

The Parishioner

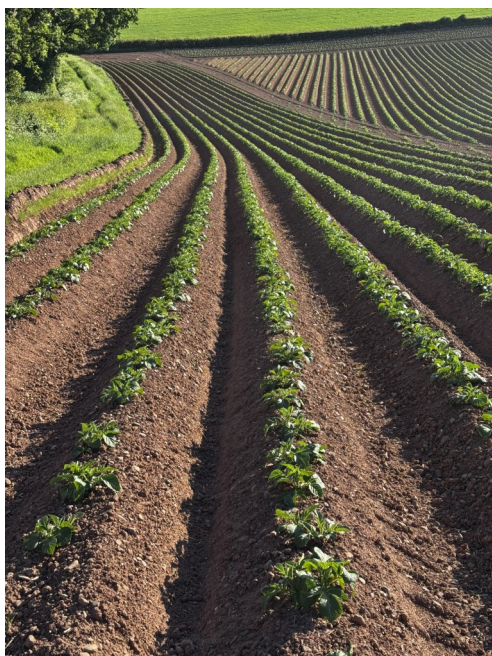
YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

October 2025

In this issue:

Edge Chamber Choir World Premiere.....	7
Acts of Remembrance.....	8
Illegal dumping of toxic waste.....	11
The Day I went to Cyprus.....	35
Lisa's Book Nook.....	37

And all our regular features





Thanks to the following for their photos

Front cover David Cheshire - view from Bircher Common towards Leys Lane; potato crop walking down from Home Farm, Bircher;

This page Keith Smith - Evening Clouds

Di Hill - tree warden Tim Ware measuring & logging oak trees at Vicarage farm

Hedgie O'Brien - rainbow taken from Croft Lane on Sunday 31 Aug

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

As autumn arrives, the lanes and fields around our village are changing once again. The leaves are falling, the evenings are drawing in and there's a crispness in the air. It's a season that invites us to slow down, take notice of our surroundings, and enjoy the simple pleasures of living here.

But with this comes responsibility. Dog mess on footpaths, litter along verges, and waste dumped illegally are not minor issues; they damage our surroundings, harm wildlife, and show disrespect to neighbours.

Most of us take pride in doing the right thing. It's time for everyone to do the same: bag it, bin it, dispose of rubbish properly. The article on page 11 describes the catastrophic outcome arising recently from illegal dumping of garden waste on Bircher Common.

Cleaning up after your dog, using the bins provided and disposing of rubbish responsibly are simple actions that make a huge difference. Fly-tipping and careless littering aren't just unsightly, they're unfair to everyone else who wants to enjoy clean streets and green spaces.

Our village deserves better. Let's stop excusing bad behaviour. A clean and safe community starts with respect, from all of us. Thank you to everyone who already plays their part in keeping our parish a place we can all be proud of.

STOP PRESS The Parishioner is sorry to report the deaths of two members of the community: Clive Sheridan of Lowermead and Bob Phillips of Phillips Acre. - Ed

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 1/8 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.

Audio version of The Parishioner

The Parishioner is also available by email in audio files 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; here are contact details for some services:

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

Builder: Colin Vickress 07968 768011 / 01568 612699

Handymen: Simon 07846 259549; Andy 07855 813303, James 07582 484811

Gardening: Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 / 07876197770

Oven cleaning: Oven Wizards 07817 477850

Chimney sweep: Phil Mundy 01568 780417 / 07837 935102

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

AppleMac Mechanic: Lee Jones 07875 267790

Mobile hairdresser: Dawn Goodwin 01568 770387

Foot health: Stacey Gardner 01568 368306 / 07540566871

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

Waste Management: Maygothling 01544 230364

Pest Control: HWS 01544 231509 / 07818 034301



WhatsApp

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

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



WhatsApp



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, or if you have recently moved yourself and haven't received one, please get in touch with Sue Langley:

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.

For more information contact John Nurse: bandjo@btopenworld.com

Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks.

Please note that future visits will be on Fridays at 11.00.

The next visit, all being well, will be on **Friday 24 October.**

Join Steph in the café for coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd



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



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



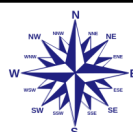
Walking Group

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

October walks: Friday 10 & Sunday 26

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



Flicks & Food



David Attenborough

Ocean with David Attenborough

In his powerful documentary released to coincide with sir David Attenborough's 99th birthday, the celebrated broadcaster explores the planet's undersea habitats, revealing the greatest age of ocean discovery and the oceans vital importance.

Yarpole Parish Hall

HR6 OBL

**Saturday
15 November**

7.30 pm

Tickets

Standard: £5.00

Under 18s: £4.00

Enquiries: 01568 780250

This is a Flicks & Food event. Food £9. Film £5. £14 for food and film. Food at 6.30, film at 7.30. Food must be booked ahead: 01568 701996 or 07531599700.

**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

MADE IN HR6

Is getting bigger!

This year **Yarpole's** Art and Craft fair will be host to some 22 exhibitors and needs more space, so visit us in

St Leonard's, Green Lane, Yarpole, HR6 0BB

AND

The Bell pub, HR6 0BD

Saturday and Sunday 22nd & 23rd November - 10:30 – 16:00

**Come and browse the wide range of hand-made items –
Just in time for Christmas!**

**Free
admission**

**Gallery Café and Yarpole Community shop
open both days**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

There will be a service in the St. Leonard's Church at **9.30am** on **Sunday 9 November**, which is the official Remembrance Sunday.

On **Tuesday 11 November**, a short Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial, Welshman's Lane, beginning at **10.45am**.

Please come along to remember those who have died in conflict everywhere, on these special days of Remembrance.



Join Duane Forrest on an acoustic journey through the roots of reggae to the global influence of Bob Marley. Experience acoustic renditions of legendary reggae songs that have reshaped countless lives, including Duane's own.



From the origin of reggae to Marley's transcendent legacy, immerse yourself in the soulful melodies and transformative power of this iconic music. Audience members are invited to sing along and get involved in this interactive musical experience. Ages 10+ Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbe_JYLo33M

Yarpole Parish Hall, Thursday 16 October 7.30pm, Adult £12 Child £6

01568 780849 www.artsalive.co.uk

Bookings and queries: kinseyjeanette@gmail.com

Church Services at St. Leonard's, Yarpole: Dates for your diary

A **CRIB FESTIVAL** will be taking place on **28/29/30 November**, open to all to participate, and to view.

If you have a crib, (size doesn't matter) which you could put on display, please contact Sue Smith at whiteowlbarn@googlemail.com.

Mary and Joseph will begin their travels around the Parish after the service at the end of November.

A service of **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** will take place on **Sunday 14 December**, starting at 3pm. All are welcome.

Edge Chamber Choir to perform World Premiere

On **Saturday 11 October at 7.30pm** in St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow, the Edge Chamber Choir will give the first complete performance of Cardiff composer Iain James Veitch's *Summer Days*, as part of a concert based on the changing seasons. *Summer Days* includes settings of two poems by local poet Mary Webb.

Moving through the seasons, the programme offers music by a wide range of composers, from Elgar, Ireland, Lili Boulanger and Poulenc, via the gorgeous Autumn Leaves by Joseph Kosma, to more recent writers such as Cecilia McDowall, Veljo Tormis and Joanna Marsh. It concludes with a beautiful carol, *In the Stillness* by Sally Beamish.

Connecting with the Seasons theme of the concert, CSONS from the café on the Millenium Green and SourCed, will be providing an edible treat for concertgoers in the interval.

Tickets are £15 (under 16s free), available in advance from www.trybooking.com/uk/FENT, from choir members or on the door.

St. Leonard's Church and Community Hub

Our church and community hub is a superb venue for your next celebration or special event – whether it be for an exhibition, an illustrated talk, a musical soirée, a family gathering, a special anniversary or a public event.

With flexible space, outstanding acoustics, an atmospheric setting and superb support from a team of volunteers, it is a unique location for you.

For booking enquiries email us at : yarpolechurchbookings@gmail.com

Arts Society Lectures

Lively and interesting illustrated lectures on arts-related topics at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, 2.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Lectures from nationally recognised experts take about one hour.



Next meeting on **Wed 15 October 2025**

Bach & Handel: Separated at Birth

Patrick Craig

Visitors are welcome, paying £8.00 on the door. Membership, which buys you eight lectures and reduced fees for outings and study days, costs £45.

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

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**

COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting:

Monday 13 October - 1.30 - 3.30pm

At Yarpole Parish Hall, Green Lane, HR6 0BL

Cost: £3 towards the hire of the hall

We are a friendly group of crafters of all abilities who meet once a month to craft together and learn new skills

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME!

Please contact Sue Beagley on 07816 060746

or email suebeagley@aol.com for info.



Orleton Evergreens 2025



30 Oct: Nigel Gibbons, Blood Biker

27 Nov: Ian Smith, talk 'Random Ramblings of a Retired Dentist'

11 Dec: Christmas lunch

All Welcome (50+)

Hall meetings at Orleton Village Large Hall 2.30

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

EVENTS DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Wed 1st	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6pm
Thurs 2nd	The Bell	Monthly quiz	6.00pm
Tues 7th	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00-9.00pm
Fri 10th	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Mon 13th	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30-3.30pm
Mon 13th	Gallery Café	Café Church	7.30 –8-30pm
Tues 14th	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
Thurs 16th	Parish Hall	Duane Forrest Arts Alive musical eve	7.30
Sun 19th	Parish Hall	Private event	All day
Thurs 23rd	Parish Hall	MCBS AMM	7.00pm
Fri 24th	Gallery Café	Police Community Support meeting	11.00am
Fri 24th	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00-12 noon
Sun 26th	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Mon 27th	Gallery Café	Café Church	7.30 –8-30pm

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

See 'What's on' pages for more details of events
Check www.yarpole.org for up to date information and any changes

Illegal dumping of toxic garden waste on Bircher Common

During mid-August, eight sheep died on Bircher Common and a considerable number were made ill. We believe this was due to poisoning, from eating garden waste which had been illegally dumped on the common.

The owner of the sheep had a vet carry out a postmortem and the conclusion based on evidence found in the stomach contents was that they had been poisoned from eating a shrub/small tree called Choke Cherry. The leaves contain cyanide.

Despite several very detailed searches on the common we have been unable to find any such plant growing on or close to the common. However, we found at least two piles of garden rubbish that had been dumped and hidden behind bushes with evidence that sheep had been eating it. We have no proof that this is the source of the poisoning, but the evidence suggest that this is quite likely what happened.

Not only has this incident caused the farmer many hundreds of pounds for each sheep's death, but also a considerable amount of stress.

We have requested that the National Trust place signs on each entrance to the common advising visitors that it is illegal to dump any rubbish on common land. We hope that this will deter transgressors and prevent any recurrence.

Patrick Faulkner chairman of the Bircher Common Graziers

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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

October 2025



Soups, pies, casseroles - the season is upon us!

Fresh local ingredients and stock cupboard essentials from lentils and pearl barley to dried fruit and spices all await you in your local village shop.

Daily Bread

The fresh bread - from authentic organic sourdough to the very popular cornbread - is highly sought after and sales of kindling, firelighters and matches are back in fashion and going well too!

The time of giving cometh

Don't forget if you are posting abroad for Christmas, the economy prices end in October, but the standard international posting dates are all in November, so you may want to start thinking ahead!

Jon & Rowena



**COFFEE
MORNING**
*And grant-making
surgery*

**THE HAYWAIN, LYDE
ARUNDEL, NR HEREFORD
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by kind invitation of Lydia & Tomáš Alexovi

**THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2025
10AM - 12 NOON**

**ALL WELCOME, PLEASE BRING FRIENDS.
MEET TRUSTEES & DIOCESAN
REPRESENTATIVES. CAKES AND PRODUCE
STALL. RAFFLE.**

PLEASE USE ENTRANCE OFF A4110

NO ENTRY FEE - DONATIONS WELCOME





GALLERY CAFÉ

October 2025



Tasty Tuesday will be on **TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER** at **1.00pm**

Places will be limited so please book by Friday 10 October at 3.00pm.

Please inform us of any allergies; we are happy to cater for individual needs where possible.

Tasty Tuesday Menu

MOUSSAKA, WITH SESAME GREEN BEAN SALAD AND GARLIC BREAD
APPLE AND BLACKBERRY CRUMBLE WITH CUSTARD

Vegetarian option too!

The Gallery Café is open every day except Sunday, so you can meet friends, old and new, enjoy our excellent cakes, scones and lunches, and - very important - keep us open!

Thank you to all the people who support the café – you are helping to keep us open.

Anna Morley

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, 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.

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

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: yarpoleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com

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The Parable of the odd socks

This evening whilst I was desperately looking for inspiration for what I would write, I glanced down at my feet and noticed I was wearing odd socks. In my haste to get dressed ready to go to work this morning, I had inadvertently put on odd socks. My intention had been to put on a pair of matching socks, but I had made a mistake.

Reflecting on this I recognised that we often start off with the intention to do the right thing, but, in our haste, or due to lack of thought, we sometimes get things wrong. It reminds me that we are human and as such we are flawed imperfect beings, who often make mistakes.

Sometimes we do things that we know we probably shouldn't, but we go ahead anyway because we think we know best and then suffer the consequences when things don't work out as we hoped.

When this happens, it is easy for us to blame ourselves, feel guilty and bad about ourselves. However in spite of our failings and mistakes God continues to love us and forgive us. God knows that we are not perfect. We are God's children and as any parent forgives its child when it makes a mistake, so God forgives us.

Just as God is willing to forgive us, so we should forgive ourselves and each other when we make mistakes. We need to have compassion for ourselves as through that compassion we will learn to have compassion for others.

Dear Lord, help us to recognise when we have got things wrong,

help us to recognise our failings and sins and to seek your forgiveness.

Help us to learn from our mistakes and to find it in our hearts to accept your forgiveness by forgiving ourselves.

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/>



'Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in fruits.'

Every season is special, and after a hot, dry summer, the changing colours of autumn bring a sense of calmer, cosier days and, hopefully, more time to curl up with a good magazine or book in front of a log fire. What better magazine to read than *The Parishioner*? - so let us not forget the significant efforts and time needed to draw in the enormous range of articles, group information pages and adverts for local businesses and trades. So, a big thank you to Lynne and Hetty for their diligence and endeavour in editing our excellent village magazine.

Our new scaffolding tower is already earning its keep; the external walls of the chancel have been repointed, eliminating damp to the interior walls. The crumbling plaster at the altar end of the church is being replaced and our beautiful colourful banners are now clean and repaired. Whilst our team of volunteers were using the tower we were able to change 20+ LED bulbs on the chandeliers above the nave and the Gallery Café.

The working group is looking at a total refit and extension of the Gallery Café kitchen and prep area. We continue to work with craftsmen to create a more useful and efficient space for Jackie and her team of volunteers to serve drinks, cakes and lunches. The high-quality balustrade that defines the Gallery Café will be extended to the area above the WCs and vestry creating a safer and better storage space for the café and church.

The 'It's Only a Shed' project looks to be reaching a happy conclusion with the siting of a storage shed at the side of the church near the heat pumps. This simple project became an epic saga as we had to apply for planning permission since it will be sited in the village conservation area. We had to present evidence to show that it would not affect local biodiversity as well as jump through numerous hoops presented to us by the church authorities in order to gain permission from the church Chancellor. We rose to the challenge and soon the spare tables and chairs - as well as the scaffold tower - will be stored in our new shed.

Finally, SLM trustees, the village shop board and the PCC are working more closely together to seek ways of sharing expertise and keeping costs down. For example, our insurance company has advised on how we can ensure that any approved volunteers undertaking tasks for the church and SLM are covered by our policy. A more mutualistic relationship should benefit everyone.

Enjoy your autumn evenings cosying up by the fire!

Gordon Ewing Trustee



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PARISH HALL

Friends of the Parish Hall

The Parish Hall has an excellent, hard-working committee, whose members give a lot of time to arranging events, tending to the upkeep of the building and grounds, managing bookings, the accounts and other miscellany!

On some occasions however, we could really do with a little bit of extra help. This may be with cooking for the Flicks, helping at events, grounds maintenance.....

If you feel you could become a "Parish Hall friend" and would be happy to go on a list of people who we could call on from time to time, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Amanda on 01568 701996 or parishhall@yarpole.org

Thank you for any support which you might be able to give us.

Parish Hall Management Committee

200 Club winning numbers for September

154 - £50 159 - £20 115 - £10

Jan Tandy - Lottery Administrator

Can you help us please?

We are looking for somebody (or two people to share the role) to take over as our Booking Secretary as soon as possible please. You don't need any experience. Amanda, our current Booking Secretary, will be there to guide you through everything and ensure a smooth handover.

We are a very friendly committee who very much work as a team and meet approximately every three months. We would be pleased to hear from anybody who might like to come and join us.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact me on 01568 701996 or email: parishhall@yarpole.org for an informal chat, just to find out a little more about the role before making any decision.

The Parish Hall is an important part of the community and is well used for regular classes & private functions, but it does need a **Booking Secretary – could this be you?**

Amanda Hordern - Chair



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





PARISH HALL

October 2025

Future Parish Hall dates

15 November (note change of date)	Flicks & food - David Attenborough's 'Ocean'
13 December	Christmas Party

Parish Hall activities are on our events calendar (on page 10 this month)

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern

01568 701996 / 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.

Buses Update

In September, Yeoman's Travel took over more bus services, including ones serving Bircher and Yarpole: 492 Ludlow/Leominster, 489 Wigmore/Leominster and 498 Leintwardine/Hereford.

There are some changes:

- On Tuesdays and Fridays, the 489 bus into Leominster now calls at Yarpole, St Leonards at 9.56 (previously 9.11).
- On Wednesdays, the 498 service passes through Yarpole at 9:51 and returns from Hereford at 13:35 from the Maylord Orchards stop.
- Changes to the 492 timetable mean that the following buses now pass through Yarpole.
 - To Leominster at 7.53 (Mon to Fri) and 13.43 (Mon to Sat).
 - To Ludlow at 8.44 (Sat only), 10.44 (Mon to Fri) and 14.49 (Mon to Fri).

A trip to Ludlow is now possible Monday to Friday, leaving Yarpole at 10.44 and returning from the Assembly Rooms at 13.15. Also, numerous buses pass through Bircher Turn in both directions.

Current timetables can be viewed on yeomanstravel.co.uk and on Traveline.

Nancy Morgan



Yarpole Group Parish Council

One member of the public and the Tree Warden attended the last meeting on 2 September.

Thanks were recorded to residents of **Bircher** who helped Cllr Cadwallader install the new notice board and the **Men's Shed Group** for the refurbishment of road signs. It all looks very smart!

Stream by the C1039. Assessment of bank stability and advice on the wall (east-side) is expected following a meeting with the Locality Steward. See *Your watercourse – rights and roles* on the Parish Council website under The Parish/Useful Information. The Environment Agency (with help from Cllr Hill) removed absorbent pads used to clear up oil spilled into the watercourse during a road traffic accident.

Balfour Beatty has installed a new chevron sign near Mulberry Meadow, and Passing Place signs have been installed by the Parish Council, in Church Road **Lucton**, and by the Community Meadow. A notice asking drivers to use the village car park rather than parking opposite the Green Lane/Brook Lane junction is to be put up. Whether the 30mph sign (near Mulberry Meadow) can be moved further out of the village will be questioned.

Balfour Beatty will be asked what action has been taken regarding a fence installed on the west side of the C1039, and for the mowing schedule for the verge at Mulberry Meadow.

Councillors agreed to speak informally with householders if hedges are obstructing pavements/highways. If needed, the Parish Council may send a polite follow-up letter. The aim is to ensure safe passage for all pedestrians. The clerk can provide contractor details for hedge cutting if required.

A bench will be purchased to be placed outside the graveyard in **Lucton** and the existing plaque will be transferred.

Obstructions on Public Right of Way LK5 will be reported to Herefordshire Council. A stile on the YP36 near The Knoll will be replaced with a metal gate. **Orleton Footpath Maintenance Volunteers** have offered to install it, for which they are thanked. Residents are encouraged to report issues to the **Parish Footpaths Officer**, David Teale 01568 780 613/07973 195062 davidteale@email.com, or to the clerk.

The first draft of the 2026/27 budget will be discussed in October. Input from residents is welcomed.

How Conservation Areas affect planning was queried. The recent sweeping of Green Lane was discussed, and whether it is necessary to spray weeds along the kerb. Road sweeping will be discussed again in October to enable residents to comment, and to determine the most appropriate time of year for such work. In addition, the problem of potholes at Green Lane Crescent was raised.

Residents are welcomed at Parish Council meetings. Upcoming dates are **Tuesday 7 October**, followed by **4 November**, and **2 December**, all at 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Mrs Maggie Brown, Clerk. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk 07398 222 310

News from our County Councillor

It seems a little early to be writing about Autumn, but with the hot weather we experienced this year the seasons are out of kilter, and the leaves already seem to be falling in a lot of places. The leaf fall can make pavements dangerous and lead to blocked drains and gullies, so if you do see anything locally then please let me know so it can be reported to Herefordshire Council.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Balfour Beatty for replacing some of the damaged concrete posts at the end of the village. This was long overdue and although there is more to do to paint and refurbish the railings in that area, it is a good start. Equal thanks are due to the Parish Council for raising the problem and for also highlighting the state of the hazard sign on the bend by Mulberry Meadow. I am pleased to report this has also been replaced recently.

I know there has been lots of talk locally about Conservation Areas and what protection they actually provide from a planning perspective. I am working to encourage the council to provide better guidance on their website and directly to Parish Councils to ensure that everyone understands what they are and how they work better. I am always happy to help where I can on planning matters, so please do get in touch.

In last month's column I wrote about the Highways work on the B4362 at Cockgate and by the time of publication that should have been completed successfully. A late addition to the programme also means that part of Green Lane by the village hall will be resurfaced and I am trying to secure some work at the edge of the village hall car park at the same time. (I hope by the time you read this that has happened!)

On a final note, this will be the last issue I write for before Bonfire night, so I'd just like to remind residents who are planning on having fireworks to be considerate of neighbours and their pets. It's good practice to let everyone know when you will be doing it so they can make the appropriate arrangements. If you like fireworks but can't be bothered with the hassle, then you can always attend the Orleton Young Farmers Bonfire & Fireworks which is held on the 5 November in Orleton and raises funds for local charities each year.

As always if you have any concerns, issues or would just like a chat then please do get in touch.

Dan Hurcomb
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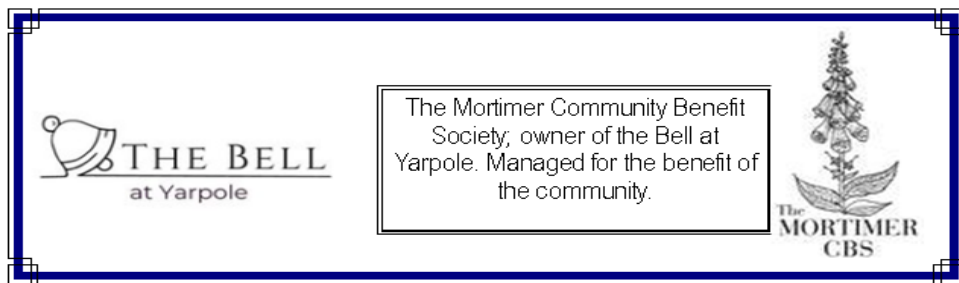
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It seems a while ago since we were complaining about the lack of rain and the heat, when we desperately needed the now newly installed Cellar Air Conditioning to keep the beer cool. As the nights are becoming colder, the log burner in The Bell is a welcoming sight, as is the warm greeting behind the bar.

Upcoming events for your diary

Thurs 2 Oct	Bell Quiz
Thurs 9 Oct	Curry night
Mon 20 Oct	Fish & Chips takeaway
Thurs 23 Oct	Annual Members' Meeting (AMM)
TBC	Bingo – look out for details

Don't forget our Quiz evening remains on the 1st Thursday of the month. There is a different Quiz Master each time. Please pre-book for food at 6pm, quiz starts at 7pm. A good evening's entertainment and a chance to win the smarties!

For one night only! We are going to do a 'Fish & Chips Takeaway' - just fish and chips, nothing else. £14.50 to eat in or takeaway. Please pre-book.

Our AMM will be on **Thursday, 23 October 2025** at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. We will be asking shareholders to approve the committee changing the current year end for the business from 30 June to 31 December.

We urgently need to strengthen the committee running the Bell. Do you have experience in hospitality, HR, digital marketing, building maintenance or IT? We need additional help; without it we will need to look seriously at our current model to see if it is sustainable. This is something that will be discussed at the AMM.

Have you thought of hosting a special event at the Bell? We can cater for groups of all sizes. Even if it is on a day that we are normally closed, we can still cater for your event. Although it's early, our Christmas bookings have already started. Speak to us about your requirements.

If you are thinking of booking a table please use our online service at our website, thebellatyarpole.co.uk.

Finally, remember, ALL our meals are available to take away and can also be delivered locally. Call 01568 601110 to book yours.

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THE 4Cs

Anna Morley

After our September Book Sale and 'Resilience against Power Outages' sessions, in October we have Claire Powell speaking to us about Living with Dementia, a subject which touches us all at some time. I'm sure Claire will be very positive and informative. Bring your friends, neighbours or relatives along to join us.

Parish Hall, 4th Friday, **24 October**, 11.00 for Cake, Company, Coffee and Chat.

28 NOVEMBER : Gordon Ewing and his research on the Jurassic Coast. Dinosaurs? Rocks? Sea and shore? Who knows, but it will certainly be entertaining.

DECEMBER: probably 12th, early because of Christmas, we're hoping that Janet and Linda will help with Christmas table decorations, very popular last year.

More treats in store in 2026.

Need a lift? Ring Val on 780807 or email valainsworth006@gmail.com

MIOLI continues to flourish. If you haven't yet tried it, you really should. It's fun and very good for you. And rave reviews from participants!

Mondays and Tuesdays, Parish Hall, 11.00 till 12 noon. £30 for 6 sessions.
Price rise soon, but worth every penny.

Posters will be in the usual places on the Church path, so watch out for further details.

All are welcome to join us, with a special welcome for new faces.

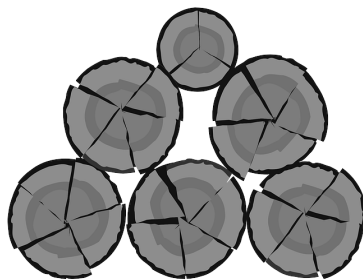
The usual Chat, Company, Coffee and Cake (lots of it) are available at 4Cs every fourth Friday of every month.

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW 2025



On 16 August, ODGC held its 44th Annual Show at Orleton Village Hall. Most classes were open to members only and included vegetables, fruit, cut flowers, pot plants, outdoor containers, baking, preserves and honey. Classes in alcohol-based cordials and a fun section were open to all.

The exhibits were staged between 10.00 and 11.30, after which the club welcomed its judges: David Griffiths (vegetables, fruit and the fun section), Sue Hamer (cut flowers, pot plants and outdoor containers), Barbara Morgan (baking and preserves) and Geoff Morris (honey and home-made drinks). The judges, as always, scrutinised each exhibit carefully and judging concluded at 1pm, before lunch.

The warm, dry summer had caused concern about the number of entries. Gardeners love a challenge, and entries exceeded expectation, 490 breaking the previous record of 335 since records began in 2007. Aubergines, peppers and other sun lovers gleamed, a kaleidoscope of tomatoes, large and small, and ripe fruit including figs and peaches. Not to be outdone, there was an impressive array of cut flowers and roses, and sweet peas scented the hall. A phalanx of glowing bottles and preserves guarded delectable cakes.

The club was particularly pleased to welcome a large number of visitors this year when it opened at 1.30 for viewing and refreshments. A raffle was held at 3.30 after which trophies and certificates were presented.

ODGC is most grateful to Philpotts Nursery and Hinton's Garden Centre for generously donating raffle prizes. Heartfelt thanks to the Show Committee, judges, exhibitors, volunteers, our wonderful 'tea ladies', visitors and all who helped to make our 44th Annual Show a rip-roaring success!

Ghislaine Arundale



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The Curious Gardener: A lesson learned

What could be nicer on a sweltering day than to cool off in a pool? Imagine perching on the edge with your legs dangling in the water, then slipping gently into the depths and savouring the caress of water on your hot skin – delicious. Except this wasn't a swimming pool: it was our garden pond, and 'delicious' is not the word I would use to describe the experience.

The problem had been apparent for a couple of years, but I'd been pretending not to notice. It all started with a visit to a water garden centre to choose a water lily. The lilies were displayed according to size, and right at the end of the tank was a section marked 'miniature, suitable for sinks and tubs'. Our pond is small – not much more than 7 feet across – but it's still considerably bigger than a sink or tub, so we thought we'd have room for two of these dainty miniatures. We brought them home and put them at the bottom of the pond.

24 hours later we were astonished to see that the stems of these lilies had grown remarkably quickly and were now proudly displaying leaves on the water's surface. If we'd had our wits about us we would have realised straight away that these were no pygmy lilies. One year on, the surface of the pond was obliterated by lily pads. I should have acted then, but as they were flowering it seemed a shame to disturb them. Silly me. This summer, having filled the entire pond with their spreading roots, they began climbing out of the water. I couldn't leave it any longer: I had to take action.

I put on a pair of old shoes, tucked my skirt into my undies and got into the pond. The water was clogged with lilies to the point where I could barely move through it, and my feet disappeared into a thick layer of slimy decaying matter. The lilies were so large and heavy that I couldn't shift them, so I attacked them bit by bit with a pruning saw, hacking off chunks so that I could heave them out of the pond and dump them on the side. Every part of me got splattered with black gunk, and I couldn't tell whether the smell was coming from the water or from me.

By the time I'd finished, the level of the pond had dropped a good foot: the lilies had taken up such a lot of space that there hadn't been much room left for water.



The lesson learned? Don't believe everything you read on the garden centre label. You may be in for a big surprise.

Sue Russell

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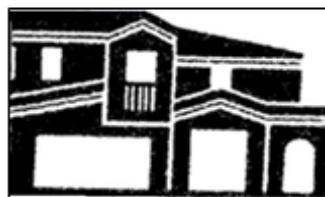
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The Day I went to Cyprus

We could be forgiven for wondering, when a newspaper columnist gives a glowing report about a holiday hotel they are recommending, whether they have been nobbled. Having been flown out to stay in a five-star hotel on a tropical island for a long weekend by a travel company, they are not going to come back and say it's rubbish. So can we trust them when they talk it up as *the* place to spend our holiday?

It's the same with wine, when the writer has obviously been royally entertained: are they saying nice things about the wine in question because it would be rude to say anything else after all that generous hospitality? But if they say that 'despite all the freebies, actually it's not very good, so I wouldn't buy it if I were you,' then you might be inclined to trust their independence a bit more.

I mention this because I found myself in just such a situation once. The Department of Agriculture on the Greek part of Cyprus invited a colleague and me to visit one year: in time for the harvest at the end of August, when it was quite hot. Any later in Cyprus and the sugar in the grapes increases, upping the alcohol level, and acidity decreases, wiping out the freshness.

We tasted a few wines, which were less than impressive, and were eventually taken to a co-operative, where farmers from round about brought their fruit along for communal processing. It's normal throughout Europe, and there are some extremely good co-ops. It was around mid-day, and a line of tractors – each pulling a trailer piled high with grapes – waited patiently for their turn, whilst those at the front had their load weighed and assessed before it all went into the crusher. It was then immediately obvious what had been wrong with the wines we had been tasting.

Grapes need to be kept cool at all times otherwise all the delicate aromatic scents and flavours, along with the wine's freshness, will evaporate into thin air, and you will be left with just flabby boring fruitless juice that you wouldn't pay twopence for, which is what we had been tasting. Leaving them to boil in the mid-day sun on a trailer is the last thing that should happen to them.

So what should I write about when I got back home? I couldn't hide the poor winemaking practices, and I could hardly pretend I hadn't been, and write nothing at all. So I told it like it was, pointing out that just about every other wine region in the world had mastered the basics by now, and that if Cyprus wanted to sell its wines in the UK – the world's primary wine market – it would have to pull its socks up. I'm sorry, but as things stand couldn't recommend anything.

My article didn't go down well on the island. Shortly after it appeared the Department of Agriculture invited me back for re-education, since I had obviously got it all wrong. I didn't go and haven't dared to go back since: I don't want to get drowned in a barrel of plonk as a punishment. Happily, Cypriot wines are now made completely differently and have improved hugely over the past few years. *Now* they can invite journalists.

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Hello everyone! Welcome to the latest edition of 'Lisa's Book Nook'. I hope you all had a lovely summer. As I sit writing this, the nights are drawing in and the days are getting colder. Autumn is here once again. With Halloween just around the corner, what better time for me to recommend some spooky reads to you all. I hope you enjoy them.



***Hear Him Calling* by Carly Reagon** - The ever-dependable Carly Reagon makes a welcome return to my book nook with this chilling ghost story. Featuring a dual timeline, it centres upon Karl and Lydia Stein, a couple who move to a tower in a small village in Wales after Karl inherits the property from his grandfather. Lydia struggles with the isolation of the village and the unwelcoming attitudes of the locals, and things only get worse when strange occurrences begin happening around their new home. It isn't long before the dark history of the house begins making its way out into the open, just as winter kicks in. As with Reagon's previous offering, *'The Toll House'*, this is a deliciously creepy story that is just perfect for the dark nights ahead. It grips you from the very first page, covers a surprising number of topics for a relatively short book, and relies on tension and atmosphere to create scares rather than full-blown blood and gore. Grab yourself a blanket and a hot drink and snuggle up with this. You won't be disappointed.

***Midnight is a Lonely Place* by Barbara Erskine** - For me, autumn is not complete without a Barbara Erskine book, and this is arguably one of the scariest in her extensive back catalogue. Biographer Kate Kennedy moves to an isolated cottage on the Essex coast to escape the fallout of a failed love affair. Initially, all seems well, but things start to go wrong after the discovery of an Ancient Roman site nearby. As the level of paranormal activity escalates and becomes increasingly malevolent, Kate begins to realise the cottage might not be the safe haven she thought it was. Something clearly went very wrong in the local area a couple of millennia before, but what exactly happened? What secrets lay buried that are desperate to come out? You will just have to read it for yourself and find out. This deeply satisfying, entertaining and creepy read will keep you turning the pages long into the night.

***Witches: James I and the English Witch-Hunts* by Tracy Borman** - Halloween wouldn't be Halloween without witches, so although this excellent non-fiction book by acclaimed historian Tracy Borman is not scary in the traditional sense, it is still a great read for this time of year. It takes a look at a real-life incident that occurred at Belvoir Castle in 1613, when the heir of one of England's great noble families fell ill and died in mysterious circumstances. Other members of his family soon began to exhibit similar symptoms, and when his younger brother followed him to the grave a few years later, it wasn't long before the inevitable accusations of witchcraft began to raise their heads. Three women, Joan Flower and her daughters, Philippa and Margaret, found themselves blamed for the deaths, and were arrested and put on trial, although Joan would die before her trial could take place. The case caused a huge wave of hysteria and paranoia to break out across the country, fuelled in part by similar witch-hunts that were taking place across Europe at the time. But were the women actually guilty of murder and witchcraft, or were they simply guilty of being different in a time when non-conformity could result in danger to life? This is a beautifully written, extensively researched book about a fascinating and turbulent time in British history, and I think it is essential reading for anyone who is interested in the 17th century. Lisa North



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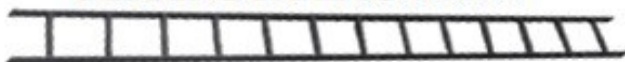
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Thanks to the following for the photos
on this page

Dave Bradford - Yarpole Ramblers, 24 August;

Keith Smith - Crab Apples, Red Hazelnuts, Long-tailed tit

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton

Parish Church Services for October and November 2025



Date	Service	Church	Time
October			
Wednesday 1 Oct	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 5 Oct	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 12 Oct	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 13 Oct	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 19 Oct	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Harvest Festival	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 22 Sep	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 26 Oct	Non-Liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 27 Oct	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
November			
Sunday 2 Nov	Holy Communion - Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 5 Nov	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 9 Nov	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 10 Nov	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 16 Nov	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Celtic Service	Yarpole	16:30
Sunday 23 Nov	Non-Liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 17 Nov	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 30 Nov	Group service	tbc	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

Churchwarden: Jane Higgins (708390)



Old St Peter's Church
Lucton



St. Leonard's Church
Yarpole



St Michael
& All Angels Church