

# LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER EDITION



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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR 2021/22

As it draws near to the end of my term as Mayor I am looking back through the last year.

Becoming Mayor was for me a great honour and privilege, and it has been a very interesting yet difficult year in some ways.

With the Covid restrictions only being lifted fully towards the end of February, it was not surprising that some events were low attendance or cancelled completely.

I have attended as many events as possible up until the end of January, where I then had to isolate ready for surgery. If that wasn't bad enough I was advised that my situation is a lot more serious, the surgery was called off and I was told to rest.

This meant not doing my Mayor's duties or meetings which is very saddening for me but was beyond my control. Thank God for Phillip, Angie, and all those involved for their help.... It was well needed and appreciated.

My car was also not working so I have been almost housebound since the end of January, but hopefully that is now sorted.

There have been a few events that I have attended however, and I'm very pleased to pass on the very positive feedback that I received from outside our town.

There were numerous comments of how beautiful our town is, how friendly and polite our people are, and the events we have put on have been well attended and appreciated by people from well outside our area. There were also praises of a great job done by our Clerk, our office staff and groundsmen. Some great pictures and descriptions were posted on social media by Harold ( Dave ) Sparrey who attended quite a few events that I was at, and so thanks to Harold also.

I'm now trying to very gradually return to some form of normality and see how things go.

I shall end by saying that I have met a huge amount of very nice and positive people which has been a pleasure for me.

Thank you all very much.

Best regards, Andy Manns, Mayor, LTC.  
2021-2022.

## GAZEBOS



These gazebos are available for hire free of charge

These gazebos have been funded through the Great Places to Visit Fund, supported by Herefordshire Council,



## LTC SOCIALS



<https://www.facebook.com/Ledbury-Town-Council-1834014213360154>



<https://twitter.com/LedburyTC>



Scan our QR Code to go to the LTC Website



For our most up to date events and what's going on



## Resources

The work of the Resources Committee is mainly concerned with matters connected with employed staff and therefore its activities have to be kept confidential because of their personal nature.

It meets less frequently than the other major committees at just 3-4 times a year, but there is, however, much constructive, and important work that the committee undertakes in these areas to ensure the smooth and harmonious functioning of the Council's obligations and activities on behalf of the residents of Ledbury, even if not obvious to the public.

One key innovation in the last council year was the appointment of a Community Development Officer. Other new staff who have joined us in the last year as a result of a governance review in 2020 and to help deliver on the corporate plan, are a Deputy Clerk, Accounts Administrator and Office Administrator. On the governance front we recently completed a special audit on the financial consequences of the judicial review of a few years ago, with some important lessons to learn but no 'smoking gun' of failings by the council that were not already in the public domain.

Councillor Howells

## Environment & Leisure Update

The Committee's responsibilities include a wide variety of concerns from the physical infrastructure of the town to cultural events and activities. Including Events, Markets and Climate Change.

Our remit covers the Recreation Ground, including the Skateboard Park, the Children's play area, the 'half-dome' Shelter, the CCTV coverage of the area, and the routine maintenance and repair thereof. Vandalism has been a continuing problem, and liaison with the Police has been regular and constructive which is showing results.

The other significant 'green space' for which we are responsible is Dog Hill Wood, above the town to the east. The Woodland Management Plan has highlighted necessary improvements, and we have set in motion the restoration of some of the seating and the signage in this area.

The Cemetery Chapel has been opened for visitors at Christmas and on Mothering Sunday. A new contractor was engaged to install Christmas lights for the next three years. The first installation, for Christmas 2021, was not entirely satisfactory, though the contractor responded to our requests for rectification - and has submitted revised and extended plans for the next two years.

The Markets Working Party has sought to clarify and update the town's Charter Market regulations and has experimented with a Craft Market. Funding has been obtained, through the Welcome Back initiative, to purchase several gazebos which can be used to house Town Council stalls at town events and may also be made available to volunteer organisations and market traders. The Climate Change Working Party supported an event to coincide with the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November 2021. Several volunteer groups have been encouraged in tidying and clearing the Town Trail.

The E & L Committee is responsible for the town's War Memorial, though this has been such a complex and long-standing problem that its progress has essentially been taken over by the Full Council. At the time of writing a financial settlement appears to have been reached with the contractor who carried out the unsatisfactory restoration - and the Council is now proceeding with the preparation of a specification for rectification works, to be put out to tender as soon as possible.

**Councillor Stephen Chowns - Chair of Environment and Leisure**



## Finance, Policy & General Purpose

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Finance, Policy and General Purposes committee in the past year, as we continue to emerge from the pandemic, into a more normal state of affairs, and continue to modernise our finances and governance, to put the council on steady footing going forward. I would like to thank the staff, in particular the indispensable Angie Price, for their unwavering hard work in support of the committee.

This year, we continued updating the Council's financial agreements with outside bodies, most notably the mortuary lease. We continued to modernise our policies for a more efficient and worker friendly council. We passed a budget whose precept rise is well below inflation, and below the council tax rise from Herefordshire Council. I would like to thank my fellow councillors, in particular Cllrs. Harvey, Howells, Bradford and Sinclair, who contributed to the Budget Monitoring meeting where the budget's final form was determined.

In summation, the last year has been a productive one for the finance, policy and general purposes committee. I wish my successor in the chair all the best in continuing to advance all of these ongoing projects for the benefit of Ledbury.

**Councillor Matthew Eakin - Chair of Finance, Policy & General Purpose**

## Planning Committee

At the beginning of this current year the Ledbury Town Council standing committee structure was changed, and in particular, what was the Economic Development Planning Committee (ED&P) became the Planning Committee which now deals with Planning applications, and Transport while economic development activities have been moved to other or new standing committees .

This last year has seen some movement on the major applications affecting the town but no new major applications. These include: Bloor Homes, Bovis, Barrats Phase 2, 64 Bed Care Home, Full Pitcher and Pugh's old auction centre site.

Ledbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP)

The development of the LNDP has been and continues to be a huge effort and has been making good progress.

The timescale moving forward is currently evaluating the regulation 14 public consultation - The final draft WILL go to Full Council in May - The regulation 16 stage will be reached in June - at this stage the LNDP has some good legal power - Following consultation with Herefordshire Council the plan should go for examination in September - We hope to have it in place by January 2023.

**Councillor John Bannister - Chair of Planning Committee**



## Economy and Tourism

The purpose of the Economy & Tourism Committee is to promote events and businesses which attract visitors to Ledbury and boost the local economy; and develop programmes and actions to support local businesses and attract grants and inward investment.

We were able to identify twenty-three key objectives from the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2022 that could reasonably be adopted by the committee, and it was agreed to concentrate the work of the Committee into three main areas:

1. To promote the Charter market and other 'speciality markets' in the town.
2. To promote the work of the guides of the Painted Room, the custodians of other historic attractions and organisers of other cultural and community events. Part of this work is to replace the Tourist Information Centre in the Homend with firstly, one much enhanced TIC in the Reception area of the Council Offices; and secondly, when feasible with a second TIC in our iconic master's House as part of the development of the area at The Barn end of St Katherine's Car Park, adjacent to the master's House.
3. To look to the feasibility of building on the huge success of the Poetry Festival and further enhance Ledbury as a festival destination. This work was begun and has since been subsumed into the work of the Events Working Group of the Environment and Leisure Committee.

To this was added a fourth workstream as two funds from Central Government were released by Herefordshire Council to Parish and Town Councils. The two funds were the Welcome Back Fund and the Great Places to Visit fund. Looking forward, there remains significant challenges to properly co-ordinating the mission and work of our community organisations; to harnessing the Herculean effort of so many individual members of our community and particularly those who aspire to work with our young people.

**Councillor Malcolm Hughes - Chair of Economy and Tourism**





**Queenswood**  
Country Park & Arboretum



**Adventure Club, Summer 2022**

Running on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 3pm  
 Explore the woods, cook on a campfire, get creative with tools.  
 Activities for children aged 8 to 12 including fire lighting, den building  
 and wildlife identification.  
 £20 per child, per day  
 Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum,  
 Dinmore Hill, Nr Leominster, HR6 0PY  
 Booking: [www.herefordshirewt.org/events](http://www.herefordshirewt.org/events)



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- JUNE**  
LTC JUBILEE EVENT - FRIDAY 3
- JUNE**  
COMMUNITY DAY - SATURDAY 4
- JUNE**  
BIG JUBILEE LUNCH - SUNDAY 5
- JUNE**  
CYCLE TO WORK BIKE WEEK - 6 - 12
- JUNE**
- JULY**  
POETRY FESTIVAL - 1-10 JULY
- JULY**  
LEDBURY CELEBRATION - 10 JULY
- 2022**
- AUGUST**  
CARNIVAL DAY BANK HOLIDAY
- SEPTEMBER**  
H-ART - 3 - 11 SEPTEMBER
- 3 SHIRE STAGES CLOSED ROAD RALLY - 18 SEPTEMBER**
- OCTOBER**  
MOP FAIR - 10 & 11 OCTOBER
- NOVEMBER**  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT - 27 NOVEMBER
- DECEMBER**  
CANDLE LIGHTING, CHAPEL - 18 DECEMBER



Please email  
[admin@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
 for more information on trading



## CHARTER MARKET

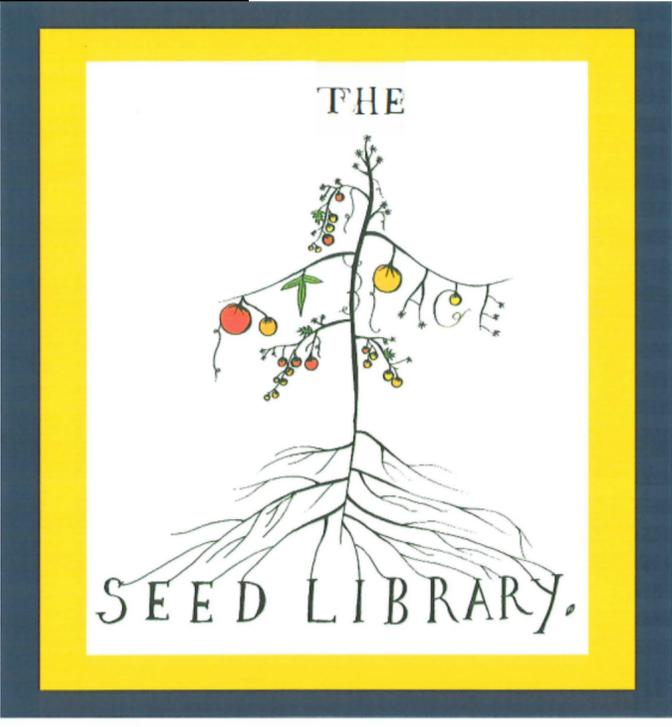
Every Tuesday and Saturday under the Market House

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



To celebrate the historic reign of  
**Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**  
**The Mayor**  
 &  
**Councillors of Ledbury**  
 invite you to join them at a  
**PLATINUM JUBILEE PICNIC IN THE PARK**  
*a family event for all of Ledbury*  
**Friday, 3rd June 2022**  
**2pm to 7pm**  
**The Recreation Ground**  
**Please bring a picnic &**  
**something to sit on.**  
**Please remember The Rec. is an**  
**alcohol-free zone.**  
**Please leave your car at home.**

- Children's Games
- Face Painting
- Children's Fancy Dress Competition
- Best Dressed Jubilee Hat Competition
- Live Music
- Craft Gazebo



**PLANT · GROW · DONATE**

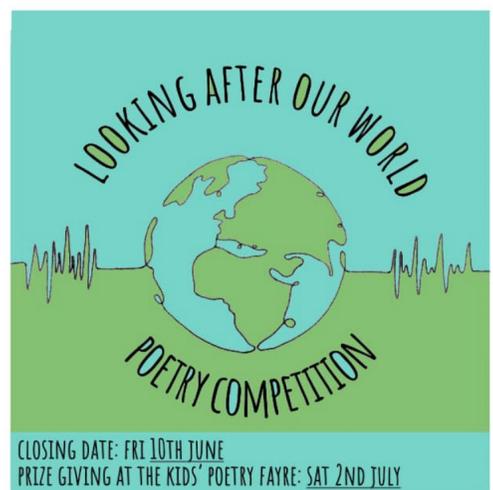
DISCOVER THE JOY OF GROWING YOUR OWN BY VISITING THE  
 POT & PAGE SEED LIBRARY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
 SUSTAINABLE LEDBURY. ALL SEEDS ARE **FREE** TO TAKE HOME!  
 IF YOU HAVE EXCESS SEEDS YOU CAN ALSO DONATE  
 THEM TO THE LIBRARY, SO THE CYCLE CAN CONTINUE!



Pot & Page, 8 New St. Ledbury  
 10am - 5pm Not open Mon & Tues  
[potandpage.co.uk](http://potandpage.co.uk) · [sustainableledbury.co.uk](http://sustainableledbury.co.uk)



**POETRY  
 COMPETITION**



CLOSING DATE: FRI 10TH JUNE  
 PRIZE GIVING AT THE KIDS' POETRY FAYRE: SAT 2ND JULY

FOR 4-18 YEAR OLDS  
 TO CELEBRATE LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL

Pot & Page and Sustainable Ledbury are teaming up to  
 spark children's imaginations and explore the idea of  
[Looking After Our World.](#)

To enter please pick up a form from Pot & Page (8 New St, Ledbury)  
 OR email [sustainableledbury@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableledbury@gmail.com)

**John Champion West Mercia PCC**

Working for and with the local community to build a safer West Mercia.



As your PCC I work for and with the local community to  
 build a safer West Mercia. It is my role to govern and  
 scrutinise the service you as a member of the local  
 community get from your police force.

As your commissioner my priorities are:

- Putting victims and survivors first
- Building a more secure West Mercia
- Reforming West Mercia
- Reassuring West Mercia

To find out more about the work I do as your PCC, please visit the details  
 below.

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[opcc@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:opcc@westmercia.police.uk)  
[www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)



@WestMerciaPCC

**Ledbury Food Bank - Here to Help**

**If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family we are here to help.**



Ledbury Food Bank opened in 2012. We currently feed more  
 than 50 family units from Ledbury and surrounding villages  
 each month. Nobody should be hungry in our society  
 although we know that more than 1.5 million people in this  
 country rely on food banks.

Anyone who needs help feeding themselves or their family can just come along to St  
 Katherine's Hall on a Wednesday or Friday between 10.00 and 12.00. We turn no one away,  
 and we may be able to help in other ways as well. We have a contract with Citizens Advice to  
 provide benefits advice and we have trained volunteers who can help with debt and housing  
 problems or, if necessary, refer to organisations that can.

The increase in our work means that we are urgently looking for new premises. We have a  
 large team of committed volunteers who help us without whom we could not carry out our  
 work.

We are dependent on public donations of food and money as well as grants from public and  
 private organisations.

If you need any more information please either email [food@ledburyfoodbank.org](mailto:food@ledburyfoodbank.org) or call  
 07581283092 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

**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](http://malvern hills-carclubs.org.uk)  
 01684 540284



**Wildlife Watch Ledbury Group**

For children aged 8-12 years (and parents/carers if they wish)

In and around the Ledbury area on the  
 second Sunday of the month 10.30-12.30  
 And also at Queenswood Country Park, Dinmore Hill, Leominster  
 HR6 0PY on the last Sunday of each month 10.30-12.30

The groups are open and free for new and existing  
 members of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust  
[www.herefordshirewt.org/events](http://www.herefordshirewt.org/events)  
[watch@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:watch@herefordshirewt.co.uk)

