



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



FEBRUARY 2024

To

MARCH 2024

Issue No. 91





The Mayor Josh Dickin

HAPPY NEW YEAR from your Mayor and Town Council

Hello and welcome to this latest edition of the Town's newsletter!! It seems like it was just yesterday when I was writing my last piece before Christmas. Once again a lot has happened, and a lot more is already planned for 2024. I have said over the past two years that it is going to be a quieter year, and it turns out to be the total opposite. I really wouldn't have it any other way! It's all about what is the best for the community and

how to ensure the benefits for the Town will continue to increase!

It is great to see Shropshire included in ABTA's world Top 10 destinations for 2024, with a special feature on Bishop's Castle. I really do hope this brings more visitors to the Town and area, helping all the businesses who benefit from such interest.

In months to come keep your eyes peeled on news regarding the formation of a new Chamber of Trade, something which is much needed, helping businesses unite in a time when they need it most. Any interested businesses who want more details, please get in touch with me.

I am pleased to announce that we have invited five people to become new Town Councillors, following our co-option process. This will be finalised at February's Meeting. These people will bring much expertise and insight to the table, bringing the number of councillors up to the full quota of 12. My big wish is to have a full election in May 2025, so the Town can vote and have a say in local democracy.

At the time of writing this article, I have much hope that our beloved Community Hospital is edging nearer to opening its doors fully once again. The Save Our Beds group has worked tirelessly to get us to this point. Many people sit around the table every two weeks without fail, all with so much love and determination to get over that line. I would also like to thank those existing staff who are eagerly waiting to get back to work in Bishop's Castle, which they love, headed up by Ward Manager, Amanda, who I know is working so hard on top of her full time job to get to the result we all want. Keep your eyes peeled on the Old Stars shop window opposite CO-OP for any more news and potential public update meeting dates in the coming months.

From comments received I think we all agree that the new Christmas lights looked fantastic and very in keeping with the Town. I must admit, I didn't quite know what I was buying until they turned up! But as always in usual Castle fashion, it has ended up a success story! A big thank you goes to all those who sponsored and donated money to make this happen. There will be more fundraisers held over the year to finish paying for them!

Looking forward, hopefully we can get the pump track project over the line in the early spring. This project really will be beneficial for many people of the town and area, especially the youth! The Council has decided to sell the red shelter and put money towards more user friendly benches and bins. I really hope that once this is all tidied up and made usable for all it stays that way. It has already taken much of the time of myself and others in the community to get to this point. More about the project can be found further on in this newsletter.

The War Memorial will be refurbished delicately in April, to give it the respect it deserves. It is a big passion of mine to get this project done and that it is there for the people of the Town generations which follow. More details about fundraising are further on in this newsletter.

Highways is being covered further on in this publication but, over the past few weeks, I have met with senior figures from Shropshire Council regarding issues on highways in the area. I hope that these meetings will help our cause and get the attention this area deserves. For example they are now fully aware of the situation of Community College which has the A488 running through the middle of the site but which has not been included in their 20 MPH school plan. The state and conditions of roads in the area were also highlighted to them. I will keep on banging the drum for us!

This is only just the beginning. Conversations will be happening soon regarding the house building embargo we are under in this part of Shropshire. This current embargo will not help generations of my age and ones to follow wishing to buy homes in the area.

I have been contacted on numerous occasions regarding parking and speeding in the town centre. I have seen some classic Castle parking going on over winter. In all seriousness please consider carefully how you park and where you park. For example in the Harley Jenkins street car park, the electric charging points and disabled spaces are being used as normal parking spots. Please be considerate to others. The speed of which some vehicles travel through town is also a worry, the Council is actively looking at what can be done to slow vehicles down .

On that note I am going to stop waffling and leave you in peace!
Here's to a very exciting 2024. Best wishes. Josh

War memorial to be restored

On 8th April work is to start on the restoration of the War Memorial outside the Church of St John the Baptist. The memorial commemorates those from Bishop's Castle and the surrounding area who lost their lives in World War 1 and World War 2. Many of the inscriptions are now hard to read and to properly respect the memory of these valiant sons and daughters of the town the work needs to be undertaken. Some funds have already been raised and there is an event at Camlad Barns on 24th February – see Mayor's message – and a quiz in the Six Bells to raise top up the finances. Around £1,500 is needed. If you would like to contribute please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

Bishop's Castle back on the map – a worldwide 'destination'!!

The Association of British Travel Agents has identified its top ten best worldwide destinations for travellers in 2024. These are Albania, Aruba, Crete, Extramadura (Spain), Mauritius, Saxony (Germany), The Tyrol (Austria), Vietnam, Zambia And **South Shropshire – especially BC!**

South Shropshire

'The Shropshire Hills have been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and **Bishop's Castle** is a lively market town which provides a great base to explore the stunning countryside with the added bonus of claiming the oldest working brewery in the country.

Church Stretton, at the heart of this beautiful landscape, has a Norman church and buildings dating back to Tudor times with shops, bars and restaurants featuring the high-quality local produce.

The county has a number of delightful towns including Ludlow, which is regarded as a foodie paradise with great restaurants, which together with its very attractive high street containing many historic buildings, has one of the country's most impressive castles.

Sports lovers should visit the nearby town of Much Wenlock, pretty as it undoubtedly is, was also the site of the first attempt in 1850 to revive the Olympic games.

Bridgnorth, the first stop on the Severn Valley Railway which kids of all ages will love, has a high and low town connected by a funicular railway which makes for a great day out.

Shropshire is a rural gem, but it was also the birthplace of the industrial revolution and history lovers must make a trip to Coalbrookdale in the Ironbridge Gorge with its elegant eponymous iron bridge, the first ever built in the world.'



Holy Week in the Ridgeway Benefice

24th March Palm Sunday—10.45 service Bishops Castle

28th March—7.00 Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Edgton Church

29th March– Good Friday

11.30 am service Lydbury North

2.30 pm Passion Play ,Bishops Castle

30th March 10.30am— Easter Messy Church
Bishops Castle

31 March -Easter Day

9.30 am Easter Day communion Mainstone

9.30am Easter Day Communion Lydbury North

11am Easter Day communion Bishops Castle

Key Dates!

Saturday 10th February Going Wild Kids Club

February 14 – 18 Bishop’s Castle Arts Festival

Saturday 16 March Dvorak – Stabat Mater. Marches Choir, St John’s Church at 7.30

Friday 29 March Passion Play at St John the Baptist Church at 2.30

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY HEAT NETWORK

The Town Council is supporting an application to the Department of Energy's 'Community Energy Fund' by Community Heat Network for the grant of £220k to take forward the next stage of work. It fully supports the Bishop’s Castle C Community Heat Network project. Like other small rural market towns with no connection on to the gas grid and older, poorly insulated housing, Bishop's Castle's carbon footprint is well above the UK average. This project will reduce the town’s carbon footprint and, by supplying heat and surplus electricity to our Community College, Leisure Centre and swimming pool, it will help to ensure their future sustainability and viability. It would also supply some of the older houses in Town, ones that would find it difficult to install air-source heat pumps and could be of great benefit in improving our housing stock.

Community Asset Transfer of the former Abattoir building in Bishop’s Castle

At the Cabinet meeting held in December, Shropshire Council confirmed the Community Asset Transfer of the former Abattoir building, behind the old Stars newsagents, to Bishop’s Castle Community Land Trust. It is planned to use the building as the new and permanent home for Bishop’s Castle Food Bank once the renovation work has been completed. If you are able to help fund the renovation work you can make a donation via the Bishop’s Castle Community Land Trust website [Stars Appeal | BCLT \(bcclt.co.uk\)](https://starsappeal.co.uk)

In the meantime the Food Bank will remain at the Church Barn where it is open Tuesday 10 – 11.30 am and Thursdays 2.30 - 4pm Donations of dry and tinned goods, long life milk and cereal is always welcome. No referral is required to use the food bank, just turn up.

Help is around – you just need to know where to go!

Cost of Living

If you are struggling with the ongoing cost of living pressures it is important to check that you are receiving all eligible benefits. You can find out more on the Shropshire Council web site [Cost of living help | Shropshire Council](#) . You may also wish to consider:

Pension Credit – for people over 66 whose income is under £220 per week for a single person or £320 if a couple it is worth checking eligibility for pension credit. This is a means tested benefit but you can have some savings and own your own home and still be eligible. This is a gateway benefit so it is always worth applying as even if you only get awarded £2 per week, for example, it means access to other benefits such as a free TV licence if aged over 75 and potential help with rent and council tax. To find out more have a look at www.gov.uk/pensioncredit or call the Pension Credit helpline on 0800 99 1234.

Attendance Allowance – is a non means tested benefit for people over 65 who need help or care to live independently at home. You are also eligible if you fund your own care in a care home. Further information is available on this link [Attendance Allowance: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance)

Free school meals - If your child goes to a Shropshire Council-maintained school or academy school you may be able to claim for free school meals. There are two types of free school meals: Government (benefits-related) free school meals and Universal infant free school meals. Details of eligibility and how to apply are in this link [Are you eligible for free school meals? | Shropshire Council](#)

Please don't forget that if you need benefits or debt advice, Joanne from the Citizen's Advice Bureau is at the Food Bank. Just phone 07773 006413 for an appointment.

Bishop's Castle Methodist Centre

Sunday February 18th 10.30 am Communion Service

Every Friday at 10.30 'Coffee and Chat'.

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.



Dvořák

Stabat Mater

**Marches
Choir
and Sinfonia**

Alistair Auld - Conductor

Saturday March 16th

7.30 pm

St John's Church, Bishops Castle

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394
and from TicketSource
Children and Students FREE

www.marcheschoir.org.uk



SPRING WARDROBE ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS



**ENTERPRISE HOUSE, BISHOP'S CASTLE
SY9 5AQ**

February 26th - March 1st 2024

9am - 5pm

FREE EVENT WITH ELIZA

Join me for a week of enhancing your spring wardrobe!
Whether it's fixing a cherished coat or tailoring those dresses
ready for warmer days, I'll be there to assist and guide you.


Learn valuable tips and tricks for maintaining your spring
clothes, making them last longer.

Bring in your garments, and together we'll transform them into
perfect fits for the warmer months.

Don't miss this opportunity to revamp your spring closet and
gain valuable skills. See you there!

www.arterachel.co.uk

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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 reimbursed.

As well as Drivers for our two mini-buses ("D1 class" is required on your 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.

FUSING IDEAS
contemporary glass



Gorgeous glass gifts
Awards & Commissions
Gift Vouchers
Glass fusing workshops

Please contact Jill for details
New website soon

Studio in New Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5DQ

please call first as opening times vary.

mob: 07941 232218 e: jill@fusingideas.com

 @fusingideas

Thanks to our great Surgery team!



A Christmas tree was put up outside the Bishop's Castle Surgery by a group of grateful patients. Instead of the usual baubles, it was decorated with colourful luggage labels. On each label was a message from a grateful patient to the staff at the surgery. Many were aimed at the doctors, and often at Dr Paul Gardener who recently left the practice due to ill health. Others thanked the nurses, other medical practitioners, and the hardworking reception and secretarial staff. One member of the practice team was

moved to tears by the unexpected show of appreciation. It's easy to take their hard work for granted, but this Christmas many of us were able to let all the surgery staff know how much they are valued.

STOP PRESS UPDATE! Please Read:

Due to the recent flooding at the Public Hall, any events listed in this edition as taking place at the Public Hall will have had to be moved to alternative venues since the listings were compiled.

Please see the event websites or contact the event organisers for full details. Thank you!

SpArC

The 50th anniversary campaign to raise £250k for improvements to the swimming pool at SpArC was launched in Mid November by the High Sheriff of Shropshire. The swimming pool serves the wider rural community of South West Shropshire and is used by 9 primary schools and the Community College to teach children to swim. It is also an important employment centre for the area. If anyone wishes to host a fundraising event or to make a donation please contact Ruth on ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk or 07773 490773

Traffic update

It has been agreed by Shropshire Council, which is responsible for traffic issues, to change the traffic flow at the Union Street, Church Street, Station Street junction so that the main road and through traffic will be directed up Station Street/Church Street. The junction and its road marking will be changed to reflect this. At the top of town through traffic will be directed down Station Street with appropriate signs at the entrances to the conservation area at the top of Castle Street and Salop Street.

A 20 MPH limit is being proposed for Brampton Road bordering The Community College. The Council also continues to push for a reduced speed limit near the Community College on the 488 and a pedestrian crossing to the sports field. As yet nothing has been confirmed on this.

A 20 MPH limit may also be introduced on the road passing Norbury School.

A second disabled parking space is to be introduced outside the pharmacy/chemist and one put in on the Auction Yard and on Market Place.

Please note: for all reports of road problems, potholes, broken road signs, street lighting and flooding please use the link to www.fixmystreet.com

Church Evolution Project

Many people who live in the town, especially those who have recently been to Christmas events and services, weddings and funerals, concerts and fairs will appreciate, St John the Baptist Church in Bishop's Castle is an amazing venue and the largest meeting space we have. It is a resource that needs to be nurtured and developed if we are to keep it as a valuable community asset in years to come.

A small group comprising six people from St John the Baptist Church in Bishop's Castle and the local community are therefore in the first stages of developing a new project known as The Church Evolution Project. Its aim is to work with and consult local community groups and others to establish how the church building could be used and developed to better meet community needs both now and in the future.

A church meeting held last year agreed the go-head for the project and the Church Evolution Group has since consulted other churches that have completed similar successful projects, as well as outside agencies whose job it is to support community development. Once the group has acquired the necessary grant funding for the community consultation exercise, the project can begin in earnest in Spring/ Summer 2024.

Cottage hospital up date

Three successful recruitment days have been held so far with a fourth planned in February. Good progress has been made on the recruitment of qualified nurses. However there are still vacancies, partly dependent on staff recruitment for Ludlow hospital so that nurses relocated there on a temporary basis can be freed to move back to Bishop's Castle. The fact that Bishop's Castle is such a great place to live and work will help to attract the right people. There is however some way to go and we must still continue to apply all the pressure we can for a positive result.

Pump Track for Bishop's Castle

Bishop's Castle is to have a new Pump Track which it is hoped will open at end April or early May with an official ribbon cutting and demonstrations on vintage BMX bikes, stalls refreshments and music. The track is being built on the playing field next to the Skate Park. It will be similar to the one in the photograph.

The Pump Track will be a 100 metre circuit made of super smooth tarmac with lumps and bumps and corners. Basically, from an inclined ramp riders on BMX style bikes will go round the circuit under the track their own volition; it has just been made an Olympic sport.

The track will be open to everyone and can be used by skateboards, roller blades, old fashioned roller skates and mountain and ordinary bikes. In part of the country there are even roller blading club evenings for men and women. It is the basis for a growing number of sports.

The project is the brainchild of ex Councillor Steve Whittingham – Whitty from the Happy Bap – who worked with Johnny Groves of Shape and Scape a company which design Motorcross courses. Advice and support was also given by Clive Jones and by Tim Perks, who lives in BC, who was British BMX champion in the 1980s. Thanks go to them and to the Mayor and Town Council, the High Sherriff and other funders who helped find the £50,000 needed. The project was complicated as the playing field is currently reminiscent of the Somme with springs appearing everywhere – as elsewhere in BC . A special 'French drain' had to be built to ensure that the track does not get wet and icy.

Over the past year there have been reports and complaints by local residents and park users of anti social behaviour – intimidation of younger children by older children, un acceptable levels of noise, bad language and offensive graffiti – mainly emanating from the skate park shelter. The problem has been exacerbated by the shape of the shelter which seemed to amplify 'boom box' noise, especially in the evenings. Repeated requests have been made for shelter users to have respect for local residents - but to no avail. It has therefore been decided to take down and remove the shelter as soon as possible – and for the foreseeable future. It is believed the removal of the shelter will help solve the problem.

2024 Arts Festival

The first Arts Festival was held in 2011 and only one year has been missed, in 2021 because of Covid. The Festival started as a three day event but soon grew to five days as it was so successful and attracted so many people. .

This year's programme, as in previous years, includes exhibitions, workshops, music, film, dance, talks and an Artisan Market. These take place in a variety of locations throughout Bishop's Castle.

The Festival was started by the Bishop's Castle Tourism Group and is held in February to encourage a larger number of visitors to Bishop's Castle in what is historically a very quiet time of year.

The festival itself is run entirely by volunteers and a lot of events are free, so that it is as inclusive as possible. All events for children are free.

People come from far and wide and for five days the town is absolutely buzzing.

Thanks go to small committee under the leadership of Sue Willmer and a group of volunteers who are invaluable to the success of the festival.

We have over 60 different events spread over all available venues in town, including the Three Tuns and the Six Bells.



Event details on the website
www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

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

February 2024

3rd February Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

3rd February – Sentient Beings Quartet in concert
Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £12.00 per person
Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door

Until 6th February Exhibition by Rosemary Hart

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

9th February BLAST Storytelling – Cindylou – Seagulls and Sawdust

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

10th February to 12th March Exhibition by Jane Keay

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

13th February - Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks – Rivers & Clun Monitoring

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

14th to 18th February - **Bishop's Castle Arts Festival** 5 days of art, music, workshops, talks & more. Over 60 events
www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

24th February – **Pete Morton in concert**
Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £12.00 per person
Available on Ticket source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or at The Town Hall or on the door

March 2024

Until 12th March **Exhibition by Jane Keay**
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 March **Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.** 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

8th March **BLAST Storytelling – Sally Tonge – Empty Vessels Make The Most Noise**

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

12th March - **Going Wild in Bishops Castle, Winter Talks – Winchat Research on the Long Mynd**

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

16th March to 16th April **Art Exhibition by Lyn Evans**

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

16th March 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.

16th March – James Delarre & Saul Rose in 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

23rd March – John Kirkpatrick in concert

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

25th March to 4th April – Secondhand Book Sale

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.

ARTS FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

**** = Booking via the Town Hall or online <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH>***

Encaustic Art Workshops with Sarah Screen, at the Town Hall 10am, 10.45am, 11.30am & 12.15pm 3 people per workshop All materials supplied **£5 ***

Willow Weaving Workshop with Sophie Francis, at the Methodist Hall, Station Street.

10am – 5pm **£50 *** A special price for the Arts Festival. Sophie normally charges £75 for this all day workshop.

Fused Glass Workshop at Jill Bagnall's Studio, New Street 10.30am – 1.30pm **£70***

Corn Dollies Demonstration at the Town Hall, in the Market Hall10 – 12 & 2 -4 Drop-in

There will be an opportunity to have a go, for a **£3** donation.

Traditional Stained Glass Painting Workshops at the Old Vicarage, Church Street, 11am – 1pm & 3pm – 5pm Max 8 students per group. Age 14+ and adults. **£20***. Helen can be contacted on – oriel.glass@btinternet.com

Flight in the Snow by Ric Morris at the Church Barn 2pm **£3**

Jazz in the Jungle – Family Concert at the Three Tuns Inn 2.30pm. An afternoon of Jazz and Stories. **Admission free but please book your seats*** donations for the Arts Festival welcome at the event.

Butterfly Mask Workshop at the Town Hall. 2.30pm – 4.00pm Any Under 10's need to be accompanied with a willing helper. Admission **Free** – Donations to Festival Funds invited

Artist in Residence – a talk by Jane Keay at the Town Hall.

2.30pm. Admission **Free**

Jane, who has an exhibition of her artworks in the Town Hall Gallery, will be giving a talk about her art and her life.

“Textiles of the Van” A Traveller’s Life - a talk by Jim Gaffney, at the Town Hall. 5.00pm

Admission – **£3***

A Valentine’s Day Tea Dance - Hosted by Anything Goes at the Church Barn. 6pm

Music to Listen to, Tap your feet to, Sing along to and even dance to. Admission – **FREE** Refreshments on sale

THURSDAY 15TH

*** = Booking via the Town Hall or online <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH>**

3 Printing Workshops with Catherine Jones at the Town Hall
Gelli printing for young people. maximum 15 people plus any adult carers 10.00am to 11.45

Children Free but donations are very welcome – booking is essential
* just book in the child

Tetrapak printing 12.00pm to 1.45pm Maximum 15 adults. **£20** per person*

Lino Cut printing 2.00pm to 3.45pm. Maximum 8 adults **£30** per person*

'Fagin's Kitchen – realistic representation or anti-semitic

rant?’ a Talk by Andy Stelman at the Church Barn. Time 10.30am.

Cost £3

Stitch Sampler Workshops at the Poetry Pharmacy 10.30am – 12.30pm £8.

Tea/Coffee and Cake provided by the Poetry Pharmacy included in the cost

Piano Recital by Mike Plunkett. at the Methodist Hall' 12.30pm' Admission Free – Donations to Festival Funds invited

Weaving Workshops at Grange Road Community Centre, Drews Leasow 2pm – 3.30pm & 3.30pm to 5pm. This course is suitable for children aged between around 8 and 10 years. Admission Free but Booking is essential due to limited places.*

Bishop's Castle Arts Society – Open Meeting at the Methodist Hall 2pm – 4.30pm

Admission Free

Book Launch: What It Was by Tina Cole at the Poetry Pharmacy 2pm – 3.30pm **£3** Booking via <http://www.poetrypharmacy.co.uk>

“What That” a play by Bob Fowke at the Three Tuns, Top Room. 5pm Adults **£3 ***

Knitwits – Drop-in Knitting Group at the Six Bells, Church Street 6.15pm – 7.30pm Free

STRAY – a documentary at SpArC Theatre 7pm **£7 &**

£4.50 Booking via <http://www.sparctheatre.co.uk>

‘Trugs, Tiaras and Tea’ with Sue Harris Town Hall 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) **Adults £10***

Youngsters Workshop – Age 10 +

Create a landscape picture using watercolour paints and sometimes a surprise will appear.

Cost – Free to youngsters but you must book to secure one of the 10 places *

Beginners Workshop

Using watercolour paint, create a landscape with some surprising effects **£5 ***

Improvers Workshop Explore watercolour paint and do several exercises which give interesting effects, which you can then incorporate in your paintings. **£5 ***

Book Illustration – a talk by Jane Keay at the Poetry Pharmacy 11am – 12 noon. Free

Polymer Clay Workshop with Deb Shaw at the Poetry Pharmacy 2pm **£15** Max. of 10 people Over 16s only.*

Two Literary Masterpieces – a talk by Paul Binding at the Church Barn **2.00pm £3 ***

Scraptastic Workshop at SpArC 1pm – 3pm ALL Welcome! Under 9's must be accompanied by a willing helper! **Free – Donations to Festival Funds please**

Wonka at SpArC Time 5.30pm £7 & £4.50 **Booking is at** <http://www.sparctheatre.co.uk>

Pop-up Restaurant – Omikase Chef Katrina Collins of Shed38 Bank House, 4 High Street, 7pm & 7.30pm slots available **Cost – £40** (inc. £2 donation to BC Arts Festival) Booking essential – please email/ phone Gerry Barwell at Bank House – gerrybarwell@icloud.com/ 07712 010525

Balkan Ceilidh led by Rosa James at the Three Tuns 7.30pm Admission – £8

Montgomery Jazz Group in Concert at the Town Hall Time 7.30 for 8pm start
Admission – £10

SATURDAY 17th

*** Booking via the Town Hall or online** <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH>

Sign Writing Demonstration at the Weighbridge Railway Museum, Station Street
10am to 4pm Hot drinks and Homemade Cakes available. **Free, Donations welcome**

Children's Crafting 10am – 1pm at the Library, Enterprise House, Station Street

Admission Free – Donations to Festival Funds invited

Artisan Market at the Town Hall – on both floors. Time 10am – 4pm
Local artists and crafts people selling their wares, from Art to Jewellery & Ceramics to Silk.

Admission Free – Donations to Festival Funds invited

Castle Artists Spring Exhibition 10am – 5pm. Venue TBC.

See <http://www.castleartists.co.uk/> **Free – Donations to Festival Funds.**

An Exhibition by Robert Fowke Studio Room at the Barn, rear of 23 High Street but accessible by lane from Union St. 10am to 4pm **Free – Donations to Festival Funds**

Artists' Open Studio Time : 10am – 4pm

Sarah Gillard, Painter – Yarborough House, High Street.
Jenny Jones, Painter – The Porch House, High Street,

Julia Bath, Painter – The Old Bakery, Church Street.

Helen Robinson, Stained Glass Studio – The Old Vicarage, Church Lane.

Jill Bagnall, Fused Glass – Opposite Kirsty's, New Street.

Marian Watson – Handmade silver & gold jewellery, and Paintings – Chapel View, Station St

Di & Andrew Douce, Painters – The Old Manse, Station St.

Anne Stephens, Jewellery & Crafts – The Garden House, Laburnum Alley, Union Street.

Tim Phillips & Kate Evans, Painter & Ceramicist – St. Cleopas, The Cabin, Bishops Castle, SY9 5JG [10 minutes walk uphill via Welsh Street. Good parking, good tea.] **Free**

Catch the Poetry Bug! Children's poetry workshop with Debra Bertulis at the Poetry Pharmacy. 10.30am to 12pm FREE - Booking via <http://www.poetrypharmacy.co.uk>

Singing Workshop with Rapsquillion at the Methodist Hall 10.30am – 12.30pm

Free – Donations to Festival Funds invited

B.C. Orchestra at SpArC Theatre 1.15pm – 2.30pm **FREE – Donations to Festival Funds**

Pottery Workshop with Jonathan at the Methodist Hall 2pm. 10 places for youngsters aged 10 – 14 **FREE – but booking is essential ***

Art Therapy Workshop – with Artist Gemma Moore at The Grange Road Community Centre, 2pm – 4pm Join Gemma in a fun art workshop for those living with dementia and their carers.

.Refreshments included! **£5.00 per couple - include all resources.***

“Framing Your Picture” a talk by Bamber the Framer at the Church Barn **2.00pm £3 *** **Rapsquillion & Friends – concert** at the Town Hall **7.30pm (Doors open 7pm) £10 ***

SUNDAY 18th _

*** = Booking via the Town Hall or online <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH>**

Great BC Bake Off at Bank House, High Street **11am – 1pm to drop off entries** **3pm – Results & Tea Party** Judges: Vicky Riley and Gerry Barwell. **No fee for entering your bakes** (for details on how to enter see website under **Throughout**)

Castle Artists Spring Exhibition 10am – 5pm Venue TBC.

Around 15 local artists come together to show 'Affordable Art', which can include paintings, linocuts, watercolours, sculpture, photographs, textiles, jewellery, ceramics and cards. See <http://www.castleartists.co.uk> for information. **Free**

An Exhibition by Robert Fowke Studio Room at the Barn, rear of 23 High Street but accessible by lane from Union St. 10am to 4pm **Free – Donations to Festival Funds**

Bob was a successful, internationally recognised science fiction/fantasy artist in the 1970s.

Artists' Open Studios - Time : 10am – 4pm

Sarah Gillard, Painter – Yarborough House, High Street.

Jenny Jones, Painter – The Porch House, High Street.

Julia Bath, Painter – The Old Bakery, Church Street.

Helen Robinson, Stained Glass Studio – The Old Vicarage, Church Lane.

Jill Bagnall, Fused Glass – Opposite Kirsty's, New Street.

Marian Watson – Handmade silver & gold jewellery, and Paintings – Chapel View, Station St

Di & Andrew Douce, Painters – The Old Manse, Station S.

Anne Stephens, Jewellery & Crafts – The Garden House, Laburnum Alley, Union Street,

Tim Phillips & Kate Evans, Painter & Ceramicist – St. Cleopas, The Cabin, Bishops Castle, SY9 5JG [10 minutes walk uphill via Welsh Street. Good parking, good tea.] **Free**

Needle Felting Workshop Clare Linford the Town Hall 10am – 12 noon & 2pm – 4pm

Clare will help you make a cat. All materials are supplied. **£7 Limited to 10 people. ***

Sterling Silver Ring Workshop with Kathy Taylor of Katie Flutie Jewellery Town Hall

10am – 12 noon Workshop size – 8 £15 * Includes all materials, polishing and return to B. C. Town Hall within a week.

A Path Across the Page workshop with Rhiannon Hooson at the Poetry Pharmacy

11am to 1pm Cost – £30 Booking via <http://www.poetrypharmacy.co.uk>

Morris Dancing Workshop at The Three Tuns Inn 12 noon – 2pm
Have a go or just watch **Admission Free – Donations to Festival Funds invited.**

Family Storytelling with Suzanne Tumnus at the Town Hall Time – 2pm

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free but please book to secure a place *

Drawing Workshop (Beginners) with Alice Savery at the Poetry Pharmacy 2pm – 4pm

Cost – £40 * Limited to 10 people (Poetry Pharmacy will provide tea/coffee and cake. This is included in the cost of the workshop)

Indian Block Printing Workshop, Methodist Hall 2pm - 4pm £20

Limited to 10 people*

Butterflies, Birds and Beyond by Andrew Fusek Peters at the Church Barn 2pm £3 *

A Play by Bob Fowke at the Three Tuns, Top Room 4.30pm

Adults £3*

The Unit Ama plus support – concert at the Church Barn. Doors open 5.30pm for 6pm start. **Details on the website ***

THROUGHOUT

FESTIVAL HQ. The Town Hall. 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Sunday

MINIATURE ART MACHINE. at the Town Hall. From 9th February 10am to 4pm

As part of this year's festival we are creating a miniature art machine, selling tiny pieces of art for £1 to purchase original pieces of art, donated by local artists.

GREAT B.C. BAKE OFF Registration – Wednesday to Saturday

Register your interest in taking part in the Bake Off at the Town Hall or by emailing the judges at gerrybarwell@icloud.com - details on the website

LET'S GO ON A HUNT

There will be a special trail for the youngsters with a variety of Cats hiding in some of the shop windows. A trail sheet can be collected from the Town Hall, from Wednesday 14th February. See how many you can find and write their names on the trail sheet.

'RISK A VERSE' at Bank House. Limerick competition and art installation.

Theme: Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson.

A FLUTTER OF BUTTERFLIES.at The Town Hall from Wed 14th until Fri 16th. 10am to 4pm

29 species of British butterflies displayed on an arch, with an ID quiz.

ART EXHIBITION The Homeless Mind by Helen A Pritchard.

at **City Racing Gallery** (the Old Methodist Church) Station Road Wed – Fri 11am to 5pm, Sat 10 – 12/4 – 7 Sun 10 – 1

ART EXHIBITION by Bishop's Castle Art Society, at The Poppy House – 20 Market Square 10am to 4pm

ART EXHIBITION by Mike Olivant at Gallery Eighteen – 18 Market Square 10am to 4pm

EXHIBITION by Marches Book Arts Group in The Poetry Pharmacy's window

ART EXHIBITION by Jane Keay at The Town Hall 10am – 4pm

ART EXHIBITION at The Six Bells [More details on the website](#)

ART EXHIBITION by Tahira Paul at The Chai Shop on the High Street

ART EXHIBITION by Catherine Jones at The SpArC Gallery.

YOUTH MAKES MUSIC

Join us at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms for an evening of wonderful music provided by the following schools and colleges:



Enjoy songs from the 50's through to the present day with music from shows, rock & roll, classical and a whole lot more!!!

Date - **1 March 2024**

Place - **Ludlow Assembly Rooms**

Doors open - **6.15pm**

Performances start - **7.00pm**

Cost - **£10** per adult, **£5** per child (under 16)

Scan here to book tickets securely



All monies raised will go to Rotary's '**End Polio Now**' initiative to rid the world of polio. Full details can be found at www.endpolio.org

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YOUTH MAKES MUSIC – TO HELP END POLIO

Pupils from local schools will shortly have their chance to support the world-wide effort to eradicate polio by performing in a special concert being arranged by Ludlow Rotary Club.

'Youth Makes Music' is the name of a concert to be held at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms on 1 March beginning at 7pm.

The concert will be given by pupils from a number of local schools in South Shropshire and North Herefordshire comprising Ludlow Primary School, Weobley High School, Clee Hill Community Academy, Earl Mortimer College, Bishop's Castle Community College and Lacon Childe School. It will feature songs from the 50's through to the present day, music from the shows, rock and roll, classical and a whole lot more.

Speaking about the concert, organiser Tom Hunt of Ludlow Rotary Club said "It is wonderful that these young people have been inspired to help end polio by performing this concert, for until polio is totally eradicated every child is at risk of this highly infectious, potentially life-threatening and paralysing disease."

He added "There is no cure for polio but there is a safe and effective vaccine which we need to continue to roll out until there are no more cases. Rotary is in the vanguard of efforts to bring polio to an end. Since its involvement the number of cases world-wide has reduced from 350,000 in 1985 to just 12 in 2023, and the world could be polio free in 2024. When the world is finally confirmed to be polio free, it will be just the second human disease ever to be eradicated after smallpox."



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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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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!

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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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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

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Councillor Stuart Morris

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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:

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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 MARCH 2024 to the Town Clerk and the Assistant Clerk..



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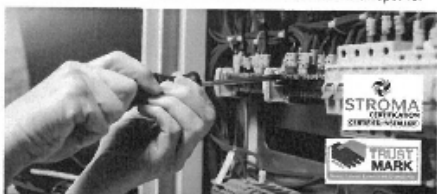


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BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY HEAT & WIND NETWORK

The project had its 2½ minutes of fame on Channel 4's 'The Great Climate Fight' in October – but if you blinked you'd have missed it! Some people got the impression from the programme that the project had hit a brick wall, which is far from the truth; we're looking forward to significant progress over the next 12 months. Apologies to all those towns people who gave their time to talk to the film crew – both in favour and against the project – but whose views weren't included.

Now that the Town Council have approved the project's inclusion in the *Place Plan*, some funded work has begun on delivering the studies needed for the full Planning Application. Further funding will be needed to complete this tranche of work, and a bid for £100k for this purpose has been submitted to the Department of Energy's *Community Energy Fund*.

The work to be undertaken includes a Detailed Design & Plan for the Network infrastructure, an Ecology and a Noise study for the Wind Turbine and a Finance and Business Model. In addition we will be seeking expressions of interest from house- holders and businesses for connection to the network, and there will, of course, be further public meetings.

Contract discussions are in hand with the landowners, Beamond & Partners, with regard to the Conery site for the Wind Turbine.

The latest information can be found on Light Foot's website [BC Heat Network - Lightfoot Enterprises](#) and if you want to help out, or have any queries, please e-mail us at climate-action@lightfootenterprises.org.uk

The House on Crutches Museum will open on March 29th

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. A small group of volunteers have been preparing the museum for re-opening at Easter. 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.

Local Primary School pupils were involved in creating pictures to illustrate the theme of Droving. Families welcome at the Museum over the opening weekend—have a go at an intriguing Easter Egg Hunt!



“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 Friday March 29th from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm and every Saturday and Sunday afternoon thereafter until end September. Also open Bank Holiday Mondays and some other days. See website for details: www.hocmuseum.org.uk

Bishop's Castle Michaelmas Fair - 21st 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 29th, 7.30pm at The Six Bells, alternatively send us an email at info@michaelmasfair.co.uk