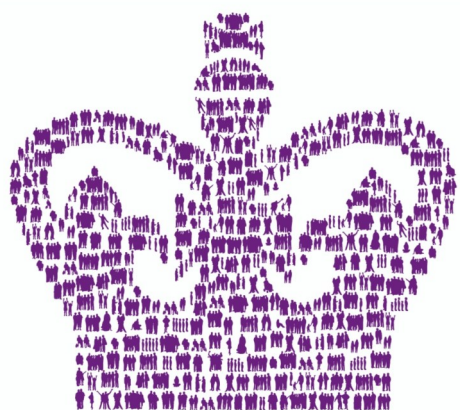


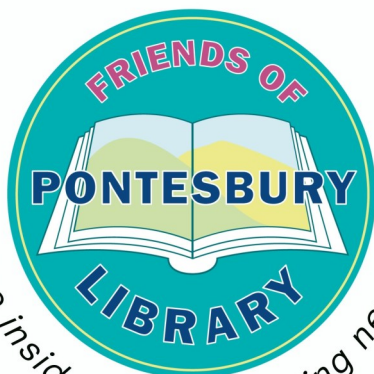


# Pontesbury Parish Newsletter



## The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The Friends of Pontesbury Library are very proud to be awarded the **King's Award for Voluntary Service** - The MBE for Volunteer Groups



See inside for our exciting news!!

## PONTESBURY PLAYERS PANTO

☆ 2026 ☆  
Don't Put your foot in it

# Cinderella

2 The Sequel

© WRITTEN BY Malcolm Whiffall

## 28<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> JAN

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
7.30 PM  
PLUS 2.30 PM SAT MATINEE

RAFFLE!

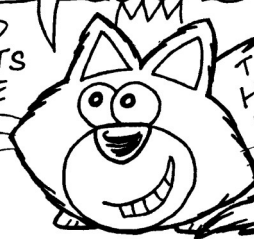
at Pontesbury Public Hall

ADULTS: £8  
YR 11 & UNDER: £5

BAR: THUR, FRI, SAT EVENING



LIMITED TICKETS ONLINE FROM 2ND DEC  
SCAN HERE



TICKETS FROM HIGNETTS IN JAN

TEL: 790228

**DEADLINE for February 2026 issue is:**  
**Friday 16th January 2026**

Coloured copies of the newsletter can be read at  
[www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk/pontesbury-newsletter](http://www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk/pontesbury-newsletter)



**Pontesbury Parish Council** At the November meeting Councillors reviewed the Strategic Plan for the coming three years in order to state priorities ahead of setting the precept in January 2026 for the financial year 2026-27. The Strategic Plan can be viewed on the parish council website. [www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk)

Councillors also received an update on the refurbishment of the public toilets which will be carried out during December. We hope to open the new-look toilets in January 2026. Updates on when the toilets will be closed will be on the parish council website.

The council has recently had the biennial tree inspection carried out for trees the parish council is responsible for, at School Green, around Cricketers Meadow, at the play area and the sports area off Bogey Lane. There are a considerable number of trees and the inspection has flagged up quite a bit of work that will be carried out over the winter. There is significant ash die back present and the council will be deciding on an action plan for replacement trees for any ash which need to be felled, as part of their new Tree Management Policy, currently being drawn up.

Councillors also received the annual report from Shropshire Council for the management of Poles Coppice, please see the highlights from this elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Parish Council has set up a Task & Finish Group to work on renewing play area equipment, with the aim of hopefully having new equipment in place by the Easter school holidays 2026. Equipment will be replaced in phases as funds become available and we need your help to choose new pieces, initially looking at replacing the pirate ship. A consultation will be held at the Pavilion, Hall Bank, during December & January, for young people to indicate what types of equipment they would like in the play area.

The Parish Council would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to say thank you to the local community and volunteers who work so hard to contribute to Pontesbury parish being the thriving, vibrant place to live that it is.

Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 8th December and Monday 12th January at 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Hall Bank. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 1st December and Monday 5th January at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk) if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues.

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- Pontesbury Panto
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- Request for VNL Deliverer
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- Pg 20** - Dates for your diary



**St. George's Church Pontesbury**

## Christmas Tree Festival, December 5th - 7th

Entrance £3, children under 16 free

**The Theme This Year is:**  
**"Family at Christmas"**

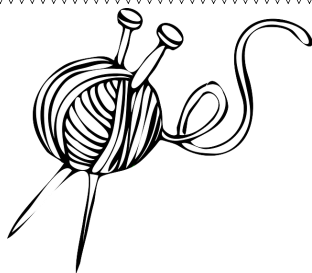
**Set up Wed 3rd 9:00am - 6:00pm**  
**Opening times**

Friday 5th	10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 6th	10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 7th	12:30pm - 4:30pm

Featuring on SAT 6th, 6pm - 8pm  
Sing-Along Among The Trees,  
with Stiperstones Brass Band and St George's Choir.  
£3 includes Mince pie and mulled wine

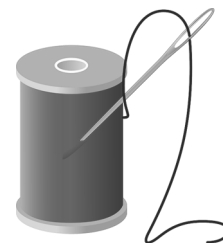
**Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments,  
Toilets, Disabled Facilities**

If you would like to enter a tree contact  
**Marianne McCall**  
Phone: 07944 333830  
Email: [marianneccall.17@gmail.com](mailto:marianneccall.17@gmail.com)



We hope to see you for  
**‘Get Creative Group’:**

at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on  
**Monday 1st & 15th December 2025**  
**Monday 5th & 19th January 2026**



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.



## Rhyme Time



Thursday 11th December  
Thursday 15th January  
at 2pm to 2.45pm

Pontesbury Library @ the Pavilion

Rhymes, stories and songs for children  
under five years old

## Pontesbury Carers Support Group

**Friday 30th January 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.



Pontesbury Dementia Support Group  
Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

Wed 10th December 2025 Time: 2-4pm



Sea Change Trust

**Sea Change Trust Sea** 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 care-  
givers 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

## Pavilion Update - On behalf of us all at the

Pavilion, I just wanted to thank you for your patience  
and bearing with us whilst we have had a few  
technical problems lately. Those of you who  
regularly attend will know that firstly the water boiler  
failed, the solenoid valves stopped working, and this  
meant we needed a new water boiler. Thanks to all  
involved, this is now in place and in working order.

Next, and typically as the weather got colder, the gas  
heating boiler decided to stop working, the pilot light  
was not igniting - therefore, -1 degrees and no  
heating - well done to Anna for getting this sorted  
and we now, hopefully, have heat for the rest of the  
winter months.

*Merry  
Christmas*  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

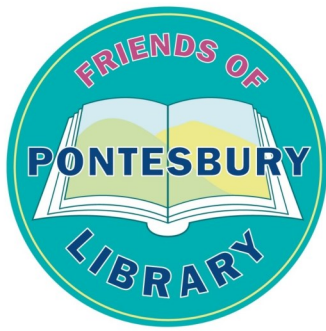
## Pavilion & Library Opening Times

All Pavilion activities and clubs will  
close on Friday 19th December 2025  
and re-open on Monday 5th January  
2026.

Pontesbury Library will close on  
Tuesday 23rd December 2025 and re-  
open on Saturday 3rd January 2026.

May we take this opportunity to wish  
everyone a very Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.





# news

FROM FRIENDS OF  
PONTESBURY  
LIBRARY



The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service

## Christmas in the Library

This year the theme for Christmas decorations in the Library is the famous book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis, in which four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, visit Narnia. Perhaps by the time you receive this newsletter, our decorations will be up, many of them provided by local schools as they have done so generously in the past, and others in library workshops.

There will be a **December Story Time at 3.30-4.15pm on Tuesday 2nd, Thursday 4th, Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th December**, when children and parents or carers can enjoy listening to excerpts from this enchanting story, with refreshments on arrival.

## Halloween Crafting

On 30 October 20 children plus adults were very busy crafting stick puppets of witches, ghosts and bats, together with pumpkins and spiders. Many thanks to all our volunteer helpers.

## Coffee Mornings

The 1st November coffee morning was especially well-attended and enjoyable. The Lottery winners were: 1st Sue & Steve Anderson No. 151, 2nd Caro Schiansky No. 107, 3rd Susie & Ben Osborne No. 61

Coffee mornings are held every first Saturday in the month when the Library Lottery is drawn. The next meetings are on **December 6th and January 3rd**. Forms to take part in the Lottery are available at the library and on the FOPL website.



## Chip it for Charity

We return to the Ark Nursery Car park next to the Pavilion on **Saturday 10th January**. Ben Jones and his Wood Matters team will put your real Christmas tree through the chipper for a recommended donation of £5. Refreshments available. Contact Ben on 07974300328 if you want to recycle your tree and don't have a car. Please remove all decorations!

**Happy Christmas and thank you for supporting the Library.**

## Chip it for Charity!

Bring your Christmas tree to be chipped and raise much needed funding for Pontesbury Library

**Saturday 10th January 2026**

**10.00am to 12.00noon**

Ark Nursery Car Park, Hall Bank,  
Pontesbury

Great for:  
• kindling  
• the garden

Suggested donation £5

• Reduce  
• Reuse  
• Recycle



For more info. contact Ben: 07974 300328





Community  
Good  
Neighbours  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

## News & Events December 2025 & January 2026



### Future Events

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

**Coffee Morning - Friday 12th December 2025 & Friday 16th January 2026.** All are welcome to come along 10:30am to 11:45am at The Plough Inn

**Gentleman's Club** Play cards, read the paper and catch up with other men. Now running fortnightly Call Rob Davies on 07720 010353 for more info.

**Good Neighbours Community Luncheons** will take place on the following Fridays - 23rd January, 27th February and 27th March 2026. All luncheons start at 11.45am and end at 1pm. Tickets must be bought beforehand and can be purchased at the coffee mornings (above) or from Hignett's Shop. Tickets are £10 per head, which includes a 2-course meal and a hot drink.



### Festive Friends 2025

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

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

Transport can be provided.

Arrive for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light  
entertainment and conversation.

All ages welcome

**Time: 11:30am - 3pm**

**Venue: Norbury Village Hall**

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

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



## A Welcome Brew

### COMMUNITY DROP-IN

Tuesdays 10.30am - 12pm

A place to come along, grab a drink  
and have a chat. Free refreshments  
and activities.



All ages welcome



### 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](http://www.reavalleyprobus.org.uk).

**Next meetings:  
10th December 2025 &  
14th January 2026**

**DEADLINE for February 2026 issue is:  
Friday 16th January 2026**

## Church Services - December 2025

**St. George's Church**  
**[www.st-george.org.uk](http://www.st-george.org.uk)**



## Services and activities for December 2025

2nd 2.30pm Tea Service  
7th 10.30am Holy Communion  
11th 3.30pm Messy Church Christingle  
14th Morning Worship without Communion and  
Children's Church  
21st 10.30 am Holy Communion and Children's  
Church  
7pm Carols with the Benefice Choir  
24th 6pm Carols on School Green  
11pm Midnight Communion. Holy Trinity  
Minsterley  
25th 10.30am Holy Communion  
28th 10.30am Group Service Minsterley Holy  
Communion  
Tea Break every Wednesday 2-4pm  
Coffee Stop every Friday 10-12noon

**Pontesbury Baptist Church**  
**[www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://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.

	<b><u>10:30 AM</u></b>	<b><u>6:30 PM</u></b>
Sunday 7th December	Mike Wells	SONGS OF PRAISE
Sunday 14th December	Mike Wells	Ben Jack
Sunday 21st December	Rob Jack	<b><u>5 PM</u></b> Mike Wells (Carols)
Sunday 28th December	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](mailto:info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

## Methodist services for December

7th Dec	10.45 am	Mr. Mike Hallworth to inc. Holy Communion
14th Dec	10.30 am	Rev. Richard Hall - Carol Service
21st Dec	10.45 am	Rev. Brian Spencer
28th Dec	10.45 am	Church Members

# PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES December 2025

Sunday 7th December at 10am Paul Ricard and the Cornovian Singers Choir

Sunday 14th December at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin

Sunday 21st December at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin (Carol Service)

Sunday 28th December at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin

Tuesday's at 10am - Prayer Meeting/Bible study  
Wednesday's 10-12midday - Warm space/coffee and chat

Everyone Welcome.  
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year.

## CHRISTMAS SONGS OF PRAISE

***Pontesbury Baptist Church***  
Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 6:30 pm**



**Discover the extraordinary stories  
behind the hymns and carols!  
with Pastor Mike Wells**

Light refreshments served free of charge!  
[www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk)



## Carols by Candlelight

@ Pontesbury Baptist Church  
Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

**Sunday 21st December 5 PM**

Well-known Carols, Scripture readings, and a Christmas message, followed by mince pies and hot drinks!

No need to book in advance – just come as you are!  
Everyone is welcome!

[www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk)



## Service of Meditation

St George's Pontesbury and St Ruthen's, Longden, have been working in partnership over the last year to offer a service of meditation (in this busy world) on the second Sunday of the month. This is just an hour to stop and reflect. We listen to Taize music, keep silent and meditate, with nothing asked of you. The next services are:

St Ruthen's      Dec 14th at 5 p.m.

St George's Jan 11th at 4 p.m.



# Christmas Services in Minsterley



An evening of  
**Musicals & Carols**  
With Carillion Ladies Choir  
Wednesday December 3rd 7pm  
At Minsterley Methodist Church

Turn at the vets we're on the right hand side down  
Horsebridge Road

Retiring collection for  
The Myositis Association  
and Church Funds

**ALL ARE WELCOME** to our  
wonderful evening of song with  
refreshments



**Christmas at Minsterley Methodists**  
Tuesday Dec 2nd & 16th Together on Tuesdays 2-4pm  
A warm space and welcome, refreshments and chat.

Wednesday Dec 3rd, an evening of Musicals & Carols  
With Carillion Ladies Choir 7pm

Sunday Dec 7th 10am, Advent Family Service

Monday Dec 8th Christmas Crafty Monday's 7pm

Tuesday 9th Dec 12- 1.30pm  
Oasis Bereavement Group Christmas Lunch

Sunday Dec 14th Minsterley Praise 10.30am  
At Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 17th Dec 4-6pm Blue Christmas

Sunday Dec 21st 10am Carol Service

Wednesday Dec 24th 4pm Carols by Candlelight  
A short family candle lit service.

Thursday Dec 25th 10am Christmas Day Service  
You're welcome to bring along a gift you have received.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ANY TIME**



For some finding the joy at Christmas can feel very hard and lonely, but you are not alone. If you are struggling for whatever reason then come and join us at our

**Blue Christmas Event**  
a gentle, contemplative time of reflection at  
**Minsterley Methodist Church**  
Wednesday December 17th  
4-5pm in the church,  
5pm onwards refreshments in the lounge  
and the church will be open for private quiet time  
Join us when it suits you for as long as you wish



The Christmas Story in Carols & Readings  
Sunday December 21st 10am  
Minsterley Methodist Church  
(we're just down Horsebridge Road on the right, turn at the vets) - Refreshments to follow

**Carols by  
Candlelight**

**Minsterley Methodist  
Church 4pm  
Christmas Eve**  
A short carol service  
for all the family.



## Church Services - January 2026

### Methodist services for January

4th Jan	10.45 am	Rev. Richard Hall to inc. Holy Communion
11th Jan	10.45 am	Mr. Wes Morris
18th Jan	10.45 am	Church Members
25th Jan	10.45 am	Mrs. Helen Pearson

### PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES January 2025

January 2026

Sunday 4th January	at 10am Olwen Lethbridge
Sunday 11th January	at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin
Sunday 18th January	at 10am The Deacons
Sunday 25th January	at 10am Rev. Debbie Martin
Tuesday's at 10am - Prayer Meeting/Bible study	
Wednesday's 10-12midday - Warm space/coffee and chat	

Everyone Welcome.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### St. George's Church [www.st-george.org.uk](http://www.st-george.org.uk)

Services and activities for January 2026

4th	2.30pm	Tea Service
6th	3.30pm	Messy Church
8th	10:30 am	Holy Communion
11th	10.30am	Morning Worship without Communion & Children's Church
18th	10:30 am	Holy Communion and Children's Church
25th	10.30am	All Age Family Worship
		Tea Break every Wednesday 2-4pm
		Coffee Stop every Friday 10-12noon

### Pontesbury Baptist Church [www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk](http://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.

*Everyone* of all ages is very welcome! You don't have to book ahead, and there's no dress-code - please just come as you are. We run a creche for toddlers and a Sunday School for children aged 11 and under during our morning service.

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](mailto:info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk)

# Time Out

Why not take Time Out from  
the stresses and worries of  
life for an hour?

2nd & 4th Thursdays of  
each month from 1-3pm  
at St George's Church,  
Pontesbury

Tea, cake and a listening ear

Free of charge  
Everyone welcome

Supported by



We have a vacancy for the role of  
**Show Secretary.**

We are looking for a dedicated  
individual that has great organisation  
and communication skills, attention to  
detail and IT skills.

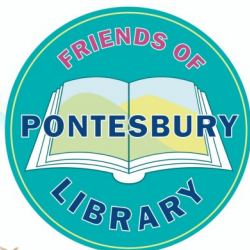
Please contact Sophie at  
[press@minsterleyshow.org.uk](mailto:press@minsterleyshow.org.uk) or  
07552905584 to express an interest.

**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





### The King's Award for Voluntary Service



## THE FRIENDS ARE VERY PROUD TO BE AWARDED THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE - THE MBE FOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS

It was announced on 14th November – HM King Charles' birthday – that The Friends of Pontesbury Library are to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025. The Award will be presented by the King's Lord Lieutenant in Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner, at a future date. Recently appointed FOPL Chair Caroline Wright said, 'I'm proud to lead such an effective voluntary organisation, now granted this splendid Award, and we look forward to sharing the celebrations with the whole community.' Pontesbury Library Manager, Beverley Dunn, commented, 'I greatly appreciate the support and assistance the Friends give to the library; many activities would just not be possible without them.'

In the light of FOPL's work both to save Pontesbury Library from closure and to make it 'MORE THAN JUST A LIBRARY', we were nominated for the Award by Roy Bower, retired Head Teacher Mary Webb School, Greg Smith, local rector, and Martyn Cribb OBE, retired HM Inspector of Schools. The Friends would like to thank them all very much. We also thank Shropshire Library Service and Pontesbury Parish Council, with whom we work closely.

Bob Boden, inaugural FOPL Chair and Bid Co-ordinator said, 'It's an honour for Pontesbury to receive this Award in recognition of the commitment and very hard work by our volunteers and the support of our local community'. Yvonne Davies, Trustee and previous FOPL Chair, added 'We are highly delighted to receive this prestigious Award on behalf of the many volunteers who have worked with such passionate commitment to keep our library open. It's now truly a much-loved library for the whole community, as this Award recognises.'

## End-of-year Greetings from Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a



**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



As 2025 comes to a close, Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a would like to wish all our members – past, present, and future – a warm and wonderful Christmas, and a happy and healthy 2026.

This year has been filled with energy, friendship, and discovery. Our membership has grown again, we've welcomed new faces, and our groups have been busy as usual – learning, laughing, and living life to the full.

We have **over 25 interest groups** – there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore! And more are started if there is sufficient interest.

- Art History
- Astronomy
- Board Games
- Café Society
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Embroidery
- Family History
- Folk Music
- Gardening
- Geology
- History
- Literature
- Local History
- Photography
- Pickleball (2)
- Play Reading
- Poetry (Full)
- Table Tennis (3)
- Walking (Long)
- Walking (Short)
- Wine Tasting
- Wood Carving



u3a activities are geared towards those no longer in full time employment. So if you have spare time and would like to stay active, curious, and connected, why not make u3a part of your new year?

And if you are struggling to find that elusive gift for a friend or family member who you think would enjoy becoming part of our u3a, membership from January 2026 to March 2027 is available as a **gift voucher** for just £15.00. – the perfect gift that lasts all year!

Check out our website for more details or contact **Steve** our Membership Secretary and Chair:

**Phone:** 07861 531 186

Or come and meet us in person at our **Christmas Party** on the **17th December**, 2pm at The Pavilion.

From all of us at u3a – have a wonderful Christmas, and here's to a year ahead filled with new experiences, new friends, and laughter!



**Deadline for February 2026 edition is Friday 16th January 2026** - please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to [deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk). Please send .jpgs or .png - no .pdf docs - thank you.

## Ask the Animal Healer – Rebecca Rea

Therapeutic help for animals and their people

### Pontesbury newsletter helps the animals!

Thanks to people reading this newsletter I have been able to help two families in need.

Through my work as a complementary animal therapist an ageing Staffie is now able to walk better than ever and is in less pain, and the owner, instead of feeling alone and worrying every day that she is not doing enough to help her old companion with arthritis, now feels supported. With the vet's approval she reduced his medication, lowering side effects and saving money. Collaborating with other complementary therapists, I have signposted the Staffie to an animal chiropractor, with the vet's consent, this has helped greatly too.

When another family found the newsletter at exactly the time they needed help, I was privileged to meet Bella the King Charles Spaniel. Despite years of experience with rescue dogs, the owners found that Bella was so traumatised by being ruthlessly bred and abused by a woman and then abandoned, that even a year down the line she can still barely tolerate contact without freezing in fright.

Though she still needs a lot of support to let go of her traumas and gentle coaching to learn what kind human contact feels like, she is finally able to relate a little more and that brings a tear to all our eyes after her harsh life.

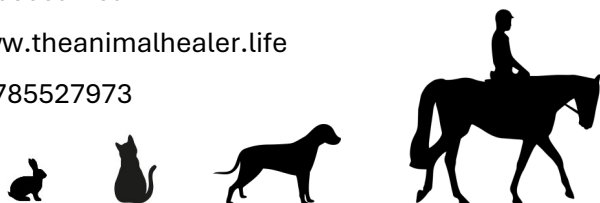
Do get in touch if you are struggling, and please help our community newsletter to help others by spreading the word.

I am local and work on a donation only basis so I can help as many animals & their families as possible without financial barriers.

Rebecca Rea

[www.theanimalhealer.life](http://www.theanimalhealer.life)

07785527973



## REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

### Annual Public Meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Habberley Village Hall

7-9pm (Doors open 6:45pm)

Refreshments provided.



Join us in a celebration of our wildlife discoveries in 2025 in the Rea Valley area and see our plans for 2026

Incorporates a short session on RVCWG official business.

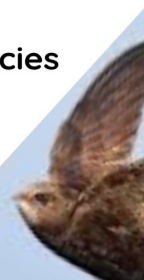
### Including a Swift talk

by Julie Cowley, SOS Swift Species Champion



Everyone welcome - you don't need to be a member of the RVCWG to attend

More information email: [reavalleycwg@gmail.com](mailto:reavalleycwg@gmail.com)



### Pontesbury Women's Club

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

**Tuesday 9th December**

PWC Christmas Party with Quiz

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Fish & Chip Supper

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Catherine Cooper –author of Children's Books

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 10th November. We had a very different meeting as we held our Christmas Craft Fair. A big thank you to everyone of our WI members who contributed to making items to sell. We had a great time meeting many new friends from Pontesbury who supported us by attending. We also made money which we will give to local Pontesbury charities. The WI is also busy crafting getting ready to decorate our tree for St George's Church Tree Festival. The theme this year is family and the WI is like an extended family. Our Christmas lunch for WI members will be held on 8th December and we are really looking forward to been entertained by singers from Pontesbury Primary School.

The craft club will be held on 9th December.

For further information please contact Irene Windows President on 01743791903 for further information.

Maxine Pittaway Events Organiser



**West Shropshire Flower Club** held their AGM in October, which was followed by a club competition. During the AGM the President and Chairman outlined what a successful year the club and members had had at local and regional competitions.

After the formal section, member Pen Harrison who is a qualified judge, gave extremely helpful and informative judging and feedback on the large number of arrangements that had been brought in by members. The theme was 'Autumn Colour', and was divided into two classes; Experienced and Novice. The arrangements were a wonderful mix of reds, oranges and yellows. 'Enjoy it', was her initial advice. She stressed, read the schedule and make sure the arrangement meets the criteria for size, and content. Exhibits can be disqualified if they are bigger than the space allowed, or contain certain items (RHS don't allow any floral foam). Don't use artificial plant material, which includes not only fake flowers but, in the case of some of the members exhibits, small plastic pumpkins! She then went on giving pointers on the arrangements. Think about contrasting forms and textures. Make sure plant material is in scale to the overall exhibit (all big leaved foliage or small leaved or an equal mixture but not a single large leaf placed in the middle of small). Also some flowers such as spray chrysanthemums can be very large and visually heavy, some of the blooms can be cut out to make the head less dense. When considering what container to use, make sure it is not too dominant in colour or size. Prizes were awarded, but it was agreed that everyone was in a better position to improve their arrangements with the insights given.

All meetings at Westbury Village Hall on last Wednesday of month. Start at 7.30pm, visitors welcome £10



## Minsterley Eisteddfod

Do you enjoy writing? Is there a story buzzing around in your head, a poem perhaps or do you love a limerick.

At Minsterley Eisteddfod we have classes for all ages covering stories, poems, creative writing, hymn words and limericks.

On these dark winter nights why not put pen to paper, finger to keypad or drag out that old typewriter.

For full details of all our classes go to our website [minsterleyeisteddfod.com](http://minsterleyeisteddfod.com) or phone 01743 791045 for a schedule.

We would love to hear what you have to say 😊

Please note the closing date for entries is 5th February 2026.

**MARTON VILLAGE HALL** will be showing films in December and January

"Paddington in Peru" on 12th December  
"Downton Abbey" - The Grand Finale " on 16th January

Please note that the film in December is on the second Friday of the month, not the third. Films will start at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are £5 for the film and £5 for fish & chips which must be pre-ordered. Enquiries and pre-orders from John Rice on 01743 792790 or 07810 230860

## MARCHES CHOIR and MARCHES SINFONIA St NICOLAS CANTATA Benjamin Britten



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

Saturday 13th December, MARCHES CHOIR and MARCHES SINFONIA; a 50 strong choir plus soloists and gallery choir, plus ensemble, present Benjamin "Britten's St Nicholas Cantata" and Britten's "Simple Symphony" (far from simple!).

St John's Church, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AA.  
7.30pm, tickets £15 (children and students free),  
07806 433394, online from TicketSource, or on the door.



Steve Coogan, Björn Gustafsson, David Herrero

12A

## The Penguin Lessons

Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

**Habberley Village  
Hall**  
SY5 OTP

**Friday  
12 December**  
7.30 pm

**Tickets**  
Standard: £6.00

Enquiries: 07977 127161

Doors open 7pm. FILM AND FISH & CHIPS SPECIAL! Ticket and food £15 - a complete night out! Food served 7pm sharp. Please pre-order by calling 07977127161 by midday Thursday.



Information and Tickets at [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

**FLICKS  
IN THE  
STICKS**



Benedict Cumberbatch, Ncuti Gatwa, Allison Janney

15

## The Roses

A modern reimagining of the 1989 classic The War of the Roses, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman. A picture-perfect couple's marriage spirals into a fierce, darkly comedic battle for their dream house after his career tanks and hers soars, igniting a tinderbox of hidden resentments and competition.

**Habberley Village  
Hall**  
SY5 OTP

**Friday  
9 January**  
7.30 pm

**Tickets**  
Standard: £6.00

Enquiries: 07977 127161

Doors open 7pm. FILM AND FISH & CHIPS SPECIAL! Ticket and food £15 - a complete night out! Food served 7pm sharp. Please pre-order by calling 07977127161 by midday Thursday.



Information and Tickets at [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

**FLICKS  
IN THE  
STICKS**

**PONTESBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL** At the end of October, we took the entire school to St George's Church to celebrate our Harvest Festival. The children all performed a poem, prayer or story to the rest of the school, and Rev. Greg led an interesting sermon on 'where in the world our food comes from' and said thank you to God for all he provides.

On Remembrance Day, the school took time to remember all those who have been killed/ affected by war. At the Cenotaph, our Year 6s read the names of the fallen from Pontesbury in both world wars and we observed a 2 minute silence as an act of reflection and remembrance.

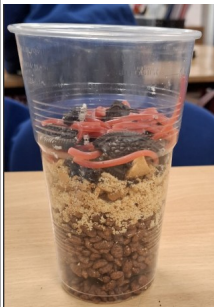
We have had a very busy term so far with lots of wonderful events and learning taking place, here is a taste of some of the things that we have been up to...

We had a whole-school push to get to the Junior Park Run with lots of children (and grownups) attending on a Sunday morning for a 9am start!

Year 3 visited Shrewsbury Museum for a Stone Age workshop where they found out about Shropshire's woolly mammoth and experienced what life might have been like back in the Stone Age times.

We attended a KS2 multiskills event which saw some of our children take part in new sports such as archery, boccia and new age kurling. This was well led by the Year 9 pupils at Mary Webb.

The school were visited by a band from Shropshire Music Services and we had a 'Rockin' time!



There has been lots of interesting learning taking place - Year 1 have been creating art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's sculptures using natural materials (see photo) and Year 3 have been investigating our soil levels using biscuits, Coco Pops and chocolate to represent each layer (see photo).



Our Christmas preparations are well underway and as I write this in my office, the joyful singing of our youngest children is resonating throughout school as they prepare for their nativity. Our older children will be singing our Christmas Carols at church to their families.

Pontesbury CE Primary School would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are still taking bookings for the parents of prospective pupils (for 2026/27 starters) to come and visit our wonderful school before applying (by 15th January 2026). Please call the office on 01743 790226 to book.



# Pontesbury Parish Council Report - Pontesbury Countryside Sites Management

Report date; November 2025

## **Introduction:**

As well as caring for Poles Coppice Countryside Heritage Site, Shropshire Council Parks and Countryside Team also look after the former Nils Quarry which is also a popular site for local people wishing to benefit from easily accessible walking routes in pleasant surroundings

## **Works undertaken this year:**

### **Visitor facilities**

At Nils Quarry, picnic tables will be installed over the winter months alongside the new path that has been constructed. The small parking area for the site will also be re-surfaced to make easier access to the site.

### **Former quarry at Poles Coppice**

Quarries are important habitat features for a range of wildlife and often tell an important geological story for visitors to the site, with various geological horizons visible on the rock face. The main quarry at Poles



Coppice features a rich mosaic of open scree, wetlands and boundary scrub. Without management intervention, the habitat mosaic can easily be lost to scrub encroachment. In an exciting collaborative project with our partners at Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team, work will be tackled over the winter months to clear a large amount of scrub from wetlands and scree slopes within the quarry. The Young Rangers Volunteer Team (a number of whom live in Pontesbury) will assist with this work alongside our Rangers and partners at the National Landscape Team. The Young Rangers Scheme has proven to be an important way that young people (mainly teenagers) can get involved with countryside management work, with all the benefits that can bring.

**Health and safety** Currently the team are working on a rock face policy and are looking at safety signage requirements for Poles Coppice, to comply with health and safety guidelines.

**Grassland management** The meadow at Nils Quarry will be cut and collected to create a healthy sward for wildflowers to continue to thrive.

**Financial position;** With the declaration of a financial emergency at Shropshire Council, the relationships that we have forged with partners at town and parish councils are proving to be more important than ever and allow us to continue with the important work to manage countryside heritage sites. With that in mind, Shropshire Council is once again asking Pontesbury Parish Council for a grant for financial year beginning April 2026

**And finally;** Special mention is needed for Joe Penfold, our colleague within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team. The collaboration between Joe and our wonderful Ranger team is proving really fruitful for the Countryside Heritage Sites in and around Pontesbury

**A big thank-you!** Thanks to Pontesbury Parish Council for your ongoing support with the management of Poles Coppice Local Nature Reserve. Any questions about site management, please contact Edward Andrews (Country Parks and Heritage Sites Manager) [edward.andrews@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:edward.andrews@shropshire.gov.uk)

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERER WANTED** - if you'd like to become a newsletter deliverer and get your steps up, we have a vacancy arising in February. The round is on the north side of Minsterley Road, starting with Chapel House, (attached to the Congregational Church), all of Ash Grove, the Old Police House and houses along Minsterley Road, and all of the new estate at Youngs Way - 41 properties in total. The round usually takes 30 minutes.

Please contact Nicki, on 07951 205519 or email [deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk) if you would like to help. The current deliverer is able to do the round with you in February. Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.



Rea Valley Foodbank wishes everyone in our local communities a Happy Christmas and New Year – we couldn't do it without our donors, supporters and volunteers. Christmas and New Year Opening times.

Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley <b>TUESDAY</b>	St George's Church, Pontesbury <b>THURSDAY</b>
16 December Open as usual + Xmas extras	18 December Open as usual + Xmas extras
23 December Open as usual + Xmas extras	25 December <b>CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
30 December Open as usual	1 January Open NEW YEAR'S DAY

### Extra Funds help bring some Winter cheer

The Foodbank successful with an Asda Foundation Grant & was awarded £750. This was presented by Anne-Marie Eggby, Asda Community Champion, who met our volunteers in October. The money will go towards ongoing costs of buying in some items, and vouchers for fresh produce to use in specific local shops.



The Callow Club at Worthen kindly donated £300 from their raffle at a performance by local band Tin Soldiers. We are so grateful for this local support, and it is much appreciated.

Harvest Festivals – Thank you. Over the Autumn the Foodbank has greatly benefitted from generous donations from Harvest Festivals at our schools, churches, and other organisations. All items go to local people in need and reduce our costs.

To use the Foodbank, or find out more: Call for a chat with Rev. Greg Smith 07902 794653 or Rev. Richard Lonsdale 07922 830488, or ask your GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.



Margaret Marsden, Anne-Marie Eggby, Asda Community Champion, Joan Rogers and Wendy Williams

### NATURAL ENGLAND - Notes from the hill

So, as winter takes hold on the Stiperstones for another year and another year comes to an end, I am hanging up my warden boots and retiring from the hill after 16 years of having the pleasure of looking after it. My family and I fell in love with the hill and the area as soon as we headed over here from the flatlands of Lincolnshire. We were welcomed into the Shropshire Hills by so many people and have made many friends here. 16 years is the longest we have remained in one place, and we are now firmly rooted here in Shropshire. However, it is time to hand the reins over to someone else, Chris Parker. Fortunately, I have a handover period with Chris so hopefully I can introduce him to all the wonderful people associated with the hill and the role of site manager of one of the best National Nature Reserves in the country.

Over the last 16 years you may not have noticed much change, but there are a number of things that I am particularly proud of being part of including: the restoration of the miners cottages at Blakemoorgate as part of the 'Once Upon a Hill' project, the close involvement in a number of landscape scale schemes including the Stiperstones and Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme which resulted, amongst other things, in the formation of the Marches Meadow Group and Curlew Country which are still going strong today. I have helped set up four hay meadow festivals and probably trained and introduced more than 200 local people to the joys of scything, which I will continue to do.

In partnership with the National Trust, we launched the Stepping Stones Project which has seen some great outcomes for nature and saw the creation of the Middle Marches Community Land Trust which has gone on to secure land for nature conservation, such as the purchase of Minsterley Meadows.

With the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, we ran a project restoring the wet flushes on and around the hill, habitat that is so important for rare flowers and butterflies and we have worked with the trust to help purchase key areas of land around the hill. We two have added some areas of land abutting the hill, two of which have been purchased with your help, through crowd source funding.

We have worked closely with our common graziers to encourage more cattle grazing on the hill. Recently with help from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape we have helped facilitate this through the construction of fencing and water sources and the provision of satellite positioning collars.

This has all culminated in the recent extension of the National Nature Reserve to an area over three times the size of the hill that Natural England manage and I am expecting great things from the newly created Stiperstones Landscape National Nature Reserve partnership, for nature and for the people that use and live around it.

We live in a spectacular place, rich in nature that we can be really proud of, and there are so many ways that everyone can get involved and support this outstanding area, I for one will certainly continue to do so.

**Simon Cooter and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak** *We wish you a happy retirement Simon, from us all in Pontesbury Parish*





# Sports & Activities



## Pontesbury Monday Night Badminton Club

Every Monday - 7-9pm

£35 per term

Sports Hall, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury SY5 0TG

A fun social club, a small amount of badminton experience required. Members must be over 18 years of age.

Please come and join us.

Any questions please contact pontesburymnbc@aol.com

## SHORT MAT BOWLS

2pm every Thursday

in the Public Hall

4th, 11th & 19th December

2026 - from 8th January until the end  
of March.

Newcomers welcome.

Ring Jan James 01743 790417 for  
further info

## Mary Webb School Archery Club

This year's Shropshire County Clout Archery competition was held on 26 October 2025 on the playing fields of Adam's School Newport, Shropshire – a return to this venue after a 4 year absence. Clout archery events are held all over the world but the UK is one of the centres of this form of the sport. In Clout archery, all participants aim at Flags stuck in the ground at distances between 80 yards and 200 yards (or 75m and 185m for the metric – FITA - version). There are several different distances shot, depending on age and gender:

80y or 75m	- Under 12 and Under 14 boys and girls
100y or 90m	- Under 16 boys and girls.
120y or 110m	- Under 18 boys and girls. Also veteran ladies.
140y or 125m	- Under 21 Men, Adults Ladies, Veteran men.
180y or 165m	- Adult men.

This year's Shropshire Clout was a FITA clout with all distances measured in metres. The weather was cool, cloudy and windy with rain falling towards the end – but this didn't dampen the spirits of all who took part in the event.

Shropshire has held a County Clout for approximately the last 30 years, always on the clock changing weekend at the end of October. Our Mary Webb Archery Club meet on a Friday after School, on the football pitch behind the school or in the Sports Hall during the winter. Most of the time we shoot at conventional coloured round targets. But occasionally we practice Clout archery – always a popular decision. Not many archery clubs have the facility to shoot Clout archery – it needs a lot of space and requires specialist coaching. Thankfully our school club's coaches include two people who have been UK clout champions – one of them three times!

This year Mary Webb sent a record number of archers to the event, six in total and all of them came home with medals:

Under 12 boys.	80 metres	Finlay Darby, yr 7	Gold. Barebow (no sights)
Under 14 girls.	80 metres	Rosie Taylor, yr 9	Gold. Barebow (no sights)
Under 14 boys	80 metres	Thomas Evans, yr 7	Gold. Barebow (no sights)
Under 14 boys.	80 metres	Oliver Lewis, yr 7	Silver. Barebow (no sights)
Under 18 boys.	110 metres	Adrian Draugalis, yr 10	Gold. Barebow (no sights)

An ex Mary Webb Student, Tommy Evans, won the Adult gold for recurve bows with sights. He started his archery career at Mary Webb School in the early years of our club.

**Do you have any Sports News?** If you are a member of a team or take part individually in sports or activities, please send your news and photos to the Newsletter editor at:

deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

You can also advertise your team, sport or events to gain new members, as well as encourage people to take part.

We'd love to hear from you.





**Tony Porton**

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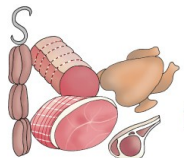
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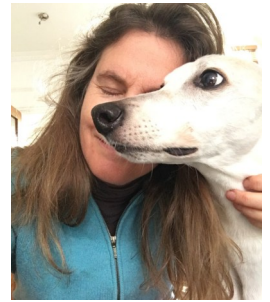
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Carpentry. Plumbing.  
Kitchens. Bathrooms.  
Fences.

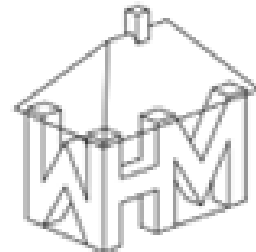
Odd jobs & more.

All work is fully guaranteed and insured.

References willingly supplied – just ask.

Call Steve Percival: 01743 860712

0794 0894 378



You could see an advert for your company in this newsletter. If you would like to advertise your business in the Pontesbury Parish Newsletter please get in touch with Nicki, [deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk). The costs of advertising depend upon the size of the advertisement and where you live or where your business is based.

You can advertise for one month to a full year of 10 months (there is no newsletter in August and one newsletter for December/January) - you choose how many adverts.



# DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Regular Weekly Events</b>			
Every Mon	6.30-7.30pm	Pontesbury Runners (advanced/intermediate)	Meet corner of Brookside & Minsterley Rd
Every Mon	6.00-7.15pm	Yoga	Pontesbury Congregational Church
Every Mon	7.00-9.00pm	Monday Badminton Club	Mary Webb School, Sports Hall
Every Tue	10.00 - 12.00	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30-1200	A Welcome Brew	Baptist Church
Every Tue	2pm	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 parents/carers of under 5s - free session with refreshments	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
<b>First Thu</b>	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	7.30pm	Whist Drive	Yockleton Village Hall
<b>December 2026</b>			
Fri 5th to 7th	From 10am	St George's Christmas Tree Festival	St George's Church
Mon 1st & 15th	11am -1pm	Get Creative - FREE just bring along your projects -	Pavilion
Mon 1st	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Planning Committee	Pavilion
Thu 4th, 9th & 11th	2-2.45pm	Rhyme Time/December Storytime	Library
Sat 6th	1030-1230	Friends of Pontesbury Library Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Sat 6th	2.30pm	Why Nature Matters—workshop to learn about helping nature recover—FREE suitable for families	Pavilion
Sun 7th	6.30pm	Songs of Praise	Baptist Church
Mon 10th	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council meeting	Pavilion
Wed 10th	2-4pm	Pontesbury Dementia Support Group	Pavilion
Fri 12th	10-1200	Community Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn, Pontesbury
Fri 12th	7.30pm	Film: "Penguin Lessons"	Habberley Village Hall
Fri 12th	7.30pm	Film: "Paddington in Peru"	Marton Village Hall
Sat 13th	7.30pm	Marches Choir & Sinfonia	St John's, Bishops Castle
Wed 17th	2pm	u3a Christmas Party	Pavilion
Sun 21st	5pm	Carols by Candlelight	Pontesbury Baptist Church
<b>Jan-26</b>			
5th & 19th	11am -1pm	Get Creative - FREE just bring along your projects	Pavilion
Fri 9th	7.30pm	Film: "The Roses"	Habberley Village Hall
Sat 10th	1000-1200	Chip It For Charity	The Ark Nursery Car Park
Thu 15th	2-2.45pm	Rhymetime	Pontesbury Library
Fri 16th	7.30pm	Film: "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"	Marton Village Hall
Thu 22nd	7-9pm	Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group Public Mtg	Habberley Village Hall
Fri 23rd	11.45-1pm	Community Neighbours Luncheon	Public Hall
Wed 28th - Sat 31st	See poster	PONTESBURY PLAYERS PANTO - Cinderella 2	Public Hall
Fri 30th	10.30am	Carer's Group	Pavilion