

Living History.

NEWSLETTER December 2008.

The photograph below shows a scene near the old Post Office in Yarpole in the early 20th century. The horse-drawn wagon is thought to be carrying a load of gorse. The board on the outside of the Post Office reads *T. Richards, Grocer*. This would fit with the entry in *Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire* for 1913 which records Thomas Richards as a grocer. The entry also shows Miss Mary Mason as the local Registrar for Births, Marriages & Deaths at the Post Office. This was obviously a family concern as Mary Mason's father is shown as the Registrar on the 1881 census of Yarpole. The names of the figures in the photograph are not known.



Extracts from the news

From *The Times* Archives 70 years ago
December 30th 1938

The death is announced of C.M. Armitstead on December 29th 1938 at a nursing home in London, the wife of the Reverend Edward Armitstead, Bircher Hall. The funeral will be on January 2nd at 2.30 at Yarpole.

Cecilia Mary's gravestone and that of her husband Edward can be seen to the right of the main path in the Burial Ground. He was rector of Barthomley in Cheshire from 1923 to 1936 so presumably they had retired to Bircher. He died in 1950 aged 78.

The following articles, compiled by Ian Mortimer, are included with this edition of the *Newsletter*:

Yarpole Church Restoration 1982

Yarpole 1979

Yarpole Educational Foundation

Notes:

The article recalling the 1982 Restoration of the church includes scenes inside the church as it is today - before the 2009 alterations. For the record, we intend to photograph the same views when this latest restoration is complete.

As a footnote to the article *The Yarpole Educational Foundation*, the bricks for the Schoolmaster's House were brought by horse and cart by the local farmers, free of charge, from the Ebnall Brickyard which was on the north-west outskirts of Leominster.

Yarpole Community Building Project

The project to adapt St. Leonard's Church, Yarpole to allow it to accommodate other activities continues; the latest round of meetings has moved the project towards its start.

The Faculty for the changes has now been approved by the Church authorities and the other statutory requirements are near completion. The major changes include making room for the community shop, an Internet Café and a meeting room as well as improving the heating of the whole church.

To date, £150,000 has been given or promised which is well on the way to the target of £240,000. However, fund raising at national and local levels continues.

The first actual work on the project will start in the New Year when church services and other activities will take place at St. Michael's, Croft.

The Living History Group is the archivist for this project and intends to continue to record all the changes as they happen.

Copyright

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Date of next meeting

Thursday 26th February 2009 at 8pm in the Committee room of the Village Hall.

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The Church of St. Leonard.

Living History

The 1982 Restoration:

In 1982, urgent major structural repairs were required. Wet rot had been found in the floor of the nave and in some pew-ends under somewhat embarrassing circumstances in that, during a service, an occupied pew had collapsed through the floor. To remedy this, the wooden flooring was replaced by concrete and the best pews were repaired and strengthened; consequent upon the repair to the floor of the nave, damaged floor tiles were replaced and the rest of the floor was carpeted.



The wooden flooring of the choir stalls had been particularly badly affected by the damp rot - putting the stability of the organ at risk - and had to be replaced. Major repair work was required on the external stonework of the East Window, entailed the removal, cleaning and replacement of the glass. The cost of this restoration was £8.000 - of which £1,500 was given by the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust..



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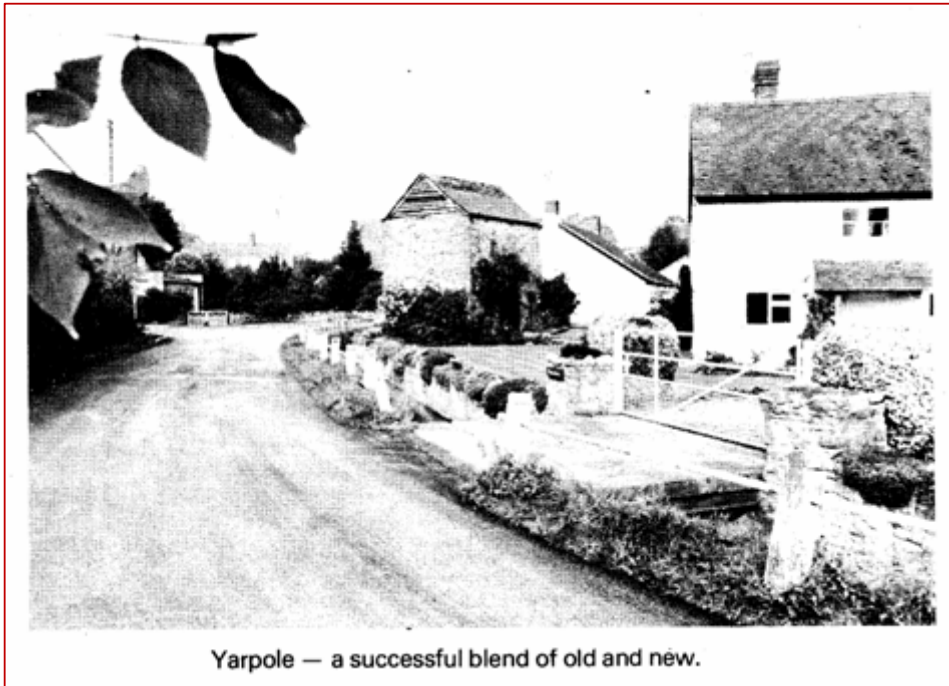
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Yarpole – 1979.

What follows is a transcript of an article published on the 7th November 1979 in the Leominster & Bromyard News.

YARPOLE - village with the magnetic attraction



There is something about Yarpole that acts like a magnet. No matter where you go you are always glad to get back - that is the view of Mary Everall, one of Yarpole's seven parish councillors.

Though she was born and brought up in Derbyshire she has returned to her parents' home of Yarpole. "It is home for me," she said. She now farms with her husband at Upper House Farm.

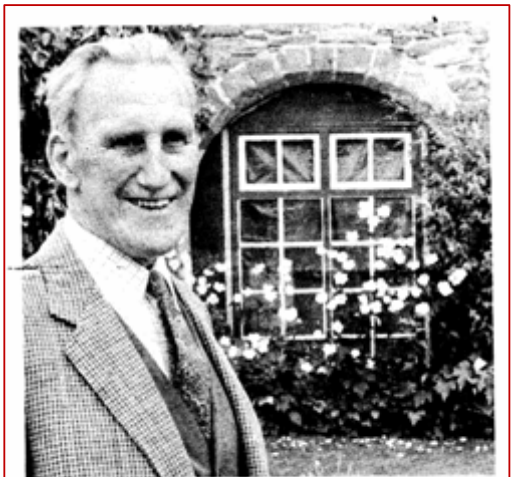
A new housing estate has been built in the village which, with infilling, has almost trebled the village's size. There are now about 400 people in the parish. But the estate has been accepted by the residents.

Blended

Mr George Thomas, clerk to the parish council, said the general feeling was that there were too many properties built at once when the estate got under way in 1972. But now seven years later the new has blended with the old.

Chairman of the parish council, Mr Clive Barker, said they would not be happy about any further large-scale development. "We have to be keener on the development of existing sites and not take up good agricultural land," he said.

With the new houses came new people and their children - just a few years after the village school closed and the pupils transferred to Luston - a school which Mr Barker believes "has excellent facilities and teachers".



Mr George Thomas, clerk to the group parish council standing by the old manor gateway in the centre of the village.

Ministers

Local vicar, the Rev Duncan Phillips, goes to the school each week to minister to the 116 pupils. But George Thomas, who has known the village for 60 years, bemoans the loss of the village's blacksmith, district nurse and schoolmaster living and working in the village.

"People have to go to Leominster and Hereford, Birmingham and London for work. Transport is much easier and Yarpole has become a dormitory village. Agriculture is the only industry here", he says.

But Yarpole is not a depressing village, always looking to the past. It has accepted change.

Maureen Frankland, a relative newcomer to it said, "We have fully integrated with the older residents. It is a marvellous place for mixing."

Mrs Frankland helped start a play group for three to five year-olds 18 months ago. We have 12 at the moment but we can take up to 20. We help tackle the need for children in a rural area to mix and for mothers in a rural area to mix." "When mothers, toddlers and the play group get together we have 25 to 30 in the village hall," she said. Further along the age range, a social club for teenagers is also an active part of village life with about 20 members.



Play group supervisors Mrs Maureen Frankland (left) and Mrs Rosalind Allwright.

Social Club

The Women's Institute is another integral part of village life. Formed 59 years ago it meets once a month in the village hall and now has 33 members.

"It is a friendly club. Everyone enjoys it and we don't stand on ceremony", says president, Mrs Jean Holder.



President of the village Women's Institute Mrs Jean Holder.

Their aim

The village also has a keen interest in conservation.. Villagers started planting trees in earnest in Silver Jubilee Year. A committee was formed to oversee the task and it has continued its work of enhancing the countryside. Andrew Thompson, who is secretary of the committee, said that each year they aim to plant about 30 trees in the parish.

If there is one organisation in Yarpole which has accepted the changes in society it is the parish church and the Rev. Duncan Phillips. He has seen and accepted the church's changing role.

He believes in the church as an essential part of the village and that the church building should be in constant use.

"The church is for many things and I do not see any division between secular and spiritual. I am the servant of the community or nothing," he believes.

Experiments

"At the moment experiments into a new service structure are taking place. Three or four different things are being arranged. We are experimenting at getting a service for everyone at a fixed time while retaining the old services such as Matins," he explains.



Vicar of the Church of St Leonard at Yarpole, the Rev. Duncan Phillips (left), and Mr Clive Barker, church warden and chairman of the parish council.

The record of church activities shows how much the building is used. Meetings are held there, it is open for the play group and concerts are held there.

A series of concerts by local people is being planned for next year, according to Mr Thompson, who is also secretary of the parochial church council, as a follow-up to a successful concert by a local string quartet.

Besides the church choir, Yarpole also has a group of about 30 singers, aged from seven to 70, called the Birchpoles - a title made up from the name of Bircher and Yarpole.

They have been singing together for about two years. The "glee club" has been singing together for two years and is planning a Year of the Child concert.-

Mr Thompson backs Rev. Phillips' views on the church: "With the school gone it is the only centre we have. We are wasting our heritage if we do not use it."

Interesting

The church building itself is interesting. It has one of Herefordshire's few detached belfries, which is square with a truncated pyramid roof. Together with the church porch it dates from the 13th century and is the oldest part of the church.

The 500 acres of Bircher Common are also part of the parish with 62 people having rights on it. A graziers' committee, of which Mr Michael Behr is secretary, jealously guards the rights of Commoners.

Yarpole has two active arts and crafts groups and the WI also go to one another's homes to crochet. Jean Holder said: "We are doing more handicrafts than ever. They are coming back as a popular activity."

Wine Circle

The village also has a thriving Wine Circle. Formed six years ago its 40 members come to monthly meetings in the village hall from Leominster, Orleton, Kingsland, Luston, Presteigne, Shobdon, Croft and Yarpole. Last year the group came second in the Herefordshire wine-making competition for the Callow Trophy.

But members do not spend the evening just drinking, one of its members Mr Charles Davies explains. They invite speakers and discuss wine. During the year they have had two speakers from Bulmers, heard about diamonds, taken a trip along Midland Water-ways and visited the theatre. Mr Davies said: "We are very fortunate to live in an area with all the natural ingredients for making wine."

But for those who like a more commercial brew there is Yarpole's pub The Bell.

The pub, which dates from 1560, has been in present licensee John Lewis' hands for six years but it had been in his wife's family for about 150 years. Mr Lewis said that the pub was originally a cider house. "Cider was made here until about 20 years ago. I have the presses but it is finding the money and time to restore them."

Report by Mike Walton: Pictures by Brian Hankins.

Transcribed by Ian Mortimer with thanks to Eileen Thompson for holding onto this newspaper cutting for



Mr John Lewis, landlord of the Bell Inn which dates back to the 16th century.

nigh on 30years(2008)

The Yarpole Educational Foundation:

'If you are under the age of 25 and live in the ancient Parish of Yarpole and require funds for educational/vocational purpose then please apply to The Secretary of Yarpole Educational Foundation. Application forms are available from Yarpole Stores.'

Extract from Parish Newsletter of November 1996.

The Yarpole Educational Foundation is a Registered Charity (No. 509123) with a very interesting history, dating back to the days of the Poor Law - nearly 270 years. This Article is an account of that history using extracts (in *italics*) from original documents.

1740: *By Indenture dated 17th January 1740, and made between Thomas Dale of Yarpole, Labourer of (on) the one hand Robert Weaver and John Nott the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Yarpole, of (on) the other hand, the said Thomas Dale in consideration of 10/- and of 1/- and 6d weekly to him during his life, conveyed under the said Churchwardens and overseers of the Poor and their successors in office for the time being to and for the use of the said Parish for ever. A Messuage or Cottage with two Gardens (known as 'Ivy Hall') thereunto adjoining with the appurtenances situate in Yarpole upon the East side of the Lane leading from Yarpole to the Cockgate, at or near Roundhill, and then occupied by the said Thomas Dale*

(‘Ivy Hall’ was on the site of the present-day ‘Ivy Dene’, the brick cottage - last on the right, up Green Lane just before the lane down to the Old School House).

1859: The cottage, known as ‘Ivy Hall’, was subsequently converted into two dwellings but these were burnt down about the year 1859 and were not rebuilt. The site and garden containing 15 perches (just less than a tenth of an acre) and now known as ‘Ivy Hall Patch’ was then let to a “poor man” for a garden at a rent of 5/- per annum. The school had been built in 1851 at a cost of £1,200 by William T. Kevill-Davies of Croft Castle on part of the Croft Castle park. . The school was designed to house 110 pupils and this figure was probably reached during the early part of the 20th century. It served the parishes of Yarpole, Croft and Lucton. It was a Church of England school until 1920, when the County Council took it over as a council school, until its closure in 1968, when the pupils were transferred to a new school in Luston.

1871: *The Board of Charity Commissioners by an Order or warrant dated 17th November 1871 and made in the matter of the Charity known as “Ivy hall Patch” in the Parish of Yarpole upon the application of the acting Trustees, authorized the Trustees to sell the said piece of land for not less than £23. Sterling and directed them to hold the purchase money in trust for the Charity and subject to the further orders of the Board.*

Whereas the trustees of the above mentioned Charity have applied to the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales for authority to appropriate the sum of £33 produced by the sale of a piece of land belonging to the said Charity which has been recently effected under an Order of the said Board dated 17th November 1871 towards the payment of the cost of a house

which has lately been erected for the residence of the Master of the Parochial School at an outlay of £149 upon a site in the said Parish which has been conveyed (by William T. Kevill-Davies, at no cost) in trust for the purposes of such residence by a Deed of Statutory Grant dated the 11th day of August 1873 and the balance or remainder of the said cost has been raised and provided by local contributions. Now the said Board having considered and inquired into the premises and being satisfied that the said expenditure is proper and for the benefit of the said Charity Do Hereby Order that the trustees of the said Charity shall be at liberty to appropriate and apply the said sum of £213 towards the payment of the cost aforesaid.

Sealed by order of the Board this 31st day of July 1874.

<i>Financial summary: Receipts from sale of 'Ivy Hall Patch'</i>	<i>= £33</i>
<i>Receipts from 'local contributions'</i>	<i>= £180</i>
<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>= £213</i>
<i>Cost of building the schoolmasters house</i>	<i>= £149</i>
<i>Balance carried forward</i>	<i>= £64</i>

1968: The School was closed in 1968 and the Schoolmaster's house was subsequently sold in 1979.

1979: *In the matter of the Charity for a Schoolmaster's House, in the Ancient parish of Yarpole, in the County of Hereford and Worcester, comprised in a conveyance dated the 14th August 1875; and In the matter of the Charities Act, 1960.*

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales HEREBY ORDER that the following Scheme be approved and established for the regulation of the above-mentioned charity;-

1. Administration of Charity. - The above-mentioned Charity and the property thereof specified in the schedule hereto and all other the property (if any) of the Charity shall be administered and managed subject to and in-conformity with the provisions of this Scheme under the title of The Yarpole Educational Foundation by the body of Trustees hereinafter constituted.

2. Investment of cash. - The sum of £10,000 cash, being the clear proceeds of sale of the Old School House and specified in the said schedule shall be invested in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for the Charity. Sums of cash at any time belonging to the Charity and not needed for immediate working purposes shall be invested in the name of the said Official Custodian unless the Charity Commissioners otherwise direct. Continues--.

Sealed 11th April 1979.

2008: This Charity has evolved from an early 'equity release' scheme (providing an annuity of £3. 18. 0) under the administration of the Churchwardens as Overseers of the Poor, with an injection of additional capital through public subscription for the building of the Schoolmaster's House and the capital appreciation of the value of that property to the position today when the Yarpole Educational Foundation is in a strong financial position, with an annual income of some five to six thousand pounds, and is well able to fulfil its declared aim "To help further the education of young people in the Parish of Yarpole".

A thorough search at the Hereford Record Office of the Yarpole Parish Records and relevant items under 'Yarpole', failed to find any reference to a public subscription list for 1871-1875 and so, unfortunately, we have to accept that the list of 'Local Contributors' to the cost of building the Schoolmaster's House, has not survived.

Compiled by Ian Mortimer (2008).