

BISHOP'S CASTLE NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

TO

MARCH 2026

Issue No. 103



Welcome to the Town Newsletter



The Mayor Josh Dickin

Welcome to 2026. It promises to be a busy year for our town.

At SpArC, work will begin this month on the refurbishment and upgrading of the pool. It is easy for us to take for granted the amazing facilities that Bishop's Castle has for a town of only around 2,000 people and we probably do not give enough credit for this 'punching above our weight' to the determination and success of residents in fighting for what we believe in.

Over the past year or so, with active 'town' support, we have saved the hospital, helped Heineken to realise what an asset it has in The Three Tuns and to invest in it for the future, with work starting in the Spring, and stopped the Onny pipeline. Two well supported public meetings were held in March 2025 'Fight the Pipeline' and 'The Tuns – What Next?' This is not that long ago and both are sorted!! As someone once said 'you mess with Bishop's Castle at your peril'.

This time last year SpArC had, amazingly, raised £250,000 from the local community to upgrade the pool. This proved to be a key factor in gaining the additional funds, including from the Government's decarbonisation fund, to make the total raised to around £4 million. This is an extraordinary achievement. Work will start in mid February and is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. Huge congratulations go to Jean Shirley and the management board at SpArC.

At the heart of these campaigns, and of all our remarkable festivals and events, there is a group of people, leaders, committee member and volunteers who make a real contribution to this town. The character of the town is enhanced by this community and positive activism. They all deserve our thanks.

There are other milestones coming up in 2026. The Co-op will move to its new site. And we are getting the wheels in motion to bid for the new UK Town of Culture 2028.

There may also be more consultation and campaigns. It is possible there will be a public meeting on the proposed new 'Solar Panel Farm Development' – see article later in newsletter – and work continues on trying to get the moratorium lifted concerning the sewage works which has prevented us from building 90 much needed new houses. This neatly brings me on to the subject of Council tax.

As has been mentioned in the media, Bishop's Castle has one of the highest 'town' Council taxes in Shropshire. This payment, last year £313.63 per annum for a 'median' Band D property in the town, is incorporated within the Council Tax bill which we all receive from Shropshire Council.

Our higher taxes are mainly the result of :

- a) the moratorium, mentioned above, which some years ago stopped the building of 90 new houses. This would have increased the housing stock by around 10 or 15 per cent with a similar contribution to Council tax receipts. Most other towns our size do not have this restriction and benefit accordingly.
- b) the fact that as a Town we directly or indirectly support many of the extra curricular activities mentioned above.

The Council is aware that some of us are going through tough times and have therefore decided this year the priority should be to keep Town Council tax steady. In fact I am pleased to let you know that the decision has been made for there to be a slight decrease next year to £308.60 for a Band D property.

This decision has meant that we have had to put on hold some projects, such as a plan to reinvigorate the main street, and to limit grants made to a maximum of £500. A grant application form will be in the next newsletter.

I have also asked, in the interests of transparency, that an article be placed in the next newsletter explaining a little more about our local Council tax, and possibly including a survey to see if the priority should be keeping the tax as low as possible or adjusted to allow for some of the tax raised to help support Bishop's Castle events and activities.

May I wish you all a very successful 2026.

All the best,

Josh



MAYOR'S OPEN OFFICE

**Every Monday
2.30pm - 5.00pm**



josh.dickin@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk



07530 691106

Dates for your Diary

February

Sunday 1st 3pm St John's Piano Concert by Daniel Gordon

Thursday 5th 10am-4pm Shropshire Local at Enterprise House

Wednesday 18th – Sunday 22nd – Bishop's Castle Arts Festival
www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

Thursday 19th 2pm-3pm Digital Drop in at Enterprise House

Thursday 19th 10am-4pm Shropshire Local at Enterprise House

Sunday 22nd 7.30pm Gala organ recital in St John's by Peter Dyke of Hereford Cathedral.

Thursday 26th 9am-4pm Emergency First Aid at Work Training Course at Enterprise House

March

Thursday 5th 10am-4pm Shropshire Local at Enterprise House

Saturday 14th 3pm Piano recital with Jill Crossland.

Tuesday 17th Free Business Session -Scroll Stopping Socials -
Marches Growth Hub at Enterprise House

Thursday 19th 10am-4pm Shropshire Local at Enterprise House

Thursday 19th 2pm-3pm Digital Drop in at Enterprise House

Friday 20th 10am-noon Community Info Event at Enterprise House

Saturday 21st 7.30pm St John's Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem -Marches Choir

Thursday 26th 9am-4pm Emergency First Aid at Work Training Course at Enterprise House

Future

Sunday 5th April at 11am Easter Day at St. John's Church.

Monday 6th to Thurs. 16th April Book, DVD & CD Sale Town Hall

Sunday 19th April at 3pm The Ludlow Orchestra Flute Section at St. John's Church.

Friday 24th – Saturday 26th April 'Bells' Fest' at the Six Bells. A weekend of live music with a fundraiser on the Saturday for Party in the Park.

Saturday April 25th Round And About Walks - Bishop's Castle & Clun

Thursday 30th April	Lets do Business in Bishop's Castle, Free session by Marches Growth Hub at Enterprise House
14th May to 17th May	Bishop's Castle Walking Festival 2026
Friday 15th May at 7pm	'Following in the Footsteps of Welsh Drovers' by Mark Davis. Town Hall.
Sunday 24th May	Yard Sale
Sunday 7th June at 3pm	Schubert's Trout at St. John's Church
Sunday 21st June	Midsummer Rejoicing at St. John's Church
Saturday 4th July	Bishop's Castle Carnival .
Saturday 18th July	Party in the Park.
Saturday 19th September	Michaelmas Fair.

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.

Bishop's Castle Library

Wed 18th February,	Talk Jasper Fforde 6.00pm
Friday 20th February	Childrens Painting Session 10 am -12.30pm
Saturday 21st February	Lego Challenge Morning 10 am -12.30pm
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 10th February and 10th March (booking essential)
Dementia Carers Group	Monday 16th February and 16th March 11.30 am -1.00pm
Friends Coffee Morning	Friday 20th March (part of Community Event)



Bishop's Castle
Town Hall

BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN HALL

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

www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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

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

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

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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

3rd Saturday of each month.

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

All produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

**27th February - BLAST Storytelling –
Kissing the Wind with Cat Weatherill**

Door open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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

**28th February until 31st March
Art exhibition by Michelle Slark**

. Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

**3rd March – Going Wild Talk
Why We Need Swifts by Edward Mayer**

Free admission but donations very welcome

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

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

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

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

**14th March - The Sounds of Simon in concert,
a tribute to Simon & Garfunkel**

8pm start, doors open 7.30pm Limited Bar.

Tickets £13 available from the Town Hall
or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/bctb

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

**20th March - BLAST Storytelling
Dioysus with Amelia Armande**

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

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

3rd Saturday of each month.

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

All produced locally. Lift available. Free entry.

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

29th March – Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell in concert

7.30pm start, doors open 7.00pm Limited Bar.

Tickets £12 available from the Town Hall
or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/bctb

Details on the website www.bishopscastletownhall.co.uk

Catherine Jones Music

t2lpiano@gmail.com 07407260949

www.catherinejonesmusic.co.uk

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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

News from the Police

Abuse. See it for what it is. The ENOUGH campaign

Every day, women and girls across the UK experience abuse, but abusive behaviours can be hard to spot. They are often pretending to be something else. Control is camouflaging as care. Manipulation is mistaken for love. Sinister behaviours can slip by unnoticed.

If you've experienced or witnessed abuse, you have the right to report it. Whether or not to report is your choice.

You can report abuse to the police, but that's not your only option. There are other organisations that can listen, take your experiences seriously and help you get support.

For more information and advice, please follow the link below <https://enough.campaign.gov.uk/> or search 'Enough Campaign'.

Lights on bikes

With the dark evening there have been several instances of near misses when bikes have not had proper lights. Please ensure that your family's bike lights are shining.

Dementia

Save the date! **Tuesday 9th June**. A special event for all carers. More next time.

Coffee Morning

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

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

Grant Application Form

The annual Council grant application form will be in the next issue.

Round and About Walk - Bishop's Castle and Clun

April 25th 2026

We are changing the Round & About Walks for 2026.

Earlier than usual (to catch bluebells in their prime) walkers will register at the Community College, Bishop's Castle. The 23 mile circular walk takes them via deeply rural hills and valleys along Woodbatch, Offa's Dyke and the Shropshire Way to Clun, where refreshments are provided.

The shorter and slightly gentler return follows Bury Ditches, the Walcot Estate and Oakley Mynd back to Bishops Castle, again for refreshments.

There is also, for the less energetic, a shorter, carefully planned and no less beautiful 6-mile loop from Bishops Castle again with refreshments.



**Early bird tickets are on offer
from now until February 28 - £20 per person.**

After that, it's £25 per person, with all proceeds split shared by Friends of Community College Bishop's Castle and Blood Cancer UK.

Please check our website or follow the Facebook page for news and updates: <https://ccbcshropshire.com/ccbc-friends-roundandabout/>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1JLmwo3499/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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.

As we prepare to welcome the visiting walkers to Bishop's Castle, our walk leaders are checking their routes and looking forward to sharing their local knowledge about this beautiful border countryside, the views, wildlife and rich heritage of this nationally important landscape. 'These preparations give us a new focus to our explorations' says Catherine Murphy, chair of the committee, 'recalling our stories of life now and then in this border area alongside the national boundary'.

Bishop's Castle Arts Festival

Each year, the historic market town of Bishop's Castle in south Shropshire becomes a lively hub of creativity, welcoming artists, performers, and visitors from across the country for its much-anticipated Bishop's Castle Arts Festival. This year's festival once again promises to transform the town's narrow streets and centuries-old buildings into a vibrant tapestry of colour, music, and imagination.

From artists to poets, musicians to speakers, the festival showcases an extraordinary range of talent. Studios and galleries open their doors to the public, offering a rare chance to meet artists where they create. The event is as much about participation as it is about exhibitions; visitors are encouraged to try new skills and enjoy art in all its forms. It's this openness and sense of community that truly defines Bishop's Castle's creative spirit.

Live performances are another highlight. Expect an eclectic mix of music that spans folk, jazz, blues, and contemporary styles, performed in Town Hall and at SpArC, the town's theatre.

The festival offers hands-on workshops and activities designed to spark the imagination of younger visitors, encouraging the next generation of makers and dreamers, with children's events being free. There are also lots of workshops for adults, a chance to try something new. Local cafés and pubs add to the atmosphere, serving up delicious food and drink in between shows and exhibitions, ensuring that creativity is celebrated in every form.

Beyond the art itself, the festival highlights Bishop's Castle's reputation as a town that thrives on collaboration, sustainability, and local pride. It represents the best of what can happen when a community commits to nurturing its cultural heart.

Whether you're an artist, an explorer of new ideas, or simply someone who loves to experience the joy of creativity, the Bishop's Castle Arts Festival is not to be missed.

For full details on events and tickets booking, visit

www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

and for information about the area, including accommodation, go to

www.bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk



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

Stop Press – Scots Pines felled

A fine group of native Scots Pines, near Banks Head, previously growing alongside the Scots Pine Stroll 2025 have been cut down and stacked as logs in 2026. Suddenly, these 100-150yr old trees are no longer gracing the ancient route on the outskirts of Bishop's Castle. The celebratory tree planting of 2025 was particularly timely.

News from Bishops Castle Land Trust Community Stars Shop

February

We have a Land Trust **Valentines fundraising event from 9th – 14th**. This is followed by the **Arts Fest exhibition** on 16th--21st. February.

The **Mayor's Quiz** for the Land Trust, which was cancelled in the bad weather will now be held on the **Friday 13th February** at the Six Bells

And a **Co-Op Community Engagement event on 23rd** and a **Meet your Councillors coffee morning on 28th**

But there are still some vacancies at the shop in the first and last week of February. Ask for details at Enterprise House.

March

The first week 2nd – 7th is still free

9th – 14th is a grand music sale instruments and equipment and all things musical

23rd - 28th is still free, so again ask at Enterprise House for details.

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.

Public Hall

Work continues on the sale of the Public Hall – it is moving forward and still with solicitors. The proceeds have to be held for the benefit of the people of Bishop's Castle.

Bishop's Castle Business Park -Progress

There is continuing interest in the activity on the Business Park. Progress is being made. Most units are now occupied. It is hoped to have an update on the Business Park and its occupants in a future newsletter issue.

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.

The House on Crutches in 2026

As reported in the last newsletter, the House on Crutches Museum will, for the first time be opening for the Arts Festival. Special events have been planned for this, as well as extra displays and new activities for children. You can find out more about this by going to the Arts Festival website: www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

We will then be 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

Co-op

Foundations have been laid but new building is not expected to be open until the Autumn.

CCTV

Still under review.

Bowling Green

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

Playing fields

Two trees have been crowned and there are plenty of bulbs/flowers. It is hoped that work on the fence will start shortly.

BC Waste Water Treatment Works - an Update

Meetings are scheduled for the Spring to try to move this issue forward. There are chinks of light but no light bulbs just yet.

White Lining and 20 MPH zone

As well as discussions continuing regarding the proposed disability space in Market Square, it is also recognised that there is 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.

There is also ongoing consultation about Brampton Road and the A488 including possible parking restrictions, yellow lines, traffic calming, a 20 MPH speed limit and a pedestrian crossing across the A488 between the Community College and playing fields.

This follows discussions with Shropshire Council's Parking Enforcement Team and is a response to concerns over pedestrian safety when there is parking congestion at the start and end of the school day, and the need to upgrade street lighting lanterns on the existing columns on Brampton Road .

Blue Badges

Blue Badge applications, including renewals are currently taking between 8 to 12 weeks, sometimes longer to be issued. This is due to a change in the process and limited staff resources. Hopefully additional staff will be in place soon. Renewal notifications are issued 12 weeks before a badge expires. It is really important to reapply as soon as the renewal letter is received or you may find yourself without a blue badge for a few weeks.

Waste Collection Calendars

All households should have a 'collection' calendar by the time this newsletter comes out.

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.

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.



Marches Foot Care & Earwax Removal

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THICK NAIL REDUCTION - FUNGAL NAIL TREATMENT & 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



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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:

- ◆ Community support during Covid and support of Save Our Beds (Hospital)
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Bone disease Foundation - testing for risk of osteoporosis
- ◆ Equipment for First Responders
- ◆ Outdoor seating in Bishop's Castle

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

Shropshire Hills National Landscape

Welcome to Shropshire Hills National Landscape – the new name for this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 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.

Flooding

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

A Sad Departure.

Bishop's Castle is famous for its musicians and music. It probably has been since the Middle Ages. Recently it was firmly put on the 'rock' map when Katy and Ronnie Lane of the Small Faces and The Faces moved to Fishpool Farm, Hyssington in 1973. They, and their many friends including Eric Clapton, Ronnie Wood, Robert Plant, Pete Townsend and Rod Stewart, all fell under the spell of Bishop's Castle and brought their amazing music with them. Ronnie died of MS in 1997. Katy was well known around the Town and continued to sprinkle her legendary 'stardust and mischief' until her sad death on 11th December 2025. She will be much missed by her family and friends.



WALTER'S WORKSHOP

Our friendly community repair workshop

*In need of
repair?*



Bring us your broken items and we'll do our best to breathe new life into them.

EVERY FRIDAY

10am - 12pm

Run by Volunteers

at Enterprise House,
Station Street,
Bishop's Castle,
Shropshire, SY9 5AQ



(not frequently monitored) 07493 695095

 waltersbcworkshop

 info@waltersworkshop.org.uk

www.waltersworkshop.org.uk



REPAIR CAFE

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 reuse 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!

Hundreds of items have been repaired, including radios, chairs, and a doll's house complete with miniature furniture. We have also made swift boxes and refurbished a trailer for the Parish Paths Partnership. All repairs are carried out free of charge. However, customers are asked to pay for any new parts and we also appreciate donations to help towards running costs.

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 international Repair Café 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

Finally, thanks must go to the National Lottery, Connexus and the Co-op for their funding and the volunteers who give their time on a Friday morning.

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



I Hurst View, Powells Lane, Clun

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

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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

Six Bells — lots on

First Monday of the month Ting Bingo Club time

Second Friday of the month is Quiz Night at 8 pm

Every Monday **free** sausage and chips with two drinks bought 6–7 pm

Wednesday Fish and Chip night 4 – 6 pm

Wednesday to Saturday. Evening menus 4 – 8 pm

Every Sunday Live music from 5pm

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.

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.

Marches Choir. On Saturday, 21st March at 7.30pm, the Marches Choir and Orchestra will perform Brahms' great German requiem. Brahms' Requiem is a choral masterpiece. Biblical texts are set to a musical style which reaches transcendental heights of expression, through intricate harmonies, woven through strongly formed melodic lines.

Road Closures:

Road Closure: Castle street Bishops Castle,

Start Date: 20th February 2026 **End Date:** 20th February 2026

Purpose: National Grid-Tree trimming

Road Closure The Bog to Bridges, Stedment, Ratlinghope – Please note that the dates have changed to **9th March to 13th March 2026**

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

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

SpArC Pool



Plans are now moving into reality, as follows:

Construction

The two projects - Pool and Decarbonisation – will overlap, starting mid February and finishing by the end of June (precise dates to be finally confirmed when contracts are signed).

The pool could be closed for the entire period, but this is not certain.

The remaining building will be open for almost all the time.

Two parking spaces will be out of use, for storage of contractors' materials.

The entire pool building roof will be replaced, with a 2m fence erected between the building and the Community College field.

Crane work

The whole area will be closed on March 28 and on one day in the following week, in order for the pool roof to be removed and to replace the pool filters.

The Pool

The pool will be 1.5m deep in the deepest part, better for weaker/learning swimmers than the current one as there will be less of a gradient. However, the major benefit is that it will cost less to heat. It will have the agreed projecting steps and a new cover with frame. The floor will be entirely redone in resin. The mural will be protected, and the side walls will not be repainted unless further funding can be found.

Membership

Swimming membership will be extended by the period of the pool closure and there will be a reduction in the cost of Health and Fitness memberships. More details will follow, including the provision of extra classes.



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Bishop's Castle Wind Energy Project

As we described in the October newsletter, the project team is hoping to proceed with a Wind Turbine to the South-East of town, as specified in our planning permission. In the last few months we have opened discussions with potential investors, partners, and equipment suppliers for the turbine construction. Bishop's Castle's project has had favourable press coverage in the UK, so our initial discussions have been promising. It will be a couple of years before the 'Twist' turbine is turning, but we are off to a good start!

As well as adding to the UK's generation of "green" energy, it has always been a central goal of the project to create benefits for the local community. We will aim to do this by how we structure ownership and control of the asset (the turbine), as well as how we use any profits from the business that runs the turbine. Plans for this are at a very early stage, so we don't yet have more details.

The primary means of creating benefit locally is to supply cheaper electricity. This is not as straightforward as "wiring in a new connection to your home/business" because the wind does not blow the turbine 24/7, and electricity supply is highly regulated by the government for good reasons. But there are some schemes currently in the pipeline that would allow local users to belong to an "Electricity Club", and when the turbine is producing electricity, Club members can buy power, from the grid, that is produced by the turbine, at a discount to normal prices. You get this discount because the electricity does not need to be sent away along, or used from, the grid beyond the local area. So both you and the generator (the turbine) avoid some network charges. We don't yet know the exact level of discount per unit of electricity, but we hope it will be roughly 20%. We are hoping that we can also offer some kind of financial support to Club members who want to have an air-source heat pump installed.

Our hope is that we will be able to set up such an Electricity Club locally. Club members can be anywhere in the area supplied by the Bishop's Castle electricity sub-station, which, as well as the Town, covers a wide area, out as far as Bank's Head, Snead, Lydham, Linley, Norbury, Wentnor, Asterton, Horderley, Edgton, Lydbury North, Brockton, some of the north side of Clun, the east side of Newcastle and Mainstone. We have asked the National Grid for more details of the properties supplied by the sub-station.

We are looking for *Expressions of Interest* to become Club members. This is not "signing up" or even "getting in the queue", it's just for us to get an idea how much demand there might be locally. We encourage you to do this soon, as it also helps us plan our business case for the turbine. If you think you might want to become a Club member, please let us know by completing the on-line poll at <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/gE9YZr>

If you have any queries, call us on **0300 1024458 #2** or e-mail us at climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org



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Proposed Solar Development on Land at Lodge Farm

ILOS New Energy Ltd has written to say that it is considering developing a solar development on land at Lodge Farm, just over the parish border with Lydham just past the junction on the A488 after the Kennel Bank crossroads.

The site being considered for this solar proposal is the area outlined in red on the map below. 'The panels have a South-facing orientation and typically stand up to a height of 3m, starting at 0.6m from the ground. The proposed development consists of rows of photovoltaic solar panels which will be supported on metal stanchions piled or screwed into the ground with grass, with wildflowers and or grazing in between. Around the site, a deer fence will be erected up to 2m, and ecologist-approved indigenous plants will be planted where recommended.' The proposed site is approx. 27 hectares. The construction period and consequent traffic will last approximately 6-8 months. An additional factor is that there may need to be a new substation and pylons to connect the power to the grid.

The letter states : 'The site must be accessible to an existing connection to the local grid, which will distribute the green energy produced into the National Grid. Thus, the grid connection will not noticeably change the landscape'.

The letter was discussed at a recent Council meeting. Many Councillors had legitimate concerns about whether the undoubted environmental impact of the project could be effectively mitigated. Others were opposed to the proposal.

This is a preliminary approach. The objective of supporting the production of clean , low carbon energy is in line with governmental policy and supported by many of us. However, there will be a visible impact on this area and the loss of 27 hectares of good land for farming and 'self sufficiency'.

Such applications are often forced through by Government to help achieve national targets. Bishop's Castle's response needs to be properly considered. If it is felt that a public meeting should be held, please advise the Assistant Clerk on assistantclerk@bishopscaletowncastle.gov .

The letter concludes : 'Should you require any additional information regarding the above proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us so we may make the necessary arrangements to meet. This will allow our company to consider and incorporate any comments into our design

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



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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

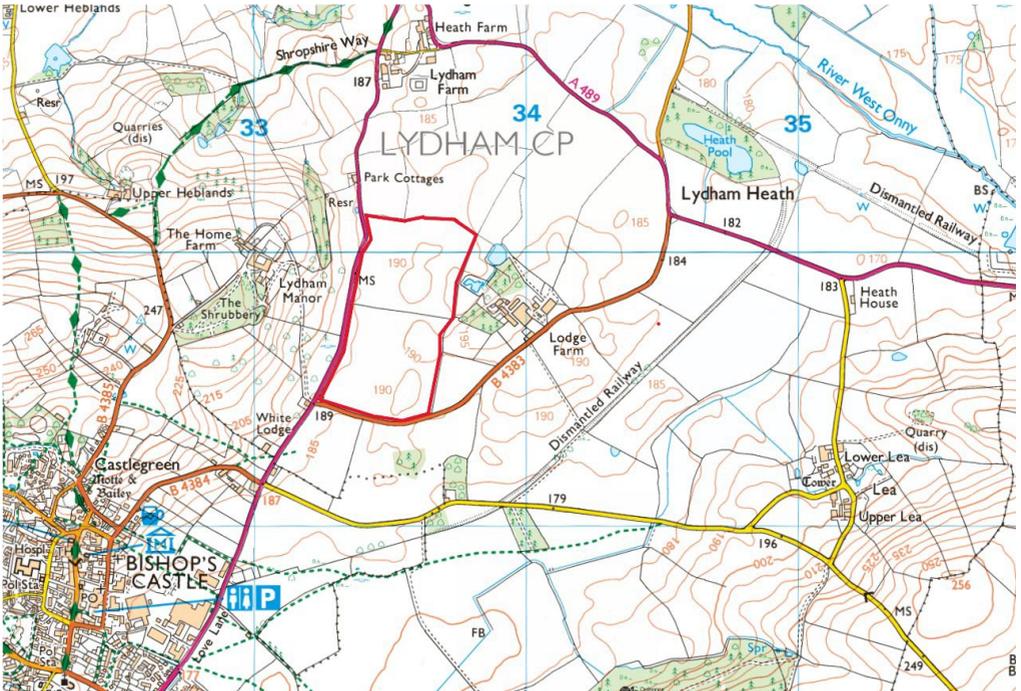
BUSINESS PAGES

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



process where possible. Additionally, you may like to advise us of any local stakeholders or groups that might be interested, and we can provide them with details directly. We look forward to receiving any suggestions councillors and parishioners may have. Alternatively, you will all have the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed scheme at the drop-in meeting or, more formally, during the subsequent processing of the planning application by the Local Planning Authority. Yours sincerely, Kate Covill Managing Director ILOS New Energy UK Ltd. Please send any enquiries to Bridget Lawson: lawson@ilos-energy.com.

A full copy of the letter can be found on BC and Beyond, <https://bishopscastleandbeyond.co.uk/community/>



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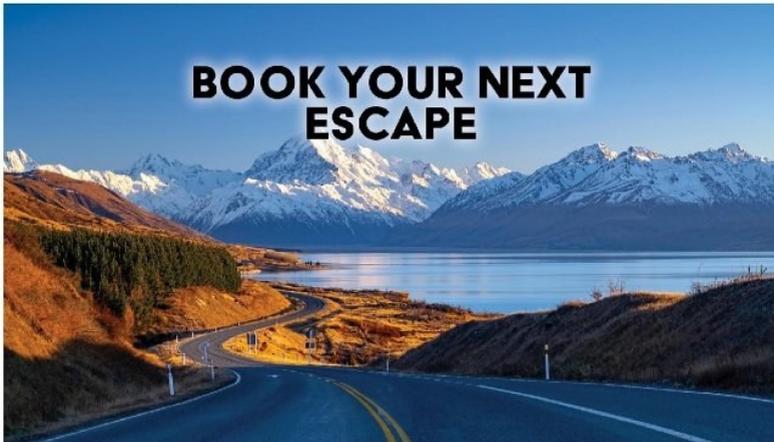


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West Mercia Police

BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

Date: January 2026 – Newsletter

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**

Enterprise House News

Community Support at Enterprise House

Everyone is invited to our next **Community Support Event** on **Friday 20th March between 10am & 12pm**. This drop-in session offers the chance to talk to and get practical advice from local support organisations. The event will also include coffee and cake provided by the Friends of Bishop's Castle Library and **everyone is welcome**.

Supporting Businesses at Enterprise House

The **Bishop's Castle & Beyond Local Directory** is filling up fast with just a few spaces left for businesses or sole traders wanting to advertise. To secure one of the last spots (£30 + VAT for a text only listing or £60 + VAT for a business card listing) contact Enterprise House or email tradedirectory@enterprisehouse.org.uk before 12th February.

We are pleased to offer locally based affordable training courses and have two **Emergency First Aid at Work Training** courses coming up. The one-day course meets Health & Safety (First Aid) 1981 regulations and includes defibrillator training. Cost is £85 + VAT per person. We also offer a limited number of reduced rate places for local community groups/charities. The next training dates are: **Thursday 26th February 9am – 4pm & Thursday 26th March 9am – 4pm**. Get in touch with Enterprise House on 01588 638 038 or email info@enterprisehouse.org.uk to book your place.

We are pleased to be continuing our work with Marches Growth Hub to provide Shropshire businesses and people looking to start a business with local opportunities to access FREE support:

Tuesday 17 March from 9:30am to 12:30pm: **Scroll-Stopping Socials: Make Your Content Count** will be an interactive session with Zebra PR combining clear strategy with practical actions.

Thursday 30th April from 10am to 2.00pm; **Let's do business in Bishop's Castle** drop-in will offer advice and support to businesses and entrepreneurs looking to establish a new venture or grow an existing business.

Printing Services at Enterprise House

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 imagine.



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

Friday 13th February Valentine's Pop – Up from 6pm. Three Course Community Meal - Live Music from Steve Yeomans - Bring your own booze - Rhea's Rustic Kitchen . Booking essential.

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; Mandy Bryce 07855 340746.

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**

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February

Fri 13th and Sat 14th	7.00pm	Castle Players Present: Robin Hood and the Great Crème Egg Heist
Sat 14th	2.00pm	Matinee: Robin Hood and the Great Crème Egg Heist
Sun 15th	2.00pm	The Royal Ballet: Woolf Works
Tues 17th	2.00pm	Afternoon Film: The Secret Garden
Thurs 19th Feb	7.00pm	An Evening of Film, Words and Music in Appreciation of the Apple
Fri 20th	1.00pm	Scrapstastic Workshop
Sat 21st	1.30pm	Live Music: Arts Festival The Bishop's Castle Orchestra
Sat 21st	7.30pm	Arts Festival Ceilidh with This Way Up
Sat 28th	7.00pm	Live Theatre: The Ballad of Mulan

March

Sun 8th	2.00pm	The Royal Ballet: Giselle
Thurs 12th	7.30pm	Live Theatre: Eyes Down
Sun 15th	2pm	Film: Deliver Me from Nowhere
Tues 17th	2pm	Afternoon Film: Save the Cinema
Thurs 19th	7pm	Film: Souleymane's Story
Thurs 26th	7pm	Film: The Choral
Tues 31st	5.15pm	ROB: Siegfried (Wagner)



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The White Grit Meadows Appeal

Wildflower meadows are one of 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.

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'. Or contact us via email: info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk



Clun Valley Quaker Meeting



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Clun, SY7 8LQ

8th, 15th and 22nd February at

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Bishop's Castle SY9 5AP

1st March at

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

8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March at

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Going Wild



We've got a wonderful mix of talks, practical sessions, and seasonal wildlife events coming up. Everyone welcome!

February

3 February | Winter Talk – 7:30pm - The SALC Network and Nature Recovery Janet Cobb Bishops Castle Town Hall

8 February | 10am–12pm Soft Fruit Training
Little Woodbatch with Daphne DuCros

16 February | 9am Moth Morning
Harley Jenkins Street

19 February | 10am–2pm Ways with Weeds Art Workshop
Enterprise House with Sarah Jameson

21 February | 10am–12pm Fruit Tree Pruning
Little Woodbatch with Daphne DuCros

March

1 March | 10am–1pm Seed Saving
Little Woodbatch with Daphne DuCros

3 March | at 7:30pm Why We Need Swifts
Talk by Edward Mayer Bishop's Castle Town Hall

15 March | 10am–1pm Seed Saving
Little Woodbatch with Daphne DuCros

16 March Moth Morning
Copall Paddock

28 March | 1–3pm Fruit Tree Grafting
Little Woodbatch with Daphne DuCros

*Watch out for more events
and kids' club sessions
coming soon!*



Catherine Jones Art Workshops

Priest Weston Village Hall 2026

Saturdays 10-12.30

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28 Feb Moonlit Scenes

28 March Townscapes

25 April Weaving on Sticks

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24 Oct Use ink wash

21 Nov Lino printing

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www.catherinejonesart.co.uk

email catherinejjartist@gmail.com

tel 07407 260949

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Bishop's Castle Methodist Chapel Sunday Services

Sunday Services:

Bishops Castle:

15th February	10.30am	Mr Mike Owens
8th March	10.30am	Preacher to be arranged
Friday 6th March	11am	World Day of Prayer followed by soup lunch in aid of Christian Aid

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.

Services also held at Brockton Methodist Chapel

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

Living Well with Sight Loss in Shropshire

Practical help, friendly advice, and local support for anyone affected by sight loss

Sight Loss Shropshire is the county's leading sight loss organisation, helping people with any type or stage of sight loss to live confidently and independently.

Whether you're newly diagnosed, your vision has changed over time, or you're supporting someone close to you, we're here to help. Our friendly team offers free, confidential advice and a wide range of services designed to make everyday life easier and more fulfilling.

Our support includes:

- **Living Well with Sight Loss courses** – friendly group sessions to share experiences, build confidence, and learn practical tips.
- **Tech training** – one-to-one help with smartphones, tablets and accessible apps, all in the comfort of your home.
- **Young people's activities** – an exciting programme of events for visually impaired youngsters (aged 14 – 25)
- **Grants for equipment** – funding towards useful aids like magnifiers or assistive technology to enhance quality of life.
- **Social groups and events** – information about monthly peer support groups and an annual social get-together, offering friendship and connection.
- **Sight loss equipment re-homing** – donated or unwanted items like magnifiers, talking clocks or scales and so much more.
- **Sight loss awareness training** - specialised training and support to help organisations, businesses and groups make their services more accessible.
- **Information and advice** – guidance on everything from daily living to local services.

Advocacy - raising awareness of sight loss issues and helping improve local sight loss services.

We also host an annual **Sight Loss, Hearing Loss and Dementia Exhibition**, where you can explore the latest technology, aids and support available locally, with the next one taking place on **Tuesday 16th June** at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

As a small independent charity, we rely on local funding and the generosity of people, businesses, and community groups to help us reach more people with expert advice and practical support.

Losing sight can be daunting, but with the right advice and guidance, it's possible to stay active, independent and connected. We're here for anyone living with sight loss in Shropshire — as well as their families, carers and professionals.

Call or text: 07778 956096

Email: admin@sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Visit: www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Helping people across Shropshire live well with sight loss — every step of the way.

News from St John's Church

We welcomed lots of local people and visitors into St John's during the Christmas period, for services, the craft fair, Castle Carols' Twixtmas singing and those who just wanted to look around. The church was decorated with some 120 metres of bunting, made entirely by a team; it took around seventy 'people hours' but looked fabulous. The Sunshine Coast Football Academy turned out in force to help put the decorations up. (Some of those lads are unbelievably tall.) We thank everyone involved for their support.

On Thursday 19th February, there is an Organ Recital by Mike Plunkett in Church at 12.30pm. Admission free. Mike will be playing pieces by Rheinberger, Schumann, JS Bach, Handel, J. Stanley and C. M. Widor.

Sunday 22 February, 7pm - organ concert by Peter Dyke, Director of Music at Hereford Cathedral Tickets £15 (to include a drink) & available from cw.stjohnbc@gmail.com or 07806 433394.

. Peter's repertoire will be wide-ranging (think Star Wars to Bach)

Saturday 14 March, 5pm - a piano concert by Jill Crossland, £15

Sunday 19 April, 3pm - a concert given by the flute section of The Ludlow Orchestra, refreshments, donations appreciated.

Sunday 7 June (time TBC), Schubert's Trout Quintet

We hope that these will appeal to local people and visitors. We welcome all genres of entertainment in Church - bands, comedy night, afternoon tea, etc and will be working up a wider programme of events in the coming months.

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)

The Church is open every day for quiet reflection and prayer. Bibles are available in the side chapel.

Coffee & Companionship resumes on Wednesday 21 January between 10.15 and midday. Thereafter it takes place every first and third Wednesday morning. Everyone is very welcome.

Kathy Taylor, Churchwarden (email: CW.stjohnbc@gmail.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

ABBEEYFIELD

COFFEE MORNING

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

Thursday 19th March

Everyone Welcome



St John's Church Repair and Reordering Project

Summary of Work Completed in 2025

Significant progress was made in 2025 on the St John's Church Repair and Reordering Project, now known as *The Third Place*. The year began with essential temporary repairs to the church building and extensive community engagement, prompted in part by the closure of the town's Public Hall. Consultation activity demonstrated strong local support for transforming St John's into a warm, accessible space for both community use and worship. This feedback directly informed the preparation of the project's Statements of Significance and Need.

During the year, the project team expanded and strengthened its skills base, supported by study visits to three churches that had successfully completed major reordering projects. In the summer, St John's Church was added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, a development that underlines the urgency of repairs and is expected to support future fundraising efforts.

Architect selection was completed following a structured process of interviews and briefings, resulting in the appointment of Communion Architects of Herefordshire. Initial cost estimates for both repair and reordering were prepared, providing an early framework for project planning. A Visioning Day, facilitated by Harriet Dearden of Prospect and Pitch, helped clarify the project's identity and ambitions, leading to the adoption of the name *The Third Place*. Throughout this period, the project benefited from constructive guidance and feedback from the Hereford Diocesan Advisory Committee.

The final months of 2025 focused on funding strategy and partnership development. An Expression of Interest was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a £1775 million repair and reordering scheme. Although the application was unsuccessful, the team was disappointed, but not disheartened, because the Heritage Fund expressed interest in the project and offered to advise on the project development for a further bid. Alongside this, smaller grant applications were submitted, discussions with Reynolds Conservation advanced the proposed repair approach, and valuable insights were gathered from leaders of other successful NLHF-funded church projects.

The project enters 2026 with renewed focus and confidence, clear advice from funders, and plans to refine funding bids and partnerships to secure the future of St John's Church as both a historic building and a vital community space.

Anyone with the skills and experience that could help this much needed project to save the church and create a large community space, please contact the team via the Church Warden, Kathy Taylor (email cw.stjohnbc@gmail.com).

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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**.

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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, 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.

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.



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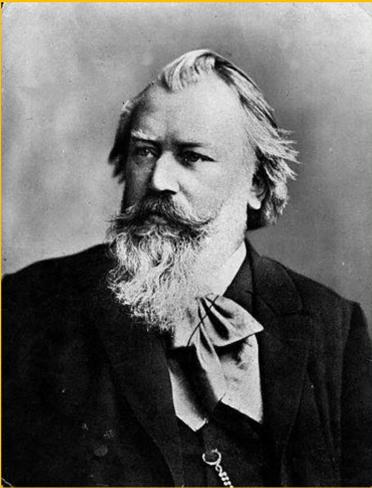
MARCHES CHOIR

Cantorion Aberteifi

Marches Sinfonia

BRAHMS

Ein Deutsches Requiem



Alistair Auld ~ *Conductor*

Rebecca Thurgur ~ *Soprano*

Nicholas Morris ~ *Baritone*

St. John's Church, Bishops Castle
Saturday 21st March 2026, 7:30pm

Tickets £15 on 07806 433394 or online from TicketSource

Children and Students FREE



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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@bishopscaletowncouncil.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

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The Council maintains the right to edit all submissions.

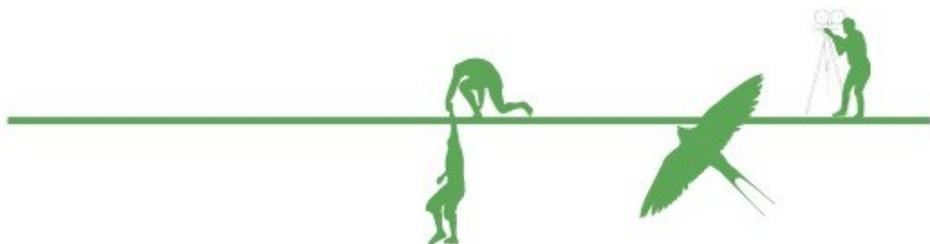
Please send any contributions to be considered for the next issue by

16th March 2026 to:

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

Tim.halford@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

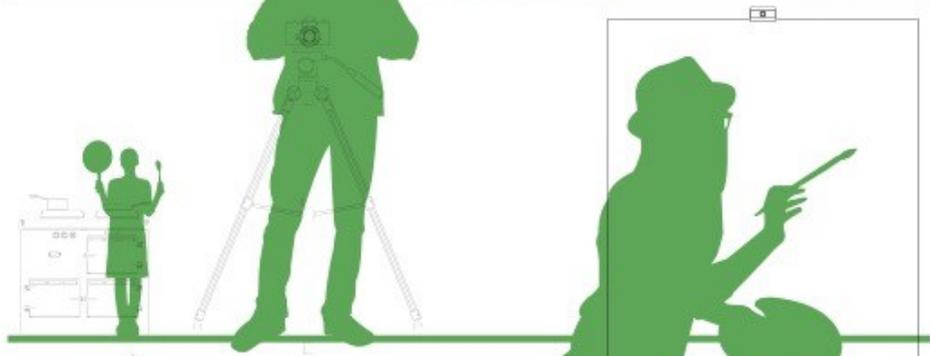
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Bishop's Castle Arts Festival



—
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