

Village Views

May 2021

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

WELCOME

As we head into summer 2021, we are all getting used to the 'new normal'. Wearing masks, a ban on hugging and kissing, frequent hand washing and regular testing seem likely to be part of our daily life for some time to come. But with the sun shining, pubs, cafes and restaurants opening up, and vaccinations rolling out to younger age groups, most people will begin to feel a little more optimistic about the future.

Some of the changes we saw during the periods of lockdown will, hopefully, become fixtures – or at least linger for a while. An increased appreciation of the natural world and of the pleasures of a country walk (something which we are luckily in a position to really enjoy); the time to indulge in some creative

cooking rather than grabbing a ready meal from the supermarket; supporting local businesses through takeaways from pubs and purchases from farm shops; keeping in touch with distant family and friends through Zoom and Facetime; and even getting to know our local delivery drivers, who kept us going with packages to our doors when the shops were closed!

So thank you (again) to all the frontline workers, from NHS staff and carers to school staff, firefighters, shop assistants, delivery drivers, posties and refuse collectors who have helped us through the last year – and here's to a happier future for everyone!

Chris Harrison, Karen Fisher and John Glover



ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BASH

Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to hold the fete and bash last year and it will, at least, have to be delayed this year. It is normally held in early June, but that is not possible and it could be that we hold something along those lines later in the summer. So, watch this space and if we are able to hold a fete later and get it organised we will advertise it as widely as possible.

The same will go for the Harvest Supper and we do not know if that will be able to go ahead in the usual way, but if it does and we can get it organised, we will advertise it as widely as possible.

Rev. Geoff Garrett

ACTON BURNELL CHURCH: CAN YOU HELP?

Repairing/replacing altar rail kneelers: Is there anyone local who would be interested in helping to either re-cover or, preferably, renew the kneelers at the altar rail. They look to be well beyond their 'use by' date and we would like to have something which is locally made rather than buying in a generic set of kneelers. So if there is a craft minded person out there who would like to have a talk about what we can do, please get in touch.

Church cleaner: We are looking out for someone to keep clean the church on a regular basis so that it is ready in good shape for the many visitors who come in and for our church services. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please get in touch.

Churchyard clear-up: We are planning a church yard clear-up on 22nd May and would welcome any help that you are able to give for whatever length of time you can through the day. Once again please get in touch if you are able to help. One problem we have is that there is nowhere for the used grave flowers and associated packaging etc to be thrown away. We find that a lot of it is thrown down the old coal hole by the boiler room and this causes a lot of work and expense to clear out every so often. We are in the process of hopefully getting some council bins which can be collected on a regular basis, but in the meantime, if you are tending a grave, please take all rubbish away with you and dispose of it safely. Thank you for your consideration.

Geoff Garrett, Rector 01743 872251 | revgeoff@live.co.uk

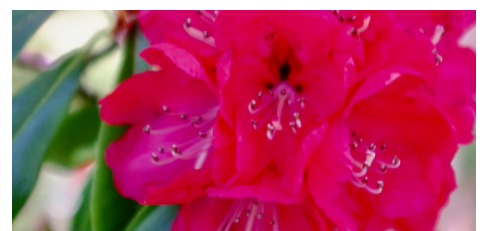
Gareth Ball, Churchwarden 01694 731636

Jeanette Plant, Churchwarden 01694 731294

FRODESLEY BRIDLEWAYS

Riders and walkers might like to know that the bridleway running inside the boundary of the Forestry Commission (FC) land on Lodge Hill is once again suitable for riding. The FC have undertaken some refurbishment work after their clearance operations and, although by no means perfect, it is negotiable with care- and, if on foot, wellingtons!

The bridleways running across farmland to the north of Frodesley Lodge and extending east and west from there have finally been re-instated after many years of being closed. New signs are in place to guide walkers and riders, but care should be exercised when passing over planted fields where crops are growing (using the 'tramlines' left by tractors is recommended) and when passing through Bentley Ford Farm, which is a working farm.



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 17th July 2021

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

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES

Local charities are playing a vital role during these difficult times, but lockdowns, social distancing and other restrictions have made it difficult for them to raise vital funds.

If you can spare a little cash to make a donation, or if you have a covid-safe idea for fundraising, then please consider these local charities:

Severn Hospice www.severnhospice.org.uk/support-us/donate/

Lingen Davies Cancer Fund www.lingendavies.co.uk/make-a-donation/

Shrewsbury Ark (support for the vulnerable and homeless)
www.shrewsburyark.co.uk/support-us

Shropshire Larder (foodbank charity that accepts financial donations as well as donations of food and essentials)
www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/donatotoyourfoodbank

Shropshire Mind www.shropshiremind.org/donate/

Cuan Wildlife Rescue www.cuanwildliferescue.org.uk/donate-to-cuan-wildlife-rescue/

HOME TESTS FOR COVID

In order to keep Covid-19 infection rates down, the Government has suggested that everyone should take two Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) each week. These tests, which are also known as Rapid Antigen Tests, can be administered at home, with results available within 30 minutes. They are designed to be used by people who have no Covid symptoms (research suggests that around a third of people who test positive for Covid-19 have no symptoms, but are still able to pass on the virus to other people).

If you have symptoms, then please arrange for a PCR test by calling 119 or by going to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Kits can be collected free of charge and without an appointment from the following locations:

CHEMISTS

Boots, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury

Boots, Meole Brace Retail Park

MSN Pharmacy, 28 Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury

L Rowlands, Severn Fields Health Centre, Shrewsbury SY1 4RQ

L Rowlands, Marsden Medical Practice Tesco, Cattle Market, Shrewsbury

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

Theatre Severn, Frankwell Quay, Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8FT

Shrewsbury Central Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AS

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4NG

Much Wenlock Leisure Centre, Farley Road, Much Wenlock TF13 6NB

Church Stretton Leisure Centre, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton

Church Stretton Library, Church Street, Church Stretton

TESTING CENTRES

Shrewsbury Testing Site, Shirehall Overflow Car Park (opposite the White Horse pub), London Road, Shrewsbury

You can check out alternative collection points by using the NHS test and trace website at maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

If you test positive, you must self-isolate and book a PCR test to confirm the result. You must also report the result of your home test to the NHS following the instructions in the test kit. You can do this on-line or by telephone.

DEFIBRILLATORS AND HOW TO USE THEM!

We now have four defibrillators available for use in the Parish. They can be found at the following locations:

On the side wall of Acton Burnell Post Office

In the telephone kiosk at Frodesley

To the left of the main door to the Village Hall in Pitchford

At Ruckley Home Farm

The defibrillators are designed to be used by members of the public without any training, and can be used if someone is unconscious and you think or suspect they may have had a cardiac arrest or heart attack. They can be used on people of any age, and picture guides take you step by step through the process.

The defibrillators are set up to ensure that they work ONLY if someone is in cardiac arrest, so there is no risk of causing harm to someone.

For a more detailed description of how to use a defibrillator, please read the item in the Village Directory (delivered to your door alongside this edition of Village Views). Keep the Directory to hand so that you always know where your nearest defibrillator is to be found.

The defibrillators are checked regularly, but if you notice that any of the defibrillators have been damaged, please contact the Parish Clerk, Anna Morris, on 07842 324809 or by email at clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk



News from Pitchford Village Hall

With the gradual releasing of 'lockdown' we are looking forward to re-opening the Village Hall for Pub nights and other events including private hire. However, this cannot be immediate even with the possible dropping of all restrictions at the end of June.

As has been well reported, the Hall is suffering from significant heave of the concrete beams which the wooden base of the Hall sits on and this has had a number of distorting effects on the building itself. Another insurance claim in April regarding this has just been turned down.

In the long term, there is no doubt that funding will have to be found to rectify the building which is already well beyond its

shelf life (it was clearly not built to modern standards and was itself a second hand building re-erected on its current site when it first arrived in 1926!) but several factors need to be resolved before there is any chance that this may happen. In the meantime, we have been in receipt of a number of grants from the County Council and we are now looking to use these to take remedial action to shore up the parts of the Hall which are the worse for wear and at the same time looking to spruce up the interior with better heating, furniture and decoration. As such, the very earliest we anticipate any form of use by the public will be late in the autumn (although it will be open for specific events such as local elections). We will keep you posted.

In the meantime, many thanks to all of you who have supported our annual

fundraising event, the Grand Onion Competition and good luck to all who have purchased one of Alan Hotchkiss's donations which will be judged sometime in the autumn (we hope!). Yet again, we are very grateful to Alan for his effort and generosity!

As usual, if you have any other queries, 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



What's on



Please note: all dates and information are correct at the time of going to press, but events may be cancelled, postponed or re-arranged at short notice. Please check details before travelling.

Despite the gradual removal of Covid restrictions, it is likely that many of us will be looking for outdoor entertainment this summer. Here are some suggestions for local days out.

National Garden Scheme

Although many major flower and garden shows (including the Shrewsbury Flower Show) have been postponed or cancelled, a number of local gardens will still be opening their gates to visitors as part of the National Garden Scheme this summer.

Two gardens in Plealey – ‘**Avocet**’ and ‘**Cheriton**’ will be welcoming the public on Friday 2nd July. Both are offering plant sales and light refreshments. The entry fee (£6 for adults, with children free) gets you into both gardens. Please note that pre-booking may be required. Tickets can be obtained by going to ngs.org.uk/view-garden/31618 where you can also find directions and more information about both gardens.

Preen Manor will be hosting an open afternoon on 23rd May. Again, pre-booking is required on ngs.org.uk/view-garden/7758.

The National Garden Scheme raises money for a wide range of large and

small charities (including Macmillan and Marie Curie) with over 72p from each £1 raised going to their beneficiaries.

Shrewsbury is playing host to a range of events over the next few months, including:

6th June

The River Festival takes place at the Quarry Park, with races and demonstrations on the river, local independent craft stalls and competitions. Pirate fancy dress encouraged on and off the river. Free and open to all.

19th June

Shrewsbury Carnival kicks off a 10.00am in the Quarry with stalls, arena entertainment and a funfair. The town parade will begin at 1.30pm.

19th June

Tess of the d’Urbervilles will be coming to Pitchford Hall when Hotbuckle Productions will be presenting an outdoor performance of the famous story by Thomas Hardy. Doors will open at 5.30pm and the play will begin at 6.30. Tickets can be obtained from www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/pitchford/pitchford-hall-and-treehouse/tess-of-the-durbervilles-at-pitchford-hall/2020-06-06/18:30/t-kxqooo?direct-booking

17th July

The annual **County Agricultural Show** is scheduled to take place at the West Midlands Showground. Go to www.shropshirecountyshow.com for more information and to order tickets.

27th to 30th August

The **Shrewsbury Folk Festival** is a four day celebration of folk music at the West Midlands Showground. Information and tickets are available by going to www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk.

Church Stretton hopes to host its annual **Arts Festival** this summer, but in a revised, Covid- safe form. For updates on the planned programme, please go to www.strettonfestival.org.uk

26th to 2nd August

Free coffee concerts.

2nd to 9th August

Organ recitals by visiting performers in local churches.

31st July, 1st and 3rd August

Outdoor performances in Rectory Field, Church Stretton

And closer to home, Longnor School is planning a **School Fete** to be held on 14th July from 2.00pm to 5.00pm (Covid restrictions permitting). There will be stalls and entertainments along with refreshments throughout the afternoon.

RIGHTS OF WAY

Rights of Way can be footpaths, bridleways or byways (open to all traffic or restricted). There are also permissive footpaths and bridleways which are not rights of way but are ways which the landowner (usually a body allowing public access, e.g. a local authority or the National Trust) has designated for public use. The landowner can alter or close these without legal process.

Rights of way are recorded on the 'Definitive Map' and information from it for Shropshire can be accessed here: shropshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=00a0e03e79ee453ab6b787961ab192ec

The map was established in the early 1950s but is under constant review by local councils and is regularly updated to include routes which were missed during initial information gathering or to upgrade existing ways, e.g. from footpath to bridleway. Applications to modify the Definitive Map can be made to Shropshire Council. Details and forms are available here: www.shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/register-of-formal-applications/

There are currently some 200 applications outstanding for Shropshire with three in our locality:

Ref. 94 (2009): Bridleway addition from Cound along Church Lane to Upper Cound. Contact: Cound Parish Council clerkcoundpc@gmail.com

Ref. 111 (2013): Bridleway/footpath addition from Pitchford to Golding. Contact: Tracy Johnson tracypj@icloud.com or 07974 952645

Ref. 152 (2020): Bridleway addition from the end of the road south of Frodesley to the bridleway by Frodesley Lodge. Contact: Sally-Anne Robinson sarobinson@ymail.com

To be successful, applications for new ways to be recognised need to be accompanied by historical evidence and evidence statements from users demonstrating regular public use over the years before the application was submitted. If you have supporting information for any of the above applications please use the appropriate contact shown above.

Lastly and importantly, the government has decided that any rights of way which are not identified or are subject to an application by January 1st 2026 will no longer be considered. If you are aware of any paths in regular use which are not currently recorded on the Definitive Map then please consider reporting this and making an application. Further information and assistance can be obtained from Open Spaces Society, the British Horse Society, and The Ramblers, who all have volunteers with expert knowledge.

We all value the countryside but our access to it is not necessarily guaranteed and your support is important.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

I have been a member of the Shropshire Council Place Overview Committee over the past 4 years, and recently volunteered to be a member of a working group to examine the Shropshire Roads Winter Maintenance Program, and come up with recommendations to improve how the service responds from winter 2021/22.

To inform the group's work, the overview and scrutiny officers also conducted a rapid survey of district, town and parish councils and councillors. In total, 23 town and parish councils and three district councillors responded to the survey.

The group recommended that Shropshire Council:

- Undertakes a new register of its existing grit bins.
- Includes grit bins in its risk-assessed review of the defined network.
- Works with town and parish council to identify locations for new grit bins.
- Explores opportunities to co-fund grit bins in settlements with town and parish councils.

- Develops a standardised process for checking and refilling grit bins.
- Builds into its winter service plan a gully cleansing programme that takes into account the higher risk of prolonged wet weather during the winter period.
- Recruits sufficient staff to support the flood risk manager in their work.
- Uses the new flood risk staff to work with agricultural businesses to minimise silt runoff from fields.
- Liaises with farmers and other organisations through its agricultural vehicles group to minimise mud and other debris left on the highway.
- Works with its highways partners to develop a new snow warden scheme and aims to have this scheme in place by winter 2021-2022.
- Incorporates the afore-mentioned snow warden scheme into its revised winter service plan.
- Specifies an effective customer service function within its winter plan.

- Ensures that this function operates during the winter period, in particular during periods of cold or wet weather that is likely to result in flooded or freezing conditions.
- Ensures that existing routine reporting tools, such as MyShropshire, are monitored and actioned upon.
- Strengthens its communications plan to include closer communication with town and parish councils, as well as community and third sector organisations.
- Ensures that any communications plan includes residents who do not use the internet.

As ever 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), on twitter ([@dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell)), on Facebook ([dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell)) or by phone (07902408400). For now please stay safe, stay at home and save lives.

Dan Morris

CHURCH NEWS

This time last year when I was putting together an article for Village Views from the churches, I concluded with the following sentence: 'Keep yourselves safe and well and we look forward to the day when our churches can be open again and our communities are restored to life in what will probably be a very different world'.

Well, we have certainly done our best to keep safe, probably easier to do in our rural communities than in the towns and cities around us, and over the last year we seem to have yo-yoed from lockdown to opening up, back to lockdown and opening up and back again to lockdown and now a gradual opening up. Little did we realise, at the beginning, how long all this would take. Our churches have followed the same pattern of yo-yoing of holding services or not as the case may be.

We are now in the position until the end of June where we are holding one service in a church each Sunday, except for the last Sunday of the month when we put on an extra service at Ryton.

This is the pattern for May and June:

2nd May Pitchford Church at 11.30am

9th May Condover Church at 10am

16th May Acton Burnell Church at 10am

23rd May Ryton Chapel at 9am and Condover Church at 10am

30th May Frodesley Church at 10am

6th June Pitchford Church at 11.30am

13th June Condover Church at 10am

20th June Acton Burnell Church at 10am

27th June Ryton Chapel at 9am and Condover Church at 10am

The service at Frodesley on 30th May will be one of the 'Festival' Services which we hold at Frodesley throughout the year.

From July onwards as we hope restrictions are removed, we expect to go back to a normal pattern of Services, but with a couple of tweaks. Pitchford will continue with a Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month at 11.30am. Frodesley will continue with a rota of Festival services as advertised taking in the usual festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas but adding in special rural services such as Plough Sunday, Rogation Sundays (blessing the crops and the rural communities), Lammas in August (or 'loaf' mass, a kind of precursor for Harvest) and one or two others on a

three-yearly cycle. At Acton Burnell we will continue with evensong on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6.30pm and a decision is still to be made about the best time for a Communion service on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Please be in touch with me if you have any thoughts or ideas when the best time for people might be. It would also be really good if we could set up a 3 village 'All-Age' style service/event, but it would need a good support from the village communities for it to go ahead. Please get in touch with me if you have any thoughts, ideas or would like to be involved in this.

One thing this whole Covid situation has given us is time to think and reflect so that we can reassess where we are, what we should be doing and how we can go about it.

And my message this spring is exactly the same as last spring, but with one vital addition: 'Keep yourselves safe and well and we look forward to the day when our churches can be fully open again and our communities are restored to life in what will probably be a very different world' and don't forget to go and get your job!

Geoff Garrett,

Rector 01743 872251

revgeoff@live.co.uk

CRESSAGE FOOD SHARE PROJECT

The Food Share Project continues to offer local households who may be struggling in the current difficult times the opportunity to stock up on bread, fruit, vegetables and fridge and freezer goods for a donation of £2 per person in the household. What is on offer changes weekly, but staples are always included. No proof of circumstances is needed – just head along to Cressage Village Hall between 1.00pm and 2.00pm every Wednesday where the Food Share Van will be waiting.

If you are looking for a few extra items for your larder or fridge, the Project now also brings along a pop-up shop, where anyone is very

welcome to purchase a range of items such as vegetables, biscuits, squash and frozen foods, all at very cheap prices.

The Food Share Project was originally set up to fight food waste, so many of the items have passed or are near their 'best before' date, but are still within their 'use by date', and absolutely safe to enjoy.

So please pop along to Cressage and see what is on offer!

For more information on the project, their aims and history, take a look at their Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/foodshareproject.

Lucy Blair

GODOLPHIN EDWARDS

I have had a request to write about Godolphin Edwards for this issue. It is my intention to set the scene by writing about him and his family and then end by writing about the charity which he set up back in 1750.

Godolphin's father, Samuel Edwards, was born in 1668 and became a government official at the Exchequer. In 1699 he married Rebecca Godolphin which would explain their eldest son's Christian name. In 1722 Samuel was elected to parliament as a Whig politician for Much Wenlock. He retained his seat in 1734 and served till 1738. Early in the century Samuel purchased Frodesley Manor as well as some land on Wenlock Edge. As Lord of the Manor he would have owned most of the parish and the farmers were his tenants. Samuel died in 1738 at the age of 70 and Godolphin, who had been Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1730, inherited the estate. The hall close to the church had been built in 1594 for Edward Scriven whose family had owned the manor for several hundred years. The Scrivens had created a walled deer park to the south of Lodge Hill, surrounding it with a stone wall, parts of which still exist. To this day a farm in the area is called Park Farm and in the 1840s a couple of fields were known as Big and Little Deer Leasow. A member of the Scriven family who was an M.P. wrote in his diary about often having had venison from Frodesley delivered to Westminster. Frodesley Lodge was built as a hunting lodge by the Scriven family in 1590 and the top of the tower would have given the ladies watching a deer hunt a great view over the park below.

It would appear that the hall was in a bad state of repair when Godolphin inherited the estate and he chose to live in the lodge and had it extended by having a new wing built on the western side in 1750. Walls were also

built on Lodge Hill, presumably to create the new deer park, although the park only existed in the legal sense for 20 years. This activity must have created much needed employment for the local population. Godolphin was concerned about the poor and specially those in squatter cottages who would have had hardly any garden. The remains of these cottages were still to be seen on the road between Frodesley and Conover Industrial estate until recently. Below what was the Swan Pub, now Swan House, was a long narrow strip of land known as the Butts. It is probably fanciful to think that this was where the local men practiced their archery in medieval times, it is more likely that it was given that name because the strip abutted a bigger field beside it. In 1750 the Butts was divided on the instructions of Godolphin into a number of allotments for the poor to grow their vegetables on. On Godolphin's death his only daughter Elizabeth inherited the estate but had to sell it to defray her grandfather Samuel's debts. Sir Edward Smythe bought the estate in 1784 and it became joined to the Acton Burnell estate until most was sold off in the early 1920s.

The Godolphin Edwards Relief in Need Charity

Godolphin's charity was originally set up to administer the allotment plots on the Butts, each let for an annual peppercorn rent to the poor and administered by the Frodesley rector and his two church wardens. In the early 1800s two cottages were built on the two Butts plots nearest the Swan and let to the poor by the charity, it is not known who paid to build the cottages. By the 1970s there was less demand for the vegetable plots and the 'two up two down' cottages were in need of modernisation. The local authority would put demolition orders

on such properties to persuade owners to upgrade them. The charity lacked the necessary funds to pay for the work and the cottages were sold. The allotments were amalgamated, grassed down and are still let by the charity. Wise investment resulted in the charity having more funds than the few needy folk of Frodesley required so the reach of the charity was extended to include Acton Burnell, Pitchford and the parish of Ruckley and Langley.

What constitutes need has changed through time. In the early days of the charity it enabled the poor to have a more adequate diet when the corn laws were putting the price of a loaf of bread beyond their means. In the 19th century it enabled the old to have a roof over their heads and a better diet when there were no pensions. Until recently there was still genuine need amongst many of the retired living on basic state pensions in the parishes. Now retired people moving into our parishes often have good pensions and would feel embarrassed to receive a food hamper from the charity at Christmas, and in fact need may now not be confined to the old. Parents may be struggling to meet all the educational expectations of their children with regard to school trips, clothes or equipment. Students may be finding the cost of further education difficult to deal with. Covid may have caused financial problems for others.

If you or someone you know within our group of parishes is in need you can apply to the trustees for help. Apply in writing to the secretary to the trustees:

Michael McElhenney, Arbre House, Ruckley, Acton Burnell, SY5 7HR.

Ron Repath

Ron's next 'Great Life' will feature an 18th century woman who lived locally and was a diarist, traveller, painter and naturalist specialising in entomology who met with, was treated on equal terms by and wrote about many of the great reformers of her day.

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

The Chelsea Flower Show may have been postponed until September, but late May is still the time to consider the 'Chelsea Chop'. This is a way to encourage perennial plants (plants which die back every winter and grow back every spring) to make bushier, stronger growth, and to prevent the leggy, sparse and occasionally floppy look which some plants develop. Good candidates for the 'chop' are achilleas, asters, campanulas, nepeta (catmint), echinaceas (coneflowers), hardy geraniums and heleniums. You can either cut all the stems on the plant back by around 50%, which will result in a more compact plant, but will also delay flowering for a week or two, or you can choose to shorten only some of the stems, which will give you a longer flowering period. The untouched stems are likely to flower before the shortened stems.

While we are all increasingly trying to avoid using plastics in our houses and gardens, most people will still find they

accumulate large numbers of small plastic pots and trays. The advice is to re-use these wherever possible, rather than discarding them, but if you are like me, then all those impulse buys of young plants at the garden centre and the market mean that you end up with a teetering pile of tiny black plant pots in the shed, none of which can go in the council recycling bin. The good news is that many garden centres now offer a recycling service, so you can get rid of those unwanted black pots, knowing they will be dealt with responsibly. Dobbies Garden Centre in Shrewsbury now offers this service to all its customers.

To avoid creating more plastic waste in the future, you might want to consider alternatives to plastic when buying new pots. Bamboo is a popular choice for a reasonably durable pot and breaks down in landfill within five years. Single use pots are also on the market, made from fibre and waste cardboard, and designed to remain

on the plant when it is transferred to the garden – making them a rather expensive option. Terracotta is also expensive to buy, but will last for years if properly cared for. Alternatively, try to avoid buying any pots at all! The insides of toilet rolls make great pots for long rooted seedlings such as sweet peas. Transparent plastic food containers from the supermarket (such as those containing berries and grapes) can be used to start off seeds, and the tray can be recycled when you've finished with it. Large yoghurt pots can also be handy for growing on young plants. Or try making your own seed trays from wood offcuts.

Take a little time to think about other alternatives to plastics in the garden – try using wooden lolly sticks instead of plastic plant labels, and natural twine or hemp instead of plastic string.

And as the weather warms up, take the time to sit in the sun and enjoy your garden as spring turns to summer!



LONGNOR CE SCHOOL NEWS

Outdoor Learning

We are continually looking for ways to improve our wonderful school grounds. The gardening club has been working hard to tidy up our sensory garden and establish more plants that smell, feel, look and taste good, they have also planted many vegetables, fruits and flowers in the new raised beds at the front of the school. We have re-fenced the Forest School area in the school grounds so that it is a cosy place to have campfires and run Forest School sessions. The younger children are currently having their Forest School lessons in the school grounds, whilst the older children are now able to go to our recently developed forest school woods for their sessions.

Eco Schools

We have established a new Eco-Committee who are leading our work towards renewing the Eco-School Green Flag Award. They are carrying out a review of how environmentally friendly we are as a school which will feed into an action plan to ensure the whole school is working in a way that is improving the environment.

Sponsored Walk

From the February half term to the Easter holiday, we ran a whole school sponsored walk. Every child recorded the miles they walked, ran, scooted or cycled each week and we collated them to see if, as a school, we could travel from Land's End to John O'Groats. We reached our target two weeks before the Easter holiday, so we continued recording the miles covered to see how far back down the country we could travel. The children are asking for sponsorship towards this challenge so we can buy some more iPads for the whole school to use

Early Years Play Area

The new early years play area to the front of the school has now been completed with a sandpit, mud kitchen, mark making facilities, picnic benches and water play area. The children are really enjoying using the new equipment.

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.

Little Owls



Preschool

Longnor's Little Owls Preschool is part of Longnor CE Primary School based in Longnor village, just off the A49.

We place a high value on developing children's independence and self-confidence through learning through play and interactions with others and the environment.

We are committed to providing our children with a broad and balanced curriculum that is rich in cultural capital and awe and wonder. Our curriculum is rooted in child development, providing each unique child with what they need in the here and now.

We wish to offer new parents a time to chat with the Early Years Teacher where we can discuss our ethos and intentions and answer any questions or queries parents may have. Please call the school office on 01743 718493 or email admin@longnorschool.co.uk to book a mutually convenient time.



CHANGES AT CONCORD COLLEGE

In September, the current Principal of Concord College, Neil Hawkins, will be moving on to become Global Principal of Concord College International. His place will be taken by Dr Michael Truss, who introduces himself below:

"I'm looking forward so much to joining Concord: it's an exciting, vibrant place in an absolutely beautiful part of the country. It will feel rather like coming home for me after having moved around quite a bit throughout my career: I was born in the West Midlands and my grandfather grew up not too far from Acton Burnell, in Montgomeryshire.

I studied Physics at Balliol College, Oxford before completing a doctorate in Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Leicester. I continued in academia with a postdoctoral fellowship at St Andrews, followed by roles in Australia and Durham. I made the switch to school teaching in 2007, joining Bedales School in Hampshire, firstly as a teacher of Maths and Physics, but then as Head of Maths and Head of Academic Enrichment. Since 2015, I have been Deputy Head (Academic) at Barnard Castle School: an independent boarding

school in the North East, and I am truly delighted to be coming to Concord as its next Principal.

The whole family – my wife, Suzanne and two boys, Theo (16) and Joseph Robin (13) - are also very excited about the move. We all love the outdoors: travelling as widely as possible, hiking, canoeing and gardening, and all share a passion for cricket.

We feel extremely fortunate to have the chance to come to Concord to work and study, and to Acton Burnell to live and to be part of a lovely community. We're all looking forward to meeting everyone and can't wait to move in. We hope to see you soon!"



BOYS AND GIRLS COME OUT TO PLAY....

The first meeting of the new Acton Burnell and Pitchford Playgroup took place on 22nd April and was a great success. Nine parents with twelve children came along and it turned out to be a beautifully sunny morning. The children went on a pinecone hunt in the woods by Acton Burnell castle and played 'what's in the bag' investigating their forest finds with the babies and toddlers while the pre-schoolers played hide and seek in the castle.

Organiser Katie Davies said, "It was wonderful to get to know the other local mums and talk about our lockdown experiences together. Plans are now in place for a weekly get together at 10.30am on Thursdays. We will continue to use the castle grounds while groups are restricted to outdoor meetings only, but if restrictions ease later in the year we hope we can move into a permanent indoor location."

Due to Covid rules, the playgroup is restricted to 15 adults, so please contact Katie in advance if you wish to attend by emailing mrs.katie.davies@hotmail.com or via Facebook page 'Acton Burnell & Pitchford playgroup' (www.facebook.com/groups/4267094310009317)



Blue from Pitchford

NOT FORGETTING OUR 4-LEGGED FRIENDS

As the weather warms up, more and more of us will be venturing out into the fields and lanes around our homes, often with the family dog alongside us. Although there is nothing more dogs love than a run in the countryside, please bear in mind a few rules to make walks safe for you, your dog, livestock, and even growing crops.

The Kennel Club and the NFU (National Farmers Union) advise:

- Keep your dog on a lead whenever you are around livestock (and remember an apparently empty field may have sheep or cattle just out of sight). Make sure your dog is under control and within sight whenever you are walking in the countryside.
- Cattle may be inquisitive – stay calm and walk quickly and quietly around the herd, taking care not to walk between cows and their calves. It is extremely unlikely that cattle will become agitated, but if you feel the situation has become unsafe, then release your dog so you can both get to safety. Most dogs will take themselves out of harm's way, and will be able to outrun any cattle, leaving you free to make your own way out of danger.
- Dog poo can spread diseases to farm livestock and contaminate crops. Keep your dog close and off growing crops, and always pick up after them.
- Make sure you dispose of your dog's poo in a bin, or take it home with you. Dog poo bags left in hedges and along footpaths create a hazard for livestock and for wildlife.
- For the health of your pet and farm animals, prevent your dog from getting into water troughs and follow your vet's advice on regular worming.
- Leave gates as you find them and always follow any directions on signs.



Tussock Moth caterpillars (Left: freshly emerged. Right: fully developed)



What's that bug: Tussock moths

Tussock moth caterpillars belong to the Erebidae, family formerly known as Lymantriidae, and to the Lymantriinae subfamily. Like other Lepidopterans, they undergo complete metamorphosis developing from an egg, larva, pupa, and imago (adult). There are at least 11 known species that live in the UK.

When and where can they be spotted?

The caterpillars (larval stage) can be usually spotted on a range of trees and bushes from April to August. The adults can be seen flying between June and September in gardens, scrubs and woodlands. Usually, the males are the ones that can be seen flying because the females are unable to fly with their reduced wings (they are brachypterous). The females will lay their eggs on cocoon remains and some species will protect them with a silk and an abdominal hair casing. The egg masses are quite distinguishable, and they can be used to help with taxonomically identifying the females.

How do the adults find each other?

Even though the female does not fly away from where it emerged, it can still find a mate. The female can emit an irresistible smell called sex pheromone that the males can detect from a distance and fly in search of them. Sex pheromones are of interest to scientist because these compounds can be used to produce volatiles that are released into the atmosphere in a controlled manner. It can be deployed to disrupt mating processes and in turn control numbers when there is a risk of causing significant economic damage.

What do they feed on?

They can feed on various types of tree (broadleaved but also including evergreens) and bush and scrub foliage. It is uncommon that caterpillar numbers are sufficient to be considered pests. Thus, of economic importance that could lead to considerable damage.

Ana Natalio and Nick Antill



OAK APPLE FARM SHOP

Our new 'Oak Apple Farm Shop' has moved into New Premises. In September last year due to the Covid pandemic our business dramatically changed overnight. Therefore, we had to diversify in many ways, from delivering Fruit and Vegetable and Ready Meals during lockdown to those who were self-isolating and not wanting to mix with the crowds.

As the year progressed and more people were venturing out, we decided to open our 'Pop-up' shop with the fruit and vegetables and ready meals etc. This we found to be a popular destination to visit, with many customers saying how then enjoyed visiting the shop without having to queue.

For Christmas and the second lockdown we expanded the site to include the horsebox with Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Goodies.

During this last lockdown we decided to move into a larger premises, (set back from the Road) and stock more items etc.

We will be providing Take Away Teas and Coffee and a slice of homemade cake and/or Cream Teas on the lawn.

At the end of April, we closed the 'Pop up' shop and opened the 'Oak Apple Farm Shop' at Oak Tree Farm, Frodesley, Longnor, Shrewsbury SY5 7QQ (for SAT NAV purposes).

Spring / Summer Opening times are as follows:

Monday – Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm.

Sunday: 10am- 4pm Parking available.

Please do come and visit to see what Shropshire products will be available.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Village Views and Directory editorial team are in dire need of some assistance to help identify and contact possible advertisers. While we are largely funded by the Parish Council, we also rely on income from adverts from local businesses to help us keep ticking over. The job needs someone who is well organised and has some local knowledge. This voluntary post need not take up much of your time – a day or two every three months is all that is needed. We can provide you with a Hotmail account to use for contact with potential advertisers, if you wish. You may also need to telephone advertisers from time to time.

If you are looking for a volunteer role you can do from the comfort of your own home, then this may be for you! If you would like to get involved, please drop me an email at villageviews@hotmail.com.



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