

**CLUN DIVISION**

# E-BULLETIN 23

**From Nigel Hartin**

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## LOCKDOWN EASING

**DATES SHOWN ARE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE. THEY MAY BE PUT BACK IF INFECTION RATES DICTATE OTHERWISE**

### From the 8<sup>th</sup> March:

All pupils- primary and secondary- and students in further education will return to school, supported by twice weekly testing for secondary and college pupils. Breakfast and after school clubs can re-open

Two people can meet socially outdoors

Clinically vulnerable are still advised to self-isolate

The Government will amend regulations to allow broader range of COVID-safe activities for the local elections

### From 29<sup>th</sup> March

The legal requirement to stay at home will be lifted, but many lockdown restrictions will remain including working from home and minimized travel

The rule of 6 will be reintroduced outdoors and two families from different households can meet outdoors, including in private gardens

Some outdoor facilities can open, including tennis courts and pools, and outdoor sports can resume

### From 12<sup>th</sup> April

Non-essential retail can re-open, alongside 'close-contact services' and gyms

Pubs and restaurants can re-open outdoors

Public libraries, community centres, zoos and theme parks can re-open

### Step 3: From 17<sup>th</sup> May

The rule of 6 will be lifted outdoors and replaced by maximum gathering of 30. Two households can meet indoors

Indoor hospitality, cinemas, hotels, performances and sporting events also restart at this point - including up to 10,000 fans in largest stadia.

International holidays banned until at least 17 May

Step 4 : From 21st June. Possible end of social distancing rules.

## WALES - LOCKDOWN CHANGES

From Monday 22 February, children aged three to seven will begin returning to schools in a phased way, while some vocational learners on courses that require practical learning, will return to college.

From Saturday 20 February, four people from two different households will be able to meet outdoors for socially distanced local exercise. This doesn't apply to private gardens.



## VOTING BY POST

Anyone can apply for a postal vote instead of going to a polling station. To apply either ring Election Services on 0345 678 9015 or email: [elections@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@shropshire.gov.uk)

## Marcher Apple Network (MAN)

<https://www.marcherapple.net/>

The MAN started life as a group of apple enthusiasts keen to revive old varieties of apples and pears. They have their own heritage orchards that house rare varieties from the Welsh Marches. The group are interested in hearing from anyone interested in joining as a new member and also anyone willing to serve on the committee who may be prepared to help with their work - preserving, advertising old varieties of apples and other fruit trees.

**General queries to** [secretary@marcherapple.net](mailto:secretary@marcherapple.net)  
**Membership queries to** [membsec@marcherapple.net](mailto:membsec@marcherapple.net)

## SHREWSBURY TOWN PLAN

The Shrewsbury Big Town Plan's Masterplan Vision has recently been launched. The Masterplan Vision is a detailed document outlining ideas and options for how Shrewsbury could develop over the next two decades, looking at how people will move in and around the town centre, along with how the town's heritage can be celebrated whilst allowing the town to move forward. The Vision is currently open to public consultation (by all Shropshire residents!) and you can find more details and have your say by following this link: [Shrewsbury Big Town Plan: Masterplan vision | Shropshire Council](#) closes 28<sup>th</sup> February



### COVID-19 VACCINE FACT CHECK



The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.



The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

## Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund

This week the Government has launched a new fund to develop new projects which tackle climate change, create and restore habitats or improve water quality. The details are available from the link below. The fund opened on 10 February and you have until 26 March to submit all the information requested.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-grant-from-the-natural-environment-investment-readiness-fund>

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

**Shropshire Mind:** Telephone 01743 368647 - there is someone to take a call 365 days a year - further info on their website

[www.shropshiremind.org/](http://www.shropshiremind.org/)

**Every Life Matters:** [www.every-life-matters.org.uk](http://www.every-life-matters.org.uk)

**NHS:** Telephone 111



## GRIT BINS

Are your grit bins empty? Contact Nigel on 07583 962292 or email [nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk)

## CORONAVIRUS

*"Getting tested is a really easy way to help keep my family and my workmates safe."*



STEPHEN, TRADE PERSON

Get free, rapid tests if you have to leave home to work.

Get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

Around 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 don't have any symptoms and can spread it without knowing.

Test regularly – at least once a week.

**REGULAR TESTING FOR SAFER WORKING IS HERE**

## Lateral flow testing for frontline and key workers who can't work from home

Frontline and key workers living in Shropshire who can't work from home are now able to take a lateral flow test (LFT). We know that up to one in three people who have coronavirus never show any symptoms, but that doesn't mean they're not infectious. Lateral flow tests are one of the tools being used to help us to detect and fight Covid-19.

- The test is for people who don't have symptoms (are asymptomatic), and testing is recommended up to twice a week or once every four days

- The test involves taking a swab from the nose or throat, and results are known within 20-30 minutes of taking the test

Testing is available at the following sites, and must be [booked in advance](#).

- Lantern Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

Monday - Sunday from 8am - 8pm

- Craven Arms Community Centre

Newington Way, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9PS

Sunday - Friday from 8am - 8pm

A lateral flow test is for people without symptoms. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, book a test as soon as possible by calling 119 [or online](#). Stay at home until you get your test result. Only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

## LATERAL FLOW TESTING IN BC

Bishops Castle Pharmacy is now doing asymptomatic testing for key workers. To book go to: <https://www.1centralhealth.co.uk/shropshirelft>

[www.shropshirelibdems.org](http://www.shropshirelibdems.org)

## These grants may be useful to you or your family and friends.

### Test and Trace Support Payment

If someone is told by NHS Test and Trace Service to stay at home and self-isolate, they may be able to get a £500

For the qualifying conditions and to apply see here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/what-help-can-i-claim-from-the-council/covid-test-and-trace-support-payments/>

Sometimes, this may not be enough to address all of the problems and not everyone will qualify. Whether eligible for this or not, people need to think about applying for other discretionary help as well (see below).

For more vulnerable households either affected financially by Covid or just struggling to meet essential bills over lockdown and over winter, there are other hardship funds that can help with a wide range of need.

These grants are open to anyone in difficulty.

It is easy to apply over the phone (a paper form is available on request): an adviser will complete the paperwork over the phone and a specialist will look to see how they can help and if any further information is needed.

So if you, or someone you know, is having difficulty meeting essential outgoings, call 0345 678 9078.

People can also access these grants and a range of other Covid-related support through our web pages here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/> or via Covid helpline on 0345 678 9028.

## Shropshire RCC Winter Warmth and Winter Grant Funds

Support is available for vulnerable households in Shropshire in the form of grants of up to £250 (Winter Warmth Fund) and up to £500 (Winter Grant Fund) to help alleviate fuel poverty and the impacts of the ongoing public health emergency and where alternative sources of assistance may not be available.

For more information and an application form please

email [elizabeth.thain@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.thain@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) or call 01743 342167/ 07816 297795.

## Business Support, Advice and Guidance

The Marches Growth Hub is set up to offer support, advice, guidance and signposting for startups and small businesses particularly. There are no charges.

Growth Hubs are a national initiative and every Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has one with some of the budget coming from Government and a contribution from Shropshire Council – there is one operating in each of Shropshire, Telford and Herefordshire.

<https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/>

## INFORMATION IN THIS BULLETIN IS CORRECT AS WE GO TO PRESS



The census  
is coming

Sunday 21 March

it's about us  
census 2021

# PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY GROUP SURVEY

Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) in partnership with Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council, have launched two surveys to gather views from Town and Parish Councils and also, importantly, Community Groups, about responses to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The surveys are being conducted to learn more about how local communities have responded to the Coronavirus pandemic as well as any issues faced and any future support needs.

The link to the Community Survey is here

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SALCCommunitySurvey>

The survey will close on 31 March 2021. All feedback is welcomed please use the open space at the end of the survey to add any issues not covered within the survey questions.

The surveys are available in two formats:

- i) Online
- ii) As a pdf file

If you would like the survey in a different format, please contact: [alc@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:alc@shropshire.gov.uk). You can also respond with any supporting information in writing:

Email: [TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk)

Post: Feedback and Insight Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shropshire SY2 6ND.

## HEALTHWATCH SHROPSHIRE

### Understanding the things that influence food shopping on a budget in South and West Shropshire

Healthwatch Shropshire needs your help. We want to hear from people who live in South and West Shropshire (e.g., Bishop's Castle, Craven Arms, Church Stretton, Ludlow, and the surrounding villages and hamlets) about their experiences of getting affordable, healthy food.

If you live in this area, we would like to hear from you. If you don't live in this area but know someone who does please let them know about this survey and ask them to complete it. It will take approximately 15 minutes.

<https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/understanding-food-shopping-budget-south-west>

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GOV.UK/coronavirus

Government Counter Fraud Function

NHS Counter Fraud Authority

## BE ALERT TO VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS

The NHS will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

FAKE

FAKE

NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here: [uk.application-form.com](http://uk.application-form.com)

## Free Energy Advice



Rising energy costs, low incomes and energy-inefficient housing are the main contributors to fuel poverty: and with the impact of Covid-19 more people than ever are at risk of not being able to heat their homes this winter.

As part of the **Big Energy Saving Network**, our **Shropshire RCC** is offering **free and impartial advice** via a pre-booked telephone or Zoom call to anyone who is looking to save money on their energy bills or who is generally struggling to heat their home.

We can help with:

- comparing tariffs to save money and finding the best deal,
- advice on switching providers, and
- signposting other help you may be entitled to, such as the Warm Home Discount scheme, Priority Services Register and The Green Homes Grant.

**If you are interested in booking a free advice session with Lizzy, please call us on 01743 342167 or 07816297795**

You will also receive a free energy pack with information toolkit to help keep your home warm this winter