

The
Parishioner
YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

June 2026

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And all our regular features





Thanks to the following for their photos:

Front cover: Brian North - otter in the Fishpool Valley

This page: Dave Bradford - Canada goose family near Shobdon Court Castle

Keith Smith - Early Dutch Honeysuckle & Ceonothus

Carol Clare - Spot the odd one out!

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Welcome to the June edition of The Parishioner.

I am delighted to report that extending our deadline by a couple of days has made a big difference to getting material in on time. For the last few months, everything has arrived by the deadline, except when occasionally contributors have had to ask for an extension for a particular reason which is absolutely fine. Let's hope we can keep this up! It makes a big difference to me and Lynne. Just to remind you all, the deadline is now the 12th of the previous month.

Thank you to those in Lucton who responded to our appeal last month for more contributions from this part of the parish. We are pleased to have received a photo from a resident and a news item from Lucton school. We are always glad to receive items from all the smaller communities in the parish, as well as Yarpole.

We are also very grateful to those who have contributed to The Parishioner's running costs; Some residents have been exceptionally generous and we thank those people wholeheartedly. However, since our appeal in April, only 5% of households in the parish have made a donation. If you have not already contributed, please consider doing so to ensure the continuation of our newsletter. A year's supply of The Parishioner (10 copies) costs each household just under £10.

Donations can be paid by bank transfer (CAF Bank, sort code 40-52-40, account 00013394, Croft with Yarpole & Lucton PCC, reference DP), or by cash or cheque (to Adam Scott, Undercroft, Green Lane, Yarpole, HR6 0BJ) or paid in at the shop.

Many thanks

Hetty

To send in articles and news items, please e-mail us at:

newsletter@yarpole.org

Or leave in the box at the shop

**The deadline for all submissions is
THE 12th 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.



WhatsApp

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Share local information & news, relevant to our community, via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have 175 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.

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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 on a Friday at 11.00. Her next visit, all being well, will be on 26 June. Join her in the café for coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd

COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting:

Monday 15 June, 1.30 - 3.30 pm

Driftwood fish - maximum of 10 people so places need to be booked

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.

ZUMBA FITNESS

Do you like to dance?

Why not try ZUMBA fitness, a programme combining dance and fitness moves to international rhythms with additional toning? Optional dumbbells or toning sticks are supplied.

Go at your own pace and do not be put off or compare yourself to YouTube videos!

Mondays 6 - 7pm at Yarpole Parish Hall, pay-as-you-go sessions.

Any questions, contact Mandy on 07538 218273 or mandyharrison398@gmail.com

We'd love to see you there!



Come and

Be Still

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

Monthly, on the first Wednesday, 5.30 - 6 pm.

St. Leonard's Church, Yarpole.

All are welcome



WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON



★ **New Term - New MD**
Birchpoles ★
Love To Sing Choir
Do you love to sing?
Come and be part of
something amazing!
Every Wednesday Term Time
7:15-9:15pm (Adult Choir)
Refreshments included
St Leonard's Church, YARPOLE
£5/ session Contact details
07915886265 or fb page

Love to Sing
Presents
**Songs from Broadway
and Beyond**

Come & join our Love To Sing Family
(including Birchpoles) for an evening
of entertainment with songs from all
your favourite musicals.

Saturday 18 July 2026, 3.00 pm
Holy Trinity Church
Hereford HR4 0DF

Tickets £10 Children under 12 free
From thisgirllovestosing76@gmail.com
Or pay on the door



Walking Group

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

June walks: Friday 12 & Sunday 28

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

Contact: **Viv 782271** or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



HEREFORDSHIRE
Historic Churches Trust



June Event

Saturday 20 June 6.00pm Come and Sing Vivaldi's
Gloria and Zadok the Priest in the wonderful
'mini' cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels
Church, Tenbury, with conductor John Moore.

Tickets from:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/2040067>

For more information: www.hhct.co.uk

Arts Society Lectures



Illustrated lectures on arts-related topics at Ludlow Assembly Rooms

Next meeting on **Wed 17 June 2026, at 2.15 pm**

Coffee - From Arabia to the Coffee House: The Art and History of Coffee Drinking
Christopher Bradley

Visitors welcome, £8.00 on the door. Membership £45.

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

For help with transport contact Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**



Bin it? No way!

First Saturday of the month 10.00 - 12.00 (last repairs).

Next session: **6 June in the Community Centre, School Rd, Leominster HR6 8NJ.**

Online bookings open two weeks before: <https://leominsterepaircafe.org.uk>

Refreshments available.

Mechanical, household, electrical, toys, furniture, sewing repairs & tool sharpening.

For more information email: repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com

EVENTS DIARY FOR JUNE

Events this month

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 2	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00 - 9.00 pm
Wed 3	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6.00 pm
Wed 3	Parish Hall	Parish Hall AGM	7.00
Tues 9	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00 pm
Fri 12	Various	Walking Group	10.30 am
Mon 15	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30 - 3.30 pm
Thur 18	St. Leonard's	Yarpole Community Shop AMM	7.00 pm
Fri 26	Gallery Café	Police Community Support Officer meeting	11.00 am
Fri 26	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00 - 12 noon
Sat 27	Parish Hall	Summer BBQ & party	6.00 - 10.30 pm
Sun 28	Various	Walking Group	10.30 am

Regular Weekly Activities

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Mondays	Parish Hall	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00 pm
Tuesdays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00 - 12 noon
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00 - 11.00 am
	Parish Hall	Art Group	2.00 - 4.30 pm
	St. Leonard's	Birchpole Singers	7.15 - 9.15 pm
Thursdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45 am
Fridays	Parish Hall	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30 pm

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

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

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Mortimer Vets is an independently run and owned vets.

Here's a bit about us:

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



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LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

News from Lucton School

Students at Lucton School are celebrating the launch of a brand-new student-led podcast, *Lucton Voices*, giving young people the chance to share their opinions, experiences and ideas on topics that matter most to them.

The weekly podcast, released every Friday, has been created entirely by students, who are responsible for planning, presenting and producing each episode. The project aims to encourage creativity, communication skills and confidence, while also giving pupils a platform to make their voices heard within the school community and beyond.

Staff and students alike are excited about the opportunity, which showcases the enthusiasm and talent of pupils across the school. Topics will range from school life and current issues to hobbies, achievements and student interests.

The first two episodes of *Lucton Voices* are already available and have been met with a positive response from listeners. The podcast is expected to become a regular feature of school life and an exciting way for students to connect with each other and the wider community.

Mr Andrew Allman, Headmaster, said: "We are incredibly proud of the students involved in launching *Lucton Voices*. It is a fantastic example of student leadership and creativity, and we are looking forward to seeing how the podcast develops in the coming months."

Jonathan Rogers, Year 5 Tutor & Boarding House Parent, Lucton School



LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Hello Ladies

We, at Eye WI, realise that Yarpole no longer has a WI and would like to invite you to attend an evening with us to see if you might like to join us.

We meet at Cawley Hall, Luston, HR6 0DS, normally on the third Thursday of the month.

As you may know we have various speakers and activities each month, June 18 being with Caroline Miller demonstrating Candle Decorating. In July we are out and about, but on August 20 we are back at Cawley Hall for a talk by Gisela Lehnabb on The History of the Kington Leominster Stourport Canal.

Even if you have not been a member of a WI before do come along and see if it might interest you. Please call Helen on 01568368561

Helen Capell, President, Eye WI



Message from Herefordshire Council

Scrunch and squeeze, recycle please! That's the message to Herefordshire residents as Herefordshire Council expands its kerbside recycling service to include foil and tubes.

Now, aluminium foil, foil trays, metal or foil-lined tubes (such as tomato purée tubes), and plastic tubes (including toothpaste and cosmetic tubes) can all be placed in household recycling.

To help ensure items can be successfully recycled, residents are asked to follow a few simple steps:

- Make sure items are clean and dry – a quick rinse is enough
- Squeeze out any remaining product from tubes
- Leave lids and caps on tubes before recycling
- Place recycling loose in the bin, not in plastic bags
- Aluminium foil can be scrunched into a ball.



We specialise in all plumbing needs, from bathroom installations to outside taps. Including tiling and emergency call outs. Contact Chris on 07816949006 to arrange a free no obligation quote.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Message from Ed Morgan

Hello, Ed here,

I am writing as I'm having my 30th birthday party on the weekend of the 29 - 31 May on my land in Bircher, at which I will have music on the Friday and potentially Saturday night. It's all been organised properly with consideration made for noise levels in advance but I thought it may be best to notify the village just in case of any noise issues, so you know what's happening. I doubt there will be any issues as it will be away from the village down the bottom of a field, but still thought to maybe have a very small note to make people aware.

I hope that most of you will get this note in time.

All the best

Ed

St. Leonard's plant stall



Thank you to all those who have already donated plants at the start of this year. All plants are gratefully received, with labels if possible. Please do not donate empty plant pots as they are not required.

We would also like to thank Lesley for her support over the last few years. Unfortunately she is no longer able to help, so we would welcome another volunteer(s) who would also consider taking over the stall next year as we will be standing down.

Gilly & Janet



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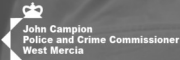
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LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES



Get involved

Have your say on the Government's plans to merge police forces across England and Wales.

This is your chance to share your views - whether you support the proposals or not.

The PCC will share your views with the Government to form part of their review.



www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

The consultation closes on Monday 15 June.

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

Subsidised driving session for mature drivers.



Herefordshire Council offers drivers who live in Herefordshire and are aged 70 or over a two-hour practical driving session with an approved driving instructor, in their own vehicle.

Cost: £20

This refresher is not a test or a Police or medical driving assessment.

All applicants must hold a current, full driving licence and have a road-legal vehicle.

For more information: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/drivertraining

Or contact Julie Freeman

Road Safety Education, training and publicity,

01432 260946 07792 880661 jfreeman@herefordshire.gov.uk



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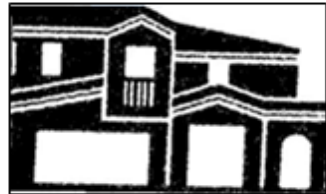
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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

June 2026



Salad days

Lane Cottage salad leaves are now back in stock and as ever we sell them at a more competitive price than other local retailers. For those new to these wonderful bags of salad leaves they are sown, grown, picked and packed in North Herefordshire and are grown without any pesticides or fertilisers - making them an extremely popular choice for salads in the summer months. They include a rich variety of seasonal leaves and taste wonderful - much nicer than just plain supermarket lettuce.

Create a win-win for the shop

We have had customers querying recently which is the best way to pay in the shop and the answer is we would always prefer cash to card - or BACS if you are settling your account.

We do have to pay a charge (not great but it adds up) every time a card is used and so this is why cash is preferable.

The Post Office is open every day from 9:00 - 12:00 and you can withdraw cash from this counter using your bank debit card. Therefore the Post Office is also an ATM and several villagers were unaware and had been travelling into Leominster or Ludlow to get cash out. So as ever - save petrol and use your local village shop and post office instead! Get cash out and pay by cash creates a win win situation for us!

AMM Final reminder

That this year's Annual Members Meeting for our shop will be held in St. Leonard's church at 7pm on Thursday the 18th June. See opposite page for the agenda.

Hope to see you there.

Drinks and snacks afterwards.

Jon & Rowena

SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

	Shop	Post Office
Monday - Friday	9.00am - 5.00 pm	9.00am - 12 noon
Saturday	9.00am - 1.00 pm	9.00am - 12 noon
Sunday/Bank Holidays	closed except for pre-ordered newspapers	

Tel: 01568 780148 Email: yarpleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com



YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP ASSOCIATION LTD.

Annual Members' Meeting



To be held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at 7.00pm
at St Leonard's Church, Green Lane, Yarpole HR6 0BB

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the minutes of the AMM held on 5th June 2025
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2025 AMM
5. Chair's Report
6. Report on the state of membership and the membership strategy
7. Receipt of the Financial Accounts for 2025
 - a. Acceptance by the members of the 2025 accounts
 - b. To agree that the 2026 accounts may be prepared without an audit and presented with an accountant's report.
8. Appointment of Accountants for 2026
9. Election of the Management Board

A summary of the 2025 unaudited accounts will be posted on the shop website at www.yarpole.org prior to the meeting. A full set of the 2025 accounts will be made available for inspection at the shop after the AMM.

Nomination forms for the election of members to the Management Board are available at the shop and on the shop website at www.yarpole.org. Please return completed forms for the attention of the Company Secretary, Lindsay Slade, via the Shop or emailed to secretary@yarpolshop.org.uk by Friday 29th May 2026.

Please stay with us for a glass of wine or a soft drink after the meeting



The miracle of the lost keys!

A few weeks ago, I left my place of work and walked to a nearby supermarket car park, where I had left my car. On arriving at my car I realised that I did not have my car keys. I checked all my pockets and my handbag, but to no avail. I thought I might have left them on my desk at work, so walked back there and searched my desk, but still could not find them. By this point I was starting to panic. The keys not only had my the keys to my car, but also had my house keys, and without them not only could I not get into my car to get home, but I could not get into my house if I managed to get there. I walked back to the supermarket scanning the ground to see if I had dropped them on the way. But still could not find my keys, I went into the supermarket and asked if any keys had been handed in, but had no luck there. I walked out of the supermarket feeling quite frantic.

As I walked across the car park, I did not know what I was going to do. Then I suddenly stopped and thought there is one important thing I had forgotten to do, I hadn't asked for God's help. I paused and took a moment to offer up a fervent prayer, asking for God's help in my moment of need. Almost immediately as I carried on walking the thought came into my head that I had not asked in the supermarket petrol station, which was close to where my car was parked. I walked into the kiosk and asked the man behind the counter if any keys had been handed in and he responded by lifting up a bunch of keys, which were indeed mine.

It may not have been a miracle in the real sense of the word, but it was very important for me, and I was very grateful both to God and whoever had handed my keys in. What it reminded me was of the importance of the power of prayer and the need to stop and ask for help when we need it. All too often when we are experiencing difficulty, we spend all our energy running around trying to solve problems for ourselves, and getting fraught and angry. Sometimes the best thing to do is to take a moment to stop and talk to God and ask for help.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that you are our constant friend, who is always by our side. Help us to take a moment in the turmoil of our busy lives to talk to you and ask for your help, rather than assuming we can fix everything for ourselves.

Amen

Jane Higgins - Local Minister

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/>



As we enter the summer month of June – the time of the summer solstice - everyone will no doubt be working in the garden, on the house and enjoying the fruits of their labours. On that note we must thank all those generous gardeners who donate plants and flowers to the St. Leonard's plant stall at the front of the church. Not only do these donations raise valuable funds for the upkeep of the church but also they bring great joy to many, especially like myself, who are not as green-fingered as others. Indeed, looking out on our garden currently it is lovely to see the sweet rocket, lilies, hostas and numerous herbs growing so well – all previously bought from the plant stall. Cannot wait for some home-grown tomatoes later in the summer.

With the thoughts of gardening and home DIY, SLM are pleased to confirm that the scaffold tower purchased earlier is now available for loan to parishioners subject to certain conditions and arrangements. Following legal advice we have drawn up a specific risk assessment framework and a disclaimer form for users to complete in order that the scaffold tower is used safely by all. Approved users will have to read the manufacturer's user manual and watch a short professional video to ensure that the scaffold tower is used correctly. You may book the tower for some work at home but also may want a professional tradesperson to use it on your behalf. This is permitted but the professional must have their own public indemnity insurance as well as complete the risk assessment and disclaimer form accordingly. The scaffold tower has a maximum working height of up to 8m or 26 ft. For further information please contact myself at gordon.ewing@me.com or via WhatsApp.

We are currently researching into new suppliers of coffee for the Gallery Café – following the feedback from our Gallery Café survey. We have a number of options under consideration and, by the time you read this, trustees will have been presented with the favoured next steps. The current thinking is to obtain a 'Bean to Cup' coffee machine that will provide a broader range of drinks choices including americano, latte, cappuccino, espresso, macchiato, hot chocolate and cold brew drinks – at the touch of a button. Most importantly, it is essential that it is easy to use for our dedicated team of volunteers as well as straightforward to clean and maintain.

Everyone will know of Mortimer's Cross but I suspect that less will know of the significant battle that took place nearby during the War of the Roses (1455 – 1487). Local amateur historian, Lisa North, has been very busy researching into the key players involved and how important the battle became in determining the outcome of the war. Lisa's research will culminate in a free exhibition during the summer months in St Leonard's Church, as part of the Herefordshire Histories Festival.

Have a great summer wherever it takes you.

Gordon Ewing – Trustee

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PARISH HALL

June 2026

PARISH HALL NEWS

We are still looking for new committee members: three of our longstanding members have stepped down. We had one new member join us recently which is a great boost. Julia Marshall will take over as secretary at the June AGM.



Dave Bradford has kindly been Booking Secretary for the past year. Many thanks to Dave. However he has now stepped down, so we are also looking for a booking secretary.

We would really welcome more new members, which will enable us to continue to run the Parish Hall. If you think you would like to help, either with a committee role or as a friend to help us run fundraising events and manage hall tasks, please contact Amanda on 01568 701996, or email parishhall@yarpole.org, for an informal chat before taking any decision.

Together with St. Leonard's Management we have reviewed the hire charges for the two venues. It has been agreed to implement a modest increase in August. It is three years since hire rates last increased. We have seen a rise in our annual expenditure over the past year especially. A small rise in hire rates will help us to balance our annual budget. The hire charge for the main parish hall will increase by £1 per hour for all hires, the Committee Room will remain at £10 per hour. A full list of rates is published on the Yarpole website.

The library in the hall committee room sees some usage, however we feel that presently there is probably a good variety of books available to loan without any further donations. If you have books to donate why not consider the bookshops at Berrington Hall or Croft Castle or one of the local telephone box libraries?

Amanda Hordern

Parish Hall future dates

3 June 7 pm Parish Hall AGM

27 June Summer Party and Ceilidh

3 October and 21 November Flicks & Food



SUMMER PARTY AND CEILIDH

YARPOLE

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27 JUNE 7 PM

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Ali Williams on 07788 547255



PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGM

Wednesday 3 June 7 pm

Come along to the AGM to meet us, hear what we’ve achieved over the past year and find out more about what we do.

We are a friendly committee comprising long-standing and newer parish residents. We are looking for new members. For those new to the parish it is a great opportunity to meet others and contribute to our vibrant community. The AGM is an ideal opportunity to find out more about our lovely hall and meet the committee.

Following the AGM there will be an opportunity to chat with committee members over a drink and nibbles. Please do come along.



PARISH HALL

June 2026

200 Club

The winning numbers for May were:
51: £50 40: £20 148: £10



Thank you for all your support with the 200 club over the past year and well done to all the winners whom we have had.

Subscriptions finish at the end of June. If you would like to renew or take out a new subscription to join us from July '26 – June '27, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Subscriptions remain at just £12 for the year, with a prize draw each month, meaning you have 12 attempts at winning a prize. Prizes start at £50, with other money prizes as well. You can pay by BACS – sort code **40-28-13**, account no. **81438298**, Yarpole Village Hall or by cheque or cash. Please see the separate flyer with all further details.

Your subscriptions are invaluable and help to support the running of your Parish Hall. Remember, 50% of all money collected is given back in the prizes drawn each month.

Cash or cheque renewals can be left with Rowena at the shop or dropped off at No. 3 Mulberry Meadow, Yarpole.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jan Tandy – Lottery Administrator for the Parish Hall & everyone on the Parish Hall Management Committee



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



Parish Hall activities are listed on the events calendar (on page 8 this month).

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern on 01568 701996

Or email parishhall@yarpole.org

Or to book online go to www.yarpole.org and click on 'Church & Parish Hall bookings'.

If you are interested in joining one of the classes please email Amanda, who will put you in contact with the class organiser.



GALLERY CAFÉ



June 2026

Tasty Tuesday will be on TUESDAY 9 JUNE at 1.00pm

Spanish Chicken with dressed green salad or veggie version

Followed by chocolate pudding with raspberries.

Please book by 3.00 pm on Friday 5 June.j

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

Summer at the Café

It's Summer at last and we look forward to you joining us for refreshing drinks and light lunches.

And sitting outside – parasols are ready!

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

A volunteer is needed to help on Thursday lunchtimes: 12 - 2.00

Please get in touch! gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com

Thank you to all the people who support the café.

Gallery Café Opening Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30 for drinks & cakes

Thursday – Friday 10.30 - 3.00, serving lunch 12 - 2.00pm

Saturday 10.30 - 12.30 for brunch

For enquiries/bookings, drop in to see us in person or email gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com, or phone 01568 780594 (opening hours only)

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

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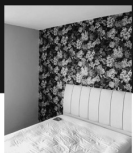
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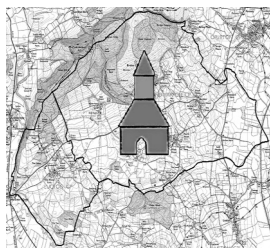
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Yarpole Group Parish Council

There are two vacancies, offering an opportunity to represent local voices, help shape decisions, and work alongside a dedicated team of eight members committed to the wellbeing of the parish. Speak to a councillor or contact me for further information. New to the Parish? Councillor names are on the website, www.yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk – subscribe too, to receive agendas and news directly to your inbox. I look forward to hearing from you!

Three meetings took place on 12 May. Firstly, the Annual Parish Meeting (APM), including the Chairman's Annual Report, and an opportunity to hear views/concerns of residents and answer their questions, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the scheduled May meeting. No questions were raised at the APM, no residents were present. Highlights of the second and third meetings are as follows:

Clr Adam Scott was elected chairman for 2026/27 and Clr John Cadwallader as vice chairman. I look forward to working with them over the coming year.

The 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement and Accountability Return was approved prior to external audit.

It was agreed that removing the litter bin at Rosebank lay-by has resulted in less litter and that the bin should not be replaced.

New pads and charge packs have been bought for defibrillators at St. Leonard's Church and the Parish Hall. Training sessions for both Lucton and Yarpole (or combined if preferred) are to be arranged.

No objections were raised to [P260614/F - Planning Permission](#) for the renovation and conversion of an existing cottage into a holiday let dwelling at Woodfield, Brickhouse Farm, Bircher HR6 OBS.

Installing water at the community meadow was deferred until September to assess plant watering needs and alternatives. The project requires planning advice and potentially approval before getting a Welsh Water quote (estimate £175 plus installation).

Deferred to the June meeting – consultation from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England – review of local voting areas of Herefordshire. [Have Your Say](#). Deadline 6 July.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **2 June 2026 at 7pm**, at Yarpole Parish Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Maggie Brown, Clerk

clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk 07398 222310

News from our County Councillor



May is a very busy month where local government is concerned with annual parish meetings and annual meetings of the parish council in each area. I represent five different parish councils as well as sitting as a parish councillor on another so I have 12 different parish meetings to attend – fortunately many parishes choose to hold both their annual meetings on the same night and go from one straight into the other. At Herefordshire Council, we have our annual general meeting in May too which sees the election of a chairman and leader, as you may be aware the council administration is currently a minority Conservative administration and it will once again need to rely on the support of others to continue running the county.

Since I last wrote for the Parishioner Herefordshire Council have appointed a new chief executive, Paul Satoor who will take up his post at the end of June. The outgoing chief executive, Paul Walker, leaves after joining the Council during Covid and steering the improvement to our children's services which were recently rated good by Ofsted. I wish both of the Pauls luck and I am looking forward to getting to know Paul Satoor over the coming months.

The biggest change on the horizon is one that I have spoken about in this column before – the end of Balfour Beatty in Herefordshire and the start of the new contract with M Group Highways. There will be better forums to explain the contract in detail but this is not just a change in provider, it is a fundamental resetting of how we run and operate our public realm. It will see the insourcing of control from the contractor to the council and will result in council officers having direct control of what work is commissioned, and where, for the first time in 13 years. I for one really welcome this change and I am delighted to have played a small part in it. Other benefits will be seen in the coming months with a renewed focus on repairs and the quality / standard.

Thank you to the residents who reported the replaced railings (or lack thereof) at Bircher; these were not meant to be removed on a permanent basis and I will follow up with Highways to ensure that a suitable permanent replacement is installed.

Whilst great effort has been made by volunteers to keep litter off our verges and out of the nearby lay-bys, I was disappointed to see that a black rubbish bag has been left in the Cockgate Lay-by which has subsequently been ripped apart and scattered by wildlife. This will be reported to Balfour Beatty for action but I do hope those responsible will think again in future. On a happier note, the removal of the litter bin on the B4361 in the lay-by as you head towards Orleton has been a success and there has been markedly less in recent weeks. On this basis I believe the trial should be made permanent but if you do have any views please let me know.

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 07837726821

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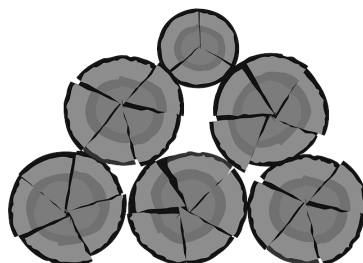
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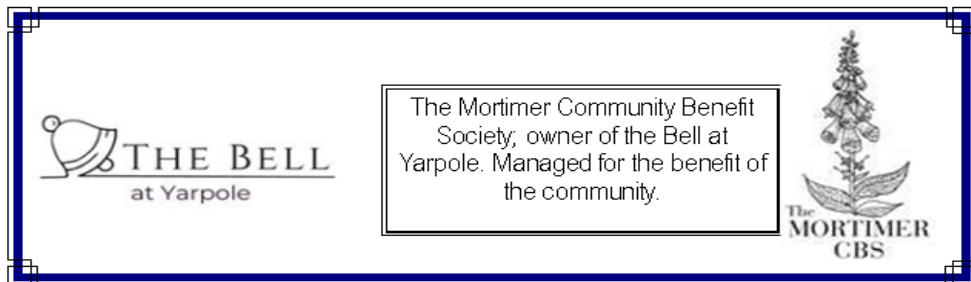
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Yes, it is goodbye from us - The Committee.

It's great to see Michelle and Blaine now settled at The Bell and leading it into an exciting new chapter. After two and a half years of hard work, the committee is stepping back from day-to-day operations and returning to its original role of caring for the property. Improvements are still needed, including the repainting of the exterior of the pub.

Financially, we've made excellent progress. The shop loan is nearly cleared, and the Border Oak loan has been reduced significantly. We are on track to be debt free by next year - an outstanding achievement. While we're not yet able to repay shareholders, this will come as we rebuild reserves and after continuing to invest in the building.

Our thanks go to Fiona and all our wonderful volunteers, many of whom work in the background, and fellow committee members, all of whom have worked so hard to enable the Bell to prosper.

Thank you for your continued support - we look forward to seeing The Bell thrive at the heart of the village.

Hello from Michelle and Blaine!

Thank you to everyone that has come out to meet and support us at the start of our Bell journey. We do have a bit of work to do before we are up and running at full speed so we thank you for your patience.

Blaine has been a chef for the better part of forty years and I have worked in hospitality for over thirty years. We have worked together for almost twenty years and we would not be doing it this long if we were not as passionate as we are for the industry that we choose to work in.

After spending the last seven years just to the north of Ludlow in South Shropshire we left due to the amount and frequency of flooding that we suffered. Nine floods in less than seven years drove us to depart and take a six month break that we spent in my home country of Scotland.

At the start of the year we started to look for a pub that would fit us, and we could not find anything that felt right, until we read an article in the Hereford Times about The Bell. I will admit, I may have pressed hard to get a viewing but we are so glad we did. We first viewed the pub twenty years ago with a view to taking it on and it didn't work out due to timings, but this time, after a little bit of a roller-coaster, here we are.

We do look forward to being a part of the community and enjoying the wonderful countryside that surrounds us here.

Julian Stokes

Yarpole Men's Shed



Our projects book is currently full! YMS has become a very successful group and has taken on an increasing number of community projects. Our current projects include

- Weekly maintenance checks for St. Leonard's Church & the Gallery Café.
- Weekly maintenance checks for the Parish Hall.
- Refurbishing the picnic bench for the community field.
- Making planters for a local primary school.
- Creating storage facilities in our shed.
- Organising and maintaining tools that have been donated to YMS.

In addition to these tasks we will also be working with the new tenants of The Bell to clear out one of the stable units and also construct some external storage facilities. During the summer we are aiming to establish the electrical connections to our shed so that we can develop our workshop capability and have a year-round meeting place.

We're going to be busy so, whilst we're happy to look at requests for new projects, we may need to fulfil our current commitments before taking them on.

We still want to build our membership. If you are interested in joining our friendly group, membership is open to men residing in Yarpole Parish and surrounding areas. Whether you are interested in helping with community-based projects, just socialising or feel you would like to get involved in developing the group's activities, we would like to hear from you. Here's how to find us:

On email: yarpolished@gmail.com

At our Shed: Our Shed, located behind The Bell, is open every Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Shed members meet here to work on one of our current projects or to just get together for a cup of tea and a chat. There will also be opportunities to arrange other evening social events.

Trevor Edwards



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The phone lines will be updated soon. If you need help completing the online Anima form, you will be able to select option 1. You will then be placed in a queue to speak to a dedicated member of the team.

Staff Training days

Tuesday 14 July

You can submit an Anima request during this time.

Staff changes

Anita and Ivone from the nursing team are leaving.

Fiona, Practice Manager has left and they have an interim manager while they recruit.

Dr Corbett has decide to retire and leaves in August.

Anne O'Brien, hedgie.obrien@hotmail.com, 07581 402274

YARPOLE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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The trust may assist eligible candidates with fees and costs associated with secondary and tertiary education as well as with initial professional training. Support can be given towards a wide variety of needs such as:

- * tuition fees
- * tools & equipment
- * course books & software
- * costs toward school/college trips or independent travel of an educational nature.

The trustees meet three or four times a year to consider applications. Applications should be received three months before the grant is needed, although urgent cases will be considered.

For further information or to request an application form please contact The Trust Secretary on 01568 780945 or by email: yarpoletrust@gmail.com.

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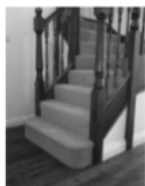
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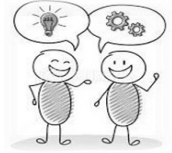
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Could you, or do you know someone who could benefit from the Good Neighbour Scheme? Please get in touch – 07885 525776

WHAT'S ON AT 4Cs?

Join us on the 4th Friday of each month at 11.00 for coffee, (or tea) cake, chat and company in the parish hall.

Friday June 26

Well-known local resident Adam Scott and current Chair of our Parish Council will explain what the PC can (and can't) do, and how it operates.

Friday July 24th

Murdo White will demonstrate how to play the bagpipes, a rare and unusual treat indeed. (Question.. How do you know when you can play the bagpipes?)

And on Friday August 21st we will be holding our 4Cs garden party with afternoon tea served. Watch out for further details of this popular event.

Need a lift? Phone Val on 01568 780807 a few days before each event.

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT

Our happy group of movers (we're not losers!) continue to meet in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays at 11.00 till noon with Kath providing us with exercise and fun.

Men, where are you? Our faithful ones love it so join them in our ranks and MOVE IT, DON'T LOSE IT. Come on, give it a try!

Val Ainsworth

Why be a parish councillor?

Hi. I'm Sam Colledge, a Black Country Lass who decided that teaching in an inner-city school was not for me and I never felt settled. I was lucky enough to secure a position at a local primary school and have been there for over 20 years and have served for 15 years as a school governor.

My next task was to find a place to live and a visit to Yarpole made my mind up that it was the place I wanted to settle down. The village was idyllic and the sense of community was evident. In 2018 I fulfilled that dream and moved into the village.

I enjoyed popping into the shop on Fridays to have a chat with Audrey who mentioned to me that there were several vacancies on the Parish Council and she thought that my 'young blood' might be an asset (I am in my mid-fifties, bless you Audrey). I was hesitant at first being a relative newcomer to the village but, as you all know, Audrey could be very persuasive and my application was accepted. There are lots of different types of people on the Parish Council. Some members are very experienced and have served for many years and others, like myself, are newer to the role. I feel very supported by the more experienced members of the group who are always happy to explain how things work. We also have lots of support from Councillor Dan Hurcomb who attends our meetings and keeps us up to date with developments and local issues. If you feel that you would like to find out more about the role, the meetings are open to you – you can just pop in. We are here to help the village and, most importantly, to listen to you and to value your thoughts and ideas.

Because of my background in teaching, I was pleased to be invited to join the Community Meadow sub-group on the Parish Council. I am responsible for checking that the meadow and its playground facilities are safe for all its users so if you have any concerns or suggestions on how to maintain and improve the meadow, I or any other member of the group could be your first point of contact.



Sam Colledge

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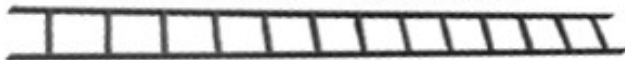
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THE CURIOUS GARDENER

Surprises



Over the years we've grown many plants from seed. Some of the seeds have come from commercial seed firms, but the majority have come from seed exchanges organised by plant societies we've belonged to. The great thing about seed exchanges is that you can often find seeds of really unusual things that you wouldn't find in a commercial catalogue. The potential downside is that sometimes what grows can be a surprise.

Take *Codonopsis*, for example (please excuse the Latin, but I don't know a common name). These delightful, delicate-looking perennials produce masses of blue, white or mauve dangling bells with intricate markings inside, and they enjoy scrambling up through other things. We obtained seeds of the common one, *Codonopsis clematidea*, from a seed exchange and fell in love at the first sight of the flowers.

Of course we wanted to get to know other members of the family, so we selected three more *Codonopsis* species from the next seed exchange. Lovingly sown, pricked out with care, watched over as they grew – these plants had more attention than all the others.

With what excitement we anticipated their first flowering, only to discover that the seeds had been wrongly labelled. We had spent two years growing a dozen more plants of *Codonopsis clematidea*.

Undaunted, we ordered two more species from a different, more academic seed exchange. Another two years went by while these grew to flowering size. And yes, you've guessed, we ended up with just more *Codonopsis clematidea*.

By this point we had an awful lot of *C. clematidea*, but thinking that one can probably never have too much of a beautiful thing, we planted them all over the garden and put the rest onto our plant sales table at garden open days. Visitors loved them, and we decided that perhaps we were better off with just this one species since it seemed to be so easy to grow as well as so lovely.

Alas, it seems that we weren't the only ones who found them attractive. The roots were plump and juicy, but they had a distinctly 'foxy' smell about them, so it never occurred to us that anything might eat them. Wrong. Next spring a series of little excavations marked the places where the plants had been: the voles had taken the lot. Yet another surprise. Gardening is full of them.

Sue Russell



ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



Tales From The Potting Shed

On 28 April we welcomed Nicola Hope, a horticulturist, garden designer and writer. Nicola began her gardening career as a teenager doing work experience at Highgrove in the ornamental garden where she discovered a talent for topiary. She worked at Highgrove intermittently while studying Fine Art at Cardiff and after attaining an HND in organic gardening at Pershore was offered the post of Head of Cottage Garden.

Nicola later moved to work at Lake House, owned by Sting, where under the aegis of the head gardener she learned a great deal about vegetable production and presentation. Lake House possesses Soil Association accreditation. From here she moved to Abbey House, a fifteenth century house with five acres of gardens with the emphasis on colour in spring, summer and autumn. After a year she left to work at Cole Park, a private garden whose owner has an aversion to colour. Emphasis here is on symmetry, texture and the creation of vistas. Here Nicola learnt the value of structure, so important in winter. Symmetry and precision extended to the vegetable garden producing a calming atmosphere.

After four years Nicola went freelance and has been self employed for sixteen years. Hers was a steep learning curve; having been the beneficiary of extremely knowledgeable head gardeners she was now on her own. She had to solve problems herself and learn to delegate and now heads a team of gardeners. Somehow she found time to study for a Masters in horticulture and a professional diploma in garden design. She gardens organically and particularly enjoys growing heritage vegetables.

It was fascinating to hear how Nicola's chronological experiences have informed and influenced her working life from the colour of Highgrove to the symmetry and structure of Cole Park. From these and an artistic eye her own style has evolved.

Ghislaine Arundale

On Tuesday 30 June

Alun & Jill Whitehead will present a talk entitled **Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire** introducing us to some beautiful gardens on our doorstep.

At 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



Thanks to the following for the photos on this page:
Anne O'Brien - Operation potato taken from Croft Lane
Keith Smith - Old Gate, Croft Castle

Lynn Ashton - *Aesculus hippocastanum laciniata*, a rare cultivar of the common horse chestnut, known for its elegant and fine-textured foliage. acquired by Sarah Stafford



Thanks to the following for the photos on this page:
Dave Bradford - Yarpole Walking group near Aymestrey, 10 April 2026
Peter King - Black and white houses in Lucton
Keith Smith - Master of the air
Brian North - Cuckoo on Bircher Common

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services for June and July 2026



Date	Service	Church	Time
June			
Wed 3	Be Still	Yarpole	17.30
Sun 7	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Croft	09.30
Mon 8	Café Church	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 14	Holy Communion Common Worship	Yarpole	09.30
Sun 21	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Celtic Worship	Croft Croft	08.30 15.00
Mon 22	Café Church	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 28	Lay-led service	Yarpole	09.30
July			
Wed 1	Be Still	Yarpole	17.30
Sun 5	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Croft	09.30
Sun 12	Holy Communion Common Worship	Yarpole	09:30
Mon 13	Café Church	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 19	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Celtic Worship	Yarpole Yarpole	08.30 16.30
Sun 26	Lay-led service	Yarpole	09.30
Mon 27	Café church	Yarpole	19.30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:

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

**To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other information
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Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

Churchwardens: Jane Higgins (708390) Anna Morley (780321)