

BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



**DECEMBER 2025
TO
JANUARY 2026**

Issue No. 102



Welcome to the Town Newsletter



The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello, and welcome to this end of year edition of the Newsletter.

It has not been the easiest of years for many towns, especially those that rely on visitors to keep their economies healthy. Bishop's Castle is one of those and we too have seen a reduction in footfall.

In true Bishop's Castle spirit however the town has not grown despondent but demonstrated its resilience. In 2025 we have put on some of the most successful events ever. The Arts Festival, Walking Festival, Carnival,

Party in the Park, Michaelmas Fair and many others have all been amazing this year, a tribute to all those who gave their time and expertise or have been of support in other ways. These events are a key part of what makes this town special.

The wonderful Pearl of Africa Children's Choir concert on 23rd October – see cover - is one example of many individual performances that show that the Town is alive and well and embracing the future with enthusiasm.

There have been many other achievements too. All our hostellers have responded to the difficult environment with the Three Tuns and King's Head delighting under new management and The Castle Hotel, Six Bells and Vaults continuing to evolve and to contribute enormously to the Town. We must also not forget the cafes, restaurants and coffee shops who, along with our excellent shops and providers of accommodation, give our visitors a warm welcome, The Happy Bap, The Poppy House, The Chai Shop, The Poetry Pharmacy, Yarborough House, Herbies, the Dragons Lair, Bishop's Castle Delight and The Ganges all deserve a big thank you.

In 2026 there will be a focus on tidying up the town. The Three Tuns will have a facelift, the Co-op will move, the Old Bowling Green will take on a new life and those buildings in the Town that currently let it down will gently be encouraged to smarten up.

This process started in 2025 and it must not be forgotten that at St John's Church in 2025 nearly £150,000 has been raised and spent on the new clock face, rebuilding of the organ, a replacement window, and some structural repairs – not forgetting the War Memorial. This is a remarkable achievement in these straightened times. The Church can now focus on the major long term fund raising project to carry out the much needed works on the roof and fabric to assure its future.

I would like to welcome Councillor Rachel Bromley back on to the Town Council and to take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the Council, all volunteers receiving no remuneration, for their time and commitment over the year.

It is not yet known if the financial difficulties of Shropshire Council will affect the Town. Whatever happens we will continue to work to support the interests of everyone who lives in the community as best we can.

For the past three years Christine Perkins, a trained youth worker, has worked in a most effective manner developing our youth services, building numbers up and providing a variety of enjoyable and educational activities. She has decided to retire in December 2025 and on behalf of all the Town I wish to say thank you. As a town we must not let all her good work go to waste.

The Town came together for our Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service held at St John the Baptist Church on the 9th November 2025. Thanks go to Reverend Stephanie Fountain for a thoughtful ceremony, and to the poem readers during the service. Also, thank you to everyone who came out to support the service and join the parade, led by our town band. It was wonderful to see so many wreaths laid, especially from the Sunshine Coast Football Academy and the Quakers.



The 'Bonfire & Fireworks' night on 8th November was once again a great success. I do hope that bonfire night continues to be a mainstay in the town's event calendar. Once again, without volunteers, this event wouldn't have taken place, so thank you!

We will be celebrating the switching on of our 'Christmas Lights' on Saturday 6th December. Please come out to support this event and celebrate. And once again, a big thank you to those volunteers who have helped to put them up or to plug them in for us all to enjoy.

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

Josh



MAYOR'S OPEN OFFICE

**Every Monday
2.30pm - 5.00pm**



josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk



07530 691106

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 6th December	Christmas Lights Festival Lantern Procession from Church at 5.50pm 6.00pm Town Hall Switch On
Saturday 6th December	Craft Fair in Church 11am - 4.30pm
Saturday 13th December	Marches Choir Concert in Church 7.30pm
Thursday 20th December	Land Trust Christmas Market at Stars
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve 6.30pm Christingle in church
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day Services
Friday 26th December	Boxing Day. From around 12 noon Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish in the Top Room – or Yard if fine - followed by Castle Carols at around 1.30 at the Tuns.
Sunday 28th December	Castle Carols at St. John's at 3 - 5pm

2026

Monday 16th January	St John's Hot Supper and All Age Quiz 6pm
Sunday 25th January	St John's Piano Concert, Daniel Gordon 3pm
Wednesday 18th – Sunday 22nd February	Bishop's Castle Arts Festival
Sunday 22nd February	Evening Gala organ recital in St John's by Peter Dyke, Hereford Cathedral


Going Wild

Winter Talks – Bishop's Castle Town Hall

Talks start at 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

2nd Dec	Wintles Wood (Jill Key)
3rd Feb	SALC Network (Janet Cobb)
3rd Mar	Swifts (Edward Mayer)

 goingwild@lightfootenterprises.org

 Call Dan: 07493 702246

Bishop's Castle Library

Tuesday 23rd December Christmas Story and Crafts 10.30 am

Come and hear a Christmas Themed Story then do some related crafts
Free to attend.

**Come and join us for seasonal celebrations to close the year,
2pm onwards, all welcome**

Rhyme Time	every Monday during term time	10.30am-11.00am
Tots and Tales Duplo Club	every Tuesday	10 am–11am
Family Board Game Club	every Friday afternoon	3.30pm-5.00pm
Lego Club	every Saturday morning	10am-12.30pm
Hearing Support	Tuesday 9th December and 13th December (booking essential)	

Christmas Closing
5pm Tuesday 23rd December,
opening 10 am Friday 2nd January 2026

Coffee Morning 30th January 2026

Online events calendar at **bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/events-whatson/**

For a constantly updated list of local events remember to visit Spotlight on Events on the Bishop's Castle and Beyond website. Offering a comprehensive list of what's happening in the area, local groups and events are also invited to upload their events for free.

**BISHOP'S CASTLE
& BEYOND**

The guide to Bishops Castle
and surrounding areas


ENTERPRISE
HOUSE



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**

Until 16th December - Bobby Britnell Exhibition

2nd December – Going Wild Talk – Wintles Woods

Free admission but donations very welcome
Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

5th December – Much Ado About Jazz in concert

'A show aimed at people who don't necessarily like jazz - as well as those that do!'

Tickets £15 from Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth
Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

6th December - Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

12th December - Dr. John Dee – a talk by Gary Nottingham

Door open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £10 from the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH
Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

19th December - BLAST Storytelling – Morgan Le Fay

Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Tickets from the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH
Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

20th December - 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.

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

20th December until 20th January - Affordable Art exhibition by Tricia & Sue

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

3rd January - Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

16th January - BLAST Storytelling – Tales of Resistance with Wendy Shearer

Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start Details at www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Tickets from the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH

17th January - Farmer's Market 9am to 1pm 3rd Saturday of each month.

Stalls include Bishop's Castle Seed Bank, Meat, Cakes & Pastries, Preserves, Honey, Chocolates, Hand Dyed Wool, Soaps and Body Creams.

All produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

24th January until 24th February Art exhibition by Catherine Jones

31st January – Sarah McQuad in concert

Sarah McQuaid's lush, chocolatey voice combines with her engaging personality, "subtle mastery onstage" (Huffington Post) and "brilliant musicianship" (fRoots) on acoustic and electric guitars, piano and (occasionally) drum to create a truly immersive experience.

Tickets £5 from the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCTH

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Catherine Jones Music

t2lpiano@gmail.com 07407260949

www.catherinejonesmusic.co.uk

A life of musicmaking and music teaching

For inspiration and encouragement, whether you want to play the piano, cello or sing.

Catherine Jones now has a few vacancies whatever your age and stage – from older toddlers to the retired, it is always a good time to learn music!

From classical to folk, to jazz to pop, whatever your ambitions, have fun discovering your inner musical voice.

"It's always hard finding a good, reliable (and fun!) teacher but Catherine has been amazing!"

Lessons can be online or in person

Bishop's Castle News

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights 'switch on' will take place on Saturday 6th December at 6.00pm at The Town Hall. There will be a lantern procession starting at the church at 5.50pm following illuminated tractors to the Town Hall. Following the 'switch on', there will be carols around the tree with Bishops Castle Primary School Choir.

Craft Fair

There are already over twenty stallholders, including a tombola, for the craft fair in St John's Church on Saturday 6 December between 11 and 4. Many stall holders from last year are returning with some new participants, including the Youth Hub. Do visit.

News from the Police

Officer uplift since 2024 includes:

- a 1x additional sergeant for South Shropshire which takes Ludlow patch from Sgt Price (meaning better dedication to BC)
- b 1x additional constable to BC team – now PC Daryl McWatt and PC Simon Wilkey
- c 2x additional constables to the Ludlow team meaning less abstraction of the BC constables to the demand in Ludlow
- d No change to PCSO numbers (BC still has the fantastic PCSO Shaun Culliss and PCSO Calvin Brown) although they finish work at 20:00 now not 22:00.
- Op Conyay - Drug seizures in area since June 25 are sitting at £1.34 million, mixture of Class A and B.
- Anti -Social Behaviour – working with school. Plenty of foot patrols to engage and deter
- Op Limit - Drink driving ops being completed and intensified over the coming weeks and into the new year – plea for information on those drink driving
- Apart from Clun, BC town has the lowest number of incidents in South Shropshire reported in the last quarter
- CCTV – support and happy to get involved in BC Council moves to install. ANPR preferred and open to discuss funding opportunities from the PCC.

- Important to define *neighbourhood* police presence between 8am and midnight as response teams from Shrewsbury and Ludlow still provide cover 24/7. Criminals (or law-abiding members of the public) must not think it is a police free zone in the early hours.
- Additional – Keep an eye on the Bishop's Castle Facebook site and/or sign up to www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk if public want to hear about things happening in the area and keep in touch with the team. The West Mercia Police website also has information on local surgeries for public to attend and ask questions.

Dangerous Dogs – Police guidance

Reports of dogs being dangerously out of control in a public place have risen over recent years. It is an offence to let a dog be dangerously out of control whether that's in public or private, for example a neighbour's house or garden.

A dog is considered to be dangerously out of control if it injures someone or makes someone worried that the dog might injure them.

A court could also decide that a dog is dangerously out of control if it attacks someone's animal or the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking

If you own a dog, you are responsible for how it behaves at home and in public and should take steps to make sure that interactions with other dogs and people are safe.

Bishop's Castle Land Trust -Stars

was one of three community enterprises which was nominated for a national Community Land Trust award! .

There will be a **Christmas Market** at the shop from 19th - 24th of December where a variety of stalls are booked in. Everyone is welcome to join us at 6.30pm for Christmas carols, mulled wine and minced pies! Please come and join us in celebration of our first year of business, thanks to all of you who have shown such wonderful support! From Kate Evans and the board of BCCLT!

Stars - Pop Up Shop

Jennie Ashmore (artist) and Christine Cartwright (crafts) have a pop – up shop from the Monday 1st December until Saturday 6th December. Opening times may vary but should be open 10-4 every day except on the Saturday 6th when will stay open until 6pm for the switch on of the Christmas lights.

Update from the House on Crutches Museum

We would like to give our thanks to the Old Castle Land Trust which has organised and financed the recent works both outside and inside the museum. Thanks too to Mark and Lee the artisans who worked so hard on it.

Although the House on Crutches is now closed, we cannot wait until Easter to show you the improvements to the building, so our first openings next year will be in February, during the Bishop's Castle Arts Festival, and we already have a few different things planned .



Not to be missed is the special event being held on the morning of Saturday 21st February. Local folklorist and story-teller, Val Littlehales, will be welcoming groups of up to 10 visitors at a time to give them a tour of the museum, telling Shropshire stories and anecdotes along the way.

This event is from 10.00 to 11.00 am and repeated at 11.30am – 12.30pm, cost £4.00. Early booking is advised - through the Arts Festival website:

<https://bishopsastleartsfestival.com>

The museum will also be open to the public between 1.30 and 4.30 on the afternoons of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 20th, 21st and 22nd February; there will be lots to interest visitors in the permanent displays illustrating the history, growth and development of the town. In addition, there will be a display of some of the pictures created during the last two years of the 'Art in the Museum' sessions. Activities for children include a new one - brass rubbing of 'Michaelmas Brasses', together with dressing up, a toy cupboard to rummage through and the popular Piggies Trail.



On the afternoon of Saturday 21st February local harpist, Kristina Norton, has kindly agreed to play her harp in the parlour. A treat not to be missed.

Additional displays this year will focus on clothing and accessories, whilst new items will be added to the cabinets in the Agric Room. These offer an insight into some of the interesting, unusual or even

mundane, collections kept by local residents. **If you have a collection that you would like to share - preferably of smaller items – then do get in touch with me, Jane Allard.** Contact details below

And all this is free! However, we do welcome donations, which keep the museum open. We are run entirely by volunteers and are always happy to welcome new people to our team; either to help when the museum is open, or carrying out tasks 'behind the scenes'. If you are considering either option then please contact me, Jane Allard:

janemallard29@gmail.com or phone 01588 638163.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir

On Thursday 23rd October the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir from Uganda treated students and the community at Bishop's Castle Community College to singing, dancing and drumming workshops during the day followed by an amazing evening public performance in the school hall. Donations and Ugandan craft sales raised a fantastic £1,191.95. Thanks to all who attended for making a difference. Bishop's Castle is proud to welcome these young musicians to perform in our town, and hope to see them again next year.

Dial – a –Ride

Bishop's Castle Dial-a-Ride is part of the @Coopuk Local Community Fund. Download the Co-op app, become a member and choose our cause, so we that can receive a share of £5m <https://coopapp.onelink.me/ftOk/akurcjub>. Drivers also needed.

Kerry Green Oak Tree

An oak tree has just been planted during November 2025's National Tree Week in Kerry Green and will be 'dug in' by the B.C. Carnival Queen, **Avia May Robertson**, who lives on Kerry Green and was asked to plant it.

Titty Trail

The Dining Divas would like to thank everyone who supported and sponsored them for the Titty Trail fundraising walk in October. The route was challenging, the weather warm and misty and the conversation never ending! Over £2,000 was raised for the Lingen Davies charity who have confirmed the 'Divas' were one of their highest fundraising groups, contributing to the £50K total raised by the event.

Abandoned Vehicles

The Harley Jenkins car park and the Church Street car park are both owned by Shropshire Council. As a result these car parks are classed as Highway and means that vehicles left in these car parks, even if designated as SORN (Statutory Off Road Notification), are illegally parked . These may be removed by Shropshire Council with costs for removal being charged to the registered owner. If any of these vehicles are yours please ensure that they are removed. This helps to ensure much needed off road parking for people coming to Bishop's Castle for shopping, business or as a visitor.

Disability Parking Spaces

There are limited disability parking spaces in Bishop's Castle. Please respect those people with a disability who need to park in them to access shops and the pharmacy and leave them clear for users with a Blue Badge.

Bishop's Castle Playing Fields Consultation 2025

Alan Walklett and Pete Carty from Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields (FoBCPF) and Going Wild in Bishop's Castle (GWiBC) attended the October council meeting to present a submission on the Playing Fields proposals. The two groups have worked together on the submission.

This is the end of the first stage. Since the Consultation, which started at the Carnival in July, we have had 48 adult responses and 40 from under 18s. Harriet Carty and GWiBC have produced the Ecological plans with a timetable for work by GWiBC volunteers. It involves ongoing management of the hazel coppice and planting and sowing of native bulbs and wildflowers.

FoBCPF and GWiBC have produced the structural plans which identified a list of remedial work (play area fence, paths, services, benches etc) and improvements. Some of the items on the list need urgent consideration. The list has been influenced by the comments from residents that we received during the summer consultation. There was also discussion on the future shared use of the Old Bowling Green by the Town Council, Going Wild and the community.

The Town Council has considered and approved the submission and will meet with the FoBCPF to discuss a way forward. At the meeting they will decide which of the proposals will proceed to grant application stage, the Town Council having pledged to give any support it can.

Work is starting soon on the removal of the fence and of the band stand, both of which are unsafe.

If the Old Bowling Green could be developed for shared Council and community use it would be a very important part of the development of the Playing Fields. Residents can still leave their comments on the Friends of Bishops Castle Playing Fields (2025) FB group or by email to friendsofbcplayingfields@gmail.com.

To the Bishop's Castle Litter Pickers

The Climate Action Working Group and BC Town Council wish to extend a **huge thank you** to the dedicated unsung heroes involved in keeping Bishop's Castle clean.

It is a shame that this needs doing but sadly there are always people who feel they cannot take their rubbish home or use the bins provided. Thank you.

Council Allotment plots available to rent from 1st Jan 2026!

Currently, we have quarter, half and full plots available from January 2026. Other plots may become available as well. Taking on a plot at the start of the year is a great time to begin, as you will have plenty of time to prepare for the next growing season – digging over and preparing the plot, sowing seeds, planting out young plants, watching them grow and looking forward to your harvest of home grown goodness!

Imagine growing your own vegetables ... there are many benefits to being outside with nature, working on the land, and sharing experiences with a community of gardeners!

The Council allotments are gardened organically. Tenants can join the Allotment Society and for a modest membership fee can get manure and other products the Society buys in.

Annual rents for Micro plots are less than £15, plus a deposit/admin fee. Half plots are currently £34, and full sized plots (approximately 165 square metres) are around £58.

Applicants from within the parish of Bishop's Castle are given priority. Why not get in touch to express an interest and discuss what type of plot would suit you? Getting your name on the Waiting List is a good idea, as then you will get first refusal on any plot that comes up.

Contact the Town Council now for more details!

Email: assistantclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: **01588 638141**

*Or call into the council office during office open hours 9.30am to 12.30pm,
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.*

Dementia News

Dementia Awareness Sessions are available from Valerie Woodmansey, 01588 650940 or valerie.woodmansey@btinternet.com Valerie is our local Alzheimer's Ambassador, trained by the Alzheimer's Society. The informative sessions are free and last up to an hour.

Well done to Vicky Robson (Marches Foot Care). Vikki worked very closely with clients suffering with dementia in her former employment, attending dementia workshops within the Foot Health Industry. This was a refresher course for Vikki 'A reminder is always very welcome of the personal difference we can make to someone with dementia through better understanding of the behavioural traits often associated with it.' The Marches Foot Care & Ear Wax Removal clinic is now proud to display the 'Dementia Friend' Logo.

Merry
Xmas
From...



Why not give the gift of
comfort this Christmas?

*Gift cards available in the clinic..
Enjoy a 10% discount with this advert*

**NAIL TRIMMING | CORNS & CALLUS | INGROWN NAIL |
THICK NAIL REDUCTION | EARWAX REMOVAL & MORE!**

Call Vikki or book online for an appointment at our Bishop's Castle clinic.

Tel. 07779 976 648 www.marchesfootcare.co.uk



Vikki Robson
DipCFHP MPSPract



Qualified insured and a member of the Alliance of Private Sector Practitioners

New for 2026!

A Drop-in for Dementia carers in Bishop's Castle Library

Monday 19th January between 11.30am and 1pm

**Come, join us (with or without your caree) for a
cuppa, browse books, and have a chat**

Continuing the 3rd Monday each month. Hope to see you there!

Also, thanks to the staff of Enterprise House and Library, for recently completing their Awareness Sessions and gaining their 'Dementia Friends' badges, all helping to make Bishop's Castle more dementia-friendly.

Dementia Information Packs, (containing information and contacts to help you following a dementia diagnosis), are available on request from Bishop's Castle Medical Practice, Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle Chemist and the Community Hospital.

Waste Collection Calendars

The waste collection calendars usually circulated at this time of year had been stopped but are now being reinstated and will be delivered to every household. The laminated Christmas Calendars will be delivered by the collection crews in w/c 01/12/25 and 08/12/25. The laminated Annual Collection Calendar will be delivered by the collection's crews to every household from w/c 12/01/26. All households will have a calendar by the end of January.

Public Hall/Bowling Green

Work continues on the sale of the Public Hall - currently with solicitors - and on the acquisition of the Civil Defence Bowling Green.

BC Waste Water Treatment Works - An Update

A reply has been received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the 'Levelling- up and Regeneration Act 2023 96D. It did not address the key issue raised and a further letter has been sent seeking better guidance.

Co-op

There have been recent visits to the new site and it is still planned to open the new store in the first quarter of 2026.

West Mercia Police

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL SNT are based at Bishops Castle Police Station, Union St, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AJ.

We work in the Parishes and areas of Bishop's Castle, Mainstone, Colebatch, Clun, Llanfair Waterdine, Newcastle on Clun, Bettws-Y-Crwyn, Stowe, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clungunford, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Clunbury, Edgton, Wistanstow, Lydbury North, Lydham, More, Norbury, Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Stiperstones, Worthen and Chirbury.

Team details

Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt 0640 Jenni Price

Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 21006 Simon Wilkey
07967 303889

Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 21989 Daryl McWatt
07973 877793

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss
07811 752207

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown
07970 543854

Team Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

West Mercia Police contact numbers

Emergency: 999 **Non Emergency:** 101

Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting): 101, Extension 770-4901

Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Facebook: Bishop's Castle and Clun Police



**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**

Services to Young People

Three and a half years ago Bishop's Castle Town Council received the first of two, two year grants totalling £14,000 to kick start a renewed youth focus for young people in the town and beyond. Both grants were seen as "seed money" and cannot be repeated.

For the duration of the projects, we have had the services of a trained youth worker in Christine Perkins. She has worked in a most effective manner, building numbers up in both age groups - 14 for the drop in and 30 for the after school club with a variety of activities arranged both here in BC and elsewhere. and I pay public tribute here to her diligence, resilience and imaginative approach. Chris has decided to retire in December 2025, at the same time as the project money runs out. It is therefore an opportunity to consider the future.

The first option to say the youth project has had a good run but we now have other projects to support would be tantamount to us all turning our backs on our young people.

The second option is to decide that a project needs to continue and apply for further grants to corporate bodies. This would require a great deal of time and energy.

The third option is to take all financial and developmental responsibility for a sustainable youth project completely in-house and taking on another employee specifically to work with young people. It would demonstrate a continuing belief in the importance of working with young people, valuing and them as well as creating opportunities to hear their voices

Recent research, via the High Sheriff's office has revealed that 1 in 4 young people have mental health issues and the NHS waiting time is 362 days and exploitation referrals went up 45% last year with 400 children reported as being sexually abused in Shropshire and needing counselling support.

In addition, ten per cent of young people face addiction. 30% of households in Shrewsbury are food impoverished - hungry children struggle to learn. Truancy is rising at an alarming rate. Thefts in Shropshire by children aged 10 - 17 years rose by 150% in one year. Ten per cent of 16-24 year olds used drugs last year.

This is a worrying picture. The Council will now be considering budgets for next year. Times are tough financially and if the Council is not able to fully support 'option three' I urge them to ensure that Youth Services remains high on the agenda and proper consideration is given as to how our wonderful young people can continue to be supported.

Andy Stelman

*We offer a wide range
of legal services
for both the individual
and business*



BISHOP'S CASTLE | T: 01694 723818
CHURCH STRETTON | T: 01694 723818
WELSHPOOL | T: 01743 248148
SHREWSBURY | T: 01743 248148
LUDLOW | T: 01584 878456
KNIGHTON | T: 01547 528332
TELFORD | T: 01952 403000

www.pcblaw.co.uk



STONE HOUSE,
BISHOPS CASTLE



Nestled in the heart of Bishop's Castle, Stone House offers residential accommodation for older people with or without dementia.

We can also offer respite beds when available

For more information contact
Keturah Bloor,
Telephone 01588 638487
E-mail kbloor@coveragecareservices.co.uk

Stone House, Union Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AJ

CCTV

Cost implications and funding are currently being looked at. Whilst wishing to proceed in principle, there is a lot to consider before progressing the project. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please email the Clerk on townclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk.

White Lining and 20 MPH zone

The proposed disability space in Market Square is under review as there is insufficient space to install a legal sized space. There is also still an urgent need for additional disabled parking spaces and the replacement of H bars and passing places in the High Street which were not reinstated following the resurfacing nearly two years ago. Regular representations are being made.

Flooding

Sand bags, if needed to protect property, are available from outside the Highways Depot in Craven Arms SY7 8DU

Local Voices - Harvesting Memories

Do you, or does anyone in your family, have memories of this area spanning back over the decades? Do you have stories and photos of life here in the 1930s, 40s and 50s? If so, we'd love to hear them and ideally sound-record them.

A renewed project called 'Local Voices' is resuming the oral history research started by Janet Preshous and others with the support of BCHRC. We plan to visit or meet local elders to record their stories and learn more about life here in the past.

We look forward to hearing from you and to launching this exciting project. If you'd like to take part, please ring 01588 442008.



~ Serenity ~

Sports & Holistic
Massage Therapies

www.serenityholisticmassage.com

Jenny Hudson

Sports & Holistic
Massage Therapist

07968087981
01588630717

Specialising in Pain
Relief, Anxiety and
Stress Management

NICKI BOWEN

DOMESTIC AND ANIMAL HELP

- HOUSE WORK
 - HOUSE AND PET SITTING
 - DOG WALKING AND HORSE CARE
 - FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE SERVICE
- Telephone: 07527 777536
email: nb7541@googlemail.com

LOCAL DIRECTORY



BISHOP'S CASTLE
& BEYOND

2026

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BUSINESS PAGES

To find out about listing in the 2026 edition
contact Enterprise House on 01588 638 038



KJ FITNESS

GROUP EXERCISE
& PILATES



BeatFit

Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm



1 hour exercises to music, with dance fitness, hiit, toning and stretch.



Power Pilates

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

Recycle 4 Charity

Your Ink Cartridges Could Help Us Raise Funds!



Collection boxes are in B.C. Town Hall
Money raised will go to
Macmillan Cancer Support



We are a friendly and reliable electrical firm based in Bishops Castle, covering Shropshire and Powys. We carry out work from simple lighting and power, to larger contracts and bespoke lighting installations. Please call or email for a no obligation estimate.

- Domestic, commercial, agricultural & industrial work undertaken.
- Qualified & OLEV registered for EV charge point installations for the domestic & workplace schemes.
- NIC approved inspector & installer of Domestic Ventilation.
- Experienced in fault finding & rectification.
- "Landlord checks"- Electrical Installation Condition Reports.



davetaylorlectrical@gmail.com | 07814 707 100

News From The Pubs

The Castle Hotel

For the second year running, The Castle Hotel has officially won The @good_hotel_guide César Award – Best Hotel for Dogs. The hotel prides itself on offering truly dog-friendly accommodation, where guests can enjoy their stay without leaving their four-legged friends behind. Stop Press - The Castle Hotel has also just been featured in the Guardian as being one of the top 20 best UK Town and Country Hotels by the Good Hotel Guide. A deserved accolade!

Congratulations all round. Henry gave a heartfelt thank you ‘to our dedicated team, who work tirelessly to deliver the very best experience for every guest. We couldn’t have done it without you.’ The Castle Hotel’s ‘sister’ hotel, The Pen-y-Dyffryn near Oswestry - run by Henry’s brother and sister, Tommy and Charlotte—has also taken home a César Award, winning Best Hotel in the Midlands!

Six Bells/Vaults – December

2 nd	Bells	Open Mike at 8pm
4 th	Vaults	Pigdaze at 8.30pm
6 th	Vaults	Boys in the Barn at 7.00pm
7 th	Vaults	Kidd and Clarke at 5pm
12 th	Bells	Quiz at 8pm
13 th	Vaults	Knackered Knees Decks at 5.30
14 th	Bells	John Keiley at 5pm
20 th	Vaults	Kimberley Christmas Night at 8pm
21 st	Bells	John Crow and Friends at 5pm
24 th	Bells	Christmas Eve Carols after 6.30 pm Christingle service
25 th	Bells	Christmas Day. Open 11am – 3pm
26 th	Bells	Boxing Day. Usual hours
27 th	Vaults	Dicso at the Vaults – Funk Music at 8pm
28 th		Tony Skeggs at 5pm
31 st	Bells and Vaults	New Years Eve.

King’s Head

Open as normal over Christmas period. Closed Christmas Day. Coffee and cake now available for £5.95.



Digital Help & Advice @ Enterprise House

Do you need help with your digital devices?

**We are on hand to answer your questions
and provide practical help and guidance**

**Come along to our FREE
Monthly Digital Help Hub
3rd THURSDAY of the month
2.00pm - 3.00pm**

**One-to-One Digital Support
Appointments***

Tips & advice on your digital device

Call or Pop In to Book

** Charges apply*

Friendly Drop In Sessions. Everyone Welcome

**FREE Support brought to you by Rural Lifeline C.I.C. at Enterprise House in conjunction
with Bishop's Castle Town Council & Shropshire Council**



**VILLAGE
OUTREACH
EQUIPMENT HIRE**

Village Outreach Equipment Hire

For Outdoor & Indoor Events



**ENTERPRISE
HOUSE**



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



01588 638 038

villageoutreach@bishopscastle.co.uk

The Three Tuns

The Three Tuns is now open from 11.30am to 11 pm Wednesday to Sunday and now is offering food from Wednesday until Saturday from 12 noon – 3pm and 6pm – 9pm and Sunday lunch from 12 noon – 5pm. Call 01588 638979 to book.

The revitalisation of the Tuns continues and planning permission has now been applied for the removal of the Pergola and erection of a fire escape to first floor flat and various other alterations.

SpArC

A Huge Thank You to All Our Supporters!

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of SpArC and its fundraising efforts. Whether you baked a cake, pressed apples, helped on the day, made a donation, or simply cheered us on—thank you! Here's what we've achieved together recently:

Michaelmas Fair Café raised **£780** in September, despite the soggy weather! Proceeds were shared equally with the Star Shop.

Apple Pressing in October brought in **£630**. A portion of this will go toward the **Climbing Frame project**—we'll confirm the amount soon.

The **Co-op Local Community Fund** awarded us a fantastic **£2,318** in October. It's one of the easiest ways to raise funds: every time Co-op members make eligible purchases, the Co-op donates. If you're not a member yet, please consider joining! This year's Co-op beneficiary is **Dial-a-Ride**, another vital local service. We'll be applying again next year.

A Bit More About the Pool

We're able to share that the **pool refurbishment** is scheduled to begin in **February** and will take approximately **16 weeks**. Importantly, **SpArC will not be closed for the entire duration**. A detailed schedule of any closures or changes in timetables will be shared as soon the details are confirmed.. Thank you again for being part of the SpArC community. Together, we're keeping this vital local resource thriving!



ENTERPRISE HOUSE

Your Local Business & Community Support Centre

PRINTING - SCANNING - COPYING - LAMINATING



DESIGNING - STATIONERY - BINDING - FINISHING

Printing, Copying & Scanning

Poster & Leaflet Design

Stationery Shop

Co-Working & Meeting Rooms

IT Support & Advice

Computer, Tablet & Mobile

Community Information

Enterprise Initiative

Business & Community Group Support

Village Outreach Equipment Hire

Serviced Offices & Workshops

Library

Open 9am - 5pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

01588 638 038

www.enterprisehouse.org.uk

info@enterprisehouse.org.uk

www.enterprisehouse.org.uk

Healthy Life Programme at SpArC

SpArC at Bishop's Castle has recently launched the **Healthy Life Programme** which replaces GP referrals with a broader offer:

Who is it for?

- Anyone with a condition, including diabetes type 2, which needs an element of support to get them back into the fitness that comes through exercise
- Those on the verge of a medical condition/needing a lifestyle change
- People with chronic knee/hip/back pain, needing a specific, gentle form of exercise
- Those with musculoskeletal problems who want to work out in the water

To take part: anyone wishing to join Healthy Life needs to complete a referral form and have it signed by a Health Care Professional (it does not need to be a GP). Ask for a referral form at your GP surgery or collect one from the SpArC Centre in Bishop's Castle. Completed forms can be returned to SpArC or emailed to: amanda.arnold@serco.com. Amanda, the Healthy Life Trainer, will then contact you to arrange an initial consultation.

What does Healthy Life include? After an initial consultation with the Healthy Life Trainer, a three-month standard centre membership plus, on Mondays, a gym programme tailored for you and/or Aqua Zumba and/or a gentle circuits class. A three-month referral membership costs £60. This entitles you to all the Centre's facilities including the Monday Healthy Life offer, but you **must be referred by a health care professional**.

Community Energy Group

Now is the time to take advantage of cheaper heating oil. The price of oil is usually at its highest during December to February.

You can save by being a part of our Oil Club. Community Resource is a local charity that runs a Community Oil Buying Club to reduce heating costs by making the most of joint buying power. Membership to the scheme is £27 per year and enables us to cover the admin costs for running this scheme.

For more information please visit :

www.community-resource.org.uk/service-community-support/#oil-buying-club

The Missing Benches

They have returned and are much appreciated and used!

Looking Back, Looking Forward



Now that the House on Crutches has had a facelift, we are already looking forward to next year when we reopen our lovely museum.

If you are interested in getting involved, either behind the scenes, or as a steward, introducing the museum to our visitors, then please contact Jane Allard for more information.

Email: janemallard29@gmail.com

Phone: 01588 638163



NORMAN JONES

BISHOP'S CASTLE

Domestic Appliance Repairs

Same Day/Next Day Service

Repairs ..PETE.. 07971 252069

Sales .. Norman .. 07816 875233

Home 01588 638677



Eliza Glapinska

MA Contemporary Crafts, BA (Hons) Fine Arts

+44 (0)7813 795910

eliza@arterachel.co.uk

www.arterachel.co.uk

Master Dressmaker

Heavy Tailoring Specialist

IG arterachel23

FB Arte Rachel

IJ Eliza Glapinska

MB GRASSCUTTING

REGULAR LAWN CUTS,

GARDEN TIDY UPS

Friendly, reliable and professional service.

No job too small!! Locally based

please call Mark for free quote on 07388 676775 or

email mbgrasscutting@gmail.com



Safe, confidential counselling psychotherapy for adults
over the age of 18

Located in Lydbury North

Tel: 0781 8062017

email: rose@handcounselling.com

www.handcounselling.com

Julie Luckhurst

Dave Luckhurst would like to send a huge thanks to local people who donated, at Julie Luckhurst's funeral on the 23rd September, to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). At the funeral, £431.75 was donated, followed by online or posted donations directly to the charity in her name, by a further £178.34, showing, again, how very generous local people are!

Both I, and MSF, were thrilled, and they wrote a long letter showing their appreciation of the total of £610.09 donated, which will go towards their valuable and often dangerous work around the world, saving lives in disaster zones and war-torn areas. Julie would have been very pleased, as she supported them for well over a decade with monthly donations.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone! Dave Luckhurst

Funding to Help Communities to Care for the Natural Environment in their Local Area

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund has reopened this Autumn and new applications are invited for projects to start in Spring 2026.

Fund priorities are:

Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and its conservation, especially involving young people.

We're keen to encourage applications from community groups. Grants are in the range of £500 – £2,000 and can make a real difference in converting great ideas into sustainable community action for nature and people.

Earlier this year, grants totalling just under £15,000, were awarded to nine practical projects with strong community engagement. These include funding the wildlife monitoring efforts of a parish council, creating a publicly accessible wildflower meadow and supporting a community wildlife group to deliver a programme of events.

If you have an idea in mind, the first step is to complete a short project idea form. We will then get in touch with you to discuss your idea and will be able to recommend whether your project should progress to full application. The deadline to make an expression of interest to the Fund is 13th February 2026.

The link to the online form, further information and how to apply is on the Shropshire Hills National Landscape website, www.shropshirehills-nl.co.uk or go to [Read about 'how to apply' here](#). Or contact Stephanie Hayes from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team, email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 254746.

Bishop's Castle Shadows

Thanks to everyone who has shared their spooky stories – we still want to hear more! **Bishop's Castle Shadows** will tell visitors about the spooky side of Bishop's Castle. Your anonymity and address will always be respected. If you have a strange story or a spooky encounter that you would like to share and see in print, please, with a brief outline and your contact details, email BishopsCastleShadows@gmail.com and we will be in touch.



I design and build using sustainable materials to the latest low energy standards. Specialising in beautiful home extensions I take you through planning then build with the help of great local builders.

Mark Arbon,
01547529383 07796446275
Website www.markarbon.com

DROVERS TRAVEL

30 Church Street, Bishop's Castle



Full Financial Protection as accredited body member of Global Travel Group

Tel 01588 630333 email agent@droverstravel.com

www.droverstravel.com

Need help accessing council services?

Shropshire Local

are coming to Bishop's Castle
Find us in Enterprise House

Open to all

Come and meet friendly council staff
face to face and get support with:

- Benefits
- Blue Badge Applications
- Concessionary Travel
- Council Tax Support
- HomePoint
- Highways
- Waste & more



Dates

First & Third
Thursday
of the month
10am - 4pm



ENTERPRISE
HOUSE

info@enterprisehouse.org.uk
01588 638 038
www.enterprisehouse.org.uk

TONY PORTON CAVELL HEATING

Heating & Plumbing Services

Services/Repairs/Installations
Oil boilers, Bathrooms, Plumbing
Weekend and Evening call outs
07773 413582//07790 037395
Friendly, Local, Reliable



Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Specialist

IAN JONES
Telephone: 01686 639 591
Mobile: 07831 332226
Email: clearlythecleanestian@gmail.com

2, Coe Melyn,
Tregynon,
Newtown,
Montgomeryshire,
SY16 3EF

Touch, See, Smell and Feel the difference



ENTERPRISE HOUSE

Your Local Business & Community Support Centre

01588 638038

info@enterprisehouse.org.uk

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

Road Closures:

Road Closure: A489 Horderley

Start Date: 10th November

End Date: 5th December 2025 to enable removal of diseased ash trees.
The road will be reopened at weekends

Michaelmas Fair – the future

The fact that the Michaelmas Fair, which draws in visitors, supports local businesses, and provides a memorable day for the community, is a 'street fair' is the thing that makes it great - it is also the thing that makes it so tricky.

The fair currently has a small and amazing group of volunteers on the committee, including some of the local business owners, but it is facing a recurring issue where there is no one to take the position of chair and ultimate responsibility for the fair. It is finding it increasingly difficult to manage the operational demands of running the festival.

The responsibilities around logistics, safety, stewarding, and administration are becoming more than the committee can reasonably sustain without additional support.

In order to ensure the future success and safety of the Michaelmas Fair the committee has therefore written to Bishop's Castle Town Council requesting a meeting to discuss support to help in : Coordinating key logistics such as road closures, signage, and health & safety requirements; Providing additional administrative support in the run-up to the event; Helping recruit and manage enough volunteers and stewards to cover the day; Taking responsibility and offering guidance and, where possible, resources to ensure the event remains viable long-term.

The Michaelmas Fair is part of the fabric of Bishop's Castle, but without more structured support, there is concern about the sustainability of the festival in its current form. The committee wants to retain the volunteers it has and attract more without fear of being burdened with this huge responsibility.

If anyone feels they can help, please let a Councillor or Michaelmas Committee member know.

Enterprise House News

Looking for a space to work or meet?

Enterprise House offers an affordable, flexible local workspace with a range of co-working and meeting spaces available to hire. You can use a co-working desk for a half or full day, or hire a dedicated meeting space for larger gatherings. Please get in touch to find out more info@enterprisehouse.org.uk or call 01588 638 038.

Shropshire Local at Enterprise House continuing in 2026

Come along for face-to-face help and support with on line access to your council services such as: Benefits, Council tax, Concessionary travel, Blue badge, Parking, Welfare support, Housing options and homelessness, HomePoint, Payments (card only), Household waste services. Please note it will help to bring with you any relevant paperwork and reference numbers. You don't need to make an appointment, just call in and see how they can help. Along with your national insurance number, proof of ID and address if making a new application.

2026 Bishop's Castle & Beyond Local Directory

After a very successful first edition of the Bishop's Castle & Beyond Local Directory, we are currently putting together a bigger and even better 2026 Edition with plans to distribute at 3000 in the local area copies. Listings are available from £30 + VAT for a basic text only listing, or £60 + VAT for a business card listing. To find out more please contact Enterprise House by Friday 9th January, call 01588 638 038 or email info@enterprisehouse.org.uk

Facts About Enterprise House:

Here are just a few of the facts about Enterprise House last year shared at our AGM last week

- Home to 16 businesses with 40 employees
- 13,500 visits
- 6539 adults & 1,542 children visited the library
- 445 people received free community drop-in support
- 220 people received digital skills support
- 208 hours of free community support provided
- 197,758 sheets of printing 900 cards printed

2026 Enterprise House 30th Celebrations

2026 will see 30 years of Enterprise House, so look out for anniversary events in the coming year.



Introducing the **NEW** Older Adult Exercise Class

F.I.T. Therapy®

Join our physio-led **F.I.T. Therapy** classes – designed to boost your **strength, balance, and confidence** in everyday life. From getting out of a chair with ease to walking tall and steady, you'll feel the difference where it matters most.

Member Joan: "These classes have changed my life. I can now play with my grandchildren in the park and not feel like I'm going to fall over."

Member Carl: "F.I.T. has given me the confidence to walk to the shops on my own. I finally have my independence back."

If you or a family member would benefit from our classes, call **07804 306742** or visit **www.myfitclass.co.uk**



F.I.T. Therapy is not a typical exercise class — it's a physiotherapist-led programme designed to help you feel stronger, move more confidently and live more independently. Every session focuses on functional strength, balance and mobility, building the foundations you need for everyday life — from getting up from a chair with ease to walking further with confidence.

We believe exercise should be accessible, enjoyable and inclusive. That's why these classes also provide a warm, social setting where you can connect with others, share progress and feel part of a supportive community. Whether you're looking to maintain your independence, regain confidence after a setback, or simply stay active, F.I.T. Therapy offers the perfect bridge between exercise and everyday living.

Activities in The Church Barn

Mondays - Fit for Life 1.30pm-2.30pm 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 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Contact Vanessa Campbell 01588 638 978; John Franklin 01588 630314 franklinsbc@aol.com; chrissymondson@gmail.com

Tuesdays - Food Bank - 10.00am—11.30pm ; Thursday 2.30pm—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 07773 006 413; Mandy Bryce 07855 340746.

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

Wednesdays – Tai Chi 2.00pm-3.00pm, for beginners over 18. To book your for more information, please email: chigug@whiteoak-aikido.org or phone: 07880 501302.

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

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

Beatfit with KJ Fitness 6.30pm-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 2.30pm – 4.00pm as above.

Corndon Aikido Club 7.30 – 9.30pm as above.

Fridays - Power Pilates with KJ Fitness 9.15am- 10.15am. 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** bookingschurchbarn@outlook.com

AHEAD FOR TREES

Local, Professional Tree Surgeon
Est. over 20 years

Fully insured • Fully qualified
Wood chipping and 50ft cherry picker

- Hedge reduction
- Pruning
- Removal
- Ash dieback

Free Quotations
Sanford Hankin
07989 231 383
sanfordhankin@gmail.com

Snailhouse Stitching Studio

All sewing, repairs
and alterations

Dry Cleaning

Haberdashery

www.snailhousestitching.co.uk

07792 88 99 34

NEW LOCATION

4 Union Street, Bishop's Castle
Mon-Fri, 12-5pm • Sat, 10am-4pm
(Wednesdays by appointment only)



Short & long distance
Airport transfers
Local tours

07 482 427219

South Shropshire Cars

Thurs 4th December	7.00pm	Film: THE ROSES
Thurs 4th December	7.00pm	The Royal Ballet THE NUTCRACKER
Tues 16th December	2.00pm	Afternoon Film: FOUR LETTERS OF LOVE
Sun 18th January	2.00pm	THE ROYAL OPERA: LA TRAVIATA
Mon 22nd December 10.30-12.30		FESTIVE FILM & MAKING WORKSHOP
Mon 22nd December 2-5pm		DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FESTIVE ONE SHOT
Thurs 15th January	7.00pm	Film: DOWNTON ABBEY- THE GRAND FINALE
Sun 18th January	2.00pm	THE ROYAL OPERA: LA TRAVIATA
Tues 20th January	2pm	Afternoon Film: DOWNTON ABBEY- THE GRAND FINALE
Thursday 22nd January 7pm		NTLIVE: HAMLET

www.sparctheatre.co.uk liz@sparctheatre.co.uk
Tel: 01588 638038

SpArC
THEATRE

Graham Dudley - Funeral Services

Local family-run funeral directors covering
the Clun Valley and all areas of Shropshire

Over 30 Years' Experience

Traditional and Eco-friendly funerals arranged

Mercedes Hearse and Limos available

Day/Night Service

Pre-paid Funeral Plans - Estimates on request

Monumental Masonry Agent



1, Hurst View, Powells Lane, Clun Tel. 01588 640852 Mob. 07780948670 email: dudleys2@aol.com

"A small, caring funeral service"



Clun Valley Quaker Meeting



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CAN BE JOYFUL,
CHALLENGING, LONELY or HECTIC
(or all those things!)

For a change of pace and an opportunity to re-focus
maybe an hour based around silence would suit you?

EVERYONE WELCOME

SUNDAY MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2025 ~ JANUARY 2026

10.30~11.30am FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

7th December at

Haslehurst Community Centre, Haslehurst Close,
Clun, SY7 8LQ

14th, 21st and 28th December at

Grange Road Community Centre, Grange Road,
Bishop's Castle SY9 5AP

4th January at 2026

Haslehurst Community Centre, Haslehurst Close,
Clun, SY7 8LQ

11th, 18th and 25th January at

Grange Road Community Centre, Grange Road,
Bishop's Castle SY9 5AP

**BOTH VENUES ACCESSIBLE TO WHEELCHAIR-USERS, INCLUDING TOILETS
AND CAR-PARKING SPACE.**

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE PHONE

01588 630719 or 07816 910315



As winter settles in, the landscapes around Bishop's Castle are alive with change and quiet beauty. Here's what's happening with **Going Wild**

Winter Talk: "Wintles Wood"

Tuesday 2 December 2025 7:00–8:15 pm Town Hall

Join Jill Key for an inspiring talk on the history and wildlife of Wintles Wood, one of our area's most treasured natural spaces.

Donations gratefully received – everyone welcome!

Tree & Bulb Planting, Bishop's Castle Playing Fields

Wednesday 3 December 2025 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Playing Fields

Join Alex from Caring for God's Acre for a community tree and bulb planting day. Help brighten Bishop's Castle for years to come, all ages and helping hands welcome!

Kids Club

Saturday 6 December 2025 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Wintles Wood

Hands-on fun with nature crafts, games, and outdoor discovery activities for local children.

Moth Morning

Monday 22 December 2025 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Welsh Street -

Keep your eye out for the signs!

Help identify, record, and release local moths as part of our community biodiversity project — perfect for early risers and nature lovers!

Winter Community Event at Playing Fields

4th January, 10am–2pm

Kick off the new year with a fun, hands-on event! Drop in any time to try **willow weaving, biochar making, coppicing, and family-friendly crafts.**

Hedge Planting at the Tennis Courts

9th January, 10am–2pm Come along for a friendly community planting session!

Willow Education Training

18th January Learn all about the traditions, uses, and techniques behind working with willow. A great introduction!

Willow Training Day

25th January Learn all about the traditions, uses, and techniques behind working with willow. A great introduction!

Get Involved

Whether you join a Moth Morning, come along to a talk, or simply enjoy spotting winter wildlife, we'd love you to be part of Going Wild in Bishop's Castle.

Warm wishes,
The Going Wild Team

Catherine Jones Art Workshops

Priest Weston Village Hall 2026

Saturdays 10-12.30

31 Jan Beautiful Zentangles

28 Feb Moonlit Scenes

28 March Townscapes

25 April Weaving on Sticks

16 May Botanical drawing

20 June Try out abstract art

26 Sept Experiment with charcoal

24 Oct Use ink wash

21 Nov Lino printing

12 Dec snow day!

*Plus lots more local classes and
workshops for children*

For more info

www.catherinejonesart.co.uk

email catherinejjartist@gmail.com

tel 07407 260949

www.eventbrite.co.uk.catherinejones

Patient Group News

Bishop's Castle Surgery

High Covid and Flu Risk

The Covid and Flu vaccination clinic in October was very successful, treating several hundred patients. There are still some eligible patients who have not yet had their vaccinations. Do contact the surgery as soon as possible to make an appointment as **both viruses are on the increase**. The signs are that this is likely to be a very long flu season, and the virus appears to be more unpleasant and potentially dangerous than usual.

Surgery Team

The surgery continues to recruit new staff to complete the nursing team. A new Practice Nurse, Ashlee, has been appointed and is currently learning her way around the Practice, with another Practice Nurse, Monica planning to start in December. Interviews are taking place for a new Health Care Assistant who will be primarily responsible for phlebotomy services.

Bishop's Castle Pharmacy

Many patients will have noticed that the Pharmacy is having some difficulties, especially the lack of a permanent pharmacist. Many of the problems stem from the imminent change of ownership. Avicenna, who have run the pharmacy for several years, are in the process of selling the Bishop's Castle Pharmacy together with a number of other pharmacies in Shropshire. We wish our pharmacy staff well during this unsettling period for them.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year

We're on the well-known corner
of B4385 & B4368
at Little Brampton
between Bishop's Castle,
Clun and Craven Arms



**THE OLD
Wheelwright
TEA HOUSE**

**OPEN
EVERY
DAY**


We look forward to
seeing you for snacks
teas & refreshments.
Events, parties
and special groups
especially catered for.

**1st
Thursday
of every
month**

**Board
Game
Night**

from 7pm
@ the 6
Bells

Bring your
favourite
game or
choose
from a
selection



Contact Dave for more info
dave@6bells.co.uk



Festive Friends 2025

**Will you be on your
own this Christmas
Day?**

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

Transport can be provided.

Arrive for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light
entertainment and conversation.

All ages welcome

Time: 11:30am - 3pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall

Hosted by Clun Valley Quakers

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

Contact: Linda on 01588
630409 for more
information and booking.



Bishop's Castle and Brockton Methodist Chapels

Sunday Services:

Bishops Castle:

21 st Dec	14.30pm	Carol Service- followed by afternoon tea
18 th Jan	10.30am	Rev Sheila McInally, Covenant Service with Holy Communion

Brockton:

7 th Dec	3.30pm	Messy Church – Rev George Heinz
14 th Dec	4pm	Carols by Candlelight
28 th Dec	5pm	Mrs Helen Pearson
4 th Jan	4pm	Dr John Woolley
11 th Jan	3.30pm	Messy Church
25 th Jan	4pm	Rev Denise Hargeaves

Refreshments served after all services.

Regular weekday activities at Bishop's Castle Methodist Hall:

Tuesdays during Term time:

Tuesday Social

Open to all- with or without toddlers:
1pm – 2.30pm.

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

Minister: Rev. George Heinz 07538 480626

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



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, 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, visit bishopscastle.abbeyfield.com

ABBNEYFIELD

COFFEE MORNING

At Abbeyfield, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle
at 10.30

Thursday 15th January

Everyone Welcome



News from St John's Church

What's on in December and January

December

		Regular services 11am every Sunday.
Wed 3 rd	10.15am – noon	Coffee and Companionship
Sat 6 th	11am – 4pm.	Craft Fair, Teas and cakes. Tombola, Live music by Anything Goes and Con Anima
Wed 10 th	10.15am – noon	Coffee and Companionship
Sat 13 th	7pm	Marches Choir Concert St Nicolas by Benjamin Britten
Wed 17 th	2pm	Primary School Nativity
Thurs 18 th	7pm	Drop in Pop In Carols
Wed 24th	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Christingle
Thurs 25th	11am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sun 28 th	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
	3 – 5 pm	Castle Carols

January

Regular services follow a different pattern in the new year, as below:

(1 st) Sunday 4 th	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
(2 nd) Sunday 11 th	5.30pm	Evening Prayer
(3 rd) Sunday 18 th	11am	Holy Communion
(4 th) Sunday 25 th	11am	Café Church

Other events in January

Friday 16 th	6pm	Hot Supper and All Age Quiz
Sunday 25 th	3pm	Piano Concert by Daniel Gordon

Future events

Sunday 22nd February – evening.

Gala organ recital by
Peter Dyke, Hereford Cathedral

J A Price Motor Engineers Ltd

SERVICE • MOT • SALES

01588 638585



A well established local business,
providing all aspects of garage
services.

For any enquiries please don't
hesitate to contact our friendly
team



01588 638585



japricemotorengineers@gmail.com

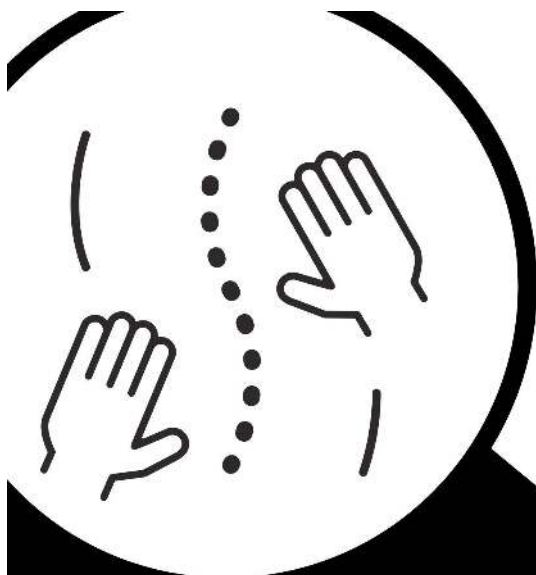


Lydham, Bishops Castle, SY9 5HB



GOOD GARAGE SCHEME
REGISTERED MEMBER

GoodGarageScheme.com



Abi Loffill chiropractor

LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

- Back pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder pain
- Elbow pain
- Migraines and Headaches
- Minor sports injuries

01938 561787 www.abiloffill.co.uk

3 Shepherds Yard, **Chirbury**. SY15 6BH

Saturday 14th March – evening (?)

piano recital with Jill Crossland

Sunday 18th April 3pm

The Ludlow Orchestra Flute
Section

Sunday 7th June 3pm

Schubert's Trout Quintet

In addition,

Drop in Youth Hub, Fridays after school - term-time only

January onwards, Coffee & Companionship every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
10.15 – noon.

Stained Glass Church Window - The rebuilding of the damaged window has been started and it should be installed before Christmas.

Clock - The new clock face has been installed and looks particularly smart. Work to seal the gap between the clock and the stonework is in hand.

War Memorial Cleaning up and gentle restoration work started in mid November has been completed. It has been a long journey. Thanks go to Lottie O'Leary and Nick, who are doing the works, and everyone who has supported the project.

Remembrance Sunday – A large number of people joined or supported the Procession and Act of Remembrance Service. Many wreaths were laid including by some Friends from the Quakers and young people at the Sunshine Coast Football Academy.

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 – The refurbished organ is working well with a much improved tone. Credit goes to everyone involved. It has been a major project and should last for many years.



The White Grit Meadows Appeal

Wildflower meadows are one the rarest habitats in the UK. A local community land trust has been offered a rare and exciting opportunity to buy five acres of botanically rich meadow just over the Welsh border, at White Grit, within view of the mighty Corndon Hill.

"It's a fantastic site", exclaims the Chair of Middle Marches Community Land Trust, Dr. Richard Keymer. We have launched an appeal for £45,000 to ensure these small fields at White Grit will be there for future generations to enjoy.

Large billowing hedgerows enclose the meadows. On a summer's day there is a timeless feel to them as you wander from one room-like space to another, and it is all alive with bees, hoverflies and butterflies amongst the flowers. The site has been looked after by the present owners for 23 years, but they now need to relinquish their ownership, and have kindly offered the meadows to the trust to purchase.

The White Grit Meadows Appeal was launched in August. To donate to the appeal, go to <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/white-grit-meadows-appeal>. Alternatively, donations can be sent by post, to the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, c/o Enterprise House, Bishops Castle SY9 5AQ. Please make cheques out to 'Middle Marches Community Land Trust'. For further information please contact us via email: info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk



Sam Edmiston
Garden Landscaping Services

Stone Work - Ponds & Water Features - Paving - Decking - Fencing -
Garden Structures - Raised Planters - Steps - Turfing

07484366154 edmiston813@gmail.com

Over 20 years experience & fully insured

MARCHES CHOIR
and MARCHES SINFONIA
St NICOLAS CANTATA
Benjamin Britten



SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2025
St John's Church, Bishop's Castle

Bus Times

Bishop's Castle To Shrewsbury/Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle

Bus stops include : Lytham, White Grit, Hope, Snailbeach, Minsterley, Pontesbury, Hanwood, Shrewsbury Hospital. For a detailed timetable visit www.minsterleymotors.co.uk . 01743 791208

Bus 552/553 - Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury

Depart - Monday - Friday

Bishop's Castle opp. Boars Head	07.20	09.40	12.20	13.30	15.40
Bishop's Castle Salop St Jct	07.22	09.42	12.22	13.22	15.42
Shrewsbury Hospital	08.13	10.33	13.08	14.18	16.28
Arrive Shrewsbury Bus Station	08.30	10.40	13.20	14.30	16.40

Depart - Saturday

Bishop's Castle opp. Boars Head	07.30	09.30	12.15	15.50
Bishop's Castle Salop St Jct	07.32	09.32	12.17	15.52
Shrewsbury Hospital	08.18	10.18	13.03	16.38
Shrewsbury Bus Station	08.30	10.30	13.15	16.50

Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle

Depart - Monday - Friday

Shrewsbury Bus Station	07.35	10.05	12.00	14.00	16.25	17.40
Shrewsbury Hospital	10.17	12.12	14.12	16.37	17.52	
Bishop's Castle Salop St Jct	08.33	11.03	12.58	14.58	17.23	18.38
Bishop's Castle opp. Boars Head	08.35	09.05	13.00	15.00	17.25	18.40

Depart - Saturday

Shrewsbury Bus Station	08.00	10.05	14.45	17.40
Shrewsbury Hospital	08.12	10.17	14.57	17.52
Bishop's Castle Salop St Jct	08.52	11.03	15.43	18.38
Bishop's Castle opp. Boars Head	09.00	11.05	15.45	18.40

Bus 745 A/B - Bishop's Castle to Ludlow

Bus stops include : Colebatch, Clun, Clunton. Little Brampton, Aston on Clun, Long Meadowend and Craven Arms. For a detailed timetable visit www.minsterleymotors.co.uk . 01743 791208

Depart - only Monday and Friday

Bishop's Castle opp. Boars Head	09.15
Clun	09.30
Craven Arms	10.10
Ludlow Assembly Rooms	10.25

Ludlow to Bishop's Castle - only Monday and Friday

Ludlow Assembly Rooms	13.15
Craven Arms	13.30
Clun	14.05
Bishop's Castle	14.50

Advertising in Newsletter

Newsletters are bi-monthly (every two months) April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/January, and February/March : A total of 6 issues per year. Deadlines for copy are, as an absolute minimum, a full **15 working days before the 1st of the newsletter month**. Please send your copy or amendments in before this if you can, and especially if you are a first-time advertiser, to give enough time to resolve any issues.

Occasionally the Town Council may issue an extra newsletter, but this would normally be for public service information only and may not include adverts.

Costs:

Business card size per year: 60mm width x 30mm

£56 per year/6 issues (equates to £9.34 per issue*).

Quarter page or “double business card”: approximately 60mm width by 85/90mm depth, portrait orientation.

£100 per year/6 issues (equates to £16.64 per issue*).

Half page: 130mm width x 85/90mm depth, landscape orientation.

£170 per year/6 issues (£28.34 per issue*)

Full page: annual price before discount **£330 per year** (£55 per each issue, this is the pro rata price for single issue and 2 – 5 issue ads).

We give a discount of £55 for a full year paid in advance, i.e., £275 (equating to £45.84 per issue, or think of it as one issue free!). 130mm width x 180mm depth, portrait orientation.

We invoice in advance for the whole year, which runs from April to the following March. Advertisers who come on board during the year are invoiced pro rata for that year.

***Council reserves the right to charge an admin fee for single issue/one off business card, quarter or half page ads.**

Please note that if your ad is in colour, it should be suitable for black & white as well, as we cannot promise colour.

Information on Sizes: Please note that ad sizes are approximate and may differ somewhat from issue to issue. You will need different artwork for different sized ads because the proportions (width: depth) are different. Proportions are important for accurate reproduction of your advertisement.

Business card size: please submit your artwork depth, i.e., landscape orientation. Your ad may appear slightly larger in some newsletters depending on page spacing. Please ensure that your business card sized ad is twice as wide as it is high otherwise it will be distorted when reproduced.

Contact: AssistantClerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

Please ensure that we always have your correct current email address/contact details!

*Please note if invoice payment is not received by the due date,
the advertisement will be removed.*



Physiotherapy delivered to your doorstep

Expert care in the comfort of your own home with our skilled physiotherapists. We can treat a wide range of conditions. Serving the South Shropshire region.



Adam Klee

15 years of experience across acute, orthopaedics, neurological, respiratory and rehabilitation



Helena Stones

15 years of experience across acute, orthopaedics, neurological, musculoskeletal and rehabilitation

**Get expert physiotherapy at home.
Book your session now!**

Call: 07502328076
www.athomephysio.co.uk
info@athomephysio.com



Your Councillors

How to contact your Town Councillors:

We have "dot.gov" email now. After each councillor's name as written below just add @bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk.
01588 638141

Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Councillor Sam Angell

Email: sam.angell

Councillor Rachel Bromley

Email: rachel.bromley

Councillor Lucy Blundell

Email: lucy.blundell

Councillor Jane Carroll

Tel: 01588 638467

Email: jane.carroll

Councillor Josh Dickin

Tel 07530691106

Email: josh.dickin

Councillor Ella Embrey

Email: ella.embrey

Councillor Michelle Gayle

Email: michellelisa.gayle

Councillor Tim Halford

Tel: 01588 638333

Email: tim.halford

Councillor Sharon Jones

Email: sharon.jones

Councillor Leon Kosciuczyk

Email: leon.kosciuczyk

Councillor Julie Magill

Email: Julie.magill

Councillor Grant Perry

Tel: 01588 638233

Email: grant.perry

**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

16th January 2026 to:

*Townclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk
AssistantClerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk
or email the Editor*

Tim.halford@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk

For allotment enquiries, contact bcallotment@gmail.com

Defibrillators in Bishop's Castle

There is now a defibrillator at the top of the town. It is located on the Wintles in the car park which you turn into just passed the new houses on the road going up to Castle Green from Welsh Street. Thanks go all who helped with this project.

Always accessible – 24/7

The Wintles – Rees Piece Car Park
Abbeyfield House
Community College - on bus/bottom car park
Pharmacy, High Street
Bishop's Castle Tennis Club , Love Lane
The Pines Residential Home, Station Street
Ransford Sawmill
Stone House Nursing Home, Union Street

Not always available

Bishop's Castle Medical Practice
Community College reception
Pathway Intermediates, Challenge Court

