

Living History.

NEWSLETTER June 2010.

Nature Notes

Blue-tits were noted as fledged on 17th April. House Martins were seen on 7th April. Red Kites continue to be seen as are otters. Rabbits with myxomatosis have been seen in the parish. The Great Grey Shrike, first reported in the newsletter of March 2009, was filmed and is on www.youtube.com . Search under 'Great Shrike' to find the clip.

Sightings of male and female Blackcaps have been noted in the parish. This is not a frequent winter visitor but the long periods of snow may have encouraged it to visit bird-tables.



Photograph taken 6th January 2010 by David Cheshire

Bircher Common Register

A copy of the Bircher Common Register has been donated to the Living History Group. It lists those with grazing rights and gives details of the numbers of livestock which they can graze on the Common. It also details rights of turbage, pannage, etc.

Articles

The following articles accompany this edition of the *Newsletter*:

Field Names in the Parish of Yarpole- Part 2 by Rhianon Turrell
Oldfield by Ron Shaw

Archives Talk

Rhys Griffith, Senior Archivist at Hereford Record Office, gave a fascinating insight into the resources available at the Record Office in his talk on May 13th. The event was very well attended and inspired lots of people to start looking at their family, house and local history. It also gave the Living History Group several ideas about future activities, such as a tour of the Record Office, evenings to help people get started on their interests in history (such as family trees, house histories or the history and natural environment of particular parts of the parish) or talks by other experts in historical areas.

To find out what would appeal to people we are conducting a survey at the Fete on June 19th. If you are not able to be there please let us know if you would be interested in any particular talk or aspect of living history - possibly as a one-off evening or forming a group - for example to record the ponds of the parish.

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2010 are now overdue. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the shop addressed to her or sending them to Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489) Cheques should be made out to "Living History" for £6.50

Copyright

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Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Committee room of the Village Hall on **Thursday 30th September 2010 at 7.30pm.**

Field Names in the Parish of Yarpole Part 2

As well as giving us a picture of some of the features of particular fields the names of fields can give us clues to the past agricultural practices. Some crops seem to be indicated from names on the Tithe map such as **Rye Meadow** - and other fields around it with Rye in their names. These probably relate to a common field where rye was the usual crop.

Other old common fields can be identified from the remaining names and those on the Tithe Map, combined with references in deeds held in Herefordshire Record Office as part of the papers of the Dunne family of Gatley Park. It is uncertain from these whether Bircher and Yarpole operated as one entity or two, but the number of fields identified suggests that at least for some of the time when common fields existed they operated as two separate villages with at least three arable fields each.

The following examples show some of these fields and their related documents.

Low field, Low Orchard, Low Meadow and **The Low Plock** form part of the **Low field** referred to in various documents of 1742. **Low field** usually means land that is by or on a mound. One of these documents clearly refers to an exchange of land within the Low Field between (1) Joseph Morris of Bircher, Yarpole, gent. and (2) William Lenthall of Yarpole, gent. (1) to (2) Parcel of arable (1a.) in the **Low Field**: (2) to (1) Parcel of arable (1a.) in Yarpole **Woodfield** at a place called Bradley Hill in Yarpole. (**F76/II/292** 22 January, 1742 Deed of Exchange)

This next document would seem to refer to **Common Moors, The Moors, Long Moors** and **Moor Meadow** which, on the Tithe Map, are on the eastern edge of the parish. Moor can mean waste land - indicating that this land was at some time not cultivated, possibly because it was at the edge of the parish. There would have been several common pasture fields. Between (1) Joseph Morris of Bircher, Yarpole, gent. and (2) Thomas Weaver of Bircher, yeo. (1) to (2) 1a. meadow ground in the Common Meadow called **Short Moor**. (2) to (1) 1a. meadow ground in a common meadow called **Long Moor** (**F76/II/293** 13 November 1742 Deed of Exchange)

The next document clearly refers to the enclosure of part of a common field. Between (1) Thomas Coleman of Leominster, Esq. (2) James Price of Yarpole, farmer and (3) William Wilson of Leominster, gent. Consideration: £550 Parcel of arable (9a.2r.28p.) formerly enclosed out of **Red Oak Field**. (**F76/II/218** 30 December 1814 Release)

Great and Little Bime (or Bine) are still there in the Tithe Maps and the reference to ridges in 1738 would seem to suggest these are still used as common fields where people could own and exchange small parts of them

Between (1) Joseph Morris of St. George's, Hanover Square, gent. and (2) James Gould of New Radnor, co., Rads., yeo.

(1) to (2) parcel of arable 6 ridges (1a) in a field called **Great Bime** in Bircher, Yarpole. (2) to (1) 2 parcels of arable in **Little Bimefield**, viz. 2 ridges on the road from Orleton to Yarpole and 8 ridges at the upper end of the field. The whole comprising 1a. All in Bircher, Yarpole.

(**F76/II/287** 2 October 1738 Deed of Exchange)

Wash Pitt in front of Bircher Hall and **Mearston** also appear to have been common arable fields from this next document between (1) Joseph Morris of Bircher, Yarpole, gent. and (2) Thomas Jay of Patshall, Kimbolton, gent. (1) to (2) part of headland and 3 butts of arable land (3r.) in **common field called Mearstons Furlong** in Yarpole.

(2) to (1) small parcel of arable (2r.) in common field called **Washpitt Field**. (**F76/II/297** 2 June, 1743 Deed of Exchange)

There is evidence of at least three other common fields in the names on the Tithe map 1)**Cow pasture**, upper, middle and lower 2)**Enmore** or **Edmore field** 3)Upper, middle and lower **Old Lands** which usually refer to individual strips in a common field

We can thus see, roughly, where some of the old common fields were located and how relatively late on small pieces were being held by different people. There is no evidence of systematic enclosure.

References

Yarpole Group parish map 2000

English Field Names: A Dictionary John Field, 1972 David & Charles

A History of English Field Names John Field, 1993 Longman

Place names in the Landscape Margaret Gelling, 1984 Dent

Herefordshire Place Names Bruce Coplestone-Crow, 1989 BAR British Series

A Glossary of Provincial Words – Herefordshire, 1839, John Murray reprinted by Bibliolife

Shropshire Field-Names H.D.G.Foxall, 1980 Shropshire Archaeological Society

OLDFIELD



Drawing of the planned cottage after restoration

Oldfield is a unique timber framed building situated in the heart of Yarpole village. Its rareness is due to it being built from an original oak frame that came from a derelict 17th century barn that was fast deteriorating where it originally stood.

Sandy & Eileen Thompson moved to Tudor House in Yarpole from Esher in Surrey in April 1971. In 1980 they sold part of the adjacent orchard to their son Andrew and his partner Gilly Craddock, who subsequently obtained planning consent to re-erect a threatened listed timber-frame barn on the site, and convert it into a house. A local builder, John R. Morris put them in contact with the owners of a grade 2 listed timber-framed barn situated at Oldfield Farm, Leinthall Earles, Herefordshire.



The barn in 1981 before work began to dismantle it and move it to Yarpole

In the spring of 1981 Barrie Morgan, Mick Baulch and Steve Marshall removed the weatherboards, roof tiles, purlins & rafters from the barn; John Morris & Andrew Thompson photographed and stenciled labels on all 80 elements on the oak frame.



Dismantling the barn at Oldfield Farm

A rare Yellow Wagtails nest was found, so work was put on hold for three weeks, until the young had flown. Pegs were removed and the frame dismantled. The whole 'Kit' was then taken, on a tractor/trailer, driven by Ben Edwards, over the Goggin and down 'Killhorse Lane' to Yarpole.



Preparing the site in the orchard of Tudor House

Marc Cameron-Swan & Barrie Morgan repaired/replaced damaged sections of frame using new oak from Mortimers Cross saw mills. John Morris provided architectural drawings, and supervised the ground works which resulted in the removal of 500 tons of top-soil. The frame was rebuilt on foundations and a brick sub-wall constructed by Yarpole builder Bob Holder & his son in law Tony Parker. Andrew and Roger King tiled the roof using original tiles on the west elevation, and tiles reclaimed from the 1982 re-roofing of Yarpole Church on the East. John Morris, who had retired to create furniture, made the oak window frames.



Restoration begins

Only three of the original four 15` x 15` 6`` bays were used in the restoration. The northern and oldest bay was not rebuilt, as most of the original timber had been lost over the years. The southern bay contained a cider mill & press which was retained on its original site, where it remains.



Restoration of the barn begins to take shape

Towards the end of construction it became clear that this new house was more suited to Eileen & Sandy's needs and an agreement was drawn up to exchange properties.



Oldfield begins to look like the dream



Sandy immediately set about creating a very picturesque cottage garden, and with Eileen, designed the interior fittings to suit their needs. He also kept a detailed photographic record of the rebuild. During this time, as Chairman of the Parish Council, Sandy worked with the local district council to establish the Yarpole Conservation Area. The house was completed in 1983. Sandy died in 1984 after living in it for one year, Eileen is still in residence.

Photographs kindly loaned by Eileen Thompson, transcript written by Andrew Thompson & the article collated by Ron Shaw.