



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



UNDER THREAT!

OCTOBER 2023

To

NOVEMBER 2023

Issue No. 89





The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello from your Mayor!

As we head into the Autumn, I think the Town can look back on a very successful Summer Season, from Events to Community Campaigns!

Let's start with the Save our Beds Campaign where we got the best decision we could have hoped for. If it weren't for the group's persistence and challenges from many stakeholders in the community, then the decision taken by the board to do a new recruitment drive just wouldn't have happened. There is a lot to do, and we won't give up until

those doors on our wonderful facility are back open permanently!

We have all got to be optimistic about the future of our hospital. The only way it will work is with enthusiasm and outside of the box thinking. The campaign group are now working with Shropcom and other stakeholders to create a unique recruitment plan. They will be holding recruitment days once a month, starting on October 13th.

I'd like to thank not only the group for all their hard work, but also the public for their kind wishes and support. Especially with the bed push as we now have £5,000 in the account to pay for printing, banners and stickers as well as some administration costs. It's amazing to know so many people want to help out in whatever way they can.

We then had Michaelmas Fair, a great occasion and fun was had by all. It was amazing to have the Town buzzing once again. This event really was down to the hard work by a very small committee and helpers on the day. All the town's events need your help and support, otherwise they just won't continue to happen.



During the Michaelmas weekend, we were joined by our friends from our French Twin Town, St Marcel in Normandy. We celebrated 20 years of twinning between the two towns and I really do hope that it lasts for another 20 years. They thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and were very complimentary of the Town's welcome towards them! It is my aim over the winter to make the twinning into a group that is far more inclusive to everyone in our community.



You may have noticed some new streetlights down the Straight Mile. These are solar powered, providing light on a stretch of road that is used by many people on the adjacent footpath. This was part of a request by the Dylan Price Foundation to make that road safer; the council couldn't agree more. The



project was very generously sponsored by the Dylan Price Foundation, Acrospire The Town Council and Highline Electrical .

Recently, I helped set up the Men's Walking and Talking Group, which meets every Monday evening outside the Church at 7pm for a short walk. It is to help Men socialise and talk about life's ups and downs, something that I have personally gone through not so long ago. It would be great if a few more came and joined us as it's really beneficial and relaxing.

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at 7pm for a short walk. It is to help Men socialise and talk about life's ups and downs, something that I have personally gone through not so long ago. It would be great if a few more came and joined us as it's really beneficial and relaxing.

I am also initiating a first of its kind, Bishop's Castle Sports Personality Awards in November. These awards will celebrate our sporting successes over the year 2023. Categories and nomination forms will be available on the website and in the Town Hall from early October.

I am raising money for New Christmas lights for the front street and steadily I am getting there! I really want to see the town lit up this Christmas.

If there are any residents who live on Church St and High St who don't wish have a tree or lights supplied by myself on their building then please get in

touch with me. I totally understand if you would prefer not to. Just let me know.

Here are some events that I am hosting over the next few months! All of these are either raising awareness or much needed funds for good local causes!

Every Monday 7 PM – Men's Walking and Talking Group. Meet outside the Church

2nd Friday of each Month – Quiz Night at the Six Bells

Last Friday of each Month – Comedy Club or Barmy Bingo at The Six Bells

Saturday 4th November – Community Bonfire and Fireworks in the Playing Fields

Saturday 25th November – Bishop's Castle Sports Personality Awards at Camlad Barns

Saturday 9th December – Mayor's Christmas Cracker for the over 60s.
Poster with more details in this newsletter!

To function, the Town Council relies on the support, commitment and good work of its Councillors. These unpaid volunteers are committed to try to make Bishop's Castle a better place. Two of our youngest, hard working Councillors, Rachel Bromley who is moving to Sheffield, and Lloyd Payne, who has increased work commitments, have sadly had to resign. They are a great loss and on behalf of the Town and Council I want to thank them for the contribution they have made. I suspect Bishop's Castle Town Council is one of the most enjoyable; it is not political and all our endeavours are to make Bishop's Castle better place to visit or in which to live. If you would like to join us - we welcome new faces – please let us know.

Once again, I really do appreciate the support of you all. I think with all the press coverage the last few months, The Castle is well and truly back on the Map. It's an honour to represent such a special community!

Keep the faith and LONG LIVE BISHOP'S CASTLE

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.

Sir Albert Howard 1873—1947 – a man of our times

Born in Bishop's Castle 150 years ago, Albert Howard's work has become increasingly relevant to our current problems of climate change and health issues related to diet.



As a scientist he investigated the relationships between soil health, healthy crop production and human health. He concluded that although artificial fertilisers and insecticides produced increased yields, from which we have all benefitted, in the longer term this would inevitably

lead to the impoverishment of the soil, lower quality crops and a subsequent decline in the health of livestock and of humans.

Albert was insatiably curious. Had he been alive today, he would undoubtedly have observed and investigated the changes to our climate brought on by current practices and the effect of climate change on farming. “The health of soil, plants, animals and humans is a continuous chain”.

As a child Albert worked on the family farm – The Cottage Farm – which gave him a solid grounding in good agricultural practice. He went on to study chemistry and natural sciences at the Royal College of Science, Imperial College, and Cambridge University, eventually living and working in India where his meticulous scientific work gained worldwide recognition.

On returning to live in England he campaigned vigorously for farming to move away from chemical fertilisers, herbicides, and pesticides. That battle continues today. He wanted farming to be sustained by natural processes, with crops grown in fertile soil,

and animals living healthy natural lives.

Although well known around the world and recognised as a founder of the organic farming movement, Albert Howard was all but forgotten here in his home town of Bishop's Castle.

The Albert Howard Society was formed in 2016 to return Albert to a higher profile and to keep his memory alive. The Society has produced a well researched book on his life and work which is on sale in the Town Hall, and there is a display in the House on Crutches Museum (Open from Easter to September). There is also a website:

<https://trevorchalkley.wixsite.com/albert-howard>

We are now hoping to raise £1,500 to have a bronze memorial plaque made and attached to the exterior wall of the Town Hall to commemorate Albert's life and work.

To donate to help achieve this, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/trevor-chalkley-2> , or email Trevor Chalkley: trevorchalkley@gmail.com for details about other ways to donate.

Trevor Chalkley

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.



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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.

Key future dates!

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 12th November
Marches Choir, Hayden Mass. St John's Church – Saturday 25th November
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



Bishop's Castle Allotments on Love Lane are owned and rented out by the Town Council. The allotment plots vary in size from micro plots and half plots to whole plots – all at various prices to rent. A tenancy agreement has to be entered into with the Council and the Guidelines and Policies of the Bishop's Castle Allotment Society (BCAS) direct how the allotments are

managed. The allotments are popular and there is a waiting list for plots. Don't let this put you off enquiring because plots do become available fairly regularly.

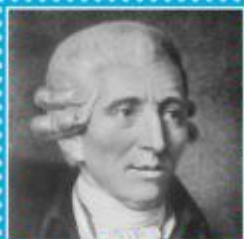
BCAS is signed up to the National Allotment Society, which provides insurance for tenants plus a regular magazine and information on all aspects of gardening an allotment plot.

The tenancy agreement and allotment guidelines are not onerous and ensure the safe and fair running of the site. For example approximately 75% of an allotment has to be under cultivation in the growing season with the remaining 25% kept weed free. Should a tenant wish to put up a structure such as a shed or greenhouse then written permission from the Town Council must be obtained. These are common rules for allotment sites ensuring plots don't become uncultivated and overgrown or that large, unattractive structures are erected.

This year the weather for vegetable growing has not been the best with a very dry start followed by a wet and cold July and August. However due to dedication and hard work from tenants the allotments have been productive with a wide variety of vegetables and some unusual varieties, which is one of the benefits of growing your own.

BCAS was recently awarded a grant from the National Lottery to plant an orchard on an open piece of ground adjacent to the site. The plan is to plant a variety of fruit and nut trees to make up for the fact that trees can no longer be planted on allotment plots.

Anyone interested to know more about renting an allotment should contact the Town Council.



Haydn Nelson Mass

Pergolesi Magnificat

Marches Choir and Sinfonia

Alistair Auld - Conductor

Saturday November 25th

7.30 pm

St John's Church, Bishops Castle



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www.marcheschoir.org.uk



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!!



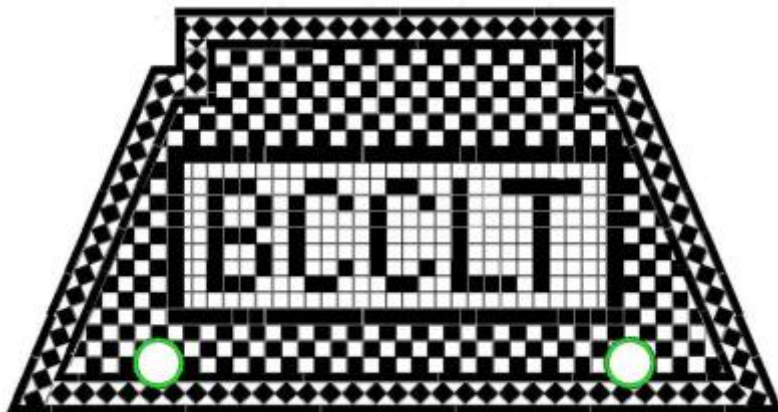
Stars Appeal

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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Community Resource

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NHS hearing aid tube changing, battery collection, advice on hearing aid care from Audiology trained volunteers

Appointments must be prebooked by calling 01743 342168 or

email SHLS@community-resource.org.uk

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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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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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KNIGHTON | T: 01547 528332

TELFORD | T: 01952 403000

www.pcblaw.co.uk



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Become a **Friend of SpArC Theatre** and help sustain the future of your Theatre in these difficult times. Individual membership is £15 a year and membership for a couple is £25. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can gift aid your subscription and increase its value by 25%. Current membership stands at 115; with your support we would like to increase this to 200 which would contribute £5k per annum to funding your Theatre's running costs!

Membership will enable you to:

Receive advance notice via email of the upcoming season

Priority book for National Theatre Live screenings

Reserve a table for cabaret-style events subject to availability

Receive an Invitation to gallery private viewings when arranged by the artist

Receive an Annual Newsletter via email

Access our DVD and Blu Ray Library

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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Email kbloor@coveragecareservice.co.uk

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

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Email: grantperry24@icloud.com

Councillor Stuart Morris

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Councillor Rachel Bromley

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Email : rachel.bromley@LIVE.CO.UK

Councillor Lloyd Payne

Tel No: 01588630230

Email: paynelloyd@live.co.uk

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 10th November 2023 to the Town Clerk and the Assistant Clerk..

Jilly Evans - Heather

A.C.O.H., A.R.T., S.P.D.A., Bowtech, N.S.T.

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Listings for October and November 2023

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

October 2023

To 10th October Art Exhibition by Jane Farrington

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

6th October BLAST Storytelling Tamar Elunud Williams Tair: The Fourth Branch Retold.

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.

7th October Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

9th October to 18th October Book/DVD and CD sale 10.00am – 16.00pm A huge variety of second-hand books, DVDs and CDs to suit all tastes and ages to choose from

10th October Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks

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

14th October – 14th November Art Exhibition by Di and Andrew Douce

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

21st October 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.

21st October Concert Benji Kirkpatrick – In Phase New Album of original music from Bellowhead's Rhythmic driver. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £14.00 per person. Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door.

November 2023

To 14th November Art Exhibition by Di and Andrew Douce

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

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

10th November BLAST Storytelling Dominic Kelly-Mara.

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

11th November Concert James Delarre and Saul Rose Album Launch 'Tour – 'Kith and Kin' Timeless combination of Fiddle and Box. 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

14th November Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks Doors open 7.00pm. Bar refreshments available. No pre booking required. Donations box at the entrance.

18th November – 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.bishopscastle townhall.co.uk

18th November 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.

19th November The Fairytale Ceilidh Concert – Coracle Pail Hutchinson, Hannah Moore, Matt Norman. Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start Tickets £15.00 per person. **Available on Ticket source** www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door, refreshments available

25th November Christmas Craft Fair – Two floors full of wonderful craft stalls.

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!



Bishop's Castle Tennis Club

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Bishops Castle Tennis Club Centenary Celebration

Local people have been playing tennis at the Love Lane tennis club for 100 years. To celebrate this special occasion the club was awarded a grant from Bishop's Castle Town Council to support a special weekend of activities at the end of July.

Free coaching for children and adults, a special fun tennis tournament, barbecue and party took place on the Saturday with Sunday seeing more free coaching and an exhibition match with two LTA ranked players giving a fantastic, energetic and skilful performance on court, watched by a crowd of spectators. Pic is Tom Loxley playing in the exhibition match.



After the match there was a special tea for older past members and friends, which was also open to all in the community. A colourful display of photographs and information about the club's history was of particular interest to members and visitors alike.

Bishops Castle Tennis Club offers coaching, club sessions,

tournaments, pay and play as well as social events. See the website for further details:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BishopsCastleTennisClub>

Below is a snap of the Bishop's Castle tennis players at the Centenary celebration tournament



SAVE OUR BEDS CAMPAIGN—MEETING REPORT

At a packed meeting on 7th September, on what was probably the hottest day of the year, a silent audience watched and listened carefully to the debate by Board members of Shropshire Community Trust (Shropcom).

After nearly 2 hours the Board made the decision that a further recruitment campaign should be undertaken to try to reopen the beds. Unfortunately, there have been some mixed messages with the CEO saying that if the recruitment plan and activity does not result in the numbers and type of staff required then Shropcom

will proceed with serving notice to Shropshire NHS Telford and Wrekin to withdraw from the inpatient bed service.

The focus now has to be on an innovative and creative recruitment plan and campaign, developed with local stakeholders and the wider community, to attract and retain the skill mix of staff that is needed.

It will be the job of the Town Council, our County Councillor, and the Save our Beds Campaign Group to hold Shropcom to account and make sure that the best recruitment campaign possible is undertaken to attract the staff we need to work at our community hospital.

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.’

Neighbourhood Crime Fighting Teams are keeping your streets safe

Delivery on calls for a more visible and accessible police force, Police and Crime Commissioner, John Champion has funded 55 officers to be recruited across five Neighbourhood Crime Fighting Teams (NCFTs) across the force area - with a sergeant leading a team of constables - in each of the Local Policing Areas (LPAs).

The NCFTs will be working hard to keep persistent offenders off the streets and reduce levels of high impact crimes such as anti-social behaviour, drugs, major thefts, and criminal damage.

South Worcestershire and Shropshire are both leading the way with the new teams in place now and already supporting the important work of our Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs), Problem Solving Teams, Roads Policing, Proactive Teams and, of course, the wider force.

The teams for Herefordshire, North Worcestershire and Telford will be in place from September.

PCC John Champion said: “I am delighted to see two new Neighbourhood Crime Fighting Teams already serving the communities of South Worcestershire and Shropshire, with three more to follow in September covering the whole of West Mercia.

“Following my investment which has seen officer numbers reaching record levels in West Mercia, these first-of-a-kind teams in West Mercia will be fast-responsive units working in the heart of communities tackling the issues that matter to you.

“The teams are another example of my commitment to listen and deliver on your calls for more visible and accessible police officers, as I continue to ensure your police force has the resources and tools it needs to deliver a more secure West Mercia, as set out in my Safer West Mercia Plan.”



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

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 Fri- day only	Leaves	Arrives	Leaves Ludlow	Arrives
Bishop's Castle	9.15	10.25	13.15	14.50

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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