

The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

September 2023

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And all our regular features





Photo credits

Fromt cover:

Leominster Morris dancing at The Bell on Wednesday August 16th, as part of a tour celebrating 40 years since their reformation. A thoroughly enjoyable evening in the perfect setting. Thanks to Julian Stokes for the photo.

Above:

The burial ground clear up at the end of June by the “Adopt-a-Grave” clean up team, photo taken by Carol Clare and sent in by Rose Jenkins. Volunteers to Adopt-a-Grave are always welcome. For more information contact either Rose on 780536 or Carol on 780625.

Left:

Full moon over wheat field near the Bircher Turn. Thanks to Adam Scott for this photo.

From the Editor's chair

Autum greetings to all our readers!

Thanks to everyone who has sent in photos for this edition. We are always pleased to receive photos from our readers, so do remember the newsletter if you are attending an event or are out and about with your camera. Many thanks!

Can I remind you all about our new email address which is :

newsletter@yarpole.org

At the moment we can still access the old address and we are still receiving a few items for the newsletter there. When you type the address into your browser, please make sure that it doesn't revert to the old one, which will soon stop working.

Donations for the newsletter are still coming in, and we are very grateful for these. The current figure stands at £540 for this year. We appreciate your generosity; the combination of revenue from adverts and your generous donations still enables us to meet our printing costs, even though the newsletter has increased in length and is now almost always 40 pages. (This is our maximum length - although our printers can manage more, when we went up to 44 pages on one occasion it caused problems for the RNIB transcription). For anyone who would still like to donate, donations can be left in the shop in an envelope marked Adam Scott (please include your name and email address/ phone number for acknowledgement) or you could put something in the collection tin on the counter. Many thanks.

Hetty

To send in articles and news **items**, please e-mail us at:
newsletter@yarpole.org

Or leave in the box at the shop

The deadline for all submissions is
THE 10th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

There is no newsletter in January or August

ADVERTISEMENTS

To place a commercial advert, please email us at the address above and we'll send you more information

Prices start at £5 for a 1/8 page ad, with discounts for multiple insertions

We also print small ads for parishioners for which we suggest that a small donation is left in the yellow collection box in the shop.

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Enjoy chatting and sharing photos with members of our community via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have almost 90 members!



To join this group, please send a message to:
Katie Daniels 07786515922 with your mobile number.



Don't miss out on what's happening!

To be added to the events mailing list, email:
events@yarpole.org



Calling Facebook Users

To obtain Yarpole news on Facebook, search for 'Yarpole Community'.
See what's on! See what matters in Yarpole! Contribute to the page.
Like us and become a friend.



The Parishioner on audio disk

The Parishioner is also available as an audio disk for parish residents with sight problems. If you'd like to receive it in this format, or know someone who would, please let us know at newsletter@yarpole.org.



Adverts are not read out in the audio version, so here are contact details for some essential services.

Electricians: KC Electrical 07446 130883; Ian Mackay 07736 303297 or 07396 578662

Gardening: Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 or 07876197770

House cleaning: Pristine Clean 07733194057

Oven cleaning: Oven Wizards 01885 400337, 07817 477850

Chimney sweep: Phil Mundy 01568 780417 or 07837 935102

Firewood: Pete Merriman 01568 780414; Steve Mantle 07980 775838; Dave Ward 07866 441154

Mobile hairdresser: Dawn Goodwin 01568 770387

Foot health: Stacey Gardner 01568 368306 or 07540566871

Osteopaths: Leominster Osteopaths 01568 610610

Solicitors: Gabbs 01568 616333; Norris Miles 01584 810575

Funeral services: Victoria Allen 01584 879035; Oak Tree 01568 250030

Yarpole Welcome Packs

If you are aware of new residents who have moved to the parish, don't forget to inform Sue Buckley to be sure they receive a pack. Email susanmarylangley@gmail.com.

What's on

What's on



COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Meetings will recommence on
Monday, 18th September, 2.30pm
In the Gallery Cafe, St.Leonards, Yarpole
£2 per session.

Everyone very welcome - we are a friendly group
who meet once a month to craft together and
enjoy a good chat !!
We look forward to welcoming you !



THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS

St. Leonard's Church

Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30 pm



Autumn term restarts on Wed. 13th. September with choruses from Les Misérables.
We are a friendly village choir who meet weekly for an eclectic mix of music,
from Verdi to Simon and Garfunkel!

New members are always welcome and there are no auditions.

Do come and join us!

Contact: Deborah Rackham deborahrackham@aol.com 01568 780614

Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks on a Wednesday at 11.00.

Her next visit, is scheduled for Wednesday September 6th.
Join her in the café for a coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd



What's on



What's on

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris



Cert: PG - 92 mins

Sat 7th Oct - 7.30 pm

Yarpole Parish Hall

Admission: Adults: £13 Child: £10

Enquiries: 01568 780250 and 07495 437359

This is a Flicks and Food presentation. Film £5; Food £8. Food must be booked before. You can just see the film if you wish.

A widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

Starring: Lesley Manville, Lucas Bravo, Jason Isaacs, Lambert Wilson



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

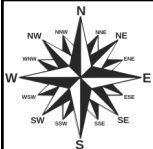
Walking Group

We meet regularly on the 2nd Friday and 4th Sunday of every month, normally at 10:30 by the church.

Friday September 8th and Sunday September 24th

All are welcome to join our walks but please phone to check details. if you are not on the email list.

Contact: Viv and Brian 782271 or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



What's on

What's on



Advance Notice!

Pentabus and Thickskin

Driftwood - a new play by Tim Foley

Coming to Yarpole Saturday November 18th

The Arts Alive show in Yarpole for this season is a theatre performance. More information to come, but book early as there will only be one show and limited seating. Save the date!

Book online at artsalive.co.uk or email kinseyjeanette@gmail.com

Tickets £12, suitable for age 12+



Yarpole Computer Café



The Gallery Café, Yarpole

Runs weekly on Thursdays starting from 2.30pm

Would you like some friendly free help to use your computer, tablet or mobile phone?

Set up your device

Set up an email account

Set up and use Facebook

Make a call on Zoom or Facetime

Online grocery shopping

Keeping safe online (security)

And much more!

Call us on 0800 008 6077 to join us or find out more

Appointments must be booked - sign on sheet in café or call number above

Making Herefordshire & Worcestershire a great place to grow older



@ageukhw

Friends of Mortimer Medical Practice invite you to a colour fashion show

Tuesday 17th October at Kingsland Coronation Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

In aid of vital equipment for Leintwardine, Kingsland & Orleton surgeries.

Please support this fundraiser where high street clothing will be on sale for 50% of retail price.

Tickets (£5 to include a drink) from Helen 780189

What's on

What's on

House Church

2nd and 4th Tuesdays in St Leonard's 7.30 – 8.30.

All are welcome.



Come and

Be Still



Some music, a reading, a prayer and time for your own quiet reflection.

Monthly, on the first Wednesday, 5.30 - 6pm

St Leonard's Church, Yarpole

All are welcome

COME ALONG TO SING ALONG



Do you enjoy singing? Would you welcome a new musical challenge?

If you would like to experience the joy of singing with others in a first-rate choir, Edge Chamber Choir would love to hear from you. Edge is an auditioned choir specialising in performances of works by mainly 20th and 21st century composers. It's a friendly group, rehearsing on Thursday evenings in Ludlow (restarting in September).

To find out more, please contact the Edge Music Director:

Ros Crouch - ros.crouch@gmail.com.



Coffee Morning

The Haywain, Lyde Arundel,

Nr. Hereford HR4 7SL

by kind invitation of Lydia and Tomáš Alexovi

Thursday 5th October 2023

From 10am 'til 12 noon

Cakes, Preserves and Produce Stall. Raffle.

If you're unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please send cheques payable to: HHCT c/o Mrs Sue Burleigh, Stansbatch House, Stansbatch, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9LG - tel. 01544 267368



What's on

What's on



Orleton Craft Group



We are now meeting twice monthly:
7&21 Sep, 5&19 Oct, 2&16 Nov
(First and Third Thursdays).

Orleton Village Small Hall, 1.30-4.30pm, £3.
Bring along any sewing, knitting, craft work.
Enjoy a chat, tea & cake!

We plan to include workshops from time to time
All welcome

Further information 01584 831324 sue.a.turner@gmail.com



Orleton Evergreens Autumn 2023

September 28: Benjamin Pardoe, St Michael's Hospice
October 26: Quiz Afternoon, led by John & Kate Smith
November 30: Steve Hollinghurst, Festive Songs
December 7: Christmas Meal (venue to be confirmed)

All welcome (50+).

Hall meetings at Orleton Village Large Hall 2.30pm.

Further details contact Sue Turner 01584 831324.
sue.a.turner@gmail.com.



September 23rd. 3pm. St Dubricius, Hentland

Talk by David Gallichan and organ recital. An interesting talk on the restoration of the Hentland Organ with a short Organ recital

BOOK TICKETS HERE Breathing new life into Hentland Church organ September 23rd. 3pm. (sumupstore.com)

October 20th. 2pm. St Michael and All Angels, Kingstone

Music and Ministry: Memories from the Rev Michael Tavinor. A musical and amusing afternoon of song and stories from when Rev. Michael Tavinor was working for the church.

BOOK TICKETS HERE Music and Ministry; memories from Michael Tavinor (sumupstore.com)

October 17th. 7pm. St. Peter and Pauls Church, Weobley

Music from Cantabile and Hereford Cathedral School choirs and musicians



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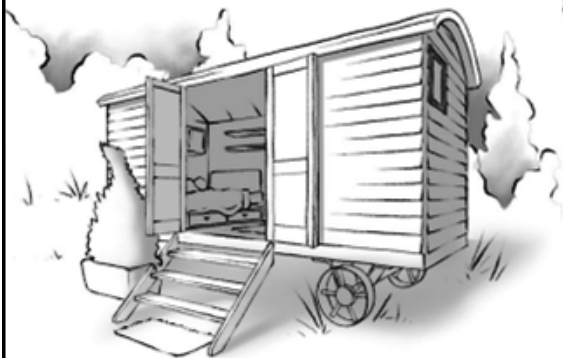
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LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Update on buses stopping in Yarpole



Pete Lloyd has had disappointing news from the transport Services Manager. As Pete says “They don't seem to realise that we don't want to walk up or down an increasingly dangerous unrestricted single track lane from Bircher Turn which is being recognised and increasingly used by speeding traffic as a Leominster by-pass to the North and South”. The response is printed below:

Good morning Maggie,

Apologies for the delay in a response.

Herefordshire Council, in consultation with Lugg Valley Travel, has considered your request and would make the following points:

- We do not believe that re-routeing all service 490 journeys via Yarpole would generate enough passengers to justify the extra mileage (and cost) and the time penalties in completely overhauling the timetable.
- Even if an additional 20 passengers were to travel at least twice a week each this would average out at below 1 passenger per journey
- The existing 489 service on Tuesdays and Fridays gives a 'shopping' service into Leominster from Yarpole but is very poorly used by Yarpole residents. In the second half of 2022, only 7 passengers were recorded making trips into Leominster on a total of 52 journeys (1 pass holder x4 journeys, 1 pass holder x2 journey and 1 fare paying passenger).
- As a comparison, during the same period (second half of 2022) 27 passengers boarded the Wednesdays only 498 service in Yarpole giving an average of 1 per journey travelling to Hereford

I regret that having taken into account the above, we are unable to agree to re-routing all 489 journeys via Yarpole village.

Kind regards,

Craig

Craig Lewis - Transport Services Manager

Readers will be pleased to know that Pete is not going to give up, and will pursue this further with the help of Dan Hurcombe, our councillor.

Storage space to rent

Lesley and I are hoping to move into the village in September and are looking for some extra space to store some of the contents of our house. If anyone has or knows of someone with a garage or some space to rent we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us on the numbers below

Kind regards

David & Lesley Bradford: 07974 193294; 07950 725882.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Fundraising for Nerve Tumours UK

Unfortunately I've had to pull out of the Great North Run owing to a hamstring injury. I will however be doing the London Marathon in April 24, so I was going to ask if people who had kindly already sponsored me wouldn't mind me transferring their donation from the GNR to the London event?



I will also be doing a couple of fundraising events for my chosen charity, Nerve Tumours UK, the first of which will be part of The Bell quiz on Sept 3rd. I will advise you of some confirmed dates when I have them. Watch this space!

Many Thanks Graham Whitlock 07495 437359

Thank you! To the YPGNS Volunteers

I'd like to give my thanks and my gratitude for the fantastic job done by the Good Neighbours' scheme's volunteer drivers. For somebody in my position, without them I'd definitely become housebound.

Joan Dyche



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFR
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service are recruiting for Volunteers in your area!

Our Community Volunteers are from a wide range of backgrounds and ages and support and represent the communities they live in.

They support a range of safety initiatives including delivering fire safety talks to community groups, providing home fire safety advice at table top events, supporting crews with training exercises and our educational fire and road safety initiatives. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in we would love to hear from you. You do not need any prior fire safety experience as you will be fully trained for the role.

You can contact us on volunteer@hwfire.org.uk
or head to www.hwfire.org.uk/join-us/volunteers/ to apply.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Drivers Needed



Community Wheels is the provider of Community Transport across north and central Herefordshire. We provide door-to-door travel for people of all ages who do not have access to a car and are unable to use public transport due to mobility difficulties or its unavailability. Before the Pandemic we had 84 volunteer drivers; we now only have 59. The need for the service is increasing, to the point that we haven't enough drivers to help. Therefore, we are looking for volunteer drivers in Yarpole and surrounding parishes. If you are over 21, have a car and some spare time, we'd love to hear from you. A few hours a week could make a huge difference to someone without transport. Our drivers volunteer their time and receive payment for all the miles they drive.

Help others – Learn new skills – Meet new people – Have fun!

Please contact Linda for an informal chat on 01568 737940 or email: linda.jones@hvoSS.org.uk

SMALL ADS



GARDENER WANTED

We need someone observant, hardworking, adaptable, and knowledgeable to help maintain a beautiful garden overlooking magnificent North Herefordshire countryside. Mixed borders, roses, shrubberies, water garden, potager, topiary. No mowing or large tree and hedge work. 1-2 days a week throughout the year. Salary negotiable.

Near Croft Castle

Please ring

(01568) 780230 or 07812 696810

SEARCH FOR LAND TO PURCHASE

I am looking for 1 to 2 acres of relatively flat agricultural land to buy but would also consider leasing. If you are interested in selling or leasing some land, please call Anne on 07733367732.

A Seton-Sykes

Need a building surveyor?



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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

NEWS



September 2023

Post Office

We are pleased to announce that - thanks to all the support we have had from you using our PO to “click and collect” foreign currency and also buying travel cards - the Post Office has reinstated our ability to stock and exchange euros, on demand, in the branch.

This is great news as it means we can provide an instant service and also means that if you only want a small amount of euros we can facilitate this as well as fulfil larger requests.

The service will be reinstated from the end of August onwards. Thank you to all for your support!

Jammy news

We are very happy to be stocking Woodthorpe Preserves from Kington again.

Locally grown fruit and vegetables make their way into their delicious jams, jellies, pickles and chutneys.

From the classic strawberry and raspberry - to peach melba, blackberry and also Whinberry jam.

Picking wild whinberries - the local name for bilberries - on Hergest Ridge and the hills around Kington and the Marches was for very many years a regular summer activity when they were often sold into the fabric trade to make dye.

We also have their apricot chutney, balsamic onion marmalade and apple ginger jelly - as well as others to tempt you with.

Priced at £3.99 a jar this delicious local product will be a treat for your table - and as a local Herefordshire present for friends and family.

Shop Accounts

We'd like to draw shop account holders' attention to a tweak in how you manage your account that could save us some money.

The shop has to pay for every transaction made by debit or credit card. We also have to pay each time we deposit cash into the bank.

It is much more efficient for us if account holders use their account in the shop and then pay the balance off using a BACS transfer from their bank account.

That would reduce our monthly charges and hopefully increase the yearly amount we have available for community grants.

Thanks

Jon

SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

	Shop	Post Office
Monday - Friday	9am - 5pm	9am - 12noon
Saturday	9am - 1pm	9am - 12noon
Sunday/Bank Holidays	closed except for pre-ordered newspapers	

Tel: 01568 780148 E-mail: yarpoleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com



Gallery Café, Saint Leonard's, Yarpole

YOUR COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Café is an important gathering place for the village and generates valuable income towards the running of the church; thank you to all our customers for your ongoing support.

Opening times:

Monday-Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30 for drinks, homemade cakes and scones.

Saturday Brunch 10.30 - 12.30 for our tasty bacon rolls, croissants and the famous "revved up" cheese scones.

Thursday and Friday, 10.30 - 15:00 with light lunch to eat in or takeaway, between 12.00 and 2.00pm. Computer Support Club 2.30 - 4.00pm on Thursdays.

Payments accepted in cash and card.

Check www.yarpole.org WhatsApp, Yarpole Facebook and the noticeboard for updated information and events.

Contact details: Tel: 01568 780594, or in person in the café.



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Contact Chris, **01584 831195**
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www.applewoodcourses.com

CHURCH MATTERS

September 2023



I watched the film of “All Quiet On The Western Front” at the weekend and it made me think about the nature of conflict and how it comes about. It is often the result of people having a different view of how things should be, and not being able to accept that their view is not the only one.

History has shown us that different religious views can lead to conflict and Christianity is not immune to this. The only way we can avoid such conflict is to accept that we all have different ways of expressing and experiencing our beliefs. We need to recognise that we should all be free to express our views, but also need to accept that our views are personal to us and we do not have the right to impose them on others. When someone says something we strongly disagree with the temptation may be to shout them down, but a better way is to listen, discuss and give an alternative view so that an alternative view can be heard by others.

There are many ways to find God and what is right for one person may not be right for another. But then again that’s just my point of view!

*Dear God, when people shout in anger help me to speak calmly;
When people threaten to hit me and hurt me keep me from striking back;
When people try to lead me into a world of wrongdoing give me the strength to walk away and a safe place to go:
A place of refuge, a place of healing, a place of forgiveness .*

(“A Book of Prayers to Keep for Ever”)

Jane Higgins

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Tea, cake, entertainment – and a chance to meet the team

Are there questions you'd like to ask about how St Leonard's Management operates? Do you have suggestions about how you'd like to see the church building maintained and developed for the community? And most importantly, would you like to enjoy afternoon tea while being entertained by local talent? Then please mark this date in your diary: **Sunday, November 5th, 3pm**

We're inviting the whole community to come to the church to meet the St Leonard's Management team, to hear about what we've been doing and to put questions and suggestions to us. This will be followed by tea and entertainment.

St Leonard's is your church, and we run the building on your behalf. We hope you'll come along on Sunday, 5th November at 3pm to ask questions and have your say, enjoy tea and cake, and then sit back and be entertained.

For more information visit our website, www.stleonardsyarpole.com
 or email Andrew Prail (enmorevet@outlook.com)
 or Sue Russell (suetrustee@btinternet.com)

We'll look forward to seeing you on 5th November at 3pm in the church.

Trustees:

Barbara Nurse (banj1@btopenworld.com)

Andrew Prail (enmorevet@outlook.com)

Sue Russell (suetrustee@btinternet.com)



LEOMINSTER SHOPMOBILITY

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PARISH HALL

September 2023

Programme for September 2023

Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Yoga	7.30 - 8.30 pm
Tuesdays	Tai Chi	10.00 - 11.00 am
	Pilates	6.00 - 7.00 pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi	10.00 - 11.00 am
	Art	2.00 - 4.30 pm
Thursdays	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45 am
Fridays	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30 pm

Other Events in September

Tues 5th	Yarpole Group Parish Council meeting	7.00 - 10.00 pm
Fri 22nd	The 4 Cs	11.00 am
Fri 29th	The Mother's Union on 29 September	10:00 to 3:00 pm

**To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern
01568 701996 / amandahordern@aol.com. Or go to www.yarpole.com
and click on 'Church & Parish Hall Bookings' to book online.
If you are interested in joining one of the classes, please email Amanda who
will put you in touch with the class organiser.**

200 Club

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who rejoined or joined for this next 12 months July to June. There are currently 190 members, we could welcome more, if you join before 10th September you'd get 10 months in the club for £10 with a chance to win £50 and other prizes monthly.

We've drawn two months this time, July and August.

The winning numbers for July were: 49 £50, 120 £20, 19 £15, 190 £10.

And August: 70 £50, 4 £20, 55 £15, 9 £10.

Good luck for next time.

Pete Lloyd.



Yarpole Parish Good Neighbour Scheme needs New Good Neighbours!



Yarpole Talk
Community

We desperately need more volunteers!

Yarpole Good Neighbour Scheme has been running for nearly 10 years and our Volunteers have completed over 850 tasks for members of our community during this time. Here are a few comments from some of our clients:

“I would be housebound, if it wasn’t for the Volunteers from the YPGNS”

“I have difficulty filling in forms, the fact that a Volunteer helped me, reduced my stress and anxiety. Thank you”

“I live on my own and have restricted mobility. The YPGNS arranges for me to be taken down to the Gallery Café for a cup of tea and a bit of conversation. It really cheers my week up!”

“Thank you, thank you, thank you YPGNS, you are a lifeline in so many ways, I don’t know what I would have done without you!”

“The last 6 months have been horribly difficult and without the support of YGNS would have been impossible. They have given me numerous lifts to various appointments and been unfailingly kind.

My gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the caring and kind people who run and volunteer for YGNS.”

We hope that the scheme will continue to run, serving the community, for many more years. **However**, without more volunteers coming forward we will have to make the difficult decision to close the scheme, leaving the more vulnerable members of our community (and that might include any of us if life changing events happen) without the comfort of knowing that help from community volunteers is but a phone call away.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER.

If you think you can help us, please contact us on 07885 525776.

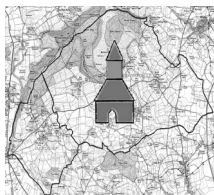
The 4 Cs

Everyone is welcome on the 4th Friday of each month from 11a.m. onwards in the Parish Hall. We take part in all kinds of activities: speakers, local interest topics, and the extra benefit of company, chat, cake and coffee. ALWAYS cake and coffee, lots of it.

Our next session is at **11.00am**, on **Friday 22nd Sept.**

If you need a lift, please ring Val on 01568 780807 or Avis on 01568 780874

Yarpole Group Parish Council September 2023



In July John Cadwallader was co-opted as Councillor for Croft with Yarpole and welcomed by the Parish Council.

Community Meadow. New benches have been treated with preservative and fixed in place at the meadow. Thanks are due to Cllr Andrew Daniels for co-ordinating and completing these tasks, and to residents and Cllr Cadwallader for their invaluable assistance.

Dog faeces were discussed. It is imperative that residents can use the meadow for play, picnics, and other recreational activity without the fear of contamination. The bin is provided for users of the meadow but had again been filled by one person emptying a carrier bag of faeces. If all faeces are not picked up and disposed of, options will be considered including potentially removing the dog bin, requiring dogs to be kept on a lead, or only allowing dogs on the public right of way.

The Parish Council is in correspondence with **Welsh Water** about poor management in Yarpole village. It has also received correspondence from **The National Trust** about Bircher Common. See separate article below.

Public Rights of Way. The Footpaths Officer's offer to trim certain public rights of way on a voluntary basis was accepted, and a new suitable strimmer purchased. The Officer is thanked for his voluntary contributions to the Parishes. It was agreed at the August meeting to install a new gate on the YP7 path replacing one damaged beyond repair.

Planning Applications.

The Parish Council objected to P232103/F - Planning Permission. Land at Leys Lane Bircher HR6 0AY. Proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling with associated development, including access, parking and landscaping (Re-submission of refused application 222800). The Parish Council's concerns included the risk of runoff exacerbating potential flooding of an existing property and poor vehicular access. It was agreed the proposal is contrary to the Neighbourhood Development Plan policies YG3 (a) and YG4 (d).

No objections were raised regarding applications P232028/FH - Full Householder. Steps Cottage, Green Lane, Yarpole HR6 0BD. Demolition of single storey building (former post office) and proposed two storey extension. Replace existing windows and re-render existing external walls, or P232050/FH - Full Householder Brookside Cottage, Yarpole HR6 0BA. Proposed first floor dormer bedroom extension.

The next scheduled meetings are on Tuesday 5 September and Tuesday 3 October, 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Residents are invited to attend.

Mrs Maggie Brown clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Letter from The National Trust (of particular interest to residents at Bircher)

The Parish Council has received a lengthy letter from the National Trust, in response to ours. In this letter, Ben Shipston states that there is not, as yet, a final management plan for Bircher Common. The next iteration, once finalized, will be circulated for consultation. He also clarifies that there are no proposals to fence off parts of the common

and that the Trust has not seen a copy of the agreement between Lord Croft and the Graziers Association (GA). He asks that the GA share their copy of the agreement with the Trust as soon as possible. It is of concern to the Trust that there is no central data base containing an accurate list of the rights held by each party. Mr Shipston notes that there have been no responses to the concerns raised by Trust staff about livestock numbers and leasing rights which leads him to assume the GA is no longer in existence. The Trust is concerned that some graziers have exceeded their rights and would welcome the establishment of a forum to resolve concerns. No licence has been given to train horses. One individual has been granted rights to exercise horses due the nature of their business being commercial. The Trust is aware that many riders exercise their horses on the estate on an informal basis, there being no bridle ways. The Trust is considering introducing a licencing system for all horse riding. At present they are monitoring existing licences and will act if concerns arise.

If any resident would like to see the full letter from Ben Shipston, please contact the clerk.

Trees and Wildlife at the Community Meadow

Hopefully many of you will have visited the Community Meadow now that the playground, benches, and car park have been installed. We are ready to move onto the next phase of the project – tree, shrub, and hedge planting. Our aim is to not only provide a lovely safe place for all residents of the parishes to enjoy, but to encourage our wildlife friends to visit and make the meadow their home. So, if you are you interested in being involved in the development of the Community Meadow, and are willing to contribute your time and help, please join a working party, which will be set up to plant trees, shrubs and hedges and check the health of the existing hedgerows. An ideal opportunity to contribute to the community and increase habitat for flora and fauna. Your input will make an impact!

Please contact Maggie Brown clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk 07398 222 310.

Thank you.

Two Community Grants awarded to the Parish Council

Yarpole Group Parish Council is grateful to the Yarpole Community Shop Association for supporting two initiatives with most generous grants.

The first, a £452.00 grant, enabled the Parish Council to purchase a new round picnic table, with eight seats. The table is in The Community Meadow, and it is hoped it will be well used.



The second, a £1,000 grant, has been offered towards the cost of a defibrillator, planned for Lucton village.

A resounding thank-you to the shop board, all volunteers, and customers without whom this would not have been possible.

Maggie Brown. Clerk.



The Mortimer Community Benefit Society Annual Members Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday, 19th October at 7.00pm at the Parish Hall.

There has been much to celebrate over the past 12 months. We have a pub which is open and a tenant who is an extremely talented chef. The Board have worked hard over the year on a number of issues which will be explained at the AGM.

The agenda for the meeting will be published in the October edition of the Parishioner and will be available to view on the MCBS website (www.themortimercbs.org). Jeff Woodfield, a longstanding Board member is standing down. We need new Board members to help us manage the interests of the Society. The Board would very much like to hear from someone with a background in publicity. We need to publicise the delights of the Bell at Yarpole widely so that we continue to attract a wide range of customers. Anyone interested in this role please email chairman@themortimercbs.org. Applications to join the Board can be downloaded from our website.

We will again have a special resolution which members will need to consider and vote on. Our Articles of Association are now several years behind the current Plunkett Foundation recommended Articles of Association and the Board feel that they should be updated. The changes proposed will be available for members to read on the MCBS website.

In order to vote at the AGM you must be a registered shareholder. Couples who hold shares need to check that they have shares in both their names. There are no joint shareholders. We contacted shareholders that we identified in this position after last year's AGM but I would ask you to check again as we may have missed some couples.

I would ask you to note the date. We need as many shareholders to attend as possible.

In case you have not heard, the popular Quiz Nights will recommence on Sunday, 3rd September.

I would like to thank all shareholders for their continued support of the Mortimer Community Benefit Society and the Bell at Yarpole.

Julian Stokes. Chairman the MCBS.



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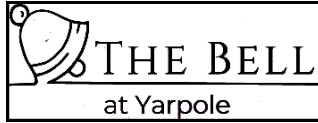


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It has been a busy summer here at The Bell! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our live music and BBQ Night on 3rd August – you helped raised £1000 for Cancer Research UK. We hope you enjoyed The Road Knights and the Louisiana style BBQ - we were sold out by the end of the night. Don't forget, our themed specials continue every Thursday night, and we are delighted that our ever-popular Sunday Quiz night returns on 3rd Sept so make sure you're booked in as we are usually full.

The Bell will be hosting more events over the coming weeks and months, including our Arts and Crafts lunches, so be sure to keep an eye on the website or Facebook page. We really look forward to seeing you at your local village pub.

Cheers Iain & Ceri.

Phone: 01568 780841. Email: dine@thebellatyarpole.

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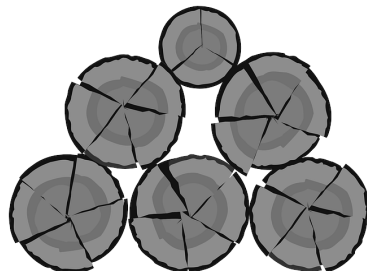
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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Hereford

September 2023

Achievement – One of the things I have done as part of my study leave is to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. I have wanted to do this since I was in my late teens. I actually did around a third of it back in 1986 and have done different parts ever since but never got around to walking the whole path. I can now say that after walking for 16 days I have completed all 186 miles and enjoyed every moment of it! Whilst written out it does not seem quite so challenging, as it was coastal walking it certainly contained a lot of climbing up and down. According to the Coast Path, guide book the ascents and descent are said to be the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest – 35,000 feet! In addition I lost weight and raised with my sister in law £3000 for the Alzheimer’s Society. It actually feels like I have achieved something and it got me thinking about the idea of success.

In our society today, we are often measured by how successful we are and whilst we should all aim to do our best and work hard that will not always lead to success. It is so easy for us to try to emulate others or to search out the golden bullet that will change our fortunes but the reality is chasing after superficial success will not help us spiritually.

The same is true in our churches; it is far too easy to compare ourselves with others or think that there is a clever solution to our problems. The reality is there is no one way to grow our churches or to be successful because it is God who grows the church not us. When we chase after clever tools and copy other peoples’ strategies we miss the point completely.

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:13-17

James writing to the early church recognised that it is only God who can create our spiritual growth and grand plans that don’t include God are fruitless. When we chase success for success’ sake we will simply end up missing what God is about and fool ourselves. James isn’t suggesting we have a fatalistic faith but what he is saying is that we need to see what God is doing amongst us and join in with him. So often, we create plans and then invite God to bless them rather than asking God in prayer what he would have us do. James wants the church to be a place that is faithful to the gospel and to listen to God and not chase after success and achievement so we can boast about ourselves. When we put God first in our lives then we will see achievement in a different light.

Achievement also does not come without cost and it amazes me how so often we stockpile our resources and then wonder why we don’t see more fruit from our church life. Generosity and hospitality are core parts of our faith and yet we often fail to share what God has given us with others. If we truly want to see our churches grow and flourish we have to live out the values of our faith and not allow ourselves to become inward looking. Our faith is not a business transaction where we get what we pay for instead we are called to give ourselves away for the sake of the kingdom. This is what Jesus taught his disciples and it is just as true for us today.

“Don’t pile up treasures on earth, where moth and rust can spoil them and thieves can break in and steal. But keep your treasure in Heaven where there is neither moth nor rust to spoil it and nobody can break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there too!” Matthew 6:19-21

The good news is that we can all achieve things for God if we put our minds to it and he has given us all the resources we need if we put our trust in him. It doesn’t matter if we are part of a church with six members or sixty we all have a part in God’s plan if we ask him and listen for the whispers of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Instead of trying to be successful, we need to learn to be faithful and obedient to the call of God to serve our communities. I love the words of the Missionary teacher William Carey that remind us to trust God and have a go!

“Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”

Derek Chedzey - Archdeacon of Hereford

Ode to the Rambler

Written by Robert Hewitt

Poor standard rose, so erect,
It can't even do a pirouette.
Not a twist, not a twirl
Not a swerve, nor a curl.
But I, the rambler, can twist and twine
Like no other of my kind.

On rustic poles and lattice I'll climb,
The preference isn't really mine.
I will flower from May to November
And, with little care, you may have a
Flower in December!



Thanks to Nic Treece for sending in this poem, written by a very good friend whose funeral she recently had to attend.

Nic says: “He was an avid gardener and would leave me cuttings, vegetables and cut flowers by my front door. In return I would bake him a cake! He would have fitted into the Yarpole community beautifully”.

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

In July we held a successful bring and share meal with delicious contributions from members. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The AGM was held before the meal and the minutes can be read on our website.

August (hopefully!) saw our 42nd Annual Show as I am writing this before the event. A report will be forthcoming next month.

On Tuesday 26th September Paul Green will be giving a talk entitled '**Plants of the Season**'. Paul has more than 30 years of horticultural experience both local and international. In this talk he introduces us to a variety of plants including rare and unusual ones.

Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start. Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person including tea and coffee.

For more information about the club go to www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk. Annual Membership will rise to £15.00 in January 2024.

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

Restoring Yarpole Wildflower Meadows

Have you heard of B-lines? They're a series of 'insect pathways' running through the UK being created by a charity called Buglife. In Herefordshire, Buglife is working with local wildflower charity Herefordshire Meadows to create a series of wildflower-rich corridors that will form a network of insect-friendly habitats across the landscape. We applied to have our fields included in the project and were accepted. Now we're looking for people who can help us sow the seed: can you help?

Some of the seed will come from our own wildflower orchard, and Herefordshire Meadows will supply us with additional seed taken from local wildflower meadows. Sowing will take place on the afternoon of either Wednesday 27th or Thursday 28th September, depending on the weather. Herefordshire Meadows staff will be there to organise and instruct us, so no knowledge or experience is required. It'll probably take a couple of hours, and there will of course be tea and cake to help us on our way.

If you think you might like to take part please email us on peterandsuerussell@btinternet.com and we'll send you more information. The UK has lost about 97% of its wildflower meadows in the last 80 years, and our parish is no exception. We're really excited to be restoring a tiny piece of what's been lost. Do please get in touch if you'd like to take part.

Sue & Peter Russell



Limerick Competition

If someone catches you staring into the distance with a vacant expression, you can always tell them you are composing a limerick. Better still, you can actually make one up using the following first line:

I'm trying to make myself thinner

Jim Ainsworth will read all entries submitted to newsletter@yarpole.org by 8 September (with identities removed), judge which he thinks is the best, and award a bottle of wine to its author when their identity is revealed. The winning entry will appear in the next issue, and fame and fortune will surely follow.

Jim Ainsworth

Number Challenge 1 to 9 = 100

Write out the consecutive counting numbers 1 to 9 like this

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 100

Now using only addition (+) and subtraction (-) make a sum that adds up to 100. You can put numbers together but never change their order.

Here is one as an example

$$1+23-4+56+7+8+9=100$$

I know of another 8 solutions but there could be more – happy hunting!

For solutions see page 38

If you found it easy try the reverse ie. 9 to 1 = 100 following the same rules.

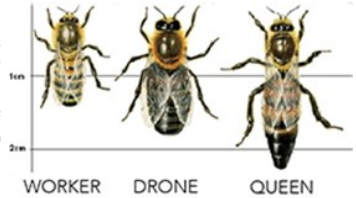
Gordon Ewing



Thanks to Colin Knight for his photos of 'Yarpole pest control!'

LIFE CYCLE OF A QUEEN BEE

Due to the inclement weather during the month of July, I have very little news from the apiary except for Hive no.5, as mentioned in the May issue, which had killed the Buckfast Queen I kindly bought them last autumn, (£50.00 thank you very much girls), and were therefore queenless. Well they have finally produced a queen.



So, in light of the lack of news from the apiary I thought I would take the opportunity of explaining a little bit about the queen bee as she is so vital to the survival of a colony.

The queen bee is the mother of all the bees in her hive. She is the only bee in the hive that lays eggs and is responsible for both the worker bees, (females), the drones, (male bees), and ironically her successor, the queen.

Genetically the worker bee and queen bee are identical. Any fertilized egg, (worker bee), has the potential to be a queen, the only thing that differentiates them from one another is the queen's diet. All larvae are fed royal jelly for the first three days, thereafter they are fed on a mixture of pollen and nectar. However, it's the job of the nurse bees, between the age of 6 and 12 days to choose as many as 20 newly hatched eggs and feed them exclusively on royal jelly. Royal jelly is a substance produced by the nurse bees, from the **hypopharangeal** glands on the sides of their heads. It's a milky white substance made up of 67% water, protein, simple sugars, fatty acids and vitamins including B5, B6 and C.

Queen bees have the shortest development period of any of the other bees in the colony. Once a queen cup has been developed and an egg is present, nurse bees will begin to draw out the comb to about 25mm in length to give the queen larvae room to grow. Nine days after the egg has been laid, the developing queen cell is capped. The larvae spins a cocoon and pupates and the developed queen emerges after 16 days.

With multiple queen cells in the colony, the first queen to emerge from her cell will, on day one, signal her arrival, by making a loud tooting sound. The unborn queens make a gurgling sound and the emerged queen seeks out her rivals and kills them using her sting, which unlike the worker bees is not barbed and therefore she can use it multiple times. (She only uses her sting on rival queens). If she misses any they will fight until only one remains.

Between the 3rd and 5th day she goes on orientation flights to make sure of the exact position of her hive. From 1st to 3rd week she goes on multiple mating flights, leaving the hive in search of a drone congregation area. Hundreds of drones gather together, in the sky, to mate with the queen, and typically they only congregate on sunny days and near their colonies! The queen, however, will fly for 2 - 3 miles in search of suitable mating partners. Honeybees only mate in the air; never on the ground or in the hive. She will only mate with about 10 to 20 drones who will die straight after.

Three to four days after mating the queen starts to lay. She lays up to 2,000 eggs a day, surrounded by her attendants who tend to her every need, and she produces the pheromones that unite and guide her entire colony. She will not leave the hive again and will remain there for four or five years, or until the colony swarms or she dies.

Such is the life and importance of the queen bee!

Meriet Duncan



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The Day I drank from the dirtiest glass in the world

It wasn't done for a bet, nor would I have chosen to drink from it if there was an alternative, but I was a bit stuck.

Many years ago I went to France in the hope of learning more about my two hobbies – eating and drinking – and found a farmhouse in the Bordeaux region. I would pick grapes, see the winemaking process first hand, and simultaneously learn the secrets of real French farmhouse cooking. What better combination?

If there is a reason why bunches of grapes hang at the most awkward level for picking, I don't know it; too high if you are kneeling on the ground, too low if you are standing up. The only way to snip them is to stoop with a bent back whilst carrying a plastic hod on your shoulders into which to throw the grapes, which naturally becomes heavier by the minute. This was from 8 in the morning till 6 in the evening, with a one hour lunch break. After the first week I believe I would have found life in a Siberian labour camp a doddle.

Sadly this particular farmhouse was probably the only one in France (at least I hope it was) where the farmer's wife never cooked a thing. She just opened tins: a daily ration of gin may have had something to do with it. Coupled with the aforementioned workout, this meant that a glass of house wine was a very welcome accompaniment to lunch. I say glass, in fact we drank a litre of wine each, every lunchtime. It was only 11° I kept telling myself, so it wasn't doing any harm; in fact, since it made the afternoons bearable, it was actually doing some good.

I don't know how well the farmer rated his own *vin de table*, but he had a very high opinion of the small quantity of sweet white wine he made each year, as a sideline just for his own consumption. Since I had distinguished myself slightly by being able to interpret between the household and my non-French-speaking fellow pickers, I was eventually considered, after about four weeks, sufficiently worthy of a sip of the golden nectar.

Uncorking a brown litre-bottle from a corner of the press house, he searched round for a glass, and saw a tumbler on a windowsill, covered in cobwebs and containing a few dead flies. That may indicate how often he shared his treasure. He tipped out some of the contents, wiped a greasy oil-smearing finger round the inside – he had just been mending the tractor – poured in a drop and held it out proudly for me to taste. Like I said, had there been an alternative ... But could I refuse the privilege? I felt I was doing this for England. To its credit, it tasted of wine, which surprised me in the circumstances, and I duly showered just enough praise on it, without it sounding as if I wanted more.

Believe it or not, that wasn't the worst the thing about cleanliness on the, oh, I've run out of space. Another time ...

Jim Ainsworth

Solutions to Number Challenge

$$-1+2-3+4+5+6+7+8+9=100$$

$$1+23-4+56+7+8+9=100$$

$$1+2+34-5+67-8+9=100$$

$$123+45-67+8-9=100$$

$$123-45-67+89=100$$

$$123-4-5-6-7+8-9=100$$

$$123+4-5+67-89=100$$

$$12-3-4+5-6+7+89=100$$

$$12+3+4+5-6-7+89=100$$



Music in a summer churchyard. A great afternoon with music, sunshine, a drink and good company. A perfect way to spend a summer's afternoon!

Photo from yarpole.com



Thanks to Mike Bending for the photo on the left of a sparrowhawk in his bird bath, and to Carol Clare for the photo on the right of a giant puffball with Queenie.



Hay bales in Bircher. Thanks to David Cheshire for this photo.

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services Sept & Oct 2023



Date	Service	Church	Time
SEPTEMBER			
Sunday 3 rd Sept	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 10 th Sept	Holy Communion – Common Worship	Yarpole	9.30
Sunday 17 th Sept	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8.30
Sunday 24 th Sept	Themed non communion service	Yarpole	9.30
OCTOBER			
Sunday 1 st Oct	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 8 th Oct	Harvest Thanksgiving	Yarpole	3:00pm
Sunday 15 th Oct	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 22 nd Oct	Themed non communion service	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 29 th Oct	Joint Parishes Service	Yarpole	10:30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:

Rev. Matthew Burns on 01568 614399,
teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk

To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other
information please phone: Prioory Office 01568 612124

Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

Churchwardens: Oliver Elphick (01568 515303)

Jane Higgins (01568 708390)



**Old St Peter's Church
Lucton**



**St Leonard's Church
Yarpole**



**St Michael
& All Angels Church
Croft Castle**