

# E-BULLETIN 19

From Nigel Hartin

07583 962292 or email [nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk)



Printed, published and promoted by N.Hartin, 14 Ladywell, Bucknell SY7 0AZ



## A Christmas Message



Dear All,

Just a brief note to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a better New Year!

2020 has been a difficult and tragic new year for humanity. Let us hope that the vaccinations now coming online give us an effective means of dealing

with the virus and that we return to some form of normality as 2021 progresses.

On the positive side, it has been particularly heartening to see so many in our community rally round to support our more vulnerable members, for example since the beginning of the Covid crisis in March we have had a wide range of groups and individuals right across the area helping with everything from foodbanks to the delivery of medicines. On behalf of our local Community thank you all so much - without your support and commitment this year would have been much more difficult for many people.

For my part I have certainly been kept busy. As well as dealing with normal casework - flooding, potholes - of which we have many, as well as housing and education, I have had a whole range of COVID related matters to deal with including helping with business support applications, issues around dealing with isolation and many others.

In addition to the above I have been publishing regular editions of this bulletin (up to Edition 19 now!) giving updates to the community via email and Facebook on a whole range of issues relevant to our local community. I do hope that they have been informative, interesting and helpful.

My Lib Dem Colleagues and myself launched a 'Buy Local Campaign' last June followed by an 'Eat Local Campaign' later in the summer to promote local businesses and eateries with the aim of providing as much support as possible for our local businesses on whom we all depend for services. On a more practical side I have also been working to ensure community groups and village halls were made aware of the available financial support.

Best wishes

Nigel

## Christmas Bubbles

Between 23 and 27 December, the three households in a "Christmas bubble" can mix indoors and stay overnight.

People who have formed a bubble, will be allowed to meet each other:

- In each other's homes
- At a place of worship
- In an outdoor public space, or garden

The bubbles will be fixed, so you will not be able to mix with two households on Christmas Day and two different ones on Boxing Day. Households in your Christmas bubble can't bubble with anyone else. If a person has coronavirus symptoms or is self-isolating, then they cannot join a bubble.

**For more information about forming a Christmas bubble with friends and family, follow this link -**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>



HM Government



## CHRISTMAS BUBBLE



Between 23 and 27 December you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' of up to three households

Find out more: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Christmas Travel

Between 23-27 Dec 2020, you may travel between tiers and other nations of the UK to meet with your Christmas bubble.

STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES





## A message from the Director of Public Health

Rachel Robinson, Shropshire's director of public health has said:

*"Christmas is going to feel very different for all of us this year, and I know everyone has made enormous sacrifices over the past 12 months. The news that the rules are being relaxed over the festive period will be welcomed by many, but I would urge everyone to think very carefully before they take advantage of the more lenient rules, and to act responsibly."*

*"We need to keep doing all the things designed to keep us safe - respecting social distancing, washing hands, wearing face-coverings, self-isolating when we are asked to do so, and booking a test if you have symptoms."*

A further video update from Rachel Robinson can be found here: <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/12/coronavirus-video-update-from-our-director-of-public-health-rachel-robinson/>

## IN BRIEF

**Enterprise House** re-opened on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December as follows:

Library: Monday and Friday 10am – 2pm.  
Tuesday 10am – 5pm

IT Centre: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10am to 4pm ( Closed 1pm – 1.30pm)

Village Outreach: Monday and Friday 10am to 4 pm

Enterprise House will close from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December and reopen Monday Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Shop Local

Local Shops and services in and around Bishop's Castle can be found by following this link <https://bit.ly/2HUOfuE>

Traders - please add your details if not already included.

## Festive Friends

If you will be alone on Christmas Day, live in Bishop's Castle or surrounds, would like someone to say Happy Christmas on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> and deliver a Christmas lunch, you can call Festive Friends on 01588 630409

Festive Friends at Bishop's Castle are doing things a little differently this year as, due to Covid, they are unable to host their popular Christmas lunch in the Church Barn. Working together with the The Food Bank and The Castle Hotel volunteers will deliver a chilled 2 course Christmas lunch on the 25<sup>th</sup> which can be reheated by the recipient at home.

If anyone would like to support this year's Festive Friends lunch please contact Linda Hale on 01588 630409 to find out how to make a donation



**Got any coronavirus symptoms?**

**Book a test now, even if you don't feel too bad.**

Use the NHS COVID-19 app or go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)



High temperature



New continuous cough



Change/loss of smell/taste

**STAY ALERT**

**CONTROL THE VIRUS**

**SAVE LIVES**

## Bishop's Castle Food Bank

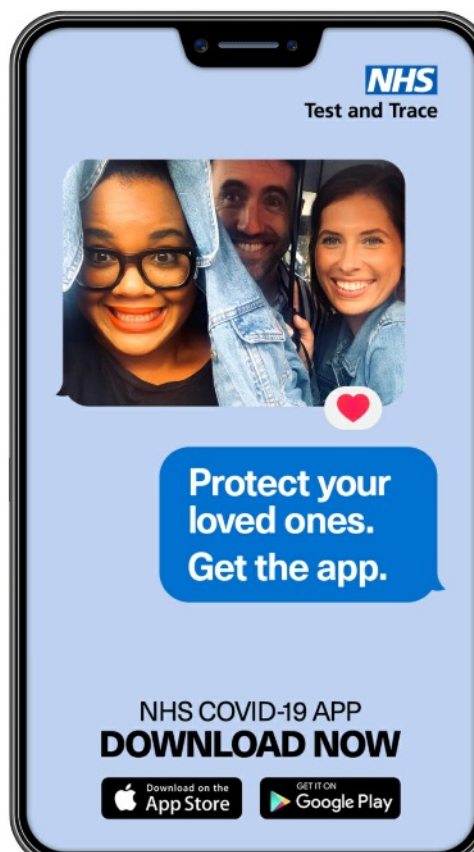
Open as usual over the Christmas holiday period except for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January, when the food bank will be closed.

Normal opening is Wednesday 5pm - 6.30 pm and Friday 1.30pm – 3.30pm

At the Methodist Hall, Station Street, Bishop's Castle 07549 127071 Email: [bishopscastlefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:bishopscastlefoodbank@gmail.com)

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The impact of Covid-19 is affecting many people and households in different ways including financially. If you need to check potential eligibility for Universal Credit, including support with housing costs, the following link will help to determine eligibility prior to submitting an application: [www.entitledto.com](http://www.entitledto.com)



## Loneliness Grant

The link below takes you to a new grant announcement of £4m to tackle loneliness, it is aimed at community groups such as book clubs, walking groups etc. The link also includes suggestions on how to help alleviate loneliness.

Grant applications open on 5th January. All details are in the link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/community-groups-tackling-loneliness-to-benefit-from-4m-fund>

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

A vertical advertisement for 'Work Routes'. At the top, a woman with glasses smiles in a shop setting. Below her, a blue banner reads 'EVERY 15 MINUTES WE HELP SOMEONE FIND A JOB'. The text 'WORK ROUTES' is in the top left corner. Below the banner, it asks 'Are you unemployed and looking for work?' and states 'Our friendly advisers will help you find a job that's right for you'. A list of services is provided with icons: 'Your own personal adviser', 'Health and wellbeing support', 'Expert support and guidance', 'Financial help', 'Free training courses', 'CV writing and interview practice', 'Access to qualifications', and 'Exclusive job vacancies'. A blue box at the bottom contains 'Book an Appointment' with contact details: phone 07458 124420, email shelley.instone@shropshire.gov.uk, and website enableservices.co.uk/services/work-routes-programme. Logos for 'enable', 'REED IN PARTNERSHIP', 'Department for Work &amp; Pensions', and the 'European Union' are at the very bottom.

## Hopton Castle Preservation Trust Hand Crafted Christmas Gifts

*All proceeds will be used to replace the heritage trees  
lost in the mini tornado in August 2020*



*All these items have been made  
from wood recovered from Ash  
and Oak trees uprooted in the  
castle grounds*



Ted Laidlar 01547 530 924 or email [ted.laidlar123@btinternet.com](mailto:ted.laidlar123@btinternet.com)  
Peter Marquis 01547 530 696 or email [p.m.marquis@bham.ac.uk](mailto:p.m.marquis@bham.ac.uk)



# New Investment at Bishop's Castle Business Park

After many years of campaigning by local Lib Dem Councillors there is finally good news on the future of Bishop's Castle Business Park.

Funding of £4.3 million has been secured to expand the Park by 50,000 square feet, which is great news for local businesses wishing to expand and for new ones, to secure modern purpose-built business accommodation.

Bishop's Castle Business Park is owned by Shropshire Council and has stood as an under-used employment and industrial space for over 10 years. This is now about to change with this investment, £1.7 million of which is from the European Regional Development Fund, with a further £3.1million allocated by Shropshire Council.

The investment in this site is long overdue: it was first identified over 10 years ago as an essential development needed in the area to enable existing businesses to expand and to support new businesses needing smaller start up units. Former Liberal Democrat Councillors for Bishop's Castle, Peter Phillips, Charlotte Barnes and Jonny Keeley all campaigned hard to raise awareness of this site to secure inward investment and the development of this important economic resource for the local area.

Bishop's Castle Councillor Ruth Houghton says "Since being elected in September 2019 I have made sure that the development of this site has remained firmly on the Shropshire Council agenda and used my first full Shropshire Council meeting to make my maiden speech in support of this much needed development and investment in our community".

Planning permission has already been approved enabling work on the site to begin in the Spring, with a planned opening date of Spring 2022. Site clearance has already started. The development will consist of two 15,000sqft units and two 10,000sqft units, one of which will be split into five starter units, giving new businesses the chance to take up premises.

Cllr Nigel Hartin added "It is really good to see that long-awaited development of Bishop's Castle Business Park is all set to go ahead in 2021. This will be a much-needed boost to the economy of the whole area. I hope that this will provide training and modern apprenticeship opportunities for our young people seeking local jobs"



## INTERACTIVE COVID MAP

See link below to interactive map illustrating cases by post code: <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

## ACTION ON BUCKNELL FLOOD PREVENTION

Nigel Hartin and Jonathan Kemp from Bucknell Parish Council held a virtual meeting last week with officers from the Environment Agency about future plans for work on the River Redlake following their walk around in the village earlier in the year.

Nigel said: "This was in response in part to concerns I had received from residents about build-up of silt under church bridge (left) next to the post office.

"The Agency have commissioned a major study of the River Redlake Catchment Area from consultants ARUP, (one of the first to be so commissioned in the County) with a timescale for study work to be started early in the New Year.

"This is good news but we really need some actual dredging action now rather than later on next year so I have been in contact with Shropshire Council's Flood and Drainage Manager, John Bellis. Although the EA is responsible for clearing the main river, as far as the bridges themselves are concerned it's actually the 'riparian owner', which is Shropshire Council, who has to carry out any de-silting works under bridges after consulting with the Environment Agency!"

**ALL INFORMATION IN THIS BULLETIN IS  
CORRECT AS WE GO TO PRESS**