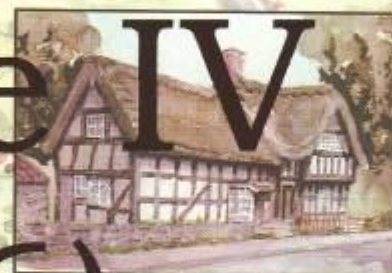
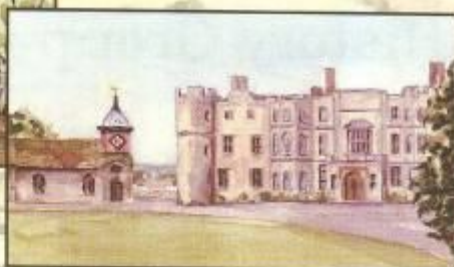


Living History

Yarpole Group Parish
2000



Volume IV
(2006)



Living History.

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006.

On Thursday 31st August 2006 there was a serious fire in the heart of Yarpole which made front page news of the Hereford Times.

The row of three 400 year old cottages on the south-west corner of the Square was badly affected. The fire is thought to have started in the middle cottage and spread through the roof spaces into the cottages on either side.



(photos by Sue Brookes)

Although the extent of the damage is considerable, we understand that these three 400 year old cottages can and will be restored.

Following up on the report in the Parish Newsletter on the survey on bats in the Fishpool Valley, we understand that there have been other surveys on the wildlife in the Valley and we hope to publish these as and when they become available.

The Village Fete: There was a lot of interest in all the displays, but a particularly strong interest in the W.I. photographs of the presentation of the seat in 1977, with most of the members identified by the end of the afternoon.

We intend to follow up the history of the W.I. and are now actively on the look-out for any further photographs and relevant information.



We are also looking for further information about shops and chapels in the area, and would like to embark on house histories for as many as possible of the properties in the parish.

Following on from our recording of the gravestones in the churchyard, we are going to try to record the older tombstones in the burial ground on Saturday October 14th at 10.00 a.m. It should be a bit easier than the graveyard as most of the stones are legible! Please let Rhianon (780677) or Ron (780770) know if you can come.

You will remember the first visit, two or three years ago, of the 'Straw Bale People'.



Well, they recently returned to the Parish, appropriately attired, to attend a wedding.

Our thanks and best wishes to Julie and Gareth for giving us reason to smile.

The next meeting of the Group will be on November 7th at 8.00 at The Bell.
This will be our A.G.M. so please make an effort to attend.

The Story of St. Leonard:



St Leonard (AD 485-559) is believed to have been of noble birth, brought up at the court of King Clovis, a Frankish Chieftain who went on to conquer all of what is now known as Northern France.

In 496 Clovis, who was a pagan and whose kingdom extended down to the Loire, embarked on a campaign against the Alamanni of the Middle Rhine, but suffered a reversal and was facing defeat when, after praying to the Christian God of his wife, he ultimately triumphed and in gratitude sought conversion; and so it was that in 498 St. Leonard, at the age of 13 years, was baptised with King Clovis and 3,000 of Clovis' warriors, by St Remigius, Archbishop of Rheims. Tradition has it that St Leonard immediately decided to follow a religious life.

In 507, at the age of 22 years, after the battle of Vouille, near Poitiers, when Clovis defeated the Visigoths, St. Leonard was given permission by Clovis to release any prisoner, including prisoners-of-war, whom he considered was being improperly imprisoned. As a reward for his good work he was offered an archbishopric; but this he refused, preferring to join a monastic group near Orleans.

Some time later, the story continues, while Clovis was hunting nearby, Clothilde his wife went into labour; St. Leonard prayed with them through the night and, following the safe delivery of their daughter, also Clothilde, Clovis offered him as much land as he could ride around in one day on a donkey. St Leonard used the land to establish a monastery at Noblat near Limoges, where he became Abbot.

"The reputation of his sanctity and miracles spread very wide, he was most remarkable for his charity toward captives and prisoners, and he laid himself out with unwearied zeal in affording them both corporeal and spiritual help and comfort, and he obtained of the governors the liberty of many. This was also the favourite object of his charity after he had discovered himself to the world at Noblat, and began to make frequent excursions to preach and instruct the people in the surrounding country. It is related that some were miraculously delivered from their chains by his

prayers, and that the king, out of respect for his eminent sanctity, granted him a special privilege of sometimes setting prisoners at liberty; which about that time was frequently allowed to certain holy bishops and others. But the saint's chief aim and endeavours in this charitable employment were to bring malefactors and all persons who fell under this affliction to a true sense of the enormity of their sins, and to a sincere spirit of compunction and penance, and a perfect reformation of their lives."

Composed some time after his death.

In old age he retreated to the surrounding forest and lived as a hermit. He died in 559 on the 6th November, now recognized as his Feast Day.

St.Leonard's reputation gained prominence following the exploits of Bohemund, a heroic son of a Norman Duke, who joined the First Crusade in 1095 and, after a successful campaign, captured and retained Antioch (now Antakya in South East Turkey). From here, in 1099, the crusading army marched south to Jerusalem. Ultimately, after many of the crusaders had left for home, Bohemund was captured by the Turks and held in chains for many months. On his release in 1103, which he attributed to his prayers to St.Leonard, he immediately went on a pilgrimage to Noblat.

Noblat soon became a place of pilgrimage for other freed captives including Richard Coeur de Lion, and a stop on the Limoges route (one of four main ways through France) for pilgrims to the shrine of St James the Apostle (Santiago) at Campostela in north-west Spain.

In England St Leonard's fame spread quickly - as Bohemund's story was told to fellow Normans, who as the new lords of the manors were on the lookout for appropriate Saints to whom they could dedicate their new stone churches.

In Herefordshire there are two other churches dedicated to St.Leonard, and altogether some further 168 in the rest of England.

Patron Saint of prisoners (he is usually depicted with prison chains), pregnant women, country dwellers and horses, as well as blacksmiths, coopers, locksmiths, coppersmiths, grocers, coal miners and porters.



"St.Leonard frees the prisoners and teaches them the way of virtue."

War Memorials:

LIVING HISTORY

Yarpole/Bircher War Memorial:

Since the inception of Living History newsletters, we have produced a number of stories about individuals. This article is about all the names on the War Memorial. For those of you who don't know, the War Memorial is situated on the corner of Welshman's Lane and the B4362. It remembers the dead from both World Wars. There is a commemorative plaque in St. Leonard's Church, Yarpole, listing all the names and their regiments.

In December 2005, at an event in St. Leonard's Church, we were approached by the Rev. Henry McKinley, who asked if we could produce a list of all the Christian names to be read out on Remembrance Day. He had previously had a list, researched by Harley Dance, but it had been mislaid.

Obviously we knew some of the names from our own researches, e.g. monumental inscription recording, and the previous articles. I used the power of the internet to check up on the information on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour website. This produced a comprehensive, but not complete list. It included information about the next of kin, and the date of death and where they are buried or commemorated. I finished up with 4 Christian names missing.

At this point, I sent the list to Henry, who kindly published an acknowledgement in the parish newsletter. This soon stimulated an exchange of correspondence with Caroline Compton of Croft Castle. She has been very concerned about the state of the War Memorial, and has paid for some repairs and painting work. She, like Henry, was very keen to have a complete list of the names. After I had sent her the list, she wrote back filling in one of the gaps – Stanley Cross, who is related to Audrey Brooks of this parish, and whose father was a gardener at the castle. Caroline also highlighted an anomaly between the War Memorial itself and the plaque in the Church concerning Sgt. P. Chamberlain. He is P for Percy, not C as printed on the plaque.

I was able to fill in the gaps by an hour's research at Hereford Record Office, where they have the First World War Death registers on microfiche. Thus Henry, Caroline and Yarpole Living History Group all now have a comprehensive list of names – unless of course you know better!

The full list with additional detail is attached.

Name	Regiment	Family	Died	Grave
Pte. George BENGREE	K.S.L.I.	brother of Miss A. Bengree of Yarpole	21 st March 1918	St. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, near Somme, France
Pte. Roderick BREEZE	K.S.L.I.		14 th April 1918	Ploegsteert Memorial, near Lille, Belgium
Pte. James Julian BROOKS	K.S.L.I.	son of John & Hannah Brooks of Bircher	2 nd August 1918	St. Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery, Robecq, Pas de Calais, France
Sgt. Percy CHAMBERLAIN	Royal Engineers		22 nd October 1919	Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery
Sapper Charles T. COLLETT	Royal Engineers.		11 th January 1915	Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'avooue, Pas de Calais, France
L/Cpl. Stanley J. CROSS	Manchester Regiment	son of John & Lillian Cross of Bircher Common	20 th July 1920	Basra Memorial
Cpl. Francis DALE	R.F.A.	son of Mrs. Frances Dale of 8 North Road, Leominster	8 th November 1918	Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard
Pte. Arthur Henry GOUGH	14 th Welsh Regiment	son of Arthur Edward & Jane Gough of Bicton Pool, husband of Jane Hannah Gough of Sunny Cot, Leiston, Leominster	5 th August 1917	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Pte. Edward GOUGH	Berkshire Regiment	son of Arthur Edward Gough, husband of Mary Thomasine Gough of 4068 High Street, Cheltenham	22 nd August 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

Cpl. Charles GRIFFITHS	6th Dragoon Guards	son of Sarah Griffiths of Steps House, Yarpole	31 st October 1914	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Pte. Joseph JAMES	K.S.L.I.		13 th November 1916	Serre Road Cemetery No.1, Pas de Calais, France
Capt. William Albert Somerset Herbert KEVILL DAVIES	9th Lancers		15 th May 1915	Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), France (Nord)
Pte. Ernest MITCHELL	K.S.L.I.	son of the late Robert & Dorothy Mitchell	29 th November 1915	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Pte. William PERKINS <i>NOTE:- SEE CORRECTION IN NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 06</i>	Canadian Machine Gun Corps.		11 th August 1918	Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Somme, France
Cpl. Joseph PINCHES,	South Wales Borderers	son of George & Mary Ann Pinches of Cockgate Farm, Bircher	30 th January 1917	Couin British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
Pte. Ernest PINCHES	K.S.L.I.		30 th November 1918	Gosselies Cemetery, Near Charleroi, Belgium
Pte. Charles James PRICE	K.S.L.I.			
Pte. H. Russell PRICE	K.S.L.I.			
Pte. Jack TOMLINSON	K.S.L.I.	husband of Ann Tomlinson of Welshman's Lane, Bircher	20 th November 1917	Ribecourt British Cemetery, near Cambrai, France
Pte. Cecil Allan WILKINSON	Hereford Regiment	son of Mr. W.R. & Mrs. J.W. Wilkinson of Yarpole	26 th July 1918	Raperie British Cemetery, Villemonatoire, Aisne, France
Pte. Harry WILKINSON	Northants Regiment			

K.S.L.I. stands for the King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Name	Regiment	Family	Died	Grave
<u>1939-1945</u>				
Gnr. Wilfred CHAMBERLAIN	Royal Artillery		between 10 th May 1940 and 27 th February 1941	Lille Southern Cemetery
Capt. Sir JAMES CROFT, Bt.	No. 1 Commando		15 th August 1941	Croft Castle Grave
Maj. William Trevelyan KEVILL DAVIES M.C.	7 th Hussars		6 th March 1942	Rangoon Memorial
Sgt. Leonard Sidney MUMBY	Royal Artillery	son of Charles & Mary Mumby, husband of Marion Mumby of Hounslow	7 th June 1944	Ranville War Cemetery, near Caen, France