

# Village Views

August 2025

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

## WELCOME AND HELP NEEDED

So far, this summer has been marked by scorching temperatures and low rainfall. At the time of writing, Shropshire has so far escaped a hosepipe ban, but many parts of the country are facing restrictions. Climate change is likely to mean that we experience more frequent episodes of both heavy rain and high temperatures, so water management will probably become more important as time goes on. Check out the article on using water responsibly for more information and ideas.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the job of laying out Village Views. The job should only take a few days every three months, and requires someone with an interest in design, a keen eye for detail and basic IT skills. We are currently using PowerPoint to produce Village Views, so no specialist software is needed. If you would like to take on the role, or would like to discuss what it entails, please contact [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com). We'd love to hear from you!

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

## ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BARBECUE

This was held on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> July. We slightly altered the format: starting later, not having an evening Bash, and instead having a bar-b-q from 5pm onwards. It seemed to work well and we had a very successful afternoon. It was a pity that more local residents were unable to come along and enjoy a good old fashioned village fete. It raised a sum of around £1000. Although this sounds like a large sum it won't be nearly enough to pay for replacing St. Mary's boiler and heating system so we will have to come up with more fund-raising ideas and events. If anyone has any ideas we can use and are prepared to come along and get involved with village life then please contact [jillfaulkner@btconnect.com](mailto:jillfaulkner@btconnect.com)

A little bit of help from lots of people makes the job so much easier. Thank you for your support.

*Jill Faulkner*



## ACTON BURNELL SHOP - SUMMER OPENING

The shop and Post Office is currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

Usual opening days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) will be resumed from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September onwards.

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be October 18<sup>th</sup> 2025.

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



## NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

### Pub Nights:

Pub Nights continue to be enjoyed within the community as we try to vary the experience on offer, from a simple drinks evening to special food events, such as the Noba Kitchen visit last month where we had Nigerian street food hosted by the cheerful Gladys, which went down very well.

In June, we had our special VE Day celebration, where a lovely atmosphere with table decorations, old newsreel coverage, music and food of the time, along with special guests who remembered the event at first hand, made this probably the busiest and most memorable of events we have held in over 10 years. A truly collaborative team event by the committee and others which definitely showcased what community can be about in our area.



*Jeremy Lowe presents an appropriate prize for the best dressed 1940s outfit to Sarah*



*Entering into the spirit of the 1940s*

This month (August 8<sup>th</sup>), we have a BBQ. Please come along to sample traditional BBQ food as well as the usual drinks!

Pub nights are a friendly affair, and probably the only regular time where anyone within our community can pop along for as long (or as short) as they want and meet others in our area. It is genuinely open to all in the area, whether long established, newbies, young or old etc. The next events are on the second Fridays of August, September and October 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!!). Please note that the bar is 'cash only'!

### Breakfast Butties:

Our 'Breakfast Butties' event in June was in the end very well attended, although a slow start before a mad flurry at the end had us wondering how many bacon butties we would have to consume that afternoon! Well done to Miriam Davies yet again for organising this extended event. The next Breakfast Butties will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This will, as usual, coincide with another local walkies, details of which will follow in due course.

### PVH Centenary:



*Pitchford in the 1920s*

Next year, the Hall will be 100 years old (although as a 1920's prefab, re-erected on its current site, the building itself will be much older!). The Hall itself was opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1926 by Lady Sybil Grant from Pitchford Hall, and we have a number of ideas to celebrate this in 2026, details of which will emerge on the usual communication channels!

One is a possible whist drive, by all accounts a popular activity 100 years ago, and if anyone knows anything about the game or wishes to advise, then please get in touch with our Secretary, Chris Jones.



*Joan Ray (aged 5) who gave a presentation posy to Lady Sybil upon the opening of the Hall*

### Hiring 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: £30**

**Meetings: £20**

**Other bookings: £40 (£60 for events over 6 hours)**

Should you wish to hire the hall please contact Mike Price.

As always, we are continually looking for new volunteers to help with the running of the Hall and associated events, and on that note, please read Miriam's separate article on the 'Do One Thing' initiative in this newsletter!

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. In addition, should you wish to hire the hall for your own use, then again, please contact Mike Price.

**Mike Price (Chairman):**

email: price622@btinternet.com

mobile: 07740 067955

**Chris Jones (Secretary):**

email: csjay@btinternet.com

mobile: 07538 744807

**Jeanette Reaney (Tote Organiser):**

email: jeanettereaney@hotmail.com

mobile: 07971 780963

**John Glover (PVH Committee)**



## COULD YOU BE THE NEXT HALL HERO?

Following the launch of the PVH Volunteer Campaign in May, we have been extremely grateful to the volunteers who have come forward to take on tasks such as cutting the hedge, putting the bins out and providing flowers for events. By spreading the load and pulling together as a community we can keep our beloved Village Hall alive! THANK YOU!

We have also been approached by other willing volunteers who are happy to help out from time to time with various tasks, depending on what's needed and their availability. Enter the **HALL HEROES**!

We have started a WhatsApp group for our Hall Heroes where we post 'shout outs' for help when things crop up. There is no obligation or expectation on our Heroes, we are just grateful that they are offering to help if they can. The type of help that our Heroes can provide can vary from giving up time to help out at a fundraiser, donating a raffle prize, telling friends about an event or giving feedback on an idea.

What's in it for you? Answer: The warm fuzzy feeling you get when you are involved in community charity work! (Sorry, no capes provided)

If you would like to join the Hall Heroes then please message us on Facebook or Instagram @PitchfordVillageHall or contact Miriam directly at [miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miriamdavies@hotmail.co.uk).

*Miriam Davies*



## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Help keep the Village Hall alive  
and join the

## HALL HEROES

In the PVH volunteer campaign  
for 2025

## THE FOX INN AT RYTON UPDATE

### And We're Off!

Well, the roof is! Exciting times as one of the main elements of the renovation is well underway with the roof works happening. A new roof, with proper insulation and ultimately solar panels, will make our pub much more energy efficient and sustainable for many years to come. Also the chimney stack and fireplace from the lounge area are being removed to create a more open feel to the pub.

There's lots more happening behind the scenes; planning for the new kitchen, the branding, and starting the hiring process for the new management. We'll shortly be advertising for a manager and chef.



On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, our new Management Board met for the first time and elected to keep David Oliver (Chair), Dave Thorpe (Vice-Chair), Martin Sells (Treasurer) and Helen May (Secretary) in their current roles for the first year.

The Board has new members who bring commercial experience and new skills to the team. It will meet every two weeks. As part of our ongoing fundraising, The Friends of The Fox Team are having a **Car Treasure Hunt** on 14<sup>th</sup> September. If you'd like to be part of the fundraising team? Let us know at:

[info@thefoxatryton.co.uk](mailto:info@thefoxatryton.co.uk)

Thank you for your amazing support.

*The Fox at Ryton team*

# WHAT'S ON

## Up to 31<sup>st</sup> August

The Shrewsbury Arts Trail offers the chance to see art works and sculpture by world-renowned, up and coming and local artists at a wide range of venues across the town. Find details of events and an interactive map of locations at <https://www.shrewsburyartstrail.com/>

## 2nd August

Cressage Village Hall will be holding a Dog Show and Summer Fair from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Dog Show begins at 1.00pm. There will be games for all the family, plus ice cream and refreshments.

## 8th to 10th August

Farmer Phil's Festival at Ratlinghope promises a range of musically diverse bands and entertainers performing in a family friendly setting, alongside a host of activities for children. Day and weekend tickets available from <https://ww2.theticketsellers.co.uk/buy-tickets/farmer-phils-festival-2025/10058311>

## 16th August

Minsterley Show takes place – not at Minsterley but at Manor Farm, Cruckton, SY5 8PW. Attractions include a performance by the Stannage Stunt Team of motorcyclists, a grand parade of award winning livestock, an arts and crafts marquee, children's entertainment at the 'Village Green', and a food hall showcasing Shropshire produce. Tickets from <https://minsterleyshow.org.uk/tickets/> or available on the gate.

## 17th August

Classic Car and Craft Fair in aid of Cuan Wildlife Rescue at the rescue centre, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock. Doors open at 11.00am. Lots of classic cars, motorbikes, tractors and other vehicles, plus a wide range of craft and charity stalls, bouncy castles, refreshments and entertainment. To book a classic car into the show, please go to <https://cuanwildliferescue.org.uk/event/open-day-26th-july-2025-and-classic-car-craft-fair-sunday-17th-august-2025-booking-stalls/>

## 22nd to 25th August

Shrewsbury goes folk for the annual Folk Festival at West Midlands Showground Shrewsbury. Performers include Judy Tzuke, Skerryvore and The Levellers. Tickets available from <https://www.gigantic.com/shrewsbury-folk-festival-tickets>

## 28th to 31st August

Blockbuster films on show at Attingham Park, including sing-along versions of The Greatest Showman (29<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm) and Wicked (31<sup>st</sup> August, 6.30pm), Moana 2 (30<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm), Queen Spectacular (30<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm), and a celebration of the music of Andrea Bocelli (31<sup>st</sup> August at 1.30pm). The programme of films opens with Bridget Jones Diary on 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. Booking in advance essential via the National Trust website, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events>.

## 30th August

Bat crazy? Join the Angels of the Night Bat Walk and Talk at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 per person, to include hot drink. Book at <https://www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk/whats-on/angels-of-the-night-bat-walk-and-talk>

## 12th September

Unleash your inner artist with a outdoor painting workshop at Attingham Park, led by artist Lucy Caddel. Materials, easels and park entry included in the £40 ticket price. Please bring your own refreshments. Workshop runs from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Book by contacting <https://www.lucycaddel.com/>.

## 16th September and 17th October

Improve your landscape photography skills with a class led by photographer Lindsey Bucknor at Attingham Park. Tickets £55 from <https://www.lindseybimages.com/>. Over 18s only.



**Pitchford Village Hall  
Pub Night and  
Barbecue  
Friday August 8th**

## COUNDT AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB



Come and join in our fun and social tennis community  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/coundanddistricttennisclub>

or use our Cound and District Tennis Club Homepage QR Code



For membership enquiries please contact us at  
[membershipatcound@btinternet.com](mailto:membershipatcound@btinternet.com)

### Future Events

**17th August**

US Open Fun Grand Slam Social Event - 2.00pm - 5.00pm

**14th September**

Club Championships Finals - 11.30am - 6.00pm

**12th October**

Australian Open Fun Grand Slam Social Event - 2.00pm - 5.00pm

**Adult Beginners Courses - Adult Drills & Cardio**

**Juniors Saturday Coaching - Private Lessons**

Please contact Club Coach Graham Hart on 07960 970 017 or email  
[coaching@coundtennis.com](mailto:coaching@coundtennis.com)

Or find us on Facebook!

## Pitchford Hall Tours

Tours of Pitchford Hall, led by local volunteers, will be taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Described as Britain's finest half-timbered house, Pitchford Hall was owned by the Colthurst family for more than 500 years before being sold in 1992. Now on the 'at Risk' register, the house has been bought back by Rowena Colthurst and her husband, who are embarking on the massive task of saving it, following 25 years of neglect. The house is named after a natural pitch well in the grounds. Prince Rupert hid from the Roundheads in the priest-hole here during the Civil War and Princess (later Queen) Victoria played in the Tudor-style treehouse. The 'restoration' tours will include the main rooms on the ground floor, the priest-hole room and the Princess Victoria's bedroom.

Tours cost £27.50 per person, to include tea and cakes.

**£1 return**

ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL

**PARK+RIDE**

For patients, visitors and staff

It's less fuss to take the bus

From 6.20am until 9.25pm, Monday to Friday (not including bank holidays).  
Buses run every 15 to 20 mins from the Oxon Park & Ride to the Treatment Centre entrance.  
You can find out more on our website [www.sath.nhs.uk](http://www.sath.nhs.uk) or by scanning the QR code

**Clara's Classic Convoy**

£15 for vehicle inc driver  
+£5 per passenger

Agricultural, Vintage And Classic Vehicle Run

**SEPTEMBER 28th 2025**

Ticket Price Includes-  
Hot Drink And  
Sausage Bap  
At Netley Hall

Starting And Finishing  
At Netley Hall, SY5 7JZ  
Stopping at Home Farm,  
Attingham

Arrival from 8:30,  
leaving at 10am

All agricultural, quirky,  
vintage, classic and sporty  
vehicles are welcome!

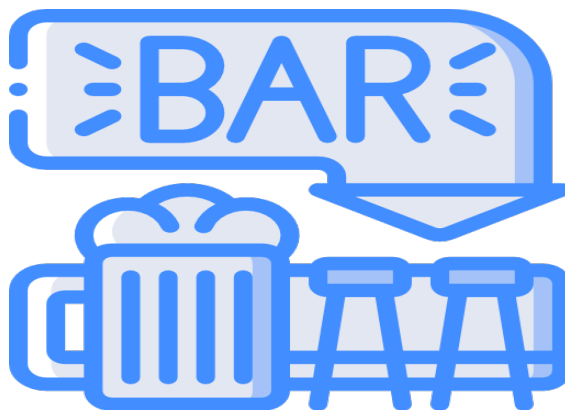
Follow us on Facebook  
@Clara'sClassicConvoy

In Aid Of Hope House Hospice

## Pitchford Village Hall Pub Nights

Once a month, Pitchford Village Hall magically transforms into a friendly local pub. Come along to have a pint and a natter with friends and neighbours old and new. Wine and soft drinks also on sale. Everyone welcome, including children of all ages and well-behaved dogs.

The next three dates are 8<sup>th</sup> August (which will be a BBQ evening, so come along with a healthy appetite), 12<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October. Doors open at 7pm. Please note that payment is cash only, so make sure you bring your pocket money with you!



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council met on 13th May and 8th July 2025. Papers and minutes for these meetings are available at:

<https://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings>

Council elections took place at the beginning of May. Cllr Tracy Johnson stepped down at this election and the Council would like to thank her for all the hard work she has put in over the years. The vacant council seat was filled by co-option at the meeting on 13 May and the Council welcomed Russell Davies as the new Councillor for Pitchford.

The Council also welcomed Cllr Chris Naylor as the new Shropshire Councillor for Burnell ward and thanked outgoing Councillor Dan Morris for his dedication and hard work during his time on Shropshire Council.

The 13th May meeting was the statutory annual meeting where officers and committee members are elected or confirmed along with annual accounts, audit, standing orders, etc.

A number of highway matters were also discussed at this meeting. The Clerk has reported to Shropshire Council the need for the white lines to be repainted at Acton Burnell and the former Royal Oak bend. Shropshire Council has provided the draft consultation for the proposed 30mph zone through Frodesley and has assured the Parish Council that the remaining outstanding speed management work will be undertaken at the same time, this includes removing the extraneous speed limit signs at the entrances to the villages.

At the meeting on 8th July, the Council gave its support to a planning application for 9 new houses on Albert Davies Yard in Acton Burnell. In addition, responses to a number of Shropshire Council surveys were discussed and the Council passed a resolution calling on the Government to provide dedicated funding for neighbourhood plans.

## Annual Parish Meeting – see separate note

The parish's annual community meeting was held on 20th May 2025. The Council would like to thank everyone who came to give presentations to the meeting and the members of the public who attended.

## Next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is set for Tuesday 9 September 2025, 7.30pm at Pitchford Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

### Russell Davies



Following the retirement of Tracy Johnson from the Parish Council, Russell Davies has stepped up to serve as one of the councillors for Pitchford. Russell can be contacted at [russell.davies@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:russell.davies@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk).

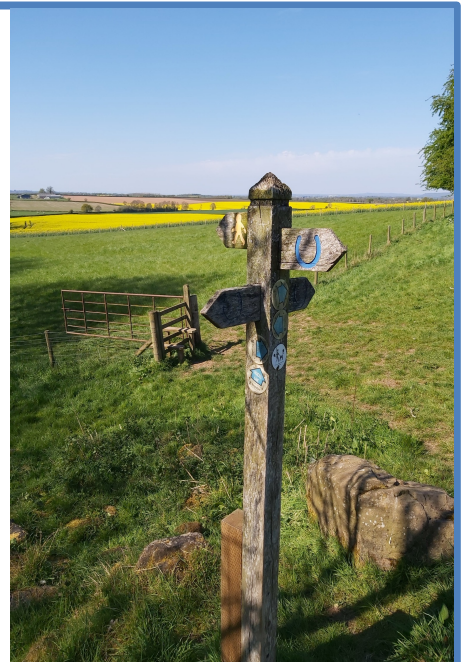
### Rights of Way

The Parish Council is currently looking at ways to ensure that the Rights of Way within the Parish remain clear and useable throughout the year.

We are considering options such as employing contractors or using work parties of volunteers to clear overgrown paths. Currently we are trying to gather information on paths within the Parish which might need extra maintenance to remain clear.

If you are aware of any paths which are overgrown or unusable, please contact Anna Morris, Parish Clerk with details of the problem and location.  
[clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk)

This will be discussed at our next Parish Council meeting on 9 September 2025. Issues with Rights of Way may also be reported to Shropshire Council on their website: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/report-a-rights-of-way-issue-and-feedback/countryside-feedback-public-rights-of-way/>



*Anna Morris, Parish Clerk*

# ANNUAL PARISH (COMMUNITY) MEETING

The Annual Parish (Community) Meeting was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Pitchford Village Hall. Papers and minutes are available at <https://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings>

Local residents were well represented. Although attendance was down from last year, this resulted in there being ample cake and biscuits for those present!

## Parish Council Report

The Parish Council accounts remain healthy with reserves in line with recommendations. Separate funds for community projects covered the costs of the village gateways, Frodesley bus shelter, repairs to the Pitchford bus shelter, a new notice board at Ruckley and painting of the Acton Burnell and Pitchford phone boxes.

Funds remain available for community projects and residents are encouraged to contact the clerk with suggestions.

## Rights of Way

Issues with resources at Shropshire Council are delaying progress on footpath and bridleway issues including the Pitchford to Golding right of way, the Old Swan footpath and Bentley Ford Farm bridleway.

The Parish Council is looking to arrange clearing of local footpaths and bridleways and is looking to compile a list of sections which need attention. Residents were asked to pass details to the Parish Clerk – Anna Morris: 07842 324809

[clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Road Signs

We are still waiting for Shropshire Council to formalise the 30mph limit for Frodesley Lane and to rationalise signage in Frodesley and Acton Burnell.

## Police Report

Our local PCSO, Stuart Roberts, reported that local crime remains very low although there had been a couple of recent thefts from outbuildings. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity.

## Concord College Report

Dr Michael Truss, Principal of Concord College, reported that VAT on school fees remains an issue, but applications remain steady. No increase in student numbers is planned. Current building work should be completed by May 2026, and a second phase to improve existing facilities within the central campus area is not expected to begin for at least 12 months. Dr Truss agreed to look into providing additional signage to avoid construction traffic entering the village. He also advised that no decisions had been reached regarding reducing boarding houses within Acton Burnell once the new hall of residence is opened. Following the success of the Lunar New Year Fireworks it is hoped to open more events to local residents.

## Pitchford Village Hall

Mike Price, Chairman of the Pitchford Village Hall Committee, reported a successful year with pub nights, the 200 club, breakfast butty mornings and additional events, including a well-attended VE day celebration, keeping the hall on a sound financial footing.

The Parish Council assisted in getting broadband installed and future works include an upgrade to the toilets and refurbishment of external woodwork.

## Village Views

Chris Harrison thanked the small team of volunteers that handles the production and distribution of Village Views and the Village Directory noting that advertising income now covers a significant part of the costs.

Unfortunately, Karen Fisher, who provided professional graphic design skills, is moving away and a volunteer is needed to take on her role.

## Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust

Charles Edwards gave a presentation on behalf of the Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust. The Trust collects funds from local businesses, trusts and local councils to finance projects within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Local initiatives include educational programmes with children, monitoring species with declining numbers, training volunteers, and habitat protection.

## Farming Issues

Jeremy Lowe, Acton Burnell resident and NFU county advisor for Staffordshire gave a talk about the issues currently facing the farming community, noting that farming is the largest employer in Shropshire, contributing over £10 million to the county economy in 23/24. Key issues noted included:

UK/EU trade deal to align standards to reduce costs and delays in exporting fresh produce.

UK/US trade deal – imports of bio-ethanol may impact the grain market.

Changes to inheritance tax

Delays and cap to payments under the Sustainable Farming Initiative.

Removal of “hope value” for land under compulsory purchase.

Land Use Framework – proposal to remove land from food production to environmental schemes

## Godolphin Edwards Trust

Residents were reminded of the Godolphin Edwards Trust which makes individual grants of up to £500 and group grants up to £2000 to local residents who find themselves in financial distress or need. To apply for a grant please visit [www.shropshire.foundation](http://www.shropshire.foundation), or for more information contact Nikki Winmill at [Nikki.winmill@shropshire.foundation](mailto:Nikki.winmill@shropshire.foundation) or call 01743 295900.

## Local Vicar

Finally, it was noted that there is still no replacement for our local vicar – the role will be advertised again by the diocese in the Autumn.

## Next Meeting

This will be in May 2026 – date to be advised. Please come along, join in and help us finish the cake and biscuits next time!



*Paul Harrison, AB Parish Councilor*

## CHRIS NAYLOR – NEW SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL



I'm delighted to have been elected as your county councillor in May. To be honest, I wasn't expecting to win, as you'd had the good Dan Morris as your councillor for eight years and by all accounts he'd worked hard on your behalf. But politics being what it is these days, what's happening nationally naturally influences local choices. Now I'm your councillor it is of course my job to represent all residents in the Burnell Division, whoever you voted for and indeed whether you voted or not.

One of the great pleasures of the campaign was that I got to knock on almost every door and had so many positive conversations. I learnt a lot about the Burnell villages, and the farming communities here - from Pitchford to Langley, from Castle Pulverbatch to Hughley, from Conover to Leebotwood.

But I'm very much aware I have lots more

to learn: I attend most Acton Burnell Parish Council meetings (and the other four Burnell Parish Councils too); I had a happy afternoon at the Acton Burnell fete, and have enjoyed a drink or two at the Pitchford Pop Up pubs, but I'm always keen to be invited to other local events and activities. I try to be in most of the Burnell villages once a week - though that turns out to be a 40 mile drive! - and am of course happy to meet with residents locally, please just let me know.

Moving on, I should say a little about me: if you're not aware, I've lived locally for nearly ten years now, up Batch Valley behind the Yew Tree in All Stretton (where we had the calamitous flash flooding last year - I'm now Secretary of the local flood forum). I'm off grid there at the foot of the Mynd, where the National Trust graze their Hebridean sheep, backing on to the open common (my home has commoners' rights). I've been a councillor before and a Cabinet Member, and served on a Parliamentary Local Government committee 2010-14. My background before that was mainly in small businesses - setting up a wine bar and running a pub - and in the voluntary sector - leading an international education charity.

Lastly, in our new role leading Shropshire Council we have as you've probably seen started to make some changes, but as we

all know funds are very tight and we have to be very careful. The new Council voted in its new Leader Cllr Heather Kidd and the new Cabinet on May 22nd and so we've only had a couple of months so far.

But we are already trying to do more to fix our roads - for instance recent resurfacing and patching by Conover and Stapleton - and to work with our parish councils. We're suggesting there may be some local services - such as road cleaning, hedge cutting, path maintenance, minor potholes even - where the Council in Shrewsbury working through contractors pays over the odds and often gets it wrong. We're hoping if we work more with parish councils, where they're willing - and pay them to oversee works locally - that we may get better results, and better value for money, all round. Watch this space! I'd also finally mention that I'm concerned the Council takes farming and our farmers seriously. They're key to Shropshire's economy and identity - so I've been pressing for this to be properly recognised at Cabinet level.

I look forward to keeping you updated - and please don't hesitate to get in touch [chris.naylor@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.naylor@shropshire.gov.uk)

(email's best!) or 07825 745 626

## NEWS FROM MUCH WENLOCK AND CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

### Bank Holiday Medical Cover

To access medical advice on Monday 25 August 2025, please contact 111 or go to [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk). The usual services at the Practice will be available from 8.30 am on Tuesday 26 August 2025.

### Vaccination Campaigns – Dates For Your Diaries

At the time of publication we expect to be offering joint Flu and Covid vaccinations for booked appointments only in our Winter Vaccine Clinics held at William Brookes School, Much Wenlock on:

Saturday 4 October 2025

Saturday 11 October 2025

Saturday 25 October 2025

Invitations will be via text message with a link to book an appointment. Please check that your mobile number is up to date and you have consented to receive

messages when you next contact the Practice. Notices will also be displayed on our website and in the Practice. Patients who are housebound will be contacted directly by the Practice.

### The following groups of patients are eligible for a flu vaccination this year:

Patients aged 65 years and over

Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups

Those in long stay residential care homes

Carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person

Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme.

Pregnant women

All children aged 2-3 years on 31.8.2025

Primary and secondary school aged children (vaccinations provided through school)

### The following groups of patients are eligible for a Covid vaccination this winter:

Residents in a care home for older adults

All adults aged 75 years and over

Those aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.



## Letter from Westminster

My Pothole Patrol has demonstrated the importance of improving the condition and quality of our roads across South Shropshire. A quarter of government funding has been held back until councils can prove that they are meeting stringent criteria. I have contacted Ministers with my findings and submitted a list of every road residents have raised with me to Shropshire Council to ensure they are repaired as soon as possible.

I welcomed the government's decision to reverse its restrictions on winter fuel payments. The decision means that those who reach State Pension Age by 21st September 2025 and have an annual income of £35,000 (or below) will benefit from the payments. In Parliament, I voted against plans to reduce welfare support, sharing in the debate my experiences of receiving welfare support. Ministers should adopt an approach that will deliver a welfare system that is affordable, sustainable, and helps people back into work wherever possible.

From speaking to local businesses and residents, I know everyone holds our market towns in the highest regard. However, increased costs and reduced footfall has hit the towns. To support the revival of our high streets, I am seeking the views of residents and businesses in my new survey. The findings will shape my plan, as I work with key stakeholders to ensure that our market towns can thrive. I have started with Bridgnorth and then will roll it out to other market towns across South Shropshire. With over 1200 residents already choosing to contribute, this is clearly a campaign that people care deeply about.

In June, the Chancellor delivered her Spending Review. She set out how the government will spend around £600 billion in each of the next few years. I am concerned that decisions in the Spending Review do not pay enough attention to rural areas like South Shropshire. The government's plans are mostly focused on urban areas. I do not believe that rural areas like ours are receiving enough support. It is my mission to change this for the better in the years ahead.

I have championed investment in our community hospitals as an integral part of rural healthcare provision in South Shropshire. I am concerned that hospital capital maintenance budgets could be cut by up to a fifth next year following the recent Spending Review. As such, I have urged the Chancellor to extend funding for rural healthcare provision. This would enable further upgrades in South Shropshire, such as the immediate need for upgrades at Ludlow Hospital and a new rebuilt hospital at the Eco Park.

*Stuart Anderson MP*



Shrewsbury Arts Trail will be running until the end of August. Now in its fifth year, the Shrewsbury Arts Trail is set to return this July and August with a town-wide celebration of creativity on the theme of the Environment. Featuring large-scale sculptures, internationally renowned artists, modern masters and inspiring local talent, this free public event will transform Shrewsbury's streets, museums and green spaces into an open-air gallery.

To download a map and guide, please go to <https://www.shrewsburyartstrail.com/map-and-guide> or pick up a copy at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery in The Square, Shrewsbury.

# STARRY, STARRY NIGHTS

Hayden Yik-Hei is a talented student from Concord College, who specialises in astronomical photography. Featured below are three of his recent shots.



This image is of a nebula called (for reasons which will be obvious), the Cat's Paw nebula. This nebula can only be observed from the southern hemisphere and is located approximately 5,500 light years away in the Scorpius constellation.

The Iris nebula is in the constellation Cepheus. Hayden explains, "The central star is so bright that surrounding interstellar dust reflects the starlight." This produces the wonderful, luminous effect that you can see in the photograph.



This galaxy image shows the Makarian Chain, a galaxy cluster in Virgo, which is a mind-boggling 50 million light years from Earth.

# NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCHES

First and foremost, a massive thank you to everyone who helped at, and supported the Acton Burnell fete on 5 July, especially Jill Faulkner for 'rallying the troops' and Thomas, James and Molly who stepped up and ran the bar when French air traffic controllers inconsiderately decided to go on strike, meaning that Brian and Sarah were unable to get back from their holiday in France on time!

Despite a lot of our regular attendees being away, we still managed to raise just over £1000, which are much needed funds for Acton Burnell Church and will help towards repairs/replacement of our ancient boiler.

The decision to hold a village BBQ immediately after the fete, rather than the traditional 'Burnell Bash', also seemed to work well, with many families staying to enjoy the burgers and hotdogs so expertly cooked by Caroline and Dai, so thanks too, to them. If you have any ideas how the fete can be improved, or would like to get involved next year, please let me or Jill Faulkner know.

As a Benefice we have just entered our third year of vacancy, and there are no plans to re-advertise the post until the autumn, meaning that the earliest we could expect a new Rector is January 2026. We are currently working with the Diocese on a revised profile for the role; to assist with this a number of us met in early July to consider the following:

A - To affirm what is good in our churches and things we wouldn't want to lose

B - suggest areas in which we could do better

C - identify challenges that we face and changes that we would like to see

Finally, what qualities we would like to see in a new Rector. Although these questions have been asked of our congregations, I think it's equally important to seek the views of the wider community; so, if you have any thoughts on the above, please email me at [ollieh3@hotmail.com](mailto:ollieh3@hotmail.com)

We have tried very hard to maintain the regular service pattern that we had prior to Rev'd Geoff leaving, and we are very grateful to the Diocesan clergy and retired clergy who continue to support us. Regrettably though, due to dwindling numbers attending, a decision has been taken to no longer hold the 8.45am Service of Holy Communion at Acton Burnell Church on the second Sunday of the month. If you have any ideas of alternative services you would like to see at Acton Burnell Church, that would be supported, please let me know.

We will soon be celebrating Harvest Festival, the first of our services being a Lammas Service at Frodesley Church on Sunday 10 August at 3pm. This a family friendly service followed by refreshments, including partaking in the Lammas loaf. As the first harvest festival of the year, Lammas, also known as Lughnasadh, is a time to give thanks for the abundance of the earth and to honour the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. Lammas, derived from the Old English term "hlaf-maesse," meaning "loaf mass," is a celebration of the first grain harvest of the season. This festival marks the midpoint between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox, a time when the days begin to shorten, and the bounties of the earth are gathered in preparation for the colder months ahead.

We will be celebrating our annual service at Langley Chapel on Sunday 21 September at 3pm. This is always a popular event, although I'm not sure whether the attraction is the service or the copious amounts of tea and cake on offer afterwards!

Our traditional Harvest Festival Services will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am at Pitchford, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 11.30am at Frodesley and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm at Acton Burnell. A Harvest supper is planned at Pitchford Village Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September: details to follow.

May God bless you in all your endeavours this summer and autumn.

*Jeremy Lowe – Reader, Condoover Benefice*



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