



# BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



APRIL 2024

To

MAY 2024

Issue No. 92





The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello,

And welcome to this Spring edition of the Town's Newsletter. Thank goodness the lighter nights are upon us and the sun has now got some heat to it. It's been a very wet winter and fingers crossed for a better spring and summer.

There is so much to tell you about, I don't know really where to start!

Firstly, I'd like to welcome our Five new councillors, who have already added some great points for discussion

around the council table. They are, Lucy Blundell, Michelle Gayle, Leon Kosciuczy, Brigit Drake and Sharon Jones. They have settled into their roles great and are keen to get involved with the council's aims.

I think we will all agree that the Arts Festival was another great success and,

another gem in the Bishop's Castle stone! It was great to see the Town buzzing during February and brings much needed money into our delicate economy. A massive thank you to the organisers and volunteers for pulling off another great event.

In the previous article, I mentioned about the formation of a possible new chamber of trade, this is now turning into a Bishop's Castle entity, being called Traders Social, where traders can get together from around the Town and the immediate area to share ideas and to see how we can improve the Town Centre.

Another one of my aims is to make the Town more attractive on the approach roads and in the Town itself. Hopefully in the near future

you will be seeing new welcome to Bishop's Castle signs ( the old ones are getting rather tatty), planters and other items such as new Town notice boards to make the place look a little bit more loved.

Once again, the SpArC charity committee are doing a sterling job with making people aware that our beloved pool is 50 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR, and also well on the way raising £250,000 to make sure the pool has a future of another 50 years.

I have a few ideas up my sleeve to help them fundraise in the next few months, unfortunately the 18 mile push with 50 litres on board vs The Mayor Of Clun, has been postponed..... I think he's running scared!!!!

Keep your eyes and ears open on Thursday 4th April, this is when Shropshire Community Health Trust board make their decision whether to reopen our precious 16 beds. The Save our Beds group is feeling confident that the board will do so, as the recruitment campaign has been so much more successful than anyone could have wished for! The Campaign team will make sure that the news is spread far and wide as quick as possible on that day. Once again, they are putting so much work in to get the result the Community needs and wants.

Hopefully, at the time of reading this newsletter, the War Memorial will be receiving much needed attention, highly regarded Stonemason Lottie O'Leary from

Knucklas nr Knighton will be doing the work. It's great to be able to have someone local to do the work, in a field of work that's limited on skilled persons nationally. If you'd like to donate, there is still time to do so, either online or drop a cash donation in at Drovers Travel, a big thanks to all the people who have donated so far! All being well, we will be doing a grand unveiling later in the spring, to also tie in with the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. Keep your eyes peeled for more information soon!

The Town Council's annual Town meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd April, this will also incorporate the awarding of Grants to local organisations which were successful with their applications. The annual Town meeting is a chance for anyone to come and bring up problems and concerns to the council's attention, or to present what their organisation is doing to help enrich the Town.

This year's Mayor's Sunday will be held on the 9th June, this will include a new look Community awards to acknowledge the people and organisations that do so much for our Town, more information will be covered in the next article, but please keep an eye out for posters and on the internet.

The Town's Twinning links are going from Strength to Strength. In February, a small group of GCSE students went on a trip Paris, which incorporated visiting St Marcel!

The students enjoyed a visit to the School in St Marcel and, also lunch with the Mayor Hervé Podraza and given gifts from St Marcel as a reminder of their trip, I was fortunate enough to go along as a member of staff to enjoy this trip, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Staying with the Twinning, it's all systems go with two more events this year, at the end of May, the Morris Dancing Teams are going to visit and perform, a trip that is being organised by myself, there is space on the coach and accommodation available for anyone who would like to come along. It will be a great weekend, please get in touch with myself if you want to know more details! And all being well, the French delegation are once again, planning on visiting us for the Michaelmas weekend!

I would also like to briefly thank Cath Murphy for the 25 years she has brilliantly organised the BC Walking festival.

On a personal note, I hope to continue as Mayor for another year come May. There is so much more to do and finish, I really want to get the best results for our Town. Also I have received the honour of an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May, something I'm thoroughly looking forward too. It is heart warming to be recognised by the Shropshire Lieutenancy to be put forward to attend.

Once again, I apologise for such a long article, and yes, I may not be the best with grammar, but I like to think it comes from heart and makes sense to most!

Best wishes

And fingers crossed for a lovely spring

Josh

## Key Dates

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**GREEN MAN FESTIVAL, CLUN** May Bank Holiday, Sunday & Monday May 5 & 6.

**ROUND AND ABOUT WALKS, Bishop's Castle MAY 14 - 27 2024**

We mark send detailed maps with full directions in roughly 3-mile sections to your email address: **Contact [jeanshirley@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanshirley@btinternet.com)**

**BISHOP'S CASTLE WALKING FESTIVAL Thursday 16th May – Sunday 19th May 2024.**

Our guided walks are led by experienced local volunteers and offer a great choice of walk length and terrain.

**[www.bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk)**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/bishopscastlewalkingfestival>**

**MAYOR MAKING Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**MAYOR'S SUNDAY Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**OPEN GARDENS – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**BISHOP'S CASTLE MIDSUMMER REJOICING Sunday June 23**

Shropshire Bedlams & Martha Rhoden's Tuppeny Dish dancing with their weekend guest side at Stonehouse Hospital at 10.30 am. The decorated rush cart procession through the town to St. John the Baptist Church starts at 11 am. **[shropshirebedlams@gmail.com](mailto:shropshirebedlams@gmail.com)**

**THE MARCHES CHOIR - CARMEN'S BIZET Sunday**

## **30th June at 7.30pm**

(A Concert Performance of Highlights)., Walcot Hall, Lydbury North

## **BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Parade 1pm followed by main event on the Playing Fields. One of the oldest and possibly the best traditional town carnival with a parade of steam engines, vintage cars and floats around the town followed by fun, games and music on Bishop's Castle playing fields. Come and join us - **FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!!! Josh Dickin 07530 691106**

## **PARTY IN THE PARK**

**Saturday, July 20** 12 noon – 10.30 pm

Party in the Park hosts a range of musicians and acts over nearly 12 hours with nonstop music, food, workshops and activities.

**Tickets: £12 and under 11s FREE. Available on**

**the day or via our Facebook page @centrestage20**



## **AN UPDATE ON THE FOODBANK**

Many readers of this Newsletter will know that we, the Bishop's Castle Foodbank have now acquired the building behind STARS which will, in time, be the permanent home of the Foodbank. The BC Community Land Trust has worked tirelessly on our behalf for the past couple of years to achieve this on our behalf. But to make it fit for its future purpose we need to do a great deal of work on both the outside and the interior. This will help us to serve the in-

creasing number of customers within our local area. We currently provide food and other supplies to an average of 113 people a week, representing about 50 households.

A whole range of people use our services. We help young families who, because of unforeseen circumstances are needing help through a difficult patch. We help individuals who, perhaps through a series of misfortunes, find themselves unable to put a regular meal on their table. We help people who, through ill health find that they cannot work for a time. It only takes a small change in circumstances to create a tipping point that can result in an individual being unable to afford the basics - it could be any one of us, and that's why we ask for donations. A one-off payment really helps us meet our weekly shopping bill. If you feel able to make a regular small donation that helps us even more.

Here are some quotes (all genuine!) from a few of our customers:

"the foodbank is run very well and helps me a lot"

" Its helped bring down the weekly cost of food & money saved can help with heating costs"

"Its not just about the food, the advice and support has cheered me up weekly"

"would struggle to survive without them and the extra support offered"

"with having a disabled child, it's been a lifesaver financially. Very supportive staff and helpful"

We will be applying for grants to refurbish the former abattoir and we are currently in a reasonably healthy financial state. But we will need more. Folk in BC are already incredibly generous and that is absolutely true. Any further financial contributions, however big or small, will help us to carry on with the work we do as well as prepare for the major works required to put the building in good workable order. So please, if you can, put money in our yellow collecting boxes, donate through Paypal, or just come in when we are open , have a cup of tea with us, see how we operate, and give me a couple of bob on your way out. Or please don't hesitate to phone or message me on the number below if you would like any further information. It will all help us to keep the show on the road and prepare for the next phase in the life of the BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY FOODBANK.

Thank you very much. Andy Stelman 07773 006413

## **Union Street traffic**

There are increasing concerns by local residents about the speed of traffic in Union Street (and Main Street/High Street), with cars and other vehicles appearing to go at speeds in excess of 40mph. Many residents, often vulnerable adults, live in the 'shuts' or care homes that open directly on to Union Street.

'The top of Union St is a particular problem – it is clearly not built for vehicles and the turn-in/out from Market Square/Welsh St is extremely tight. Cars regularly approach at far too much speed. Cars either over-speed to get up the hill or pick up speed coming down it.'

A number of options continue to be considered – such as speed bumps or other restrictions. One-way systems have a reputation to increase traffic speeds. A 20mph limit is planned for the town.

**If you are driving around Bishop's Castle, please, please watch your speed. Thank you.**

The **EV charging points in Harley Jenkins Street** car park often appear to be blocked. Could those using the charging points move their vehicles once topped up. Thank you.

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<https://www.facebook.com/bishopscastlewalkingfestival>

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## MORE NEWS FROM BISHOP'S CASTLE PATIENTS GROUP

### **SURGERY INFORMATION**

The Patients Group has been interviewing staff at the surgery to help patients know the best person to contact. Our latest interview has been with **Sarah Bevan, the Practice Manager**.

Sarah's title is short, but her responsibilities are wide ranging, she does stress however that she is well supported by the whole team at the practice.

Some of her responsibilities are the management of:

- Clinical and non-clinical staff. The surgery has 21 staff in total.

- Rostas to ensure that adequate staff are available for all areas.

- Funding. Making sure that all relevant claims have been made. Help is received from the PCN (Primary Care Network) and ICB (Integrated Care Board) regarding grants that may be available.

- Building maintenance. This currently this includes the installation of a new phone system. This follows an NHS directive for all practices to have a VOIP (Voice over internet Protocol) system.

Sarah also considers it important to be available to support all staff, whether their problem is directly related to work matters or not.

We got an update on current matters at the surgery, these include:

- The waiting time for non-urgent appointments is expected to be no more than 2 weeks.

- Wherever appropriate, face to face appointments will be made. PLEASE do not leave urgent medical issues until a Friday afternoon if at all possible. The sooner you contact

the practice, the more options are available for staff to help you.

Telephone consultations are popular with patients and help with availability of appointments so do use these when suitable.

District Nurses attend the full clinical staff meeting when they can, helping to optimise communications about patients.

Ambulances. Regrettably the shortage of ambulances means that the waiting times are longer than we would like them to be. If you need emergency medical assistance, call 999 and follow the advice of the call handlers. They may advise you that it would be quicker to attend A&E yourself, rather than wait for an ambulance. This is not a satisfactory solution but is a national problem.

Dr Penney has retired as a partner but is still working at the surgery. There will be a celebration of his work for the community later in the year.

Medical problems have resulted in Dr Gardner sadly leaving.

Current partners are Dr Tom Davies and Dr Marwan Al-Nasiri. Dr Laura Land and Dr Catherine Goodwin are salaried GPs at the practice and regular locums are used when needed.

The practice will shortly be starting the recruitment process for a new GP.

Sarah would like you all to know that she is happy to be first point of contact for patients as well as staff. This can be for compliments, complaints, or suggestions. As she is not always available, it is advisable to call and make an appointment to avoid being disappointed.

Also, for those who have difficulty with online access do please contact the practice as they are more than happy to help.

Above all Sarah wanted us to thank all patients for their consid-

eration and support of the team at the practice. The last survey showed 91% satisfaction with the overall service provide which is way above the national average of 71%. Sarah Wood and Christine Williams

### **Enterprise House is Seeking Digital Volunteers**

Enterprise House is seeking Digital Volunteers to support their delivery of Shropshire Council's Digital Skills Programme over the coming year. The programme aims to reduce digital exclusion by giving free one-to-one digital support for those who need it most.

Are you interested in volunteering and able to spare a couple of hours a week? If you have lots of patience, a reasonable level of IT literacy and a sense of humour, we'd love to hear from you. We are on the look-out for new volunteers for eight weeks to help someone overcome their fears and grow more confident online. Volunteer training will be provided, and it can be a great way to meet new people, develop your own skills and gain satisfaction in knowing that you are helping others.

Please get in touch with Polly at Enterprise House on 01588 638 038 or email [pollyowen@enterprisehouse.org.uk](mailto:pollyowen@enterprisehouse.org.uk) to find out more.

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## 2024 Arts Festival – A Roaring Success



## 2024 Arts Festival – A Roaring Success

This year's festival was a roaring success with many people saying that it was the best one yet. People came from far and wide (Chester, Leicester, Ross on Wye and Manchester) and there was lots of positive feedback. There were over 60 talks, exhibitions, workshops to go to, some being returning favourites, such as the singing workshop and Scrapstastic, and some new, like bird box building and pottery workshops for the youngsters and printing workshops and the Swing Band. All events were well attended and most were fully booked. The event covered its costs – an extraordinary achievement in these straightened times.

Putting on a five day festival entails an awful lot of hard work and it wouldn't be possible without Sue Wilmer and the organising team the help of many volunteers. A special thank you goes to Trevor Chalkley and Jane Allard who took on running the talks at the Church Barn this year. Also the people who ran workshops and not only gave their time but also the materials used.

Planning has already started for 2025 and any suggestions would be welcomed by email to [suewillmer@mac.com](mailto:suewillmer@mac.com)  
Quotes - "Another very informative talk by Paul Binding"

"Excellent, can't wait till next year"

"Gets better every year"

"A really fun & accessible workshop" - Indian  
Block Printing

"Lovely day, learned a new skill" - Willow Weaving

"Just loved it" - Margaret aged 8

**NEW**



**BISHOP'S CASTLE  
& BEYOND**

## **2024/25 Trade Directory**

***A traditional printed trade directory***

*Produced by Enterprise South West Shropshire*

*Distributed in Bishop's Castle and Surrounding Areas*

*Online @ [www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community](http://www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community)*

**USEFUL TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS**

**COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION**

**BUSINESS  
LISTINGS**

**ALPHABETICAL  
TRADE LISTINGS**

**Basic text listing – £25.00**

**Business card listing – £60.00**

*All prices are plus VAT*

To find out more or list your business please

Call Enterprise House on 01588 638 038

Email: [tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk](mailto:tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk)

Visit: [www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/tradedirectory](http://www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/tradedirectory)



Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ



## **Enterprise House – New Trade Directory**

A NEW local trade directory is currently being developed and you are invited to include your business. The directory aims to promote and raise awareness of all the businesses operating in the South West Shropshire and Welsh Borders area, but also make that information available to all. It will be distributed to all households in Bishop's Castle, plus village halls, community shops and spaces and pubs in the surrounding villages as well as being available online at [www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community](http://www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community).

Annual listing prices range from text only listings for £25 plus VAT to Business Card Listing for £60 plus VAT (jpeg image is required or personalised business cards can be designed for an additional fee). Double sized listings are available if required. Full details of listings and a sample version are attached for your information.

For more information or to list your business please contact Enterprise House on 01588 638 038, email [tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk](mailto:tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk) or visit [www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/tradedirectory](http://www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/tradedirectory).

## **Going Wild in Bishop's Castle gets £238,000 Lottery grant**

Going Wild in Bishop's Castle has been awarded £238,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to hire staff as coordinators to support the community to develop and implement local wildlife and nature projects.

The group has been working with community groups over the last two years with a range of wildlife and nature projects in and around Bishop's Castle, focused on the ecological management of local land.

Projects have included building and installing swift boxes and establishing meadowlands on local properties. Going Wild in Bishop's Castle has become known for its winter talks and summer activities series. The 'Going Wild Kid's Club' provides an extracurricular outdoor education and bushcraft club for young people in the community.

Bernard Edwards, chair of the Going Wild in Bishop's Castle Steering

ing Group said: “Thanks to The National Lottery Players and everyone who has supported us in the winter talks series and the summer activities. We look forward to working with the fantastic community of Bishop’s Castle.”

The grant, secured with help from Enterprise House, will allow Going Wild in Bishop’s Castle to hire a part-time coordinator and a part-time assistant to support the development, delivery and monitoring of local biodiversity projects.

“This will help us increase wildlife locally and share our activities with a wider audience to showcase the potential of community-level re-wilding. Above all, this is about joining the people of Bishop’s Castle to learn together and celebrate our landscape through embracing nature,” said Bernard.

Town councillor Grant Perry said “The town council is delighted to have supported and continues to support Going Wild in Bishop’s Castle. This project helps us contribute to the town’s Climate and Nature Recovery Plan.”

### **Heat and Wind Project gets Wind in its Sails**

The Bishop’s Castle Wind Turbine – powered Community Heat Project has been awarded a substantial grant to carry out further studies. The work will include Ecology and Technical studies, obtaining ‘expressions of interest from the town – including the Community College and SpArC, who wish to be connected to the network. The £100,000 grant, which comes from the Government Community Energy Fund has been awarded to Shropshire and Telford Community Enterprises in partnership with Bishops’ Castle based Light Foot Enterprises.

Mike Watkins, Light Foot’s local co-ordinator added, ‘there’s a mountain of detailed work to be done on this complex project which requires the involvement of a wide range of experts. The work is planned to be completed by the end of this year . Our first step will then be to present it to the Bishop’s Castle community before we submit a planning application for the wind turbine.’



## **High Street and Market Place to be resurfaced**

Shropshire Highways is currently planning for High Street and Market Place. The schemes have been identified as needing essential maintenance.

The works will involve the following activities:

Removal of studs and or other street furniture (as required by the design).

Planning out the existing surface to various depths (as required by the design) and dispose of the arisings.

Laying the new surface to various depths – (as required by the design) and then allowing it to set/ cure before traffic is allowed over it.

Laying down new road markings.

Resurfacing is a vital part of highways maintenance; and a key investment on behalf of Shropshire Council to improve the long-term condition of the network, help to prevent structural problems in the future and reduces time spent on smaller repairs, such as filling pot-holes.

Dates are not yet programmed in, however, the plan is to do this scheme between April 24 and March 25. Thoughts and feedback are welcomed

To ensure these works are delivered in the most efficient and safest manner for both the public and our workforce, a road closure is typically required. A signed diversion route will be in place, all vehicles would be required to follow this.

Note - A reminder that roads needing repair can be logged easily and quickly along with photographs on FixMyStreet

### **Road Closures**

A489 – to Church Stretton. 25th March – 3rd May 2024 8am to 5pm.  
Monday to Friday Open weekends. Ash Dieback tree felling near Plowden

A488 Colstey Bank – April 28th

## **Bishop's Castle War Memorial –**

The war memorial is located in the Church Yard and is in need of some gentle restoration. Bishop's Castle Mayor Josh Dickin is leading on fund raising for this with the hope that the work can commence in April. If you wish to make a donation on line you can use this link 'Crowdfunding to Help Fund Bishop's Castle' War Memorial' on Just Giving or cash donations can be dropped off at Drivers Travel. It is in need of some gentle renovation, due to take place in April 2024.

## **Pump Track**

A Great Thank You to all kids for their fund raising efforts!!

**Hospital up date:** This Newsletter will be out before any decision is made but huge thanks are due to Jenny Sergeant, and everyone else - whatever the outcome.

## **Bishops Castle Civil Defence Bowling Club**

The club has recently advised the Town Council that due to a lack of members (9 currently) that they have folded. The Town Council has and continues to pay the electricity bill at the club and it has been suggested that the Council take over responsibility for the ground and facilities on the site once the members have removed any articles that they wish to. The site consists of a Bowling Green and 3 Buildings – one storage shed, one Portakabin clubhouse and one other wooden shed (to which access has yet to be provided) and is accessed via a gate at the top of the Grange Road entrance to the Playing Fields. The ground is leased on a peppercorn rent from Living Villages Trust – who may or may not still be in existence and has electricity and water to site. There is a toilet that may be connected to mains drainage but further investigation is required. There 4 floodlights for the Green – 2 of which are currently facing the playing fields. The buildings and open space could be used in the short term for the Youth Project and storage whilst longer term and subject to legal checks as to the ownership of the land and planning regulations the plot could be developed for alternative use such as Youth Facilities / Club or a Community Room / New Public

Hall. It is proposed that the Council offer to take on the running of the facility, in the short term, this may be to allow continued use of the green for Bowling or in the longer term for possible alternative uses..

## **Council Tax 2024/25**

You will shortly be receiving your Council Tax Bill for 2024/2025 which includes a precept for Bishops Castle Town Council which is how our services are funded. The Council deliberated for many hours whilst setting the new precept conscious of the current cost of living crises as well as the fact that last year saw a small reduction. However we, as a Council, are not exempt from the pressure of increasing costs and have seen considerable increases in energy, wages and salaries and contractors charges throughout the last 12 months. The effect of all these have seen our reserves being required to a far larger extent than envisaged.

Unlike other town councils such as Church Stretton, Ludlow and Shrewsbury where new properties being built provide new additional income by increasing the tax base upon which the burden falls, we in Bishops Castle are under a moratorium restricting development due to the issue of development in the River Clun Catchment area and the pollution it may cause. Therefore new building is not currently permitted and the tax base remains static and the burden of increased costs falls on the same number of properties year after year.

The council has committed to improving facilities and services it provides and has in recent years refurbished both play areas, installed LED lighting, supported the Charter Celebrations and repaired the Town Hall Clock.

In the future we are helping to :

match fund grant applications for the Pump Track

improve the Skatepark

refurbish the Auction Yard Toilets,

support SpArC and local tourism and festivals

Going Wild,

the Heat Network

and reduce the Town's Carbon Footprint all of which incur costs.

Unfortunately all of these come at a cost and you will therefore note an increase in our proportion of the council tax next year of £3.82 per property per month which equates to 88 pence per week. However we can assure you that every penny raised by Bishops Castle Town Council will be spent locally to improve services and infrastructure in the town for the benefit of its residents

**FREE Tennis Open Days** at BC Tennis Club every Saturday throughout April at Bishop's Castle - 10.00am-12.00pm.

For more information, email [info@bishopscastletennis.org](mailto:info@bishopscastletennis.org) or

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

## A Silver Anniversary 2025

### Bishops Castle Walking Festival through the Ages

I've been enjoying, this winter, looking forward and backwards. Giving thought to all those people helping, for nearly twenty five years of hospitality, by organising a springtime Walking Festival. I have found a series of documents from Bishops Castles' first attempts, leading to the mid week festival of walking and evening activities for all to join in 2000.

Do you know, our first events depended upon people finding our brochure, filling in a booking form and sending a cheque (in an envelop) to the local volunteer treasurer? What a change has happened in that time - lately we've put together similar information and launched it upon our web site – [bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk](http://bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk) . Browsing the options is a totally different experience within 25 years.

That said, the countryside is still out there, with 25 years of stories from ancient to modern activities, all to be enjoyed as we walk

across it. People from across Britain (and occasionally elsewhere) arrive to meet us at our best – 'well the weather is always good in the spring'. This may be a brand new experience – of 'walking' in groups, to Shropshire Hills and of local leaders. Six walks a day (16-19th May 2024) are offered for a variety of fun – huge distances to short visits to landscape specialities. And people leave feeling that they've made friends, loving this landscape and planning returns another day.

This brief excursion down memory lane is preparing the way for a Celebration event in 2025. Please join us, with your memories, photographs and ideas for the future of Bishops Castle Walking Festival.

Catherine Murphy Chair of BCWF 24 organising group  
07825380978

Facebook - [bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk)

Mark Arbon,  
Green Shutters, Knighton. LD71NE  
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# 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.



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## BISHOP'S CASTLE FAERIE TRAIL

The trail in the Wintles Woodland is currently closed. The Queen Faerie has gone on holiday as it has been so wet here. She has taken all the other faeries with her to the South of Spain. They will return at the end of May and set up home in different parts of the woodland Look out for the new Faerie Trail maps and Faerie Workshop at Spring Bank.



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Please contact Jill for details  
New website soon

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*please call first as opening times vary.*

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## Freestyle Martial Arts Bishops Castle

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For further details, visit: [www.freestylemartialarts.com/bishopscastle](http://www.freestylemartialarts.com/bishopscastle)

Or email: <mailto:bishopscastle@freestylemartialarts.com>

(Steve Luke, Chief Instructor, Freestyle Martial Arts Bishops Castle)

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

There are currently two allotment plots available, a two thirds sized plot at £41 annual rent and a half sized plot at £34 annual rent.

Please apply to the Town Clerk on 01588 638141, or email [townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk)

For more details and to put your name on the waiting list. Additional costs include a one off deposit, and annual membership of the Allotment Society,

# *Craft Fair*

*Saturday 25th May*

*in the Town Hall*

*10am - 4pm*

*2 floors full of stalls, including:-  
Ceramics, Soaps, Textiles,  
Jewellery and much more*



Bishop's Castle  
Town Hall

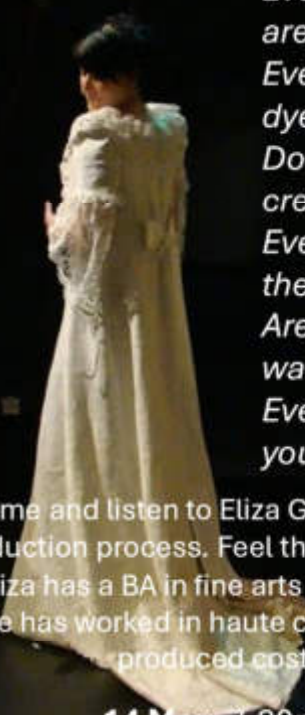
[www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk](http://www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk)  
Tel: 01588 630023

# COSTUME DESIGN

Midsummer Night's  
Dream

Christmas Carol

The Tempest



*Ever thought about how costumes are designed?*

*Ever thought about recycling and dyeing silks, brocade, taffeta?*

*Do you wonder how a pattern is created?*

*Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes during a production?*

*Are you artistic or creative and want to develop a creative career?*

*Ever wanted to design and make your own wedding dress?*

Come and listen to Eliza Glapinska explaining costume design and production process. Feel the fabrics and see the work. Ask questions.



Eliza has a BA in fine arts and came to the UK to complete her MA . She has worked in haute couture for Pierre Cardin and designed and produced costumes for various productions.



**14 May 7.30pm CAMLAD BARNES SY9 5JL**

**Refreshments.**

**All welcome, no charge, but donations appreciated.**

To book a place phone 01588630666 or 07919 441409 or,  
email [jackyharrison51@hotmail.com](mailto:jackyharrison51@hotmail.com)  
or [nickyboyd60@outlook.com](mailto:nickyboyd60@outlook.com)

Find us on   at Mainstone Womens Institute and Eliza on

 at Arterachel and on  at Arterachel23



## **Bishop's Castle Allotment Society**

### **National Lottery funded Community Orchard Project**

Bishop's Castle Allotment Society recently received a grant from the national lottery to plant an orchard on the land owned by Bishop's Castle Town Council adjacent to the allotment site on Love Lane.

The area has now been planted with 16 fruit and nut trees, including cooking and eating apple, pear, plum, damson, medlar, quince, mulberry and cobnut. The varieties were carefully selected according to size, climate, pollination requirements, fruit productivity and uses/taste. The trees are well-protected from rabbit and vole damage! Hopefully in two or three years time some of the trees will be producing fruit.

The Allotment Society will be assisted with the ongoing orchard area management by Bishop's Castle Going Wild Group.



## Litter Picking

Would you like to help keep our lovely little town looking tidy?

There is a small, friendly and dedicated team of volunteer litter pickers who meet regularly to help make this happen and there is always room for more helpers. Black bin liners, high vis jackets and pickers are provided by the town council. You will need to bring your own gloves.

We normally meet at 10am on the first Saturday of the month in the auction yard car park. If you would like to help, you are welcome to just turn up, or ring first to say you are coming. If you think you prefer to litter pick on an ad-hoc basis when it suits you best, equipment can be provided.

We sometimes do a 'blitz' on a specific area, for example, with much help from Dale Griffiths of Jesmonite, we tidied up the litter on the industrial estate side of the public footpath at the side of Brick Meadow this month. And we are open to suggestions of any areas of concern.

**Please leave a message on 01588 638175, thank you**

---

**Open Garden & plant stall at The Hurst, Clunton. SY7 0JA**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024. 2:00pm - 5:30pm**

Entry £5 (cash only please) in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

The Hurst is Arvon's Shropshire Writing House, former residence of (playwright) John & Helen Osborne.

Set in 26 acres – Californian redwoods, walled garden, extensive mature rhododendrons and azaleas, bluebell woods, meadow, orchard, dovecot and stunning views of the Clun valley.

Tea & cake stall, and bookstall, in aid of the Arvon Foundation.

For Further information on all our events look on our website  
[www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk](http://www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk) or contact us 01588 630023

### **April 2024**

**Until 5<sup>th</sup> April** Book, CD and DVD Sale Large selection of used Books, CD's and DVD's to browse through at bargain prices.

**6<sup>th</sup> April** Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

### **Until 17<sup>th</sup> April** Exhibition by Lyn Evans

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

### **9<sup>th</sup> April** Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Talks – Stepping Stones, Project update - Charlie Bell

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

### **12<sup>th</sup> April** – Jon Doran The Northern Assembly concert

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £10.00 per person in advance £12 on the door

Available on Ticket source [www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH) or at The Town Hall or on the door [www.jondoranmusic.co.uk](http://www.jondoranmusic.co.uk)

**20<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May** Exhibition by Robert Bates 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](http://www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk)

**20<sup>th</sup> April Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Cakes & Pastries, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, hand dyed wool, mushrooms, Veg. All produced locally.

## **May 2024**

### **Until 21<sup>st</sup> May Exhibition by Robert Bates**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> May Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

### **12<sup>th</sup> May - Concert Songs From Land and Sky – Susan Raven and Satch Norton with Andy Prince**

Doors open 2.00pm for 2.30pm start Tickets £10.00 per person. Refreshments will be available

Available on Ticket source [www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH) or at The Town Hall or on the door

**17<sup>th</sup> May Walking Festival Talk - Butterflies, Birds and Beyond, the extraordinary photos of Andrew Fusek Peters.** Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30 start. Tickets - £5

Book through website - <https://>

[www.bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk/festival-fringe-events.html](http://www.bishopscastlewalkingfestival.co.uk/festival-fringe-events.html)

**18<sup>th</sup> May Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Stalls include Meat, Poultry, Specialist Teas, Cakes & Pastries, Bread, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, hand dyed wool, mushrooms, Veg. All produced locally.

**25<sup>th</sup> May Craft Fair 10am to 16.00pm** Two floors of stalls selling a wide range of locally crafted goods. Come and shop for beautiful gifts. Make it a day out in Bishop's Castle. Lots to visit and lovely places to have lunch or coffee and cake.





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## YOGA & MEDITATION TEACHER

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**LUDLOW | T: 01584 878456**

**KNIGHTON | T: 01547 528332**

**TELFORD | T: 01952 403000**

**[www.pcblaw.co.uk](http://www.pcblaw.co.uk)**



## Become a Friend of SpArC Theatre

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](mailto: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 Bishop's Castle Community Hospital,  
Stone House, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AJ, 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
£14 for two people (including light refreshments). To book, ring or  
email: 01743 233 123 or [enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk)

Age UK STW is urgently looking for Volunteers to help deliver services – [www.ageukshropshireandtelford.org.uk](http://www.ageukshropshireandtelford.org.uk)





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Contact Keturah Bloor  
Telephone– 01588 63848  
Email [kbloor@coveragecareservice.co.uk](mailto: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**

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.comTown

Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscastle-towncouncil.gov.uk

assistantclerk@bishopscastle-towncouncil.gov.uk

*Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm*

For allotment enquiries, Contact:

townclerk@bishopscastle-towncouncil.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 15th JULY 2024 to the Town Clerk and the Assistant Clerk..**





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# WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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## Event Equipment Hire Service



### Village Outreach


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[www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/outreach](http://www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/outreach)

 [villageoutreachBC](https://www.facebook.com/villageoutreachBC)

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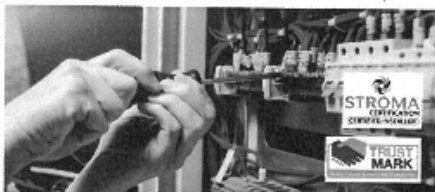


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# HOUSE ON CRUTCHES MUSEUM

Bishop's Castle SY9 5BG

[www.hocmuseum.org.uk](http://www.hocmuseum.org.uk)

## NOW OPEN

When did you last visit “one of the best town museums in Shropshire” (Marie Krefl travel writer)?

**Open Saturdays & Sundays 1.30 - 4.30pm**  
and Mondays & Tuesdays on bank holiday weekends

**FREE ADMISSION BUT DONATIONS  
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## The House on Crutches Museum is open!

When did you last visit Bishop's Castle's delightful museum? If you have not visited in recent years you will notice many changes and interesting new displays. Thanks to generous donations from Ransfords and Bishop's Castle Building Supplies, we have been able to upgrade the lighting in the museum and expand the permanent exhibitions about Droving, Brewing and Local Businesses.

Community Collections are a new feature. Local residents have kindly lent us items of general or local interest. These include collections of matchboxes and commemorative china. A donation from the Co-operative's Local Community Fund made these temporary displays possible.



**“One of the best town museums in Shropshire, it’s housed in a picturebook-perfect Elizabethan timber-framed building with wooden posts propping up a 17th century upstairs extension, which feels wonderfully crooked inside”**

**Marie Kreft, travel writer: “Slow Shropshire”**

There is no charge for entry, and donations are very welcome as we rely on contributions, both money and time, to keep it running. Staffed only by volunteers, it is something our town should be proud of. Right now we need a new treasurer and help with IT so if you can help, please get in touch. Open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon until end September. Also open Bank Holiday Mondays and some other days. See website for details: [www.hocmuseum.org.uk](http://www.hocmuseum.org.uk)

## **Bishop's Castle Michaelmas Fair - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

2023 Michaelmas Fair was a huge success, showcasing our wonderful town and all it has to offer! This would not have been possible without the support of such a brilliant community, so thank you!

This year's fair was organised by a very small team of volunteers who were keen to see it restored following the disappointments of the previous few years. However, in order to secure the future of this brilliant event we need your help.

Whether you are available before, during or after the fair there is a plethora of jobs to suit any ability or experience. Jobs include,

### ***Before the day of the Fair***

- Taking bookings for stalls
- Taking bookings for the cars to be exhibited
- Collecting and then returning the traffic cones (you need a truck or large trailer)
- Booking the entertainers
- Running the children's lantern workshop
- Organising the steward's rota
- Setting out and recovering the flags
- Putting out the street signs and collecting them in again
- Managing publicity (Facebook, web site, Radio, press coverage)
- Setting up the Public Hall
- Setting out the car park
- Setting up the stage

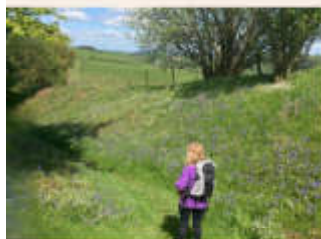
### ***On the day of the Fair***

- Greeting Stall holders, Greeting the entertainers
- Managing the stewards
- Managing the car exhibits
- Managing the car park (best done by a club or group of friends)
- Selling tickets on the day
- Closing the roads, Managing road crossings
- Managing the Lantern procession
- Comparing the acts on the stage

Any help is gratefully received in lightening the workload and in most cases, it won't be necessary to attend the committee meetings. If you would like join the team and help us to create Michaelmas Fair 2024, we will be getting together January 29<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at The Six Bells, alternatively send us an email at [info@michaelmasfair.co.uk](mailto:info@michaelmasfair.co.uk)

# Round and About Walks

BISHOP'S CASTLE AND CLUN  
May 20th - 2nd June 2024



**“A great route for two great causes”**

**£12.00 per person  
£25.00 for a family**

For full information and to enter, follow the link:

<https://ccbcshropshire.com/ccbc-friends-roundandabout/>



**TO SUCCEED  
TO CARE  
TO INSPIRE**

