

The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

May 2025

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Thanks to the following for their photos:

Front cover: Sandy Ewing

This page: David Cheshire (1), Carol Clare (2, 3,)

Keith Smith (4,5,6)



FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Welcome to the May issue of the newsletter and thank you to all those readers who have responded to our appeal for donations. We would like to send a personal thank-you message to every donor, but some very generous contributions have been made anonymously, so I'm taking the opportunity to thank our "mystery donors" via this column.

Spring seemed to arrive exceptionally early this year as evidenced by the many excellent seasonal photos submitted by our readers. Please keep them coming!

You are probably aware that the newsletter is available in digital format via yarpole.org/. You might also be aware that we also provide an audio version for parish residents with sight problems. We have been able to do this thanks to the transcription service provided free of charge by the RNIB. Following an organisational consultation, RNIB has informed us that this service has been discontinued with immediate effect. A new provider has been identified but the service will no longer be provided free of charge. RNIB has agreed to subsidise part of the cost for a limited time to ease the transition and this provides us with a short-term solution, but, unfortunately, it will not be affordable in the long term. We must, therefore, make alternative arrangements to ensure that we are able to continue to meet the needs of everyone in the parish. I'd like to draw your attention to the article on page 37 which outlines the solution that we envisage putting into place for the future.

Lynne

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 in The Parishioner, please email newsletter@yarpole.org and we'll send you more information

Prices start at £5 for a ½ page ad

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.

Electricians: KC Electrical 07446 130883; Ian Mackay 07736 303297 or 07396 578662
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Plastering and damp proofing: Daniel Newman 07701 097 897
Handymen: Simon 07846 259549; Andy 07855 813303
Gardening: Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 / 07876197770
House cleaning: Pristine Clean 07733194057
Oven cleaning: Oven Wizards 01885 400337 / 07817 477850
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Osteopaths: Leominster Osteopaths 01568 610610
Homecare: 07375 520646
Solicitors: Norris Miles 01584 810575
Funeral services: Victoria Allen 01584 879035; Oak Tree 01568 250030
Catering: Jackie Thomas 01584 77190 / 07526 12176
Vets: Mortimer Vets 01544 388262

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, all being well, will be on **4 June**. Join her in the café for a coffee and a chat. Pete Lloyd



Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Share local information & news, relevant to our community, via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have almost 150 members! To join send a message with your mobile number to: Katie Daniels **07786 515922**



Calling Facebook Users

To get 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.



Yarpole Welcome Packs

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

Don't miss out on what's happening!

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

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON



CHESS IN THE GALLERY



Monday afternoons, 2.00 - 5.00pm at the
Gallery Café, St. Leonard's Church.

All welcome, including beginners. Refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you.

Arts Society Lectures



Next meeting on **Wed 21 May**: Sculpture and Architecture: David Worthington
Visitors welcome, £8.00 on the door. Membership £45.

More information: <https://www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk>



Orleton Evergreens 2025



29 May: Spring lunch

26 June: 60th Anniversary tea

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



Walking Group



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

May walks: **Friday 9 & Sunday 25 May**

All are welcome to join our walks but please phone to check details, if you are not on the email list. Contact: **Viv 01568 782271** or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



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



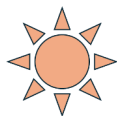
Do you like singing ?? If so,

there is a friendly choir on your doorstep, which welcomes new members

The Birchpole Singers

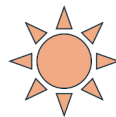
rehearse every week in Yarpole Church (Wednesday 7.15pm)

For more information, contact Steve Walter: stevewltr7@gmail.com; 07791 490439



Not ONE...

Not TWO...



But THREE EXHIBITIONS

coming to our beautiful and versatile St. Leonard's Church

1. As part of Herefordshire Histories Festival - 10 to 18 May

- A weeklong display in the church of the stories that have been uncovered about some of the folk buried in the churchyard and burial grounds - some sad, some funny, some perplexing. Plus a kids' quiz sheet!
- The story of our unique Bell Tower.....in the Bell Tower! WOW!!!
- Weds 14 May (1.30-4.00pm) - afternoon and cream teas ... with live musical entertainment. Pre-order only, book with the Café before 9 May.

2. Children's Art Exhibition - 19 May - 4 June

A colourful display of artwork from the young talented artists of Kingsland and Luston primary schools. Come and admire their skills and imagination.

3. 1,000 Years of Norman Churches 5 - 22 June

To celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of Leominster Priory there will be a do-it-yourself trail around the churches in the Deanery.... including Yarpole. More information will be available next month but we shall be augmenting our Social History and Bell Tower exhibitions with more information around the church about its amazing history.

And a Special Treat!!!

On **Saturday 21 June** we shall be ringing the Bells at 11.00am and 2.30pm.

You have been warned!

Herefordshire Histories Festival 10—18 May

As part of the Festival, 5 talks will take place in different churches across Herefordshire. The two listed below are taking place in north Herefordshire.

St. Mary's Church, Pembridge 2.30pm Tuesday 13 May

Dr. Kathryn Davies: 'Artisan Art in Herefordshire: Insights into early modern, everyday life'

Nearly all houses in the late 16th and early 17th century had some form of painted decoration on their walls, usually in big bold designs and often in strikingly bright colours. Looking at these in conjunction with other aspects of early modern life, we can gain some insight into what mattered to the people who lived in these houses, what they wanted to show off to their neighbours and how they lived their everyday life.

St. George's Church, Orleton 2.30 pm Saturday 17 May

Prof. Keith Ray: 'The Early Church in Herefordshire: Twenty Five Years On.'

In the year 2000, the Leominster History Study Group organised a conference at The Priory: 'The Early Church in Herefordshire' covering documentary history, liturgy, music, and archaeology. Keith Ray, then Herefordshire's County Archaeologist, spoke about the material evidence for the successive Roman, British and Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastical establishments. This talk will reprise the subject (documentary and material evidence for the 'Early Church' in the county) with particular reference to new finds and fresh insights.

All talks are free and some are followed by refreshments. Donations, to be split equally between the venue and Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, will be taken at the door. To help with logistics please register your attendance at <https://www.hhct.co.uk/>



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EVENTS DIARY FOR MAY

Events this month

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 6 May	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00-9.00pm
Wed 7 May	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 -6pm
Fri 9 May	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Sat 10 May	Parish Hall	Private event	All day
Tues 13 May	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
Tues 13 May	Parish Hall	Annual Parish Council Meeting	6.00-7.30pm
Wed 14 May	Gallery Café	Afternoon Tea	1.30—4.00pm
Sun 18 May	St. Leonard's	Celtic Evening Prayer	5.30 -6pm
Fri 23 May	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00-12 noon
Sun 25 May	Various	Walking Group	10.30am

Regular Weekly Activities

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Mondays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00-12 noon
	Gallery Café	Chess	2.00-5.00pm
	Parish Hall	Zumba	6.00-7.00pm
Tuesdays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00-12 noon
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00-11.00am
	Parish Hall	Art Group	2.00-4.30pm
	St. Leonard's	Birchpole Singers	7.15-9.30pm
Thursdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	10.45-11.45am
Fridays	Parish Hall	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm

Note: Modern Jive is pausing for the summer. It will resume in autumn.

See 'What's on' pages for more details of events.

Check www.yarpole.org for up to date information and any changes.



An Afternoon of Elegance

Join Us for

Afternoon Tea

Assorted Teas, Freshly Baked Scones, Delicate Sandwiches, Home Made Cakes

Date: Weds 14 May
Time: 1330 - 1600

Location:
 Gallery Café
 St Leonard's Church
 Yarpole, HR6 0BB

Live music and great company
 Afternoon tea - £15 pp
 Cream tea - £8.50 pp

By pre-order only by May 9th -
 for an afternoon of
 sophistication and delightful
 conversation!

RSVP by Fri 9 May:
gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com
 or
 Call Us: 01568 780594

As part of Yarpole's contribution to
 Herefordshire Histories' Festival

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Help Nature and support the No Mow May campaign

If you haven't supported the No Mow May campaign, started by the charity Plantlife some years ago, then please do consider giving it a go this year. Lock away your mower in May, let your grass grow and you will be giving a very helpful hand to our beleaguered nature.

We have lost most of our flower-rich meadows since the 1930s. As a result of this and other factors, insect numbers have collapsed and bird and mammal numbers are in decline. Climate change is also making life very difficult for our wild species. If we want our grandchildren to experience the joy of seeing butterflies, bumblebees, birds and bats and other native flora and fauna we must do what we can to help. The churchyard supports No Mow May for this very reason. In fact, mowing is minimal here during June and July too. It may look a bit untidy at times, but it looks lovely too, especially in the spring and summer. We now have a notice board in the churchyard listing the flowers you can see by walking the mown footpaths. Enjoy.

Gill Humphrey



Please pick up after your dog!



On Tuesday 8 April we were walking along the path round Stoney Brook hedge to the Church and noticed dog excrement on the path. Using a stick Gilly flicked it off the path and we pushed the "Please clear up after your pet" notice (which somebody had pulled out of the ground in the churchyard), into the ground beside the mess.

The next day the sign had been pulled out and thrown into the hedge, and further fresh excrement was evident further along the path. We found the sign and pushed it into the ground again, beside the first exhibit.

The day after that the sign had vanished again, found hidden even further into the hedge. Some of the first exhibit was back on the path again and had been trodden in and also had obvious walking stick ferrule marks in it.

Why would anybody want to do this? Do they want dog muck trodden into the Church, shop and café?

Pete and Gilly Lloyd

P.S. We have nothing against dogs and we like well-behaved friendly dogs. We have both owned dogs in the past.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Mortimer Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group (PPG)

Covid Spring Booster

This is available on **Saturday 10 May** at Orleton or Leintwardine Surgery if you are

- aged 75 or over
or
- have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment.

To make an appointment, phone 01568 708214 between 10am and 3pm and choose option 5 for the Covid line. Alternatively, book via the NHS app or the Patient Access app.

Carer Links

This is a free service available for unpaid carers in Herefordshire offering a free range of services and support. Contact 01432 663057. Please make reception aware if you are a carer.

Surgery Information

There is now ONE email address for the 3 surgeries: mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net. Please inform the surgery of any changes to your contact details.

Pharmacy

Please allow 72 hours (3 working days) for repeat prescriptions. When ordering online, please state from which surgery you will be collecting your prescription.

Staff Training Closures

The surgeries and dispensaries will be **CLOSED** from 12 - 6.30pm on **Thursday July 10** and **Tuesday October 14**.

Please note changes to dates published in the March newsletter.

For urgent treatment call 01568 70821. Outside these hours, and at weekends, call 111.

Medicine for Ukraine

The practice supports a charity which sends unused medication to Ukraine. If you have unopened in-date medication that is not required, please drop it into the pharmacy.

Volunteer Gardeners Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the gardens at Orleton and Kingsland surgeries. If interested, please phone Fiona Harper on 01568 708214.

Gilly Lloyd
01568 780328

gillymi.lloyd@yahoo.com

Des Cresswell 1937 – 2025

This is a shortened version of the eulogy from Des's funeral. To see the full version, please email newsletter@yarpole.org. Ed



Des was born at Stanley Bank, Bircher Common before the family moved to Yew Tree Cottage. Being one of 10 children probably contributed to his sense of fairness and the diplomatic skills that served him well in later life.

His father had a large flock of sheep. Des's jobs included helping to herd sheep some 15 miles to the auction yard at Craven Arms and then, at the end of the day, herding back the sheep that had been purchased there.

Des left school at 14. He was never short of work and he needed the money to help support the large family. He joined the TA which offered extra income whilst keeping the day job. In early 1961, his father died and Des took over the management of his flock of two hundred sheep.

Ann came to live in Yarpole in the late 1950's with her mother who took over the shop opposite the Bell. Des and Ann married in 1961, moving into Dingle Dale, the cottage next door to the shop. They rented land on Stanley Bank and continued farming sheep, pigs and cattle whilst also having full-time jobs. Des worked for the council on road maintenance and then, later, felling trees for the Forestry Commission. He was also the lengthsman for Yarpole Parish. When Ann's mother retired, Des and Ann took on the shop. Their son Paul was born 1963 and their daughter, Carol, 2 years later.

In 1970 they moved to Yarpole Post Office and Ann became the postmistress. They sold the post office in 1979 and bought Pinewood House on Bircher Common. After more than 10 years there, they had the opportunity to buy the land at Stanley Bank. They lived in a caravan whilst their new house was built.

Des loved his animals. He trained many sheep dogs over the years and latterly gave a home to Jenny the donkey and Oliver the Shetland pony-

For Des, family always came first. He talked with pride about his 2 children and their partners, his 5 grandchildren and his 3 great grandchildren.

He had a wide circle of friends from all walks of life and he also did much for the local community. His bonfires in the quarry were legendary. He was instrumental in raising money for the building of Yarpole's new parish hall and he raised money for the air ambulance. He served as chairman of the parish council and he was chairman of the Bircher Common Graziers from 1989 until he died.

As one farmer put it, Des was 'as much a part of Bircher Common as the gorse itself'.

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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

Annual Members' Meeting

To be held on **Thursday 5 June 2025 at 7.00pm**
at St. Leonard's Church, Green Lane, Yarpole HR6 0BB



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the minutes of the AMM held on 6 June 2024
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2024 AMM
5. Chair's Report
6. Report on the state of membership and the membership strategy
7. Receipt of the financial accounts for 2024
 - a. Acceptance by the members of the 2024 accounts
 - b. To agree that the 2025 accounts may be prepared without an audit and presented with an accountant's report.
8. Appointment of accountants for 2025
9. Election of the Management Board

A summary of the 2024 unaudited accounts will be posted on the shop website at www.yarpole.org prior to the meeting. A full set of the 2024 accounts will be made available for inspection at the shop after the AMM.

*Nomination forms for the election of members to the Management Board are available at the shop and on the shop website at www.yarpole.org. Completed forms must be returned for the attention of the Company Secretary, Lindsay Slade, via the Shop or emailed to laraffle@hotmail.com by **Friday 23 May 2025**.*

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 Email: yarpolshop@mail.com



GALLERY CAFÉ



Tasty Tuesday will be on **Tuesday 13 May at 1pm.**

Places will be limited so please book early.

Look out for posters with our delicious menu!

Please inform us of any allergies; we are happy to cater for individual needs where possible. To book please email: gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com, call the café during opening hours on 01568 780594 or drop in to see us in person. There will be a booking sheet on the tall cupboard.

**Celebrate the anniversary of VE Day at the Gallery Café.
We will be marking eighty years of peace with a street party
theme; call in for a drink, cake or lunch - no spam on the
menu on 8 May!**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Gallery Café is a busy hub in the village and we need volunteers to help us stay open every day.

Could you help one morning a week?

Pop in to see us on a Thursday or Friday, or email gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com

Gallery Café Opening Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10.30-12.30 for drinks & cakes

Thursday – Friday 10.30-3.00, serving lunch 12-2pm

Saturday 10.30 -12.30 for brunch

For enquiries/bookings , drop in to see us in person or

email gallerycafe@yarpole.org , phone 01568 780594 (during opening hours only)

Check www.yarpole.org or <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>

MORTIMER VETS

Mortimer Vets is an independently run and owned vets.

Here's a bit about us:

- Truly independent local veterinary practice
- Our friendly experienced team offer professional care for your dogs, cats, horses and small pets
- Modern treatment and diagnostic facilities with full in-patient care and out of hours hospitalisation if required
- Preventative health care plans available
- Small animal out of hours advice service using our own vets, supported by Vets Now for emergency treatment if required
- Full 24/7 equine emergency service covering Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire
- Easy access from A49 and A44, ample parking



CONTACT US AND FIND US:



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Opening hours: Mon-Fri - 8.30am-5.30pm
Out of hours emergency service available.

FOLLOW US ON:



Farm Shop – stockists of local and bespoke products of the finest quality and affordable prices. As well as many products home-cooked on site with any quantities able to be made for event/gatherings.

Café - Freshly prepared meals to order showcasing the amazing quality products our area and team produce.

Cakes, traybakes and treats available all day along with a vast array of drinks including freshly ground luxury coffee and our speciality thick milkshakes.

You don't need a main course to enjoy our **Deluxe Whippy ice-cream** in a classic cone or as a sundae pot.

We've also teamed up with a number of dealers bringing a great range of **salvage items** and **garden accessories** as well as a number of **artists** and **crafts professionals**.

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...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2:3)

Last month saw the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, by which He rescued from sin and death all who receive Him, and which made it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

When He hung on the cross, Jesus was carrying all the sin of the world in Himself, and in His death, He bore its penalty. Anyone who trusts in Him for rescue is identified with Him in his death and resurrection and so receives eternal life and the Holy Spirit of God to live in Him lifelong. He is also credited with the perfect righteousness of Christ, which makes us fit to be in God's presence. But anyone who refuses to trust Him will be cut off from God and without any of His blessings that we all now enjoy.

This life is the time when we make our choice of where we will spend eternity: either with God, which is heaven, or without Him, which is hell; and there is only one way to God, which is by trusting in Jesus.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to Him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:5-6)

This is the last Church Matters that I shall write, since I shall step down from being churchwarden on May 11. On that afternoon, at 3pm, we shall hold the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by refreshments and cake! This is when churchwardens and PCC members and officers are elected. Jane Higgins intends to continue as churchwarden, but another is needed to relieve her of part of the load. Several PCC members are also retiring, and new volunteers are needed.

We continue with **Be Still** on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. We also have the **Celtic Evening Prayer** on each third Sunday. From June this will be at 4:30, until the clocks go back again.

The **Herefordshire Histories Festival** happens on the afternoon of **Wednesday 14 May**.

Oliver Elphick

This is the link for the Diocese of Hereford where the parish magazine article, and other material, can be viewed: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/parish-newsletter/>



‘Well, I never knew that’

In 1696, William III introduced a property tax based on the number of windows in a house. People were taxed on all windows over the limit of 6. The Window Tax lasted to 1851 and many older houses remain today with bricked up windows. As these bricked up windows prevented light entering certain rooms the tax was referred to as ‘daylight robbery.’ Well, I never knew that!

You could well find yourself repeating that phrase when you visit our forthcoming exhibition in St. Leonard’s Church, as part of the Herefordshire Histories Festival (HHF), from 10—18 May. SLM, the PCC and our superb Living History Group are working closely together to celebrate the personal histories of a number of local people from years gone by. Our researchers have carried out an incredible job in finding out fascinating facts and information about some of the people buried in our beautiful churchyard and tranquil burial ground. Some are part of our ‘Adopt A Grave’ initiative and I can confirm that all the records highlighted provide intriguing accounts of people from Yarpole, Bircher, Lucton and Croft: stories that traverse the globe. We have re-discovered a very detailed map of all the tombstones and burials in our churchyard and our researchers have updated this map and created a ‘directory’ of all those buried there as well as providing detailed archives of some of their personal histories — all available in our impressive archive files — for you to read, explore and absorb. You will even be able to participate in a historical trail around the churchyard tracing some of the unique memorial headstones that are tucked away. Successful participants will be entered into a draw for a very generous prize.

During the festival we will also be celebrating our unique Bell Tower: one of the oldest wooden structures in England. Rose Jenkins has carried out a thorough update of the history of this much under-valued historical building so there will be a new exhibition in the Bell Tower for you to visit and to enjoy. Such a unique building will then finally receive the recognition that it deserves. And all this on your own doorstep!

But there is more – on **Weds 14 May** from **13.30 to 16.00** you can enjoy a pre-ordered cream tea or afternoon tea served by our award-winning Gallery Café team whilst listening to a local choral group and an instrumental group playing live music throughout the afternoon – you must book by May 9 to avoid disappointment as this event is also being promoted on the Herefordshire Histories Festival website.

Gordon Ewing, Trustee



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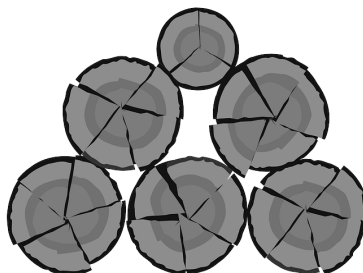
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PARISH HALL

May 2025

Parish hall activities are on the events calendar (on page 8 this month)
To make a booking, contact Amanda Hordern on 01568 701996 or parishhall@yarpole.org.
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 winning numbers for April

17: £50, 166 :£20, 26: £15, 65: £10 Jan Tandy - Lottery Administrator

Parish Hall future dates

28 June	Summer Evening Ceilidh & BBQ
27 September	Flicks & food
22 November	Flicks & food
13 December	Christmas Party night with a bring & share buffet



Don't forget that books can still be taken out from the Parish Hall Library whenever the building is open for an event. Just sign the book and there is no time limit. DVDs and blu-rays of recent Flicks film are also available to borrow.



Dementia Matters Herefordshire Memory Cafés

DEMENTIA MATTERS
HEREfordshire

Our Memory Cafés are designed to enable people with memory concerns, and their carers and families, to get out and meet like-minded people. Every Café involves fun quizzes, activities and occasional guest speakers, with professional support, information and advice available. There is no need to book, so just pop along and come and meet our friendly team!

Join us at:

Leominster: Grange Court, Pinsley Road

Fourth Tuesday every Month 10.30-12.00 (FREE)

For more information please call: 01432 804480 or email
charlotte.banks@dementiamattershere.org.uk

We hope to see you there soon!



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Community

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- We help with travel to shops, hair and medical appointments, small tasks, light gardening and DIY, admin, computer issues, company and pet care!
- Collect the prescriptions each week to ensure your medicine is waiting for you.
- Hold the 4cs - Chat, Coffee, Company and Cake - all welcome!
- Signpost information and funding opportunities for this community

Your donations help us to pay our expenses; thank you clients and donors!

Anna Morley

What's on at 4Cs

4Cs continues on the fourth Friday of each month, in the Parish Hall at 11am. On **May 23** Rose Jacks will lead a seated version of Tai'Chi. With Cake! Coffee! Chat! Company!

We're looking at the possibility of an outing, subject to funding, and have some interesting prospects for the summer, and into autumn.

NEED A LIFT? Ring Val on 01568 780807 or Avis on 01568 780874. See you there!

Move It or Lose It



Most of the over-50s in Yarpole seem to have such enthusiasm for our exercise classes on Mondays and Tuesdays that we've got a waiting list already. If you have been to either a Monday or Tuesday class already, then you are registered, and can attend on either day, £5 per session. If you haven't already joined us, we'll take your details and let you know when there's room. Email Val at valainsworth006@gmail.com

Our leader, Kath, has something fresh, and fun, each week. All abilities and disabilities are welcome. We're going from strength to strength, so get those muscles working.

Val Ainsworth



Yarpole Group Parish Council

News from the Parish Council following the 1 April meeting

The Chairman announced the resignation of Councillor Jane Praill who was sincerely thanked for her dedicated service to the Parish Council and the wider community. Her contributions included valuable work on the Community Meadow project, compiling flooding reports, supporting the preservation of hedgerows and public rights of way. The resulting vacancy will be filled by co-option, unless a formal request for an election has been made by ten electors before 23 April. If you are interested in applying, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Maggie Brown clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07398 222 310.

A previous vacancy, noted in the last edition of The Parishioner, has been filled by Councillor Adam Scott who was co-opted on 1 April and welcomed to the Parish Council.

Two reports were received from the Tree Warden. The first, concerning the hedgerow adjacent to footpath YP14, has been passed to Cllr. Hurcomb, who has been discussing this matter with Planning Enforcement. The second, relating to trees at Leys Lane, will be forwarded to Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty.

Herefordshire Council has confirmed funding will be available in 2025/26 for drainage tasks and improvements to Public Rights of Way (PROW). Lists of potential tasks are currently being compiled. Landowner permission will be sought for PROW-related works before submitting any funding applications.

Following the successful litter-picking event on 22 March, the Parish Council agreed to purchase hi-vis waistcoats and litter-picking tools for use within the parish. Additionally, a new notice board is to be purchased for Bircher, to match those already installed at Lucton and Bircher Common. A quote will be obtained and considered at the May meeting.

A "No Parking – Passing Place Only" sign has been requested from Balfour Beatty to stop parking near the Lucton phone box, which blocks the passing place.

Councillors agreed to donate £45 towards awards for the annual celebration evening at Wigmore School.

No objections were raised regarding planning application P250455/F for a proposed storage shed at St. Leonard's Church.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm (to be confirmed at the May meeting) in Yarpole Parish Hall. Upcoming dates are **Tuesday 6 May** (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), **Tuesday 3 June** and **Tuesday 1 July**.

Residents are encouraged to attend and stay engaged with parish matters. For updates, visit the Parish Council's website www.yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Maggie Brown, Clerk clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Save the date...

**Meeting for all residents of Lucton Parish and Croft & Yarpole Parish
6pm on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at Yarpole Parish Hall**

Ask questions or raise matters of interest / concern for further discussion.

Come Along and Connect with Your Community!

After the Annual Parish meeting, please stay and mingle with local groups and associations - discover all the fantastic things happening in the Parish!



It's a great chance to chat with friendly faces, learn more about what's going on, and maybe even find a new activity or group to get involved with. Refreshments will be available.

Lucton Defibrillator



The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the Lucton defibrillator project is now complete. It is on the wall of Haycart Barn, by the notice board, opposite the ford. [///filed.keyboards.upgrading](http://filed.keyboards.upgrading).

Training will be arranged; please contact the Clerk or Cllr Trotter if you are interested in attending. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thanks are due to **Yarpole Community Shop** for a grant towards the purchase of the defibrillator, **the householder** for permission to place it on their premises, and to the **John Green Foundation** for funding installation costs. May it never be needed.

Parish Clear-up Group



On 22 March, 11 residents collected 15 bags of rubbish in just one hour from Gorbett's Bank, a road on the outskirts of Yarpole. Further clear-up sessions will be arranged.

Di Hill

News from our County Councillor

As I sit to write this column it looks like we are coming to the end of an unseasonably warm spell and whilst I'm sure the farmers are now praying for rain, I hope the recent weather is an indication of a sunny summer ahead. After last year we could certainly do with one.

I am told that as of the 7 April, Sargeants have restored the Leominster Bus timetable following its suspension with the abrupt departure of Lugg Valley. I know that some residents locally have experienced disruption in recent months so please do let me know if this continues so that I can feed back to the team at Herefordshire Council. Whilst we do not regulate the bus companies, the team does have working relationships with them.

Also announced on 7 April was the introduction of a new battery and small electronic item household collection by Herefordshire Council. Residents can utilise this service by placing their items on top of their bins for collection by the waste teams. (Batteries should be placed in bags.) This service comes at no extra charge to residents, and it is part of our target to recycle more household waste. More information on this service and the types of items acceptable can be found on the Council's website by following:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/rubbish-collections/10>

As part of the Council's investment in Public Rights of Way, work is being done to re-open closed footpaths by replacing structures (primarily bridges). 10 of these were done in March and one of the paths over Bromyard way had been closed for 7 years due to the state of the bridge; scandalous really. I am fully supportive of work being done in this area and if you spot anything locally that could do with some TLC then please do let me know.

Herefordshire Council has also confirmed to Parish Councils this month that the Lengthsman Scheme (which allows the Parish to appoint its own contractor to conduct local highways-related works part funded by Herefordshire) has been continued for 25/26 with the same funding as before. The work done by the Parish Council locally using this scheme is fantastic and long may it continue.

A reminder that as Herefordshire Council continues its £13.5m investment in road resurfacing, you are likely to see disruption in parts of the county so please do check your routes before you travel. This will be particularly important as the road resurfacing on the B4361 at Luston and the B4360 in Kingsland get underway at the end of May.

As always, if you have any concerns, issues or would just like a chat then please do get in touch. Hopefully I will see a few of you at the Annual Meeting of the Parish and Parish Council Annual General Meeting in May.

Cllr Dan Hurcomb dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk 07837726821



Tips for Gardening for Biodiversity from Leominster Area of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust



Member Chris Evans remembers his youth in the village of Luston when many properties had “neglected” orchards behind them and before the broadscale arable fields: havens for wildlife, teeming with insects, birds and mammals. One by one they have been “tidied up”, cleared and usually built upon.

He suggests that there are lots of things we can do, many small scale, easy interventions. Here are some of his suggestions:-

1. Lots of websites will tell you what you can do in their “ten top tips for biodiversity”, but rarely the first and most important action – **stop doing harmful things**: spraying pesticides, fungicides and herbicides; less tillage/bare soil (use mulching/min. till); fewer monocultures.
2. Mow long and less – not so short, or often – at least leave islands of no/less mown
3. Provide habitat for **breeding** and **foraging**: ponds (even the size of a washing up bowl), rock piles, wild undisturbed areas; planks, sheets of tin on the ground; log piles, brash piles; leaf piles, compost piles, bug hotels, hedgehog hotels; bird boxes, bird baths, bird feeders.
4. Provide food sources – rich soil and organic matter as a food source for bacteria & fungi which feed insects which in turn provide for birds and mammals
5. Understand what you have (resources) – connect with nature; observe.

Attracting insects involves planting wild flowers, herbs, fruit trees, and other useful species and he gives some examples:

Ground cover: clover, trefoil, yellow rattle, lawn chamomile, thyme, vetch, pansy, violets, crocus

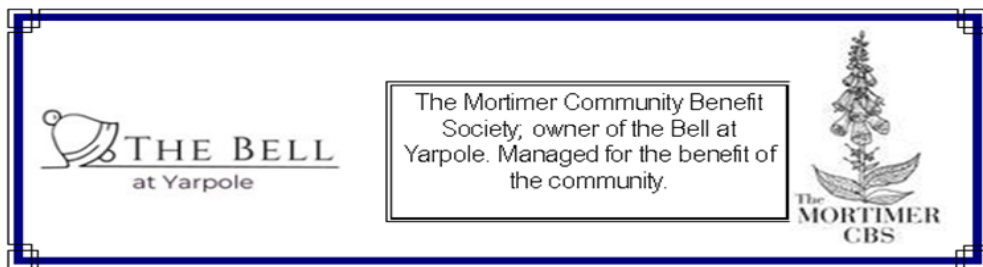
Herb layer: coneflower, marjoram, oregano, hyssop, rosemary, lavender, zinnia, nasturtium (also a climber), comfrey, borage, cosmos, mints, lemon balm, ox-eye daisy, poppy, lupin, calendula, marigold, sage, mountain mint, fennel, hypericum, rose

Shrub layer: sunflower, buddleia, tansy, currants/soft fruit, nettle, Oregon grape (*Berberis*), *Cotoneaster*

Vines/climbers: passion flower, clematis, honeysuckle, ivy, wisteria, rambling rose

Chris reminds us “Most of the pollinator/insect-friendly flowering plants are also going to give a wow benefit of beautiful flowers. Don’t just get hybrids bred for colour though, they often aren’t such a good nectar source as native wildflowers”.

Diana Emes, Communications Secretary
LeominsterAreaBranch@gmail.com



What a day! We managed an amazing 72 covers for Mother's Day lunch. Our highest number yet. If you were one of the 72, a huge thank you and we hope you enjoyed your lunch at the Bell.

We are delighted to announce that we have found two lovely tenants (Will & Josie), to take on the flat above the Bell. We know you will give them a warm Yarpole village welcome. You may also find them helping out behind the bar on occasions.

We hope to continue our ambition to move the running of the pub from committee members and volunteers, towards a mainly-paid staff team. We're really excited that from the 1st of April, Fiona will take over the reins from Graham as our new Bar Manager.

In Wed 8 May we have the Jenny Pipes Morris dancers at The Bell plus a Bonfire and Barbecue event with music to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the VE Day.

Our regular Sunday quiz will move to **Thursdays at 7pm** and will include food at just £8.50pp.

The Bell is participating in the Herefordshire Histories Week, **10 - 18 May**. See our website for details.

Don't forget that we are open for all Bank Holidays this year. We are investing in new garden furniture to replace the older benches in The Bell side garden. Why not come and enjoy a drink in the sunshine?

New for May! We hope to start a weekly 'Meals On Wheels' service, delivering to our local community every Wednesday lunchtime. In order for it to be cost effective, we need up to 30 customers to subscribe. It will include a home-cooked main course and a delicious dessert for just £12. So, if you want a rest from cooking, secure your place now!

Remember, ALL our meals are available to take away and can also be delivered locally. Email us on dine@thebellatyarpole.co.uk or call 01568 601110

There is something for everybody at YOUR local pub. Details will be on the website, or our Facebook page. We also try to get as much info out via old fashioned posters, so keep your eyes peeled.

Continued on next page



The Mortimer Community Benefit Society, owner of the Bell at Yarpole. Managed for the benefit of the community.



The committee has set an ambitious growth target for 2025 which sees us increasing our turnover of last year by 30%. So far, takings in January, February and March suggest we are on the right track to meet that objective. If you have any thoughts to help us achieve this, please do let us know.

If anyone would like to buy shares we would be delighted. (Unfortunately, the maximum shareholding is £10,000.) Being a shareholder entitles you to vote at the AGM and will also allow you to serve on the management committee if you wish to get more involved. As per previous appeals we would greatly appreciate help on the Management Committee.

Julian Stokes

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Moors Meadow, The Garden Past and Present

On 25 March we welcomed Ros Bissell to talk about her seven-acre organic garden. In 1955 her parents bought a sloping seven-acre site.

The property was run as a smallholding and market garden and worked by hand, stocked with a small Jersey herd, hens and two pigs.

After their brood left home, the animals were eventually dispensed with. Her parents concentrated on making a garden, mostly from seed. The hillside site was initially open to the elements and over the years many trees had been planted creating a microclimate. A collection of snowdrops was started from two divisions given to her parents and now boasts sixty species. Thousands of daffodils surround the property in Spring.

In 1999 Ros and started a nursery with her mother, opening to the public in 2002. The site is divided between a lower and an upper garden. There was a lake for many years in the lower garden but over time the water table dropped, and it is now a sunken garden planted with purple and yellow loosestrife, and candelabra primulas. There is a grass garden, a fernery and beds of specimen trees including acers and cornus separated by grass paths which are strimmed, the mowings put straight on the beds as a mulch.

The soil is clay-based loam, and the productive vegetable garden is mulched with compost and covered for the winter. In spring it is raked over to remove any weeds then planted directly, the no dig method. With the exception of a few hours of help per week Ros manages the garden by herself. The herbaceous borders are lightly strimmed and the trimmings put straight on the borders.

Many unusual trees and shrubs have been added, and the garden is open to the public by appointment. Unsurprisingly it is a wildlife haven, with even a stoat taking up residence in the roof. Wildflowers abound.

This year Moors Meadow was made an RHS Partner Garden. Ros, who describes herself as a 'rabid plantaholic' shows no sign of hanging up her gardening boots just yet.

Ghislaine Arundale

Our **Annual Plant Sale** will be held at Orleton Village Hall on **Sunday May 18** at 10.30. Refreshments to include tea and coffee, sausage and bacon rolls and cakes. A big variety of annuals & perennials will be for sale. A sharpening service for tools, knives & scissors.

FREE ADMISSION

On **Tuesday 27 May**, Helen Picton will present a talk entitled **It's Not Time for Bed Yet!** Picton Garden at Old Court Nurseries in Colwall is well known for its Michaelmas daisies. We will hear about this charming garden which is full of unusual plants with interest through the seasons.

Orleton Village Hall. 7.15pm for 8pm start. Non-members £2.50 refreshments included.

Raffle and plant stall.

Annual membership £15 www.ortongardeningclub.co.uk

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

The Triumph of Hope

I've lost more plants than I care to remember. Some have died because I've neglected them, while others have died because I've smothered them with the wrong kind of attention. But recently most of my casualties have been because of wet winters. More of our plants perished during the wet winter of 2023/24 than during all the winters of the previous 5 years put together. Generally I'm quite philosophical about plants that die, but last year I really grieved over the loss of one very special plant: *Dictamnus purpureus*.

Dittany, or 'Burning Bush', is best-known for the aromatic oil that it produces from its leaves in hot summers. The oil ignites if you hold a match to it, creating a brief 'whoosh' of flame that doesn't damage the plant. (That really is true, we've tried it). It's also a stunningly attractive perennial, and the wide clump we had enjoyed for several years was my pride and joy. When it failed to appear last spring, I thought that perhaps it was just late. All spring and summer I kept looking, hoping against hope that it would shoot, but no. Nothing appeared above ground at all, and I reluctantly concluded that it really was dead and gone. Still, I couldn't bear to dig it up – disposing of the corpse seemed so final.

Now be prepared to be as astonished as I was. Last month it started to shoot. There was no mistake about it: my *Dictamnus* really had taken a year off and was now rejoining the world above ground. My heart leapt and all the horrors of the world seemed to disappear. How could this plant possibly survive 18 months of dormancy? I've no idea. It's known that some orchids can remain dormant for a year or more, relying for food on the fungi with which they have a symbiotic relationship. I couldn't find any mention in the literature of *Dictamnus* doing the same, so I guess I'll never know. All I can say is that seeing that plant coming back to life was the best thing that had happened since the world started turning very dark. A metaphor for not losing hope, perhaps?

Sue Russell



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Ian (John) Mortimer 1931 – 2025

Many of the longer-term residents of Yarpole and Bircher will have known Ian Mortimer, who died recently at St George's Nursing Home Telford at the age of 93.

Ian was born and raised in Glasgow, and unfortunately lost his father at the age of two. He studied medicine at Glasgow University, and worked in school health and public health medicine in Warwickshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire until his retirement in 1985.

Shortly after the death of his wife Margaret, Ian moved to Phillips Acre Yarpole in 1995, in order to be closer to his daughter Rebecca who was living in Herefordshire.

He settled quickly into Yarpole and spent a very happy 26 years there, supported by the warm and friendly nature of the community and kept busy with his interests in local history and church buildings. He discovered a somewhat neglected old funeral bier (coffin trolley) in St. Leonard's bell tower and took great pride in its restoration and in improvements to the Bell Tower that he championed.

Ian was also interested in family history and IT, and set up a website about his surname in Scotland in the early days of such developments.

Despite sight loss due to macular degeneration, he embraced technology and continued to live as independently as possible. In 2017 Rebecca moved with her husband Chris to the house next door in order to support his wish to continue to live in Yarpole for as long as possible.

Ian moved to West Eaton Care Home in Leominster three years ago, and then to St. George's Nursing Home in January of this year when his care needs due to dementia increased. He continued to take an interest in Yarpole life and returned for occasional visits, the last event being the 90th birthday celebration for Janet, Sarah and Audrey.

He leaves a son, daughter and five grandchildren.

Ian's preference was not to have a funeral.



Rebecca Stanners

Help us to continue to provide an audio version of The Parishioner!

Following the RNIB's decision to discontinue the audio transcription service, we need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of everyone in the parish, including residents with sight problems.



The solution we envisage uses the PDF version of the newsletter as the starting point.

The next step will be to obtain an audio file using a text-to-speech application such as Speechify, NaturalReader or Balabolka.

The final step will be to copy the audio file onto USB sticks.

If you have experience of using text-to-speech software, we would very much appreciate your input!

For more information, please contact newsletter@yarpole.org ASAP!



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Why I am a parish councillor

My name is Ian Salmon, and I am the chair of Yarpole Group Parish Council. I have lived in Yarpole since 2016. Before this, I was a tenant farmer on the edge of the parish along with my wife and daughter. We moved here to Yarpole after Herefordshire Council decided to sell its agricultural estate and our farm business tenancy ended at Crossbrook Farm, Eye. It was during this time, when I became involved in fighting the sale of the council farms, that I started to become interested in the politics of the local area as it hadn't affected me so personally before.

We had always liked Yarpole and especially the camaraderie in the village, be it the volunteering for the Church, Café, Shop, Pub, Village Hall or any of the many activities that are run by so many people who give up their time so freely. As a new resident, I started to look at what I could do to contribute to the village that would fit whilst still working in a full-time role in the agricultural sector.

Initially, I spoke to the clerk about the role, sat in on a meeting and then was co-opted to be a councillor, eventually becoming chair. Despite moving away for a couple of years to manage a farm for an agricultural college, when I came back to the parish council I picked up where I left off and recently became the chair again.

Ultimately, the work of parish councillors is aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Councillors strive to make the parish a better place to live, work, and thrive. The role is varied covering topics ranging from health & safety, planning, the environment, footpaths, funding, legal matters and anything else in between. If you care about the village, it's a great way to contribute or you can just attend the meetings and air any concerns you have with councillors; no concern is too trivial.

In conclusion, being a parish councillor is a fulfilling role that offers numerous benefits to individuals and the community. It provides the chance to make a real difference, develop valuable skills, and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the local area. For those passionate about community service and leadership, becoming a parish councillor is a meaningful and impactful way to give something back to the village.

Ian Salmon



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Hello everyone! Welcome to another edition of 'Lisa's Book Nook'. I hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful weather we have been experiencing lately. Today, I am going to break with tradition again and only recommend one book to you. It's a book I read a few weeks ago and I have been recommending it to

anyone I can get to listen to me since then, so I thought it would be nice to review it for you here as well. As always, I hope you enjoy it, and I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Queen James by **Gareth Russell** - James VI/I is a man who gets somewhat overlooked when it comes to complete historical biographies. What I mean by that is most of the biographies that have been written about him to date do not cover his life in its entirety, they only focus on certain aspects of it. This brilliant new biography by acclaimed historian and author Gareth Russell changes all that by shining a light on the whole of James's life, from his birth in 1566, to his death in 1625.

Having read some of Gareth Russell's other books, I had high expectations for his latest offering, and I'm very pleased to say they were met. In fact, they were exceeded. Erudite, balanced, rigorously researched, and beautifully written, this is a perfect biography of an imperfect man. I particularly enjoyed the part about James's life in Scotland prior to him succeeding to the throne in England in 1603. Too often dismissed as an uninteresting and unimportant prologue, some of the most dramatic and interesting events of James's life occurred whilst he was living north of the border. Thankfully, Gareth Russell dedicates just over half the book to James's time in his homeland, meaning his turbulent formative years get explored in a level of detail lacking, or completely absent, from other biographies. When you learn about some of the things he was exposed to as a child, you soon come to understand many of his behavioural and personality traits as an adult.

As well as being a gripping account of James's life, the other main focus of this book is the various relationships he had, with both men and women, throughout his life. I found these absolutely fascinating to read about, and I like how Gareth Russell doesn't force any ideas or opinions upon you. He simply writes about how each individual relationship played out and leaves you to make up your own mind whether it was romantic, sexual, platonic, or whatever.

For me, this deserves to become one of the definitive biographies of James VI/I. It is absolutely fantastic, and I came away with a far greater and more complete knowledge of the complex and intriguing James than I ever had before. It might only be April, but I can already safely say this will be one of my favourite books of 2025. If you are in any way interested in the history of this period, please pick this up and give it a go as it really does offer something for everyone. Gareth Russell has several other books in his back catalogue as well, including an excellent biography of Catherine Howard, Henry VIII's fifth wife, a history of Hampton Court Palace, and a biography on the sinking of the Titanic.



Lisa North

The Diet

I've never been on a diet. So I thought I'd give it a go: try something new, see what I'd been missing. I could just take some pills to lose weight, but I'm not a natural pill-taker, and in any case popping pills doesn't have the thrill and excitement of going on a diet.

As to which particular diet, I didn't have any idea. I don't know if you've noticed, but there is advice pretty much every day in the papers, and you can't turn a page at the weekend without bumping into an exercise routine or the very latest, most up-to-date guaranteed diet. But where should I start? Some of them, equally convincing, and presented with confidence and a dash of science, offer completely different ways of getting to the peak of health: eat protein and avoid carbs is one; eat carbs and don't touch protein is another. So much for advice.

Some are promoted by celebs, which is always a turn-off for me. They pronounce on all sorts of things they know nothing about, just for a few quid and to attract the attention of people who think the sun shines out of them. But they can't know everything about prebiotics, postbiotics, microbiomes and calories, as well as everything about holidays, clothes and gardening. In fact my search was beginning to feel like gardening, for which you need a PhD before even starting: to know which plants like the light and which the shade; which need to be planted in spring, which in autumn; which need regular watering, which don't; it's a hobby for some, a nightmare for me.

Ignoring celebs, there's a calorie restriction one, more restricted for women it seems, but my boiled spud doesn't come with a calorie count, neither does that black pudding. It's only if you eat nothing but ready-meals or in chain restaurants that you know because they have to include that information, often in the tiniest print. So how about a 5:2 diet? That means you eat nothing for five days and then stuff yourself for two. Or is it the other way round? Another says I must eat nothing but fruit from now on; another says eat plenty of nuts and fermented foods. Do away with butter? I don't think so. Or I could only eat between 8am and 6pm.

I can understand staying well away from confected sweets and sugary drinks that are specifically designed to have us craving more, because they exist only to keep giant corporations healthy. And I can see the benefits of avoiding things with too many additives, or that have all the goodness processed out of them and junk chemicals added back in. Some even offer to sell you chemicals separately, to boost whatever vitamins and minerals they have just deprived you of.

And it depends on whether I am dieting to improve my heart health, my kidney function, my cholesterol, my gut, or to sleep better, ward off dementia or to live longer. Isn't there one that'll do the whole lot? How many diets do I have to go on?

None suggests that you just sit down and enjoy your dinner together, although this one looks promising: 'Eat food, not too much, mostly plants.' Not sure about the plants, but I think I'll give that one a go.

The Ghosts of Woodland Past

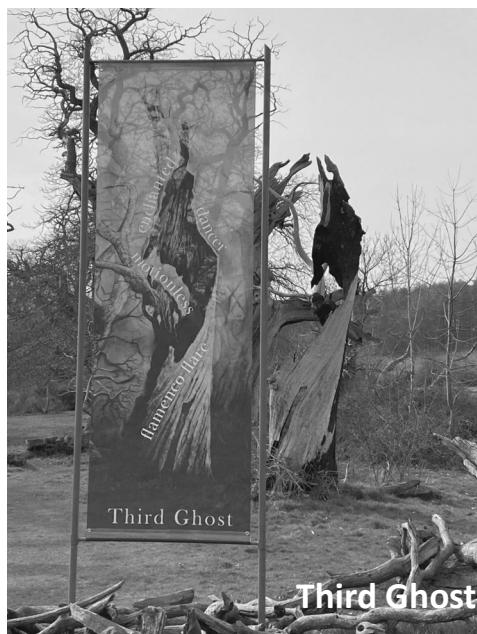
Walking up to Croft on a misty autumn morning last year, I was startled by a strange, spectral shape looming out of the gloom. On closer inspection, I saw it was a large piece of translucent artwork, mirroring the skeletal remains of a giant oak tree standing nearby. I had stumbled upon the marvellous Croft Castle Ghost Tree Exhibition. Each illustration is accompanied by a poem by Sara-Jane Arbury, which reflects the majesty of these wondrous giants, remnants of the ancient broadleaf woodland that once cloaked the Croft estate, of which the Quarry Oak at around 1000 years old and the Candelabra oak (750 years) are among the oldest.

There are seven ghost trees in the exhibition, and all are worth a visit. My personal favourite is the Sixth Ghost, actually three stumps of pollarded oaks, originally used for providing firewood and charcoal before the widespread planting of conifers in the 1920s. These three 'sisters' can be found in a small clearing, just off the main trail from Croft Castle to the Croft Ambrey hillfort.

Of course, the death of the trees themselves is not the end of their usefulness. They soon become a haven for wildlife and plants, a roost for bats and a safe nesting place for birds.

At Croft itself, you can visit the Stables Exhibition, which features all the poems, photos and illustrations from the art walk. Well worth going, the exhibition will be on until November 2025.

Paul Humphrey





Thanks to Keith Smith for the photos on this page:

- 1: Bluebells
- 2: Lesser celandine
- 3: Magnolia Stellata
- 4: Wood Anenomes
- 5: Shropshire Plum Blossom

**Croft with Yarpole and Lucton
Parish Church Services for May and June 2025**



Date	Service	Church	Time
MAY			
Sunday 4 May	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 7 May	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 11 May	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
	Celtic Evening Prayer, followed by	Yarpole	15:00
	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Yarpole	15:20
Monday 12 May	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 18 May	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 25 May	Non liturgical service	Yarpole	10:30
Monday 26 May	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
JUNE			
Sunday 1 June	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 4 June	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 8 June Pentecost	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 9 June	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 15 June	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Celtic Evening Prayer	Yarpole	16:30
Sunday 22 June	Non liturgical service	Yarpole	10:30
Monday 23 June	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 29 June	Group service	TBA	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
Priory Office 01568 612124 Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

Churchwardens: Oliver Elphick (01568 515303) (until 11 May) Jane Higgins (01568 708390)



Old St Peter's Church
Lucton



St. Leonard's Church
Yarpole



St Michael
& All Angels Church