

# Village Views

August 2023



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

## WELCOME

It's a bumper bundle this month, as you should receive both the Village Directory and Village Views through your letter box. We hope that you will enjoy them both. The Directory is produced once a year and provides a handy guide to local services, organisations and businesses. Both publications are also available to download via the Parish Council website at [www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk).

Village Views this month includes the winning entries from the Pitchford Village Hall photography competition. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of our beautiful neighbourhood, and that it encourages you to get out and about with your camera or phone to create your own masterpiece for the next round of the competition. Enjoy your summer!

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

## PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – FIRST ROUND RESULTS!

*Miriam Davies reports:*

We had 14 entries in total, from across the local area. It was so lovely to see different interpretations of the brief- all managed to capture the season of Spring and the beauty and diversity of our local surroundings with PVH right in the middle of it all!

The first round winners were:

**1st:** James Elgar Lawley-Mount Doom

**2nd:** Hannah Higgins Frodesley-Rainbowland

**Joint 3rd:**

Keira Henley Dorrington-Untitled

Andrew Smith Cressage-Nutter in Wood Lane

Daphne Lewis Pitchford-The Ethos of Pitchford

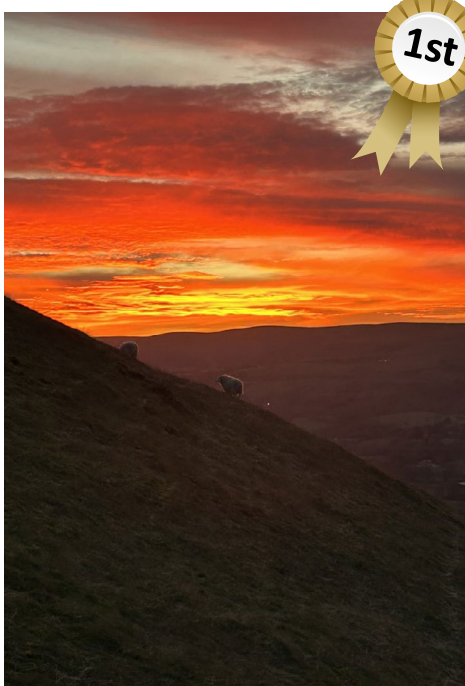
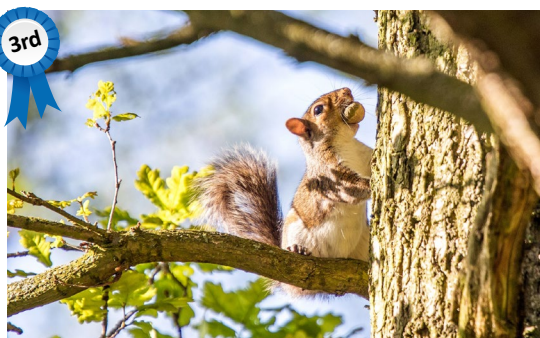
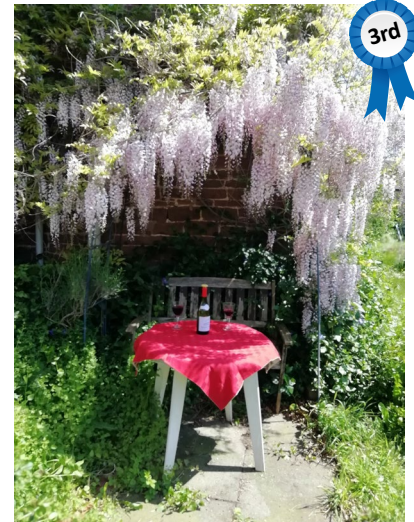
The judging panel Philip Dunn (professional photographer), Karen Fisher (community volunteer) and Andrew Roberts (PVH

Committee ) had a really hard job on their hands – they all took time to consider, deliberate and score the entries giving us our winners in 1st, 2nd and joint 3rd.

We celebrated all of the entries at the June PVH Pub Night by projecting them on the big screen, and received lots of lovely comments about how fantastic it was to see them. The PVH team are really grateful for all of the interest and support for this community challenge.

**Round 2: 'Summer'** opened on 21 June and will run until 21 August. A recap of the rules can be found below and in the events section of Pitchford Village Hall Facebook pages. Entries are already rolling in! Entries and enquiries to

[PVHphotochallenge@outlook.com](mailto:PVHphotochallenge@outlook.com)



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 19th Oct 2023.

Please contact [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) with any news or [villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com](mailto:villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com) to place an advert.

## VOTER IDENTIFICATION – DON'T MISS OUT!

It has been reported that around 14,000 people were turned away from May's local elections because they were not able to produce the required photo ID following the recent changes to the law around elections. The Electoral Commission has commented that 'significantly more' people stayed at home and did not even attend a polling station because they believed that they did not have the right ID to hand.

The next local elections in our area will be in 2025, but it is likely that there will be a General Election before that date. If you want to be sure of being able to cast your vote, make sure that you have photo ID available on election day.

Acceptable forms of photo ID are listed as:

- A passport issued by the UK, Isle of Man, British Overseas Territory, EEA state (which includes EU countries plus Norway and Lichtenstein), or a Commonwealth country.
- A driving licence or provisional driving licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or an EEA state.
- A Blue Badge.
- Local travel passes such as an older person's bus pass or disabled person's bus pass.
- Some Government issued documents such as biometric immigrations documents, national identity card issued by an EEA state or a Ministry of Defence identity card.

A full list can be found at

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id). In every case the original document will need to be shown – not a photocopy or scanned version.

If you don't have any of the above, you can apply for a voter authority certificate from Shropshire Council. Take this along on election date, and you will be able to use it to prove your identity and cast your vote. You will need to complete an application form which must include your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number, and you will also need to provide a passport style photo.

Voter authority certificate application forms can be found online at the [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate), or you can visit Shropshire Local hub at the Darwin Shopping Centre, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury (open 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday), where you can get help in completing the online application, have the necessary photo taken, and upload any required documents. If you would rather complete a paper application you can have one sent to you by calling **0345 678 9015**.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in May with reports presented by the Parish Council and other local bodies; Concord College, Shropshire Council, Godolphin Edwards Charity (a local Parish charity), the Church, Pitchford Village Hall Committee and the Village Views team.

Although this is our annual community meeting and all are welcome unfortunately no members of the public attended to provide comments and feedback.

Matthew Hodge represented Concord College and is the new bursar. He was welcomed and confirmed that the College is committed to continuing its support of the wider local community.

In his Church report Rev. Geoff Garrett confirmed that he is retiring at the end of July. We all wish Geoff well in his retirement and offer our thanks for his service and support to the community over many years. It was also noted that two church wardens had retired from St. Mary's in Acton Burnell and it is suggested that anyone who is interested in taking on this role should contact Jeremy Lowe.

With the new kitchen now installed, the renovations at Pitchford Village Hall are complete and the hall is fully "open for business". Anyone with an event coming up or ideas for clubs, groups or other social gatherings should contact Mike Price, the committee chair.

Shropshire Councillor, Dan Morris noted Shropshire's priorities for strategic planning were:

Healthy People, Healthy Economy, Healthy Environment and Healthy Organisation.

Dan also advised that reductions in central government funding left a £51m budget shortfall which will require significant changes to the size, organisation and operation of Shropshire Council. These will be implemented over the next three years.

The Village Views team confirmed that they can continue to produce a quarterly colour newsletter, financed by the Parish Council, along with an annual Village Directory which is covered by advertising income. The team were thanked for their hard work.

### Parish Council Meetings

#### Annual Parish Council Meeting

The meeting was held in May, immediately following the Parish Meeting. This being the annual statutory meeting, much of the business was devoted to re-election/confirmation of council officers and sub-committee members along with addressing the updating of policies and procedures.

Paul Harrison was re-elected as Chair with Carmen Cullis as Vice Chair.

The 2022/2023 accounts had been completed and successfully audited and reports were approved for submission to the external auditors.

A working group was set up to progress the Frodesley bus shelter replacement and the traffic calming measures (village gateways). Indicative quotations had been obtained.

### July Meeting

It was noted that recently a number of road closure signs had not been well placed, giving little help to road users, and had frequently been left in place while no work was in progress or left discarded at the roadside for long periods when work had been completed. Shropshire Highways will be advised and asked to improve the signage of temporary works.

Work on traffic calming (village gateways, signage, etc.) continues along with plans to replace the Frodesley bus shelter.

A number of local footpaths and bridleways have become overgrown. It was noted that landowners are legally obliged to cut back hedges, etc. to keep rights of way clear. Issues can be reported at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/countryside-feedback-public-rights-of-way/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/countryside-feedback-public-rights-of-way/)

The Parish Council gave final approval for the expenses for the Coronation Pub Night in May which was a great success. Thanks again to the Pitchford Village Hall committee and volunteers. It was also agreed to support the 80th D-Day anniversary celebration on June 6th 2024.

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

Papers and draft minutes for all of the above meetings are available at

[www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings](http://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings)

### Eric Plant

It is with great sadness that we note the loss of Eric Plant. Eric spent his whole life in Acton Burnell running a small farm, part of which now forms Stoneleigh Close. Eric had a keen interest in country activities and, amongst many skills, was an expert stickmaker. He also supported the church and the community, serving as a Churchwarden at St. Mary's and as a Parish Councillor (including many years as Chairman) and working hard both to maintain the character and to develop the local area.

Our sympathy goes to Jeanette, son James, daughter Sarah and their families.

*Paul Harrison  
Chair, Parish Council*

## SUMMER POST OFFICE HOURS

The Acton Burnell shop and Post Office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only until Monday 4th September. The nearest alternative post offices are at Condover (SY5 7AA) and Dorrington (SY5 7JB).





# What's on



## Throughout August

Join the Shrewsbury Arts Trail to discover sculptural works by Salvador Dali and Jacob Chandler in the town centre, and enjoy the art work on exhibition at seven different venues. More information on all events at [www.shrewsburyartstrail.com](http://www.shrewsburyartstrail.com)

## 29th July to 12th August

Church Stretton Arts Festival, including concerts, drama, speakers and free coffee concerts and organ recitals. The Art Exhibition provides the chance to see the work of over a hundred local artists. For detailed information and to purchase event tickets, please go to [www.strettonfestival.org.uk](http://www.strettonfestival.org.uk)

## 5th August

Beagle Race Afternoon at Ryton Village Hall in aid of Friends of the Fox Inn. Gates open at 3pm, first race at 3.30pm and last race around 6pm. Cash bar, BBQ, raffle and tote. Entrance £2 per adult and children free. This is a dog friendly event!

## 5th & 6th August

The Romans are back at Wroxeter – but just for the weekend! Take in the sights and smells of the Roman encampment and listen to tales of what daily life was like in the fourth-largest city in Roman Britain. Tickets are £13.50 for adults and £8 for children aged 5 to 17 years. Family tickets and concessions also available. Go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/wroxeter-the-romans-return-5-6-aug-2023/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/wroxeter-the-romans-return-5-6-aug-2023/) for more information and to book.

## 11th August

Pub Night once again at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30. Everyone (of all ages) very welcome for beer, wine, soft drinks and a chat. Please note that the bar is cash only!

## 11th August

Squirrel Walnutkins and Felix the Fox are on an adventure to stop the last tree in Evergreen Wood from being cut down. Follow their exploits in an outdoor theatre production aimed at primary age children and youngsters with additional needs, which includes interactive games and lots of laughs. Performances take place at Attingham Park at 11am and 2pm, and there will be a BSL sign language interpreter at both shows. Tickets £10 for adults and £5 for children over 2 years. Book at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/5cf48e4d-ab12-4885-9c26-a482b733a25e](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/5cf48e4d-ab12-4885-9c26-a482b733a25e)

## 11th & 12th August

The annual Shrewsbury Flower Show will fill Quarry Park in Shrewsbury with colour, scent and excitement. Marquees with floral displays to be enjoyed alongside talks and demonstrations by expert gardeners and chefs, arena entertainment and a firework display to complete the weekend. Details and tickets available at [www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk)

## 13th August

Cricket Fun Day in aid of Prostate Cancer UK at Acton Scott Cricket Ground, Ragdon Lane, Church Stretton. Live tournament running from 11am, with BBQ, bar, stalls and more.

## 18th August

Be whisked away on a magical adventure with the Pantaloons' production of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at Attingham Park. The performance begins at 7pm. Tickets £17 for adults, £10 for 2 to 17 year olds. This is an outdoor performance so dress for the weather and bring a blanket or camping chair to sit on. Picnics welcome! Call 03442 491895 or go to [www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33753?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302](http://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33753?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302) to book.

## 25th to 28th August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival at the West Mids Showground, Gravel Hill Lane, Shrewsbury. Performers include Billy Bragg, Oysterband, Maddy Prior and N'Faly Kouyate. Day pass, weekend and camping tickets available. Go to [www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk) for details on booking.

## 31st August

An evening with 2022 Great British Sewing Bee finalist Debra Drake at Ryton Village Hall, in aid of the Friends of the Fox Inn. Tickets £10 per head. Check out Friends of the Fox Inn, Ryton on Facebook for more details.

## 1st to 3rd September

Outdoor cinema at Attingham Park, featuring Elvis (rated 12), Sing (PG), Grease (PG), Matilda the Musical (PG) and Top Gun: Maverick (12). Showtimes and ticket prices available at [www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/attingham-park](http://www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/attingham-park).

## 8th September

The final of the Grand Onion Competition takes place at Pitchford Village Hall. Bring along your prize winning entry, or pop in to marvel at other people's onion growing skills. Also on offer will be a free supper of lasagne,

garlic bread and salad – and of course the usual cash bar.

## 8th September

The Coracle World Championships will be taking to the water on the River Severn at the Pengwern Rowing Club at Quarry Park, Shrewsbury. Up to 48 teams will be competing for the title, and will also be raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. It's free to attend, but if you fancy taking part, go to [www.coracleworldchampionship.co.uk](http://www.coracleworldchampionship.co.uk) for more information. Races start around 2.15pm.

## 9th September

Enjoy a cuppa and a cake and help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support at Dorrington Village Hall. Doors open at 8.30am with a selection of refreshments through the day. Raffle, tombola, craft stalls and a bouncy castle will also help to keep everyone entertained, and if you fancy a challenge, there will also be a garden on a plate competition (entry forms available from Condover and Dorrington Schools).

## 17th September

Enjoy fascinating talks on a variety of historical subjects, and take the opportunity to explore the grounds as The Marches of Time arrives at Pitchford Hall. Bring a picnic or take advantage of refreshments served from The Orangery. Go to [www.marchesoftime.co.uk](http://www.marchesoftime.co.uk) for more information and to book tickets.

## 30th September

Get your Saturday off to a flying start with a breakfast butty at Pitchford Village Hall. More details to come on the Pitchford Village Hall and Acton Burnell Community Facebook pages.

## 13th October

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall kicks off at 7.30pm. Come along and share a pint and a natter with your friends and neighbours. Everyone welcome, including kids and well-behaved dogs.

## 20th October

Quiz Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Enter a team of four for £20, and enjoy free nibbles and a cash bar throughout the evening. Keep an eye on the Pitchford Village Hall and Acton Burnell Community Facebook pages for more information, or contact [miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk).

## SAVING THE FOX

The Friends of The Fox at Ryton are ramping up their efforts to secure the future of this lovely rural pub with the launch of a scheme to allow members of the local community the chance to pledge to buy shares or a promise to make a donation to raise funds.

The Friends are recognised as a 'Community Benefit Society', which means

that if they are successful in purchasing The Fox it will be owned by the community and run for community benefit. Their aim is to make The Fox more than just a pub, providing not only locally sourced food & drink, but also a Community Café and pop-up shop. They are keen to make the pub an inclusive and sustainable space, run as far as possible on green energy, and offering work and volunteering experience to the local community.

The project has won support from a range of local businesses and organisations, as well as individuals from across the county.

If you would like to become involved please contact the steering team on [rytonvillagecommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:rytonvillagecommunitygroup@gmail.com). You can also follow their progress and find out about fundraising and information activities on their website ([www.the-fox-at-ryton.co.uk](http://www.the-fox-at-ryton.co.uk)) or Facebook page (search for Friends of the Fox Inn, Ryton).

**A new support package will streamline funding support for Shropshire businesses**

One of the aims of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – a fund set up to succeed and improve upon previous EU funding – is to simplify the funding process for businesses looking to access funds. As a result, Shropshire Council has partnered with Birmingham City Council and others to launch the West Midlands small-to-medium sized enterprise (SME) Grants Programme (WMGP).

Existing small-to-medium sized businesses based in the Shropshire Council area can apply for grants from £5,000 to £100,000. Businesses must employ less than 250 people, and have been trading for at least six months. The majority of applications are expected to be for an average grant of between £10,000 and £20,000. Larger grants will be awarded in exceptional circumstances only, to ensure that as many businesses as possible can benefit from the limited budget available, and applicants must demonstrate their projects will create new jobs.

Awards will be considered for the following types of projects:-

- expanding and growing existing businesses
- inward investment
- developing new market opportunities
- innovation, including new product development
- capital investment
- an increase in the productive capacity of new and existing premises through new property builds, refurbishment and extensions.

Grant awards will also be limited to a maximum of 50% of the total project costs, with businesses expected to ‘match-fund’ whatever grant amount they receive. All potential applicants are therefore urged to refer to the eligibility criteria to make sure they qualify before submitting an application. A new funding round opened on Monday 3 July 2023. The links to the funds are as follows, or email **wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk**: **www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50293/wm\_sme\_grant\_programme/2693/about\_the\_west\_midlands\_sme\_grant\_programme**

**Go-ahead for £1.7m schemes aiming to reduce River Severn flooding**

Two projects that aim to provide nature-based solutions to reducing flooding on the River Severn are to go ahead after gaining the approval of Shropshire Council’s Cabinet in June. The projects are part of a wider programme of testing planned for the upper part of the Severn catchment, to be funded using £4.5 million of Government funding and to be delivered over the next four years. The two ‘demonstrator’ schemes are being delivered on behalf of the River Severn Partnership, which is jointly chaired by Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency but encompasses a wide range of government partners, businesses and community-based organisations across the entire Severn and Wye catchment area.

The first £900,000 scheme for Rea Brook in Shrewsbury will be delivered by Severn Rivers Trust and will see the construction

of 200 leaky dams, 4ha of woodland creation, 1.5km planting of new mix hedgerows across slopes, creation of at least 35 water storage features such as ponds, scrapes and swales to provide additional water storage during storms and installation of on-farm rainwater harvesting systems. Benefits will include an estimated 35ha of new wetland habitat to facilitate the development of more natural water management, provide valuable habitat for wading birds and amphibians, improve water quality, reduce the need for fertiliser through soil biodiversity improvements, support farm businesses through water efficiency savings and provide native woodland for a range of priority species and for the sequestration of around 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The second £800,000 project for the River Perry looks at peatland restoration and will be led by Shropshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with Harper Adams University. It will involve the rewetting of 11ha of peatland, the creation of 3ha of new native woodland, at least five water storage features and 9ha of paludiculture (commercial crops produced on wetland habitats), alongside two peatland conferences at Harper Adams University to enable engagement and support for the North Shropshire Farmers Group.

If there are any matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email **dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk**, by mobile on **07902 408400**, on facebook **dan4burnell** or Twitter **@dan4burnell**.

*Dan Morris*



**ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES - GET FIT THIS SUMMER!**



Enjoy a weekly off-road run through the lovely Attingham parkland with a qualified Leader in Running Fitness and in the company of other runners. These small groups (there is a maximum of 12 runners per group) are mixed ability and focus on being social as well as getting a little bit fitter. Each session lasts for an hour and can be paid for by card on the day. Participation costs £1 per session for National Trust members and £6 for non-members. The groups meet every Tuesday at 6.20pm throughout August and September. To book your place please go to **www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/3ddadd09-6390-4937-8abf-515d3f0ef9f8**

An even cheaper option is Parkrun, which is free to join and which enables you to turn up and take part in a Saturday morning 5km run in 1,185 locations across the UK, with many more worldwide. A junior 2km version is available for youngsters. The nearest park run to us is

in The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury. More information from **www.parkrun.org.uk/shrewsbury/**.

If you’d rather walk than run, then the Ramblers may be more your style. Join up and you will be able to take part in the South Shropshire Ramblers regular walks around our part of the county. Visit their website at **www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/south-shropshire-group** to see what they can offer you.

Watching Wimbledon may have made you fancy having a go at tennis – or perhaps rekindling an old love affair with the game – so take a look at what Cound Tennis Club has to offer. This active club offers a range of membership options to suit all needs – from full membership of the club to a subscription that just covers coaching, with reduced fees for youngsters. You can also book a court for just £5 for two occasions – after that you will need to join the club to continue to

play. Take a look at their website for more details (**https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CoundAndDistrictTennisClub**).

If your idea of heaven is spending your summer playing (or watching) cricket, then you might be interested in joining Condover Cricket Club, which can offer opportunities for all ages, from 5 year olds upwards. Details of club activities and membership can be found at **https://condovercricket.club/**.

Local village halls often offer weekly exercise and sporting opportunities. Dorrington Village Hall hosts weekly Zumba and badminton classes (see **www.dorringtonvillagehall.co.uk** for more information), while Condover Village Hall has Pilates on offer (**www.condovervillagehall.co.uk**). Yoga classes are available at Stapleton Village Hall (see **www.beechtreeyoga.com** for pricing and timetable information).

And keep an eye on the Pitchford Village Hall Facebook page for possible future fitness options right on your doorstep.....



## NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

### **Pub nights:**

The next few pub nights take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, the 8<sup>th</sup> September and the 13<sup>th</sup> October, all on Fridays starting at 7.30. All will be hopefully jovial events with a plentiful supply of Ludlow Gold and other good quality drinks, open to all in our area (and beyond) including kiddies. As always, the bar will be cash only.

### **September Pub night:**

This will be our annual extravaganza and will host the final of the Grand Onion Competition. The winner who will be the person whose onion was bought from us a few months ago for the princely sum of £2 who's weight has increased the most and is therefore the heaviest we will record on the night. A trophy and a free drink will be the prize. Should the winning effort exceed the weight of that of Alan Hotchkiss' onion, our co-sponsor who provided the 'onionlings' in the first place and who will not be entering the competition, then our other co-sponsor – John Whittle of Pitchford – will award you a grand prize pot totalling £40. Get growing!! Should you not be able to bring your onion entries along to Pub Night that evening, then you may drop these off at the Hall before the event, details of which will appear on the ABC and PVH Facebook pages in plenty of time before the 8<sup>th</sup> September.



Also on offer that night will be free food which we hope will be in the form of lasagne along with garlic bread and a salad garnish, so put the date in your diary. All very welcome, whether or not you have entered the competition!

### **PVH Quiz Night:**

We are holding a quiz evening open to all in the area who can form a team of 4. This will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. There will

be a variety of formal rounds and hosted by a quiz-master. Free nibbles will be provided and the bar will be open. The cost will be £20 par table (of four). If you are interested, you can book by contacting our organiser Miriam and payment can be done by BACS or by cash or cheque at a preceding Pub night. This can be done by email ([miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk)) with your team name, but do watch out for more info on the ABC and PVH Facebook pages.

### **Breakfast Butties:**

The second of our 'Breakfast Butty' events took place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July and was another successful event which was well attended and enjoyed based on the comments we got and the large numbers of empty plates left!! Miriam Davies organised a walkies to coincide with this, with 15 local strollers negotiating a new route from the Hall down to Acton Burnell and around to Barn Cottage before returning to satiate their appetites! Many thanks to Top Farm in Pitchford for



allowing us to walk over their land to avoid the road, for which we are extremely grateful! 7 kilometres (4½ miles in old money), shower dodging, hawks by the plenty and all topped off with a breaky buttie – what more is there to enjoy!!

Our next Breakfast Butty event will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September with, as is the norm, more details nearer the time on the Facebook pages.

### **Christmas Fayre:**

We are planning to hold an 'Xmas Fayre' again, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Hopefully, there will be a variety of stalls and we do know that bacon butties and brews will be on offer! If you are

interested in booking a table, the charge will be £15 for a large six-footer and £10 for a smaller four-footer. Please contact us via the PVH Facebook account for more details and register your interest. It's a long way off, but we do hope to see you there!

### **Fitness Classes:**

We are in the process of organising Fitness Classes to run at the hall with Gemma Gibbons of GemsfitnessPT. By the time you read this, we will have had our free taster session and we hope this activity will be up and running. Again, watch out for more details on the PVH and ABC Facebook pages.

### **The Committee:**

As mentioned previously, we are looking for anyone in the area to come along and help us to both maintain the Hall for the use of the community, and also to help us manage various events for you all. We have shrunk a little following the Rev Geoff's retirement and Niki Williams deciding to step down after a number of years invaluable help. If you would like to help, or just discuss the possibility, then do contact either Mike Price or Chris Jones whose details are below! It's always nice to give back to a lovely community such as we have in our area and it can also be very rewarding!! You can give as much or as little as you want in terms of time and any help would be very gratefully received. It might also be your opportunity to put your own stamp on our area and help us along on a new route of your liking!!

### **Contacts:**

All of our information can be found on our Facebook page, "Pitchford Village Hall". Please 'like' our page to get regular updates! The Hall is open for private hire and if you wish to make an enquiry or indeed have any other questions, feel free to contact either Mike or Chris below:

**Mike Price** (Chairman PVH Management Committee):

email: [price622@btinternet.com](mailto:price622@btinternet.com)

mobile: 07740 067955

**Chris Jones** (Secretary PVH Management Committee):

email: [csjay@btinternet.com](mailto:csjay@btinternet.com)

mobile: 07538 744807

**Jeanette Reaney** (Tote Organiser)

email: [jeanettereaney@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanettereaney@hotmail.com)

mobile: 07971 780963

**John Glover** (PVH Committee)



## PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

A proposed boundary change for local elections suggests that Burnell ward should lose several of its current parishes, and, along with Cound, should be added to Bayston Hill, with two councillors representing the new ward. This is as a result of a Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) review of boundaries ahead of the elections in 2025. Draft proposals have been prepared and are available on the Shropshire Council website at: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire)

Reviews are carried out periodically as populations change to try to ensure that people are properly represented at local council level, with each councillor essentially representing the same number of voters (within a tolerance of plus or minus 10%). Numbers are adjusted by moving parishes (and voters) from one ward to another.

Following consideration of the proposals at an Extraordinary Meeting in June, the Parish Council submitted the following comments:

In the current review it was determined that Burnell ward is projected to remain within the 10% tolerance for voter numbers (approximately 8% over). Therefore, the Parish Council's first suggestion is that there should be no change to Burnell ward.

However, to address an issue with Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton which are predicted to have 15% over the number of voters for its 2 councillor ward the LGBC are proposing to:

- Take All Stretton/Smethcott/Woolstaton PC and Pulverbatch PC from Burnell and add them to Bishops Castle.
- Take Cardington PC from Burnell and add it to Corvedale.
- Add the remaining voters from Burnell and also Cound Parish to the 2 Bayston Hill Parishes thereby creating a new 2 member ward of Burnell and Bayston Hill.

This proposal seems to be unreasonable as:

- Burnell and Bayston Hill are very different in character with Burnell consisting of small, fairly isolated rural parishes and Bayston Hill essentially an outer suburb of Shrewsbury. Residents have very different needs and concerns and combining them will risk the rural population not being properly served.
- The new ward will comprise almost 60% Bayston Hill residents giving concerns that this may well lead to the specific needs of the remainder of the current Burnell ward and Cound taking second place and

being overlooked. It should also be noted that the Burnell section would cover approximately 80% of the geographical area of the new ward.

- The remainder of Burnell ward could find itself represented by two Councillors who live in Bayston Hill and may not be focussed on or understand the needs of the residents of Burnell ward. (It should be noted that the remainder of Burnell plus Cound will have sufficient voters to be within the -10% margin, seemingly continuing to justify separate representation)
- Current Boundary Commission proposals will place Burnell and Bayston Hill in different parliamentary constituencies which will lead to additional confusion regarding representation. Note also that these parliamentary boundaries have only recently been reviewed and further changes would only lead to more confusion.
- The two areas also fall under different dioceses (Hereford and Litchfield)

As the LGBC do not seem particularly fixed on this approach and has specifically requested alternatives to be put forward (note that in a review of the 62 published residents contributions, we were unable to find any specific support for combining Burnell and Bayston Hill), the Parish Council would strongly prefer no changes be made to the existing Burnell Ward, as it is projected to continue to meet the required tolerance.

The issue with Bayston Hill would seem to be better resolved by combining with Oteley and Reabrook creating a 2-member suburban ward.

The Parish Council feels strongly that the LGBC should be urged to revise their recommendations so as to maintain the overall shared rural nature of Burnell ward, possibly opting for the above alternative to resolving the Bayston Hill issue rather than the current proposal.

At the July Parish Council meeting, Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris advised that Shropshire Council had also objected to the proposed local government boundary changes with regard to combining Bayston Hill and Burnell parishes. A solution making Bayston Hill a special case has been proposed.

Final recommendations are due to be published in October with parliamentary approval set for November. New arrangements will apply for the 2025 local elections.

## LOCAL DOCTOR RETIRING

Dr Fiona Hay, who has been a GP at Much Wenlock and Cressage Medical Practice for 25 years will be retiring as a GP at the end of October. She will be continuing to work as a locum and in medical education for Keele medical school and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Dr Hay writes: *'I regard my work as a family doctor as an absolute privilege, and wish to thank all my patients for allowing and trusting me to care for them over the years. I also wish to thank my brilliant practice team who have supported me and made the day job so enjoyable, despite the roller coaster ride that is the NHS.'*

During September and October there will be a comments book available at the both of the Practice surgeries for any patients who would like to leave a message for Dr Hay.

## NEWS FROM CHURCH PREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The summer term has come to an end and we have said goodbye to pupils whom we have had the pleasure of sharing their primary school learning journey with.

It has been a busy but fun term with lots of outdoor learning taking place across the school, field trips to our local area and beyond as well as sports days and Wild Camp residential for our older pupils.

We have a tradition here at Church Preen School of waving off our departing Year 6 pupils with 'Leavers' Lunch'. It is an event that all Y6s look forward to where we celebrate their time with us. The venue is our village hall. Staff and volunteers dress the room and tables for the festivities. The whole school attends, dressed in their best clothes. The arrival of our Y6 pupils, along with their parents, is announced as they enter the room and take their seats before being served a delicious three course meal, cooked by our school cook, Lynda. The event is also attended by our friends from the Rotary Club who present each of our leavers with a gift from the Rotary Club, as well as gifts from our school as a reminder of their time with us.

We are holding an Open Morning on Tuesday 3rd October, 10am – 11am, for prospective new parents. Places available in all year groups currently and we welcome enquiries. There is no need to book, we would love to meet you and to show you round our wonderful small school.

Sue Phillips  
Head of School

## Farewell to Reverend Geoffrey and Anne Garrett

After 36 years of ordained ministry Reverend Geoff finally decided to hang up his dog collar and he retired at the end of July. Geoff started his Ministry in our Benefice on 7th July 2013, and over the last ten years he and Anne have come to know many of us, not only through church, but by attending many of our community events as well as sharing in family events, both happy and sad.

In his parting letter in the Parish Magazine, Geoff commented on what an eventful 10 years it has been, not least with the way Covid-19 has impacted our lives over the last few years. Together we have celebrated the Queen's platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation, and between these events have, sadly, come together to commemorate the death of the Queen last year.

When Geoff first came to our Benefice he quickly identified that to make our churches more sustainable we needed to make them more user friendly and fit for community use. The projects that Geoff instigated haven't progressed as quickly or smoothly as we would have liked them to, but progress has been made, and even though some of the projects, are currently on hold, hopefully we will be able to resurrect them in the near future and they will form part of the legacy that Geoff leaves with us. However, it is safe to say that Geoff and Anne have already left a lasting legacy. Since Geoff announced

his plans to retire last January, I have been struck by the number of people, both regular church attendees and non-church goers, who have told me how much they have appreciated Geoff and Anne's support and friendship. Geoff and Anne will be missed, and this sentiment was expressed many times at the special Songs of Praise service we held at Conover Church on Sunday 16th July to celebrate Geoff and Anne's service to the Deanery, Benefice of Conover and our community; not least in a poem that Val Overton-Davies had especially composed for the event and which she read at the service:

### **It Started with a Rumour!**

*It started with a rumour, Geoff  
and you know how rumours grow,  
folk were saying you were leaving  
but we don't want you to go.*

*So we organised a meeting  
to come up with a plan -  
one certain way to stop you, Geoff,  
would be to kidnap Anne!*

*Of course we wouldn't do that,  
for that would not be right -  
after all, we are good Christians  
and the Children of the Light.*

*So we knew we must be careful,  
be as thoughtful as we can  
because we're very fond of you  
and even more of Anne!*

*So we put our heads together  
and decided that instead  
we would put it to the people -  
ways to try and stop the Rev!*

*And Geoff, you'd be astounded  
just how much the people care,  
some suggested we come with you  
if you have the room to spare!*

*But the very One we should have asked  
is with us here today,  
who tells us, all we need to do  
is go to Him and pray.*

*And through God's perfect wisdom, Geoff  
how could we make you stay,  
so you're leaving with our blessing  
and good wishes all the way.*

*We thank you for your service  
and the friendship we have known.  
We wish you health and happiness  
in the place you'll soon call home!*

My sincere thanks to Val, for allowing me to use her poem.

Finally I'd like to echo Val's words as we all wish Geoff and Anne a long, healthy and happy retirement and thank them for their friendship and support over the last ten years.

Jeremy Lowe



## MUCH WENLOCK & CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

### **Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Healthier Together**

A new website has been launched to provide consistent, accurate and trustworthy healthcare advice to parents, carers of children, young people and professionals.

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Healthier Together is a free website developed by healthcare professionals to help parents and carers keep their children safe and healthy. The website provides clear advice and information for anyone in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin who wants a reliable source of local information and is available by visiting [www.stw-healthiertogether.nhs.uk](http://www.stw-healthiertogether.nhs.uk).

The website will be a boost for children and their families, and will help to ensure the right people are being directed to the right services. The easy-to-use self-triage tool gives health advice via a system of red, amber, and green signs which directs the user to the right place for the care of the child. If the website suggests the child does not need professional medical care, it may still suggest self-care for minor

ailments (green), that can be provided at home or via their local pharmacy with over-the-counter treatments. For children rated as amber, parents will be directed to primary care services, or NHS111 if outside normal GP practice opening hours. In cases where urgent or emergency treatment could be required (red), the website will signpost the parent or carer to a nearby Accident and Emergency Department.

With typical waiting times for health services at a record high, the hope is that this new website will provide parents with an alternative way of helping to identify the support they need in a quick and easy way.

### **Carer Connect Group**

April saw the successful launch of 'Carer Connect' - a community initiative to support the carers of Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice. Community & Care Co-ordinator Jo Weaver-Jackson identified the need for the group as so many volunteers and other local initiatives were lost through covid, leaving carers feeling isolated within

their own community.

Face to face contact is fast becoming a thing of the past and that can alienate many patients who are needing reassurance and support in their role as carer. This group aims to offer a safe space to share information and try something new.

Support for the first meeting came from a variety of service providers, including Shropshire Carers, Age UK, the Alzheimers Society, dementia respite professional Karen Cromwell and our newly appointed Admiral Nurse. Special thanks also to the High Sheriff of Shropshire who supported our launch with such enthusiasm. All were available to chat informally over refreshments before Sally Tonge and her magical guitar quite literally lifted the spirits of everyone in the room - a great introduction to the joy of music and what better way to signpost people to local singing groups in the area?

'Carer Connect' will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, thanks to the support of the Much Wenlock Forester Charitable Trust.



## 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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