



Newsletter

28 August 2025

HAF - Thank you to everyone involved!

We wanted to say a big thank you to all the activity providers who made this summer's Here for Herefordshire Holidays such a success! Thanks to your hard work and dedication, the children were able to make happy memories, go home with smiles on their faces, and food in their bellies. We'll see you again for the next one this Christmas!



Help Shape Social Value in Herefordshire - A VCSE Workshop

VCSE organisations across Herefordshire are invited to contribute to building a stronger, more inclusive social value framework at the upcoming workshop.

This interactive session offers a collaborative platform for local charities, community groups, and voluntary organisations to offer input on priority areas, forge new partnerships, and influence how social impact is created and measured in our county.

The workshop is due to take place on Thursday 18th September from 9:30 am at Hereford Rugby Club.

This is a fantastic chance to share your expertise, ensure your work makes a meaningful difference, and help shape the future of local social value delivery.

Secure your place now via the [Talk Community Directory](#).



Calling all young carers – NHS England wants to hear from you!

NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Department for Education are working together to improve the lives of young carers — and they need your voice to help make it happen.

A series of workshops, led by young carers, will take place in September to gather experiences and ideas. The information shared will help shape real changes to the support young carers receive across England.

Workshop dates:

10th September: 4–5pm & 5.30–6.30pm

16th September: 4–5pm & 5.30–6.30pm

17th September: 4–5pm

To book your space, please email: england.nhsthinkcarer@nhs.net.



Grants, Grants, Grants!

Four grant schemes are now open to help local groups, charities and organisations make a difference in their communities.

The Small Sparks Grant, delivered in partnership with Herefordshire Community Foundation, offers up to £1,000 for grassroots projects that bring people together, build local connections, and strengthen resilience. It's designed for small-scale ideas like community gardens, neighbourhood events, or local clubs.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until 30th November. Visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) for more information.

The WOW Grant, part of the Household Support Fund, provides up to £1,000 per organisation per year to run free wellbeing-focused activities and sessions. These must include food and drink, a warm welcome, and clear signposting to further support.

All projects must be delivered by 31st March 2026. For more information, please visit the [Talk Community Directory](#).

The Community Transport Grant, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supports voluntary and community organisations to deliver or coordinate transport solutions that help residents access services, reduce isolation and strengthen connections. Grants range from £500 to £5,000, with bursaries of up to £1,000 available to support those in transport poverty.

The deadline to apply is this Sunday, 31st August. Visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) for more information.

The Nature and Biodiversity Community Grant Scheme, also funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supports community projects that protect, enhance, or restore local nature and biodiversity. The scheme offers grants from a minimum of £500 up to £10,000, with larger applications of up to £35,000 considered where significant benefits can be demonstrated.

Applications are open until Monday 13th October. Find out more on the [Herefordshire Council website](#).



Catch-up campaign launched for lifesaving HPV vaccine

NHS England has launched a new campaign to encourage young people and parents to make sure they are up to date with the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine, which helps protect against several types of cancer. The HPV vaccine is routinely offered to boys and girls in Year 8 (aged 12–13). It protects against HPV infection, which causes nearly all cervical cancers and is also linked to cancers of the mouth, throat, anus, penis and vagina.

As part of the campaign, GP practices are contacting patients aged 16–25 who may have missed their HPV vaccination in school, inviting them to come forward. Parents are urged to return their children's HPV vaccination consent forms promptly, helping to protect them against cancer in the future.

Visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) for more information.



New ways to get active and connected with Healthy Lifestyles

The Talk Community Healthy Lifestyles Service is expanding, with new opportunities to get involved across Herefordshire.

A brand-new Healthy Lifestyle Drop-in is now running at Ledbury RFC, giving local residents more choice and flexibility to access free one-to-one support. Drop in to speak with a health and wellbeing trainer for advice on stopping smoking, healthy eating, weight management, becoming more active, or reducing alcohol intake.

For more information, please email hlts@herefordshire.gov.uk or call the team on 01432 383567.

In addition, a new Men Walking and Talking group has joined the Ramblers' programme of weekly wellbeing walks. Meeting every Wednesday evening from 7pm to 8pm in Hereford, this free group is a friendly, informal space where men can walk side by side, chat (or just listen), and enjoy fresh air and good company. There's no pressure and no need to be super-fit – just turn up as you are.

For more information, or to find the next session, visit the [Talk Community Directory](#).



Check your State Pension age today!

Residents are encouraged to check their State Pension age ahead of changes coming into place from April 2026.

From 6th April the State Pension age is increasing from 66 to 67, in incremental stages. The first cohort of people to be affected will be people born between 6th April 1960 – 5th March 1961.

The State Pension isn't paid automatically, but The Pension Service will send individuals an invitation letter four months before they reach their State Pension age with instructions on how to apply.

Anyone (of any age) wishing to find out more about how the changes will impact them can use the [State Pension age calculator](#).



What's new on the directory?

Summer is flying by, and with September just around the corner, it's a great time to make the most of what's left of the season. Take a look at what's happening near you!

[Hereford Weekly Walk - 'Men Walking and Talking'](#)

[Archers Sleep Centre](#)

[Community Race Night at Holme Lacy Village Hall](#)

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](#).

Have you heard of Shared Lives?

Our Lives get better when they're shared

Herefordshire Shared Lives is a Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered service provided by Herefordshire Council. Shared Lives is a highly personalised form of care that supports people

Shared Lives Carers



Our **lives** get better
when they're **shared**



**BRINGING
HEREFORDSHIRE
TOGETHER**

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