

Village Views

AUGUST 2018

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

WELCOME

As the schools break up for their summer holidays, it seems we can all look forwards to a sunny August, though hopefully not quite as hot and dry as the weather we enjoyed (or suffered) during July.

Despite the rain that has fallen in some parts of our area, the countryside is still tinder-dry, and the Shropshire Fire Service has asked people to be extra vigilant about the danger of fire while out and about in the countryside. Picnic barbecues should be carefully supervised and disposed of safely, while smokers are asked to take particular care when discarding matches and cigarette butts.

Also spare a thought for birds and wildlife – providing a dish of water can make all the difference to them! No need to buy an expensive bird bath or dig a pond: any shallow plastic dish or tray can be used, placed in a sheltered spot in your garden. Just make sure that the water is changed regularly to keep it clean and fresh.

Please send all items to:

villageviews@hotmail.com, or call **Chris Harrison** on **01694 731120**, or speak to one of the members of the Village Views committee (Karen Fisher, John Glover or Gilly Turner)



The Treehouse at Pitchford Hall © James Nason

Ride and Stride

Every year the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust hold a Ride and Stride event to raise much needed funds for the Trust and for local Churches. The aim is to try and visit as many churches as possible on a given day and raise money by sponsorship. This year Ride and Stride events will be taking place throughout the country on Saturday 8th September.

More than 200 churches and chapels will be open across Shropshire, so you will have the chance to enjoy a visit to a number of local churches, as well as raising money for a good cause.

If you would like to take part, you can walk, cycle, jog, ride a horse or even go by car. Half of any money you raise will go to fund the work of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (which gives grants to help maintain and repair local churches) and half will go to the church of your choice.

If you would like to take part, please contact Jill Faulkner on 01694 731363.

You can also find more information on Ride and Stride at: www.shropshirehct.org.uk/OtherActivities/RideStride.aspx



Parish Council News

Since the last edition of 'Village Views' there have been two Parish Council Meetings.

In May, Keith Faulkner stepped down as Chairman after nearly ten years of exemplary leadership and was replaced by John Long.

The routine work of the PC has once again concentrated on highways, planning and finance, but considerable time has had to be devoted to the General Data Protection Regulation which came into effect on 25 May. Even small public bodies like ours have to comply with the same rules as big multi-nationals; it's just that they have greater resources!

Similarly, policies on Governance & Accountability, Asset Management and Financial Regulation have to be developed and discussed before being implemented. It is not the most exciting aspect of the Councillors' duties, but it has to be done, otherwise we fall foul of the many regulatory bodies that oversee our work.

On a more positive note, two of the four defibrillators purchased by the PC from the Lightsource Solar Farm annual subsidy are now in place (in Acton Burnell and in Frodesley) and, with the generous assistance of Concord College, aim to have the remaining two (in Ruckley and Pitchford) installed in the very near future.

Looking to the future, the PC is just starting work on a new Community Led Plan for the area and involvement from local people will be essential in the production of this.

Finally, though you may not know it, the PC owns the two old red phone boxes in Pitchford and in Acton Burnell. Sadly, these are showing signs of their age and options are being considered for their refurbishment.

All your Councillors are available to receive your thoughts, concerns, proposals and suggestions at any reasonable hour of the day and night, so please feel free to contact them. All their details are on the PC Notice Boards in each of the villages.

Volunteer delivery help wanted!

We are looking for someone to join forces with Gilly Turner to deliver Village Views in Acton Burnell. This will involve a few hours of your time only four times per year. If you are interested in becoming part of the delivery team, please contact Chris Harrison at villageviews@hotmail.com, call 01694 731120 or speak to John Glover.

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 19 October 2018.

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

WHAT'S ON

28th July to 12th August

The Church Stretton Arts Festival runs for two weeks, featuring a range of concerts, dramatic performances, an art exhibition and workshops to suit all tastes. For a full list of all events, and to book tickets for any of the concerts, please go to www.strettonfestival.org.uk/events-listing/ or call 01694 724106. Tickets for all events are also available from John Thomas Florist in Church Stretton.

1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd August

Children are invited to come and find out what is lurking in the stream at Cardingmill Valley, by taking part in one of their stream dipping days. Tickets £1 per child. Wellies essential! Meet at the Chalet Pavilion, Cardingmill Valley from 11am to 3pm. More information available by calling 01694 725000.

2nd August

Bring your youngsters along to join the Rangers at Wenlock Edge to make their very own woodland den, topped with their own flag. This is a drop-in activity (no booking needed) running from 11am to 2pm. There is a charge of £2 per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and dogs on leads are also welcome. To take part, please go to the Presthope Car Park.

3rd & 17th August

Scavenger Hunts at Cardingmill Valley. Tickets are £1 per child. Meet at the Chalet Pavilion, Cardingmill Valley, from 11am to 3pm. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult, and that this event is not suitable for dogs.

9th August

Take part in a Wild Woods Adventure Trail on Wenlock Edge. Tickets £2, available on the day. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and dogs on leads are also welcome. Please meet at Presthope Car Park at 11am.

10th & 11th August

The annual Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place at The Quarry, Shrewsbury. This two day celebration of gardening and flowers also offers arena entertainment, including showjumping, jousting and falconry displays, performances by an Abba tribute act and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and fireworks displays on both days. Tickets can be bought on-line from www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk.

10th & 24th August

Try your hand at orienteering at these two events at Cardingmill Valley. This is a family activity which will help you develop your map reading and compass skills, before sending you off on a course through the beautiful scenery of Cardingmill Valley. Tickets £1 per child. Meet at the Chalet Pavilion, Cardingmill Valley, from 11am to 3pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This activity is not suitable for dogs.

12th August

The Magnalonga is an 8 to 10 mile walk along footpaths, tracks and quiet lanes, starting and finishing at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms. There will be several stops for refreshments, enabling you to try out local produce from around Ludlow and the Welsh Marches. Tickets and more information are available from www.magnalonga.co.uk.

12th August

Classic Car Rally at Attingham Hall. Come along from 12 noon to enjoy a wonderful range of vintage and classic cars on display at the Hall. This event is in aid of Severn Hospice, and entry is free for all National Trust members (usual fees apply for non-members).

12th August

The Church Stretton Festival closes with a performance of 'A Complete and Utter History of Jazz' at Concord College, Acton Burnell. A multi-instrumentalist sextet perform jazz hits from 1902 to the present day and the band members take it in turns to fill in the short gaps with tittle-tattle about the music and musicians who made jazz magnificent. Tickets are £25 for adults, and £12.50 for students in full-time education. The concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets can be bought from www.strettonfestival.org.uk/events-listing/, by calling 01694 724106, or from John Thomas Florist in Church Stretton.

16th August

Explore the woods and track down nature's treasures in a scavenger hunt on Wenlock Edge. This is a drop-in activity (no booking needed) running from 11am to 2pm. There is a charge of £2 per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and dogs on leads are also welcome. Please go to the Presthope Car Park to buy your tickets and start your hunt!

16th August

Folk and roots music from Hickman and Quinn at the Chalet Pavilion, Cardingmill Valley. Cask and bottled ale, cider, wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee and snacks will be on sale. The concert begins at 7pm and tickets are £6 per person (please note that this is an adults only event, and that only assistance dogs will be admitted). Please call 03442 491895 to book your tickets.

17th August

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Come along from 7.30pm to enjoy a pint and a natter.

17th, 20th & 24th August

Try your hand at archaeology at Attingham Hall. Researchers have recently found a new building in the grounds which is not marked on any maps. Archaeologists are offering a two hour introduction to archaeology, and the chance to help with the dig. Cost £3 per person (in addition to usual Attingham Hall admission charges); under 5's are free. Call 03442 491895 to book your places.

18th August

Cuan Wildlife Rescue are hosting a concert by local folk band Whalebone to raise funds for their charitable work. The concert will take place in the Cuan marquee overlooking Wenlock Edge, and a bar and BBQ will be available. Tickets (£10 per person) and more information by calling Anna Nicholas on 01952 728070 or email cuanwildlife@gmail.com.

19th August

Classic vehicle and craft fair in aid of Cuan Wildlife Rescue, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock. Fun day out for all the family, with classic cars and motorbikes, craft stalls and refreshments.

23rd August

Fancy making a mud pie; hunting for fossils, hunting for bugs; going bird watching.... You can try your hand at these at Wenlock Edge. Tickets £2 available on the day. Meet at Presthope Car park between 11am and 2pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult and dogs on leads are welcome.

24th to 27th August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival, West Midlands Showground, showcases the best contemporary folk music and dance. Tickets are available from www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk, but there will also be many free fringe events taking place around the town.

25th August

The popular Attingham Hall camp is back for its third year. Enjoy Attingham at night, cosying up to a bonfire and sleeping under the stars. A range of after-dark family activities with qualified providers will be on offer, including stories and marshmallows around the camp fire, twilight bush craft and star watching. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Tickets are £30 per adult, £15 for children and young people under 16, and £5 for children under 2. Call 03442 491895 to book your places.

31st August

Open-air cinema at Attingham Hall. Enjoy a screening of Dirty Dancing (12A) under the stars. The performance ends with a magical fireworks display over the River Tern set to music. Tickets available on the night, or in advance at £19.50 per person. Call 01332 290606 or email info@derbyquad.co.uk.

1st September

Open-air cinema at Attingham Hall with a screening of Dunkirk (12A). Tickets available on the night, or in advance at £15.50 per person. Call 01332 290606 or email info@derbyquad.co.uk.

3rd September

'Finding Your Feet', starring Timothy Spaul, Joanna Lumley and Imelda Staunton, will be showing at Church Stretton School at 7.30pm. On the eve of her retirement, a woman discovers her husband has been having an affair with her best friend, and is forced to move in with her bohemian sister. Tickets £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. Tickets available from 01694 724330.

8th September

Managing the Mynd - a talk from one of the National Trust's Rangers, explaining how the heathland on the Long Mynd is managed in order to maintain the fragile ecosystem. Soup and a roll included in the £9.00 ticket price. The talk begins at 6pm in the Chalet Pavilion, Cardingmill Valley. Contact 03442 491895 to book your ticket.

9th September

Soap Box Derby at The Edge Activity Centre, Much Wenlock, in aid of Cuan Wildlife Rescue. Entry fee £30 per soap box team (maximum two drivers and two pushers, all team members must be aged 16 or over). Entry forms can be downloaded from www.cuanwildliferescue.org.uk/home/2018-events/

12th September

A live screening of 'The Merrie Wives of Windsor', performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, will be shown at Church Stretton School. Rated 12A, tickets are £12.00 for adults and £6.00 for children, and the performance begins at 7.00pm. 'The Place' restaurant will be serving a pre-performance two course meal with wine or a soft drink - cost £15.00 per person. To order tickets for the screening or for the meal, please contact 01694 722209.

16th September

Wild Food foraging morning at Wilderhope, Wenlock Edge. Learn how to identify different edible and poisonous species. There will be a short foraging walk, led by experts, before heading back to the manor house to taste a variety of wild treats. Tickets are £5 per person, available by calling 03442 491895.

21st September

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall, including the grand lottery draw, featuring an amazing list of prizes and promises. Please see the Village Hall column elsewhere in this newsletter for more information and a complete list of prizes. The evening will also include the final of the 'Grow An Onion' competition, and free turkey rolls and sausage rolls to enjoy with your usual pint!

1st October

Church Stretton School will be showing 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' at 7.30pm. Based on a best-selling novel, this romantic drama revolves around a book club founded during the German occupation of Guernsey. Tickets are £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. Contact 01694 724330.

7th October

Wenlock Edge is home to the largest population of hazel dormice in Shropshire. A guided walk (10am to 12 noon) will show you how to look for evidence of these little creatures, and learn about their ecology and the efforts that are being made to protect them. Tickets are £3 per person, available by calling 03442 491895.

17th October

'Wildlife Kate' will be giving a talk about all things wildlife in aid of Cuan Wildlife Rescue at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock. Kate MacRae has appeared on Countryfile, Autumn Watch and Spring Watch, and is a respected wildlife photographer. Tickets are £14 and the talk begins at 7.30pm. More information can be found by calling Anna Nicholas on 01952 728070 or email cuanwildlife@gmail.com.

19th October

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall, from 7.30pm onwards. Bar, mobile chippie and good company!

20th October onwards

Attingham Hall will be hosting the first 'Attingham Woollen Woods'. Hand crafted woodland creatures will be on view along part of the Mile Walk. If you would like to help create this stunning autumn themed family trail and get crafty at the same time then felt, sew, craft, knit or crochet an autumn critter and post it to Attingham Hall by the 20th October for it to be included. Critters can be made from any waterproof materials but must have some wool (natural or synthetic) to be included.

29th & 30th October

Pumpkin carving workshops at Attingham Hall. The cost is £5 per person (to include a pumpkin to carve and an LED candle to light up your creation). Please call 03442 491895 to book your places.

ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BASH

The annual Church Fete was held on 9th June. Once again, we were blessed with fine weather. Villagers and local residents spent a lovely afternoon enjoying the sunshine, visiting the many stalls, sideshows and having teas and ice cream in the Principal's garden.

This was followed in the evening by the ever popular Burnell Bash, when we all had a great time eating and drinking and chatting to friends and neighbours.

It was so nice to see you all there and the PCC would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us.

See you again next year on Saturday 8th June 2019!

Jill Faulkner, PCC



The Beeches Medical Practice

We hope you are all having a lovely Summer.

Blood pressure machine in waiting room

The Practice would like to say a very big thank you to the Patient Participation Group (PPG) and all patients for collecting donations for the books for sale at the Practices. This, along with a personal donation has enabled us to purchase a Blood Pressure Machine for the waiting room.

24 hr blood pressure mobile machine

We have been lucky enough to have money donated from the patrons of the weekly coffee morning at Christ Church in Bayston Hill. They have raised the money through raffles and donations, plus a further donation from the PPG this has enabled us to purchase a much needed 24hr Blood Pressure Machine.

New Telephone system and wifi

As of the 2nd July 2018 we have had a brand new phone system fitted. WIFI is another addition to our surgery - to log on you simply follow the onscreen instructions.

New staff members

We are very pleased to welcome two new staff members – Andrea our new Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP), who will work Thursday and Fridays joining Jean, our other ANP who works on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. At Dorrington Lisa has joined us as the new Dispensary Manager.

NHS 111 system from 17th July 2018

As from Tuesday 17 July 2018 patients across Shropshire who need urgent out-of-hours medical help or advice will need to call 111 instead of Shropdoc.

Flu campaign 2018/2019

Make sure you get the right flu jab - there are two types this year. One works best for over 65 year olds and one works best for those under 65.

From Dan Morris, Councillor, Shropshire Council

At the time of writing I am putting the finishing touches to a motion that proposes Shropshire Council bans the use of Sky Lanterns, also known as Chinese Lanterns, on any Shropshire Council land or property.

I first became aware of these lanterns, as I suspect many people did, when watching the brilliant Leonardo DeCaprio film The Beach. At the time I thought they looked magical as they floated off into the sky off an idyllic beach in Thailand, and I'm pretty sure that people became more aware of them after this film.

However I have seen many comments of late from people urging Shropshire Council to ban them as a hazard, fire risk, danger to wildlife and litter problem. All of the Councils in Wales have already made such bans, as have many councils in England. I agree with these comments, as do many of my fellow members.

Today, when we have seen very little rain in the past few weeks, with spontaneous fires on moorland and dry brown fields everywhere, it is easy to see why they are a fire threat. Even in winter, if they land on a thatched roof or get blown into a barn full of straw, they pose a huge risk.

Furthermore the risk of injury to

wildlife and farm animals should be reason enough for such a ban. Lanterns pose a threat as they can cause injury, suffering, and death, through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment. Farmers have called for bans following cases of livestock injured or killed from eating lantern parts accidentally chopped into animal feed during harvest, or getting caught in wire frames that have landed in fields.

I am hopeful that I will have lots of support for my motion at the full council meeting in July, and as a result we can add more pressure to government at a national level to ban Chinese Lanterns outright. Being in the position of being able to propose such a motion before Council that would make a material difference is the main reason I became a councillor.

My drop in surgeries will resume in September or October. I wish you all a happy summer break. As always, if you have any questions or matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email (dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk), on twitter (@dan4burnell), on facebook (dan4burnell) or by phone (07902408400).

Bank Holiday GP Surgery Closures

The GP surgeries at Much Wenlock and Cressage, and at The Beeches, Bayston Hill, will be closed for the bank holiday on Monday 27th August, and will re-open on Tuesday 28th August. If you need urgent health care during the bank holiday please call 111 to speak to a fully trained adviser, who will be able to help you.

Community Led Plan – have your say!

Included in this edition of Village Views is a questionnaire asking for your feedback on the current Parish Plan. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete it. The closing date is Monday 10th September.

Volunteers are also needed to take part in the development of a new 'community led plan' for the combined parishes. Information is included with the enclosed questionnaire.

CHURCH PREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Preen School will be holding an open day on 2nd October. Interested parents are invited to visit this rural primary school to see what it has to offer. The school was rated as outstanding in all areas in its most recent inspection, and described by Ofsted in 2016 as a school where 'children make excellent progress'. The school offers before and after school child care provision. Places are currently available.

For more information, please contact the school on 01694 771 359 or at admin@churchpreen.shropshire.sch.uk





News from **Pitchford Village Hall**

The Village Hall in Pitchford continues to be well used. Pub nights on the third Friday in each month are always popular and the barrels continue to empty! These are regularly attended by the Nippy Chippy although the curry night was a lovely change back in June! Bottom line – food always available! It was also opened to see Croatia beat England in the World Cup and while the event was another ‘proper’ use of a Parish facility, the result was not (unless you are Croatian or Scottish!).

The discussions with the insurance company continue and we are playing a waiting game now to see if there is any further movement in the gable ends before deciding how to proceed. More recent work on the hall includes the replacement of the pump on the septic tank and repairing roof drainage at the front of the building. Big thanks to Ralph Jones for his help with the latter!

The September pub night on Friday the 21st will be a ‘grand’ affair. Apart from the usual beer and wine, there will also be free food – turkey rolls, sausage rolls etc – to accompany the Grand Raffle Draw and the Onion Weigh-in.

The drawing of raffle tickets, proceeds of which are in aid of the Village Hall, are for the prizes previously promised for the “Auction of Promises” event which sadly we had to cancel. The prize list is genuinely awesome and includes everything from a day on the Severn Valley Railway to free home-made ice cream every month for six months. The very impressive full list appears below and are in “no particular order”:

- Two hours gardening provided by Lavender Blue Services
- Fabric for cushion covers provided by Gaynor Bowen Textiles
- Two hour stable mucking out
- 2 x 1 hour dog agility training sessions
- Two hours cleaning provided by Lavender Blue Services
- Two fruit trees pruned by John Green, a highly experienced gardener with 20 years’ experience of fruit growing
- Silver pendant
- 4 hours work from Karen Fisher, a professional graphic designer (Logo/Business Card/social media/advertising)
- A Christmas cake – 8 inch square cake, top iced
- Family pass for Ironbridge Gorge Museums
- Two handmade cushion covers (draw winner to supply fabric)
- Two hours ironing
- Small load of logs
- Mountain bike experience on the Long Mynd
- Two tickets for the Severn Valley Railway
- 2 hours strimming within 8 mile radius of Pitchford
- Guided tour of Pitchford Hall
- Garden design + CAD drawing donated by a well-known local landscape gardener
- Equine Muscle Therapy Treatment – a full body treatment for your horse or pony, to get it back into balance whether for hacking or competition. Caroline works with the horse’s muscles, tendons and ligaments so making it an ideal therapy for those horses with puzzling intermittent lameness, stiffness, inconsistent performance and behaviour problems which can’t be explained.
- A tub of homemade ice cream every month for six months
- A load of logs delivered within a 10 mile radius of Pitchford
- A framed water colour signed by Martin Bell

If you want to buy any of these tickets then please see one of the members of the committee (Mike Price, Chris Jones, Bridget Thurgood, Daphne Lewis, Gilly Turner, John Glover, Jeanette Reaney and Niki Williams). Tickets are also available from Rose at the Post Office in Acton Burnell and will also be available at the August Pub night on the 17th August. The cost is £1 for a single ticket or you can purchase these in books of 5 for £5. Well done to Gilly Turner for masterminding and the badgering to make this happen as well as to our generous donors!

Also in September there will be the judging of the ‘Grow an Onion’ competition. If you have entered this horticultural extravaganza then get your miracle grow out and remember to bring your onion along on this, the third Friday in September.

We are also planning a Car Boot sale on Sunday 1st September starting at 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Stalls will be both inside and outside the Hall and the event will be open to all potential buyers and stall holders with rates at £5 for car boots and £7.50 for tables inside. Anyone wanting to book a stall can contact our Secretary, Chris Jones, on 07538 744807 and if this is the case, we would ask that you do so urgently. Bacon butties along with other refreshments will be available on the day. Details will appear on the PVH Facebook page and you will be sent an email about this if you are on our mailing list.

News from Pitchford Hall

The last few weeks at Pitchford have seen further returns of the contents of the Hall that were scattered worldwide during the 1992 Christie's auction. A court cupboard, side table and a painting have reclaimed their places in the Hall after a gap of nearly three decades. The return of the contents is critical to the restoration of the Hall. The fabric of the building needs to be restored but so do the interiors such as the Great Hall and the Library. If the antiques never come home, our guided tour visitors will simply experience a shell which seems a shame. All the items returned have been huge acts of generosity by strangers who live in Shropshire who appreciate the importance of getting one of Shropshire's heritage gems back on its feet.

The past few weeks have also seen numerous guided tours to the Hall including Tweet up Shrewsbury and the Drapers. These visits help with the restoration of the Hall and the garden. We are hugely appreciative.

Last weekend Birmingham City University's heritage conservation students spent a day at the Hall learning about timber framed buildings and having their lectures in the Hall's Dining Room. We hope some of these students will have been inspired by Pitchford and will go on to work on Shropshire's abundant black and white timber framed buildings.

Now that the seven double-bedroom holiday let within Pitchford Hall (The Generals' Quarters) is finished we can now sleep almost fifty people on the Estate per night. If people are planning events that will require significant amount of accommodation please do contact us.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will arrange further guided tours if there is interest, and we are also dressing the Hall for Christmas so we can arrange festive tours. We have run a few ghost tours last Autumn and once again if there is interest we will run more this Autumn and Winter. For details of our forthcoming tours, please see www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/pitchford-hall-tree-house/.

We are well served in Pitchford by volunteers who have given many hours to help bring life back to Pitchford. If you might be interested in becoming a volunteer to Pitchford Hall please do make contact.

We hope to update you in the next Village Views and in the meantime do follow our progress at #Pitchford on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @PitchfordEstate.

James and Rowena Nason



BATTLE'S OVER – A NATION'S TRIBUTE AND WWI BEACONS OF LIGHT

As the article in the last edition of 'Village Views' announced, Acton Burnell will be participating in a nationwide festival of commemoration and remembrance during which a chain of 1,000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 19.00 on Sunday 11 November 2018 – exactly a century after the guns fell silent at the end of hostilities in what later became known as World War One (WWI).

Our beacon, in the form of a large bonfire, will be sited high on Acton Burnell Hill, courtesy of Adrian Bruce-Smythe, and all residents of the four constituent parishes of the Acton Burnell Group i.e. Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley and Langley & Ruckley, are invited to attend. Planning is proceeding well under the watchful eyes of Keith & Jill Faulkner and Rob Morgan and food and drink will be available.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

As a precursor to the beacon lighting, there will be a service of thanks in tribute to the men and women from the local parishes who fought and, in many cases, died in the war. This will be conducted by the Reverend Geoff Garrett at St Mary's Church, Acton Burnell at 17.30 on 11 November. This will allow all parishioners to pay their respects to those who served in WW1

and then move up the hill to attend the beacon lighting.

More details of this service will be published in the monthly Parish Newsletter and in the November edition of 'Village Views'.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 'SILENT SOLDIER' CAMPAIGN

Finally- and very regrettably- the Parish Council did not receive sufficient expressions of interest or donations to enable it to take part in the Royal British Legion's 'Silent Soldier' campaign.



Local Strolls: The Lodge Hill Round

The third in a series of local ambles from Pitchford resident and ex-geography teacher John Glover

While never going to make the best 100 walks in Britain, what is significant about Lodge Hill, which lies at the southern end of our patch, is that it is one of those places that is instantly recognisable on the UK terrain maps which are often used on weather forecasts on the TV. Due to its distinctive shape and clean alignment with the Lawley and Netherwood Coppice, it stands out from the jumble that 'normal' uplands create on such a map. Being a bit of a cartographical geek, I can instantly see our location on a map of the whole of Britain which takes some of the guesswork out of what the forecasters are predicting. Sad eh, but worthy of note!

If you want a stroll on one of those really hot summer days when you need to get out but don't want to melt, then Lodge Hill (and Hoar Edge to the south) are ideal in that it is virtually all under woodland. While being an interesting and fun stroll, it is one that has so much potential that it can leave you feeling a little frustrated. It is – unlike its neighbour, The Lawley – not on the national tourist trail and as such you are unlikely to come across other good folk on your jaunt, which, while some people may say is a bit of a bonus, creates a downside. More about that later.

Local Strolls: The Lodge Hill Round (Continued)

The ideal starting point is a small car park at the foot of the ridge just beyond Lawley on the road to Chatwall. A small path starts just by a Forestry commission sign and takes you uphill almost immediately, through spacious woodland, passing a disused old quarry on the right before it levels out within a few hundred yards. A few meters further, this woodland path comes into an opening where a forestry track begins. At this point, you need to turn right and then diagonally across the open space to where another small woodland footpath takes you on and upwards again along the ridge of the hill.

The ridge is marked pretty much all the way along by an old stone wall made from the sandstone that is the base geology for our hill and the ridge to the south where we will end our stroll. This rock was formed in the late Ordovician when our chunk of land was at the bottom of a shallow sea somewhere close to where southern Africa is today, close to land where rivers dumped their load on reaching the marine environment. The rock was quarried from here by the Romans and used to build much of the city of Wroxeter a few miles to the north-east.

The track continues through increasingly overgrown ground (especially so late in summer). While the path is sound, you may have to hack your way through intruding vegetation. This is a consequence of very few walkers visiting the hill. Not enough footfall to keep the growth at bay. Indeed, I am led to believe it is a small number of good folk on horseback who ride the area from time to time that keep the track open at all. The more of us who go, the better it will get and the downside mentioned before will be less of a problem!!!!



Lodge Hill wood just above the car park

The woodland you walk through has a prehistoric feel about it. Ferns and bracken cover the ground and the light is dimmed by the thick cover of oak, lime, ash and spruce. Following the wall, you come to a gap and another 200 yards beyond this, the trees clear and you reach the summit of the hill, a yard under 1000 feet (or 304 metres in new money). The trees to the west have been cleared to allow a wonderful view of Shropshire to the west. Stretching from Caer Caradoc and the Long Mynd right around to Haughmond Hill, the sight is unexpected and spectacular. It makes you feel that this hill has so much more to offer if more of the summit ridge was cleared to offer views of this quality!

The concrete pillar on the summit is a 'trig point'. This will no doubt be remembered chiefly as a bain for all former geography students who were forced to memorise the blue triangle with a dot in it as something significant when 'doing' Ordnance survey map work in lessons

all those years ago! In fact, these pillars are largely redundant now but in pre-satellite days they were used to mount cartographer's theodolites allowing them to measure angles from these to other similar features built on other hills in order to make their maps. OS maps always have been and still are today, the most detailed and the best in the world and something of which this country can be very proud!

The track continues back into the wood and very quickly descends down a steep and slightly muddy section before reaching a terrace and a wider track albeit with a number of pools for your dog to dive in to make him even more welcome when you get home and that new carpet in front of the fire! Talking of canine friends, this hill is wonderful in that there are no sheep on any part of it and where the track gets close to the surrounding fields where sheep do graze, the farmers have done a superb job of ensuring the fencing is more than adequate to keep canine and flocks apart.

Soon, where a sharp bend in the track round to the right occurs, you take a smaller path leading off on the left. Keep straight on, ignoring the other similar paths which lead off from time to time, you end up on a lovely open track under deep woodland with little intruding vegetation to use your machete on. This track climbs slightly before falling away as it contours around the north end of the hill before it drops down to where it meets the forestry track which borders the hill between the woodland and the open farmland. Turning left, you soon get a glimpse of Frodesley Lodge, a magnificent old building which sits beautifully to the north west of the hill.

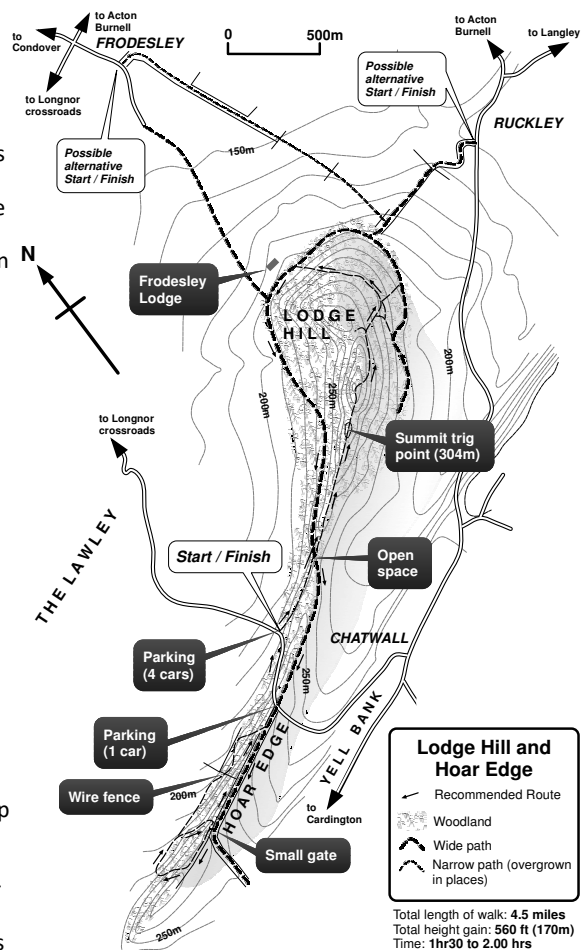
If you then follow the track around for about a mile in a southerly direction, you soon meet the original open space you have been to before where the small track following the summit ridge wall was met for the first time. Here, you have a choice. Go back the way you came to the car park about 5 minutes away, or head diagonally across this open area and pick up the summit wall again but this time going south.

Following the track you soon arrive at the road between Chatwall and Lawley from where begins 'part two' of the exploration of the sandstone ridge.



Caradoc and Lawley from the summit of Lodge Hill

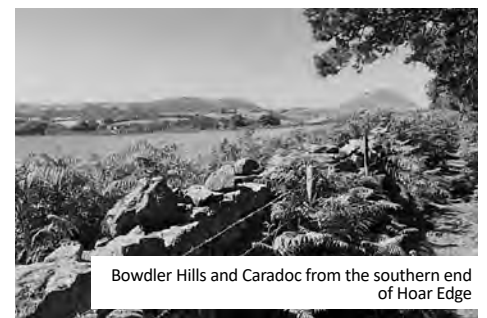
Crossing straight over you get onto a good open track with splendid open views of Yell Bank to the left, Caradoc and the Bowdler Fells in front and the wood to your right. Carry on for about half a mile passing an old train wagon posing as a shepherd's hut on the left. You soon reach a distinct bend to the left. At this point there is a small gate on the right. Go through this and immediately you find a gap in the trees along the western edge of Hoar Edge. Here, there is a superb view of the eastern flanks of the Lawley.



Keeping left, you follow a good track paralleling the right hand side of the wall and after kicking a few overgrown bracken leaves out of the way, it descends for about 100 yards popping out onto the open ground between the Lawley and the Edge. Again, the view is heart-warming. Turning right, you follow the edge of the wood until a clear gap in the trees appears which is rather overgrown with bracken and which has a steak driven into the ground. It's a little hard to see at first, but there is a path which dives off to the right, a little like the one you descended to the valley 5 minutes ago but this time taking a steep ascent back to the same point by the gate at the bend in the ridge track you reached before where you can now breathe again!

All that remains in to amble back along the track the way you came until you reach the road and then descend this to the left where you will reach the car park where you will probably find yours is still the only car there!

While the woodland is atmospheric and pleasant, a little less on the Lodge Hill ridge would make it even more special as would more feet trampling the vegetation especially on that ridge to the summit. There are other access points, particularly from Frodesley and Ruckley as the map suggests and the lines on it mark field boundaries on these to help with navigation. Enjoy!



Bowdler Hills and Caradoc from the southern end of Hoar Edge

Village Views Distribution

Well; there's good news and there's bad news!!

Firstly the bad! Apologies to all those who asked for a PDF version of the newsletter. Unfortunately, the email address used for this purpose was corrupted as the last edition was being sent and the email address (villageviewsdistribution) has been sent to the great email cemetery in the sky! Any queries therefore should go to villageviews@hotmail.com address which is working as normal. We are aware that some people would like access to a PDF version and we are still trying to sort it so that all future editions will appear on the Parish website.

The good news however, is that we have expanded our delivery team and we can now get a paper copy to every address within our area: this was hopefully the case for the May edition. A massive thanks to all the delivery team who work hard to get these to you, to provide you with that all important bedtime reading! If, however, you know of anyone who should have received a copy and who did not, then please email us at villageviews@hotmail.com and we will ensure that they are put on the circulation list for next time and we will deliver a back copy of this edition individually. This also means that we will no longer need to provide any copies for specific customers to pick up at the Post Office in Acton Burnell (as was arranged back in the winter), but there will always be a few copies available for anyone over the counter there if needed.

John Glover

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