

# Village Views

FEBRUARY 2018

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

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Easter edition of Village Views. We hope that you will find plenty to interest, entertain and inform you!

In addition to the usual information on local events, and updates from the Parish Council and the Village Hall, we are pleased to introduce the first of a series of regular features on local walks, contributed by John Glover, which may encourage some of us off our sofas and out to enjoy our beautiful local countryside.

Alongside the usual newsletter, you will also have received the first Village Directory. This will be an annual publication - all comments and suggestions on how this can be developed and improved will be gratefully received. We will be running another photography competition later in the year to find a cover photo for the 2019 directory, so please get your cameras out and get snapping. All local subjects will be considered - landscapes, wildlife, or photos of village events (perhaps some shots of the Acton Burnell Fete, or pub night at the Village Hall?).

We are also looking for photos for the regular Village Views (these will be printed in black and white only). If you have a photo you would like to share, then please email your contributions to [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) (high quality jpg files if possible). We cannot promise to include everything we are sent, but all contributions will be carefully considered.

If you have items you would like to see included in future editions of Village Views, events you would like to publicise, or a business or service you would like to advertise, please note that the closing date for contributions are:

20th April (for events in May/June/July)

20th July (for events in August/September/October)

19th October (for events in November/December/January)

Please send all items to: [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com), or call **Chris Harrison** on **01694 731120**, or speak to one of the members of the Village Views committee (Karen Fisher, John Glover or Gilly Turner)

## Defibrillator now available in Acton Burnell

A defibrillator for public use is now in place on the side wall of the Acton Burnell Post Office. More detailed information on this is available in the Directory. Defibrillators will also shortly be installed at Pitchford (at the village hall), and at Ruckley and Frodesley.

Operating the defibrillator is simple and fool-proof, and the defibrillator unit includes visual and audio instructions to guide you every step of the way. The defibrillator also includes sensors to monitor the patient's condition, making it impossible for you to give a 'shock' to someone who

does not need it, or to cause them any harm.

Concord College have kindly offered to help with installation of these life-saving units.



## Contributors wanted!

Do you have a passion for birdwatching or wildlife? Green fingers? Love history or folklore? Are you a whizz in the kitchen or a photography fan?

We would love to hear from anyone who has an interest they would like to share with our readers. Perhaps you could provide seasonal gardening or cooking tips and hints, or let us know what birds and wildflowers to look out for each month. Maybe you have a knowledge of local history or can remember the stories your grandparents told you about local myths and legends. Or you may have a more practical turn of mind and some useful skills to share.

If you would like to become a Village Views contributor, email [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) with your ideas, or call **01694 731120**. In addition, if there is something you would like to see covered in the newsletter, then let us know and we will see what we can do!

## Come and join Dorrington YFC!

With lots of exciting activities and events suitable for ages 10-26, meeting every Wednesday night.

Upcoming events include bubble football, Moydens Cheese tour, Honda ATV training and much more!

For more information and details of the next meeting, please contact Laura Wilde on **07854 931467** or Greg Fox on **07512 041816**

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 20th April 2018.

Would you like to advertise your business in Village Views? Contact us on [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) for more information.

# PARISH PLAN REVISITED

It is now five years since our last Parish Plan was completed and we would like to update it. A Parish Plan not only gives a snapshot of the parish on a given date but also a chance to shape its future.

To illustrate this, most of the Action Requirements from the previous two Parish Plans have been achieved: the road from King Street crossroads to Cantlop has been widened; 30mph speed restrictions are place in the villages; broadband has arrived and been upgraded; Village Views is being published, and the Village Hall has been refurbished and has greater use with pub nights and a fish and chip van.

Shropshire Council are imposing greater spending cuts, especially in the rural areas and an up to date Parish Plan helps us to recover any monies due to us from the Community Infrastructure Levy or Community Grants. In addition, any new schemes that the Council want to implement have to go through a Consultation process first and we can base our response on the Plan.

In order to renew and update our Parish Plan, we need to involve the community alongside the Parish Council,

to carry out a questionnaire and analyse the results to produce an achievable vision and action plan for the future.

The main areas we have considered previously are:

- Housing (are there any suitable sites in our Parishes and for what type of homes)
- Traffic and transport, including road repairs and public services
- Business and industry
- Environment
- Education
- Communications
- Population and health

If you would like to be involved or have any views, please contact the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Elizabeth Wicks at [clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk), or telephone **07768 437032**, or speak to your local Parish Councillor.

Keith Faulkner  
Chair, Parish Council

## What's on

Acton Burnell WI invite you to  
A talk by Dr Nigel Baker  
**'UNDERGROUND SHREWSBURY'  
ON THE SECRET PAST OF OUR  
COUNTY TOWN'**

This is a rare opportunity and a "MUST DO" for anyone remotely Interested in local archaeological history

**Thursday, 12th April  
at Pitchford Village Hall at 8pm.**

If you are interested, please contact **Beth Davies** on **01694 731657** at least a week beforehand so we have some idea of numbers.

All are welcome and a light supper will be available.



## Indulge your sweet tooth this Easter

Easter Egg hunts will be taking place at National Trust properties at Attingham Park and at Carding Mill Valley on 30th/31st March, and 1st/2nd April. Join the hunt at any time from 10am to 4pm at Attingham, and from 11am to 3pm at Carding Mill Valley. There is a chocolate prize for everyone who solves the clues set by the Easter rabbit.

Normal National Trust entry fees apply at Attingham, plus a charge of £2.50 for each chocolate hunter. There are no entry fees at Carding Mill Valley, but there is a charge of £2.00 for everyone taking part in the hunt!

## Looking ahead to the summer.....

Just a reminder that the Acton Burnell Fete this year will be held on Saturday 9th June. If you have any ideas, or suggestions for the Fete, or ideas for entertainment for the evening Bash, please contact Jill Faulkner on **01694 731363** or email [jillfaulkner@btconnect.com](mailto:jillfaulkner@btconnect.com)

## Yoga

Yoga teacher Suzanna Brander will be running a short yoga course at Pitchford Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 27th February to 27th March at 7.00pm. Everybody welcome. Cost £10 per class.

Please contact Suzanna on **07860 308542** or by email at [suzanna.brander@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.brander@gmail.com) for more information.



## CONCORD COLLEGE

*Acton Burnell Hall  
Acton Burnell • Shropshire • SK5 7PF*

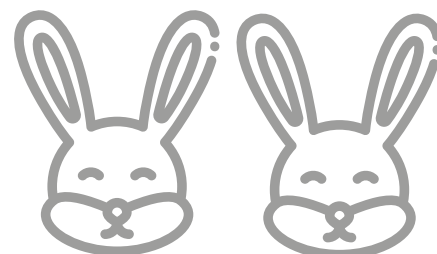
### A Schubert Experience – 27th May at Concord College

In a very special one day event, pianist Llyr Williams will explore Schubert's piano repertoire in two concerts, with, between the concerts, a complementary talk: 'Schubert's Piano Music' by BBC Radio 3's Stephen Johnson. The event is being organised by Shropshire Music Trust.

The first concert will begin at 3.30pm, the talk will follow at 5.00pm, and the evening concert will start at 7.30pm. Tea will be served after the first concert, and there will also be the opportunity to book places at a buffet to be served at 6.00pm, at a cost of £10 per head.

Adult tickets are available at £10 for the afternoon concert, £15 for the evening concert and £20 for both concerts. Concessions are available.

Tickets can be purchased from Windband, 9 Greyfriars Road, Shrewsbury. Tel: **01743 367482** or email: [info@windband.co.uk](mailto:info@windband.co.uk) or from Ticketsource: Tel: **0333 666 3366** or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt)



## GODOLPHIN EDWARDS CHARITY

The Godolphin Edwards Charity continues to welcome applications for financial help with a wide range of needs from people who live in the parishes of Frodesley, Pitchford and Acton Burnell - the parishes which are covered by the charity's terms of reference. The trustees comprise representatives from the three parishes stated in the charity document.

Applications or enquiries in writing can be made to the secretary/treasurer Michael McElhinney at the following address: Mr. Michael McElhinney, Arbore House, Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury, SY5 7H

The next Trustees meeting is on Thursday 17th May 2018, but urgent requests can be dealt with if received before.

## Update from The Beeches Medical Practice

Our facilities in Bayston Hill have been greatly enhanced by the addition of a new consulting room and improvements to our reception area. This was made possible by the assistance of a grant from Keele University, whose students come to train with us.

### Signposting Project

Your GP does not always need to be your first point of care within the Practice; it can often be more appropriate to see one of our other clinicians. Other care providers outside of the Practice may also be able to help you.

We are currently designing a detailed leaflet that will help you decide who the best person is to see within the Practice, also listing other care providers that might be best suited to your needs. This will be available soon, watch this space!

Best wishes and good health from The Beeches

[www.thebeechesmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.thebeechesmedicalpractice.co.uk) | 01743 874565

## LONGNOR SCHOOL

### Easter Egg Trail

**Sunday 25th March 2018**  
**11am-1pm**

Come and explore the grounds of Longnor School and find the clues to win an egg from the Easter bunny. Crafts, colouring, refreshments and tuck available

Suitable for preschoolers to 11 year olds

### Bag2school

Longnor School Circle has organised a clothes and shoe collection. As well as raising vitally needed funds for Longnor School, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. Donations can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts and handbags

Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Longnor School before **24th April** and help us have a really good collection.

### Duck Race 2018

**Sunday 13th May 2018**

Bridge Farm, Leebotwood, (opposite the farm shop), by kind permission of the Wilson family.

**BBQ from 12 noon**

**First race to start at 1.15pm**

There will be several races on the day and then the Big Quack Race as the final event. Prizes will be awarded to the owners of the following ducks:

**1st Place: £25 | 2nd Place: £20 | 3rd Place: £15**

BBQ and Refreshments will be available. Bring your own chairs to sit on!

## Coming soon at Church Stretton.....

Church Stretton School and Theatre will be showing the following performances from the Royal Ballet, the National Theatre and the Royal Opera House at Church Stretton School, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton SY6 6EX. Free parking on the school site.

**22nd March at 7.15pm:** Julius Caesar (National Theatre). Caesar returns in triumph to Rome, but alarmed by his popularity, the educated elite conspire to bring him down.

**27th March at 7.30:** Leonard Bernstein at 100 (Royal Ballet). This mixed programme is part of a world-wide celebration of the 100th birthday of Bernstein, the composer, conductor, musician and humanitarian.

**13th April at 7.00pm:** Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (National Theatre). In Mississippi a family gather at their plantation to celebrate Big Daddy's birthday. Brick and Maggie dance around the secrets that threaten to destroy their marriage.

**3rd May at 7.15pm:** Manon (Royal Ballet). The story of Manon Lescaut, a beautiful young woman who falls prey to the moral corruption of 18th-century Paris, told in this ballet by Kenneth MacMillan.

Tickets for all performances available at the door (£12 for adults, £6 for children).

A two course dinner is available before the Bernstein and Manon performances, prepared by Church Stretton School's award winning chef. £13.50 to include wine or a soft drink. Pre-booking essential on **01694 722209**

## Church News

### Family Communion Services on Easter Sunday

09.00am Frodesley  
10.30am Acton Burnell  
11.30am Pitchford

### Lent Course

Rev. Geoff Garrett is also offering a Lent Course - a fresh look at the 23rd Psalm - held at 7.30pm in the Millennium Room at Condover Church. The final three sessions of the course take place on the 6th, 13th and 20th March, and will be covering 'learning to rest', 'learning to trust', and 'learning to live'.

Contact: Rev. Geoff Garrett, The Rectory, Condover, Shrewsbury, SY5 7AA.  
**01743 872251 | [revgeoff@live.co.uk](mailto:revgeoff@live.co.uk)**  
**[www.unitedbeneficeofcondover.co.uk](http://www.unitedbeneficeofcondover.co.uk)**



# Working for the National Trust at Carding Mill Valley

One of the strengths of the National Trust based at the Carding Mill Valley in Church Stretton, apart from the obvious one of maintaining the Long Mynd and looking after the thousands of tourists who visit each year, is its Educational or 'Learning' Department.

The Carding Mill Valley is a wonderful location for all sorts of activities in which to engage school children of all ages, from local primary schools all the way up to secondary schools and even some university groups. The stream which runs down the valley is a perfect facility to allow pupils of GCSE age in particular, to collect and then use data in their Geography GCSE Assessment element of their exam.

Pupils from all around Shropshire, Birmingham and beyond come here to first of all learn and use the various techniques of data collection and secondly, to collect data from various locations along the course of the stream which they can then use back at school in order to be able to complete the 'Fieldwork' element of their written exam in Year 11.

In addition, younger pupils come along to investigate the absolutely unique geology of the area, to look at the wildlife and aspects of various habitats while others simply go for a short guided walk to look at an area many will not have seen the like of before

and get a feel of the historical and other aspects of this fantastic place.

The Trust is always on the lookout for more volunteers to help with the very full programme which it offers. If you have a bit of time in the week and fancy having a go then 'go for it'! Guidance will be given, so even if you are not completely confident of sorting your 'wetted perimeters' from your 'igneous intrusions', you will very soon learn the 'patter' and get to know enough to cope with the demands of the kiddies in your charge. When 'trained', you will look after a group of about 5 to 10 pupils depending on how comfortable you are, and all these groups are looked after by their own teacher from their school in addition to yourself. Times vary from school to school, but between 10.00am 'til about 2.30pm is a good average. The kiddies are fun and full of enthusiasm and the buzz you – as an instructor – will get from helping, is real and extremely satisfying.

The Trust will pay your mileage and after about 40 hours of volunteering, you will be given your 'uniform' (fleece, waterproof jacket and T shirt) and after about 60 hours you get a free pass to all National Trust sites as a 'thank you'! You can do as much or as little as you want – I personally aim for about two days every three weeks on average but there is no rule to stop you doing more or less.

If you are interested, then either pop along to the offices in Carding Mill and ask for the Learning Department (Tom, Malcolm or Rob are the organisers and all are very approachable) or email them at: [learning.cardingmill@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:learning.cardingmill@nationaltrust.org.uk) and they will happily get back to you.

It is genuine fun, you learn a hell of a lot about the area and the 'team' are good folk as well!!

John Glover.



## PITCHFORD HALL

We hope to be able to make a regular contribution to Village Views to update on the progress that is being made on the restoration of Pitchford Hall.

Since our first night at the Hall for 25 years on 1 October 2016, we have put in place a restoration plan for the majority of the Hall and the Orangery as well as bringing back the Stable Yard as three affordable rental properties.

In a few months' time a holiday let will open within the oldest section of the Hall (circa 1250) which will sleep fourteen guests. We are most grateful to the many craftsmen - some living in the parish - who have stuck with a complex project to revive the sleeping beauty that is Pitchford Hall.

As the restoration of the West Wing of the Hall comes to an end the restoration of the Orangery begins under the guidance of Shrewsbury based architectural practice Arrol & Snell. Our plan is to turn the

Orangery into an events space for pop up dinners and social and cultural events. We are most grateful to the Country Houses Foundation for part funding the restoration of this important listed building.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity we have encountered since reuniting the Hall with the Estate. Volunteers from within the Parish have enabled the Hall to once again be reopened to pre booked 'restoration' guided tours as it was before the tragic sale in 1992 ([www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/pitchford-hall-tree-house/](http://www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/pitchford-hall-tree-house/)). So far we've hosted many groups such as local WI groups and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. This year we look forward to welcoming Shrewsbury Civic Trust, Severn Tree Trust, Tweet up Shrewsbury, Friends of Rowley House and many more specialist and general groups. We've also collaborated with two regional universities – Birmingham City University and UC Shrewsbury to help students gain

practical knowledge of timber framed buildings.

We estimate that nearly a thousand people visited the Hall last year and we expect more this year. Volunteers from across Shropshire have also helped us clean and reveal the oak panelling which was hidden by mould and damaged by water which sadly occurred during the last two decades of neglect.

Aside from the brilliant volunteers we would like to thank Derek Owen who has maintained the grounds that surround the Hall for the last two decades with virtually no financial support. The Hall creates passionate supporters and Derek is certainly one of them.

Finally do please spread the word and follow the restoration progress on Twitter and Instagram [@PitchfordEstate](https://www.instagram.com/PitchfordEstate) as we seek to provide regular progress reports and reveal any finds.

James & Rowena  
[www.PitchfordEstate.com](http://www.PitchfordEstate.com)

# Local Strolls: The Lawley

*Pitchford resident and ex-Geography teacher John Glover writes the first of what will be a number of articles on local ambles and associated ditties in our area.*

Put simply, The Lawley is Shropshire's best ridge walk and, you lucky people, this distinctive and wonderful hill sits on the southern edge of our very own 'patch'!

The stroll to the top and back takes about an hour and a half and starts from the car park at the northern tip of the hill (approached by turning left as you reach the cross roads on the Church Stretton road beyond Frodesley, opposite to the direction to Longnor and signposted to Chatwall). From here, you walk up to a small gate and from there through a short wooded area and out onto the open ridge where it immediately becomes apparent why this article is being written! The views are already stunning!

A short but steepish amble along the ridge brings you to the first of a number of false summits where there is a small but distinctive Iron Age settlement or hill fort, which was probably used between about 2,800 and 2,400 years or so ago. The use of such ramparted fortifications is the subject of some discussion. Was it a protected farmstead; a place of retreat when locals felt threatened; a part of a network of fortified places under the jurisdiction of the main hub fort on Caer Caradoc to the south; or was it simply a statement of power which was rarely used? The jury is out. Whatever it was though, it probably fell into disuse about 400BC, four centuries or so before the Romans first invaded and is now a lovely little atmospheric spot to catch a bit of breath.

From here, the real majesty of the ridge becomes clear. It has a proper mountain flavour as its steep sides drop down to the narrowing Stretton Valley to the right (west) where the views across to the Long Mynd to the south are spectacular. Turning round to look north from where you have come from, you have the flat floor of the plain leading to Shrewsbury. This is a remnant from the ice sheet which just reached our area during the last ice age, which lasted until about 13,000 years ago. When this 500 metre or so thick ice sheet melted, it left behind the material which it had eroded from northern England and north Wales and then dragged along under its bulk down to Shropshire. Technically, this is called 'ground moraine' and it covers the solid rock beneath it and provides the rich soils which form the basis for the rich farming in the valley below.

On a reasonably clear day, the hills of Haughmond, Grinshill and Hawkstone Park, lying behind Shrewsbury are there to see, while further westwards, the Berwyns, marking the Welsh border, with Earls Hill together with the Breiddons in front of them, stand out beautifully.

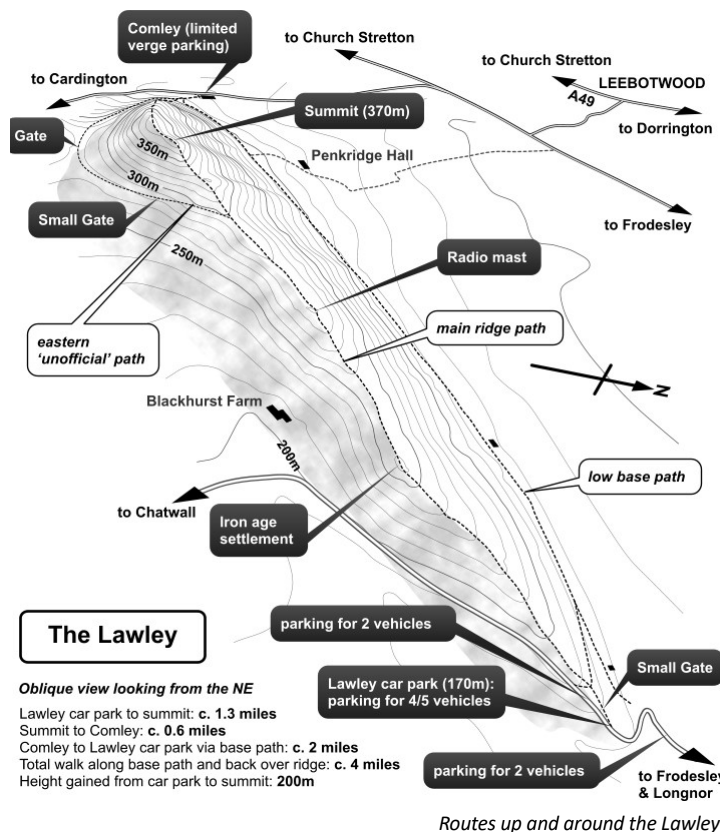
The long steep slope to the west meets the valley floor some 100m or so down where the Stretton Fault forces a distinctive change in the rock and also the topography of the area. The rocks making up the hill you are walking along were formed in the late Precambrian era. At this time, some 565 or so million years ago, there was no animal or plant life on land, while that in the sea was mainly algae which could hardly be described as 'complex'! This was very significantly 'pre-dinosaur'! The lump of crust on which we currently sit was at that time at about the same latitude as the Antarctic coast today, way



Looking from the Iron Age Hillfort along the ridge to the summit in the distance



View from the summit looking north towards the Hillfort and the car park



down near the South Pole! It was also close to a subduction zone – a 'destructive' plate boundary - where a more distant slab of the Earth's crust dived beneath the one which Lawley (and our parishes) now sit on, melting as it sunk into the hot mantle beneath. This caused large blobs of this melting plate (called magma), to bubble up through our plate sitting over it and erupting out onto the surface as extremely violent and unpredictable volcanoes. They chucked out lots of what is termed pyroclastic material – ash and very sticky lava, similar to those you find around the Pacific coasts today. This ash, lava and other material piled up to form the igneous rocks called rhyolite, andesite and tuffs which now make up the Lawley (as well as Caer Caradoc and the Wrekin). No one knows where the cones of these volcanoes sat, but the material which splurged out is all around us. One 'hell of a thought' to keep in mind as you stroll over some of the oldest rocks in the country!

Pushing on, the final section becomes a little steeper and again after a couple of false summits, you pop out on top of the hill. The summit has a feel about it more akin to those of Snowdonia and the Lake District. The rocky, exposed and distinctive drops all around bely it's small stature.

The pole on top has a raven shaped wind vane which can be seen for many miles around. It was one of three, the others being on the south end of Ragleth Hill south of Church Stretton and the other on Pole Bank, the highest point of the Long Mynd (although this one mysteriously disappeared many decades ago).

Where to now then? Several choices exist. You can walk further along the ridge, descending steeply down into Comely from where there is a flat and sheltered, albeit a bit muddy, path which follows the Church Stretton fault back along the western base of the Lawley to the car park you started from. You could also amble a little further along the ridge to a distinctive rocky outcrop from where you can turn left and contour around the hill dropping down to a gate from where you can walk around the eastern base of the hill and up to a small gate in the fence to the left where you can re-join the ridge path you walked up. Or of course, you can simply turn around and go back the way you came. The advantage of the last two options is that you get the northern vistas in front of you as opposed to behind you on the way up.

The car parks can be a little busy at weekends especially on bank holidays or in good weather. A note for dog owners: there are hill sheep on the fell but they tend to disappear from the start of November until the end of January but keep your leads in hand just in case – there may well be a couple of rogue sheep!

Enjoy – it is brilliant!!

# News From **Pitchford Village Hall**

The Village Hall in Pitchford continues to host its 'Pub Night' on every third Friday of the month and the next occasion is on Friday 16 March 2018 starting for the early boozers at 7.30pm. The 'Nippy Chippy' will again be in attendance, serving starting from between 8.00-8.30 pm until all customers are suitably filled with either the fish supper or their special of the night. We hope that the mobile chippy will attend all future pub nights but up to date information can be obtained nearer to each month's event from our Facebook page (pitchfordvillagehall). We also continue to have a 'guest ale' in addition to the usual beverages. All are welcome including children and well behaved dogs.

Aside from this, the current news concerns the repairs to the ends of the hall which are starting to move and crack. The insurance company have agreed to fund the repairs but unfortunately this could be at the cost of the Scots Pine which overlooks the hall. This iconic feature at the southern entrance to the village is the subject of ongoing discussions



with the insurers in an attempt to find a way to carry out the repairs while retaining this lovely tree. More info as we get it.

Watch this space for a possible 'Auction of Promises' around October later this year.

The new Tote for 2018 is now running but there are a couple of spaces left if anyone wishes to sign up for the chance to win any of four monthly prizes of up to £50 for the annual sum of £12. Bargain!! If you are interested in this, or indeed hiring the hall for any reason, then contact Mike Price (Chairman) or Christine Jones (Secretary) as follows:

## **Mike Price**

(Chairman, Pitchford Village Hall Management Committee):

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

Mobile: 07740 067955

## **Christine Jones**

(Secretary, Pitchford Village Hall Management Committee):

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

Mobile: 07538 744807

**Facebook:** Pitchford Village Hall

## **Thank You from Acton Burnell PCC**

On behalf of the Acton Burnell PCC, Jill Faulkner would like to thank everyone who has contributed time, energy and donations to St Mary's Church over the past year. All your efforts, whether big or small, have been greatly appreciated, and it was great to see so many people helping with the grass cutting in the church yard.

## **GARDENING CLUB**

Is there anyone out there who would like to help start a gardening club? If we get enough people interested we could hold a monthly meeting- with a speaker or retailer. We could organise some visits to gardens and nurseries, swap seeds and plants and learn from others.

Phone Gilly on 01694 731330