

Shropshire Rural Hub Newsletter

May 2016

Shropshire Rural Hub
c/o New Farmhouse, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN

Email: alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk / Website: www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk

Crime Awareness & Prevention Events

Shropshire Rural Hub, in conjunction with West Mercia Police, are pleased to be holding a series of Crime Awareness & Prevention Events:

Wednesday 11th May 2016

at

Tibberton Manor, Newport , TF10 8LZ

By kind permission of Robert Belcher

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Wednesday 18th May 2016

at

Guilden Down, Clun, SY7 8NZ

By kind permission of J.Gwilliam & Sons

All events are 6.30pm for 7.00pm Start

These events, which are open to all, will take the form of a farm visit, walking around the farmyard with a Crime Prevention Officer who will suggest the most appropriate security equipment for the location and the host farmers' needs.

For each evening we have invited a security firm who can supply cameras, alarm systems, etc, a machinery dealership who are capable of fitting vehicle tracking devices, and various other security related organisations.

Designed as a one stop shop, it is hoped all your security needs can be catered for.

The events will run alongside the 'Stop That Thief' campaign, to assist victims of theft by installing security equipment to try and prevent future losses. These will be installed free of charge for 3 weeks, after which, the victim has an opportunity to buy the equipment or it can be removed.

To book your place on one of the above events, please call or text Alison on 07944 718626 or Email alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk

The Shropshire County Show

Saturday 28th May 2016

at

**Greenhous West Mid Showground,
Berwick Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 2PF**

This year's Shropshire County Show organisers are determined to make the 2016 events more attractive than ever. There is quite literally something to meet the interest of everyone.

Well loved items will return once again, including Taste of the Shires, several excellent local bands and choirs, the very finest breeds of cattle, sheep and poultry, not to mention the horse and dog shows, and for younger visitors, the Kids Zone.

A full programme of arena attractions are planned from early morning and includes the return of the exiting Broke FMX who defy gravity and good sense as they push to the extreme both life, limb and machine.

The show will welcome for the first time the wonderful, stirring sounds of the Wirral Marching Piping Band and a display of horses and carriages.

For the tractor pulling, huge tractors arrive from all around the country and occasionally from abroad to take part in the event. The sledge that is pulled to demonstrate their immense power has to be specially imported from the Netherlands.

Tickets are available online and are cheaper if purchased in advance. Children under the age of 13 are admitted free with an accompanying adult.

For full details of this year's show, please visit the website www.westmidshowground.com

Anyone interested in exhibiting can call the show office for further information on (01743) 289831

Beef from Grass Project Update Free Event

**Thursday 12th May 2016, 10.30am – 1.30pm
at
Cherrington Manor, Newport, TF10 8PL**

Join AHDB Beef & Lamb for an event at Cherrington Manor, one of the eight farms that are involved in the Beef from Grass Project.

Four grassland mentors who currently maximise the amount of beef produced from grass and forage have been successfully paired with four beef producers who want to significantly improve their current performance from grass. This project aims to increase growth rates from grass, forage crops and silage, reduce the days cattle are housed and increase stocking rates across the grazing platform on each of the four improver farms.

Cherrington Manor is one of the improver farms involved in this project. The farm runs approximately 120 Stabiliser suckler cows, with youngstock being finished on a predominantly forage based diet. This event will be an opportunity to learn more about the project and Marc Jones (ADAS), the grassland consultant working with Cherrington Manor, will discuss the key focus areas for grassland improvement.

To register your FREE place ring the AHDB Beef & Lamb events office on 01904 771211 or email brp.events@ahdb.org.uk

Farm Fires update from Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

Farm fires in our County are fortunately very rare but recently there have been three farm fires in the Shropshire area. The causes of the fires have been investigated and were all accidental caused by heat sources too close to combustible material, an electrical fault and a spark caused by welding.

These fires caused damage to a workshop, 200 bales of straw and an Agricultural building.

With the weather starting to improve and temperatures rising, it is timely to remind everyone to take care to prevent further fires happening.

To view Farm Fire Safety Information, please copy and paste the link below into your computer browser:

www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/safety-community/farm-fire-safety-information

Basic Payment Scheme Update

**The deadline for 2016 BPS applications is
Midnight on 16th May 2016.**

BPS 2016 Online Applications

Farmers and agents can now submit 2016 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) online applications. You are also able to view and print a summary of your application so you can check what changes may need to be made to your application before you submit it. An instant acknowledgement will be provided for claims submitted online.

**Log in to the Rural Payments Online Service
www.ruralpayments.service.gov.uk/
to begin the application process for the 2016 Basic
Payment Scheme.**

Please note: If it is over 90 days since you last signed in to the Rural Payments Service for BPS, you will need to create a new password to enable you to sign in successfully.

Application Support Available

The RPA BPS 2016 GOV.UK website has been updated with:

- BPS 2016 Scheme Rules,
- How to claim online
- Full list of land codes
- New You Tube videos
- Onscreen help
- The new Facebook page details.

**To access this on-line support, please visit
www.gov.uk/guidance/bps-2016**

Online Support Centres

If you need help applying online, book an appointment at your local RPA Online Support Centre. **The nearest Centres to Shropshire are in Hereford, Crewe and Solihull.**

**To book an appointment, call 03000 200 301.
Weekend appointments are available.**

Rural Payments Agency Contact Information:

**Rural Payments helpline: 03000 200 301
Email: ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Follow RPA on twitter @ruralpay.
Find RPA on Facebook
Website: www.gov.uk/guidance/bps-2016**

E4environment Ltd

You do the farming, we'll do the form filling!

Most farms now rely on income from various government and producer schemes to make a living. Completing these forms can be a burden and mistakes can be costly.

Let us do the paper work. Our staff are qualified, experienced environmental advisors and can offer a no nonsense, personal service from as little as £40 per month. Let us come out to you, talk specifically about what you require and offer a free quote on services.

Service areas:

- Cross compliance
- Assurance schemes
- Countryside Stewardship
- NVZ and nutrient planning
- Carbon auditing
- Resource protection, and avoidance of fines
- Development
- Renewables
- Packaging Regulations
- Planning & Permitting

Did you know that there are various grant schemes available at present for capital items or practical works in your area?

We have several members of the team who have extensive experience in successful grant applications, and we know what the funders are going to be looking for.

To find out more about our Agricultural services, give us a call on 01743 343403, email eloise@e4environment.co.uk or visit our website www.e4environment.co.uk/agricultural-services-2/

E4environment Ltd, Hilley Farm, Pentre, SY4 1BP

Shropshire Rural Hub can help to promote your Business or Event

For a small fee, your advert will appear in our Newsletter and on our website – www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk

The Rural Business Awards 2016

The CLA is encouraging rural entrepreneurs from across the region to enter the 2016 Rural Business Awards.

The Rural Business Awards will showcase and reward the very best businesses that the countryside has to offer, giving finalists clear opportunities for differentiating and growing their business.

Awards will be made across 13 categories including: Best Rural Start-up; Outstanding Rural Diversification Project; Social enterprise/community project of the year; Best Rural Tourism Business; Rural Employer of the Year and Rural Entrepreneur of the Year.

The application window is now open and entries can be made up to 31st July 2016.

Entries can be made online at www.ruralbusinessawards.co.uk where you can find full details of the Awards.

Grants Available from Farming Connect

If you have a Farm in Wales you may be eligible for a grant from Farming Connect.

For more information please visit www.businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/training

The final application window this year will be 1st – 30th June 2016 and applications can only be submitted online.

Volunteering Opportunities with West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police are currently seeking Police Support Volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a Police Support Volunteer please visit the website: www.westmercia.police.uk/article/2417/Police-Support-Volunteers

You will find information about the volunteering programme and how to apply.

Host a Farm Walk on Open Farm Sunday

5th June 2016

Open Farm Sunday is a fantastic opportunity for farmers to connect with the public, share your story and showcase British farming and food. A day for farmers to open their gates and welcome the public onto their farm to discover the world of farming.

Events can be any size or format to suit you and your farm – from a small guided farm walk through to a full open day.

LEAF provides lots of FREE information and support for host farmers taking part – including the all-important Host Farmer Handbook.

To find out more visit www.farmsunday.org or contact the LEAF office 024 7641 3911.

Show the public what real farming is about so that they value the food they eat and the work that farmers do. Take part in the farming industry's annual open day and host an event.

West Mercia Police Business, Rural & Cyber Crime Unit

Stay Safe in Cyber Space

Victims have recently reported receiving text messages purporting to be from banks, HMRC or Apple. This latest form of cyber attack, known as smishing, involves messages being sent advising the recipient that new direct debits have been sent or accounts are to be terminated. The message requests you contact the bank on the number provided or click on a link. **The number is in fact the fraudsters and the link a fake website.**

These scams aim to gather your personal details to commit further offences. Scams can take any form and to avoid becoming a victim, always contact the company using a verified number and go direct to the website yourself rather than following a link that has been provided.

Call 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime.

www.westmercia.police.uk

West Mercia Police Business, Rural and Cyber Crime Community Day

**Saturday 25th June 2016, 10.00am - 4.00pm
at
Park Lane, High Ercall, TF6 6BE**

The Business, Rural and Cyber Crime Team based in Telford, together with the Safer Neighbourhood Team from Wellington, are hosting a Community Day. The local community is invited to attend this event which will focus on security, scams, crime prevention and much more.

**To confirm you would like to attend this event, please email:
BRCCU@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Please include "Action Day 25th June" in your subject line when responding.**

Special SmartWater Offer for West Mercia Residents

West Mercia Police have negotiated a special Smartwater supply arrangement for all households within the Force area.

How SmartWater Works:

- Assigns your valuables with their own unique forensic code, allowing them to be traced back to you
- Makes your home less of a target for thieves
- Can be used on anything from electronic equipment to jewellery
- Easy to apply, only visible under UV light - does not leave unattractive marks or stains
- Proven to work - widely used by the police and feared by criminals
- Gives added peace of mind
- Supplied with signage to warn thieves that your home is protected
- When deployed by police, SmartWater has helped reduce burglary by up to 85%.

For more information and to purchase your pack, please visit:

**www.smartwater.com/shop
or call: 0800 521 669**

You will need to enter the discount code WDBCRIME25 and you will be asked to register your name and address. You can pay by credit card, or post an order with a cheque.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships

Nuffield Farming Scholarships award around 20 individuals each year with the opportunity to research topics of interest in farming, food, horticulture or rural sectors. Scholars are able to travel anywhere in the world, visiting one or more countries in order to further knowledge and understanding, with a view to advancing their respective industries.

Nuffield Scholarships provide an opportunity to:

- Unlock individual potential and broaden horizons through study and overseas travel
- Stand back from the day-to-day routine and study a subject of personal interest
- Have access to the world's leaders in food and farming
- Deliver benefits to agricultural and related industries through knowledge transfer.

Anyone between 25 and 45 years old who is engaged in farming, farm management and land management or involved with forestry and the food industry, can apply for a Nuffield Farming Scholarship. An academic qualification is not a necessity.

Are you interested in becoming a Nuffield Farming Scholar? For further information please visit the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust website www.nuffieldscholar.org

Closing date for applications is the 31st July 2016

Land Management News from the Environment Agency

AgriBuzz is a quarterly e-newsletter for farmers and land managers in the Midlands, keeping you up to date with information relevant to your agricultural business.

In the latest issue, hot topics are:

- SSAFO - changes to notification procedure and guidance
- Biosecurity - protecting your business
- Grassland derogation - reminder to submit records
- Abstraction - reminder to submit returns.

**To view this Newsletter, copy and paste the link below into your web browser:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15452e55afaa3be4>**

Big Local

Big Local allows residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1m in each area to make a lasting positive difference to their communities. Many of the areas focus on priorities such as local economy issues including training, business start-up, social enterprise, entrepreneurship and addressing unemployment.

The Big Local Trust has been set up by the Big Lottery Fund. Big Local brings together local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from groups, individuals and organisations to make their area an even better place to live. The programme is about putting residents in charge - they decide how their £1m will be used and have at least 10 years to make it happen.

Each Big Local area is volunteer-run and is supported by freelance community development representatives in planning their strategies and implementing them over a ten year period.

The Big Local areas in Shropshire are Three Parishes – Gobowen, St Martin's and Weston Rhyn in Oswestry and Brookside in Telford.

**You can find more information on the Big Local programme from the website:
www.localtrust.org.uk/**

Catchment Sensitive Farming Specialist Advice Visits

A range of specialised advice visits are available to farmers within the Teme catchment. These are free of charge and can provide you with detailed advice on a number of topics. Popular visits at present are the Farm Infrastructure Audit which provides advice on the farmyard and how this could be affecting water quality, as well as prioritising potential improvements that could be made.

Also a Bio-bed and Pesticide design visit provides detailed advice for farmers considering installing a Sprayer loading area with bio-bed or bio-filter.

A number of other visits are also available such as Manure Management, Soil Husbandry and Water Management.

If you are interested in any of these, please get in touch with local CSFO Sally Powell on 0300 060 0644 or Anne Marie Jones on 02080 261 240

**Plunkett Foundation
Improving Rural Lives Together**

Plunkett Foundation helps communities to take control of their challenges and overcome them together. They support people, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run life-changing **community co-operatives**; enterprises that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people in their community. They help people to tackle a range of issues, from **isolation** and **loneliness** to **poverty**, and come in many forms including shops, cafes, pubs and land-based initiatives, and everything in between.

Latest news from the Plunkett Foundation includes a government-backed support and finance initiative aimed to help people take control of their local pub for the benefit of the community.

The £3.62m two-year programme will see a package of business development support, advice, and loan and grant funding being delivered to community groups in England. It aims to help establish community-owned pubs that can clearly demonstrate how they will bring significant social, economic and environmental benefits to their communities.

**For more information about the Plunkett Foundation and how it could help your community, please visit:
www.plunkett.co.uk**

**Reminder about the New Law regarding
Microchipping of all Dogs**

Microchipping for all dogs in England, Wales and Scotland became compulsory on 6th April 2016.

**For further information in relation to the new law on Microchipping of all dogs,
Please visit the following websites:**

Dogs Trust
www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/microchipping/

RSPCA
www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/microchipping

2016 GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count

The results of the 2016 GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count have now been published. More than 970 people took part in the third GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count. The farmers and gamekeepers who did the count manage nearly one million acres of farmland and recorded 130 different bird species.

**To view Big Farmland Bird Count Results, visit:
www.gwct.org.uk/farming/big-farmland-bird-count/**

Drop in Export Clinics

Are you considering exporting or are you interested in discovering what help and support is available?

UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) International Trade team, based in Shropshire, are holding FREE one to one export clinics to help local companies to grow in international markets.

**Every Tuesday, 10am - 2pm
Shrewsbury Growth Hub
Battlefield Enterprise Park, 24 Vanguard Way
Shrewsbury, SY1 3TG
or
Every Thursday, 10am - 2pm
Telford Growth Hub
SB Building Telford Innovation Campus,
Priorslee, Telford, TF2 9NT**

No booking required, just drop.

Why attend?

- Find out more about exporting and the benefits it can bring to your business
- Speak to our team of international trade advisers and receive advice on how to export, or how to increase your export sales
- Discover how to maximise UKTI's global network of embassies and consulates to increase your market knowledge, presence and sales
- Learn about the services and support which are available from the Government to help you to export
- Receive advice on documentation, logistics and local freight forwarders.

**For more information contact:
Gail Jennings on 01952 208200 or
Email gailj@shropshireinternational.co.uk**

Useful Websites

Workplace Pensions / Auto Enrolment

Between June 2015 and April 2017, businesses employing less than 30 staff will be required to offer a workplace pension under the auto enrolment scheme. Starting dates will be advised by the Government. Details about your start date can be found by visiting www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/staging-date.aspx. Further information is available from the Government Website: www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions-employers.

National Minimum Wage Rates

www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates

Countryside Stewardship Mid & Higher Tier

Manuals, Application Forms and Supporting Guidance

www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management

Countryside Stewardship for Woodlands

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee9-9t6ff5

Registering Your Waste Exemptions Online

www.gov.uk/register-your-waste-exemption-online

NVZ Guidance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/nitrate-vulnerable-zones-in-england-guidance-on-complying-with-the-rules-for-2013-to-2016

Cross Compliance 2016

www.gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016

Farmers and landowners must follow these cross compliance rules if they claim for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), a Stewardship Scheme or the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) in 2016.

Greening Guidance for 2016

www.gov.uk/guidance/the-basic-payment-scheme-bps-rules-for-2016

HSE - Using Tractors Safely –A step-by-step guide – download a free copy

This revised step-by-step guide to tractor safety (formerly “Tractor Action”), is for everyone who uses a tractor, or tractor-operated machinery. It applies to those working in farming, forestry, horticulture, amenity horticulture, and the sports turf industry. www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg185.htm

EIA (Agriculture) regulations: apply to make changes to rural land

How to request an Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision and if necessary, apply for consent to cultivate previously uncultivated land or semi-natural areas, or restructure land features.

www.gov.uk/guidance/eia-agriculture-regulations-apply-to-make-changes-to-rural-land

Farming Inspections

Information about who will inspect your farm, what they’re looking for and any penalties you may get.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-inspections

Do you need support or do you know someone who may benefit from support?

Shropshire Rural Support

Shropshire Rural Support (SRS) is a registered charity offering support to people experiencing problems arising from a rural way of life.

SRS help people with various issues including isolation, family breakdown and spiraling debt.

For further information, help and advice please call 0300 123 2825

Also on Facebook and Twitter @ShropshireRS

The Farming Community Network

FCN is a registered charity which offers pastoral & practical support to farming people and to the members of their family as they seek to resolve their problems and difficulties.

To talk to a sympathetic person who understands farmers and rural life on 0845 367 9990

Calls will be answered in person from 7am to 11pm every day of the year.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I)

RABI is a grant-making charity which helps farming people of all ages if they are in financial difficulty.

Support is confidential & includes one-off or regular payments, funding for things like essential household items, disability equipment, relief farm staff, home-help and care costs.

Helpline 0808 281 9490
To find out more visit the website
www.rabi.org.uk

Advice and Help

If you are unsure about details of any rules or regulations or want help with understanding record keeping, please remember that advice and help is available from the **Green Futures Team: Farming Advice Service, Natural England, CLA, NFU & the Environment Agency.**

Getting advice and assistance from those that know the details of the rules will help ensure your business stays compliant. You may be cautious about asking for help from a regulatory body such as the Environment Agency, but they are always willing to advise and help you.

Useful Contacts for Advice, Help & Support

- Farming Advice Service - 0845 345 1302 / advice@farmingadvice.org.uk
- Natural England - 0300 060 1115 / enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
- Environment Agency - 01743 283582 / sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk
- NFU 01952 400500 / jonathan.evans@nfu.org.uk
- CLA - 01785 337010 / richard.goodwin@CLA.org.uk
- Animal Health & Trading Standards (Shropshire) - tim.brooker@shropshire.gov.uk

Please let us have your submissions for our next Newsletter by 3rd June 2016.

Email alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk



Disclaimer

The Shropshire Rural Hub accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this Newsletter.