



BISHOP'S CASTLE



AUGUST 2021

To
SEPTEMBER 2021
ISSUE 76





The Mayor Grant Perry

I write these notes one week after the so called “Freedom Day” and whilst for many the easing of restrictions couldn’t come soon enough for others the relaxation has caused anxiety and as responsible members of the community we must remember this fact. With this in mind we should continue to be mindful of those around us and the measures we can all continue to take to keep the spread of this virus to a minimum. If local businesses request the wearing of face

coverings and social distancing continue we should respect their wishes and continue to do so. We will find out in the Autumn and possibly within the shelf life of this newsletter whether the decision to lift restrictions was correct or not and whilst the local support network may not be operating fully anymore you can be assured that it is ready to jump back into action should the need arise.

One advantage of the lifting is that the Council has at last been able to meet in person which was a welcome change to the Zoom meetings of the last 18 months or so. This has also finally enabled us to move along a number of projects that have been held up due to the Pandemic. You will find articles within this edition of The Traffic Management Survey and some initial suggested measures, The Community Partnership, The Market Square Renovations and Provisions for Youth. We had also hoped to have had an update on the Playground Refurbishments which was due to be circulated to local Primary Schools and users prior to the end of the Summer Term but due to a number of factors this has not been possible but will be sent early in the Autumn Term.

We have also commissioned a report into the condition and renovation of the War Memorial in the Church Yard with a view to making a funding bid to restore and weather proof this monument for future generations.

Centre Stage recently held the Party in the Park which was a brilliant success and our thanks go to all those involved in organising and running this event. The aftermath of the weekend led to an outburst on social media following the Graffiti Art added to the Skate Park and the Town Council with myself and other councillors being tagged into some posts.

Council Standing Orders do not allow councillors to respond to posts on social media as the Council acts as a composite body and individuals are unable to act on behalf of the corporate body. Furthermore if councillors DO respond on social media they would then be unable to take part in any formal discussion or vote should the subject come up at a meeting as they could be accused of having predetermined their decision before the discussion commenced. I hope that this is clear and ask you not to seek responses on social media from councillors as this can put them in a difficult position.

At the time of going to print Town Council staff have started to return to the office and are currently available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm in person, whilst all other communication channels remain open as previously.

Finally we have also launched the Annual Town Grant Scheme recently and an application form can be found in this edition and on the website.

I hope you are able to enjoy the Summer.



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**Applicants Details:**

Title: _____ Forenames: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Organisation:

Who is the grant for? _____

Location of project/activity: _____

Date of project/activity (state ongoing if required) _____

What will the grant be used for? Grants are given for Social, Educational and Economic development, please describe how the grant will be used to meet one or all the aforementioned criteria

Funding:

Amount Requested : £ _____

Cost of the project: _____

Details of Match Funding and its sources: _____

Last Year End Account Figure:

Income: £ _____

Expenditure: £ _____

Total Bank Balances: £ _____

Earmarked Amounts: £ _____

Comments: _____

Please complete the form as thoroughly as possible. On submission of the form please enclose a copy of the latest relevant accounts.

Signed Dated

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD 2021



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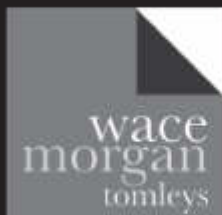


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BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

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.

24th September 2021

19th November 2021

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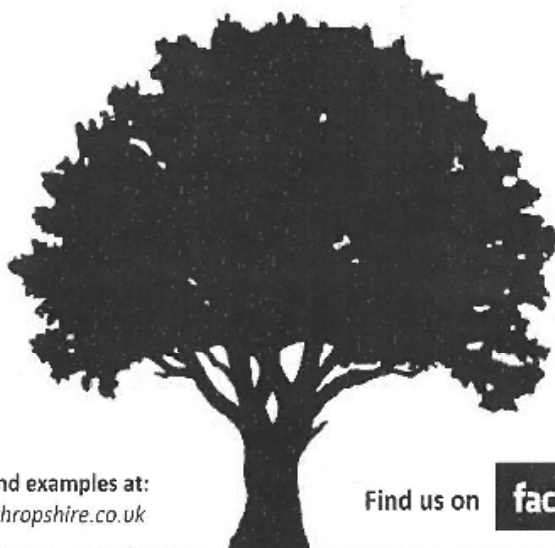
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HEAT NETWORK FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE

The local environment charity Lightfoot are starting a project looking at the possibility of a Heat network for Bishop's Castle. Heat networks have a Central Energy Hub from where heat is delivered to buildings around the network. They offer a much easier and more efficient route to providing low-carbon heating than every individual house having their own heat pump, especially in a fairly constrained Town like Bishop's Castle. As most properties in the Town are currently on oil or LPG heating a Heat network using heat pumps could provide significant carbon savings.

The project will be managed by Sharenergy of Shrewsbury who are experts in Community Energy, their Development Manager Dave Green is known by many in the town as he used to be the Energy Officer for the Household Energy Service. The details of the Heat network will be investigated by Carbon Alternatives, an Oxfordshire company specialising in Heat network development. Advice will also be sought from the Swaffham Priors Heat team who are in the process of fitting a Heat network in their Cambridgeshire village. Money for the feasibility work is being sought from the Next Generation grant scheme, through Shropshire and Telford Community Energy.

If a Heat network is viable for Bishop's Castle then it would be ideal to combine it with a Community-owned wind turbine. Every unit of electricity generated by the turbine can then be turned into 3 or 4 units of heat for properties in the Town (which could include the schools and SpArc, as well as housing). Sharenergy are starting to look at possible sites for a wind turbine and opening discussions with landowners. If a site or choice of sites can be identified then there will be a public consultation to see if there's enough support for the site or sites to be included in the draft BC Neighbourhood Plan. There will be a public meeting early September (details to be confirmed).

If you are interested in this project please contact Mike Watkins (tel: 630277) or e-mail <townplan@bishopscastle.co.uk>



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Contact us at BCCommunitySeedYard@gmail.com

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.



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Telephone– 01588 63848
Email kbloor@coveragecareservice.co.uk



Announcing

The Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank
@LittleWoodbatch

Please come to our Seed Bank Launch and Inaugural Seed Swap day on Saturday August 14th from 12 – 2pm. Tea and Cakes will be served. Bring your favourite seeds to share!

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.

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 security and resilience in the face of climate change and food system shocks

The seeds are stored at Little Woodbatch* and can be accessed by the community. At this early stage of establishment, we are seeking donations of seed and do not yet have opening hours for access, so please get in touch with daphne@littlewoodbatch.co.uk if you're interested in donating or finding out which seeds are available.

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

If you would like to get involved in this project as a Seed Guardian to share your knowledge, skills or time, please contact us!

* Find us at: Little Woodbatch, Woodbatch rd. SY9 5JT. Some parking available, or accessible via the public footpath. Contact Daphne: 07769 510364

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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

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

For allotment enquiries please contact

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

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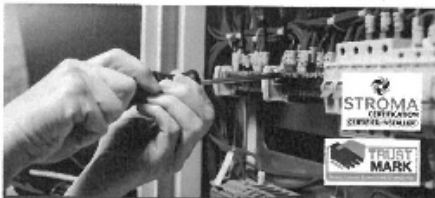
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**Saturday 7th August 2021
to
Saturday 4th September 2021**

Please check website for
Town Hall opening times



For more information
tel: 01548 620023 or
email: info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk
www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

'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



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**BISHOP'S CASTLE
BEFRIENDING CIRCLE**



First Draw for SpArC 500 Club

The very first draw for the new SpArC 500 Club in Bishop's Castle took place on Monday 5th July at Enterprise House. Jean Shirley, Chair of the SpArC Charity, invited Bishop's Castle Mayor Grant Perry and Deputy Mayor Josh Dickin to make the draw.

46 Numbers were entered, and the six winners shared a prize fund of £119.60 as follows:

- 1st £46 Jane Allard (number 22)
- 2nd £23 Michael Norris (number 40)
- 3rd £23 Tim Russell (number 28)
- 4th £9.20 Sue Rose (number 33)
- 5th £9.20 G Hemmings (number 9)
- 6th £9.20 Ann MacDonald (number 49)



The 500 club has been launched by the SpArC charity to generate a regular income stream that can be reinvested in the centre to improve and develop the sports and arts offer in Bishop's Castle for the benefit of the local community. When it reaches its target of 500 members, there will be a 1st prize of £500, 2 x 2nd prizes of £250 and 3 x 3rd prizes of £100, for 11 months. The Christmas Draw will give a 1st prize of £2500, 2 x 2nd prizes of £1500 each and 3 x 3rd prizes of £1000 each.

We hope to double our membership by the next draw. Anyone interested in joining the 500 club can find the application forms on the website www.savethesparc.org or can contact Sarah at Enterprise House 01588 638038 email sparc500club@gmail.com or call into the Centre in Station street , Bishop's Castle.

Ruth Houghton, Trustee and Secretary, thanked Enterprise House for managing and hosting the draw.

Attached photograph shows from left to right Mayor Grant Perry, Chair Jean Shirley and Deputy Mayor Josh Dickin.

Newsletter

Skatepark

The recent Town Council meeting agreed to make a substantial contribution to the provision of a shelter at the skatepark. A request for such has been made following consultation between users of the park and a couple of councillors over a couple of meetings recently. The users of the park are being targeted with raising just over £1,000 to contribute to the project so please look out for their fundraising efforts and support them where possible.

At the same time a very generous donation in memory of a local resident will fund a commemorative bench which is also to be placed on the skate park at the donor's request. Further details about the provision will follow in due course.

Park Refurbishment

We had hoped to have had three plans and designs for the park refurbishment available to distribute to Primary School's and other users before the Summer Holiday's, however due to a number of reasons this has not been possible and will be done early in September. However by the time this issue goes to print, two of the three designs should be available on the Town Council's website so please take a look and send any feedback to the clerk.

Traffic Management

Thank you for all the feedback and responses to the recent Traffic Survey, as always there a number of divided opinions with an approximate 50/50 split on the emotive subject of a one way system and regulated parking. In view of the fact that due to the Covid Pandemic the "real" situation regarding traffic is not clear, the Council have voted to implement a number of minor changes at this time with further consultation to take place on any major changes at a future date when traffic levels are at a more normal level.

The minor changes to be implemented as soon as possible are :

A Town Wide 20 MPH Speed Limit with Speed Signs on all entry routes to the town.

Access only – Not Suitable for HGV signs as follows :

Welsh Street by Wintles Lane

Castle Street from Castle Green

Salop Street on Station Street Junction

Union Street by Billingsley Close Junction

Crossroads of Union Street and Church Street going up Church Street

Improved Through Traffic Signs by Bus Stop on Church Street

Improved Car Park signs as follows :

By Bus Stop on Church Street – to show routes to ALL Car Parks

On Station Street by Auction Yard to show alternatives on Market Day.

On Church Street to show Car Park behind The Community Hub & Harley Jenkins Street Car Park

On Union Street for Harley Jenkins Street Car Park

Previously agreed but not yet implemented measures will also be chased up and these include:

White Lines by Playing Fields entry opposite Grange Road

Re-painting of Disabled Spaces on Streets and Car Parks

No Parking measures on pavement outside Spar

We welcome feedback on these interim measures and other ideas from the consultation and will call an open meeting for further discussion as and when appropriate.

The Old Market Square

The Old Market Square has been a meeting place since medieval times; it is at the heart of Bishop's Castle. Currently, although providing a haven of peace and tranquillity, it is not particularly welcoming. It feels a bit tired. However it has great potential as a focus for greater enjoyment and use by residents and visitors.

Earlier this year, the Old Square Enhancement project was established. Local residents were consulted to gain their views on what needed to be put right and ways to make the square a better place to sit and enjoy the delights of the town, while still providing a meeting and performance space.

This consultation document, once reviewed by the Town Council which sponsored the project, will be put on the Council website.

In the meantime, a small committee representing the Town Council, local residents, specialists and interest groups and working closely with the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been established. This group is reviewing all the comments received and in due course will outline its thoughts in the newsletter for further comment and discussion.

Whatever action is proposed, the resulting changes, 'furniture' and plantings will need to reflect the character and heritage of the square and of Bishop's Castle.

The responses to the consultation covered a wide range of views. However if there are concerns that a particular element may have been overlooked please contact Cllr Tim Halford at timhalford@yahoo.com. Thank you.

THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

What the centre is about

In normal times, pre Covid, the visitor centre attracts 24,000 to 25,000 visitors a year where it provides them with tourist information, advice on walks and local history plus light refreshments and toilet facilities. The centre promotes local crafts, artists and authors as well providing display space for organisations such as the Shropshire Swift and Curlew Groups, The Mary Webb and Malcolm Saville societies, the Shropshire Mines Trust and Natural England. The Bog Centre also provides a meeting place for a range of organisations such as Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, walking and cycling



groups from near and far, plus vintage car and motorbike clubs. The centre also promotes strong links with the Shropshire Hills AONB, National Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Talks and guided walks can be arranged and the building is available, on a limited scale, for local organisations to hire.

A new venture for the centre in 2019 was the introduction of arts and craft courses run during weekdays for people who live in the locality. These were advertised on the website, public notice boards and local newsletters. We hope that these courses can be reintroduced in the 2022 season.

History of the building

Built in 1839 as a chapel with a school room as part of a mining initiative the building soon changed role into becoming The Bog School which eventually closed in 1968. The building was retained by the Local Educational Authority as a teachers' centre and field studies centre for Shropshire pupils. Approximately twenty-five years ago the building switched to its current role as a tourist information centre.

Four years ago, The Bog Visitor Centre became Community Interest Company which is defined as a business with primary social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.

At the same time a twenty-five-year lease was agreed with Shropshire Council at a Peppercorn rent of £1 per year. The Bog Visitor Centre management team taking on financial responsibility for all expenses related to the building and its grounds.

How the centre is administered

The visitor centre is administered by five directors (a condition of becoming a CIC) and a management committee of eight which includes three of the directors. The directors and committee are not paid for meetings but receive the minimum wage rate for hours spent on other administrative duties. As with all staff who work at The Bog the first thirty hours of duties are unpaid as a voluntary contribution and

thereafter are paid the minimum hourly rate of pay with tax deducted at source. The thirty hours of voluntary time is flexible and can be moved upwards depending on the annual turnover.

The centre provides a level of employment to thirty-five staff who man the building during opening hours, also a cleaner and five cake bakers. Twenty-five local traders provide craft stalls from the sales of which The Bog receives a commission of 22.5%.

Recent renovations

In the last four years, with financial assistance provided through the Leader Grant Programme, a European initiative part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development administered by Shropshire Council, we have been able to make improvements to the building. This has involved repointing all external walls with lime mortar, replacing all windows and doors, insulating the ceilings, installing an air sourced heating system, providing lighting for the main hall and updating the lighting elsewhere, renovating the wood block floor and realigning the external steps to the main entrance. The grants have covered 80% of the costs with the remaining 20% funded through annual surpluses. All profits are ploughed back into



maintaining and improving the building.

You have a part to play

The sixty plus local people involved in operating The Bog Visitor Centre make a huge contribution to promoting this beautiful part of the country and

welcoming visitors. Most of our staff are retired senior citizens plus a small group of



youngsters of school age who assist at weekends and during the holidays. The organisation is always in need of new staff so if you have a morning or afternoon to spare why not consider joining this very worthwhile community project.

Opening times Tuesday Sunday 10am – 5pm

You can find out more:

Website www.bogcentre.co.uk

Email bogcentre@hotmail.com

Phone 01743 792484 or 01743 790735

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Bus timetable for bus routes 552 / 553 Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury

Monday to Friday times (school days)				Saturday		
	Leaves		Arrives	Leaves		Arrives
Bishop's Castle opposite the Boar's Head all go via the Hospital	7.30		8.30	7.30		8.30
	9.40		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	Bus stn	13.40		15.08	
						Bus stn			