

# Pontesbury

## ONLINE

Sept 2020

Issue no. 267

## Newsletter

### Library open!

We are delighted to announce that The Pavilion (Community Hub and Library) has opened and the key was officially handed to Duncan Fletcher chair of Parish Council from Howard Thorne, Chairman of Shropshire Homes. A formal opening and community celebration will take place when Covid restrictions allow.

The library has now opened on reduced hours (see below) and with limited access. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and we look forward to the future when we can have all of the building fully functional, with lots of activities taking place.

The building has already proved to be a community asset, housing the local foodshare scheme temporarily, before its move to its present home at the Congregational Church. It has also provided a space for partnership working to launch the Rea Valley Good Neighbours Scheme and Pontesbury Feed the Birds (more about those on page 9). Although not yet back to full capacity the Library Service and Friends Of Pontesbury Library have continued to promote the benefits of reading and literacy with many library services provided online and a writing competition and upcoming village treasure hunt. We look forward to many more such initiatives and activities taking place in the building to support our local community in all aspects of their lives.

A big thank you to Shropshire Homes for the building and to Shropshire Library service, the Friends of Pontesbury Library and other members of the Pavilion Steering Group for all their support and hard work in getting the building to this stage. The Steering Group will continue to meet regularly to develop the building further. We are still looking for local members who would like to get involved, please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to know more.

*Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk*

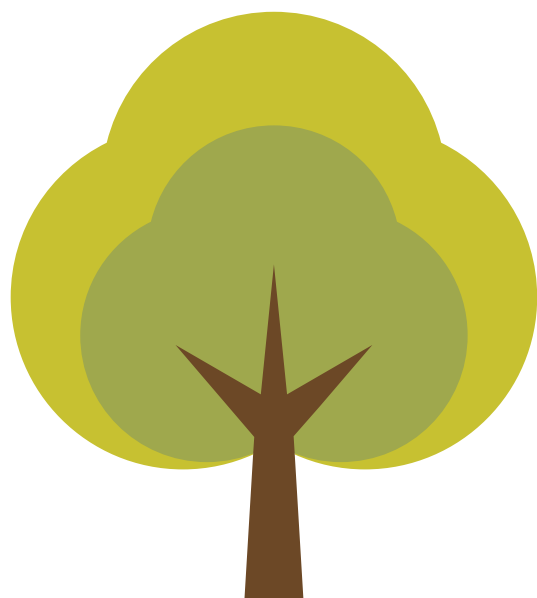


*Above: Handing over the key*

*Below: Tom Land and his mother, the first family in the junior library area*



Closing date for copy for the **Oct** edition is **Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** (please include a contact phone number)  
Email contributions to [pontesburynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pontesburynewsletter@gmail.com) or hand in at the Post Office.  
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## Community Good Neighbours

Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

### Community Good Neighbours Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

The difficulties faced by many people, particularly over the last six months has highlighted the need for a local network of support to enable people to remain healthy and independent & connected within their communities.

So we are pleased to announce the development of a brand new community project called

Community Good Neighbours, Pontesbury and Rea Valley, a team of local volunteers able to offer a helping hand within the community.

The aim of the service will be to link a volunteer with a person who may be in need of a Good Neighbour volunteer for: a friendly chat, a phonecall, doing small errands or support to stay active and connected within the community.

It is the combination of the existing Pontesbury Coco Befriending service joining together with the Volunteers Helping Neighbours group, who worked hard to provide a much-needed medicine and shopping collection service over the period of lockdown and shielding.

The service will follow all current Government guidelines for safety and will aim to be flexible and adaptive to any further lockdown restrictions.

We are currently in the process of recruiting and training the first group of volunteers and so hope to be able to commence the service later in September. Volunteers will be DBS checked and have initial training and ongoing support.

We will have a dedicated phone number for people enquiring about being linked with a volunteer

**Tel: 07944 891953 Phone messages will be listened to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 – 2**

Equally if you are interested in volunteering for the scheme please leave a message.

We would like to say a Big 'Thank you' to all those existing volunteers of both teams, for their time, hard work, compassion and dedication at this unprecedented time of need. As volunteers you have provided essential support to local people who have found themselves alone or isolated, with health issues or even a change in circumstances. A friendly voice and a regular chat can make a real difference and has already made a positive impact on people's lives.

We are fortunate to have the support of Severn Hospice, Shropshire RCC, Pontesbury Parish Council, The Atherton Trust, Pontesbury Medical Practice and Allcare.

*Community Good Neighbours Steering Group*

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### Update on local foodshare scheme

We are now six months into this pandemic and the country has been officially put into a recession.

The community foodbank is still actively supporting people who are in financial hardship due to not working, not getting paid, hours having been cut or having been made redundant and struggling to make ends meet.

There could be many reasons – we are here to help.

You can message or ring one of these numbers  
07940988951/07906359167

- Arrange a suitable time
- Bring a shopping bag

Someone will be there to meet you – all in confidence.

Please do not go hungry – we have food, toiletries and cleaning items.

Do not be embarrassed – we are all in this together.

If you would like to donate food you can do so via the Drop box by the door at Pontesbury Coop.

Collection boxes will be back in both Pontesbury and Minsterley Co-ops in September.

**Continuing thanks to Sam Sanderson and Becca Maund (Pontesbury and Minsterley Co-ops) and to everyone who donates food/money.**





## News from the Library

We're finally open! It was a bit of a dismal start, it chucked it down for two solid hours. However, the next day we had sun and a lot more customers. We've had some lovely comments about the new 'amazing' library. We've had our first family in to enjoy the wonderful children's area. The one way system takes you through the newly-planted patio area, where our customers look forward to attending events and sitting outside.

Things are a little different in the library at the moment and we are still finding our feet. It's the same familiar faces, but here's what to expect for now.

- We have moved to our new home in The Pavilion (next to the new Co-op)
- We will take your name and contact number
- There is a one way system
- No more than 5 customers at a time
- Please use our sanitiser as you enter the building
- Face coverings must be worn (in line with Government guidelines for all libraries)
- Please limit browsing to 15 minutes
- Please keep 2 metres apart
- Computers are available for a maximum of 45 minutes – please book
- One family at a time in the junior area

New phone number 01743 250610

Keep an eye out for posters giving the updates to our service and the FoPL Facebook page 'usepontesburylibrary'.

Look forward to seeing you all

## Pontesbury Library Opening hours

Monday	10am -12pm	
Tuesday	10am -1pm	2pm - 3pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday		2pm - 4pm
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10am -12pm	
Sunday	Closed	



*The Library Owl*

## FoPL News and Views

2020 is already being called 'the year of living anxiously' and I'm not just referring to the virus – it's those zoom meetings! So you'll be pleased to know that the FoPL Committee have continued to meet and plan, updating our zoom skills as we go. It's not always been plain sailing. There are, of course, the usual hiccups e.g. forgetting to unmute, freezing mid-sentence and starting to sound like a dalek – or is that just me with my laptop in the bathroom?



*A view of the inside of the new library.*

As you'll appreciate the Library is normally a meeting place for children, families, students and older residents. Since lock-down FoPL, with Shropshire Libraries, is thinking of safe ways to create events to keep people reading and in touch with each other. Books have never been more important: they're a way to escape, have fun, develop our skills and interests and bring us together. Poetry in particular has become really

popular. Here's one called *Still* by Jackie Kay, the Scottish Makka (Poet Laureate) that struck a note with me recently, written for her Mum on Mothers' Day this year when government rules stopped care home visits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTnOqPe3cUw>

Do you have a poem you'd like to share? Just submit via Contact Us on our website. We'd love to hear from you.

## To Hell and beyond

Congratulations to FoPL committee member Mike Fletcher who has literally been to Hell – a Norwegian village – and beyond to the Arctic Circle. He recently completed a round trip of more than 5000 miles to the Land of the Midnight Sun on his blood-red Harley Davidson to raise money for the Haemochromatosis (Iron Overload) charity. It is a potentially serious genetic disease affecting around 380,000 people in the UK. Yet only 9,000 people have a diagnosis, Mike included.

Find out more at <https://pontesburylibrary.co.uk/2020/07/12/going-to-hell/>

We've invited Mike to give us a presentation about his amazing trip, either virtual or at the Library, in the near future. Watch this space for details!

## Treasure Hunt

Thanks to everyone who took part in the FoPL Treasure Hunt around the village over the bank holiday weekend. The winners of the three hampers will be announced at 11 o'clock at the Library in the pavilion building on Saturday, 5 September. This will coincide with the Writing Competition results and Library Lottery winners for September. If you haven't already joined or need to renew the simplest way, in view of the coronavirus current health guidelines, is to pay online Online Library Lottery Application or fill in the form and post through the Pavilion postbox marked LIBRARY LOTTERY with the amount you wish to pay. Here are August's winners:

- 1st Ann Griffiths
- 2nd Sally Phillips
- 3rd Allan Price



*Ken Jenks shares his newspapers and photographs from VE Day.*

Finally a huge thank you to Ken Jenks and Robert Faulconbridge for contributing to our VE Day Memory Box. Check out what they've shared by scrolling down to NEWS on the website HOME page [pontesburylibrary.co.uk](https://pontesburylibrary.co.uk). Keep well. Stay safe.

*FoPL*

Two more views from inside the new library.

*Left: The arrangements for Click and Collect*

*Below: One small corner of the new library at the Pavilion on the day the books were first unpacked.*







## Your Neighbourhood Plan

Many thanks to everyone who completed and returned the recent questionnaire. Results are currently being analysed and we hope to have a short report in the October newsletter.

*Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk*

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## Support for carers

Shropshire Council have recently launched a new partnership with Mobilise online to provide additional support for carers in Shropshire.

Mobilise, the online community created 'by carers, for carers', will now offer its range of free online support to Shropshire residents with caring roles. Mobilise support includes regular contact through emails, 'virtual cuppas' and even face-to-face coaching sessions, also run virtually.

Here is the link to the service: <https://www.mobiliseonline.co.uk/shropshire> – we encourage you to take a look at what support is available, share the link with carers you know and send any thoughts on the service to Margarete Davies, Carer Lead, Community Partnerships, Shropshire Council [Margarete.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Margarete.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk)

### New help for self-employed people

There is a second chance to claim support. If you're eligible and your business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020, you must make your claim for the second grant on or before 19 October 2020.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme?utm\\_source=0c40359d-5a02-4692-86d6-3651cae8807d&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme?utm_source=0c40359d-5a02-4692-86d6-3651cae8807d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

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## Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

The Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group is now up and running. Following on from the very productive community meeting hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 30 July the group held a zoom meeting on 25 August.

Several actions were agreed by those present which will focus on environmental concerns in the area of Pontesbury, and help towards reaching zero carbon for the Parish by 2030.

We want a greener, more sustainable parish for everyone. We hope to interest and engage as many people and organisations in the community as possible, to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity and to involve people in our projects.

Initially we are investigating the possibilities of tree planting, improving our grass verges, increasing safe cycle ways, increasing local recycling facilities, tackling the problem of litter, and finding ways to measure our progress towards a carbon neutral parish.

If you are interested in any of these projects, or just want more information about the group, please get in touch. Contact Liz Knowles, on 01743 790698. Our next open meeting will be on Tuesday 29 September at 7pm.

*Liz Knowles, Chair*

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## Bereavement Support for Shropshire Residents

### Call 0345 678 9028

A new service has been launched to support people who are experiencing and suffering from bereavement and loss. The offer is open to any Shropshire resident who has been bereaved by either a recent death or previous loss. The Bereavement Support Service is operated by Shropshire Council and community voluntary partners Samaritans, CRUSE, Severn Hospice and Crane Quality Counselling. The service can be accessed through self-referral by calling 0345 678 9028.

The Bereavement Support Service is accompanied by the launch of a grief and bereavement during COVID19 booklet which provides a compassionate overview of coping with loss, feelings that may be experienced, supporting others who are grieving and links to help and information. A secondary booklet provides a practical guide for the process following a death and what has changed due to the pandemic. Digital versions of these resources are available from the Shropshire Council website bereavement page at: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/bereavement-services/support-and-resources-for-those-recently-bereaved/>

*Bereavement Support Service*

## Answers to July's Quiz for all Ages

1. What three ingredients are typically used to make pancake batter? *Milk, butter, eggs*
2. Buick, Beetle and Chevrolet are all types of? *Car*
3. How many colours are in the rainbow? For a bonus point, can you name them? *Seven – Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet*
4. Who famously said 'I have a dream'? *Martin Luther King*
5. Guess the following characters from the three clues and extra point if you know which movie they are from.
  - He is green. He is an alien. He has a laser pistol. *Greedo*
  - She gets a yellow lightsaber. She knows the force. She doesn't know who her family is. *Rey*
  - He can shoot lightning out of his hands. He gave Darth Vader his name. He always wears a black cloak. *Emperor Palpatine**They are all characters in 'Star Wars'.*
6. Match these 5 animals with their collective nouns: Buffalos, bears, cats, apes, camels
  - An obstinacy of *buffalos*
  - A shrewdness of *apes*
  - A glaring of *cats*
  - A caravan of *camels*
  - A sloth of *bears*
7. Fortnite has become a cultural phenomenon since it was launched in 2017. Which company developed the game? *Epic games*
8. Name four cities other than London that are featured on a monopoly board? *Leicester, Coventry, Oxford, Liverpool*
9. Which train station is the busiest in the UK? *London Waterloo*
10. How many words can you make out of the word Pontesbury?  
Here's a few: *best, ton, pony, rub, robust, rob, robe, ruby, pent, pet, pets, burst, yurt, sent....*

## Virtual Parish Council Meeting in September

A virtual Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14 September at 7pm. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk at [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk) and she will email you a link to the meeting.

If you wish to comment on a planning application please use the Shropshire Council planning portal at <https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> Or pass your comments through Cllr A Hodges at [ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:ahodges@pontesburypc.org.uk). All new planning applications for the area are listed on the Parish Council website.

## Secretary Wanted

Pontesbury Public Hall committee are looking for someone to take on the role of secretary to the committee. Which mainly involves attending quarterly meetings, taking and circulating of minutes and dealing with administration associated with running the Public Hall as a charity. If you would like to volunteer to assist us, please phone David Charles on 01743 791946.

*David Charles,  
Chair, Pontesbury Public Hall Trustee*

## *The Friends of Pontesford and Earl's Hill*

2020 Enabling Annual General Meeting by email on Friday 31 August.

The AGM was delayed hoping that a full meeting could be arranged in the Public Hall as in previous years but clearly that option was not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The committee decided to have an enabling AGM by email to elect a committee, approve a treasurer and approve the accounts. Christopher Cooke indicated that he would not be able to continue as Chairman and Brian Simmonds had stood down as Treasurer.

The new committee effective from 1/8/20 are

Chairman – Quentin Shaw

Vice Chairman – vacant

Treasurer – John Turford

Secretary – Richard Otto

When COVID-19 allows, a meeting will be arranged to have the usual AGM presentations and an opportunity to thank both Christopher Cooke and Brian Simmonds for their years of being on the committee.

Richard Otto

Secretary.

The Ozarks, Minsterley Road, Pontesbury. SY5 0QJ. 01743 790924 07970702081

## September's Newsletter

The Parish Council has taken the decision, following Government guidelines, to only produce an online version of the Newsletter for this month. If you know of any of your immediate neighbours who don't have access to a computer, please feel free to print a copy and give it to them using gloves. Thank you. *Editor*

# CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
on ZOOM

Saturday 26 September 2020

LAND & BIO-DIVERSITY  
TRANSPORT  
BUILDINGS  
ENERGY

developing solutions together

Please register to reserve a place  
more details [www.shropshireclimateaction.co.uk](http://www.shropshireclimateaction.co.uk)  
Free - donations welcome



## NATURAL ENGLAND

### Notes from the hill

Well it has been the strangest of years so far, but hopefully things are returning a bit more to normality on the Stiperstones. Natural England Staff are back on site as we are allowed to carry out 'non-essential' work, although I would argue that all of our work is essential to the management of the site. Our volunteers are starting back with us, where they can, and where we can ensure suitably socially distanced tasks. The obvious task being the scything of the bracken, as no one is likely to come within two metres if someone is wielding a scythe.

We are still seeing a lot of visitors to the reserve, it must be a record year for visitors, and the car park is generally busy these days, even on weekdays. Sometimes hidden away in the Secret Hills we forget what a busy island we live on. All the more reason to make more space for nature, and hopefully some of you will have seen BBC Countryfile explaining the vision of the Stepping Stones Project the other day.

You don't get much air-time on a short programme like Countryfile, so to update you a bit more fully, the main aim is to establish habitat links between and around the key wildlife sites of the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd, allowing wildlife to move across the area, and thus making it more resilient to climate and other changes that are happening now, and are likely to increase the threat to our wildlife in the future. The project is progressing despite the Covid lockdown with the start of volunteer activities, such as green hay collected from churchyards being spread on nearby verges. A bilberry bumblebee project started up and an appeal to purchase Cudwell Meadow, south of Church Stretton was launched. Verges are being managed for wildflowers and the Marches Meadow Group have purchased a snazzy new seed collector. There are also some exciting woodland and riverine projects in the pipeline. For more information on the Stepping Stones project and how you can help out contact [charlie.bell@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:charlie.bell@nationaltrust.org.uk).



Hobby

The dry weather on the hill has been good for insects, with good numbers of butterflies, moths and dragonflies. These have attracted a hobby that can often be seen hunting over the heather particularly at the top of the steep dingles on the West side of the hill. Hobbies are extremely agile falcons. They can sometimes be mistaken for peregrine falcons as they sometimes stoop after prey with closed wings. They both have pale cheeks and black moustaches, however they are smaller and thinner winged and are generally more agile in flight. They can often be seen catching insects on the wing and later when the martins and swallows are gathering will turn their attention to them. If you have the time it is worth sitting at the top of Mytton Dingle or Perkins Beach and watching the hobby, kestrel or ravens as they play in the updraft.

Simon Cooter for Natural England staff at Rigmoresoak.

## Thanks

Sue Pearson and family would like to thank very much all of you who have sent cards and letters of condolence and sympathy, and for your prayers, on the recent very sad loss of Nigel. They are appreciated very much.

*Sue Pearson and family*

## Pontesbury Women's Club

Sadly, Pontesbury Women's Club will not start in September. As soon as we are confident that we can meet safely we'll be getting together again.

In the meantime, keep safe, keep in contact with each other and keep looking forward to our future meetings!

*June Tume*

## St. George's Church: we're getting there!

There's still no Rector at St. George's (yet) but things are happening all the same. The big news is that we now have a service every Sunday: full details including times for September are listed elsewhere in the Newsletter. We still are not allowed to sing hymns (sorry, but it's Government regs) and we all have to social-distance, wear face-masks, give contact details and sanitise our hands. But attendance so far has been good and we do all we can to make the congregation feel safe.

We also open twice during each week for private prayer: Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:30 and Fridays 16:00 to 17:00. Again, we take all measures we can to ensure your safety under the discreet eye of volunteer stewards. It's a chance for some moments of true peace and quiet, and perhaps a few prayers. All are welcome.

And the Rector? After two years without one, interviews are being held this month for the post of "Rector of the Combined Pontesbury & Stiperstones Group". At time of writing, we're hoping we can appoint the person we need. Watch this space and the St. George's website ([www.st-george.org.uk](http://www.st-george.org.uk)) for more news when we have it.

*Mary Worrall and Allen Marsden,  
Churchwardens, St. George's Church*

### Services to be held in St. George's Church

6 Sept

10:30am Holy Communion

13 Sept

4:00pm Evening Prayer

20 Sept

10:30am Open Air Service

27 Sept

10:30am Holy Communion

## Pontesbury Diary

No live events are being advertised for September. If circumstances change, please can you send details of your event to the editor by 10 September deadline to be included in the October Newsletter.



## Feed the Birds Project, Pontesbury and Minsterley

Shropshire Wildlife Trust's 'Feed the Birds Project' is aimed at sharing the joy of wildlife and connecting people. The original scheme is aimed at training volunteers who are then matched with someone within their local community. Each week the volunteer will visit the beneficiary at their home, to chat about the garden wildlife, top up and clean feeders.

COVID19 put a stop to the visits until now but didn't stop the project! Here in Pontesbury and Minsterley we are working with Allcare, Pontesbury Primary School, Pontesbury Medical Practice and Cliffdale and have delivered bird feeders to vulnerable, isolated adults, and to local school children and families. We have asked everyone involved to send over pictures, drawings and letters of all the lovely birds and other wildlife they can see outside their windows or in their gardens. We plan to share the drawings and letters with the community, via social media and a newsletter, so everyone can experience the joy of wildlife and connect through their shared experiences.

We are also starting up the one to one befriending visits again, where it is safe to do so. If you know of anyone that may like to have someone visit or be a volunteer in the project please contact [clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk), Tel: 01691 661157.

Even if you do not have a bird feeder at home, we would be delighted to hear from you. You could send us a photograph or write a description of the wildlife you have seen or would like to see in your garden, or even put your drawing skills to the test and send a drawing or painting!

Please bring any photos, drawings or letters and post them in the white post-box at The Pavilion, the new community building next to the Co-op.



*The Martin family did these wonderful drawings of a family of Blue Tits (above), a Great Tit (middle) and a Long Tailed Tit (right).*



Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the elusive white-headed magpie, and let us know if you see it!

Many thanks.

*Feed the Birds, Pontesbury and Minsterley team*

*(This local project is part of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust's 'Feed the Birds project' funded by the National Lottery Building Communities Fund.)*



**Are you experiencing financial difficulty related to COVID-19?**

**Worried about keeping your home?**

**Please call the Council's Welfare Support Team on 0345 678 9078**

The Welfare Support Team can provide you with help, support, advice and signposting.

**USEFUL LINKS**

**General information about Coronavirus**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Information for businesses and the self-employed**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-the-self-employed](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-the-self-employed)

**Information on rights and benefits**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/your-rights-and-benefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/your-rights-and-benefits)


**Information on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits)

**Universal Credit**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/what-could-affect-my-benefits/universal-credit](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/what-could-affect-my-benefits/universal-credit)

**Online benefit calculator**  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/online-benefit-calculator](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/online-benefit-calculator)

**Furniture and electrical goods**  
 Reviive 01743 588458 South Shropshire Furniture Scheme 01584 877788

**Citizens Advice Shropshire**  
 03444 99 11 00 [www.cabshropshire.org.uk](http://www.cabshropshire.org.uk)

Shropshire Council

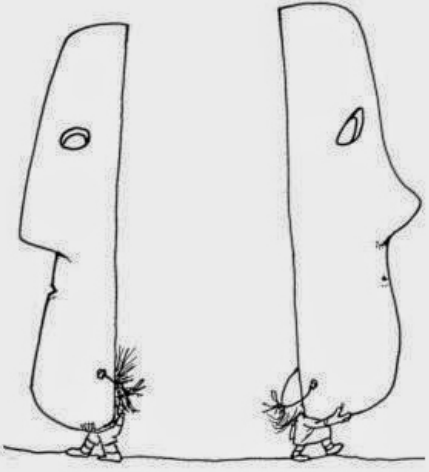
**NHS**

**Wear face coverings**

**in all shops.**

**You must wear a face covering when in supermarkets, shops, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies and post offices unless you have good reason not to.**

**STAY SAFE ► BE RESPONSIBLE ►**  
**AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP REDUCE CORONAVIRUS**



**MASKS**

She had blue skin,  
 And so did he.  
 He kept it hid  
 And so did she.  
 They searched for blue  
 Their whole life through,  
 Then passed right by—  
 And never knew.

This poem is from Shel Silverstein's book *Every Thing on It*. Our Covid facemasks don't need to cut us off from each other – after all, we are wearing them to keep each other safe so let's keep talking! We are all human behind our masks.



## Important Consultation: Fire and Rescue Service

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is consulting on its draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2021-25 and would welcome your views. Please go online to complete the survey and read the details. <https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/integrated-risk-management-plan-2021-2025-consultation>

The Plan sets out the changes the Service will make over the next four years under its key responsibilities including responding to emergencies, protection work with businesses and prevention activities to make communities safer. The consultation began on 6 July and will conclude 12 weeks later at 5pm on 30 September 2020.

The IRMP is effectively the Fire and Rescue Authority's contract with the community so it is vital that the views of the people who call 999, community partners and associates are listened to in moving from a draft Plan to the final version.

The IRMP contains information about communities, the risks they face and how the Service intends to manage and measure those risks. The Plan can be divided into three stages:

- Stage 1: Identifying and Assessing Risk; sets out what we believe the main risks are, and highlights some of the ways in which we've been dealing with them over the last few years.
- Stage 2: Managing and Reducing Risk; sets out what we are planning to do over the four-year term of the IRMP to tackle the risks we've identified.
- Stage 3: Measuring and Demonstrating Impact; sets out how we aim to show that our services and activities are having a positive impact on reducing risk.

The main proposals within the IRMP are:

- To make response timings easier to understand
- To explore how technology can be used to increase productivity in preventing fires in rural communities
- To increase activity in fire protection and regulation
- To assess how the Service can meet growing demand through the flexible use of resources, and
- To update the Service's Vision and Aims to will drive a culture of being more innovative, diverse, inclusive and developmental

A short questionnaire, which can be found in the draft IRMP and online, has been prepared to help to gather views. We have tried to make our plans easy to understand and we hope you will use the questionnaire to let us have your views, but if there are any other points you wish to make, please contact us. All our contact details and the many ways you can reach us are in the draft IRMP and online.

When the consultation is complete, the Service will have the fullest possible picture of risk across the county, a set of activities to manage those risks and a clear understanding of whether the Plan meets the expectations of the people of Shropshire. Your feedback will assist us in shaping the final IRMP, which will be published in April 2021.

*Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service*

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## Bishop's Castle Village Outreach

After several months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic Village Outreach equipment hire service based at Enterprise House in Bishop's Castle is now open for business again. Although most of our large events have of course been cancelled for this year we are now able to offer a full range of equipment to hire within the community and local area. We are already receiving requests for shelters and marquees from pubs for their gardens and from private individuals wishing to have small family get togethers outdoors. We have a large range of equipment available to hire from shelters and marquees to sound equipment and lighting.

In line with current guidelines there will be restrictions on certain items such as our soft play and some toys and games due to risk of infection and difficulty of maintaining 100% hygiene. When returned equipment will be cleaned and/or quarantined for 72 hours.

You can find details of equipment available and prices at our website: [www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/outreach](http://www.enterprisehouse.org.uk/outreach). Call us on 01588 630097 or email: [villageoutreach@bishopscastle.co.uk](mailto:villageoutreach@bishopscastle.co.uk)

Please also like our new Facebook page at: [facebook.com/villageoutreachBC](https://facebook.com/villageoutreachBC)





## Keep Shropshire Warm

You may be eligible for free loft and cavity wall insulation or even free central heating!

Keep Shropshire Warm is a partnership between Shropshire Council and The Marches Energy Agency, promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation throughout the county.

Keep Shropshire Warm are particularly keen to hear from owner occupiers and private tenants who are off the mains gas network and have old, inefficient or broken boilers or heating systems.

Any householders who still require loft or cavity wall insulation should also qualify for funding and for the first time, old electric storage heaters are also eligible for upgrades.

Shropshire Council has widened the criteria for funding by taking part in the government's new ECO 'Flexible Eligibility' initiative, in the hope that more local householders will benefit.

Oliver Rothwell, Project Manager at Keep Shropshire Warm said: "This new criteria offers a great opportunity for residents in Shropshire to access financial help with heating replacements and insulation upgrades. I would encourage any households who are struggling with old and inefficient heating systems to call Keep Shropshire Warm without delay, even if you have previously been turned down for support."

Funding is available to households on a low income with household members who have a health condition, are over the age of 60 or have children under five living at the property. If you are on a low income and not in one of these categories, you may still qualify if you spend a lot of money on heating your home.

Residents can get more information and check their eligibility by contacting the Keep Shropshire Warm team on 0800 112 3743 or by emailing [advice@mea.org.uk](mailto:advice@mea.org.uk).

## Be Aware of Potential Scam

Please see the letter (*below*) that was delivered to a resident in Hanwood recently. I am sure this is a scam and once the person hands over money or bank details to receive the funds then they will be losing money.

*Ross Cookson, Constable 1324*

I write to you in good faith and trust that you will take a moment to consider the contents of this letter. I am Mr. Robert Danson, Head Auditor Citi Group Inc. Texas, USA. In the course of my job, I discovered a floating fund in an account which was opened in 2002 by Late Mr. J. B. Booth, who died in 2008. Every effort made to track any member of his family has since failed because the deceased died leaving no heir or a will in his file. I decided to contact you to stand as the next of kin since you share the same last name with him.

The motive behind this letter is to facilitate the transfer of the sum of **US\$8,600,000** (Eight Million Six Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) in the Investment Deposit to a safe account overseas. I therefore propose that you confidentially partner with me and stand in as the next of kin. You will be required to set up a new account or provide an existing account that will serve the purpose of receiving this fund. For your assistance in this venture, I will compensate you with 40% of the fund after the transaction.

Nobody has operated the account since 2008 till date and he died without an heir and no one has come forward for this claim, hence the money has been floating. This information I have on this account is confidential as no other person has access to it. If the funds are not remitted urgently, it would be forfeited and subsequently converted to company's funds which will benefit the company's shareholders only. The fund will be approved to you legally with all the necessary documents and approvals in your name. However, I will be behind the scene to guide you on how to apply for the release of the funds.

Please respond through my direct email so that I can send you more details of this proposition. I completely trust you to keep this information absolutely private because of my position in the Office. Kindly forward a copy of this letter back to me by email and provide your Private Telephone and Fax numbers where I can reach you easily. I look forward to your prompt response.

Best Regards,

Mr. Robert Danson,  
Citi Group Inc. Texas, USA  
Email: [robdan1966@yahoo.com](mailto:robdan1966@yahoo.com)



## APPLE DAY



Hope Village Hall, SY5 0JB

It's looking like there will be a good apple harvest this year. As in recent years we shall be pressing and collecting apples for juicing on

**SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER**

From 12 noon till 4pm

Have a bit fun turning your apples into juice using the small presses that will be available at the Village Hall on the day. Please bring your own containers.

Alternatively you can have your apples professionally juiced, pasteurised and bottled. We will collect your apples on the day and take them away for juicing.

We ask for a small proportion to be donated for the Village Hall sales.

Please bring unbruised dessert apples only (not windfalls) and none from animal/poultry-grazed orchards.

We welcome any donations of surplus apples which will be pressed and sold as juice for Village Hall funds.

Sadly, as a result of the restrictions on gatherings and events we shall not be offering a bar or indoor refreshments at this year's Apple Day. We hope to be able to serve some refreshments outside but we shall be following all national and local guidance to ensure that everyone is safe.

For further details please contact Jo Longstaff on 01743 891406











## Out of hours palliative care survey

Healthwatch would like to know about the experiences of those who have received 'out of hours' palliative care since the beginning of March 2020.

Have you contacted the ShropDoc Palliative Care Helpline, NHS 111 or another service for help when your GP is closed?

Please share your experience with us at

[healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/out-hours-palliative-care-survey](http://healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/out-hours-palliative-care-survey)  
[enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk)  
 01743 237884



## FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR 14 - 25'S

This programme has been designed for **14-25 year olds** struggling to cope in life after lockdown.

Whether it's a loss of routine, increased anxiety, or stress at home, we're supporting young people through **FREE** video therapy sessions.

**We're helping young people:**

- Understand their emotions
- Manage their anxiety
- Challenge feelings of low mood
- Work through past trauma
- Build resilience

**No Tech? No Problem!**  
Our resources library ensures that video calling is accessible to all. Borrow an up-to-date handset and headphones with software already installed.



**Online & Out of Hours**  
With therapists available during evening hours (**6pm - 12am**), we support young people when anxiety is high, overthinking kicks in, and usual services are infrequent.

**We want young people to take control of their recovery**

- 1 Recipients will select their therapist (Our therapists come from a diverse range of backgrounds)
- 2 Choose the type of therapy they want (including creative therapies such as music, dance & drama)
- 3 We'll make it happen! (Our referral partners work with young people who are: care experienced, from BAME backgrounds, or at risk of offending)

To find out more about this project, please get in touch.  
**E-mail:** [mhteam@lyfeproof.co.uk](mailto:mhteam@lyfeproof.co.uk) **Tel:** 0121 622 3603 | **Text:** 07395 629 297  
 @LyfeproofUK



## CORONAVIRUS – WE'RE HERE TO HELP

**Useful contacts:** We want to ensure you get the right support and advice to help you through these times.

**Coronavirus helpline for non-health related enquiries – 0345 678 9028**  
 8am to 6pm weekdays, 9am to 1pm Saturday  
 Email [customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Child welfare and safety – 0345 678 9021**  
 For concerns about a child's safety or welfare, or for family support

**Adult welfare and safety – 0345 678 9044**  
 For concerns about a vulnerable adult's safety or welfare, or advice about adult social care

**Council tax and benefits – 0345 678 9002**  
 Email: [council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Email: [benefits@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Housing support, including homelessness and prevention – 0345 678 9005**  
 Email [housing.options@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:housing.options@shropshire.gov.uk)




**Schools and education (including free schools meals) – 0345 678 9008**  
 Email [customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk)


**Waste and recycling, including assisted collections – 0345 678 9007**  
 Email [customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Business support and advice**  
 For business rates enquiries – email [business.rates@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:business.rates@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 For business-related enquiries – email [COVID19businessenquiries@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19businessenquiries@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 For information about help and support for businesses please visit [www.investinshropshire.co.uk](http://www.investinshropshire.co.uk)

**To report a business which should be closed or isn't complying with social distancing requirements – 0345 678 9067 (option 3).**  
 Email [advicecompliance@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:advicecompliance@shropshire.gov.uk)

**For advice and information about all service areas, please visit** [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
**For any health-related queries and issues please use the NHS 111 online service.**  
**Visit our Newsroom website –** [www.shropshirenewsroom.com](http://www.shropshirenewsroom.com)  
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## Symptoms and Safety

Keep yourself and others safe



**STOP**  
Shaking hands or hugging when greeting others



**DISTANCE**  
Yourself from others by 2m (6ft) if you can



**WASH**  
Wash hands often and for 20 seconds



**COVER**  
Your mouth when coughing with tissue or sleeve



**AVOID**  
Touching your face

### Coronavirus symptoms



High temperature



New Continuous cough



A change or loss of taste



A change or loss of smell

**If you have these symptoms, you must STAY AT HOME and self isolate for:**  
**7 days – If you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus**

**14 days – if someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive, or you've been told by NHS Test and Trace you've been in contact with someone with coronavirus**

**Get tested- Call NHS Test and Trace on 119 or go online at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus)**

**For advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating)**  
 Call our Covid 19 helpline on **0345 678 9028**  
 Or visit our website at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Pick Up The Phone – You Are Not Alone

To help raise awareness of the range of support available to those who feel suicidal, a new Suicide Prevention Zcard designed by the Shropshire and Telford Suicide Prevention Network (with representation from across health, social care, emergency and blue light services, voluntary services, experts by experience amongst others) has been launched.

The Zcard provides;

- Brief advice and guidance on how to address concerns
- Contacts for a confidential, listening ear
- Primary contacts to seek immediate appropriate support

### Useful Resources

1. Free online Suicide prevention training (20 min video on see, say, signpost): [www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training](http://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training)

This is a great resource on how to identify risk and how to have difficult conversations, it has been widely shared amongst our networks

2. Help Is At Hand: national resource for support after suicide (physical cards available to order direct from the website for free): <https://supportaftersuicide.org.uk/support-guides/help-is-at-hand>

~  
Suicide Prevention Action Group



You can still place an advertisement in the Pontesbury Newsletter.

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on

[clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk)

to find out more.

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