The

Darishioner YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

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And all our regular features











Thanks to the following for their photos.

Front cover: Keith Smith -Early Morning Light

Opposite: Philip Bray - Grass

Snake;

Carol Clare - Acer Colour Val Ainsworth - Pears,

Quince Tree



I IIIS WONTH!!

Yarpole's popular festive

Art and Craft Fair

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

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

NEW - at The Bell pub, HR6 0BD

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Autumn greetings to all our readers and welcome to another edition of *The Parishioner*. I'm sure that it won't have escaped your notice that, after a two-year break, **Made in HR6**, Yarpole's popular festive Art and Craft Fair, is back on 22 and 23 November. This year's event includes an expanded venue, with additional space in the Cider Barn at The Bell, reflecting strong interest from local makers.

Over 20 exhibitors will be showing and selling work across a wide range of media, including:

- Wood turning, weaving, and metal sculpture
- Fabric work such as batik, sewn gifts, and rag rugs
- Handmade books, cards, and lino cut prints
- Jewellery, enamel, and leather accessories
- Felt toys, willow work, and slate bird feeders
- Ceramics, fused glass, cyanotype prints, and beeswax products

The fair supports fundraising for St. Leonard's Management, helping with the church's running costs and development projects. This year, The Bell will benefit financially too.

If you haven't been before, this is an excellent opportunity to see the quality of local talent, tackle your Christmas shopping, enjoy the food at the Gallery Café and The Bell – and support the fundraising efforts for Yarpole's beautiful church.

Lynne

STOP PRESS *The Parishioner* is sorry to report the deaths of two members of the community: Colin Knight of Stepping Hill House and Joanne Cartwright of Old House Cottage, Green Lane. - 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

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.

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.



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





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. Meta 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@varpole.org.

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WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON

Police Community Support Officer meetings

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

Please note that visits are now on Fridays at 11.00.

The next visit, all being well, will be on **Friday 28 November**. 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.

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All are welcome







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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, **normally** on the 2nd Friday and 4th Sunday of every month, at 10:30 by the church but please note that in November, the walks will be on

Friday 14th & Sunday 30th

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



Orleton Evergreens 2025



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

ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE

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

On **Sunday 9 November** a short Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial, Lucton beginning at **10.55am**.

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.



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 19 November 2025**An Arts and Crafts Christmas
Kirsty Hartsiotis

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:

For help with transport contact:

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.



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk



EVENTS DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Date	Venue	Event	Time	
Tues 4	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00-9.00pm	
Wed 5	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6pm	
Thurs 6	The Bell	Monthly quiz	6.00pm	
Mon 10	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30-3.30pm	
Tues 11	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm	
Fri 14	Various	Walking Group	10.30am	
Sat 15	Parish Hall	Flicks - David Attenborough's Ocean	6.30pm	
Fri 28	Gallery Café	Police Community Support meeting	11.00am	
Fri 28	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00 -12 noon	
Sun 30	Various	Walking Group	10.30am	

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Event	Time	
Mondays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00-12 noon	
	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

Do You Need A House Sitter For Christmas?

I am looking for a 3-bedroom house in the Parish to house some well-trained relatives (adults) for Christmas! They would be very happy to tend to any livestock or pets that need attention.

Thank you! Rachel Voysey 07584 340761

Mary and Joseph Tour



It is a Yarpole tradition that each year Joseph and Mary travel around the village in a plastic box, stopping each night with a different host from 1 December right up until Christmas Eve. There is a Christmas prayer and a candle in the box for each host to use as they wish. They stay with each host for one night and then the next day they are taken to their subsequent destination, and the handover is usually accompanied by some coffee, tea or other festive cheer. It's a great way to wish each other Happy Christmas.

We have a rota which will be put in the church near the donation box from 10 November so you can add your name against a convenient date if you wish to join in. Please also add your address and/or contact details so the person before you knows where to come and how to contact you.

We also need to track their whereabouts in case they wander off....one year we found a return rail ticket to London in their box – enough said!

Thank you - Rose Jenkins 01568 780536

Church Services: Dates for your diary

A **CRIB FESTIVAL** will be taking place on **28/29/30 November**, finishing with a Christingle Service at 3.00pm on **30 November**, when Mary and Joseph will begin their journey around the Parish.

If you have a crib, (size doesn't matter) which you would like us to display, please contact Sue Smith at whiteowlbarn@gmail.com.

A service of **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** will take place on **Sunday 14 December,** starting at 3.00pm at St. Michaels and All Angels, Croft.

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE, 24 December at 3.00pm. Mulled wine and mince pies followed by singing.

Yarpole Advent Windows 2025

Would you like to decorate an advent window for Christmas? 2025 will be our 5th year doing this where 24 households make a Christmas-themed window display, one for each day of advent. We would like to encourage new villagers to take part this year as well as regulars. Please get in touch with me and I will allocate you a number, then you design your window and reveal it on that numbered date. So that late numbers can be seen for longer, anyone allocated number 15 or over can reveal it on the 15th. We hope to see lots of new interest.

To participate this year, please contact Lesley Bradford on 07950 725882

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Is Our Shop Facing a Crisis?

In a way, it could be.

As many readers will know, we've been seeking new committee members to take on the roles of **Treasurer** and **Secretary**, but so far, no one has come forward. The current committee is clear: those of us willing to stand again cannot absorb these responsibilities without significantly increasing our existing workload.

We are committed to keeping the shop open and fulfilling its obligations. It remains a vital part of village life, a place we've all rallied around to create and support. But now, we need to share that commitment more widely. Taking on a committee role is a rewarding way to contribute, and we hope others will consider stepping in.

This won't become critical until the next Annual Members' Meeting in **June 2026**, but it would be extremely helpful — and reassuring — to identify new potential committee members well before then, allowing time for a smooth handover.

There's flexibility in how we meet this challenge, so if you're interested — or even just curious — please don't hesitate to speak with me, or contact the current Treasurer and Secretary via Rowena or Kate in the shop, or email me directly at chair@yarpoleshop.org.uk.

It's worth noting that while the committee works with professionalism and dedication, it's also a friendly and welcoming group. I've enjoyed being part of it for many years.

Many thanks,

Jon and the Committee

P.S. The committee is confident that the shop remains on a firm and sustainable financial footing.

Note: The committee member who fulfils the bookkeeper role is standing again.

SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

ShopPost OfficeMonday - Friday9am - 5pm9am - 12noonSaturday9am - 1pm9am - 12noonSunday/Bank Holidaysclosed except for pre-ordered newspapers

Tel: 01568 780148 Email: yarpoleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com



GALLERY CAFÉ November 2025



Tasty Tuesday will be on TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER at 1.00pm

Places will be limited so please book by Friday 7 November at 3.00pm.

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

Meat or Vegetable Pie with Mixed Vegetables and Potatoes, and Peach Bread and Butter Pudding

MADE IN HR6

The Gallery Café will be open during the craft event on
Saturday and Sunday 22 and 23 November
Bacon rolls, followed by light lunches, with hot drinks and cake all day

The Gallery Café is open every day except Sunday, so you can meet friends, old and new, enjoy our excellent cakes, scones and lunches.

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/

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CHURCH MATTERS



As we move from October to November, our minds turn to those who have gone before us and in particular we recall those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts. As I write this, I cannot help but think about the many civilians who have lost their lives or been injured in current conflicts such as Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine to name but a few. In our remembrance services we quite rightly think of and pray for services men and women who have died in war, but we should also pray for all the civilians who have been killed and maimed in war. Especially the young and powerless and those who have risked their lives to save others.

Jane Higgins

"Lord God,

No one is a Stranger to you, and no one is ever far from your care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,

Those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost and those who have left home, or who have run away from home.

Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to Strangers and all in need"

Author unknown, Xavier University

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/

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.

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The modern idea of compiling and promoting an extensive "National Day Calendar" as a commercial venture began with Marlo Anderson, who founded the <u>National Day Calendar</u> in 2013 to curate and publish these observances. November is no exception; it boasts 44 national days or month-long celebrations, including:



World Vegan Month
National Pet Cancer Month
National Pomegranate Month
National Fun with Fondue Month
National Pancreatic Cancer Month
National Gratitude Month.

And notably, the first week of November marks National Trustees' Week.

Here in Yarpole, we are fortunate to have so many organisations that rely on the dedication of trustees, board members, shareholders, and a remarkable band of volunteers. Whether it's serving at the Bell, arranging beautiful flowers in the church, baking cakes for community events, or supporting initiatives like the Adopt a Grave team and the Yarpole parish good neighbours scheme, our village thrives, thanks to those who roll up their sleeves and quietly get things done.

From the Gallery Café and our award-winning shop to the ongoing care of the church fabric, the spirit of service is everywhere. When Sandy and I moved to Yarpole three years ago, we were told to expect to put on weight — cake, it turns out, is a feature of nearly every part of village life!

During the month of November, please say a big thank you to everyone you see rolling up their sleeves on behalf of our community. On behalf of SLM, I would like to express my thanks to my fellow trustees: Sebastian Bowen, Stefano Street and William Talbot-Ponsonby who are ably assisted by our backroom team including Sue Beagley, Audrey Bott, Shanthi Menon, Barrie Morgan, Tim Ware, Jeff Woodfield and Chris Howell. Without their commitment, SLM's success to date would not be so impressive. We also thank the Yarpole Men's Shed which has kindly offered to help assemble and install our new storage shed. We hope this, along with the clearance of excess tables and chairs and the storage of our new scaffolding, will be completed in time for the 'Made in HR6' weekend.

The Gallery Café extension and refit is projected to cost approximately £45,000. This includes extending the high-quality balustrade above the toilets and vestry right the way round to St Francis Chapel. We have submitted an application to a Herefordshire charity for part grant funding for this much needed project and will pursue further support to ensure that SLM's contribution remains around 25% of the total.

The continued success of the Gallery Café is an essential part of our plan to make this project happen. Given the lengthy grant application process and the Church of England's decision-making timescale we envisage the works starting late summer 2026.

Gordon Ewing, Trustee



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Friday 14th November 09.30 – 17.00

Saturday 15th November 10.00 – 14.00

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Going...going...gone

I have been having another dip into the Newsletter archives. I wanted to try and find out what activities were on offer in the parish in the early 1990s, and which, if any, have survived to this day.

The goners

The children's play group

It is perhaps a symptom of the changing demographic of Yarpole, and the fact that more households have two working partners and thus need more full-time child care, that there is no longer a play group in the village. In the early 1990s, though, the play group was thriving. In the November 1993 edition of the Newsletter, Julie Poole announced that on 14 December 'The children will be performing their little play in the village hall', with coffee and mince pies to follow. How charming that must have been.

The Women's Institute

Once a stalwart of village life, this institution, too, has disappeared from Yarpole. But In February 1992, Dr Julian and Challis Stokes gave a talk, with slides, on their six-month stay in Papua New Guinea. The talk was entitled 'They still shoot arrows, don't they?' On 13 January 1994, Mrs Hughes gave a talk on floral arranging. LADY VISITORS MOST WELCOME (original capitals), while the 10 February meeting welcomed Mr Philip Baldwin FRICS, from Baldwin, Russell and Bright, who gave a talk on the history of the firm, with 'antique anecdotes'. How intriguing!

Whist Drives

These were held on Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the village hall. The proceeds of the 30 November 1993 whist drive were to be shared between the church and the play group.

Beetle drives

The play group held one at Luston School on 1 October 1993. For the uninitiated (myself included) a beetle drive is a dice game where people throw a six-sided dice to determine which part of a beetle they can draw. A 6 might stand for a body and a 1 the head, with other numbers representing the legs, eyes and antennae. Whoever completes the whole beetle first wins.

National Transport Token

Anyone who was 65 and over before 2000 will remember these. They were metal discs distributed from the late 1960s, which entitled pensioners to concessionary fares on public transport. They could be collected from the post office. Now we have bus passes of course.

The Yarpole Recycling Group

Conceived in 1972, before council collections, the Yarpole Recycling Group took sorted collections of newspapers, magazines, cardboard and feed bags for sale to a paper merchant at £10 a tonne.

The summer fête

These were an annual event in the village and continued until fairly recently. Gill and I attended the last one, maybe 10 or so years ago.

Garden Parties

The WI president Mrs Yvonne Winsor hosted a garden party at 10 Croft Crescent on 17 July 1993. This was followed two weeks later by a raspberry cream tea held by Richard and Olga Knight at Enmore House, Croft Lane on 31 July.

The florin

Not strictly an activity, the August 1993 edition of the Newsletter bade a fond farewell to the florin, (the old 2 shilling or 10p coin), variations of which had been in circulation in Britain since 1342. Replaced by the lighter 10p piece it ceased to be legal tender on 30 June 1993.

The remainers

Birchpole Singers

A concert was held on 3 October 1992 in St. Leonard's in aid of the local Riding for the Disabled (now gone), and the church restoration. Repairs to St. Leonard's will never be completed!

The Orleton and District Gardening Club

The club held its 14th annual show in the Orleton Village Hall on 21 August 1993. Gill and I went to the most recent one a month or so ago. As good now as then.

Bowling

Still popular today, in the early 1990s, short-mat bowling took place in the village hall every Friday at 2pm and 8pm. Price was 50p for the afternoon and £1 for the evening.

Exercise clubs

These have always existed in Yarpole and, in the past, included yoga, keep fit and aerobics. Now, of course, we have Zumba, Pilates and Move It Or Lose It, among others.

Welsh Water Problems

The March 1994 issue of the Newsletter included a letter from Welsh Water to Harold Dennis of Green Lane, who had made the company aware of the problems Yarpole was facing, this time a loss of supply. Some things never go away, do they?

Quiz evenings

Now a regular event at the Bell, one was held in the village hall on 12 November 1994, with cheese and wine, plus a grand draw, admission £2.50 per person.

And, of course, there are many activities in Yarpole today that didn't exist 30 or so years ago, like Flicks and Food, modern jive classes, T'ai chi, chess club, Made in HR6 and the 4Cs, among many others.

As the French would have it: "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"

Paul Humphrey



YARPOLE PARISH HALL NEWS

November 2025

The Hall Committee and its neighbours have been busy tidying up outside the Hall with hedge trimming and other pruning progressing, and the car park has now been spruced up at the entrance to Green Lane.

In line with the Parish Hall remit to educate, inform and entertain, we are hoping to start a series of talks on a range of topics. Perhaps you or a friend has specialist knowledge on an interesting subject or you maybe you've been on a trip to a fascinating part of the world. We are looking for a 45mins to 1 hour talk, preferably illustrated and with opportunity for questions. If you're interested in contributing please call David Rackham on 01568 780614 or Amanda Hordern on 01568 701996

200 Club winning numbers for September

98-£50 165-£20 34-£10

Jan Tandy - Lottery Administrator

Parish Hall activities are listed 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 contact with the class organiser.

Parish Hall future dates

15 November Flicks & Food 'David Attenborough's' Ocean'

10 January and 11 April Flicks & Food

21 February "Shake off those Winter blues" with a Ceilidh and food



Don't forget that books and DVDs can still be taken out from the Parish Hall library whenever the building is open for an event. Just sign it out in the register and there is no time limit.

First Saturday of the month 10.00 - 12.00

Next session: 1 November

https://leominsterrepaircafe.org.uk

Leominster Community Centre, Church Street,



The Seasons at Highwood

Living in the air above
a falling landscape,
we lie in bed drinking tea
thinking of things we've heard or seen
talking about how we slept, and dreamed,
of Summer's brief flight.

Looking through the geometry
of windows full of clouds,
pink, slate, palest grey painting the blue,
watching it all scudding far and wide
we say how lovely it is to be illuminated
by Autumn's beautiful light.

Seeing billows of mist hover among infinite greens below and beyond, touched by orange and brown, trees already silhouette against the sky, we wonder if we are ready to be folded into Winter's darkening night.

Remembering the day ahead, asking if there's energy for a last mow to give room for crocus to grow, for lifting dahlias into sheltered pots, we dress warmly and plunge into the promise of Spring's delight.

Joanna Latimer

Willow Tit Sighting

According to the Wildfowl and Wetlands trust, "the British willow tit is the UK's fastest declining resident bird and is now rarer than the southern white rhino... it's already extinct from much of southern England where it used to be found". A good friend of ours, an expert bird watcher from Kent, has not seen one there



this century. He came to stay in Lucton this summer and was amazed and delighted to see a whole group in the woods below Croft Ambrey, with many juveniles, so it's certainly not extinct in Herefordshire!

Helen and Mike Norris

Thank you

We would like to say a HUGE thank you for all the support and best wishes from so many, very kind and thoughtful friends and neighbours over the recent difficult weeks.

Eric and Joan Waters - and Oscar

Yarpole Group Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 7 October. Five members of the public were present. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Grant, announced with regret the resignation of Councillor Ian Salmon, Chairman of the



Parish Council. The Council recorded its sincere appreciation for lan's leadership and his dedicated service to both the Parish Council and the wider community.

Having listened to public concerns regarding the use of herbicides to control weeds in roadside gutters, it was decided to discontinue their use for this purpose.

The first draft of the budget was considered. A copy can be seen on the Parish Council website. Residents are welcome to comment. A potential £32,000 precept, using £10,500 from general reserves would equal a £42,500 budget. What would this be spent on? Grants and contributions towards mowing of burial grounds, maintenance around War Memorials and the Community Meadow, verge mowing, and road sweeping in Yarpole village, hall hire, insurance, staff wages, and more. This will be discussed again in November and finalised at the December meeting. Do come along!

For further information following the October meeting, please read the Minutes on the website https://yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk and please subscribe for updates too. Currently 54 people have subscribed, out of a potential 661.

I work 10 hours a week and will respond to your message as quickly as possible. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07398 222 310.

Upcoming meeting dates are Tuesday 4 November, 2 December and 3 February 2026, all at 7pm at the Parish Hall in Yarpole.

Mrs Maggie Brown, Clerk.

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE Patients' Participation Group (PPG) October 2025

General Information New total triage system is now in place. Complete the form online and then you will be contacted with an appointment or signposted to the correct service. An engagement meeting will be held in 6 months with an update on the service.

Staff Training day On 14 January 2026, surgeries will be closed from 12 noon and reopen the following day at 8.30am. You will still be able to access the triage system.

Staff changes Dr Verity Jones leaves in November. We have 5 locums at the moment and Dr Dora Hemson is increasing her sessions.

Reminder If you cannot keep your appointment, please let the surgery know. There were 100 missed appointments last month!

Next PPG meeting 21 January 2026.

Anne O'Brien 07581 402274 anne.ppg@yahoo.com



The end of the year is certainly coming on fast, and life continues at a hectic pace at the moment with lots of local issues coming to the boil at the same time. One of those issues is the B4362 and Green Lane junction at Cockgate. I am absolutely delighted with the road resurfacing and the formal start of the consultation to lower the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph which will also include an extension of the 30mph from the village up to the Village Hall. This is long awaited, and I hope the consultation will be quick so we can get on with actually delivering it. A reduction from 50mph to 40mph at Lucton is a key priority too and I will push Herefordshire Council to begin the consultation process for that as soon as possible.

Whilst on the subject of roads, a huge thank you to Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council for including the entrance to the Village Hall in the recent Green Lane resurfacing; it has really made a difference. I am only disappointed that they did not continue another 50m down Green Lane to include the potholes further down the hill. I have however, flagged these with the Council for action.

A worrying development since I last wrote in *The Parishioner* is the information we are receiving from central government regarding our funding for the next financial year as part of their "Fairer Funding Review". At the moment our current analysis of the financial situation suggests that once the increased demand for services is taken into account the difference between what the council requires and what the council will receive (from Government and Council Tax) Is nearly £28m which will rise to over £120m by 2028/29 if no action is taken. This pressure relates to the revenue budget but it is clear that the task that faces all of us is tough and significant and painful decisions lie ahead. I will of course keep you updated as and when more information on what this means becomes available.

In unrelated news, the Chief Executive has also announced that he will be leaving the Council in March 2026, and I thank him for his work since his appointment in 2021. I will be pushing for a replacement with a local connection who understands the rurality of our county and the pressures that brings in delivering services.

The latest Council meeting took place on Friday 10 October and I was pleased to support three motions at the meeting:

- 1. The Police to reconsider their decision to stop local Police Community Support Officers working after 8pm.
- To promote a "child friendly" Herefordshire.
- 3. To investigate cheaper travel for 16-19-year olds on Herefordshire buses.

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

Dan Hurcomb, dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk / 07837 726821



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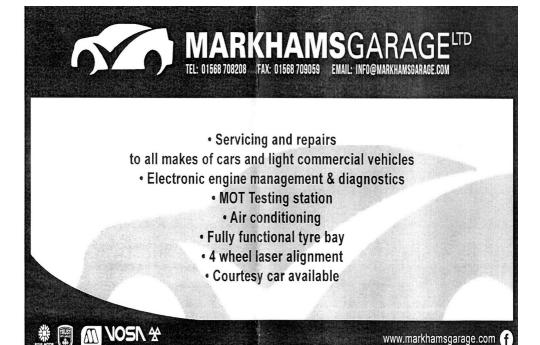
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Robert Hatton, 1945 - 2025

Robert Hatton owned Melrose Cottage in Yarpole for many years, visiting regularly with his wife Carol from California.

Robert was born on January 30th, 1945, in Los Angeles. He had an older brother and sister whose families were an important part of Robert's life along with his wider family. Regular family fishing and camping trips were an important part of his childhood. Growing up Robert was able to explore the desert and mountains as well as frequent visits to the beach, surfing and listening to The Beach Boys on the radio.



Robert graduated from Stanford University, his passion for history well-established, before qualifying as a lawyer in 1970. He joined the Monterey District Attorney's office in 1973 and remained there until his retirement as Deputy DA in 2004. His work, along with the friends he made, were very important to Robert.

Carol and Robert had known each other since their teens; they married in 1968 and enjoyed 57 years of adventures together. Robert's love of history and genealogy brought them to England on many occasions, leading them to buying a cottage here. Visiting castles, looking into family history and exploring the history of churches were a source of constant delight. Robert was a voracious reader and had wideranging interests. An enthusiastic conversationalist, he always had an interesting point of view or piece of historical information to share. And, like many people in the village, Robert loved his pets, which included many cats and a sweet dog.

Both Robert and Carol will be missed by their friends in Yarpole as Melrose Cottage will be going on the market and Carol won't be returning to the village. The newsletter team would like to extend their condolences to Carol and to wish her all the very best for the future.

This is based on an obituary written by Carol, abridged by Adam Scott.

Bob Phillips

May I just say thank you so much to all the people in the village who have been so kind and supportive in my time of loss. Thank you all for such wonderful remembrances and thoughts of Bob. So sad that he had such a short time here in a place that he loved very much.

Sue Phillips

The Footwear Files

You may, like many people, own a pair of trainers: 'soft running or sports shoes without spikes or studs ... worn for training rather than the sport itself', although it can also be 'a shoe of a similar or exaggerated style worn for leisure or as a fashion item,' according to the Shorter Oxford. Unsurprisingly, since I am not in training for a sport, nor in search of a fashion item, they have never been on my radar.

I used to wear something similar called pumps for PE at school, and tennis shoes for guess what, but since my teenage days I have managed with just slippers, wellies and a pair of shoes. The second-best pair of shoes I own has been used for mucking out chickens for twenty years, and they look like it. They are falling apart and full of holes, and of course they let water in, if I choose to wear them when it's raining. But they fit comfortably and just feel like a pair of outdoor slippers: my sole mates. Their appearance, however, prompts any passing family member to try and persuade me that a nice pair of trainers would be a better alternative to grace my shoedrobe.

For years I didn't see the need, but suddenly it all changed. We were due to take a walk through a sandy desert one holiday: not the whole desert, nor indeed the whole holiday, just a day trip around Petra in Jordan. I concede that wellies wouldn't be first choice for this, despite them being in near perfect condition. Although they would keep the sand out, they would need a suitcase all to themselves. Shoes wouldn't do either: I would just look too English traipsing through a desert in shoes and socks. And I don't recall seeing them on Bedouin tribespeople or even Saudi princes in their palatial tents. Anyway, they are far too good for that. Tell me if this is too much information, but my right foot is bigger than my left, so a few years ago I had two pairs of shoes custom-made, to fit each foot perfectly, at humungous cost, so they generally come out when 'posh' is required at weddings and funerals. They were made in London by a specialist orthopaedic footwear company, the kind of place you imagine might well have a Royal Warrant. They didn't, but neither did another shoe specialist I heard about that was offered one but refused, on the grounds that they didn't want to hang a sign outside saying, 'Cobblers to the King.' Anyway, these shoes cost more than our daughter's wedding dress, which gives you an idea. I told her she shouldn't have got such a cheap dress.

Despite the element of nominative determinism, sandals were off the list for a spell in the desert too. Of course they would let sand in, but they would let it out just as fast, I reasoned, but to no avail. I was therefore persuaded that trainers were ideal; they repel sand apparently, it just bounces off. How lucky is that? Unfortunately, after investing in a pair, the trip was called off. I am thus left with a pair of what almost everybody else has but am struggling to find a use for them. Maybe I should take up a sport.

Jim Ainsworth

Yarpole Men's Shed

What's happening at The Men's Shed? We're getting ready for the 'Official Opening' of our Shed on



Saturday 1 November at 2.00pm Everyone is welcome to come along to have a look at The Shed and find out more about Men's Shed membership, social activities and community projects. There will, of course, be tea and cake to help us celebrate our opening!

The Men's Shed role in the village. Yarpole Men's Shed is primarily a social group, providing opportunities for men to meet, chat and share knowledge and experience. Our focus is on men's well-being. Although our group does undertake some community projects it is definitely not a handyman resource for individual householders. We don't do DIY or maintenance jobs in people's own homes as these should be done by professional tradespeople in the area.

New members are welcome! We are looking for more men to join so that we can build up our membership. Whether you're interested in helping with DIY projects, just socialising or you feel you would like to get involved in developing the group's activities, we would like to hear from you.

DIY Life Skills. We have had some interest in the idea of Men's Shed members passing on some basic 'DIY Life Skills' to people who would like to be more confident in completing some of the smaller jobs in their home. Such things as choosing the best tools for a DIY job or selecting the right screws and wall plugs to put up a picture or a shelf. We would not do it for you but could pass on some 'how to' knowledge. If this might be of interest to you, let us know by email.

Would you like to find out more about us? The best ways to get in touch are to email us at yarpoleshed@gmail.com or to let one of our existing members know you're interested. We're a friendly, supportive group and you'll be welcome to come along to a meeting and chat with some members of our group.

Trevor Edwards



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Tales from the Burial Ground William Cope Maund – 25 years a church warden

If you go into the burial ground opposite the church entrance, second row on your right, against the long path upwards are two graves. The rectangular surround is the grave of William Cope Maund and his wife Mary Ann, and the other, a plinth with fallen cross, is of Ernest Barrie Maund, their eldest son. These two graves were among the earlier interments in our burial ground, created when the churchyard became full.



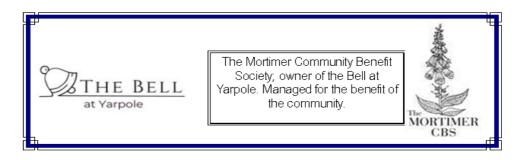
The name Maund is interesting. As a noun it is an old name for a basket, as a surname it often refers to a basket maker. As a place name it was Old English for "a place in the Hollows" and it might be the basis of the Maundy money given out by the British Monarch.

William Cope Maund was born in Pencombe to Fanny (nee Cope) and George Maund. He married Mary Ann Lewis, possibly from Monkland, in 1866 and their eldest child Ernest Barrie was born at the end of that year. They went on to have several other children, Lewis, John, Harry, Leonard, and Percy. Censuses show William as a grocer's assistant to John Cook in Broad Street Bromyard in 1861, as a grocer himself in Bromyard in 1871, a miller in Cholstrey in 1881, and a farmer near Tenbury in 1891. In 1901 he was described as a Master Grocer and with his wife and son John was keeping the grocery stores in Yarpole, one of the two village shops, near the Bell Inn. One side of the grave records his death on December 24, 1927, aged 86 years, 25 years churchwarden of this Parish. The inscription on the opposite side commemorates Mary Ann, who died October 29, 1931, aged 87 years. It is a testament to good living that they both lived well into their late 80s.

Ernest Barrie Maund is recorded in the 1911 census as single, a Lay Clerk and professional singer at St Michaels College, Tenbury. He had probate of his mother's effects, £285 1s 6d. In the 1939 Register he is a patient in Ludlow Cottage Hospital, a "Retired Lay Vicar". He died on 30th May 1940 and his estate of £100 19s 1d was administered by his brother, the Reverend Leonard Thomas Maund. William and Mary Ann's other children sought their fortunes elsewhere and are not buried in Yarpole. John became a fishmonger in Hereford. Percy became a ship's steward, moved to America and died in Brooklyn in 1940. Leonard was a priest in Australia, served briefly in WW1 as a Chaplain 4th Class in Egypt with the Australian Imperial Force, and later was for 25 years Vicar of St Peter's Bayswater, London where he died aged 74.

Much more has been researched about this interesting family and details of research findings and copies of original documents will all be gathered together into one file. This will be available to peruse for a time on the shelves by the bier and eventually will join other files in the Living History archive in the pine cupboard in the side chapel.

Helen Norris & Carol Clare



An apology to those eagle-eyed readers who noticed that our advertised Curry & Pint night did not happen. Unfortunately events overtook us; a large booking on the proposed night. It will return in the New Year.

There will be live music at The Bell on Saturday, 1 November from Brendan & Jo, the duo who sang at the summer BBQ. There will be a small surcharge on drinks to help cover the cost. Do come and support them.

Made in HR6 is also at The Bell. 22 and 23 November. There will be 6 exhibitors displaying their wares in the Cider Barn. Great for Christmas shopping.

Christmas is coming and we are looking forward to receiving bookings for our new Christmas menu. It is available to view at the Bell and on our website and on Facebook. Bookings are available for groups of 6 or larger. Please contact us to discuss your booking.

As we did last year we will serve the Christmas menu on two Fridays before Christmas: **Friday 5 & Friday 12 December** when the menu will be available to individual bookings. We do hope to see you.

Is there a local aspiring DJ who might organise our New Year's Eve 60s, 70s & 80s music? Please let us know if you can help. We will be partying. Details to follow.

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. Speak to us about your needs.

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

'The food was excellent, big portions and great value. We were told by our AirBnB that it was community run; though a more expensive restaurant further away was recommended. I'm glad that we didn't listen. We had a great time'.

PS. Is there a youngster looking for work? We need someone to help with pot wash at The Bell. Email: dine@thebellatyarpole.co.uk for more information.

Julian Stokes

Use local. Or Bye Bye Local.



YARPOLE PARISH GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME



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THF 4Cs

Anna Morley

Following our amazing book sale which netted £115 for our funds in half an hour flat, we'll be looking to do this again next year. Examples of kit which could be a life-saver in the case of a power outage were demonstrated, and advice given to ensure that you had a working fire alarm, a wind-up torch, a gas camping stove, and magical lights which are inert when they are in a socket, but miraculously turn themselves on if grid power is interrupted. What an eye-opener!

In **November**, Gordon Ewing is taking us on a virtual tour of the Jurassic Coast.

December is when we hope our "flower ladies" will show us how to make a Christmas decoration, back by popular demand.

Then, in **January** we'll welcome Patrick Faulkner, our local expert on deer, talking about our rural surroundings and the species of deer to be found on our doorstep.

We've a surprise up our sleeve for **February**, so more of this later.

March will see the Yarpole Crafters showing us their work, and how to do it.

New faces are always welcome at our 4Cs event. Chat, Company, Coffee (and tea), and always CAKE in abundance. No charge, just a donation if you feel so inclined.

Fourth Friday of each month, Parish Hall, 11.00 till noon or later.

Need a lift? Phone Val in advance, 01568 780807.

Join us, bring a friend, a neighbour, your other half, or just come along yourself.

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT continues to flourish on Mondays and Tuesdays, with our regulars now added to by our newcomers. Parish Hall, 11.00 till noon. Kath always has a surprise for us each week. Lots of laughter, lots of smiles, fun and health benefits. Join us!

Val and Avis

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



On 30 September we welcomed back Philip Aubury, former Director of Birmingham Botanic Garden, to give a practical demonstration.

Seeds Philip advises looking out for F1 hybrids and seeds which have been awarded the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM). Using a fine compost the tray is filled and tapped down firmly. Half an inch of compost is sieved on top. Fine seeds, for example foxglove and begonia are surface sown, medium sized seeds like lettuce are covered with a light sprinkling of compost which he prefers to vermiculite. Large seeds are sown in 3-inch pots, six peas or two beans per pot. Containers are gently watered from above and placed in a propagator. After the first pair of true leaves develops seedlings are pricked out into cell trays, handling them by the seed leaves to avoid damage. They are planted so that the seed leaves rest on the compost surface.

Cuttings Philip uses a mix of ¾ multipurpose compost and ¼ sharp sand. Demonstrating with pelargoniums, tip cuttings are detached just below a node (nodal cuttings), stripped of all but two or three leaves and dipped into rooting powder before being inserted around the edge of a small pot. They are watered and covered to reduce transpiration. Internodal cuttings, cut midway between two nodes, work better for fuchsias, clematis and hydrangeas.

Begonias and African violets are propagated by leaf cuttings. A begonia leaf is detached cleanly, the veins on the underside are cut through and the leaf is laid flat in a seed tray of compost topped with horticultural grit and weighed down lightly. Plantlets will develop from the cut veins. African violets are propagated by detaching a leaf cleanly from the base with one inch of stem, dipped in rooting powder and inserted into pots.

Hardwood cuttings, usually taken in autumn, are useful for many shrubs including Salix. Cornus and roses are taken by selecting 12-inch-long pencil- thick stems cut below a node and inserted into tall narrow pots and left in a sheltered position outside

Division Useful for many herbaceous perennials. Philip advises dividing perennials grown on heavy soils in Spring and those on light soil in Autumn.

Like the best television chefs Philip brought 'dishes' prepared earlier to whet our appetites and inspire us, an economical way to increase stock for our gardens and our annual Plant Sale.

On Tuesday 25 November Nancy Lowe's talk is 'Wildlife Gardening'. As an RHS qualified organic gardener, ecological garden designer and permaculturalist she will take the mystique out of this rewarding pastime, offering clear steps you can take to add wildlife benefits throughout your existing garden.

Orleton Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person which includes tea or coffee.

Annual Membership £15.00.

www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk

The Curious Gardener

Long time, no see

Over time you get a feel for the weeds that regularly appear in the garden. They only have to put up a few leaves and you know almost without thinking that it's bittercress, willowherb, creeping buttercup or one of the other usual suspects. Late this summer, however, something appeared at the bottom of the garden that was clearly not one of the regulars. I decided to leave it in and see what it did.

A fortnight later it had tripled in size. The leaves were large and rather handsome, and there was something vaguely familiar about it. I felt sure I'd seen it before. Might it be something that we'd once grown? I flipped through my mental catalogue of odd plants we'd grown in the past in the hope of identifying it.

It looked as if it might belong to the Solanum (Nightshade) family. Could it be Nicotiana sylvestris, the giant Tobacco Plant? No, this stranger had toothed leaves, unlike the paddle-shaped foliage of the Tobacco Plant. What about Thornapple, Datura stramonium, with its night-scented white flowers? The leaves were the right shape, but they didn't have the unpleasant smell of Thornapple foliage. It certainly wasn't Henbane, used for centuries by witches to induce the sensation of flying: this mysterious plant wasn't sticky or clammy to the touch. (Some years ago the celebrity chef, Anthony Worrall-Thompson, recommended in a magazine article that deadly poisonous Henbane be used to add an unusual touch to salads — it turned out he had confused Henbane with Fat Hen, a harmless member of the spinach family.)



Then it came to me: this visitor was the Shoofly Plant, Nicandra Physalodes. It's also known as Apple of Peru or Apple of Sodom (don't ask me, I don't know why!). Goodness knows how many years it's been since we grew this plant, yet here it was sprouting conveniently in a large gap in the border. Six weeks later and it was four foot tall, four foot wide, and covered with its exotic looking lavender-blue flowers, each with a white centre. The flowers turned into handsome inflated seed pods, blue-black in colour and resembling Chinese Lanterns. It's an annual, so it won't last the winter, but given half a chance will self-seed all over the garden.

Where on earth did it come from? Had the seed been buried in the garden for all these years, just waiting for the chance to sprout? Or had it come in from somewhere else, perhaps dropped by a bird? I'll never know. I'd completely forgotten its existence, but its reappearance reminded me how much I used to like it. It was good to be reacquainted again.

Sue Russell



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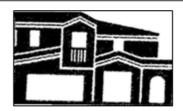


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Clive Sheridan 1941 - 2025

Seven years ago, Clive and Rosie came to Herefordshire looking for somewhere to live, when they discovered Yarpole, a village full of warmth, welcome and community spirit, so of course they had found their home.



Sadly, Clive passed away peacefully with his family around him, after a year of unsettled health. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

In 1985 he settled in Derbyshire with his wife Rosie, and their daughters Lesley and Sarah. Together they created many treasured memories at The Croft Hotel in Great Longstone, a place known for its warmth, and harmony, during the six years they ran it.

The family then began a new chapter in 1991 with Wye Needlecraft in Bakewell. This creative venture became a labour of love for Clive, who poured his heart into every customer's request. He even mastered the art of cross stitch, sewing 28 stitches to the inch - a testament to his patience and dedication!

"Service above self" was more than just a motto for Clive; it was how he lived his life. As a devoted member of the Rotary Club, he gave generously of his time and energy, supporting countless causes and community events.

Clive leaves behind his loving family and many dear friends, each of whom enriched his life in their own way. But the legacy he leaves us all, is his unique sense of humour, his kindness, and his unwavering spirit.

Rest in Peace, dear Clive.

Rosemary Sheridan

Clive Perry 1955 - 2025

Clive Perry passed away on the 9th of August 2025.

Born in Wolverhampton in 1955, Clive met his wife Susan at school. They married in 1978 and raised two sons - Simon and Alex - who carry forward his spirit in their own unique ways.

In 1990, he and Susan moved the family to Somerset, where they spent 11 years surrounded by rolling hills and fresh air. Later, they settled in Shropshire, where Clive devoted over two decades to lovingly restoring a period property. In 2024, he found a new home in Mulberry Meadow, describing Herefordshire as one of his favourite counties. He found joy in the simple pleasures: walking the dog through winding lanes, popping into the village shop, and sharing stories at the local pub.

Clive was a man who didn't seek the spotlight, but whose presence lit up every room he entered. We will miss him dearly.

Based on an obituary written by Susan.





Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services for October and November 2025



Date	Service	Church	Time		
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 Remembrance Service	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		
Monday 17 Nov	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30		
Sunday 23 Nov	Non-Liturgical Service	Yarpole	9:30		
Monday 27 Oct	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30		
Sunday 30 Nov	Group Service	TBC	10:30		
	Christingle Service	Yarpole	15.00		
December					
Wednesday 3 Dec	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30		
Sunday 7 Dec	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30		
Monday 8 Dec	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30		
Sunday14 Dec	9 lessons and carols	Croft	15:00		
Sunday 2 [†] Dec	Holy Communion-Book of common prayer	Yarpole	08:30		
Monday 22 Dec	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30		
Thursday 25 Dec	Christmas Day	TBC	TBC		
Sunday 28 Dec	Non-Liturgical Service	Yarpole	9:30		
			•		

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 (01568 708390)



Old St Peter's Church Lucton



St. Leonard's Church Yarpole



St Michael & All Angels Church