Pontesbury Parish Newsletter



November 2026 edition Issue No. 331



The first half term has been all about children and staff getting to know one another and settling into their new classes as they begin their learning journey together for the year.

It is always a pleasure to visit classrooms and see children enjoying their learning. So far this term pupils have created models of soil layers using sweets, explored how the digestive system works, developed basketball skills, discovered life in Australia and even learnt what it was like to be an Anglo-Saxon raiding party.

A particular highlight was the school's annual Resilience Walk, which is quickly becoming a much-loved tradition and coincides with World Mental Health Day. Time spent outdoors brought many benefits and the school was overwhelmed by support from families, with almost 40 volunteers helping on the day. Over 200 pupils and around 60 adults successfully made the climb, supported by plenty of encouragement and reminders of the school motto, "Aim High, Climb Higher."

Upcoming School Tours

Monday 9 November - 1.15pm

Thursday 26 November - 9.15am

Friday 11 December - 9.15am

Thursday 7 January - 1.15pm

To arrange a visit, please contact the school office:

Tel: 01743 790226

Email: admin@ppce.co.uk

Tom Lowrie-Herz, Headteacher

Pontesbury CE Primary School





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Minsterley Eisteddfod

Do you enjoy writing? Is there a story buzzing around in your head, a poem bursting to get out or maybe you love a limerick?
At Minsterley Eisteddfod we have classes for all ages covering stories, poems, creative writing, hymn words all of which are free choice of title and the limerick is, The judge didn't give me a prize……
On these dark nights why not put pen to paper, finger to keyboard or drag out that old typewriter.
For full details of all our classes go to our website minsterleyeisteddfod.com, find us on Facebook or phone 01743791045 for a schedule.
We would love to hear what you have to say.
Please note the closing date for entries is February 15th 2027



PONTESBURY & DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make our recent Charity Bingo Night such a success.

The club is delighted to announce that £1,530 was raised and will be shared between Hope House and The Freya Foundation.

The club would like to thank all those who attended, donated prizes, helped organise the evening and supported the event.

Upcoming Bingo Nights

- Saturday 14 November 2026
- Saturday 12 December 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Pontesbury Public Hall

Everyone is welcome to come along for a friendly and enjoyable evening.

We appreciate that the quality of the newsletter is not up to our normal standard and the key contents feature is missing. This is due to a combination of staff absence and technical/software issues. Normal service will resume for the bumper December/January edition. We have tried to include all the copy that was sent to us and can only apologise if something has been left out. Thank you for bearing with us.

Pontesbury Parish Council

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Fantastic Fungi and Where to Find Them!

As autumn settles across Shropshire, the county's ancient landscapes transform into a mycological wonderland. Cooler, damp conditions make this the perfect time of year to explore local woodlands and unimproved grasslands for spectacular fungal displays. [

Pink Ballerinas, Toadstools and Fairy Rings

Venture out to historic estate grounds or short-turf pastures such as the Natural England site at Blakemoor Cottages to discover vibrant grassland fungi. Look closely among the grass for the rare **Pink Ballerina**, also known as the **Pink Waxcap**, which has a delicate flared pink cap resembling a dancer's skirt. You may also come across fairy rings, magical circles of mushrooms created by an expanding underground network of mycelium.

If woodland walks are more your style, visit local beauty spots such as Poles Coppice or the Hope Valley Nature Reserve. Among the fallen leaves you may discover a variety of woodland fungi, including the unmistakable **Fly Agaric**, the classic bright red toadstool adorned with white spots and often found beneath birch trees.

From hidden forest floors to open meadows, Shropshire's autumn landscape is alive with fascinating fungi and there is plenty to discover right on our doorstep.



Ballerina waxcap - Steve Hindle

How to Deal with Grief and the Loss of Your Pet - By Rebecca Rea

A close relationship with an animal can be as deep and meaningful as any relationship with another person. For many people, the bond with a much-loved pet is built on trust, companionship and unconditional affection, making the loss particularly difficult to bear

The loss of a pet may come through death, or through separation caused by illness, ageing, changes in family circumstances, or other unexpected events. Whatever the circumstances, grief can be complex and heartbreaking.

While some situations are beyond our control, the way we approach these difficult moments can make a significant difference to both the animal and those who care for them. Taking time to face the reality of a situation, making thoughtful plans and offering support can help create a gentler and more compassionate experience during a very challenging time.

Rebecca Rea has supported many people through these experiences and believes that being present, prepared and supported can help ease feelings of regret and distress.

If you are facing the loss of a pet or coping with grief following a loss, support is available and you do not have to go through it alone. Rebecca Rea works on a donation-only basis

Contact: 07785 527973

Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund Opens for Applications

Grants to support community action for nature and people in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund is now open for applications for projects starting in April 2027.

Grants of **£500 to £2,000** are available for projects which meet one or both of the Fund's priorities:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.
- Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and its conservation, particularly those involving young people.

The Fund helps turn great ideas into practical community action. This year, funding has supported twelve projects including heathland restoration on Whinberry Hill, wildlife corridor improvements across six parishes, harvest mouse and water vole monitoring in the Stretton area, and projects helping people of all ages connect with nature on their doorstep.

Applicants do not need to live or work within the National Landscape boundary, provided the project delivers benefits to the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

The first stage is to complete a short online project idea form. Following this, applicants will be contacted to discuss their proposal and advised whether to proceed to a full application.

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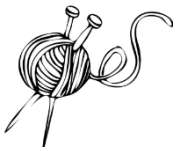
The Pavilion What's on November 2026

Pontesbury Carers Support Group

Friday 27th November 2026 Join us in a relaxed and informal meeting where we share information and chat with a cuppa and cake, starting 10.30am. It's all free with experts on hand to answer questions

Pontesbury Dementia Support Group. Alternate Wednesdays in the Pavilion 11th & 25th November 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.

We hope to see you for **'Get Creative Group'** : at The Pavilion from 11am to 1pm on Mondays 2nd & 16th November 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.





Have Your Say About The Pavilion

The Pavilion Committee would like to hear from users of the building about what is important to them and how the facility can continue to serve the community.

Residents, hirers and participants are invited to complete the Pavilion Evaluation Form and share their views on activities, facilities and future improvements.

Completed forms can be returned to the Pavilion

News from the Library November 2026

The smell of damp leaves and smoke are the first things that come to mind when I think of November. Bonfire night as child, wrapped in gloves and a scarf, attending a small village gathering on a sports field. No food trucks or varieties of coffee, just sparklers.

I feel that winter is creeping in when grey cloud completely hides the sleeping elephant of Earls Hill and the drizzle hangs in the air. Why not meet friends and share memories, chat a while and enjoy the Warm Welcome in the library this winter. Hot drinks will be available on a self service basis during our opening hours. Shropshire Library service has organised this facility, which is paid for by the government Crisis Resilience Fund. This will not be available on the Saturday of the monthly coffee morning, when you get the full service and homemade cakes with lottery draw.

I should also mention that the CRF has allowed us to subscribe to Which, magazine and online. Please ask library staff for assistance to sign on and research your next important purchase.



Take care, the Library Owl

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Pontesbury WI's Autumn Craft Fair will be held on:

Monday 9 November 2026
1.00pm to 4.00pm
Pontesbury Public Hall

Entry is free and refreshments will be available. There will be crafts, indoor plants, cards, books and Christmas gifts for sale.

The WI hopes the local community will support the event. Funds raised through craft fairs and plant sales help support good causes within Pontesbury village.

Craft Club

The next Craft Club meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 17 November 2026
10.00am to 1.00pm
The Cock Inn, Pontesbury

Non-members are welcome to attend.

For further information contact **Irene Windows**, WI President, on **01743 791903**.

Maxine Pittaway, Events Organiser.



Stamp Collection Success Supports Community Resource

Thank You for Your Support

Community Resource would like to thank everyone who has contributed used postage stamps through the collection points at Pontesbury GP Practice and Yockleton Village Hall. The appeal has generated **£60.10** from the company that purchases the collected stamps.

The money raised will help support the valuable work undertaken by Community Resource across Shropshire, helping individuals and communities throughout the county.

A special thank you goes to all those who have continued to save and donate stamps, making this contribution possible. Every stamp collected helps to raise funds for services that support local people.

Please continue to save your used stamps and deposit them at the collection points.

Pontesbury WI

Pontesbury WI met on 12 October when members welcomed local Shropshire author Jo Jackson, who spoke about her life and writing career. She explained how her love of writing began at the age of ten and highlighted the importance of inspirational teachers in encouraging creativity. Her fascinating life has included careers in nursing and midwifery as well as time spent living in Cairo, Egypt, which inspired her first published book about caring for twin girls living in an orphanage. Members enjoyed hearing about her experiences as an author and storyteller.

Jo also kindly judged the Flower of the Month competition:

- 1st Place: Rosemary Robinson
- 2nd Place: Rosemary Robinson
- 3rd Place: Shona Wood

The "Bring an Item" competition, where entries had to begin with the letter **A**, was jointly won by Shona Wood with a wicker apple and Maxine Pittaway with a glass angel.

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Pontesbury Baptist Church

Chapel Street, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ

Songs of Praise

Sunday 6th December

6:30 pm

Discover the extraordinary stories behind the hymns, and enjoy some light refreshments, free of charge!

With Pastor Mike Wells

www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk



Hugh Jackman, Kate Hudson, Michael Imperioli

12A

Song Sung Blue

A musical drama based on the true story of Mike and Claire Sardina, a Milwaukee couple who formed the popular Neil Diamond tribute band "Lightning & Thunder." Inspired by the 2008 documentary of the same name, the film follows their journey from humble impersonators to beloved regional performers, exploring the highs and lows of their careers and relationship through personal challenges, while celebrating themes of dreams, resilience, and the joy of music.

Habberley Village Hall
SY5 0TP

Friday 6 November
7.30 pm

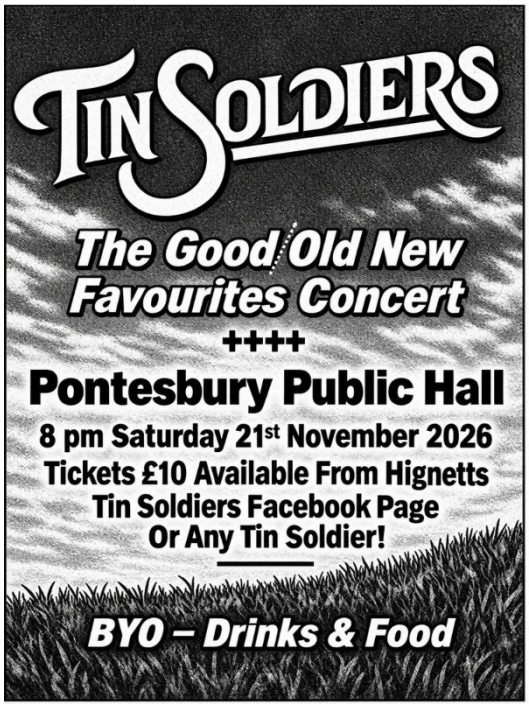
Tickets
Standard: £6.00

Enquiries: 07977 127161
FILM & FISH & CHIPS SPECIAL. Film+food £15 - a complete your night out! Doors open & food served 7pm. Pre-order by midday Thursday on 07977127161. Tea, coffee & bar available.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

arts alive

Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk





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November 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
Sunday 1st Nov	10:30 am: Rob Jack	6:30 pm: Mike Wells
Sunday 8th Nov	10:30 am: Mike Wells	6:30 pm: Mike Wells
Sunday 15th Nov	10:30 am: Martin Wells	6:30 pm: Rod Ward
Sunday 22nd Nov	10:30 am: Mike Wells	6:30 pm: Mike Wells
Sunday 29th Nov	10:30 am: Mike Wells	*No Service*

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 Church November services

1st Nov at 10.45 am with Rev Brian Spencer

8th Nov at St George's Church

15th Nov 10.45 am with Rev Brian Spencer

22nd Nov at 10.45 am with Mr Wes Morris

29th Nov at 10.45 with Mr Mike Hallworth to inc Holy Communion

Repair Café

Don't throw it away, repair it!

The next Repair Café will take place on:

Saturday 14 November 2026

10.00am - 12.00 noon

St George's Church, Pontesbury

Bring along items that need repairing and volunteer repairers will do their best to help give them a new lease of life.

St. George's Church
www.st-george.org.uk
Services and activities for November 2026

1st	10.30am Holy Communion
	4pm All Souls Service
3rd	2.30pm Tea Service
5th	3.30pm Messy Church
8th	10.15am Remembrance Service
15th	10.30am Holy Communion
22nd	10.30am All Age Famiy Service
29th	10.30am Holy Communion (Group Service)

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

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Pontesbury Dormice

Photo: Zoë Helene Kindermann



If there were ever a competition for England's cutest mammal, the dormouse would surely be a strong contender. To maintain its adorable reputation, it spends around three-quarters of its life asleep, hibernating from autumn until April and often retreating to its nest during cool or wet summer weather.

Dormice once thrived throughout the local area when hedgerows and coppiced woodland were more widespread. Today, however, they are in serious decline, with national surveys showing a 72% decrease in numbers. Locally, they survive in Pontesford and Earls Hill Nature Reserve, where they are monitored by the Shropshire Mammal Group. Because dormice are nocturnal and highly secretive, they can be difficult to monitor, and it is illegal to handle one without the necessary training and licence.

When the community purchased Pontesford Hill in 2016, one of the key conservation priorities was to expand suitable dormouse habitat. Volunteers planted coppices of hazel, honeysuckle, bramble, birch and yew to help create ideal conditions. Since dormice rarely travel more than 70 metres and prefer not to descend to ground level, hedgerows have been laid to form wildlife corridors linking habitats around the hill. Over the past decade, six coppice areas have also been established in the hope of encouraging the population to spread.

The exceptionally hot and dry summer has presented new challenges, with many young hazel saplings failing to survive. Replanting work is now underway to restore the habitat. Fortunately, being near the northern edge of the dormouse's range may help reduce some of the pressures associated with climate change.

The last recorded sighting by the monitoring group was in May. Conservationists will now have to wait until next spring to discover whether the local population has successfully survived another winter and whether their efforts to expand suitable habitat are paying off.

Quentin Shaw



GREENTIME17 an eden project

Take 17 Minutes for Nature

The Eden Project has launched a campaign called **Greentime17**, encouraging people to spend **17 minutes a day in nature**. The aim is to make time outdoors as much a part of everyday life as achieving 10,000 steps a day or eating five portions of fruit and vegetables.

The campaign is based on research from the University of Exeter, which found that spending **120 minutes a week in nature** can have significant benefits for health and wellbeing. Seventeen minutes a day adds up to almost exactly that amount over a week.

Whether it's a walk around Pontesford Hill, exploring local footpaths, watching wildlife in the garden, or simply enjoying a few quiet moments outdoors, those daily minutes can make a real difference. Spending time in nature also helps people develop a stronger connection with the environment and encourages greater care for local wildlife and green spaces, creating benefits for both people and the planet.

For more information about the campaign visit https://www.edenproject.com/projects/people-and-communities/nature-connections/greentime17

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Festive Friends 2026

Date: 25th December 2026

Time: 11.30am to 3.00pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall

near Bishops Castle

Contact Linda on 01588 630409

If you are on your own or caring for someone, why not all join us for Christmas lunch in Norbury!

Let Linda know if you need transport to the venue.

Arrive at 11.30am for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light entertainment & have a chat to your companions.

Whatever your age, you are welcome.

Suggested donation of £7 each to help cover outgoings!



Rea Valley Food Bank

Thank You for Harvest Festival Donations

Harvest Festival donations have made a real difference to Rea Valley Food Bank. The organisation is very grateful to everyone involved in organising harvest collections and to all those who donated during the autumn season. Every donation received helps local people who have been referred to the Food Bank by professionals because they are in need of support.

New "Getting to Advice" Project

Rea Valley Food Bank has been successful in securing funding from Shropshire Council's Crisis Resilience Fund. The aim of the funding is to move beyond emergency food provision and help people access longer-term support and advice.

A key part of the project is a public information event:

Save Money on Your Energy Bills

Wednesday 4 November 2026

2.00pm - 3.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

Hosted with Marches Energy Agency (MEA), the event will provide advice on:

Reducing energy bills

Common energy myths

Help with energy debt

One-to-one energy advice services

Free event - open to everyone - refreshments provided.

The funding will also support:

Cookery skills and nutrition sessions linked to local food growing projects.

Access to specialist advice services including Citizens Advice, Age UK and Marches Energy Agency.

Assistance with transport to advice appointments through local community transport services.

Accessing the Food Bank

People wishing to access the Food Bank should seek a referral from their GP practice, clergy, housing provider or another support agency. Alternatively, contact Rev. Greg Smith on 07902 794653 or email reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

Rea Valley Food Bank

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Pontesbury Public Hall AGM

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Pontesbury Public Hall will be held on:

Wednesday 25 November 2026

7.30pm

Len Simpson Room, Pontesbury Public Hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Volunteers Needed for Pontesbury Public Hall

Help Support Your Community Hall

As with many community organisations, the trustees of Pontesbury Public Hall are facing the challenge of committee members retiring from their roles after many years of service.

The Trustees are currently looking to fill three vacancies:

Committee Secretary

Attend committee meetings (typically 3-4 per year plus the AGM)

Take and prepare meeting minutes

Assist with general administration throughout the year

Booking Secretary

Manage monthly hall bookings

Maintain the bookings diary

Respond to enquiries from hall users

Play a key role in the day-to-day running of the hall

Publicity Volunteer

Help raise the profile of the hall

Assist with establishing and maintaining a website

Develop a Facebook presence and other publicity opportunities

Promote events and activities taking place at the hall

The Trustees would be delighted to hear from anyone who may have the time, skills or enthusiasm to help. These roles are a valuable way to support an important community facility that is used by many local groups and organisations throughout the year.

For further information, please contact:

David Charles

Chair, Pontesbury Public Hall Trustees

Telephone: 07483 884122

Email: simbal77@aol.com





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Preventing Pain in Your Back

Many people focus on strengthening their spine when trying to prevent back pain, but good back health often comes from using and strengthening the whole body more effectively. Small, consistent changes throughout the day can help reduce strain and support your back.

1. How You Move Your Body

Many everyday activities involve bending forwards and downwards, such as cooking, gardening, filling the dishwasher, reaching into drawers, tying shoelaces and picking things up. These repeated movements can place strain on the back over time.

Try taking regular moments to straighten up between tasks by:

Reaching your arms above your head

Stretching your arms behind you

Bending sideways

Gently rotating from the waist

These simple movements can help stretch and strengthen muscles and joints.

2. Be Proactive

Don't wait until your back hurts before taking action. If you spend long periods sitting or standing in a slouched position, take a few seconds throughout the day to straighten your posture. When reaching down, bending your knees, even slightly, can help reduce strain on your back.

3. Remember to Breathe

Holding your breath can increase tension and stress in your back muscles. Regular, relaxed breathing helps reduce unnecessary strain.

4. What Worked Before May Not Work Now

Our bodies change over time. Strength, flexibility and balance can all alter as we age, so it is important to adapt activities and exercises to suit your current needs. If certain movements or exercises have helped in the past, keep doing them rather than waiting for pain to return.

Help Is At Hand

If you are struggling with back pain and would like individual advice, contact Rachel Kili at Rachel Kili Physiotherapy.

Email: rachel@rachelkiliphysiotherapy.com

Website: Rachel Kili Physiotherapy



A date for your diary!

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Pontesbury Baptist Church

Sunday 13th December 5 PM

All are welcome!

www.pontesburybaptist.co.uk

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SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WELSH CONNECTION

WITH EURWYN PIERCE JONES



We all know Sherlock Holmes – but what do we know about the man who created him? Join us to discover the fascinating and surprisingly varied life of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**: author, doctor, pioneer of forensic science, sportsman, traveller and much more. Eurwyn explores Doyle's remarkable achievements, his diverse interests and his **significant connections with Mid Wales**

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome

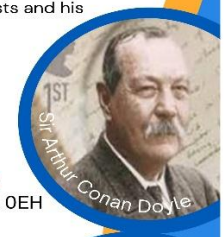
Wednesday
18 November 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free for members • Visitors: voluntary donations welcome
Refreshments available

pontesbury.u3asite.uk





learn, laugh, live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

We know **Arthur Conan Doyle** as the creator of **Sherlock Holmes**, but his life extended far beyond his famous fictional detective. Come along to this fascinating illustrated talk on **Wednesday 18 November at 2pm** at **Minsterley Parish Hall**, **Eurwyn Pierce Jones** explores Doyle's remarkable contribution to forensic science, his many and varied interests, and his **connections with Mid Wales**. Eurwyn also brings a Welsh perspective, having translated Conan Doyle's celebrated ***The Speckled Band*** into Welsh.

Our monthly meetings are just one part of Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a. The u3a is all about staying active, curious, and connected if you are no longer in full-time employment.

We have over 25 interest groups – there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore at an affordable level! And new groups are started if there is sufficient interest.

- Art History
- Astronomy
- Board Games
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Dining Club
- Embroidery
- Family History
- Folk Music
- French Conversation
- Gardening
- Geology
- History
- Literature
- Local History
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Play Reading
- Poetry
- Table Tennis
- Tech Made Easy
- Walking (Long)
- Walking (Short)
- Wine Tasting
- Wood Carving

Interested?
Come along to an open meeting, visit our website or call **Steve** (Membership Secretary) on **07861 531 186**

pontesbury.u3asite.uk

PONTESBURY & DISTRICT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION Est. 1942

TRADING POST

Open February to October
Saturdays 9.30am to noon

Old Station Yard
Station Road, Pontesbury

what3words location - makeovers.stub.darling

The Pontesbury & District Gardeners Association Christmas meal will take place at The Lowfield Inn, Marton on December 2nd at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

If you would like to join us, a copy of the menu with cost and booking details is available to view in the display cabinet at the Trading Post, Station Road.

Menu selection and payment is required, at the latest, by November 22nd

The Trading Post is now closed, re-opening in February 2027

Details of our range of seed potatoes will be made available in January 2027

Thank you for your support during the year

West Shropshire Flower Club

Members enjoyed an inspiring demonstration by Tracy Davies entitled**"A Walk in the Woods"**, featuring a variety of imaginative floral arrangements. The demonstration began with a pheasant-inspired design created around an upright log, combining rich autumn colours, foliage, roses and pheasant feathers. [Flower Club | Word]

An innovative low table arrangement used bundles of birch twigs to support flowing foliage of jasmine and asparagus fern, complemented by chrysanthemums, gerberas, roses and delicate wax flower. Members also admired a hand-tied bouquet featuring lilies, eryngium, roses and freesias, beautifully framed with grasses and foliage. [Flower Club | Word]

A charming "Teddy Bears' Picnic" arrangement incorporated a picnic basket filled with lilies, apricot gerberas, kangaroo paw and teasels, while the final design was a striking Sherwood Forest-inspired pedestal arrangement set on a tree trunk. Blue delphiniums, vibrant roses and asters combined to create a memorable display. [Flower Club | Word]

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are held at **Westbury Village Hall** and begin at **7.30pm**. Visitors are very welcome (£10 admission). [Flower Club | Word]

- **Wednesday 25 November 2026** – Debbie Davies, *Charismata*

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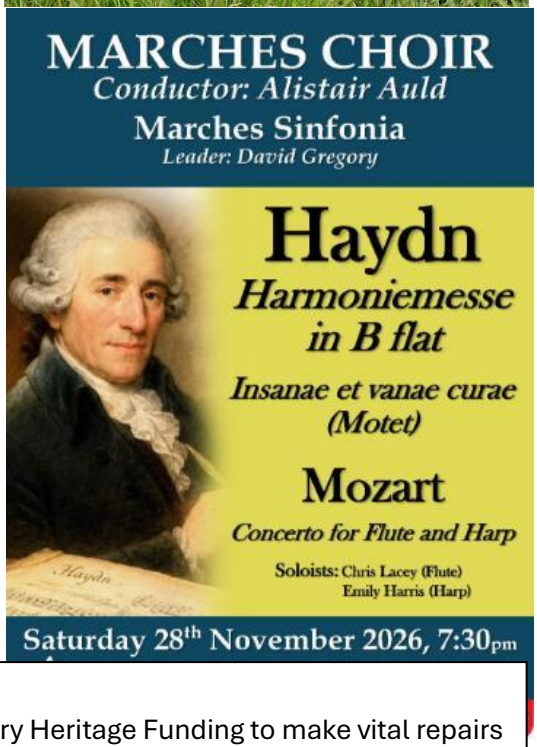
Discover Minsterley Meadows

Take ten minutes to enjoy the sights and sounds of Minsterley Meadows throughout the seasons through a new community film. Volunteers, experts and representatives of the Parish Council explain why these traditional hay meadows are so important and how they are being managed for future generations. search 'A year in Minsterley Meadows' on Youtube to watch it.

The film highlights the importance of this rare habitat, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and showcases the spectacular display of Green-winged Orchids that colour the meadows each spring. The meadows have been secured for the community through public donations and support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Further information is available from the Middle Marches Community Land Trust





The Marches Choir and Marches Sinfonia will present an evening of classical music at St John's Church, Bishop's Castle on **Saturday 28 November 2026 at 7.30pm**. The programme includes Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, *Insanae et vanae curae*, and Mozart's *Concerto for Flute and Harp*. [onedrive.live.com]

Tickets cost **£15**, with free entry for children and students. Tickets are available from choir members, by telephone on **07806 433394**, and on the door.

New Pontesbury and District Local History Group!

St George's Church Council has been invited to apply for National Lottery Heritage Funding to make vital repairs to the stonework and stained glass windows; to improve the space inside the church, including a better kitchen for events; and to highlight **local heritage** - the things which make Pontesbury and St George's fascinating and unique. All these elements make up 'Project George'.

Project George is being designed to demonstrate the rich history and heritage of Pontesbury and District – but what would **you** like to see included in future displays, interpretation and exhibitions?

People in and around Pontesbury have memories, photos and stories which should be celebrated and preserved – from distant history to the recent past – of families, industry, customs, buildings and places.

This new group is for all age groups, from secondary school age onwards. The group will help to shape the heritage element of Project George but will also have a life of its own, as an independent local group.

A first meeting will take place on **Monday 16th November 2026 at 7pm at The Pavilion, Pontesbury SY5 0RF.**

Come along with your ideas! More details from Rev Greg Smith rectorpontstip@gmail.com

DEADLINE for December/January 2027 newsletter issue is: Friday 13th November 2026 Please email all articles to deputy@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

news
FROM FRIENDS OF PONTESBURY LIBRARY

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Summer Reading Challenge Medal Presentation

After school on 15 September children, parents and grandparents gathered at the Pavilion for the 2026 Medal Presentation. In homage to this year's theme, 'Read to the Beat', special guest Mary Keith created very entertaining and inventive songs with the children, with hilarious actions!



The Challenge was a trickier one this year, as instead of just reading 6 books over the summer holidays there were particular reading tasks set. So well done to all 52 children who took part and a special congratulations to the 27 children who completed everything.

October Coffee morning

Another very lively coffee morning as the Autumn sunshine brought so many people to the Library (more than one getting their annual flu jab at the Surgery on the way!). Thanks to all our volunteers who make FoPL coffee mornings such a success. And a special shout out for June, Bob, Annie, Gilly and Irene, who bake, serve, clear tables, run the Lottery and wash up so well.

This month's winners of the Library Lottery 100 Club Draw were:

1st Hilary Stephenson, No. 81
2nd Pat Fear, No. 41
3rd Roy and Sheila Bower, No. 38

Future Events

November 7

Coffee Morning: Saturday 10.30 – 12.30, Pontesbury Library

A very warm welcome at our next coffee morning, home-baked cakes, hot drinks, plenty of chat and a chance to have a flutter on our Lottery Draw.

November 14

Prizegiving for The Peter Traves Writing Competition 2026 Saturday, 10.30am Pontesbury Library

Prizes for each category plus the Peter Traves Trophy for the overall winner.

December 4

FoPL's Christmas Romp: Featuring the Friends and 'Val Sinclair with the Cool Daddy Combo' Friday, Doors Open 18.30pm for 19.00 start, Pavilion

Limited tickets so secure yours soon! £15 from Hignetts or the Library. See poster below for full details.

January 9

Chip it for Charity, Saturday, 10.00am - 12 noon, Ark Nursery Car Park

Bring your Christmas Trees to be chipped, suggested donation £5.



Thanks to everyone who supports our precious Community Library

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WORTHEN VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

SATURDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 2026

12pm till 3pm

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Friends of Pontesford and Earls Hill

The Iron Age Forts on Pontesford and Earls Hill

Our local hill contains two impressive Iron Age hill forts and a mysterious earthwork known as the Cross Dyke. The Lower Camp, situated above the car park, is an ideal place for families to explore, while the larger Earls Hill Fort surrounds the trig point at the summit and offers extensive views across the surrounding countryside.

Between the two forts lies the Cross Dyke, thought to have been part of a larger defensive structure that was never completed. All of these archaeological features are protected by law. In August, Harriet Sharp, an archaeologist from Historic England, visited the site to assess its condition and advise on future management. Her report was generally positive and confirmed that ongoing conservation work is helping to protect these important ancient monuments.

One challenge is the presence of mature plantation trees on the Cross Dyke, which may need to be removed in future to prevent root damage to the earthworks. Meanwhile, increased visitor numbers have led to erosion around Earls Hill Fort. Visitors are encouraged to use the original Iron Age entrance rather than climbing directly over the ramparts.

The hill forts are more than 2,000 years old and remain remarkably well preserved. We are fortunate to have such important heritage sites on our doorstep.

Quentin Shaw, Friends of Pontesford and Earls Hill



A big thank you to the P3 group for the installation of a dead hedge at the bottom of the Hall Bank meadow area.

Wondering what to do with all of those leaves landing in your garden? Why not build a dead hedge.

It might sound odd, but a dead hedge is a wonderful habitat that's full of life and a wonderful addition to your garden, playground or other outdoor space!! Dead hedges full of dead trees, shrubs and other garden waste, provide hiding places and nesting habitats for all sorts of creatures, food for insects and they are great for fungi. They mimic the practical benefits of a fence, whilst providing all the natural goodness of deadwood. So, if you want to mark out a flower bed or separate unsightly bins from the rest of your garden, why not visit one of the following websites and find out how to make a dead hedge of your own.

https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/activity/build-a-dead-hedge

https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-dead-hedge-for-wildlife

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Pontesbury Parish Council

At the October Parish Council Meeting a couple of residents raised concerns about traffic problems. One issue was the amount of cars parking outside Connections and the danger this poses to vehicles turning right out of Chapel St. due to diminished visibility. It is a difficult balance between supporting essential small businesses in the village and the safety of drivers and pedestrians. The second issue was the speed of traffic along the B4386 alongside the Hare & Hounds development and the danger to children waiting in the area for school buses. The Cllrs have contacted Shropshire Council Highways Officers and the portfolio holder for Highways, to arrange site visits with residents to discuss possible solutions.

Cllrs also agreed a Tree Management Policy and a tree inspection regime to keep trees and residents safe. The council has a large number of trees to manage, but has been working closely with an inspector and a local tree surgeon to work through a programme of work on the trees. The management policy will ensure that this good work continues into the future.

Cllrs agreed unanimously to set a budget to help the 1st Rea Valley Scouts make a move to an area alongside the play area on Station Road. Cllrs have been working with the Scouts and Pontesbury Gardeners Association to find the right place. The money will be used to clear the area and lay a foundation for containers and trailers. Everyone views the move to a more central location in the village as a positive step to increase the involvement with scouts in village projects.

Cllrs approved a first draft of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the parish to support nature recovery locally. We want to hear from local residents what they are doing in their gardens/land and we are working closely with Hanwood and Minsterley parishes and the Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group to ensure that we link initiatives across the area.

The 2026-2029 parish Strategic Plan for the parish was reviewed ahead of setting the 2027-28 budgets later in the year.

Both of the strategies mentioned above can be viewed at www.pontesbury-pc.gov.uk . they are both live documents so please send any comments you have to clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

The council also had a presentation from Shrewsbury Town Council about how they have taken on street cleaning services from Shropshire Council. We will be talking to you as residents in the coming months about how you feel about the current street cleaning regime and what you would like to see happen in the future. Please email clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk if you have any issues to raise and/or talk to your local councillor. We will publicise any open events about this through the newsletter.

There are still three vacancies on the parish council. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in putting yourself forward and joining the parish council team to make a difference in your area. clerk@pontesbury-pc.gov.uk

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

The next **Planning Committee meeting** will be held on Monday 2nd November 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.

nationalgrid

Message from National Grid

A big thank you to residents for your patience while we work in the village.

The works within the village form part of a substantial 33kV electricity network upgrade between Lower Pully Lane Substation and Minsterley Substation. This scheme is required to increase capacity and improve the resilience and stability of the local electricity network.

The reason a return visit to Plealey will be required around Easter time in 2027, is that, during the original works, we encountered a very shallow and fragile brick-built culvert within the village. Following assessment on site, it became clear that the culvert would need to be carefully dismantled to allow our ducting to be installed beneath it before being rebuilt to an appropriate standard. Possible complications meant that we had to cease work.

As you will appreciate, negotiating this culvert is a delicate and time-consuming operation which requires careful planning, specialist construction methods, and the procurement of suitable materials to ensure the culvert is properly reinstated. We have therefore dedicated 5 days to carry out these works next year.

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November 2026 Diary

Regular Weekly Events			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Every Mon	6.30pm-7.30pm	Pontesbury Runners	School Green
Every Tue	10.00am-12.00pm	Rea Valley Food Bank	Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley
Every Tue	10.30am-12.00pm	A Welcome Brew	Pontesbury Baptist Church
Every Tue	2.00pm-4.00pm	Tai Chi	Pontesbury Public Hall
Every Wed	10.30am-12.00pm	Coffee & Chat	Pontesbury Congregational Church
Every Wed	2.00pm-4.00pm	Tea Break	St George's Church
Every Thu	10.00am-12.00pm	Rea Valley Food Bank	St George's Church
Every Fri	10.00am-12.00pm	Coffee Stop	St George's Church
Every Sat	9.30am-12 noon	Pontesbury Gardeners Trading Post	Old Station Yard
November events			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sun 1 Nov	10.45am	Methodist Service - Rev Brian Spencer	Pontesbury Methodist Church
Sun 1 Nov	10.30am / 6.30pm	Baptist Church Services	Pontesbury Baptist Church [onedrive.live.com]
Wed 4 Nov	2.00pm-3.30pm	Save Money on Your Energy Bills Event	Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley
Fri 6 Nov	7.30pm	Song Sung Blue Film Night	Habberley Village Hall
Sat 7 Nov	10.30am-12.30pm	Friends of Pontesbury Library Coffee Morning	Pontesbury Library
Sun 8 Nov	Morning	Joint Methodist Service	St George's Church
Sun 8 Nov	10.30am / 6.30pm	Baptist Church Services	Pontesbury Baptist Church
Mon 9 Nov	1.00pm	School Open Afternoon	Pontesbury CE Primary School
Mon 9 Nov	1.00pm-4.00pm	WI Autumn Craft Fair	Pontesbury Public Hall

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Sat 14 Nov	10.00am-12.00pm	Repair Café	St George's Church
Sat 14 Nov	10.30am	Peter Traves Writing Competition Prize Giving	Pontesbury Library
Sat 14 Nov	7.00pm	Bowls Club Charity Bingo	Pontesbury Public Hall
Sun 15 Nov	10.45am	Methodist Service - Rev Brian Spencer	Pontesbury Methodist Church
Sun 15 Nov	10.30am / 6.30pm	Baptist Church Services	Pontesbury Baptist Church
Mon 16 Nov	7.00pm	Pontesbury & District Local History Group Launch	The Pavilion [CHURCH Pro...sbury News
Tue 17 Nov	10.00am-1.00pm	WI Craft Club	The Cock Inn, Pontesbury
Wed 18 Nov	2.00pm	Sherlock Holmes and the Welsh Connection (u3a)	Minsterley Parish Hall
Fri 20 Nov	7.00pm-10.00pm	Benidorm Comes to Hanwood	The Cock Inn, Hanwood
Sat 21 Nov	8.00pm	Tin Soldiers Concert	Pontesbury Public Hall
Sun 22 Nov	10.45am	Methodist Service - Wes Morris	Pontesbury Methodist Church
Sun 22 Nov	10.30am / 6.30pm	Baptist Church Services	Pontesbury Baptist Church
Wed 25 Nov	7.30pm	Pontesbury Public Hall AGM	Len Simpson Room, Pontesbury Public Hall
Wed 25 Nov	7.30pm	West Shropshire Flower Club - Charismata	Westbury Village Hall
Thu 26 Nov	9.15am	School Open Morning	Pontesbury CE Primary School
Sat 28 Nov	12.00pm-3.00pm	Worthen Christmas Craft Fayre	Worthen Village Hall
Sat 28 Nov	7.30pm	Festive Brass & Voices	St George's Church
Sat 28 Nov	7.30pm	Marches Choir & Sinfonia Concert	St John's Church, Bishop's Castle
Sun 29 Nov	10.45am	Methodist Service & Holy Communion - Mike Hallworth	Pontesbury Methodist Church
Sun 29 Nov	10.30am	Baptist Morning Service	Pontesbury Baptist Church

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