



Pontesbury Parish Newsletter

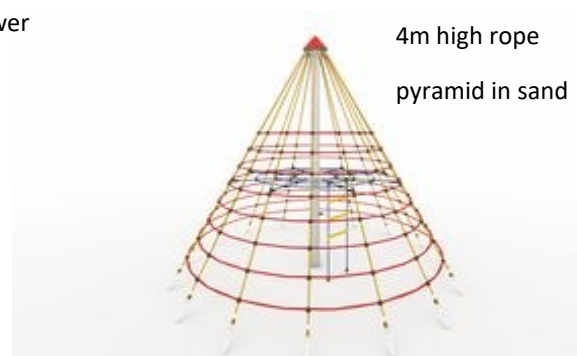
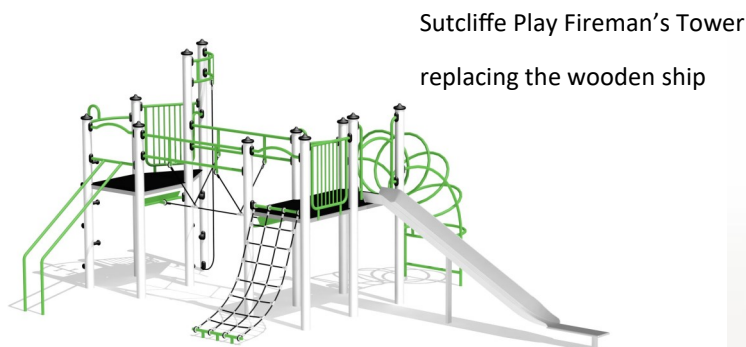
INSTALLATION OF PONTESBURY PLAY AREA

Working with Sutcliffe Play we now have a schedule to install the new play equipment in the Pontesbury Play area.

Sutcliffe Play have reported to the Parish Council that the building of the equipment at their factory will be completed by week commencing 13th July 2026.

The installation will take 2 weeks to complete and the installation of the new equipment will commence on Monday 20th July and end Friday 31st July.

On Monday 20th July Heras fencing will be set up around all the equipment that is going to be replaced, and all other equipment will still be available to play on. The Heras fencing is being installed in readiness to demolish the wooden structure in the sand and the wooden ship. Installation team welfare facilities will be set up on the grassed area nearer the car park.



Pontesbury Parish Council are also purchasing new play sand for underneath the rope pyramid and new surface dust for the BMX track. It is hoped this purchase will fit into the timeline with the installation and completion of the new play equipment.

Following completion of the play equipment installation, at the end of the 2 week period, the new equipment will need to be inspected by a RoSPA qualified Play Inspection, and hopefully this will take place either on Friday 31st July or Monday 3rd August 2026.

We are currently working towards organising a Play Area Open Day, to take place on Friday 21st August from 3pm. There will be goody bags available, including bubble wands, sweets and water, and we are also hoping to get an ice cream van for the day - if any local ice cream traders would like to offer their services, please contact Nicki on 07951 205519.

We're all looking forward to an exciting improvement in the Pontesbury Play area, why not come along and join us in August, bring along your picnic and celebrate a fantastic job with us.

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

DEADLINE for September 2026 issue is: Friday 14th August 2026

Pontesbury Parish Council The June Parish Council Meeting was held in Cruckton Village Hall. One of the main purposes of the June meeting is to approve the end of financial year accounts and to agree that the proper practices are in place governing how the parish council conducts its business. Once approved the information is sent off to the External Auditor (this is a national body who audit local councils across England). Cllr Fletcher wished to thank the Responsible Financial Officer for all her hard work over the past financial year. With such a big council, handling over £200,000 budget, and ensuring constant value for money for local residents and accountability in spending public funds, this is no small task. Cllrs also agreed a new 3 year contract with a local company to clean the public toilets. Four companies were invited to quote but only 2 companies responded. The new contract will begin in July. It was also agreed that the concrete streetlight poles that are being replaced, would be replaced with aluminium poles rather than steel. The aluminium poles have a lifespan of 60 years as opposed to 25-30 for steel poles.

Every three years all parish council owned/managed buildings have to be revalued for insurance purposes to ensure assets are not undervalued. This was approved to take place this year before the insurance is due for payment at the end of September.

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If you would like to place an article or advert in the Pontesbury Parish Newsletter, please get in touch with: deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk. Adverts are different costs depending upon size and where you live or where your business is.

The council Annual Report for 2025-26 is available in this newsletter as an overview of all that has been achieved this year.

Concerns over the refuse bins not being emptied was raised. Shropshire Council are working to remedy the matter. It would really help if residents can report any bins not being regularly emptied to SC using FixMyStreet. <https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/>

Cllrs were invited to visit Nills Hill Quarry & Poles Coppice and see all the improvements and nature recovery work being undertaken by Shropshire Council. Please see separate article about these sites and better still take a walk up to look around at all the work and the new interpretation boards.

Cllr Wallace Johnson (Pontesbury Ward) has stepped down. The parish council would like to thank Cllr Wallace Johnson for her hard work and input especially helping with nature recovery work and the planters at The Pavilion. This means that there are currently three vacancies (one vacancy for the Cruckton Ward and two for Pontesbury Ward) Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in putting yourself forward and joining the parish council team. clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th July at 6.30pm at Habberley Village Hall.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 6th July at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. Please contact Deputy Clerk deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk if you would like to attend and/or raise any issues & hear about the diversion of Footpath 10Y.

Rea Valley Probus Club

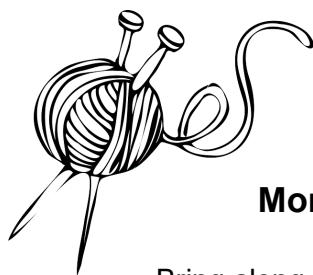
All meetings are at Arscott Golf Club, on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. For further information and contact details please visit our website, www.reavalleyprobus.org.uk.

Next meetings: 8th July & 12th August 2026

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 PAVILION

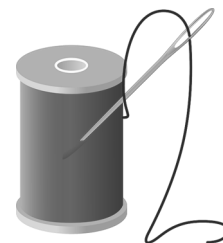
Pavilion News July & August 2026 - What's On



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

**at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on
Mondays 6th & 20th July & 3rd & 17th August 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

8th & 22nd July and 5th & 19th August 2026
- Time: 2-4pm

Please call the Age UK Shrewsbury office on 01743 233123 and ask for the Wellbeing Team, you must pre-book to come along to this group.

Pontesbury Carers Support Group
**Friday 24th July &
Friday 31st August 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.

News from the Library Summer 2026 This year's Summer Reading Challenge officially launches in Shropshire Libraries on Saturday 18th July. The Friends are supporting us this year with craft events, the first being crafting musical instruments. See the FoPL poster for details. More information about 'Read to the Beat' can be found using the QR code below. Pop into the library when we are open and sign up this summer.

Looking forward to pleasant dry weather this summer and spending time outside, the Pavilion has a patio which is available to use. Sit for a while and read sat outside on the benches, bring a snack or even lunch to eat on the picnic table.

Borrow Box has been very popular since its launch, but did you know we also have free access to Pressreader. Thousands of newspapers and magazines available on the App, you just need your library card and PIN.

We look forward to seeing you this summer, we have so much more than books to offer. Join the Shropshire Library

The library owl



THE READING AGENCY
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP UNITED KINGDOM
Shropshire Council

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Launch Workshop
July 18 Saturday
10.30-12.30
Pontesbury Library
Make and Play a Musical Instrument with local community musician Mal Brown

Medal Ceremony
September 15 Tuesday
15.30-16.30
Pontesbury Library
Collect your medal and Read to the Beat with local musician Mary Keith

Children must be accompanied
Refreshments included
Free of Charge

Medal Ceremony

AGES 4-11

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

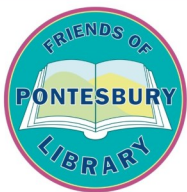
GO ALL IN!
National Year of Reading 2026

Shropshire Libraries
The King's Award for Voluntary Service

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales.



news

FROM FRIENDS OF
PONTESBURY LIBRARY



Royal Garden Party: 12 May

Library Manager Beverley Dunn and myself, Yvonne Davies, were delighted to represent the Friends at the King's Garden Party. Of course, we were slightly anxious about the occasion: what to wear?, were the identity docs correct?! ...

Despite forecasts, we were so very lucky to arrive at Buckingham Palace under blue skies - holding on to our fascinators and clutching our pashminas just in case. It was a thrill to walk beyond the grand palace gates into the really beautifully landscaped grounds, where three bands entertained and refreshment tents offered a lavish array of afternoon teas.

The King and Queen descended the steps to loud applause and walked through the crowd of over 7,000 people to chat to some of us. Bev and I were not amongst those, but it was still a memorable event and we felt honoured that the efforts of Friends of Pontesbury Library were recognised by royalty.



Half-term Painting: 28 May

The children enjoyed painting portraits of their favourite characters outside in the shade in the lovely weather. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make these children's activities possible.



Thank you to everyone who supports our precious Community Library

Coffee morning: 6 June

It was a good turnout, despite the blustery weather, and plenty of catching up was enjoyed as usual, alongside hot drinks and home made cakes. The lucky lottery winners were:

1st Anne Wilson & Barbara Griffiths, No. 34

2nd Sue Edwards, No. 159

3rd Jonathan Walton, No. 163

Future Events



**Summer Saturday Coffee Mornings
10.30am - 12.30pm, Pavilion**

A warm welcome in the library at our next two coffee mornings. A chance to renew your books, enjoy coffee, cake and a chat and maybe even have a flutter on our Library Lottery 100 Club draw. If you're not in the Lottery yet and would like to join there are forms at the library and on our website: pontesburylibrary.co.uk



Summer Reading Challenge 2026:

'Read to the Beat'

Calling all children aged 4-11+ to join the nationwide Summer Reading Challenge and borrow and read six books (or more!) during the Summer holidays.



**Launch Workshop
Saturday, 10.30am - 12.30pm,
Pontesbury Library**

Sign-up at our Launch Workshop, where you can get crafting some noise and play loony tunes in a mini orchestra. Borrow 'Read to the Beat' books from the library to read all Summer long, collecting stickers along the way. Children accompanied please.



**Medal Ceremony
Tuesday, 3.30pm - 4.30pm,
Pontesbury Library**

Then don't miss the after-school Medal Ceremony, a fun-filled interactive journey of music, mouthing and mirth, with maybe a little bit of mayhem thrown in! And a medal and certificate for those who complete the Challenge. Children accompanied please.



Community
Good
Neighbours
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

News & Events July 2026



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

Coffee Morning - The Coffee Mornings are taking a break for the summer, so there will be no coffee morning in July or August and the next coffee morning will take place on Friday 11th September at 11.00am.

Men's Club meet twice a month in the Pavilion. We play cards, dominoes, chess, etc, etc, and most of all we have a chat.
If you are interested contact Rob Davies on 07720 010353



Rea Valley
foodbank

Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

Reaching out to older residents

The rising cost of living affects everyone, but older people have transport needs and must rely on more expensive local shops. A third of people over 60 years only have their state pension as an income. There is a higher-than-average number of older residents in the Rea Valley. We don't want people to skip meals or cut down, when our Foodbank offer is a free top up to a basic shop.

You choose what items you need, we will try to meet your needs, and you can come once, every week or when you need to. We know that older people don't like asking for help, but we want to make it as easy as possible for people to use our Foodbank, so you can come along with a neighbour or relative or be accompanied by one of our friendly volunteers - the majority are retired too.

There are quieter times when we are open and tea, coffee and chat if you wish. It's just one step away to get referred.

If you are concerned about an older relative, friend or neighbour you can contact us on their behalf or drop in and talk to our volunteers when the Food bank is open. You are welcome to come along with them and stay for a cuppa and chat.

Get referred by your local clergy, GP practice, housing provider or other support agency or call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith 07902 794653, email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

See our website www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk Getting Help page.

ACTION NEEDED: all regular financial donors need to change their payments to our **new bank account**. Please also complete and return a Gift Aid Form. See www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk donating page, or contact our Treasurer, Jonathan Brown 07497 142 485 or email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com

Thank you for your support, it's much appreciated



DEADLINE for September 2026 issue is: Friday 14th August 2026

Church Services & Events - July & August 2026

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



Services and activities for July 2026

5th	10:30 am	Holy Communion
7th	2.30pm	Tea Service
9th	3.30pm	Messy Church
12th	10:30 am	Morning Worship without Communion. Children's Church
19th	10:30 am	Holy Communion and Children's Church
26th	10.30am	All Age Family Worship

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

PONTESBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

July

5th July	10am	The Deacons.
12th July	10am	Rev. Debbie Martin.
19th July	10am	Wesley Morris.
26th July	10am	Rev. Debbie Martin.

August

2nd August	10am	The Deacons.
9th August	10am	Rev. Debbie Martin.
16th August	10am	TBA.
23rd August	10am	Rev. Debbie Martin.
30th August	10am	5th Sunday Service, Rev. Debbie Martin

Wednesday's at 10.30am Coffee and Chat.
Everyone Welcome

July and August Services Pontesbury Baptist Church www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

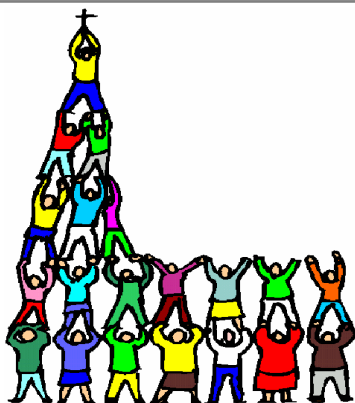
We have services twice every Sunday – at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm – where we sing hymns of worship, hear the Bible read, pray, and listen as God's Word is preached.

	Morning Service	Evening Service
5th Jul	1030 Mike Wells	6.30 Mike Wells
12th July	1030 Rod Ward	6.30 No Service
19th July	1030 Martin Wells	6.30 Rob Jack
26th July	1030 Mike Wells	6:30 Mike Wells
2nd Aug	10:30 Mike Wells	No 6.30 service in August
9th Aug	10:30 Rob Jack	
16th Aug	10:30 Mike Wells	
23rd Aug	10:30 Mike Wells	
30th Aug	10:30 Mike Wells	

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.

If you'd like more information, please email:
info@pontesburybaptist.co.uk



Methodist services for Jul & Aug

5th July	with Rev Brian Spencer
12th July	with Church Members
19th July	with Rev Richard Hall to inc Holy Communion
26th July	with Mr Wes Morris
2nd August	with Dr John Woolley
9th August	with Church Members
16th August	with Rev Sheila MacInally
23rd August	with Mrs Helen Pearson
30th August	with Rev S MacNeil Cooper to inc Holy Communion

All services at 10.45 am

Time Out

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

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of
each month between
2pm and 3.30pm at
The Pavillion,
Pontesbury

Tea, cake and a listening ear

Free of charge
Everyone welcome

Supported by



PROTECT WILD BIRDS

CATAPULTING WILDLIFE IS A CRIME



RECOGNISE / RECORD / REPORT

RECOGNISE: If you see someone with a catapult targeting wildlife it's a crime - Report it.

RECORD: If you have the opportunity to use a mobile phone without putting yourself in danger - Record it.

REPORT: If crime in action call 999 otherwise 101 and report to Animal Crimewatch.



Open Studios 11 & 12 July

9.00 am - 6.00 pm

at

Harlow, Habberley Road, Pontesbury, SY5 0TN



Local artists Gill Scriven, Hugh Scriven, Helen Sample and Bill Sample will be holding an Open Studio in Pontesbury as part of the annual Shrewsbury Open Studios and Arts Trail.

All are welcome

A TRADITIONAL RURAL SHOW
run by volunteers for our community
With thanks to the Halliday family

VRON GATE SHOW



SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026
SHOW OPENS 12:30PM

VENNINGTON, WESTBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY5 9RG
SHOW FIELD WHAT3WORDS - ANIMATED.UNPACKED.VESTING



EXHIBITION
MARQUEE



COMPANION
DOG SHOW



VINTAGE
VEHICLE
PARADE



CHILDREN'S
SPORTS &
ACTIVITIES



CRAFT
STALLS
FACE
PAINTING



LASER CLAY
SHOOTING

SHOW ENTRIES

open to everyone!
Over 120 competition classes
50p per class
Children's classes FREE
www.vrongateshow.com

SHOW DAY SCHEDULE

8.00 - 11.00AM	STAGING EXHIBITS
11.00AM	JUDGING BEGINS
12.30PM	SHOW OPENS
12.30PM	DOG SHOW BEGINS
2.00PM	CHILDREN'S RACES
3.00PM	WELSH BORDER VAULTERS
4.45PM	PRIZE GIVING

ADMISSION

£2.50
ADULTS

CHILDREN UNDER
16

FREE

TEA TENT, BBQ, ICE CREAM & BAR

Thank you for supporting your local show

Join us for an afterparty in the marquee from 7pm.

Contact kate@shropshireruralsupport.org.uk for more
information



SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026

7PM - MIDNIGHT



RCN 1126085

FEATURING
BUSKING SENSATION
JASON ALLAN

AFTER SHOW PARTY

FOOD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
(SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

BAR & MUSIC

VRON GATE SHOWGROUND, SY5 9RG

Adults £10 (in advance) / £15 (if booked after 22nd July)

Children 11-16 years £5, under 11 FREE

Children to be supervised at all times

To book tickets scan QR code or contact
kate@shropshireruralsupport.org.uk
07960 524319



ROAR



2026

MY LIFE AS A MICRO-ARTIST

Between heartbeats and hilarity: the extraordinary life of world-famous micro-artist and celebrated speaker, **Graham Short**

AGM & OPEN MEETING

 **Wednesday**
15 July 2026

 **Time**
2.00 PM

 **Minsterley Parish Hall**
A488, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

 The AGM will be kept short





Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a will hold its **AGM** on the **15th July 2026** at **2.00pm** at **Minsterley Parish Hall**. The meeting will be short and will focus solely on essential business matters.

Afterward, in **My Life as a Micro-Artist**, **Graham Short** will share the astonishing story of his rise from factory floor to Buckingham Palace, revealing the extra-ordinary lengths he goes to create microscopic masterpieces between heartbeats – and recounting hilarious, behind-the-scenes encounters with celebrities and royals. An unforgettable, laugh-out-loud talk from one of the UK's most sought-after speakers.

Following the talk, refreshments will be served, providing an excellent opportunity to reconnect or learn more about our u3a. Both members and non-members are welcome.

Our u3a is part of a UK charity focused on bringing together individuals 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.






SHROPSHIRE'S GREAT OUTDOORS

During the winter of 2025/6, the former quarry at Poles Coppice Countryside Heritage Site has undergone an extensive habitat restoration project. Part of the wider Rescuing Rocks and Overgrown Relics project, and funded by DEFRA's 30by30 grant through the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Rare habitats associated with former quarries such as rocky scree slopes and ponds were restored by means of scrub management, coppicing and wetland excavation.

The process of succession sees open, sparsely vegetated habitats eventually becoming colonised by trees and transforming into woodland. Without some form of intervention, be it through human activity or natural processes, woodland would cover the majority of land and cause more open habitats to all but disappear. Many species are adapted to open habitats, such as Common Lizards and Slowworms that warm their bodies by basking in the open sun, or Grayling butterflies which lay their eggs on sparse clumps of Fescue grasses on dry, well drained ground. The former quarry at Poles Coppice provides the necessary habitat for such species, but rapid colonisation by woodland was shading the scree slopes and choking the ponds.

Habitat restoration was undertaken by volunteer groups such as the Shropshire Hills Young Rangers team, lead by Joe Penfold, and the Shropshire Wild Teams, lead by Simon Brown. Pioneer tree species such as Birch, Willow and Alder were coppiced and then chipped to minimise the amount of space consumed by biomass. Contractors were then employed to excavate the several ponds that had filled with decomposing leaf litter and wetland vegetation. A healthy pond needs about half of its surface water to be open and clear of vegetation, allowing sunlight to reach oxygenating plants and male newts to perform their courtship displays.

Shropshire Council's Parks and Countryside Team are extremely grateful to everyone who has been involved with the Rescuing Rocks and Overgrown Relics project across the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, and we are delighted that this rare habitat has been restored at Poles Coppice.

Pontesbury Parish Council

Annual Report - 2025-2026

**Pontesbury
Parish Councillors
going into 2026-27**

Asterley Ward

Cllr Dave Gregory
07877 458512

Cruckton Ward

Cllr Allan Hodges

07379 965759

Cllr Michelle Trow

07967 308910

Cllr Charles Sandells

01743 860217

1 VACANCY

Habberley Ward

Cllr John Pritchard

01743 790344

Plealey Ward

Cllr Roger Evans –

01743 791002

Cllr Graham Moss

07980 792985

Pontesbury Ward

**Cllr Duncan Fletcher
(Chairman)**

01743 792000

Cllr Nick Hignett

(Vice Chair)

01743 790228

Cllr Douglas Jones

01743 791470

Cllr Adrian Windows

01743 791903

Cllr Ken Day

07801 388377

2 VACANCIES

Chairman's Report 2025-26

Four new councillors (Cllrs Moss, Wallace-Johnson, Jones and Day) joined the parish council in May 2025. They each bring a wealth of professional experience and strong individual skills which will benefit the parish council enormously. I would like to thank them for all their efforts during the last year, and their enthusiasm in learning how to be a councillor and contributing to the existing team. Thank you also to the other councillors who continue to work hard in support of their local communities. Thanks as always to our experienced staff team of Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer all having worked in the Town & Parish Council sector for more than fifteen years. Thanks also to Anna, much-loved and hard-working public face of The Pavilion. Please see the report below on the continuing success of this well-used community building. It has really come into its own in supporting people through these difficult times as well as delivering some great cultural opportunities for the local community.

Highlights of the year for me have been the continued partnership working to bring about benefits for the community such as: working with adjoining parishes on combatting speeding and enhancing biodiversity; the local policing team, Shropshire Library Service / Friends Of Pontesbury Library to enable the continuation of the community library and working with various Shropshire Council departments to research flood alleviation measures. I am also delighted to see the refurbishment of the much valued public toilets completed.



Cllr Duncan Fletcher



Parish Council Staff email addresses

Parish Clerk – Debbie Marais

Deputy Clerk – Nicola Young

Finance Officer - Caroline Higgins

Pavilion Assistant – Anna Lawson

clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

finance@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

admin@pontesburypavilion.co.uk

Parish Council website: www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

Another wonderful project this year was working with Pontesbury Primary School and the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group to create two new wildflower mini-meadows. It was great to work with such enthusiasm from staff and pupils alike. Every class in the school helped to plant the wildflower plugs. It is so important to see the next generation taking an interest in decision making and activities to help **nature recover** in the parish.

The **Parish newsletter** continues to be a highly regarded source of local news and a big thank you to the hard working team of volunteers who co-ordinate delivery of the newsletter and to Deputy Clerk, Nicki Young for successfully editing the newsletter.

Thank you also, to all of the families who got involved in helping to choose the replacement equipment for the **play area**. This valuable facility should be up and running its new form early in the summer holidays.

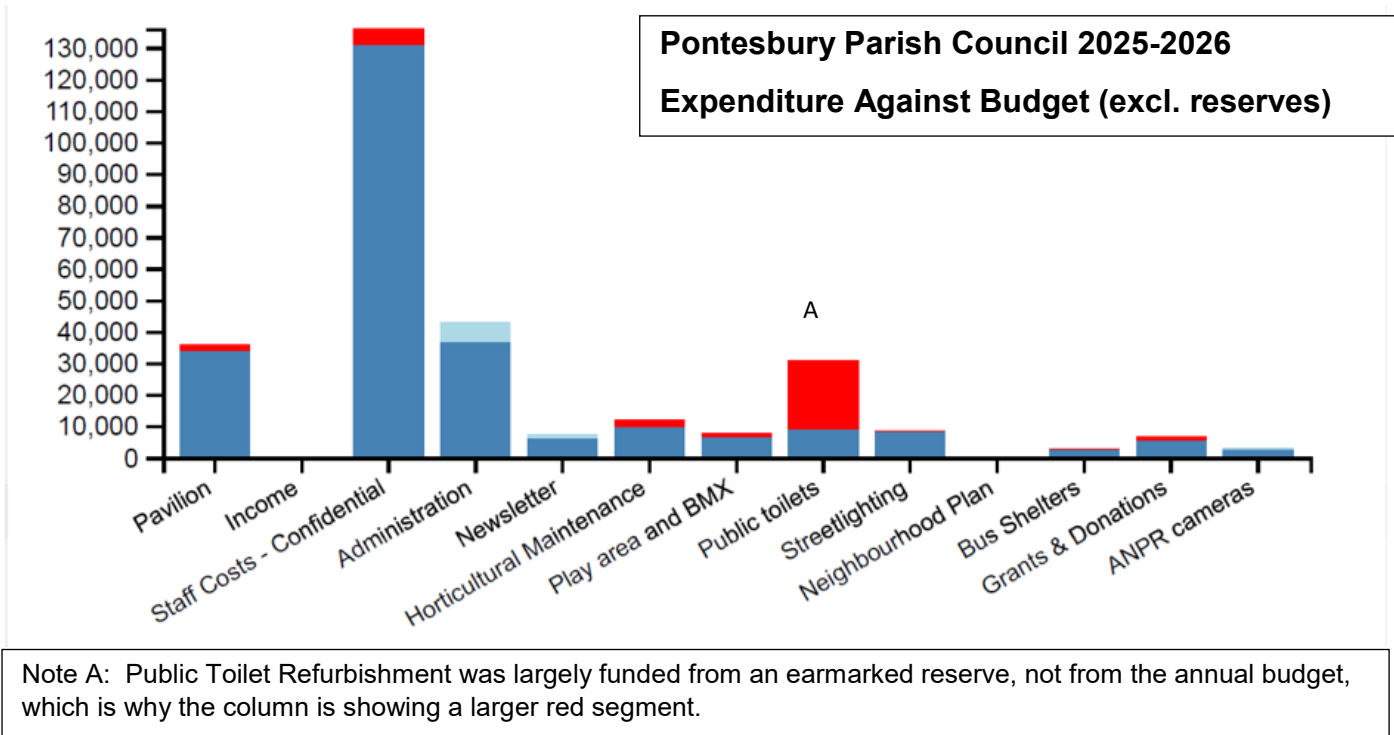
We sadly said goodbye to our grounds maintenance contractors who due to ill health had to stop work. We have now let the new three year contract to another small family company who had worked with our previous contractors.

Community Grants: Grants have been awarded this year towards:

- The upkeep of Poles Coppice
- Remembrance wreath
- P3 group for tools
- The provision of a defibrillator for Plealey
- Wildflower meadow creation project with Pontesbury Primary School
- Rea Valley Green Day for publicity of/engagement with the event
- A shed for Pontesbury Primary School
- A noticeboard for Lea Cross

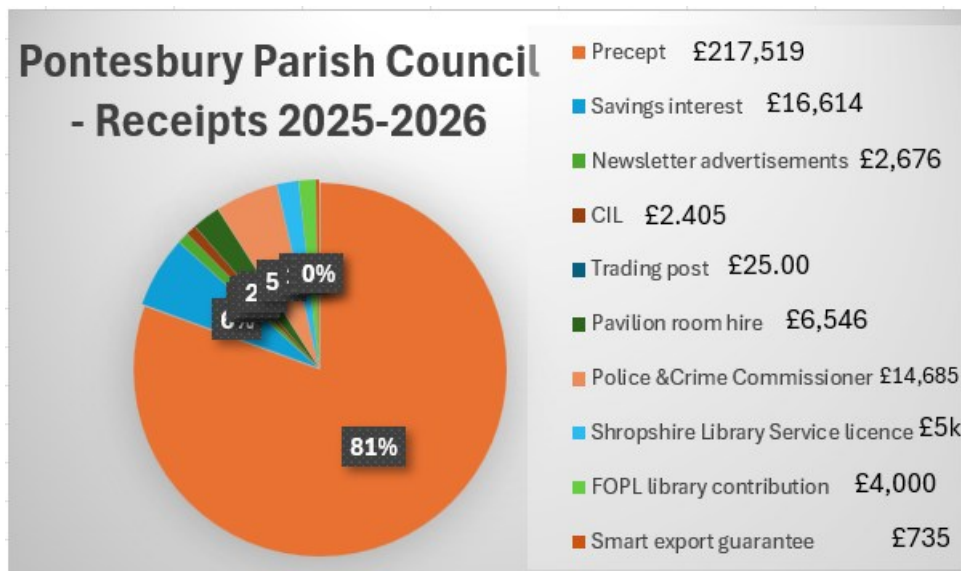
Looking forward to 2026-27..... Unfortunately Cllr Louise Jones had to stand down in April 2026 and Cllrs Davies and Wallace Johnson in May/June 2026, the council thanks them for all of their hard work and contributions. There are currently three vacancies in the parish council team. If you would be interested in joining this ambitious, hard-working team to make a difference in your local area, please contact the Clerk.

We look forward to seeing the refurbished play area and we are working hard to replace the outdated concrete streetlight poles with aluminium ones which give a 60 year lifespan. Watch out for a new noticeboards in Cruckmeole/Lea Cross and a new bench in Cruckton.



Full Financial Information can be found at <https://www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk/parish-accounts-2025-26>

Copies of the Pontesbury Parish newsletter can be found at: <https://www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk/pontesbury-newsletter>



The Pavilion Community Hub & Library

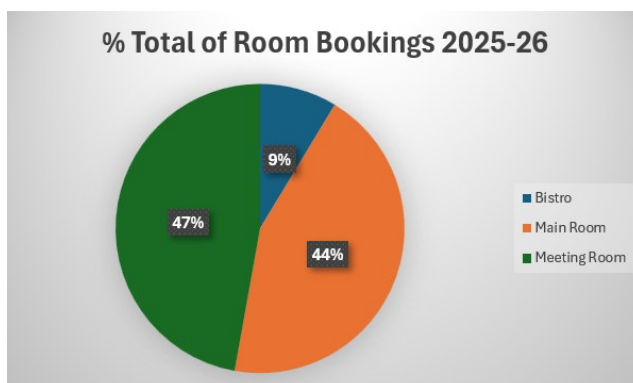
Pontesbury Pavilion & Community Hub has had another busy year, more and more groups and individuals are wanting to hire spaces for groups, use the meeting room for meetings. 1:1 private appointments and exhibitions. It is really lovely to come to work to a bustling and vibrant community building.

There were a total of 496 bookings in FY 2025-2026, broken down to the following:

Meeting Room: 234 bookings

Main Room: 219 bookings

Bistro Area: 43 bookings



There were also 36 weeks of exhibitions hung in the Meeting Room throughout the year.

Income for the Pavilion is generated through:

- Room Hire, which totalled £5,896 for the 2025-26 FY, in comparison to £5,875 for FY 2024-25, so slightly raised
- PCC hire of offices for the Local Policing Team = £4,000
- Shropshire Council Library Licence = £5,000
- PCC Service Charge for 2025-2026 = £10,800 - estimated
- SMART Export Guarantee Income = £734.62

Expenditure throughout the year also varies, but large sums are annually spent on the following:

- Business Rates = £16,092.75
- H&S Testing & Planned Maintenance = £2,730.93, unplanned H&S matters = £1,673.75
- Heating & Lighting = £2,248.38, which should reduce FY 2026-27 due to the solar panels
- Pavilion Repairs = £3,489.19

PAVILION	TOTAL 2024-5	TOTAL 2025-26
Expenditure	£51,485.73	£35,433.76
Income	£25,333.78	£33,816.66

SMART Export Energy As you probably read in last years' Pavilion Annual Report, we were lucky enough to get some funding and installed solar panels on the roof of the Pavilion. This has proved a really good decision, especially due to the wonderfully sunny summer last year. But and this is a very big but getting registered for SMART Export Energy took patience to another level. Yet, perseverance won, and Pontesbury Parish Council (& the Pavilion) is now registered to receive payments for energy we export to the grid. At the time of writing I can let you know that the Pavilion electricity costs have almost halved, good news all round and we have received the sum of £734.62 for exporting energy to the Grid.

The **Pavilion Maintenance Programme** continues annually, but there have been some additional expenditure this year:

Repainting the Meeting Room, due to the extensive use of the meeting room, the paintwork was looking tired, so the Council agreed to spend funds on repainting this room to give it a fresh look for 2025. Again after a year of extensive use and, unfortunately, some groups not following guidance about sticking items on the wall, we are painting the room once again in the first quarter of 2026. But, the Parish Council recognises that the building is well used and therefore such uplifting maintenance is required.

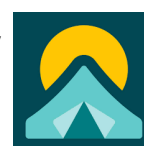
Water Boiler - another unexpected expense was the need to replace the water boiler in the kitchen in 2025. Pontesbury Parish Council wish to thank all the groups that had to wait a littler longer for their kettles to boil for refreshments, we very much appreciate you bearing with us.

Pontesbury Festival - well done to all who organised the Pontesbury Festival, especially the writing competition and the performers of their pieces in the Pavilion - it was a magnificent weekend for the community of Pontesbury.



Clothes Bank - working in partnership with the Coop Store and Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK, the Parish Council have brokered a clothes bank in Pontesbury to raise funding for the research of leukaemia and myeloma. This is a well-used facility and in recent months extra collections have been requested. Thank you to all the generous people of Pontesbury for your donations.

Sadly, one of the Pavilion's regular hirers, a group who have been here since the beginning, have had to give up running their group due to lack of funding. The Sea Change Trust's Early Years Projects provide much needed therapeutic support for new parents or carers and their babies and toddlers. Their community-based Early Intervention services offered a safe, non-judgmental space where families could connect, share experiences, and access expert help alongside lots of fun as well (of course).



Parish Council staff have been working with Sea Change Trust workers to assist with identifying alternative funding streams. Hopefully, we'll welcome Sea Change Trust back to the Pavilion soon.

Ask the Animal Healer – Rebecca Rea

Therapeutic help for animals and their people

Digestive upsets in dogs, cats, horses

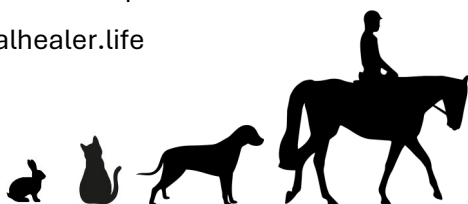
The digestive system of an animal, as with a human, is a good indicator of how well they are and often one of the first signs that something is not ok. Whether that shows up as diarrhoea, constipation, or something strange about the colour and smell, or weeing in odd places too much, or struggling to go... these are symptoms that need assessing and responding to. If lucky it may be nothing major and just a minor blip, but equally these are key areas that can indicate very serious issues with physical illness and with stress/distress related problems which need attending to.

My work is complementary and if Vet input is needed I will flag that up, but I can personally give a lot of informed guidance to you on improving their diet and recommend nutritional or herbal additions if beneficial. I can also help you to assess their stress/distress levels as well as potential signs of pain and illness so that these can be reduced. Animals are very sensitive to relationships with their humans and other animals, their environments at home and can be affected by traumatic changes and histories as much as people can. Don't stay silent, if you sense something is wrong do reach out to someone for help.

I work on a donation basis only so that no animal has to go without the help it deserves.

www.theanimalhealer.life

07785 527973



West Shropshire Flower Club Having recently won a gold award at RHS Malvern Spring Festival. the flower club were pleased to welcome Julie Sparks with her demonstration Colour my World. She is one of the few young demonstrators around and

entertained us with a potted history of how she ended up demonstrating. Her first symmetrical design had a classic grace, showing her flair at placing material & use of colour and foliage, white lilies provided the strong focal point to the arrangements with deeply recessed Sweet William to enhance the line. Her next design was framed by a vertical hoop bound in grey green wool, the exact shade of the hosta leaves she used. Pale pink anthuriums with brighter pink tips were placed with matching brighter pink carnations and pale pink roses to give a mixture of textures and energy, but as a whole sat together perfectly. The foam free design had orange germinis & tulips with contrasting purple tulips & freesias in an effective arrangement. Then to something different, a wall hung piece, dark phormium leaves rolled into hoops created a dramatic outline with leucadendrons, where she placed white roses and spray carnations radiating from a central focal rose. Her final design was a pedestal arrangement (as was her Malvern winner) an abundance of colour and forms with Canterbury bells, lilies, chrysanthemums, carnations and alums, along with some glittery twigs to add that extra sparkle!!

All meetings on Wednesdays at Westbury Village Hall and start at 7.30pm, visitors welcome £10

22nd July – Leanne Williams – Viva la Vida / 26th August – Visit to quarry lodge /

23rd September – Tracy Davies – A walk in the woods

Pontesbury Women's Club

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

Tuesday 14th July

Sue Blower 'Living in Romania'

No meeting in August

back on **Tuesday 8th September**

with Nikki Blackhouse from Cuan Wildlife Centre

PWC usually meets at 7.30pm on

The second Tuesday of the month

At Pontesbury Public Hall

Visitors are always Welcome

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Pontesbury WI met on Monday 8th June where we had a talk by Nicky Morris from the movement centre at .RJA Orthopaedic Hospital

Oswestry. This charity has been established for over 30 years, it provides therapy services for children aged 18 months to 18 years, with a hands-on specialist therapy approach that promotes improved motor control and functional movement. This targeted training can help children with Cerebral Palsy, Global Development Delay, Downs Syndrome and other problems affecting movement control, to gain functional skills and independence. This was a most interesting talk about the wonderful work that the charity provides. We were pleased to have new members with us to hear the talk. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon..



Our next WI meeting will be on 13th July & our guest speaker will be Kate McIlanachan who will talk about the work house /foundling hospital in Shrewsbury. Our next craft club will be held at 10am to 1pm on Tuesday 21st July at The Cock Inn. Handwood. Everyone is welcome to join us, you do not have to be a WI member. For further information about the WI please contact Irene Windows President on 01743791903.

Maxine Pittaway Event Organiser



Pontesbury Primary School Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs in May. The children did very well, and we are very proud of them. Our team works hard to ensure the children are well prepared – they even enjoy a lovely breakfast treat (from Mrs Thomas, our cook) each morning before their tests.

On behalf of us all here at Pontesbury CE Primary School, we would like to say farewell and all the best to our Year 6 pupils as they leave us to venture off to secondary school. We do hope that you have fond memories of your time here and that you will come back and let us know how you are getting on in the future.

We have had a very busy term. Here is a taster of what we have been up to:

You may have spotted us around the village with a giant orange foot mascot. We held a 'Walk to School' event as part of our active travel initiative. We were joined by a number of pupils, parents, staff and Strider (the mascot) as we walked to school together.

We celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday by planting 100 bulbs across the school and dressing as our favourite animals, explorers, or even David Attenborough himself!

Local author John Croxton delivered writing workshops to our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils. They explored different aspects of writing and took part in some of the fun challenges John set himself as a child.

Year 2 held a Victorian morning, with Mrs Pittaway (the class teacher) leading the session as if it were Victorian times – thankfully, we are far removed from that approach now.

Our school library has had a refresh to accommodate new books and musical instruments (purchased with funds raised by the WI earlier this year). Other spaces around school have also been updated to support intervention work.

Yvonne and Jenny have been running a library club for our Year 1 and 2 children to help foster a love of reading. Thank you to both of them for giving up their time.

As school closes for the summer, I would like to thank our local community for all of your support. I wish you all a fantastic summer break.

Well done to all of our pupils – I hope you have had a brilliant year. Thank you to all of our staff, who go above and beyond to help our pupils 'Aim High and Climb Higher'.

Please can I remind you that the school grounds are private property and should not be accessed at any time.

We look forward to welcoming back our current pupils, and welcoming our new pupils, on Tuesday 2nd September.



Mary Webb School & Science College



Mary Webb School - June has been a month of big changes. Year 11 completed their last exam and left as students for the final time. The next time they come back through the doors will be to collect the results they have worked so hard for. We will miss them all.

Although our school is quieter than usual, Year Ten are on work experience, it doesn't mean there isn't a lot going on behind the scenes. Staff are working really hard getting ready to welcome yr6 students who will become our new yr 7s in September. Exciting

I don't know if you are all aware that we now have a brilliant Facebook page full of news and wonderful photos. Here are some of the highlights this week but take a look and follow us

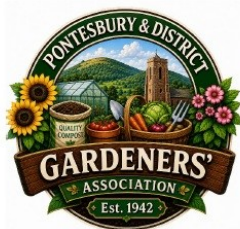
Thank a teacher is a really lovely initiative where students are invited to extend their appreciation for a member of staff who has really made a difference to them. It is always so wonderful to read the sincere words expressed by our young people and how those words are received. I am really excited to watch The Haunting of Locker 18 and was able to reserve my free tickets easily by following the links.

The brilliant Severndale students organised a cake sale with proceeds going Hope House.

We will finish for the summer holidays on 17th July and will start to welcome students back on Wednesday 2nd of September but keep your eyes on the website for more details about specific year groups.

We hope you have a wonderful summer, thank you for your support.
Mary Webb staff and students





TRADING POST

Open February to October
Saturdays 9.30am to noon

Old Station Yard
Station Road, Pontesbury

Our Flower Show is on Saturday 29th August at 2.30 pm
in Pontesbury Public Hall

The show schedule is available to collect from Hignett's,
Pontesbury Post Office, Pontesbury Library & the Trading Post

Categories include flowers, vegetables, fruits, cookery,
handicrafts, wood carving, art and photography

We welcome entries from all age groups.

Do come along and support this long-established
community event!

Trading Post latest Stocks of garden mulch now available



**Marches Meadow
Group Open Meadows
Day
Saturday, 4th July
10am - 4pm**

Visit and explore beautiful meadows in South Shropshire
in celebration of National Meadows Day.

Marches Meadow Group members are opening their
meadows for you to enjoy on National Meadows Day.
Many of the meadows are well established but others are
work-in-progress as members create new meadows or
restore old ones.

There are more than twenty meadows to visit across
Shropshire, with the majority located in the south of the
county. There are 10+ meadows open in an area
extending from Shrewsbury and Hanwood to Minsterley,
Pennerley, Ratlinghope and Bishop's Castle.

For further details & tickets search Marches Meadow
Group on Eventbrite. Please note this is a ticket in
advance event as we are unable to take cash bookings
on the day. Tickets are £5 for none members and free for
MMG members. Tickets cover entry to all the meadows.
All proceeds will go to aid the work of the Marches
Meadow Group in restoring species rich hay meadows.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marches-meadow-group-open-meadows-day-tickets-1984779547054?aff=oddtcreator>



Pontesbury Repair Café is next open on Saturday 11th July from 10am to 12 noon in St Georges's Church. Don't forget to bring your items along early enough for them to be repaired. Thank you.

Longden Tennis Club has lots of activities, come and give us a try!



- Walking Tennis
- Social Tennis
- 'Back on Court' – Free taster sessions
- Junior Coaching – ages 4 - 14
- Monthly Breakfast Tournaments
- Adult Group Coaching Sessions
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- 'Court Cardio Fitness'
- Monday Club Night Social Tennis
- 1-2-1 Coaching
- County Based League Matches
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For information call Club Sec on 07710 472104 or email 'longden.tennis@gmail.com'

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/longdentennisclub

Longden Tennis Club – SY5 8EX

Deadline for September 2026 edition is Friday 14th August 2026 -

please send all articles, requests for adverts and event dates to deputy@pontesburypc.org.uk.

Please send .jpps or .png - no .pdf docs - thank you.

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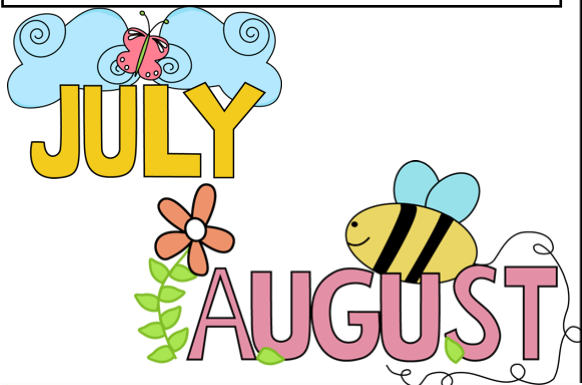
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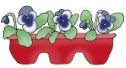
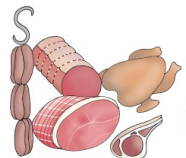
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Thursday: 12 – 2pm & 4:30 – 9pm

Friday: 12 – 9pm

Saturday: 12 – 2pm & 4:30 – 9pm

Sunday: CLOSED



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deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk



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JULY & AUGUST 2026 DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Regular Weekly Events			
Every Mon	6.30-7.30pm	Pontesbury Runners (experienced runners)	Meet corner of Brookside & Minsterley Rd
Every Mon	5.45-7pm	Yoga	Pontesbury Public Hall
Every Mon	7.00-9.00pm	Monday Badminton Club	Mary Webb School, Sports Hall
Every Mon	7.30-8.45pm	Yogalates	Pontesbury Congregational Church Hall
Every Tue	10.00 - 12.00	Rea Valley Foodbank	Holy Trinity Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30-12.00	A Welcome Brew	Baptist Church
Every Tue	2-4pm	Tai Chi	Public Hall
Every Tue	8—9 am	Pilates for Core Strength	Public Hall
Every Wed	10.00-12.00	Sea Change Drop-In for under 5s - free session	Pavilion - Term-time only
Every Wed	10.30-12.00	Coffee/Chat and Fellowship	Pontesbury Congregational Church
Every Wed	2-4pm	Tea Break - tea, cake and a chat	St George's Church
Every Thu	10.00-12.00	Rea Valley Foodbank	St George's Church
First Thu	3.30-5pm	Messy Church Spring	St George's Church
Every Thu	2pm	Short Mat Bowling	Public Hall
Every Thu	2pm	Cruckton Art Group	Cruckton Village Hall
Every Thu	7-9pm	Badminton Club	Mary Webb School, Sports Hall
Every Fri	10.00	Walking Local Footpaths	Meet at School Green
Every Fri	10.00-12.00	Coffee Stop	St George's Church
Every Sat	9.30-12noon	Pontesbury Gardeners Open	Trading Post
Every Sat	7.30pm	Whist Drive	Yockleton Village Hall

JULY 2026

Sat 4th	10am - 1pm	FOPL Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Sat 4th	10am - 4pm	Open Meadows Day - please purchase a ticket	Various
Mon 6th & 20th	11am-1pm	Get Creative Group - FREE - bring along a project	Pavilion
Mon 6th	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Planning Committee	Pavilion
Tue 7th & 21st	2pm-3.30pm	Time Out - small group meeting	Pavilion
Wed 8th	1pm	Probus Club	Arscott Golf Club
Wed 8th & 22nd	2-4pm	Age UK Dementia Support Group	Pavilion
Sat 11th	10-12 noon	Repair Café	St George's Church
Sat 11th & 12th	9am - 6pm	Open Studios [SY5 0TN]	Harlow, Habberley Road, Pontesbury
Mon 13th	2.00pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Mon 13th	7pm	Pontesbury Parish Council meeting	Habberley Village Hall
Tue 14th	7.30pm	Pontesbury Women's Club	Public Hall
Wed 15th	2pm	u3a - My Life as a Micro Artist	Minsterley Parish Hall
Sat 19th	1030-1239	Read to the Beat Launch Workshop	Pavilion
Wed 22nd	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club	Westbury Village Hall
Fri 24th	10.30am	Pontesbury Carer's Group	Pavilion
Sat 25th	12.30pm	Vron Show,	Vennington, SY5 9RG

AUGUST

Sat 1st	10.30am	FOPL Coffee Morning	Pavilion
Mon 3rd & 17th	11am-1pm	Get Creative Group - FREE bring along your project	Pavilion
Mon 3rd	6.30pm	Pontesbury Parish Council Planning Committee	Pavilion
Tue 4th & 18th	2pm-3.30pm	Time Out - small group meeting	Pavilion
Wed 5th & 19th	2-4pm	Age UK Dementia Support Group	Pavilion
Mon 10th	2.00pm	Pontesbury WI	Public Hall
Wed 12th	1pm	Probus Club	Arscott Golf Club
Fri 21st	3pm	Pontesbury Park Open Day - bring your own picnic	Pontesbury Play Area
Sat 29th	2.30pm	Pontesbury & District Gardeners - Flower Show	Public Hall

FUN FACT: Dog Days: The "dog days of summer" (running from 3 July to 11 August) derive their name from the Dog Star (Sirius), which ancient groups blamed for the sweltering heat.

**Deadline for the September Edition is Friday 14th August 2026, please email
deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk**