly Christmassy, mulled wine and mince pies will also be on offer. Please note that this event is

cash only. Miriam will also be arranging a walk for those who want to 'earn' their butties – check out the Acton Burnell and Pitchford Village Hall Facebook pages for more information nearer the day.

2nd December

Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre, from 10am to 6pm. All the town's many independent shops will be open, as well as 150 festive stalls, and a variety of performances and entertainment all around the town. The day ends with a candlelit procession and carols in the square. Please see

www.wenlockchristmasfayre.org.uk/parking-at-much-wenlock-christmas-fayre/ for information on parking and park and ride.

2nd December 2023 to 1st January 2024 (except Christmas Day)

The Mansion at Attingham Park will be glittering with themed Christmas trees and decorations, illustrating the stories of the many people who have lived in this historic house. Visits should be booked in advance, although any unsold slots will be available to purchase on the day. Tickets available from mid-November at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/christmas-at-attingham

2nd December 2023 to 7th January 2024 (except Christmas Day)

Discover an innovative skating rink in the Outer Courtyard at Attingham Park. Put on a pair of special boots and glide on the synthetic acrylic 'ice' surface to enjoy a magical skating session at Attingham. Timed sessions available to book soon at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/christmas-at-attingham. Suitable for all the family, including children aged 5 and upwards.

8th December

Pop along to Longnor School from 6pm to 8pm to enjoy the school's Christmas Frost Fayre. Santa will be in attendance, and there will be games and performances by the children to enjoy, in addition to craft, gift and food stalls.

8th December

Get into the Christmas mood at Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Mince pies 'on the house' and mulled wine.

9th December

Shrewsbury Abbey plays host to a Christmas Fayre from 10am to 2pm.

13th December

Celebrate Christmas with a seasonal sing-song in the heart of Shrewsbury, at the annual Carols in the Square. Hosted by BBC Radio Shropshire's Clare Ashford and Adam Green with support from Shrewsbury Brass Band and the Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir. Get ready to add your voice to the crowd at 5.30pm.

15th & 16th December

Shrewsbury Christmas Market in the The Square. Hand-made crafts and gifts as well as delicious local produce. From 10am to 5pm.

16th December

Mrs Claus will be in attendance at Condover Village Hall Christmas Fete, from 11am to 4pm. For more information and to book a visit to Mrs Claus' grotto, please go to www.condovervillagehall.co.uk/event-details-registration/mrs-claus-grotto

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Fancy seeing a good film in good company, but don't fancy the drive to Shrewsbury or Telford? Take a look at what is on offer at local venues nearer to home.

Information on all the following films and ticket booking via the Arts Alive website at www.artsalive.co.uk.

Showing at **Ryton Village Hall:**
24th November, 7.30pm, The Old Oak (rated 15)

Films at **Cound Guildhall:**
24th November, 7.30pm, The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (rated 12)

Showing at **Cardington Village Hall:**
6th December, 7.30pm, Barbie (rated 12)

Screening at **All Stretton Village Hall:**
7th November, 8.00pm, Lunana – A Yak in the Classroom (rated PG)
24th November, 7.30pm, The Keeper (rated 15)

5th December, 8.00pm, Blind Ambition (rated 12A)

11th December, 2.00pm, Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (rated PG)

15th December, 7.30pm, Rye Lane (rated 12A)

CHRISTMAS TOURS AT PITCHFORD HALL

Pitchford Hall will be opening its doors to visitors on 10th and 17th December. Tours last for 2 hours and cost £25 per person, to include mulled wine and mince pies. The tours gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy the main rooms on the ground floor including the great hall and drawing room. The Priest Hole Room and Princess Victoria Room will also be included.

To book tickets, please go to www.historichouses.org/house/pitchford-hall/tours/.



Concord College
CHRISTMAS
GIFT AND FOOD
FAYRE

❀ *Food & Festive Delicacies*
❀ *Christmas Gifts*
❀ *Guided Tours of the Campus*

❀ PLANET DOUGHNUT ❀ RADBROOK SPICE ❀
❀ TOOT SWEETS ❀ FJ JEWELLERY ❀
❀ AUTHENTIC HOGROASTS ❀ TROPIC SKINCARE ❀
❀ LITTLE SHOP OF JOY ❀ RAINBOW'S END ❀
AND MANY MANY MORE! ❀

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
1.30PM - 4.30PM

 **CONCORD COLLEGE**
Acton Burnell Hall
Acton Burnell • Shropshire • SY5 7PF



Santa Claus is obviously very busy in the run up to Christmas, but he always finds time to meet good girls and boys. If you know a little one who would like to meet Santa, take a look at the opportunities below.

18th November

Cressage Village Hall Christmas Fayre, will include the chance to meet Santa.

19th November

Ryton Village Hall, 12 noon to 4pm. To make a date with Santa, please book in advance by contacting chrisiefox1@gmail.com.

25th November to 24th December

Santa Trains will be running from Kidderminster on the Severn Valley Railway. There will be a live, festive performance at Arley Station, and a gift for every child. Go to www.svr.co.uk/event/santa-trains/2023-11-25/ for more information and to book tickets.

25th November onwards

Dobbies Garden Centre, Shrewsbury will be running a number of Santa themed events, including 'Santa Paws' sessions where good dogs can join in the festive fun, 'Santa's Breakfast' mornings, and visits to Santa's Grotto. If your child finds noise and crowds difficult to cope with, or has additional needs, Dobbie's is also offering a 'Quiet Grotto' option on 8th December from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. All sessions need to be booked in advance.

Please visit Dobbie's website at www.dobbies.com/events for more information and to book tickets.

2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December

The Enchanted Express will run on the Severn Valley Railway, departing from Bridgnorth Station. A cast of festive characters, inspired by 'The Night Before Christmas', and including Santa, will be joining you on the journey. You are encouraged to come along in your pyjamas! To book, go to www.svr.co.uk/event/enchanted-express/2023-12-02/.



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2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December

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2nd to 23rd December

Santa Specials train trips will be running from the Llanfair Caerinion. Enjoy a 50 minute trip through Mid-Wales in a heated carriage hauled by a historic steam engine. During the trip every child will have the opportunity to meet Santa and his elves. For more information and to book tickets go to <https://wllr.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/37051?catID=36932&>. Seats are limited to please book early.

5th to 24th December

Have breakfast with Santa at Percy Thrower's Garden Centre, Shrewsbury, and enjoy fun activities and a gift from Santa. Go to <http://bluediamond.smart-tickets.co.uk/index.php?link=ticket-select-session&eventid=1065&sids=> for more information and to book tickets.

9th December

Breakfast with Santa at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. £15 per child and £9 per adult, to include a breakfast sandwich or pancakes, and a present from Santa.

16th December

Visit Mrs Claus in her grotto at Conover Village Hall from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Tickets £7.50 per child to include a gift from Mrs Claus and a personalised letter from the North Pole. Fete is free to enter and includes traditional tabletop games, tombola and a café.

CONCORD COLLEGE PARISH SWIMMING CLUB

September 2023- June 2024

Residents of the Parish of Acton Burnell are very welcome to join our Swimming Club and use our swimming pool free of charge on the following dates.

***Enrolment into our Parish Swimming Club is a pre-requisite for those wishing to use our pool. To become a Club member please complete an application form which can be obtained from:

julia.kerslake@concordcollege.org.uk

**4.15pm – 5.15pm
on the following Thursdays**

September:	21	28		
October:	05	12	19	
November:	09	16	23	30
January:	11	18	25	
February:	01	08	22	29
March:	07	14		
April:	18	25		
May:	02	09	16	23 30
June:	06	13		

ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AND SUPERVISED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT AT ALL TIMES.

WE WILL PROVIDE 2 TRAINED LIFEGUARDS. PLEASE ALERT THEM TO ANY RELEVANT MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR SPECIAL NEEDS. ALL PERSONS USING THE POOL DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK.

THE AUTHORITY OF OUR STAFF, OUR LIFEGUARDS AND OUR SAFETY RULES MUST BE RESPECTED AT ALL TIMES.

*** Entry to the Concord College site will be strictly monitored. Please enter the site through the main gate on Cound Road and present your club card to the security guard. If travelling on foot, there is an intercom system in place at the pedestrian gate adjacent to The Lodge (on the turn to the castle) and a security guard will allow you entry on presentation of your club card. You will be required to sign in on arrival at the swimming pool building and sign out on your departure.

The swimming club takes place in the College's indoor pool. Whilst Concord College takes all necessary precautions to try and ensure the safety of all swimmers, occasionally accidents, trips, slips, falls, etc, may occur. Concord College will provide two trained Lifeguards and a Pool Assistant. The authority of the Lifeguards and Pool Assistant and the College's safety rules must be respected at all times. All participants under the age of 12 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Any form of horseplay, rule breaking or misbehaviour is prohibited and will result in the participant(s) being excluded from the Swimming Club and their membership revoked.

Concord College accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any loss or injury resulting from any person's involvement in the Swimming Club. Furthermore, all participants understand and agree, on completion and signature of the application form by the lead member, that they participate at their own risk. For those who are under 18 we require a parent/legal guardian to sign this disclaimer.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

Shropshire Council confirmed a groundbreaking agreement with other English and Welsh councils at its Cabinet in early September. A proposed 'Marches Forward Partnership' sees Shropshire Council work with Herefordshire Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Powys County Council. This means these councils will now join forces to apply for funding from the Government on major projects that will benefit the Marches region. Each council retains their own identity and independence and continue to deliver services to residents and businesses as they do now, but will work together, as partners, where there is mutual benefit and added value.

Areas of cross border shared interests are likely to include transport, skills and housing alongside energy, climate change and digital connectivity – common issues for the area's population of almost 750,000. It is anticipated that the councils' planned collaboration and desire to work together will increase overall investment from the Government, unlocking millions of pounds for identified initiatives that support the Marches' rural economy and green growth.

The councils are looking to sign up to an agreement/memorandum of understanding in October that would confirm functional arrangements between the four councils, there is no cost implication of the partnership, and it does not stop Shropshire from working with other authorities and partners at any point now or in the future. This is the first time neighbouring councils in England and Wales have proposed to work together. Government is enthusiastic about

the planned collaboration which covers a population of nearly ¼ million residents and an area of approximately 1,140,000 hectares.

On a different subject Shropshire Council has reported that it already expects to achieve over £34 million of the £51.4 million spending reductions it identified it needs to find this year. This is more than the combined savings it has delivered in the last three years and represents two thirds of the total it says it needs to find by next April. The council's first quarter financial monitoring report shows that £11m has already been banked, with high confidence that another £23m will be delivered before the end of the financial year. The council has another nine months to confirm how it will deliver the remaining £17m required and expects the majority of this target will be achieved.

While this very significant progress towards the £51.4m target is good news, the report also warns that further, new pressures are emerging. Additional costs are projected from rising demand for adults' and children's services as well as extra costs associated with providing people at risk of becoming homeless with temporary accommodation. These new pressures are currently estimated to add a further £20.5m costs to the council during the current year and it must find new ways to reduce these or reduce demand for its services. The council has longer to address these new demand-led pressures, however, given its improved General Fund 'reserves' position, meaning it has until March 2025 to offset these.

In other news, I am very pleased to say that on 29th September Shropshire Council won

the National Council or Local Authority of the Year 2023 at the prestigious National Energy Efficiency Awards. The council beat 16 other local authorities for their efforts in tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions. Shropshire Council and installation partner BidConnecter were shortlisted for several national awards for the work they do to help make vital home improvements, helping to keep homes warm, lower carbon emissions, and help residents save on energy costs.

BidConnecter, who are the lead insulation company for Shropshire Council's Sustainable Warmth programme, had been shortlisted in four categories at the National Energy Efficiency Awards. This included two categories, National Council or Local Authority of the Year, and National Insulation and Fabric Project of the Year, delivered in partnership with the council. The council and BidConnecter also took silver in the National Insulation and Fabric Project of the Year category. The National Insulation and Fabric Project of the Year award recognises the efforts of all those involved in delivering a successful energy saving project, where new insulation, draft exclusion or energy efficient building materials or systems have been installed as an energy efficiency measure.

As always, if you have any questions or matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email (dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk), on X ([@dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell)), on Facebook ([dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell)) or by phone (**07902408400**).

Dan Morris

AUTUMN COVID VACCINATIONS

The roll out of COVID boosters for care home residents, immunocompromised and at risk people aged 16-64, and for all over-65's began in September. Care home residents and 'at risk' patients will be contacted by their medical practice to arrange vaccination, but all other over-65s will need to make their own appointment to get their jab.

This can be done on-line via the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/, or through the NHS app. You may need to input your ten digit NHS number if you don't already have this saved in the system. You can find it on any letter the NHS has sent you, on a prescription, or by logging in to your GP practice online service. Don't worry if you are unable to lay your hands on the number – you can still book your vaccination by entering alternative information.

If you don't have on-line access (or just prefer to speak to a real person!) you can dial **119** and make your appointment that way.

Once booked you will be given a booking reference number which you will need to have with you on the day of the vaccination. In Shropshire it appears that the vaccinations will mainly be taking place in local pharmacies – you will be given a choice of location when you book.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BOUNDARY CHANGES

Changes to the local government electoral wards have been decided by the Local Government Boundary Review Commission for England. Our ward of Burnell has some changes- the parish of Cardington is now going to be in the ward of Corvedale, and the parishes of All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston are now going to be in the Bishops Castle Ward. The parishes of Hughley, Kenley and Church Preen will now be part of Burnell (moving from Severn Valley ward). The overall number of voters in the ward will be 3184.

The review aimed to make sure that each councillor represents a similar number of electors, and that the boundaries reflected community ties and identities. The new boundaries will come into force in time for the local elections in May 2025.

There will be no changes to the individual Parish Council boundaries, and the total number of Shropshire Council councillors will remain the same at 74.

Condover Benefice Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December

11:30am: Frodesley Crib Service
3:00pm: Acton Burnell Carol Service
3:00pm: Pitchford Carol Service
6:30pm: Condover Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

6:00pm: Condover Crib Service
11:00pm: Condover Midnight Communion

Monday 18th December

6:30pm: Ryton Crib Service

Christmas Day

9:00am: Ryton Communion Service
9:00am: Frodesley Communion Service
10.30am: Acton Burnell Communion Service
10.30am: Pitchford Communion Service

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in church following the Acton Burnell Carol Service on 17th December

All are welcome!

THE FRIENDS OF THE FOX INN, RYTON

You might think that things have gone quiet with regards to 'The Fox' but behind the scenes we have been very busy in our pursuit of reopening this great pub.

We are a community-based group of local residents. What started as a meeting of concerned individuals has grown into a determined community from the local villages focused on reopening the pub.

This won't just be any pub but a true 'community hub' with great locally produced food and drink but also a café, small shop and meeting space.

So, what has been happening since the last update.....

First and foremost, we have agreed a price to purchase the building with the current owners.

With the help of The Plunkett Foundation, we have submitted an application for a government grant from the Community Ownership Fund. We hope to hear back from the fund just prior to Christmas.

We have set up as a legal entity called a 'Community Benefit Society.' This is a not-for-profit business model which will hopefully smooth the path for third party funders and grants. We have also set up a bank account which was no easy task in itself!

You hopefully will have seen, heard about or even promised to contribute to our pledge campaign with regards to offering shares in the pub. We now have pledges from a large group of residents and businesses from the surrounding villages and even from abroad. We have received assurance from the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme with regards to claiming tax relief for investors.

We will be opening our share issuance early in the new year when we know the outcome of the grant application. You can still pledge to buy shares via our website on a short form.

Our latest fundraiser is our Christmas Fayre on Sunday 19th November 2023 between 12-4pm. This will be a truly fun family event with Santa's Grotto (£5) stalls, raffle, mince pies and more. The grotto needs to be prebooked with Chrissie via chrissiefox1@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there.

www.the-fox-at-ryton.co.uk and Facebook, **Friends of The fox Inn, Ryton.**



CHURCH NEWS

Since Rev. Geoff's retirement in July we have continued our usual pattern of services, supported by a number of retired priests and visiting clergy from the Diocese, and we would like to thank them for all they have done and will hopefully continue to do until we manage to fill the vacancy. In September we held our annual service at Langley Chapel, which was well supported, and throughout October we have celebrated Harvest Festival in our churches. It won't be long now until we start thinking about Christmas and the poster gives the date and times of our Christmas and Carol services. You are, of course, welcome to attend any of our services and we look forward to seeing you. At our Carol Service at Acton Burnell, 3pm on Sunday 17th December, we will again be serving mulled wine and mince pies in church after the service.

Recruiting a new Rector

The process for recruiting a new incumbent started with an informal meeting for anyone in the Benefice who wanted to attend on 5th September, where we were told that due to the size of the Parish Share (the amount of money our churches pay the Diocese) we will only be able to appoint a part-time (0.5) Rector, who will live at the Condover Rectory. Members of the PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) for each our churches are in the process of drafting profiles for each Parish. This will be followed by a Community Vacancy Consultation at Condover Church on 11th November after which the Parish profiles (effectively part of the job description for the role) will be agreed with the aim of advertising the vacancy in January, interviewing in March and appointing a new Rector towards the end of July 2024 – this is, of course, if everything goes smoothly and we don't have to re-advertise the post.

Jeremy Lowe



SEASONAL RECIPES



FIDGET PIE

First on the list of seasonal delights is Fidget Pie – a Shropshire speciality. There are many theories about the origin of the name: it could be that the pie filling tends to 'fidget around while being cooked, or it could be linked to 'fitched', meaning five-sided. A less pleasant theory is that it smelt like a polecat (or fitchett) while it was cooking, although given the tasty ingredients involved, that seems unlikely! There are many variations on the Fidget Pie, so apologies if this version differs from the one your Granny or Mum used to make! You can make a vegetarian option by replacing the gammon with either additional vegetables (onion, leeks or butternut squash make good alternatives), or try sliced vegetarian sausages.

Ingredients for the filling:

300g gammon steak
2 Bramley cooking apples
160ml cider
750g Shropshire potatoes
2 onions
1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
50g butter
80g double cream

Ingredients for the pastry:

150g plain flour
150g self-raising flour
150g butter
pinch of salt
(or use ready-made frozen shortcrust pastry).

Pre-heat oven to 190°C, or Gas Mark 5.

Make the pastry by sifting flour and salt into a bowl, adding the butter and rubbing in until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add a little water to help the mixture bind together. Split into two even halves, wrap in clingfilm and pop into the fridge for 20 minutes.

Take half the pastry, roll out and use to line a pie dish. Cover with baking parchment, weighted with baking beans or rice, and bake for 15 minutes. Remove baking parchment and allow to brown for a further 5 minutes.

While the pastry base is cooking, peel and cut up the potatoes and cook in boiling water until tender.

Dice the gammon steak and onions and saute in a pan until sealed and beginning to colour, and then add the cider. Simmer for 15 minutes.

Peel and dice the apples, add to the gammon mixture and stir. Cook for a couple of minutes and then remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Drain the potatoes and mix with the cream, butter and mustard. Add some cheese if you fancy!

Layer the apples into the pie, followed by the potato mix, and then the gammon. Repeat until the pie dish is full.

Roll out the remaining pastry and use to cover the pie. Crimp the edges and cut a hole in the centre for air to escape. Brush with beaten egg and place in the oven for around one hour, or until pastry is golden and crisp.

Enjoy with seasonal veg and a glass of something warming!



BAKED APPLES



Got a glut of apples? Turn them into a delicious quick and easy dessert.

You will need at least one apple per person, depending on their appetite! Score round the circumference of the apple (along the 'equator'), and remove the core using either a corer or a sharp knife. Stand the apples upright in an ovenproof dish.

Ingredients

Mix a handful of dried fruit
2tbsp of light muscovado sugar
1 tsp cinnamon.

You can make this a more indulgent adult treat by soaking the dried fruit overnight in brandy. Use this mixture to fill the core of the apple. Add a walnut sized knob of butter to the top of each apple and sprinkle over 2 tsp of demerara sugar.

Bake in the oven at 200degC (or 180°C for a fan oven) until the apples are soft but not at the point of collapse. Delicious with crème fraiche.

If you have a family favourite or special occasion showstopper you'd like to share, please drop me a line at villageviews@hotmail.com!

CONDOVER BROWNIES

1st Condover Brownies have spaces for youngsters between 7 and 10 years. Meeting on Mondays at Condover School Hall from 6pm to 8pm, the Brownie Pack offers the chance to learn new skills, experience new activities and earn badges.

For more information contact Lisa Price on **01743 242643** or email squeak.1@btinternet.com

FLOODING

Hopefully, we will get through the winter with no repeats of the flooding which we experienced in October, but with climate change taking hold, weather events like torrential rain may well become more frequent.

October saw flooding make several roads impassable, with deep water reported at the ford on the road from Countmoor to Acton Pigott, on the Longnor road, through Pitchford and at Cantlop Bridge. Further afield, roads and car parks were out of bounds in Shrewsbury, and even the M54 was closed for a number of hours.

If we are unlucky enough to see more flooding this year, you can find up to date information on road closures on these websites:

Shropshire Newsroom, run by Shropshire Council has detailed information on road closures and travel disruption (<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk>).

Shropshire Star carries regular updates through the day (www.shropshirestar.com).

And if you have information on floods, posting on **Acton Burnell Community Facebook page** can spread the word to your neighbours and help keep people informed and safe.

NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

PUB NIGHTS

The normally busy September Fest along with its offer of free food was a lovely evening, although our numbers were down on what we have come to expect at this annual event! This year's annual Onion Growing Competition was won by a new face in the form of Janet Glover, beating even the grand efforts of co-sponsor Alan Hotchkiss thus winning the extra prize put up by John Whittle! Many thanks to our co-sponsors for making this annual event happen! The final two pub nights of the year will be on Friday 10th November and then the Christmas version on Friday 8th December. The latter will include 'on-the-house' mince pies and mulled wine and we really do hope that as many of you that can will come along to these events, not only to support the Hall, but also to enjoy yourselves and meet up with folk you may not otherwise see!



John Glover receiving the Onion Cup from Alan Hotchkiss on behalf of his wife Janet

BREAKFAST BUTTIES



Our 'Breakfast Butties' mornings seem to be settling in as popular and well attended events. Our third such 'bash' was held at the end of September along with another local

walk hosted by Miriam Davies with a goodly number of jovial humans and dogs. Our next offering will be on Saturday 2nd December and, as usual, will start about 9.30am and will continue until about 12.30pm unless the food runs out beforehand!!! There will be a Christmas twist to this one with not only every combo of sausage, egg and bacon you can imagine on a roll of your choice (including vegetarian and vegan options) along with multiple refills of tea or coffee, but also mulled wine and mince pies on offer as well. The event is cash only and you can either sit in or take away. As usual, Miriam will be sorting a free to join winter walkies to well up an appetite before finishing at the hall for brunch. Details to follow on the ABC and PVH Facebook pages!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE:

Sadly, the Christmas Fayre we were hoping to run has had to be postponed and turned into a Spring Fayre to be held early next May which will also feature the PVH Breakfast Butties!

FITNESS CLASSES:

Fitness classes hosted by GemsfitnessPT continue to run and details of timings, dates and costs are on the usual PVH and ABC Facebook pages.

THE FUTURE OF PVH:

The Hall is managed by a small but hard working and dedicated team of volunteers. However, there are two matters which are starting to be a cause for concern.

Firstly, the vast majority of our Team are getting "very" on and sadly, there is an inverse relationship between the development of our wrinkles and the necessary energy and ideas required to run what needs to be a dynamic enterprise within our catchment area.

While the Team are genuinely enthusiastic about trying to provide a brilliantly usable facility, if we are to maintain the hall for what is the only place we have in our parishes where anyone can come along and meet others, or hire for their own events, then frankly, we need new blood. We do suffer compared to other local villages' halls in that the area we live in is devoid of a school, pub and other social places as well as having a relatively small population base. This means fewer opportunities for our area to 'buzz' and be as creative as our neighbours. Should the hall cease to run and be available due to our dwindling numbers and dwindling energy on the management side, then we would be one of the very few areas in our wonderful County where the ability to take part in events and meet up with other people can only take place well outside our 'zone'.

If you do care about living within an active community, could you help us to run the 'show' by possibly bringing something new, or even just provide a very necessary

helping hand to allow us to maintain what we already do? If you could, then you would be welcome with open arms! You do not even need to join the committee should that not be of interest as what we are looking for are people who can help out on a practical basis from time to time and maybe have the contacts and the energy to help put on events that the community may want!

Secondly, we have noticed a steady decline in attendance at pub nights and as mentioned earlier, our normally buzzing September 'bash' last month along with its offering of free food, did not have the numbers we have had in the past. While our Breakfast events are well supported, our pub nights are a vital source of income which we use to pay for the increasingly rising bills needed to keep the place open (a doubling of our energy costs and a bill of £1400 for insurance are but a sample of our costs!). In my opinion, it is also the only place I know of where you can meet up with a reasonably wide range of others in our area. As such, if there is anything we can do to make this more attractive to you, then please let us know. Alternatively, just come along and enjoy yourself!

Having painted a slightly gloomy picture, it must also be said that the hall continues to function and has recently hosted a number of events including private parties, wakes, anniversaries etc along with more public events such as those mentioned earlier and the wonderful Macmillan morning last month.

If you would like to help, or just discuss the possibility, or even have any ideas of the sort of hall you would want to see and which would encourage you to use us, then do contact any of the Committee Members whose details are below. In addition, should you wish to hire the hall for your own use, then again, please contact Mike Price.

Mike Price (Chairman):
email: price622@btinternet.com
mobile: 07740 067955

Chris Jones (Secretary):
email: csjay@btinternet.com
mobile: 07538 744807

Jeanette Reaney (Tote Organiser):
email: jeanettereaney@hotmail.com
mobile: 07971 780963

Bridget Thurgood (Treasurer):
email: bthurgood2@btinternet.com

Andrew Roberts (Vice Chairman):
email: andrew-roberts3@sky.com

Miriam Davies:
email: miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk

Daphne Lewis:
email: daph_lewis@yahoo.co.uk

John Glover:
email: jbglover@outlook.com

John Glover (PVH Committee)

MUCH WENLOCK AND CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

Embracing a Culture of Inclusion

Much Wenlock and Cressage Medical Practice and Safe Ageing No Discrimination (SAND) have joined together in supporting the ageing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+) community. On behalf of the Practice Dr Hay and Dr Wentel have signed a covenant with the charity, committing to understand and respond to the needs of older LGBTQIA+ people in our local community. The covenant consists of five pledges, which the Practice has committed to in support of this charity.

Other organisations which have already signed the Covenant include Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin, Citizens Advice Shropshire, Wrekin Housing Group, Shropshire Council and Severn Hospice, among more.

For more information, please visit the SAND website at: www.lgbtsand.com. Alternatively, the team can be contacted at info@lgbtsand.com or on **01743 590023**.

New Faces – Practice Team

In recent months we have successfully recruited staff to our reception team, secretary, Practice Nurse and Health Care Assistant. We also have 2 new GP Registrars who have joined us for their 12 month placement, Dr Amara and Dr Ruemu.

From 23rd November we welcome a new partner to the Practice; Dr Maurice Price. Dr Price is an experienced GP and GP Partner with a keen interest in education and promoting patient care. He will be working 3 days a week in the Practice.

Have you got a couple of hours each week you could spare to support someone in our community?

The Much Wenlock & Cressage CoCo (Compassionate Communities) Group are recruiting for more volunteers to help support a frail or vulnerable person to maintain their links within our community. This could involve phoning them on a regular basis; calling in for a chat; accompanying them to the shops or assisting them in those little tasks of daily living such as household paperwork or walking the dog or a bit of gardening.

This won't involve personal care but things which help the person remain active in the local community. Full training and support will be provided, and you will be making a real difference for someone in your community.

Interested? Then leave your contact details with reception at Much Wenlock or Cressage Medical Practice.



NEWS FROM LONGNOR SCHOOL

We have had a busy and fun start to our new school year at Longnor CE Primary School. Our Christian values of love, trust, joy and hope have been in evidence in all our activities.

Early in October, we enjoyed opening our doors to both prospective and current parents at our open morning and evening. The children and teachers have been working so hard this term and showed off their wonderful work on wall displays throughout the school.

We also celebrated Harvest Festival in the church in October and took great joy in sharing our celebratory songs and

prayers with our parents and friends. Our harvest collection was donated to Church Stretton food bank.

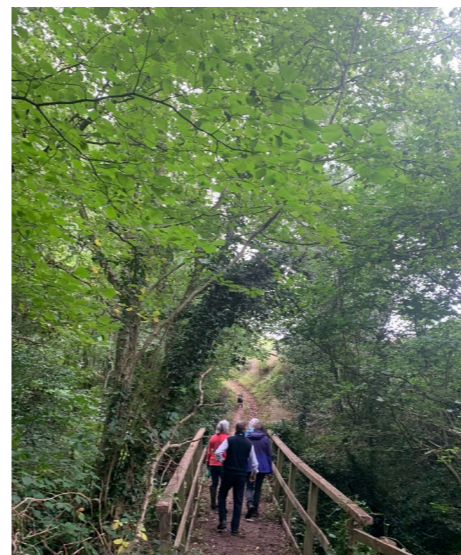
Eagles, Merlins and Kestrels classes have all taken part in cross country races on the Long Mynd, competing against children from other local primary schools. The children really enjoyed the challenge, despite the somewhat unpredictable Shropshire weather.

Across the school we have been enjoying looking for signs of Autumn in Forest School, finding different coloured leaves, acorns and conkers in the school

grounds. We have also established all our new clubs for the term, including many run by the children themselves. Podcast club, band, nature club, story writing club and dance club are just a few of the lunch time activities on offer this term.

We are now looking forward to our Halloween events and our Christmas Frost Fayre which will be held on 8th December from 6-8pm.

Working together, we are helping to inspire a lifelong love of learning.



September's Local Walk hosted by Miriam Davies

CONCORD COLLEGE VACANCIES

Interested in working locally? Concord College often have a range of interesting positions available. More information can be found at www.concordcollegeuk.com/about-concord/general/job-vacancies/. Application forms and job information packs can be downloaded from the website. Current vacancies include Lower School Boarding Assistant, Health Care Assistant, Kitchen Assistant and Dining Room Assistant.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY

Don't forget that you can keep in touch with your local community by using Facebook. Just search for Acton Burnell Community, Pitchford Village Hall or Frodesley Community Hub to see what events are taking place in your area. You'll need to join as a member to see who's in the group and what they post on the Acton Burnell page, but this only takes a minute or two.

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