

May 2026

Village Views

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

WELCOME

World events are having an impact on all of us at the present time, as rocketing oil prices make filling up the car or the heating oil tank more and more expensive. This causes particular concern in our communities, where many of us rely on the car to get us to and from work, school and local services, and where we don't have the option of using gas for heating and hot water.

A Government report in 2023 estimated that that around 53% of homes in South Shropshire did not have access to the national gas grid, compared to 15.7% in the UK as a whole. A more recent estimate suggests that there are over 24,000 homes in South Shropshire relying on oil. In 2021, only 1.2% of homes in Shropshire were heated using renewable energy – a figure that perhaps will grow in the coming years as we face an uncertain future.

However, we are (luckily) now looking forward to welcoming the warmer days of summer, when living in the beautiful and peaceful Shropshire countryside brings many compensations. Now is the time to think about long walks, and even longer evenings – and maybe we can forget some of the awful events taking place elsewhere in the world for just a little while.

Chris Harrison, John Glover, Rachel Johnson and Paul Harrison

CHURCH NEWS – WELCOME TO OUR NEW RECTOR!

After nearly three years in vacancy, I'm delighted that our new Rector, Reverend Gareth Ingham will be joining us in May. His service of licensing is at Conover Church at 7pm on Tuesday 5th May, followed by refreshments at Conover Village Hall. All are welcome to join us to welcome Father Gareth to our new community. If you can't make it to his licensing service I know that Father Gareth is keen to get involved in the life of our community so we will no doubt be seeing him at events such as the Pitchford Village Hall pub night.

*Jeremy Lowe
Reader, Conover Benefice*

A few words from Father Gareth:

"As May arrives with its lengthening days and the deepening warmth of spring, I'm delighted to be writing to you for the first time as the new Rector of the Conover Benefice. It is a great privilege to join the life of these five churches and the communities they serve, and I am deeply grateful for the warmth of welcome I have already received. Thank you for your kindness, your patience as I learn your names and faces, and your friendship as we begin this new chapter together.

Spring is a good time for fresh starts and new beginnings. We are still in the Easter season, and the Easter message feels especially fitting as I begin my ministry among you. The continuing celebration of

Easter is God's great declaration that new beginnings are always possible. The risen Christ meets us all where we are – in the garden, along country lanes, out in the fields, at work and in our homes – and he invites us to walk forward with him in faith.

My prayer is that our journey together will be blessed. I look forward to being with you, learning from one another, and continuing the faithful work of serving the communities of our benefice.

May this month and the remainder of the Easter season bring you, your families, and friends, much joy and the gentle assurance that God always goes before us."

*Every blessing
Fr Gareth Ingham*



The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be July 20th 2026.

Please contact villageviews@hotmail.com with any news or villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com to place an advert.

NEWS FROM PITCHFORD VILLAGE HALL

PVH Committee

We are really pleased to welcome four new members from the Parish to our committee. Tracy Johnson and Dan Smith from Pitchford are joined by Caroline Morgan and Steph Watkiss from Acton Burnell. Already, there is a much more positive vibe among those who run the Hall and new ideas are already forming which will hopefully be of interest and benefit to you all!

There are also going to be some changes in some of the positions within the committee which will have taken place by next March. After many years, Mike Price will step down as chairman (although he will continue to sit on the committee) and his position will hopefully be replaced from within the committee. Chris Jones is also planning to step down as Secretary as is Bridget Thurgood who is our current Treasurer. Full details will appear in a later edition, but clearly, we will need big boots to fill these positions following on from the fantastic work they have done over the past many, many years!

Pub nights

Pub nights are the only regular social event in our area where anyone can come along and meet up with others. These are held every second Friday of the month and all are welcome, including dogs and humans of any age! They usually start at 7.30pm and we operate a cash bar and offer a wide variety of drinks, including cask ale, for you to enjoy. Every couple of months or so, we also have a food event and in May, we welcome Lalita and her Indian Food truck back to the hall and in July, we have a family BBQ ready for you to take advantage of! Sadly, inflation had slowly eaten into our profits and as such, there will have to be some price rises behind the bar, although they will still be significantly under what you might expect to pay in our local pubs!

Breakfast Butties

Our 'Breakfast Butties' event in March went very well and was supported by many people from the area and beyond. We are planning an event in September and details nearer the time will be available in the next edition of the Village views and on the Facebook sites.

Maintenance

Our old hall still gives us regular headaches with regard to maintenance, and like the Forth Bridge, is an ongoing process! We do have to thank Nicola Young for not only

providing the materials, but also repainting the ladies toilets making them so much more presentable – thank you Nicola! Repairs to the structure of the same toilets is now in hand and when completed, will make them the first class facility they should be! As previously mentioned, the exterior woodwork is also in scope to be repaired.

SVHQ League

Our team has performed really well in recent months. Team organiser John Long writes:

"Yet another season of the hugely enjoyable Shropshire Village Halls Quiz (SVHQ) has been completed and, for the first time ever, the Pitchford team have finished second in the 'B' Division. Depending on how the organizers define promotion and relegation (it seems to vary from year to year), the PVH team may even reach the dizzy heights of the 'A' Division - which may be a step too far, but we shall see.

This unexpected rise in our position is entirely due to the players who have put themselves through the monthly mental marathon of answering questions on a very wide range of general knowledge.

My thanks therefore go to Jill and Keith Faulkner, Gill and Andy Farr, Jeanette Reaney, Jo Long and Andrew Roberts for their excellent efforts.

We all look forward - possibly with some trepidation - to the forthcoming season starting in October.

As always, if there are any other budding 'quizzers' in the area, please let us know. We might even raise a Second Team!"

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 please contact Mike Price.

As always, we are continually looking for new volunteers to help with the running of the Hall and associated events, and on that note, Miriam is still co-ordinating the Hall's 'Do One Thing' initiative, details of which are also on the Facebook pages.

If you would like to help, or just discuss the

possibility, or even have any ideas of the sort of hall you would want to see and which would encourage you to use us, then do contact any of the Committee Members. In addition, should you wish to hire the hall for your own use, then again, please contact Mike Price.

Contacts

Mike Price (Chairman):
email: price622@btinternet.com
mobile: 07740 067955

Chris Jones (Secretary):
email: cjay@btinternet.com
mobile: 07538 744807

Jeanette Reaney (Tote Organiser):
email: jeanettereaney@hotmail.com
mobile: 07971 780963

John Glover (PVH Committee)

Events Diary

Fri 8 th May	Pub night with Lalita's Indian Food. 19:30
Fri 12 th Jun	Pub night. 19:30
Fri 10 th Jul	Pub night with Family BBQ. 19:30
Fri 14 th Aug	Pub night. 19:30
Fri 11 th Sept	Pub night with the Fodder box providing Pizza and Calzoni. 19:30
Fri 9 th Oct	Pub night. 19:30
Fri 13 th Nov	Pub night. 19:30
Fri 11 th Dec	Pub night celebrating 100 years of PVH. 19:30



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

How to claim for damage to your vehicle

The Parish Council is aware that more and more people are suffering damage to their vehicles as a result of the poor state of the roads at the moment.

We have been reporting issues to Shropshire Council and pressuring them to do more to fix the roads quickly and effectively. In the meantime we'd like to share how to claim from Shropshire Council if there has been damage caused by road defects. The claim form and full details are available here: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/highways-maintenance/potholes/making-a-claim/>

Prior to making a claim the road defect needs to be reported on www.fixmystreet.com and you need to make a note of the report reference number

There is no guarantee of success as the burden falls upon you to prove that Shropshire Council has been neglectful. You must provide evidence including photos of the road defect, damage, invoices for repair etc.

Please drive carefully

In early March there was an accident on the road between Frodesley and Acton Burnell near to the entrance to Frodesley Hall Farm. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries to the parties involved. Please be aware that the road narrows at this location and visibility is hampered by bends. Please take particular care when driving this stretch of road.

Volunteer drivers

The Parish Council is still looking for volunteers to help reduce isolation in our community by offering lifts by car to people without access to a car or who are not able to drive. We envision possibly having a list of people willing to give lifts in each of the villages. Volunteers may be refunded for mileage by their passenger at a rate of 45p per mile but would not be allowed to make any profit. If you would be interested in finding out more or would like to put your name down as a potential volunteer to provide occasional lifts or to help to co-ordinate volunteers in your village, please contact the Parish Clerk by email: clerk@actonburnell-pc.gov.uk.

Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley Parish Council invites you to the

Annual Community Meeting

Join us on
Tuesday 19 May 2026
7.30pm Pitchford Village Hall

All residents of the Parish are welcome.

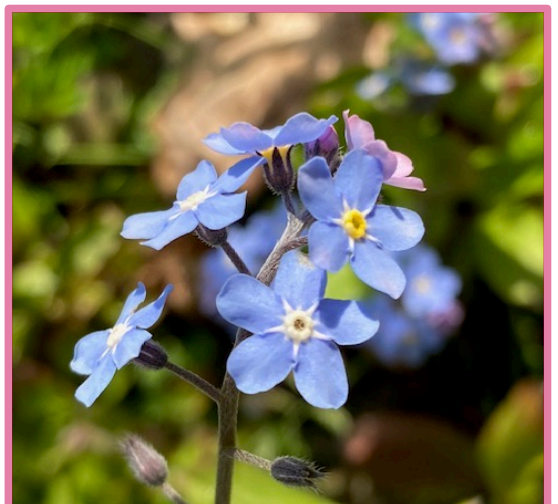
Free refreshments and cash bar

Come along to find out about what's happening in your local community including updates from:

- The Parish Council
- Shropshire Council
- Concord College
- Pitchford Village Hall Committee
- Village Views
- West Mercia Police
- Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire

Contact us

clerk@actonburnell-pc.gov.uk
www.actonburnell-pc.gov.uk/meetings



LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

I have stepped up my campaign to improve postal services in South Shropshire by meeting with Royal Mail bosses in Ludlow. Talking face to face, I expressed urgent concerns about the huge impact that missed delivery rounds and late letters are having on rural communities which completely rely on a reliable postal service to stay connected and well-informed. Readers may remember that back in February, I led a Westminster Hall Debate in Parliament on the unacceptable state of postal services in rural areas and stated that 'I am an exceptionally tenacious person that will not accept no as an answer... I will not stop until every letter is delivered on time.' I remain committed to this promise.

South Shropshire is home to so many beautiful stretches of river, including the Clun, the Onny, the Severn, and the Teme. No doubt because of this, hundreds of constituents have contacted me in recent weeks to express deep-rooted concerns about the prevalence of waste and sewage in waterways across the nation. I have spoken publicly about this issue on a number of occasions since I was elected as the MP for South Shropshire in 2024, but following this renewed expression of interest from constituents, I have raised it again. The latest classifications show that one in seven English bathing sites are still polluted, including the bathing site upstream of Dinham Bridge at the River Teme in Ludlow. So, I have urged Ministers to intensify efforts to improve the quality of our bathing waters as a matter of urgency.

In other news, it is my privilege to enthusiastically endorse the competitive applications made by both Ludlow and Bridgnorth to the Town of Culture Competition. The winning town will receive £3 million to deliver a programme of cultural renewal and growth in 2028, so I want to make sure our worthy candidates have the best possible chance at success. It has been inspirational to see communities in both Ludlow and Bridgnorth coming together in recent months to prepare their detailed bids. I have endorsed both in letters sent to Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy and will be working hard to advocate for our towns in the corridors of Westminster over the coming months.

Finally, in London, I recently enjoyed meeting with Shropshire residents at the Parliamentary Repair Cafe event. There are a number of fantastic repair cafes dotted around our constituency, including in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Highley, Bishops Castle, and Church Stretton. Supported by a growing network of volunteer repairers, these groups help people fix broken items for free to avoid unnecessary waste. I am fully supportive of this mission, and I was grateful for the opportunity to learn more about how repair cafes bring people together whilst helping to protect our environment.

I continue to hold advice surgeries across South Shropshire, offering residents the opportunity to raise problems and get support on a wide range of issues. I am also holding monthly 'MP Coffee Mornings' which provide a relaxed chance for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. Come along, say hello, and raise any local or wider issues you'd like to discuss. Dates and locations are advertised on my website <https://www.stuartanderson.org.uk/> or you can phone my constituency office at 01746 555025

Stuart Anderson MP

stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk



MUCH WENLOCK AND CRESSAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

Patients' Voice Annual General Meeting

This is your chance to find out who are the Care Co-ordinators working in the practice and what they can do to support patients.
When - Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 6.30pm
Where - Much Wenlock Medical Practice, Kingsway Lodge, King Street, Much Wenlock TF13 6BL
Who can attend? - All patients registered at Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice
Do I need to book? - No, just turn up on 12.5.26 at 6.30pm
We look forward to seeing you there!

Easter Raffle to support Wrekin Oarsome Team

The Wrekin Oarsome team will be taking part in WTR 2026, rowing 3,000 miles from the Canary Islands to Antigua and Barbuda, and using this challenge to raise money for Severn Hospice and the British Heart Foundation.
The raffle was drawn by Dr Harvey on the 30th March 2026 and the prize winners are:
1st Prize - Purple ticket 48 – Air fryer
2nd Prize - Purple ticket 51 - Large Easter Hamper
3rd Prize - Yellow ticket 51 - Medium Easter Hamper

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who brought tickets for your support. We raised £263.50 to help support the team's efforts.

May Bank Holiday Closures

The surgeries at Much Wenlock and Cressage will be closed on Monday 4th and Monday 25th May. Should you require medical assistance during this time, please call 111.

WHAT'S ON

1st May to 27th June

Attingham Hall presents an exhibition focussing on historic objects from the Hall's collection which have links to India. The 'Imagining India' exhibition includes a recently conserved panoramic artwork, as well as prints, ceramics, books, militaria and miniatures. Visits to the exhibition will begin with a short introductory talk, following which visitors will be able to explore three rooms. Booking advisable to avoid disappointment – please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/8d277244-7c3c-4853-b49a-3fcd98b3a13a to reserve tickets.

8th May

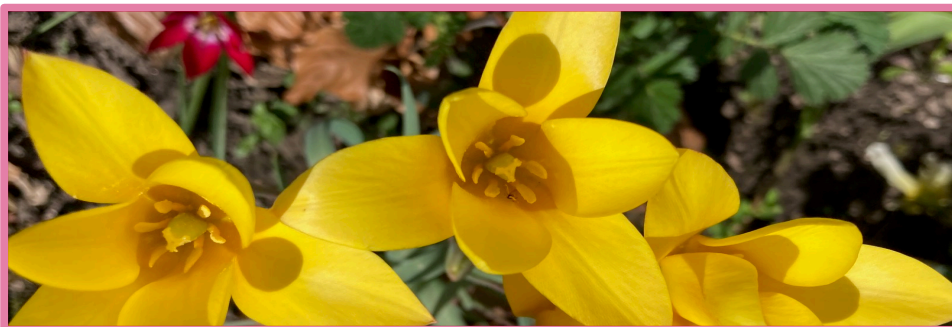
Come along to try some delicious Indian food at Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Lalita will be on hand to offer Indian delicacies from 7.30pm onwards. Usual bar offerings will also be available. Kids, dogs and adults all welcome!

8th May, 19th June and 24th July

Fancy trying your hand at en plein air sketching and painting? Workshops will be taking place at Attingham Hall – all materials, easels and entry are included in the ticket price of £40, which also includes tuition by artist Lucy Caddel. Each session lasts for 3 hours. To book a place, please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/attingham-park/events/d3df2e28-c6fd-4b73-9b47-11dbb37d4325

12th May

Much Wenlock and Cressage Patient's Voice AGM will take place at the Much Wenlock surgery at 6.30pm. Topics under discussion will include the role of health professionals based at the practice (including the Clinical Pharmacist and Cancer Care Co-ordinator) and look at the contribution of the patient representatives to the development of services at the practice. No need to book – all registered patients welcome.



19th May

Parish Annual Meeting at Pitchford Village Hall. All local residents very welcome.

23rd May

Shropshire County Show takes place at the West Mids Showground in Shrewsbury. Expect livestock galore, agricultural machinery and information, plus attractions aimed at families and children. Plenty of food and drink outlets to whet your appetite, and the day culminates in a firework display. More information and ticket sales on www.shropshirecountyshow.com

27th & 28th June

The Food Festival takes over The Quarry in Shrewsbury for two days, offering nearly 200 food and drink stall, as well as free activities for children. Live music promises the help the day go with a swing. Find more information at www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk/events/shrewsbury-food-festival

10th July

It's Family BBQ evening at Pitchford Village Hall! Doors open at 7.30pm as usual, with beer, wine and soft drinks on sale throughout the evening. Check the Village Hall and Acton Burnell Community Facebook pages for more information near the date.

11th July

The Piece of Cake Trail Run returns to Shropshire, with runners tackling 10k, 13.1 miles or 26.2 miles through the Shropshire Hills and up the Long Mynd. The trails start and finish at Carding Mill Valley (helpfully close to the National Trust tearooms!). Entry fees are £32.25 for the 10k run, £39.69 for the half marathon, and £45.00 for the full marathon distance. Medals for all those who complete their chosen distance! Book via www.findarace.com/events/the-piece-of-cake-trail-run-2#:~:text=Saturday%2011th%20July%202026%20will,Hills%20and%20The%20Long%20Mynd.

18th & 19th July

Experience the 2026 Dragon Boat Festival on the River Severn. Enjoy the spectacle of teams of 16-20 rowers, including a drummer, racing their 40ft dragon boats. Teams will race head to dragon's head along the picturesque stretch from Kingsland Bridge to Pengwern Boat Club. Free to watch from vantage points along the path through the Quarry, or from the bridges. If you would like to put together a team to enter, please go to <https://events.severnospice.org.uk/event/s/details>. All proceeds go to Severn Hospice.

25th & 26th July

Head over to the Battlefield 1403 site in Shrewsbury to enjoy this family day out, where there will be the chance to see knights in armour and archers preparing for battle. There will be living history, including traditional crafts and cookery, with a variety of activities to try your hand at throughout the day. This will include national and regional living history groups along with many specialists on a huge range of areas. At the end of each day, spectators will be able to take sides and cheer on their favoured army, as part of the battle is re-enacted on the original battlefield. Gates open at 10.00am and the spectacle continues until 5.00pm on both days. Free entry for everyone.



PITCHFORD HALL CENTENARY CLUB

We launched the PVH Centenary Club in January and since then have been gathering momentum in our quest to bring the 100-year story of Pitchford Village Hall alive!

The Village Hall will celebrate its Centenary in December this year. The Centenary Club has been brought together to curate a timeline and exhibition of facts, events and stories that have happened in and around the Village Hall since 1926.

The Village Hall was opened by Lady Sybil Grant and funded by generous donations and community efforts: most significantly, it was built for use by the communities of Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley, Ruckley & Langley with the hope that it would unite the parishes and have a long and happy life. It is striking that those same hopes, now held by the Village Hall Committee, remain unchanged today.

We are looking for stories about life and history across the four parishes, not necessarily about or connected to the Village Hall. Our focus is on the four-parish community - the highs, lows, families and anecdotes that make our community history unique.

Centenary Club members have been researching far and wide and engaging with archives, artefacts, and community members to learn more about life in the area. We are unravelling stories of people in hiding, the war years, school days, weddings, competitions, loved animals, community heroes, local families, shops and pubs.

One of our highlights has been watching camcorder footage of the 1977 Queen's Jubilee celebrations. This grainy video captures a moment in time of our community history and all things 1970's (hairdos, flares and very little consideration of Health and Safety!). We can see floats pulled by tractors from each of the villages, children dressed up in costumes, and bunting, flags and smiles in the grounds of Acton Burnell Hall (now Concord College). We would LOVE to learn more about this event, gather photos and hear memories first-hand. If you remember this event, please contact us!

We still have much to uncover and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved. We would particularly like to hear from neighbours in Frodesley, Ruckley, and Langley, as we are finding stories and history from those areas harder to come by – can you help?

The PVH Centenary Club meets every month. We are a small group of local history enthusiasts who enjoy patching together our past and sharing stories from the community over a cuppa and a biscuit. Everyone is welcome, and you can be involved as much or as little as you like.

There are lots of ways you can get involved and in touch: Our email address is PVH1926@outlook.com. You can also follow us/message us on Facebook ([facebook.com/pitchfordvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/pitchfordvillagehall)) and Instagram [@pitchfordvillagehall](https://www.instagram.com/pitchfordvillagehall).

How to get involved:

1. Share your photos and memorabilia

If you have old photos and objects from the last 100 years, we'd love to see them. We will make copies and return everything (we will also consider data protection before we share).

2. Share your stories

If you have a story to share, you can either submit it in writing via email or let one of the 100 Club interview you to create an article or a video. Just get in touch, and we'll work it out.

3. Join the PVH Centenary Club

We plan to meet on the last Thursday of every month at 6.30 pm in the Hall. We can enjoy a hot drink and a piece of cake, and collate the contributions together. The more the merrier!

4. Contact us with ideas

If you have ideas or suggestions for this project or other avenues we might explore, please share them with us.

We will keep you updated on our progress and welcome your contributions.

Many thanks
The Centenary Club

As a 'taster' of the story so far, here are some snippets of photos collected by the Centenary Club that are starting to shape the story ...the full exhibition is planned for December this year.

A photo of the opening of the bus shelter in Pitchford to celebrate the 1977 Queen's Jubilee – we know there was lots going on in the area around this time but we would love to find out more. Were you there?



PITCHFORD HALL CENTENARY CLUB



We are really enjoying gathering photos of people from the community...this one is of Miss Joan Ray (lived opposite the hall in Rural Cottages), who presented a posy of flowers to Lady Sybil Grant when the Hall was opened in 1926.

We are also collecting photos from community schools in the area, such as the now-closed schools in Pitchford and Acton Burnell.

Here is a rather tranquil scene from the convent school 'Our Lady of Sion', featuring some local students (now Concord College).



We are discovering a lot of interesting material concerning the war years. Here is a photo of a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, thought to be the type of plane that crashed in the fields behind Pitchford Village Hall. We are looking into this and other air history events in the area during the War Years; it seems it wasn't as peaceful here as you might expect!

A photo of Jessie the Donkey, who used to deliver post around the villages during the war. Jessie became somewhat of a celebrity due to her hard work and interesting life with Lady Sybil Grant at Pitchford Hall.



We are also collecting pictures celebrating community heroes, such as Mr Frank Tait, Pitchford's last cycling postie!

and finally – BARBARA’S STORY

Barbara was born in the 1930’s and was brought up in Pitchford in the ensuing years. These were the times when most houses in the village were owned by Pitchford Estate and Sir Charles and Lady Sybil Grant resided at Pitchford Hall. Lady Sybil was noted for her good work with the children of the village and a lavish Christmas Party was held each year in the Village Hall. Barbara remembers that presents were distributed to each child individually and in deference to Lady Sybil, the girls were expected to curtsy to her and the boys to salute.

Barbara and her family first lived in a black and white cottage (now demolished) on the site which is now The Bungalow, Pitchford, but on the tragic death of her father whilst fighting for his country, the family moved to 22 Pitchford where her mum Dorothy ran a sweet and tobacco shop from her front room. Barbara would play with her cousin Helen in the woods behind the house where there was an ancient Roman buttercross and bathing pool.

During the war years, refugees were brought to the village hall and billeted to houses in the district. She remembers a very poor family from the slums of Liverpool living with them for quite a while.

Dances were held regularly at the Village Hall, and RAF personnel from Conover and Atcham and villagers came from miles around to experience dancing on the best sprung dance floor in the area. After the war, the dances continued each weekend when ladies from the village prepared sandwiches and lemonade for the youngsters when they danced to the orchestra of Victor Silvester on Mr Pollard’s radiogram. Those were the days of big skirts, nylons and padded shoulders. Spot dances and statue games were played and every year a “Miss Pitchford” was chosen voted in by the Vicar and Mrs Green. Barbara particularly remembers a one time winner – Mary Morgan being chosen - a member of a very popular family in Acton Burnell.

A particularly vivid memory of Barbara’s was being very afraid and huddled in a blanket on the stair step whilst listening to the bombs being offloaded by the Luftwaffe in the surrounding district.

After the war, the Village Hall was used as a cinema. A particularly memorable film was “The Wicked Lady” starring Margaret Lockwood. Youngsters in those days travelled around by bicycle and many a romance may have been started there. Those were the days when boys took their date home on the crossbar! In Barbara’s case Gordon (her future husband) would sit behind her in the cinema and pull her hair. Happy days!

WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY

We thought you would enjoy these glimpses of deep space, taken by photographer Yik Hei (Hayden) of Concord College. The Helix Nebula is found in the constellation Aquarius and is one of the nebulas which is closest to Earth. It is sometimes known as ‘The Eye of God’ – we are sure you can see why! Thor’s Helmet Nebula is located in Canis Major and is approximately 12,000 light years from Earth. Thank you, Yik Hei, for sharing these with us. We hope that your up-coming A-Levels are ‘Out of this World’.



Helix Nebula



Thor’s Helmet Nebula

CHRIS NAYLOR – OUR SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

I've been asked to write about potholes which I'll have a go at - somewhat reluctantly. I'm afraid I've no good news to offer and I know readers of Village Views are far too canny for me to try any fibs. I know the situation is dreadful, I last week drove Longnor to Cantlop just to note how many dangerous potholes there are; the answer was of course lots, far too many. No wonder so many burst tyres and damaged wheels; I'm amazed so many cyclists still cycle the route. I have to offer apologies on behalf of the Council (though I don't personally have my hands on the levers of power).

I then emailed our Highways technician, who books in the works (copied to Head of Highways/Highways Cabinet Member Cllr. Vasmer) - he wrote back to say he was trying, but...: "We are aware of defects along the route mentioned and I have been pressing for these to be attended to as a priority. As you know we are currently experiencing a high volume of defects across the network but we are trying to attend to defects as quickly as possible."

This just isn't good enough, and I encourage others to write in too. Concord College has I know, and Wheels of Old in Frodesley, and the Parish Council. Wheels of Old flagged to me that they used to send customers on test drives round Chatwall, Causewaywood, and Ruckley – but those lanes are near impassable now. I also flagged the awful potholes on Frodesely Lane / by Upper Farm in Longnor in an online meet with the top Highways guys, but of course they're overwhelmed just now.

From my discussions with Cllr. Vasmer he's as conscious of this as anyone, and desperate for the Highways Department to do better. He's commented: "I'm determined the situation improves over coming months. Over the winter – as everyone knows - there's a big increase in potholes on roads across Shropshire. This January 2113 new potholes were reported compared to 1216 in January last year – 77% more. Such is the dramatic rise in potholes and their severity we cannot tackle them all at once."

So can we hope for better? While Government is overall giving Shropshire less funding than many other counties, our highways lobbying has won us more maintenance funding, up from £36.68m in 2025/26 to £49.72m by 2029/30 – a 35% rise. But more money alone isn't enough.

Keir's current contract – to 2027 - has been reviewed and scaled down, with local firm Multevo now involved more. Cllr Vasmer will soon be looking at what happens after that, and I'll be suggesting he gives very serious thought to the quality – or lack of – of our roads right now.

Chris.naylor@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07825 745 626

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Following the success of last year's Summer of Music programme, Shrewsbury Town Council has announced an expanded programme for 2026 at the bandstand in the Quarry Park, Shrewsbury.

Building on the popularity of the 2025 series, this year's programme will feature more performances than ever before, with live music taking place on both Saturdays and Sundays ensuring the event is accessible to a wider audience.

Running on selected dates from Sunday 10 May to Sunday 23 August, the free Summer of Music series is the perfect way to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the park—just bring a picnic and a camping chair. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the Quarry, audiences can look forward to a diverse programme of performances, including brass bands, an accordion band, a male voice choir, a military band and a saxophone quartet, all in a beautiful outdoor setting.

The opening concert on Sunday 10th May features the Wellington Brass Band, and future highlights include Specky Saxes Band (Sunday 17th May) and Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir (Saturday 30th May). All concerts start at 2pm.

For a full listing of dates and performers, please go to www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk/shrewsbury-town-council-announces-return-of-summer-of-music-for-2026/



THE DOG'S FROLICS

Private and Secure Dog Walking Field

Scan to book



- 1 acre of grass field all to yourself
- 6ft High Fence
- 1-hour slots
- 25% off bulk buy bookings
- 5am to 9pm

Leasowes Business Park, Cound. SY5 6AF
For more details, please phone 07814 5926



MILE STRAIGHT STORAGE

Safe, Reliable & Affordable Self Storage

Scan for a quote



- 24/7 Access
- New containers
- Well ventilated - avoids condensation
- Outdoor car storage available



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The article below was published in Village Views in Autumn 2006, and is certainly worth re-visiting. Pleased to be able to report that the Frodesley Oak is still standing, but has a way to go before it can compete with the Bowthorpe Oak in Lincolnshire, which is estimated to be over 1,000 years old. Nearer to home the Lydham Oak, near Bishop's Castle is also thought to be close to its 1,000th birthday. The Lydham Oak has a girth of 12.88m, compared with the Frodesley Oak's trunk measurement of 7.72m.

And apologies for the incorrect spelling of Frodesley in the first line!

Ancient resident pronounced fit and well

Frodesley's oldest resident has just had a thorough health check and has been described as remarkably fit, considering their great age.

Last autumn, a Veteran Tree Management Plan was produced for the Frodesley Oak, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the auspices of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The track adjacent to the tree leading to the barn conversions near Frodesley Lodge has been upgraded and the tarmac extended right up to the tree. We were afraid that this might have a detrimental effect on a tree that was already being described as 'decrepit' in the 19th century. Fortunately, our fears proved unfounded as the section of the tree which was still alive was furthest from the track. The oak has a girth of 25 ft 4 inches and was estimated at over 500 years old. An assessment of the age, based on its size and state of decline came up with an age of 770 years! It is described in the report as one of Shropshire's greatest trees and a link to later mediaeval parkland landscapes. It is 90% dead and completely hollow. A hollow tree is strong, like a tube compared to a rod. The rotted core has been recycled to provide nutrients for the living tissue. Many other organisms take advantage of the oak in its present state. Bird species, such as wrens, use the central cavity, bats may roost in its crevices, fungi take advantage of the dead wood, as do many invertebrates, and a diverse flora of lichens were observed.

We must thank the tree's owners, Chas and Mandy Trendall, who have agreed to implement the Management Plan. There is footpath access from Frodesley or Causeway Wood right up to the tree.

Ron Repath, Frodesley Tree Warden



The Frodesley Oak

CONDOVER CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPACES AVAILABLE FROM 2YRS

LOOKING AHEAD TO A NURSERY PLACE?

Come and Visit us!

Make an appointment, via our details below, and come and visit us! Here you will have a chance to meet our dedicated staff, ask questions and view our wonderful rural setting and our facilities.

Nursery Places

We take children from the age of 2 upwards. We offer 15/30 hours free funding. Wrap around care will be available from September.

Our Nursery Offer

Highly qualified and experienced staff, offering a calm, nurturing environment. Inside and outside learning offering stimulating and exciting learning experiences.

CONTACT US

📍 Condover CE Primary School, Condover, SY5 7AA

☎ 01743 872108

✉ admin@condover.dhmat.org.uk



THE CHANGING FACE OF FOOD POVERTY

Many people associate food poverty with large towns and cities, but the reality is that it can affect families in our villages and rural communities too. No one ever expects to need the support of Shrewsbury Foodbank, yet every week we meet people from across the area who have found themselves in difficult circumstances and who need a helping hand in a crisis.

For most, the main challenge is financial pressure. The rising cost of fuel, electricity and food has made it harder for households on limited incomes to make ends meet. While many people manage carefully from month to month, unexpected expenses such as emergency car repairs, broken appliances, or sudden bills can quickly push a household into crisis. We have seen a real increase in double income households, showing how much the rising cost of living is affecting people across the county.

We also support people who have experienced sudden changes in their circumstances. This might include those

who have lost their jobs through redundancy or ill health and are waiting for their Universal Credit payments to begin. Others may have lost their source of income because a small business has had to close.

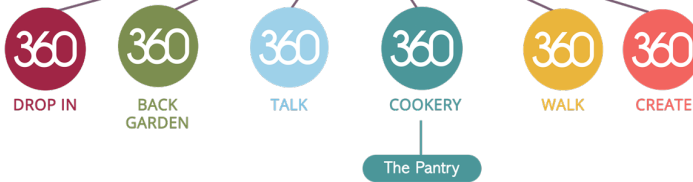
In recent months we have seen a number of people affected by fraud and scams. Sadly, increasingly sophisticated cyber criminals can take control of bank accounts or savings, leaving individuals and families without access to their own money.

Among those we support are people fleeing domestic abuse. Many have had to leave their homes quickly, sometimes relocating from other parts of the country, and arrive with very few possessions and little financial support. In these situations, the foodbank can provide essential help while they begin to rebuild their lives.

Whatever the reason someone comes to Shrewsbury Foodbank, our aim is always the same: to offer practical help with compassion and without judgement.

We hope this article gives a small insight into the wide range of situations that can lead people to seek foodbank support. If you would like to find out more, need support, or would like to help in some way, please visit www.bcp.onl or phone 07421 745857.

*Anni Lawrence
Community Outreach Administrator*



PITCHFORD HALL – VISITS TOURS AND LONGER STAYS

If you haven't yet visited Pitchford Hall – described as Britain's finest half-timbered house - you can sign up now for a guided tour on 14th May, 2nd July or 21st July. Tickets are £27.50 and include a chance to see most of the main rooms on the ground floor, plus the famous Treehouse, where Queen Victoria played as a young girl. And what visit to an English country house would be complete without tea and cakes!

Tours are led by local volunteers, who are able to provide visitors with an insight into the history of the Hall – a service which is

highly valued by both the Hall's owners and visitors.

The Hall was closed up between 1992 and 2016, but since its reopening has been visited by thousands of people and has been featured on Channel 4's 'Saving Country Houses' presented by Penelope Keith. Despite this, owner James Nason reports that he still meets Salopians who have never heard of the Hall, or who are unaware that it is open for guided tours.

Private tours can be arranged for parties of 20 or more, and Pitchford Hall also

rents out the Orangery for private events. The owners are also working on restoring The Kennels and the North Lodge to offer further accommodation.

For more information, or to book a tour, please go to www.historichouses.org/house/pitchford-hall/visit/







Joyful International Kind




Croft & Oakes

Are you worried about the current economic climate?
Do you know how this is affecting your pension, savings or investments?
Do you know if any changes are needed?

For a free review to discuss, why not book a free initial consultation with a locally based Independent Financial Adviser with over 25 years experience.

Please contact **Keith Croft** on **07815 075793** or email **keith@croftandoakes.co.uk** to arrange your appointment.

www.croftandoakes.co.uk

Registered office
Suite 7 Business Development Centre,
Stafford Park 4, Telford, TF3 3BA



Stanton Sweeps
Chimney Sweeping From £65

Services Provided:

- Wood Burners, Open Fires, Multi-Fuel Appliances
- Camera Inspections
- Smoke Testing
- Co Alarms Supplied
- Stove Service & Minor Repairs
- New Home Owners Survey
- Landlord Certificates

Shropshire Area
Tel-07805643422
www.StantonSweeps.com Richard Davies




RIDGE FUELS
COAL, LOGS AND GAS BOTTLES

QUALITY PRODUCTS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
EXCELLENT RANGE OF FUEL FOR ALL APPLIANCES
SELECTION OF MIXED WOOD INC KILN DRIED AND KINDLING STICKS
SELECTION OF GAS BOTTLES
CASH AND CARRY SHOP IN SHREWSBURY
FREE ADVICE FROM OUR HELPFUL KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF



Please ring us for more information on 01743 241122 or visit our website www.ridgefuels.co.uk

RIDGE FUELS LTD
LMS NEW YARD
CASTLE FOREGATE
SHREWSBURY
SY1 2EN
what3words - ARTS.RUINS.BURST




K 9 WILD
DOG TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



- 1-2-1 training & group classes
- Puppy development & socialisation
- Recall, focus & engagement
- Loose-lead walking & behaviour support
- Confidence building
- Mental enrichment & problem-solving
- Proprioception & body awareness
- Everyday manners & obedience

With 30 years of Police Dog Handling and Puppy development experience, I offer local supportive, structured and tailored training for all breeds and experience levels.

Visit k9wild.co.uk for information, to book a call or to message me.

"Creating engaged and enriched relationships between dogs and their owners"

To advertise in this publication please contact Rachel Johnson on **07891 945704** or email villageviewsadvertising@outlook.com




NETLEY

BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY
Nice rural location
Heated kennels with outside runs
Friendly family run business

Also offering doggy daycare

NETLEY KENNELS AND CATTERY
Lower Netley Farm, Dorrington,
Shrewsbury SY5 7JY
07803240207 | 01743 623176



Hardwood Logs

Free local delivery

Un-Seasoned, Barn Stored & Kiln Dried

Visit our website for our full range of logs, kindling, log stores & more

01746 785606 www.logs2yourdoor.co.uk