



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



OCTOBER 2024
To
NOVEMBER 2024



Issue No. 95



Hello, and welcome to this summer addition of the Towns



The Mayor Josh Dickin

As I sit here writing this article, I look of the window and Autumn has well and truly arrived. Another busy summer has come to an end. The months seem to just fly by. But at least the long promised resurfacing has finally happened. There are still some works to do, but I think we can all agree, that it's now a dream to drive on!

I probably, sound like the same record going over and over again but what makes this town great is its 'people'!.... So many of you are proactive in making this town a success, whether you are a business owner, volunteer or a resident who supports the community with what it does best.

The Michaelmas Fair was, once again, a great event for all. The small committee worked tirelessly to make sure that the Fair keeps on going. It brings a much needed boost for tourism and the local economy for the area, which they very much rely on in the quieter months coming up. I was saddened to learn that the committee and its volunteers received rudeness towards them during the build-up and on the day. If it wasn't for them, the Michaelmas Fair would not happen, so please do keep that in mind.

Our French visitors were once again in town for the weekend. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and complimented the townsfolk for being so welcoming towards them. Long live our relationship with St Marcel. Big plans for 2025 are in the pipeline. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

As we all know, the rumour mill in the Castle is always very busy. But one rumour that we thought was probably a scam, turns out very much not to be! Some will have seen the posts on Facebook; some will have heard it in the shop or pub.

Australian semi pro football team, Sunshine Coast Fire FC, has taken on the lease agreement for The Grange, as we all know it, on Kerry Lane. YES IT IS TRUE! I have recently met with officials in weeks just gone. They have big plans for the Grange site, which will be the base for their overseas football academy teams. They will be looking to employ local people for various jobs before they move in, to employ other staff when the teams are here, use local facilities and build relationships with local organisations. So keep in touch with the latest goings-on. This will provide a real boost for our town and it is great to see that The Grange will be used to its full potential once more.

On to Council business. Times are pretty bleak for Shropshire Council, as we will all know. Conversations are continuing as to how Town and Parish Councils could help, but nothing is very clear nor set in stone. I as Mayor, feel that we don't get what we already pay for, something that bugs me immensely. Rural areas suffer very much from rural poverty but the current Shrewsbury- 'centric' Shropshire Council really, at the moment, does not seem to care nor want to address the issues that we face around here. Again, it's down to the power of the people of our community who have fought and are still fighting for our valuable services, whether they be our Leisure Centre, schools, hospital and library.... to name just a few. Be assured that I will fight for what is best for our community, along with our excellent Unitary Councillor Ruth Houghton and also with the other market town Mayors of South Shropshire. We will stand united in face of adversity. I will not however beat around the bush, that we as Town Council may have to take decisions that are not popular. I really hope it doesn't come to this and Shropshire Council can sort themselves out.

In the coming months, I will be hosting meetings at the Town Hall regarding certain subjects of "worry" in the town. What can come

out of these meetings, I hope, is a more unified approach to how we include the community in our day to day business. I am very much of the opinion that we need to get back to basics. The good old days may well be gone but we can only look to the future with how some things were done in the past.

The certain areas of concern will be -

Encouraging footfall for our shops and businesses. While congratulating The Poetry Pharmacy on the establishment of its new 'Lab', and welcoming Doll me Up and Georgia's Snailhouse Stitching to their new premises in the High Street', do we need a reformed Chamber of Trade? How do we make the town more user friendly? Do we need more or better street furniture?

Playing Fields issues - the formation of a Friends of the Playing Fields Committee, some 20 years after the last committee met, will stimulate the work that really needs to be done to make the Playing Fields a more welcoming place for residents and families.

On a personal note, I have decided that to help regulate my time better with regard to Council business, so it doesn't get in the way of my personal and working life as much as it has been.

I am now located in the Town Hall Council Chamber every Monday 1-5pm, to deal with Council work, and so people can come and see me during this time or give me a call during those hours. Out of these hours, I wont always be available. Since I started doing it at the start of September, I have found this new approach to be very helpful and I feel much more on top of things.

Best wishes and keep dry!

Josh

Key Dates

Bonfire Night Event On The Playing Fields Tuesday 5th November

Remembrance Sunday 10th November

SpArC Christmas Bingo Friday 29th November – doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm

Christmas Lights and Craft Fair Saturday 7th December

Newsletter

For those who are not in the delivery area of the newsletter, the Bishop's Castle Newsletter is available on the BC Council website www.bishopscastletowncastle.gov.uk.

Bishop's Castle Surgery

Personnel changes

There are a number of changes taking place at the surgery in the coming months. Many patients have been affected by the suspension of the phlebotomy service over the summer. They will be relieved to hear that a new member of staff has now been recruited, Sophia Right, a health care assistant. Among Sophia's duties will be phlebotomy so that bloods will continue to be taken at the Practice.

Due to personal circumstances both Dr Marwan Al-Nasiri and Dr Tom Davies will be leaving the Practice over the next few months. Both doctors are very popular with patients and staff and will be greatly missed. We wish them well for the future.

We welcome the news that the Practice will shortly have two new partners. Dr Caron Morton will join as a partner in the autumn. She is a very experienced GP who has worked at Bishop's Castle Medical Practice previously and is looking forward to returning. Dr Mor-

ton is also a partner at Station Drive Surgery in Ludlow and brings a wealth of management experience alongside her clinical skills. In the New Year Dr. David Mitchell, also from Station Drive Surgery, will be joining the Practice. Drs Morton and Mitchell will be managing partners in the Practice and will provide some clinical sessions. Dr. Morton and Dr. Mitchell will remain partners at Station Drive Surgery, and this will allow staff from both practices to work with and learn from each other. The two surgeries will work more closely in the future while maintaining their own identities, teams, patient groups and premises.

Bishop's Castle Community Hospital will also benefit from our new doctors' involvement as they bring a wealth of experience from their work in Ludlow Community Hospital. We believe that the coming together of the two surgeries will provide our patients with greater stability and choice alongside some exciting future improvements.

Vaccination update

The Surgery is currently contacting patients who are eligible for vaccination against RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) a cold-like virus that can be dangerous for babies and older adults. You can find out more about the virus using this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv/>

Covid and flu vaccinations will begin in October at the Surgery. There will be a Saturday vaccination clinic on 12th October.

GP Collective Action

GPs are in dispute with the NHS over changes to their contract. This is not a strike but can involve GPs choosing a number of ways in which to bring pressure on the NHS. We have been assured that no action will be taken at Bishop's Castle Surgery that will affect patients. Rather, it will relate to data collection and form filling.

Bishop's Castle Patients Group

BCpatientsgroup@gmail.com

UP & RUNNING – hospital update

As readers will know, the inpatient part of our hospital took in its first patients on 15th July this year, having opened for staff training a fortnight before that.

It is now fully staffed and all sixteen beds were occupied within a week of the opening date! As you can imagine, this meant a huge amount of work for Amanda and her staff team, all accomplished with the utmost professionalism and good humour.

The “horticultural wing” of the campaign group has bought and installed two half barrel planters and a watering rota has been established. We hope that is just the start of making the outside environment both calming and beautiful for patients to enjoy.

Many in the group also want to be involved in helping patients complete the obligatory “patient experience” questionnaire. This cannot be done by staff members, so the group would be ideally placed to undertake that for the Community Health Trust. We also want to volunteer to do some tea trolley duties. We are just waiting for the go-ahead from the Trust about both these activities, and the police checks that we will need before starting.

One last thing. The staff have said they would really like some audio book CDs, so if anybody has any that you have finished with, they can be put to really good use at our hospital.

Andy Stelman On behalf of the Save Our Beds group

Our Town Council is committed to Biodiversity in Bishop's Castle

Do you know what the term 'biodiversity' really means? I was unsure until recently!

Here is my attempt at an explanation.

Biodiversity is short for biological diversity, which is the variety of all

living things; us, our animals, plants and even microorganisms and the ways they interact and affect each other.

All living things work together as communities in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life on Earth.

In this article I will try to regularly identify an action that we can all do to support biodiversity.

Many man-made products used in our gardens and on our fields and crops are harmful.

The Town Council is supporting moves to ban the use of chemically based herbicides and pesticides. These products are harmful to us, our children, our pets and wildlife.

There are, however, alternatives that can be used, such as:

- Diluted acetic acid or baking soda mixes as a herbicide
- Combinations of natural herbs and products can be effective pesticides

In the words of the much missed Dr. Michael Mosely by doing “just one thing” we can help the Town Council and other agencies that are working to support biodiversity.

I aim to provide a regular update on the Town’s progress on this issue and give you ideas and suggestions on actions we can all do simply and effectively at a low cost.

If you have suggestions or need advice, please write to me at the Town Council.

Cllr Leon Kosciuczyk



The Swimming Pool – more challenges.

Over £190,000 has now been raised towards the £250,000 target. This is a truly sensational achievement. This figure includes over £6,000 raised at the 'fan zone' to the success of Olympian Oliver Morgan who learnt to swim in the pool.

MICHAELMAS FAIR was wonderfully successful, not least for the SpArC Pool campaign. Our café in Bank House gained an amazing £720, with repeated praise for the quality of the cakes. The Morris Dancers generously donated their collection - £174 – to us. Huge thanks to them, our cake makers and our volunteers on the day.



However there is a new challenge. One area of the lining is now so badly worn that its rough edges could injure people. This area has been cordoned off, reducing lane swimming but allowing classes to remain unchanged.

The survival of the pool for this year was integral to the basic plan that had been put in place. It would have allowed the pool to be fully used this year with a properly planned 'renewal next year.



The options are whether: a) to undertake repairs, which could cost several thousand pounds or; b) to try to bring the replacement date forward where the financial shortfall of £50,000 is obviously a problem.

Shropshire Community Leisure Trust, which manages SpArC, and Shropshire Council are discussing the cost of potential repairs and whether the Council will pay to repair the pool temporarily, or whether an approach can

be agreed to bring forward installation of a replacement lining.

The lead time for the major works is three months, which means that if we can bring the work forward, users would have to put up with the partial closure for that time. However

if a solution to the funding shortfall can be found this seems more sensible than paying several thousands of pounds for short-term repairs.



STOP PRESS!

The following email has just been received from Rhys Collins, the Partnership Manager of SCLT which is now contracted by Shropshire Council to manage SpArC:

Following a week of work by our technical team we are delighted to announce that we are in a position to reopen the pool to full capacity from tomorrow morning.

Whilst of course this is again a temporary repair we will monitor closely to ensure the safety of our swimmers is paramount.

I would like to extend thanks to Darren and his team who have made this happen I am sure we all, especially the swimmers among us, echo Rhys's thanks.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been an increasing number of complaints to the Council about Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Bishop's Castle. The issue is that unless these issues are properly

'logged' by the police they cannot act – and they have to be contacted by the individual concerned not a third party. The more individual complaints received, the more likely it is that the Police will be able to put in the necessary resources to deal with it as everything is prioritised on the basis of the amount of data held. We know there is an issue. Please therefore report anything you are concerned about.

Hello everyone, I am Damien Kelly your local Policing Inspector for South Shropshire. I have been made aware from the Town Council that there are some complaints of ASB in the Bishop's Castle town park. What is not clear statistically on Police systems is when, where, who or what this is. This is due to a lack of reporting formally to the Police. According to our data, there is no ASB 'issue' in the Town Park and I must balance my resources appropriately with the demand that we know of across the parishes of South Shropshire. Therefore my plea to members of the public experiencing ASB in the town park is to report it to us on-line at www.westmercia.police.uk or by telephone on 101 so that your incident can be appropriately recorded, risk assessed and resourced if necessary.

ASB is defined within the ASB Crime and Policing Act, 2014 as:

1. Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person,
2. Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or,
3. Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

It must be remembered however that there is a level of acceptability for certain areas at certain times (such as public houses when licensing hours conclude or play parks when children are likely to play).

The Local Authority is the lead agency for noise and Police will assist where criminality/violence is involved (or is likely to be involved) or

where a joined-up approach to tackle a persistent problem is needed. Not all ASB is criminal and Police, the Local Authority other services must balance everyone's freedom of enjoyment where criminality does not exist.

Your local policing team P.C. Stuart Coote, P.C.S.O Shaun Cullis and P.C.S.O. Calvin Brown are working with Shropshire County Council to come up with ideas to tackle ASB generally across the area. However without the key detail of what is happening on the Bishop's Castle Town Park, they are limited to just continuing their business-as-usual foot patrols.

My officers do frequently patrol the Town Park and engage with children when they are present, so please be reassured that we remain visible and approachable.

Damien

Inspector 2382 Damien Kelly

Church Clock Face

In the last issue it was also mentioned that The Bishop's Castle church tower clock dial was to be restored, work having last been carried out 25 years ago by local artists. This project has to gain various Church approvals which will take some time.

Although a grant has been obtained, your help is still needed to raise the funds to complete this work. You can do this using the link below, where you can donate any amount you wish and if you're a taxpayer to can opt-in for Gift Aid:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/churchclockdial2024>

The clock dial restoration will be part of other events aimed at getting the Church clock back into full operation (e.g. the overhaul of the clock mechanism, re-programming of the automatic winding

mechanism and improving the clock room flooring).

Resurfacing, road marking and the Neighbourhood Road Plan

Although there was a hiccup when an old Victorian conduit was unexpectedly found, the resurfacing work was satisfactorily completed in time for the Michaelmas Fair. It has made a dramatic improvement to the High street and Market Place.

The next steps are to put back road markings for disabled spaces and for access and to enable emergency vehicles to get through and to make adjustments at the Boar's Head Junction. Disabled parking – spaces will be located outside the pharmacy (2), auction yard (2), Market Place (1), Harley Jenkins car park (1). The space by the Town Hall is too steep to be usable.

It was recently announced that under the Neighbourhood Road Plan that a 20 MPH speed limit would be introduced near to the schools. The Council is still pressing for 'Access Only' signs to be introduced to keep heavy traffic and through traffic out of the conservation area.

Green Bins and Craven Arms Recycling Centre

As reported in the last issue, from 1 October 2024 we all need to subscribe to Shropshire Council's garden waste collection service if we want the Council to continue emptying our green garden bins. Some issues have been reported in trying to access the website – see below – but it is hoped that this has been resolved.

The annual subscription fee is £56 and will cover the period for 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025. A payment window will be open from September 2024 until 31 March 2025. The charge will remain at £56 regardless of when we sign up.

Once we have signed up and paid, the Council will empty our garden waste on our scheduled collection day. However, if this is after the 1 October 2024 the later you leave it to subscribe the higher the chance that your collection day will change. If you don't subscribe, they won't empty your garden bin after 1 October 2024.

From this date food waste collections will be suspended and food

waste should be put in out black bins until a weekly collection service is introduced in 2026.

More information about the garden waste subscription service can be found on the Shropshire Council website - [shropshire.gov.uk/garden waste](http://shropshire.gov.uk/garden-waste).

More information about the new arrangements for the Craven Arms recycling centre will also be on the above website.

Council Budgets

As is widely known, all Councils are under financial pressure to cut costs. Shropshire County Council, which is responsible for roads/ highways and most of the Town's services, is no exception. To a degree, Enterprise House and SpArC are ring-fenced. However, there is talk that many libraries across the County are under threat to change their current opening hours or to close. The Unitary Councillor and the Town Council are working hard with Enterprise House to protect our library services and fighting to ensure that the impact on Bishop's Castle is as minimal as possible.

Old Market Square

Many of you may have noticed that the cobbles in the Old Market Square have been re-laid. The area has been generally tidied and new benches have been installed. Work continues to make the Square a more attractive place for residents and visitors to relax and enjoy. There is quite a lot more to do especially with regard to upgrading signage and the provision of information about the Town and its history. Thanks are due to a small team, mainly who live around the Square, for their hard work - particularly those who maintain the stunning flower planters and keep the weeds down.

The Mayor

The Mayor plans to be in the Town Hall from 1pm – 4.30 every Monday if town residents have any questions.

An Heroic Rescue.

It's not often that you find a Mayor 30 feet up a tree in your garden.

Having taken flight from Ivy, the Border Collie, Bongo the Ginger Tom found himself marooned overnight in a high basket of branches in the most inaccessible tree at the end of the Black Lion House Garden – well beyond the reach of owners' ladder and defying all attempts to bring him down.

One call for advice to the Mayor saw him hurtling round himself, and straight up the tree where he grabbed the said cat. On the descent, however, said cat bit said Mayor and was promptly dropped, resulting in the said Mayor darting off to the Surgery for an anti-tetanus jab. We are pleased to report that both survived the experience.

Many thanks to our valiant Mayor, Josh, for services well beyond the call of duty!

Free Help to Get Online for Shropshire Residents

Do you feel a little lost using technology? Need help using the internet? Do you feel nervous about using a computer or frustrated about being left behind as everything seems to be online these days?

Getting to grips with the internet means you can keep in touch with friends and family, get up-to-date information and see the latest news, have shopping delivered to your door and better manage your health and finances.

Shropshire Council is supporting residents to learn to use technology safely through The Digital Skills Programme at Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle. The service has 25 digital hubs across the area for people who need help to use their laptops, mobile phones or tablets. Learning slowly, taking small steps and having the time to practice are keys to success.

The programme is delivered by experienced, friendly digital volunteers based within Shropshire Libraries and local community organisations. Free data and devices are available for those in greatest need.

For more information visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/computer-skills-for-all email Susie.Hancock@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743

The deteriorating condition of the River Clun and its tributaries by Tom Wall

The Environment Agency routinely monitors the condition of rivers, including the Clun, and every three years makes an assessment of their chemical and ecological status. For this purpose, the Clun and its principal tributaries are divided into eight river reaches, as shown in the table; the principal tributaries are the Folly Brook, Unk, Kemp and Redlake. The Environment Agency also assesses the Snakescroft Brook, a tributary of the Kemp; this is because the Brook takes the outfall from Bishop's Castle's Sewage Treatment Works.

The chemical status of each reach is assessed as either Good or Failing, and in common with all rivers in England, all reaches within the Clun catchment are now found to be Failing. What does this mean? And why is it the case?

The Environment Agency also assesses the ecological status of the river and its tributaries using various water, habitat and biological quality tests. It then attributes each reach to one of five categories: High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad.

In 2013, all but one of the reaches then assessed were considered Good, now all but one are no better than Moderate (Mod in the table [overleaf](#)). These assessments are shown below; they are made according to the Water Framework Directive - Ecological Classification.

What needs to be done to return the River Clun and its tributaries to their former Good ecological status and to improve their chemical status? What can each of us do to help in this endeavour? This article has been sent to the Environment Agency. It is hoped that they will let us know.

Ecological status of the River Clun and its principal tributaries

	2010	2013	2016	2019	2022
River Clun: Source to con-	GOOD	GOOD	Mod	Mod	Mod
Folly Brook	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	Mod
River Clun: Confluence Folly Brook to confluence	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
River Unk	GOOD	Mod	Mod	GOOD	Mod
River Clun: Confluence River Unk to confluence River Teme	GOOD	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod
Snakescroft Brook	No	GOOD	Poor	Mod	Mod
River Kemp	GOOD	Poor	Poor	Mod	Mod
River Redlake	Mod	GOOD	Mod	Mod	Mod



Just like the swifts flying back to Africa for their annual migration, The 'Going Wild in Bishop's Castle' project' is beginning to take flight.

We are spreading our wings into new avenues with our presence at several local events like 'Party in the Park' and the 'Ollie Morgan Fan Event'. People cannot turn their

eyes away from our 'Big Green' on display at our stall, showcasing a map of Bishop's Castle, decorated with colourful stickers to highlight the potential local residents have to turn their gardens into a flourishing wildlife haven. Our assortment of 'wild collectibles' - which includes relics of wild animal remains from skulls and pelts to droppings and chewed up nuts - is popular with the little ones, feeding their growing curiosity.

We encourage these children to come along to our 'Going Wild Kid's club', where they get to explore and have fun in the rambling wild country, learn to



identify different plants and animals, and begin to fascinate themselves with and respect nature, securing a future for the environment by fuelling their passion, excitement and care for it.

Of course we cannot leave the grown-ups out of the fun, because they are able to get involved with our wildlife and conservation work. So far, activities have included cutting and raking the grass and flowers at St John's Churchyard, ready

for a heavenly wildflower meadow next year where our loved ones can rest; maintaining our road verges, helping to create a vibrant habitat corridor for wildlife and allowing our two worlds to merge together harmoniously.

Finally, everyone can get involved in our regular (now monthly) Moth Mornings, where we all enjoy some tea and biscuits, and familiarise ourselves with the world of moths by identifying the many species we caught in the moth traps the night before (at a different location every time) and realise just how unique and important these little creatures are!

But we are only just getting started, we still have a long way to go with improving local green spaces

in

Bishop's Castle. We need to collaborate with local volunteers and ecologists to make habitat management plans and enact them, as well as species lists to prove it's all working. Upcoming events include an 'Apple Pressing Kid's Club' fundraiser on the 6th October, and you can expect our winter talks the



first Tuesday of every month from October - March at Bishop's Castle Town Hall, the first one will be given by Dan and will be about the project itself. We'll be hosting a lot more winter events too, so keep an eye out!

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Distributed in Bishop's Castle and Surrounding Areas

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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

Visit: 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, and 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

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.

For more information, phone Enterprise House 01588 638 038, or email: tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk , or visit:

www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/tradedirectory



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Bishop's Castle Town Hall Council Chambers



**I will be available to address council matters and enquiries.
Feel free to drop by, call, or email me during my office hours.
Any questions or concerns received outside of these hours will
be dealt with promptly within the specified timeframe.**

 **josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk**

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Alistair Auld - Conductor

7.30 pm, Saturday 23rd November

St John's Church, Bishops Castle

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394 and from TicketSource

Children and Students FREE



www.marcheschoir.org.uk





Listings for OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2024

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

OCTOBER 2024

1st October - Going Wild Project

a talk by Daniel Hodgkiss, Going Wild Project Coordinator. Entry by donation

Until 8th October Exhibition by Jenny Jones & Flo Patern

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

5th October Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

7th October From words to song - a conversation between composer Jonty Lefroy Watt and poet Zadie Loft

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start Tickets £5.00 per person available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door.

14th October to 12th November Exhibition by Sarah Gillard

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

17th October Artist Sarah Gillard talks about her work - 'My Journey in Colour – From Liberty Colourways to Greek Seascapes.

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start Admission FREE but please book available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or from the Town Hall.

18th October BLAST Storytelling – Daniel Morden – A Figure of Speech

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 from the Town Hall or on the door.

19th October Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm 3rd Saturday of each month. Stalls include Bishop's Castle Seed Bank, Meat, Cakes & Pastries, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, Hand Dyed Wool, Soaps and Body Creams. All produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

21st to 31st October Book Sale + DVDs & CDs

Hardbacks £2, Paperbacks £1, CDs & DVDs 4 for £1 Free entry except Monday 21st, £5 between 9am and 10am.

NOVEMBER 2024

Until the 12th November Exhibition by Sarah Gillard

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 November Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm. Recycling at its best 1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

5th November - Going Wild – Arable to Heathland Recovery a talk by James Lawrence from National Trust. Entry by donation.

6th November - Maddie Morris in concert - Tradfolk

Feminist, Determinedly Queer, and makes the personal entirely, importantly, political.

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £12.00 per person available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door

8th November BLAST Storytelling – Jason Buck & Amy Douglas – Raucous Norse

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 from the Town Hall or on the door

16th November to 21st December - Exhibition by Castle Artists

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

Stalls include Bishop's Castle Seed Bank, Meat, Cakes & Pastries, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, Hand Dyed Wool, Soaps and Body Creams. All produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

30th November - Craft Fair

Two floors of locally made arts and crafts. Lift available. Free entry.

Bishop's Castle Surgery Patients Group News

Autumn 2024

Personnel changes

There are a number of changes taking place at the surgery in the coming months. Many patients were affected by the suspension of the phlebotomy service, and will be relieved to hear that a new member of staff has now been recruited. Sophia Right, a health care assistant. Sophia's duties include phlebotomy so that bloods will continue to be taken at the Practice.

Due to personal circumstances, both Dr Marwan Al-Nasiri and Dr Tom Davies will leave the Practice over the next few months. Both are very popular with patients and staff and will be greatly missed. We wish them well.

The Practice will shortly have two new partners. Dr Caron Morton joins as a partner in the autumn. She is a very experienced GP who has worked at Bishop's Castle Medical Practice before, and is looking forward to returning. Dr Morton is a partner at Station Drive Surgery in Ludlow and brings a wealth of management experience alongside her clinical skills. In the New Year Dr David Mitchell, also from Station Drive Surgery, will be joining the Practice. Drs Morton and Mitchell will be managing partners in the Practice and will provide some clinical sessions. Dr Morton and Dr Mitchell will remain partners at Station Drive Surgery, allowing staff from both practices to work with and learn from each other. The two surgeries will work closely in the future while maintaining their own identities, teams, patient groups and premises. Bishop's Castle Community Hospital will benefit from our new doctors' involvement as they bring experience from their work in Ludlow Community Hospital. The coming together of the two surgeries will provide patients with greater stability, choice and some exciting future improvements.

Vaccination update

The surgery is currently contacting patients who are eligible for vaccination against RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) a cold-like virus that can be dangerous for babies and older adults. You can find out more about the virus using this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv/>

Covid and flu vaccinations begin in October at the surgery. There will be a Saturday vaccination clinic on 12th October.

GP Collective Action

GPs are in dispute with the NHS over contract changes. This is not a strike but can involve GPs choosing a number of ways in which to bring pressure on the NHS. We are assured no action will be taken at Bishop's Castle Surgery that will affect patients. Rather, it will relate to data collection and form filling.

Bishop's Castle Patients Group. BCpatientsgroup@gmail.com



Community Climate Connectors

We at Lightfoot are concerned that there may be people in our community who will be worrying about how they will cope with paying energy bills over the winter, particularly now that the universal Winter Fuel Allowance has been withdrawn. The Marches Energy Agency (MEA) is running free workshops, training sessions or talks on energy efficiency, and has asked Lightfoot to recruit volunteers to undertake these workshops so that they can support people worried about or struggling with energy bills.

More information can be found at: <https://mea.org.uk/news/cc/>

Please can you contact Lorraine Waumsley on the number below, or by email, if you can help with this project.

Tel: 0300 102 4458 Email: info@lightfootenterprises.org

Web: <http://www.lightfootenterprises.org>

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

A small, friendly and dedicated team of volunteer litter pickers 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 year. We are open to suggestions of any areas of concern.

Please leave a message on 01588 638175, thank you

Cricket Club News.

A season that started brightly, with us winning the first five games,went downhill somewhat , with the team finishing 8th in the League ...a season of consolidation!

The Junior system is still thriving with 70+ members attending and three Junior teams u11/13/15 all being competitive in their Leagues..

On a community front, the Club organised the Annual six a side with the Kings Head for a fifth time...

The Club were proud to be awarded the Town Council's Club of the Year award. New members are always welcome check us out on facebook and twitter...

Dennis Twist Memorial Lecture

on 'Wales the Borders' given by Tom Bullough author and environmentalist. Clun Memorial Hall 4th October. 7 for 7.30pm. Contact Mary Eminson 07974 772754.



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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 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

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



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E-mail kbloor@coveragecareservices.co.uk

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How to contact your Town Councillors: We have “dot gov” email now! After each councillor’s name as written below just add @bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

For instance, josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jane Carroll

Tel: 01588 638467

Email: jane.carroll

Councillor Ruth Houghton

Tel: 01588 638352

Email: Ruth.Houghton@shropshire.gov.uk

Councillor Andy Stelman

Tel 07773006413

Email: andy.stelman

Councillor Josh Dickin

Tel 07530691106

Email: josh.dickin

Councillor Grant Perry

Tel: 01588 638233

Email: grant.perry

Councillor Stuart Morris

Tel: 01588 630114

Email: stuart.morris

Councillor Tim Halford

Tel: 01588 638333

Email: tim.halford

Councillor Brigit Drake

Email: brigit.drake

Councillor Leon Kosciuczyk

Email: leon.kosciuczyk

Councillor Lucy Blundell

Email: lucy.blundell

Councillor Sharon Jones

Email: sharon.jones

Councillor Michelle Gayle

Email: michellelisa.gayle

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 11th NOVEMBER 2024 to:

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

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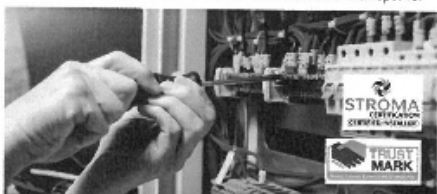


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Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.

Bishops Castle and Rural Craven Arms

bccar.snt@westmercia.police.uk



Inspector
Damien Kelly



Sergeant
Jenni Price



PC
Stuart Coote
07814 051729



PCSO
Shaun Culliss
07811 752207



PCSO
Calvin Brown
07970 543854

Whilst the information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information (April 2024).



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