



BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



JUNE 2025

TO

JULY 2025

Issue No. 99



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



The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello All,

Welcome to this Summer edition of the Town Council newsletter.

It has been a manic few weeks and months, I can not that believe we are into June already!

I want to start off by thanking you all for turning out on polling day (May 1st) and voting in the Town Council election.

After some confusion about how the process worked, as no one had experienced a full election for over 20 years, it gave us all voice to select who we would like to represent us. I'd like to thank all the candidates, who are now all Town Councillors for their respect and professionalism throughout the election period. They will all now make fantastic councillors! To the other candidate, Rachel, thank you for standing. Unfortunately there was always going to be an unlucky 13th candidate. One day I hope that you will choose to stand for another election or co-option, as I know that you will again be a great asset to our Town if you do.

At the election, three councillors stood down from their duties, Cllrs Ruth Houghton, Stuart Morris and Brigit Drake, I thank all three for their time and service on Bishop's Castle Town Council. It has been great working with you all.

I would like to clarify a little of what has been going on.

I am honoured, to have been elected as Mayor for another 12 months. After the election results, I will continue to serve you all to the best of my ability. This role is apolitical. My commitment to Bishop's Castle is undiminished.

I am also excited to have been elected on to Shropshire Council as a Liberal Democrat for Craven Arms division, which covers Craven Arms and the surrounding villages. Being elected on to Shropshire Council is something I have always wanted to do in order to help make Shropshire a better place

for us all. All market Towns and the rural villages and hamlets that feed into them are facing the same issues. I will endeavour to serve the people of Craven Arms with the energy and enthusiasm that I seem to keep stored in the tank. Shropshire has seen a new political change and it is time to move our county forward.

As I said in the last newsletter, over the past couple of months, our Town and community have said goodbye to two very loyal businesses, one forever and one who has now gone to work from home.

Firstly, W J Morris & Son, Funeral Directors have served us all in our time and need with the utmost dignity and respect. To Grace, Phil & Ness, and all the other members of the Morris family who have contributed to such an honourable business, of which we will forever be proud, and not forgetting the late John Morris, who did the same with pride. I, on behalf of our community, thank you for your loyal service and dedication towards us all.

Secondly, Jane's Petals & Gifts (Jane Pugh), our flamboyant florist for the past 20 years, has departed the High Street, to move her business to her home and at markets. Jane, you will be sorely missed. You knew more of what was going on up that front street than I ever did - and probably always will. Your shop was a great asset to our town and I thank you for your commitment and service over the years.

Following on from the thanks above, I think that we need urgently to look at our Town Centre and how we make it fit for the future. We need a thriving Town Centre, not a dead one. I am working on creating a Town Centre working group. Please keep a look out for more details over the next month or so.

Further on in this newsletter, there is a great deal of good content and updates on projects to bring to your attention. Sadly some stuff we just haven't managed to fit in. Please keep your eyes peeled around Town for information. Particularly, as we are heading into events season, there are many great events planned once again. As chair of the Carnival Committee, I know how much hard work goes into these events, so please do support them if you can or even help on the day with setting up etc. There will be a programme for the Bishop's Castle 'Country Life' Carnival (**Saturday 5th July**) in shops fairly soon. We are requesting a donation of 50p to cover printing costs.

I am sorry that I have run out of space as I could fill this newsletter with just my piece, if I had my way. That would probably bore you all!

All the best

Josh

Sunshine Coast FC International Academy
Bishop's Castle Update
A message from Managing Director, Noel Woodall

As we move closer to welcoming our young players from Australia, who are scheduled to fly out of Australia on 28 July for the launch of our full-time International Academy based at the Grange, we wanted to provide a brief update on recent activity and developments.

In my absence, our Sporting Director, Melvyn Wilkes, led an open evening at the Grange where he provided a comprehensive overview of our progress. The event brought together a number of invited guests for an enjoyable evening of refreshments and conversation. For many, it was also a chance to reconnect with former Grange colleagues and friends, reinforcing our commitment to meaningful community integration and collaboration.

We were also pleased to roll out a short 15-day tour that saw 20 of our Under 9 - Under 13 players and their families visit Bishop's Castle over the Easter period in April.

The tour was a huge success with our teams travelling to Professional clubs as well as working alongside the English FA and English Premier League at the National Football Centre at St George's Park in Burton On Trent.

We also included a friendly match against the local Bishop's Castle U12s team, followed by a small BBQ and social gathering at the Grange.

We are truly grateful for the warm welcome our young players and their families received, and we trust that the local people who met them found them respectful, friendly, and professional. We also hear that the local pubs received some healthy support during the visit from our travelling parents and families!

These early engagements mark the beginning of a long-term commitment to creating a positive impact in the area—both socially and economically. The continued development of the Grange represents an opportunity not only for the players and staff involved but also for local businesses and employment.

We have already appointed five UK-based staff members, with further additions to our technical coaching team expected soon. Our aim is to establish a robust and sustainable presence, contributing to job creation and growth in the local area.

Our education partnership with the Community College Bishop's Castle is also progressing well. As part of our commitment to the programme, we have invested in the purchase of new goals, installed perimeter fencing around the school playing fields, secured a new zero-turn mower, and added a storage container. We are currently in discussions with a turf specialist to further improve the condition of the school's football pitch.

Meanwhile, work continues at the Grange and the neighbouring Vine properties. We are now moving into Phase 2 of renovations, with up to three more phases under review as we aim to further enhance the facilities.

Fellow Director Joshua Woodall, Melvyn and I will return to Bishop's Castle in early June. This visit will allow us to continue discussions on potential new developments—some of which could lead to additional local employment opportunities further down the track.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces when we return, and thank the Bishop's Castle community once again for your support and enthusiasm as this exciting journey unfolds.

Noel Woodall, Managing Director,
Sunshine Coast FC International Academy



Key Dates

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June – Bell’s Fest at The Six Bells to raise money for Party in the Park.

Sunday 15th June - Bishop’s Castle Garden Trail.

Sunday 22nd June—Midsummer Rejoicing at St. John’s Church.

Saturday 28th June - Marches Concert in St. John’s Church at 7.30pm - ‘The Armed Man’ by Karl Jenkins.

Saturday 5th July - Bishop’s Castle Country Life Carnival. (This year’s carnival will embrace country life while showcasing and supporting our farming community.)

Saturday 19th July - Party in the Park.

Mayor’s Sunday at St. John’s Church—TBC

Saturday 20th September - Michaelmas Fair.

Updates and bits and pieces

Public Hall - A sale of the Public Hall has now been agreed and arrangements are being finalised. The funds when received, will be protected for the purposes outlined in the deeds and trust documents. The Town Council, acting as Custodian Trustees will decide how, if and when these funds will be used and for what purpose subject to the approval of the Charities’ Commission.

The Marches Choir will be singing Karl Jenkins “The Armed Man” on 28th June 2025 in the St. John’s Church in Bishop’s Castle.

Disabled Spaces/Parking/Road Markings – Please can everyone keep the disabled parking places outside the Pharmacy and the Church free for blue badge holders? There have been several complaints that the spaces have been blocked by cars not displaying a blue badge sign or sticker. Shropshire Council Highways Department are moving forward with the lining issues and marking the disabled parking spaces properly. It may still be a couple of months away before the necessary action is taken.

‘Co-op’ – The contract for building and fitting out the new Co-op in Station Street is now out for tender and it is expected that work will start in September. It will take around three months before the new shop is ready to open.

Free De-Fib Training – 12th June at Onibury Village Hall. If anyone is interested in attending, please see the link to the booking form below.
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/de-fib-training-for-the-shropshire-voluntary-sector-tickets-1345015520629?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Church Clock Dial Renovation - The approximately six-foot diameter clock dial - renowned for its single 'hand' - on the North-facing side of the Church tower is to be refurbished, cleaned and repainted. This will require removal of the face on 24th June followed by off-site work for about four weeks during its restoration. A grant has been offered by Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and an application for a grant towards this work has been made to the Town Council.

Three Tuns - Heineken have confirmed that they have put forward a new scheme for the Three Tuns for approval by the Star Pubs Board. Along with other improvements, this plan will include the installation of a fire escape so that the pub can be advertised ‘with landlord accommodation’. It is hoped that this will help to attract the right tenant. The scheme is still being worked on by their property team. They will advise us once the scheme has been approved by the board. Heineken have said "The situation will improve with a new tenant".

This supports the view of CAMRA which has said that ‘they don't think permanent closure is likely as the Three Tuns is listed and is not suitable for conversion’. In view of recent shortages of real ale at the Three Tuns, the local Camra branch is also considering pulling the pub from its Good Beer Guide.

Church Opening Times – St.John the Baptist Church is open daily for visitors, quiet reflection and prayer. There are Bibles in the prayer chapel, a peaceful space, for visitors to read. The church is open daily

between 10am and 3pm - although sometimes earlier and later (depending upon who is opening and closing). We look forward to welcoming you. Kathy Taylor, Churchwarden.

Church Organ – Following water damage from a leak in the roof, many elements of the Church organ have been taken away for stripping down and renovation. It will take a couple of months, while a complete renovation of the air supply system, including bellows and wind chamber, is undertaken before the organ can be reinstated. At the moment, some parts of the organ are located in the south transept. Visitors are asked to be careful. The restoration of the organ should improve sound quality and should enable the organ to be used for many years to come.

Much of the cost was covered by insurance but as the wear on the bellows was only found when the pipes were removed there is a shortfall in funding. Any donations will, therefore, be greatly appreciated. These can be made by card (in the vestibule), or cash/cheque which can be placed in the black donations box on the right as you enter church. If you would like to make a regular donation, our Treasurer, Roger Taylor, 01588638355 would be pleased to hear from you.

People and Public Spaces Project, Bishop's Castle - The report on the results of the Community Consultation exercise based on public spaces in the town and their use has now been produced and circulated. It will form the basis for a project, following the sale of the Public Hall, to see how the facilities in the town can best be improved to meet the need for community events and occasions going forward. Thanks go to everyone who has participated. This work was jointly funded by The Town Council and St. John's Church.

War Memorial - There is movement on the renovation of the War Memorial. A 'notice' has been placed in the Times and local press to try to resolve the issue. The **War Memorial**, which stands by the North entrance to the Church is to be cleaned and the names of those who lost their lives made 'readable'. If no claim of interest or ownership is made then the Chancellor of the Church of England will

consider the case and make a judgement, following which it is hoped that permission will be given to proceed with the work.

Church Window - The damaged stained glass window in the South aisle of St. John's Church, directly opposite the main entrance, is to be repaired. With advice from specialists, a quote from a stained glass artist has been accepted. A dates for the work to be undertaken has not yet been finalised. The work is funded by an insurance claim.

The Bishop's Castle Youth Hub, which takes place in St John's Church after school every Friday during term-time, regularly sees 24 young people aged 11 to 15 join for pizza, biscuits, drinks, craft activities, outdoor play, board games and with a Christian input each week at the end. In addition, two drop-in sessions, were also recently held in church to meet local families.

Road closures A488 between Knighton & New Invention 1st June A488 between Clun & Colebatch 27th July 2025
Bishop's Castle Michaelmas Fair 2025 20th September 2025
Market Square and Harley Jenkins Street will be closed from 08:00-22:30 and High Street, Church Street, Salop Street, and New street from 12:00-22:30. A vintage vehicle parade also takes place and involves short closures of the following streets: Church Street, Brampton Road, Love Lane and Schoolhouse Lane at various times between 12:00-22:30 .

News from Enterprise House

There are just a few places left on our FREE* one-to-one digital skills support programme. Our one-to-one sessions aim to reduce digital exclusion by helping people get online safely and build their confidence. As we enter our 30th year, Enterprise House has changed its status and its name. We are now a Community Interest Company with a new name 'Rural Lifeline C.I.C', focused on supporting individuals, groups and local businesses in the heart of our community.

We will continue to deliver our full range of drop-in services here at Enterprise House, offering everything from printing and stationery

through to personalised help and advice, Bishop's Castle Library, digital help and support, IT repairs, local equipment hire through Village Outreach, managing SpArC Theatre and the 'Bishop's Castle and Beyond' Website. We're here to help, just pop in or get in touch.

Bishop's Castle and Beyond Local Pages Are Now Live

The dedicated online community hub,

<https://bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community/>, with local information, groups and societies, spotlight on events and our local directory is now live. Please take a look. If you spot something we've missed, please get in touch and let us know.

Spotlight on Events

If you are wanting to find out all that is happening locally, take a look at the Bishop's Castle and Beyond events calendar for all the latest information. Go to <https://bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/events-whatson/> or scan below.



Our aim is to include ALL events, however large or small, happening in the area. So, if you are a community group or individual running any type of event, from a coffee morning to a fundraiser, or an evening talk,

please upload your events free of charge by visiting:

<https://bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/spotlight-event-form/>.

Please note, businesses can upload events but need to be members of Bishop's Castle & Beyond. If you need some help listing your event or would like us to do it for you, just pop into Enterprise House.

Do you know someone who wants to get online or develop their digital skills? Digital Drop-ins* to help with quick queries will be coming soon. Please get in touch with Cheryl at Enterprise House on 01588 638 038 to find out more. **Subject to criteria.*

Boost Your Business on 19th June at Enterprise House

We are welcoming the Marches Growth Hub back to Enterprise House for Business Boost in Bishop's Castle on **Thursday 19th June, 10.30am – 1pm**. This free event will give anyone running or planning

their own business in the South West Shropshire area the chance to chat about their business ideas and challenges, meet their local business support community and network with other businesses. This informal drop-in offers the opportunity to get advice from general business advisors and specialists in marketing & social media, website development and business administration. To find out more, please get in touch on 01588 638 038, email info@enterprisehouse.org.uk or book a place on Eventbrite by searching for 'Business Boost in Bishop's Castle'.

Bishop's Castle Climate Action Plan

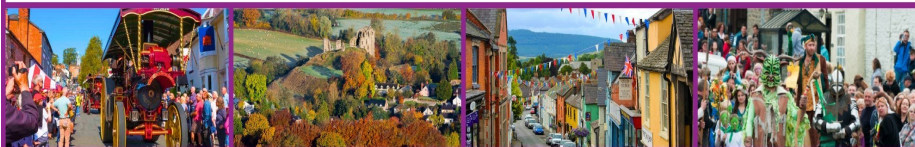
The joint Town Council-Climate Action Group Working Group is reviewing and updating the Bishop's Castle Climate Action Plan. If you have any ideas for what could be done, please send an e-mail to climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org or

leon.kosciuczyk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk.



**BISHOP'S CASTLE
& BEYOND**

*The guide to Bishops Castle
and surrounding areas*



Bishops Castle and Beyond is a comprehensive guide to what's on and around Bishops Castle, Clun Valley, South West Shropshire and the Welsh Borders.

- **For local events and activities visit 'Spotlight on Events' Calendar**
- **Hosting an Event?** Get noticed by listing your event for **FREE**.
- **Own a business?** Attract more customers with a personalised business page, upload your photos and share your story.



www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk

01588 638038

BISHOP'S CASTLE GARDEN TRAIL

Sunday 15th June, 1.30pm – 5.30pm

St. Johns Church, SY9 5AF

A variety of gardens providing lots of interest

Cakes and tea in the Church

Toilets available

£6, covers all gardens. Dogs welcome

Proceeds will be split between Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and St. John's Church

Community Heat Network Planning Application update

In the last issue of the newsletter, it was confirmed that after three years' effort, a planning application had been submitted for a 1MW wind turbine just outside Bishop's Castle.

As a final detail to the planning application for the wind turbine, Shropshire Council's Senior Planning Officer asked for an update to the project's Heritage Report to take into account the Colebatch Motte (this is a medieval castle mound, now mostly under trees, about 1km away from the turbine site). This Heritage Report update has been completed and the report submitted. The outcome of the wind turbine planning application is now awaited.

The tone of the communications from the Planning Officer has been positive so far, and we are hopeful of a favourable outcome. Indeed, by the time you are reading this newsletter we may already have learnt the outcome. If so, we'll do our best to spread the news as quickly as possible, including posting it on Lightfoot's website. <https://lightfootenterprises.org/heat-network/> This website also provides further details about how the project will both benefit the town and people of Bishop's Castle and greatly reduce our carbon foot print enabling us to help in the fight to reduce global warming.

BC Waste Water Treatment Works & River Onny Pipeline update

Severn Trent has withdrawn its proposal to build the (£8 million) Onny pipeline and is working on 'alternative solutions'. While this move is welcome, there are no details yet about whether the funds will be used elsewhere to correct the issue and whether any proposal from Severn Trent will address the water treatment problem which is currently blocking the development of 100 much needed homes in Bishop's Castle.

It was confirmed by Severn Trent at the public meeting in March 2025 that the treatment works has capacity to handle the proposed housing developments. It is therefore presumed that, if the water treatment process was more efficient and the quality of the waste water improved, it would allow the much-needed additional housing to be pursued. It has been queried

A. why work has not been done to find additional land for reed beds, or other natural water cleaning processes, of which there are several examples, which would mitigate the problem.

B. in a world of constantly advancing technology, cannot an additional process, i.e. digesters/chemical treatment/nitrate and phosphate capture, be found to lower the levels of nutrients to well below permit levels before the treated water is released from the sewage works, thus negating the need for the pipeline?

C. the two housing developments cannot incorporate primary sewage treatment systems, as happens elsewhere to reduce nitrate and phosphate levels before waste goes to the sewage plant. Even if treated effluent does then have to pass through the sewage works, the impact on the environment could be minimised at this stage.

A letter has been drafted to be sent to The Rt. Hon. A Rayner MP., Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government when further information is available from Severn Trent on their new plans now that the Onny pipeline proposal has been withdrawn. A number of ideas are being put forward for her consideration where it is believed her help, advice and action could be beneficial.

Support Live Music – Keep the Beat Alive!

We are incredibly fortunate to have access to outstanding live music right here in our community—at truly affordable prices! Whether it's the lively atmosphere of **The Vaults**, the rich acoustics of **The Town Hall**, the cosy setting of **The Bells**, or the vibrant performances at **SpArC**, there's no shortage of talent gracing our stages.

By attending live gigs, you're not just enjoying unforgettable performances; you're keeping music thriving, supporting local venues, and ensuring that artists continue to share their passion.

So, let's celebrate live music, grab your friends, head to a venue, and experience the magic for yourself!

 **Live Music Lives Here. Be a Part of It.**

Bishop's Castle Midsummer 24 Hour Tennis Challenge **21st - 22nd June**

This summer, on the longest day of the year, Bishop's Castle Tennis Club players are undertaking their longest ever challenge, playing tennis for 24 hours without a break - all to raise much needed funds for the club. From **midday on Saturday 21st June until midday Sunday 22nd June**, members of the club will be completing a 'Tennisathon' by playing tennis around the clock, into the small hours, through the night and will be on court as the sun comes up. It's a bit of a fun challenge to help raise money to repair the court surfaces.

There will be singles matches, tournaments, walking tennis and some gentle games, every moment through 24 hours, someone will be playing tennis at the club in Bishop's Castle. There'll be a rota throughout and a couple of lucky committee members have drawn the 3am slot, so might be playing in pyjamas as the sun rises! The challenge culminates in a Grand Finale match from 11am until midday on Sunday 22nd June, where everyone is welcome to come and watch. This will be followed by an afternoon celebration party, with cakes, hot & cold drinks, music and more tennis for those who have the energy.

Bassline Retail will also be on site on Sunday morning with their pop up shop of sportswear, offering a range of tennis racquets, clothing and shoes to try before you buy.

Everyone from the local community is welcome to come along and support at any stage of the 24 hours Tennisathon, and to join us to enjoy the celebrations on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd June.

We're setting up a 'JG' page for donations - details to follow on our website www.bishopscastletennis.org. Also watch out for updates on the community Facebook pages.

Bishop's Castle W.I.

The Bishop's Castle Womens' Institute meets at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month at The Methodist Hall, Station Street. All are welcome to join our outings and activities. Just come along for an evening of friendship. Thank you.

Going Wild in Bishop's Castle

Going Wild has been busy as usual this Spring. Bishop's Castle Moth Group has been meeting up each month, adding more species to our town records. Meetings are starting to get crowded, both in terms of moths and people! Our next dates will be: Monday 2nd June, Monday 23rd June, Monday 21st July! Keep an eye on the socials for more updates.

In other news, we held our first scything training session, open to all. This training will aid more of our volunteers to continue managing the many burgeoning meadows around Bishops Castle and is just one part of a much wider series of free training sessions which will soon be made available, to include safeguarding, coppicing, hedge-laying and several plant husbandry training opportunities.

Our Kids Club continues to let young people in BC loose in nature... recent adventures have included wandering through a bluebell wood, Easter egg hunts and tree-planting, as well as the usual sample of mad outdoor games.

Our conservation volunteers have been busy making dead-hedges, raking our cut meadows, planting meadow-plug plants to increase food for our pollinating insects and scything new sites ready for this year's 'no mow' season. You can find the latest work-parties listed on our white-board on the Co-op board, or on Dan's office door at Enterprise House! Look out for our new 'No-mow' signs dotted about the Town, these are to help make sure our wildlife sites remain unscathed during this short three month meadow season.

Our newly minted Wildlife Gardening Group has had its first session, transforming a garden on Oak Meadow for nature and veg-growing. On Friday 16th May we offered help with wildlife gardening, including handing out pollinator friendly seeds and starter plants, as well as running a work party session between 10 and 12, when we worked on the host's garden. We'll eventually be touring the whole town...if you'd like your street to be next, let us know!

Lastly, our swifts are back! Keep your eyes peeled for the next Swift Group meeting, where we'll outline what we'll be doing as we survey swifts this season.

Bishop's Castle Shadows

A new visitor information booklet is in production to raise funds for Bishop's Castle Town Hall. We need to hear your strange and spooky stories from the Castle.

Bishop's Castle Shadows will tell those stories of Bishop's Castle, that often go unrecorded and unshared, that families tell around the fireside on cold winters' nights. These are the strange tales of the unlikely and the inexplicable that force us to ask questions about reality and whether we are alone in our homes. We want to tell the stories too of those things that happen, or have happened, in our houses that just defy explanation. We already know of some of them in BC but we are keen to learn of more. Your anonymity and address will always be respected. If you have a strange story or a spooky encounter that that you would like to share and see in print, please email BishopsCastleShadows@gmail.com with a brief outline and your contact details and we will be in touch.



New Hope Daylilies Summer opening times

New Hope Day Lilies (Colebatch Farm, Colebatch, SY9 5JY) - a spectacular display of day lilies (Hemerocallis) as featured on Gardeners' World last Autumn - will be open every weekend from 11am to 4pm from Saturday 21st June until Sunday 27th July. Over 350 varieties to see and pots to buy. A warm welcome and a spectacular show awaits.

Refreshments, WC, parking. www.newhopedaylilies.co.uk. Fi and Liz

DROVERS TRAVEL

30 Church Street, Bishop's Castle



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www.droverstravel.com



Bishops Castle & District Community Land Trust

Farewell to the old and welcome in the new! After 18 years of involvement in the trust, Jonathan Brown is stepping down as secretary, and Polly Goode has been appointed in his place.

'I've much enjoyed working with many good people in the town to support the trust, but now that the Stars is up and running, this feels like a good time to step back'. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to my successor Polly Goode and I'm sure that with her skill and energy the trust will continue to prosper. '

As well as Jonathan; Stuart Taylor, his assistant and helper with all things governmental, is also resigning from the board to concentrate on housing development more generally with possible access to Government/Council funding for community-led affordable housing, in light of new plans from Severn Trent after the disastrous Onny Pipe plans were stopped.

It's a new era for us, the seemingly endless building project is over at last and the new tenants are settled in. One of our long term tenants, Indy Strickland is moving on, and the Trust has welcomed a new tenant for No 1 King's Head Yard.

The Stars pop up shop is proving a grand success!

We have had art exhibitions and workshops, the ever popular Dog Charity Shop is now a regular booking, along with Shropshire Hardwoods, Sam Angell's Book sale and our own house sale of some of the contents of Oak House, where Derek and Dorothy Phillips, the former owners of the Stars shop used to live. Comments from everybody who has used it so far.

'We would like to thank BC Community Land Trust for having the foresight and energy to create such an excellent community facility. Lightfoot had a very successful week with more than 120

people visiting to learn more about the projects we're running and, importantly, fulfilling our major objective of recruiting volunteers to get involved with them' Like many other local groups, we believe this facility to be one of the best things to happen in Bishop's Castle. 'Mike Watkins, Lightfoot and Going Wild

Everyone one hiring the shop so far has done REALLY well, and we have a lot of availability left this year, so whatever you've got to sell or publicise or try out, book some space!!!! For bookings, prices and hiring conditions, go to Enterprise House in-fo@enterprisehouse.org.uk tel 01588 638 038

We are always looking for new (younger!?) board members and volunteers to help with any fundraising ideas and events, so if you want to join us contact katetheplate@gmail.com or pollygoode20@yahoo.co.uk or visit our website www.bcclt.co.uk

We are still on a bit of a knife edge financially so if you want to make a donation to support your community land trust, and help keep this brilliant venue open to all comers.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/stars-appeal.



MARCHES CHOIR

and FRIENDS

St. John's Church, Bishop's Castle

Saturday 28th June 2025, 7:30pm

KARL JENKINS

THE ARMED MAN: A MASS FOR PEACE

CONDUCTED BY ALISTAIR AULD

with

Rebecca Thurgur – *Soprano*

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394 or online from TicketSource



Children and Students FREE

www.marcheschoir.org.uk



Bishop's Castle and Brockton Methodist Chapels

Sunday Services:

Bishops Castle:

15th June 10.30am Rev. B. Spencer - Holy Communion Service
20th July 10.30am worship led by Rev George Heinz
10th Aug 10.30am Rev George Heinz, Holy Communion Service

Brockton:

1st June 3.30pm Messy Church
8th June 5pm worship led by Rev Sheila MacInally
22nd June 5pm worship led by Helen Pearson
29th June 5pm worship led by Rev George Heinz
6th July 5pm Messy Church - Rev George Heinz
13th July 5pm Rev Sheila MacInally, Holy Communion Service
27th July 5pm Local arrangement – to be confirmed

August services to be arranged –please enquire for details

Refreshments served after all services.

Regular Weekday activities at Bishop's Castle Methodist Hall:

Tuesdays during Term time:

Little Fish - Mum's and Toddler's Group: 10am - 12 noon.

Rainbow Gang - Children's Club, with crafts, games and Bible story for 5 to 11 year olds - 5.30pm - 6.45pm.

Fridays:

Coffee morning - all welcome 10.30am –12 noon.

For more information please contact:

Elisabeth & Michael Knight: chapel.house@uwclub.net or
Heather Holt 01588 630055

The Methodist Hall in Station Street, Bishop's Castle is available to hire, contact: Pat Morrison p.morrison.2008@btinternet.com

BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN HALL

Listings for June 2025

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

The Town Hall is closed on 20th June for a wedding

Until 24th June Exhibition by Art International.

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

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

14th June - Three Legg'd Mare in concert

Kate, Daf and Jon take great delight in singing traditional songs, and some of their own, in Welsh and English. **Door open 7.30pm for**

8.00pm start. Tickets £10 from the Town Hall or online at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH

21st June - Farmers' 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.

28th June to until 29th July Exhibition by Rob Corfield

28th June Rob Corfield – Artist in Residence

28th June - Jackie Oates in concert

Jackie Oates is an English folk musician, singer, fiddler, songwriter & winner of two **BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards**.

Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Tickets £15 from the Town Hall or online at **www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH**

Listings for July 2025

The Town Hall is closed on 12th and 17th July for weddings.

Until 29th July Exhibition by Rob Corfield

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

4th July - Black Feathers in concert

The ability to write songs that are both modern and ancient is a rare thing. The product of an arcane art of weaving in traditional influences so thoroughly that they become the warp and weft of fresh creations.

Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Tickets £12 from the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH or £14 on the door

5th July Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

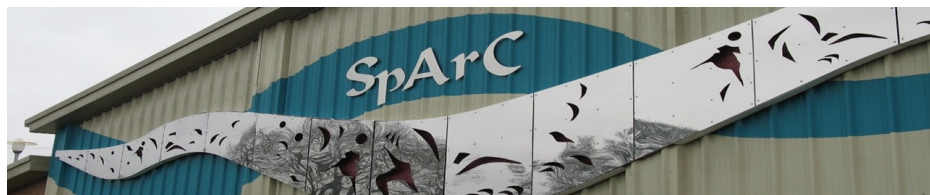
18th July - Rosie Green & Martin Thomas in concert

Rosie Green began singing and writing in the 1990's with fellow songwriter Ieuan Jones and at that time played as support for Fairport Convention, Jake Thackery and others. Rosie returned to performing in late 2023 in collaboration with songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Martin Thomas. Martin is known for his solo performances and his work with the ever popular band folk band Grey Wolf.

**Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start
Tickets £12 from the Town Hall or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH**

19th July Rob Corfield – Artist in Residence

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



Sport and Arts in the Community (SpArC) **South West Shropshire (charity reg. 1170997)**

WE ALL DID IT TOGETHER!

The bad news first: Installation of the pool is due to start on January 5 2026 and take a maximum of 16 weeks.

Part of the reason for the delay is that £2.7 million has been granted to SpArC under the Government's decarbonisation fund. This is to be spent in stages over 2.5 years, on a project to reduce running costs through replacing the boilers with air source heating, installing solar water heating and insulating the pool building.

The installation of the pool is now the first stage in a much bigger project, being planned in parallel with the Pool project, which is making the pool planning a bit more complex. The implementation team is virtually the same as the Whitchurch Swimming and Fitness Centre team, made possible because the pool project is now the first stage in a much bigger one.

Our case was hugely strengthened by the fact that this community had already invested £250,000 into the pool project.

We are really grateful to our Shropshire Council contact who has tenaciously worked with and for us in really difficult circumstances.

BISHOP'S CASTLE

Party in the Park 2025



Live Music, Bar, Food, Stalls, Family Activities

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BEEZ NEEZ - MEG CHANDLER

FIGHT THE BEAR - NUCLEAR WEASELS

MODIFIED YOUTH - SAMBA BAND WORKSHOP

PIGDAZE - LILITH PEARSON - KIWI TAXI

SAT 19TH JULY

**Bishop's Castle Playing Fields
SY9 5AU**

TICKETS

Adults: £15

8 to 15 years: £7

7 and under: Free

Family ticket (2+2): £40

Carer (one per person): Free

**Official
Sponsors:**

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water



BISHOP'S CASTLE 'PARTY IN THE PARK'

LINE-UP REVEALED!

On Saturday 19th July 2025, the popular Bishop's Castle 'Party in the Park' returns for another family friendly music event with artists performing between 1pm and 10.30pm. It's a not-to-be-missed, great value festival of live music, food, drink, stalls and activities for residents and visitors.

With exciting new and returning bands, a fresh variety of food stalls and plenty of activities for kids, including a new Samba Band workshop, Bishop's Castle Party in the Park is the best value festival day in Shropshire with ticket prices remaining the same as last year. It's also a charity event, organised by volunteers in aid of supporting local up-and-coming youth bands, giving them the opportunity to build their stage experience. Many young Party in the Park bands are now playing big venues with great success. Come and support them and have a great day out!

We have a brilliant music line-up, guaranteed to get everyone up on their feet. Uniquely, and for the first time they're scheduled throughout the festival, we gather our local blazing talent of Modified Youth, Lilith Pearson and Kiwi Taxi, plus there's an opportunity to take part in the festival Samba Band workshop and performance. Our more established bands range from boisterous festival favourites Smoke like a Fish, the ever-popular ska-rock of Fight the Bear, Indi-pop-folk singer Meg Chandler, Nuclear Weasels' reggae-rock, the catchy PigDaze indie-punk sound, alongside the joyful blues and soul energy of Beez Neez. There is something for everyone!

Apart from the live bands, there's lots to keep everyone happy. We have festival food vans including burgers, loaded fries, pizza, tacos and burritos, cakes, ice-cream and a cash bar.

Kids and adults can join the Samba Band workshop and performance, an instrument making activity, have their face painted, and purchase party accessories and festival merchandise.

Party in the Park takes place on Saturday 19 July 2025 at Bishop's Castle Playing Fields, SY9 5AU. Entrances for the public are on Union Street and Corporation Street.

Adult £15 (age 16+); pre and young-teen £7 (8–15-year-olds); child FREE (age 7 and under); a family ticket £40 (2 adults, 2 under 15)

One carer FREE per assisted person. Tickets can be bought in advance from The Six Bells in Bishop's Castle, or at the same price on the gates.

Those coming from out of town can park for FREE at Harley Jenkins Street, Auction Yard or Bishop's Castle Community College car parks. The music kicks off at 1pm, get there early to secure your spot!

We are very grateful for the support of our sponsors The Dylan Price Foundation and FLI Water.

For further information about the event, follow our

[Party in the Park Facebook page](#)

and Instagram page:

BC_Party_in_the_Park

Alternatively, if you have questions or you wish to volunteer, please email bishopscastlepitp@gmail.com

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Fridays 9.15-10.15am

1hr class combining pilates exercises with traditional strengthening exercises such as squats, lunges, bicep curls. Extra resistance with dumbbells, balls and resistance bands will be used and provided.

Please note that my classes are designed with different levels of fitness and ability in mind, I deliver different options and modifications when required, no-one gets left behind!!

Venue – Church Barn, Bishops Castle,
SY9 5AF (parking available behind barn).



KJFitness



07932438386

BELLS FEST.

SIX BELLS 7TH / 8TH JUNE

BISHOP'S CASTLE



SATURDAY FUNDRAISER FOR PARTY IN THE PARK
5PM SUGGESTED DONATION OF £5.00

NUCLEAR WEASELS - MODIFIED YOUTH
KIWI TAXI - DUNK BURNS - GEORGIA LLOYD

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From classical to folk, to jazz to pop, whatever your taste!

Bishop's Castle Library has introduced a range of weekly **family-friendly activities** running throughout the year:

Tots & Tales Duplo Club every Tuesday 10am – 11am

Family Board Game Club every Friday afternoon 3.30pm – 5pm

Lego Club every Saturday morning 10am – 12.30pm

Kids crafts and colouring are also always available during library opening hours, Monday 10am – 1pm, Tuesday and Friday 10am – 5pm and Saturday morning 10am – 1pm.

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Midsummer Rejoicing

Sunday 22 June
Bishops Castle

featuring -
*The Shropshire
Bedlams, Martha
Rhoden's
Tupenny Dish &
Earlsdon Morris*



Dancing starts at 10am
Coverage Care, Union St

Church service starts at 11am
St John the Baptist church



St John the Baptist Church, Bishop's Castle

All contacts for the events listed below can be reached through Louise Baker, Benefice Administrator, at ridgeway.ba@gmail.com

June services

Sunday 1 June	09.30	Mainstone	Holy Communion
	11.00	Lydbury North	Holy Communion
	11.00	Bishops Castle	Cafe Church
Saturday 7 June	10.30	Bishops Castle (barn)	Messy Church
Sunday 8 June Pentecost	09.30	Mainstone	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Edgton	Holy Communion
	11.00	Bishops Castle	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 June	09.30	Mainstone	Holy Communion
	11.00	Bishops Castle	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 June Midsummer Rejoicing	09.30	Edgton	BCP Holy Communion
	11.00	Bishops Castle	Midsummer Rejoicing
Sunday 29 June	11.00	Mainstone	Holy Communion

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. Everyone welcome. We are a friendly and inclusive group who enjoy the informal drop-in nature of our coffee mornings. The church is wheelchair accessible & we can provide crayons and paper to keep little ones engaged for parents who would like to wander in and join us. We provide tea, coffee and biscuits. If you know anyone in town in need of some mid-week companionship, please do let them know that we would be very glad to welcome them. We can arrange free transport to and from the church for those who may otherwise struggle to get there - 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 Rev. Nick Gurney for more information.

Messy Church - next meeting on Saturday 7th June. The fun starts at 10.30am with activities, singing, and prayer followed by a family friendly lunch. Come and join us! Contact Sylvia Taylor for more information.

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

22nd June Midsummer Rejoicing and patronal festival of St John the Baptist.

Our local Morris Dancers, Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tup-penny Dish, plus guest dancers Earlsdon Morris, will be dancing for us for our Midsummer Rejoicing Festival. Dancing usually starts at 10am at Coverage Care in Union Street and the rushcart is decorated with posies. The procession then sets off for Church for the service at 11am, with more dancing and merriment to boot. This year, the guest preacher is the Rev Nick Gurney, Youth Pioneer.. After the service there will be more dancing outside Church.

Rushes will be cut from Walcot Lake a few days before and the rushcart prepared. Contact Ron Davies if you would like to help with this.

Activities in the 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 if you are interested.

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

Tuesdays

Food Bank - Tuesday 10.30-12pm ; Thursday 2.30 – 4.00pm every week. We offer free tea, coffee and biscuits and a welcoming atmosphere so if you need us please use us.

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

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 - kjobarnes@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 - kjobarnes@icloud.com

Many other groups, societies and families use the Barn for celebrations and events. For details contact Neil Fox 07359 513243 or bookingschurch-barn@outlook.com

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.

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).

Graham Dudley

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, (Graham) I own a small Funeral Business based in Clun, to which I have operated since 2003, and have been in the Funeral Industry for over 40 years. With the Clun Valley being a small area, I have always liked to use local businesses, i.e. flower suppliers, Bright Flowers of Clun, Janes Petals, Bishops Castle and for catering needs Wendy Oakley, Catering Service of Bishops Castle. We carry out all types of Funerals from Traditional Funeral and Green Burials and more recently, low cost Direct Funerals, the Chapel of Rest we use, is also based in Bishops Castle. So we can say that we are a local Service to Bishops Castle, and we are offering our services to the people of Bishops Castle and surrounding areas this is due to the cease trading of W J Morris & Son, Funeral Directors of Bishops Castle. Any enquiries will be treated with the strictest of confidence, and finally I would like to wish all the very best to Phillip Morris and his Mother Grace for the future.

Graham Dudley
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For more details ring 01588 442008



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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@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk



07530 691106



Sheltered housing in Bishop's Castle

The Abbeyfield Bishop's Castle and District Society operates a small, sheltered house on Oak Meadow in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5PA. We are a member society of [The Abbeyfield Society](https://abbeyfield.org.uk/), providing houses and homes to older people throughout the UK.

At Abbeyfield House we aim to provide a peaceful, friendly atmosphere. Residents are encouraged to remain as independent as possible with a balance of privacy, support and security.

For more information see website

<https://bishopscastle.abbeyfield.com>

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Thursday 18th September
Thursday 20th November**

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15 June watercolours- the basics (PW)
21 June colour-mixing part 2 primary light & other stories (H)
12 July have a go at chalk pastels (PW)
17 July make memory sticks (BC)
2 Aug Magic with limited palette & carbon paper (PW)
8 Aug a whistle stop guide to gelli printing (M)
11 Aug introduction to paint pouring (M)
13 Aug experiment with monoprinting (M)
13 Sept Have a go drawing with pen & ink (PW)
Lots more workshops up until middle of December

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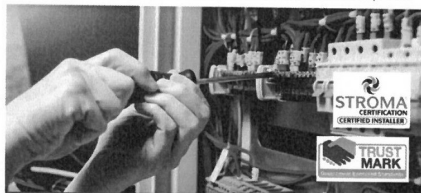


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Tel: 01588 638467

Email: jane.carroll

Councillor Andy Stelman

Tel 07773006413

Email: andy.stelman

Councillor Josh Dickin

Tel 07530691106

Email: josh.dickin

Councillor Grant Perry

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Email: sharon.jones

Councillor Michelle Gayle

Email: michellelisa.gayle

Welcome to our new councillors

Email confirmation to follow

Cllr.Sam Angell

Cllr. Lucy Blundell

Cllr. Ella Embrey

Cllr. Julie Magill

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**

18th July 2025 to:

Town Clerk: 01588 638141

town clerk

@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

Assistant clerk

@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

tim.halford

@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm

For allotment enquiries,

Contact:

bcallotment@gmail.com

ADVERTS which have **not**
been paid for will be removed
from the next issue.

Opening Times: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri

9am till 5pm



- Printing, Copying & Scanning
- Volunteer & Community Group Support
- Designing, Editing & Finishing
- Co-Working & Meeting Rooms
- Community Support
- IT & Business Training
- Computer Repairs
- Equipment Hire
- Local Directory
- Posters, Leaflets & Flyers
- Brochures & Newsletters
- Laminating & Binding
- Photographs & Prints
- Business Cards & Stationery
- Tickets
- Gift Vouchers
- Invites & Cards
- Order of Service
- Writing & Office Supplies
- School Stationery
- Paper & Card
- IT Accessories
- Envelopes & Packaging
- Bingo & Raffle Books
- Gift Packs
- Greeting Cards
- Craft Supplies

ENTERPRISE HOUSE, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ

www.enterprisehouse.org.uk



Village Outreach Equipment Hire

For Outdoor & Indoor Events



- Marquees & Gazebos
- Tables & Chairs
- Lighting, Staging & Sound Systems
- Soft Play
- Giant Games
- Display Equipment
- PAT Testing Service



01588 638 038

villageoutreach@bishopscastle.co.uk

Meet your safer neighbourhood team

We are a dedicated group of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) who work with local communities and partner organisations to keep our residents, businesses and visitors safe and to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour in your locality.

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



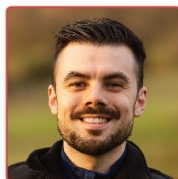
Sergeant
Jenni Price



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).



**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**



Sign up to receive alerts from
your local policing teams
www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



Bishop's Castle Old Market Square – Gardening group



In recent years, enhancements to the Old Market Square have been taking place. A group of volunteers have been maintaining the space for residents and visitors to enjoy. With summer months ahead of us, we have arranged our schedule of maintenance. We need some help to keep it looking tidy for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. There is no requirement to stay for the whole time, but please bring the tools you like to use, and green recycling bags if you have them.

We will be there on the following dates. If you can help us, please meet in the square!

Tuesday 10th June 10am – 11am

Tuesday 24th June 10am – 11am

Tuesday 8th July 10am – 11am

Tuesday 22nd July 10am – 11am



We are grateful to residents around the square and to The Castle Hotel for the colourful planters. If you have any questions, please contact MichelleIsagayle@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk