

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL WINTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 2025



Updates from
your Ward
Councillors

Christmas
Lights
Switch-On
Event



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With Autumn fully with us and the clocks returned to the hour kept at Greenwich by which the world tells time, I am pleased to welcome you to the Town Council's Winter Newsletter.

Reflecting upon the unusually sunny summer now passed, I'd like to give a few mentions and say some heartfelt "Thank you's". The town's cemetery has looked lovely all summer long thanks to the careful attention to mowing detail that continues to be given by Stephen Large and his team of local landscape gardeners. The council hosted the annual visit from the Heart of England in Bloom judges and the hardworking team of Ledbury in Bloom and other volunteers were rewarded in October with the award of their 15th consecutive Gold Award for keeping the town looking lovely. My congratulations and thanks to everyone involved.

Well done to everyone involved in making our 51st Carnival a huge success on August Bank Holiday, the team organising Ledbury Community Day in June and Ledbury Celebration which rounded off yet another successful Poetry Festival and the talented musicians and artists who gave us a week-long programme of music and song in local pubs and venues with the return of The Ledbury Fringe.

The fantastic team at our Community Hub continues to expand its offer of innovative and engaging clubs and discussion groups, lunches, food shares, film nights, art and craft activities. Surely something on offer for almost everyone to enjoy.


I was a bit late getting this address written, and as the 5th of November has now passed, I'd like to say a huge well done to everyone involved in the Fireworks Display at Ledbury Primary School. I understand the event was completely sold out, which is fantastic! Hopefully pets nearby were kept calm, and I hope those who live within viewing distance of the school enjoyed the show too. The school has received multi-year funding from the council to support this event, so if you missed out on the fun this year, make a note in your diary for 2026!

The town's Christmas lights will be being installed over the next week or so, with a packed programme of entertainment already planned for the switch-on event on Sunday 23 November. The Community Hub is already running Lantern-making Workshops which will culminate in a lantern parade as part of the switch-on programme. Come along and join in the fun.

There's more Christmas celebrations planned with the Town Carol Service on 7 December getting us all in the mood with lots of carols and traditional readings – some evocative old favourite some brand new friends. The Community Choir's Christmas Concert is on 22 December this year and they are generously donating funds raised, at my request, to two important local charities: The Madison Shelbie Trust and The ELY Memorial Fund, each supporting local families facing sudden bereavement. For people wanting to remember loved ones at Christmas the Town Council will be opening up the Chapel at the Cemetery on Sunday, 14 December from 10:00am - 3:00pm with candles and refreshments available, and St Michael's Hospice are holding the annual Light-up a Life Service in Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 14 December.

The Town Council supports and enables many of the events and activities I have mentioned here with staff time and with grant monies. We are very fortunate to have such a thriving community of clubs, volunteers and creative activities which enhance our town and bring pleasure to participants and onlookers alike. I am using my Chairman's Year to spotlight as many of these groups and activities as I can, and I thank everyone involved for their creativity, positivity and hard work.

I wish you all a warm and fulfilling winter season and wish you health, peace and happiness for the year to come.



Chairman of Ledbury Town Council 2025-26
Councillor Elizabeth Harvey

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Ledbury Town Council is proud to share that this year's Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade, held on Sunday, 9 November 2025, was an outstanding success and a deeply moving tribute to all those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

This year's event was especially significant, marking 80 years since the end of the Second World War, and the people of Ledbury came together in great numbers to honour this milestone in our shared history. The sense of unity, gratitude, and remembrance was felt throughout the town as the parade made its way to the War Memorial for the wreath-laying ceremony, followed by a service at St Michael and All Angels Church.

Ledbury Town Council extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the day's success in particular, Ledbury Royal British Legion, members of the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury Brass Band, Ledbury Choirs, Ledbury Primary School Children's Ambassadors, and all the local community groups who took part in the parade and wreath laying.

A very special mention and heartfelt thanks go to the ship's company of HMS LEDBURY, whose attendance and participation made this year's commemoration especially memorable. It was a true honour to welcome so many crew members to Ledbury for this important occasion. Their presence had a profound impact on the community, reinforcing the close bond between the town and its namesake ship.

Ledbury Town Council would like to thank all who attended, supported, and participated in the event, ensuring that the sacrifices of past and present generations are never forgotten.



LEDBURY'S SPEED WATCH GROUP

Did you know Ledbury has its own Community Speed Watch Group?

Ledbury Community Speed Watch is supported by the West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enables residents to take an active role in making local people safer.

Speed monitoring events aim to encourage fellow residents and visitors to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, and to address concerns from local people about cars speeding through their neighbourhood.

Ledbury Speed Watch operates within guidelines set by West Mercia Police Road Safety Team at authorised locations which have shown to be of public concern. If you think there is a location in Ledbury that suffers from traffic speeding please don't hesitate to report it either to your local Police Station and/or to Ledbury Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator, Sue Hughes. If we do not already monitor that location we can start a procedure to take action.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Speed Watch group. The scheme is open to anyone aged 17 or over and volunteers will only be accepted onto a scheme once appropriate police checks have been carried out. Contact Sue by email on suzieh50@gmail.com if you are interested or would like further information.



UPDATE FROM LEDBURY COMMUNITY BRASS BAND



Get into the festive spirit with the Ledbury Community Choir Christmas Celebration Concert on Monday 22 December 2025 at 7.30 pm at Ledbury Rugby Club, Ross Road.

Tickets are £10 and can be booked by calling 01531 630 273. The Choir meets every Monday at 7.30 pm at the Rugby Club, and new members are always welcome to join this friendly and vibrant group.

For more information email ledbury.community.choir@outlook.com

LEDBURY PROBUS CLUB



Ledbury Probis is a non-political non-religious club for retired and semi-retired professionals and businessmen in and around the thriving market town of Ledbury, Herefordshire, and enjoys a membership of over 70 men. We meet every Monday at the Burgage Hall, Ledbury, from 10am to noon to socialise and enjoy a talk given by a wide variety of speakers on a huge range of subjects. Ledbury Probis is one of the most successful organisations in all three counties ie Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

Our primary objective is to provide an informal meeting place for retired men for their mutual interest and entertainment. It is particularly intended to attract those who wish to make new friendships and find new interests, especially if recently moved into the district. After our meeting, many members wander into town to a local hostelry for a coffee, pint or lunch.

We have an illustrated talk every week, either from a member or given by an external speaker, covering every topic under the sun. Our talks generally last between 45 minutes to an hour, after which there is a lively question and answer session. Our meeting hall is equipped with modern audio-visual facilities, and we also use radio mics for the speaker, and for audience participation during the following active Q&A session.

Check out our website www.ledburyprobis.org.uk for more details or just pop in at 10am on a Monday morning!

ST MICHAEL'S LEDBURY SERVICES FOR CHRISTMASTIDE 2025

You are invited to come and experience the joy of the Christmas Season at St. Michael's Parish Church

Sunday 7th December

10 am Bishop Richard will celebrate
Advent Communion with us.
6.30pm Town carols with Brass Band and Choir

Sunday 21st December

5.30pm Traditional service of 9 Lessons and
Carols with candlelight

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service &
11:30pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25th December Christmas day

8am BCP Communion with carol
10am Christmas Day
Celebration Communion.

Sunday 4th January Epiphany

8am BCP Communion
10am Parish Communion



Christmas Eve at 4pm
at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church

Christingle Service



There will be some Christingle oranges
and candles available but please do
bring your own.

The service will be very family
friendly, with traditional carols, the
telling of the Christmas Story and the
Blessing of the Crib.

A lovely start to Christmas.



BLOOMING BRILLIANT

Gold #17 for Ledbury in Bloom

At an awards ceremony held recently in Malvern, Ledbury in Bloom (LiB) were the proud recipients of their 17 consecutive Heart of England in Bloom Gold Award. They first entered the competition over thirty years ago and have been winning gold since 2007.

Whilst the judging took place in early July, the team work throughout the year to enhance the natural beauty of the town. A comprehensive diary of their activity is submitted as part of the judging process. Chair, Christina Vass said “the award is a true community team effort, from Ledbury Town Council who supply and water the hanging baskets which the judges commented upon, to our sponsors who fund our efforts and the nurserymen who supply our plants and of course our small but dedicated team of volunteer gardeners.

This year the Judges visited and were impressed by the Ledbury Allotments; the children’s gardening efforts at Busy Bees; and the Methodist Church team who care for the millennium garden at the entrance to the Bye Street car park. Christina added that “sadly, this may be the last year that the current team enter the competition for the foreseeable future. But competition or no competition the team will continue to ensure Ledbury Blooms”.

To find out more about helping Ledbury to Bloom please contact Christina via Ledbury Town Council.



LEAF ADVENT COMMUNITY PARTY



SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

2.30pm to 5pm

Ledbury Community Hall

CRAFTS : CAROLS : GAMES

TEA

FREE OF CHARGE : CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT

More information from Mary Anne - maryannekeyes@leafledbury.com

Ledbury churches working together

www.leafledbury.com

HELP KEEP THE LEDBURY CARNIVAL MAGIC ALIVE

This year's Ledbury Carnival was absolutely fantastic, and the town came alive with colour, music, and celebration. With this year's theme of 'Wonders of the World', floats, performances, and activities brought the streets to life and created a truly memorable experience for everyone who attended. It was a great reminder of how much planning, hard work, and dedication goes into organising such a big community event – and we can all agree it wouldn't be possible without the incredible team of volunteers behind the scenes.

Looking ahead to next year's carnival, we are on the lookout for volunteers to join the team and help make it another amazing celebration. Whether it's assisting with set-up, managing stalls, supporting activities, or helping on the day itself, any contribution makes a real difference.

Volunteering at the Ledbury Carnival is not only a way to give back to the community, but it's also a fun and rewarding experience. You'll meet new people, be part of the excitement, and take pride in contributing to a tradition that has brought joy to Ledbury for many years.

To find out more and sign up, contact Secretary@Ledbury-Carnival.co.uk

For more information visit our website www.Ledbury-Carnival.co.uk.



LEDBURY BIG Breakfast

Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 2026

Ledbury Food Group and Ledbury's independent food businesses invite you to celebrate breakfast and local food in and around Ledbury at the darkest time of year.

Let local shops, cafes, hotels and other food outlets in and around Ledbury tempt you with their special breakfast offerings featuring locally produced food to brighten a winter's day.

Breakfasts can be big or small, traditional or newly invented, to be enjoyed in our local eating places or taken home for enjoyment. Many venues will provide vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options – please check with them. Local butchers, delicatessens and the Country Market will feature local produce for you to take home.

Discover the qualities of our local produce and food offerings. Experience the importance - and on this occasion pleasure - of starting the day with a satisfying breakfast.

Full details of those taking part, their special offerings and which days these will be on sale will be available on the Ledbury Food Group website – www.ledburyfoodgroup.org – from mid-January.

This year, both of Ledbury's butchers – Gurneys and Wallers – joined in the celebrations by creating their own special breakfast sausages, which were extremely yummy and proved very popular!



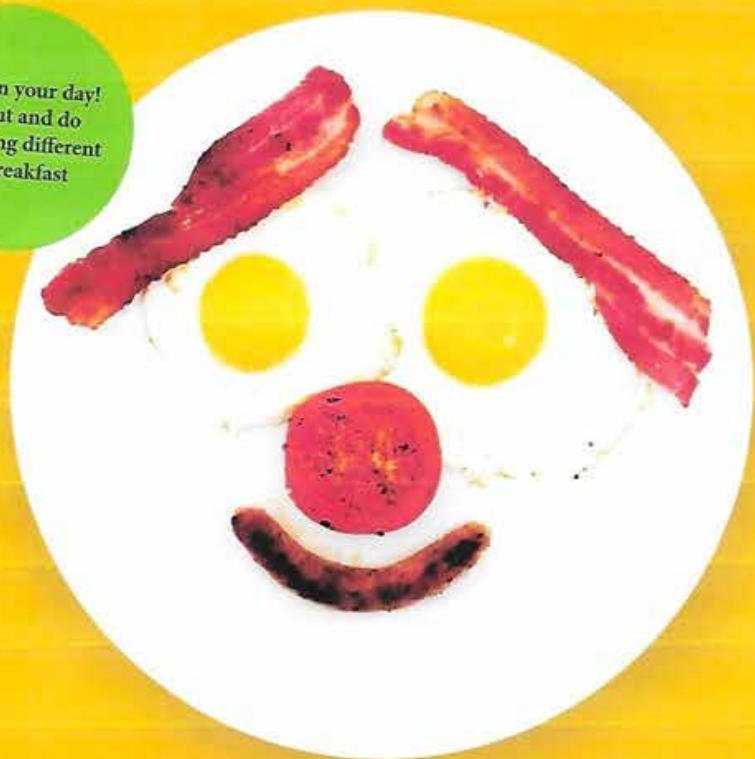
Connect, discover & celebrate
Ledbury Food Group

The Ledbury Big Breakfast

Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 2026

Ledbury businesses - Hotels, Cafes, Pubs, Delis, Markets and Butchers - are joining to offer you a feast of local breakfast food, including special menu items. All kinds of breakfast and brunch are on offer from the lightest to the heaviest. You can choose to eat in, take out, or buy to take home.

Brighten your day!
Get out and do
something different
for Breakfast



Ledbury Food Group



Connect, discover & celebrate

www.ledburyfoodgroup.org



LEDBURY & DISTRICT U3A

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

Discover New Interests and Make Friends with Ledbury & District u3a

At Ledbury & District u3a, those who are retired – or those who are contemplating retirement – can meet new people and enjoy a wide range of activities and interests in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. We have over 600 members, and members of Ledbury & District u3a have a choice of joining over 40 different daytime activity and interest groups. These groups meet on a regular basis at suitable venues in Ledbury, with a small charge payable at each group meeting depending on the venue.

Our Main Meetings take place on the third Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. You do not have to become a member immediately – just come along, meet new people, hear our guest speaker, and find out more.

Just turn up at Ledbury Community Centre, Lawnside Road, Ledbury HR8 2AE.

You can find out more by visiting our website at <https://ledbury.u3asite.uk> or by contacting our Membership Secretary on 01531 633637.

Ledbury and District u3a may be just what you are looking for.

LADIES OF LEDBURY

We would like to invite you to join our next Ledbury Women's Institute monthly meeting.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Catholic Parish Room, New Street.

Your first meeting is free, and you'll receive a warm welcome from all our members.

Each month we enjoy a variety of guest speakers, activities, and of course, refreshments. It's a great opportunity to discover our programme of events and trips, and to make new friendships along the way.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our next gathering.

For further information, please contact:

Margaret Coulson (President)

☎ Ledbury 01531 636808



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Ledbury
Choral
Society

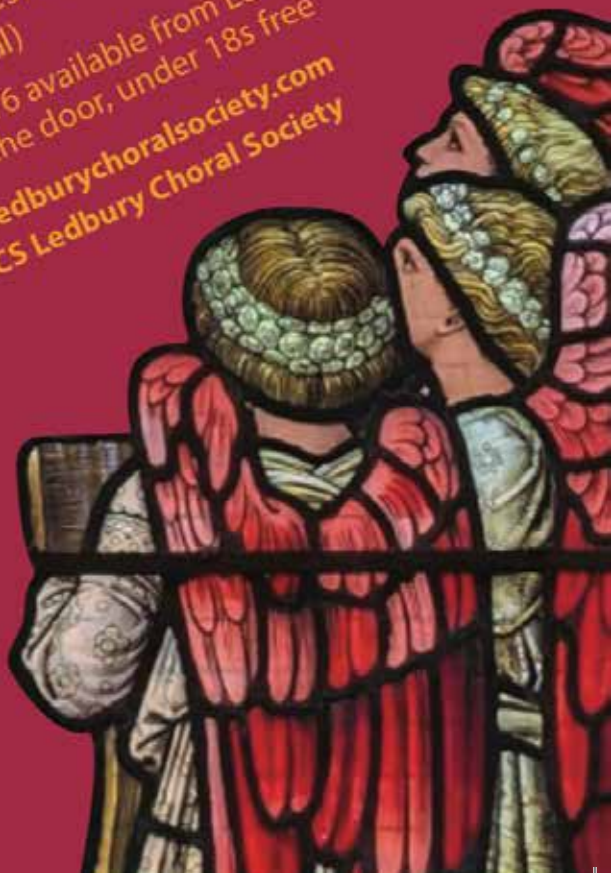
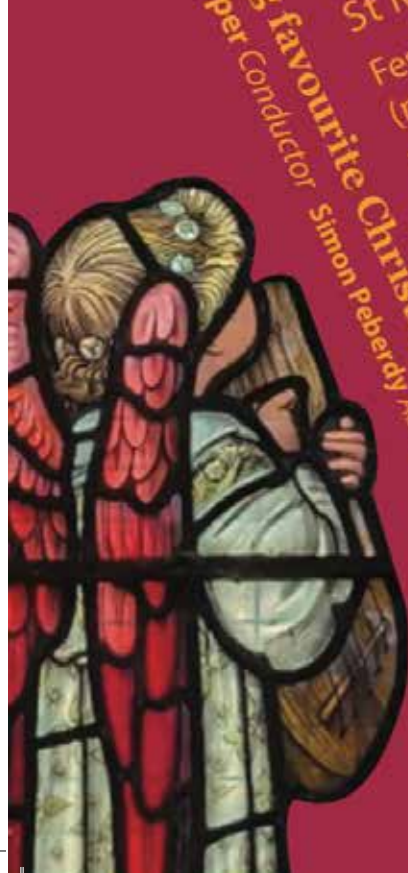
A celebration for Christmas

6pm Saturday 13 December 2025
St Michael & All Angels Church, Ledbury

Festive refreshments will be served from 5:30pm
(no interval)
Tickets £16 available from Ledbury Books & Maps
and on the door, under 18s free

www.ledburychoralsociety.com
LCS Ledbury Choral Society

including favourite Christmas carols
Simon Harper Conductor Simon Peberdy Accompanist



VOICES OF THE DISTRICT WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORTS



COUNCILLOR STEF SIMMONS

Title: Vice Chairperson of Herefordshire Council

Party: The Green Party

Ward: Ledbury South

Parish: Donnington ; Eastnor ; Ledbury (South)

Herefordshire Council News

Full Council Meeting - A meeting of all ward councillors at Full Council on Friday 10th October resulted in almost unanimous support for two Green Party motions on a Child Friendly Herefordshire, and 16-19-year-olds bus travel. A Liberal Democrat motion was also passed on opposing changes to PCSO shift hours.

Green Waste Service - Residents can now sign-up to a new, subscription based, garden waste collection service starting in March next year (2026). This new service will replace the current garden waste collection, which uses single-use plastic sacks. Instead, residents will receive either a wheelie bin or reusable garden sacks, depending on available space at the property. The waste will be collected every two weeks, excluding two weeks at Christmas, and then turned into soil improver which will be available to buy at local recycling centres. The service is flexible, and residents can share bins with neighbours, add extra bins for larger gardens, or use reusable sacks if space is limited. The new service costs £60 per year, which equates to £2.40 per collection, plus a one-off delivery fee of £10 per bin. Residents can now sign-up to a greener, cleaner, more convenient way to manage garden waste - Herefordshire Council

Spatial Plan Progress - In December 2024 the government significantly increased housing targets with 27,600 new homes over 20 years allocated to Herefordshire. The draft Local Plan that residents responded to had to go back to the drawing board, with a new strategy required to accommodate this widely acknowledged unachievable level of growth. A motion brought to Full Council by Independent's for Herefordshire (Cllr Harvey) calling for push back to Government on the target for Herefordshire was widely supported. Any site allocations must be backed by strong evidence that they can be delivered within the plan period (2025-2045). The council is gathering as much information as possible on potential sites and the various constraints including flooding, statutory designations, agricultural grades, water supply etc. The Call for sites has now been extended to try and ensure land is identified for employment and other uses alongside the additional housing required.

Ward News

The Southend - Police have confirmed following deployment of their automatic traffic monitoring device in September that speeding on Gloucester Road/The Southend is a real problem with 85% percentile speeds of 37mph in close proximity to John Masfield School. This is despite installation of the Speed Indicator Device and police enforcement activity with spot checks over recent months. I have met with highways, police and safety officers to look at next steps and I am working with the school and residents to lobby for a solution.

John Masfield High School/Ledbury Primary School Travel Planning – Earlier this month I met with Dr John Holmes (Headteacher) to look at how pupils travel to school and how Herefordshire Council can support the school with new travel planning capability, as a way of encouraging switch to sustainable travel modes and access funding for measures that support this. The council have been encouraged by the support for buses, walking and cycling in Ledbury from recent consultation events and Ledbury is the first to benefit. Officers are coming to Ledbury next week to walk some of the routes to school.

Eastnor – The A438 from Eastnor Castle towards Ledbury is finally scheduled for resurfacing 10th – 14th November. This will now be done under lights and convoy system to ensure access due to the closure of the Worcester Rd at British Camp. It is intended that improvements will also be made to the signage and road markings at the School/Woodshed junction.

Other Meetings, Events and Activities

Over the last month (in addition to ward case work and role on planning committee) I have been co-opted onto two task and finish groups on inequality and social mobility, and housing development and public consultation. I have provided a talk on planning to members of Sustainable Ledbury. As Vice Chair of Herefordshire Council, I have attended the Battle of Britain 85th Anniversary commemorations in Ross-on-Wye, the SSAFA Concert at Hereford Cathedral and the Armed Forces Covenant meeting at The Cyber Quarter.

I am available by email: stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk, phone: 07792 881706, or my regular surgery at Ledbury Rugby Club (Tuesdays by appointment).



COUNCILLOR JUSTINE PEBERDY

Party: The Green Party

Ward: Ledbury West

Parish: Ledbury (West)

Local Access Forum

Ledbury PFO Ian Fountaine has been accepted as a new member of the Local Access Forum and I look forward to working alongside him to improve access for everyone to the countryside.

Ledbury Primary School Travel Plan

Ledbury Primary School Deputy Head, Charlotte Slocombe has discussed the challenges that families living at Hawk Rise face to get their children to school on time. There are 69 children from Ledbury Primary School who live at Hawk Rise. Most of them drive, 21 walk to school, and some rely on the bus. The 476 bus arrives at Tesco either one hour before the school gates open, or at 9.35am. Some families opt for the later bus and this is affecting the school's attendance figures. Last week Stef and I met with Charlotte and Ffion Norton (Transport Planning Services Manager), to discuss Travel Plans for Ledbury Primary and JMHS. Travel Plans are intended to identify measures to support sustainable travel and assess funding needs.

Talk Community

Aimee Williams, who has done such brilliant work here in Ledbury as our Talk Community Development Officer, is moving roles to support Bromyard and we'll be welcoming Philippa Lydford into the Ledbury role. Talk Community have launched the Playstreets scheme in Herefordshire. Playstreets will enable residents to apply for temporary street closures, creating safe, traffic-free spaces for children to play and neighbours to connect. Funding is available to provide kits, resources, and simple guidance for the first 50 participating streets, helping to kick-start this proven model. More info on the Talk Community website.



COUNCILLOR LIZ HARVEY

**Title: Group Leader of the Independents for Herefordshire;
Chairperson Scrutiny Management Board; Vice-Chairperson
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Party: Independents for Herefordshire

Ward: Ledbury North

Parish: Ledbury (North) ; Wellington Heath)

Flooding and Drainage Issues

Flooding and drainage problems remain outstanding in Wellington Heath. Although assurances have been provided by officers that work to renew a collapsed pipe under the highway in Wellington Heath is scheduled for the week of Monday, 1 December. The Clerk was encouraged to apply for a drainage grant to deal with the drainage issues on Upperfields caused by water running out of Doghill Wood and down the footpaths connecting to Bank and Homend Crescents, clogging drains with gravel and silt. Councillors are asked to encourage members of the public to continue to report blocked drains using the 'Report It' function on the Herefordshire Council website, so that these can be cleared before further heavy rainfall occurs. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem>

Police

Councillors met with the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner after Full Council at Hereford on 10 October. West Mercia Police have announced significant in-year funding issues, and councillors supported a motion at council which expressed concern at the community impact of the changes already made to the working hours of PCSOs in order to save on out-of-hours payments. The force overall is needing to find in-year savings in excess of £20m and over 300 civilian support staff and data analysis experts have been made redundant already with more cuts in technical and support services yet to come.

Developments & Planning

Viaduct Development – phase 2A– an application is under consideration for an interim approval to continue development on this site over the winter whilst not coming forward with the proposed complete phase 2 & 3 plans for the overall scheme. This is very disappointing, as it continues uncertainty regarding the delivery of the 3+ hectares of promised employment land and what exactly is being proposed by Bloor Homes regarding the areas of the site local people know are blighted by flooding. There are a number of issues with the 2A proposals, including the suggestion that this phase of the development under-delivers on affordable housing, with the suggestion that the shortfall is addressed by the, as yet, unplanned future phases. Residents continue to complain that the necessary litter and dog waste bins have not been installed along the pedestrian pathways connecting Phase 1 to the rest of the town, leading to dog waste being abandoned in an unhygienic and unsightly manner along the route.

Transport Infrastructure

Bus Infrastructure: Ward members will be meeting with officers later this month to discuss options evaluated to improve the provision of bus infrastructure for the town. I have requested that a pull-in/stop be provided at the Bromyard Road access to the Bloor development and that commissioned school transport services include a stop at this location so that children can access this transport without having to walk through the undeveloped site to reach bus stops at the Station and on the Hereford Road.

Town Traffic Study

Ward members continue to press for action from officers regarding the traffic study undertaken in the spring of this year at points around the town. Officer churn at Hereford has impacted on the work and assurances are being sought that progress will be made.

St Katherine's Car Park

As part of the repair and maintenance work currently being undertaken on The Master's House, work has been undertaken to lay new paving in the vicinity of the payment machine in the middle of the car park. Unfortunately the opportunity has not been taken to relocate the machine which is necessary to progress agreed plans for a revised layout of the car park to improve traffic flow and deliver agreed landscaping improvements. Property officers appear to be unaware of the agreed plans and the designs, but as yet undelivered, phase 2 & 3 of the landscaping plans. I have requested that the council's Project Management Office (responsible for the phase 1: St Katherine's Square project) liaise with the Property Team to ensure a more joined-up approach to this and future works.

Enforcement

14 High Street – I met with officers from the Economic Development Team on site to discuss how the shop frontage and windows could be smartened up whilst enforcement action is pursued against the property owner. Storesbrook Bridge – The landowner has agreed to remove the unauthorised signage located adjacent to the bridge. Empty Properties: A number of empty properties have been reported to the council for action to encourage their return to occupation.

Residents' Issues

I have been dealing with issues raised by residents and businesses including:

- Planned closure of the Bromyard Road during structural works at the station by Network Rail
- Planning application issues
- Road repairs and drainage in Wellington Heath
- Parking permits in Belle Orchard
- Parking issues in Market Street
- Delivery of improved healthcare and emergency service facilities through One Public Estate
- Attending 'Sick of Ledbury' event at the Community Hub

Committee Work

I have attended Full Council, Group Leaders' and Employment Panel meetings at Herefordshire Council. I have undertaken refresher mandatory training on a range of council and committee issues, and attended a Scrutiny Management Board workshop in preparation for scrutinising the council's 2026-27 budget. I am continuing to participate in a Working Group considering options to address concerns raised by the Boundary Commission regarding rebalancing elector numbers across wards in Herefordshire. I have represented Herefordshire Council on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel and the Lower Severn Drainage Board and shall be attending the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel again on 5 November to continue challenge on the implementation of service cuts and delivery of savings plans.

Councillor Liz Harvey

Ward Member – Ledbury North

Group Leader – Independents for Herefordshire


Email epjharvey@herefordshire.gov.uk

Mob 07792 882137

Web www.herefordshire.gov.uk

www.i4H.org.uk

www.ItsOurCounty.org



Come and Celebrate Christmas!

***Ledbury Town
Carol Service***

*Carol Singing and Readings
with*

Ledbury Community Brass Band

And our Church Choir

St Michael and All Angels Church

Sunday, 7th December

6.30pm



Your Season of Change

LEDBURY
EMPOWERMENT
PATHWAY

Sign up to employment support

Dedicated coaching turns new confidence into your clear path to employment or starting your own business



Low-pressure, hands-on learning. Build skills, community, and real self-belief.

Land Skills

Build outdoor horticulture skills and lasting friendships in a supportive, natural environment.
Mondays Nov to Feb



Digital Skills



Master essential tech for job hunting and modern life. Feel fully confident.
Wednesdays - Jan to Feb

Kitchen Skills

Learn to cook, find community, and gain vital catering experience ready for your next job in catering.
Sundays Nov to Feb



Make progress today



Sign up at ledburycommunityhub.org.uk and click - 'Empowerment Pathway'

LedburyCommunityHub.Org.Uk

LEDBURY'S LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Santa Clause is coming to town!

Ledbury is gearing up to sparkle this festive season! On Sunday 23 November 2025, from 12 noon to 5:30pm, the town will come alive with its much-loved Christmas Lights Switch-On, promising a day packed with festive cheer, laughter and magical moments for all ages.

Visitors can wander through a bustling Christmas Market, discover unique gifts from local traders and indulge in delicious seasonal treats. Families can dive into creative arts and crafts, enjoy face painting, and meet Santa in his very own Grotto.

The streets will be buzzing with live entertainment, from the upbeat sounds of The Hey Yahs, to the heartwarming voices of the Ledbury Community Choir, and the irresistible tunes of the Ledbury Brass Band. Adding extra sparkle, a magical winter fairy, a snow machine, and Morris dancers will bring festive flair and enchantment to the High Street.

This year, everyone is invited to get involved in the Lantern Parade! Head to the Lantern Making Workshop at Ledbury Community Hub earlier in the day, craft your own glowing lantern and join the evening procession through town before the big lights switch-on moment – it's a sight not to be missed!



Throughout the day, the wonderfully witty and captivating Jonny Fluffypunk will be on hand to bring stories to life, inspired by Ledbury's own John Masefield and his magical book *The Midnight Folk*. Full of humour, imagination, and heart, Jonny's storytelling will delight audiences of all ages.

Adding extra sparkle, Amy Amelia, the magical Winter Fairy will mesmerize visitors with her enchanting presence and spellbinding crystal ball performances.



As dusk falls, the festivities reach their grand finale with the Lights Switch-On, transforming Ledbury High Street into a glittering winter wonderland and marking the official start of the festive season.

Ledbury's

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Sunday 23 November 2025

Time	Activity	Location
10:30 - 13:00	Lantern Making Workshop	Ledbury Community Hub
12:00	Market and Event Opens	High Street
13:30 - 14:00	Storytelling: 'Jonny Fluffypunk' - Box of Delights & John Masefield Poems	High Street
13:00 - 16:00	Santa's Grotto	Ledbury Community Hub
14:00 - 14:45	Music by 'The Hey Yahs' (pt 1)	High Street
14:00 - 14:30	Magical Winter Fairy	Walk about in High Street
14:30 - 16:30	Crafts & Face Painting: Masefield Matters, Looby Lou & Ledbury Strömstad Twinning Association	St Katherine's Hall
14:45 - 15:15	Storytelling: 'Jonny Fluffypunk' - Box of Delights & John Masefield Poems	High Street
15:00 - 15:30	Morris Dancing - join in!	St Katherine's Square
15:00 - 15:30	Magical Winter Fairy	Walk about in High Street
15:15 - 16:00	Music by 'The Hey Yahs' (pt2)	High Street
16:00 - 16:30	Magical Winter Fairy	Walk about in High Street
16:15 - 17:00	Lantern Parade through the High Street	Ledbury Community Hub
16:15 - 17:00	Brass Band and Community Choir	The Market House
17:00	Official Christmas Lights Switch-On	The Market House
17:05	Last performance from the Morris Dancers	The Market House



Want to know what's on and where?

Scan the QR code to see the full programme and find events all around town!

Visit ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk for even more details.



23RD
NOVEMBER
4PM

LEDBURY
COMMUNITY
HUB

Christmas Lantern Festival



Experience the magic of Ledbury's Lantern Festival! Join us at the Community Hub at 4pm for hot drinks before a parade through town for the Christmas lights switch on. Come along to a workshop to create your own lantern or pick one up on the day! 23rd November, 4PM

Free Willow lantern making workshops:

Saturday 8th Nov 10:30am, Saturday 15th Nov 10.30pm

Sunday 23rd November 10:30am

LEDBURYCOMMUNITYHUB.ORG.UK



Santa's Grotto

LEDBURY
COMMUNITY
HUB

1PM
Till
4PM

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- CHRISTMAS TREATS
- MULLED APPLE JUICE AND CIDER
- MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS!
- NO SIGN UP NEEDED
- GIFTS FOR EVERY CHILD

NOVEMBER 23RD



LEDBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Ledburycommunityhub.org.uk

Christmas Candle Lighting

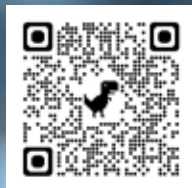
Sunday 14 December 2025

10:00am - 3:00pm

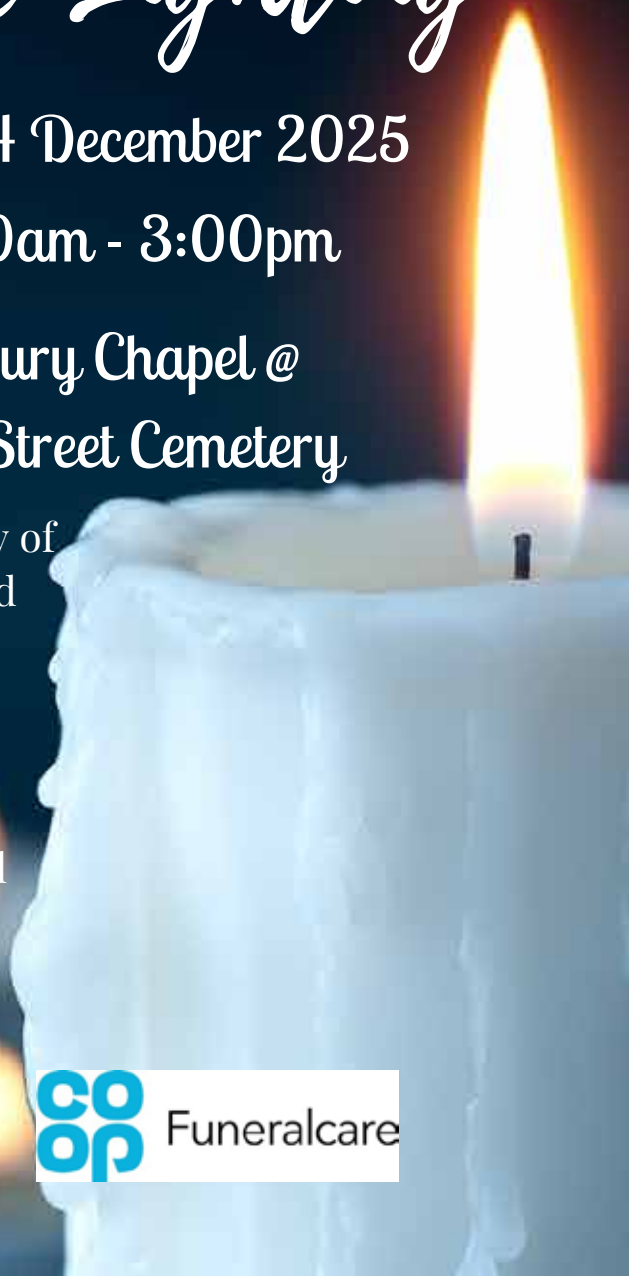


Ledbury Chapel @
New Street Cemetery

Light a Candle in memory of
those who have left us and
remember them at this
special time of year.
Mince pies and light
refreshments kindly
donated by co-op funeral
care



Funeralcare



TALK COMMUNITY



To foster connections, offer support, and provide a welcoming and safe space for ex-services personnel in the area.

LEDBURY RUGBY CLUB

Held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 0900 to 1030

FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS WELCOME*



* Suggested donation for breakfast £5
Eastnor Lodge working with Integrity, Friendship and Respect with the Veteran community.
Freemason's Eastnor Lodge, in partnership with Ledbury Rugby Club.



FREE PARKING IN NOVEMBER

LEDBURY – ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO SHOP THIS CHRISTMAS!

If you're looking for a magical place to get into the festive spirit and find unique Christmas gifts, look no further than Ledbury. Known for its charming streets, independent shops, and welcoming community, Ledbury has become a favourite destination for holiday shoppers looking for something special.



From artisan gifts and local produce to handcrafted decorations and festive treats, there's something for everyone. Shopping locally not only helps support independent traders but also keeps the town vibrant and full of character during the festive season.

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Why not kick off your festive shopping in Ledbury? On Saturday 22nd November, enjoy free parking in all council car parks, making it the perfect day to browse for Christmas gifts and treats. Then, don't miss Ledbury's Late Night Shopping event on Friday 5th December, when shops stay open until 8:00pm. Free parking is also available after 6:00pm, making it easy to enjoy a stress-free evening of shopping and festive fun.



With a wonderful mix of local traders, independent boutiques, and seasonal events, there's never been a better time to explore Ledbury this Christmas. Whether you're picking up gifts for loved ones or treating yourself, you're sure to find something special while soaking up the festive atmosphere.



LEDBURY COMMUNITY HUB

WORKSHOPS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND MUCH MORE!



Our monthly line up has expanded and we are delighted to announce the launch of a Sunday Adventurous Club for young families and a weekly Zero Waste Food Share. Everything is free and open to all. hello@ledburycommunityhub.org.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH VOLUNTEERING?

We will provide any training you need, carry out a DBS check, provide travel expenses and a free meal.

If you are interested in either of these new projects we'd love to hear from you. You can pop into The Hub for a chat, or email hello@ledburycommunityhub.org.uk. You can also register as a volunteer on our website and we will get in touch

LOOKING FOR A SPACE TO HIRE?

Ledbury Community Hub offers a range of rooms for hire, perfect for meetings, workshops, classes, or community events. With accessible facilities, kitchen access, and flexible spaces including a large hall and smaller meeting rooms - it's a great local option for all kinds of gatherings.

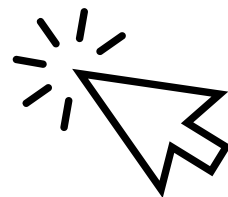
For more details or to make a booking, visit: ledburycommunityhub.org.uk/Space-for-hire









'Bringing people together for sustainable change'

USEFUL INFORMATION

HELPFUL INFO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS – EXPLORE THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL WEBSITE



The Herefordshire Council website is a valuable resource for residents looking to access local services, support, and information quickly and easily. Whether you need to report an issue, pay a bill, or find out what's happening in your area, the website is your go-to hub. Some of the key things you can do online include

-  Check bin collection dates
-  Report potholes or street lighting problems
-  Apply for planning permission or view applications
-  Pay Council Tax or access benefits support
-  Look up local transport and school information
-  Find housing advice and community services

It's also a great place to stay updated on local news, consultations, and public notices affecting Herefordshire.

 Visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk

BEING SAFE ONLINE - BLACK FRIDAY IS NEARLY HERE

Stay Safe This Black Friday!

Black Friday deals are already popping up all over November – but so are scams. Criminals use this time of year to trick shoppers with fake websites, phishing emails and “too good to be true” offers.

Before you buy, Take Five and check:

- Only shop with trusted retailers or official sellers.
- Look for <https://> and a padlock in the address bar (not in the body of the site).
- Don't click links in emails or messages from unknown senders.
- Avoid paying by bank transfer – use secure payment methods or a credit card for extra protection.
- Watch out for fake “limited time” offers and counterfeit goods.

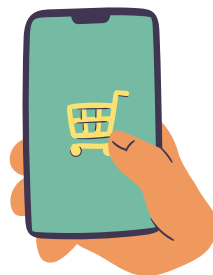
If something feels off, it probably is. Take a moment to check before you part with your hard-earned money.

If you think you've been scammed:

Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at actionfraud.police.uk

Forward scam texts to 7726 and fake emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

For banking fraud, call 159 to reach your bank's fraud department.



**BLACK
FRIDAY**

girls
LRFIC

COME AND GIVE GIRLS CONTACT RUGBY A Try...

LIFE SKILLS

CONFIDENCE

94% OF WOMEN IN
EXECUTIVE MANAGERIAL POSITIONS
HAVE A BACKGROUND IN SPORT

FUN

TEAMWORK

LEADERSHIP

FRIENDSHIPS

♥ rugby ♥ rugby ♥ rugby ♥ rugby ♥ rugby ♥



U12 / U14 / U16 / U18

TRAINING EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:30PM!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ELLIE ON 07581 004120

GIRLS WHO PLAY SPORT BECOME WOMEN WHO LEAD



TRY RUGBY
WITH US!

Visit tryrugby.com

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LEDBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

MIXED ABILITY RUGBY

THE HONEY BADGERS

FEARLESS,
INCLUSIVE,
UNSTOPPABLE
EVERY ABILITY,
ALL HEART



**MENS & WOMENS RUGBY FOR ALL
DISABILITIES & ABILITIES**

**ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF INCLUSION
WITH ADAPTED CONTACT**

**COME & TRY SOME FREE
TASTER SESSIONS**

**JOIN HEREFORDSHIRES FIRST
MIXED ABILITY RUGBY COMMUNITY**



**EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY
6 - 7 PM**

AT LRFC, ROSS ROAD, HR8 2LP

07930533459



MIXEDABILITY@LEDBURYRFC.CO.UK



FACEBOOK.COM/LEDBURYRFCMIXEDABILITY



The Wedding Post

JACOBAN ROOM, CHURCH LANE, LEDBURY

2025

BOOK YOUR WEDDING IN THE JACOBAN ROOM TODAY!



THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR

Hold your Ceremony in the Jacobean Ceremony Room, dating back to the 16th Century, featuring beautiful oak panelled walls.

THE DETAILS

Charge of Hire

The total charge of hire for the Jacobean Room is £252

Capacity

28 Seated Guests, 12 Standing
Guests plus one wheelchair or
push chair

Contacts

Administrator

admin@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Wedding Coordinator

weddingcoordinator@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

ORDER OF EVENTS

First: Arrange a viewing with the Wedding Coordinator

Second: Book your Registrar

Third: Invite the guests!

Last but not least... Say "I do"!



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING A UNION OF LOVE, LAUGHTER AND HAPPINESS



STRÖMSTAD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

On 4 October the Swedes celebrate 'Cinnamon Bun Day' 'Kanelbullens Dag' and have been doing so since 1999. This cinnamon spiced doughy treat is an essential part of 'Fika' a social institution in Sweden, meaning to take a break with colleagues or friends and enjoy coffee and a sweet treat, usually a 'Kanelbullar'.

On Friday 7 November, 'Strömstad in Light' was celebrated. The focus of the festival was on solar energy, lighting, charging of electric cars, and energy efficiency. Alongside this was a rich cultural programme with dance and music, local food crafts and tasting, a wide range of children's activities etc. Very much a community event to bring people together and light up a dark November evening. The weekend continued with nature hikes and cosy coffee events.

At the beginning of December, Restaurants will begin serving the Christmas Buffet or Julbord. Christmas Ham, pickled herring, shrimps, meat balls, Jansson's Temptation etc. are the key features with Hot Glogg (Mulled Wine) and Pepparkaka and beautifully crafted Gingerbread Houses on display.

Other news, the Twinning Association are in the course of developing a new display area in the Market House, with re-designed hanging boards and pop up banners and images and artefacts gathered over the last twenty-five years. This will enable the Twinning to be more visible to visitors and for special events to be held there. It is hoped that this new space will be launched during the Spring.

Links between Ledbury Primary School and the Skee Skola have been initiated and students at John Masefield High School are exchanging letters with students at the Strömstiernaskolan in Strömstad.



Dates for the diary:

·Christmas Lights Switch On, Sunday 23 November 2.30 - 4.30 pm, St Katherine's Hall, Ledbury.

The Association are planning to have a Swedish Christmas Display and traditions etc. Family Quiz, some food tasting, Glogg, Pepparkakor etc. and will be decorating 'wood cookies' for the Christmas Tree in a 'Scandi Style'.

·The Swedish Riksspelmän' at Hellens Great Barn on Sunday 7 December 2025 7.00 pm

Promises to be a lively and fun evening.

·'Hands Across the Water' Quiz – Ledbury Organisations and Strömstad via on-line link. Saturday 21 March 2026 Ledbury Community Hall.

The event we held in March of this year was very popular. Details will be published for the 2026 event soon and places will be filled quickly

·Possible visit of Skye Consort & Emma Björling. A Swedish/Canadian band who perform Swedish/Canadian folk music. March 2026 - date and venue to be confirmed.

·'Diva' Swedish Band (Nina and Bosse Markendahl etc) and Ledbury Singers Concert Friday 10 April 2026 7.30 pm Ledbury Rugby Club.

The Markendahls performed 'Piaf and Friends' with the Ledbury Singers in April 2024. They played to a 'packed house' and sure to do so again. Tickets on sale February 2026.

·Re-launch of 'Little Strömstad' in Ledbury Market House with Coffee Morning or similar 'Ska Vi Ha Fika' Saturday 11 April 2026 - more details to follow.

· Informal Swedish Music evening (Nina and Bosse Markendahl) Saturday 11 April 2026 7.30 pm -venue to be confirmed.

· Members' Smorgasbord Evening, 'Little Strömstad', Ledbury Market House. May 2026 - date to be confirmed.



MASEFIELD MATTERS PROJECT



Back in October, Masefield Matters took 15 pupils and two teachers to visit The National Maritime Museum and Cutty Sark. The young people on the trip were around the same age as Masefield had been when he was taken away from school to train in the Merchant Navy, giving the pupils a chance to step into the young Masefield's shoes.

We started off the day with a visit to the National Maritime Museum (right), where the students got the chance to visit a range of exhibitions, including the Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition. After visiting the museum we took a short walk through Greenwich to get to Cutty Sark, a Victorian tea clipper that is now a museum ship.



The young people then had the chance to explore the ship, where they learned about the reasons the ship was built and international trade in the Victorian era as well as about life on board the ship and how it was navigated. The top deck was set up as it would have been when the ship was sailing. From here there was access to the crew's quarters and the ship's wheel. The young people were particularly interested in the seaman's quarters and workshops.

From the top deck, the young people could even climb the rigging of the ship! Some were extremely excited to climb halfway up the height of the main mast, whereas others bravely climbed despite their nervousness. Some climbers loved it so much they had another go.

Mr. Morgan, one of the teachers, then read John Masefield's 'Cargoes' and explained Masefield's connection with the sea.

Headmaster Dr John Holmes said "It was a fantastic opportunity for them, and I am very grateful, as are they and their families."

For some of the young people, this was a rare chance to travel outside of Ledbury, or to take part in activities like the rigging climb. We will be following up the day's visit with further activities with John Masefield High School to involve them with Masefield's work and in the creation of the memorial.

Masefield Matters is a project run by Ledbury Town Council aiming to explore the legacy of Ledbury-born poet John Masefield through a range of events celebrating his life and work. The project will finish with a memorial celebrating John Masefield's 150th anniversary in 2028. The form this memorial takes will be chosen by the community through a series of consultation workshops. To find out more, visit our website at

<https://www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/masefield>.

Images by Adam Clutterbuck





Friends of Ledbury Children's Centre



- **WEDNESDAY: PLAY & STORY**
- **FRIDAY: PLAY & EXPLORE**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

INCLUDES HEALTHY SNACK AND DRINK

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF
£1.50 PER FAMILY**

About us:

- ✓ Small supportive groups for families
- ✓ Babies & children 0-4
- ✓ Indoor & outdoor play in our lovely garden
- ✓ Crafts, sensory, story and song

**FRIENDS OF LEDBURY CHILDREN'S CENTRE IS A
VOLUNTEER RUN GROUP THAT SUPPORTS THE
CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES**



Contact Becky: 07939 840315
or Jill: 07531 311991
HR82BE



Find us on Facebook



A Christmas Celebration

**Ledbury Rugby Club
Monday 22nd December
7.30pm**

**Tickets £10
call Box Office 01531 630273**

**Proceeds in aid of
ELY Memorial Fund, and
Madison Shelbie Trust**