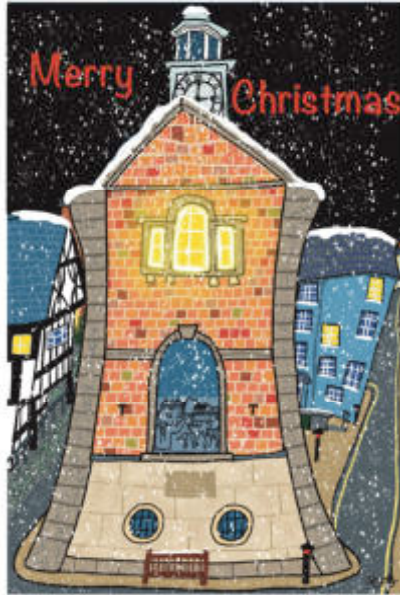




BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



DECEMBER 2024

To

JANUARY 2025

Issue No. 96



Hello, and welcome to the winter edition of our Towns Newsletter



The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello, and welcome to this Winter edition of the newsletter.

The shorter days and the longer nights, naturally, not only give me much more time to reflect on the months just gone but also to prepare for the months ahead when Springtime arrives.

I'll start by recognising how close the 'Save the SpArC Pool' at 50 Campaign efforts are, getting ever closer the £250k target. Through hard work, determination and collaboration, they are day by day, getting to that huge milestone needed to get on with the work. Keep an eye out for more events. SpArC is hosting or joining forces with other fund raising efforts to get the total over the line.

The 'Bonfire & Fireworks' night, I have to say, was once again a great success. Over £3,000 was raised to be shared between 'Save the SpArC' and 'Party in the Park'. I do hope that bonfire night continues to be a mainstay in the town's event calendar and we can make this event even more special in years to come. Once again, without volunteers, this event wouldn't have taken place, so thank you!

Casting our minds back to the rain/storms in October, we,

as a community struggled, with properties in Colebatch being flooded and, out of the parish, parts of South West Shropshire being badly affected. Cllr Houghton and I are going to look into forming a flood watch group. I am also very actively working on an emergency action plan for the Town, which will help us to be more resilient and identify problems before it's too late.

As you will all mostly know, the oil leak at the top of the town has been somewhat a mystery. Still, to this day, almost a month after the leak started, we are no nearer to finding the source. Two things have come out of this. Firstly, a massive thank you to those members of the community and businesses who have helped each other out and tried to get to the bottom of the problem, after pretty much being abandoned by strategic partners. And also, to anyone in Town with an oil tank, please check your tank and oil line regularly, so we can avoid another incident like this in the future.

Just a quick update on the War Memorial. A letter has been sent to the Chancellor at Lambeth Palace, London with all the necessary information and details provided of what had been requested to do the gentle conservation works on the memorial. A date is tentatively in the diary for early spring.



It was a great turnout for the Town's Remembrance Sunday parade and service. It's great to have the Town Band playing in the parade, and also to see so many members of

different generations of the community out to remember our fallen heroes.

Another quick update on Shropshire Council. Things aren't really getting much better and there is a concern with regard to the finances of Shropshire Council and how they will affect the Town. Even the simplest of things like streetlights not working are said to be put on the back burner due to limited finances. We will keep the pressure on to get what's best for our communities in rural Shropshire.

Lastly but not least, we will be celebrating the switching on of our 'Christmas Lights' on Saturday 7th December. Please come out to support this event and celebrate. And once again , a big thank you to those volunteers who have helped to put them up or to plug them in for us all to enjoy.

And on that note,

I wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

I look forward to updating you in the Spring edition.

All the best

Josh



Key Dates

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Saturday 7th December

CRAFT FAIR - Saturday 7th December 24th from 11- 4pm at St John the Baptist Church

BC Primary School nativity - Tuesday 10th December at 2pm at St John the Baptist Church

Marches Choir carol concert - Wednesday 11 December at 7pm at St John the Baptist Church

Pop - In/Drop- In carols and singalong - Thursday 19th December at 7pm at St John the Baptist Church

Christingle service - Tuesday 24th December at 6.30pm at St John's

Holy Communion Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December at 11am at St John the Baptist Church

Castle Carols 'Big Sing' - Boxing Day, Thursday 26th December, at The Three Tuns from around 2.00pm, straight after the Morris Dancing. All are welcome.

Bishop's Castle News

Remembrance Day - War Memorial



The Remembrance Day parade was well attended. Banners were held by the ACF and pennants by Scout bearers. The Town Council, Fire Service and other groups were well represented. Many wreaths were laid at the war memorial. The Last Post was brilliantly rendered.

It is hoped that the issues surrounding the work on the War Memorial will be resolved soon.

Road Closure: Salop Street, Bishops Castle

Start : 15th January 2025 End : 17th January

2025 Purpose: Resurfacing scheme Works Promoter: Shropshire Council. From Monday to Friday 09:30 - 16:00

Business Park – progress

There is continuing interest in the activity on the Business Park. Progress is being made.

Shropshire Council confirmed that rents for the Bishops Castle Business Park are deemed to be a fair market value for the area and quality of the development, given that this is brand new, Grade A construction with renewable features such as solar panels. Whilst it is acknowledged that sites such as Enterprise House or Love Lane Industrial Estate may be quoting far lower rents, these are older stock, without the same quality features and would be less cost effective to run without the renewable features

Below is the current status for each unit.

Unit 1 14,000 sq ft - internally leased to Shropshire Museums, for the storage of items from Shirehall, Acton Scott etc etc.

Unit 2 - 15,000 sq ft - In negotiations with a local company which needs more space having secured a new contract.

Unit 3 - 10,000 sq ft - Adventure Cinema are moving into this unit. They have outgrown units 4 A & B

Unit 4A - 2,000 sq ft - Adventure Cinema moving out – in discussions with small 'ketchup' company

Unit 4B - 2,000 sq ft – Adventure Cinema moving out - interest from a sugar free cake manufacturer

Unit 4C - 2,000 sq ft - Occupied - a fine art dealer, slowly moving in.

Unit 4D - 2,000 sq ft - New tenant – VANLIFE - in soon. Vanlife converts vans into campervans.

Unit 4E - 2,000 sq ft - Occupied - MONK FITNESS.

SpArC POOL AT 50

OUR TARGET FOR REPLACING THE POOL IS £250,000.

WE NOW HAVE OVER £200,000!

This extraordinary achievement, in less than a year, is owed to a combination of huge community support for all activities and events, along with individual acts of extreme generosity. We owe it to ourselves to make the last leap.

Bonfire Night on November 2 was a great success. The bonfire was BRILLIANT and the fireworks lovely. These were donated by Grant Perry of Drovers Travel, so the proceeds were greater than expected – at least £3,000 shared equally by Party in the Park and the Pool at 50. It was also really good to share the work.

The Co-op Local Community Fund has accepted the SpArC Charity for its next round of funding which started on October 20. This is probably the easiest source of income we know of so we need you all, as Co-op Members to support our cause. You can sign up to become a Co-op Member by visiting coop.co.uk/membership. You can then select us as your cause, by clicking on this link: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/93626> You can also call the Membership Support Centre on 0800 0686 727 to become a member and select a cause. Every time a member buys selected Co-op own brand products anywhere in the UK, 1p of every pound they spend is allocated to a local cause. The important thing is to swipe your membership card.

WE NEED THE LAST £50,000 BY EARLY 2025

Financial donations: If you or your business have not yet had chance to support the Pool Campaign, now is your opportunity to really make a difference. Any amount, however large or small, will help us achieve our target - 50 people with £1,000 each, 100 with £500, 1,000 with £50 - the dreams are endless.

Community Events: Please support our remaining events this year:

Sam's Mega Book Sale is on Saturday December 7 in the Stars Community Shop in Church St – to be enjoyed before the Christmas Lights are turned on.

Exclusive View of swimming/diving prints on Friday December 13 in SpArC Gallery. Opportunity to meet the artist. Sale of Wave jigsaws and mugs – more details to follow.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

- Make a BACS payment to Sport & Arts in the Community (SPARC) SW Shropshire: Sort Code 40-52-40; A/c No 00030653
- Donate to JUSTGIVING: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sparc-pool-at-50-2024>

Leave a cheque at Enterprise House made payable to Sport & Arts in the Community (SPARC) SW Shropshire - FAO Graham Hemmings

If you are a UK taxpayer and not donating via JustGiving, PLEASE complete a Gift Aid Form, which will increase your donation's value by 25%. Copies can be obtained by

Emailing: gshemmings@hotmail.com

Disability Parking and Road Markings

It was agreed, as reported in this newsletter earlier in the year, that a second disabled parking space was to be introduced outside the Pharmacy/Chemist and one put in on the Auction Yard and on Market Place. It was expected that the necessary 'lines', along with several other road markings, would be put back by Shropshire County Council once the resurfacing had been completed. This has not yet happened and a number of complaints have been received. The Council is on the case and hopefully the situation will be rectified shortly.

Harley Jenkins Street Car Park – Electric Vehicle Charging

The number of electric vehicles on the roads is increasing. Visitors and local residents are often unable to charge their electric vehicles

as all of the charging bays are now occupied – some to appear to be using these bays for long-term parking.

Petrol and diesel vehicles should not occupy these spaces. If yours is one of these vehicles please reposition it to a standard parking bay. Additionally, if you are charging your own electric vehicle, please ensure that you reposition it as soon as possible after your vehicle has charged so that other drivers may use the facility. Thank you.

Green bins

The booking system for the Craven Arms Re-cycling Centre is now in place. The centre will be open 7 days a week. To book a slot visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking.

Town Hall Clock

A grant has been obtained from the Lottery Heritage fund to erect scaffolding and repair and renovate the Town Hall Clock. The Town Council has approved the work which will be undertaken as soon as the weather allows.

ABBNEYFIELD HOUSE

Abbeyfield House have launched a new website for their sheltered housing home in Oak Meadow. This includes a video tour of the premises along with comments from residents together with full details of all the information required about the home for any one who may be interested including prospective residents and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer.

The website can be viewed at <https://bishopscastle.abbeyfield.com>

Kerosene oil leak

There has been an oil leak at the top of town, mainly affecting residents of Bull Street. The oil is running in a small drain under several houses causing noxious smells and discomfort. The source of the oil, which is likely to be at the top of Town, has still not been identified. Shropshire Council, Severn Trent, the Environment Agency,

insurance companies and other agencies have all been involved. We really need property owners /residents in the area, within and around the area marked red on the attached map, to check oil tank levels daily and to keep a record of these checks. Also, please, please let the Town Council know if you have seen a dramatic drop in your oil levels or find any break in a pipe or unexplained oil in or around your oil tank.

The concern is that the oil will get into the town's water drainage system damaging the wider environment. Wherever you are in Town, if you smell oil, please let the Town Council know immediately.

Meet your Councillors

Your local Shropshire County Councillors are holding a coffee morning and open session in The Stars (opposite the Co-OP) on Friday 13th Dec 10am – 11.30am. Do drop in to chat about any issues and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cake .

Security

With the onset of winter, the police have asked all households to be especially vigilant and ensuring that when left all properties are properly locked and secure.

There also some nasty 'scams' circulating including Winter Fuel Payment scams. There are reports of adverts appearing on Facebook and Instagram which may use authentic looking Government department logos and headers. Basically, these scams are promoting a "Winter Fuel Payment" or a "Heating Subsidy" which of course do not exist.

If you are actually eligible, then you will have received a genuine letter from DWP in October.

The things to look out for in these adverts are:

- Poor spelling and grammar
- Low quality images
- 'Too good to be true offers'

Always check the account details behind the advert and never click on any links provided or pass over personal details which they may ask for.

If you've fallen for a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via action-fraud.police.uk

Flooding

The floods in October highlighted some areas in and around Bishop's Castle where properties flooded or could be in danger of flooding. These include some areas at the bottom of town and Colebatch. The Council has decided to improve its stock of sandbags and other preventative measures. If you have reason to believe your property has a high risk of flooding please advise the Council. Flooding is exacerbated by blocked or faulty drains. Please ensure that any malfunctioning drains are reported to 'Fix My Street Shropshire County Council'.

BCTC Biodiversity and Climate Action

I have had several interesting replies to my last article. Thank you.

Please continue with your suggestions. They are all worthy of consideration.

Together our gardens are a vast living landscape. And it's not hard to help the animals that visit or live in our gardens.

Wildlife is all animals and plants that live and grow independently of people usually in natural conditions. Wildlife such as hedgehog, sparrow, song thrush and stag beetle are animals seriously in decline. Caring for our gardens for wildlife can help these animals and others find refuge and food.

One simple task is to leave piles of fallen leaves lying in garden corners and yards and not to cut perennial flowers such as sedum, alliums and phlox stems back until early spring. Seed heads and stems will provide food and shelter throughout the winter.

Fallen leaves provide shelter and food for birds, insects, frogs and toads and micro-organisms in the soil. Remove leaves from lawns, paths and borders however as they can smother plants.

Remember to put out water and fresh food for birds in freezing weather and break the ice on your pond or birdbath.

Useful link:

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/helping-birds-and-wildlife

Leon Kosciuczyk

Bins for Boys – thank you Bishop’s Castle.

The Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, a cancer charity, under the ‘Bins for Boys’ Project is calling for public venues to add sanitary bins to male toilets and raise awareness that a lack of them is letting men down.

Men who need a place to hygienically dispose of their pads, pouches, stomas, catheters, colostomy, or ileostomy bags (small intestine v large intestine stoma bags) following cancer or illness, are lacking places to do so when they are out and about.

The Bins for Boys project, spearheaded by the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, one of the region’s primary cancer charities, was launched in Bishop’s Castle on 4th November. So far, 11 venues have signed up :

Castle Hotel, Herbies Café, Bishop’s Castle Town Hall, Auction Yard Toilets, The Happy Bap, The Poetry Pharmacy, The Poppy House, Enterprise House, Six Bells Pub, Crown & Anchor Vaults, SpArC Leisure Centre.

Look out for Bins for Boys stickers at venue entrances, toilet doors, cubicles, and on the bins themselves.

Incontinence can be a side effect of cancer and cancer treatment. It

To sign to become a Bins for Boys venue or to find out more about the project in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales, please visit www.lingendavies.co.uk/binsforboys

Danny Lloyd - Jones, 36 from Oswestry, is involved in promoting the project. Danny was diagnosed with bowel cancer just before his 32nd birthday and was told on the same day he would need major surgery and to have a stoma.

Tim Cooper, Chair of Trustees for Lingen Davies, said: "We know many men fear being unable to find a toilet with sanitary bins, which makes them anxious, worried, and humiliated. It can stop them leaving their homes to take part in everyday activities like enjoying a pub meal with friends, or a cup of coffee in a local café.

"Lingen Davies is signing up venues and supplying them with Bins for Boys stickers and giving venue name checks on social media channels and adding them to our specially developed Bins for Boys webpage and live interactive google map so that people can see venues taking part and plan their outings accordingly. Any venue which signs up and gets a bin will be added."

St John the Baptist Church - A plea for funds and donations

Our beautiful and historic church is in desperately urgent need of extensive repairs to the fabric of the building, in particular the roof.

There is an urgent need to carry out remedial and then more permanent work following a plaster fall which has recently taken place in the south transept. We know that this will be expensive. Without these works we are in danger of having regular plaster falls and cannot continue to risk injury to people, or further deterioration to the fabric of the building.

We want to ensure that our church is there for the Bishop's Castle community for many years to come. We want to continue to be able to come together for regular services, as well as to celebrate joyful occasions such as Christmas, Easter, weddings and baptisms or to be able to gather to support one another for sad occasions such as funerals. As a church we also offer regular companionship to people

can also affect men who have suffered a range of other illnesses including Crohn's disease and irritable bowel syndrome. For example, 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer, and some experience bladder and bowel problems as a side effect of their treatment. In the UK, about 1 in 3 men over 65 will experience urinary incontinence issues, while 1 in 20 men aged 60 and over will experience bowel incontinence. (Source Cancer Research U.K.). 1 in 25 men over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage every year

- 1 in 20 men over 60 will experience bowel incontinence in the UK
- This is a hidden problem that's not confined solely to older people.

Lingen Davies, which exists to make a positive impact on lives affected by cancer, took the evidence from a nationwide campaign by various cancer charities, which also lobbied the government about the issue, and wanted to create a real and lasting change locally.

Along with volunteer support it helps raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of cancer, and the long-term impact it can have and with the 'Bins for Boys' project, for men in particular.

Local lead for Lingen Davies, Miranda Ashwell, said the charity wants public venues to commit to providing a sanitary bin in their male toilet.

"Getting a sanitary bin, or an extra one from a supplier is a very low-cost thing to do but it could make a huge difference to men who are out and about and need one. We are rolling this out across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Mid Wales, the region served by Lingen Davies, and we hope to encourage awareness in other areas and even nationally.

"We are really grateful for the response from venues in Bishop's Castle. It sets an amazing benchmark for other places to follow.

"The solution is simple. Community venues can provide sanitary bins in their men's toilets. And through the project men who need sanitary bins need will know where to find them. We hope as many public locations as possible in the region will get behind this and pledge to become a Bins for Boys venue."

who meet for coffee, or to our youth club, as well as hosting concerts, exhibitions and craft fairs. We offer hospitality during town events like the Michaelmas Fair and Open Gardens. We are always open so that people can find a place for quiet personal reflection and prayer.

Money is tight for many people at the moment, but we are asking you to consider how you might help the church by making a donating however small. We need to help return the church roof to a state where we can be assured it is doing its job properly, and the internal fabric of the church does not continue to deteriorate.

If you are able to donate online, this can be done by making a one off donation through the Parish Giving Scheme:

<https://www.paritygiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/bishops-castle-st-john-bishop-s-castle>

You can make a BACS transfer online to: Bishops Castle PCC Discretionary Account, Sort Code 40-12-02, Account No 10166227

(Please identify your payment with the words Church Roof)

If you are a tax payer, we invite you to Gift Aid your donation as this makes it worth 25% extra to the Church without any cost to yourselves.

Cheques or cash (in a sealed envelope) can be put in the collection plate or given to any of us in person. A card reader was also recently installed in the church for electronic donations.

The Future of Pugh's Butchers Shop

As readers will be aware, a group of residents came together earlier this year to explore how to respond to Andrew Pugh's plans to retire, and ensure his shop remains a key part of our High Street. We hope that, beyond continuing to support our local economy with affordable, fresh, local produce, the project can also create wider social, economic and environmental benefits for our community.

In order to understand what future approach would be most useful and desirable, we circulated a survey with the August BC Newsletter asking for your views. Thanks to the 180 people who took the time to

complete it – that’s a fantastic response rate - over 10% of the town’s population! The results, which were presented at a well-attended public meeting in late September, showed an overwhelming majority of respondents felt it was important that the shop: stays open

continues functioning as a butchers to provide locally sourced meat and poultry

champions other local food producers across a range of goods, including fruit and veg, bread and cheese.

At the meeting, we discussed the next steps needed to turn intention into reality and discussed possible sources of advice and practical help. We’re very grateful that Light Foot have offered to act as an ‘umbrella’ while we’re setting up – there’s obviously a great fit between the Pugh’s project and Light Foot’s established ‘Food Forward’ objectives of supporting local food producers, meeting community needs and increasing food resilience. Looking beyond BC, we’re also talking with the Plunkett Foundation (www.plunkett.co.uk), the UK’s leading provider of advice, business support and training to establish successful community businesses that make a positive impact for local people. Finally, we want to say a big thank you to the Pugh family for working with us and answering a lot of questions(!) to help us understand how we can take this project forward.

If you would like to know more or want to get in touch with your suggestions or offers of help, please contact Carol (cinnes23@icloud.com). We’ll continue to provide updates through the Newsletter in 2025.

Enterprise House

Free Digital Support at Enterprise House

Do you know someone who would like FREE help to get online and make the most of the internet? We have just a couple of spaces left on our digital skills programme* starting in January which offers one-to-one support to grow online confidence. *To access this support individuals need to meet at least one of these criteria: be aged over 65/have a disability or health condition/be an unpaid carer/receive

care/live alone/be on a low income or in receipt of a means-tested benefit and live in Shropshire. As part of this programme we also have a small number of free devices, including laptops, tablets and smartphones available.

We are also really pleased to be working with The National Databank and The Good Things Foundation to fix the digital divide and have FREE mobile data sims available to anyone who has no or insufficient access to the internet at home and/or are from a local income household or cannot afford an existing monthly contract or top up.

In addition to this free support, Enterprise House continues to offer a wide range of IT services, and the team are always on hand to help with any IT or technical issues you may have, from advice and repairs to quick fixes or one-to-one support so please do get in touch and we will do our best to help.

To find out more about any of this support please pop into Enterprise House, call 01588 638 038 or email info@enterprisehouse.org

Follow up cost of living event planned

A successful Cost of Living event was held at Enterprise House which saw community members take the opportunity to chat with a wide range of partners including Age UK, Aquarius, Alzheimer's Society, Bishop's Castle Community Foodbank, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Resource, Community Wellbeing Outreach Team, Department of Work & Pensions, Marches Energy Agency, Severn Trent & Shropshire's Digital Skills Programme who were all on hand to advice and support people.

The session was a rare opportunity to meet support organisations face-to-face in our community and was such a success, that a second event is planned for early Spring, with all the partners keen to return to Enterprise House. Make sure you don't miss out - keep an eye out for more details in the new year.

To find out more or register your interest please pop into Enterprise House, call 01588 638 038 or email info@enterprisehouse.org

Nature Inspired Art



Tuesday 3rd December-Doors open from 7 pm for 7:30 start, in Bishop's Castle Town Hall!

Come join us for this talk on nature-inspired art by local artist, Sarah Gillard. All donations go to the Going Wild project. Email Dan goingwild@lightfootenterprises.org for more info

LIGHTFOOT NEWS

The **COMMUNITY HEAT NETWORK** had a successful public meeting in September with 50 people attending and strong support shown. (The ‘Powerpoint’ presentations from this meeting are available on the Lightfoot website at [BC Heat Network - Lightfoot Enterprises](#)).

‘Customer Offers’ that describe in detail what it will mean for customers of the Network have been circulated to householders and businesses within the network boundary, and ‘Expressions of Interest’ responses are being collected. The planning application for the wind turbine will be submitted in early December and planning for Stage 3 will commence in the New Year. We’re always looking for help, so if you’re interested please let us know at climate-action@lightfootenterprises.org or phone **0300 1024458 #2**

What do you think Bishop’s Castle’s food system in 2030 should look like?

What will we need to get there?

How will you be able to contribute your knowledge and skills to building it?

‘Food Forward BC’ is the Action Group driving our Community Food Resilience Strategy. (Yes, we have a Food Resilience Strategy - the only one in all of Shropshire, in fact!).

This group of people runs our community Seed Bank and coordinates with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership, and is one part of the mosaic of local food initiatives such as the work being done by the team exploring taking on Andrew Pugh’s Butcher shop through community ownership

The world is becoming more complex, so more than ever we need to look at how to adapt and become resilient in the face of ‘shocks’ - political, economic, climate change and weather events, and more. As individuals and communities, the small things we do and build together really do make a difference to how well we weather these storms.

The Food Strategy is due for an update this coming year, and as community strategies need to reflect the reality of community life: our needs, assets, and values, we hope that you will join us for a collaborative session at 7.30 p.m on Monday, 13th January at Bishop’s Castle Town Hall to develop the vision and plan for Bishop’s Castle’s new community food resilience strategy.

Home - Lightfoot Enterprises

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088823978839>

[@bcclimateaction](#)

[@food_forwardbc](#)

Local charity, Community Resource Launches their 2024 Warmer Winter Appeal Can You Help Local Households Stay Warm?

As temperatures drop, local charity, Community Resource is once again reaching out to local residents to help protect Shropshire's most vulnerable households from the impact of fuel poverty. With energy costs rising sharply and the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance for some, their 2024 Warmer Winter Appeal is more crucial than ever in preventing our community from being left in the cold.

Each year, Community Resource provides emergency fuel grants, energy-saving materials, and essential support to help those in our county facing difficult "heat or eat" choices. This winter, the need is especially acute, with many rural and elderly residents struggling to heat older, uninsulated homes. Many households in Shropshire are also off the gas grid and rely on more expensive heating options, making the need for help even greater.

Every donation makes a difference:

- **£10** can provide an emergency energy top-up.
- **£50** could fund draft-proofing kits and other essential materials.

£100 could provide immediate relief to a household in crisis.

Together, we can make a lasting impact by ensuring that vulnerable neighbours stay warm, safe, and healthy through the winter. To donate, visit their [JustGiving page](#), or for more information on how you can help, contact Community Resource at 01743 360641 or via email – enquires@community-resource.org.uk

Let's make this winter a warmer one for everyone in Shropshire. Thank you for your generosity.

Museum acquires a rare piece of Bishop's Castle history

The charity that runs the House on Crutches Museum and the Heritage Resource Centre is always on the lookout for artefacts related to the history of Bishop's Castle. This very rare mug came up for auction in October and thanks to a large number of people making donations a successful bid was made.

The mug was created to celebrate two men who stood against Lord Clive's chosen candidates in the 1818 parliamentary election. Bishop's Castle was a "rotten borough" with two parliamentary seats and Clive controlled the elections by bribing the few BC citizens who were entitled to vote, thus making sure his men got in. Not surprisingly Kinnaird and Elliott were not elected but someone thought it worthwhile to praise their effort.



The museum is currently closed but preparations have started for the re-opening in April 2025 and the mug will be on display alongside all the other artefacts that tell the history and stories of Bishop's Castle. We are recruiting people to act as museum stewards next season and if you are interested get in touch with our steward coordinator Jane Allard (janemallard29@gmail.com).

In November, the Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre celebrated the 20th anniversary of its founding. The 200-year-old building started life as a non-conformist chapel but more recently housed the library until that was moved to Enterprise House. A grant was then obtained to buy the building, restore it and create a heritage resource centre. Initially it was a storage location for House on Crutches Museum artefacts that were not on display in the museum. Over the years it has developed into a centre for researching and publicising the history of Bishop's Castle and has become a treasure trove of reference books, maps, census returns, trade directories and many other resources. Public displays about local history are regularly created and volunteers help visitors who have roots in the area to research their family history as well as assisting local people to investigate the history of their houses. BCHRC is open to the public most Saturday mornings all year round and well worth a visit.

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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

**USEFUL TELEPHONE
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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



Local charity, Community Resource Launches their 2024 Warmer Winter Appeal

Can You Help Local Households Stay Warm?

As temperatures drop, local charity, Community Resource is once again reaching out to local residents to help protect Shropshire’s most vulnerable households from the impact of fuel poverty.

With energy costs rising sharply and the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance for some, their 2024 Warmer Winter Appeal is more crucial than ever in preventing our community from being left in the cold.

Each year, Community Resource provides emergency fuel grants, energy-saving materials, and essential support to help those in our county facing difficult “heat or eat” choices. This winter, the need is especially acute, with many rural and elderly residents struggling to heat older, uninsulated



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**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.**



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Festive Friends 2024

Will you be on your own this Christmas Day?

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

Transport can be provided.

Arrive for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light entertainment and conversation.

Time: 11:30am - 3pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall

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

Contact: Linda on 01588

630409 for more information and booking.





**Listings for DECEMBER
2024 and JANUARY 2025**

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

December 2024

Until 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

3rd December - Going Wild Project

A talk by Sarah Gillard – Nature Inspired Art.
Entry by donation

7th December Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

1st Saturday of each month. Lift available. Free entry.

7th December - Christmas Light Festival

8th December – Janice Burns & John Doran in Concert

Janice Burns & Jon Doran are an award-winning Anglo-Scottish duo who came together after discovering a shared love of traditional music. Their songs tell vivid stories about the nature of life and our place in the world.

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Tickets £15.00 per person

Available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door

13th December BLAST Storytelling – Andy Harrop Smith and Suzzanne & Jake Thomas – Midwinter Tales from the Court of King Arthur

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

20th December – Noxwode in Concert

To Be Confirmed – please contact BC Town Hall on 01588 630023

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

Available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door

21st December - Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm

3rd Satur-

day 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 December – B.C. Allskas in Concert

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

January 2025

From 4th January to 4th February Exhibition by Ann Kelly

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

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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

10th January BLAST Storytelling – Ailsa Dixon and Ffion Phillips – Hear Me and Hasten

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

18th January 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.

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Age UK Dementia Support Group

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£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

New Community Orchard and Apple Pressing

The orchard trees funded by the National Community Lottery were planted in March and have grown well, although they won't fruit for a couple of years! A fruit press and pasteurising kit were also provided by the National Community Lottery fund and despite no fruit this year it has been put to good use. On 6th October allotment holders experimented with the new equipment, bringing their own apples to make delicious apple juice which was enjoyed straight away, although it could have been pasteurised, which would have kept it for two years!

The apple pressing occasion was great fun and will be repeated next year. The apple pressing kit is available for people in Bishop's Castle to hire. There is a deposit and a hiring charge for the equipment which comprises a scrapper/crusher, fruit press and pasteurising machine.

On 7th November, Tom the Apple Man from Oswestry, who appeared on Gardeners World recently, held a fruit tree pruning course at the new orchard. Ten allotment holders learnt from Tom how to prune their fruit trees. This event was also funded by the National Community Lottery Fund.



New household recycling centers booking system

A new booking system for people wishing to visit Shropshire Council's five household recycling centres comes into effect on Monday, 4 November – with people able to make a booking from Tuesday, 29 October.

Please see below information about the booking system:

1. Bookings can be made by residents in the Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council areas
2. Bookings can be made online or by phone, with online bookings encouraged.

To book online – and for more information – people will be encouraged to visit the council website – see [Household recycling centre bookings | Shropshire Council](#)

The address for this page is www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking. This is the address that will be used on/in all communications, and the address that you can share with your residents.

From Tuesday (29 October) the site will include links to the booking system websites - there will be two booking sites: one for cars and one for vans/trailers.

4. On the webpage you will find lots of questions answers about the booking system, which we hope will help to answer any questions you or your residents may have. Questions are broken down into three categories. See links below:

[Why are we doing this? | Shropshire Council](#)

[How to book | Shropshire Council](#)

[At the recycling centre | Shropshire Council](#)

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 24

Tuesday 10 December - BC Primary School nativity - 2pm

Wednesday 11 December - Marches Choir carol concert - 7pm

Thursday 19 December - Pop In Drop In carols and singalong - 7pm

Tuesday 24 December - Christingle service - 6.30pm

Wednesday 25 December - Holy Communion Christmas Day - 11am

January 25

Sunday 5 January - Cafe Church - 11am

On other Sundays Holy Communion at 11am

Regular events

Silent Prayer - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 9.30 - 10am in the Lady Chapel.

Coffee and Companionship Mornings - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10.15am - noon.

Friday afternoon Drop-in (for teenagers). Games, activities, fellowship and refreshments. After school during term times, 3.30pm – 5pm. Please contact Revd Stephanie or Revd Nick for more information.

Messy Church - Next meeting on Saturday 4th January.

Christmas events at St John the Baptist church

Saturday 7 December Christmas Craft Fair 11am - 4pm.



Admission is free. There will be live music, refreshments and home made cakes. Stalls will include jewellery, cards, art work, Christmas decorations and lots more.

Back by popular demand, the annual Drop In Pop In Christmas concert and singalong. Thursday

19 December at 7pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.



Activities in the Church Barn

Mondays

Fit for Life 1.30-2.30 pm during term times. Seated and standing exercises to promote strength, balance and mobility for anyone 60+ years. Lots of fun!

Contact Sophie Hamar on 07962 103 005 or sophiehamar@hotmail.com

Swing Band 5.30 – 7.00pm. Contact Vanessa Campbell 01588 638 978; John Franklin 01588 630314 franklinsbc@aol.com; chrissymondson@gmail.com

Corndon Aikido Club - Monday 7.30 – 9.30pm and Thursday 7.00 – 9.00pm. Contact Edd Sacre 01938 561365 eddsacre@gmail.com

Tuesdays

Food Bank - Tuesday 10.30 - 12pm ; Thursday 2.30 – 4.00pm every week Contact Andy Stelman 07773006 413; Mandy Bryce 07855 340746.

South West Shropshire historical and archaeological society - every second Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30pm

Wednesdays

Drama 3.45 – 4.45pm for school age children. Contact Ian Reade 07596 087332 redkitedrama@gmail.com

Mothers Union 1.30-2.30pm third Wednesday of the month. Contact Jenny Plunkett 01588 630018 or Meg 01588 638250.

Energise with KJ Fitness 6.30-7.30 pm. Contact Kathy Jo - kjo-barnes@icloud.com

Thursdays

Men's Group 10.00am – 12 noon third Thursday every month. Contact Mike Plunkett 01588 630018; 07968 109626.

Food Bank 2.30 – 4.00pm as above.

Corndon Aikido Club 7.30 – 9.30pm as above.

Fridays

Energise with KJ Fitness 9.15 - 11.30am. Contact Kathy Jo - kjo-barnes@icloud.com

BIG CHRISTMAS SING!

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**Wishing everyone a
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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 January 2025 to:

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

assitantclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

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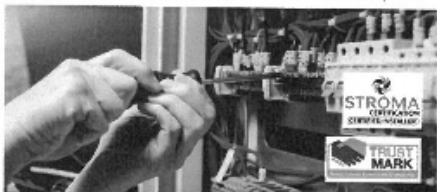


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Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via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