

Village Views

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the summer edition of Village Views. Hopefully, by the time you read this the wet, windy and generally miserable weather we have been having will have disappeared and been replaced with some sunshine! This edition includes suggestions for local gardens to visit and outdoor events to enjoy, including the annual Acton Burnell Fete and Bash. If you fancy wandering further afield, take a look at the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website (www.shropshiregreatoutdoors.co.uk) which includes lots of suggestions for places to go and things to do in our beautiful county.

Looking ahead, we plan to produce an updated Village Directory during the summer months. If you have any suggestions for information that we might include, please contact villageviews@hotmail.com. You can find last year's edition on the Parish Council website at www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk. If you would like to advertise in either Village Views or the Village Directory, please contact villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to discuss options.

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

LIGHTSOURCE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

Every year the Parish Council receives a payment from Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd. as part of the agreement set up when two solar farms were established in the community. The payment is set aside in a separate account to provide funding for community developments and for clubs, groups and organisations based in the Parish.

The Lightsource Fund is administered by the Parish Council. Applications for grants are reviewed and decided at the regular Parish Council meetings.

Local clubs and organisations are welcome to apply for funding to develop and achieve their aims and objectives, which must be of direct benefit to the community represented by the Parish Council. All organisations and clubs must be able to demonstrate that they comply with all prevailing legislation. Grants aren't available to individuals or to national charities, and will not generally be available where funding is already being received from another funding body.

More information and application forms are available on the Parish Council website (www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/grants-parish-groups), or you can contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk or call **07842 324809**.

ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BASH

This much anticipated event will be taking place on Saturday 15th June 2024 in the grounds by the Church. The Fete starts at 2.30pm. There will be the usual stalls and sideshows, teas, ice creams, cakes, skittles, coconut shy and a bar.

This will be followed by the Burnell Bash, to be held outside by the church if the weather is good, or if not, then in church as last year. This is a chance to unwind and relax after working at the fete and to meet up with friends and neighbours. There will be a bar, music and food. Admission by ticket only (available from Rose at the Post Office or from Jill Faulkner).

It's a big task to organise and run these events so if anyone can lend a helping hand it would be greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to run a stall/sideshow, or can help in any other way please contact Jill Faulkner on **01694 731363**, or by email at jillfaulkner@btconnect.com.



COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF LINGEN DAVIES

Elizabeth Wicks invites you to come along to Pitchford Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.30pm on 25th May to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and delicious cakes and savouries. There will also be a raffle and a gift stall, and Elizabeth will be updating everyone on Dennis's progress on his long distance walk from St Bees on the west coast to Robin Hood's Bay on the east coast.

All proceeds will be going to the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for all residents in the community

Come along to
Pitchford Village Hall
Thursday 16th May 7.30pm

Meet your local councillors and representatives of local organisations. A chance to voice your views and ask questions

Refreshments provided



The amazing night sky photographs used in this edition are taken by Hayden Yik Hei Chan who is taking his GCSE's at Concord College this June and has learnt many skills capturing images like this and building his own website (www.haydench.com) which is best viewed on a computer.

This images were taken from the back Concord College campus looking toward the hill, Hayden said "I accumulated 2 hours and 40 minutes of exposure time on Pinwheel galaxy, and stacked them all together, to obtain this final result."

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 22nd July 2024. Please contact villageviews@hotmail.com with any news or villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to place an advert.

PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



A January Sunrise **Jan Pusiak**

The final round of the seasonal PVH Photography Challenge did not disappoint! We received eight entries, each managing to capture our beautiful local surroundings and the essence of the wet winter season in a unique way. We saw entries from Cressage, Dorrington, Pitchford, Lower Longwood and Leebootwood, which is a lovely spread of villages within a 5 mile radius of the Hall. This winter was clearly a season of stunning sunrises and sunsets, which featured heavily in the subject matter.

In this round congratulations go to:

1st Place: 'A January Sunrise', taken by Jan Pusiak in Pitchford.

2nd Place: 'Morning Glory', taken by Lisa Wild in Dorrington

3rd Place: 'Lower Longwood' taken by Charlie Scott in Lower Longwood.

The 1st Place entry has been entered into the PVH Photo of the Year final round, alongside the winners from the previous seasonal rounds:

Spring: 'Mount Doom', taken by James Elgar.

Summer: 'My Back Garden', taken by John Glover.

Autumn: 'Gunpowder lit Woods' taken by Jeanette Reaney

The winner of the Photo of the Year will be showcased in a future edition of Village Views and will take pride of place in the Hall after being professionally printed and framed.

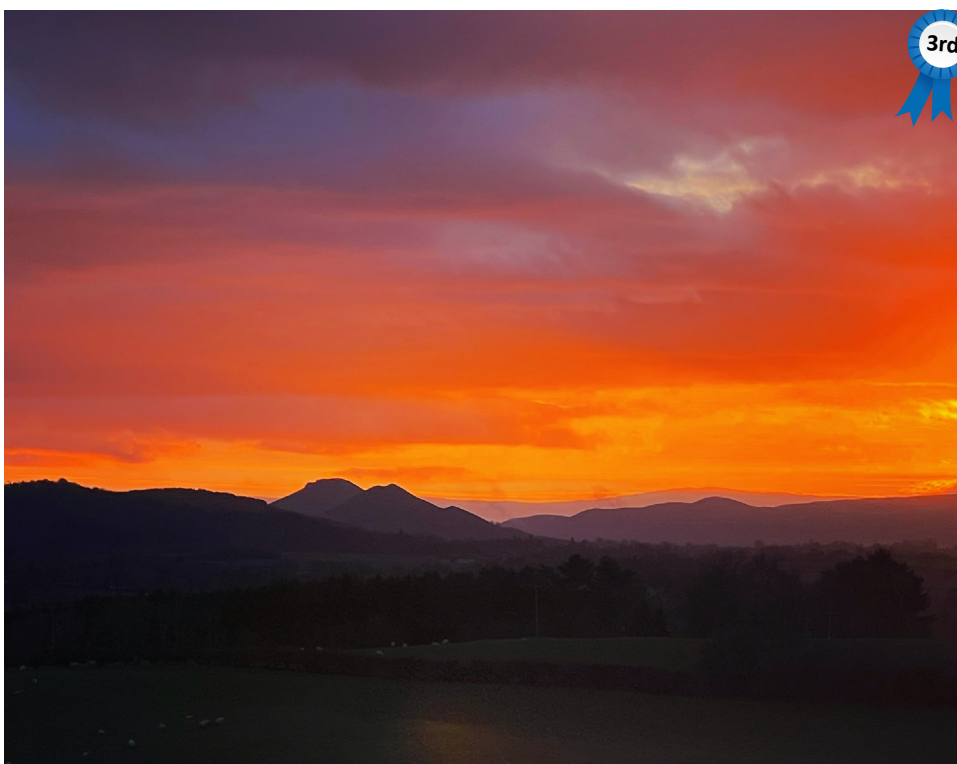
PVH would like to thank everyone that entered the competition, we have loved seeing such a brilliant range of fabulous photos and being reminded yet again just how lucky we are to live where we do. Thank you also to the panel of judges, Philip Dunn (professional photographer), Karen Fisher (graphic editor) and Andrew Roberts of the PVH Committee

Miriam Davies

ON WINTER ROUND



Morning Glory **Lisa Wild**



Lower Longwood **Charlie Scott**

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Congratulations!

SHREWSBURY COLOUR RUN FOR LINGEN DAVIES



Nicola Young is lacing up her trainers for a colourful cause! Join us in supporting her as she takes on an upcoming 5k Colour Run to raise money for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund. The Lingen Davies Cancer Fund exists to improve the situation for local cancer patients, like Nicola, and strive to make life just that bit easier for those going through cancer, and for their loved ones. The link to her fundraiser page can be found at: www.justgiving.com/page/nicola-young-1712386215726?utm_term=6dMrQxprY

COUND AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Cound and District Tennis Club is a friendly, thriving tennis club set in the beautiful countryside location of Cound. All the courts are floodlit and there is play all year around.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player we have sessions for every standard. There are opportunities to join our league teams, social groups, cardio tennis, adult coaching, rusty rackets and junior programs to name but a few. We hold 2 club sessions per week: Wednesdays 6.30-9.30pm, and Saturdays 2.00 – 4.00pm. We run adult coaching sessions, cardio tennis and junior coaching on Saturdays.

If you would like to 'have a go' either as a new tennis player or a 'rusty racket' we would love to hear from you. For membership enquiries please contact us at membership@cound.btinternet.com

Future Club Events

Adults 'Give Tennis a Try' course

Sunday 19th May: French Open Fun Grand Slam Social Event – 11.00am-3.00pm

Sunday 2nd June: Summer Family Fun Day – 11.00am-3.00pm

Sunday 30th June: Wimbledon Fun Grand Slam Social Event – 2.00pm-5.00pm

Junior Tennis Summer Camp Dates TBC

Please check out our website for lots more information and coaching contact details www.coundtennis.com.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS



This year marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings during World War II. Events have been planned across the UK to remember the day, which saw the largest air, sea and land operation in history, involving hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women.

Across the country, the date will be marked by lighting beacons in local communities at 9.15pm, creating a network of light throughout the UK. A beacon will be lit on Acton Burnell hill, courtesy of the Acton Burnell Estate, and everyone is welcome to attend.

The day has also been declared 'National Fish and Chip Day'. Fish and chips have long been seen as the British national dish, and during both World Wars the British Government safeguarded the supply of fish and potatoes to ensure that fish and chips remained available to the population. Fish and chips were among the few foods not to be subject to rationing during both world wars.

If you would like to know more about D-Day and the men and women, both in the services and civilians, who played a role in this momentous event, and how the UK is marking the day, go to www.d-day80beacons.co.uk.

What's on

4th May

Photography and mental wellbeing workshop at Attingham Park. A walk through the estate will help you to experience nature in a deeper and more creative way. Bring along a camera (this can be anything from a camera phone to a DSLR) and experiment with new approaches to light and composition. Workshop runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm and is £85 per person. To book a place email victoria.elsmore@icloud.com.

10th May

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall offers something new to tempt you! Come along and try some delicious crepes courtesy of Rachel and Steaky. There will be a choice of toppings from cheese, cheese and ham, Nutella and banana, and traditional sugar and lemon at £2.50 each (cash only, please). Usual beer, wine and soft drinks also on offer. Doors open at 7.30pm.

11th & 12th May

Pengwern Boat Club will be hosting the Shrewsbury Regatta, which was first held in 1871. Races will be taking place between English Bridge and the boathouse opposite the Quarry Park. Around 1500 competitors are expected from rowing clubs across the country, and races will be taking place from 9.00am until 4.00pm on both days. Spectators can watch the races and cheer on the crews from spots along the river free of charge.

16th May

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place at 7.30pm at Pitchford Village Hall. This meeting is open to all members of the public. There will be updates on the work of the Parish Council over the last year, in addition to short presentations from our County Councillor and the local police service. Local residents are welcome to ask questions.

18th May

Meadowfest offers a day of music and entertainment in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, Lingen Davies and Mind. Held at Leebotwood, headline acts include The Nuts, Custard & Gunpowder and the Shire-Ish Rovers. Local bands will also be taking part. Food and drink available throughout the day. Admission by ticket only (£25 for adults, £10 under 14s, under 3s free). To book call **07534 258510** or contact info@broadmeadow.org.uk.

25th May

Elizabeth Wicks is hosting a tea and coffee morning at Pitchford Village Hall in aid of the Lingen Davies charity. Cakes and savouries will be on sale, in addition to a raffle and a gift stall. Open from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

6th June

To mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, a beacon will be lit on Acton Burnell hill at 9.15pm, courtesy of the Acton Burnell Estate. Spectators welcome to come along to mark this important date. Please note that parking will be extremely limited, so please come on foot if at all possible.

14th June

Join the locals for a pint and a chinwag at Pitchford Village Hall Pub Night. Doors open at 7.30pm. Kids and well-behaved dogs very welcome.

15th June

The Acton Burnell Fete kicks off at 2.30pm outside the church. Come along for all the fun of a traditional fete – stalls, sideshows, teas, ice creams, skittles and a coconut shy. The fete will be followed by the Burnell Bash later the same evening, outside the church if fine, but moving inside if wet.

21st June

Enjoy an evening of music at Attingham Park, provided by a 30 piece orchestra, soloists, DJ and dancers, showcasing music from Fatboy Slim to the Chemical Brothers. Gates open at 6.00pm, the performance starts at 7.30pm and finishes at 10.30pm. Tickets are capped at 2000 people. First 500 hundred tickets will be on sale at £39.95, second release of 1000 tickets at £45, and final 500 tickets at £49.95. Children under 14 (accompanied by an adult) pay £16, and carers go free with a paying adult. Bring your own chair or blanket, and a picnic, but please note that no alcohol is allowed. Email info@ukacgroup.org to book.

22nd June

The UK Proms Orchestra perform under the stars at Attingham Park. The orchestra and soloists will take you on a journey through some of the most loved classical pieces from TV, film and theatre, before a finale featuring all the classics from the Last Night of the Proms. Details of tickets prices and VIP packages available at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/07d29933-0ebd-485d-97f0-a96866aa8a19.

2nd July & 4th July

Two hour photography workshops making the most of the landscape at Attingham Park are being led by photographer Lindsey Bucknor. For over 18s only, the fee is £55 per person. Call Lindsey on **07984 407015** or email lbucknor@sky.com for more information or to book a place.

6th July

Ease into the weekend with breakfast butties at Pitchford Village Hall. For those of a livelier disposition, there will be a local, circular walk to get your appetite going. Doors open and walk begins at 9.30am. Breakfast served until 12.30pm. Please note that this is a cash only event.

12th July

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall, with wine, beer and soft drinks on offer. Doors open at 7.30pm.

27th July to 10th August

Church Stretton Arts Festival will be welcoming a host of performers, artists and musicians for the annual festival. Includes an art and photography exhibition at St Lawrence Primary School, an evening of music and poetry with Alistair McGowan on 31st July, and a performance of Wind in the Willows at Acton Scott Hall on 6th August. For a detailed programme please go to www.strettonfestival.org.uk/events-listing/

9th & 10th August

Shrewsbury Flower Show gets underway in The Quarry, with a wealth of flower and garden related stalls, as well as children's entertainment, live music and refreshments, all finishing with the traditional firework display. For more information and to book tickets, please go to www.visitshropshire.co.uk/whats-on/shrewsbury-flower-show/

10th August

A performance of The Pirates of Penzance by Opera Anywhere will be staged at Concord Collage as part of the Church Stretton Arts Festival. Tickets available from 1st June. Please go to www.strettonfestival.org.uk/events-listing/ for more details.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

CONCORD COLLEGE EXPANSION

Following a site visit, Shropshire Council Southern Planning Committee met on April 16th to consider the plans for the new hall of residence. Councillor Harrison reiterated and stressed previous concerns raised regarding the siting of the new block. However, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the plans.

OTHER NEWS

The Council met on March 5th. Papers and draft minutes are available at www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings

The main items discussed along with developments since the meeting are as follows.

- Acton Burnell Castle remains closed awaiting work on a number of trees which have been found to be unsafe. The Council has been in contact with English Heritage since the closure and continues to press for the work to be completed as soon as possible. It is

understood that a meeting between EH and the owner of the small copse at the castle entrance, where one of the trees is located, is planned for late April. Hopefully a solution will be agreed at that time and quickly implemented. An interim option of opening an entrance via the Catholic churchyard is also being considered.

- The Council approved a contractor for the village gateways which will be installed later this year for Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley and Ruckley. Shropshire Council are being pressed to progress the new 30mph speed limit, mirror, etc. for Frodesley which should have been in place in the first quarter of 2024.
- Potholes and eroded verges continue to be a problem. Everyone is urged to report these issues via the 'Fix my Street' website www.fixmystreet.com.
- The lower courses of stonework on the bus shelter at Pitchford are badly eroded and quotes are being sought

to rebuild the low walls, replacing the damaged stone.

- An objection has been raised to the Shropshire Council order declaring the track from Pitchford to Golding to be a bridleway. This will be considered by the Council and may be passed to the Planning Inspectorate for determination by an Independent Inspector.
- Parish noticeboards have been refurbished but the Ruckley board is beyond repair and is to be replaced.
- It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish (Community) meeting as a stand-alone event this year and the meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th May. Refreshments will be provided and all residents are welcome to attend. We are hoping for a good turnout and some useful comments and ideas.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was set for Tuesday 14th May 2024 at Pitchford Village Hall to start at 19:30.

NEWS FROM MUCH WENLOCK AND CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

PRACTICE CLOSURES

The Practice will be closed on the Bank Holidays Monday 6th May and Monday 27th May.

If you have an urgent healthcare problem that cannot wait until the surgery re-opens, please call the 'out of hours' service on **111**.

INCREASE IN PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

From 1st May, charges for prescriptions and prescription prepayment certificates will increase by 2.59%, bringing the cost of a prescription to £9.90. If you have more than 2 prescription items each month, you may want to consider obtaining a prescription pre-payment certificate. You can find out more by going to www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions/save-money-with-a-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc/

PATIENT ONLINE ACCESS – NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Patent Online Access have notified the Practice that they are making improvements to their online security. Users will now be required to input a

one-time passcode that will be sent to their registered mobile phone number.

For further information or if you need further help and support with regard to the changes, please go to: www.patientaccess.com.

KEEP MY PLACE IN QUEUE

A new service called 'Keep My Place in Queue' is now available when calling the surgery at busy times. Callers will be able to choose to either hang on the line and wait to be answered, or opt to be called back. The system will call you back as soon as a receptionist is available, and connect you when you answer. Please note this system will not work if you choose to withhold your number. Make sure you stay by the phone you used to call the surgery, as the system will only call you back once, and if you are not available you will have to start the process again.

THINK! PHARMACY FIRST

NHS England has launched a new Pharmacy First Service.

This new service is expected to free up GP appointments for patients who need them most and will give people quicker and more convenient access to safe and high quality healthcare. It includes 7

common conditions including earache, sore throat, and urinary tract infections, aiming to address health issues before they get worse.

What can the pharmacy deal with?

Pharmacy First will enable community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common health conditions without the need to visit a GP.

What are the seven common conditions?

Sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo (a bacterial skin infection), shingles and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

How can I access treatment from my pharmacy?

Shropshire Council have confirmed that all community pharmacies in across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin have signed up to Pharmacy First and patients can use the Find a Pharmacy tool online, just walk in and ask to speak to a pharmacist or call 111 to be given details of local pharmacies participating.

MESSAGE FROM **COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS** SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

At the end of February Shropshire Council voted to set a balanced budget for 2024/25, laying out plans to close a funding gap of £62m arising from increased demand and rising costs for its services, especially in social care and housing.

As a backdrop in 2023/24 the council made the highest amount of savings ever made, over £40m in one financial year. This was achieved this by investing in prevention to manage demand for our services, and using new, innovative ways to meet demand using the resources the council has. The Council would be in a much more difficult position without these changes.

The budget plans for 2024/5 included increasing income, reducing the amount the council spends with third parties, managing demand for its services, and reducing the size of the council overall. As the council has already stated, it expects to reduce its size by around 300 full time equivalent posts. Setting a balanced budget is a legal requirement for any council and Shropshire's plans are to prioritise services that support the most vulnerable people in the county. The budget also includes a 4.99% increase in council tax, which

the Government assumes councils will make, and includes a 2% adult social care precept. For the average band D property in Shropshire, this will mean an extra £1.57 a week for Shropshire Council's part of council tax bills. 95% of all councils with a responsibility for social care are, like Shropshire, raising their bills by this amount.

Funding pressures are affecting councils all over the country, and these are made even more challenging by Shropshire's rural geography and older population. The council's savings for 2024/25 are equivalent to 10% of its overall budget, to deliver day-to-day services. Services across the council will be reviewed: some will change, some will reduce and some will stop altogether. Significant changes will go through consultation, and the public will be able to share their views and alternative suggestions.

Included in the savings plans are:

- Reviewing the strategy for library provision to make savings
- Reducing support for leisure provision
- Reducing the number of Household Recycling Centres
- An optional, charged, household green waste collection service

- Reducing the number of council buildings and other assets, and accelerating the move from Shirehall, Shrewsbury into alternative offices
- Changing how we meet the transport needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities: a consultation is ongoing.
- Following agreement of the budget plans, the council will now progress the next steps to ensure that the plans can be put into action as quickly as possible.

For a number of proposals, such as for libraries and leisure centres, the council will now start discussions with local partners and communities to see how they could continue outside of council control, to explore ways to help reduce the impact for local people as far as possible. The council will also start planning public consultations on significant services changes as a result of the budget.

Thank you for reading this- if there are matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk, by phone on **07902 408400**, on facebook **dan4burnell** or Twitter **@dan4burnell**.

Dan Morris

GODOLPHIN EDWARDS FUND

This local fund was set up with the aim of providing grants to individuals living in Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford and Langley & Ruckley. Now administered by The Community Foundation, the fund is available to provide grants of up to £500.

Grants are available for people who need assistance in one of four areas: educational; financial; social; medical and health. Grants may be awarded for things like transport to get to a social club or group or to a hospital or medical appointment, assistance with paying for an unexpected bill or essential purchase or help to buy necessary books or technology for a college or university course.

There are two funding rounds each year, but applications can be made at any time. The current funding round opened in April, with decisions to be made in May, and the second funding round will open in October, with awards made in November.

To apply, please download an application form from www.shropshire.foundation/godolphinedwardsindividuals/

The Godolphin Edwards Fund is now also able to provide grants to community organisations that are providing services to residents in our parishes. Constituted community and voluntary groups, registered charities and social enterprises are all welcome to apply.

Please go to www.shropshire.foundation/grants/godolphinedwards/ for more information.



GARDENS OF DELIGHT!

If you like nothing better than to nose around someone else's garden, and maybe enjoy a cup of tea and piece of cake at the same time, then take a look at the local gardens that will be open to visitors over the next few months. Enjoy a stroll in the sunshine and pick up some new ideas for your own plot, or just admire other gardeners' handiwork! All gardens listed below offer free admission for children. Those marked 'NGS' are open to the public under the National Garden Scheme and all proceeds are donated to charity.

Sunday 12th May, 10.00am to 4.00pm (NGS)

A large estate garden, with added fun and games, Longden Manor at Plealey has something for all the family. There are woodland walks, topiary to make you smile, wildflowers and wonderful views. Giant jenga, skittles and croquet offer entertainment. Tickets are £5 for adults. Pay on the day or book in advance at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/1228/longden-manor>.

Saturday, 8th June, 10.00am to 4.30pm (NGS)

The 10 acre garden at The Leasowes, Cound, offers interconnected ponds, rhododendrons, azaleas and a wide range of roses in the formal gardens. Entry is £6.00, payable on the day. Home-made teas on sale. Wheelchair accessible and dogs are welcome.

Sunday 9th June, 11.00am to 5.00pm (NGS)

The Bramleys at Conover will be opening its gates to the public, offering the chance to enjoy two acres of trees, shrubs and herbaceous borders on the banks of the Cound Brook. Admission is £6.00 for adults, payable on the day. Home-made teas on sale. Wheelchair accessible.

Sunday 9th June, 11.00am to 4.30pm (NGS)

If you are a rose lover, be sure to visit Eaton Mascott Hall at Cross Houses, which features an extensive rose collection, as well as a bamboo walk, a 4.5 acre woodland garden, water features, pergolas and shrubs. Tickets are £5.00, payable on the day or in advance at https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/44491/eaton_mascott_hall. Home-made teas on sale.

Sunday 16th June, 2.00pm to 5.00pm (Historic Churches Trust)

Shrewsbury Town Centre Garden Trail offers the chance to visit six or seven gardens hidden in the centre of town. Tickets are £6.00, available from St Alkmunds Church.

Saturday 22nd June, 11.00am to 4.00pm (NGS)

The terraced garden at Scotsmanfield, Burway Road, Church Stretton has been renewed and revived over the last decade. This 0.75 acre garden offers trees, a ferny, lily pond, mixed borders, yew hedges and roses. Light refreshments on sale. The garden offers access to some areas for wheelchair users via steep gravelled paths. Admission £5.00, payable on the day or in advance via https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/43053/1_scotsmansfield.

Sunday 23rd June, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Take a walk around Belle Vue in Shrewsbury, and take a peek into a range of private gardens of all sizes and styles. Or If you don't fancy the walk, hitch a ride on a free rickshaw service. Refreshments available. Tickets providing entry to all the gardens are £3.00 for adults and are available from Stop Coffee, House Coffee Co and Coleham Sandwich Bar in Coleham. All proceeds go to the Belle Vue Arts Festival.

Sunday 23rd June, 12 noon to 6.00pm (Historic Churches Trust)

Gardens of various sizes, styles and planting are open to view in Cardington. Tickets £6 and visitor guide available on the day in the village carpark (signed from the A49 and B4371). Teas and light refreshments available.

Sunday 4th August, 1.00pm to 5.00pm (NGS)

Moat Hall at Annscroft offers the chance to admire the well-stocked kitchen garden, fruit garden and orchard in their one acre plot. There are also herbaceous and cut flower borders and a large pond to view. Pay on the day or book in advance at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/42143/moat-hall>. Tickets £6.00. Home made teas on sale. Wheelchair accessible and dogs are welcome.

For information on the NGS gardens listed above, and for details of those farther afield, please go to www.ngs.org.uk. A leaflet on gardens open as part of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust can be downloaded at www.shropshirehct.org.uk/DocumentStore/GO%202024%20including%20descriptions.pdf.

Please note that while some gardens can take card payments, many will need to be paid in cash, so go prepared!

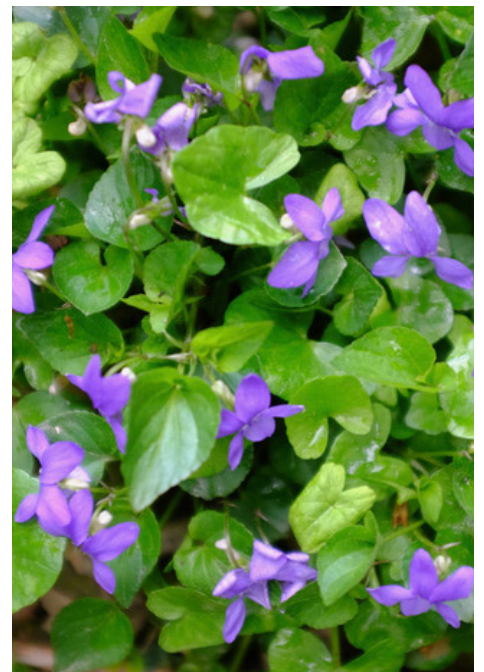
HAVE YOUR SAY ON GREEN WASTE COLLECTION PLANS

Shropshire Council is asking householders for their views on proposals to introduce an annual charge for the collection of green waste. The consultation asks people if they would be willing to pay more than £52 a year if the additional money was used to keep all five Shropshire Household Recycling Centres open, and for views on whether the opening times of some recycling centres could be reduced.

Also up for discussion is the idea of introducing a new permit/booking system for people visiting a recycling centre, to help ensure that they are only used by people living in Shropshire.

Charging for garden waste collections, and closing two of the council's five recycling centres, are among proposals approved by councillors as part of Shropshire Council's budget cuts for 2024/2025. The Council has announced that they must find £62m of savings in the current financial year in order to balance the budget.

To have your say on this proposal, go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/garden-waste-and-household-recycling-centres-consultation/ or visit Shrewsbury, Much Wenlock, Church Stretton or Pontesbury library. The consultation closes on 20th May.



SEASONAL RECIPES

Despite the generally miserable and wet weather in April, we are now very much heading into summer, and what says summer more than strawberries! If you don't fancy eating them in the traditional way – with sugar and cream with your feet up watching Wimbledon on the telly – then have a go at the recipe below.



WHITE CHOCOLATE AND BASIL CREAM WITH BALSAMIC STRAWBERRIES

This is a showstopper that looks and tastes amazing, but is actually quite simple to pull off! If you don't fancy making the complete dessert, then the balsamic strawberries on their own are delicious with some vanilla ice cream.

Ingredients (to serve 4)

300ml pot of single cream

1 large bunch of basil

300g white chocolate, chopped

50g caster sugar

2 tbsp balsamic vinegar

250g strawberries, hulled and cut in half

Pour the cream into a saucepan. Roughly tear the basil leaves into large pieces.

Bring to a simmer and then remove from the heat and leave to sit for 5 minutes.

Use a slotted spoon to remove the basil.

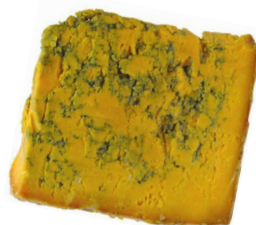
Bring the cream back up to a gentle simmer, remove from the heat and mix in the chocolate, stirring until melted and smooth. Pour into serving glasses and chill in the fridge until firm (this will take at least an hour).

In the meantime, mix the caster sugar and balsamic vinegar with 2tbsp water and cook gently, stirring until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture forms a sticky syrup. Add the strawberries and stir gently. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Finally, add the balsamic strawberries to the chilled chocolate and cream mix and serve!

SHROPSHIRE BLUE AND VEGETABLE FRITTATA

Sadly, the origins of Shropshire Blue cheese had absolutely nothing to do with Shropshire! It is a relatively modern cheese, which began life in Scotland and more recently has been made in Nottinghamshire. The reason for calling it 'Shropshire' Blue is a mystery. However, if you do want to try a local version, you may be able to track down Wrekin or Ludlow Blue at specialist cheese shops, farmshops and delicatessens. Whatever blue cheese you choose this is a quick and tasty lunch or dinner option.



Ingredients (to serve 4)

2 tbsp cooking oil (rapeseed or olive oil are good for this)

120g blue cheese, finely crumbled or grated

6 eggs

1 small onion, sliced (or substitute a good handful of chopped spring onions)

1 red pepper, chopped

100g mushrooms, sliced

150g new potatoes, boiled and cubed

Around 50g selection of cooked seasonal vegetables (leftovers are fine!)

Handful of parsley (or other fresh herbs to taste)

You will need a large ovenproof frying pan or skillet, around 25cm in diameter. Preheat your grill while you start cooking.

Heat the oil in the frying pan on the hob. Cook the onions, mushrooms and pepper until soft, then add the potatoes and any other pre-cooked vegetables you are using – carrots, leeks and peas all work well.

Beat the eggs along with around 90g of the cheese and the herbs. Pour into the pan containing the vegetables and cook on a medium heat for 3 to 4 minutes.

Sprinkle over the remaining cheese, and pop into the oven for 4 to 5 minutes, or until set.

Slide onto a serving dish or board and serve warm cut into generous wedges. Great with a beetroot salad or coleslaw.

CONDOVER UNITED BENEFICE NEWS

Since the last edition of Village Views the application date deadline for the half-time post for a new Rector has come and gone, with sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, no applicants. The post hasn't been readvertised yet, and we await a decision from the Hereford Diocese about what happens next.

In the meantime, your Licensed Lay Minister team of Ray Evanson and Jeremy Lowe, continue to work alongside several visiting and retired clergy to ensure that we maintain as regular a pattern of services across our five churches as possible.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Easter services, and we look forward to welcoming you to further services throughout the summer, as well as hopefully seeing you at the

Acton Burnell fete and Bash on the 15 June.

We try to keep our churches open during daylight hours, and you are always welcome to come and sit and enjoy the peace, that so many people visiting our churches experience – not to mention, if we get a very hot summer again, the church buildings tend to remain pleasantly cool. Future services that may be of interest, include an Ascension Day Service, at Condover Church, 7.30pm on Thursday 9 May, and a Benefice (all the Parish church congregations coming together for a service) in Acton Burnell Church on Sunday 30 June at 10am, then in the afternoon on the same Sunday, there will be a special 'jam jar flower festival' service at Frodesley Church, starting at 3pm.

The organ in Acton Burnell Church has recently had some major repair work done, and on Easter Monday our organist, Bill Smallman, put on a 'mini concert' in church to demonstrate the versatility and range of the organ, as well as raising money towards the repair cost. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the organ repairs, these can be dropped off at Acton Burnell shop and Post Office, where Rose, has very kindly agreed to accept them.

We look forward to welcoming you to our churches and church services over the summer months, or seeing you out and about around our villages.

Jeremy Lowe

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Condover Benefice

NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

PUB NIGHTS

Pub Nights continue to be well attended and are genuinely open to all in the area, whether long established, newbies, young or old etc. It is a very relaxed and welcoming place to come and meet others in the area or to simply have a couple of pints at a drinking establishment closer to those which currently exist! The next events are on the second Fridays of May, June and July and onwards from there. Please do come along if you have not been before and 'give us a go', and to you regulars – many thanks for supporting us and keep coming (although we are preaching to the converted!!).

BREAKFAST BUTTIES

Our 'Breakfast Butties' event in March was very well attended, so much so that all the food sold out but luckily coinciding with the last of our punters! Well done to Miriam Davies for organising this extended event, details of which are in a separate article. We are planning another on Saturday 6th July along with the regular local walkies and another larger event in September, details of which will follow in due course.

WINE TASTING:

This event took place in March and was very well attended. Jeremy Cowen of

the Wine Assessors Club of Shrewsbury was a knowledgeable and genial host and the wines on offer were surprisingly good for the prices they were on sale at and a real eye opener to many. By consensus, the evening was thoroughly enjoyable and to the extent that we are looking into putting on another similar extravaganza sometime before Christmas. Watch this space!

HIRING OF THE HALL

The Village Hall is your facility and is available for hire and at extremely competitive rates. Currently, prices start from:

Children's parties: £25

Other bookings: £30- £35 and £60 for events over 6 hours

Meetings: £15 with a discount for regular meetings

As always, we are continually looking for new volunteers to help run the Hall and associated events. Any good folk wishing to enrol can give as much or as little as they want, whether it is simply helping behind the bar at a pub night every few months, to helping with other larger events such as those mentioned here. Community spirit is welcomed as much as it is welcoming!!

If you would like to help, or just discuss the possibility, or even have any ideas

of the sort of hall you would want to see and which would encourage you to use us, then do contact any of the Committee Members whose details are below. In addition, should you wish to hire the hall for your own use, then again, please contact Mike Price.

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(Secretary)
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(Vice Chairman)
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Miriam Davies

email: miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk

Daphne Lewis

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John Glover

email: jbglover@outlook.com

John Glover (PVH Committee)

THE FOX INN AT RYTON UPDATE

There has been some great news with regards to the Community's effort to buy the Fox Inn at Ryton and turn it into a community owned pub and cafe.

At the beginning of March, we set the ambitious target of securing £200,000 of share pledges in the pub. We wanted to show that we had the support of the wider local community in our efforts to secure the future of the pub. We are also applying to the Community Ownership Fund for a grant and wanted to show in the application that the community stand behind us.

We started with a figure of £117,000 already raised by the end of February 2024.

However as of April 2024 we have together raised £214,000!

This is through the share offer and free offers of building work and materials from professional tradesman and local companies. We have been blown away by this local support which we hope to embrace in further fund-raising events over the next few months. We have submitted our application for the Community Ownership Fund, showcasing your amazing support in our business plan. We should hear

back by June, so please keep your fingers crossed!

Check out our website at www.the-fox-at-ryton.co.uk and our Facebook page (Friends of the Fox Inn Ryton) page for David Oliver's video thanking everyone who has supported us and also for future fun events we have planned for the whole family at further fundraisers.

Friends of the Fox Team



VILLAGE HALL SUSTAINABILITY EVENT

This year, Pitchford Village Hall (PVH) celebrated the 2024 Village Halls Week, a campaign by Action with Communities for Rural England with a theme of 'Go Green'. This is an initiative aimed at Village Halls asking them to promote, celebrate and showcase sustainable practices in rural communities.

The PVH team decided to build on their already successful Breakfast Butty mornings and the event developed from there, aiming to spotlight local producers and crafters with a view to supporting community business at the same time as keeping the food miles low. The breakfast butties were exclusively sourced in Shropshire with bread from a bakery in Ludlow, eggs from Betton, sausages and bacon from Church Stretton and the milk for teas and coffee donated from the dairy on Hatton Farm. They sold out! There was also a pop-up farm shop selling home-made goodies, locally sourced produce and a highland beef stall- just in time for Easter feasts.

The event also supported fellow charity, The Shrewsbury Food Hub, which collects and distributes good quality food from supermarkets to communities and into bellies- not

bins!. The guys at Shrewsbury Food Hub ran a food share table, swapping the food they had 'harvested' for donations. They had a really successful day and raised a good amount of cash to support the amazing work that they do. You can find out more about them at www.shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk

For shoppers, there was a good collection of stalls selling a wide range of crafts and gifts from alpaca socks to willow baskets, damson vodka to fresh cut Flowers, vintage clothes to all natural hand cream and even bags made from unwanted event banners and other recycled materials. The vendors did a great job of providing visitors with a wide array of beautiful and innovative sustainable products.

To encourage folks to consider getting green fingered by growing their own, there was a plant stall focussed on veg and herb starter kits. Youngsters were encouraged to get their hands dirty and plant their own sunflowers to brighten up gardens and attract bees and birds later in the year.

To celebrate our fabulous natural surroundings and remind ourselves why looking after the planet is so important Jeremy Lowe led a circular

walk (despite the blustery showers) of about 5km via Stockbatch Farm. Fifteen folks and several furry friends enjoyed the walk and returned covered in mud for a well-earned breakfast butty and a hot cuppa!

The event had a lovely community vibe, with volunteers working hard in the kitchen, wrestling with the gazebo, in the car park and cleaning up afterwards. The Hall was decorated with beautiful hand-made bunting made from spare fabric and donated for free from a friend of the hall!. The Committee chairman Mike Price, parked up some of his vintage tractors to promote the 're-pair, re-love, re-use' theme. It was also supported by our local councillor Dan Morris and representatives from the Parish council.

The money raised from the butties and plant stall has gone into the PVH pot to help maintain the Hall and keep it up and running as your much-loved community space. PVH would like to thank everyone who helped out, came along, and supported PVH!

Miriam Davies



TRAINING UPDATE FROM DENNIS WICKS

Dennis Wicks of Pitchford, who will be attempting an epic 193 mile walk across the UK, reports that his training is going according to plan.

Dennis writes, "So with 6 weeks to go the training is going well. Building up the miles both on the flat and hill walking, with the weather giving my waterproofs a good test! Walking with a "full pack" to get used to the weight and longer distances on consecutive days to replicate the challenge of 193 miles."

More than £1000 has already been raised for Lingen Davies Cancer Fund. The Fund aims to raise money for cancer treatment

equipment, as well as offering support to those facing a cancer diagnosis and raising awareness and understanding of cancer in the community.

The simplest way to donate is to use the URL below which takes you straight to Dennis Wicks' fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/page/dennis-wicks-193miles2c-1705512525600

Dennis would like to thank everyone who has already donated and everyone who plans to do so. You can also help support Lingen Davies by popping along to a coffee morning organised by Elizabeth Wicks at Pitchford Village Hall

on 25th May. Dennis will be 6 days into his walk by this date, and Elizabeth will be providing news on his progress.

We wish Dennis all the very best!



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