



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



DECEMBER 2023

To

JANUARY 2024

Issue No. 90





The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello from your Mayor!

Welcome to this winter edition of the Town's newsletter.

Over the last few weeks, I have sat and deliberated what to write in this article, as there has been so much going on this year. I could fill this whole booklet with all the things that have happened. Next year is also looking to be another big

Firstly, at the time of writing this piece, we were well into placing the new Christmas lights up around Town. In my opinion they look spectacular, all funded by YOU! It's great to have light spread across Town, something that was a main priority of mine for 2023. I have to thank the people who have also volunteered to assemble the lights, we wouldn't be able to do it without you.

We have just had the second recruitment day of four to recruit Nurses and other staff to get our hospital back open, we are nearly there, a big push these next couple of months will get us there. I can't thank the Save Our Beds group enough for all their hard work and persistence, and also the staff of the hospital for putting so much of their own time to get the doors back open fully! It's great to see the community working with the trust to get the best outcome.

You may have also noticed in the playing fields, that the area next to the skate park is receiving some attention, this is to prepare the ground for a new, state of the art, pump track, for people of all ages to use. This project is on course to be completed in the spring. Just in time for those lighter

nights.

Staying in the playing fields, the Bonfire and Firework night went down a treat. Even if we couldn't get the fire started! An estimated 1000 people were on the field, and it raised over £3500 to be split between the Carnival and Centre Stage. It was a whole lot of work for a small team this year. We have already sat down to see what we can do better next year.

On to some Council business as we have at the moment, 5 vacancies on the Council. It is my aim to get these filled by the spring. This will help the council better represent the community and bring in new views and ideas. There is great deal going on. Do contact me or any of the other Councillors for more information if you are interested.

This year, on Sunday 6th December at 7.30pm I am hosting a Mayor's Christmas Carol Service at the Church, to celebrate all the good things in our community, and to look forward to an interesting 2024 for the town.

On the 9th December, I will be holding my Christmas lunch for the over 60s. This is fully booked and it looks to be a great affair. Any donations will be going to Lingen Davies Cancer relief fund, a charity that's very close to my heart, and does so much good work for the residents of Shropshire and Powys.

As we enter those weeks that are focused on shopping, remember to try and shop local and eat and drink local. Our businesses need you more than ever!

I really do wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas, and all the prosperity that 2024 will bring for us all

Josh

THE MAYOR'S

QUIZ NIGHT

EVERY SECOND FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH
AT THE SIX BELLS

8PM

5 people in a team £5 per person to include chips at half time

Please book your team in
at The Six Bells bar

or

call Mandy on 01588 630144 or 07971213728

IN AID OF LOCAL CAUSES

SEPTEMBER - Friends of Bishop's Castle Library

OCTOBER - Going Wild in Bishop's Castle

NOVEMBER - SSAFA (veteran service men & woman's charity)

DECEMBER - Bishop's Castle Food Bank - No £5 entry instead
we ask you to bring a small gift equivalent to £5.

There will be a Christmas hamper raffle on the night.

High Sheriff launches major 'pool' fund-raising campaign

The swimming pool in Bishop's Castle was built by public subscription 50 years ago; it has served the community well. However, it is now time for the Community to dig deep again and raise funds around £250k to reduce both the pool's running costs and environmental impact, as well as improving access for both young and old.

On Wednesday afternoon on the 15th November the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mrs Mandy Thorn, was welcomed to SpArC in Bishop's Castle by the Trustees of the Save the SpArC charity to launch this vital campaign and to find out more about the plans for the pool.

On the same afternoon, primary and secondary school students undertook a "Swim 50" challenge to raise money for the pool, and some 30 adults were sponsored to cover as many lengths as they could in 50 minutes.

Jean Shirley, Chair of Trustees said " we are delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Shropshire to our corner of rural South West Shropshire. We are proud to show Mrs Thorn and two Deputy Lieutenants, Mrs Fiona Rogers-Coltman and Mrs Katherine Garnier, what has already been achieved by the local community. We are enormously grateful for their support.

The launch was followed by a presentation of £1,250 to the Charity from Mr Graham Wynn of the Wynn Foundation, to fund lifeguard training for local young people.

Graham Hemmings, Charity Treasurer said " we are also focussed on improving training and qualifications for young people. This grant will support them to become qualified lifeguards, much needed at SpArC. We are very grateful to the Wynn Foundation for their generous donation."

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the SpArC charity can do so by sending a cheque to Enterprise House, Bishops Castle, made payable to "Sport & Art in the Community (SPARC) SW Shropshire or by contacting the Treasurer by email on gshemmings@hotmail.com to arrange a BACS payment .

For more information about the SpArC charity, please see our Facebook page [savethesparc](https://www.facebook.com/savethesparc)



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Community Transport UNDER THREAT!



Bishops Castle and District Community Transport URGENTLY require new volunteers to assist with local transport.

All helpers are unpaid but allowable expenses are refunded.

As well as Drivers for our two mini-buses ("D1 class" required on licence), we are particularly in need of

CAR SCHEME Drivers and JOURNEY ASSISTANTS to help with passengers on the mini-bus and with Wheelchairs.

THE SERVICE IS AT RISK without NEW Volunteer's coming forward.

Please contact Adrian on 01588 638350 if you can spare a couple of hours to help the local community.

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Key future dates!

Christmas Lights – Tuesday 2nd December from 2pm

Town Reports and News

The swimming pool at SpArC will be 50 years old in 2024.

The pool has served the local community well but now needs some improvements for the future to make it more sustainable and energy efficient. Look out for a new fundraising campaign to be launched by the “Save the SpArC charity” over the next few months.

If anyone has any ideas and /or would like to be involved with fundraising, please get in touch on 07773 490773.

The centre also has vacancies for swimming teachers and lifeguards. Please contact the centre manager on 01588 630243 if you are interested in providing these vital roles within your local community. They are paid roles and training is provided.

Permission granted for new Station Street Co-op.

Shropshire County Council has granted permission for the development of a new Co-op store on the site of the former Countrywide warehouse in Station Street, Bishops Castle. This will involve the demolition of two buildings and the erection of a single storey retail unit (420sq.m) including installation of an ATM and lockers, plant area, creation of car parking area, cycle store with associated landscaping, boundary treatments and engineering operations.

Shropshire Council Customer Services Centre

As from Monday 21st August the call centre opening hours at Shropshire Council are changing to 9am to 6pm on Monday and 9am to 3pm Tuesday to Friday.

Bishop`s Castle Weighbridge Railway Museum

More volunteers are needed to help keep the Weighbridge Railway Museum open on a regular basis for locals and visitors to enjoy. Currently it is only open on 2 days each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday between 11am and 3pm, which with the present small core of volunteers can be a struggle to maintain allowing for holidays, family commitments etc. The ideal would be to open for one day every week, but that is impossible until more volunteers come forward. If you have a few hours to spare each month, are interested in railways and would like to help keep the memory of the Bishop's Castle Railway alive, we would love to hear from you. For more details email Lin Dalton: mail@ludfordpark.plus.com phone 07553 010196 or call in to the museum on the corner of Station Street, opposite the Cattle Market, on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of the month.

Men Walking and Talking

A new opportunity to walk, talk, and meet. Weekly from Monday 11th September at 7pm from the Lych Gate at the Church in Bishop's Castle. <https://www.menwalkingandtalking.co.uk/>

Shades of the Past – Back by popular demand

SpArC Theatre, Bishop's Castle - **October 19 @ 20:00pm** £10

By very popular demand, we are delighted to have persuaded our 'friends from the past' to come back to Bishop's Castle for one more evening thanks to David and Janet Preshous and the SOUTH-WEST SHROPSHIRE HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

To make this evening even more special there will also be a performance of The Charter Song by John Kirkpatrick commissioned for the Charter Celebrations and performed by singers from local choirs and singing groups.

'Shades from the Past – an Invitation to meet men and women who have shaped our town's history'. These fascinating characters from the past are brought to life by local people. Including:

Egwin Shakehead, who bequeathed the land. d. 794

Wild Edric (Edric Sylvaticus), Marcher warlord / Lady Godda.

Bishop Cantilupe 1275 restoring the ruined castle.

John Fitzalan (Clun), who captured the castle 1263
Edmund Plowden, who may have engineered the Charter 1573
Robert Clive, who sought to control the town. Walcot 1763
Mary Morgan, m. Louis Hetet, d. 1875. NZ connection.
Albert Howard, pioneer of organic farming 1873 – 1947.
Georgina Jackson / Charlotte Burne, Words & Folklore.
Lily Chitty, archaeologist OBE, FSA, 1893 – 1979.
Mary Webb, who knew BC as Mallard's Keep (Seven for a Secret).
Dora Skillett, hostile poetess!

CELEBRATING 450th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANTING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE'S CHARTER QUEEN ELIZABETH I in 1573

All profits from the evening to a local cause.
Doors at 7.30pm Performance begins at 8pm
£10 under 18's free

Bishop's Castle Newsletter – your support please

The Bishop's Castle Newsletter goes to every household in the parish every two months. It is well liked in a town which prides itself on its many events and specialist interests. We have much to talk about. It is also a key source of information for those that do not have access to the town website and Facebook pages.

The editorial team is gradually trying to increase and improve the content. For this we need every one's help as we rely on being told about what is going on. If there is anything you feel should be included - annual meetings of key societies, significant religious services, sporting events, visiting bands. If a family member or friend gets an award, raises money for charity, does something remarkable in the

sporting or other fields, please let us know.

Each issue there should be a page where special interest groups/charities can publicise their aims, meetings, lectures or website or ask for help and support. If you would like to submit an article please let us know.

There are lots of sports teams in the town from football, cricket and rugby to pool. When something good happens – a BC sports team tops the local league or if a BC player is poached by Liverpool it would be great to know about it.

The newsletter cannot contain political comment or any information which is like to cause offence - and the newsletter team always has full editorial rights and control so that we can edit copy submitted to ensure content is relevant and fits available space.

Such contributions from the many town groups would help make the newsletter even more necessary reading. Please help. Thank you.

Please send any copy to:

bishopscastlenewsletter@gmail.com

or contact Cllr Tim Halford on timhalford@yahoo.com

or ring 01588 638333 if you have any questions.

The deadline for copy is usually two to three weeks before publication, ie mid-November for the December/January issue.

Bishop's Castle Allotments

BIG CHRISTMAS SING!

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Christmas Lights Switch On

This years Lights Switch on is at

6.00 pm on Saturday December 2nd.

Please follow BISHOPS CASTLE AT CHRISTMAS on Facebook and other social media sites for all the updates and events that are planned in the run up to the festive period.

If you are organising an event please let us know via the Facebook page or to the Council Office and we will endeavour to include your event in our social media campaign. Like wise if you wish to join the small committee or offer your support please do get in touch.

Main building work starts at the Stars from the Community Land Trust

Now that the new shopfront is in place, local builders Geoff Jukes & Sons are starting work on the rest of the building.

Work included the removal and safe disposal of a corrugated asbestos roof over what was the rear of the shop, followed by the erection of new steelwork to support the second bedroom of the upstairs flat. '

We are delighted to have Geoff Jukes & Sons as our contractor, says Trust Chair Jim Gaffney; 'we know they will deliver a quality job and make this renovation project one we can be proud of'.

The photo shows Bishop's Castle Town Cllr Andy Stelman, Bishop's Castle Town Cllr and Unitary Cllr Ruth Houghton, and Kate Evans celebrate filling a skip full of rubble!!



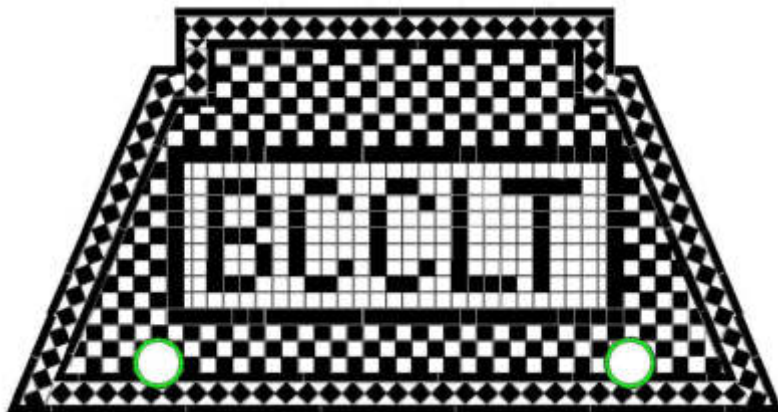
Stars Appeal

Letters have been sent to many addresses in the town asking for donations to the appeal, aiming to raise £50,000 towards the capital costs of the building work. Two recent donors, the About Music Project (AMP), and SWS Broadband, have each donated £1,000, which the Trust is very grateful to have received.

You can help too, by going to:

Just Giving.com/campaigns/stars-appeal

Mosaic for the shop doorway!



Once the renovation work is done, an impressive decorative mosaic panel will be laid in the doorway (see picture). This has been designed (and the materials donated) by Jonathan Greig. Jonathan and his wife Clare are long-term supporters of the Trust.

2023 Annal General Meeting

The Trust's AGM will be held on Saturday the 18th of November, at 2pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Games night – Six Bells. Don't forget. Come along and choose from available games - or bring some friends and your favourite board game. At The Six Bells on the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7pm. Contact davidducros@gmail.com for info.



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Support for Mental Health in the Community

If you need **urgent** or **non-urgent** support for your mental health please read:

As part of an ongoing project to support community mental health and wellbeing, the Community Partnership has been working with a team of local mental health professionals from the Bishop's Castle Medical Practice, Community College, The Samaritans, Shropshire Rural Support, Shropshire Public Health Development Officer and local mental health counsellors amongst others.

We have published an online list of **Urgent** and **Non-Urgent contacts** for anyone with a mental health crisis or need.

The list is at <https://bit.ly/3qbQQTE> For further information please contact Keith: keith.whiddon@btinternet.com

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Receive an Invitation to the Friends Christmas Film (enjoy a complimentary film and a glass of something nice to celebrate the year)

To join, simply call Liz at the Box Office on 01588 630321 / 638038 or email Graham at gshemmings@hotmail.com . Alternatively, you can pick up details from the SpArC Theatre or Enterprise House.

Age UK Dementia Support Group

Every Fourth Monday at Grange Road Community Centre,
21 Drews Leasow, Bishops Castle, SY9 5EW, 10.30am - 12.30pm
£13 for two people (including light refreshments). To book, ring or
email: 01743 233 123 or karen.rawlings@ageukstw.org.uk

Age UK STW is urgently looking for Volunteers to help deliver services – www.ageukshropshireandtelford.org.uk



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How to contact your Town Councillors:

Councillor Jane Carroll

Tel: 01588 638467

Email: jane.carrol@gmail.com

Councillor Ruth Houghton

Tel: 01588 638352

Email: Ruth.Houghton@shropshire.gov.uk

Councillor Andy Stelman

Tel 07773006413

Email andystelman@icloud.com

Councillor Josh Dickin

Tel 07530691106

Email bcbc97@outlook.com

Councillor Grant Perry

Tel: 01588 638233

Email: grantperry24@icloud.com

Councillor Stuart Morris

Tel: 01588 630114

Email: stuartmorrisstfc@btinternet.com

Councillor Tim Halford

Tel: 01588 638333

Email: timhalford@yahoo.com

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

assistantclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm

For allotment enquiries, Contact:

townclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

Bishop's Castle News is published by Bishop's Castle Town Council. The Council maintains the right to edit all submissions.

Please send any contributions to be considered for the next issue by 12th January 2024 to the Town Clerk and the Assistant Clerk..

Jilly Evans - Heather

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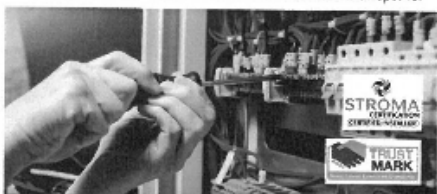


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- NEC approved inspector & installer of Domestic Ventilation.
- Experienced in fault finding & rectification.
- "Landlord checks" - Electrical Installation Condition Reports.



davetaylor electrical@gmail.com | 07814 707 100

1st
Thursday
of every
month

Board Game Night



from 7pm
@ the 6
Bells

Bring your
favourite
game or
choose
from a
selection

Contact Dave for more info:
dave@karon@gmail.com

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



For an appointment:
☎ 07880 97 20 02



Listings for December 2023 and January 2024

For Further information on all our events look on our website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk or contact us 01588 630023

December 2023

To 16th December Art Exhibition by Castle Artists

Open from 10am to 4pm Monday-Saturday. If you are travelling always phone 01588 630023 to check the exhibition is open as occasionally we have to close for weddings.

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

2nd December Christmas Lights Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

8th December BLAST Storytelling – Taffy Thomas – Tales for the Turning of the Year

Tea, Coffee, local beer and homemade cake (inc. gluten free & vegan) available.

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £8.00 per person, £28.00 Group Ticket (up to 4)

Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or on the door

9th December – Churchfitters Christmas concert

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £16.00 per person

Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door

12th December - Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks – Veteran Trees

Doors open 7.00pm. Bar refreshments available. No pre booking required. Donations box at the entrance.

15th December – BC Allskas Album Launch concert

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £10.00 per person

Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door

16th December - Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm 3rd Saturday of each month.

Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Cakes & Pastries, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, hand dyed wool, mushrooms, Veg. All produced locally.

18th December to 4th January Exhibition by Nick Knowles

If you are travelling always phone 01588 630023 to check the exhibition is open as occasionally we have to close for weddings.

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

January 2024

To 4th January Exhibition by Nick Knowles

If you are travelling always phone 01588 630023 to check the exhibition is open as occasionally we have to close for weddings.

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

6th January Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

9th January - Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks

Doors open 7.00pm. Bar refreshments available. No pre booking required. Donations box at the entrance.

12th January BLAST Storytelling – A Spell in Time – The Dragon's Black-dressed Daughter

Tea, Coffee, local beer and homemade cake (inc. gluten free & vegan) available.

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £8.00 per person, £28.00 Group Ticket (up to 4)

Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or on the door

20th January Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm 3rd Saturday of each month.

Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Cakes & Pastries, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, hand dyed wool, mushrooms, Veg.

All produced locally.

27th January Claude Bourbon concert

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £15.00 per person

Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door.

Christmas Craft Fair

St John the Baptist's annual Christmas craft fair is on Saturday 2 December between 11 and 4.30, in the church.

As well as refreshments with an outstanding selection of cakes and live music, there will be local artisans and craft people selling their wares including knitwear, textile work, artwork, cards, silver jewellery, Christmas wreaths and table decorations and hats.

'It's a great opportunity to shop locally for Christmas while supporting local small businesses.'

House on Crutches Museum

The town's lovely little museum, on the cobbles, next to the Town Hall, is open for the 2023 season every weekend until the end of September plus Fridays, Mondays, and Tuesdays around bank holiday weekends.

Do come and visit us. Admission is free!



Festive Friends 2023

Will you be on your own this Christmas Day?

If so, you are invited to join us for Christmas Lunch in Norbury!

Transport can be provided.

Arrive for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light entertainment and conversation.

Time: 11:30am - 3pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall

Cost: Suggested donation of £7 to help cover costs.

Contact: Adrian on 07948 327498 or Linda on 01588 630409 for more information and booking.





Events at SpArC Theatre December & January:

To book tickets: sparctheatre.co.uk , 01588 638083/ 630321 , call in at Enterprise House or There are usually tickets on the door.

Liz@sparctheatre.co.uk for information.

Friday 1st December

SpArC Christmas Prize Bingo; Doors at 7pm Eyes Down 8pm
Fun packed evening for all in aid of our beloved SpArC. Lucky Squares, Raffle, Great Prizes, Refreshments. £12 for 10 games, 6 cards per game

Saturday 2nd December 8pm

LIVE: Clun Valley Jazz: Stuart Goodhew Trio - Bill Evans Tribute

For details and to book your reservations Text 07768 504322 or Email clunvalleyjazz@gmail.com

Sunday 17th December 2pm

The Royal Ballet THE NUTCRACKER (Tchaikovsky), Screening
Via Satellite

Magical festive classic. Adults £14 Child/Student £8

Tuesday 19th December 6.30pm

Monthly Open Mic for Young Performers

The Underground (side Gate Public Hall) Bishop's Castle; Hosted by Dunk Burns. Turn up and play or support a friend. Drum kit and PA, amps and guitars available to use. FREE

Tuesday 19th December 2pm

Afternoon Film: Matilda the Musical (PG), An adaptation of the award-winning musical of Roald Dahls story. Tickets £4, Carers FREE. Supported by the Friends of Bishop's Castle Community, Care Home and Hospital. Accessible Cabaret seating/no steps/ hearing loop/ tea and biscuits £1/local Free Bus available.

Thursday 21st December 7pm

FILM: Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (12A). Daredevil archaeologist races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Adults £7 Child/ Student £4.50.

Thursday 11 Jan 7pm

Documentary Film: Savage Water (12A). A tantalising passage in a treasure hunter's journal inspires modern adventurers to find and surf a spectacular wave in some of the most remote and dangerous waters. Adults £7 Child/ Student £4.50.

Saturday 20th January 8pm

LIVE: Clun Valley Jazz: Scandinavia's AWARD-WINNING Oddgeir Berg Trio. For details and to book your reservations Text 07768 504322 or Email clunvalleyjazz@gmail.com

Sunday 21st January 2pm

Swimming Pool Film Fundraiser: The Little Mermaid (PG). Live action of the Disney classic! Free to book a place, lots of opportunities and ways you will be able to donate.

Tuesday 23rd January 2pm

Afternoon Film: The War Below (12A). Based on true events of miners recruited in the first world war to burrow beneath German lines. Tickets £4 Carers FREE. Supported by the Friends of Bishop's Castle Community, Care Home and Hospital. Accessible Cabaret seating/no steps/ hearing loop/ tea and biscuits £1/local Free Bus available.

Thursday 25th January 7pm

NT LIVE screening: Dear England. Joseph Fiennes plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's spectacular hit play examining nation and game. Adults £13 Child/Student £8.

Sunday 28th January 2pm

The Royal Opera House: Ruslaka (Dvořák). Contemporary new staging of this Slavic lyric fairy tale. Screening via Satellite. Adults £14 Child/Student £8.

In The Gallery: December & January: Photography Exhibition by Keith Whiddon. Preview Tuesday 5th December 6-7.30pm.



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Applicants Details:

Title: _____ Fore-names: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Organisation:

What 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 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: £ _____

Harmarked Amounts: £ _____

Comments: _____

Bank account details	
Sort code	_____
Account No.	_____

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

Signed Dated