

STAR NEWS

No 2: August 2023

From your Community Land Trust

Starry Charter Celebrations



Sunday the 16th of July was a very big day both for the town and the Trust! With our volunteers joining in the celebrations, entertaining passers by with splat the Tudor rat, and showing off the new premises to a lot of interested townspeople. Our visitors included the Mayor Josh Dickins in all his Tudor finery, and Anna Taylor, the Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire. She was impressed by the progress made and wished us every success going forward.

The black plastic screening across the front of the building only came down two days before, to give Anthony Jones and his crew just enough time to finish off the detailed joinery and have a

general tidy up. A lot of effort has been expended to get to this point, including structural repairs, adding steel supports, insertion of matching brickwork, and building a new plinth of engineering brick.

In this issue you can read about the finishing touches yet to be done to the doorway, which will help to make the Stars a notable and worthy addition to the town's streetscape. The next phase of the renovation work to create two flats for local people in housing need, is due to start by the end of August, when Geoff Jukes & Sons will get on site, with completion due to be very early in 2024. We are delighted that the work has been carried out by local traders and craftsmen, and are very appreciative of all the help and support that we have received.

A Roll of Honour naming the businesses and individuals who have donated to the Stars Appeal, given of their time and expertise, or donated materials, will be displayed on the front of the building.

Waiting list for accommodation at the Stars

There will be a one-bed flat on the ground floor, with a spacious two bed flat above. To be let at an affordable rent (at least 20% below private sector rents), they are for local people in housing need who may not be eligible for a housing association property. The Trust is able to allocate these properties directly, without going through Homepoint. The three criteria we take into account are the applicant's:

- Level of housing need
- Connection to the town or its immediate area
- Ability to pay the rent.

We already have a waiting list.

For an application form and more information about the allocation process, please email Jonathan.brown@bcclt.co.uk



£50,000 Stars Appeal

On top of a mortgage from the Ecology Building Society, committing our own funds and those from previous fundraising efforts, plus a grant pledged from Shropshire Council, the Trust needs to secure additional funds to ensure the success of this important project.

You can give to the Stars Appeal by going to our Just Giving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stars-appeal>

Or if you have a mobile phone or ipad, scan the QR code below.

A mailshot is going out to over 80 addresses in Bishops Castle, this newsletter will be displayed in hard copy at several outlets in the town and also forwarded on by other community networks.



<Scan me

Using the Stars space

The space at the Stars proved to be in some demand even before the work to transform it, being used by amongst others, the British Legion Poppy Appeal, the Bishops Castle Arts Festival, a local animal welfare charity, Mr T's Pies; most recently the window has been taken up by the dynamic Save Our Beds campaign.

We have had enquiries from several local enterprises wanting to know when they will be able to rent the space on a short term basis. In the future we will be working closely with the team at Enterprise House to ensure that the space is always busy and regularly changing, to maximise its contribution to the community life and economy of Bishops Castle.

Community Noticeboard

The noticeboard by the side of the Stars has long been a popular place to put up posters and flyers, but is badly in need of a thorough makeover. This will be carried out in the next few weeks, and a magnetic board installed to make it easier to display material.



Stop Press!

We have just heard that AMP (the About Music Project), which for many years put on Party in the Park, is being wound up and they are donating £1,000 to the Stars Appeal. Our heartfelt thanks to them for this marvellous gesture of support.



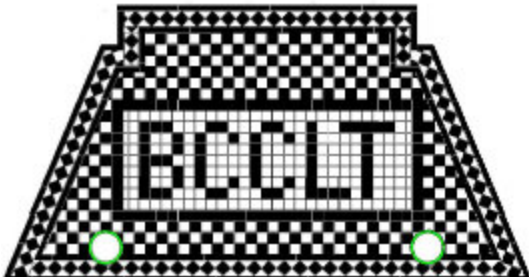
Getting ready for the builders



Finishing touches to the Stars doorway

A pair of handsome Victorian (or maybe even earlier) cast iron columns, were recovered from a salvage yard outside Hereford, and sent away to be shot blasted and powder coated. These are now back, and waiting to be put in place. The recessed doorway also provides an opportunity to lay a decorative mosaic of tiles. Our supporter Jonathan Grieg created a design for these (see below), and has very generously sourced and donated the tiles to be used.

Prior to this, Jonathan also gave freely of his time to measure, design (and in collaboration with Anthony Jones from Shropshire Hardwoods), to refine and update the drawings as the work progressed. Thank you very much Jonathan.



Get your very own, limited edition Charter Celebration bag!

A limited number of bags were produced to commemorate the 450th anniversary of charter celebrations, with the striking charter graphics on one side, and our Stars Appeal logo.

Printed in full colour, these are a quality item and a few are still available. Priced at £9, all proceeds will go towards the Stars Appeal. To reserve your own bag (while stocks last), please email shop@bcclt.co.uk



Front page picture: Jonathan Brown, the Mayor Josh Dickin and the Lord Lt. Anna Turner outside the Stars at the Open Day on 16th July

The Bishops Castle & District Community Land Trust is a Society for the Benefit of the Community.

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