

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION



IN THIS EDITION:

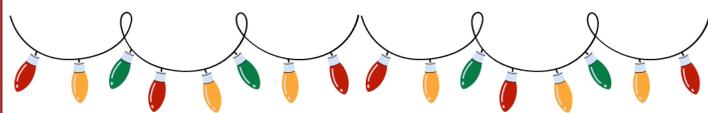
- THE MAYORS UPDATE
- DATES NOT TO MISS
- UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- SUSTAINABLE LEDBURY
- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
- LEDBURY PROJECTS
- LEDBURY FOOD BANK
- CHARTER MARKET
- MALVERN CAR CLUB
- COMMUNITY MATTERS

THE MAYORS UPDATE

As well as Charing meetings of Ledbury Town Council, the Mayor represents the Town and Council at community events held in the town and also responds to the invitations from other Mayor's from towns in Herefordshire and the surrounding counties. Since the last newsletter I have attended many events, such as a fascinating presentation on the background history to the discovery of the Herefordshire Hoard, including the forensic police investigations to bring the raiders of the historically important Viking site to justice. The last few months have been a significant period for Ledbury, with the sad death of the Queen and reading of the public Proclamation of the ascension of King Charles III in Ledbury Town Centre, an historical moment at which it was a privilege to play a central role. More recently we have held some outstandingly successful community events including the Christmas Lights switch on with possibly the biggest crowds ever seen in the Town Centre packed with market stalls and entertainment leading up to the big moment. A Mayor's coffee morning and the Civic Celebration at the Rugby Club also went off very successfully. All these events take a lot of hard work to put on and I'd like to thank the Clerk and her team of dedicated staff for all their efforts in making these events such a success for the Town. Happy Christmas everyone.



Cllr Phillip Howells, Mayor of Ledbury



CHRISTMAS EVENT ROUNDUP Christmas Lights Switch on 27 November

This event took on a slightly different shape for the first time in 2022. By having a road closure Ledbury Town Council was able to have a large pedestrian zone on the high street.

This road closure allowed a large street market to take place as well as having entertainers roaming freely about the area. With performances from Ledburys many community entertainers it was a thoroughly fun event.

The event was well received by the residents of Ledbury and it is hoped that it can be expanded for future years.

Late Night Shopping 2 December

Hot on the heels of the lights switch on event, Ledbury hosted a late-night shopping event which included a craft market under the Market House.

Another great success and something that we hope will become an annual event in conjunction with the traders association.



Oh Christmas Tree!

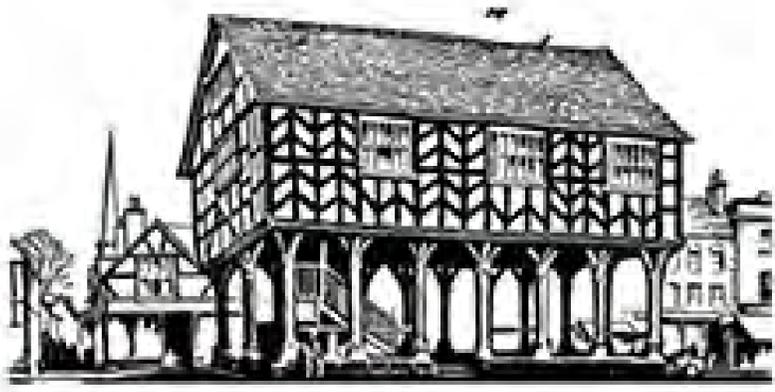


Duane Haggett of Balfour Beatty adds the lights to our beautiful 23 foot Christmas Tree.



Scan our QR Code to go to the LTC Website





LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

WARM SPACES IN LEDBURY

Mondays	Ledbury Methodist Church 9am to 5 Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Tuesdays	Ledbury Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity 1.30pm to 5pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Wednesdays	Ledbury Foodbank 12pm to 4pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Thursdays	Ledbury Baptist Church 10am to 5pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Fridays	Ledbury Foodbank 12pm to 4.30pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Saturdays	Ledbury Baptist Church 10am to 12pm (St Michael's) Ledbury Library 9.30am to 12.30pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Sundays	Pot & Page 10am to 2pm

TALK COMMUNITY

COME
ON IN

GET NICE &
TOASTY

WE ARE A WARM SPACE

HAVE A
CHAT

talkcommunity.org/warmspace

 Herefordshire
Council



The NDP Working Party is very pleased to report that the revised NDP has successfully gone through the final round of consultation – known as the Regulation 16 stage – with very few responses, which is a good measure of it reflecting the input from residents, businesses and all the bodies we consulted with in the previous two rounds of consultation. The revised NDP has now been approved by Herefordshire Council to proceed to the independent examination stage. An Examiner has been appointed to review the plan, starting early in the New Year. The NDP website on the Town Council site will be updated over the last week before Christmas with all the latest files for the Examiner and interested parties to explore.

Cllr Phillip Howells, NDP WP Chair



DOG HILL WOOD – VOLUNTEERING WORKS

On 23 November 2022, a party of ten local volunteers started work on the first coupe in Dog Hill Wood. There were two heavy downpours during the morning but despite the weather this did not deter the volunteers from making an enormous difference by clearing the ground vegetation and brambles as well as coppicing a substantial area. One of the trees that had been overhanging the footpath was also removed for safety. During the course of our works, we received many positive comments from residents walking in the Wood about the work that had been taking place that morning and so we aim to continue our efforts on a monthly basis during the winter months. If anyone is interested in joining this party, please contact the Deputy Clerk on 01531 632306 for further details.

In addition to this, Ledbury Town Council recently undertook a tree survey and plans are in hand to fell and remove some of the dead trees. Ledbury Town Council will advise residents in advance of these works taking place, which are planned over the next three years.

Recreation Ground

Ledbury Town Council recently had the Shelter repainted on both sides - We hope you like the finished product. New football nets are now in position for all those “up and coming football stars” and whilst the Zip Wire was serviced approximately three months ago with the addition of a new seat and wire, this week the contractors returned to retention the wire. Next financial year, Ledbury Town Council is looking to make further improvements to the children’s play area.



Bins on Town Trail

Four new bins will be installed along the Town Trail to replace some old bins in the next few weeks. These have been paid for through the Great Places to Visit Funding Scheme.

Finance, Policy & General Purpose

This a busy time for the Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee. To add to the day-to-day monitoring of the Council’s accounts and scrutinising all expenditure, is the annual round of planning for the next financial year, 2023-24. This includes recommending to Full Council a budget for the year, ensuring we have sufficient funds and making a recommendation on the levying of precepts by the Town Council. Given the financially-tight times for the year ahead we have no wish to make even greater demands on residents’ household expenses. It is our intention to try and keep any increase in costs to a bare minimum whilst still being able to pay our bills.

Our current work includes determining applications for financial assistance through the grants process and just now, we are pursuing how best to spend available funds on supporting the vital amenities offered through the warm places scheme, the town food-bank and services to support youth and family mental health.

To provide additional investment in the town we have secured funds via Herefordshire Council in excess of £100,000 from the Government-funded Great Places to Visit Fund. We have succeeded in using this fund to provide improvements to the appearance of the town, including facilities and amenities for residents and visitors. We continue to work with our many vibrant local groups and associations to improve services and amenities, and keep Ledbury a great place to live and work.

You may have strong views on how Ledbury can grow and develop sustainably, whilst conserving what is best. You can find my contact details on the Ledbury Town Council website and I welcome you emailing me with your insights and opinions.

Councillor Mal Hughes

Councillor Mal Hughes - Chair of Finance, Policy & General Purpose



SUSTAINABLE LEDBURY



Despite the weather – and the mud – we’re making good progress working on the ditch between Bridge Street and Woodleigh Road. We’ve reached about half way, and the ditch now definitely looks like a ditch. Residents have told us of childhood memories when there were tadpoles there. Now that’s a challenge. Can we improve the habitat sufficiently to welcome back tadpoles? We’ll have to see but we’re definitely on course to be able to plant marginal/bog plants along the bank early in the spring.

The plants will be funded with the grant from Severn Trent. The grant includes money for an information board too, so that we can describe what we’ve done and which plants we’ve planted. This particular project is due for completion in April when we will be providing a project report to Severn Trent.

Meanwhile our thoughts have turned to the colder weather. Together with the Town Council’s Climate Change Working Party, we have arranged for Keep Herefordshire Warm (KHW), to have a stand under the Market House on Tuesday, 10th January 2023. KHW are funded by Herefordshire Council to provide residents with advice on energy efficiency and the availability of grants for insulation. We hope you’ll come along with all your questions.

If you’d like to know more about Sustainable Ledbury, please contact us on sustainableledbury@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook or on our website.

Councillor Nina Shields



WONDERFUL ON TAP



CALENDAR DATES
NOT TO MISS
2023



Ledbury Town Council

SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS



JANUARY

KEEP HEREFORDSHIRE WARM - TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2023
LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY
LEDBURY BIG BREAKFAST - FRIDAY 27 TO SUNDAY 29 JANUARY
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY



FEBRUARY

LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY
MAYOR'S COFFEE MORNING - 14 FEBRUARY



MARCH

LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN MARCH
WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY, 2 MARCH
LEDBURY WORLD BOOK DAY EVENT - SATURDAY, 4 MARCH
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY - WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH
MOTHERING SUNDAY - SUNDAY, 19 MARCH

Details for events can be found on our website
<https://www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/en-gb>



Delivering support for those over 50 who have concerns about their physical, financial and mental wellbeing, our services have never been more in demand. Sonia, our Information and Advice Officer is based in The Master's House and can offer a range of support according to your needs. Following an initial chat on the phone, she will organise an appointment if necessary.

From April 2021 to April 2022, we supported 118 older people to draw down £126k in benefits in the Ledbury area, totalling 1157 contacts with local service users. As part of the Household Support Fund, we will be offering free home energy checks and warm home packs to eligible Ledbury residents over the winter months to increase energy efficiency and offer additional support to access grant funding to ensure that Ledbury residents are warm and comfortable.

We are also excited to announce that Keith, our Sheds Together Ledbury Coordinator, is working hard to find a location for the project, so please let us know if you know of any land or workshop space so that we can get started in Ledbury. We have already opened in two locations in Bromyard, and have a base for our Leominster Shed, so any idea/support would be gratefully received.

For more information, please check our website/social media or call us on 0333 0066 299 and leave a message and we will get back to you.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/herefordandlocalities/>

Facebook: @AGEUKHandL

Twitter: @AgeUK_HaL

Instagram: @ageukhl

Our office in the Master's House is staffed on Monday, Thursday, and Friday (although our Ledbury team member will work from the Leominster office on Wednesday on caseload too and will be making calls to clients).

Ledbury Food Bank - Here to Help



Ledbury Food bank has experienced an unprecedented increase in demand for its services this year and had exceeded the number of visitors it had in 2021 by the end of September.

In addition to providing emergency food parcels visitors can access advice on benefits, housing and debt problems and has recently been awarded almost £25,000 from the government's Household Support Fund which will be used to provide additional support to Herefordshire residents.

The food bank is open each Wednesday and Friday morning between 10.00am and 12.00pm and Thursday evening between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

If you are in need of support please just turn up when the food bank is open, no referral is needed.

Alternatively either call the food bank on 07581 283092 during opening hours or send an email to food@ledburyfoodbank.org



How to book and use a car

After you have joined the club booking a car is simple:

- CHECK AVAILABILITY and BOOK using our app or booking website
- UNLOCK the car using the app or supplied RFID card
- DRIVE: It's all yours.
- RETURN the car to its base location
- LOCK the car using the app or supplied RFID card
- PAY: Your credit/debit card will be charged. If the car needs fuel then fill up and pay with the fuel card provided.

We are flexible and allow reasonable changes to booking.

About the Club

All the work of the club is done by volunteers. This is how we keep the costs low. Members are asked to help with the running of the club where they can. Being a voluntary organisation means that at times we are not as slick as commercial organisations, but it does mean we can, at times, be more flexible. .

ARE YOU USING OR NEEDING A CAR ONLY 2 OR 3 TIMES A WEEK? THEN YOU CAN HALVE YOUR COSTS, MOST MEMBERS SAVE MUCH MORE

A CAR WITHOUT HASSLE, NO TAX, INSURANCE, DEPRECIATION, OR REPAIR BILLS

A CLUB RUN BY VOLUNTEER MEMBERS FOR MEMBERS

A CHOICE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAR

malvernhills-carclubs.org.uk
01684 540284




LEDDBURY CHARTER MARKET

Every Tuesday & Saturday

*Price: Market House Pitch £22.00
Street Pitch £18.50
*as of 1 August 2022

Contact: cdo@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk
01531 632 306



LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL GRANTS AWARDED

Ledbury Town Council, at their meeting on 1 December 2022, considered a recommendation from the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee in respect of grant applications received from local groups and organisations that work with the community of Ledbury.

The smaller one-off grants will be paid from the Council's grant allocation for 2022/23, and the multi-year applications will be effective from 1 April 2023, with the exception of two grants, Ledbury Food Bank, and the Warm Spaces project. Councillors felt that both of these organisations would benefit from support for the winter ahead and therefore the Council agreed to make an additional payment to both of these organisations from their 2022/23 grant allocation.

The following grants have been awarded:

- Ledbury Swifts Football Club - £1,500
- Age UK - £4,000 per annum for three-years
- Dream Your Future Families - £1,500 per annum for three-years
- Ledbury Food Bank - £2,500 per annum for four years commencing in 2022/23
- The Warm Spaces project (applied for by Ledbury Methodist Church on behalf of all Warm Spaces in Ledbury) - £1,200 (2022/23), £1,350.00 (2023/24 and 2024/25) and £1,500 (2025/26)

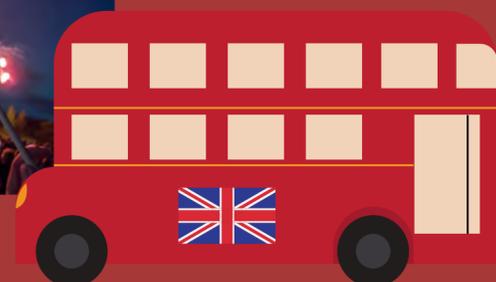
The Grant Application process will reopen in February 2023 for grants over £500 or multi-year applications and anyone wishing to apply for a grant of £500 or less for their group/organisation can make application throughout the year.



CORONATION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Ledbury Town Council is wishing to organise an event to celebrate the Coronation on Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May 2023. Expressions of Interest are being sought from members of the public who may wish to join this Task & Finish Group to put forward ideas and suggestions as to how this event may be run and what the format should be. If you feel you can contribute, then we would like to hear from you. The Task & Finish Group will be meeting on 23 January 2023 to discuss this. Please email the Deputy Clerk with your contact details so that you can be sent details nearer the time.

Please send your statement of interest to deputyclerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Community Matters

Ledbury Strömstad Twinning Association:

The Association were finally able to hold a delayed celebration for 20 years of Twinning on both sides of the North Sea in July 2022. Ledbury celebrated with a Swedish style Midsummer Celebration on the Recreation Ground. We were delighted to welcome visitors from Strömstad who entertained us with live music, whilst we danced around the Swedish Pole wearing traditional flower crowns. In the lead up members of the Association had visited local Schools and Ledbury Brownies to talk to them about the Twinning with Strömstad and the Midsummer traditions. They all enjoyed making flower crowns.

In Strömstad the main celebration took place at Strömstad Culture House, the Skagerack. It was a wonderful occasion attended by many of those from Strömstad who had been involved over the years since the signing of the agreement between our two towns. Members from the Twinning Association visited, partly for the celebrations and also to support Ledbury Swift's Under 18 Girls Team who were playing against IFK Strömstad and other teams. This was the first visit for almost three years and it was lovely to be able to return.

The focus of the Twinning friendship with Strömstad is around culture, sport and education, especially with young people. Ledbury Swifts are currently planning their summer 2023 visit to Strömstad and we continue to encourage links between schools. For further information contact the Secretary: jill_jupp@hotmail.co.uk or 01531 635129.

Locally Encouraging All to Flourish Events (LEAF) in 2022 and 2023:

A key element of Locally Encouraging All to Flourish (LEAF) formed by the Churches of Ledbury is work with children and families. A number of events have taken place over the last year including, family fun events on the Recreation Ground, Fun in the Forest, a Light Party (Alternative to Halloween) and very recently an Advent Party. The latter was attended by over 40 children plus parents and carers who received a warm welcome from a large team of volunteers. They enjoyed a fun afternoon of crafts, including making nativity characters, angels, who could make the 'Glitziest Angel', decorating miniature Christmas Trees (Christmas Nature Craft), biscuit decorating with sprinkles and icing galore, games etc. There was a constant queue to have a glitter tattoo of biodegradable glitter resulting in some very sparkly children. The afternoon finished with a wonderful Puppet Show from the Team at the Methodist Church, a tea of hot dogs and delicious home-made cakes and carol singing around the Christmas Tree. A lovely end to a busy and enjoyable afternoon.

Similar such events are planned for 2023. Contact Mary Anne Keyes on makeyes25@hotmail.com or Jill Jupp jill_jupp@hotmail.co.uk for more information

Santa is approaching and Ledburys' twin town Strömstad is preparing for a peaceful Christmas. The town is covered with snow and the shops have this year gathered in "Christmas in Strömstad", a program containing several activities such as visits from Santa Claus in the city square and a Christmas market. It all started with a much appreciated light manifestation "Strömstad in Light", the City Hall being one of the buildings bathing in light the actual weekend.

With pictures of beautiful Christmassy decorated schools, a snowy harbour view and gingerbread houses we wish to spread the message of Christmas all the way over the North Sea to Great Britain and the town of Ledbury!

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Kent Hansson, Mayor of Strömstad along with many citizens of Strömstad!



Connect, discover & celebrate

Ledbury Food Group



The Ledbury Big Breakfast is coming...

Ledbury's popular celebration of breakfast is back on the weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 27th, 28th and 29th January, organised by Ledbury Food Group.

Local food businesses will be tempting you to try something different for breakfast – and there's always a lot of choice from the lightest to the full English. You will be able to eat in at one of our cafes and restaurants, or buy ingredients to take home from our independent food shops and butchers, and the Country Market.

It's a weekend when we can forget it's the depth of winter as we celebrate breakfast itself and our super local food produce. Details of the venues, what they will be serving and when will be posted on the Food Group's website in mid-January – www.ledburyfoodgroup.org. Remember Saturday gets busy – it's wise to book. Check too for vegetarian, vegan and gluten free offerings.

The Food Group would like to thank everyone who supported the Ledbury Big Soup over the weekend 26th and 27th November. We ran this in part to support two special causes – Ledbury Food Bank which is finding an increasing role in serving the needs of our community, and the recently announced Herefordshire Food Charter encouraging us to buy sustainably and to buy local when we can.

To help the Food Bank visit – www.ledburyfoodbank.org.uk.

To find out about the Food Charter see – www.herefordshirefoodcharter.org.uk.

Cemetery Chapel

Ledbury Town Council is pleased to report that new carpet has recently been laid in the Cemetery Chapel and the wooden floors beneath the pews and lecterns have been sanded down and brought back to their original finish. In the new financial year, it is hoped that we will be able to address the pews and lecterns, so they too are re-stained, together with cleaning the tiled flooring.

These works had been completed prior to the Candle Lighting event that took place within the Chapel on Sunday, 18 December between 10.00am and 4.00pm. This was an opportunity for friends and relatives to light candles in memory of their loved ones. Tea, coffee and mince pies were available throughout the day.



SO MUCH FUN



Ledbury Carnival 2022 and 2023.

The Carnival Committee were delighted to be able to hold a full Carnival again on August Bank Holiday Monday this year with the theme of 'Ledbury Blooms'. The event commenced with a colourful procession of floats, small groups, individuals and other vehicles moving through the Town. There was family fun at the fair, face painting and balloon making, community stalls, offering a number of free events for children and live music throughout the afternoon. The sun shone down making for a wonderful afternoon and Ledbury really did bloom!

The Committee have recently held their AGM and the theme for 2023 will be publicised in January 2023. The Meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 January 2022 7.30 pm and new members will be very welcome. The Carnival needs to appoint a new Secretary as the previous longstanding incumbent has now put down her pen. Contact johnny@ledburycarnival.co.uk for more information.