

Village Views

February 2022

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

WELCOME

We are pleased to share with you the first Village Views of 2022, with hopes that the coming year will be a happier affair than the last two! However, at the present time we are still coping with Covid and the new Omicron variant, and the vaccine programme continues to be very important to the health of individuals and of the wider community. If you, or someone you know, still needs to get their initial vaccination or booster, take a look at the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care website at www.stwics.org.uk/our-priorities/covid-19-vaccination-programme for more information.

Looking ahead, we have the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to celebrate this year. You will find details of some of the ways our local community will be celebrating in this issue of Village Views. If you hear of any other celebrations due to take place this summer (or if you have any news you would like to share), please contact Village Views at villageviews@hotmail.com or call Chris Harrison **01694 731120**. If you are interested in placing an advertisement in Village Views or in the Village Directory (due out in May) then please contact villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com.

We would be very pleased to hear from you!

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



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Save the date for

Thursday 2nd June

Beacon Lighting on Acton Burnell Hill (on the Ruckley road)

Friday 3rd June

Jubilee Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall

Sunday 5th June

Jubilee Picnic at Pitchford Hall

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The council met in mid-January. Along with the usual administrative items, the 2022/2023 budget was approved and it was agreed once again that the precept (this is the amount of council tax which is granted to the Parish Council) would not be increased. This is currently £22.30 per year for Band D properties and just over 1% of the total tax charge for any property.

A grant was approved to support a weekly mother and toddler group to be run in the newly refurbished Pitchford Village Hall. If you are interested please contact Katie Davies: mrs.katie.davies@hotmail.com.

Work continues pursuing traffic calming measures for the villages, a footpath between Acton Burnell and Pitchford and other items from the community led plan.

Events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were discussed. Currently there will be Beacon Lighting on Thursday 2nd June at the top of the hill between Acton Burnell and Ruckley (where the 2018 Armistice Beacon was lit) and a family lunchtime picnic held

on the Orangery lawn at Pitchford Hall on Sunday 5th June. The venue is being provided free of charge by the Pitchford Hall owners and the council approved funds to cover entertainment, etc. The event is not a fund raiser and ticket prices will be nominal, simply to allow numbers to be confirmed ahead of the event, and will hopefully not be a barrier to any families wishing to attend. Tree planting proposals were considered and it was agreed to pursue recommendations from the national organisers to plant groups of seven trees, one for each of the ten years of the Queen's reign. It is hoped that this will be possible in each of the four parishes and landowners are requested to consider setting aside patches of land, preferably adjacent to existing footpaths, where this could be done. Please contact the parish clerk; clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org or **07842 324809** if you are able to help. The plan is to plant young trees (not small saplings) in the autumn.

Paul Harrison

NEW WHEELIE BIN FOR RECYCLING CANS, GLASS AND PLASTIC

All householders in the Shropshire Council area can now request an additional wheelie bin for recycling cans, glass and plastic. The bin – which is optional and free for householders- can be requested online at www.shropshire.gov.uk/requestmixedrecyclingbin.

The first bins are set to be delivered from May this year, starting in the south Shropshire area, before being rolled out across the county.

The bin will replace the existing black recycling boxes, and help to increase the amount of waste recycled by providing households with a larger container. It will also reduce the amount of litter caused by waste being blown out of the boxes on windy days. It is hoped that it will make the storage of recycling more convenient for residents, and reduce the amount of bending and lifting for residents and waste and recycling crews.

If you choose not to have a bin (either because you don't have space to house a third bin, or if you don't produce enough recyclable waste to make a bin worthwhile) you can continue to use your existing boxes. If you prefer, you can use your existing boxes alongside your new bin – the recycling crews will empty both.

If you make the swap to a bin, please hang on to your boxes and reuse them for a different purpose, or take them to a recycling centre to be recycled.

ROAD CLOSURE WARNING

The Acton Burnell to Kenley road is due to be closed from 9.30am to 4pm from 7th-13th March for essential roadworks. You can view further details of the closure by going to www.one.network/?tm=123744181.

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be **15th April 2022.**

Would you like to advertise your business in Village Views? . Contact us on villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com for more information.

JUBILEE PICNIC AT PITCHFORD HALL

The Parish Jubilee Picnic is being held on Sunday 5th June 2022 at The Orangery at Pitchford Hall by kind invitation of James and Rowena Nason.

This is a fabulous opportunity for people of all ages from the Parish to get together with friends and family and celebrate this memorable event.

Plans are well under way. A theatre group and a singer have been booked for everyone to sit and enjoy. There will be vintage vehicles for you to wander around and more, all within the wonderful grounds of Pitchford Hall.

More details will be released soon along with tickets. We do hope you will join us.



SEEN SOMETHING INTERESTING?

Wherever possible, we include website addresses as 'live links' in Village Views. This means that you can click on the link in the electronic version of Village Views and be taken straight to the website you want to see.

To access electronic editions, just go to www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk, click on 'Community Information' at the top of the page and then select Village Views. You will find copies of Village Views going back to November 2017 which you can either read online or download. Live links were included in all editions from April 2020 onwards.

You will also find copies of the three Village Directories we have so far produced. Look out for the next edition coming your way in May this year!

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS!

The Shropshire Hills Young Rangers Project offers young people aged 12 to 16 the opportunity to take part in meaningful and fun activities led by experienced outdoor leaders. Events are all free, but you will need to register to take part.

Coming up in February are the following exciting events:

HEDGEROW PLANTING in Bishop's Castle on Saturday 5 February. Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-rangers-hedgerow-planting-location-to-be-confirmed-tickets-243759409957 for more information.

NEST BOX BUILDING at Stiperstones School on Monday 21 February. Grab the chance to build some birdboxes and, if time, perhaps some bat boxes and dormouse boxes too, for installation at Shropshire Hills project sites. An indoor activity, that the weather can't spoil. Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-rangers-nest-box-building-tickets-243549953467

GO IN SEARCH OF SHROPSHIRE'S PINE MARTENS at Clunton Coppice on Wednesday 23 February. Spend a day in the woods camera trapping and setting up feeders in search of one of the UK's most rare and elusive mammals! Information from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-rangers-hide-and-squeak-searching-for-pine-martens-tickets-243518960767

A WOODLAND ACTIVITY DAY: charcoal making demo, woodland management skills and willow weaving at Poles Coppice, Pontesbury on Friday 25 February. Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-rangers-woodland-activity-day-tickets-244325753907

Become a Volunteer Master Composter

Garden Organic, in partnership with Veolia & Shropshire Council, are recruiting volunteers to become Master Composters.

Join our network of Shropshire volunteers giving composting advice at events, delivering online composting talks, supporting schools, talking to local groups, and writing tips and articles for social media, blogs and local newspapers.



Would you like to find out more about composting and help pass on the message to others?

- Free compost training—you don't need to be an expert!
- Ongoing volunteer support from Garden Organic and local network of volunteers
- Free Garden Organic Membership, regular newsletters and webinars
- Regular socials and talks concerning environmental issues
- Master Composters generally commit to around 30 hours of volunteering each year

Training is free and covers the basic elements of home composting and related environmental issues.

Training day Saturday 12th March in Shrewsbury

To find out more about joining the scheme or apply online at :

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/vacancies/volunteer-roles-garden-organic>

Or contact Rachel Phillips-Street at Garden Organic

E: rphillips-street@gardenorganic.org.uk or T: 07584 343 846

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

Garden Organic is the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association.
Registered charity in England and Wales (no. 298104) and Scotland (SC046767)

VEOLIA garden organic





What's on



1st to 27th February

Percy the Park Keeper and his animal friends have been hard at work at Attingham Park. Pick up a bag of clues at Reception and find out what he has been up to as you follow the winter wander trail. Tickets £2.00 per trail pack, in addition to usual admission charges. No need to book.

8th February

'The Perfect Candidate' will be screening at All Stretton Village Hall at 8.00pm. This story of a young Saudi woman's struggle to be accepted as a candidate in local elections has a PG rating. Tickets £6.00 for adults. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44882

18th February

Follow the story of a pioneering Welsh journalist who risks all to cover the story of famine in the Soviet Union in 'Mr Jones', a 15 rated film showing at All Stretton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5.00. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44883

21st – 25th February

Fun dinosaur themed days for 4 to 11 year olds at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. Tickets £4 per accompanied child. Call **01588 676060** or email info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk for more information.

28th February

The classic tale of 'Little Women' will be screening at All Stretton Village Hall at 2.00pm. This U rated film is £4.00 for adults and free for children. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44884

2nd March

'No Time to Die' will be screening at Cardington Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets for this Bond film (classified 12A) are £4.00. Call **01694 771295** for more information, or book tickets online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44776

5th March

Green Matthews present a fast-moving whistlestop tour of the history of music from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century, featuring long-forgotten songs, tunes and jokes. The show starts at 7.30pm at Harley Village Hall, and tickets are £12 per adult. Call **01952 510422** or go to www.greenmatthews.co.uk for more information.

8th March

'Pili', the story of a Tanzanian mother struggling to keep her HIV-positive status secret, will be screening at All Stretton Village Hall at 8.00pm. 12A rated, tickets are £6.00. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44885

11th March

The return of Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Come along for an evening of mixing and mingling with your friends and neighbours. The Panini Van will be in attendance. Everyone welcome, including children and well-behaved dogs.

18th March

Daniel Craig appears as detective Benoit Blanc in 'Knives Out', a 12A rated thriller screening at All Stretton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/checkout/?id=44886

19th March

Suitable for families aged 14+, join storyteller Emily Hennessey and sitar player Sheema Mukherjee to hear tales of cosmic creatures, celestial curses, wise women and gods behaving badly in 'Ganga: Indian Tales of the River' at All Stretton Village Hall. Tickets £10.00 for adults, £6.00 for children and £25.00 for families. Call **07812 583113** for more information or book online at www.artsalive.co.uk/live-performances/show/checkout/?id=13812

2nd to 3rd April

Set yourself a mammoth challenge as part of the Shropshire Way 80k Festival. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre will be hosting the 80k challenge (50 miles in 24 hours), plus the Mammoth (a full marathon to be completed in 12 hours) and a Half Mammoth (13 miles to be completed in 6 hours). Entry fees include great local food and drink, first-aid services, a rescue vehicle, trackers for the two longer events, a certificate of achievement and an SW80K Festival memento. The festival is a fundraiser for Grow Cook Learn, the charity which operates the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, and all money raised will be used to support the charity's goals. Entry forms can be found at www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=8762

8th April

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. All welcome!

9th April

Easter Craft and Gift Fair at the Silvester Home Institute, High Street, Church Stretton. Open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

16th April

'Made in Shropshire' Artisan Fair in Much Wenlock. Local producers showcase their arts, crafts, food and drink. Open 9.00am to 3.00pm.

ACTON BURNELL AND PITCHFORD PLAYGROUP

The Acton Burnell and Pitchford Playgroup is pleased to announce that the Parish Council has agreed to help fund the group for the coming six months, which means that the group will be able to meet weekly at Pitchford Village Hall.

If you have a baby or toddler and want to come along to meet other families and have some fun, the group meets on Tuesdays at 10.30am (parking is available at the Village Hall). Plenty of toys to keep the little ones amused, and tea and coffee available for the parents.

Organiser Katie Davies asks if anyone interested in coming along could please join the playgroup Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/4267094310009317/. Updates on meetings will be posted on the page.



MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

Shropshire's first annual report from the Climate Action Team, and more business grant support available

Shropshire Council is in a position to make a strong positive contribution to help the wider Shropshire community make a positive transition to a low carbon future. Whilst the council's corporate footprint represents only around 1% of Shropshire's total carbon footprint, the council can influence as much as 33% of emissions through its regulatory and support functions. So new figures show Shropshire Council's switch to green energy suppliers has resulted in a 100% reduction in its carbon footprint for electricity. The council's climate action team is reporting a 62% drop in carbon emissions created by corporate heating, fleet transport and electricity.

The report says Shropshire Council's direct carbon emissions in these areas have fallen from around 5,000 tonnes in the financial year 2020, to around 1,900 tonnes in 2021. The drop is due primarily to the adoption of a 100% renewable power supply through West Mercia Energy, as well as the effect of the pandemic on services it provides.

The climate action team has shown how Shropshire Council has:

- Powered down by improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions from buildings and transport
- Powered up by working with others to generate more renewable energy
- Saved at least 300 tonnes of carbon through the free tree scheme, which has seen more than 140,000 trees and hedgerows planted in just 10 years, and by managing council owned land specifically for that purpose.

Carbon offsetting and capture activities have also increased by 12%, reflecting high levels of domestic waste recycling under the contract operated by Veolia, and the capture and storage of carbon on council-owned and council-managed land.

Some outsourced services have shown only a moderate reduction in their carbon footprint. For example, schools maintained by the council had the highest emissions with 5.8 tonnes, and the highways footprint of 0.95 tonne reflects the intensity of use of maintenance vehicles and gritters during the winter period.

Work in progress includes more electric vehicle charging points across the county, working with housing associations to retrofit homes with low carbon heating, and energy saving measures and reducing fuel poverty, exploring local heat network opportunities

and renewable energy generation. Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019, and in December 2020 adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which establishes the objective of achieving net-zero carbon performance for the council by 2030. The climate action team will present its first annual report to Full Council on Thursday 13 January 2022.

On another subject, a fresh round of business grant funding to support the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sector will be launched in January by Shropshire Council. The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme will see up to £5.8 million handed out to eligible businesses across the county by the end of March 2022. Based on the Government's guidance, fresh applications will be needed by businesses, with the scheme set to open to applicants from mid/late January onwards. A further round of the discretionary grant scheme worth more than £600,000 will also be launched later in the month, but we are still awaiting more details from the Government.

If there are any issues you feel I can help on, please do not hesitate to contact me by email dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk, by mobile on **07902 408400**, on facebook **dan4burnell** or Twitter **@dan4burnell**.

Dan Morris

SHROPSHIRE WINTER ADVICE

People who are finding it hard to manage their household bills or struggling with their welfare this winter can access support and advice from Shropshire Council.

The Council can offer both financial and wellbeing support (or signpost you to other organisations) to help households who are having difficulty meeting their essential bills and essential outgoings over the winter months. To find out more about accessing any of these services, please go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/five-ways-to-winter-wellness/welfare-and-wellbeing/ or call the numbers shown below.

- **Household Support Fund** – If you're one of the 3,600 households who have received a letter from the Council advising that you're eligible for a one-off payment of £115 to help with essential costs this winter (**0345 678 9078**)
- **Local Support and Prevention Fund (LSPF)**- targeted at helping vulnerable people to meet their immediate short-term needs in the event of a crisis, and also to support vulnerable people to live independently in the community. All awards made are non-repayable, and may be made up of awards 'in kind', such as food parcels, furniture or fuel credits (**0345 678 9078**)
- **Winter support service** – the Council is working alongside the British Red Cross, Age UK Shropshire Telford and

Wrekin, and the wider Wellbeing and Independence Partnership, to ensure that residents have easy access to support where needed this winter. The service can offer assessment and ongoing support to people identified as needing help (**0345 678 9012**)

- **Free school meals** – If you claim certain benefits and your child attends a Shropshire Council-maintained school or an academy school, you may be able to claim free school meals (**0345 678 9008**)
- **Food banks and furniture schemes** – community organisations or enterprises that can help people who can't afford food, other day to day essentials and household items (**0345 678 9078**)
- **Keep Shropshire Warm service** – can provide free and impartial energy advice to those who are struggling with energy costs this winter, in particularly as a result of the pandemic (**0800 112 3743**)
- **Benefits information** – find out what benefits they are entitled to such as council tax support, housing benefit and NHS Test and Trace support payments if you have to self-isolate (**0345 678 9002**)
- **Support for homeless people** – offers help and support to those who are homeless or worried about becoming homeless, and give advice based on individual circumstances (**0345 678 9005**)

LENT COURSE - AT HOME IN LENT

Exploring Lent through common everyday objects in our homes. This imaginative take on Lent is based on a book published by BRF called 'At Home in Lent'

March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) at Condover Church: 11am – Holy Communion 'Stepping through the door'

March 8th at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Looking in the mirror'

March 15th at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Wearing your shoes'

March 22nd at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Wearing your specs'

March 29th at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Family snaps'

April 5th at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Taking the bible off the shelf'

April 12th at Condover Church: 7.30pm – 'Reading the Newspaper'



NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the Hall on Wednesday 19th Jan with the Committee and its hierarchy all re-elected to serve for another year. The 'coffers' are looking healthy, mainly thanks to a number of grants from both the Parish Council and various Covid associated grants from Shropshire CC and others which have allowed us to massively revamp the hall making it warmer and more welcoming while improving the structure of the building. We are, of course, extremely grateful for all these contributions.

We are also really chuffed to welcome Miriam Davies of Pitchford who has volunteered to join the Committee who, apart from helping to widen our thought processes and decision making, also provides a much-needed extra pair of hands to help in the running of the facility. Having said that, we are always on the lookout for other community minded folk from the area to help us run and expand our little venture and if you do want to help out, please contact Mike Price whose details are at the end of this article.

The full list of Committee Members for the year is:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Mike Price
<i>Vice chairman:</i>	Andrew Roberts
<i>Secretary:</i>	Chris Jones
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bridget Thurgood
<i>Other Members:</i>	Miriam Davies
	Geoff Garrett
	John Glover
	Daphne Lewis
	Jeanette Reaney
	Niki Williams

Mike Price's Chairman's Remarks centred around the huge amount of work taken on by the Committee during the covid months to upgrade the Hall, for which he thanked us all. However, to be clear, the vast majority of the works done were overseen and carried out by Mike himself who is very keen to play down the huge part he has played by driving the upgrade and getting his hands dirty at the same time! Also mentioned was the effort by Jeanette Reaney to gather the tote contributions by calling round most of the residences in the area. With only a few still to collect from, we have bar three, a full membership of this, the "200" Club. If anyone out there wishes to be in with the chance to win some extra spending tokens by taking up some of the extra tickets available, then please contact Jeanette whose details also appear at the end of this article.

Further works

We have additional grants to allow us to re-vamp the kitchen which will hopefully make this much more practical, smarter and more attractive to potential users of the Hall. Updates will appear in future editions of this newsletter.

Pub Nights

In December, we held the "Grand Re-opening" where, while being a lovely evening with many faces putting in an appearance, the coincidence with the start of the Omicron measures clearly reduced the numbers we were hoping for. We cancelled January's event along with that pencilled in for February but, assuming the Omicron wave

dissipates as predicted and no new as yet unforeseen variant appears, we will start these popular and regular events on the 11th March and thereafter on the second Friday of each month. We hope to see as many of you there as possible and regular updates will appear on both the Village Hall Facebook page and also that of the Acton Burnell Community.

Plant Fayre

Our next non-pub night event will be the Plant Fayre on Saturday 7th May and again, further details will be provided nearer the time

The Hall is now open for private hire and if you wish to make an enquiry or indeed have any other questions, feel free to contact the following:

Mike Price (*Chairman PVH Management Committee*)
email: price622@btinternet.com
mobile: **07740 067955**

Chris Jones (*Secretary PVH Management Committee*)
email: csjay@btinternet.com
mobile: **07538 744807**

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

John Glover

ACTON BURNELL WI

Yet again sadly, we have had to cancel our January meeting in the light of covid restrictions but we are hoping to have, and look forward to, our February programme which will be at Pitchford Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th February at 2.15pm. This will be a 'hands-on' session of craft flower making.

The competition is for an unusual brooch. The ACWW stall will be in operation as bring and buy and any contributions will be gratefully received.

Any lady in the area who would like to come along and get involved would be very welcome. We are a small but friendly group and we would be pleased to meet you. You can come two times in a year as a visitor with no pressure to join.

For more information, please contact either Beth on **01964 731657** or Sarah on **01964 731265**.

UNITED BENEFICE OF CONDOVER HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Maundy Thursday (14th April)

7.30pm: Holy Communion CONDOVER

Good Friday (15th April)

12.00 – Service of Reflection at CONDOVER

2.00pm – Service of Reflection at ACTON BURNELL

Easter Day (17th April)

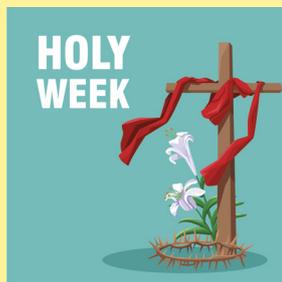
9.00am: Holy Communion FRODESLEY

9.00am: Holy Communion RYTON

10.00am: Holy Communion CONDOVER

10.30am: Family Communion ACTON BURNELL

11.30am: Family Communion PITCHFORD



Christmas seemed to approach very quickly, and we were very busy producing our Carol Service and Nativity. We really missed not being able to hold these last year and were thrilled that we were able to welcome some of our parents back to enjoy these festive traditions. Many of our school festive traditions have looked a little different this year but the children have enjoyed them, nonetheless.

The whole school, from Reception to Year 6, have made Christmas cakes before icing and decorating them. We certainly have some potential 'Bake Off' contestants of the future. A delicious Christmas dinner was produced by our wonderful cook which was enjoyed by all and followed by a socially distanced visit from Father Christmas. To round off the term, we watched Cinderella, The Online Pantomime with a party food lunch and party games.

It has been a pleasure to see the children so engaged and enjoying the festivities and activities, albeit in a slightly different format to usual.

If you would like to join our friendly team, we are looking to recruit a new member to help run our before and after school clubs. For further details, please call **01694 771359** or email us on admin@churchpreenschool.co.uk.

Finally, we are celebrating our 150th anniversary this year and are still looking for former staff and pupils who would like to share their memories of their time at Church Preen School. Please contact us if you can help at admin@churchpreenschool.co.uk.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVES

"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"

As you may be aware a UK-wide national tree planting campaign known as The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is to run in 2022 in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The QGC is being spearheaded by Woodland Trust – the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, with a vision of a greener UK rich in trees and woodlands. The campaign is supported by Shropshire Council and Anna Turner, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, who commented that: "All trees that are planted will create a lasting legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the nation over the last 70 years."

"We would like to see as many individual, communities, charities, schools, youth groups, councils and landowners across Shropshire and the rest of the country planting trees through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022."

Locally, work is already in hand with the Parish Council and Concord College.

Following an application led by Concord's Head of Grounds, Mr Paul Humphreys, Concord has been elected a 'Platinum School Tree Planter' and Concord's Grounds team has been successful in its application for 315 saplings, which will be planted at Concord and at College properties in the local community.

The College will be receiving the saplings in March 2022. These will be planted into 2 litre pots on-site and grown for up to five years, before being planted in the College grounds and the village of Acton Burnell.

This new initiative comes after a recent whole-school planting scheme. The total number of saplings at the College from March will be over 840, most of which will be grown in designated polytunnels.

Mr Humphreys commented: "We are delighted to be taking part in this UK-wide

initiative and it will aid the College's green commitments and benefit the local community.

"As we grow the saplings, we may lose about 20-30% through natural causes, but with knowledge, care and dedication from the Grounds team, the College's Eco groups, other staff and students alike, as the years go by, we hope to create smaller plantations and green areas around the College's 73-acre campus."

The Parish Council is planning to participate through planting of 7 trees in each of the four parishes; Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford and Ruckley & Langley, each tree representing 10 years of the Queen's reign. These will be larger, young trees to be planted in the autumn 2022 planting season. The official recommendation is for the trees to be planted in circles. However, given space considerations, other arrangements can be considered.

The Council is therefore asking landowners in the four parishes to consider allowing planting on their land, alongside existing footpaths to allow access. If you feel that you can assist please contact the parish clerk: clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org Both planting projects – and all projects around the UK – will be individually marked with a special commemorative plaque and uploaded onto a digital map, to track all Queen's Green Canopy projects over a two-year period.



LONGNOR CE SCHOOL NEWS

January sees the start of the new year and new challenges for all in the Longnor family. Aspirations and goals have been shared – some have set high expectations for their achievements in school and some have thought about how they can support others through leading activities and events.

Providing opportunities for children to lead activities, events and projects is fundamental for learning lifelong skills. Some have thought about leading clubs: we have a range of clubs being run by children at lunchtimes – drama, computing, comic, art, library and dance are to name a few. It is fabulous to see children supporting each other and taking time to plan interesting activities for each other.

Our school council have been busy already this term and are thinking about whole-school projects alongside the SOUL (Speak out loud) team. They are designing a new campaign to encourage everyone to be safe

when travelling to school. We are excited to see their designs and ideas.

For the first time at Longnor, we have sports ambassadors – they have received training from Church Stretton School in how to lead tournaments and whole-school events. We look forward to sharing achievements in sports events together from Little Owls to year six.

Back in the first week of term, we had a fantastic Hygge week. At Longnor we work really hard but understand that this is not the only skill that our children will need throughout their lives. Enabling them to understand ways to relax and giving them strategies to cope with different feelings and emotions will also help them to move from strength to strength. Through Hygge week, we talk about strategies that we can use if we find ourselves in a stressful or begin to worry about things. It was a lovely calm

environment around school with cushions, blankets and books galore!

Through our clubs, leadership and Hygge week we aspire to inspire all to have a lifelong love of learning.

The website www.longnorschool.org.uk is continually updated and tells you about all the exciting and inspiring things we get up to at Longnor C.E. Primary School. To contact the school please email admin@longnorschool.co.uk or phone Rachel Reynolds or Louise Childs on **01743 718493**.



SNOWDROP TIME

February is the peak month for spotting snowdrops springing up in parks, gardens and the countryside. You will find them sprinkled amongst the grass in our local churchyards, and in great swathes at Attingham Park and along the famous Cound Snowdrop Walk. You can download directions for the Cound walk from the Cound Guildhall website at www.coundguildhall.co.uk/uploads/8/2/1/1/8211305/cound-snowdrop-walk-guide-2020.pdf

The snowdrop seems so much a part of the British springtime that it is surprising to learn that it is not a native plant at all, but was introduced to the British Isles from southern Europe late in the 16th century, and only became naturalised in the wild in the 18th century. Since then it has been known by a wide range of names, from 'February fair maids' to 'white ladies', 'Candlemas bells' and 'dingle dangle'.

Less pleasantly, they are also sometimes known as 'death's flower', and some people believed that bringing them into the house brought bad luck and was a harbinger of death in the household. In fact, the snowdrop and its bulb are poisonous to humans – although you would need to eat an awful lot of them for it to prove fatal. Other superstitions suggested that bringing snowdrops into the kitchen would cause the milk to sour and eggs to turn bad.

These days the humble snowdrop is playing a useful role in the treatment of Alzheimer's, as Galamantine, extracted from snowdrops, can slow the progress of the disease. Snowdrops also contain a kind of natural anti-freeze, enabling them to survive the coldest of weather. Their petals open up when the temperature reaches 10C, revealing the nectar inside, and providing a welcome early feast for bumblebees, who come out of hibernations as the 10°C is reached.

If you would like to welcome this beautiful little flower into your own garden, now is the time to buy and plant them 'in the green', as bundles of living plants. They will settle down happily in any lightly shaded area, providing you with a splash of beauty early every year.



THINGS TO BE DOING IN YOUR GARDEN RIGHT NOW (EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A GARDENER)

At this time of year, many people with a garden, courtyard or even a sunny windowsill turn their thoughts to planting seeds. And unless you are one of the lucky few who are able to produce all your own garden compost, most people will start the process by jumping in their car and heading off to the garden centre for a bag or two of compost.

Local garden centres are awash with a wide variety of composts carefully crafted to suit any one of a number of different growing needs (and usually with a bewildering number of buying offers to match!). So how do you make the best choice?

If you are trying to grow plants which need 'ericaceous' compost (plants such as azaleas, camellias or blueberries) you need to select one of the specialist composts. But do you need to buy one compost for sowing seeds, another for potting on and a third for planting up containers? Although these specially targeted composts will certainly do a good job for you, it is possible to buy a multi-purpose compost and tweak it yourself to suit your own purposes.

Seeds and bulbs need a light, free-draining compost, and you can create the perfect conditions for seed sowing by taking some multi-purpose compost and adding coir and perlite (two parts compost to two parts coir and one part perlite) and mixing well. Bulbs benefit from a mix of three part compost to one part of grit. Both perlite and horticultural grit can be picked up a reasonable prices and in a small quantities.

Multipurpose compost is fine for potting on young plants, but be aware that for long term container planting you may find that the compost runs out of steam after about six weeks, so be prepared to feed your pots and containers after that to keep your lovely plants in tip-top condition.

And most importantly, when choosing a compost, try and go for a peat-free mix. Peat based composts will disappear from garden centres in 2024, and lots of good, new peat free composts are now becoming available. Peat bogs form an important carbon store, but the carbon is released as soon as the peat is dug up, contributing to climate change. Peat-free composts can vary quite widely in terms of consistency – such as how crumbly, chunky or fine the compost is to the touch. It is worth doing your research before you fork out on a few bags.

Take a look at for some advice – or ask at your local nursery:

www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/peat-free

www.saga.co.uk/magazine/home-garden/gardening/advice-tips/soil-improvement/peat-free-compost

www.countryliving.com/uk/homes-interiors/gardens/a37605442/peat-free-composts/

Things to watch out for right now:

- The buff tailed bumblebee is usually the first bee out and about. You may hear they low, rumbling buzz as they fly past in search of breakfast. They will feed on crocuses and pussy willow early in the season, and will be nesting in old mouse and vole holes and compost heaps from this month onwards.
- The first butterflies of the year are often the brimstones. These pal yellowy-green or butter yellow butterflies are seen from March onwards. You are more likely to see these along the hedgerows or in woodland, but they often flit through gardens.
- The owls are all busy at this time of year. Listen out for the rattling screech of the barn owl or the 'woop' of the little owl. The tawny owl breeds early, so is less likely to be calling in the spring, although you may hear the occasional 'tu-whit, tu-whoo' as male and female tawny owls duet. Brush up on your knowledge of owl calls on the British Trust for Ornithology website at www.bto.org/our-science/projects/project-owl/learn-about-owls.

Chris Harrison



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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 Friday: 17:00 to 01:00 • Saturday: 12:00 to 01:00
 Sunday: 12:00 to 22:30 • Bank Holidays: 12:00 to 01:00

Food Service Times
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 Weekends & Bank Holidays: 12:00 to 14:00 & 18:00 to 20:00
 Kitchen Closed Sunday Evening




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