

Village Views

November 2021

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

WELCOME

As winter rolls around again, we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who deliver Village Views to your door, come rain, sleet, snow – and even in the teeth of the pandemic.

We make every effort to ensure that all the information included in Village Views is up to date and accurate, but in the current circumstances there may be times when events are cancelled, or opening times changed. Please check before making a special journey.

If you would like to submit something for inclusion in a future Village Views, contact Chris Harrison at villageviews@hotmail.com for all editorial content, and Rachel and Lois Johnson at villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com for advertising. The next Village Views will be on its way to you in early February 2022.

And finally – if it's not too early – we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year!

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

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE NHS 111 SERVICE

Shropshire NHS is asking local people to give their feedback on the 111 service, which was launched at the end of 2020. The service is for anyone who has an urgent, but not life-threatening, problem, and provides signposting and support to ensure people access the right care in the right place.

If you have used the NHS 111 service since May 2021, you are invited to share your views by completing an on-line form, which can be found at www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/urgent-medical-care-survey.

If you need help completing the form, or would prefer to do so over the phone, please call 01743 237884. The closing date is 28th November.



FUND-RAISING SUCCESS!

The Young family of Acton Burnell hosted a Macmillan coffee morning in the garden of their home, and delighted all their visitors with delicious cakes, biscuits and coffee. Chloe went the extra mile (literally) and ran a sponsored half marathon from Pitchford to the trig point on the Long Mynd. A grand total of £1,821 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Nicola and Chloe would like to thank everyone who supported them in their fundraising efforts.

BURNELL BASH

The Burnell Bash was held on 18th September in the barns at Denver House, by kind permission of Andrew and Melanie Davies. This was to raise some much needed funds for St. Mary's Church and we would like to thank everyone for supporting us.

There was a bar, music and good food. There was even a display of static steam engines by friends of Brian and Sarah, who also provided an excellent bar. We raised just over £800, so thank you once again for your support.

Jill Faulkner



On Saturday 25th September members of the community came out in force to help give Pitchford graveyard a very overdue tidy up. Thank you to everyone that gave up their time, including the ones that are not in the photograph.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The council met in September. In addition to regular administrative and planning business the council received a short presentation from Airband who have been installing fibre broadband throughout our villages. A high speed FTTP (fibre to premises) service is now available in all areas except Ruckley and Langley which should be connected shortly. You can check availability at: www.airband.co.uk/broadband-coverage-checker/. The new network will be opened to other providers in 2023.

Progress of the refurbishment work at the Village Hall, which was part funded by The Council, was reviewed and has been followed with close interest. Work is now virtually complete. In addition to ensuring that the structure is secure the Hall is now looking much neater and welcoming with new heating installed to allow comfortable use through the winter months.

A task group has been set up to investigate the feasibility of a footpath between Acton Burnell and Pitchford and work continues pursuing other items which were highlighted in the Community Led Plan which include a children's playground and traffic calming measures.

Plans for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year in June 2022 were discussed and, in addition to lighting a beacon on June 2nd, The Council are considering a community tree planting project.

ANYONE FOR PING PONG?

If you would be interested in joining an informal table tennis group in the Village Hall over the winter months, please contact Mike Price on price622@btinternet.com or call 07740 067955.



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 18th February 2022. Please contact villageviews@hotmail.com with any news or villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to place an advert.

CRESSAGE FOOD SHARE PROJECT

The Cressage Food Share Project is continuing to offer a pop-up service at Cressage Village Hall, offering good quality food to local families. For a donation of £2 per person in the household, families are invited to fill up their bags with bread, fruit, vegetables and chilled and frozen goods. There is no need to prove your circumstances or be referred to take advantage of this community-led service. The majority of food on offer is excess food from supermarkets and food producers, which has passed its 'best by' but not its 'use by' date. However, the Project also welcomes donations from the public. Just pop along to Cressage while the shop is open with any food you would

like to donate – just make sure that it is all within its 'use by' date. Alternatively, you can also donate at Fare Share's HQ at Ramparts Way, Telford (next to Tile Choice by the railway station).

The project has grown in recent months and now also runs a pallet store from Ramparts Way. Absolutely anyone can shop there and buy good cheap food. The pallet store helps to fund the food share so please pay it a visit if you're in the area.

The Fare Share Project will be at Cressage from 1pm to 2pm on Wednesdays until at least 22nd December. To check on dates and times after that point, please take a look at their website on <https://mossy.life/events/cressage-pop-up-food-share/>

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We have just concluded all of our Harvest Thanksgiving services and so it is time to look forward to Christmas.

19th December 11.30pm: *Frodesley Crib Service*: We are hoping to combine this with a Christmas Messy Church which would likely start at 10.30 and conclude at midday with the crib service at 11.30, so that people can come for either/or or both! If this can be arranged there will be more details nearer the time.

19th December 3pm: *Carol Services* at Acton Burnell and Pitchford

Christmas Eve 11.15pm: *Midnight Communion Service* at Condover

Christmas Day

9am: *Christmas Morning Service* at Frodesley

10.30am: *Christmas Morning Services* at Acton Burnell and Pitchford

These arrangements are all dependant on Government regulations in place at the time.

Church Projects

Acton Burnell: We are currently going through the process of applying for planning permission to build a 'toilet block' tucked sympathetically into the gap between the north side porch and transept. The final specifications are being drawn up so that we can go to tender for the work both inside and outside the church.

Frodesley: Plans have been drawn up to create a space in the north aisle of the church for community activities. We are currently investigating where we can apply to for grants to help fund the project.

For both the projects we are still progressing with the formal church procedures for progressing our plans.

Geoff Garrett, Rector

ACTON BURNELL WI

On a bright shiny day in late September, the ladies of ABWI met for the first time in eighteen months. Pat Whittall kindly opened her home for this meeting where we had all contributed towards the afternoon tea. A bring and buy stall saw brisk trade and all proceeds will go to the charity Associated Country Women of the World.

Sarah, our President, talked us through what had happened during the dark days of lockdown, and she deserves our many thanks for keeping in touch with us all and lifting our spirits. By popular request we are changing our meeting times to afternoons, namely the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm, Pitchford Village Hall (unless you hear different), the next one being on 19th October when we will be listening and maybe singing songs to music on piano and guitar.

We were sad to hear that long time member (31 years) Daphne Stanford had resigned due to ill health and all members signed a retirement card for her.

Fittingly, Pat won the raffle and she was presented with a plant and thank you card for hosting a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

CHARITY CARDS NOW ON SALE

Charity Christmas cards in aid of Severn Hospice are now on sale at Acton Burnell Shop and Post Office, so do pop along and buy a few cards to support this worthwhile local cause.

Rose will also have Christmas stamps available from 2nd November.

Pitchford Village Hall Christmas Fayre



Saturday 4th December
10.00am until 1.00pm
Stalls - Refreshments - Raffle

CONDOVER COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS FAIR
at CONDOVER HALL
SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER
10.30AM - 3.30PM

Cross Houses
christmas
Fair
21st Of November 2021
11am - 4pm
At Cross Houses Community Centre
Chef Marcus Bean
will be cooking up a storm!
Festive food and drinks, Tombola and raffle
Santa meet and greet £3.50 per child
All money raised from santa goes to Severn hospice
Christmas craft stalls:
Arts and crafts for kids
including christingle making.
Activities all day long
No on street parking
only use the designated car parks

Shrewsbury
Winter Fair
SATURDAY
6TH NOV 2021
10AM - 4PM
ST MARYS CHURCH
Free Entry
- ART & CRAFTS
- HOMEWEAR
- FESTIVE GIFTS
- FOOD & DRINKS
ST MARYS CHURCH
ST MARYS STREET DOGPOL
SHREWSBURY SY1 1DX
www.chantillygrey.com



What's on



6th November

Winter Fair at St Mary's Church, Dogpole. Free entry, and a wide range of stalls offering everything from arts and crafts to festive gifts, food and drink. Open from 10am to 4pm.

6th & 7th November

Frost Fair at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, from 10 am to 4 pm. A wide selection of handmade crafts and Christmas gifts from Shropshire crafters and artists.

6th & 7th, 27th & 28th November, 6th December

Come along to the Stables Shop at Attingham Park between 12 noon and 3pm to meet artist Lou Stafford. Lou produces original watercolours, prints and illustrated gifts, and will be demonstrating the 'fine art of scribbling'. No need to book, but the usual National Trust admission fees apply.

12th November

'Painting with Light' photography workshop will guide photographers through the skills needed to take creative photos in the dark. Tripod and camera essential. Takes place at The Pavilion, Carding Mill Valley, from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets £15 from www.eventbrite.co.uk (search 'Photography Workshop – Painting with Light').

12th & 26th November

Flicks in the Sticks will be screening films at Ryton Village Hall. Titles to be confirmed. For more information please go to www.artsalive.co.uk/films/

12th & 13th November

DarkFest Light Trail at Carding Mill Valley. Celebrate the winter night and follow an illuminated walking trail of light and fire sculptures, starting from the top car park from 5.45pm to 7.15pm on 12th November, and from 4.30pm on 13th November. Admission free.

19th November

Flicks in the Sticks at The Guildhall, Cound, features 'The Good Liar', starring Helen Mirren and Sir Ian McKellen. This tale of a con artist who unexpectedly falls for the widow he is planning to swindle has a '15' rating. Tickets £5. Contact 01743 761257 for more information. Tickets available from www.artsalive.co.uk/films/

21st November

Christmas Fair at Cross Houses Community Centre, 11am to 4pm. Festive food and drink courtesy of local celebrity chef Marcus Bean, tombola and raffle, and arts and crafts activities for children. A 'meet and greet' with Santa will cost £3.50 – all proceeds to Severn Hospice.

26th November & 17th December

Flicks in the Sticks will be screening films at Longden Village Hall. Titles to be confirmed. For more information please go to www.artsalive.co.uk/films/

27th & 28th November

Step back in time for the Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre. Jesters, entertainers, archery, historical re-enactments create a medieval atmosphere. Over eighty stalls presented by traders from across the UK, all dressed in medieval costumes. Open 10am to 9pm on Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Timed admission by ticket only. Please go to www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk tickets for more information.

1st December

'Military Wives' will be screened at Cardington Village Hall, courtesy of Flicks in the Sticks. This '12A' rated film looks at the lives of a group of military wives who form a choir. Tickets £4. Information from 01694 771295. Tickets available from www.artsalive.co.uk/films/

4th December

The refurbished village hall at Pitchford will host a Christmas Fayre from 10am until 1pm. Bacon butties and tea available alongside stalls selling a selection of seasonal items. If you would like to rent a stall, these are available at £10 for a 4 foot table and £15 for a 6 foot table. Contact Bridget Thurgood on 01743 719417 for more information.

4th December

The Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre returns! Some normal car parks will be closed to the public during the event, but park and ride facilities will be available at a cost of £4 per car at William Brookes School and the Stretton Road Overflow car park (also known as The Edge). There will be live music throughout the day, and a candlelight procession along the High Street to The Square at 4.30pm, followed by carol singing.

5th December

Condoval Hall Christmas Market from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

10th December

The long-awaited return of Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Everyone welcome, including children of all ages and furry friends. Draught beer, wine and a variety of other drinks will be on sale, and free food from 8pm. Come long to meet old friends and make some new ones!

12th December

A family fun run (or walk!) in aid of the Omega charity, which supports carers, people receiving end of life care, and the bereaved. Runners are encouraged to wear festive gear, and there will be medals for all finishers. Entry is £10 for adults and £5 for juniors. Father Christmas has promised to be in attendance! To book a place, please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for 'Christmas family fun run'.

12th December

Take a look around Pitchford Hall as it opens its doors for a Christmas tour. Tickets £25, to include mulled wine and mince pies. Please go to www.tickettailor.com/events/pitchfordhall/566644/ to book.

3rd January

'Jog Off Your Jumper' returns to Attingham Park. Take part in a one mile fun run, wearing your Christmas jumper! Every participant will receive a medal. Registration from 9.30am, with the run starting at 10am. Entry is charged at £6 (in addition to the usual admission fee). For more details call 03442 491895. To book a place, please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for 'Jog Off Your Jumper 2022'.

8th January to 18th February

Follow the clues and take part in some nature trail fun at Attingham Park with Percy the Park Keeper and all his woodland friends. No need to book in advance. Trail pack and clues £2.

14th January

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall

11th February

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall

LOCAL PLAYGROUP

Parents and carers of under 3s in Pitchford, Acton Burnell and surrounding areas are welcome to come along to the Acton Burnell and Pitchford Playgroup at Pitchford Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd November 10am. Once the renovations of the hall are complete we would love to see if there are enough families to make a weekly playgroup viable, so please come along and say hello. Cup of tea for the parents, toys available for babies and toddlers. Find the group on Facebook by searching for 'Acton Burnell & Pitchford playgroup' (www.facebook.com/groups/4267094310009317/) or email Katie Davies at mrs.katie.davies@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved.

Condover Quarry planning decision

The application to extend the workings of a local quarry near Condover for another few years has generated a huge amount of interest of late in the local press, and also with residents living in and around Condover. The decision by the southern planning committee was to finally approve the application, after it initially denied permission back in March. Whilst it is safe to say that most people who live in Condover, along with the Parish Council and myself, did not support the application, it is worth noting how planning officers and then ultimately the Southern Planning Committee arrived at their decision to approve the extension against local opinion.

The guidance in the current Shropshire Council local plan was that any extension should be combined with a new access road to the A49. The argument by the applicant, and the planning officers who made their recommendation to approve, was that because it was only a part extension of the quarry, this would not make the extension financially viable, therefore they were 'allowed' to look at using the existing route through Condover. It was argued that it was also not clear from Highways England that they would allow a new access onto the A49. The highways Officers were also able to argue that a high threshold was required to prove a highway safety issue in Condover, and road safety data backed that up. Other routes were looked at and dismissed by the Highways officers as not being as suitable

as the current route. The fact that more big vehicles will have to mount pavements to pass each other when they meet in some places also was not deemed a weighty enough argument to override the local and national requirement for aggregates. Arguments over damage to the conservation area and built environment were also apparently not deemed weighty enough.

What has not helped the popularity of the application was the apparent lack of monitoring of what was being excavated already, the current permission was being exceeded by up to over 3.5 times the permitted amount. It was community pressure that exposed these excess tonnages that were being excavated.

Planning decisions are weighed up against planning policy, using relevant guidance, and officers who are experts in their field in the council contribute to that process in a consultation and then the case officer makes their decision, a decision that ultimately could need to be defended in front of a national planning inspector or even a judicial review. Because of the considerable local objection and elected Councillor objection to the application, the process allowed for the decision by the officers to be scrutinised by the Planning Committee made up by elected Shropshire Councillors. During the planning debate some Councillors argued that an appeal would cost the council money and that national law supported the application. Other Councillors argued that planning

decisions are there to capture changes to activity and provide betterment for the local community, and that in their view an appeal wouldn't be upheld by the applicant. The councillors in the committee that day voted by a majority of 6-5 to support the Officers decision. It was noted that there were 3 members of the committee on that day that were not committee members, and some people have asked if that was permitted - It is clear though from the Council legal monitoring officer that the Committee meeting was constitutional and properly run, as all Councillors had had the necessary training.

So where do we go from here? There are still concerns expressed about the whole of the process of this planning application, and there is a need to have an input into mitigation measures will be taken in respect of the decision taken, and how the levy money that will be generated from the quarry extension will be spent to mitigate the impacts. Condover Parish Councillors and I have an early meeting with the planning officer to discuss these points.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article! If there are any issues you feel I can help on, please do not hesitate to contact me by email dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk, by mobile on 07902 408400, on facebook [dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell) or Twitter @[dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell).

Dan Morris

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

It has been a long and difficult 18 months for most people, and as we head into our second winter of coping with Covid, many of us will be looking for ways to raise our spirits. The weather may be grey and cold outside, but there are still ways of connecting with the natural world.

November is the best time to plant up some pots of bulbs to brighten your home over the winter (unfortunately, it is now a little too late to persuade most of them to flower for Christmas). Try Paperwhite narcissi for their elegant white blooms and delicious scent. They will grow happily in a bowl shaped container, or for something more eye catching, have a go at growing them in a tall glass vase. Fill the vase to about a quarter of its height with ornamental stones or pebbles, place the bulbs close together on top of the stones and then carefully top up with water until it reaches the base of the bulbs. You can, of course, do the same with hyacinths. Buy 'prepared' bulbs to make sure they will flower within around 10 to 11 weeks. For a real splash of tropical glamour, try amaryllis. These come in a wide variety of colours and can grow up to 60cm tall.

Many bulbs benefit from a period in the cool and dark after planting. Stand them in a dark garage or a cool cupboard, and keep just damp until you see the first shoots. Then pop them somewhere warm and bright and watch them romp away.

A cheerful wreath is a familiar sight at Christmas, but wreaths are now beginning to pop up throughout the year as a way of brightening a front door, and providing a welcome to visitors. Autumn is a great time to get into the wreath habit, using foliage and seedheads from your own garden, or foraged on local walks.

Start with a purchased wire or wicker wreath base, or make your own using long lengths of thin, flexible twigs tied together in a bunch with twine or florists wire and then carefully bent into a circle and secured with wire (willow is perfect for this). Alternatively, go the Blue Peter route, and bend a wire coat hanger into a circle to give you a base. You can even cut out a thick cardboard circle to use – this works particularly well if you plan to use dried leaves and would like to glue them on rather than use twine or wire (and easier to manage if you want to involve children in the activity).

Then get creative! Pinecones, seedheads and dried flowers will provide a long-lasting display. Evergreen foliage such as ivy, short pine branches, mexican orange blossom, mahonia or other shrubs will eventually brown and wither, but should stay fresh for a few weeks. You can also add dampened moss to the wreath frame to help prolong the life of foliage. Herbs such as rosemary and bay can provide delicious scent as well as an attractive green base to which you can add brighter elements – berries, miniature gourds, bright chilli peppers, rosehips or crab apples. Autumn leaves such as Virginia creeper, grape vine, maples and acers can all add their own splash of colour.

Finally, scraps of ribbon, strips of bright fabric or even fairy lights can be added for that extra 'wow' factor.



KATHERINE MARY HARLEY CONDOVER WIFE, MOTHER – AND HEROINE OF WORLD WAR I

3rd May 1855 to 7th March 1917 - killed by shellfire.

Katherine is commemorated amongst the war dead in Condover Church and St Marys Church Shrewsbury. Her gravestone in Salonika Military Cemetery, reads: ON YOUR TOMB INSTEAD OF FLOWERS THE GRATITUDE OF THE SERBS SHALL BLOSSOM THERE.



Katherine was born in Kent, the youngest of at least 6 children born to Margaret and John French, a Royal Navy Commander born in Ireland. Her father in fact died before she was born, and her mother never recovered from his loss and was confined to an asylum and died in 1865. Katherine was brought up by relatives, sent to boarding school and then travelled to India to stay with her older sister Maggie. Katherine met and married Colonel George Harley, of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 11 years her senior. Her daughter Florence was born a year later and when they returned to England she had two more children, Julian and Edith. Katherine became a typical army wife and mother and eventually the family settled in Condover House where her husband George died in 1907 at the age of 62.

Following her husband's death Katherine's approach to life changed radically and she became politically active. By 1910 she was a leading member of The West Midland Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage. In 1913 Katherine became the President of the Shropshire Society of the NUWSS. In that same year she was the originator of the Suffragist Pilgrimage, a women's march from 17 different cities across the country to Hyde Park. The idea was to promote their ideals and make clear that they were non-militant and peaceful in their aims. It is estimated that 50,000 women attended the Hyde Park rally.

In early 1914 Katherine helped found the Active Service League and within 7 days of

the outbreak of war the League became a relief body processing women who wished to assist in the war effort. Katherine through her work with the league became involved with the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The first hospital was set up in Royanmount Abbey in France but as the administrator had to return to England Katherine took her place. After only a few months Katherine was posted to help establish another hospital at Chanteloup near Troyes. Conditions were harsh and most patients were housed in tents to see if fresh air helped heal wounds and reduce infection.

In October 1915 the unit was posted on to Salonika where the Serbs and other allied troops numbering 500,000 were engaged against 300,000 men from Bulgaria, Turkey, Austro-Hungary and Germany. They were allocated a disused silkworm factory at Ghevveli and were ready to receive the wounded in two weeks. The soldiers were often also suffering from frostbite. Under threat the unit was forced to retreat to Salonika where deep mud hindered the setting up of the hospital so that the wounded started arriving before they were ready to receive them. With help from the Royal Navy tents were erected and order restored. For her dedication and services to France, Katherine was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

In Spring 1916 following a dispute she returned to England but was determined to return to Serbia. The Serbs requested two more hospital units supported by a motorised flying corps of ambulances. Accompanied by her daughter Edith the unit opened in September 1916 and was the nearest allied hospital to the front. Katherine was in charge of the transport column, two delivery vans, a mobile kitchen and 6 ambulances transporting the wounded from the dressing stations to the hospital. The journeys took between 10 and 30 hours even operating at night, against orders and close to the battlefield on rough roads. The women had to work hard to keep the vehicles road worthy and took risks to get the wounded safely to the hospital. They gained a reputation amongst the Serbs for their courage, but

Katherine was censored for running an ill disciplined unit allowing the women to have short hair, drink and smoke. Following an inspection by the Scottish Women's Hospitals Katherine and her daughter agreed to resign.

In November 1916 Monastir (today Bitola) was in allied hands but overlooked by Bulgarian and German forces in the surrounding mountains, who were shelling the town every afternoon. The population suffered from diseases, illnesses, and the ravages of war. Katherine and Edith moved to the town to help the women, children and elderly and funded an orphanage. On the afternoon of 7th March 1917 Katherine took tea in a room overlooking the street with her daughter and Miss Matthews, the head of the American School, when a shell burst in the street, shattering the window and causing a splinter of glass to enter Katherine's head from which she died. Edith and Miss Matthews were unscathed and regretted not insisting they should go down to the basement.

Katherine was buried with full military honours, the cortege being followed by thousands of soldiers headed by General Milne, the commander of the British forces in the Balkans and George Crown Prince of Serbia.

Katherine's older brother, Sir John French, was leader of the British Army at the outbreak of the World War I. He had to resign in 1916 and became Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces until 1918. He then became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a position he held through much of the Irish War of Independence of 1919-1922, in which his own sister Charlotte Despard was involved on the republican side. He died at Deal Castle in Kent on 22nd May 1925 aged 72 having become 1st Earl of Ypres. Charlotte, an activist all her life, lived to 95. You can find out much more about all three siblings in Wikipedia.

Ron Repath

What's that bug: Leaf Beetles

Leaf Beetles belong to the family Chrysomelidae (Latreille, 1802), consisting of many species (273 known in Britain) which feed on an array of plant species (polyphagous). They are largely diverse, evolving alongside flowering plants during the Cretaceous period (165 to 65 million years ago). As other beetles, they undergo complete metamorphosis (holometabolism), developing from an egg to larva, pupa, and imago.

Where do they go in winter?

The eggs are generally laid on or near the plant host, being so on leaves, within stems or in the soil. They can hatch in less than two weeks providing conditions are right. The larvae will proceed to voraciously feed and drop into the soil to pupate in autumn away from the plant, with the exception of

the seed feeders which remain in the seed. The pupae overwinter and the imagines (adults) emerge in spring. However, some species can have overlapping life stages with overwintering eggs and adults.

Where can they be found?

Leaf beetles may have stunning metallic elytra (soft wing cases) and can be spotted glistening amongst the vegetation. Some species are commonly known as pests of agricultural and horticultural crops. The Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle (CSFB, *Psylliodes chrysocephala*) is well known to farmers because they feed on oilseed rape with negative economic consequences. Discovering the presence of the scarlet Lily beetle (*Lilioceris lillii*) is often a worry to many gardeners. However, Leaf beetles will brighten an entomologist day as did *Sermylassa halensis* (pictured) on top of Caer Caradoc on a summer day's walk.

Can the pests be eliminated?

Due to the ban of neonicotinoids and continued resistance to pyrethroids, more effective alternative methods are being used such as reduced insecticide applications and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Good options can be to sow trap crops and to incentivise natural enemies. Trials looking at defoliating crops in winter to reduce populations are also being tested. Cultural control practices can help too in gardens, such as monitoring plants for Lilly beetles in spring and summer and hand pick them.

Ana Natalio and Nick Antill





NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL



Improvements to the Hall

We are over the moon to report that the first stage in the refurbishment of the Village Hall is now complete and the building is looking and feeling much better than it was before the Covid Crisis stopped play.

The improvements include structural works to shore up the gable ends of the hall which were bowing out and threatening to make the building unsafe. Linked to this is improved drainage on the car park side to reduce the damage caused by dampness with a small 'bridge' over this to allow access the kitchen door along with new hand railings along the car park side of the Hall.

The main entrance has been changed to the one furthest from the car park so people enter into the lobby thus keeping the main hall draught free. This is accessed by a new footpath from the car park along the front of the building where there is also new lighting.

Inside, there are new curtains in the main hall and the lobby, the material for which was very generously donated by Gaynor Bowen of Pitchford – thank you so much! We have new tables together with a new music system allowing you to stream music or other audio from your phone. There is already a laptop you can use, or

you can bring your own, both of which can be viewed on a large screen via a projector and linked to the sound system. Most importantly, there is new heating which makes the inside feel much more welcoming and much more comfortable than before (the heating is now included in the hire charges so there is no longer any need to rummage for any £2 coins before you come!). The store has been decorated and reconfigured and this also houses a new vacuum cleaner replacing the old stone age brushes we used to sweep the hall clean!

Outside, the building has been painted, the porches repaired, and new guttering has been installed. The grassy areas have been levelled and re-seeded and there is a picnic table, all of which makes the exterior grounds more pleasant and usable. By mid-November, we will also have had the floor re-varnished and the lobby area re-painted and in the kitchen there will be new windows and a new exterior door to the car park. We have also received a grant specifically to allow us to refurbish the kitchen making this more modern and usable for today's needs which we hope to implement sometime early next year.

This has all been paid for from grants received from Shropshire Council

and other organisations but also a very significant donation from the Lightsource Fund operated by the Parish Council specifically to allow the structural works to be completed for which we are very grateful.

All-in-all, it is looking really lovely, and this has been made possible by a hard-working Village Hall Committee who have all been involved in the manual work of the refurbishment, the acquisition of the fittings and furnishings as well as successfully negotiating the application processes for the funds. However, special mention must be made of our Chairman who has to take a massive bow for being a fantastic project manager, labourer and all-round whip-cracker. We couldn't have achieved so much without his vision, driving force and the sheer number of hours of his time that he has given. The man is owed several pints methinks!!

As such, the Hall is now open for business and if anyone wishes to use what is now a very comfortable and pleasant facility, then please contact Mike or Chris whose details are at the bottom of this page.

In addition, the Committee have two events which we would like you to be aware of and hopefully support.

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 4th December

Starting at 10am on Saturday morning and going on until about 1.00pm, we are holding a Christmas Fayre. We still have some tables left available for you to hire at £10 for a single 4-foot table or £15 for a 6 foot one. If you wish to hire a stall to sell anything seasonal for example Christmas crafts and foods, or even raising funds for a charity at this giving time of year, then please contact Bridget Thurgood on 01743 719417 to book. Bacon butties and tea will also be available, and we will hold a raffle to give you the chance of taking home something extra to that which you paid for!! Please come along and enjoy as we understand that this year, this will be the only such Fayre in our patch!!

Pub Night: Friday 10th December

Our first pub night since February 2020 is to be held early in December. As usual (!), everyone from the area is very welcome including children (and dogs!) and we are especially keen for folk who have recently moved to the area to pop in to meet your neighbours and enjoy the wonderfully welcoming and warm atmosphere this creates. Draught beer, wine and a variety of other drinks are available in what we hope will be a warmer and more pleasant hall than it perhaps used to be. We also plan to have some music to entertain you and free food will be available from 8.00pm. It's been a long time coming, so let's celebrate both the reconditioning of the Hall, the steady return to 'normality' and possibly the first chance to see members of your community who you may not have come across over the last 18 months or so.

We are also planning a Plant Sale at the Hall on Saturday 7th May again with food to accompany and further details will



be available in the next edition of this newsletter.

Finally, it's Tote collection time again! As you will be aware, the Hall is not cheap to run and one way we try to raise funds is through the "200 Club". This has been in operation since Henry Jones set it up in 1979 and the £2400 raised each year is split 50:50 between prizes of £50, £25, £15 and £10 for the lucky ones whose names are drawn from 'the hat' every month and for the electricity and the insurance bills for the Hall. Annual membership costs £12 and this will be collected during November and December for 2022. If you are interested in joining, then you can contact Jeanette Reaney who is our 'Tote Supervisor' and her details are below. Jeanette asks that you pay either by cash or cheque if you are purchasing before the end of the year, but from January we will no longer be accepting cheques as the introduction of bank charges for our Charity Account

means that £4 of the £12 you pay will disappear into the coffers of the bank!! Details of how to pay from January will be on a slip which we will put through your letterboxes. Please do support us and if you are not a regular, please contact Jeanette who will sort you out!

As usual, if you have any other queries, feel free to contact the following:

Mike Price (Chairman Pitchford Village Hall Management committee):
email: price622@btinternet.com
mobile: 07740 067955

Christine Jones (Secretary Pitchford Village Hall Management committee):
email: csjay@btinternet.com
mobile: 07538 744807

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

John Glover



CHURCH PREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our wonderful Ofsted Outstanding school is set idyllically beneath Wenlock Edge, just a ten-minute drive from Much Wenlock and Acton Burnell and between the hamlets of Hughley and Church Preen.

With a broad and varied curriculum and small class sizes, we offer children a wide range of learning opportunities and rich and rewarding experiences where they can achieve their full potential and develop their interests and talents, whatever they may be. It has been wonderful to welcome our children back from remote learning and into our classrooms. We have certainly made the most of learning together again.

Class 1 have had a busy month. Our new Reception children have settled in beautifully and are enjoying all that the class and school offer them. Our coach Henry has continued with his tennis coaching, with the children

becoming more proficient each week. We have been exploring pitch during our music lessons. This had been done using instruments, our voices and identifying different pitch when listening to music. Pupils in Class 2 In Class 2, children have been using maps and primary sources of evidence to find out about Boudicca's Rebellion. They made WANTED posters as nobody really knows what happened to her. We have some budding artists who creating their own designs for a Roman style mosaic. We have also held a Roman experience day, where the children dressed up and learned how to be a centurion.

Class 3 has continued to enjoy our science outdoor learning lessons this month and have learnt how to separate mixtures by making our own sieves as well as finding out what happens when we burn different materials. Mr Jew from the Trusted Sports Partnership has continued to develop our netball skills and we have been lucky enough

to take part in the WBS High 5 Netball League. Our history topic is World War 2 and we have been learning about the effects of war at home this month.

In 2022 we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Church Preen School. We are looking for former pupils and staff who would like to share their memories of their time at the school to help us with our celebrations.

We have places available within the school. If you would like to discuss, please contact us on admin@churchpreenschool.co.uk or 01694 771359.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY

Don't forget that you can keep in touch with your local community by using Facebook. Just search for Acton Burnell Community, Pitchford Village Hall or Frodesley Community Hub to see what events are taking place in your area. You'll need to join as a member to see who's in the group and what they post on the Acton Burnell page, but this only takes a minute or two.

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

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




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