



# BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



**FEBRUARY & MARCH  
2017**

**ISSUE 51**



# Real People. Real Advice.

Our legal experts are here to help.

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- Wills, Trusts, Tax Planning & Probate

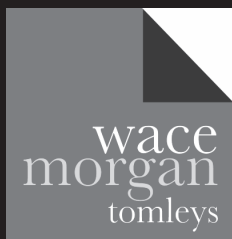


**Caroline  
Denham**

Wills & Probate,  
Residential Property &  
Family Matters

**Rachel Mole**

Residential Property,  
Wills, Trusts, Probate &  
Powers of Attorney



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Powys, SY16 2PG  
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**help@wmlaw.co.uk**

**www.wacemorgantomleys.co.uk**

**🐦 @WaceMorgan**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE**

Welcome to the February and March issue of Bishop's Castle News. This one seems to be full of information and we have had lots of contributors this time, so we are going to keep the introduction short!

This will be a busy year for the Town Council as elections are due in May - more of which anon. This is your opportunity to consider putting yourself forward as a Town Councillor or even a County Councillor..... If you feel you could make a difference why not ask the Clerk for more information? You will be under no obligation if you decide not to continue with the process.

Councils these days are being given more and more responsibility and we need people like YOU!

This Newsletter is for all members of the community and we would like you to contribute as much as possible - it is not just a one-way process. If you are having a meeting/event - whatever you are doing - why not let us know and we can tell everyone!

We regret to announce the resignation of Karen Bavastock from the role of Mayor and Town Councillor and we are sure you all wish her well in the future and thank her for the work she has done in the town.

## **BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL**

Full Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month:

Tuesday 21st February

Tuesday 21st March

Tuesday 18th April

Tuesday 16th May

Annual Town Council Meeting and  
Mayor Making

Tuesday 23rd May

Annual Town Meeting

*All meetings commence at 7.30pm and members of the public are very 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 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.*

### **WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Phone: 01588 638141 or**

**email:**

**bishopscastlenewsletter@gmail.com**

**Produced by Bishop's Castle Town Council and  
printed at  
Enterprise House  
Station Street, Bishop's Castle**

## **MICHAELMAS FAIR AGM**

**Wednesday 8th February  
7.30pm at The Six Bells**

**All Welcome**

If you would like to contribute to the fair in anyway come along or email us at  
[mail@michaelmasfair.co.uk](mailto:mail@michaelmasfair.co.uk)

**DEADLINE** for the April/May issue of the magazine:  
**Friday 12th May**

**Youth Session**  
for 12+  
every Wednesday at 7pm  
in the Church Barn

## **SPARC SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE**

**We have achieved the following so far:**

- 12 months extra funding secured from Shropshire Council
- With support from Locality an application for charitable status has been submitted
- A massive fundraising effort by the whole community has raised over £50,000
- A successful bid to Marks and Spencer's has secured the funding for a pool cover worth £12,500
- Responded in depth to the Shropshire Council draft leisure contract which is currently being amended
- Market research conducted by Community College and all local primary school students has identified potential growth areas for SPARC.

**The work does not stop here; we aim in the short and medium term to:**

- Install the pool cover
- Formalise the charity which will administer the funds raised by the community
- Identify and appoint trustees
- Visit other organisations to look at the structures they operate under and identify models for SPARC
- Work with the current provider TEME Leisure to improve the facilities at SPARC
- Identify small projects which could be funded to test the market (more details to be released in early February)
- Work with local councils, schools and individuals, to build revenue funding
- We are waiting for the new Shropshire Council draft leisure strategy and once received intend to work with all partners and supporters to secure the best future for SPARC

*A huge number of people from across South West Shropshire have been involved in fund-raising, drafting letters and proposals, marketing, attending meetings and generally supporting the SpArC campaign. It has been a massive team effort.*

*Thank you ALL!*

**Bishop's Castle & District  
Community Transport  
New £43,000 vehicle delivered for  
Dial-a-Ride Scheme**

Bishop's Castle & District Community has taken delivery of a brand new sixteen seater Citroen Relay 2.2 diesel minibus, which comes complete with a powered lift, thus enabling the easy transport of wheelchairs.

The acquisition has been made after the Scheme's Manager, Adrian Varcoe, made a successful bid for funding from the Department of Transport. The total value of the new vehicle provided by the Department is £43,000.

Local Celebrity "Fuzz" Townshend, JOURNALIST AND TV PRESENTER, presented the keys of the vehicle to two newly qualified minibus drivers: Trevor Chalkley and John Rimmer. Mr Townshend said:

*"I am pleased and honoured to be able to make this presentation. I am only too well aware of how important such services are*

*to local communities – especially in more remote areas such as the Bishop's Castle vicinity. It is doubly important for those in our community who find it difficult to get about easily."*

Adrian Varcoe, who spent many weeks preparing the bid said, *"It was hard work but we have had a successful outcome. As Fuzz has already said, this service is essential to our community. It would not exist if it wasn't for our band of volunteer drivers who give up countless hours to help – free of charge – coupled with the great efforts we have all made to secure funding for this fabulous new vehicle"*.

**Bishop's Castle Dial-a-Ride minibus service and community car scheme operates from Enterprise House in Station Road. If anyone wishes to book the service or is interested in becoming a volunteer driver they should contact Adrian Varcoe.**

Contact: Adrian Varcoe 01588 638350 or visit or e-mail:

Dial.a.ride@hotmail.co.uk



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Stacks Better for a Clean Sweep

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Shropshire, SY9 5AQ

**Do you have an hour to spare when you could socialise/  
chat with the residents of Abbeyfield House,  
Bishop's Castle?**

If you are interested and would like an informal chat about it  
please ring 01588 630000.

Subject to DBS checking. This DBS check will be done through  
Abbeyfield so don't be put off if you haven't one at the moment.

# Abbeyfield

***Support and companionship just when you need it***

**Are you looking for affordable Sheltered Accommodation  
with your main meals provided in a homely environment?**

**Abbeyfield House situated in Oak Meadow SY9 5PA  
close to the Town Centre of Bishop's Castle  
offers all this, and independent living  
with a balance of privacy, support and security**

**Please telephone 01588 630000  
for more information**



## CHRISTMAS CRACKER UP DATE

Thank you to everyone who helped in some way to make the Bishop's Castle Christmas Cracker event a good one.

Special thanks must go to:

*Alistair Evans - for the fabulous Christmas Tree*

*Stuart Evans - Santa's Grotto*

*Gill Medlicott - organising the parade*

*Ruth & Tim Houghton and Anne & Glynn Roberts -*

*helping erect Christmas Trees*

*and everyone else that helped in some way.*

*A huge thank you too must go to Councillor Whittingham (AKA Whitty)  
for co-ordinating the whole event.*

This was the first year of the Town Council and friends organising the evening and whilst we have a way to go yet we are pleased to announce that we just about broke even, ensuring the funds we are looking after on behalf of the Christmas Cracker are there for the future.

Whitty is planning on making an early start to planning the 2017 event and the first meeting for anyone interested in forming the team will be in March. Please pop in to the Happy Bap if you feel able to help and also have some fundraising ideas too.

The Council Chamber oak floor has been rejuvenated by

### **Magill's Hardwood Flooring.**

A thorough clean and a coating of oil was applied, followed by buffing to bring the floor back to a beautiful finish.

If your oak floor is in need of restoring please contact:

Tracy Magill on 07968 233093 or email:

tracy.magill@btinternet.com for an informal chat and a quote.



## **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2017/18**

A great deal of preparation and discussion goes each year into the setting of the budget for the Town Council and this, of course, leads to the precept request. Bishop's Castle Town Council take this responsibility very seriously and decisions are not made lightly.

For several years now the precept has been kept artificially low and this has affected the amount of care and attention the Council are able to lavish on the facilities within the town. For the forthcoming year we have looked hard at our priorities, responsibilities and assets with a view to improving, maintaining and developing all aspects of these for the community. SpArC, and its survival, was, naturally, a large part of our discussions and Councillors felt that to show their support for this facility was vital. It was also recognised that in persuading others in the surrounding areas to contribute with some financial backing for SpArC would be futile if the Town Council was not seen to be a major contributor.

We are sure that many of you will have visited the Public Hall and recognise that some considerable work needs to be undertaken to make the area a profitable, sustainable and safe space. The new committee have worked hard to do this, but the fabric of the building is in need of an update and the Town Council recognise that this too is a responsibility that they must not shirk. Add these obligations to the maintenance and development of

the Playing Fields and other recreational areas, the provision of Allotments, the upkeep of the Public Toilets, Street Lights, Town Hall and we are starting to look at an ever increasing budget.

The Town Council also recognise the need to continue to work and enhance the appearance of our lovely town and make it a pleasant and attractive place to live and it is to be remembered that we have taken over quite a few responsibilities from Shropshire Council.

All of these aspects have been taken into account and this statement is to inform all residents that you will indeed find an increase in our part of the Precept (we cannot, at this stage estimate the amount of increase that Shropshire Council will be adding). It is thought that to support these aspects of the town the community will be charged an additional 70p per month. We think the results will be worth it and we hope that you do too.

*If you wish to see full details of the budget for 2017/18 they may be found on our website:*

*[bishopscastle.co.uk](http://bishopscastle.co.uk)*

*Alternatively, if you pop into the Town Clerk's Office during office hours (Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm) the Clerk's will be happy to help you*





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BRITAIN**

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out more

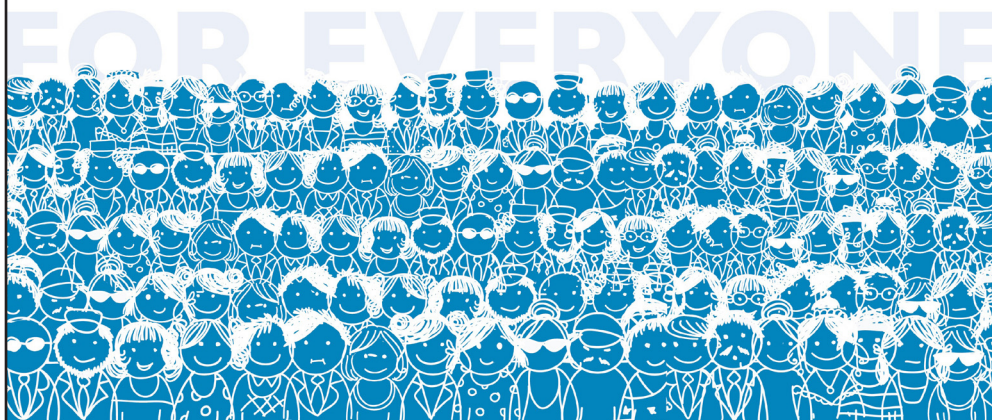


# Fibre has arrived....

Faster fibre broadband is now available in

## BISHOP'S CASTLE

Contact your internet service provider to find out more



[www.connectingshropshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingshropshire.co.uk)

[connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk) and 01743 252203

FOR  
**EVERYONE**

## **BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY-LED PLAN**

Bishop's Castle Town Council started the process of a Community-Led Plan in 2014 when they asked for volunteers to be involved and a working party was set up to include councillors and non-councillors – but all having one thing in common: a love for our town and the vision to make it vibrant and sustainable in the future.

In October 2016 the working party presented the Town Council with a draft working document – written after much research, talking to the community, discussions, consultation, observations, surveys, and hard work on their part. The Town Council are delighted with the results of that hard work and would like to thank the working party for an excellent document, which will now form a business plan for the council for the forthcoming years. Some of the actions will be readily achievable, some may take a little longer – but we thought it would be a good idea to share with the community the aspects and areas within the plan that we will all be looking at in the future. These are many and varied and to get the full picture we urge you to look at the full plan – we hope, however, that this summary goes in some way towards a greater understanding from all about the areas of intention within which we seek to improve and develop.

### **THE TOWN CENTRE:**

Areas where issues that were identified:

- **The Town Centre:**
  - Traffic and Parking Issues
  - Shopping Priorities
- **Community and Services**
  - Young People
  - Volunteers
  - Services
  - An Ageing Population
- **Infrastructure**
  - Transport
  - Traffic and Highways
  - Rural Social Inclusion
  - Infrastructure
- **Development**
  - Affordable Housing
  - Managed Development
  - Provision for the Elderly
  - Retention of Young People
- **Economy**
  - Jobs
  - Maintenance of our Environment
  - Attracting Employment
  - Promote and Support Tourism
- **Sustainability**
  - Renewable Energy
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Food Production
  - Waste and Recycling
  - Climate Change

### *Community-Led Plan continued:*

Obviously this is a very basic summary of the areas covered and the Plan itself goes into much more detail – over the forthcoming months we will start to include that detail into the Newsletters. The Town Council will be setting up working parties with councillors and members of the community, together with our partners in that community (for example: Shropshire Council, Enterprise South West Shropshire, the CLT, the schools, local health professionals, tourism, etc) to work our way through the Plan and the Actions identified within. If you have particular areas of expertise or interest, or feel you can help in any way please contact the Town Council, we would love to hear from you.

If you wish to hear about the processes being undertaken to address the individual issues in the plan then please do come along to a meeting of the Town Council (details on page 3 of this Newsletter). Members of the public are welcome to attend – and you will be able to hear the feedback from members of the Council from each of the working parties about progress and developments as they happen. Please remember this is a ‘Community’ –Led Plan and we want to hear from the Community in which we all live.

A date or your diaries: The Annual Town Meeting is taking place on Tuesday 23rd May and there will be full reports on all aspects of the Community-Led Plan and you will have the opportunity to have your say and air your views on those aspects and work undertaken.

## **FASTER FIBRE BROAD-BAND**

Faster fibre broadband is now available to order throughout Bishop’s Castle. Connecting Shropshire has installed fibre to cabinets 1, 2 & 3 in the Bishop’s Castle exchange, which serve around 1,000 premises in and around the town.

To make the switch to fibre broadband, people will need to contact their chosen internet service provider to upgrade their broadband package, the broadband speeds won’t increase automatically.

People can visit our website: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/> to check which exchange area and cabinet serves their premises and to check the availability of fibre broadband.

The fibre network that we’ve built is open to all internet service providers, so we recommend that people shop around to get the best deal for them by using a comparison website, such as: <https://www.cable.co.uk/connectingshropshire/>

To find out more about why it’s a good idea to upgrade to fibre broadband, see: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/make-the-switch/>



# **HIRE THE TOWN HALL**

## **Venue Hire**

We have 2 rooms for hire:

Market Hall and Council Chamber

*The fees below are per room*

## **Catering Facilities:**

A fully equipped kitchen is available with fridge, cooker, microwave, crockery, glasses and cutlery.

In addition we also have drink pods and washing up facilities on each floor.

The general use of crockery and cutlery is included in the hire fees.

There will be a £20 charge for the use of glasses and vintage china.

For hires that require use of the kitchen to provide catering there will be an additional cost of £50.

A £50 refundable deposit will also be required for full kitchen use.

## **Venue Hire Fees:**

### **Weekday - Day time**

#### **General Rate:**

**£10 per hour up to 6 hours**

**Full day up to 8 hours £75**

**Community Rate (voluntary organisations & charities):**

**£8.50 per hour up to 6 hours**



## **EVENING & WEEKEND**

### **General Rate:**

**£15 per hour up to 6 hours**

**Full day up to 8 hours £110**

**Weekend Hire: Saturday am - Sunday pm £300**

### **Community Rate:**

**£10 per hour up to 6 hours**

**Full day up to 8 hours £75**

**Weekend Hire: Saturday am - Sunday pm £200**

## **MUSIC CONCERTS**

**£90 - inclusive of 6 hours hire, ticket sales on our Ticket Source, distribution of publicity via posters, press and social media and Town Hall bar.**

## **TV ADVERTISING**

**Hire 2 screens on our TV to advertise your business.**

**£5 per month or save £10 and hire for a year for £50!**

## **SHELF HIRE**

**Showcase your products on a shelf in one of our oak cabinets.**

**Full cabinet shelf £10 per month**

**Plus 20% commission on all sales**

## **MARKETS - STALL HIRE**

**If you are interested in having a stall at one of our produce or specialist markets please contact us for our Market leaflet and stall fees.**

### **Contact us:**

**Bishop's Castle Town Hall**

**High Street**

**Bishop's Castle, SY9 5BG**

**Telephone: 01588 630023**

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



## **NEWSLETTER**

**February/March 2017**

### **The Business Park**

The work to secure the undeveloped parts of the Love Lane Business Park is ongoing. Since the last newsletter 100 business case brochures have been distributed to raise the profile of this project and a grant funding application was submitted to The 'Power to Change' on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. There have been two CLT partnership meetings and Shropshire Council thanked the CLT for producing the outline Business Plan and confirmed that they support the aims and objectives of the project. They now want the CLT to do more work on the financial model for the project to progress the Community Asset Transfer. There is a further partnership meeting in January and there will be another update following this.

There are still copies of the brochure available at the Town Hall or Textile traders.

### **New Members**

The event at the Three Tuns on 26<sup>th</sup> November was a great success. **25** new members joined at the event. The band, DJ and circus performers did a great job – so thanks to all of them. Thanks also to all those who helped set up and helped on the door on the night, this was greatly appreciated. Thanks as well to Tim and Cath who generously allowed us to use the function room.

Overall since early September we have **48** new members of the CLT and have raised approximately **£2000** through selling shares.

Please contact Rachel to join, buy shares or get involved in any way. She can be contacted on [www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust) or [bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com)

### **New Projects**

As in the last newsletter we want to build more affordable housing in BC.



Please if anyone knows of any AFFORDABLE appropriate land where we can build up to 4 houses please get in touch with the Chair, Jim Gaffney at Textile Traders or Rachel, Development Worker [bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com)

## Planned Events

We are launching our new website on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Underground. The event will start at 7 pm and will demonstrate the website and how it works. There will be a chance for questions not only about the website but the CLT in general. You will also be able to put forward any ideas you have about how we can raise funds and get more projects off the ground. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Please come – we really value your support and input.

**Landfest 3** is going to take place on the weekend of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This will be at the vaults and there will be a range of great bands on. If you think you can help in any way over the weekend please get in touch. We definitely need people to volunteer to make food, serve food, sell tickets on the door and sell shares.

By joining and supporting the CLT you will be adding your voice to what happens in term of local housing and local employment in our town. You can take part in decision making to whatever level you want to, you can be on the board, you can make a cake for an event, you volunteer to help out or you can simply come along to any event and support it and have a fun night at the same time.

If you have any ideas please contact Rachel, CLT Development Worker on the Facebook page or check the Facebook page for further details  
[www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust)

To contact us or get further info visit the following;

Website [www.bcclt.co.uk](http://www.bcclt.co.uk)

Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/BCLandTrust)

Email [bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:bccommunitylandtrust@gmail.com)



# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS:

**Cllr Keith Bance**

Tel: 01588 638455

Email: [bance74@googlemail.com](mailto:bance74@googlemail.com)

**Councillor Jane Carroll**

Tel: 01588 638467

E-mail: [jane.carrol@gmail.com](mailto:jane.carrol@gmail.com)

**Councillor Jim Gaffney**

Tel: 01588 638712

Email: [jimgaffney37@gmail.com](mailto:jimgaffney37@gmail.com)

**Councillor Amanda Houghton**

Tel: 01588 630760

Email: [houghton65@btinternet.com](mailto:houghton65@btinternet.com)

**Councillor Ruth Houghton**

Tel: 01588 638352

Email: [Houghton.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:Houghton.ruth@btinternet.com)

**Councillor Anne-Marie Jackson**

Tel: 01588 638566

Email: [jackson.annemarie@btinternet.com](mailto:jackson.annemarie@btinternet.com)

**Councillor Julie Magill**

Tel: 01588 638305

Email: [tracy.magill@btinternet.com](mailto:tracy.magill@btinternet.com)

**Councillor Grant Perry**

Tel: 01588 638233

Email: [grantperry24@icloud.com](mailto:grantperry24@icloud.com)

**Councillor Anne Roberts**

Tel 01588 630165

Email: [anne.roberts@mac.com](mailto:anne.roberts@mac.com)

**Councillor Steve Whittingham**

Tel 01588 638954

Email: [thehappybap@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thehappybap@yahoo.co.uk)

*Town Clerk: 01588 638141*

*[townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk)*

*Monday - Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm*

*For all allotment enquiries please contact:  
[assistantclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk)*



## INVITATION TO TENDER

BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

ARE PLEASED TO OFFER 2 SEPARATE TENDER OPPORTUNITIES:

TOILET CLEANER AT THE AUCTION YARD TOILETS  
MAINTENANCE OF TOWN BENCHES/BARRELS/BUS SHELTER

For full details of these contracts please contact the Town Clerk:  
01588 638141 or [townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk)

The roles are self-employed and will start in April 2017  
Quotes to be returned by 1st March

# BE A COUNCILLOR

**Do you care about local issues?  
Would you like to change your community for the better?  
Fed up with what the big political parties are saying?**

**If so why not become a local councillor?**

You don't have to be a member of the big political parties,  
you can stand as an Independent.

If you'd like to find out more about being an **Independent Councillor**  
and the steps you need to take to represent your community,  
come to our **Be a Councillor event on 21 February 2017,**  
**4.30pm - 6pm in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire**

For more details or to RSVP contact Sarah on  
[Independent.groupLGA@local.gov.uk](mailto:Independent.groupLGA@local.gov.uk)  
<http://www.lgaindependent.local.gov.uk>



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Delivery Service Available




**Serenity Holistic Massage Therapies**  
Bishop's Castle  
Swedish Body, Indian Head and  
Warm Bamboo Massage.  
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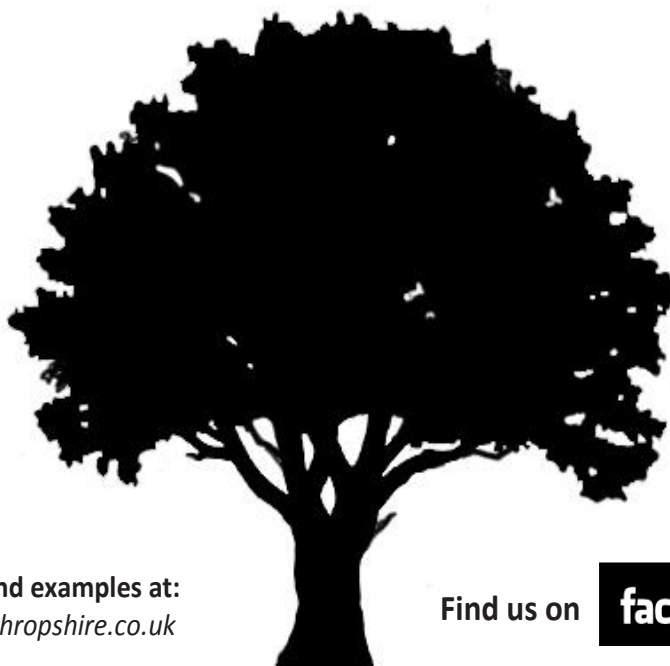
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## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

**For Tickets or enquiries: 01588 630321/638038**

**Book Online: [www.sparctheatre.co.uk](http://www.sparctheatre.co.uk)**

**Enquiries: [Liz@sparctheatre.co.uk](mailto:Liz@sparctheatre.co.uk)**

**You can buy tickets on the door on the night!**

**NT LIVE: Amadeus**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm**

Music. Power. Jealousy.

Lucian Msamati (*Luther*, *Game of Thrones*,) plays Salieri in Peter Shaffer's iconic play, with live orchestral accompaniment by Southbank Sinfonia. After winning multiple Awards when it premiere at the National Theatre in 1979, *Amadeus* was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film. Adult £11/U18 £7

**FILM: Bridget Jones's Baby (15)**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 7pm**

After breaking up with Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), Bridget's focus on single life and her career is interrupted when she finds herself pregnant, but with one hitch ... she can only be fifty percent sure of the identity of her baby's father. Adult £5 U18 £4

**NT Live St Joan**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 7pm**

Bernard Shaw's classic play follows the life and trial of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France

Daughter, farm girl, visionary, patriot, king-whisperer, soldier, leader, victor, icon, radical, witch, heretic, saint, martyr, woman

Josie Rourke directs Gemma Atherton as Joan of Arc in this electrifying production. Adult £11/U18 £7

**LIVE: Norwich Puppet Theatre: The Tinderbox**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am**

***"An enchanting tale that's full of magic"*** Eastern Daily Press

A roguish soldier acquires a magic tinderbox which gives him the power to summon three extraordinary dogs to do his bidding. Watch the soldier's remarkable roller coaster adventure from rags to riches and back again! Will he survive and win the love of the beautiful princess?

Norwich Puppet Theatre breathes new life into Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of magic, bravery and love with puppetry, animation and music. ALL Tickets £6.50 Family £25

**FILM: Kubo and the Two Strings (PG)**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm**

**Half term film why not go for a swim first 3pm-4pm then come watch the film**

Animated Adventure: **Kubo** must locate a magical suit of armor worn by his late father in order to defeat a vengeful spirit from the past Adult £5/ U18 £4

**LIVE PANTO: Castle Players: Sinbad the Sailor**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm ,Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2.00pm and 6.30pm**

Our hero Sinbad sets off on his voyage to rescue his beloved Scheherazade. His trusty sidekick Musthapa Sickbag and Captain Peony Poodeck (who just happens to be his mum) by his side. what could go wrong! Will



and Captain Peony Poodeck (who just happens to be his mum) by his side. what could go wrong! Will they save his beloved from the evil clutches of Halapena Pepa. Can they fight off the Kraken? Come along and join in the fun. Oh yes you will!! Adult £6/U18 £4

**FILM: I Daniel Blake (15)**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7pm**

New from Ken Loach When an ill carpenter finds himself in need of state welfare, he meets a desperate single mother who needs the same thing. Together, the duo discovers that negotiating through the red tape is a challenge. Adults £5/ U18 £4

**Live Music: Celebrate Life Through Song & Dance**

**Don't let the SpArC go out Fund raiser!**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm**

Listen to the haunting & beautiful songs of Susan Raven & Satch Norton.

Dance to the glorious West African beats of Ubuntu Drum. Adults £8/ U18 £6/ Family £25

**NT Live Hedda Gabler**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

Just married. Bored already. Hedda longs to be free...Ivo van Hove (*A View from the Bridge*) – one of the world's most exciting directors – makes his National Theatre debut with a modern production of Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece. Adult £11/U18 £7

**LIVE: Vamos Theatre- The Best Thing**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

A swinging sixties story of unconditional love from the UK's leading full mask theatre company. Step into the wordless world of Vamos Theatre for this bitter-sweet story of mistaken morals and broken hearts, 45s and beehives, where sexual revolution proves a hard and rocky path to tread. Adults £10 /U18 £7.

**MET OPERA : La Traviata**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 5.55pm**

'A toast to the pleasures of life!' – so sings Violetta

Based on Alexandre Dumas' novel "La Dame aux camellias" this famous opera written by Guiseppe Verdi is a must for every opera fan The action is now brought forward to the 1950s, complete with swing dresses and magnums of champagne! Can a consumptive courtesan and a naive nobleman find love together

Adults £12 /U18 £8

**LIVE: Worklight Theatre: Labels (14)**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**

This intimate, funny solo show uses writer & performer Joe Sellman-Leava's experiences of mixed heritage and racism to unpick the curiosities and fears around immigration, as well as the on-going refugee crisis. Amid a cacophony of statistics and sound bites, Labels offers an honest, human story about multicultural Britain. Labels enjoyed a sell-out runs at Edinburgh Fringe in 2015 and 2016, with standing ovations and sell-out shows back-to-back. He has won a Fringe First award, the Holden Street Theatres Award and a nomination for Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression Award. A show to make you laugh and think.

Adult £10/ U18 £5



**Bishop's Castle  
Town Hall**

## **Bishop's Castle Town Hall Listings for February 2017**

### **Saturday 4th:** Flea & Antiques Market

*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](http://www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk)

### **Friday 10th:** Blast – Kings & Promises Debbie Guneratne, 7.30 to 9.30pm. £7

Join Debbie Guneratne for an evening of storytelling. Third generation Sathara Karaya from Sri Lanka weaves a story as old as a sari, as wide as a wish and as long as an unkept promise. From an island known by many names, this story will whisper many timeless truths and astonish you with its serendipity. Tickets £7 can be purchased at the Town Hall or online at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/310904](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/310904)

### **Saturday 18th:** Farmers' Market, 9am until 1pm

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

**Sunday 19th:** Land between Lands An illustrated talk by Hugh Hannaford MCIfA, 2.30pm to 4.30pm, £5 A talk in the Sunday Afternoon series hosted by Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre will be given by Hugh Hannaford MCIfA, Senior Advisor, Shropshire Council. The illustrated talk will look at some of the sites, including hillforts and motte and bailey castles. Hugh will describe work with volunteers from the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill County

*Landscape Partnership Scheme to investigate some of the archaeological landscapes.*

Tickets £5 available from the Town Hall or on Ticket source at:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/329241](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/329241)

### **Saturday 25th:** Sounds of Simon

7.30pm, £10

*The Sounds of Simon is a tribute to the wonderful music of Simon and Garfunkel. The Old Friends Duo tour is how the songs are meant to be; just two voices and one guitar. This is the music of Simon and Garfunkel, up close and intimate. This is a wonderful show filled with excellent music, nostalgia and a genuine love for some great musicians. Tickets £10 can be purchased at the Town Hall or on line at:*

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/283909](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/283909)

Art Exhibition running to 18th February:

Mary Napper-White

‘Vanishing Buildings’

## **Listings for March 2017**

Art Exhibition running to 25th March:

Alan Baker

Saturday 4th Antique and Flea Market

Friday 10th BLAST – Storytelling The Opal Forest

Saturday 11th Fitness and Wellbeing Fair

Sunday 12th Wildlife Roadshow

Thursday and Friday 16th/17th Carpet Sale

Thursday 16th Music Concert – Peter

Knight's Gigspanner

Saturday 18th Farmers Market

Sunday 19th Wildlife Road show

Friday 24th Art Exhibition – Alan Baker

Artist in residence all day



**Bishop's Castle  
Town Hall**

## **Young People's Art Exhibition a winner!**

Bishop's Castle Town Hall Trust mounted its second Young People's Art Exhibition from December 16th to January 14th.

The theme this year was 'Your personal response to colours'. The entries ranged from delicate pastel and pencil work, some inspired by William Morris, to dramatic ink drawings and luminous felt pens. Several entries were inspired by the landscape with one using natural materials in a collage. Visitors left very enthusiastic comments such as this from Jane Brennan from Bristol 'You have some terrific artists in this town! I loved all of them. You must have some very good art teachers in this area'.

The Town Hall Trust aims to maintain this annual Christmas show for aspiring young artists, so look out for the announcement of next year's theme!

Commission free sales were made on behalf of several of the young artists and prizes were awarded in 2 age categories 7 -11 and 12 -18.

The prize winners were:-

Senior section: 1st Georgia Sephton-Pryce (age 18) - Newtown High School; 2nd - Freya Scott (age 13) - Bishop's Castle Community College

Junior section: 1st - Sophie Thoday (age 10) - St. George's School, Clun; 2nd - Elinor Bebb (age 10) - St. Michael's C in W Primary School, Newtown; with a special commendation from the judges to Dandelion Still (age 8) Bishop's Castle Primary School.

The judges, local artists Robert Bates

and Tim Phillips said they were very impressed with all the entries.

The Town Hall Trust would like to thank the following people for donating the prizes - The Castle Hotel (2 course meal for 4), SpArC (family ticket for a production of their choice) and Bishop's Castle Arts Festival (3 packs of arts supplies).

## **Artist in Residence**

On Friday March 24th, Alan Baker, whose work will be exhibited in Bishop's Castle Town Hall from 22nd February to 25th March, will be there in person to talk to all comers about his work, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Alan grew up in a fruit shop before travelling extensively through North America, Europe and South East Asia. He spent many years in Australia, travelling through North-Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. He worked in higher education and mental health services in Liverpool and London for 2 decades, and now lives and paints in Birmingham.

Australian Aboriginal art interests him and he is an admirer of many non-representational modern artists. Alan's own work explores colour and form with vitality and humour, and he enjoys sharing what he has learnt on his many journeys.

Why not drop in on March 24th to say hello?

## Popular Wildlife Roadshow returns!

November 2016 saw the first Wildlife Roadshow held at Bishop's Castle Town Hall. Aimed at enthusiasts of all ages it engaged the interest of all who visited as well as rewarding the volunteers from the National Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the local Wildlife Groups who provided the expertise.

As part of British Science Week, on Sunday March 19th, from 2.00 – 5.00pm the Wildlife Roadshow will return, with a focus this time on the often overlooked wildlife in our soil and ponds.

Bring samples for investigation and identification, with the help of local experts. All samples should be returned to their source after the event.

Supported by the British Science Association, this will be a **FREE** event, suited to accompanied children from 8 to 80, with free Dial-a-Ride pick up points planned.

Look out for a follow up event later in the year on the theme of Gardening for Wildlife.

For more information contact Evelyn Bowles [evelynbowles@decorich.plus.com](mailto:evelynbowles@decorich.plus.com) or tel: 01588 638 851



### The House on Crutches now REALLY needs you!

Last year we had to reduce our opening hours by 25%. We have an increasingly interesting collection but dwindling numbers of volunteers to open this lovely building.

You don't need any special knowledge, just a welcoming smile and a very few hours to spare between Easter and September. Training provided.

Phone Evelyn Bowles on 01588 638 851 [evelynbowles@decorich.plus.com](mailto:evelynbowles@decorich.plus.com)

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**Opening times:**

**Fitness Suite, Squash Courts, Fitness**  
**Classes:**

Monday 4pm – 9 pm

Tuesday 7am – 9pm

Wednesday 4pm – 9pm

Thursday 4pm – 9pm

Friday 7am – 6pm

New Extended Hours for Fitness Suite and  
Squash Courts 3pm – 6pm

Sunday 9am – 12pm

New Extended Hour for Fitness Suite,  
Squash Courts and Adult Swim 9am – 10am

**Swimming Pool**

**Monday:**

4pm – 6pm Swimming Lessons

6pm – 7pm Aqua Aerobics

7pm – 9pm Adult Lanes

**Tuesday**

7am – 9am Adult Lanes

9am – 10am 50+

10am – 11am Carer & Toddler

4pm – 7pm Swimming Lessons

7pm – 9pm Adult Lanes

**Wednesday**

4pm – 6pm Swimming Lessons

6pm – 7pm Family Fun

7pm – 9pm Public Session

**Thursday**

4pm – 6pm Swimming Lessons

6pm – 7pm Aqua Aerobics

7pm – 9pm Public Session

**Friday**

7am – 10am Adult Lanes

Sunday 9am – 10am Adult Lanes New

Extended Hour for Adult Lanes 9am - 10am

**Fitness Classes**

**Monday**

6pm – 6.50pm Kettlebells

6pm – 6.45pm Aqua Aerobics

7pm – 7.45pm Studio Cycling

7pm – 7.45pm Aerobics with a Twist

8pm – 8.45pm Studio Cycling

8pm – 8.45pm 3 in 1

**Tuesday**

9.20am – 10.10am Aerobics & Tone

10.20am – 11.10am Fitness Pilates

6pm – 6.45pm Studio Cycling

6pm – 6.50pm Circuits

7pm – 7.50pm Fitness Pilates

7pm – 7.30pm Abs Blast

7.30pm – 8pm Metafit

**Wednesday**

6pm – 6.50pm Body Shock

7pm – 7.50pm Fitness Pilates

8pm – 8.45pm 3 in 1

**Thursday**

6pm – 6.45pm Aqua Aerobics

6pm – 6.45pm Studio Cycling

7pm – 7.50pm Muscular Strength & Attitude

8pm – 8.50pm Boot Camp Circuits

**Friday**

9.20am – 10.10am Cardio & Swiss Ball  
Blast

10.20am – 11.10am Fitness Pilates

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*Floodlit Artificial Pitches*

# **BISHOP'S CASTLE ARTS FESTIVAL 2017**

## **Wednesday 22nd February 2017**

### **'Elijah and the Theft of God'**

A talk by Robert Fowke.

2pm at Bishop's Castle Town Hall

### **Do you believe in DRAGONS?**

Storytelling by Suzanne Thomas. 10.30am  
at Bishop's Castle Town Hall

### **The Novels of J.L. Carr**

Talk by Eileen & Tom Baker. 11am at  
Bishop's Castle Methodist Hall

### **"Drunken Angel" B.C. Film Society.**

8pm at Three Tuns Inn - £5

## **Thursday 23rd February 2017**

**Origami Butterflies Workshop** – with Clare  
Linford. 10-12 & 2-4 at The Castle Hotel

**Organ Recital** by Mike Plunkett. 12.30pm  
at St. John the Baptist Church

**"Goat Song"** – a talk by David Preshous on  
Ancient Greek Theatre. 2pm Church Barn

**B.C. Arts Society Open Meeting** Drop-in  
2pm – 4.30pm, The Methodist Hall

**Beginners Knitting for Men** with Sally  
Petch. 12noon – 2pm at Sheepish shop by the  
Town Hall

**Jewellery Model Making** talk by Alan  
Cheeseman. 6pm at the Town Hall

**Knitwits Drop-in Meeting** Join the local  
knitters 6.15 – 7pm at The Three Tuns snug

**SHAW Selection Box Preview Evening**  
Meet the artists 6pm – 7.30 at Bank House  
B&B, 4 High Street

**Balkan Ceilidh Eastern European Dancing**  
7.30pm at Three Tuns Inn - £6/£4.50 conc.

**Exploring Comic Verse** talk/workshop.  
7.30pm at The Castle Hotel

## **Friday 24th February 2017**

### **Great B.C. Bake Off registration**

11am to 5pm at Bank House B&B, 4 High  
Street. 50p per entry.

**Make a Peg Doll workshop** 10.30am –  
12.30pm (drop-in) at 1 The Cobbles, by the  
Town Hall

**Watercolour Painting** workshop with Sue  
Percy 11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm at the Town  
Hall

**'The Artist's Way'** workshop with Sally  
Petch – 12noon-2pm at Sheepish shop by the  
Town Hall

**Castle Artists Exhibition – Affordable Art**  
10am – 5pm at The Public Hall

**Ukulele Workshop** with Phil Doleman.  
2pm-3.30pm at The Three Tuns Inn

**Children's Yoga** workshop with Maria Zer-  
vas. 10.30am Ages 4-7 & 11.30am Ages 8-12  
at Bank House B&B

**The Unknown Hans Christian Andersen**  
talk by Paul Binding. 2pm Church Barn.

**Pathways I.D. Forum** open discussion with  
social & economic entrepreneurs. 4pm at the  
Town Hall.

**Old Colours Are The Best** Talk by Textile  
Traders on natural dyes from Asia. 5.30pm at  
the Town Hall.

**Taste of Raj Banquet** Indian dishes and  
British Puds. 7pm & 9pm at Bank House  
B&B. £25

**Phil Doleman** Music concert. 7.30 for 8pm  
at Three Tuns Inn. Tickets £7.50

## **Saturday 25th February 2017**

**Artisan Market** Crafts by local artisans.

10am – 4pm at the Town Hall on both floors.

**Castle Artists Exhibition – Affordable Art.**  
10am – 5pm at The Public Hall. Plus the W.I.  
Creative Café.

**Drumming Workshop** with Peta of Bang  
On Samba Band fame. 10.45 Children &  
11am adults at Church Barn

**Scraptastic Junk modelling**, under 9's  
must be accompanied. 10am – 12noon at the  
Methodist Hall

**Drop-in Knitting session** with Sally Petch



& Knitwits. 11am-3pm at Sheepish Shop by the Town Hall

**‘A Shropshire Tapestry’** Talk by Gordon Dickens & David Preshous. 2pm Church Barn

**Alphabet Dancers English Country**

**Dancing** beginners welcome. 3.30pm-5pm at The Three Tuns Inn

**Beki Brindle & Sticky Wicket** Music concert. 7.30 for 8pm Three Tuns Inn. £10.00

## **Sunday 26th February 2017**

**Artisan Market** – crafts by local artisans. 10am – 4pm at the Town Hall on both floors.

**Castle Artists Exhibition – Affordable Art.** 10am – 5pm at The Public Hall.

**Three Tuns Brewery Tours** with Steve Willmer. 11am & 2pm at the Three Tuns Brewery.

**Arts Festival Service** – celebrating the arts. 11am at St. John the Baptist Church.

**‘Con Anima’ chamber choir** specialising in early music. Following the Arts Festival church service.

**Morris Dancing Workshop** Join in or just watch. 11am to 1pm at The Three Tuns Inn

**Gelli Plate Block Printing** with Drusilla Cole. 10.30pm at Bank House B&B £10

**Great B.C. Bake Off** Judging at 2pm & Tea Party at 3pm Bank House B&B

**B.C. Orchestra – music concert** (children have a chance to participate) 4pm-6pm. At Three Tuns Inn.

**Men From Off Art** – music concert incl. special guests. 7pm at Three Tuns Inn. £10 to SpArC & festival.

## **Over Several Days**

**Open Studio – Geraldine Burkill**, 10am – 3pm Saturday & Sunday at 2 Kerry Lane

**Open Studio – Bamber Hawes**, 10am-4pm Wednesday – Sunday at 8 Challenge Court

**SHAW Selection Box** – taster exhibition. 11am-5pm Friday to Sunday at Bank House B&B

## **Throughout the Festival Festival HQ**

**10am to 4pm at the Town Hall**

**Art Exhibition by Alan Baker** 10am-4pm at the Town Hall

**Jolly Jumpers** knitted for Malawi orphans by Stonehouse residents. Gwythers Shop Window.

**B.C. Arts Society Exhibition** - The Poppy House, 10am-4pm

**Yarn Bombing Trail** – throughout the town, leaflet from the Town Hall

**Shop Loyalty Rewards** – Details & Loyalty Cards from the Town Hall

Tickets for the following concerts : Phil Dolman (Friday 24th), Beki Brindle & Sticky Wicket (Sat. 25th) and The Men From Off (Sunday 26th) can be bought through this link - [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth)

For further information on all the Arts Festival events including entry fees and booking details please visit the website

[www.bishopscastleartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.bishopscastleartsfestival.co.uk)

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ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**22-26 FEBRUARY 2017**

**[WWW.BISHOPSCASTLEARTSFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.BISHOPSCASTLEARTSFESTIVAL.CO.UK)**



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