



Newsletter

12 October 2023

Pumpkins, potions and phantomtastic activities

If you're looking for ideas to help you and your family stay active and entertained during the autumn half term, there are lots of different activities and events taking place across Herefordshire.

There's everything from spooktacular trails and tales, to family fun days and wild adventure ...plus much more!

Find activities for you and your family on the [Talk Community Directory](#), and don't forget to also check out our [what's on calendar](#) for even more inspiration! More ghostly goings on and fantastic fireworks are still to appear, so check back later.

Date for your diaries: The Talk Community team are busy planning a FREE event for families during half term, so put **Friday 3 November** in your diary and watch this space for more info!



Household Support Fund Awareness Week

Next week is Household Support Fund Awareness Week (16 – 22 October). The Fund is part of the government's response to help the most vulnerable households effected by the cost of living crisis. Funded by Department for Work and Pensions, the Household Support Fund will provide help to households in need until March 2024.

You can find out more about who may be eligible on the [Herefordshire Council website](#) and find [up to date information](#) about the schemes that Herefordshire Council is delivering with money from the Fund. These schemes include food vouchers for children during school holidays, support for families with school aged children and support for pensioners on a low income.

If you're able to promote the Household Support Fund to people within your community, visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) where you can download posters to print and share. There's an easy read guide too.

Our [Money on Your Mind](#) pages have lots of useful information about support that's available. [Read the article on getting the support you're entitled to](#) and you can check that you're receiving all of the support you're entitled to using the [Better Off Calculator](#) which is free and anonymous to use.



Safer Communities Fund – local scheme now open!

A new grant scheme is open, to support new and existing projects that focus on the early prevention of crime and tackling its root causes, and on vulnerability and exploitation of children and young people.

The Safer Communities Fund is open to not for profit organisations and schools across Herefordshire, with grants of between £25,000 and £300,000 available over the next two years. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until 31 January 2024.

Projects will work to prevent crime at the earliest stage through recognising vulnerability and risks of exploitation, and addressing anti-social behaviour. The projects will ensure early support services are in place for children, young people and families, helping promote positive emotional health and wellbeing. For more information about the scheme and how to apply, visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#).

An online information event about the grant scheme will be held on Monday 23 October from 4pm – 5pm. [Join the meeting on Teams](#).



The Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion (PCC), West Mercia Police and Herefordshire Council have come together to provide the £1million for the grant scheme.

Sharing lives, working together

Shared Lives schemes support adults with additional needs to live independently in the community by matching them to an approved carer. It can be an alternative to living in a care home or supported-living arrangement.

Herefordshire Council have an amazing in-house Shared Lives Team who work closely with the social workers. Traditionally the schemes have provided a solution for supporting adults into longer-term accommodation. However in Herefordshire, the service has been invaluable in finding adults both long and short-term placements.

Through working together in Herefordshire, Shared Lives and social work teams can offer more flexible, person centred solutions to their clients. To find out more and read about some of the success stories in Herefordshire take a look at the [article on the Community Care website](#).



Behind the Herefordshire Green Doors

Are you looking for ideas to make your home more energy efficient, cheaper to run and nicer to live in? Well there's a chance throughout October to take a peek at what other people are doing, to do just that.

Green Herefordshire homes are throwing open their doors to show you the changes they've made, how they did it and the differences it has made to their lives. From simple steps, such as draught-proofing and insulating, to more complex installations such as solar panels and heat pumps.

Herefordshire Green Homes is showcasing real life homes that people have altered, amended or added to in order to make them more energy efficient, cheaper to run and nicer to live in! There's something for us all, with a large range of modifications on display, for all budgets.

There are a number of homes across Herefordshire that are opening their doors on certain days between Saturday 14 and Monday 30 October. To find out more, and how to visit the homes, go to the [Green Open Homes website](#).



What's new on the directory?

Welcoming on to the directory, [Herefordshire Badminton Academy](#), “a friendly and fun club where children from 5 - 18 can come and learn a new skill”. To get a feel for their badminton sessions, there's a little video on their Facebook page (go on, shuttle across to have a look).

From Walk and talks, craft workshops to online training - take a look at the newly arrived events on our [What's on calendar](#) this week:

[Chair Zumba taster session, Ledbury](#) - Wednesday 25 October
[Colwall walk and talk](#)

[Craft workshops at Aspire Community Hub: Hand embroidery with Ginn Downes](#)

[Craft workshops at Aspire Community Hub: Recycled metal bugs](#)

[Craft workshops at Aspire Community Hub: Hand Embroidered Cards](#)

[Free online CPD training: Introduction to energy use in the home and fuel poverty awareness](#) – Tuesday 17 October

[Free online CPD training: Introduction to energy use in the home and fuel poverty awareness](#) – Tuesday 14 November

[Free online CPD training: Introduction to energy use in the home and fuel poverty awareness](#) – Tuesday 5 December

[Halloween Kids Party, Holme Lacy Village Hall](#) - Tuesday 31 October

[Parent Carer Voice Herefordshire at Fred Bulmer Centre](#) - Thursday 19 October

[Walk and talk, Ledbury](#)

Our socials are a great way to keep in touch with what's on too, whether you're

- a [Facebook](#) fan
- tuned in to [Twitter](#)
- or instantly on [Instagram](#).

Herefordshire Cares

Do you want to make a difference to people's lives every day? Working in social care is a rewarding career – to find out more about a career in adult social care, visit the [Herefordshire Cares website](#).