



Help Us Create the Play Area You Want!

The Parish Council are currently working on a project to replace old and unused items in the play area off Station Road. There is a decent amount of funding to create something special, to install play equipment for juniors and seniors, whilst also enhancing the toddler area.

Due to ongoing vandalism, ageing and wood rot, it has been decided to remove the pirate ship from the play area. Over the last few years the Parish Council have spent £100s replacing wood and fixing problems. This item will be replaced with something with the same play value.



The wooden structure within the sand pit is now over 20 years old and it is proposed to put a rope net pyramid climber in this area.

The Parish Council have asked 5 play equipment companies to come along and consult with you, to provide pictures of their proposed designs so that you can help us choose.

This consultation will take place on Friday 13th March 2026, from 12 noon until 4pm in the Pavilion. Please come along during the afternoon and after school to have a look and choose your favourite pieces of equipment.

Following this date, the play company designs will be on display for the following 2 weeks in the Pavilion, with comment papers for you to let us know your thoughts.



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

People from outside the Parish are interested in what's going on in our vibrant parish, so please bring your newsletter back to the Pavilion to be reread.
Many thanks

**DEADLINE for March 2026 issue is:
Friday 13th February 2026**

Pontesbury Parish Council At the January meeting Councillors set the budget and the precept level for 2026-27. The precept will be £234,000 which is a 10% rise on last year's precept. (approx. 30p/week increase on a Band D property). There are some significant costs this year involved in replacing old concrete streetlight columns and a contribution towards the essential replacement of certain play area equipment as illustrated in the article on the front page.

We hope to open the newly refurbished public toilets at the beginning of February and we think you will agree that they are much improved. We have built in greater security measures which we hope will protect this much valued public facility. Thank you for your patience during the closure of the toilets.

At the meeting councillors approved a grant of £800 towards storage for equipment used in valuable outdoor play activities at Pontesbury Primary School.

The council is also working with the primary school and the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group on an exciting wildflower mini-meadow project in the village. Children and families will be planting up wildflower plugs and seeds, growing them on and then at the Pontesbury Green Day event on 2nd May they will plant out the seedlings to create the mini-meadow. This will showcase how much even small changes in the way we garden can help towards nature recovery locally. The council is very excited to be working on a project involving the younger residents in the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th February at 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Hall Bank.

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The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 2nd February at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk if you would like to attend.

Welcome to 2026, the National Year of Reading. The theme is 'Go All In'.

There will be lots of events and promotions, supported by libraries and schools, delivered by the National Literacy trust. The aim is to promote the joy of reading in all forms and how it fits into all hobbies and interests. We hope to have a few local events in Pontesbury, but I'm sure you can tell from the FoPL piece, they have a very busy schedule this spring.

The Thursday afternoon slots have proved very popular during the school holidays. There will be another 'Crafting with Gill' at half term.

I always think of February as the month of poetry and love, this will be reflected by the book collections and themes. Fancy a book with a red cover?

Don't forget to follow FoPL on Facebook and Instagram, where they keep you up to date with activities and any news or nice photos from the library.



The library Owl.

Rea Valley Probus Club

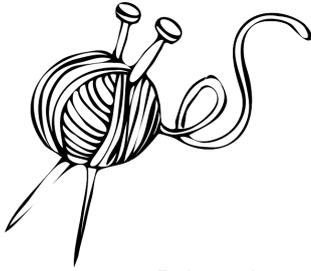
All meetings are at Arscott Golf Club, on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. For further information and contact details please visit our website, www.reavalleyprobus.org.uk.

Next meeting: 11th February 2026

Our dear Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother Kathleen Farmer passed away on 11th January 2026 in Shrewsbury Hospital.

Her funeral is at Worthen Church on Monday 9th February at 11.00 a.m.

Please [email edwinatj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edwinatj@hotmail.co.uk) if you wish to attend



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

at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on
Monday 2nd & 16th February 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.



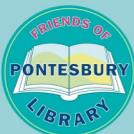
Pontesbury Dementia Support Group
Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion

4th & 18th February 2026 - Time: 2-4pm

Pontesbury Carers Support Group

Friday 27th February 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.



PRESENTS LOCAL
ACCLAIMED WRITER &
OXFORD BIOLOGIST



LIAM SHAW

Saturday

14 March

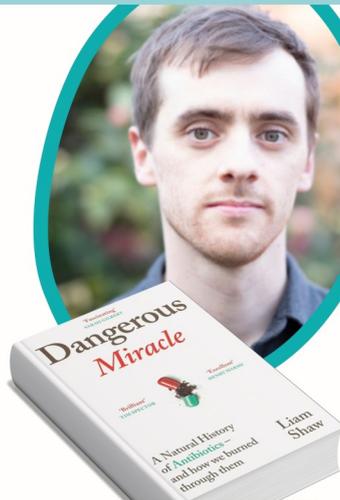
7:00 for 7:30 pm

Pontesbury Pavilion,
Hall Bank, SY5 0RF

**Dangerous
Miracle**

Join Liam for an engaging, accessible talk on his new book exploring how antibiotics transformed medicine - and why their future is at risk.

No scientific background required!



Book of the Week -
September 2025



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.



**Unfortunately
there will be no
RHYME TIME
during February.**



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.

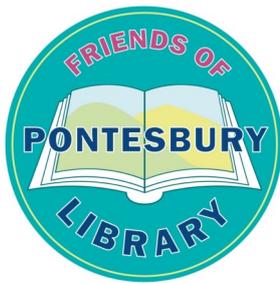


TICKETS

£10 from Hignetts, Pontesbury Library and TicketSource

Raising funds to support Pontesbury Library





news

FROM FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

Polar Journeys

Thanks to everyone who flocked to this sell-out fund-raiser and bought raffle tickets! Ben Osborne shared a brilliant, amusing and personal take on journeying to both polar regions, with stunning visuals. It was a real treat and a great community event, special thanks to Ben and all the organisers.

Christmas in the Library

Christmas decorations of snowflakes and cheery robins were created by local children, at crafting workshops and sent in by Longden and Pontesbury CE Primary Schools. A big thank you to all for their beautiful contributions. They reflect C.S. Lewis's well-loved book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This was read to children across 4 sessions in December, heralding the **2026 National Year of Reading** promoting reading for pleasure.



Coffee Mornings

December & January coffee mornings were well attended, despite wintry weather.

Lottery winners were:

December

1st Doreen Thomas, 36
2nd Susie Osbourne, 59
3rd Doreen Thomas, 35

January

1st Gill Scriven, 177
2nd M. Roberts, 190
3rd Andrew Hill, 97

Bonus Maggie Challoner, 29

Coffee mornings and Lottery Draw are held every first Saturday in the month, and the next one is **February 7th, 10.30-12.30**. Forms to join the Lottery are available at the library and on the FOPL website.

Chip it for Charity

Regretfully, Storm Goretta's heavy snowfall meant we had to cancel this popular event at short notice. Many thanks to Janet Walsh for having organised it so well again, to those who saved your trees, and a special thanks to Ben at Wood Matters for trying so hard to make it work - the weather was against us.

Further dates for your Diary!



Children's Craft Workshop:
Thursday 19 February, 2.00-4.00pm,
Pavilion. All children welcome to this half-term event, with an adult.



**Presentation of King's Award
for Voluntary Service (KAVS):**
Saturday 7 March, 10.30-12.30,
Pavilion.

A very special coffee morning, culminating in a visit by **The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner**. She will be presenting FOPL volunteers with our engraved KAVS Crystal and Certificate from the King. We hope that all our valued regular customers will join us for this celebration, delicious home-made cakes and hot drinks available as usual.



Talk: Dangerous Miracle
Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm,
Pavilion.

We are delighted to welcome local writer and Oxford biologist **Liam Shaw**, introducing his acclaimed new book on the history and future of antibiotics. **Tickets £10:** Hignetts, the library and TicketSource - see poster elsewhere in this issue for full details.



Plant Sale:
Saturday 2 May, 10.30-12.30,
Pavilion.

This is advance notice of a favourite annual event, in conjunction with Pontesbury's Green Day. It's not too soon to begin planning - think seed sowing, cuttings and plant-divisions, please!

Thank you to everyone who supports our precious Community Library



Community
Good
Neighbours
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

News & Events

February 2026



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

Coffee Morning - at the Plough Inn are Friday 13th February and Friday 13th March start time 10.30 till 11.45.

Good Neighbours Community Luncheons are Friday 27th February and Friday 27th March start 11.45 & finish 13.00 at Pontesbury Public Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the coffee mornings or Hignetts. The luncheons do not run after March as we all go into Spring with hopefully better weather!

YEARLY ROUND-UP FROM THE PONTESBURY & REA VALLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME 2025 has been another very busy year for the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours organisation, with twelve dedicated volunteers and six committee members working extremely hard on a wide variety of activities to support the community.

The monthly Coffee Mornings at the Plough in Pontesbury are very well supported and continue to be a success, with the smaller groups at the "Coffee and Chat" meetings and the Gentlemen's Club providing support to those who prefer to meet in an environment where this a smaller group of like-minded individuals. Often those who attend the smaller groups then gain the confidence and the desire to attend the larger Coffee Mornings and the Luncheons, which is great to see.

The Luncheon at the Public Hall in Pontesbury has had another successful year, with around forty people attending, and the events will continue to be organised until March 2026. The Committee would like to thank the volunteers who work tirelessly either cooking, serving, helping behind the scenes, setting up the hall, clearing up afterwards – the Luncheons would not be possible without the time given by these individuals.

The Good Neighbours group supported the Carers' Event this year with the provision of a donation for a buffet lunch and some musical entertainment, which was well received by those who attended.

Good Neighbours also provided items or funds for other events and activities in 2025 which included the provision of Easter raffle hampers to local schools, food and disposable plates and napkins for a local school "Fun Day" fund raiser, gifts of clothes and toiletries to local vulnerable people, and biscuits to the Rea Valley Food Bank at Christmas for hampers.

This year's Christmas Meal was held at The Gates at Ford, where 47 guests and eight volunteers enjoyed a three-course meal. The Good Neighbours committee organised the post-lunch musical entertainment and provided transport to and from the event. The feedback from those who attended was tremendous, with everyone enjoying the meal, the entertainment and the chance to catch up with friends.

The "Festive Friends" activity, supported by the Good Neighbours group, once again ensured several individuals who would otherwise have been alone at Christmas were able to share a festive meal with others on Christmas day.

2026 promises to be just as busy as previous years. With regular meetings, luncheons, coffee mornings and smaller groups continuing to provide the support to the community that is so desperately needed.

The Committee would like to record its thanks to the Pontesbury Co-Op, Pontesbury Parish Council, Hignett's, Pontesbury One Stop, The Plough at Pontesbury, and to all members of the community who have made donations to the Good Neighbours group, and to those from the community who help out in so many ways. The ongoing activities of the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours group would not be possible without the support from all these individuals, groups and companies.

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

PONTESBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Services - February 2026

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



Services and activities for February 2026

1st 10:30 am Holy Communion
3rd 2.30pm Tea Service
5th 3.30pm Messy Church
8th 10:30 am Morning Worship without
Communion & Children's Church
15th 10:30 am Holy Communion and Children's
Church
18th (Ash Wednesday) 7pm Holy Communion
22nd 10.30am All Age Family Worship

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

Methodist services for February

1st Feb 10.45 am with Dr John Woolley
8th Feb 10.45 am with Rev Richard Hall to inc
Holy Communion
15th Feb 10.45 am with Wes Morris
22nd Feb 10.45 am with Rev Brian Spencer

PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES February 2026

Sunday 1st February at 10am The Deacons.
Sunday 8th February at 10am The Rev. Debbie
Martin.
Sunday 15th February at 10am Tim Bateman.
Sunday 22nd February at 10am The Rev. Debbie
Martin.

Tuesday at 10am Prayer Meeting.
Wednesday at 10-12midday 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.

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



Rev Fergus Butler-Gallie talking on his new book '12 Churches'

With his trademark reverence and revelry, The Revd. Fergus Butler-Gallie
travels through time and place to get to the heart of the religion he is so
passionate about.

Twelve Churches is a quest for a new people's history of Christianity, told
through the stories of twelve churches scattered across the globe. Through
a patchwork of interlinking and varied human stories, Butler-Gallie takes us
on a physical and historical journey, exploring the role of hope, faith and
beauty in Christianity, but also its fraught relationships with sex, violence
and power.

The story of Christianity is, he shows, the story of our modern world: it's a
story of who we should be, as well who we sometimes are.

FREE ENTRY - BOOK SIGNING - LIGHT REFRESHMENTS



5 February, 2026
7:00 PM



St George's Church
Pontesbury SY5 0PP

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10689

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

Prepared by Christian women from NIGERIA

"I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-30

Friday 6th March 2.30pm

at PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

Followed by refreshments

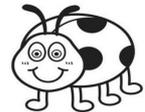
Everyone is very welcome!



Beetle Drive

with

Pancakes



Tuesday 17th February

West End Room

St. George's Church

7pm

£5 per ticket - available from



Mary 791069
Marianne -
07944 333830





Tom Basden, Sian Clifford, Tim Key, Carey Mulligan

12A

The Ballad Of Wallis Island

An eccentric lottery winner, who lives alone on a remote island, dreams of getting his favourite musicians back together. His fantasy turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

Haberley Village Hall
SY5 OTP

Friday
13 February
7.30 pm

Tickets
Standard: £6.00

Enquiries: 07977 127161

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

Flicks
IN THE
STICKS



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

Severn Hospice
here and at home

21 March 2026
Mary Webb School,
Pontesbury

Pontesbury Potter
30th ANNIVERSARY

13 miles of meaning!

Take part in our sponsored 13-mile hill walk

Sign up now & support your local hospice!
severnhospice.org.uk/events

FR Registered with the Financial Conduct Authority
Registered Charity 512394



BINGO NIGHTS



SATURDAYS 7th & 28th FEBRUARY

Pontesbury Public Hall 6pm start

£1 Entry to include cup of tea or coffee.

Bring your own cold drinks.

Light Refreshments Hot Dogs, Cakes

All welcome to join us for a fun, social evening.

For Further Information

Sue Potter 07964 714750

email lynettedbeedles@gmail.com

PONTESBURY AND DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB

Snowdrop Walk

Lingen Davies
Cancer Support

February 21st & 22nd 2026

Winsley Hall, Westbury, SY5 9HB
10:30am - 4pm

CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

DOGS ON LEADS WELCOME

£5 ENTRY PER PERSON
(UNDER 12S GO FREE)

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GATE AND IN ADVANCE

WWW.LINGENDAVIES.CO.UK/SNOWDROPWALK

Plant a tree on Pontesford Hill Saturday morning 28th February from 10am-12md.

The Friends of the Hill have cleared an area of plantation conifers near to the dens and the Lower Camp. Now we need your help to plant 200 native mixed woodland saplings. Families welcome, children must be accompanied. Bring your garden spade. There will be directions from the car park.

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

Christmas at Pontesbury Primary School Although a little delayed, I wanted this article to paint a picture of how fantastic our school Christmases are.

Our youngest children learnt and performed a nativity filled with brilliant singing, beautiful dancing and great acting. I have to remind myself, when watching such a fabulous performance, that our youngest performers are just 4 years of age and our oldest are only 7 and they were all able to perform to a hall full of grown-ups! Well done to all of our stars.

Our older children visited St George's Church for a Carol Service where our Year 6s performed a 'modernised' nativity. They did a brilliant job in acting this out and the rest of our KS2 children enjoyed singing carols to our families. They especially loved singing 'Merry Christmas Everyone' at the end! Thank you to all at St George's for accommodating us.

This Christmas, we have tried to get out and about in the community to spread a bit of Christmas cheer. The children visited the PCC at the Plough, the Pontesbury WI and Clifdale where we sung Christmas carols or songs from our nativities.

In school, our last week often focuses on a Design and Technology project which saw our children creating stockings, Christmas cards with electric circuits in them, mittens and other wonderful designs.

We wanted to say a BIG thank you to our Friends group, Mrs Green and Shrewsbury Brass Band for our 'Carols around the Tree fundraiser.' Thank you to Arscott Farm for the donation of a lovely Christmas tree (which I can highly recommend). As if that wasn't enough, we also managed to squeeze in an end of term quiz where each year group has a series of questions to answer on the learning they have completed over the term. Fancy a go? Try these:

Reception: What is subitising?

Year 1: Jesus told special stories that we can learn from. What are these called?

Year 2: How many days did the Great Fire of London last?

Year 3: What are the 3 eras of the Stone age called and can you say them in order?

Year 4: Which Gods make up the Hindu Trimurti?

Year 5: Name the planets in order.

Year 6: Which river passes through 10 different European countries?

Inspiring author We were visited by Michael McCarthy who is a local author. We were all intrigued to hear how Michael, who is registered blind, has limited long-term memory and has learning difficulties, has overcome different challenges to achieve his goal to become an author. We also found out how he has cycled from London to Paris, completed the London Marathon and won a gold medal in swimming at an international level.

He has great determination and his message was simple: set a goal and 'get on with it' and that you can achieve beyond what you think you're capable of. This ties really well with our school vision to 'Aim High, Climb Higher.'

We are very thankful to Michael for gifting our children one of his books. More information about Michael's incredible story and his books are available on his website just Google 'Michael McCarthy Those Clever Dogs.'

School site Unfortunately, over the Christmas break, we had some trespassers on site. For those of you who have read or seen our previous entries to the magazine, we have been working hard to improve our playtime offer for all children. Sadly, the trespassers were 'messing around' with equipment. Whilst minimal damage has been done, we want to keep our site safe and functioning for all of our children. Please can I remind everyone that our site is private property.



REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MARVELLOUS MOSSES - SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY



Join us as we shrink into the wonderful world of bryophytes!

Discover the intricate world of mosses and liverworts at an upcoming bryology event featuring expert bryologist **Dan Wrench**. This session offers a unique opportunity to explore the biodiversity of an often-overlooked species in their natural habitat.

**Meet: Pontesford Hill Car Park
10am - 1pm**

This event is free, but donations are welcome

Pre-booking is essential as spaces limited. email:
reavalleycwg@gmail.com






Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/reavalley-wildlife-group/



JOIN US TODAY!

Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available



REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS : 2026

Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group at our monthly local walks - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required.

Sun 18th Jan 10am - 1pm Stapeley Saunter <small>Mitchell's Fold Car Park cabbages.update.quantity</small>	Sat 14th Feb 10am - 1pm Snailbeach Woods Walkabout <small>Snailbeach Car Park works.plenty.ecologist</small>	Sun 15th Mar 10am - 1pm Earls Hill Lope <small>Pontesford Hill Car Park marginal.owns.transcribes</small>	Sat 18th Apr 10am - 1pm Gatten Yomp <small>Gatton Daffodil Car Park hedge.scales.freshest</small>
Sun 17th May 10am - 1pm Buxton Hill Stroll <small>Viewpoint Car Park Tankerville games.cheeses.strongman</small>	Sat 20th Jun 10am - 1pm Minsterley Mooch <small>On street, Minsterley mush.harsh.factories</small>	Sun 19th Jul 10am - 1pm Hinton Hike <small>Station Road Car Park, Pontesbury irritated.swift.freedom</small>	Sat 15th Aug 10am - 1pm Pulverbatch Plod <small>Pulverbatch Car Park wriggle.disbelief.housework</small>
Sun 20th Sep 10am - 1pm The Hollies Bimble <small>Snailbeach Car Park works.plenty.ecologist</small>	Sat 17th Oct 10am - 1pm Hope Valley Amble <small>Hope Valley Nature Reserve Car Park movements.ankle.logs</small>	Sun 15th Nov 10am - 1pm Eastridge Excursion <small>Eastridge Wood Car Park buzzards.uniforms.swift</small>	Sat 12th Dec 10am - 1pm Stiperstones Stomp <small>Stiperstones Inn Car Park foods.grownup.overdone</small>



Healthy village,
healthy planet!

SATURDAY MAY 2nd 2026

In venues across the village

Plant Sale

Series of Talks

Biodiversity Workshop

Stalls

Children's Activities

You are warmly invited to an **open
planning meeting** on

Thu 19th Feb at 7 pm in The Pavilion

All welcome. Refreshments served.

Organised by Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group
and St George's Church

LITTER
LETTER 1 from
'The Pop Cans'



Are you horrified to see the amount of litter in verges and hedgerows everywhere in the country?

Just recently, on a 200M stretch of local lanes, we collected 5 cans, 2 bottles [1 broken], a crisp packet, a loaf wrapper, a 'dip' container, and numerous chocolate wrappings! This bounty is not unusual and each item has its own story.....

Let's take an aluminium can for example. An aluminium can is easily recycled - in fact 20 cans can be recycled for the same amount of energy it takes to produce just one new can – and it can be recycled over and over again! The production of the new can releases a toxic mix of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides as well as adding to greenhouse gases and leaving behind a slurry of caustic mud. Lovely! Yet 1.5 million tons of aluminium cans worldwide fail to be recycled each year!!

Why do so many cans end up in the hedgerow? ...

PLEASE LET US KNOW

So, who would do this ? Why would they do it ?

That's what we would like to know.

On behalf of Pontesbury Climate Emergency Group

'The Pop Cans' are appealing to everyone in the local area

SPREAD THE WORD , DON'T SPREAD LITTER

CHAIR YOGA

WITH **DEBBIE RIGBY**

Strength begins with showing up



Join us for a gentle, relaxing Armchair Yoga session with Debbie, a qualified yoga instructor and retired nurse.

Discover how yoga can harmonise body, mind, and spirit, improve flexibility and balance, and bring a sense of calm and wellbeing - all from the comfort of a chair! All welcome - no experience needed!



Wednesday

18 February 2026



Time

2.00 PM



Minsterley Parish Hall

A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free entrance

Refreshments available

pontesbury.u3asite.uk



OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

At our next u3a meeting on **Wednesday 18th February 2026** at 2pm to Minsterley Parish Hall, we'll be welcoming **Debbie Rigby**, a qualified yoga instructor and retired nurse. Debbie will introduce us to **Chair Yoga** – a gentle and accessible way to enjoy the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for support.

Yoga means 'union' – it harmonises body, mind and spirit. Debbie will share a little about yoga's history and philosophy, then guide us through some simple movements and mindful breathing to ease tension and improve flexibility, balance, and relaxation.

A calm and enjoyable afternoon for everyone – no experience or special clothing needed! Participation is voluntary and not a requirement of attending

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 and table tennis ...

Ask the Animal Healer – Rebecca Rea

Therapeutic help for animals and their people

How to help your ageing or dying pet

By Rebecca Rea – The animal healer

Much as we may wish they lived forever, some have longer lives and encounter the challenges of ageing, some die unexpectedly and some hardly get to start their lives. Some die without human intervention, but many more need our help to ease their suffering at the end.

So how can you help them during these times?

From my experience, the first most helpful thing – though it may feel very painful at first - is to face the reality of the situation. No amount of running away emotionally, or repeating 'oh it will be fine!' in denial, will alter what your loved one and you have to live through.

But by being courageous enough to be present physically and emotionally you can turn this last chapter of their lives into one that can be as pain-free as possible, full of kindest and love and that leaves your pet – and yourself – in the most peaceful place as possible.

Keep your eyes and ears open, notice how they walk and move, how they behave, how they communicate to you. If they limp or flinch, or shy away from movement or touch, stop eating or cry out incessantly or do odd things at odd times... they may likely be suffering in some way.

Imagine if you had severe arthritis, or an injury, Dementia, going blind, or were starting to die and were fearful of being around others or outside – then you and other people would probably *know* and believe that you were struggling...we need to recognise it is no different for our pets, whatever species. In fact animals tend to mask their vulnerability and pain so by the time you notice or are willing to acknowledge that they are suffering, it will have been going on for a lot longer than that.

If you would like to talk to me about how you can do more to help your pet and yourself through these times please get in touch, I am here for you and have lots of experience.

I work on a donation only basis and am complementary to any Vet input.

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treatment adding sprayed silver asparagus and grevillea. Her next arrangement was in a large wooden bucket, as a fireside arrangement. Placed within Christmas foliage were pink peony roses, complemented by deep pink carnations and peach holly berries, and she created a gold haze out of ting to complete the arrangements fireside feel. We were given a master class in handtied design when she showed us how to create a frame from gold wire to support the pinkest roses with caramel carnations and pink skimmia, and surrounded with ethereal bright pink sprayed asparagus fern. The frame supported the flowers in an open arrangement which allowed each flower to shine, and in a way I hadn't seen done before. Her last design was within a 2 placement candelabra frame, rich with gold eucalyptus, red roses and anthuriums in a novel design. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful demonstration, using exquisite flowers in fantastic colour combinations.

All meetings at Westbury Village Hall and start at 7.30pm, visitors welcome £10 - next meeting Wednesday 25th February - Anne Whysall – What's your favourite colour

Pontesbury Women's Club

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

Tuesday 10th February

Catherine Cooper –author of Children's Books

Tuesday 10th March

Rebecca Rea – Healing & Therapy for Animals

PWC usually meets at 7.30pm on
The second Tuesday of the month
At Pontesbury Public Hall

Visitors and New Members are always welcome

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Pontesbury WI had the first meeting of 2026 on 19th January. Our guest speaker was Jessica Rose, a Professional Artist who taught us all

how to Lino print. Although some of us ended up with black fingers, we were able to use professional tools to cut out our lino prints then achieve a lovely finished product.

Next month on 9th February we have Caroline Wright giving us a talk about Snow Drops.

The WI had a very busy December, having a delightful afternoon being entertained by Pontesbury Primary School children who sang carols, they were excellent and wonderful representatives of their school - a really good way to start our Christmas activities. We also took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's church with WI members making stockings for our family tree.

The WI craft club will be held on 17th February at the Cock Inn, Handwood at 10am. Everyone is most welcome, it is an open event so why not come along and join us for refreshments and craft activities.

For information about the WI contact Irene Windows, President on 01743791903.



West Shropshire Flower Club The Flower Clubs November meeting was our Christmas demonstration. We were lucky enough to book national demonstrator Vanessa Wellock, who came all the way from Yorkshire. Right from the start she was getting the Christmassy feeling going, arranged in silver train carriages were the most gorgeous dusky pink and white roses, with white hypericum and soft pink astrantia, and given the bling

Sports & Activities

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.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

2pm every Thursday

in the Public Hall

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

Newcomers welcome.

Ring Jan James 01743 790417 for further info

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



Rea Valley
foodbank

Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

Thank you for bringing some Christmas cheer!!

Thanks to all the local support the Foodbank has received we were able to bring some Christmas cheer to local people in need. We really appreciate all those that donated money and items, including: Mary Webb School, staff at Pontesbury GP Practice, The Pontesbury Charity, Rea Valley Good Neighbours and Lea Cross W.I.

It is very generous and does make such a difference. This year the Foodbank ran Christmas Extra sessions where people could choose what they needed, rather than a prepared parcel. Forty-one households benefitted, with 32 receiving vouchers for use at Smith's Butchers, The Flower Shop and Hignett's. We also had some new people referred, and we hope they will return during the year.

Word of mouth has proved one of the most successful ways of people knowing about our service. Please do tell others about us and encourage them to come. You can contact us on their behalf and come along with them to their Foodbank visit. Our volunteers are friendly and non-judgmental, so please do try us.

Please keep donating in-date tinned and packaged food, toiletries, and cleaning products. All donations are very welcome, it is especially helpful if you can check our "Items in Need" on our website <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donating/> Drop them off at Pontesbury Co-op, Village Stores Longden or your local church.

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 local clergy, GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.



Plant a tree on Pontesford Hill

**Saturday morning 28th February
from 10am-12md.**

The Friends of the Hill have cleared an area of plantation conifers near to the dens and the Lower Camp. Now we need your help to plant 200 native mixed woodland saplings. Families welcome, children must be accompanied. Bring your garden spade. There will be directions from the car park.

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

Deadline for March 2026 edition is Friday 13th February 2026 - please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to deputy@pontesburyipc.org.uk. Please send .jpps or .png - no .pdf docs - thank you.

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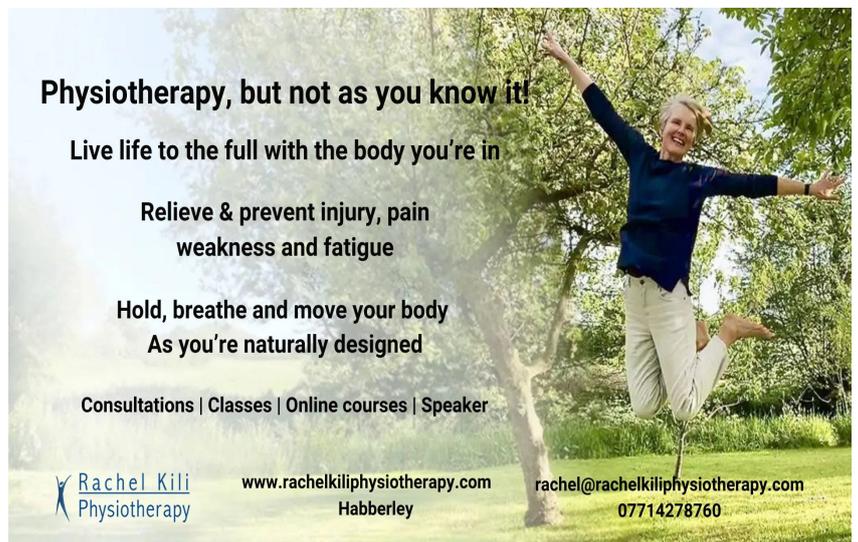
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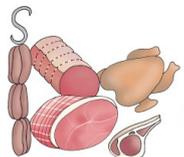


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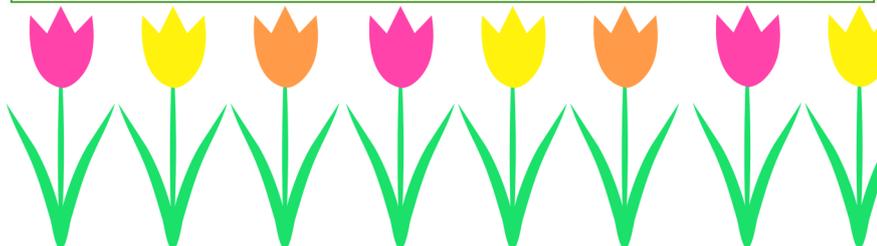


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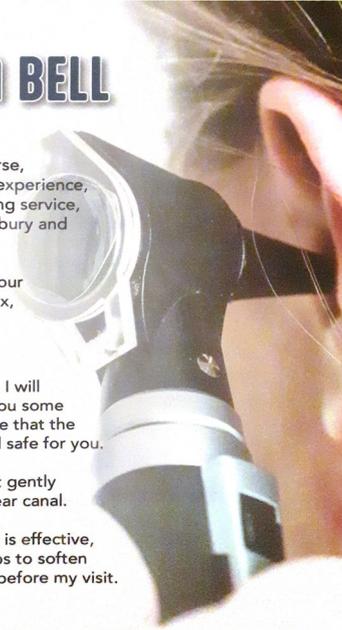
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You can advertise for one month to a full year of 10 months (there is no newsletter in August and one newsletter for December/January) - you choose how many adverts.

FEBRUARY 2026 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Regular Weekly Events			
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 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 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
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	7.30pm	Whist Drive	Yockleton Village Hall

February 2026

Mon 2nd & 16th	11am-1pm	Get Creative Group - FREE - bring along any project	Pavilion
Mon 2nd	6.30pm	Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting	Pavilion
Wed 4th & 18th	2-4pm	Age UK Dementia Support Group	Pavilion
Thu 5th Feb	7pm	12 Churches Talk	St George's Church
Sat 7th	10.30-12.30	FoPL Coffee Morning & presentation of King's Award	Pavilion
Sat 7th	10am-1pm	Rea Valley CWG Walk, Marvellous Mosses	Meet at Pontesford Hill car park
Sat 7th & 28th	6pm	Pontesbury Bowling Club Bingo Night	Public Hall
Mon 9th	2-4pm	Pontesbury WI - Snowdrop Talk	Public Hall
Mon 9th	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion
Tue 10th	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Fri 13th	10.30-11.45	Good Neighbour Scheme Coffee Morning	The Plough Inn, Pontesbury
Fri 13th	7.30pm	Film Night - The Ballad of Wallis Island	Habberley Village Hall
Sat 14th	10am-1pm	Rea Valley CWG Walk - Snailbeach Woods	Meet at Snailbeach car park
Wed 18th	2pm	u3a - Chair Yoga	Minsterley Parish Hall
Thu 19th	2-4pm	FOPL Children's Craft Workshop	Pavilion
Thu 19th	7pm	Pontesbury Green Day Planning Meeting	Pavilion
21st & 22nd	10.30-4pm	Lingen Davies Snowdrop Walk, Winsley Hall	Westbury
Wed 25th	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 27th	10.30am	Pontesbury Carer's Group	Pavilion
Fri 27th	11.45am	Good Neighbour Scheme Community Luncheon	Public Hall
Sat 28th	10-12.00	Plant a Tree on Pontesford Hill	Pontesford Hill car park

MARCH 2026

Fri 6th	2.30pm	World Day of Prayer	Congregational Church
Fri 13th	12.00-4pm	PLAY AREA CONSULTATION	Pavilion
Sat 14th	7pm	FOPL Talk - Dangerous Miracle by Lisam Shaw	Pavilion
Sat 21st		Severn Hospice Pontesbury Potter	Meet at Mary Webb School