

BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



**APRIL 2026
TO
MAY 2026
Issue No. 104**



Welcome to the Town Newsletter



The Mayor Josh Dickin

Hello and welcome to this Spring edition of our ever improving Town newsletter!

It's great to have some warmth in the air, after a pretty dreary winter! I think that we deserve a few sunny days this coming Spring and Summer.

There is plenty to update you all on. So here goes!

Firstly, I'd like to apologise to all those who have put up with having the Christmas lights attached to their house for much longer than

anticipated. It was not intended to leave them up for this long. The weather has not been kind as you know. We will get them down asap.

At the time of writing, the Town Council is on the cusp of submitting its expression of interest application for the newly created Town of Culture status. Created by the UK Government, I believe the Town has a strong chance, and the bid was very professionally put together by a small amount of people who have spent a lot of time trying to 'sell' The town. I thank them for their hard work to date. The bid really does show why B.C. would be worth becoming the first UK Town of Culture! Fingers crossed!

It is great to see the new Co-op building coming along. This will be a great asset to the Town, it's been a long time coming, thank you to Ransfords for persevering through the red tape to really help benefit the town!

Staying in that part of town, the May Fair will soon be here, taking place on Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May. This year, the May Fair will require a full road closure from the Thursday afternoon to the Sunday. This is to allow some rides on the road due to the limited space. The rides will not be in front of people's houses.

The road will be closed from the Boar's Head junction, with vehicular access only to the houses and businesses along the closed area. The closure will finish at the New Street junction on Station Street. Emergency access will be allowed through the closure. Thank you for your understanding in advance.

Sticking with the events theme, once again we are looking forward to a full events schedule. A big well done to all the committees, who I know, are struggling to continue, but will still manage to pull it off. I fully support the

Michaelmas Fair decision to bring the event forward. It makes sense and let's hope that the sun is shining. Please support these events where you can, they really need your help. Many are also struggling financially, lots of fundraising is planned. Keep an eye out and give your support whenever you can.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Tuesday May 12th at 7pm. This is your chance to come along and raise issues in the town. More information re the format of this event will be publicised soon.

The Town Council Grants round will soon be open, limited to £500 per successful application. More details are in the newsletter and to follow on Facebook and other communications.

Keeping to the subject of money, many residents will have had their precept demands through the Post. The Council Tax situation in BC is explained in an article, after my write-up, put together by a couple of councillor's. I thank them for the comprehensive information given to you. As you will see on the precept demand letter, we have not increased your contributions to the Town Council, something I feel very strongly about given the current climate. And given that Shropshire's demand was granted and special permission given to increase their element by 9%, I feel that a rise at our level could not be justified this year. Planning for next year's budget is already taking place, as serious conversations will be taking place with Shropshire Council regarding small scale devolution. This will, in turn, hopefully see better services provided.

I would also like to formally thank you, Andrew Wallace, our street cleaner for many years. Enjoy your retirement Andrew! We are already noticing your absence, something which we are working on with Shropshire Council.

Sadly, we end on a negative point: the graffiti and anti-social behaviour in the town. It has no place, it isn't wanted and it certainly does not reflect the community that we live in. If it's you who's doing it, or you know who is, please stop. This community will not be dragged into such stupidity and ignorance.

Thank you for taking the time to read this write up.

All the best
Josh

(Cover flower pictures kindly supplied by Sarah Gillard)



josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk



07530 691106

Council Tax – a brief explanation

Last month the Council announced that for 2026/27 there would be a slight decrease to £308.26 for each band D property in the Town's Council Tax payments. Bishop's Castle will, however, still be near the top of table and it was thought an explanation was therefore due as to why that is the case. Our higher taxes are mainly the result of :

- a) the moratorium concerning the sewage works and water quality in the River Clun (fresh water mussels) which, nearly ten years ago, stopped the building of 90 new houses for which planning permission had already been given. This would have increased the Town's housing stock by around 10 or 15 per cent with a similar contribution to Council tax receipts. Most other towns of our size do not have this restriction and have benefitted accordingly. There is a group trying to find a way to get the moratorium lifted, and
- b) the fact that as a Town, in addition to looking after our playing fields, community spaces, public toilets, street lighting and many other aspects of daily life, the Council directly or indirectly supports many 'extra curricular' activities, such as the many events and festivals the town hosts and campaigns, such as saving the hospital and the Onny river pipeline.

It is true that a large part of our 'budget' or 'precept' goes towards overheads including paying our officers and staff. These employees are contractually bound by national rates of pay determined by the appropriate Civil Service pay grades for the task. Additionally there are increasing costs for the Town Hall, insurance, equipment leases, IT services to be paid; nearly 10 per cent of the total budget goes in electricity payments. There is little flexibility for cuts in this area. The accounts are independently audited twice each year, once by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission, and found to be in order.

The remainder of the budget is used to support the allotments, pump track, youth services, Christmas lights, the newsletter – which is virtually self supporting - and grants. This year grants are being held to a maximum of £500 for each application and a number of projects – such as the refurbishment of the Auction Yard Toilets and a plan to reinvigorate the High Street – are being put on hold. The Council hopes to revisit these decisions should finances improve.

In the interests of prudence, an allocation this year has also been made to reserves in case Shropshire Council decides, as mooted, to delegate the support of more local services to local councils.

If you have any questions or views on Council Tax, please email the Assistant Clerk on Assistantclerk@bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk.

Thursday April 16th	7.00pm	NT LIVE: ALL MY SONS
Sunday April 19th	3.00pm	LIVE MUSIC: SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS A Ronnie Lane Celebration
		SOLD OUT
Tuesday April 21st	2.00pm	AFTERNOON FILM: WHITE BIRD - A WONDER STORY
Thursday April 23rd	7.00pm	FILM: HAMNET
Sunday April 26th	2.00pm	ROB: THE MAGIC FLUTE
Thursday April 30th	7pm	FILM: ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (15)
Thursday May 14th	7.00pm	FILM: THE NORTH
Thursday May 21st	7.00pm	Exhibition On Screen: Frida Kahlo
Thursday May 28th	7.00pm	NTLIVE: THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
Saturday 30th May	11.00 am	LIVE FAMILY SHOW: SO UNFAIR

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

Please visit the website to see full details of the programme.





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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, local groups and events are also invited to upload their events for free.

Dates for your Diary

April

Fri 3rd at 11am

Sun 5th at 11am

Mon 6th to Thurs. 16th

Sun 19th at 3pm

Fri 24th – Sun 26th

Sat 25th

Thurs 30th

Good Friday at St John's Church

Easter Day at St John's Church.

Book, DVD & CD Sale Town Hall

The Ludlow Orchestra Flute

Section at St. John's Church.

'Bells' Fest' at the Six Bells. A weekend of live music with a fundraiser on the Saturday for Party in the Park.

Round And About Walks -

Bishop's Castle & Clun

Lets do Business in Bishop's Castle, Free session by Marches Growth Hub at Enterprise House

May

Fri 8th and Sat 9th

Tues 11th

14th to 17th

Fri 15th at 7pm

Sun 24th

Sun 10th to Sun17th

May Fair

Annual Town Meeting Town Hall 7pm

Bishop's Castle Walking Festival 2026

'Following in the Footsteps of Welsh Drivers' by Mark Davis. Town Hall.

Yard Sale

Just Up Your Street Again. Exhibition at Stars Shop featuring photographs and other memorabilia of houses and shops in the town.

Future

Sunday 7th June at 3pm

Thursday 9th June

Saturday 20th June

Sunday 21st June

Saturday 4th July

Saturday 18th July

Saturday 5th September

Schubert's Trout at St. John's Church

Dementia Carers Relax and Recharge Day

Abbeyfield 70th Garden Party 2 – 4 pm

Midsummer Rejoicing at St. John's Church

Bishop's Castle Carnival .

Party in the Park.

Michaelmas Fair. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Bishop's Castle Library

Tues April 7th Very Hungry Caterpillar Story and Craft Morning 10.30 - 12
Saturday 11th April Spring Lego Challenge 10 -12.30

Childrens Easter Trail throughout Easter Holidays Indoors during opening hours



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 14th April and 12th May (booking essential)	
Dementia Carers Group	20th April and 18th May 11.30 am -1.00pm	
Friends Coffee Morning	Friday 24th April and Friday 22nd May	

STARS POP-UP

APRIL

Monday 30th March – Sunday 5th April

INDIGO EXHIBITION AND SALE

(With Japanese Stitch workshops on Wednesday 1st – Saturday 4th)

Monday 6th – Sunday 12th April

ROB CORFIELD paintings

Thursday and Friday 23rd and 24th April

PLANT SALE

Monday 27th April

CO-OP COMMUNITY DAY

MAY

Friday 1st – Saturday 9th May

BAMBER HAWES EXHIBITION

Monday 11th – Saturday 16th May

HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE

Tuesday 19th – Thursday 21st

LIZ MORAN POP UP CAFÉ
in aid of Shrewsbury Ark

Saturday 23rd – Monday 25th May

SAM ANGELL'S VINTAGE SALE

Tuesday 26th - Saturday 30th May

KEITH NOBLE PAINTINGS
EXHIBITION

4th April until 5th May
Art exhibition by Lin Brown

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

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

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

6th to 16th April – Grand Book Sale 10am to 4pm.

1000s of good quality books (£2 hardback & £1 paperback)
plus DVDs & CDs (4 for £1)

Early entry on

Monday 6th April from 9am for £5

Lift available. Free entry.

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

18th April - 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

19th April – Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman in concert

8pm start, doors open 7.30pm Limited Bar. Tickets £17.50 available from
the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

2nd May - Antiques & Flea Market 9am to 4pm.

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

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

9th May – Three Legg'd Mare in concert

8pm start, doors open 7.30pm Limited Bar. Tickets £15 available from
the Town Hall or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcth

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

16th May - 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

23rd May – Craft Fair 9am to 4pm

2 floors of Stalls selling Jewellery, Hand Dyed Wool, Soaps and Body Creams, Art, Textiles and much more, all produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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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

News from the Police

Preventing Heating Oil Theft

With the cost of heating oil rising over recent weeks due to the conflict in the Middle East, so has the risk of being targeted by heartless thieves looking to steal it. Below are some steps to help prevent the theft of heating oil -

Location of the tank – The tanks position can have a significant effect on its vulnerability. If it's too close to the house and overlooked, then the thief may consider the chances of being seen too high. If it's close to the road or other access points, then it may be an easier target. Many tanks are hidden behind the garage or other structures which could be an advantage to the thief. Therefore, the following security measures should be considered: Padlocks - Robust closed shackle padlocks offer the most resistance to bolt croppers.

Oil level gauges - Consider using oil level gauge alarms, these remote-control alarms activate if the tank level suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. Proximity alarms- Battery operated motion sensor alarms can make an audible alarm and some can also alert designated mobile phones that monitor activity that's detected around the tank.

Security lighting - If your tank is visible from your home, this can deter thieves. Low level 'dusk to dawn 'or motion detection lighting can be an effective crime deterrent. CCTV - This can be set up to watch over an isolated tank and also act as a deterrent to thieves.

Defensive planting – Consider the planting of thorny bushes to prevent entry to the tank, also the addition of walls, fences or trellis can help to hide the shape or site of a green heating oil tank.

Report it If the crime is happening now call 999 - if you are unsure, we'd rather hear about it and decide if a theft is occurring • if it is safe to do so, take photos of suspects or the number plate of their car (do not approach suspects, as they have been known to use violence) • if the crime has already happened then you can report it online - <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Road Closures:

Road Closure: Unnamed road between Picklescott And Pulverbatch.

Start Date: 6th April 2026 **End Date:** 8th May 2026

Road Closure: Bull Street Bishops Castle

Start Date: 11th May 2026 **End Date:** 15th May 2026

Dementia



If you would like to attend one of Valerie's FREE Dementia Information sessions please get in touch with her on: 01588 650940. For more information on supporting anyone living with dementia please have a look at: <https://www.bc800club.org.uk> which has useful information and details of local support.

The 800 club is for carers of people living with dementia; we meet the first Monday of the month at the back of the Six Bells, 10.30 until 12.00. Thank you Mandy for letting the club meet at the pub.



Thank you to the staff at Bishop's Castle Medical Practice for attending a Dementia Information session with Valerie Woodmansey from the Alzheimer's Society. You all earned your 'Dementia Friend' badge.

For carers and the person they are supporting, the Library Team and the BC Dementia Community Team have organised a 'Drop In' at the Library on the third Monday of the month, 20th April and 18th May from 11.30 – 1.00. Feel free to pop in and have a chat or spend quiet time browsing.

Coffee Morning

First and third Wednesdays of each month at Bishop's Castle Church 10.15. All welcome.

Round and About Walk - Bishop's Castle and Clun

The Round and About Walks will be a 1-day community walking event! Starting and ending at the Community College in Bishop's Castle, you can choose to walk either our full, glorious, challenging 23-miles of beautiful South Shropshire countryside or an equally scenic but more accessible 6-mile loop.

Follow the link to our website:

<https://ccbcshropshire.com/ccbc-friends-roundandabout/>

The donation for an individual entry is £25 per person

Under 16s are free with an accompanying adult

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1JLmwo3499/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Temporary Closure of Permissive Path.

The permissive footpath from Brockton to Lydbury North, close to the Powis Arms is closed for at least the month of March. This is due to hedge laying, erection of fences and gates and the removal of a fallen tree. The route will be reopened once it is safe to do so.

RELAX AND RECHARGE DAY FREE

FOR ALL CARERS

Tuesday 9th June 2026 11.30 - 3pm

Village Hall, Norbury, SY9 5DX

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

call 01588 65090 or 07950 270491 or

email bc800club@gmail.com

Have a quiet chat with free tea and cake or a light lunch, enjoy a massage, different treatments, crafts, relaxation sessions and more.

Supported by the 800 club, Hobson Charitable Trust, BC Town Council and the Mothers' Union

SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2026

6 MILE LOOP OR 23 MILE CHALLENGE

ROUND & ABOUT BISHOP'S CASTLE & CLUN



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MORE INFO / REGISTER AT [HTTPS://CCBCSHROPSHIRE.COM/CCBC-FRIENDS-ROUNDABOUT/](https://ccbcshropshire.com/ccbc-friends-roundandabout/)

Art in the Museum at the House on Crutches April 2026

Join Meg at the museum to explore our collection through a different lens and draw or paint what you find



Three Monday
morning sessions
10am to 12pm on
13, 20, 27 April
£10 per session or
£25 for all three.



Booking essential. Please
phone Meg Hemmings on
01588 638250 or email
meghemmings06@gmail.com

BELLS FEST

Six Bells, Bishop's Castle



Friday 7pm

JONNY KEELEY
SILVERS
BC ALLSKAS

PAY AS
YOU FEEL
EVENT

Saturday 2pm

CONNIE • CHERUB
PIG DAZE • LILITH PEARSON
BLIX • MODIFIED YOUTH
SAM AND THE HOTRODS

Sunday 5pm

SHRED BELLY

FOOD: SHAYLEE BBQ

Bishop's Castle Walking Festival, 14th – 17th May 2026

A wide-ranging programme of guided walks have been compiled by local people ready for visiting walkers to enjoy as part of the town's 4-day Walking Festival this May. The 2026 walks programme was live on the Walking Festival website in December, following much work by the Festival Committee, walk leaders and website coordinator. Alongside the Festival walks, a programme of fringe events is planned which including film night at SpArC, Festival dinner and an illustrated talk by Mark Davis, Heiptrw Hw! Following in the Footsteps of the Welsh drovers on Friday 15th May, 7pm at the Town Hall. All are welcome.

For more information about the walks and fringe events please go to our website www.bishopscastslewalkingfestival.co.uk.

If you would like to get involved in the Festival, as a walk leader, co-leader, committee member or one of our other voluntary roles please email cath.r.murphy@iCloud.com

Parking on Station Street

There are ongoing problems with parked cars outside Enterprise House and on the opposite side of the street. These prevent the BC to Shrewsbury bus - and larger vehicles - getting through and being able to pick up passengers from the top bus stop. Please park carefully. Parking restrictions may be needed.

Potholes

The large potholes in the Church Street car park have been filled.

Fly Tipping Kerry Lane and Colebatch lay by

Still an issue. Concerns about CCTV

Work on ditches at Colebatch

Seems to have had a positive effect. Thank you to all involved

Open Garden at The Hurst, Clunton SY7 0JA

Sunday 17th May 2-5pm

The Hurst is Arvon's Shropshire writing centre; a residential creative writing space. Former residence of (playwright) John & Helen Osborne. (Arvon is a registered charity)

Set in 26 acres of mature planting, including rhododendrons, azaleas, a bluebell wood, meadow, orchard, walled garden, dovecot and stunning views of the Clun Valley. House tours, cakes & tea, plant stall, book stall, local craft demonstrations. Toilet (wheelchair friendly). Entrance £5 per adult (cash).

Party in the Park

The Party in the Park team are delighted to finalise the lineup for Saturday 18th July.

This year, we have an exciting mix of Party in the Park favourites as well as many bands who haven't played with us before. Come and enjoy Packet Racket, Fight the Bear, Joe Le Taxi, Sean Gaffney and Kiwi Taxi. Plus great bands you'll have fun getting to know - The Mink, Suckle, Connie, Gauche and Woke Mind Virus.

Bishop's Castle Party in the Park is a top-value one day music festival! Before July, there's even more fun to be had at fundraising events helping to ensure we can put Party in the Park on each year.

As part of Bells Fest weekend (24th-26th April), the Saturday will be a fundraiser day for Party in the Park. Look out for posters to see the weekend lineup of bands. And next month you can test your brain cells for a good cause at the Mayor's quiz at the Six Bells on Friday 8th May, with a raffle and your entry fee going to help Party in the Park.

Spring is here in Bishop's Castle, remember to put these dates in your calendar!

Michaelmas Fair

For 2026 Change of date, now the 5th September

The Michaelmas Fair is part of the fabric of Bishop's Castle which draws in visitors, supports local businesses, and provides a memorable day for the community. The 'street fair' is the thing that makes it great and we are always looking for volunteers both with the year round organising of the fair plus the 100 plus required on the day to help with the safe and organised execution of the day.

There are stall pitches still available with more information and an application form on the website. The vehicle procession will be 2pm. Vintage vehicle applications are via the website with a cut off date of 17th August to apply. www.michaelmasfair.org.uk

The lantern procession will start at 8pm at the Church this year with a workshop in the Church Barn to make them on Saturday August 29th.

Bells' Fest

Three days of local music in the Six Bells' yard from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th April. Food all weekend from SHAYLEE BBQ. Pay as you feel. Proceeds from Saturday go towards Party in the Park. The rest goes towards the musicians.

Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust and Stars Shop

GRAND MUSIC SALE

The Music Sale Week organised by Jim Gaffney was a great success! Over twenty musical instruments made their way from seasoned local musicians to youngsters needing to get started. Also lots of equipment, amps, pedals, CDs, vinyl, and sheet music were donated and sold. Lots of chat with all the 'musos' in town and a great atmosphere the whole week. There will be another one next year!

The AGM

This year's CLT AGM is on Saturday 25th of April from 3.30 – 5 pm, at the Church Barn. Refreshments, a raffle and special guest speaker Janet Cobb from the Middle Marches Land Trust who will update us on what they are doing. Everyone (whether a member or not) is very welcome. If you are at the Six Bells for Bellsfest, just nip over for an hour, a cup of tea and to find out what we are up to.

Business Park – progress

There is continuing interest in the activity on the Business Park. Progress is being made. Most units are now occupied.

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

Below is the current status for each unit.

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

Unit 2 - 15,000 sq ft - In negotiations but not proving easy to let.

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

Unit 4A - 2,000 sq ft – Poetry on Prescription

Unit 4B - 2,000 sq ft – Sunshine Coast Football Club

Units 4C and 4D- 2,000 sq ft each- a commercial dealer, slowly moving in.

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



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1. 1. Introduction

Bishop's Castle Town Council has powers to award grants to local organisations to support their activities in the parish of Bishop's Castle. In doing so, the Town Council is aware of its responsibility for public funds and for the distribution of these funds to be properly managed.

Each year the Town Council allocates a specific amount of funds to be made available as grants to local organisations. Throughout the year applications are considered by the Town Council. The maximum new grant at the present time is for £500.

A grant is any payment made by the Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose in the furtherance of the wellbeing of the local community, either generally or for a specific purpose, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council.

Bishop's Castle Town Council awards grants at its discretion to community organisations who can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to provide benefits to Bishop's Castle parish by:

- Providing a service
- Enhancing the quality of life
- Improving the environment
- Promoting Bishop's Castle in a positive way

2. Organisation and Locality

Applications will only be accepted from charitable, voluntary or non-profit making organisations

Applications cannot be accepted from individuals

Organisations should be local to Bishop's Castle Parish, or if outside the boundary, its work should be of benefit to the parish and its residents.

The Council is unable to give financial assistance to organisations operating overseas or to a fund established to help persons outside the UK.

3. Process

All applications should be on the Council's application form (attached).

Applicants will be required to submit a copy of the last year's accounts with the application form.

Applicants will be required to submit a copy of their constitution with the application form.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ABBEYFIELD SOCIETY 70th BIRTHDAY

ABBEYFIELD GARDEN PARTY
Saturday 20th June 2-4pm

Cream Tea & Prosecco
Variety of stalls & Raffle
Music by Kaotikos

Everyone welcome!

Abbeyfield, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle, SY95PA
01584 63000
Abbeyfield.bishops@btconnect.com
Abbeyfieldengland.com



INDIGO

- a blue to dye for

Our second annual exhibition and sale of wonderful indigo blue textiles, fabrics, clothes and much more...

And new this year, workshops with Janice Gunner acclaimed sashiko, shibori and indigo dyeing expert.

At: Stars Pop Up shop
Bishop's Castle SY9 5AE

From March 30th - April 6th

More info from Diane Gaffney at Textile Traders

Bishop's Castle Tennis Club
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

CLUB PLAY
FREE TENNIS SESSIONS
FOR ADULTS

Come and try one of our
FREE Club Play tennis sessions
Every Saturday morning
throughout April
10am - 12pm
All Abilities Welcome

Just come along to our courts on
Love Lane, Bishops Castle
or visit our website for info

A great way to try before you join our
friendly and inclusive tennis club

www.bishopscastletennis.org
Registered Charity Number 1211728

FREE TENNIS CAMPS

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SY9 5DW
TUESDAY 7TH APRIL

For 4+ years - All Equipment Provided
Open to Members & Non-Members
All Standards Welcome!

9.00am - 11.00am Under 10's
12.00pm - 2.00pm 10 Years +

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wdtvenues.co.uk/bishops-castle

DUNLOP

WE DO TENNIS

All applications will be considered at an Ordinary meeting of the Council, normally in November.

All applications must demonstrate clearly how the grant will be of benefit to the local community within the Parish.

4. General Conditions

The Council will make the decision on which grants to award.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits and will be considered along with other applications submitted.

Organisations will not automatically be written to on the basis of previous expressions of interest.

Ongoing commitments to award grants or subsidies in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.

The Council may take into account the amount and frequency of awards in previous years.

The Council may make the award of any grant subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.

**If you would like to apply, the application form
is on the back cover of this newsletter.**

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.

Town Tours

Living here, you probably know your way around pretty well; but have you delved into the history and the changes this place has undergone over the centuries?

Bishops Castle is an old place of power, with a colourful past and stories to tell.....

To hear more, do join us in a Town Tour, which happens **twice a week from May – September, on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 6.30**, meeting at St Johns lychgate, for about an hour to the top of town.

The tours, led by one of our trusty guides, are informative and amusing – a fine way to build up a thirst on a summer evening. Just turn up at the church and let us reveal the town's secrets to you. £5, children free.

Special deal to locals in May: 2 people for the price of one.

Visit our website: **bishopscastletowntours.co.uk**



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- www.pcblaw.co.uk -

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- Call 01694 723818 -

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

The House on Crutches in 2026

We are turning our attention to preparing for the open season which runs from Good Friday until the end of September. Already the forms have gone out inviting our helpers to sign up for stewarding sessions in the museum. A small commitment to 3 three-hour sessions welcoming visitors to the museum during the six-month season.

There is still time to get involved here, or help in some other way - perhaps at the Heritage Resource Centre if you are interested in researching some aspect of local history. Contact me on 01588 63816 or email janemallard29@gmail.com

Bishop's Castle Community Food Bank

Opening hours on a Thursday now 2pm to 3.30pm. Tuesday mornings remain the same at 10 – 11.30.

Friends of the Community, Care Home and Hospital

Friends promote the health, safety and well-being of people in the Community, in the Community Hospital or in Stone House Care Home.

Friends receives and considers applications for eligible community projects which promote the well-being of elderly and vulnerable people living in Bishop's Castle and the surrounding area.

Previous and ongoing supported requests, for example, are:

- ◆ Accessible screenings at SpArC and Dial A Ride
- ◆ Kissing gates to replace stiles to make footpaths accessible
- ◆ Hearing Loop systems Town Hall, Church Barn, Lydham Hall
- ◆ Outdoor seating in Bishop's Castle



For Application for Funding of eligible community projects, contact Pat 01588 638338 or 07967306722

Graham Dudley - Funeral Services

Local family-run funeral directors covering the Clun Valley and Bishop's Castle areas

Over 40 years experience

Traditional and Eco-friendly funerals arranged

Also low cost direct funerals available.

Day/Night Service

Chapel of Rest located locally in Bishop's Castle

Pre-paid Funeral Plans - estimates on request



1 Hurst View, Powells Lane, Clun

Tel: 01588 640852 Mob: 07780 948670 email : dudleys2@aol.com

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

The 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

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



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www.enterprisehouse.org.uk

Shropshire Hills National Landscape

Welcome to Shropshire Hills National Landscape – The organisation has a conservation fund that offers small grants to community groups to support community action for nature and people. Grants of between £500 to £2000 are available.

Book Sale

From Monday 6th to Thursday 16th April – Book, DVD & CD Sale
The Town Hall will be packed with good quality second-hand books, plus DVDs and CDs. Hardbacks £2, Paperbacks £1, DVDs & CDs 4 for £1
Free entry from 10am to 4pm everyday. Early entry on Monday 6th April from 9am for £5 www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Walters Workshop

Walter's Workshop in Bishop's Castle provides a useful service managing to repair for future use, quite a variety of small domestic items.

The Workshop's aim is to repair and recycle for re-use small pieces of furniture, as well as a variety of electrical appliances. All electrical items are tested for safety before return. Regrettably, the Workshop is unable to repair large white goods. Where it is found that an item is beyond economic repair or un-fixable, then it's returned or disposed of, as the customer wishes. Fortunately this doesn't happen very often!

Our volunteers are a friendly bunch and welcome newcomers, whether you're looking to share your knowledge or expand your skills. We have access to all the tools and materials you'll need to make any repairs, so there's no need to bring anything with you unless you want to. Walter's Workshop is a member of the Repair Café International organisation and has been running since 2022. Anyone is welcome to drop in between 10.00am to 12.00noon on Fridays. It is situated in the basement of Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle.

Contact can be made via the website:- <https://waltersworkshop.org.uk/>
by e-mail:- info@waltersworkshop.org,
through the Facebook page:- <https://www.facebook.com/waltersbcworkshop/> or Voicemail:- 074936 95095

Bowling Green

The acquisition of the Civil Defence Bowling Green continues and a management strategy is being drawn up.

Playing Fields

Concern over damage caused to the playing fields. Being monitored and an action plan devised. Extra police patrols have been requested.



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



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B.C. P3 Team. Parish Paths Partnership.

The B.C. P3 team is a group of volunteers who work throughout the year repairing damaged stiles, putting in kissing gates and cutting back overgrown vegetation to maintain public access to the footpaths and bridleways around town.

Our priorities are the Shropshire Way and the walks in the Walking for Pleasure leaflets available from the Town Hall. Our work is supported by the Town Council and Shropshire County Council, and we work closely with local landowners, the majority of which we have a really good working relationship with.

The wet and stormy weather of January and February has created a lot of problems with stile step posts rotting and fallen trees and branches causing damage and blockages. We have recently repaired and made safe the path through Cwmmawr Dingle and repaired a stile on the path from the SW at the top of Field Lane that goes over the hill to the Dingle. If you come across any damaged gates, stiles or blocked paths please leave a message at the Town Hall with the yellow disc number and grid reference or walk number.

A request to dog owners. After speaking to some local farmers, at this time of year the majority of the sheep in the fields are caring for or carrying lambs. Please be very careful where you let your dog off the lead. Farming at this time of the year is particularly challenging and farmers don't want to lose their lambs due to dogs chasing or worrying sheep

Bowling Club

Would you like to take some gentle exercise in the fresh air, meet new friends, and learn something new? If so:

Come and have a go at crown green bowling on our historic green off Castle Green/Bull Lane.

No previous experience needed. Free coaching.

Visitors of all ages (our members range in age from 15 to 90) are welcome to free introductory sessions on Wednesdays 5 pm to 8 pm.

Come on your own or bring the family.
Join our friendly club - £15 for the first year.

Contact either David 07768 181 081, or Wayne 07794 152 787 or Tony 07776 467 911 for further information.



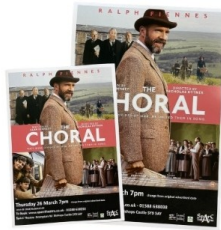
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Business Cards

OPENING TIMES: 9am - 5pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

01588 638 038

info@enterprisehouse.org.uk
www.enterprisehouse.org.uk

A Blue to Dye For

From Monday March 30th to Monday April 6th (inc)
A Blue To Dye For - our annual Indigo Exhibition and Sale of amazing
indigo blue textiles, fabrics and clothes

Also running at the same time are stitch workshops by Janice Gunner. an
acclaimed textile artist specialising in Japanese stitch techniques and indigo
dyeing

The workshops are at Stars on Wednesday 1st April at 2 - 4 pm and
Saturday 4th April at 11 - 1 pm **An Introduction to Shibori**
and on Thursday 2nd April at 11 - 1pm and Friday 3rd April at 2 - 4pm
Inspired by Boro

Only eight places available for each session, so booking is advisable.
Contact Janice on gunnerjanice2154@gmail.com

Heritage Resource Centre

Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre is putting
together a photographic exhibition at the Stars shop on
Sunday 10th May to Sunday 17th May titled Just Up
Your Street Again. The title refers to BCHRC's popular
Just Up Your Street exhibition from 2011 and will again
feature photographs and other memorabilia of houses
and shops in the town.



An additional special feature will be the interesting results of recent
research carried out by some of our volunteers.

Why not come along and see if your house is included? Or do you have any
old photographs or documents you would be willing to lend us to copy?
You can get in touch with us at mail@bchrc.co.uk, phone 01588 630556
and leave a message on the answerphone or call in to the Centre in Chapel
Yard on Monday or
Thursday 10am to 12.

We look forward to
hearing from you or
seeing you in May!



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SpArC
THE ATRE

Theatre Tender

The SpArC theatre may be small but it provides a vital service to our local community and beyond, catering for all ages through its varied programmes of theatre, film, dance and music. It offers an accessible space for local artists to showcase their work and puts on various family friendly, hands-on activities throughout the year. It does a great job of bringing people together.

The theatre building is now in need of some TLC. Its lighting and sound systems in particular could do with an upgrade to ensure the highest quality of every performance while reducing energy costs. The SpArC charity will be supporting the theatre as wholeheartedly as it has the pool. Watch out for more updates on this and on the different ways you can help!

Don't forget the Annual SpArC Plant Stall!
Saturday 18th April, 9.00 – 12.00, outside Wrights Army
Surplus (by kind permission).
We hope to have more wonderful plants than ever.
Donations are really welcome



Construction

It's really happening ... construction work has now begun on the new pool. Construction headquarters and fences are up, the pool has been drained and all its old plant removed, with Lucy the spaniel as self-appointed supervisor. Things are going to plan and to timescale. Although the pool is closed, the rest of the Centre is open:

The Gym

Whether you're new to the gym or are mystified by some machines, Ian (Centre Manager), will be available in the gym on Wednesdays for advice and support on using the equipment and Debbie on Tuesdays and Thursdays 15.30 – 18.30. You can book an appointment for other times through reception.

Additional Classes

SCLT have put on 3 additional exercise classes:

- Tuesdays from March 3: 17:00-17:45 Circuits with Lucy
- Fridays from March 6: 07.30-07:55 HIIT (High intensity interval training) with Lucy.
- Thursdays from March 12: 08:00-08:45 Yoga with Katherine

Also, some classes will move into the Sports Hall, with 30 bookable places, over two phases:

- Phase 1 - from March 2, evening classes with Lucy have moved to the sports hall.
- Phase 2 - from April 6, Lucy's morning classes will also be moved into the sports hall.

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www.droverstravel.com

In addition, SpArC now has its own Personal Trainer. Debbie is a qualified and experienced personal trainer who will work with you in identifying and supporting your fitness needs – whether strength, flexibility or confidence (including use of gym equipment). Ask at reception for her contact details.

Pay and Play on the MUGA

Over the Easter holiday, there is a Pay and Play offer on the MUGA during daylight hours Mondays – Thursdays, until 18.00 on Fridays, and between 09.00-1200 on Saturdays and Sundays. The exceptions are March 28 and 31, when a giant crane and major electrical work are closing the whole site, and Good Friday 3rd and Easter Monday 6th when the Centre is closed. Children do not need to bring an adult but do need a ball. No booking; just turn up.

Much-needed Maintenance

The pool closure gives the SCLT team an opportunity to complete much needed repairs and maintenance to the ‘wet side’ areas. They are planning the following:

- **Male and female changing rooms shower, toilet areas:** replacement of damaged floors plus new taps and mirror
- **Accessible changing room:** damaged floor to be replaced
- **Ladies’ changing room:** repairs to the ceiling

General improvements will be made to:

- replace a heating pump
- repaint the corridor/congregation area/changing areas and the squash court spectator area
- revarnish doors in the changing area
- install new noticeboards
- deep clean all areas.

PAY & PLAY at SpArC
Bishops Castle

**Astroturf
Weekends
& Holidays**



Only **£2.40** per person during daylight hours

GROUP BOOKINGS

(hourly slots available @ £42.25/hour)

Mon - Thurs	5pm - 9pm
Fri	5pm - 6pm
Sat & Sun	9am - 12pm

Drop by to book or
call us for more details:

01588 630 243



SpArC Leisure Centre

Brampton Road, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AY

www.shropshireleisurecentres.com/sparc-bishops-castle/

West Mercia Police

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

Date: March 2026

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 area's 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**

Bishop's Castle Wind Energy Project

A call for people to join Lightfoot Community Energy

In 2025 we described our plans to put up a wind turbine to the south-east of town, near the Conery, on the hillside facing Colebatch. The project is moving towards buying and installing a turbine, and we hope to have it producing electricity by some time in 2027.

As we move closer to an operating turbine, it would be really helpful if more volunteers from in and around Bishop's Castle would join and strengthen our small team. We are particularly hoping for willing and enthusiastic volunteers to fill the following roles:-

- * Board members of the CBS
- * Treasurer and/or bookkeeper
- * Website construction and maintenance
- * Social media content creator/manager
- * Administration skills, note taking, etc.



These roles will probably need small amounts of regular effort (an hour or two a week), or occasional focussed efforts for a day or more.

We will be setting up a Community Benefit Society (CBS, a form of co-op) to run the turbine and to sell electricity. The CBS will be called *Lightfoot Community Energy*, and the community benefits will mostly come from cheaper electricity for SpArC and Energy Club members (and in carbon reductions). In later years there will also be a Community Benefit Fund that can provide grants to local causes. The CBS's assets will start at about £1.6 million (turbine and related equipment), and annual turnover will be about £200k per year. **If you are interested, please contact the team at climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org and we can discuss with you what's involved.**

Next time we'll describe more about the plans to raise money for the turbine, including a share offer and a bond offer. And we'd just like to finish this time by listing the benefits we hope to bring to the local community through this project:

- Helping our much-loved SpArC by selling them discounted, green, electricity. Possibly also enabling them to act as a "warm hub" if the mains grid goes down (e.g. in heavy snow or storm);
- Offering discounted electricity to local homes and businesses via an "Energy Club";
(In time) grants from our Community Benefit Fund; Help and advice for moving to more sustainable sources of energy (e.g. converting to a heat pump).

The 'People's Emergency Briefing' Film BC viewing

The National Emergency Briefing is a rapidly-growing UK public information initiative working to ensure that both Parliament and the public are clearly and honestly briefed on the climate and nature crisis — and on what an effective national response requires.

In November 2025, more than 1,200 MPs, peers and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media gathered at Westminster Central Hall for a landmark national briefing delivered by leading UK experts.

That briefing has now been adapted into a new public film, *The People's Emergency Briefing*, launching nationally on 7 April 2026. The aim is simple: to make vital information accessible in every constituency, in a format that is clear, human and watchable.

Lightfoot is planning to show the 45-minute film, hopefully in the 'Stars' Pop-up shop, which will allow repeat showings at different times over a couple of days.

Please watch out for more information on screening days and times on Lightfoot's website <https://lightfootenterprises.org/home-2/home/>, via Lightfoot's e-mails and on our social media as well as posters. If you wish to learn more about this film, please email climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org



"FESTIVE FRIENDS"

Community Christmas Day event



Christmas seems a distant memory now but we've had plenty of time to get comments and feedback from those who attended ~ and we can definitely say that

"Festive Friends" 2025 was a great success!

Over 50 guests and volunteers enjoyed drinks and mince pies followed by a traditional two course lunch on Christmas Day at Norbury Village Hall near Bishop's Castle.

A special 'Thank You' to Wendy Lund and Val Littlehales who provided music and entertainment, the magnificent Quiz organisers and the wonderful team of volunteers who made it such a special event for people who might otherwise be alone or find the day challenging.

Planning has already begun for Christmas 2026 (!!)

This year we are particularly looking for a qualified First Aider/Carer to join us and also someone licensed to drive a minibus for transporting our guests to and from the venue. If you think **you** could give some time to "Festive Friends" 2026 do contact

festivefriends@smquakers.org.uk
for more details.



Festive Friends is an initiative of
Clun Valley Quakers



Street & Stage Entertainment
All day and evening.

Vehicle Procession 2pm

Lantern procession 8pm

Lantern Workshop Saturday August 29th Church Barn

Volunteers Needed, Street Stalls Available

www.michaelmasfair.org.uk

Patient Group News

Surgery News

Bishop's Castle Medical Practice was joint second in a survey of GP surgeries across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin in 2025. A score of 94% indicates the overall level of patient satisfaction with the services the surgery team provide. While practice staff are delighted at this positive feedback they are aware that many patients still experience delays in getting appointments. The number of patients registered with the practice has gone up by 3.5% in the past year. Additional staff are being recruited as quickly as possible, including a new GP to join the team in the summer.

Additional services are gradually being introduced. A specialist Diabetic Service will allow continuous external glucose monitoring for diabetic patients, which means fewer visits to the surgery for those with diabetes and faster treatment when problems arise. New diagnostic kit for respiratory problems is coming soon which will allow faster diagnoses and treatment for those with respiratory problems.

Covid Clinic

There will be a Spring Covid Vaccination Clinic for those patients who are 75 and over and those with compromised immune systems. Eligible patients will be contacted by the surgery to arrange an appointment. Patients Group volunteers will be on hand to help with directions and parking.

Community Hospital

The Bishop's Castle Community Hospital continues to prove its worth. All the beds are generally full and patients are helped to return to the community as soon as practicable. Staff work across Bishop's Castle and Ludlow hospitals and our GPs, Dr Morton and Dr Mitchell, also provide clinical care in both hospitals. New planting will shortly be undertaken by the Save Our Beds group to improve the outlook for patients.

Pharmacy News

The Bishop's Castle Pharmacy has been taken over by Lunts Pharmacy Group along with four other pharmacies in the wider area. The Lunts Group now runs 14 pharmacies in Shropshire. A re-fit of the Bishop's Castle Pharmacy should be happening very soon. We hope this will bring stability to a much-needed community service.

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(Wednesdays by appointment only)



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Local tours

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Printing Services at Enterprise House

Did you know we offer a wide range of customised printing services for individuals, community groups and businesses? We offer everything from printing and scanning letters through to designing and printing posters, fliers or business cards. We also stock a wide range of stationery.

We continue to offer local customised orders of service for all occasions. Sit down with us and share your ideas, hold a copy in your hand before it goes to print to ensure the final result reflects your wishes and is exactly as you imagined.

Supporting Businesses at Enterprise House

With our first two courses selling out, we are pleased to be offering more locally based affordable training courses and have our next **Emergency First Aid at Work Training** course on **Thursday 30th April**. The one-day course meets Health & Safety (First Aid) 1981 regulations and includes defibrillator training. Cost is £80 + VAT per person., with a limited number of reduced rate places for local community groups/charities. Get in touch with Enterprise House on 01588 638 038 or email info@enterprisehouse.org.uk to book your place.

Local businesses and entrepreneurs looking to establish a new venture or grow an existing business are invited to our **Let's do business in Bishop's Castle on Thursday 30th April** from 10am to 2.00pm for FREE advice and support. Call or email Enterprise House for details of how to secure your place at this Marches Growth Hub event.

With over 102k hits a year the **Bishops Castle & Beyond Website** www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk continues to go from strength to strength supporting the local visitor economy and providing information for anyone living in or visiting the area. All local businesses are invited to have their own dedicated page on the website, to find out more about getting your page set up and listing costs get in touch with Enterprise House.

If you need **Digital Help and Support** call into our monthly digital drop-in on the third Thursday of the month between 2 & 3pm for FREE pointers and quick fixes, or alternatively book an appointment for one-to-one help and support with mobiles, tablets and laptops.

30 years of Enterprise House

2026 will see 30 years of Enterprise House and we have some exciting news about our future coming soon so keep a look out for this and anniversary events over the coming year.





Clun Valley Quaker Meeting



Our testimony is *what we do*. It is not what we say we believe, or what we claim to value that matters, but what we say with our life

*Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community,
Equality, Sustainability*

SUNDAY MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

APRIL and MAY

10.30 am~11.30 am followed by refreshments

5th April at

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

April 12th, 19th and 26th at

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

3rd May at

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

May 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

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



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

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

F.I.T. Physio-led Exercise Class from 1.00pm-2.00pm

Wednesdays – Tai Chi 2.00pm-3.00pm, (except every third Wednesday) for beginners over 18. To book your for more information, please email: chigung@whiteoak-aikido.org or phone: 07880 501302.

Mothers Union 2.00 pm—4,00pm third Wednesday of the month. Contact Jenny Plunkett 01588 630018 or Meg 01588 638250.

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 - Energise Fitness 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

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

Contact: admin@lightfootenterprises.org.uk

Wildlife Gardeners' Question Time

Tuesday 14 April 7–9pm

Bishops Castle Church Barn

Got a gardening puzzle? Our panel of wildlife gardeners, ecologists and botanists will answer your questions about wildlife-friendly gardening, pollinators and planting for nature.

Scything Training – Skills Workshop

Saturday 18 April 10am–2pm

Bishop's Castle (location TBC)

Learn the traditional skill of scything with Alex from Caring for God's Acre, covering setup, technique and safe mowing for managing meadows naturally. Booking essential.

Bird Walk

Sunday 19 April 9–11am

Wintles Wood

Join Pete Carty for a relaxed guided walk identifying birds by sight and sound. Perfect for beginners and seasoned birdwatchers alike.

Booking essential.

Moth Trapping Evening!

Sunday 19 April 8:30–10.30PM

Old Castle Land, Bishop's Castle

Join us for a live trapping event! Discover the fascinating nocturnal world of moths and night-time pollinators and learn how to identify species found in local meadows and gardens.



Kids' Club

Saturday 25 April | 9am–12pm

Wintles Wood

A fun morning for young explorers aged 9–14 with wildlife discovery, outdoor games and hands-on nature activities. Booking essential.



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 21st May

Everyone Welcome



Bishop's Castle and Brockton Methodist Church

We are one church community, meeting on two sites.

Sunday Services:

5 th April	5pm	Rev Sheila Macinally - at Brockton
12 th April	10.30am	Kester Dean - at Bishops Castle
19 th April	3.30pm	Messy Church - Rev George Heinz - at Brockton
26 th April	5pm	Local arrangement - at Brockton
3 rd May	5pm	Rev George Heinz - at Brockton

Christian Aid Sunday:

10 th May	11.00am	Rev K Skippon - at Bishops Castle
17 th May	3.30pm	Messy Church - Rev George Heinz - at Brockton
24 th May	5pm	Rev Richard Hall - Holy Communion - at Brockton
31 st May	5pm	Local arrangement - at Brockton

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

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Bishop's Castle Church Successful Lottery Award

St John the Baptist Church in Bishop's Castle has been successful in gaining a grant from the National Lottery Fund. The grant of £9,773 will fund the town's 'Preparing the Third Place Project' to enhance the church council's communications with the local community around its plans to restore and reorder the building.

Plans include urgent repairs to the roof - the church is currently on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register. Further small changes to the building will also create a wonderful space for a variety of events and activities which everyone can enjoy or join in with.

The building will remain as a place for public worship, marriages and funerals. St John's however is the largest public space in the town with excellent acoustics lending itself as a venue for a variety of public performances as well as a space for exhibitions and fairs.

The National Lottery grant will fund a new website and other supporting elements to help refine the project detail and to discover what people would like see happening in the building.

The plan is for the preparation work to lead to a future larger Heritage Lottery grant to enable the changes and repairs.

Rev'd Stephanie Fountain, vicar of St John's Church said "The Third Place is the project name because it defines an accessible public gathering place for friendly, relaxed conversation and activity outside of home and work which is inclusive and welcoming regardless of who you are".

"This is our aim for Bishop's Castle and this preparatory project was made possible thanks to National Lottery players" Stephanie added.

The plan of services has changed (with effect from 1 January).

Services at St John's are as follows:

1st Sunday - Benefice Holy Communion, 11am

2nd Sunday - Evening service (Songs of Praise, Hymns & Pimm's, Picnic Praise, etc), 5.30pm

3rd Sunday - Holy Communion, 11am

4th Sunday - Cafe Church, 11am

(5th Sunday - service elsewhere in the Benefice)

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. Coffee & Companionship takes place every first and third Wednesday morning. Everyone is very welcome.

We are delighted to welcome everyone to services at St Johns and have been particularly pleased to welcome young Australian footballers attending the Sunshine Coast Football Academy and young people (and their families) who are part of our youth drop in which is open to all 11 to 16 year olds after school each Friday during term time. Our young footballers end their course here in Bishop's Castle at the end of April and we wish them well for the future.

Our season of concerts is going well and we look forward to a recital by the flute section of The Ludlow Orchestra on Sunday 19th April at 3pm. In May we will welcome Stiperstones Brass and our June concert will feature Schubert's Trout Quintet. Each of these concerts is relaxed and we serve light refreshments with most being by donation rather than a fixed ticket price.

Our stained glass window, damaged by a football from inside the church in Summer 2024 has been repaired and returned and looks beautiful. We continue to undertake emergency repairs to the roof and are going to apply to the National Heritage Fund for assistance with major and permanent repairs.



The churchyard access in Brampton Road is locked shut because the retaining wall is crumbling. Two signs, advising of the risk, have been deliberately removed; for what purpose we cannot tell.

We look forward to the Easter season with services held in St John's and other churches across the Ridgeway Benefice.

Kathy Taylor, Churchwarden

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**.

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:
davidkucros@gmail.com



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Money raised will go to
Macmillan Cancer Support

Bus Times

Bus times – Bishop’s Castle To Shrewsbury/Shrewsbury to Bishop’s Castle

Bus stops include : Lytham, White Grit, Hope, Snailbeach, Minsterley, Pontesbury, Han wood, Shrewsbury Hospital. For a detailed timetable visit

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk . 01743 791208

Bus 552/553 - Bishops’ 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	10.28	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	11.05	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	08.58	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 – Monday and Friday only

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
£60 per year/6 issues (equates to £10.00 per issue*).

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

£120 per year/6 issues (equates to £20.00 per issue*).

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

£210 per year/6 issues (£35 per issue*)

Full page: annual price before discount **£390 per year** (£65 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 and give a 10% discount for a full year paid in advance. 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, we aim for colour but cannot always 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.*



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Your Councillors

How to contact your Town Councillors:

We have “dot.gov” email now. After each councillor’s name as written below just add @bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

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

10th May 2026 to:

Townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk
AssistantClerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk
or email the Editor

Tim.halford@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

For allotment enquiries, contact bcallotment@gmail.com



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Applicants Details:

Title: _____ Forenames: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Organisation:

Who is the grant for? _____

Location of project/activity: _____

Date of project/activity (state ongoing if required) _____

What will the grant be used for? Grants are given for Social, Educational and Economic development, please describe how the grant will be used to meet one or all the aforementioned criteria.

Funding:

Amount Requested : £ _____ (Maximum £500.00) _____

Cost of the project: _____

Details of Match Funding and its sources: _____

Last Year End Account Figure:

Income: £ _____

Expenditure: £ _____

Total Bank Balances: £ _____

Earmarked Amounts: £ _____

Comments: _____

Bank account details	
Sort code	_____
Account No.	_____

Please complete the form as thoroughly as possible. On submission of the form please enclose a copy of the latest relevant accounts.

Signed Dated