



BISHOP'S CASTLE



OCTOBER 2021
To
NOVEMBER 2021
ISSUE 77





The Mayor Grant Perry

The tragic events of Sunday 19th September have hit our community hard and the thoughts and condolences of the Council and town at large are with Dylan's family and friends at this very difficult time. At the time of going to print the Police were still appealing for information and we must hope that they are able to ascertain the circumstances surrounding this incident for all concerned.

With the easing of Covid restrictions and the ending of furlough we are beginning to get back to normal with both Council Business and local events. Please continue to support local businesses who have been there for us during this difficult time and the many local groups and events that are beginning to start their activities again. At the same time we should continue to be cautious in our approach as this virus has certainly not gone away and looks to be with us for a longer period than anticipated. Hopefully the days of "Lockdown" are gone but should such restrictions be imposed again our support network will be ready to spring into action again.

The Council has at long last been able to progress some of its projects and we expect to have a display in the Town Hall shortly with the proposed Traffic Management Measures and the plans for the Playing Fields Play Equipment refurbishment and the new equipment for the Oak Meadow site, on which your feedback is requested. Please keep a look out in local press and social media for the dates of this small exhibition.

We have taken over the Red Phone Box in Colebatch and will

progress its refurbishment and conversion into a site for a Defibrillator, we have applied for a small works scheme to be funded by Shropshire Council to carry out some realm works in the town to include the cleaning of road signs, some weeding of public areas and hedge trimming which should be carried out soon. Plans are being drawn up for the Refurbishment of the Auction Yard Toilets and progress has been made on the provision of facilities for the Youth of the Town and the forming of a new Committee to oversee the Underground for such use.

The town has also joined Visit Shropshire which will further promote us as a Tourist Destination which is now more than ever an essential part of our local economy. Recent consultation has shown that the town is now well served with self-catering accommodation but is very light on Bed & Breakfast having lost around 10 rooms during the pandemic and this is an area that we along with our partners are looking to improve going forward. If you or anyone you know is considering starting a Bed & Breakfast please contact us for some assistance should you require it.

At the time of writing this there is a Christmas Lights Switch on planned for the evening of 4th December but this will be a little lower key than in the past and will of course be subject to any restrictions that may or may not be in place at that time. Please keep a look out on the Town Council's social media pages for the latest updates.

Finally our very own Councillor Bamber Hawes is taking part in a Climate Crisis Pilgrimage from Bishops Castle to the COP26 event in Glasgow with Clarion the Bear and is hosting a short event to launch this on the 9th October at 7.30pm in the Town Hall and will be setting off at 8.30am the following morning and would welcome your support at either or both events. With that in mind I would like to appeal once again for anyone who wishes to join the council to contact any existing councillor or myself for an informal chat over a decent cup of coffee as we could always make quicker progress on our projects with a full complement of councillors.

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**BISHOP'S CASTLE
 TOWN COUNCIL**

Full Council meetings take place usually on the 3rd 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.

19th November 2021 21st January 2022

BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN HALL

Listings for October 2021 & November 2021

For Further information on all our events look on our website
www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Or contact us 01588 630023

Until 9th October – Art Exhibition Katy Alston A freelance Artist based in Shropshire Katy Specialises in making informative pictorial maps. Check the Town Hall web site for opening times.

2nd Oct Antiques and Flea Market 9am to 4pm
First Saturday of the month. Lift available. Free entry.
Tel: 01588 630023

8th Oct BLAST – Storytelling returns live to The Town Hall.
Details on The Town Hall website. Book Tickets online or at The Town Hall.

9th Oct Meet the Artist – Katy Alston
For more details – www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

16th Oct Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm This ever popular Farmers Market is held on the third Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Plants, Flowers, Cakes, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Fruit & Veg, Chocolate, all produced locally.

16th Oct – 13th Nov Art Exhibition by Tara Lewis – Open during Town Hall opening hours, check our website.

17th Oct Concert Claude Bourbon - We are thrilled that Claude is back on tour in the UK, after almost 2 years of nothing... We hope that you will be coming to support him. Claude's new cd "Home Cooked" has been released a few months ago. He would be delighted to share with you his new and old songs... "A breath taking acoustic fusion of blues, jazz, folk, classical and Spanish guitar from a stunning guitar virtuoso..."Altadena News, USA"
Tickets £14 can be purchased on line or at The Town Hall

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk 01588 630023

21st Oct Live Performance 'On Your Doorstep' - An enchanting show for older audiences, inspired and developed as part of a three year long creative conversations project with older people. Poetry, stories and imagery are interwoven to create a theatrical experience. This solo show performed by John Cobb follows some of the life journey of a rural postal worker.

Two performances of 50 Minutes 10.30am and 2.30pm

Free Entry but places are limited so please book in advance by contacting The Town Hall. 01588 630023

22nd – 26th Oct Great Book Sale – 10am – 4pm Two Floors packed full of Bargain Books, CD's and DVD's.

29th Oct Concert Edgelarks Doors open 7.30pm These BBC Folk award winners combine exquisite folk music with influences as diverse as the blues and Indian classical slide guitar, to create a sound that is subtle, atmospheric and bravely original, mixing original song writing with stomping beatbox harmonica, soaring fiddle and vocal harmonies, running wilder with each play.

30th Oct Concert Al Jones – Doors open 7.30pm Join Al and his band for a lively evening. Al's preferred musical style sits around pop, folk and blues. His performances will get everyone in the room on their feet no matter what age or personal music preference. Al is phenomenal singer and musician, to witness him is pure joy.

Until 13th Nov Art Exhibition by Tara Lewis – Open during Town Hall opening hours, check our website.

6th Nov Antiques and Flea Market 9am to 4pm
First Saturday of the month. Lift available. Free entry.

19th Nov BLAST – Storytelling returns live to The Town Hall. Details on The Town Hall website. Book Tickets online or at The Town Hall.

From 20th Nov Exhibition by Castle Artists - A group of local

artists who work in a variety of mediums.

20th Nov Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm This ever popular Farmers Market is held on the third Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Plants, Flowers, Cakes, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Fruit & Veg, Chocolate all produced locally.

20th Nov – 11th Dec Art Exhibition Castle Artists

21st Nov Concert Gigspanner Peter Knights Trio returns to The Town Hall rearranging traditional tunes to create fascinating new work. Their impressive sound is like no other.

Tickets £15 available online or at The Town Hall
www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk 01588 630023

27th Nov Christmas Craft Fair Two Floors of Local crafts, come and find the perfect gift or just treat yourself from a wide range of locally hand crafted goods. Jewellery, felt crafting, knitted goods, musical instruments, jewellery, cards, willow baskets and more....

Listings for December 2021 For Further information on all our events look on our website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk
Or contact us 01588 630023

HAVE YOUR SAY

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

Bishop's Castle Community Food Resilience Strategy 2021 – 2025

The Consultation Link is: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/zHZRgx>

It can be found alongside the Community Food Resilience Strategy on the Town Council website: <https://bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk/sustainability/>

What is a Community Food Strategy?

A Community Food Strategy allows us take stock of what's happening in our local food system – so that we can take steps to making our community more resilient through actions that will improve health, community connections, economy, and environment.

The BC Food Resilience Strategy is made up of four areas of action where food is a catalyst for positive change in our town:

These themes are supported by detailed actions and aims within the strategy document.

Please complete the consultation to help us understand your experience of the local food system, the themes and content of the strate-



<p><u>Climate, Landscape & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continuing the legacy of Sir Albert Howard -Soil health, biodiversity & sustainable agriculture -Food waste -Carbon emissions from transport 	<p><u>Community & Food Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health, wellbeing & inclusivity -Affordability and access to Good Food -Food knowledge and skill-building -Growing, "Guerrilla" Gardening and Greening BC 	<p><u>Food Resilience & Participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community engagement -Food supply & local production -Seed saving & food security -Being prepared to respond to food system shocks 	<p><u>Local Food Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -"Local Food First": Connecting local producers & consumers -Supporting new entrants to farming -Keeping money in the local economy
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gy. This consultation seeks to fill in any gaps that we haven't identified when writing the strategy. For example, you may want to think about your experience with growing opportunities, food access and affordability, emergency and school meals provision, food education, and skill-sharing, and food-related projects.

Response Deadline of November 3rd.

The BC Food Resilience Strategy has been created by the BC Food Resilience Group, a partnership between the community and the Town Council. The Strategy is part of the BC Climate Action Plan (CAP), which has been adopted by the Town Council. This food strategy represents a place to build a discussion and appreciation for our local food system, our town and our neighbours.

For any questions, please contact the BC Food Resilience Group: bccommunityfoodplan@gmail.com or Daphne Du Cros: 07769 510364

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the health, safety and well being of people within our community whether at
home, in Stone House Care Home or in the Community Hospital.**

To become a member we ask for an annual donation of £5.

All donations to be sent, with name and address to Membership Secretary

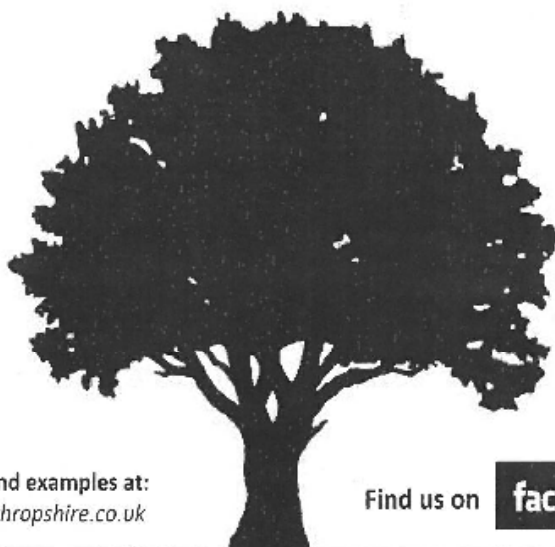
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The Old Market Square – Project update

Following the earlier article in the newsletter, a number of actions are being taken to look at ways to make the Old Market Square of more benefit to visitors and the community. When ideas are more defined there will be a consultation/exhibition of proposals to gain the views and opinions of residents.

A meeting was held with the County Archaeologist primarily to discuss the grade 2 listed Coat of Arms, which is showing some deterioration. It was agreed that it may need some form of protection, particularly in the winter months. Consideration is to be given to a permanent or removable see through cover. This would require planning permission.

The archaeologist also confirmed that if required some or all of the cobbles by the Coat of Arms at the top of the site – laid in 1952 – could be removed to provide a more level and easier to maintain surface for musicians and other outdoor entertainment.

It was agreed that the central area – with more appropriate bins and benches - should be kept as an open area for stalls, performances and events.

The lower area could house a 3m x3m 'in keeping' pagoda or similar with seating and tables, with disabled access, to provide cover for walkers and visitors. The ground may need to be levelled. A new structure would require planning permission. The bike racks would need to be moved and possibly an area for recycling bins established.

Advice is being taken about the reshaping of the two yew trees, to enable them to grow in a more attractive manner, and on all horticultural aspects – planters, greenery – of the area.

Enquiries are being made of the water and power utilities to establish the viability and cost of introducing water – for planters, topping up water bottles and possibly a drinking fountain – and electricity for lighting and events. More later!



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Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10.30 am - 4 pm

**And other days, when the weather is good,
or if it's a Bank Holiday.**

Look forward to seeing you soon,
Tim and Michèle

How to contact your Town Councillors:

Councillor Jane Carroll

Tel: 01588 638467

Email:

jane.carrol@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Ruth Houghton

Tel: 01588 638352

Email:

ruthm.houghton55@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Andy Stelman

Tel 07773006413

Email

andy.stelman@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Josh Dickin

Tel 07530691106

Email

josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Grant Perry

Tel: 01588 638233

Email:

grant.perry@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

For allotment enquiries please contact

assistantclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Stuart Morris

Tel: 01588 630114

Email:

stuart.morriss@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Bamber Hawes

Tel: 07957 667847

Email:

bamber.hawes@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Tim Halford

Tel: 01588 638333

Email:

timhalford@yahoo.com

Councillor Daphne Du Cros

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm

If anyone wishes to be a councillor please contact the clerk on 01588

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Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank Seed Swap Event

Find us at the Farmer's Market in the BC Town Hall on the 3rd Saturday in October where you can become a member of the Seed Bank, bring your seed donations and enjoy browsing our library of seeds to borrow!

The seed bank welcomes seed donations for fruits, vegetables, flowers, wildflowers, grains and pulses, although we accept only open-pollinated varieties of seed (Non-F1 Hybrids and Non-GMO seed).

The aims of the seed bank are:

to share knowledge of seed saving, growing and seed sovereignty

to foster community food security through inclusive access to open-pollinated seed

to support the species genetic diversity of seed stock outside of corporate ownership

to build community food resilience in the face of climate change and food system shocks

If you would like to get involved in this project as a Seed Guardian to share your knowledge, skills or time, please contact us at daphne@littlewoodbatch.co.uk. The seed bank is an initiative of the BC Sustainability Working Group & 'Going Wild in BC', both initiatives under the umbrella of the BC Community Partnership.

**'Plottings and mappings
from a Shropshire garden'**
an exhibition by
Katy Alston



"A freelance artist/illustrator based in Shropshire, Katy specialises in making informative pictorial maps. Her other work portrays a rural narrative, often with an underlying macabre and humorous plot."

**Saturday 11th September to
Saturday 9th October**

Please check website for Town Hall opening times

**Bishop's Castle
Town Hall**

For more information
tel: 01828 528951 or
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Flea & Antiques Market
on the 1st Saturday of each month

Farmers Market
on the 3rd Saturday of each month

info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk
for more information
or to book a stall

Bishop's Castle's Heat & Wind Initiative

The Public Meeting on 16th September was well attended with over 60 people present. Responses from the meeting, and talking to people at the two street stalls we've manned, as well as to the survey are showing a high level of support, with some objections. There have been articles in the local press and posts on social media and, amongst other public officials we've spoken to, Philip Dunne, MP, told us he thought it is an "exciting project".

We will be presenting a report of our findings to the Town Council, including the written comments people have made - both positive and negative. We are hopeful that the initiative will have sufficient support for it to be included in the Town's draft Neighbourhood Plan, which would mean that we could continue our preparation for the next stage. A full scrutiny of the proposal will, of course, be undertaken if and when we get as far as a full Planning Application.

For further information on the scheme, and to read the questions raised so far [FAQs], please go to the Lightfoot site at BCCAP | Lightfoot Enterprises

To get in touch with us send an e-mail to info@lightfootenterprises.org.

'Going Wild in BC' : Town Hall Talks

A series of talk on the theme of local bio-diversity will be given at the Town Hall from November through to April 2022. The first one is on Thursday, 4th November when Charlie Bell from the National Trust will be talking about the 'Stepping Stones' project, an exciting initiative which is carrying-out Landscape scale work and Nature Networks between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones. Associated with each talk will be an activity. In this case it will be hedge planting. Come along and find out more!

Mike Watkins
BC Community Partnership

It's good to talk

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UPDATE FROM TRADING STANDARDS

Unfortunately each year, Shropshire Council trading standards receive countless reports of consumers – often elderly or vulnerable – falling victim to rogue traders after having agreed to have work done following a cold call. The sums of money involved usually run into thousands of pounds paid for work that is essentially worthless and can cost further thousands of pounds to put right.

Doorstep crime can take many forms, including; overpriced or substandard home maintenance or improvements, pressure selling (often of mobility aids such as beds and chairs), unfair contracts and bogus charity collections. Criminals may also bill for work that was never agreed to. Bogus salespeople will provide a false identity or contact information, making it impossible for consumers to identify or contact them. If they have paid in advance, they often won't get their money back.

The cost of doorstep crime is not just financial, there is also a very real cost in terms of the emotional distress and anxiety that rogue traders cause. In many ways this is far, far worse than the loss of money.

There are a few easy to follow tips to avoid being caught out by rogue traders:

Never agree to having work done following a cold call – always get at least 3 written quotes from different traders.

Speak to friends and family about whether or not you need any work doing to your home – and ask if they can recommend anyone they have used in the past.

Importantly, whenever a trader offers to undertake work on your property for over £42, and the contract is agreed with the trader present at your home, the law states that the trader has to give you a written contract which contains a notice of your right to cancel the contract within 14 days. It is not sufficient to just say you have 14 days cooling off, the contract **MUST** contain a formal notice explaining how a consumer can cancel the agreement.

There is an important exception to point 3 above in relation to "bespoke" goods or goods made to a customer's specification. There is no right to cancel an agreement for these items – which is something that rogue mobility aid sellers are well aware of. People who sell vastly over priced rise/recline chair, mobility scooters and rise/recline beds will claim their

goods are bespoke and so will not offer a right to cancel. Be very aware of this – our advice is to shop around and never agree to purchase goods such as this there and then – never be afraid to ask a salesperson to leave your home – and if they won't leave call a friend, neighbour or even the police.

If you decide to have work start within the 14 day cancellation period, the trader **MUST** obtain your written consent to start work. Some traders may ask you to "waive your right to cancel" – but, in law, you do not – you can still cancel the contract at any time within the 14 days and only pay for the work done up to the point of cancellation.

If you haven't noticed a problem with your roof it is probably not going to collapse or leak if you don't have the work done immediately – don't be taken in by claims that the work must begin immediately. Don't feel intimidated or pressured into having work done there and then. From my experience, a genuine trader will happily give you time to consider your options and take your time before agreeing to work being undertaken – and most genuine traders will have a backlog of jobs so wouldn't be able to start immediately.

If a trader knocks on your door to say they have some left over tarmac from another job and they can let you have a cheap driveway done, or any other kind of left over materials **DO NOT FALL FOR IT**. Genuine traders do not get rid of left over materials in this fashion.

If a trader says there is to be no upfront fees, but then asks you to pay for materials this is a sign that they are not to be trusted. Almost all legitimate, reputable traders will have accounts at builder's merchants and will never ask for you to purchase materials before the work is completed to your satisfaction.

If the price is reduced significantly to try to induce you to agree to the work this is another red flag. Similarly if the trader offers to do the job for cash to avoid VAT this is another sign that the trader is not legitimate and should be avoided.

Just because a trader is a limited company, has a new shiny van with their name on, or has an 0800 telephone number does not mean that they are legitimate. Many rogue traders now hide behind limited company names (very often limited companies that have been established for only a matter of weeks). They also will accept payment via bank transfer, debit or credit card as well as cash. We are seeing increasing cases where

payment has been made via bank transfer – but usually the account the money goes into is not that of the trader themselves.

Wherever possible, pay using a credit card – as doing so offers additional protection in the event that something goes wrong.

Look out for your neighbours and report anything suspicious to Trading Standards and/or the Police. Ask yourself, does your elderly, vulnerable neighbour really want or need their driveway re-surfaced? Does that neighbour's roof really need replacing?

My experience of over 14 years working for trading standards has made me suspicious of anyone who cold calls at my doorstep – and as such, whenever someone does cold call they are met with a polite but firm "Sorry, I never buy anything on my doorstep" followed by the door being closed. Rogue traders are skilled talkers and, sadly, very persuasive individuals – so closing the door before they start to tell you about your loose roof tiles, dirty driveway, moss covered roof or how they have some left over tarmac I find is the best approach to take.

To report any concerns about rogue traders or doorstep crime, please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06, with whom Shropshire Council works in partnership. Information can be given anonymously and will always be treated in line with the council's information governance policies.

YOGA & MEDITATION TEACHER

Hello everyone, I'd like to introduce myself, I am Jess and live just outside Bishops Castle. I have been teaching yoga & meditation for 7 years in London at several of the top studios. I teach a spectrum of styles including vinyasa, yin, pregnancy, meditation and kirtan at my home (image below). I am currently teaching **1 FREE** yoga class per week.

Get in touch if you're interested in a session!

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West Mercia Police

BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

Date: September 2021 – Newsletter

Where we work

BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL SNT are based at Bishops Castle Police Station, Union St, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AJ.

We work in the Parishes and area's of Bishops Castle, Mainstone, Colebatch, Clun, Llanfair Waterdine, Newcastle on Clun, Bettws-Y-Crwyn, Stowe, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clungunford, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Clunbury, Edgton, Wistanstow, Lydbury North, Lydham, More, Norbury, Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Stiperstones, Worthen and Chirbury.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

SGT 2382 Damien Kelly
PC 3331 Stuart Coote
PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss
SC 39516 Amber Jones

Police contact numbers

Emergency: **999**
Non Emergency: **101**
Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

Twitter: [@SouthShropCops](https://twitter.com/SouthShropCops)

Facebook: [Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch](#)

Email address: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk (we welcome any images of suspicious vehicles or persons)



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	
	9.40		10.40		9.30		10.30	
	12.20		13.20		12.15		13.15	
	13.30		14.30		15.50		16.50	
	15.40		16.40					
Shrewsbury Stand all go via the Hospital	7.35		8.35		8.00		9.00	
	10.05		11.05		10.05		11.05	
	12.00		13.00		14.45		15.45	
	14.00		15.00		17.40		18.40	
	16.25		17.25					
	17.40		18.40					

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

Monday and Friday only	Leaves		Arrives		Leaves		Arrives	
					Ludlow			
Bishop's Castle	9.15		10.25		13.15		14.50	

Bus timetable for bus route Bishop's Castle to Newtown 775

Tuesday only	Leaves		Arrives		Leaves		Lea		Arrives	
Bishop's Castle	10.05		10.50		Return	13.50			14.35	

Bus timetable for bus route Bishop's Castle to Pontesbury 775

Bishop's Castle	14.40		15.10			09.30		10.00
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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		Arrives		Leaves		Arrives	
	09.00		10.36		13.40		15.08	
			Bus stn		Bus stn			