

# Village Views

May 2022

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

## WELCOME

Welcome to the summer edition of Village Views. The highpoint of this summer for many people will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which we will be marking with the lighting of a beacon and a celebratory Pub Night, finishing with a Parish Picnic at beautiful Pitchford Hall. Fingers crossed for good weather to help us all celebrate in style!

Along with this edition of Village Views, you will also have received a copy of the community Directory for 2022. The Directory is funded entirely by the advertising which appears in both Village Views and the Directory itself so a big thank you goes to all those local businesses which choose to advertise with us for their continued support. If you would like to place an advert in Village Views, or if you would like to discuss advertising in the Directory for 2023, please contact Rachel or Lois Johnson at [villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com](mailto:villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com).

Wishing all our readers a very happy and sunny summer!

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



## THE PARISH JUBILEE PICNIC

As part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, Sunday 5th June is the National Big Jubilee Lunch. The Parish Council (with the assistance of a sub-committee) have organised The Parish Jubilee Picnic so that our community can get together and celebrate with the rest of the Country and we do hope you will join us. This event is also open to your friends and family, but please do not delay in getting your tickets as they are limited!

We have been given a beautiful venue to hold this event at The Orangery at Pitchford Hall by kind permission of James and Rowena Nason. Tickets are now on sale at the fantastic price of only £3 each. You can redeem your ticket on the day for your free ice cream.

There is to be a Jubilee Crown Competition which will be divided into three groups, primary school, secondary school and adult. We can't wait to see your creativity.

We are still in need of more vintage vehicles or any items that people will enjoy perusing throughout the afternoon. If you have anything to show please let one of the committee members know.

We can't wait to see everyone for a fantastic afternoon of celebration. Remember to bring your own picnic and beverages, picnic rug or chairs and enjoy the afternoon with neighbours, friends and family while enjoying the entertainment from Ruby Allen, face painting, the theatre production 'The Adventures of the Gingerbread Man', followed by music from 'The Upbeats'.

For full details of the event and the timetable please see flyer or view details on the Parish Council website. We so look forward to seeing you there.

*Tracy Johnson*

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN OUR VILLAGES

**Thursday 2nd June**  
Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon at the top of Burnell Bank in Acton Burnell, by kind permission of Adrian Bruce-Smythe. The beacon will be lit at 9.45pm as part of a network of beacons being lit across the country to celebrate the Jubilee. The site can be accessed from the Acton Burnell to Ruckley road, but please note that there is no parking provided and if you wish to attend, you are encouraged to walk to the site. A limited number of cars can be parked (with care) along the roadside.

**Friday 3rd June**  
Jubilee Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Pop along to celebrate the Jubilee with your friends and neighbours. More details nearer the date. Check out the Pitchford Village Hall and Acton Burnell Community Facebook pages for more information.

**Sunday 5th June**  
The Parish Jubilee Picnic at The Orangery, Pitchford Hall, by kind permission of James and Rowena Nason. Gates open at 12.30, and there will be a packed programme of entertainment during the afternoon, including live music, a performance of The Gingerbread Man, and a Jubilee Crown competition for children and adults. Tickets are £3 per person, which includes a free ice cream. Please bring along your own picnic, chairs and blankets. Numbers for this event are limited, so please book early. Tickets available from:

Tracy Johnson, Pitchford	07974 952645
Carmen Culliss, Frodesley	07976 209114
Jo Long, Acton Burnell	07954 349151
Sarah McElhinney, Ruckley	07495 719682
Anna Morris, Parish Clerk	<a href="mailto:clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk</a>
Rose Jackson	Acton Burnell Post Office

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be **20th July 2022**.

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

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting for Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford and Ruckley and Langley will take place at Pitchford Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 10th May.

This is a once yearly meeting which is open to all parish residents, and gives the local community the opportunity to hear reports from the Parish Council, Shropshire Council, and any

local community groups which receive funding from the Parish Council.

If you wish to add any items to the agenda for this meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk, Anna Morris, on **07842 324809**, or by email at **clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk** as soon as possible.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The council met in March.

Planning for the Jubilee Picnic on Sunday June 5th was delegated to a small task group which has since been busy and arrangements are now almost complete. We will keep our fingers crossed for the weather and hope to see a good turnout.

The Beacon Lighting is set for 21:45 on Thursday June 2nd at the top of the hill between Acton Burnell and Ruckley (where the 2018 Armistice Beacon was lit). Acton Burnell Estate are kindly providing the site and access.

With regard to the plans for tree planting, it is hoped that this will be possible in each of the four parishes. Eric Plant has kindly offered a location in Acton Burnell adjacent to Stoneleigh Park. Those with land in the other parishes are again requested to consider setting aside patches of land, preferably adjacent to existing footpaths, where trees could be planted. Please contact the parish clerk; clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org or 07842 324809 if you are able to help. The plan is to plant young trees in the autumn.

The council heard representations regarding the establishment of a bridleway from Pitchford to Golding for

which an application is currently being considered by Shropshire Council. It was agreed to submit a response of no comment from the council at this stage. A formal hearing is anticipated where there will be an opportunity to comment when the various submissions and evidence have been collated.

It is good to see that the section of pavement to link Stoneleigh Park with Acton Burnell village has now been completed, following requests and a number of meetings with Shropshire Council. The repairs to the crash barriers at the bottom of the "Clappers" (over the brook on the Shrewsbury side of Pitchford) should be complete when this goes out and resurfacing in Pitchford is planned for the second week in May.

A representative from Shropshire Council highways has been out to discuss the ongoing issue of water running across the pavement and down the road in Acton Burnell below Home Farm and it is hoped that this can be resolved before next winter.

Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting is set for Tuesday May 10th at 19:00 at Pitchford Village and all are invited to attend.

*Paul Harrison, Chairman, Parish Council*

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

Spring has well and truly sprung, and it feels as though summer may not be far behind. Our gardens and hedgerows are full of life, and it's time to think about what we can do in our plots to make them a haven for people and wildlife.

Attracting pollinators helps to ensure that our plants and trees are fertilised, giving us those bumper crops of fruit, veg and berries that we all love. Bees are the number one pollinators in British gardens, and are drawn to flowers with 'open' faces, such as daisies and sunflowers. Where possible, choose varieties of popular flowers with 'single' flowers rather than 'doubles' to ensure that bees can easily access the nectar and pollen. This applies to dahlias, hollyhocks and even roses.

Bees are also able to see the colour purple more easily than other colours, so lavender, buddleia and catmint will definitely catch their attention. Some tubular shaped flowers are also beautifully designed to help bees gather the greatest amount of pollen per visit – snapdragons and foxgloves are particularly good for this. Other quick and easy ways of making our gardens pollinator friendly include cutting lawns less frequently to give daisies, dandelions and clover the chance to flower, avoiding the use of pesticides and, if you do need to spray, making sure you never spray open flowers, and providing water for bees and other visiting insects – a shallow dish of water is just fine for this.

*Chris Harrison*



**PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL**

# PLANT FAIR

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**10AM – 2.00 PM**

- Annual and perennial plants
- Rooted cuttings of plants and shrubs
- Vegetable and house plants
- Larger clumps of freshly lifted plants
- Selection of ceramic and terracotta pots
- Free 'growing' sunflowers for children

Special stall selling plants, marmalades and cakes in aid of the people of Ukraine

**FREE ENTRY**  
**REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE**

Charity No 507743

## CONCORD COLLEGE TREE PLANTING FOR THE JUBILEE

Following Concord's application for 315 saplings to be planted at the College as part of a UK-wide campaign – The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), students and staff were looking forward to another whole-school planting day at the end of April.

In an email to the College in November, Shropshire Council and Anna Turner, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire said: "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.

In March, the saplings arrived at the College. Concord's Head Groundsman, Mr Paul Humphreys commented: "We are delighted with the assortment. In total, we applied for 105 Medium Wildlife Saplings, 105 Medium Year Round Colour Saplings and 105 Medium Working Wood Saplings."

"These will be planted in the ground in the parkland area of the College, which is currently very open and will benefit from the development of woodland" said Mr Humphreys.

He added: "Longer term, there is further potential to plant new trees in some of the College's properties in the local village, and hopefully in the wider community too."



# What's on

## 4th May

Cardington Village Hall hosts a screening of 'Belfast', which charts the story of Kenneth Branagh's childhood in Northern Ireland. Starts at 7.30pm, this film is classified as 12A. Tickets available by calling 01694 771295 or online at [www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/?id=15894](http://www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/?id=15894)

## 7th May

Plant Fayre at Pitchford Village Hall. Come along to stock up on young plants, seedlings, clumps of established perennials and a selection of used ceramic and terracotta pots. Refreshments and a raffle, and free sunflower plants for children. Donations of additional plants and garden items will be welcome! Keep an eye on the Pitchford Village Hall Facebook page for more details.

## 8th May

Enjoy a guided walk to view the bluebells at the Shropshire Hill Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. A gentle three and a half mile walk through the fields and lanes. Tickets £5 per person. Booking essential. Please call **01588 676060**.

## 13th May

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall with beer, wine, soft drinks and the added attraction of the chip van. Doors open at 7.30pm. Children and well behaved dogs welcome.

## 13th May

'The Victorians: Songs, Stories and More' at Harley Village Hall at 7.30pm. Suitable for all the family (including children from 5 years), this is a live show by folk singers and storytellers Harp and a Monkey. Tickets £12 for adults and £7 for children, available by calling 01952 510422 or online at [www.artsalive.co.uk/live-performances/show/?id=11138](http://www.artsalive.co.uk/live-performances/show/?id=11138)

## 15th May

Longden Manor gardens at Plealey will be open as part of the National Garden Scheme. Large estate gardens with something of interest for all the family. Admission £5 for adults (children free). Book online at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/1228/longden-manor> or pay on the day.

## 27th May

'The Duke', starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren, screens at Ryton Village Hall. With a 12 rating, screening starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 for adults, £2.50 for children, available by calling 01743 or online at [www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/?id=15785](http://www.artsalive.co.uk/films/film/?id=15785)

## 28th May

Shropshire County Agricultural Show returns to the West Mids Showground, Gravel Hill Lane, Shrewsbury for the first time since 2019. A full day's entertainment including medieval jousting, a Hurricane flypast, falconry and music will take place alongside the usual livestock classes, and a Kids Zone will keep youngsters busy. Tickets available in advance from <https://westmidshowground.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/26758?catID=26064&>

## 2nd June

Lighting the Jubilee Beacon at the top of Burnell Bank in Acton Burnell at 9.45pm.

## 3rd June

Jubilee Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm. More details nearer the time (keep an eye on the Acton Burnell Community and Pitchford Village Hall Facebook pages).

## 3rd to 12th June

The Much Wenlock Festival offers a varied menu of music, theatre, comedy and talks. Go to [www.muchwenlockfestival.org.uk](http://www.muchwenlockfestival.org.uk) for more information and to book tickets.

## 5th June

Jubilee Family Picnic at Pitchford Hall. Check out the Jubilee events articles for more information.

## 18th June

From 9.00am to 3.00pm, Much Wenlock High Street is turned over to local artisans and craftspeople to showcase their talent. Pop along to buy an original piece from a local maker.

## 18th June

A comic version of The War of the Worlds, performed by The Pantaloons at Attingham Park. Tickets £15 for adults and £5 for children, available by calling 03442 491895 or online at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pantaloons-the-war-of-the-worlds-tickets-294436055167](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pantaloons-the-war-of-the-worlds-tickets-294436055167)

## 18th June

The Hotbuckle Theatre Troupe return to Pitchford Hall with their outdoor production of 'Great Expectations'. Entry from 5.30pm, and curtain up at 6.30pm. Tickets from £15 to £18. To book, please go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/hotbuckle-productions-cic/great-expectations-at-pitchford-hall/2022-06-18/18:30/t-pprkae](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hotbuckle-productions-cic/great-expectations-at-pitchford-hall/2022-06-18/18:30/t-pprkae)

## 19th June

Preen Manor, Church Preen, will be opening its gardens to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme. Entry to this 6 acre site is £6 per adult (children free). Home made teas available. Pre-book by going to [https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/7758/preen\\_manor](https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/7758/preen_manor) or pay on the day.

## 24th June

Two gardens open at Plealey (Cheriton family garden and Avocet cottage garden) from 10.00am to 4.00pm as part of the National Garden Scheme. Tickets (£6 for adults, free for children) give you admission to both gardens. Booking in advance essential. Please go to <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/37763/cheriton>

## 25th to 26th June

Shrewsbury Food Festival at the Quarry Park, Shrewsbury. Two full days of eating and drinking the very best that local producers have to offer! Tickets from [www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk/tickets](http://www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk/tickets)

## 8th July

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Come along for a pint and a natter. All welcome, including children and well-behaved dogs. Doors open at 7.30pm

## 23rd to 24th July

The Dragon Boats take to the River Severn once again in support of Severn Hospice. Spectators can watch this exciting event for free from vantage points along the river in Shrewsbury. If you would like more information on how to enter a boat, please go to the Severn Hospice website at [www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/](http://www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/), where you will also find information on other fundraising events for this essential local charity.

## 23rd July to 13th August

The Church Stretton Arts Festival provides a showcase for music, drama, art, crafts and photography. Check out the packed programme of events at [www.strettonfestival.org.uk](http://www.strettonfestival.org.uk).

## 30th July

Heartbreak Productions present David Walliams' bestseller 'Awful Auntie' at Attingham Park. Suitable for all the family from 7 years upwards. Booking essential. Tickets £15 for adults and £5 for children, available by calling 03442 491895 or online at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heartbreak-productions-awful-auntie-tickets-269501966637](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heartbreak-productions-awful-auntie-tickets-269501966637)



## The Re-development of Shrewsbury Town Centre

Major ambitions to transform Shrewsbury's town centre for generations have been unveiled by Shropshire Council. The council bids to create a truly 21st century destination and experience, creating a stunning riverside attraction.

This will be a game-changing mixed-use development combining new leisure attractions, vibrant hospitality and public space, a new quayside and hotels to support the town's existing retail, while bringing new workspace that can attract high quality jobs into the town. Shrewsbury will:

- Be a place where you arrive by a brand-new eco-friendly bus, on your bicycle or somewhere you can park – and charge – your electric vehicle
- Be a place where you can work in a zero carbon office and enjoy a vibrant mix of shops, restaurants and bars – all next to the new quayside fronting onto River Severn
- Have a development that will create almost 2,000 jobs, see a modern, friendly Multi-Agency Hub and offices open with 500 spaces for workers, allowing the public to access what they need, where and when they need it
- Be somewhere with a brand new bus facility, a high-quality transport hub kitted out for modern vehicles with more charge points, better lighting and bigger spaces.

Two hundred and seventy new homes will be built, offering the chance to live, work and relax in the middle of a green, modern town centre. It is envisaged that this transformation should attract 750,000 new visits a year, and substantially increase investment and footfall for the benefit of existing businesses across the county as part of a wider £800 million investment in the town under the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan.

For much more detailed information, please see the following link on the Shropshire Council Website: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s29518/Shrewsbury%20Redevelopment%20Programme.pdf>

### Fly-tipping

A dedicated fly-tipping response team took to the roads from the start of April as Shropshire Council clamps down on unsightly and illegally dumped waste. The team will be out and about five days a week in a new fly-tipping response vehicle, following up reports of fly-tipping on public land, and looking for cases that have yet to be reported. They will clear fly-tips – or arrange for them to be cleared – and will also look for and record evidence that will enable the offenders to be identified, and to pursue enforcement.

The use of smartphones will mean that information can be recorded and shared more quickly, easily and accurately, and using a new double-crewed vehicle with a tail lift they will be better able to remove heavy and larger items more effectively. The new approach – a partnership between Shropshire Council and Kier – will enable the council to respond more quickly to reports of fly-tips, and make sure they are removed more quickly. It will also help to save the council money, and mean that the council's environmental maintenance team can also spend more time dealing with vandalism, littering, graffiti and other issues.

### Shropshire Council's response to the Ukrainian Crisis

Shropshire Council and our partners have quickly mobilised to respond to the Government's Ukraine resettlement programme. The council is working closely with Shropshire Supports Refugees, health teams and other key partners, and are now working with host families who have offered accommodation to those entering Shropshire.

Current figures on the Government's Foundry system (the official system that hosts the matches of refugees with host families) show that 147 have been matched in Shropshire at the time of writing. The council is aware that there are many hosts who have accepted refugees outside the scheme, and are asking those who have to contact the council so they can make the necessary checks and provide advice and support. Teams are now working with those host families who have matched with Ukraine refugees to support with:

- Ensuring host families have a DBS check
- Property checks
- Finance and welfare support
- Access to health services and education
- Access to transport, community services and support.

The Council is aware that 90% of the Ukrainians coming into the UK are elderly, or females with children, so safeguarding issues are a significant concern, and are being taken seriously by both the children's safeguarding and adult safeguarding teams. Although there are large numbers of people who want to help, there are people who will sadly take advantage of this situation, so the Council must ensure that everyone coming to Shropshire is safe.

Shropshire Council has also launched a dedicated website ([www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/)) for both host families and refugees, which includes advice and information on all the support available, in English, Ukrainian and Russian, to help Ukrainians resettle in Shropshire. The website will be updated as and when we receive further guidelines from the Government, and as the local scheme develops.

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](mailto:dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk), by mobile on **07902 408400**, on facebook **dan4burnell** or Twitter **@dan4burnell**.

*Dan Morris*



## LONGNOR CE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Spring has definitely arrived and we have enjoyed outdoor learning focused upon skills that we need for lifelong learning.

In class four, for years five and six, they have been busy on their bikes completing their 'Bikeability' road safety course. From turning at a T-junction to indicating safely, they have been learning vital skills for life out and about on the road. All worked hard and made excellent progress over the week of training.

In class three, all children had the opportunity to try new sports and demonstrate resilience when attempting new activities. We travelled to Church Stretton School for a fabulous festival. Tennis, golf, football and rugby activities were led by the sports leaders from year seven. Every student supported each other and worked positively as a team.

In class two and one, children had the opportunity to begin to ride a bike and use a balance bike. They had great fun gaining their sense of balance with the support from the team at Learn Cycling. It looked like great fun and such a fabulous life skill that promotes health and fitness.

Our 'School Circle' have been busy this month and have arranged some lovely events for all children to celebrate Easter. We've had an 'eggcellent' egg decorating competition, school disco and Easter egg hunt around school. We'd like to thank all of the parents for their continued support with school events.

Later this term, together with our 'School Circle' we are planning an outdoor tea party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Surrounded by bunting and dressed in royal attire we

plan to gather as a whole school and have lots of fun!

The website [www.longnorschool.org.uk](http://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](mailto:admin@longnorschool.co.uk) or phone Rachel Reynolds or Louise Childs on **01743 718493**.



## HELP FOR UKRAINE

To make a contribution, donate or offer assistance to the people of Ukraine, please contact the organisations listed below.

### Disasters Emergency Committee

Donate online via <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>. Money is being used to provide food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families.

### British Red Cross

Donations to their emergency fundraising appeal can be made online at <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal> or by calling into their shop in Church Stretton.

### United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Works to provide the essentials refugees need to survive: shelter, food, water, healthcare and protection. To make a donation or for information on fundraising opportunities, please go to <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/>

### Shropshire Supports Refugees

Go to <https://www.shropshiresupportsrefugees.org/> for information and updates on their plans to assist Ukrainian refugees in Shropshire.

### Shropshire European Organisation CIC

Transporting vital equipment and supplies across to Poland and Ukraine. Check out their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/polishcentreshrewsbury](https://www.facebook.com/polishcentreshrewsbury) for details of fundraising events, donation points and items needed, or contact Kate Fejfer on **07894 739300**, email [shropeuropeorg@gmail.com](mailto:shropeuropeorg@gmail.com).

### Ukraine Frontline Support

Aims to support all people who are currently on the 'front line' in Ukraine, including medical staff, utility company workers, food delivery workers and volunteers. More information on their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/wesupportfrontline](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wesupportfrontline) (please note this is a members only page).

### Homes for Ukraine

If you are considering offering accommodation to refugees from Ukraine, please go to [www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine](https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine) for more information and to register your interest. Shropshire Council also has information available for refugees and for those hosting them at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/)



## NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

### Up-coming pub nights

Pub night in May will be on Friday 13th at 7.30 and apart from the barrel of Ludlow Best, the chip van will be in attendance.

The event in June has been brought forward to the first Friday in the month (Friday 3rd June) to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

July's event will be back to the usual second Friday, in this case the 8th July with a 7.30 start as usual.

### Plant Fayre

This special event will take place on Saturday 7th May, kicking off at 10.00am until 2.00pm. Lots of plants of all descriptions available along with food and teas and coffees. There will also be free sunflower seeds available for the kiddies to nurture their greening fingers! While all the profits will go towards funding the Village Hall, there will also be a special stand selling yet more plants along with homemade cakes and marmalades in aid of those suffering in Ukraine, so please come along and help support our event.

### Onion Competition 2022

This year's Grand Onion competition starts at the May Pub Night with baby plants on offer for you to purchase and take away and nurture before the judging in September. For those who can't collect on the 13th May, you can come along to the Village Hall from 10.00am the next day, Saturday 14th, to collect your entry. Details will appear on the ABC Facebook page 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](mailto:price622@btinternet.com)  
mobile: **07740 067955**

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

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

John Glover

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

We are back with a complete programme of services, now that everything has completely opened up. COVID has caused us to look at our pattern of worship and the main change is that St. Marks Church, Frodesley has officially become what is called a 'Festival Church'. This means that our pattern of worship takes account of special celebrations through the year. These include, of course, Christmas, Easter and Harvest, but we also host special rural and agricultural themes through the year.

In January we have a Plough Sunday Service and coming up during the rest of the year is a Rogation Service on May 22nd at 3pm (a celebration of the seeds planted, crops growing and generally thinking out the farming life), a 'Jam Jar Flower Festival Service' celebrating an abundance of the Summer on 19th June at 3pm, and at the beginning of August we hold a LAMMAS service which celebrates the Barley Harvest. The date of Lammas is officially August 1st, so we have a service sometime near the beginning of August. No date has yet been officially set this year, but it is likely that we will have it on 31st July as a 5th Sunday Benefice service.

The Harvest Service in October wraps up the round of services celebrating the agricultural year. Please keep an eye on local notice boards and Facebook for more details nearer the times specified above. All the services, except for the main festivals of Christmas Easter and Harvest are non-communion services and everyone is welcome to join in with all of these services.

All of our services are advertised on the church notice boards, but as a general rule there is a service in Pitchford Church on the first Sunday of the month at 11.30am (Holy Communion), Acton Burnell Church 8.45am (Holy Communion) and 3rd Sunday of the month 6.30pm (Evensong).

The two church projects on the go at Frodesley (to create a Community Hub) and Acton Burnell (to introduce toilet and refreshment facilities) are still progressing. Both schemes have been fully designed and have completed the first main stage to go through the church planning consent. We are now needing to fully cost the projects and then apply for the final stage of the planning consent as well as apply for grants so that the work can be completed.





Looking across from the Long Mynd to Corndon Hill, Cadair Idris, the Arans and the Stiperstones

## Local Strolls: Bridges and Stepping Stones

**Bridges is a small hamlet lying to the west of the Long Mynd about halfway between this and the Stiperstones, well known as a national nature reserve and its striking quartzite crags that protrude from its ridge running from a mile or so south of Pontesbury down to Nipstones. This wonderful stroll of great variety takes us from the car park at the Bridges pub (or the Horseshoe Inn as it was called) on a circuit past Ratlinghope, through the Golden Valley and up onto the Port Way from where it travels east to Robin Hood's Butts at the north end of the Mynd before moving south to Pole Bank and then west past Coates Farm before completing this 9-mile circuit back at Bridges. A beautiful riverside path moving onto the high ridge of the Long Mynd with its stunning views and finishing at a pub with good food and lovely beer from the Three Tuns brewery of Bishop's Castle. What's not to like!!**

Probably the best way to get here from our patch is to drive up to Robin Hood's Butts via Woolstaston, leaving the A49 opposite the old café in Leebotwood. There is, of course, no reason why you can't park up on the top of the Long Mynd at Robin Hood's Butts and then make use of the pub in Bridges as a halfway break on this circular walk and thereby reducing the distance travelled on the narrow roads beyond and saving the equivalent of half your mortgage in current fuel costs!! However, I will assume that you want several beers at the end which, if taken halfway through the stroll would reduce your capacity to get back to your car which would require staggering up the hill to the Butts!

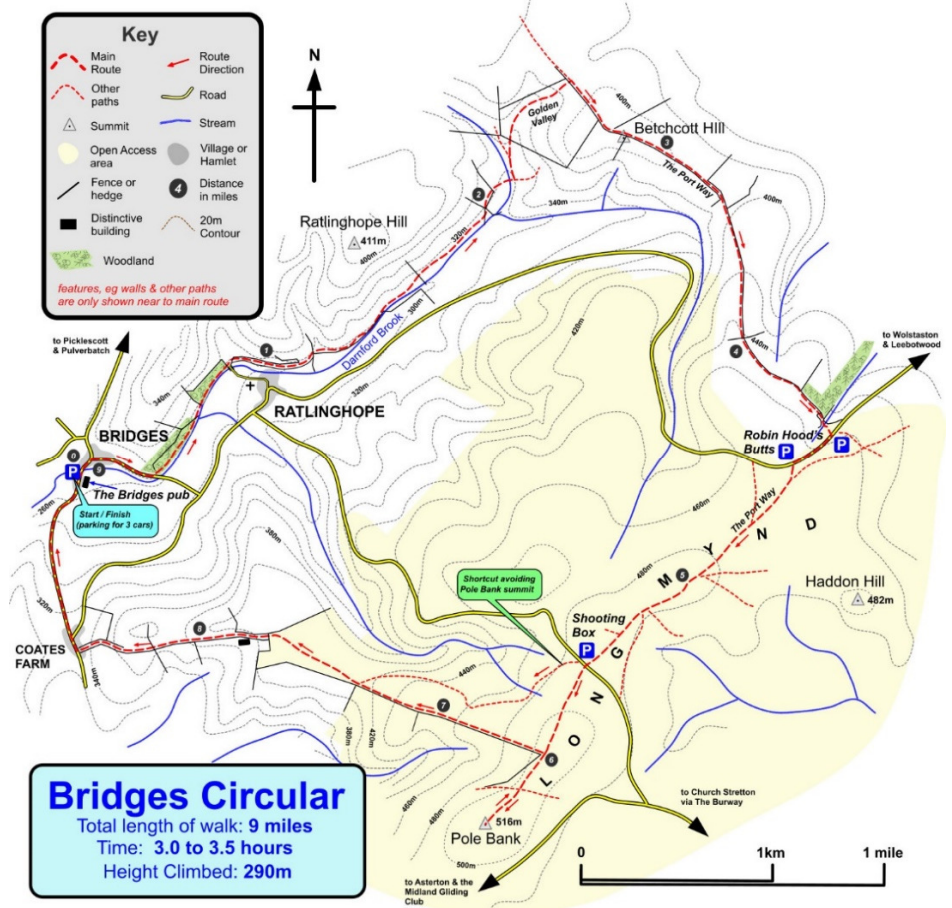
Leaving the pub car park where you may park for free, you wander along the road back towards Ratlinghope and past the former parsonage now reinvented as a youth hostel. After about 200m or so, you reach the bridge where just this side of it and on your left is a small gate through which you pass.

This lovely path then takes you for about 2 miles along the side of Darnford Brook through stonking woods on a clear clean inviting track. You pass the hamlet of Ratlinghope (which apparently some folk think is pronounced "Ratchupp" if you are a 'local'!) keeping under the steep hillside of Ratlinghope Hill on your left.

The church in Ratlinghope, just off our path, was where the Reverend Carr walked to in the middle of an extremely severe winter in 1865 from his home parish at Wolstaston, in order to preach to the beleaguered frozen folk of the Darnford Valley, as he had every

Sunday since he became their priest. Having just made it for the service, he hurriedly set off for home over the Long Mynd in severe blizzard conditions. To cut a long and good story short, he lost his way in this January storm, became entombed in snow in a deep ravine above the Lightspout waterfall, surviving the night to emerge at Carding Mill some 22 hours later. He lost his boots halfway on his endeavour which were subsequently found and are now on view in the museum in Shrewsbury. One hell of a feat of survival in extremely harsh conditions in clothing and gear not even close to the quality of modern hill attire. What a bloke!!

Keeping the river to your right and the steep slopes to your left, you edge past Ratlinghope and out of the trees and follow this nice clear path until you reach Lower Darnford after about 2 miles in. When you arrive, take a sharp left through a second gate and then after about 50 yards through another leading into the field on the right, walking atop and old wall and down to a footbridge after which you turn sharp left and up the hill along a spur between two streams. This takes you into the beautiful Golden Valley, leading you gently upwards to the long ridge of the Port Way and onto the end of a tarmac road on the west of Betchcott Hill. Follow the ridge southeast and enjoy the fantastic views over





the Shrewsbury plain and the Darnford Valley from where you have climbed up. About a mile along the ridge, the local landowner, clearly being a fan of water, has tried to recreate Lake Titicaca by damming the path with manure meaning you need to walk to the left of this to avoid drowning in the mire before the gate ahead! After another mile and a half or so, you reach the road coming up from Wolstaston at Robin Hood's Butts which you probably drove on towards Bridges. The 'Butts' are a couple of neolithic round barrows or tumuli which Robin Hood is said to have used for target practice. Hmmm!! Turn right and walk along the road for about 200 yards until a large triangular car park where you leave the road along the well gravelled path to the left.



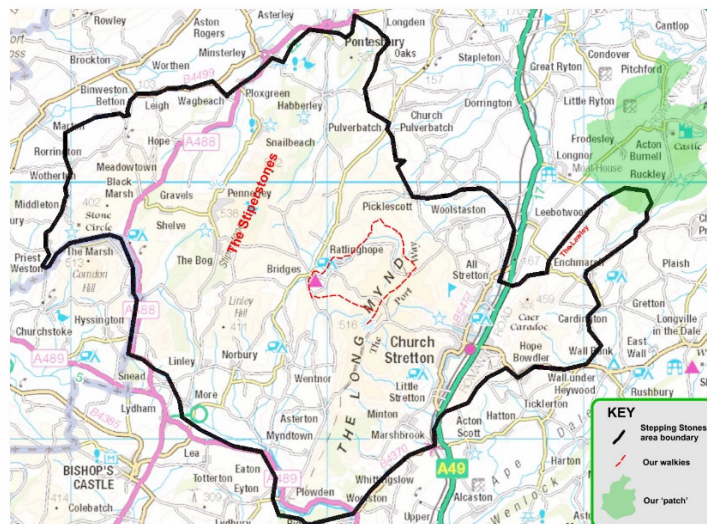
View down the Golden Valley and Darnford Valley from the Port Way

You are now on the return journey and on the ridge of the fabulous Long Mynd. The uber-clear path now takes you all the way to the summit of the Mynd at Pole Bank about a mile and a half away. Long Mynd ponies are a feature of this section with these Welsh Mountain ponies providing a wonderful spectacle for families and walkers alike. They are not wild however, but owned by 'Commoners' who have rights to graze these along with sheep on the hill. There is agreement for owners to graze a total of only 20 ponies plus their foals on the whole of the Mynd but numbers today are upwards of 110 and while their benefits include maintaining the ecological balance of the area, such numbers can also cause problems. One of the reasons for their overpopulation is that they are simply not worth a great deal and the effort in 'harvesting' them for sale as dogmeat at around £20 per animal, is prohibitive and as such they have been allowed to breed beyond their agreed limit. Contributing factors include a lack of experienced people to round them up, the bureaucracy of DEFRA for not allowing animals to be moved and the numbers of stallions allowed to grow which further increases the herd.

Should you wish, you can cut a corner leaving out Pole Bank by taking a shortcut where you cross the road at the 'Shooting Box' car park. Go west down the road for a few yards and then take the good path to the left. If you do keep on to the summit, then fantastic views across the whole of Wales await. On a good day you can see the Black Mountains to the south and the more pointed peaks of the Brecon Beacons to their right which overlook the Bristol Channel; Cadair Idris on the west coast of Wales to the west just past Corndon Hill, and the Berwyns and the Clwydian Hills to the north overlooking Liverpool Bay. You also get a good look across the farmland between the Mynd and the Stiperstones which is the site of an interesting wildlife project entitled the "Stepping Stones".

While the Long Mynd is rightfully famous for its well maintained wildlife and special ecology with a fantastic variety of plants, insects, birds and animals, as is the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve some 4 miles as the crow flies to the west, the farmland in between is less so. Mixed farming and modern methods have discouraged much of the wildlife in the area and as such, its biodiversity is much reduced. In fact, farming has effectively cut off the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd from each other biologically. The National Trust therefore, along with other

partners including local wildlife organisations and local farmers and volunteers, have created the 'Stepping Stones' Project. This venture, with a projected span of 50 years, covers about 200km<sup>2</sup> around the Mynd and the Stiperstones which also reaches our own Lodge Hill and The Lawley in our area. Corridors and small islands (the "stepping stones") which are managed with wildlife in mind allow species to move more easily between the two upland areas. Managing roadside verges, planting of trees, recreation of wetlands, re-wilding and meadow creation are all ways in which this is happening and it is having a remarkable effect. Lapwings and Curlews which were badly decreased are now recovering and indicative of the successes of this are the recent sightings of Polecats near All Stretton and the extremely rare and elusive Pine Marten in the south of the Stepping Stones area. Farmers are getting in on the act as grants are available, necessary to replace



those lost after Brexit, which encourage a more wildlife friendly approach. Stitt Farm, just over the other side of Ratlinghope Hill which you followed as you ambled up the Darnford Valley, has converted 30ha of land to species rich hay meadow which also allows the farmer to harvest and sell high quality hay. Severn Trent are paying for wetlands to be re-introduced in other areas and the list goes on. Certainly, the Long Mynd is brilliant for observing wildlife but it is probably the Red Kites, Merlin, Peregrine Falcons and Kestrels along with Skylarks and other smaller birds too many to mention here, that you will notice as you amble along.



The turn from Pole Bank (from the left) off the main track and down to Bridges (ahead and right)

From the summit, retrace your steps until you reach a fence on your left which turns sharp left away from the main path. Follow the less distinctive path which runs alongside this and you eventually find yourself off the open part of the hill and along good tracks to Coates Farm. From here, the road winds down to a couple of pints of Rantipole at the pub. An excellent day out with a variety of terrain, wildlife, massive views and beer!. Whoohoo!

John Glover



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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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