



BISHOP'S CASTLE



APRIL 2022

To
MAY 2022

ISSUE 80





The Mayor Grant Perry

This edition of the Newsletter takes us well into spring and we have already has a taste, all be it brief of Warmer Weather. Whilst the longer nights and sunnier skies tend to bring a smile to people's faces we need to remember those around us who are not in as good a place as we may be.

Covid is still with us and we must continue to mitigate its effects by following the precautions advised

and the situation in Ukraine has brought the fragility of World Peace closer to us than anything in the recent past. Our community will respond positively to these events as indeed it does to global events on a worldwide scale and I know fundraising and support events have already taken place and are planned not only for Ukraine but also for Afghanistan and other humanitarian efforts worldwide and I am sure we will support as many of these as we can.

On a personal note I have recently returned from a short trip to Atlanta in the USA and was surprised to see the effects of the last two years suffered here in Shropshire are being replicated there as well, however I am sure our support networks in the UK are far superior to those in the US.

With Council meetings now back in person we are able to continue apace with a number of projects that have been stalled over the last 24 months and it is pleasing to announce that we have been successful in gaining our Public Works Loan for the Playground Refurbishments for the Oak Meadow and Playing Fields sites and hope to announce a start date very soon. We move on now to secure funds for the Auction Yard Toilets refurbishment as well as commencing on

the repairs to the Town Hall Clock. However we are still short of Councillor's especially amongst the younger and senior members of our community and I would urge anyone who has a strong interest in the Town and its surroundings to please come forward as the current councillors are all becoming busier with work commitments as we enter this busy time of year.

I hope you are able enjoy Easter and the spring to its full.

Public Hall

At the time of going to press the current Tenant of the hall has yet to vacate the premises and therefore we are unable to announce a date for a meeting at the hall to discuss the future. We are still appealing for volunteers to form a new management committee and so far only two people have come forward and we are therefore appealing for more candidates to make themselves known either by email to publichallsy9@gmail.com or by telephoning the clerk on 01588 638141.

Dog Fouling

This is still an issue so please can we appeal again to all pet owners to take responsibility for their animals and to tidy up after them and use the waste bins provided.

Business Park



Work is continuing on the Business Park which will be open for expressions of interest soon however initial enquiries can be made via Shropshire Council already.

Buildings 1 is progressing well with external cladding installed – windows



installed, door installed and electrical internal installation ongoing.

Buildings 2, 3 and 4 are all progressing well with the steel erected, and the roof cladding currently being placed, and

Photovoltaics installed on Building 4.

The wall cladding will then follow with door and window installation.

The base tarmac is now down and most of the kerbing and drainage installed.



Report, View or Discuss local problems

Issues such as Graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, potholes or Street Lighting can now be reported to Shropshire Council via fixmystreet which can be found at www.fixmystreet.com . This is a marked improvement from myshropshire as this website will provide you with updates on progress and confirm if the issue has already been reported to Shropshire Council which will result in less duplication of reports. We intend to invite an officer from Shropshire Council down to a future meeting to explain the poor levels of service we are receiving on these matters and will report back in due course.

The Community College



The Community College celebrates its centenary this year. For 100 years the school has been providing secondary education for the young people of Bishops Castle and its surrounding villages and towns. The college has earned a good reputation for academic achievement, encouraging aspiration and for its pastoral care. Despite the challenges of the last few years the Community College has continued to perform above national averages on most measures and has grown in pupil size year on year. The school has a steady and committed staff many of whom live in the community.

All schools face extreme financial constraints. For us this has the effect of limiting the amount of extra-curricular activity we can provide. We rely heavily on the good will of our staff to go above and beyond their daily duties. We are extremely limited in our ability to "buy-in" additional support. Even access to the Sparc beyond our scheduled curriculum time is prohibitively expensive.

My colleague, Andrew Kirk has been meeting Andy Stelman regarding the establishment of a Youth Forum. Andy is due to meet our Senate on 23 March to discuss how they might have an influence on future decisions. Other promising recent developments have included the Bright Star Boxing (BC is the apparently the only location where Bright Star has successfully recruited girls to boxing), and the Open Mic nights at the Underground.

We are therefore appealing to the town council to support the school by using its influence and creativity to:

encourage the involvement of local sports clubs and other organisations to provide extra curricular provision or curriculum enrichment opportunities. At the moment we have some volunteers from the community who are offering squash lessons to a handful of our students. This is an excellent example of the provision by volunteers of an opportunity that the college would otherwise be unable to provide. The college is having to cover the additional cost of hiring the squash courts however it would be unfeasible to do this if we had to pay for the volunteers' time too.

to provide support for vulnerable students or those in need, for example help to enable students to study outside school hours, pastoral or emotional support, or support regarding substance abuse.

Support in terms of aspiration. We run a programme of Aspirational Talks through the year where staff use their contacts to invite speakers (live or remote) to talk about their careers. The aim of this is to encourage students to consider life choices that they may not have previously been aware of. Almost all our speakers come from outwith the community. We are keen not to promote the misconception that it is necessary to move out of the area to have a fulfilling life and career. I am sure there are many inspirational people in the community who could contribute towards this aim.

Careers and work experience - this is an area where we have always been very well supported by the community. We run a fortnight of work experience for our Year 10 students in the summer. We are always on the lookout for new organisations who may be able to offer an inspirational experience.

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your meeting tonight. I hope that you will be as enthusiastic as we are to strengthen the ties between community and college. In working together I am confident that we can provide better life chances for the young people of this community which will bring benefit and improvement to the community as a whole. I look forward to hearing your ideas and working more closely with you in the future.

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BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN HALL

Listings for April 22 - May 22

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

Or contact us 01588 630023

April 2022

1st April – 30th April Art Exhibition Julia Bath inspired by local landscape Open during Town Hall opening hours, Mon – Sat 10am to 4pm. If you are travelling always check the exhibition is open on our website first www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

2nd April Antiques and Flea Market 9am to 4pm
First Saturday of the month. Lift available. Free entry.

5th April Concert NOXWODE with Conor Gricmanis - Baroque is Back A warming evening of early chamber music from across Europe

Tickets £12 on sale at The Town Hall or on line
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth

7th April Going Wild Talks

For more details – www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Tickets on the door. Doors open 7pm

9th April to 15th April Spring Book sale – Bargain books, CD's and DVD's open 10am – 16.00pm

16th April Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm This ever popular Farmers Market is held on the third Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Plants, Flowers, Cakes,

Bread, Preserves, Honey, Fruit & Veg, Chocolate all produced locally.

29th April Concert Belshazzar's Feast – Come and join this well loved Folk Duo Singer, Violinist and oboist Paul Sartin (of Bellow-head) and accordionist Paul Hutchinson (Petrichor)

Tickets on sale at The Town Hall or on line www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth doors open 7.30pm 8pm start

May 2022

5th May – 4th June Art Exhibition Richard Owen Open during Town Hall opening hours, Mon – Sat 10am to 4pm. If you are travelling always check the exhibition is open on our website first www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

6th May Antiques and Flea Market 9am to 4pm

First Saturday of the month. Lift available. Free entry.

21st May Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm This ever popular Farmers Market is held on the third Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Plants, Flowers, Cakes, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Fruit & Veg, Chocolate all produced locally.

21st May Concert Clun Valley Jazz Shirley Smart Quartet

Doors open 7.30pm

For reservations contact: clunvalleyjazz@gmail.com or text 07768504322

28th May Spring Craft Fair – Come and find some beautifully hand made gifts. Two floors of stalls with locally crafted items. Jewellery, knitted goods, felted goods, ceramics, fused glass, soaps and candles and more....

Listings for June 2022 and for further information on all our events look on our website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk
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Craft Fair

Saturday 28th May

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New online coaching service for people who struggle with reading

It's taken for granted that we all learned to read and write at school, however there are many local people who struggle with this essential life skill. Just imagine how your life would be if you couldn't read forms or letters, follow medicine instructions, or read a new recipe?

Free, confidential, one-to-one help

Read Easy Shropshire Hills matches up adults who want to learn to read with a trained reading coach and they work together through reading manuals, in private, at a time to suit them both. It's as easy as that and its free!

What's important is that everyone can learn at their own pace without feeling rushed. There's no pressure or targets or exams to worry about and no reminders of what it was like at school.

Before the pandemic all coaching sessions were held face-to-face in quiet locations such as cafes and libraries, but out of necessity we have had to find new ways to keep on coaching.

Online coaching, using Zoom, has been so successful and

convenient for many reading pairs, that we have decided to use it to reach a much wider population. New readers are provided with a tablet if they don't have access to a computer. It is set up by Read Easy beforehand so it can be used without any computer knowledge or keyboard skills. However, Zoom isn't for everyone and for some of our readers coaching by WhatsApp or phone are better options.

We will continue to offer face-to-face coaching to people who would prefer to meet in person if there is a suitable local venue.

Jay Blades proves it's never too late to learn

Jay Blades, presenter of BBC's Repair Shop, finds reading a challenge. He concealed his inability to read until he was in his 30s, after he struggled to learn to read as a child and compares looking at words on a page to a 'book of ants'. Jay, 51, has been learning to read online with Read Easy in Birmingham and his story was shown on BBC TV earlier this year.

How to get in touch

Learning to read can literally be life changing. People grow enormously in confidence, self-esteem and independence as well as being able to navigate the world of the written word.

If you would like to find out more, or you know someone who would like to learn to read contact Amana Winchester on 07707 257847 or email her

Email: shcoordinator@readeasy.org.uk.



Going Wild in Bishop's Castle

NO MOW MAY

Last year legions of gardeners joined in with No Mow May, run by the charity Plantlife, to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us!

Please join in too in 2022.

The **No Mow May** campaign doesn't ask you to do much. In fact, it asks you to not do anything at all...

Just lock up your lawnmower on May 1st and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators.



Let it grow... let it grow...

At the end of the month, on the Bank Holiday Weekend, join in with the nationwide 'Every Flower Counts' survey to discover how many bees the UK's lawns can feed. Not only will you receive your own 'nectar score' (which will tell you how many bees your lawn can feed), you'll help us learn more about the health of the nation's wildflowers.

How do I survey my lawn?

Simply count the number of flowers in a square metre patch of lawn and send the results to Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts.



When it comes to providing vital nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, every flower counts and your lawn can help to provide a feast! The more wildflowers in your lawn, the more nectar will be produced. Don't forget the flowers of lawn grasses, these may not look as colourful as wildflowers but they can be favourites of some of our wild pollinators.

What happens then?

At the start of June you can mow your lawn again so get your mower back out. If you've enjoyed seeing the flowers and the insects then how about setting your mower blade high so that low flowering plants like clover or selfheal can still flower.



What else can I do to help?

If you have made a bug hotel, using our last leaflet, then watch the bees collect pollen from your lawn and then use the hotel to lay their eggs.

Also, at the end of No Mow May, how about keeping that mower locked away for another month and taking part in Let it Bloom June! By leaving your lawn uncut for two months you may see some of our summer wildflowers coming through and getting a chance to flower. After two months without mowing it will be harder to cut and may need a strimmer or scythe.



After cutting make sure you rake up all of the grass cuttings. This is really important, if the cuttings are left unraked, or are mulched into the lawn then the wildflowers and fine grasses will be smothered and over time, will be lost.

But I like having a short lawn.

There's no need to do the whole of your lawn, how about cutting part of it and leaving the rest as a No Mow area.



Maybe you can make the unmown part into an attractive shape or mow a little path through it for exploring. A small patch is miles better than none, so do what works for you, your garden and your family.

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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Enter by donating £10 per person to Blood Cancer UK via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jeanshirley>

and **contacting** jeanshirley@btinternet.com **for your pack** and further information.

Apply between March 1 and May 16. After that, you decide when to walk between May 17 - 30, on which route or routes and with whom.

You provide your own refreshments and, most importantly, are responsible for your own safety. Our first aim is for you to enjoy the walking and the scenery. If you feel able to get sponsorship for Blood Cancer UK, that would achieve our second aim and make us very happy. Give your friends the justgiving link above.



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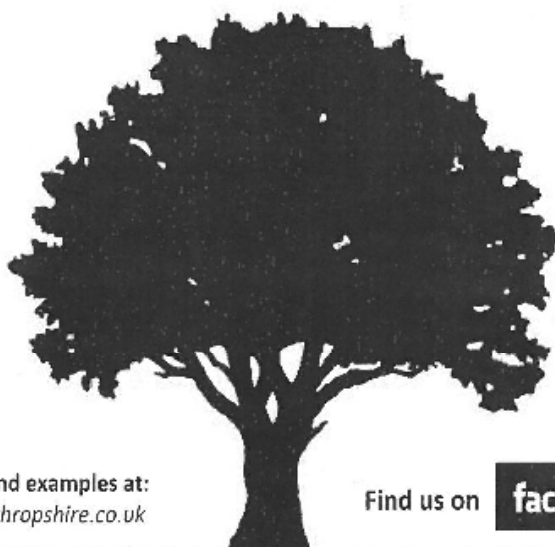
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Look forward to seeing you soon.
Tim and Michèle

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

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Email

josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Grant Perry

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Email:

grant.perry@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Stuart Morris

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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

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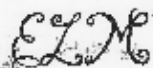


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SHROPSHIRE FOOT PRACTICE

Nicola Collins Dip MCFHP MAFHP

Registered Foot Health Practitioner

Home Visits

- **Nail Trimming**
- **Corn Removal**
- **Calluses Reduced**
- **Fungal Infections**
- **Ingrown Toenails**
- **Foot care for Diabetics**



Qualified in 2006

Introductory Price £18

(Normal Price £28)



For an appointment:

☎ 07880 97 20 02

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 Ludlow		
	Leaves		Arrives			Arrives
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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