



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



FEBRUARY 2025

TO

MARCH 2025

Issue No. 97



Welcome to the latest edition of our Town's newsletter.

This is going to be a short and sweet update this time around, as we have so much to cram in to this issue of the Newsletter.



The Mayor Josh Dickin

I really do hope that you all had a good Christmas and are settling into the New Year. It seems to already be whizzing past.

In this edition we have lots of updates for you to read, to keep you up to date with lots of goings on. I honestly do believe that 2025 will be another great year for

our small community, hopefully even better than the previous couple of years.

In 2025 there will be elections for many councils throughout the country. In Bishop's Castle we are due an election too! May 1st 2025 is the date for the Shropshire Council elections and also for Town and Parish Councils in Shropshire.

Over the past few years we have not had an election here as not enough people have been willing to stand. It is therefore my hope, this time, for us, as a Council, to be fully democratic giving you, the residents of the Town, the opportunity to cast a ballot paper to vote for the people you want to represent you in the Council Chamber. I am so glad we are now up to a full quota of councillors. It really does help in debates on local issues.

More information regarding the elections will be announced in due course. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a very happy couple of months before my next update. Please do look further into this newsletter, as there are lots of exciting things happening.

Best wishes

Josh

Councillor profiles



Cllr. Lucy Blundell joined Bishop's Castle Council in 2024. She lives in Oak Meadow with her husband and two children who both attend Bishop's Castle Primary School. She has lived in the Bishop's Castle area all her life and works as a teaching assistant in a local primary school. Lucy's key Council responsibility is in ensuring the provision of services to young people in the area to make sure they have safe areas to go to.



Cllr. Jane Carroll: was elected to the Town Council a few years after moving to the Town 40 years ago. She has served as Mayor and her key Council responsibilities include the allotments, footpaths, tourism and Town Centre matters. She is a director of Enterprise South West Shropshire (Enterprise House).



Cllr. Josh Dickin : Josh lives in Ox Leasow with his partner Shane and cat Ginny. He has served as Mayor for nearly three years and two years prior as Deputy Mayor during Covid. He has many fingers in a lot of pies and all for the good of The Castle. It has not been easy being the youngest Mayor in Bishop's Castle's history and he has learnt a lot since rejoining the council in late 2018. He was also the youngest elected Councillor in 2015 at age 18. Josh believes that Bishop's Castle and Shropshire as whole, are great places to work and live. He works tirelessly to get a fair deal for rural Shropshire.



Cllr. Brigit Drake : Brigit has lived in Bishop's Castle for 10 years and brought her four children up here. She has been a member of the Town Council for nearly a year and has enjoyed her time so far and met some interesting folk. She is also secretary of the Love Lane, formerly Bishop's Castle, Allotment Society having been a plot holder for several years.



Cllr. Tim Halford :joined BC Council in 2020. He lives in Welsh Street. Key Council responsibilities - Allotments Committee, Old Market Square Group, Newsletter. He is also a member of the Parochial Church Council and Chair of the Newtown based Milford Collection and a director of Mid-Wales Food and Land Trust. Married to Carl, with four daughters and six grand children.



Cllr Ruth Houghton is a Bishop’s Castle Town Councillor and also the Liberal Democrat Shropshire Councillor for the Bishop’s Castle Division. Ruth is a Director of Enterprise South West Shropshire and a Trustee of the SpArC charity (Sport and Arts in Rural Communities SW Shropshire) , Bishop’s Castle Community Land Trust and a a Trustee of Bethphage a Learning Disability charity based in Shrewsbury. Ruth was brought up and educated in Bishop’s Castle.



Cllr. Sharon Jones :Sharon was born, brought up and went to school in the Bishop’s Castle area She joined the Council in 2024 and is on the Youth Committee. She lives just outside the Town with her partner Jim and their two sons. Sharon plays an active part in many activities and attends and supports as many Town projects as she can.



Cllr. Michelle Lisa Gayle : As a social history curator, Michelle loves working with the objects and stories which unite us. After many years of working across England and Wales, she has experience of leading projects which have community voices at their centre. Four years of being an administrator for the Town’s Facebook event page has helped her understand the communities in Bishop’s Castle.



Cllr. Leon Kosciuczyk : lives in the Castle Green area and has been a Town Councillor for almost a year. His greatest challenge has been peoples’ pronunciation of his surname. Kos-chew-chick. He reports to the Council on Biodiversity and Climate Change matters from groups working towards a greater care of our environment.



Cllr. Stuart Morris : has been on the Council since 2021. He has lived in Bishop's Castle his whole life and wants to see the best for the town he has grown up in.



Cllr. Grant Perry : is a former Mayor who now owns and runs Drovers Travel in Bishop's Castle He was formerly licensee of the Boars Head from 1990 until 2006 and has served as Chairman of Enterprise South West Shropshire (Enterprise House) and is currently chair of Dial a Ride and The Town Hall Trust. Married to Claire with three children



Cllr. Andy Stelman : currently Deputy Mayor to Mayor Josh Dickin, is portfolio holder for services to young people. He came to live here from Liverpool in 2013. He also runs the Food Bank with 25 or so volunteers. He worked for the probation service for 35 years in a variety of roles and places. He says it is a real privilege to live in such a beautiful and caring town.

Terry Sayce - The Last Freeman of the Borough.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of the last Freeman of the Borough, Mr. Terry Sayce. A full and fitting tribute and history of Terry's role of Freeman will be included in the next newsletter.

KEY DATES

Full details of events are in this magazine

Tuesday Feb 4th at 7 for 7.30pm

Going Wild Talk in Town Hall 'More than just an Orchard'

Thursday 13th February & 20th March

Stars Workshops

Wednesday Feb 19th at 11am

People and Places update at St John's

Wednesday Feb 26th at 6.30pm

People and Places update at St John's

Tuesday 4th March at 7 for 7.30pm

Going Wild Talk in Town Hall on Long Mynd Farm

Friday 7th March

SpArC Pool Campaign Finale

Sunday 30th March at 11am

Mothering Sunday at St John's

Tuesday 1st April at 7 for 7.30pm

Going Wild Talk in Town Hall – 'Non-Natives in Britain'

Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm

Marches Choir, Borodin by Puccini, St John's

Sunday 13th April at 11am

Palm Sunday at St John's

Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday at St John's

Friday 18th April at 11am

Good Friday at St John's

Sunday 20th April at 11am

Easter Day at St John's

Updates and Bits and Pieces

Recycling Centres Far fewer people are now using the recycling centres which may be a result of the new booking scheme. This may call the continued viability of Craven Arms into question. There is a move to try to get the booking scheme lifted – which could also save staffing time and costs. To book a slot visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking

New Co-op Tenders are being sent out for the building of the new Co-op.

Public Hall The Public Hall is not fit for purpose and cannot be brought up to the required standards. Discussions are underway with regard to its sale. As it is a charity, the proceeds of any sale have to meet the requirements of the charity in providing or supporting the provision of meeting space in Bishop's Castle.

Disabled Spaces/Parking/Road Markings The Council is pressing Shropshire Council to get the agreed road markings and disabled spaces implemented as soon as possible. It is rated as a high priority by Shropshire Council

Piano A Bechstein grand piano of concert quality has been kindly loaned to St John's Church by Hugh and Liza Petter who live in Union Street. Hugh, a pianist of great renown, will be giving classical concerts in the church.

Church Clock Face Renovation The Diocese has given approval and the church architect and restorer advised. It is planned in the first week of May to have the clock face removed; it will be away for about 4 weeks. It is hoped the restored clock face should be in place for the Summer events in the Town. Scaffolding will need to be erected and if anybody is willing to supply this the PCC would be very grateful.

War Memorial Approval to proceed is still awaited from the Church in Hereford. This issue is being pursued rigorously. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved by the Spring of 2025.

Town Hall Clock Renovations should be completed in the Spring.

Church Opening Times the Church will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays during February, and possibly March, except for scheduled events i.e. coffee mornings and services. On other days the Church will be open from 10am until 3 pm. It is anticipated that the Church will be open every day from Holy Week starting with Palm Sunday -13th April.

Hospital All 16 beds are occupied and there is a healthy buzz about the place. The "Save our Beds" group has become the "Support our beds" group (still **SoBs!**). The trust is now looking to expand outpatient services, and we are trying to progress becoming volunteers in the hospital. *Andy Stelman on behalf of the SoBs group.*

People and Places - Following the proposed sale of the Public Hall and the need for major work at St John's Church, the largest indoor space in the town, a consultation has been carried out into the future need for indoor public space in Bishop's Castle. First a huge thank you is necessary to everyone who took part. A large number of responses has been received. The consultation also included a survey of current venues in the Town and their capacity and facilities.

On Wednesday Feb 19th at 11am and on Wednesday Feb 26th at 6.30pm - there will be an exhibition at St John's Church of the findings of the consultation. As, based on the consultation, a project will be developed to progress the findings, it is hoped that as many people as possible will visit St John's on the above dates to give their views.

All are welcome to the Church on these dates. This is a chance to have your say about the proposals for the Church & Public Hall.

Oil Leak – the issue has been now resolved. Many thanks to all those who checked their systems and provided help to those affected by the leak.

Stars Pop Ups/Workshops - watch the 'Stars' for pop up shops, exhibitions and workshops. – 13th February Mini Tapestry Weaving, 20th March Collage and Embroidery. £25 for morning/£40 for whole day. For more information and to book: cathereinejjartist@gmail.com 07407 260949.

Going Wild in Bishop's Castle There will be talks in the Town Hall:

Tuesday Feb 4th at 7 for 7.30 pm – 'More than just an Orchard'
A talk on Norman and Anne Stainier's fantastic modern working orchard, and how much more their work generates than mere apples!

Tuesday 4th March at 7 for 7.30pm on Long Mynd Farm.

The talk will be given by Chris Evans.

Tuesday 1st April at 7 for 7.30pm - 'Non-Natives in Britain : A History' An ecological look at our archaeology. A talk on non-native species in Britain, and their ties to British history, given by Daniel Hodgkiss and archaeologist, Corey Kopellow.

All donations go to the Going Wild project. Email Dan goingwild@lightfootenterprises.org for more information .

Circle Dance Returns to Bishop's Castle These are simple community dances, mainly from Eastern Europe and various traditions. The dances are relaxing, fun and a good way to keep fit in body and mind, and make new friends. The steps are all taught and use haunting music. Most Tuesdays from 2.15 - 4pm For more details ring 01588 442008.

Recycling of Medicine Blister Packs Some tablets and capsules are dispensed in blister packs with an aluminium backing and a plastic upper. These are problematic to recycle through normal household recycling schemes. Jane at the Bishop's Castle Pharmacy is collecting blister packs on behalf of the local Scouts. Please support this recycling initiative.

Bins for Boys has got off to a good start with eleven premises in the town now carrying the stickers and the 'Today' programme on BBC Radio 4 labelling the town as 'progressive' for supporting the campaign. May many others follow.

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SY16 3EF

Touch, See, Smell and Feel the difference

CIRCLE DANCE IN BISHOPS CASTLE

Winter – Spring 2025

Most Tuesdays 2.15 - 4pm

These are simple community dances, mainly from Eastern Europe and various traditions. The dances are relaxing, fun and a good way to keep fit in body and mind, and make new friends. The steps are all taught and use haunting music.

For more details ring 01588 442008

An important update on Sunshine Coast FC UK!



A message from the chairman:

Dear Bishops Castle Community,

I am delighted to share exciting news regarding the forthcoming visit of myself, along with fellow director Joshua Woodall and Sporting Director Melvyn Wilkes, to Bishops Castle. This visit marks a significant milestone in our mission to establish the Sunshine Coast FC UK International Academy as a central part of your vibrant community.

During our visit we will host a public meeting to discuss our plans for the Academy, which will not only provide a unique platform for young football talent but also integrate seamlessly into the local community. We are committed to bringing additional visitors, opportunities, and revenue to Bishops Castle, enhancing its profile on both national and international stages.

This is more than just a football project, it's about creating a lasting partnership with the community. We will outline our long-term vision for the Academy, focusing on fostering local engagement, developing pathways for players, and ensuring a positive economic and social impact on the locality.

We look forward to engaging with residents, businesses, and community leaders to answer any questions and explore ways we can work together to make this initiative a success.

Details of the meeting are below, and we encourage everyone to attend and learn more about this exciting venture.

We look forward to meeting you in person soon.

Noel R,J Woodall, Chairman, Sunshine Coast FC UK and Global Operations

NEWS FROM THE STARS

Just a couple of days before Christmas, the Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust name went up on the Stars shop front, a fitting and final touch to its renovation and marking the end of a momentous year for the Trust. Lively interest is already being shown by those wishing to use this community space for exhibitions, meetings, local artists and craftspeople, as well as for fundraising. There will be much more of the same in 2025.

The Trust's board members, Kate Evans, Jim Gaffney, Julie Magill, Stuart Taylor, Josh Dickin, Andy Stelman, Ruth Houghton, Caroline Denham, Stuart Phillips, Cheryl McCullogh, Tony Graham and Jonathan Brown sincerely thank you, the people of Bishop's Castle who have believed in, and supported, the Save the Stars project. There are too many to thank individually, but the Trust would like to pay tribute to members of the Clun Valley Quakers for their generous support.

The Trust's 2025 AGM will be held in March, and before then a drive will be launched to attract new volunteers, to help to run events and to support ongoing efforts to serve the community.

Here is a message from one of our key supporters *'What an achievement by all of the team! All the hard work, setbacks and I am sure headaches along the way have been so worthwhile for the tenants and the community as a whole. What a joy it is to walk out of co-op and not be faced with the eye-sore that was the old shop'*.

The former Stars newsagent closed its doors in 2015, and the building stood empty and neglected until it was bought by the Trust in 2021, thanks to a generous bequest from local hero Bill Bainbridge, previous part-owner of the Three Tuns.

Here he is raising a glass with Gwen Roberts, whose family ran the pub for over 120 years.

After three years of work, the building has been completely renovated and extended, to provide two flats for local people in housing need. Tenants moved in this August, almost exactly nine years to the day since the Stars ceased trading. The ground floor flat is occupied by a young man who works in a local factory, and the first floor flat is now home for a couple with a young child, who both work in one of the Town's care homes.

The shop is in a conservation area, and the 1980's frontage was replaced with one more in keeping with the street's streetscape, completed with a pair of cast-iron columns found in a salvage yard, then shot blasted and powder coated. There is a strong tradition in the Town for buildings to be embellished in bold designs; so there was only one way to go when it came to decorating the Stars!



This Autumn, the Trust was delighted to be singled out by the Bishops Castle Civic Society, which awarded it the Jack and Gillian Mawdsley Cup for the year's best new work or renovation project. The Trust was also nominated for an award at the National Community Land Trust Network's AGM.

Since September, the shop has been busy on several occasions, hosting a wide variety of people and community organisations, including; two artists, an animal welfare charity shop (twice), a pop-up book shop, and a coffee morning. In early 2025 it will be providing one of the venues for the Bishop's Castle Arts Festival, and be a show-case for local craftsmen, a blacksmith and a carpenter.

Funding has come from many sources, including a mortgage from the Ecology Building Society, a grant from Shropshire Council, and donations from many other individuals and groups, some local firms and charitable trusts. The Trust is also very grateful to all the people who have freely given of their time, materials and skills to help this community-led project moving forward.

The Save the Stars project has cost the Trust in excess of £230,000, and it is still seeking some funds to meet all of its financial obligations. So far, 85 people have supported the Stars Appeal, raising £10,205 towards the target of £21,000.

To give to the appeal please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stars-appeal>. Or send a cheque in an envelope marked Stars Appeal to BCCLT, Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishops Castle SY9 5AQ. You can also made by a BACs payment, ref. Stars Appeal, to 40-30-30, 41296906.



MAYOR'S OPEN OFFICE

**Every Monday
from 1pm to 5pm.**



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



07530 691106

Town Museum to Re-open with Exciting New Exhibits

The House on Crutches Museum opens for 2025 on Saturday 12th of April with some exciting new items on display.

The Museum tells the story of Bishop's Castle with a selection of displays illustrating the life of the Town over several centuries.

New this year is a commemorative mug dating from 1818 celebrating the election that year of The Hon. Douglas Kinnaird and Sir William Eleott Bart.

At this time, Bishop's Castle was one of the notorious "rotten boroughs" returning two MPs to parliament. There was much bribery and cajolery at these elections; The Clive family controlled the town and the mug commemorates the attempt to remove their representatives. The inscription reads '*The Hon'ble Douglas Kinnaird, and Sir Willian Eleott Bt Champions of People rights who boldly sought to defend them against the Overgrown corrupt influence of a Boroughmongering Peer. Bishop's Castle, in the County of Salop. 18th June 1818*'.

The mug was bought at auction in October. This was made possible by a number of generous donations.



Town Museum to Re-open with Exciting New Exhibits

Also on display, for the first time, will be a gold sovereign from “The Bishop’s Castle Hoard”. A large number of sovereigns were found in a piano donated to Bishop’s Castle Community College in 2019. The museum was able to secure one of these, dating from 1869.



The museum will be open from 1.30 to 4.30 every Saturday and Sunday from April 12th to the end of September and on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Mondays.

The museum is run entirely by volunteers and new stewards are always welcome.

Anyone interested can contact Jane Allard 01588 638 163

ABBNEYFIELD COFFEE MORNINGS 2025



**Abbneyfield, Oak Meadow, Bishop’s Castle
at 10.30**

Thursday 20th March

Thursday 15th May

Thursday 17th July

Thursday 18th September

Thursday 20th November

Everyone Welcome!

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

February 2025

Until 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

1st February Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

4th February Going Wild Talk

A talk by Daniel Hodgekiss, Non-native Species in Britain, a history. Entry by donation

7th February BLAST Storytelling – Karin Lundengard When the Water Turns Blue

Tea, Coffee, local beer & 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

8th February until 11th March Exhibition by Rosie Byrd, A collection of beautiful textile pictures from around the world

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

15th February - 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.

19th February Rapsquillion & Patrick Gambles in concert

Their joyful performances of traditional music, based on well crafted harmonies, have made them favourites with Festival audiences

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £10.00 per person

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

20th February – The Quartet in Concert

We are delighted to bring you high-quality jazz from South-West

Shropshire **Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £10.00**

per person Available on Ticket Source [www.ticketsource.co.uk/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH)

[BCTH](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH) from the Town Hall or on the door

21st February – Sticky Wicket in Concert

A concert of popular ‘singalong’ tunes from the classic jazz era of the 1920’s and 30’s.

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

March 2025

Until 11th March Exhibition by Rosie Byrd

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

1st March Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

4th March - Going Wild Talk

a talk by Chris Evans – Long Mynd Farm. Entry by donation

7th March – The Carrivick Sisters in Concert

The sisters draw inspiration from their passion for traditional American old time and bluegrass music, English folklore and the wide vari-

ety of instruments they play: guitars, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and do-bro.

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £14.00 per person
Available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door

14th March BLAST Storytelling – Carl Gough – Nexus

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

15th March until 15th April Exhibition by Jenny Ashmore

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

15th March - 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 March – Christian Grosselfinger in concert

Christian is an eclectic cello player who holds concerts with loop resource, creating a one man orchestra. Pioneer of this technique – celloop.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ChristianGrosselfinger>

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £10.00 per person
Available on Ticket Source www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH from the Town Hall or on the door

28th March – Rosie Hood Band in concert

A Horizon Folk Award nominee, Rosie Hood is known for her powerful, clear vocals and captivating performances combining poetic writing with honest interpretations of traditional English songs.

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



Marches Choir and Sinfonia



Puccini Messa di Gloria

Borodin Polovtsian Dances

Alistair Auld - Conductor

7.30 pm, Saturday 5th April
St John's Church, Bishops Castle

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394 and from TicketSource

Children and Students FREE



www.marcheschoir.org.uk

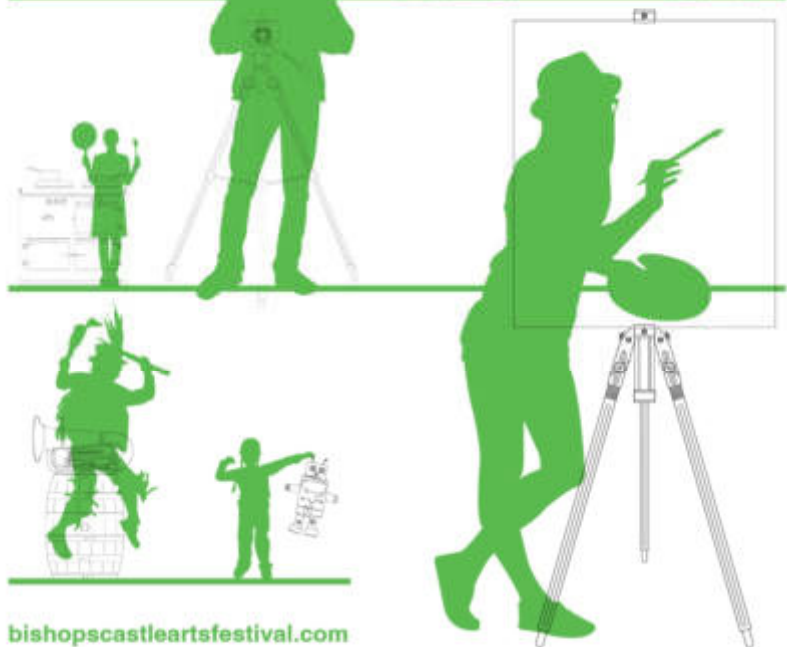




**Bishop's Castle
Arts Festival**

—
**19th - 23rd
February
2025**

BCAF



St John the Baptist Church, Bishop's Castle

Contact Louise Baker, Benefice Administrator, at
ridgeway.ba@gmail.com

**Services - February, March, April - Holy Communion, Sundays,
11am**

Special services -

Sunday 2nd February 11am – Café Church

Sunday 3rd March 11am – Café Church

Sunday 30th March 11am – Mothering Sunday

Sunday 13th April 11am – Palm Sunday

Thursday 17th April 7.30pm – Maundy Thursday

Friday 18th April 11am – Good Friday

Sunday 20th April 11am – Easter Day

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. contact James on 07482 427219.

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

Messy Church - next meetings on 1st Saturday of each month at 10.30am with activities, singing, prayer followed by a family friendly lunch. Come and join us! Contact Sylvia Taylor.

Café Church - 1st Sunday of the month at 11am. An informal service, music with instrumental band, reflection, prayer, coffee/tea,

chat. We'd love to see you there.

Upcoming events

Bishop's Castle Arts Festival

Mainstone WI - refreshments in St John's on Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd in the afternoon.

John Warren is doing a talk on Friday 21st in the Church Barn entitled: Harriet Martineau's Deerbrook...the great but unknown Victorian novel.

Activities in the Barn contact Neil Fox 07359 513243 or booking-schurchbarn@outlook.com

Fit for Life 1.30-2.30 pm on Mondays during term times. Seated and standing exercises to promote strength, balance and mobility for anyone 60+ years. Contact Sophie Hamar on 07962 103 005 or sophiehamar@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

Drama - 3.45 – 4.45pm on Wednesdays 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 on Thursdays and 9.15 - 11.30am on Fridays. Contact Kathy Jo - kjobarnes@icloud.com

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

Dementia Support Group

The Dementia Support Group run by Age UK (STW) is moving – day and place!

This group supports local people with dementia or memory problems and their families/carers. It will now be held in the Grange Road Community Centre (21 Drews Leasow, SY9 5EW) **from 2 – 4pm on Tuesday February 25th and Tuesday March 25th**. £14 for 2 people each meeting, including teas and light refreshments.

Tel 01743 233 123 to book (leave a message) or email enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk

For more information, contact Cathy Owen owencathy62@gmail.com

The 800 Club, (for Carers only) continues to meet on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Six Bells, (entrance around the back).

Age UK Dementia Support Group

Will be held in the Grange Road Community Centre,

21 Drews Leasow, SY9 5EW.

2 – 4pm on Tuesday February 25th and Tuesday March 25th

£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

SpArC POOL AT 50 - What a Year!

THE TARGET for a new steel pool which reduces water volume and heating costs, has easier access and is affordable (as it turns out) was £250,000. By the end of December, £235,000 had been raised!!!

Most of this extraordinary amount came from the people of Bishop's Castle – from sponsored swims, the Olympic Fanzone, 500 Club subscriptions, Bonfire Night, bingo, plant stalls, apple pressing, Clun's Charity Night and collection buckets, as well as a host of small events and sponsorship from very generous local donors.

There is only until the Campaign Finale on March 7 to gain the remaining £15,000. Currently planned events are:

Arts Festival – On Sunday February 23, a soup and scone/tea and cake café will pop up in Bank House between 11am and 4pm.

The Final Sponsored Swim

Grande Finale – The social event of the year, hosted by Ollie Morgan, will shortly be available, only by ticket.

Can you please, as last year, give us any unwanted Christmas gifts, and start thinking about growing on plants?

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

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value by 25%. Copies can be obtained by emailing gshemmings@hotmail.com.

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

HOW TO OFFER HELP

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with any offer of help, however small it may seem to you.

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South Shropshire Cars

W.J. Morris and Son

Funeral Director – Carpenter- Joiner
Bishop's Castle

This year sees the 50th Anniversary of W.J. Morris and Son.

This has brought with it a time of reflection and re-evaluation of the work life balance for those involved in the business. As a result the decision has been made not to continue the funeral side of the business.

This decision was not taken lightly by those involved. This will mean that as of 31st March 2025, W.J. Morris and Son, Funeral Director will no longer be accepting funeral arrangements after this date.

'It has been a privilege and honour to have served so many families in the local area for such a long time, and to have met so many interesting people along the way', said Phil Morris

Obviously if a family has questions regarding any previous funerals, please make contact with Phil or Grace on 01588 630161 or 01588 638253.

W.J. Morris and Son will be continuing as a carpenter – joiner business only.

Onny Valley Sewage Crisis

There is a proposal from Severn Trent, Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England to build a pipeline from the Bishop's Castle sewage treatment works to enable the discharge of excess sewage into the pristine River Onny. Currently excess sewage is pumped into the River Kemp, the stream that runs through the Council allotments near the Business Park and into the River Clun, which is also not acceptable. This does not only affect the immediate area, but Craven Arms and Ludlow too.

All new housing developments in the Clun River catchment area, which includes Bishop's Castle, have been put on hold because of high nutrient pollution in our rivers. The Onny pipeline scheme is designed to alleviate this situation so that new housing can be developed. New housing, especially affordable housing is needed, but there are other ways of treating the sewage, such as an upgrade to the current treatment facilities, which should be considered.

An extensive campaign is being mounted. Local groups, such as Fish Legal, acting on behalf of Plowden Fishing Club, have objected and letters have been written to the Chief Executives of the above organisations and the Member of Parliament for South Shropshire.

If you support the campaign, there is a petition through Change.org calling for the pipe to be stopped and to register your protest. Please get as many of your family and friends to sign it too.

<http://www.change.org/p/save-the-onny-stop-the-pipe>

Road signs have been put up along the Onny valley (A49 and A489) to bring the issue to the attention of the local community and social media sites have been set up on Facebook and Instagram **Save the Onny** to get the message across as widely as possible.



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Jenny Olivant 07880 334612 - Info@bishopscastletennis.org (for BACS payments)



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Patients Group News Winter 2025

Bishop's Castle Surgery

Personnel changes

New members of the team have been settling in to the Practice during the Autumn. The important role of phlebotomist for our local community has been taken up by our new health care assistant, Sophia Wright. We also have a new paramedic practitioner, Natalie Rawlings, and a new GP, Dr. Eleanor Hartley. In reception we also welcome Nicola Jones. Dr. David Mitchell has now also started to see patients and he will become a partner in the Practice in the new year when we say goodbye and thank you to Dr. Tom Davies. The Practice has been extremely fortunate to attract new staff at a time when health services are under so much pressure.

There has been some concern expressed to us about the new partnership arrangements with Drs. Morton and Mitchell being partners at both Bishop's Castle and Station Drive in Ludlow. Some people have seen this as a 'merger'. The two surgeries remain independent but experience and good practice can and are being shared to the benefit of both sets of patients. A concrete example of this occurred recently when, in the heavy snow, power was lost at the BC surgery. The BC team were able to contact Station Drive Practice and arrange for urgent prescriptions to be put through to the Pharmacy without inconveniencing or worrying patients.

Vaccination update

The Covid and flu vaccinations during the Autumn have gone well. Covid vaccination is now ending but flu vaccinations are still available for those who are eligible. There has already been a significant rise in people being admitted to hospital with flu complications, so vaccination is particularly important this winter season.

Lasting Power of Attorney

If you have set up a friend or relative with Power of Attorney on your behalf it is a good idea to inform the Practice. A copy of your Lasting Power of Attorney documents can be kept with your patient notes and allows doctors to know who to talk to about a patient's treatment if necessary.

Message in a Bottle

'Message in a Bottle' is an initiative sponsored by Lions Clubs and is a simple way for people to provide relevant information on medical matters in a known location **the fridge**. Emergency services personnel know about the Message in a Bottle scheme and will look in the fridge for details. You can order a bottle and find out more about the scheme online at: Lionsmessageinabottle.co.uk.

Volunteer with your local Patients' Group

Bishop's Castle Patients' Group Steering Committee is a small group of volunteers who meet regularly with surgery staff to discuss and support the working of the Practice. You can find out more about us on the Practice website bishopscastlemedicalpractice.co.uk. Information about what we do and how to contact us can be found under 'Patient participation group'. We are looking for some new members. If you are interested, please email us at BCPa-tientsGroup@gmail.com by the end of February.



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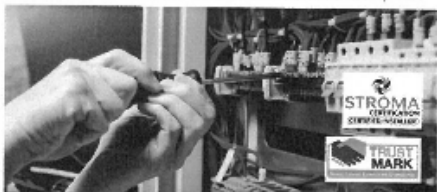


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For instance, josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

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

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Councillor Stuart Morris

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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 14th 2025 to:

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

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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

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