



# Village Views

May 2023



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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The council met in mid-March. Papers and draft minutes are available at [www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk).

It was rather disappointing to note that there had been no response to the council's suggestion in the last Village Views and on Facebook of funding an annual community event, possibly along the lines of the Jubilee Picnic, and rotating around the four villages which comprise the combined parishes; Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley and Ruckley & Langley. Clearly without community support it will not be possible to pursue this proposal.

A site meeting covering all four villages had been held with the local Traffic Engineer. A number of traffic calming measures had been discussed. Following the advice received, it was agreed to apply for a statutory 30mph speed limit for Frodesley village and roads approaching the Frodesley crossroads and for improved signing at the crossroads. Additionally, 30mph painted roadway roundels have been requested for the other villages. These will be applied at each 30mph sign and repeater. Village gateways were also discussed as it would seem that there is space to install these on the nearside of the approaches to each village. These would be funded by the council and it was agreed to prepare proposals and costings for discussion.

An initial quotation for replacement of the Frodesley bus shelter was received. Comparative quotes will be obtained.

Following requests from residents, it was agreed to arrange a short instruction session covering use of the defibrillator units and basic CPR, repeating the session held when the units were first installed. This will be at Pitchford Village Hall, date to be advised.

The Annual Parish (Community) Meeting was set for Wednesday 3rd May at Pitchford Village Hall, starting at 7:00pm. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

## WELCOME

Here at Village Views we are delighted to bring you the May edition, packed with details of summer events and useful information. In this edition, you'll find lots of suggestions for things to do, including local events taking place over the Coronation weekend.

If you have a yen to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), we are also always happy to receive contributions on items of local interest, so if you have a particular interest in local history, wildlife, sport or a hobby which you'd like to share with others, please drop Chris a line at [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com). If you'd rather not write an article yourself, but have a great idea you'd like to see in print, get in touch and we'll see what we can do. Advertisers are very welcome to contact Rachel and Lois at [villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com](mailto:villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com).

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

## ACTON BURNELL FETE AND THE BURNELL BASH – Saturday 10th June 2023

### VILLAGE FETE

This year we are bringing back the annual Acton Burnell Fete. This will commence at 2.30pm and will be held on the grounds by the Church by kind permission of Concord College. The Principal has also very kindly agreed to let us use his garden where we will serve teas and ice creams.

There will be a bar and this will be run by the fantastic team of Brian and Sarah.

Hopefully we will have lots of stalls and sideshows and we are looking for volunteers to come up with ideas and offers of help to assist with arrangements and on the day. If you would like to get involved with village activities, please contact Jill Faulkner on [jillfaulkner@btconnect.com](mailto:jillfaulkner@btconnect.com).

### BURNELL BASH

This is a social event to follow the fete and again we will hold it up by the Church (if wet, we may even have to go into the Church!)

This starts at approximately 6.30pm, admission by ticket, and here will be a bar and food - this usually takes the format of hot pork rolls (sausages for the children) and salads. Music on CD or live if we can find any volunteers.

If you would like to get involved or help in any way, then please contact Jill. It's hard work, but also fun and you get to meet everyone in the village!

## GET SNAPPING!



Don't forget to submit your entry to the Pitchford Village Hall Photography Challenge. Open to everyone, no matter their age or experience. You don't even need a camera – smartphone snaps also very welcome!

You need to take your photo within 5 miles of Pitchford Village Hall, and it should celebrate our local surroundings, so there are plenty of great subjects to choose from. More details can be found on the [Pitchford Village Hall Facebook Page](#), and entries should be sent to [pvhphotochallenge@outlook.com](mailto:pvhphotochallenge@outlook.com).

The closing date for this round is 21st May, so you still have a few weeks left to enter the first round.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAY CHANGES TO BIN COLLECTION DAYS

Don't get caught out! There will be no green waste and recycling collection on Friday 12th May – this will now be on Saturday 13th May. The domestic rubbish collection scheduled for Friday 2nd June will now be on Saturday 3rd June. Please make sure your bins and other containers are out and ready for collection by 7am.



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

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

## CHURCH PREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL DINNER DANCE 2023

Church Preen Primary School is a thriving rural village school, situated in the picturesque Apedale on Wenlock Edge. The school provides an outstanding level of education (Ofsted rated) to pupils from Much Wenlock to Pitchford. The school encourages pupils to make the most of the glorious surrounding countryside and engage with the rural community, appealing to families locally and further afield.

The school has recently refurbished its forest school area and raised beds where the pupils learn to grow vegetables. This year, the Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) is focussing on raising money to rebuild the children's outdoor play area, which is in need of an overhaul. The estimated cost for the new equipment and installation is around £14,000. We are organising several events throughout the year to help raise the funds but our main event will be our charity dinner dance and promise auction on 1st July 2023 at the beautiful Morrells Wood Farm in Leighton.

It is set to be a great night with a glass of Prosecco on arrival, followed by a three-course meal, promise auction, live band, and DJ all for the fantastic price of £55 per ticket or £385 for a table of 8. Anyone wishing to book tickets or ask for more information can send an email to [ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com). Please do come along and support us, it promises to be a brilliant night of food, drink and entertainment.

If you cannot attend but would still like to support us then auction lots for the night will be gratefully received. The auction will be online so you can still be involved even if you are not at the dance. Another option is the potential for your business to sponsor a table or advertise in the auction lot programme. If you would like to get in touch regarding the auction or advertising, then please send an email to [preendinnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:preendinnerdance@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to a great night and hope to see you there!

Church Preen School PTA presents:

### Preen Promise & Prosecco Dinner Dance

**Saturday 1st July 2023**  
Morrells Wood Farm, Leighton  
7:00pm - midnight

Dress to party  
£55 per ticket (or £385 for a table of 8)  
Contact: [ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com)  
Charity number: 10938256



Helping wildlife for 30 years!

## CUAN WILDLIFE RESCUE OPEN DAY & DOG SHOW

23RD OF JULY 2023  
10AM-5PM



COME AND SUPPORT ONE OF THE UK'S BUSIEST  
WILDLIFE HOSPITALS!

Retail & food stalls • games • bouncy castle • dog show



**ENERGY**  
£5 under 10's  
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01952 728070  
Info: [fundraisingcwr@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingcwr@gmail.com)  
The signals, Much Wenlock, Shropshire TF13 6DD  
Charity number: 1096812

## PARISH SWIMMING CLUB AT CONCORD COLLEGE

Did you know that residents of Acton Burnell parish are welcome to use the Concord College swimming pool free of charge on some Thursdays during term time? The scheduled dates for May and June are on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May and 1st, 8th and 15th June, from 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Anyone wishing to use the pool must first enrol into Concord's Parish Swimming Club. To obtain an application form contact Julia Kerslake at [Julia.kerslake@concordcollege.org.uk](mailto:Julia.kerslake@concordcollege.org.uk).

Please note that all children under 12 years old must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Two trained lifeguards are provided by the College for these sessions, but participants use the pool at their own risk. Concord College accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury resulting from anyone's involvement in the swimming club. More information on accessing the Club and rules for participation can be found in the Village Directory, or obtained from Julia Kerslake.



## LOCAL EVENTS FOR THE CORONATION WEEKEND

**5th May:** A Coronation Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Get together to celebrate the coronation, with free cold buffet and a glass of prosecco, drinks on sale and a table top quiz. The Parish Council has provided some funding to support this event. Doors open at 7.30pm, and everyone welcome. This is also your chance to purchase your onion seedling for the annual onion competition! More information in Pitchford Village Hall News in this newsletter.

**7th May:** A 'street tea party' for residents of Acton Burnell will be held at Denver House from 2.30pm. Please come along with your own picnic and your own crockery/cutlery. An urn with tea and coffee making supplies will be provided but please bring a mug! There will be a prize for the best home-made crown, and there will also be a mini sports day for the young and not so young, starting at 2.45pm. If you would like to go along, please drop into the Acton Burnell Post Office and give your name to Rose before noon on Thursday 4th May.

**5th to 8th May:** Celebrate the Coronation by making your very own crown using materials found on your walk around Attingham Park. Pick up a crown base at reception and decorate it using feathers, leaves or anything else that takes your fancy. £1.50 per crown (usual admission prices also apply; free entry for National Trust members).

**7th May:** Fun Dog Show at Salop Leisure at Emstrey in aid of Grinshill Animal Rescue. Lots of classes to enter with your pooch, including Pawsome Puppy, Handsome Hound, Perfect Pedigree and Cutest Crossbreed. Cost per entry £2. Lots of stalls selling dog treats, toys and accessories, and an animal behaviourist on site to provide advice! Gates open at 11am.

**7th and 8th May:** The Shrewsbury Regatta takes to the River Severn with races for eights, fours and pairs as well as quad, double and single sculling boats. Races take place between the English Bridge and the boathouses opposite the Quarry. Spectators can get a good view from both banks of the river free of charge. The first race begins at 9.30am and the last is scheduled for around 5.30pm.



# What's on



## 12th to 14th May

Ludlow Rugby Club hosts three days of fun and food at the Ludlow Spring Festival. Enjoy some of the best local produce while being entertained by live music. Tickets available from [www.ludlowspringfestival.co.uk](http://www.ludlowspringfestival.co.uk)

## 18th May

Music that celebrates the landscape of the Long Mynd will feature in a concert by Tiny Leaves, joined by musicians Faith Brackenbury, Andy Lowe and Stavros Kokkinos at The Chalet Pavilion at Carding Mill Valley. The concert begins at 7pm. Tickets (£15) available from [www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33844?catID=33237&branches.branchID=2588](http://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33844?catID=33237&branches.branchID=2588) or by calling **0344 249 1895**. Please note this performance is suitable for adults only.

## 27th May

Shropshire County Show at the West Mids Showground in Shrewsbury, brings together exhibitors and spectators from town and country. The cream of the county's livestock and displays of agricultural machinery and equipment will be on show, in addition to family entertainment in the main arena and a wide variety of refreshment options. Gates open at 9am until 6pm. Tickets available at [www.shropshirecountyshow.com](http://www.shropshirecountyshow.com).

## 9th June

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall rolls around again. Doors open at 7pm. All welcome – including kids, polite dogs and well-behaved adults! Share a pint and a natter with your neighbours and friends.

## 10th June

The Acton Burnell Fete and Burnell Bash returns. Both events will take place in the grounds by St Mary's Church. The Fete begins at 2.30pm and the Bash starts at 6.30. Admission by ticket (available from Rose at the Acton Burnell Post Office).

## 16th June

Robin Hood takes to the stage at Attingham Park with a fun-packed family friendly play. The show begins at 7pm and ends at 8.50pm. Bring a picnic to enjoy during the show, and don't forget a picnic blanket, camping chairs and something cosy to wear later in the evening. Tickets £17 for adults and £10 for children aged 2-17 years, available at [www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33751?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302](http://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33751?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302). Booking essential.

## 17th June to 2nd July

This year the Ludlow Fringe Festival will be welcoming a wealth of performers, including Dame Judi Dench, Jasper Carrott, musicians and theatre groups. Please go to [www.ludlowfringe.co.uk](http://www.ludlowfringe.co.uk) or more information on all events or to book your tickets. In addition there will be a Midsummer Ceilidh at Ludlow Castle, plus a carnival parade on the theme of 'Myths, Legends & Fairytales' on 17th June.

## 23rd June

Pitchford Village Hall quiz night for teams of up to 4. Entry fee of £5 per person. Check out Facebook for more details, or email Miriam on [miriamdavies@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamdavies@hotmail.com)

## 24th & 25th June

Shrewsbury Food Festival will be tickling everyone's tastebuds when over 200 food, drink and craft exhibitors get together in The Quarry Park. In addition, there will be an area of the park dedicated to kids' activities, a cookery school, and live music throughout the two days. To book your tickets, please go to [www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk)

## 1st July

Enjoy a late breakfast or an early lunch at Pitchford Village Hall. Breakfast butties on sale from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Tasty sausages, bacon and egg cooked to perfection by the Village Hall volunteers! Come along for a treat and a chance to chat with your friends and neighbours. There will also be a Village Hall walkabout, taking in the lovely scenery and countryside around Pitchford, and helping you build up an appetite for your bacon butty or sausage sarnie – if you want to take part, make sure you get to the Village Hall by 9.30am, and wear your walking boots!

## 1st July

Fund-raising Preen Promise and Prosecco Dinner Dance takes place at Morrells Wood Farm to raise funds for an overhaul of the outdoor play area at Church Preen School. Tickets £55 per person. Contact [ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:ticketsdinnerdance@gmail.com) to book.

## 14th July

Join your neighbours at Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm. A friendly welcome for all comers. Children and dogs very welcome. Bar open throughout the evening for beer, wine and soft drinks.

## 22nd & 23rd July

Shrewsbury Dragon Boat Festival returns to the River Severn at The Quarry Park, raising money for Severn Hospice. Races take place from 10am to 3pm. Free entry for spectators.

## 23rd July

Cuan Wildlife Rescue is holding an open day at their centre at The Signals, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock TF13 6DD. This is a great chance to find out more about the work of this valuable local charity, and to help raise funds for their running costs. In addition to the chance to look around part of their animal hospital, there will be a dog show and stalls. Entry £5 (payable on the day); under 10s are free.

## 29th July to 12th August

The Church Stretton Arts Festival will usher in two weeks of music, art and drama. Performances of classical and popular music, drama, poetry and lectures, will run alongside a two week exhibition of local art, crafts and photography. If you feel inspired, you can take part in craft workshops or pop along to a free concert or organ recitals, all taking place in different venues in and around Church Stretton. For more information, go to [www.strettonfestival.org.uk](http://www.strettonfestival.org.uk).

## 18th August

An outdoor production of Alice in Wonderland will delight and amaze at Attingham Park. Gates open 6pm for a picnic tea, and the show begins at 7pm. Tickets £17 for adults and £10 for children aged 2 to 17 years, available at [www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33753?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302](http://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/event-tickets/33753?catID=33170&branches.branchID=2302) or call **03442 491895**. Booking essential. Bring along a picnic blanket or camping chairs, and something warm to wear as the sun goes down.

## 25th to 28th August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival is back at the West Mids Showground. Music from around the world, dance and family friendly activities spread over three days. Performers will include Billy Bragg, Maddy Prior & Forgotten Lands, and the prizewinning Oysterband. Go to [www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk) for more information and to order tickets.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 3rd May at Pitchford Village Hall at 7pm. The meeting is open to everyone who lives in the villages of Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, and Ruckly & Langley, and offers local residents the chance to hear an update on the work of the Parish Council, and to ask any questions about matters affecting the local community. It will be followed by the regular Parish Council meeting.

# THE FOX INN AT RYTON

An update from Dan Morris – Shropshire Councillor for the ward of Burnell

Hello, this time I'd like to talk about the 'Friends of the Fox' (The Fox Inn at Ryton) and how the community there is coming together to try and restart the pub by buying it!

Everyone I'm sure is aware that pubs have had a hard time in the past few years, in particular of late with Covid and massively rising energy costs. Sadly last year The Fox succumbed and closed its doors. The Fox at Ryton, along with many other pubs in the county, has been the focal point of its community for decades, even centuries! I remember drinking there from my late teenage years, along with many other local rural pubs. So to see it closed was a big loss for the both community of Ryton and the wider Shropshire Community who appreciate a drink and good locally sourced food.

The village of Ryton, and the wider community, has swung into action - working with the co-operation of the current owners, and the helpful support of Condover Parish Council, the pub has been listed as a 'community asset' and a legal process has been triggered which means the group are the sole bidders for a six month period. The Friends of the Fox are a group headed by David Oliver, the former

Head Teacher of Church Stretton School and a strong steering group has been set up to support him.

After receiving advice/pointers from Shropshire Council and other agencies that facilitate grants, the Friends of the Fox are now actively applying for grants from various funders. They have also applied to become a 'Community Benefit Society.' Seventy-eight per cent of community pubs have been secured using a Community Benefit Society, as it is explicitly an organisation for the benefit of the community. Amongst the advantages of a Community Benefit Society are that it has a voluntary and open membership, democratic member control (one vote per member), it tends to secure a large number of people who have a financial interest in the success, and it has a statutory asset lock (ie assets must be retained and distributed for the benefit of the society). The group are very keen for this to be seen as an opportunity for the wider community to become involved in the initiative and for as many as possible to feel part of this project to reopen The Fox.

The friends of the Fox have throughout the process sought the advice of The Plunkett

Society, a charity which specialises in assisting rural communities wanting to run community owned businesses. At the time of writing the group have two confirmed fundraising events in April with more fun events to follow from May such as a car treasure hunt and a Young Farmers event. A bank account has been set up, and in April the valuation process will be taking place. A share offering is proposed which would be available to any adult to purchase for £250 per share. It is hoped that shares would be bought by a broad breadth of residents, not just in Ryton but also in the many surrounding villages.

For more details of how to get involved or to support the fundraising events they can be contacted through 'The Friends of The Fox' Facebook page or via email on [rytonvillagecommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:rytonvillagecommunitygroup@gmail.com). Alternatively please feel to contact me and I will pass your details or comments on.

Thank you for reading this column! If there are any matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email [dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk), by mobile on 07902 408400, on facebook [dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell) or Twitter [@dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell).

## LOCAL GARDENS OPENING THEIR GATES TO VISITORS

What could be nicer on a warm spring, summer or autumn day than a stroll through a beautiful garden, perhaps with the chance of tea, coffee and a slice of home-made cake on offer?

In 2022, despite a prolonged drought which led to many gardens closing, the National Garden Scheme raised £3.11 million for its designated charities. The lion's share (£2.45 million in 2022) goes to nursing and health charities, including Marie Curie, Macmillan and Hospice UK. Smaller donations are made to a number of charities which provide access to gardens and gardening for people suffering health and disability challenges, and to organisations which help support gardens and gardeners in the UK.

Listed below are a number of local gardens which will be opening this year. All the gardens shown offer free entry to children. Tickets can be bought at the gates on the day (but please be aware that many gardens can only accept cash) or booked in advance through the National Garden Scheme website ([www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)), where you will also find details of open gardens throughout the country.

### **Longner Hall, Atcham, SY4 4TG**

(Sunday 7th May). Enjoy walks lined with yew offering views over the Severn Valley. Rose and herbaceous borders and an ancient yew wood. Visitors are also invited to view the walled garden. Home-made teas in aid of St Eatas Church, Atcham. Open from 2pm to 5pm. Tickets £6.

### **Henley Hall, Henley, Ludlow, SY8 3HD**

(Sunday 7th May). A mixture of formal and informal gardens, including walks along the riverbank and woodland paths. Home-made teas served in the Orangery. Open from 10am to 5pm. Admission £6.

### **The Paddock, Annscroft, SY5 8AN**

(Saturday 13th May). A mini arboretum featuring acers and ginko bilobas, alongside a waterfall cascade. Open from 11am to 5pm, with home-made teas available. Tickets £6. Pay at the gate. Giant Jenga, skittles and croquet for the whole family to enjoy. Open from 10am to 4pm. Home-made teas on sale.

### **The Leasowes, Cound, SY5 6AF**

(Sunday 14th May). Ten acres of trees, shrubs and ponds, featuring rhododendrons, azaleas and a large collection of roses. Light refreshments available throughout the day. Admission £6. Gates open 10.30am to 5pm.

### **Longden Manor, Plealey, SY5 0XL**

(Sunday 14th May). Extensive estate garden featuring woodlands walks, humorous topiary, specimen trees, wildflowers, a restored water garden and panoramic vistas of the surrounding countryside. Giant Jenga, skittles and croquet to keep the family entertained. Home-made teas available. Entry between 10am and 4pm. Tickets £5.

### **1 Grange Court, Condover, SY5 7BU**

(Sunday 25th June). A small garden which packs a lot in! Roses, herbaceous borders, tiny meadows and hedgerows and a wildlife pond. A productive potager features at the front of the property, and the garden

showcases sustainable horticulture with no-dig beds, water conservation and composting. Open from 11am to 5pm. Admission £6, which also gives you entry to The Bramleys at Condover.

### **The Bramleys, Condover, SY5 7BH**

(Sunday 25th June). A two acre garden with a variety of trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders and woodland, with the Cound Brook winding its way through. Gates open from 11am to 5pm, with home-made teas available throughout the day. Tickets are £6, which also includes entrance to 1 Grange Court on the same day.

### **Edge Villa, Edge, nr Yockleton, SY5 9PY**

(Sunday 20th August). A two acre plot in the South Shropshire Hills, showcasing a self-sufficient vegetable plot, and an orchard with resident chickens. Also features a large selection of fragrant roses and a traditional dewpond. Children are welcome to play in the Wendy House, and there will be a sale of plants and books in aid of NGS charities. Open from 2pm to 5pm, refreshments served throughout the afternoon. Admission £5.

### **Millichope Park, Munslow, SY7 9HA**

(Sunday 15th October). Fourteen acres to explore, with lakes, cascades, woodland and wildflowers. Refreshments will be sold in aid of Severn Hospice, Lingen Davies and the Midlands Air Ambulance. Admission £6. Gates open from 2pm to 5pm.



# NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

**CORONATION PUB NIGHT:** This year's three pub nights to date have all been pleasant affairs and well supported. We had hot dogs available in February and a very successful table-top quiz in March alongside the usual drinks and bon ambience! Our May pub night has been brought forward to Friday 5th May to coincide with the Coronation Weekend. In addition to the usual drinks fayre, there will be free food in the form of a cold buffet and a glass of Prosecco. There will be a loosely 'royal' themed table-top quiz and you will be able to buy and collect your onion for the competition (see below). We look forward to seeing a goodly number of you to kick start the weekend celebrations and enjoy a pleasant evening. As usual, all are welcome at our family friendly events! More details will be available on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

**GRAND ONION COMPETITION:** This year's Grand Onion competition kicks off at the May pub night where, for the princely sum of £2, you can collect your entry, take it home and try and persuade it to grow by an enormous amount in time for the Grand Onion Judging event in September – always a popular and competitive event! Our co-sponsor – Alan Hotchkiss – provides the onion-lings for us every year, but never enters the competition himself as he is, on past experience, the 'uber grand-master' of onion growing in the area and whose bulbs far outweigh the rest of the field put together (ok, slight exaggeration, but you get the drift!). But this year, our other co-sponsor – John Whittle of Pitchford – has agreed to provide a £40 cash prize to the onion which beats Alan's by the greatest margin. Should no-one achieve that feat, the amount will roll over to next year until someone eventually does! This is extra to the overall winner of the PVH competition, where a winner's trophy and a drink will be the prize. We are, as always, extremely grateful to both Alan and John for their support of this fund-raising event for our Hall which is really appreciated!!

**PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION:** Miriam Davies, our latest recruit to the Management Committee and who you will all know through her Facebook and Instagram messages about the Hall, is organising a photo competition. This will be open to individual amateur photographers and you can use your digital cameras or phones to snap a scene within 5 miles of the Hall, which shows the 'essence of spring'. The closing date is the 21st May and you can email entries

to [pvhphotochallenge@outlook.com](mailto:pvhphotochallenge@outlook.com) and winners will have their photographs published in this newsletter. There will be four competitions each based on the four seasons and summer's round will be launched on the 21st June. We have a judging panel of four including local professional photographer Philip Dunn. The overall winner from the four rounds will have their photo professionally printed and framed and mounted in the Hall for posterity, but it will also adorn the cover of next year's Village Views Directory! Only one entry per person per seasonal cycle though!!

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Another date for your diaries is Friday June 23rd. We are holding a quiz event for teams of up to four. The entry fee will be £5 per person to include light refreshments. We are looking at a general knowledge quiz with rounds having different formats, a cash bar, nibbles and hopefully some giggles and of course, prizes for the winners! We are in the process of putting the finer details together and will reveal all on our social media pages soon. If you would like to reserve a spot for your team in advance, please message us on our Facebook or Instagram pages, or you can email Miriam directly at [miriamdavies@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamdavies@hotmail.com).

**AGM:** This was held in March. While much of the business was 'routine', of special note was the announcement that two of our committee members, Niki Williams and the Rev. Geoff Garrett, would be retiring and we thank them for their invaluable contributions over many years. Niki will be helping out with events on an ad-hoc basis for which we are very grateful, but Geoff will be leaving permanently as he retires from his service as our local Rector and I'm sure he will be missed not only by us, but also by the wider community!

**HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE HALL:** In the last edition, we mentioned that we are looking to put together a history of the Hall and we would still love to hear from anyone who has any memories or photographs about the Hall and any event which it has hosted over the almost century it has been on its current site! We know it was put up in its present location in 1926, but the building was much older and was taken down from another location and repositioned in Pitchford. We are therefore asking if anyone in the local area or further afield has any photos of events held in the hall, stories connected with it, anecdotes or indeed anything about the people who have run the facility over the last 95 years

or so. Should we receive anything from the community, we plan to have a 'get together' for anyone with such information or documents and further details will be provided when we know more, both in this newsletter and on the various Facebook and Instagram pages. If you want any more information or want to email anything you have prior to that event, then please contact Mike Price whose details are at the end of this article.

**BREAKFAST BUTTY EVENT:** We held a very successful 'Breakfast Butty' event in March where we had large numbers of appetites to satisfy with our various breakfast options. The event not only attracted many local folk, but also passing cyclists, and we also had the first of our local walks led by Miriam coinciding with this. As a result, we are hosting a second Breakfast Butty event on Saturday July 1st where we will also be organising another local walk to finish at the Hall for a 'fill-up' of your favourite breakfast fillings and a brew! As with other events, full details will appear nearer the time on the various Facebook sites we use!

**THE PVH MANAGEMENT TEAM:** As you will have read on the AGM section, we have lost two of our members with the result that we are now a team of eight. As such, we really would like to enrol a couple more local folk to help us look after our Hall and put on events for the benefit of the community. If you want to find out more, please contact Mike Price (details below). Spreading the load makes us more viable and new ideas will be massively welcome, so please do consider for a moment if you can help us and the rest of our community – it's not too onerous, honest!

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

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

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

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

# ACTON BURNELL CONSERVATION AREA

While all the villages which make up the Burnell ward have their own charm and wealth of beautiful buildings, you may not be aware that one of them, Acton Burnell, is also a conservation area.

Conservation areas are designated by the local council due to their special architectural or historic interest, and serve to help preserve and protect the character and appearance of a village or neighbourhood. Acton Burnell is one of 127 conservation areas in Shropshire, along with near neighbours Cardington and Conover.

In Acton Burnell, the conservation area extends from Denver House in the west to parts of Concord College grounds in the east, and from the haulage yard and sewage works in the north (including Stoneleigh Close) to Castle Barns and Home Farm in the south.

Living in a conservation area obviously brings with it the pleasure and privilege of living in an attractive setting, but also carries a number of restrictions, designed to make sure that the local character is maintained. These aren't as strict as for Listed Buildings, but there are a few things you may need to watch out for.

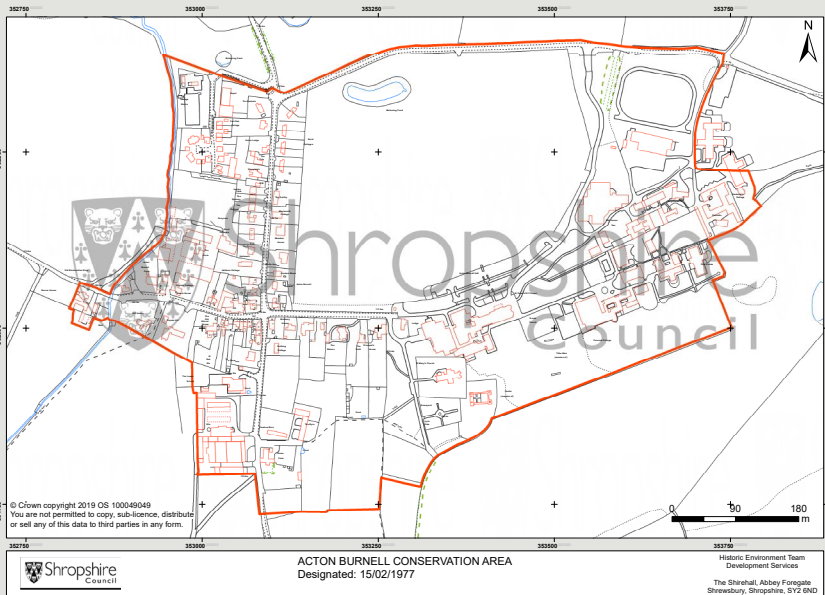
Shropshire Council has extra controls over conservation areas when it comes to planning permission, and it is an offence to demolish or alter a building or structure in a conservation

area without the Council's consent. You may not be aware, but this can apply even to the removal of a wall or fence! In general, the strictest rules apply to what can be seen from the street, and things are a little more relaxed when it comes to the back of the house.

Shropshire Council is particularly concerned to protect trees in conservation areas – and we do have some lovely old trees in Acton Burnell! Permission should be sought before cutting down, uprooting, topping or lopping a tree, and this applies to all trees over a certain size, not just those that are subject to a Preservation Order. If your tree has a trunk which is over 75mm diameter at a point 1.5m above the ground, then you need to apply to the Council at least six weeks before any work is due to take place.

You can find the necessary form to do this at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/20291/application-for-trees-to-be-pruned-or-felled-2021.pdf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/20291/application-for-trees-to-be-pruned-or-felled-2021.pdf). You need to be very specific about what you plan to do, so a photo or two of the tree in question, and a plan of the site may be helpful.

If you are planning building or tree work in Acton Burnell, you can contact the Historic Environment Team at [historic.environment@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:historic.environment@shropshire.gov.uk) or call 0345 678 9000 for more information.



## FIX MY STREET

Spotted something in the neighbourhood that's broken or damaged? Want to make sure it gets sorted? You can report pot holes, blocked road drains, fly tipping, graffiti or broken paving slabs to the local council quickly and easily by going online at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

Simply enter the postcode or street name and town or village where the problem is located, and the website shows you a map of the area (you can

zoom in and out on the map, or move the area shown if you aren't able to pinpoint the spot straight away). A click identifies the place where the problem is and you can then choose from a list of possible problems.

You can add more detail and a brief description if necessary, and the report is then sent to the appropriate council on your behalf.

## COMING SOON AT PITCHFORD HALL

The focus for this year at Pitchford Hall is the Marches of Time History Weekend, which will also be running at Stokesay Court on 16th and 17th September. Talks, demonstrations and re-enactments will be on offer on both days. James Nason of Pitchford Hall said, "We're very keen for the weekend to be well supported by Shropshire and the local community. If there's interest in the weekend we'll seek to run it each year and build on it. We have such incredible history in the Parish in terms of Roman, Medieval, Tudor, Civil War, etc and we're keen to celebrate it."

Tickets for the Marches of Time will be available shortly – for more information please go to [www.marchesovertime.com](http://www.marchesovertime.com). James also commented, "I would be very grateful if you would thank all our wonderful volunteers. We simply would not be able to provide the current level of public access to the Hall without them. We are extremely fortunate to have such brilliant volunteers within our local community."

Visitors to the Hall will have noticed some recent additions to the formal rooms, including a beautiful and striking blue Millichope table and chairs made from Noble Fir, created from a tree which was damaged in a storm, and which now graces the library. The library itself has been filled by donations of books to replace those which were lost in the 1990s.

In the grounds of the Hall the orchard by the Orangery is home to a number of apple trees. Pitchford Hall is a member of the Marcher Apple Network, which aims to revive and preserve traditional apple varieties.

And to add a touch of glamour to the grounds, peacocks have recently been successfully re-introduced. There were peacocks in residence since the early 20th century, but these sadly died out after the Colthurst family sold Pitchford Hall in 1992. You can follow events and developments at Pitchford Hall on their Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok pages. Search for [@pitchfordestate](https://www.instagram.com/pitchfordestate).

## PAINTING A MASTERPIECE

The Royal Oak in Cardington will be holding their monthly 'Paint and Sip' evenings on 10th May and 14th June, from 7pm to 9.30pm. Tickets are £30 per person, which includes all materials, from canvas to brushes and paints, and the class will be led by artist Clae Eastgate, who will guide everyone through the steps necessary to produce a personal masterpiece. Food and drink will be available to purchase throughout the evening. To book a place, please go to [www.thepaintclub.co.uk/book](http://www.thepaintclub.co.uk/book)

## CONCORD STUDENTS' EXPEDITION TO SUPPORT STREET CHILDREN IN RURAL KENYA

This summer, 24 students from Concord College are travelling to Kenya for an expedition combining volunteering, medical work experience and trekking. The group will work closely with the Moving Mountains Trust charity which supports schools, rural communities and street children in the town of Embu, north of Nairobi. The college Medical Society previously went out to Kenya in 2019 and are looking forward to working with the charity again after the pandemic.

The team is aiming to raise £10,000 to fund projects to support the Embu Rescue Centre where around 120 street children from the most difficult backgrounds can get a daily lunch and breakfast and receive help from caring adult staff and volunteers.

You can find more information at Embu Rescue Centre | Moving Mountains Trust. Many of these families struggle to provide meals for their children so the rescue centre plays a vital role. Many live in nearby slums with no running water or sanitation. The children face many issues including poverty, pressure to engage in gang membership and substance abuse. The centre opens every day and also provides showers and toilets and space to relax.

The team are aiming to raise £10,000 to support the work of the Moving Mountains Trust and would welcome any donations which can be made via JustGiving: Concord College Outreach is fundraising for Moving Mountains ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com))

After their volunteering work the team hope to climb Mount Kenya, the 2nd highest mountain in Africa. At just under 5000m the challenging trek takes 5 days.

To get fit they will each try to climb 5000m in the gym on steppers or in the local hills.



 **MOVING MOUNTAINS**  
CHANGING LIVES

## MUCH WENLOCK & CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

### BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The medical practice will close from 6pm on Friday 6th May and re-open on Tuesday 9th May at 8.30am. The E-Consult service will close from 12 noon on Friday 6th May and re-open at 8am on Tuesday 9th May. The practice will also be closed from 6pm on Friday 26th May until 8.30am on Tuesday 30th May, and E-Consult will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 26th May until 8am on Tuesday 30th May.

If you need medical help or advice during the Bank Holiday closures, please contact **111** by going to [111.nhs.uk](https://www.111.nhs.uk) or calling **111** by phone.

### CARER CONNECT GROUP

Carer Connect was launched in April, and meets from 2pm to 4pm on the first Tuesday of each month at Priory Hall in Much Wenlock.

A variety of service providers are on hand each month to chat over tea, coffee and refreshments. The group aims to bring together the various people and support services that can support carers and those they care for.

Activities and guests will vary through the year, and we are hoping the number of carers supported through this initiative will grow.

For more information, please contact the surgery on **01952 726011** and speak to Jo Weaver-Jackson as booking for these meetings is essential.

### ZERO TOLERANCE

NHS staff at GP surgeries across the UK are facing unprecedented abuse and aggression from patients. Perhaps most distressing of all is a real surge in the number of patients who feel it is appropriate to shout at, swear at and insult our Practice Team members. We strongly support the NHS Policy on zero tolerance. Anyone attending the surgery or calls who is abusive to any member of staff or other patients, be it verbally physically or in any threatening manner whatsoever, will risk removal from the practice list.

## CHURCH NEWS

The main news from the churches in Acton Burnell, Conover, Frodesley and Pitchford is that Rev Geoff Garrett is retiring on 31st July. His last service is on 23rd July 10am at Conover Church. Following his retirement the ongoing church services and activities will continue with the help of the current Lay Readers Jeremy Lowe and Ray Evanson, ably assisted by experienced retired clergy from around the Conover Deanery as well as the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils of the Benefice. After July the recruitment process will begin for the next Rector of the Benefice.

## THE GODOLPHIN EDWARDS CHARITY

Over the last few months the charity trustees have been reviewing the range of the trust and the grants it is giving and how we might widen the objects of the trust so that we can benefit a wider group of people. After consulting with the Hereford Diocese legal department we were put in touch with the Staffordshire Community Foundation (a group which, despite its name, includes Shropshire charities) who manage a large number of charities in order to take the pressure and ultimate trustee responsibility and legal obligations from them and take it on themselves. The agreement still allows for local involvement as consulting trustees and some of the current trustees will continue as such. This means that when an application for help from the trust is received, the Foundation will consult with the local trustees who have the necessary local knowledge. This has also come about because two of the trustees are standing down and joining the Community Foundation secures the long term management of the Trust in the future.

Once the transfer is finally complete in the near future, applications will have to be made through the foundation and when that time comes full details of how to apply will be made clear. In the meantime applications can still be made by letter detailing the need to Rev Geoff Garrett, The Rectory, Conover, Shrewsbury SY5 7AA.

*Rev. Geoff Garrett*

## DID YOU KNOW.....

You can help raise funds for Pitchford Village Hall every time you shop online by signing up to 'easyfundraising'? Register on line, and over 7,000 brands, from Amazon and Ebay to Argos and John Lewis, will make a contribution to your charity or good cause of choice every time you shop with them. There is no cost to you –

the company you are shopping with simply donate a little of the money you pay them to your nominated charity. You can even track how much your shopping has raised for your charity.

To take part, and to help pay for the continued upkeep of the Village Hall, please go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

## 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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