



# BISHOP'S CASTLE



DECEMBER 2020

To

JANUARY 2021

ISSUE 73





## The Mayor Grant Perry

I am sure as the year draws to a close most of us will be glad to see the back of 2020 and the challenges it has brought us all. We thought it was important to deliver this newsletter to as many households as possible having only been available in electronic and limited print versions since Easter, so thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

As I write these notes there is positive news on the vaccines front but negative news on the increasing number of cases in both Shropshire and our own Town. So we must all continue to follow the latest Government Guidelines as

applicable and make the best of this Festive Season as we can. We have been very fortunate in Bishop's Castle that we have so far, to the best of our knowledge only lost one business during the Pandemic, however I am sure that many others are teetering on the brink and I would urge you to shop locally and use local tradespeople wherever possible now and in the months ahead to help the economic recovery continue.

Our support network of community helpers and the Food Bank continue to operate and are available to help out where necessary with a replacement for the Festive Friends Christmas Day Lunch being offered which is being supported by the Castle Hotel and the Food Bank which I am sure will be much appreciated.

The Christmas Lights Committee have arranged a number of online events and competitions throughout the Festive Period and the Lights will be on from December 5th, please keep an eye on Social Media for updates and details of how you can take part. They would particularly welcome as many Shops and Houses as possible be decorated and lit up to help make the Town as cheery as possible.

With any plans for New Year Celebrations being difficult I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone as Merry a Christmas and as Happy a New Year as is possible and to thank you all for your efforts to contain this pandemic and support your town.

# Bishop's Castle Newsletter

– your views please

The Bishop's Castle Newsletter goes to every household in the parish every two months. It is well liked but in a town which prides itself on its many events and specialist interests, it has been suggested it could perhaps contain more news and information of wider interest. It is a key source of information for those that do not have access to the town website and Facebook pages.

In addition to announcements and reports of major events, should there be a calendar for up to six months ahead of future town events and happenings? This could include significant church services, annual meetings of key societies, Town Hall lectures and concerts, sporting events, visiting bands, SpArC performances and more.

Should there be a page where special interest groups can publicise their aims, meetings, lectures or website or ask for help and support.

When a local citizen does something remarkable or the football or other sports team tops its league should we know about it ?

Or when someone dies who has made a real contribution to the town, should there be an obituary?

There is also a need, for the health of the town, to encourage everyone to 'buy local' when they can. If shops, traders, providers of local services have any news they think might be of general interest, please tell the newsletter!

The newsletter cannot contain political comment or any information which is like to cause offence - and the newsletter team will always have full editorial rights and control to ensure content is relevant and concise.

If you have any views or ideas on the above, are willing to be contacted for information and reminded of copy deadline dates, or wish to advertise, please provide details to [bishopscastlenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bishopscastlenewsletter@gmail.com), phone the Clerk on 01588 638141 or contact Cllr Tim Halford on [timhalford@yahoo.com](mailto:timhalford@yahoo.com) or 01588 638333 .



## The Bishop's Castle Elephant

With the March of the Elephants Trail and increased focus on elephants in the town, we are trying to gain more information on the elephant that lived here in the Elephant House at the end of the 1930s.

If anyone has any recollections, information or photographs of

'Lizzie', please contact Tim Halford on 01588 638333 or [timhalford@yahoo.com](mailto:timhalford@yahoo.com).

What we know so far.

The following information is based on information garnered from circus historians. Any additions or corrections would be appreciated:

The Bishop's Castle elephant was born in the wild in India after the First World War and was brought to Great Britain in the early/mid 1930s, when she was about 10 years old. She was owned by Little Tom Fossett, a member of one of the most famous circus owning families. She was known as Lizzie. Little Tom ran a circus show mainly touring Wales and the English/Welsh Borders.

A number of circuses are thought to have overwintered in Bishop's Castle (and during the Second World War) with animals,

certainly elephants, being housed in stables across the back of the Castle Hotel car park.

In the winter of 1938, Little Tom's circus over-wintered in Bishop's Castle. In 1939 the Circus still had to tour to cover its costs and at that time there was a shortage of hay and other fodder and petrol was also scarce. They decided, therefore, that they had to leave one of their four elephants behind, 9ft Lizzie. For company she was left with her small and long term black Shetland pony companion, a mare called Dannie. Both were taken for a walk around the town every day. They were in Bishop's Castle for the Spring and Summer of 1939.

When war broke out in early September 1939, Little Tom Fossett's Circus could not survive. Food, which had to be purchased en route was at a premium and hard to find. Lizzie was sold to Maidstone Zoo. Lizzie, the little pony Dannie and her trainer, Freddy Pickford, then walked from the Welsh borders to Kent to arrive before Christmas 1939. She became a major attraction.

Unfortunately one day, in late 1940, Lizzie, who loved apples, got into an orchard. It was very muddy and she fell over. She then could not get up.

Bailey Fossett, Little Tom's nephew, and a few of his people tried to get her back on her feet but in vain. She had already been traumatised by the bombs falling at that time and was so scared that she would never lie down to sleep. The strain was all too much and she sadly died of a heart attack in the Autumn of 1940.

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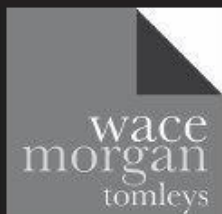


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Full Council meetings take place usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month:

*All meetings are held in the Town Hall and commence at 7.30pm. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.*

*There is a specific point in each agenda that members of the public may speak. Should you have an issue you would like to bring to the Council's attention or something you would like to discuss, please let the Clerk know beforehand that you would like to speak and the subject matter so that we can prepare.*

### Cut off dates for the News letter

If you wish any article to appear in the Newsletter these are the cut off dates for the inclusion in the following month's Newsletter.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

20th March 2021

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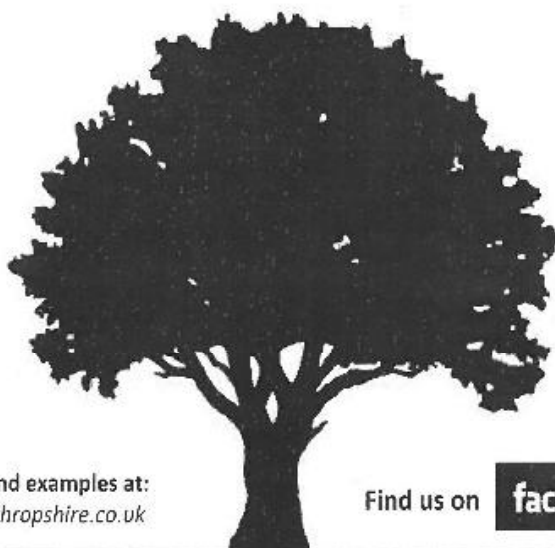
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## Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust

Over the past few months, the main objective of BCCLT has been to secure a future for the former Stars Newsagent at 68-70 Church Street. The Trust tried to get Shropshire Council to take out a compulsory order on the building without success. An online petition was put up in June online which has attracted over 300 responses and many supportive comments.

The Trust has recently put in a cash offer to buy the building, which was rejected, but we are pursuing other ways to get a meeting with the absentee owners to put our case. Our aim is to create two units of affordable housing above, and to use part of the ground floor for a community resource centre, to provide a 'shop window' and a focal point for a range of local initiatives, such as Grow Local.

The Middle Marches Community Land Trust was launched in April 2019, to provide a vehicle for the local ownership of land that can provide a haven for wildlife, better connectivity between habitats, promote regenerative agriculture and to stimulate local food production. Since then, our main achievements have been:

Working with the Stretton Wetlands Interest group on an appeal to buy a three-acre field on the edge of Church Stretton. It hosts 141 plant species, and 45 different types of insects, and provides bio-diverse habitat, which is all the more precious when 90% of UK wetlands have been lost in the past 100 years. The appeal raised £25,000 in under four months and virtually all the donations were given by local people.

Obtaining a 10 acre site just North of Bishops Castle, which has not

been intensively managed for over 12 years. Part of the ground will be fenced off to allow for brief periods of mob-grazing to break up the turf and allow more plants to germinate. The rest will be rewilded. The Trust has a five-year renewable agreement with the farmer, and the changes in biodiversity and soil fertility will be carefully monitored. The Trust hopes that this model of land management will prove to be of interest to other farmers.

Bidding to buy 94 acres up on Norbury Hill. Half of the land will be owned by one of our shareholder members. Our offer has been accepted, but donations towards the costs are being welcomed until the end of December. Securing it means that Norbury Hill will become the largest 'Stepping Stone' for nature between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones. Plans for its conservation are being drawn up, and we expect to enable more Curlew to breed over the coming years.

In 2021, an outline plan to work with a landowner on providing space for the growing of locally produced food will be progressed, and it's hoped that farm walks and other visits can be restarted. The Trust's first General Meeting will be held in January, when a full Board will be formally elected.

If you would like more information about any of our activities, or to ask about standing for election to the Board, please email us at [info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk), check out our website [www.https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/](https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/) or call Jonathan on 07497 142 485

## Supporting St John the Baptist church

Many of you were generous enough to support the church on our Gift Day which we held during the Autumn. We are pleased to be able to tell you that it raised £3,2020.50. This has been an enormous help to us, as like many organisations and businesses our income has been severely hit by COVID-19, but the bills have not gone away.

If you would like to support us more regularly please consider make a regular donation to the church via the Parish Giving Scheme.

This is a national scheme, adopted by the Church of England, which helps with our administration of Gift Aid claiming and enables us to rely on a more evenly spaced income stream.

Instead of paying us directly, you would pay by direct debit into the Parish Giving Scheme, who will calculate and claim the Gift Aid on your donation on our behalf. They then pay your donation into our Parish Church PCC Bank account regularly, together with the Gift Aid. There is no cost to the Parish involved, and we receive your gift in full.

Your Direct Debit can be a fixed amount that is collected monthly, quarterly or annually over the year, and you can chose to sign up to an automatic annual percentage increase in line with inflation. In this way, what you are giving does not lose its value. Please contact our PCC treasurer, Mr Roger Taylor on 01588 638355, if you would like an application form to join the Parish Giving Scheme.

We would be very grateful if you would please consider joining this scheme. It will ensure that our finances are on a much more secure footing, and reduce considerably the workload of those who deal with our finances. It will ensure that the church is able to be kept in good order so that it is available for services when you need them, and for community events.

We very much hope that the current restrictions will be lifted soon, so that families can celebrate the arrival of babies and hold baptisms, and couples can plan their weddings without the anxiety of wondering if they will need to re-schedule. We also hope to be able to hold memorial services for those whose funerals have had to be much more private affairs than normal. We know that this has been a difficult time for everyone and we are doing our best to try to support you.

Revd Stephanie

Revd Prebendary Stephanie Fountain B Mus MA

Assistant Archdeacon of Ludlow

Priest in Charge of the Ridgeway Benefice & Rural Dean of Clun  
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It is with regret that all concerts and are postponed until the foreseeable future.

Check with the website for regular updates

<http://bishopscastletownhall.co.uk/>



Message from Sparc

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<http://www.sparctheatre.co.uk/>

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# How to contact your Town Councillors:

**Councillor Jane Carroll**

Tel: 01588 638467

Email: jane.carrol@gmail.com

**Councillor Ruth Houghton**

Tel: 01588 638352

Email: ruthmhoughton55@gmail.com

**Councillor Julie Magill**

Tel: 01588 638305

Email: julie.magill@outlook.com

**Councillor Andy Stelman**

Tel 07773006413

Email andystelman@icloud.com

**Councillor Josh Dickin**

Tel 07530691106

Email bcbc97@outlook.com

**Councillor Grant Perry**

Tel: 01588 638233

Email: grantperry24@icloud.com

**Councillor Stuart Morris**

Tel: 01588 630114

Email: stuartmorrisstfc@btinternet.com

**Councillor Bamber Hawes**

Tel: 07957 667847

Email: Info@specialprojects.co.uk

**Councillor Tim Haford**

Tel: 01588 638333

Email: timhaford@yahoo.co.uk

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

[townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk)

*Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm*

*For allotment enquiries please contact*

[assistantclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk)

If anyone wishes to be a councillor please contact the clerk on  
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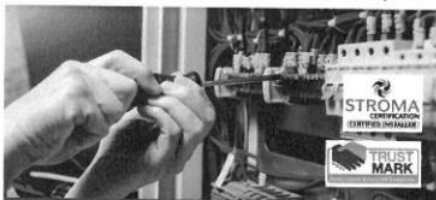
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## Bus timetable for bus routes 552 / 553 Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury

Monday to Friday times (school days)				Saturday							
		Leaves		Arrives				Leaves		Arrives	
Bishop's Castle opposite the Boar's Head all go via the Hospital	7.30		8.30			7.30		8.30			
	9.30		10.30			9.30		10.30			
	12.15		13.15			12.15		13.15			
	15.50		16.50			15.50		16.50			
Shrewsbury Stand  all go via the Hospital	8.00		9.00			8.00		9.00			
	10.05		11.05			10.05		11.05			
	14.45		15.45			14.45		15.45			
	17.40		18.40			17.40		18.40			

### Bus timetable for bus route 745 Bishop's Castle to Ludlow

Monday and Friday only					Leaves			
		Leaves	Arrives		Ludlow		Arrives	
Bishop's Castle opposite the Boar's Head		9.10		10.20		13.20		14.30

### Bus timetable for bus route Bishop's Castle to Newtown

Tuesday only										
	Leaves		Arrives				Leaves		Arrives	
Bishop's Castle opposite the Boar's Head	10.00		11.00				13.55		14.45	

## M & J

### M & J Bus time table for bus route Bishop's Castle to Telford

Tuesday fortnightly only Bishop's Castle opposite the Boar's Head	Leaves 09.00	Arrives 10.36 Bus stn	Leaves 13.40 Bus stn	Arrives 15.08
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## "BREXIT FOOD RESILIENCE

Over the last several months the pandemic has revealed weaknesses in the commercial retail food system and has left many families affected by lowered or lost incomes. In Bishop's Castle and across the Nation, this has resulted in an increase in Food Bank use and [1] uncertainty for the coming months.

The upcoming Brexit deadline is expected to see an increase in food prices[2] as the UK is faced with negotiating new trade deals with individual countries, rather than as a member of the EU. Supply chain disruptions are also expected as shipments into the UK are subject to backlogs and delays at borders and ports. The Government has recently passed an Agriculture Bill which doesn't require food imports to be produced to the same high standards as UK products[3].

While still in the grips of the pandemic, a January 1st Brexit presents a need for planning and preparation to moderate the anticipated impacts that this could pose for community food insecurity. The current position of Shropshire council was recently expressed by Councillor David Minnery:

"The Council's Emergency Planning Team keep existing plans under review and amend these as necessary in the light of changes both locally and nationally. Brexit planning is nationally led and we share the national guidance with relevant parties."

This response indicates that there is currently no formal plan in place at the County Council Level for Shropshire to pre-empt food-related impacts from Brexit. As a result, following the advice of food policy researchers, the Town Council has agreed to develop a Community Food Resilience Plan for Bishop's Castle. This action supports the Council's commitment to local food producers and consumers though

enhancing the local food offering under the Town's recently adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP).

A typical local food plan addresses a local food system through from production, to processing, transportation, retail, preparation and disposal, based on unique local-level data. The current aims of the BC Community Food Resilience Plan involve supporting those already vulnerable due to COVID and anticipating further impacts of a potential disruption to 'Food Brexit', however over time a more holistic plan will be developed.

Some current aims of the Food Resilience Plan are:

To develop supports for those experiencing food insecurity and to build a network of support so that no member of the community feels left behind should they find themselves needing help.

To work with local retailers to ensure sufficient food supplies are being held in stock in the event of supply chain disruptions.

To support local food producers and their connection to local consumers through a focus on direct sales of locally produced foods as a first port of call.

To support food businesses so that they can continue their roles in food preparation and as employers.

This initiative is being undertaken by the Community Food Resilience Working Group: Ruth Houghton (County Councillor), Andy Stelman (BC Food Bank), Mike Watkins (BC Sustainability Working Group), Janet Cobb (Edgton Parish Clerk), Daphne Du Cros (PhD in Food Policy, Little Woodbatch Market Garden), and with support from the BC Town Council.

For more information please contact: Daphne Du Cros, 07769 510364"



## **Financial support during lockdown**

**Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team is here to help all residents across the county during the pandemic**

**If you need financial support, help is available:**

**Test and Trace payments of £500 are available for people on low income who need to self-isolate**

**If you are of working age and receive council tax support, you have been awarded up to an additional £150 hardship payment on your council tax bill**

**If you have been financially affected by coronavirus, you may be eligible for grant funding  
Call us on 0345 678 9078 to find out more**

**Visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits) for further information**

**For further support visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Shropshire Council Helpline on 0345 678 9028**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**



[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)



## **Food provision during lockdown**

**Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team is here to help all residents across the county during the pandemic**

**Did you know there are lots of local groups and services available to help you access food parcels, secure delivery slots and other essentials:**

**Shropshire Larder – [www.shropshirelarder.org.uk](http://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk)**

**Call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline for help to access food phone 03456 789 028**

**Mid-Counties Co-Op also offer delivery slots – call 0800 435 902 to book**

**For all other food and support needs visit – [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/) or call 03456 789 028**

**For further support visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Shropshire Council Helpline on 0345 678 9028**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**



[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

**My Self-Isolation Checklist**

**You must not leave your home if you're self-isolating.  
Isolating is hard but is vital to stop spreading the virus.**

**When to self-isolate**

- ✓ you have any [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- ✓ you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- ✓ You and anyone you live with must stay at home ([self-isolate](#)) until you get your result.
- ✓ you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- ✓ someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- ✓ you're told to self-isolate by [NHS Test and Trace](#)
- ✓ you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see GOV.UK: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK

**How long to self-isolate**

- ✓ **For at least 10 days if:**  
you have symptoms of coronavirus and you tested positive, had an unclear result or did not have a test.  
  
You tested positive but have not had symptoms  
If you have symptoms, the 10 days starts from when they started.
  - ✓ **For 14 days if:**  
you live with (or are in a support bubble with) someone who has symptoms of coronavirus and tested positive, had an unclear result or did not have a test or tested positive but has not had symptoms  
  
You've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace
- It is really important to keep to the [self-isolation periods](#)**  
Click on the link to find out more

**A Helpful Checklist**

- ✓ Food supplies  
Can I food shop online? Do I have an account set up ready to use?  
Can someone shop and deliver for me?  
Who else can help? Ring 0345 6789 028 to find out or visit [Shropshire Council - Support for the public](#)
- ✓ Medication  
Can some collect for me?  
Who else can help? Ring 0345 6789 028 to find out or visit [Shropshire Council - Support for the public](#)  
Do I have enough over the counter medication? Add it to your shopping list
- ✓ Money/Cash – do I have enough money to support me for my needs
- ✓ Do I have any caring responsibilities? For further advice and support please take a look at [information for social care services](#)
- ✓ Can I work from home if I'm well enough? Speak to your employer or visit [financial support](#) for further guidance
- ✓ Pets – everyday tasks, feeding walking, maybe as a friend or neighbour
- ✓ How do I look after my mental health and wellbeing? There is a wealth of support online for you. Please look at the following:  
[Looking after your mental health and wellbeing during coronavirus](#) – including a great new resource with a variety of information such as local immediate support and online resources, top tips for self-isolation, a children's 14 day coronavirus challenge and helping to manage coronavirus anxiety.  
[NHS Mental Health and Wellbeing Support](#)  
[Fitness studio and exercise videos](#), [Strength exercises](#), [10 minute workouts](#)

**If you start to feel worse call NHS 111**

You are not alone! We are here to help Please ring 0345 6789 028 for [welfare support](#) where you will find a variety of information to help you while you are self-isolating.



# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following symptoms may appear  
2-14 days after exposure.

Fever / High temperature

Cough

Shortness of breath

Loss of taste / smell

Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days.

If you live with other people, they should stay at home for at least 14 days, to avoid spreading the infection outside the home.

After 14 days, anyone you live with who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine.

But, if anyone in your home gets symptoms, they should stay at home for 7 days from the day their symptoms start. Even if it means they're at home for longer than 14 days.

If you have self isolated and are in need of assistance in obtaining groceries, prescriptions or dog walking please contact the Town Hall staff on

01588 630023 or

email [info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk](mailto:info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk)

who will try and assist you with your issues

This service will be open between

10am and 4pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

## Covid-19 Community Support South West Shropshire

Help for anyone in the Bishops Castle Surgery or  
School Catchment Area

For Help and Advice please call :

Jeremy Hall – 07967 306615

Anne Roberts: 01588 630 165 or 07891 717728

Glynn Roberts: 01588 630 165 or 07980 266345

Grant Perry – 07949 714959

Josh Dickin – 07530 691106

Valerie Woodmansey: 01588 650 940 or 07986 237683

We can arrange help with Shopping, Prescriptions,  
Supplies or anything else you may need help with.

If we don't have the answer we will point you to  
someone who will.

To offer YOUR Help to Community Support SWS please call

Evelyn Bowles – 01588 638 851

The Town Clerk – 01588 638 141



# SpArC Bishops Castle Leisure Centre

## General & Fitness Suite Opening Times

Monday:	16:00 - 21:00
Tuesday:	07:00 - 21:00
Wednesday:	16:00 - 21:00
Thursday:	16:00 - 21:00
Friday:	07:00 - 18:00
Saturday:	09:00 - 12:00
Sunday:	09:00 - 12:00

**Centre Closed on ALL Bank Holidays**



- No Walk-Ins Permitted
- Pre-Bookings Only (this can be done over the phone and online coming very soon for members)
- Sanitiser Stations located throughout the centre
- Seperate Entry and Exit points

**Brampton Road, Bishops Castle, Shropshire SY9 5AY**

**Tel:** 01588 630243



**Shropshire  
Council**

**Twitter:** BishopsCastleLC

**Facebook:** bishopscastleleisure

**Email:** [Sparc.leisure@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sparc.leisure@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.shropshire.gov.uk/leisure-services](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/leisure-services)

## Children's Colouring Competition

### WIN A Selection Box

Please colour in the Picture of Santa and add your name, age and address and leave your entry at Drovers Travel, 30 Church Street, Bishop's Castle by December 12<sup>th</sup>.



Name:

Age:

Address :