



Rea Valley Big Green Day in Pontesbury on Saturday 2nd May 2026

Activities start at 9.30 and continue throughout the day in various locations, see pages 3-7

Presentation of King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS)

The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner JP, honoured us with a visit to Pontesbury Community Library at the Pavilion on Saturday 7th March.

As part of a very special coffee morning, she presented the Friends of Pontesbury Library with the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Twins Amber and Owen Pugh stole the show as they in turn presented Mrs Turner with two beautiful posies, all made with local flowers, and then had a lovely chat with her about their favourite books.

The occasion of the Lord Lieutenant's visit made not only the Friends proud of their achievement but also the whole community, as you can tell by all the smiles. Thank you, His Majesty, and thank you Ma'am!

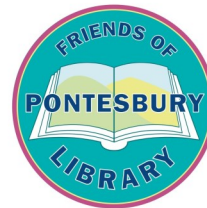


Photo: Shropshire Star



Coloured copies of the newsletter can be read at www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk/pontesbury-newsletter

DEADLINE for May 2026 issue is: Wednesday 15th April 2026

Pontesbury Parish Council [The Annual Parish Meeting](#) took place at Pontesbury Public Hall on Monday 9th March where local groups gave their annual report. Cllr Hignett chaired the meeting and read out the Chairman's report written by Cllr Fletcher. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank all of the many volunteers that are involved with providing so many opportunities for the local community from repairing footpaths, to great library activities, to running village halls and activities for young people. Cllr Fletcher also thanked all of the parish councillors who help to run council services and the Shropshire Councillors Cllr Hignett and Evans who support the parish. All the reports are available on the parish council website. www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

A Full Parish Council meeting was held after the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllrs approved a further 3 year grounds maintenance contract for the public open spaces managed by the parish council. Cllrs discussed the impact of the upcoming work by National Grid on local areas. There will be more information on this on the website in the coming months. Cllr Hodges reported that solutions to the flooding issues in Cruckton have been put in place.

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The newly refurbished public toilets have now been reopened. A big thank you to Shuker for the great job that they have done, and we hope you enjoy the changes. Thank you for your patience during the closure of the toilets.



A big thank you to all of the pupils from Pontesbury Primary School for their enthusiastic planting of seeds and plug plants for the mini wildflower meadows planned for School Green and Hall Bank. We were also grateful to the volunteers from the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group, Liz Knowles and Phil Bradshaw, and Cllr Wallace Johnson for joining in, and to Cllr Nick Hignett for providing the compost.

We have had a plea from a local resident that when the blue bags for recycling are put out that residents secure them to avoid paper etc from falling out & the wind catching waste and littering.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th April at 6.30pm at the Pavilion.

The next **Planning Committee meeting** will be held on Tuesday 7th April at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues.

Disclaimer The information provided in this newsletter is for general knowledge purposes only and does not constitute professional advice. Pontesbury Parish Council make no representations or warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability, nor availability with respect to this newsletter or the information, products, services, or related graphics contained in the newsletter for any purpose. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk

Rea Valley Probus Club


All meetings are at Arscott Golf Club, on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. For further information and contact details please visit our website, www.reavalleyprobus.org.uk.

Next meeting: 8th April 2026



Rea Valley Big Green Day in Pontesbury

on Saturday May 2nd 2026

| VENUE | ACTIVITY | TIME | LEAD GROUP |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Meet at Pontesford/ Earls Hill car park | Walk - Birdsong for Beginners | 09.30 - 12.30 | Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group |
| The Pavilion | Plant & Cake Sale with refreshments | 10.30 - 13.00 | Friends of Pontesbury Library |
| | Talk - Wildlife Gardening | 13.00-14.00 | Nancy Lowe, The Natural Gardener |
| | Why Nature Matters - family friendly workshop | 14.00-15.30 | Marches Energy Agency |
| | Nature Recovery Map | All Day | |
| School Green | Main HQ - get your map and complete the quiz | All Day | Organising Team |
| | Wildflower planting for children | From 10am | Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group (PCEAG) |
| | Litter pick start | | Uniformed groups, eg, Beavers/ Scouts |
| | Tours of the Community Garden | All Day | PCEAG |
| | Displays/Information | All Day | Shropshire Wildlife Trust & Campaign for Rural England |
| | COME AND MEET AN OWL  | All Day | |
| Public Hall | Displays and stalls | Throughout the day | Middle Marches Community Land Trust |
| | | | Minsterley Meadows |
| | | Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group | |
| | | Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project | |
| | Marches Energy Agency | | |
| | Carbon Earth | | |
| | Curlew Country | | |
| | Local Wildlife Photography Exhibition | | Terry Moore |
| | Eco Nudge Talk | 1100-1200 | E4Environment |
| St George's Church-yard | Repair Café & refreshments | 1000-1200 | Repair Café / Church members |
| | Children's Activities | All Day | Church members |
| | Light lunches & refreshments | Throughout the day | Church members |

REA VALLEY BIG GREEN DAY IN PONTESBURY



Wildlife Gardening Talk, With Natural Gardener, Nancy Lowe

In this overview of wildlife gardening practices, Nancy will take the mystique out of this rewarding way of growing a garden, offering clear steps that gardeners of any ability can take to add wildlife benefits to their existing garden.



During her talk, Nancy will explain how wildlife gardening can work for every gardener and every style of garden, whether neat or wild and whether you have lots of time to devote to it, or barely any time at all. Find out which practices will work for you and look forward to the welcome buzz of a thriving wildlife haven.

More information about Nancy's gardening approach can be found at www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk



REA VALLEY BIG GREEN DAY IN PONTESBURY



SATURDAY MAY 2ND 2026 10.AM TO 3.30PM
START AT SCHOOL GREEN TO GET YOUR MAP!

Plant Sale at the Pavilion

Children's Activities at St George's

Meet an Owl!

Stalls at the Public Hall

BIRDSONG WALK. 9.30 PONTESFORD HILL

talks and refreshments

community garden tours

Family workshop - Why Nature Matters



PLANT SALE



Saturday 2nd May 2026
10am to 1.00pm
Pontesbury Library, The Pavilion

PLANTS, SEEDLINGS & GARDENING PRODUCTS



TEA, COFFEE & CAKES
TOMBOLA & BOOKS

Donations of plants, cakes, and tombola prizes are most welcome during library opening hours and from 2pm-4pm on Friday 1st May. Plants can also be left from 9am-10am on Saturday 2nd May, the morning of the sale.

Further information from pontesburylibrary.co.uk
Facebook: Friends of Pontesbury Library, Use Pontesbury Library
info@pontesburylibrary.co.uk



ECO-SERVICE at St GEORGE'S

Following on from The Rea Valley Big Green Day, there will be an outdoor service on Sunday May 3rd at 10.30 am outside St George's Church

This will be an opportunity to:

- ◆ Celebrate the wonderful world that God has given us
- ◆ Rejoice in the beauty of our village as the gateway to the Shropshire Hills
- ◆ Pray for the safeguarding of Creation
- ◆ Renew our commitment to be faithful stewards of the Earth

A very warm welcome to everyone.
Refreshments provided





WHY NATURE MATTERS

Free Workshop for Parents and Children

Saturday 2nd May 2pm - 3.30pm

The Pavilion, Pontesbury, Shropshire, SY5 0RF

This one-and-a-half-hour session for parents and children to explore how we feel and behave towards the rest of nature. The workshop will involve creating a story with words and pictures.



Join us for an **informative, fun and interactive workshop** to discover what's happening to our planet, why it's happening and what you can - and can't - do about it.



Meet others **who share your concerns**, hear about **what is happening in your local area** and how you can **get involved**.



Reserve your FREE place now.

Email clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

Planting for Wildlife

A big thank you to the 25 people who turned out in February to plant 200 trees in the new coppice on Pontesford Hill. The area now has the perfect mix of new saplings and mature trees, with some dead lying and standing timber. Bluebells, foxglove and honeysuckle are sprouting in the patches of sunlight.

The coppice is now a wildlife haven enclosed by a dead hedge to keep out humans and dogs. It looks like a little forest garden. Please admire it from outside the hedge.



Rea Valley Curlew and Other Birds Survey

It's not too late to help with our Curlew and Lapwing survey. If you can recognise Lapwing and Curlew (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution.



We have been surveying Curlews since 2014. The area is Stapeley Hill to Brockton in the west, across through Minsterley and Pontesbury to Plealey, south to Cothecott Hill and then westwards over the Stiperstones and Hope Valley. It is divided up into 26 2x2 kilometre squares.

Participants take on one (or more) of the survey squares, and make three visits, about 3 hours each, in early April, early May and mid-June.

We need more helpers, please.

We found 7 pairs of Curlew in 2025, but the population appears to have gone down by half since we started in 2014.

The survey is easy to do. Participants stay on public rights of way, unless landowners' permission is obtained to leave them. Simple instructions and a map of the square to record observations are provided,

Participants are also requested to mark observations of Lapwing, Kestrel, and Cuckoo, and breeding evidence for Red Kites, on their survey maps, but that's an optional extra. The results are fed into the Shropshire Ornithological Society's Save Our Curlews Campaign. See <https://www.shropshirebirds.com/index/bird-conservation/save-our-curlews/>

We need more helpers, please. If you're interested, or want more information, email Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk),



REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP



MONTHLY WALK: APRIL 2026

Saturday 18th April - Gatten Yomp

10am - 1pm

Gatten Daffodil Car Park - hedge.scales.freshest

Join the Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) at our April monthly walk - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.



The walk is free to attend and no booking required.

Please note that there is no designated leader for these monthly walks. A meeting point is listed for each walk and the group will decide together on the day where they would like to walk.

There is a Marie Curie charity box present for car park donations

** We love our furry friends and well behaved, friendly dogs are welcome on this walk, but please remember that the primary focus of the walk is to discover wildlife and enjoy nature together**

f Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg



More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/



JOIN US TODAY!

Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available



LITTER LETTER 3 from "The Cardboard Cut-Outs"

We've been reading Litter Letters 1 & 2 and there's one question that keeps niggling –

'Why do people drop litter?'

Perhaps the most plausible response is – " It will rot away before long" .

This is clearly not true of cans and bottles . What about cardboard?

This is widely regarded as biodegradable but is still unsightly when festooning the hedgerows. Add to this the problem that most cardboard litter also contains plastic as coatings e.g. drinks containers or as inserts e.g. sandwich/cake boxes. While the cardboard will eventually rot away, the plastic won't.

It's the plastic that makes recycling of food containers difficult. Even pizza boxes are a problem to recycle because of the grease from the cheese. Consider re-using your 'cardboard' cups – they make great plant-pots – and try cutting up your pizza boxes to put round the base of plants. The cardboard will eventually rot into the soil but it can prevent the growth of weeds and protect against frost.

Re-using cardboard boxes should be second nature – there's nothing like a cardboard box for storage, children's play or a pets' bed but if you run out of ideas

Good, Clean Cardboard Boxes are Excellent Recycling Material.

Don't worry about removing plastic tape when recycling as this comes away in the slurry part of the process but do flatten your boxes and keep them dry as this helps transport & processing.

According to Economy Insights 4 billion trees are cut down each year for producing paper/card.

One ton of virgin cardboard requires 3 tons of wood for its manufacture

At an average of 24 trees to 1 ton paper ... recycling saves a lot of trees.

During the pandemic the volume of parcels being sent hugely increased, so recycling has become even more important. **EVERY BOX COUNTS**

On behalf of Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group

SPREAD THE WORD , DON'T SPREAD LITTER

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP



BEECHFIELD DINGLE WILD FLOWER WALK - SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

Join us as we discover the wildflower delights of Beechfield Dingle!

Join our expert botanist in exploring this fantastic local woodland. Beechfield Dingle is a site rich and diverse in ground flora and ancient woodland indicator plants. Spend time learning and appreciating how to identify native wildflowers in your local area.



Meet: Brockton
10am - 1pm (longer if wanted)

This event is free, but donations are welcome
Pre-booking is essential as spaces limited.
email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Please note: Dogs will not be allowed to join us at the specialist event.

f Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg



More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/



JOIN US TODAY!

Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

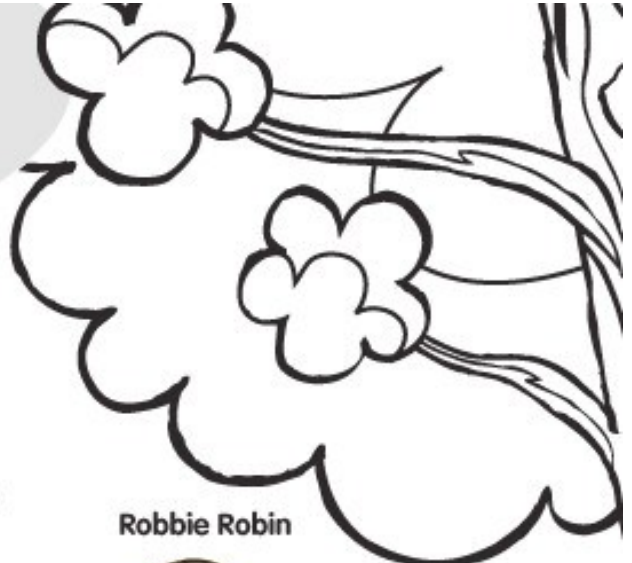
Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available

Local British Birds - colouring sheet

Bring along to the Green Day in the Pavilion on 2nd May 2026 from 10am.

Colour us in

- Bouncy blackbird** – I am all black with a yellow beak
- Cheeky sparrow** – I have a grey head and brown wings and tail
- Robbie robin** – I have a red tummy and a brown head and wings
- Busy blue tit** – I have a yellow tummy and a blue head and wings

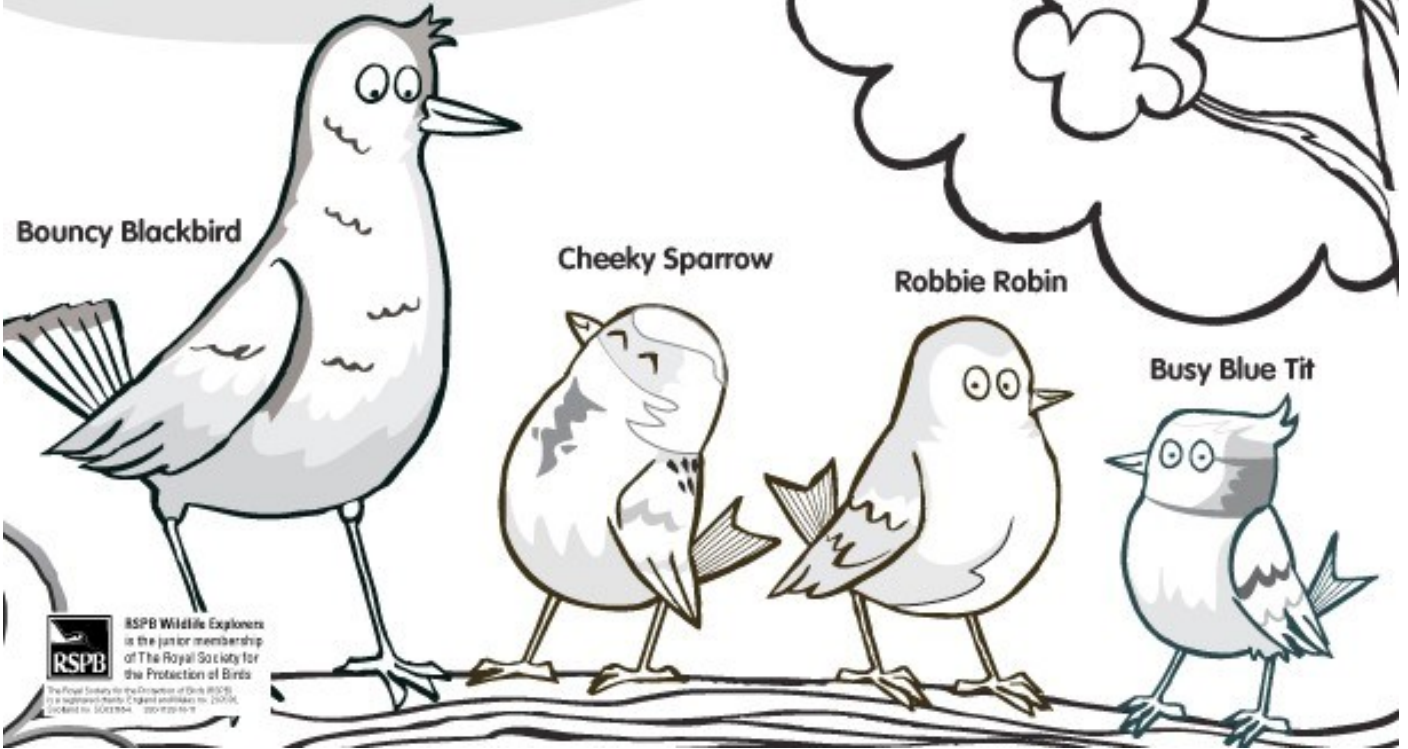


Bouncy Blackbird

Cheeky Sparrow

Robbie Robin

Busy Blue Tit



RSPB
RSPB Wildlife Explorers is the junior membership of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity (England and Wales no. 202506, Scotland no. SC037604) and a company limited by guarantee (England and Wales no. 0202506, Scotland no. SC037604)



Operation Turtle Dove



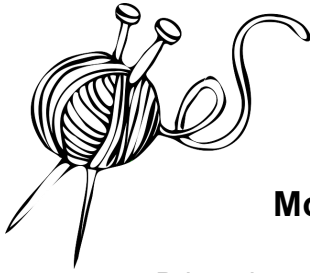
We'd love to see your finished Turtle Dove!

Share them with us @SaveTurtleDoves (Twitter / X) or via an advisor

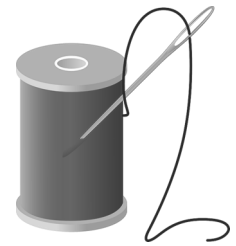
<https://www.operationturtledove.org/get-involved/habitat/do-you-manage-land/support-advice/>

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We hope to see you for
'Get Creative Group':



at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on
Monday 20th April 2026 (Monday 6th is a Bank Holiday)

Drinks and biscuits are provided and there is no charge.

Bring along any project you are working on and have a chat with fellow creators.

Everyone welcome.



Pontesbury Dementia Support Group
Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

1st, 15th & 29th April 2026 - Time: 2-4pm

Pontesbury Carers Support Group

Friday 24th April 2026

Join us in a relaxed and informal meeting where we share information and chat with a cuppa and cake, starting 10.30am. It's all free with experts on hand to answer questions.

April News from the Library Owl

How about a reading challenge for everyone, not just the children?

As part of the 'GO ALL IN' theme of the National Year of Reading, the Friends of Ludlow Library have created a 'Read-a Lottery' Stretching your reading genres, with 12 different ones to choose. Get your entry form from the Library!

We'll be sticking with the monthly themes, till I run out of ideas, suggestions welcome ☐. After the masses of daffodils, we will be turning pink, for blossom in April.

The Friends will have shared all our other news, March was a busy month. They will also be putting on some crafting sessions in the Easter holidays, the Thursday afternoon slot seems popular, so probably then. Look out for our posters.



CloudLibrary

If you are going away and would rather read books on a tablet, or listen to them on a long journey, download the Cloud Library app and get free books & audio books online. You just need your library card number and PIN.

Happy Easter
The Library Owl



Sea Change Trust

Sea Change Trust run a **FREE** therapist-led Family Drop-In support group at the Pavilion Community Hub and Library in Pontesbury on Wednesdays between 10-12 (term-time only). All caregivers and their children under 5 are welcome. Meet other families with young children and talk to our team of parent infant specialists whilst the children play.



RHYME TIME



Thursday 9th April

2pm in

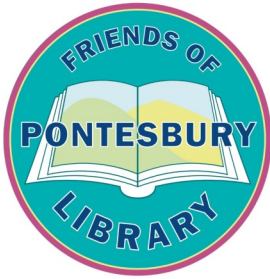
Pontesbury Pavilion & Library

At Pontesbury Pavilion we want to put on an exhibition of framed gig, music, theatre or film posters, just to show the diversity of interest in our community. These posters can be works of art in their own right, hopefully you'd like to be involved.



Get in touch with Nicki, deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk to let her know you're interested.

Posters go on display in April 2026.



news

FROM FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY



Presentation of King's Award for Voluntary Service: March Coffee Morning

A 'host of golden daffodils' greeted the **Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner, JP**, and her two Deputy Lieutenants, Colonel Mark Cuthbert-Brown CBE and Fiona Rogers-Coltman, when they arrived for the presentation. The King's Award for Voluntary Service recognises the work of those who help others in their communities and is the highest accolade for volunteer groups, the equivalent of an MBE.

Local people packed into the library space as, on behalf of FoPL, Chair Caroline Wright accepted an engraved **King's Award Crystal**, and Bob Boden accepted the **King's Award Certificate signed by his Majesty**. Although a formal occasion, the warmth of the Lord Lieutenant's address put everyone at their ease. She emphasised how high the bar is to be given this award and how exceptional the Friends of Pontesbury are in working so hard to keep the library open and at the heart of the community. Deputy Lieutenant Mark also read his Citation, explaining why the Friends have received the Award.

Mrs Turner then graciously accepted the invitation to draw the monthly **Library Lottery winners**, to great applause. The lucky winners were:

- 1st Rachel Strivens, No. 168
- 2nd William (Bill) Stephenson, No. 121
- 3rd Noreen Maddox, No. 124

The coffee morning resumed after the formalities, with the usual fantastic array of delicious home-baking, and we were delighted that the Lord Lieutenant and her two Deputies were happy to take some cake for later!



Many thanks to Val Sinclair, our photographer at large, and all our wonderful volunteers!

Future Events



Children's Crafting:
Thursday 2 April, pm
Watch out for further details



Monthly Coffee Morning:
Saturday 4 April, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for the usual hot drinks and excellent home baking, as well as our Lottery draw.



Children's Crafting:
Thursday 9 April, pm
Watch out for further details



Annual Plant Sale
Saturday 2 May, 10.30 - 12.30 Pavilion
See the poster elsewhere in this issue. This year we're excited that our Plant Sale will be part of the Rea Valley Big Green Day in Pontesbury!

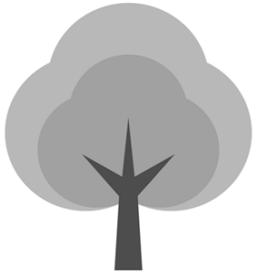


Friends AGM: Thursday 25 June, 7.00pm - 8.30pm, Pavilion
Save the date! Entertainment from Alison Utting, performing her new work 'Ordinary Lives: A Celebration of Everyday Life in Shropshire'.



Photo: Shropshire Star

Thank you to everyone who supports our precious Community Library



Community
Good
Neighbours
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

News & Events

April 2026



Future Events For all upcoming events & updates please view our Facebook page.

Coffee Morning - at the Plough Inn is on Friday 10th April start time 10.30 till 11.45



Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

FOODBANK NEWS

Rea Valley Foodbank has become a Registered Charity

We are now on the Charity Commission Register, Charity number 1217019. This will enable us to register with Gift Aid and claim more money back for our charity. In due course our Treasurer will email the kind individuals that make monthly financial donations to the Foodbank. If you do make monthly financial donations but have not previously had an email, please do contact Jonathan Brown 07497 142485 email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

The Foodbank offers choice. Our Foodbank is run by local volunteers, so we can be flexible and offer those that come more choices about the service.

Once you have been referred to the Foodbank you can choose how often you come. If it's an emergency situation you may come just once. For those with ongoing needs you can come every week or when you need to. Over time we may need to review the service we provide for you.

When you come you can choose the items you need to help see you through the week. If you need help our volunteers are there to advise. There is a limit on the number of high-cost items that can be taken. Please bring your own bag(s). You are welcome to stay for a hot drink and chat with our friendly volunteers.

To use the Foodbank, get referred: from your local clergy, GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. Or call for a chat with Rev. Greg Smith 07902 794653 or Rev. Richard Lonsdale 07922 830488.

See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook



Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday 12:00 -1:00 pm - last one Wednesday 1st April 2026

All four churches in Pontesbury warmly invite you to join us at St George's Church each Wednesday for soup and a roll, followed by a hot drink, all free of charge, and a reflection on the true message of Easter. No need to book ahead – just come as you are!



DEADLINE for May 2026 issue is: Wednesday 15th April 2026

Church Services & Events - April 2026

St. George's Church www.st-george.org.uk



Services and activities for April 2026

- 2nd 3.30pm Messy Church
7pm Group Service Holy Trinity Minsterley
(Maundy Thursday)
- 3rd 7pm Tenebrae (Good Friday)
- 5th 10.30 am Holy Communion (Easter Day)
- 7th 2.30pm Tea Service
- 12th 10:30 am Morning Worship without
Communion. Children's Church.
- 19th 10.30am Holy Communion.
- 26th 10.30am Holy Communion.
11.30am A.P.C.M

Tea Break every Wednesday 2-4pm
Coffee Stop every Friday 10-12noon

Methodist services for April

- 5th Apr
- 12th Apr **All Services taken by Church**
- 19th Apr **Members**
- 26th Apr

All services at 10.45 am

PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES April 2026

Sunday 5th April at 10am The Deacons or 10.30am Minsterley Congregational Church with Rev. Debbie Martin (still to be decided).
Sunday 12th April at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin.
Sunday 19th April at 10am Brian Spencer.
Sunday 26th April at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin.

Tuesday at 10am Prayer meeting.
Wednesday 10-12 Warm space/coffee and chat.

Everyone Welcome.
Tuesday at 10am Prayer meeting.
Wednesday 10-12 Warm space/coffee and chat.

Everyone Welcome

Pontesbury Baptist Church www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm – where we sing hymns of worship, hear the Bible read, pray, and listen as God's Word is preached.

| | Morning | Evening |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Good Friday 3rd | 11:30 Mike Wells | |
| Easter Sunday 5th | 10:30 Richard Birch | 6:30 Richard Birch |
| Sunday 12th | 10:30 Martin Wells | |
| Sunday 19th | 10:30 Mike Wells | 6:30 Rob Jack |
| Sunday 26th April | 10:30 Mike Wells | 6:30 Mike Wells |

In addition, every service is streamed live via our church website, and recordings of previous sermons are available on the website *and our YouTube channel*.

For more information, please email:
info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk



St George's Church
Pontesbury

FREE ORGAN RECITAL
(Retiring collection for St George's)

WITH
RICHARD WALKER
ARCO, FRCO

On
Saturday 23rd May at 11.00am
Coffee and refreshments from 10.15am

EASTER SERVICES

@ Pontesbury Baptist Church



Good Friday 3rd April
Service at 11:30 am

Easter Sunday 5th April
Services at 10:30 am & 6:30 pm
All are welcome!

www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

St Mary's Church, Habberley

Coffee Morning



Saturday 18th APRIL
Habberley Village Hall
10.00am - 12.00pm

Cake Stall
Cards by Wendy Carter

From her own acrylic paintings

All proceeds in aid of
St Mary's Church ongoing renovations



DEADLINE for
May 2026 issue is:
Wednesday 15th
April 2026



Aimee-Ffion Edwards, Lesley Manville, Toby Jones



Mr Burton

The story of the wild school boy Rich Jenkins, son of a boozy miner and an English teacher who recognised his talent, Philip Burton. A moving, untold story of how Rich Jenkins became Richard Burton, the biggest star Wales has ever produced.

Marlon Village Hall
SY21 8JT

Friday 17 April
7.30 pm

Tickets
Standard: £5.00
Under 18s: £2.50

Enquiries: 01743 792790 or 07810 230860

Film £5. Film + Fish/chips £10. (Fish & chips must be pre-ordered). Bar and refreshments available from 7.00 p.m. All enquiries to 01743-792790 or 07810-230860



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk



Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode, Kerry Fox



The Colour Room

A British biographical drama chronically the life of Clarice Cliff - a young determined, working class woman, who breaks the glass ceiling and revolutionises the workplace in the 20th century.

Haberley Village Hall
SY5 0TP

Friday 17 April
7.30pm

Tickets
Standard: £6.00

Enquiries: 07977 127161

Doors open at 7pm. Complete your night out with FISH & CHIPS- £15 with ticket. Food served 7pm sharp. Pre-order by midday Thurs. by calling 07977127161. Tea/coffee/bar available. Park along the road or pub area, village hall parking area is closed for now.



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk



MINSTERLEY & DISTRICT EISTEDDFOD 2026

The Minsterley and District Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all the competitors who entered the numerous classes and to congratulate the winning performances at the event on Saturday, 21st March 2026.

The Committee hopes that spectators enjoyed the celebrity Concert on Sunday 22nd March 2026 too; The Concert this year was dedicated to the memory of Bronwen Evans MBE who we sadly lost in September 2025. (She had been a serving Committee member for more than half a century and will be fondly remembered in the community by her moniker 'Mrs Eisteddfod'. Her passion for providing an opportunity for children and young people to perform in front of an audience, giving them skills to take forward into their personal and professional lives, will be her legacy).

The Committee would also like to extend its thanks to the many friends who help out in various ways during Eisteddfod weekend as it would be impossible to stage the festival without their support.

Please visit <https://minsterleyeisteddfod.com/> for competition results.

Cruckton Art Group Seascape Oil Painting

Two tuition sessions by Rob Guy at
Cruckton Village Hall

Thursdays 2nd April and 9th April

Cost £8 per person per session

Contact: Richard on 01743 790 245

or Chloe on 01743 860 703



Disclaimer The information provided in this newsletter is for general knowledge purposes only and does not constitute professional advice. Pontesbury Parish Council

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MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL

Annual General Meeting

7.00 – 8.00pm

Tuesday 28th April 2026

All hall users and members of the local community are invited to come and meet the committee members, catch up with some of the changes and challenges of the past year and consider some hopes and plans for the future.

The meeting will include:

Annual Report

Presentation of Accounts

Light refreshments will be on offer after the meeting

(To be followed by a short meeting of the new committee)

For further information contact: secretary.minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com

MIDNIGHT SYMPHONY
(FEATURING LOCAL SINGER *Steph Savin*)

MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL
SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
7:30PM – LATE

£10 IN ADVANCE | £12.50 ON THE DOOR

BOOKING IN ADVANCE RECOMMENDED
AS SHOW MAY SELL OUT!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
**Hignetts of Pontesbury, Auntie Nellies,
Clares Flower Shop - Minsterley**
email. bookings@minsterleyparishhall.co.uk
or contact Gill Gawthorn or Rosemary Swain

CUAN WILDLIFE RESCUE

SHROPSHIRE'S ONLY WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE

Come explore the charity's beginnings on a small Scottish island, its growth and challenges and the stories, rehabilitation, and ecology of its wildlife patients.



OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



Wednesday
15 April 2026



Time
2.00 PM



Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Our next Open Meeting on **Wednesday 15th April 2026 2pm** at Minsterley Parish Hall, will be an illustrated talk takes you behind the scenes of **Cuan Wildlife Rescue**, from the charity's unexpected beginnings on a small Scottish island to the complex and often dramatic work it carries out today.

Through striking images and real-life cases, it reveals the challenges, dilemmas, and hard choices that come with caring for wild animals. The talk brings to life the stories of remarkable patients, charting their journeys through rescue and rehabilitation, and shows how each case fits into the wider ecology of the landscapes they call home.

Following the session, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a. **Members and Non-Members are welcome.**

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals with a focus on those not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 25 interest groups covering a variety of activities, from history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball, table tennis and many more.

Ask the Animal Healer – Rebecca Rea

Therapeutic help for animals and their people

For anyone to have a meaningful, positive and healthy relationship, it must be built upon respect, safety, trust and kindness. We don't have to be the same species as each other to learn to love deeply and create a life-changing bond.

Because human beings, for better and worse, hold the dominant position when it comes to pets or farm animals, I feel it is our responsibility to take the time and make the effort to learn to relate better to animals and Nature.

If you think about it really – how amazing are the dogs, cats, horses etc who manage to learn how to inter-relate with us, who cope with all the noises, smells and alien behaviours of humans despite their own super sensitive senses.

.... and how many humans do you know, who have honestly made the effort to listen and speak their language, to understand and accommodate their ways. And yet, many people consider themselves above and beyond Nature in terms of intelligence.

If you are interested in developing your relationship with your pet and sensitivity towards animals and Nature in general then please get in touch. Why not make your relationships the best they can be... it's more kind, fulfilling and liberating for all of us – whether you have two legs, four legs, none, or wings.



www.theanimalhealer.life

07785 527973



West Shropshire Flower Club welcomed Pontesbury florist Anne Whysall to our February meeting. Her demonstration about her favourite

colours started off with a vibrant blue arrangement with fantastic blue hydrangeas and larkspur, grouped for added impact, with wisps of birch twigs leading through the design. She moved on to produce a pink pot-au-fleur: potted and cut material used in the same design. A gorgeous orchid was placed at one end of a metal trough, and surrounded by the mass form of proteas, round gerberas, tall scented spikes of stocks and the airy wax flower with the structure of pink painted twigs, it was a delight to see this rarely-used form of arrangement. Her next arrangement was a classic symmetrical design with the softest apricot of roses, tall white snapdragons and fluff of viburnum opulus, highlighted with cream sprayed poppy heads. She showed us how to use chicken wire as support in this peach design, creating a framework of foliage stems within the chicken-wire to support the focal flowers: peach stocks, gerberas and hypericum berries were set off with ethereal mauve lisianthus bobbing above the main flowers. Her last design was a showstopper, not only a hand-tied and using all the lovely colours, but done in a novel way. She had prepared a number of dried palm 'bows' by folding over and taping down the palm fronds, these were bunched together to form a large green supporting structure for the hand-tied then the flowers were threaded through in the usual spiral. All the colours worked wonderfully together and also with the pale green of the palm leaves, which provided a fabulous support ensuring the space and hold that some people find difficult with hand-tieds. Something I will definitely try at home.

All meetings at Westbury Village Hall and start at 7.30pm, visitors welcome £10
Wednesday 22nd April - Beryl Cotton Holywell – Floral Fantasy

Pontesbury Women's Club

If you would like an entertaining Tuesday evening come along to our meetings

Tuesday 14th April

2026 AGM

with Quiz & Hot Cross Buns!

Tuesday 12th May

Strawberry Tea

Time and Venue to follow

PWC usually meets at 7.30pm on
The second Tuesday of the month

At Pontesbury Public Hall

Visitors and New Members are always welcome



Pontesbury WI met on 9th March where we welcomed Sheila Fisher who talked about Arthritis. She told us that there was different types of arthritis, rheumatoid, osteoarthritis, and gout. All can cause considerable pain and mobility difficulties. She felt the best relief comes from correct medication, diet and exercise, exercise being very important as it helps mobility. Sheila brought along her colleague who showed the group different exercises. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the exercises.

Charity Donation. At our meeting we were pleased to present Headteacher, Mr Tom Lowrie-Herz, with a cheque for £1000 for Pontesbury CE Primary School. The school will spend the money on much needed musical instruments. The WI members are looking forward to being entertained by the pupils as Tom has invited us to visit the school.



Our next WI meeting will be on 20th April & our guest speaker is Paul Wilkins talking about Forgotten Women. Our April Craft club will be held on Tuesday 21st at the Cock Inn Hanwood at 10am to 1pm.

Everyone is most welcome to join us for fun and crafting. For further information about the WI contact Irene Windows President on 01743791903.

Maxine Pittaway Event Organiser

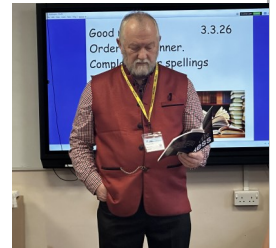


Pontesbury Primary School

We welcomed Cllr Sarah Wallace-Johnson, Elizabeth Knowles and Phil Bradshaw from the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group and Debbie Marais, Parish Clerk to school to plant seeds and plugs for the Pontesbury Meadow Project (in the sunshine!) .A huge thank you to them all for a very enjoyable morning of planting and thank you to our families who came early to help. We look forward to planting these in a few months time and watching the meadow develop. (Pics 1, 2, 3)



It was great to have local author John Croxton (who lives in the village) visit our Year 4, 5 and 6 classes to introduce us to his recently published books. John was very entertaining and engaging and the children listened intently to different extracts from Little Bess, The Smaugsons and Teggy the Vegan Fox. John will be returning to school to lead a writing workshop next term. (Picture 4)



A big thank you to Pontesbury WI members who have raised £1000 for our school. The money will be put to good use to purchase new musical instruments that we are desperately in need of. We look forward to enhancing our music curriculum and we know that the new instruments will be put to good use in the not-so-distant future.

To help promote a family feel of 'belonging' at our school, our children are in houses. Each term, the children collect House Points and the winning house has a treat. This term was no exception and Donaldson's (the winning house) members had a Winter Olympics themed treat. The children enjoyed an opening ceremony, curling, speed skating and bobsleigh races all in the school hall!

You may see a few more of our children walking, biking or scooting to school. We are now involved in a national walk-to-school project. There are 3 main aims for us and this project. Firstly, to promote healthy lifestyles, secondly, it's great for mental health and thirdly, it will hopefully reduce congestion and traffic around the two schools by encouraging more foot traffic and less vehicles. Each child records how they get to school, on a handy app, and they receive a badge each month if they complete the challenge.

Mary Webb News The return to school after the February half term has been busy for us at Mary Webb. Year 11 mocks have been completed, and students are anxiously awaiting results. This week, many have attended college interviews and are coming to terms with the idea that their days at Mary Webb are drawing to a close, and the next big adventure is beckoning.

Year 10s are thinking about work experience placements in June; if anyone can offer support with this, we would be grateful.

Our curriculum day celebrating STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics) will see Yr 7 students making their own rockets, Yr 8s are going to RAF Cosford and Yr 9s are looking at robotics.

We are super excited to introduce you to the latest additions to our school community: our beautiful rescue hens, who were brought on board to support with whole school wellbeing. This is going well and between four of them, they lay around 5 eggs day.

Several students are responsible for their care, embedding our school values which are Curious, Supportive, Resilient and Respectful. When they first arrived in November, they looked very sorry for themselves and were missing a lot of feathers. I think you will agree they are stunning, although we have one who is camera shy. They are, at the moment, unnamed but we will keep you posted.



THE BOG VISITOR CENTRE

2026 Season

The Visitor Centre reopens for the 2026 season on Wednesday 1st April



The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England presents a unique landscape of rocky tors and heathland that has a rich natural history and geology. Lead and other minerals provided reason for centuries of human occupation in which industry The Bog played an important part. It is a privilege and pleasure to pass on information of these aspects to visitors and to provide guidance on the range of walks, long and short, that are available for them to enjoy.

Our team of staff are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far with information and refreshments. A wide range of local crafts are available to purchase as are books, maps and walk leaflets.

OPENING HOURS - please note we are closed Bank Holidays

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| MONDAY | Closed |
| TUESDAY | Closed |
| WEDNESDAY | 12 noon – 4pm |
| THURSDAY | 12 noon – 4pm |
| FRIDAY | 12 noon – 4pm |
| SATURDAY | 11am – 4pm |
| SUNDAY | 11am – 4pm |

Craft workshops and group meeting are welcomed to hire the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and evenings.

Contact details for our Secretary Lin Brown 01694 781634 bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Staffing The Bog Visitor Centre

Staff work their first 26 hours voluntarily and additional hours after that are paid at the minimum rate for those who choose to be paid.

Under 18 £8.00

18–20 £10.85

Over 21 £12.71

Our pool of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 80+ needs expanding and we are looking for people who would enjoy interacting with our visitors. New recruits receive comprehensive training during their induction period. If interested please email Lin Brown our secretary bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

Students make a considerable contribution to the successful operation of the Centre at weekends and during the holidays and are **paid for all their working hours** at the appropriate rate for their age.

Shropshire Hills Forum & Field Visits This year, the Shropshire Hills Forum & Field Visits is at Clun Memorial Hall, Wednesday 29th April, 10am – 3.30pm. It aims to be a welcoming and inspiring event, themed around:

- Celebrating a decade of community conservation
- Thriving in Balance with Nature in the Shropshire Hills
- A shared vision for the catchment of the River Clun

The event includes speakers and structured activity, along with plenty of time for informal networking and afternoon activities. Field trips include a walk On Whinberry Hill to hear about a community project to restore heathland habitat, a farm visit to see the work on the ground to retain and slow water whilst improving water quality and biodiversity, and a Clun Town Heritage Walk.

The Forum is built around sharing ideas and knowledge, and will showcase some of the brilliant work happening locally to help protect and regenerate this special landscape.

The event is free, a donation towards catering costs is appreciated and booking is required. To see the programme and to book your place please visit our website at www.shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk. Or contact the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team by email: shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk, or telephone 01743 254740.

To enquire about display space to showcase work/activity you're involved in which is helping to look after the Shropshire Hills landscape, please get in touch using the email or telephone number above.



Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association

We now take payments by card (debit or credit) as well as by cash to make life easier for us all.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30am to 12 noon.

Date to save in your diary -

Thu 21st May - 7.00-9.00pm - Pontesbury Gardeners' Spring in to the Garden - Public Hall.



A poster for a community drop-in event. The background is a solid orange color. At the top, the text "A Welcome Brew" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, "COMMUNITY DROP-IN" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Underneath, "Tuesdays 10.30am - 12pm" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A paragraph of text in green and white says: "A place to come along, grab a drink and have a chat. Free refreshments and activities." Below this is a white cup of coffee with a brown beverage. At the bottom right, there is a logo for "PONTESBURY BAPTIST CHURCH" with a green cross and sun icon. The text "All ages welcome" is written in white at the bottom right.

FEBRUARY BINGO NIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to help make our Bingo evenings such a success, we are pleased to report that we made a good profit, the money raised will greatly help with our ongoing costs.

We are hopeful that we will be able to run another Bingo event later in the year.

If anyone would like any information on our club, please contact

lynnettedbeedles@gmail.com





Police Surgery Dates

We continue to conduct police surgeries to answer any questions you may have regarding any issues and concerns in your local area.

Pontesbury Pavilion Community Hub & Library

TUESDAY 21st APRIL AT 14:00-15:00

SATURDAY 25th APRIL AT 11:00-12:00

THURSDAY 30th APRIL AT 16:00-17:00

Please note Surgeries can be cancelled at short notice due to operational requirements and officer availability. Officers will endeavour to notify the public if this is the case. Thank you.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

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



Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Exhibition 25 Apr - 21 Jun 2026
Tickets: www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events



Sat 25 Apr, 2026 - Sat 20 Jun, 2026

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery All Day Event Exhibition

Experience the world's most prestigious wildlife photography exhibition as it arrives in Shrewsbury.

Celebrating its sixty-first year, this globally acclaimed showcase from the Natural History Museum in London features breath-taking images that reveal the hidden stories of our planet's wildlife.

Tickets for the exhibition can be purchased on the day from the Museum Shop.

Admission fees: £7.50 for adults; £6 for seniors and students; Free for Under 16s

£4 for SMAG Friends and Art Fund Members.

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday and is closed Sunday and Monday.

Sports & Activities

Longden Club



***** OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 18TH APRIL *****

We invite Juniors, Teens and Adults to come and see what tennis at Longden Tennis Club is all about!

Hot drinks on offer and a friendly chit-chat
from 12pm – 3pm

Call or email to book your slot

Longden.tennis@gmail.com

07710 472104



Pontesbury Potter

2026 - many people joined the popular Severn Hospice event which marked its 30th anniversary in 2026.

Well done to everyone who took part.



Pontesbury Sports Association

AGM

**2nd April at 7pm
at the Pavillion,
Pontesbury SY5 0RF**

Every Mon
6 - 7.15 Yoga in Pontesbury
Congregational Hall
Every Mon 7.30 - 8.45



Yogalates in
Pontesbury
Congregational Hall
Contact
vickywood72@gmail.com
for more information

Tai Chi in Pontesbury 2-4pm on Tuesday in The Public Hall

Are you feeling in need of a little gentle exercise after the festive season?
Tai Chi is amazingly effective for many health issues or just for enjoyment!

Our group is suitable for beginners or for those with experience.
Come along on Tuesday afternoon and see what you think.

Deadline for May 2026 edition is Wednesday 15th April 2026 - please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk. Please send .jpgs or .png - no .pdf docs - thank you.

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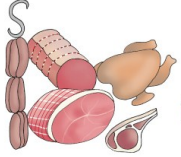


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The Spy Who Loved Her is a story of faith, courage and redemption.

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Until she meets the spies, she had never known a perfect day. They strike up a fragile agreement. When danger closes in and Jericho's rulers tighten their grip, Rahab must prove she can be trusted with secrets that could cost lives. Aware that Shalma is attracted to her, and with betrayal lurking in every street, there is no time for romance and faith becomes her anchor.

Written by local author, **Eliza J McCormack**. The book is available on Amazon.co.uk as paperback and e-book.

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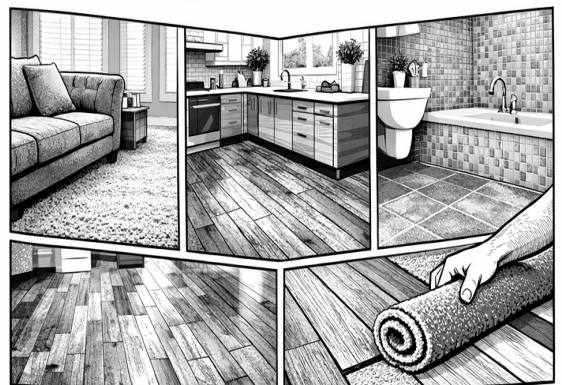
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APRIL 2026 DIARY

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Regular Weekly Events | | | |
| Every Mon | 6.30-7.30pm | Pontesbury Runners (experienced runners) | Meet corner of Brookside & Minsterley Rd |
| Every Mon | 6.00-7.15pm | Yoga | Pontesbury Congregational Church Hall |
| Every Mon | 7.00-9.00pm | Monday Badminton Club | Mary Webb School, Sports Hall |
| Every Mon | 7.30-8.45pm | Yogalates | Pontesbury Congregational Church Hall |
| Every Tue | 10.00 - 12.00 | Rea Valley Foodbank | Holy Trinity Minsterley |
| Every Tue | 10.30-12.00 | A Welcome Brew | Baptist Church |
| Every Tue | 2-4pm | Tai Chi | Public Hall |
| Every Tue | 8—9 am | Pilates for Core Strength | Public Hall |
| Every Wed | 10.00-12.00 | Sea Change Drop-In for under 5s - free session | Pavilion - Term-time only |
| Every Wed | 10.30-12.00 | Coffee/Chat and Fellowship | Pontesbury Congregational Church |
| Every Wed | 2-4pm | Tea Break - tea, cake and a chat | St George's Church |
| Every Thu | 10.00-12.00 | Rea Valley Foodbank | St George's Church |
| First Thu | 3.30-5pm | Messy Church Spring | St George's Church |
| Every Thu | 2pm | Short Mat Bowling | Public Hall |
| Every Thu | 2pm | Cruckton Art Group | Cruckton Village Hall |
| Every Thu | 7-9pm | Badminton Club | Mary Webb School, Sports Hall |
| Every Fri | 10.00 | Walking Local Footpaths | Meet at School Green |
| Every Fri | 10.00-12.00 | Coffee Stop | St George's Church |
| Every Sat | 9.30-12noon | Pontesbury Gardeners Open | Trading Post |
| Every Sat | 7.30pm | Whist Drive | Yockleton Village Hall |
| April 2026 | | | |
| Wed 1st | 1200-1pm | Lent Lunch | St George's |
| Wed 1st, 15th & 29th | 2-4pm | Age UK Dementia Support Group | Pavilion |
| Thu 2nd & 9th | | Cruckton Art Group - Tuition Sessions "Seascape" | Cruckton Village Hall |
| Thu 2nd | 7pm | Pontesbury Sports Association AGM | Pavilion |
| Sat 4th | 10am - 1pm | FOPL Coffee Morning | Pavilion |
| Tue 7th | 6.30pm | Pontesbury Parish Council - Planning Committee | Pavilion |
| Wed 8th | 1pm | Probus Club | Arscott Golf Club |
| Thu 9th | 2.00pm | Rhymetime @ the Library | Pavilion |
| Fri 10th | 10.30-11.45 | Good Neighbour Scheme Coffee Morning | The Plough Inn, Pontesbury |
| Mon 13th | 2.00pm | Pontesbury WI | Public Hall |
| Mon 13th | 7pm | Pontesbury Parish Council meeting | Pavilion |
| Tue 14th | 7.30pm | Pontesbury Women's Club | Public Hall |
| Wed 15th | 2pm | u3a - Cuan Wildlife Rescue | Minsterley Parish Hall |
| Fri 17th | 7.30pm | Film Night - The Colour Room | Habberley Village Hall |
| Fri 17th | 7.30pm | Film Night - Mr Burton | Marton Village Hall |
| Sat 18th | 10am-1pm | Rea Valley CWG Walk - Gatton Yamp | Meet at Gatton Daffodil car park |
| Sat 18th | 10am - 1200 | Coffee morning | St Mary's Church, Habberley |
| Sat 18th | 1200 - 3pm | Longden Tennis Club Open Day | Longden Tennis Club |
| Mon 20th | 11am-1pm | Get Creative Group - FREE - bring along any project | Pavilion |
| Wed 22nd | 7.30pm | West Shropshire Flower Club | Westbury Village Hall |
| Fri 24th | 10.30am | Pontesbury Carer's Group | Pavilion |
| Sat 25th | 7.30pm - late | Midnight Symphony | Minsterley Parish Hall |
| Sun 26th | 10am - 1pm | RVCWG Beechfield Dingle Wild Flower Walk | Meet at Brockton |
| Tue 28th | 7-8pm | Minsterley Parish Hall AGM | Minsterley Parish Hall |
| Wed 29th | 10am-3.30p | Shropshire Hills Forum & Fields Visit | Clun Memorial Hall |
| May 2026 | | | |
| Sat 2nd | ALL DAY | PONTESBURY BIG GREEN DAY & PLANT SALE | PONTESBURY VARIOUS |

Closing Date for May 2026 issue is Wednesday 15th April 2026 - please email deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk