



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



**AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER 2016
ISSUE 48**



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Introduction

Cllr Karen Bavastock

Mayor of Bishop's Castle



Welcome to our Summer newsletter (if you can call it summer).

Civic Pride Day on 12th June was a great day for the town. A celebration

of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday combined with the traditional 'Mayor's Sunday' took place and we called it Civic Pride Day. I was honoured that the High Sheriff of Shropshire Christine Holmes and her husband David joined us and took part in the procession along with the Bishop's Castle Drum and Bugle Band, representatives of our Fire Service who carried the maces and formed the Mayor's escort. We also had representatives from the Royal British Legion, Bishop's Castle Primary School Choir, the Scouts and also councillors and their families. The Primary School sang four folk songs as well as finishing off with "What a Wonderful World" and I was certainly very emotional and the High Sheriff took to Twitter saying that the performance was spine tingling.

The church service, organised by the Reverend Stephanie Fountain was lovely and the party in the Church Barn afterwards was a great tribute to a lady who has served our country for all these years. A beautiful cake had been made by Sylvia Taylor and the ladies of the church provided a delicious lunch. In the afternoon we went up to an event organised by the Town Hall Trust in conjunction with the Town Council where a fantastic display

showing civic pride through the ages could be viewed. The very small, possibly two-board display promised by David and Janet Preshous had become a large and absolutely fascinating display of civic pride in our town through the ages. The museums also opened their doors and a great time was had by all.

During the first week of July we had some brilliant events – Saturday 2nd July saw the 31st year of the Tandem Triathlon with participants from all over the country – the weather was perfect for them and the prize giving which I attended was great fun afterwards.

On Sunday 3rd we had our carnival which is in its 119th year. The Carnival's tradition goes back many decades and we had a great time. I opened the carnival and crowned the carnival queen and headed up the procession with my consort Rosemary in a mule driven by the town crier's wife Yvonne with Jeff, our Town Crier also aboard ringing his bell. We had a great time and it was very poignant for me as I also headed up the carnival procession 22 years before as Carnival Queen in 1994. How things have changed. I am the first Carnival Queen of Bishop's Castle to become Mayor and we also have 2 other carnival Queens serving on the Council – Julie Magill who was Queen in 1989 and Amanda Houghton who was our Queen for the 100th Carnival in 1997. I wonder if there is any other town in the country who can beat that!!!!

One visitor to the carnival came to the stand where I was selling my books on the history of the carnival and its queens and commented on hearing me on the Jeremy Vine show on the Queen's birthday saying how great it was to hear someone from Bishops Castle talking about the town and it is so nice when people

acknowledge what you do.

I was also invited to an Art exhibition at the town hall which was organised by Bishop's Castle Primary School Art club – who had produced some brilliant work. Thanks to the organisers and children for inviting me – I had an amazing time and the work on display was fantastic. I hope they are all very proud of themselves.

To finish visitors have asked me on more than one occasion what makes Bishop's Castle work – and there is basically only one thing – its people – and my goodness has its people worked hard this past few months to show everyone what we do best. Thank you to all organisations involved in all the events which

take place here and make it such a lovely place we all call home. Can I remind you that the Civic Award nominations are now open so if you know of someone who does so much for our town and deserves recognition forms can be collected from the Clerk's Office in the Town Hall and from the Town Hall desk. Please get nominating – we have many unsung heroes out there who deserve an award.

Have a wonderful summer and my next introduction in the newsletter will see the start of Autumn and the children returning to their next year at school.

Karen

Bishop's Castle Challenge Walk, Saturday, August 20th 2016

Sign up now for the walk across 24 miles of stunning Shropshire Hills landscape to the west and north of the town.

It will take you up the hills of Rounton, Corndon and the Stiperstones with self-clipping points at the tops to prove you have been there! There are also valleys to enjoy and a mixture of farmland, woodland and moorland.

The walk starts at the Town Hall and there are 13 & 11 mile options.
Go to bcchallengewalk.co.uk for full details and to book.
Telephone 01588 638467 with any queries.

The 24 mile walk costs £18. Eleven and Thirteen mile cost £12.
Youngsters pay just £5.

All the money raised goes to the Town Hall Trust, a charity which manages the historic hall.

Bishop's Castle Town Hall Listings for August 2016

6th August to 3rd September - Art Exhibition: Pip Leslie-Rowe and Friends

6th August - Sandy Brechin Concert, 7.30 to 10.30pm

Sandy is a Scottish musician and accordionist best known for his lightning-fast playing and hilarious on-stage humour. He has developed his own unique approach to the art of Scottish accordion playing.

Tickets £8 can be purchased at the Town Hall or on line on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/248344

6th August - Flea & Antiques Market

(Regular event on the 1st Saturday of every month in Bishop's Castle Town Hall)

Open 9am until 4pm Lift available Free Entry Tel: 01588 630023

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

20th August - Farmers' Market, 9am until 1pm

This ever popular Farmers' Market is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Amongst the stalls we have are Baconry, Cakes, Bread, Fruit & Veg and even Goat's Milk Soap. Everything is locally produced.

27th August - Craft Fair, 10am until 4pm

Two floors of stalls including ceramics, sculptures, textiles, jewellery and much more. Free Entry Tel: 01588 630023



Listings for September 2016

10th September to 8th October - Open Photographic Exhibition

Bishop's Castle Town hall is holding its 1st Photographic exhibition. High quality work with a wide appeal for visual arts audiences.

3rd September - Flea & Antiques Market

8th September - Storytelling: a new season with Amy Douglas

17th September - Michaelmas Fair Farmers' Market 9am start

19th September -The Norman March: Castle and Borough, 7.30pm.

The fourth in a series of talks by archaeologists and historians.

25th September - Sunday afternoon talk – fourth in a series

Also in September look out for the new series of Wildlife Talks

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Don't Let the SpArC go out Students Launch Online Survey to help Save SpArC Leisure in Bishop's Castle

'Don't Let the SpArC Go Out' campaign has launched a student designed survey which will go out to all schools in the local area as well as the wider community.

The survey has been created by students from The Community College. Bishops Castle (CCBC) which has students from a very wide area. Head teacher, Alan Doust said 'we are all very concerned that SpArC Leisure in Bishop's Castle may close. Closure will affect the College, local primary schools and everyone in the town and the wider community. Students are really concerned about how this will affect them and their families and the impact this will have on health, well-being as well as meeting with friends and learning new skills. I'm really proud of what the students have created and encourage everyone to complete the survey'.

The survey will run until the end of August which gives everyone plenty of time to tell us how you currently use SpArC Leisure and what changes you'd like to see. The results will be used to support and influence future provision.

You can access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SpArCLeisure> if you don't have access to a computer, Mike Ashwell, Company Manager for Bishop's Castle's Enterprise House is more than happy for you to pop in and use one of the computers to complete the survey with no charge.

Bishop's Castle and the wider community are committed to ensuring SpArC Leisure remains open beyond 2017, and have set up a support group to campaign to keep the centre open, and to raise funds towards its upkeep and future operation.

Shropshire Council's financial review from 2017–2020 has indicated significant savings need to be made from the leisure budget, and potentially there will be zero subsidy for the SpArC Leisure Centre from April 2017.

The SpArC Leisure Centre in Bishop's Castle is a leisure centre comprising a swimming pool, gym, indoor sports courts and exercise rooms. The facility also includes a theatre used for arts events and is a joint use site with The Community College. The centre has around 60,000 visits per year and is used by residents from Bishop's Castle and a wide rural hinterland in South West Shropshire and parts of the Welsh Border. The site is currently managed by Teme Leisure, with funding from Shropshire Council.

Karen Bavastock, Mayor of Bishop's Castle adds "I'm so impressed with the work the students at The Community College have done and would encourage everyone to complete the survey to help keep the Sparc alive".

HELP!

Do you live or work somewhere that
could display posters about events in the
Town Hall?
Please let us know!

SUNSHINE ALL THE WAY

It was sunshine all the way for Bishop's Castle Carnival this year as the disappointment of last year's very wet carnival was forgotten and a good time was had by all. The procession was led by Bishop's Castle Town Crier Jeff Aldridge and his Consort and wife Yvonne along with the Mayor of Bishop's Castle Councillor Karen Bavastock who was officially opening the carnival this year along with her consort Rosemary Griffiths.

The Carnival Queen this year was Miss Donna Hughes and her attendants were Joanna Longman along with Kelsey and Miah Robertson. The Carnival Princess was Katie Barkley and her attendant was Nicole Seaborne.

Prize winners were as follows – the Best Decorated Float and the Best Overall float in the carnival was awarded to the Battle of the Somme. Second place went to Coverage Care Royal Party with the Hockey Club's Royal Party taking 3rd Prize. The best pub float went to the Blues Brothers aka The Crown and Anchor Vaults.

In the walking processions the first prize in the 0-4 category was given to Kayla Grimes, in the 5-7 category Cody Williams was the first prize winner with Harvey Woodhouse, 2nd and Finn Morrison in 3rd place and in the 8-15 years old first prize was awarded to Lily Bance, 2nd prize went to Maeve Morrison, 3rd Prize went the Cieron Jones and Nathan Jones was Highly commended. The 16+ award went to Nick Knowles dressed as an M & M.

In the Group Category the first prize went the The Morris's dressed as the Incredibles, The Woosnam's dressed as farmers took second place with Bishops Castle Hospital and their bed push in third place and Abigail Brayford and Leela Owen were Highly Commended dressed as Cleopatra and her slave (the Egyptians).

Following a traditional procession through the streets of Bishop's Castle the carnival queen Donna Hughes was crowned by Cllr Karen Bavastock, Mayor of Bishop's Castle and the Carnival Princess Katie Barkley was crowned by Aoife Houghton, last year's carnival princess. On opening the carnival Cllr Bavastock paid tribute to the work of all the volunteers involved in the carnival and said that it was 22 years ago since she was carnival queen so it gave her great pleasure in crowning the queen and hoped everyone had a great time.

An afternoon of fun then commenced on the playing fields with lots to entertain the crowds.

Amanda Houghton, Secretary of the Carnival Committee said "I would like to thank everyone involved in the carnival today - to name anyone individually would be far too long a list but so many people work together to make it such a great day and I really hope that everyone enjoyed themselves".

The award of first prize for the shop window display went to Jane Pugh of Jane's Petals and second prize went to Pugh's with third prize being awarded to The Worx.

SPARC FUNDRAISING IN THE LOCAL TANDEM TRIATHLON

On Saturday 3rd July Bishop's Castle Mayor Cllr Karen Bavastock attended the prize giving at the Three Tuns and gave out the prizes to the winning teams.

Two teams "Where is the Throttle" and "The Tortoises" were fundraising for SpArc, the local campaign to ensure that the area does not lose the massively important leisure centre and swimming pool which is under threat of closure.

Local men Gary Davies and Mark Lello were presented with their prizes for the first local team home by Cllr Bavastock. They used a tandem supplied by Julie and Malcolm Furber of New Street Cycles and said that they hope to have raised well over £300. Another team made up of Amy Douglas and Elizabeth Still also cycled for SpArc and are yet to add up how much they have raised

but Elizabeth said that people had been really generous.

Cllr Bavastock said "It was a great pleasure to give out the prizes and everyone in the room was very supportive of the Leisure Centre which has been the home of the Tandem Triathlon for the past 31 years and it was even more poignant to pass on prizes to local people who are doing a massive amount to raise money to ensure that we **'Do Not Let the SpArc Go Out'** and are successful in ensuring that the Triathlon has a home for many years to come".

Karen went on to say "I would like to congratulate the many people who work extremely hard to ensure that this day is the massive success that it is and the organisers have also pledged money to our campaign which is just so kind and really overwhelming. Thank you so much to everyone involved and the pledges of support mean so much to us all".



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Bishop's Castle Community-Led Plan – update

The Town Plan Steering Group would like to thank all members of the community who attended our recent 'drop-in' sessions and provided us with such high-quality feedback and ideas.

During July and August we'll be collating the feedback from the drop-in sessions and writing the Plan and its actions.

Early in September we will publish the draft Action Plan online and invite comments on what should be the priorities for the first year. There will also be displays at Enterprise House, the Town Hall, etc. for your feedback. The Plan itself will be completed by early October - but this is when the real work starts, as the actions are then implemented.

This is a Community-Led Plan, based on the issues you have raised. The need for a planned, cohesive approach has never been greater so we value all input from the community.

We would be delighted if you might be interested in helping, either in writing the Plan or with helping to implement its actions.

If you can offer any support or would like to find out more, then please contact us at townplan@bishopscastle.co.uk, or call Keith on 07971 661615.

Bishop's Castle Town Plan Steering group

www.bishopscastle.co.uk/council/townplan.htm



Don't let the
SpArC
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Complete the online survey so
that your voice can be added to
the campaign to save SpArC!



<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SpArcLeisure>
For more information, visit www.savethesparc.org

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Health bosses support Bishop's Castle Community Hospital proposals

At a well-attended Annual Meeting of Bishop's Castle Patients Group (BCPG) on 14th June, Mel Duffy, director of strategy for Shropshire Community Health Trust (SCHT) and David Evans, Accountable Officer for Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) undertook to introduce new services at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital as early as this autumn.

A number of extra services were discussed including Intravenous (IV) osteoporosis treatment, IV antibiotics, local blood testing ('Point of Care testing') and enhanced respiratory support. David Evans explained that the introduction of any new additional services would have to lead to savings elsewhere in the health economy and that if such savings can be demonstrated, the CCG will support the proposals.

Plans will be developed over the next few months with the possibility of tangible developments starting in the autumn. Local GPs and BCPG will work closely with SCHT and the CCG to try to ensure that these developments occur.

Nick Hutchins, chair of BCPG, said, 'We would be delighted to see some of these new services being introduced later in the year. Given the current dire state of NHS funding, the requirement to demonstrate savings elsewhere through the introduction of enhanced local services, is understandable. We also await

further proposals for the development of local urgent care services. Recent reports of no new-build Urgent Care Centres are not surprising, since throughout the future Fit project, such services have always been described as being located in existing Community Hospitals or Minor Injury Units. BCPG is actively involved with the CCG, SCHT and local GPs in identifying key urgent care services that might be enhanced or developed and are also aware that rural GPs are often already providing urgent care in a way that urban GPs are not.'

More information about BCPG's Annual meeting will be published in their next newsletter due in August: look out for copies which will be available in the surgery, at Enterprise House, the pharmacy, Bishop's Castle Post Office and in Harry Tuffins at Churchstoke; copies will also be distributed in Bishop's Castle households courtesy of the scouts (if any group is able offer delivery elsewhere, BCPG will be please dot hear), and online.

BCPG may be contacted on bcpatientsgroup@gmail.com. Please visit the website at www.bcpog.org.uk.

Nick Hutchins

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BISHOP'S CASTLE CIVIC AWARDS 2016

Last year we launched the Civic Awards in Bishop's Castle and they were very well received and I cannot believe it is now 12 months later and we are planning the next awards ceremony. The awards were launched on 12th June during our Civic Pride day.

We have simplified the awards this year and decided not to have categories like groups and individuals, community awards and various others so please feel free to nominate individuals or groups you feel are worthy of consideration.

Winners last year were The Grange Road Ladies Carol Clarke, Sheila Hawkes, Ellen Edwards and Rose Burgwin, who are the founder members of the group Lunches for All followed by Michael and Elizabeth Knight who have devoted over 30 years to the community in running childrens' clubs in the town.

We went on to recognise the work of Mary Pullen who has devoted many years to our community as a First Responder. She is on hand 24/7 to help anyone with a medical problem and I know people who have said that they cannot explain the relief they feel when this person walks in calmly and takes over the care of their loved ones in a crisis.

The next award was to recognise Maureen Parry who has devoted 47 years to fundraising for many different organisations and charities including Lingen Davies, Save our Soldiers, Public Hall, Fire Service and many other community places and charities

have benefitted from the fundraising efforts. Janet Preshous received the next award and was nominated for her tireless work in the community. For 30 years she has recorded memories of elderly people in the area. The work she does greatly enhances the lives of vulnerable elderly people followed by an award to Peter Norton who was instrumental in starting the walking festivals which brings many tourists to the town. He volunteers as a town tour guide, also working in the House on Crutches and has been chairman of Abbeyfields. Our final winner was Doris Roberts who volunteers at Stone House doing the drinks, shopping for residents and chatting with them.

Someone said we might run out of people – but somehow with the amount of voluntary work and dedication of so many within our community I do think the civic awards will run and run!



**BISHOP'S CASTLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

**CIVIC
AWARDS
2016**

BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S AWARDS 2016

Nominations are now being sought for the 2016 Awards which will be held in October 2016. Awards shall be presented to organisations and groups, businesses and individuals whose achievements have contributed to making Bishop's Castle the place that we all enjoy living in, working in, shopping in and visiting.

Designed to form part of the annual civic calendar of the Council, the Mayor of Bishop's Castle Award Scheme shall recognise not only the major players in shaping our town, but also those unsung heroes who go about their lives, helping others and don't seek any form of recompense or acknowledgement.

The closing date for completed nominations is
Monday 5th September 2016
and a presentation evening will be held on
Thursday 13th October 2016 at
The Town Hall, Bishop's Castle.

THE CIVIC AWARD

For full details of the Awards for 2016 and
how to nominate someone
please contact the Town Clerk's office on:

01588 638141

or

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The Bishop's Castle Public Hall supports SPARC

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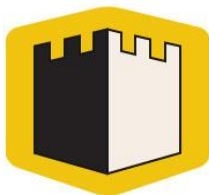
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3rd September 2016 Coffee or Not - Belgium band

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Prices to be reviewed September 2016

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Calling local entrepreneurs!

The Town Hall Trust is making the opportunity available to local entrepreneurs to test out innovative marketing ideas on any available weekday of your choice at a special daily, stall hire rate of just £5 from now until the end of December 2016!

Perhaps you have a craft or hobby you would like to turn into an income stream. Or you may have an existing business and be looking for additional outlets, or to make your business more visible. It could be an opportunity for voluntary groups or organisations to fundraise too.

You will be responsible for your own publicity and promotion, but the Town Hall will provide a 6 foot table, a warm, dry, friendly environment and access to good facilities for drinks-making and hand washing in the Market Hall. The Town Hall is now fully accessible following the 2013/14 renovation with disabled access via the basement and a lift to all floors.

Here is a low-cost, low risk opportunity to test the market with your great ideas! – contact Karen Corfield by email karen.corfield@live.co.uk

Or contact the Town Hall on 01588 630 023, or email info@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS:

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Town Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk

Monday - Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm



Forthcoming Heritage Events at the Town Hall

Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre is delighted to use the Town Hall to share the history and heritage of the town with residents and visitors in a series of events this year. There are five more to come and tickets can be purchased or reserved at the Town Hall:

Telephone 01588 630 023,

Email info@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk

Monday 19th September will see an illustrated talk about this area under Norman rule. Mike Greene, a community archaeologist will describe life in castle and borough in the Norman March. Doors open at 7.30pm and the talk will begin at 8.00 to last approximately one hour, with the opportunity to ask questions. Tickets are £5 and include refreshments available from 7.30pm.

On **Sunday 25th September** a film about Bill Locke from Clun will be shown. The afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 will include screening of the film, information about the making of the film and will conclude with tea and cake. Tickets for this are £5 to include refreshments and local Dial-a-Ride transport, which must be booked separately by phoning 638 350.

Two more Monday evening talks on

archaeology will follow:

17th October: The English Revolution: Civil War in Shropshire & 21st November: Industry, Mining and Agriculture: Emergence of Modern Shropshire and the final Sunday afternoon event will be a traditional musical entertainment, including a sing along on **Sunday October 16th.**



Donate your surplus produce to help SpArC!

If you have a glut of garden produce this summer and autumn – such as fruit, vegetables or flowers, rooted cuttings or jars of jam or chutney, you can donate any surplus to aid the SpArC appeal. Bring your donations to the Town Hall, where a Community Produce stall will be available every day - Monday to Saturday, during opening hours 10.00 - 4.00. All the proceeds will go to the SpArC appeal and the amount raised will be reported in future newsletters.

Please bring fresh, labelled produce to the Town Hall between 10.00 and 4.00, Monday to Saturday, where it will be priced and displayed for sale. Roots vegetables should be cleaned of excess soil and all types of produce should come to the Town Hall in containers (jars, bags or boxes) suitable for carrying them away.

Care will be taken not to undercut local businesses selling similar goods, so that no-one should be disadvantaged by this initiative, which aims to benefit the whole community by supporting SpArC and reducing food miles, thus making the town more environmentally sustainable. For further information contact info@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk or phone 01588 630 023

Opportunities at the Town Hall Specialist Markets

The Town Hall has traditionally been at the heart of the Bishop's Castle economy, having hosted markets of many kinds through the years. It is home to a thriving monthly Farmers' Market every 3rd Saturday and for those interested in antiques and collectables it holds the monthly Flea market on the 1st Saturday too, which we aim to double in size. Anyone with good quality second-hand, vintage and antique, decorative or useful goods, including jewellery, clothing and bric-a-brac could be considered for a regular or occasional slot at this market. If you just have the odd such item, donations can be left at the Town Hall to be sold on the Town Hall Trust table to help their funds.

If you are a maker, our quarterly Craft Markets could be the place for you to develop or expand your customer base.

All our markets are widely promoted using various tools including the local press, listings publications, road signs, posters, flyers and social media. We also have a team member, Karen Corfield,

dedicated to markets development.

For more information about any of these opportunities contact Karen Corfield by email karen.corfield@live.co.uk

Alternatively contact the Town Hall on 01588 630 023, or email info@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk

Careline Help at the push of a button

Careline can give you or your loved ones the reassurance and peace of mind that if you require help, it is not far away!

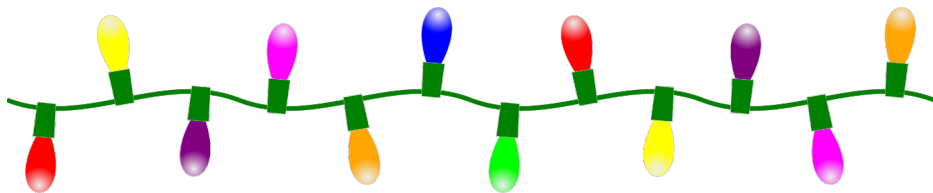
Careline is a 24-hour personal emergency response service, based in Hereford, which is connected to your home through an alarm unit linked to your telephone line. In times of need, help is just the push of a button away!

Our alarms are connected to our friendly operators who are on hand to answer your calls instantly and get you the help you need. The service helps people to continue to live independently in their own homes. We have lots of products to choose from including pendants, watches and sensors.

The Careline service can cost you as little as 58p per day. In addition, we can also offer you our Mobile Responder Service, a personal onsite visit when you activate your Careline alarm - for an additional 36p per day.

For more information please speak to our Careline team on 01432 384100.

Herefordshire Careline is run by the Independence Trust, part of the Herefordshire Housing Group.

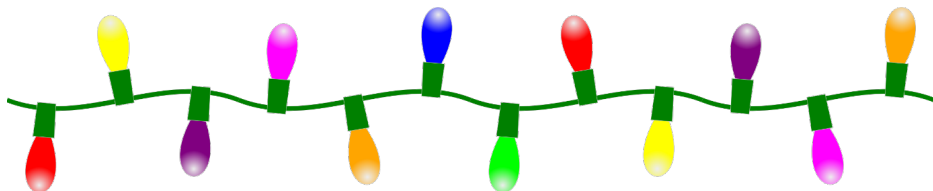


LET'S PUT THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT INTO BISHOP'S CASTLE

Our Christmas lights committee have stepped down after providing a great service for a number of years

If you want to put the Christmas into Bishop's Castle this year a meeting has been organised to look at forming a new Christmas Lights Committee.

Please bring your ideas and come along to the Happy Bap on Monday 5th September at 5pm for an informal get-together and chat



WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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email: bishopscastlenewsletter@gmail.com

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