

# Village Views

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ACTON BURNELL, PITCHFORD, FRODESLEY, RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY

## WELCOME

We are pleased to be delivering the annual Directory as well as Village Views this month. We hope that you find both publications useful, and please remember that if you would like to make suggestions for future features, you only need to contact us. We are always open to new suggestions.

We would also like to congratulate John Glover on his victory in the Pitchford Village Hall photo competition, especially as he was up against such stiff competition. As you may know, John is on our editorial committee, with special responsibility for organising deliveries, but we would like to emphasise that this had nothing to do with the decision to feature his photo on the front cover of the Directory!

*Chris Harrison, Karen Fisher, John Glover, Rachel Johnson and Lois Johnson*

## ACTON BURNELL POST OFFICE

Please note that Acton Burnell Shop and Post Office will be open **Tuesdays and Thursdays** only  
**9.00am to 1.00pm** and  
**2.00pm to 5.00pm**  
until 9th September.

## ACTON BURNELL FETE AND BASH

We held a very successful and enjoyable Fete and Bash on Saturday 15th June and raised some much needed funds for the Church. If you weren't there you missed a lovely summer's afternoon at a good old fashion fete, lots of stalls, bar and teas in the Principal's garden. As we thought it might rain later in the day we arranged to hold and Bash and Bar in the church. A good time was had by all even if the heavens opened up later that night. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped set up and clear away afterwards. Without your support the Fete wouldn't take place.

*Jill Faulkner*



## VILLAGE DIRECTORY 2024

You should have received your copy of the annual Village Directory alongside this edition of Village Views, and hope that you find it useful. Designed to be a handy reference to local organisations, services and societies, it contains a wealth of contact details and information. Unlike Village Views, which is partially paid for by a Parish Council grant, the Village Directory is funded entirely from advertising revenue. We are very grateful to those businesses which have chosen to use the Directory to reach our local audience. The Village Directory is also available online at [www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/village-directory](http://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/village-directory), giving you the option of using the live links to click directly through to the web pages of many of the organisations featured.



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The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 22nd November 2024.  
Please contact [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) with any news or [villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com](mailto:villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com) to place an advert.



## COUND AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

COME AND JOIN IN OUR FUN AND SOCIAL TENNIS COMMUNITY

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/coundanddistricttennisclub>

or use our Cound and District Tennis Club Homepage QR Code



For membership enquiries please contact us at [membershipatcound@btinternet.com](mailto:membershipatcound@btinternet.com)

### FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

**Sunday 18th August:** US Open Fun Grand Slam Social tournament, 2-5.00pm

**Sunday 22nd September:** Club Championships Finals, 11.00am- 6.00pm

**Thursday 3rd October:** Ladies Open Day Doubles Charity Tournament, 9.30am- 3.00pm. Lots of fun tennis and a great lunch to finish a great day.

**Junior Tennis Summer Camp Dates –please check out our website at:**  
[www.coundtennis.com](http://www.coundtennis.com).

## LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS....

There will be a Christmas Wreath Making workshop with florist Lucy Hockenull on Saturday 30 November 2024 at 10.00am at Pitchford Village Hall. The price is £60 per person, and all proceeds will go to the Lingen Davies charity, which was set up to enhance care and treatment for cancer patients at the Lingen Davies Cancer Centre, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, and which also runs a range of other projects designed to deliver holistic support and cancer relief.

There will be limited spaces for this workshop, so please book early! For further details or to book a place contact Tracy Johnson on **07974 952645**.



## THE FOX INN AT RYTON UPDATE

As you know, in April after securing over £214,000 in pledges of shares, time and materials, we applied again to the Communities Ownership Fund for a £250,000 government grant to enable us to purchase and develop The Fox at Ryton. We were expecting to hear the outcome of our application by mid-June.

The calling of a General Election changed all of this and all decisions have been halted.

We received the following statement from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: "We have now entered a pre-election period. There will be no further Community Ownership Fund announcements at this time."

And from our advisors, their understanding is that: "No decisions will be made about the Community Ownership Fund until a new government is in place and operational."

This does not mean we have been turned down, but that the process has been paused.

We are bitterly disappointed to have been so close, but hope this is just another bump in the road and we remain committed to finding a way to retain The Fox for the benefit of the community. We will keep you updated with any news we receive.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, please continue to do so!

*Helen May (Friends of The Fox)*

## POP-UP FOOD FAYRE AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Pitchford Village Hall is hoping to host a pop-up food fayre on 7th December. Local food suppliers and producers are very welcome to come along and offer their wares to the community. If you or someone you know would like to take part in this exciting event, please contact Chris Jones at

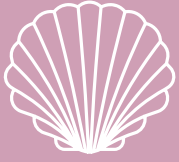
[csjay@btinternet.com](mailto:csjay@btinternet.com) or call **07538 744807**. Stalls will be £10 (small) or £15 (large).



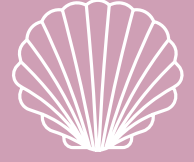
## GO 'OFF THE BLOCK'

Take part in a charity abseil to raise funds for Lingen Davies on 21st September at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Tickets to take part £78, with all profits going to Lingen Davies. Open to anyone over 11 years old.





# What's on



## 9th August

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm and drinks served throughout the evening. Beer, wine and soft drinks available (cash only please!). Everyone welcome, of all ages, from little nippers upwards, and including well-behaved dogs.

## 9th to 10th August

Shrewsbury Flower Show takes over The Quarry Park with two days of floral extravaganzas, music, shopping opportunities and circus performances, ending with a dramatic firework display. Entry costs £27.50 for entry on either Friday or Saturday, with evening tickets (from 6pm onwards) priced at £15. Children aged 15 or under go free. To purchase tickets, go to [www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/tickets-2024/](http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/tickets-2024/).

## 10th August

Opera Anywhere presents a performance of The Pirates of Penzance at Concord College as part of the Church Stretton Arts Festival. The performance begins at 7.30pm, and tickets are £25 for adults and £12.50 for children and students. Tickets available by calling **0333 6663366** or going to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/church-stretton-arts-festival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/church-stretton-arts-festival).

## 23rd to 16th August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival at the West Midlands Showground features a wealth of performers offering folk music from around the world, including Elkie Brooks, Pentangle and Ladysmith Black Mombazo, alongside family friendly workshops and activities, and ceilidhs to get your feet moving. Tickets available from [www.gigantic.com/shrewsbury-folk-festival-tickets/shrewsbury-west-midlands-showground/2024-08-23-07-00](http://www.gigantic.com/shrewsbury-folk-festival-tickets/shrewsbury-west-midlands-showground/2024-08-23-07-00). Camping onsite available (must be booked in advance).

## 29th August to 1st September

Attingham Park will be hosting a series of films courtesy of Adventure Cinema. Bring a picnic and enjoy outdoor screening of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Mamma Mia!, Jurassic Park, Dirty Dancing, Frozen Sing-along and Top Gun. For times, prices and to book a ticket please go to [www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/attingham-park](http://www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/attingham-park)

## 1st August to 1st September

Family-friendly fun at The Flaxmill, Shrewsbury every Tuesday and Thursday, based on the lives and adventures of fictional cats Flax and Barley. Events include storytelling for 3 to 8 year olds at 11am and the opportunity to write and illustrate your own feline stories (for 3 to 11 year olds) from 12 noon. In addition, there is a free 'paw' trail to follow around the site (available every day from 10am to 4pm), and Kids go Free tickets for the Mill exhibition available every day (up to six children free accompanied by a fee paying adult). To purchase tickets for the Mill exhibition, please go to [www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/visit/the-mill/](http://www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/visit/the-mill/). Adult tickets £7.50.

## 1st to 30th September

Severn Hospice invites you to 'walk a mile' in their shoes to mark their 35 years of providing care to the Shropshire community. You can help to raise funds for this valuable local service by signing up to walk 350,000 steps during September. Registration costs £5, for which you will receive a t-shirt and a drawstring bag. If you have a furry friend who will be joining you on your walks, for £3 they will get their own bandana. For more information on fundraising and registration, please go to <https://events.severnospice.org.uk/>

## 7th September

Late night opening at Shrewsbury Market, 5.30pm to 10.00pm, focussing on food and drink. Cafes and street food vendors serving until 9.00pm and bars until closing time at 10.00pm. A small number of fashion, gift, craft and skincare stalls will be open earlier in the evening.

## 7th September

Cound and District Craft and Produce Show, including dog classes and a scarecrow competition. Come along to Cound Guild Hall to enjoy this local event. Exhibits to be staged between 10.00am and 11.00am. Dog classes begin at 3.00pm. Tea, cake and results from 3.00pm. If you would like to enter any of the classes, please go to [www.coundguildhall.co.uk](http://www.coundguildhall.co.uk) and follow the links for entry forms.

## 8th September

Cheer on local runners as they take on the Severn Bridges 10k race around Shrewsbury, heading up, down and across the river. Event begins at 10.00am in The Quarry, Shrewsbury.

## 13th September

A special Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall, when Rachel Johnson and crew will be offering freshly cooked BBQ fare. Kids eat free!

## 14th to 15th September

The Flaxmill in Shrewsbury will be opening its doors for free Heritage Open Days. Learn all about this iconic building, and find out how canals and railways contributed to the Flaxmill's importance throughout its 200 year working history. To book a place, go to [www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/whats-on/heritage-open-days-2024/](http://www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/whats-on/heritage-open-days-2024/)

## 4th to 5th October

Shropshire Oktoberfest features local breweries, cider makers and distilleries and the best the country has to offer in a glass. Held in The Quarry, Shrewsbury, there will also be live music (including a traditional 'oompah' band), comedy acts, and karaoke. Tickets available from [www.tickets.shropshirefestivals.co.uk/tickets/shropshire-oktoberfest-2024](http://www.tickets.shropshirefestivals.co.uk/tickets/shropshire-oktoberfest-2024).

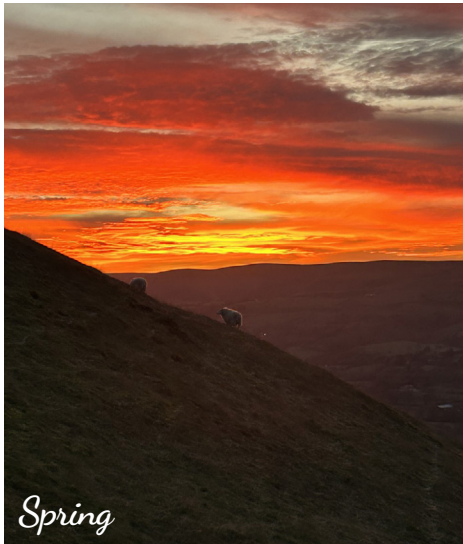
## 11th October

Pitchford Village Hall Pub Night. Everyone welcome to come along for a pint and a natter with friends and neighbours old and new. Children and dogs very welcome.





# PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL PHOTO OF THE YEAR 2023



The PVH Photography Challenge 2023/24 came to a close in April this year, with the final judging taking place to declare the PVH Photo of the Year. The finale was between the winners from the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter rounds which gave us four fabulous photos, each capturing the brief of 'seasonality and locality'.

The finalists were:

**SPRING: Mount Doom** by James Elgar

**SUMMER: My Back Garden** by John Glover

**AUTUMN: Gunpowder Lit Woods** Jeanette Reaney

**WINTER: A January Sunrise** by Jan Pusiak

The panel was asked to rank the photos in order of preference to determine the winner. After extremely close scoring and a tie-break deliberation between the Summer and Winter entries the final decision was made to declare the Pitchford Village Hall Photo of the Year as "My Back Garden" by John Glover from Pitchford.

The winning photo has since been professionally printed and framed and now hangs proudly in the Hall for all to admire. The Pitchford Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who got involved with the Photography Challenge. We received 60 entries over the course of the competition and really enjoyed the variety and the quality. A special thanks too to the Judging Panel: Philip Dunn, Andrew Roberts and Karen Fisher who did a great job of scrutinising and scoring each and every one. The photos have provided a lovely slide-show backdrop to our monthly Pub Nights throughout the year and really showcased our beautiful surroundings.

Miriam Davies





# DENNIS AND HIS LONG DISTANCE WALK

As most of you will know, Dennis Wicks recently completed a long distance 'C2C' walk, starting in St Bees and finishing at Robin Hood's Bay, a total of 193 miles. Along the way he faced the best and worst that the British climate could serve up, but, as the photos show, did it all with a smile!

Dennis reports, "The C2C was a fantastic challenge with a real mixed bag of weather, scenery and terrain. I was lucky enough to have some friends come up to walk with me over the 16

days to keep my spirits up, and also meet some lovely people from USA, Australia and Singapore at various points. A great shared experience and lasting memories"

"The final total raised was £3,113.75, which is so much more than I thought was possible. It shows how generous people are and how much they truly care."

"A very special thank you goes out to Elizabeth, Tracy and the lovely ladies who helped out at the tea/coffee morning. To

all those who baked and donated cakes and of course those who came along and supported on the day. The cakes, gifts, raffle and cash donations raised a fabulous total of £459 towards the total for which Elizabeth and I are extremely grateful.

My only regret (for those who truly know me) is that I missed out on all the lovely cakes!"

"I will be going back up to re-walk some of the loveliest sections so if anyone fancies a stroll....."



Starting at St Bees with a couple of friends who walked the first few miles with Dennis.



Crossing what is normally a 'little stream' after two months rain in one day. That's why they call it the Lake District!



Going over 'Nine Standards Rigg', the watershed/bog around half way on the walk.



Signpost showing miles walked and how many still to go!



Finishing at Robin Hoods Bay. Tired but overcome with feelings of happiness, relief and needing a pint!



# FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS

As we move into August, many gardens are looking at their best, with cottage garden plants like roses, lavender and honeysuckle providing colour and scent. At this time of year many of us like to bring flowers into the house, but don't want to pay the high prices charged for bouquets in florists and supermarkets. Growing your own flowers to cut for the house can be a great way to save money – and is also environmentally friendly, as many commercially available flowers are shipped in from overseas.

Autumn is the perfect time to think about what you can grow for next spring, summer and autumn to give you a wealth of flowers for cutting. Gardening magazines and TV programmes often suggest establishing a 'cutting border' just for cut flowers, but if you don't have the room or inclination for that, then here are some suggestions for flowers that will look good in the garden as well as in a vase.

## SUPER EASY ANNUALS.

Look for hardy annuals that can be sown direct and simply thinned as the young plants emerge. Some are happy being sown in autumn – check the seed packet for instructions. If you have time and space half hardy annuals pay dividends. These need to be sown in seed trays or pots in a warm environment and can be planted them out when they are a good size and all risk of frost has passed. Snapdragons, zinnias, cosmos and sweet peas are cut-and-come-again annuals. Ammi majus (also known as Bishop's Weed') is increasingly popular, with large heads of tiny white flowers a little like cow parsley. Sunflowers are the easiest plants to grow and a few in a vase always look spectacular. Look out for shorter varieties like Little Dorrit.

## PERFECT PERENNIALS.

Plant them once and keep them for years! Perennials often benefit from having flower stems cut, as this prompts growth, making them great for providing cut flowers. Look out for plants that have flowers carried on strong stems. Any kind of perennial daisy will give you armfuls of flowers – Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemums*)

for pure whites, or *osteospermums* for a wealth of colours from pinks to yellows. Scabious varieties offer lovely blue and mauve flowers – Butterfly Blue is a pretty choice. Phlox is an old cottage garden plant with long lasting flowers in pink and white and a lovely scent, and towards the end of summer, Japanese anemones come into their own with flowers on long wiry stems. *Alchemilla mollis* (Lady's Mantle) provides frothy greenish flowers that help to fill out an arrangement, plus beautifully scalloped leaves. *Alstromerias* are tremendous value – they flower all summer and keep well in a vase. Choose Indian Summer for reliable flowers in warm shades of orange and yellow, or Rock & Roll for a fiery red. Pull the flower stems like rhubarb rather than cutting them and they'll keep flowering

## FILLERS, SHOW STOPPERS AND THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX!

Raid any shrubs (or even local hedgerows) for attractive foliage and flowers – some weigelas have lovely variegated leaves, as well as pretty flowers along the stems, and variegated hollies are dramatic.

For eye catching floral displays, think big! Early in the summer, alliums offer round flower heads in mainly blues, purples and whites in a range of sizes on long stems (their seed heads also make good displays). *Crocsmia* gives arching stems of bright flowers which last well (plant Lucifer for a firework display of red!). Foxtail lilies (*Eremus*) provide tall bottle-brush flowers in pastel shades. All three are easy to grow. If you have hydrangeas, a few flower heads in a vase look glamorous! . If you want to push the boat out, old fashioned chrysanthemums come in a wealth of colours and shapes, but need protecting from frost.

For something a little different, try herbs like rosemary, oregano and chives which have pretty flowers and a fresh, spicy scent and can make a lovely and unusual display for a dining room. Big bunches of lavender can also be stunning, offering a subtle scent and lasting for weeks in water (or simply put in an empty vase and allow to dry naturally).





# NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

## BREAKFAST BUTTIES

Our recent 'breakfast butties' event in July went well with virtually all food being sold and a lovely walk enjoyed despite the awful weather! The next event will be in September and our last of the year will be on the 7th December with an added 'pop-up' food event featuring local suppliers of all things tasty! More details on the latter in the November edition of this newsletter.



*Hardy crew on their stomp around our area building up an appetite for their PVH Breakfast Butty!*

## WINE TASTING

Following on from the success of the inaugural wine tasting event last March, we are holding another with a provisional date of Friday 22nd of November at the Hall. We think this will be a 'themed' event with Christmas wines up for tasting. Again, more details will be available in the November newsletter and on the ABC Facebook page as well as at each pub night at the Village Hall.

## CENTENARY EVENT

In 2026, the Village Hall – a 1920's prefab building – will be 100 years old. We are looking at holding an event and in the run-up to this in 20 months or so, we are looking for any memorabilia such as photos or other items which we can borrow and use at this event. Contact any of the committee members at the bottom of this article if you have anything which may be of interest which will be very gratefully received!

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SESSIONS

The Wellbeing and Care Team in Shrewsbury are putting on a couple of sessions to give advice and coping strategies for people in our area who may be worried about falls in the home or who may be suffering from arthritis.

The first of these deals with how to cope with possible falls in the home and strategies to deal with a fall should it happen. Specifically, the session will involve:

- A short informative film
- An interactive demonstration to include how to get up safely from the floor after a fall
- A Falls Plan – a talk and planning to ensure your home is safe
- Calling for help
- Gentle Exercises – with our trained and qualified instructor, you will be guided in gentle exercise for 30 minutes

This session will take place on Monday 28th October from 10am until 12.30pm.

The second session involves coping with arthritis. This session will involve:

- An informative presentation about osteoarthritis with a focus on self-management and pain relief techniques
- A recorded Q&A session on osteoarthritis with Dr Anne O'Brien, Keele University
- Information on local and online physical activity opportunities
- Information on resources which provide arthritis and pain management support

This session will take place on Wednesday 30th October from 9.00am until 1.00pm.

A further two sessions will then be offered to interested parties and the cost is free to all. Further details will appear on the ABC Facebook page and the PVH Facebook pages nearer the time.

## FITNESS TRAINING AT PVH

The weekly fitness sessions with Gemma of Gemsfitness continue to run every week on Thursdays between 7.00 and 8.00pm. Cost is £7 and all abilities are welcome with a different programme each week. These are

designed to help you with your strength and cardio and general fitness. You can work at your own pace and they are age and body positive and super friendly! Look for details on the PVH and ABC Facebook pages through which you can make a booking.

## HIRING OF THE HALL

The Village Hall is your facility and is available for hire and at extremely competitive rates. Currently, prices start from:

Children's parties: £30

Meetings: £20

Other bookings: £40 and £60 for events over 6 hours

Should you wish to hire the hall for your own use, then again, please contact Mike Price.

## NEW FRIDGE

A massive thanks to fund raiser extraordinaire, our Secretary Chris Jones, who has sourced funds for a replacement fridge after the current one, which we've had since the Neolithic age, finally decided to retire to the great kitchen in the sky. Cold beers are a'coming!!

## AND FINALLY . . .

Pub nights are held on the second Friday of each month and all are welcome! In September (13th), following on from their very popular and successful food event in May, Rachel Johnson and her volunteer army will be putting on a BBQ. Good food, cheap prices and kids eat free!! Another date for the diary then!!

## Mike Price

(Chairman PVH Management Committee)

email: [price622@btinternet.com](mailto:price622@btinternet.com)

mobile: 07740 067955

## Chris Jones

(Secretary)

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## Jeanette Reaney

(Tote Organiser)

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mobile: 07971 780963

## Bridget Thurgood

(Treasurer)

email: [bthurgood2@btinternet.com](mailto:bthurgood2@btinternet.com)

*John Glover (PVH Committee)*

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2024

The Annual Parish Meeting welcomed a number of speakers and members of the local community to an interesting meeting on 16th May, which reviewed the work of the Parish Council over the past year and gave local organisations the opportunity to update the audience on their activities.

Nikki Winmill, Programme Officer for the Community Foundation, which now administers the Godolphin Edwards Trust, explained the funds available to residents of the parish. The Trust is an endowment fund with the annual interest made available for grants. Community Groups may apply for up to £2,500 and individuals up to £500. There are two windows during the year to apply for funds; but emergency funds may be requested year round. See [www.shropshire.foundation/godolphinedwardsindividuals/](http://www.shropshire.foundation/godolphinedwardsindividuals/) for details.

Police Community Support Officer Stuart Roberts and PC Richard Walters presented a report on the work of West Mercia Police. The Parish is a very low crime area. Since January there have been 8 incidents: one report of a suspicious vehicle, two damage-only road traffic accidents, and 5 other

incidents (such as assault/harassment/concern for safety). The local policing team is regularly present in the parish. Recently seven men were arrested following an 8-month investigation into rural crime. The police stressed the importance of reporting suspicious activity such as vehicles and drones which can aid this type of investigation. There is an intelligence unit in Shrewsbury which works to link incidents and build cases.

The police encourage members of the public to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters, [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk), which is the best place to send and receive direct messages on local policing from the police.

Michael Truss, the Principal, and Matthew Hodge, the Bursar, attended to report on Concord College. The College continues to be very successful having been awarded Independent School of the Year for International Experience and named one of the world's best 100 schools. The college is not seeking to increase student numbers above the current DfE limit of 630 (there are currently 580 students on the roll) is currently 580) and may

face a significant challenge with the likely introduction of VAT on tuition fees in the near future. The College has an outreach programme with local primary schools.

The College recently submitted two planning applications for major new buildings, a new boarding house and a sports hall. These are necessary as the College site has grown organically over the past 50 years and a number of its buildings are no longer fit for purpose. Work is planned for September 2024-early 2026. The College also intends to submit two further planning applications for another boarding house and a dining hall. These will be built at the heart of the campus, replacing existing buildings. However, the building of these structures is dependent on College funds and any effects of introduction of VAT on fees. Once a contractor is appointed they will work with Shropshire Council's Highways team on a mitigation plan for construction traffic.

Concerns were raised about the speed of vehicles on the Pitchford Road commuting to and from the college, and the College representatives agreed to circulate a memo to staff encouraging them to drive considerately.

## NEWS FROM MUCH WENLOCK AND CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

### CARER CONNECT

Carer Connect is a support group dedicated to our unpaid carers. It provides an opportunity to meet others and to connect with support services in the community. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Priory Hall, from 2pm until 4pm. Sessions are supported by Age UK, Shropshire Carers and the Alzheimer's Society; carers can attend alone or with the person they care for. Refreshments are provided and there are a variety of activities throughout the year.

### AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Practice will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August. If you require medical advice during this time please contact **111** or go to [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk). The Practice will re-open as usual on Tuesday 27th August.

### FLU VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2024/25

We are preparing for another big year with our annual Flu vaccination campaign. Flu vaccines will be offered to the following patient groups in order of priority:

- Patients aged 65 years and over
- Patients who are immunosuppressed
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Carers
- Housebound patients
- Patients' living in long-stay residential care homes or nursing homes
- Frontline workers working in social care settings

We would like to encourage all eligible patients to take up the offer of being vaccinated against influenza.

We have approximate delivery dates for our Flu Vaccines in September and October with provisional dates\* for our main flu clinics, to be held once again at William Brookes School, Much Wenlock, as follows:

Saturday 5 October  
Saturday 19 October  
Saturday 26 October

Please note these dates may alter subject to flu and covid vaccine availability.

Eligible patients will be contacted by text message once the flu clinics are available to book. The text message will include a 'Self-book' link. The link expires within 7 days so do ensure you click on the link at your earliest convenience to book your appointment. It is important to ensure we have the correct mobile phone number for you as we will be notifying patients by text message in the first instance when the appointments are on the appointment system.

Flu vaccinations appointments will also be available to book via Patient Online Access. If you have not yet registered for online access, please collect a registration form from one of the Practices.

### COVID BOOSTER VACCINATIONS

It is very likely that we will be delivering COVID booster vaccines alongside the flu vaccinations. We are awaiting further guidance, information and clarification from the NHS on how they plan to deliver the vaccinations this year.



# SEASONAL RECIPES

Whinberry (or to give it its Latin name – *Vaccinium Myrtillus*) is a very dark blue berry found growing wild on the Shropshire hills. It was an important local crop before the Second World War, and was often collected by local families to sell to the dyeing industry, as the juice from the fruit gave a rich, deep red colour to fabric. Unfortunately, if you pick the berries without wearing gloves, you might find your fingers taking on the same colour. Whinberries are in season until around the end of September, and can be used in any recipe that uses blueberries or blackberries.



## WHINBERRY JAM

### Ingredients (makes 3 jars)

650g whinberries  
500g granulated sugar  
Juice of 1 lemon

Sterilise jam jars by washing in hot soapy water, rinsing, and then standing upside down on a roasting tray in a 160deg c oven for 15 minutes.

Wash the berries and remove any bits of stalk or leaves. Place in a pan (no water

needed) and gently heat. Stir the berries, crushing them slightly to release the juice. Add the lemon juice and simmer until the berries are soft. Add the sugar and stir until it is thoroughly dissolved in the berry juice, then bring to the boil for around 5 minutes. Test to see if it is ready to set by placing a small amount on a chilled saucer, waiting a few moments and then pushing the jam with your finger. If it is ready to set you should see wrinkled skin on the surface.

Carefully pour or ladle the jam into the sterilised jars. Cover the jam surface with a waxed disc (wax side down) and then screw on the lid, or use a cellophane disc secured with a jam jar.

Apples are also in season, and can be used to produce a special treat for Bonfire Night or to brighten up any chilly autumn evening.

## TOFFEE APPLES

### Ingredients (for 8 apples)

8 apples (Granny Smiths work well)  
400g golden castor sugar  
1 tsp vinegar  
4 tbsp golden syrup

If the apples have been bought in a supermarket, they may have a wax coating on the skin. Place in a large bowl and cover with boiling water to remove this. Push a wooden skewer or round lolly stick into the stalk end of each apple. Place a sheet of baking parchment lightly coated with vegetable oil on an oven tray, and stand the apples on this.

Put the sugar in a pan along with 100ml water and warm over a medium heat, stirring gently. Cook until the sugar dissolves, and then stir in the vinegar and the syrup. If you have a sugar thermometer, you need to heat the sugar syrup to 150 deg c. If (like most of us), you don't have this particular gadget, then you can test to find out when the toffee is ready by pouring a little into a bowl of cold water. When it is ready it should harden immediately and it should break with a nice crack. If the toffee is still squishy when it comes out of the cold water, it needs a little more cooking.

When the toffee is ready, turn off the heat and dip each apple, twisting to get it fully covered, allow any excess toffee to drip off and then place on the parchment to dry. If the toffee starts to feel thick and gloopy, then heat it again until the consistency is smooth and will coat an apple easily. Allow to cool completely before eating.

Will keep for two days. Store in a cool place, but don't refrigerate.



## Lets Do Dinner!

Join up with friends and family to raise money for Hope House and Ty Gobaith children's hospices by hosting a dinner party this September. Contact [www.hopehouse.org.uk/Event/dinner](http://www.hopehouse.org.uk/Event/dinner) to get your free fundraising pack, which includes invitations, place name cards, recipe suggestions and dinner party games. Ask your guests to make a donation, or raise some cash with a raffle or a sweepstake. The menu and guest list is up to you!



## MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

As we wade through what can only be described as the quintessentially British summer — a season where the sun seems to be on holiday and the rain refuses to take one — I hope this newsletter finds you well and dry!

The recent general election has ushered in significant changes, with the Labour Party securing a majority in Parliament. This shift in the political landscape is bound to have various implications for us here in Shropshire, and I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what these changes might mean for our community.

Firstly, I must extend my congratulations to Helen Morgan, the re-elected Liberal Democrat MP for North Shropshire, Julia Buckley, the newly elected Labour MP for Shrewsbury, and Stuart Anderson our newly elected Conservative MP for South Shropshire, where Burnell ward now finds itself. It is essential that we work collaboratively, regardless of political affiliation, to ensure that the needs of Shropshire are met. There are several key areas where we hope to see

continued or increased support under the new government.

One of the most pressing issues is the funding and improvement of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Our community relies heavily on this facility, and it is imperative that we continue to receive the necessary funding to enhance its services and infrastructure. I will be advocating strongly for this cause and will seek to work with our new MP to secure these vital resources.

Additionally, the North West Relief Road (NWRR) remains a critical project for Shrewsbury and the surrounding areas. This infrastructure project is essential for reducing traffic congestion, improving road safety, and fostering economic growth. The Department for Transport has pledged to fully fund the construction of the NWRR, and I will be pressing for this commitment to be honoured and expedited.

Moreover, there are other infrastructure projects that require attention and support. These include improving local road networks, enhancing public

transport options, and ensuring our rural areas receive the investment they need. The Labour Party's manifesto highlighted a commitment to infrastructure and economic development, and we must hold them to these promises for the benefit of Shropshire. As your representative, I am dedicated to advocating for the interests of Burnell Ward and Shropshire at large. Your concerns and priorities are my guiding force, and I welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have.

Let's navigate this political landscape together, with a shared vision for a prosperous and well-connected Shropshire. And perhaps, with a bit of luck, we might even get a sunny day or two!

If you have any other questions on any matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email

[dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk), by phone on **07902 408400**, on facebook **dan4burnell** or Twitter **@dan4burnell**.

*Dan Morris*

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council met on 14th May and 9th July. Papers and draft minutes are available at:

[www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings](http://www.actonburnellparishcouncil.org.uk/meetings).

The May meeting was the statutory annual meeting where officers and committee members are elected or confirmed along with annual accounts, audit, standing orders, etc.

The Annual Parish (Community) meeting was held as a stand-alone event this year on Thursday 16th May. It was good to have a reasonable turnout and to receive some useful comments and ideas from residents (see separate report). Similar meeting arrangements are proposed for next year.

A beacon was lit on Acton Burnell Hill on June 6th to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-day. The Parish Council thanks Acton Burnell Estate for their assistance together with the other volunteers who helped organise the event and the speakers, Jeremy and Keith.

Other items and developments are as follows.

Following a leak in Stoneleigh Close last year and concerns expressed over the capacity of the Acton Burnell treatment works to cope with the new hall of residence at Concord College, a representative from Severn Trent Water

(STW) attended the July meeting. We were assured that capacity was ample (this was increased fourfold a few years ago) and STW agreed to investigate the leak directly with the residents concerned.

Acton Burnell Castle opened in May with temporary access via the Catholic churchyard. The regular entrance will reopen later in the year when the unsafe tree has been felled. Remedial work on the structure was completed in mid-July and barriers blocking the two passages through the west wall have been removed.

Now that discussions with the contractor have been finalised, village gateways (designed to encourage motorists to slow down as they enter the village boundaries) will be installed in August/September for Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley and Ruckley. Shropshire Council should also be progressing the new 30mph speed limit, mirror, etc. for Frodesley. However, no dates are available for these works.

The Ruckley and Langley notice board has been replaced and work will begin shortly on the replacement of the bus shelter at Frodesley.

A contract has been let for replacing the damaged stone in the lower courses of stonework on the bus shelter at Pitchford which are badly eroded.

A number of local footpaths have become overgrown and consideration is being given to the Council organising annual clearance. In the meantime, Cllr. Johnson has led a group of volunteers who kindly cleared the path from Pitchford towards The Grove Farm and Mr Jackson has cut a section of the old Roman road. Many thanks to all. Shropshire Council are working with the landowner to clear the lane through Oaklands Farm.

Atlas Tower Group are proposing to install a phone tower in the area to improve mobile coverage. This was welcomed in principle but the proposal was aimed at Acton Burnell and the council have asked for the site to be chosen to give improved coverage for all four parishes.

Shropshire Council will be charging an annual fee of £56 for kerbside green waste collection, probably from October. This is in line with many other authorities. The Parish Council are looking into the possibility of a community scheme but options seem limited.

Potholes and eroded verges continue to be a problem. Everyone is urged to report these issues via the 'Fix my Street' website.

The next Parish Council Meeting is set for Tuesday 10th September 2024 at Pitchford Village Hall to start at 19:30.



Dear Reader,

It is a great delight to be writing to you as the newly elected Member of Parliament for South Shropshire. I want to start by paying tribute to my predecessor, Philip Dunne. For almost two decades, Philip has diligently championed issues which matter to local people. I am grateful for his wise counsel as I prepare to represent South Shropshire.

I grew up in Herefordshire before joining the Army for eight years on numerous operational tours. After this I entered the defence and security industry, operating around the world. I have served in Parliament since 2019 and I am delighted to start representing South Shropshire, where me and my family live in and love very dearly.

I want to thank the people of South Shropshire for believing in me and giving me a chance to be your local representative in Parliament. I am dedicated to being a strong voice for South Shropshire in Parliament and to delivering for our priorities.

I was honoured to play a central role as Parliament met on Tuesday 9 July for the election of the Speaker of the House of Commons as a newly appointed interim Shadow Deputy Chief Whip. In this role, I am responsible for coordinating my party's contribution to parliamentary business- ensuring that, as the official opposition, we hold the new Government to account on its actions.

Since being elected, I have got stuck in at local events in Church Stretton, Atcham and Chelmarsh. Events like these are important for communities and enable me to listen to resident's concerns. I am also delighted that Shropshire Council has agreed to keep the household recycling centres open in Bridgnorth and Craven Arms, the only two in South Shropshire. I would like to thank everyone who worked on this campaign to secure this outcome.

There is a lot of work to do, but some of my immediate concerns are for the investment the previous Government promised for Shropshire's hospitals and for road resurfacing. I know this investment is badly needed, so I got to work in calling on the new Government to honour these commitments ahead of the King's Speech during the State Opening of Parliament.

I will work tirelessly to ensure the voices of residents across South Shropshire are actively listened to and will keep you updated with the progress I make.

*Stuart Anderson MP*



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