

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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WINNER OF THE MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2020



Congratulations to Theo Lambert for winning the Mayor's Christmas card competition 2020!

Every year it is tradition for the Mayor of Ledbury to send a festive card to local organisations, neighbouring Parish Councils, and local groups. It was agreed that Ledbury Town Council would invite primary school ages to enter a competition with the view to the winning picture being used on the Mayors Christmas card this year. Due to the current pandemic it was agreed that the theme for the Christmas card competition would be 'Kindness at Christmas' and 'Together even when apart'.

After great consideration, The Mayor of Ledbury, Councillor Vesma, had chosen the winner, a very creative and original Christmas Cactus!

The Mayor and staff at Ledbury Town Council would like to thank all who submitted an entry for this years competition, the artwork was exceptional and definitely spread joy in the office.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF LEDBURY COUNCILLOR VESMA

I did not set a theme for my year as Mayor; However, by default it has emerged as Gratitude. As we get ready to have a quiet Christmas at home, so many in our community deserve a moment in our thoughts. From front line workers, the NHS and care home staff, to retail and hospitality workers masking up to keep us safe, and from generous neighbours to those caring for loved ones at home, the people of Ledbury have done the town proud. Thank you all.

With peace and kindness abound,

Councillor Daniel Vesma

Mayor of Ledbury

BOLLARDS REPLACED ON CHURCH LANE



Ledbury Town Council are pleased to share that the oak bollards on church Lane have been replaced. The Council were informed that both wooden bollards had become rotten and subsequently removed for health and safety reasons. Members of the Environment and Leisure Committee received three tenders from qualified tradesman, and it was decided to go ahead with Marcus Mortimer, a resident of Ledbury and member of the Guild of Master Craftsman.

The Council would also like the opportunity to thank the local resident who gave a kind donation to go towards the replacement of the Oak Bollard and metal capping.

The History of Church Lane



One of the oldest and most scenic lanes in ledbury, Church Lane is a narrow, cobbled lane leading from Ledbury High Street to the medieval parish church of St Michael. It is at the crossroads of the 'Kings Highway' and the East/West track from Hereford Cathedral to Ledbury Parish Church. It has been the site of continuous human activity for more than a thousand years. The lane is full of attractive timber-framed buildings, and among those historic buildings is the Ledbury Heritage Centre, built around 1480 for a prosperous wool merchant.

LEDBURY CHARTER MARKET

**LEDBURY MARKET – A GREAT PLACE TO
SHOP AND TRADE**

LEDBURY
CHARTER
MARKET

When did Ledbury Charter Market start? Ledbury market charter was issued by

King Stephen to Bishop Robert de Bethune in 1138 and in 1584 Queen Elizabeth granted a new charter, allowing a weekly market on Tuesday and two fairs, on the feasts of St. Philip and James (1 May) and St. Barnabas (11 June). In 1617 a group of local citizens bought some property 'at or near a place called the Corner End' and here they built the new Market House.

Why shop at Ledbury Market? Whether you are visiting for the weekend or you are a resident, Ledbury Charter Market is a great way to shop sustainably and boost the local economy. Not to mention the wonderful gifts and treasures you can find including, artisan soaps, organic jams and chutneys, fresh fruit and vegetables and quirky antiques.

Travel and Parking? If you are making a short trip to the market, you can find 1-hour parking spaces in the town centre. However, if you are spending a day in the town, which we highly recommend, you can park at St Katherines Carpark or a slightly cheaper option which is a short walk away, Bye street carpark.

Can I trade? Absolutely! If you have something new to bring to Ledbury Charter Market, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Hannah Tettero at reception@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01531 632306





LTC TO DONATE PRESENTS

Excited children, long queues and smiling faces, the Council are always happy to host a Santa's grotto for the families of Ledbury. Every year with the help of volunteers, the Council organise a light switch on event to showcase the town centre and Market House. However, due to covid-19 it will be a very different Christmas for all.

Every year the council purchase Christmas presents for the Santa's grotto event, time and care is taken into choosing the presents and sorting them into age-appropriate gifts. Although Santa will not be visiting Ledbury Town Council this year, staff have been given strict instructions from the North Pole to work alongside local charities and schools to donate gifts to those in need.

Councillors and staff at Ledbury Town Council would like to thank Mrs Georgina Stewart and friends, for her kind contributions of gifts which will also be donated to children and families in need.



UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR KNIGHT

Although this year has been extremely difficult, the Council have been making decisions that will benefit the town and give something for residents to look forward to in the future. I am proud to say that as Chair of the Environment and Leisure Committee, there has been much progress in meetings of E&L and subsequently, members have agreed to painting the exterior of the shelter in the Recreation Ground, installing new and fun playground equipment for all children of ages and disabilities, and a revamp of the current skate park. We would welcome any ideas or recommendations that you may have for the skatepark and playground.

It has also been a pleasure to wrap the gifts that the council purchased for Ledbury families in need. In these uncertain times, it is now more than ever that communities need to pull together to show support and care.

Councillor Knight
Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee



WORKING PARTIES

Passionate about Ledbury and would like to have a say in local decision-making?

From tackling Climate Change to encouraging the Tourism in Ledbury, working parties are a great way to become involved in your local community. We are looking for residents to team up with the Council to make sure Ledbury continues to be a thriving Market Town.

Working groups are made up of Parish Councillors and community representatives working on a specific project, such as organising town events or the development of the neighbourhood plan.

At a meeting of Environment and Leisure & Economic Development and Planning, councillors were nominated to the following working parties. Council are now looking for residents to work alongside Parish Councillors to help organise and get involved with the following events.

- October Fair
- Christmas Lights
- Remembrance Day
- Town Events – to include Poetry Festival
- Council Events
- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Traffic Management
- Charter Market
- Market House Development
- Devolved Services

please contact the Clerk if you are interested in joining any of the above Working Parties.

Clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

NEW VOTIVE AT LEDBURY CEMETERY

The Council recognises how special Ledbury Cemetery is to many residents and wanted to give something back to those who use the cemetery regularly to visit loved ones that have passed. It was agreed that the Council would purchase a votive for the Chapel to allow residents to light a candle for those they have lost but not forgotten. The chapel will be open on Sunday, 20 December 2020 between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

FRIENDS OF LEDBURY CEMETERY

For many years, the Council have encouraged members of the public to join working parties including the Cemetery working party. However, this year Members of the Environment and Leisure Committee have proposed something a little different. Chair of this committee, Councillor Knight, suggested that the Council create a 'friends of the cemetery' group which will allow residents and some interested councillors, to meet in their own time to discuss cemetery matters. The Council will support the Friends of Ledbury Cemetery group with their ideas and take to council meetings on their behalf.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Ledbury Cemetery group, please contact Olivia Bundy at admin@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk or call the office on 01531 632306



Light a Christmas candle in memory of your loved ones

Ledbury Cemetery Chapel on 20 December 2020

10:00am - 4:00pm

Bringing comfort and solace over the festive period to people who have lost relatives or friends.

To remember those we have lost but not forgotten.

Social distancing will be adhered to. Please wear a mask.



DIY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!



3D Paper Ornaments

- cut out five strips of paper: two 1.25" x 10", two 1.25" x 7," and one 1.25" x 5".
- punch a hole 1/4" from the top and bottom of each strip.
- stack the papers together with the smallest in the middle sandwiched by the medium strips, followed by the largest strips.
- line up all of the strips on one end and thread a piece of string or wire through the holes and tie it off.
- repeat this step on the other end of the strips, which you can then fan out.
- add tassels or beads to the bottom of the ornament for extra sparkle.



Twig Ornaments

This one's easy enough that you can make with the kids – not to mention it makes for some great nature-inspired decor.

Just grab some twigs, then use glue and embroidery thread to make some creative patterns and shapes (like these cool trees or stars!).

Don't forget to take pictures of your creations and post them onto the Ledbury Town Councils Facebook page. Alternatively, send a copy of the picture to admin@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk for the website.



FUTURE RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

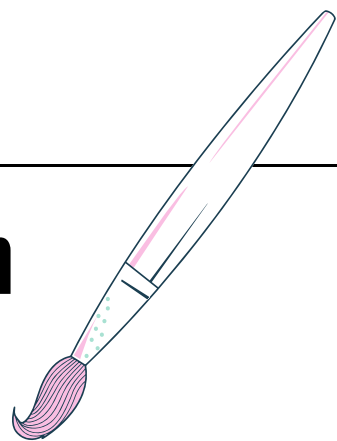
WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES IN THE COUNTY

Herefordshire Council's current rubbish and recycling collection contract is due to end in 2023. Since the current service was introduced the government has announced a new national resource and waste strategy and we will have to make changes to collections to ensure these new requirements are met. Making sure that as much as possible is recycled will be an important element of future plans, in line with the council's ambition for a more sustainable county.

Copy the link below to be directed to the Herefordshire Councils rubbish and collection survey.

<https://bit.ly/2Wk2H37>

Can you help Artistree with storage?



Are you a commercial Landlord or know of any vacant premises?

As many residents and visitors will know, the Artistree Gallery, a cooperative of 12 local artists, has occupied the top floor of the Heritage Centre in Church Lane for several years. It is an important feature of Ledbury's famed cultural reputation. Unfortunately due to development plans for the Heritage Centre to be available for wider community use, they need to find new premises from January 2021.

While they are looking for an acceptable alternative gallery site they have an immediate need to store a substantial amount of gallery equipment that has to be dismantled, and are looking for a suitable location. If you have possible spare space that could be used or know of any that could be available, please let the LTC office know so we can pass on the details.



Ledbury Town Council NDP

Since the end of the last lockdown the working party and steering group have been working hard to catch up on lost time during lockdown by upping the pace on developing the new version of the current plan.

The aim is to achieve adoption with that all important settlement boundary now included before the end of 2021, to reach on the way, what is known as the Reg 14 stage (when the plan starts to have legal status), by mid-summer 2021. We are now in the process of producing the various documents and evidence to develop a proposed settlement boundary along with any related policy changes from the previous plan to go to a first round of necessary public consultation on the proposals in March/April. Proposals on sites for important community facilities such as a new sports ground for football, employment and a medical centre will be included. Watch out for communications on when this consultation will take place early in 2021. Information on the progress being made will be added to the Town Council website over the coming weeks so you can look for yourself.

Any comment, suggestions or feedback which you feel could be useful evidence for the working party and steering group to use is very welcome.

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



malvern-hills-carclubs.org.uk
01684 540284

FINANCE AND BUDGETING 2020/21

Its that time of year when Councils start the planning process to produce budgets for the next financial year which starts on 1st April each year. At Ledbury Town Council we have produced a first draft which is being considered by each of the Council's standing committees (Resources, Finance, Policies and General Purposes, Economic Planning and Development, Environment and Leisure) for each to suggest committee budgets that will then be considered in producing full town budget which will then determine the precept proposed for the new financial year.



Despite what you may have read, no decision whatsoever has or can be made on what the proposed precept might be until this process is completed and Council is asked to consider and decide upon the budget and precept. You can contribute to this process by following the advertised committee meetings on the website and by contacting the office with any suggestions to be considered. Please contact the clerk for any questions or input.

In the meantime, Herefordshire Council is of course also going through the same process. All the market towns are being consulted on the process with Ledbury having its turn earlier this month. As has been well publicised, and as with Councils throughout the country as a result of the pandemic, the impact of Covid-19 to the council's finances is difficult to fully predict due to a number of influencing factors but the Council knows it will be severe with a likely funding gap in the region of £12m-£16m next year. This means that some radical changes are needed and quickly to ensure the council can balance its finances and protect core services next year.

The majority of the Council's budget of around £170m (95 % of it) is allocated to services that the Council have a statutory duty to provide, so leaving just the 5% discretionary balance on which to make the difficult decisions of how to achieve savings.

Parish Councils and the public are being consulted on what we would like to see included and where we think saving can be made. That process is starting soon for the public so look out on the Herefordshire Council website for details if you would like to contribute.

Cllr Phillip Howells,
Deputy Chair of Finance, Policy and General Purposes.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations are in order for the Town Clerk, Angela Price, for recently completing an internationally recognised qualification, **BiFM qualification, Level 4 Diploma**, Which is affiliated with the Institute of workplace and facilities management body.

The Council are extremely supportive of the staff and Town Clerk and encourage them to enrol onto recognised courses regularly. Currently, two members of staff are completing their ILCA qualifications with the intention of further training in the future.

The Viaduct/Bloor Homes inquiry



We are still awaiting the inspectors report and her recommendations to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision. Of course it will be next year now before we know the outcome. Thanks in the meantime to all of the many people we know who have written to the Secretary asking him to turn down the appeal on the basis a satisfactory site access to the site has not been proposed. We were pleased to read that our MP, Bill Wiggin, has added his voice to that request so our thanks to him for his support.

CHRISTMAS RUBBISH COLLECTION

Herefordshire Council

Christmas rubbish and recycling collections are due to change as follows:

No collections	Revised collection day
Friday 25 December 2020	Sunday 27 December 2020
Friday 1 January 2021	Saturday 2 January 2021

Please put your bin out by 6.30am as collections may be earlier over the festive period. If you have too much waste for your bins, our Household Recycling Centres are open but remember to book your slot before you go. Thank you for reducing, reusing and recycling this festive period.

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hfdscouncil) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hfdscouncil) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hfdscouncil) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/hfdscouncil) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/hfdscouncil) [hfdscouncil](https://www.hfdscouncil.gov.uk)

[herefordshire.gov.uk/christmas](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/christmas)