

The  
**P**arishioner  
YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

**Summer 2026**

**In this issue:**

Voices from the Village: Ian Ramsey .....12 - 13  
Church Services .....23  
Hello from The Bell .....34  
Names in the Yarpole Burial Register .....36 - 37  
Elderwood Books .....23

**And all our regular features**





Thanks to the following for photos on front cover and this page: Jo Tomasson - water lily, bearded iris and common bistort at Croft Castle; Keith Smith - ragged robin and pink rose

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

We're very fortunate to receive so many excellent photographs of local wildlife, vegetation and landscapes. As we can only use colour on our cover pages, this month we've made use of the back page for a selection of images; you'll find the table of Church Services in the centre fold (pages 22 and 23), alongside *Church Matters*.

I'm pleased to report that we have received a number of generous donations this month, and I would like to thank those readers who have contributed anonymously. We rely on advertising revenue and reader support to meet our printing costs, and your help is greatly appreciated.

Many of you will know longtime Yarpole residents, the Ramsays. Joyce has recently celebrated her 100th birthday, and Ian has been documenting his memories with the help of their daughter, Louise. The completed memoir has now been presented to Forfar Museum, where it has been welcomed as an important historical record for the local area. Paul Humphrey has used it as the basis for a series of articles about Ian's life, and the first of these — describing his childhood — appears in this month's issue.

Lynne

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

[newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org)

**Or leave in the box at the shop**

**The deadline for all submissions is  
THE 12th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

### ADVERTISEMENTS

**To place a commercial advert in The Parishioner, please email [newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org) and we'll send you more information**

Prices start at £5 for a ¼ 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](mailto: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](mailto:susanmarylangley@gmail.com).

### Don't miss out on what's happening!

To be added to the events mailing list, email [events@yarpole.org](mailto: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 **31 July**. Join her in the café for coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd

### COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting:

Monday xxx, 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](mailto:suebeagley@aol.com) for info.



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



*Bin it? No way!*

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

**Next sessions: 4 July and 1 August**

**Community Centre, School Rd, Leominster HR6 8NJ.**

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

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

For more information email: [repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com](mailto:repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com)

## WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S ON



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**Love to Sing**  
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(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  
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Or pay on the door



**Purcell** *I Was Glad*  
**Haydn** *Little Organ Mass*  
*Ave Verum Corpus*  
*Laudate Dominum*  
**Mozart**  
**Vivaldi** *Gloria*  
*Concerto for Strings in A*

**Friday  
3rd July**  
**St Andrew's, Presteigne**  
7.30pm  
£15 (<18s free)

**KCS** KINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY  
with  
Organ: Paul Roberts  
The Marches Camerata  
Conductor: Simon Harper

Soprano Naomi Sturges  
Mezzo-soprano Hannah Beddoe

Tickets from [kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://kingtonchoral.org.uk) or [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)  
Salby Dog (Presteigne); Border Bean (Kington);  
and Tower House Gallery (Knighton) - cash only

Poster design - Izzy Wells



**ILYRIA**  
**The THREE MUSKETEERS**  
ALEXANDRE DUMAS

**YATTON COURT, AYMESTREY, HR6 9SU**  
**Friday 31st July 2026 at 7.00pm**  
Tickets: [illyria.co.uk](http://illyria.co.uk) | 0333 666 3366

Gates open: 6.00pm. Running time approx. 135 mins (inc 20min interval)

## WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S ON



### Walking Group

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

**July walks: Friday 10 & Sunday 26**

**August walks: Friday 14 & Sunday 23**

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



### Gentle Walks Group

Several parishioners have expressed interest in a Gentle Walks Group for those who prefer short, steady routes close to the village. If there is enough take-up, the group will meet twice a month and all walks will stay within easy reach of the village.

For details, please email [newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org).



Orleton and District  
Gardening Club

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)

### 45th ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday, 15th August,  
1.30pm - 3.30pm

ORLETON VILLAGE HALL,

Flower and Vegetable Classes,  
Baking & Preserves  
AFTERNOON TEAS & STALLS

**FREE ENTRY -  
ALL WELCOME**



### 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:  
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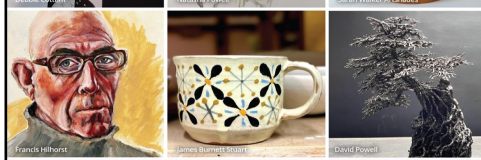
# WHAT'S ON



**h.Art**  
herefordshire art week

**5-13 September**

A celebration of local creativity. Come and be inspired: visit artists in their studios, explore pop-up shows in unique venues, and discover beautifully curated galleries. Chat, browse, buy, commission work directly or book a workshop - experience the art of Herefordshire at its source.



**h-art.org.uk**

h.Artists Ltd is a company registered in England & Wales, registered number: 15539626

# WHAT'S ON



**h.Art**  
herefordshire art week

**5-13 September**

Seek out more, feel inspired, browse, chat, make a purchase, discuss bespoke commissions, and indulge your creative self in workshops.

**Go to h-art.org.uk to:**  
find out your **local guide pick up point** from late July. Download a **Guide** & maps. Contact us to get your paid for **posted guide**. Explore more about the artists and galleries and keep up to date with each artist on their **Artist** pages.

**You can pick up a free guide** up to 50 miles radius of the county. Find them in TIC's, main Libraries, Arts centres/galleries, and main tourist attractions.




**h-art.org.uk**

h.Artists Ltd is a company registered in England & Wales, registered number: 10059526

## HEREFORDSHIRE Historic Churches Trust



Following on from our earlier summer events we have the following upcoming

### In July:

Open Air Opera in the fabulous gardens at Homme House Much Marcle  
Wednesday 29 July. Homme House, Much Marcle, Ledbury HR8 2LY

### In August

The return of Carlo Fierens, the professional Italian Classical Guitarist at two Herefordshire venues. Carlo has just finished a series of masterclasses followed by a concert in Manilla.

Weobley HR4 8SD – Sat 29 Aug 2026 7.00 pm <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/2181046>

Much Cowarne HR7 4JQ – Sun 30 Aug 2026 4.00 pm <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/2215327>

## EVENTS DIARY FOR JULY & AUGUST

| Date         | Venue         | Event                                    | Time            |
|--------------|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Wed 1 July   | St. Leonard's | Be Still                                 | 5.30 - 6.00 pm  |
| Tues 7 July  | Parish Hall   | Parish Council meeting                   | 7.00 - 9.00 pm  |
| Fri 10 July  | Various       | Walking Group                            | 10.30 am        |
| Mon 13 July  | Parish Hall   | Communal Crafters                        | 1.30 - 3.30 pm  |
| Tues 14 July | Gallery Café  | Tasty Tuesday                            | 1.00 pm         |
| Fri 24 July  | Parish Hall   | 4Cs                                      | 11.00 - 12 noon |
| Sun 26 July  | Various       | Walking Group                            | 10.30 am        |
| Fri 31 July  | Gallery Café  | Police Community Support Officer meeting | 11.00 am        |
| Wed 5 Aug    | St. Leonard's | Be Still                                 | 5.30 - 6.00 pm  |
| Tues 11 Aug  | Gallery Café  | Tasty Tuesday                            | 1.00 pm         |
| Mon 17 Aug   | Parish Hall   | Communal Crafters                        | 1.30 - 3.30 pm  |
| Sun 23 Aug   | Various       | Walking Group                            | 10.30 am        |
| Fri 28 Aug   | Parish Hall   | 4Cs                                      | 11.00 - 12 noon |

### Regular Weekly Activities

| Day        | 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](http://www.yarpole.org) for up to date information and any changes



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# Voices from the Village: Ian Ramsay



## Part 1: A Scottish Childhood

You will recall, in the autumn of last year, we published an article about Eddie Hughes, one of Yarpole oldest and longest residents. In this edition, we feature Ian Ramsay now of Briar Croft. Ian was born in 1931, four years earlier than Eddie, and hundreds of miles away in eastern Scotland, in the village of Lundie, a small settlement 10 miles northwest of Dundee. Like his father before him, Ian's father was head gamekeeper at Carse Gray, an estate owned by the Gray-Cheape family.

The Laird of the estate, Colonel Gray-Cheape, was drowned during World War I, when HMS *Hampshire* was sunk off the coast of Orkney in 1916. Ian remembers Mrs Gray-Cheape as a tall lady often in a long white dress, her head crowned with a large mop of white hair. She frequently rode round her estate in a pony and trap, and once offered Ian a ride in it.

Ian's earliest memories go back to 6 May 1935, when the silver jubilee of King George and Queen Mary took place. At three years old he remembers standing in the crowd, waving the national flag of Scotland, the rampant lion in red on a golden yellow background.

The Ramsays lived in the lodge, at the entrance to the estate, a building which survives to this day. On each side of the drive entrance stood large, rectangular sandstone pillars upon which the gates were hung. These pillars were capped with a succession of carvings depicting the 'Punishment of Scolds' – a shocking series of women's heads linked together by a chain going from mouth to mouth. I'm not sure how well that would go down today!

The lodge was quite small, had no electricity and only one tap, supplying cold water. It was also riddled with dry rot, which meant that Ian had to sleep on a sofa bed in the front room, a place usually reserved for guests.

They had few luxuries, but one was their radio, a Murphy. It had an exterior aerial, one end planted in the ground and the other tied to a chimney pot. The radio ran on batteries, which had to be recharged regularly, which meant taking them into the radio shop in Forfar. When Ian's Dad got desperate for news about the war he would scroll the wave lengths until he found someone speaking in English. The most popular radio programme, though, was *ITMA – It's That Man Again*. Tommy Handley was the man who was constantly being interrupted by cleaner Mrs Mopp, with her catchphrase, 'Can I do you now sir?'

Ian remembers that his Mum was always baking, particularly girdle scones and pancakes. She used a small oven that sat on top of a paraffin heater. She also made jams and jellies. Another claim to fame was that she once shot 12 rats with one blast from her shotgun!

During the war she joined the Women's Voluntary Service. This meant she had to go to conferences in Edinburgh. Sometimes she was gone for several days. Ian remembers that it was then he discovered it takes a woman's touch to make a home. Ian recalls, 'It is not that Dad did anything wrong, he just didn't do anything right!'



Ian with his parents



Carse Gray Lodge, Angus, Scotland

Ian's mother liked to shop in Dundee, two bus rides away. To get Ian to come with her she had to promise to take him to Woolworth's and make the short trip across the Tay on the ferry, which was an old fashioned paddle steamer. Ian remembers that, from the deck, you could view the engine room below, the large steel pistons plunging back and forth as they propelled the ship along.

Woolworth's had long counters and one of these had a section devoted to toys, where Ian's mother would buy him a small gift. Then it was tea and cake at the restaurant in DM Browns, the department store. The waitresses were dressed in black, with white headdresses and white pinafores. Once tea and chat was over it was off to the bus station to catch a bus home. The buses had conductors then. They carried a clipboard with a selection of tickets with different colours for different prices. You told the conductor your destination, they told you the cost, you gave them the money and they peeled off a ticket, cheaper if you bought a return. The conductor communicated with the driver via a bell, ringing to stop and let customers off and pressing the bell once passengers were safely on board. During the war the conductors were either older men or women.

The estate employed a carter, whose job it was to move the heavy loads like sand and gravel. Jim, the estate carter, lived not too far away and occasionally, when going to fetch sand, he would lift Ian up and perch him in the front next to him. Forfar Loch was their destination. On the way there he would tease the young Ian. One time he produced a roll of very dark tobacco. Ian remembers, "He saw me looking at it and said: 'It's dog dirt, I roll it up and smoke it.' With that he struck a match and started puffing away. Ian didn't believe him, but it did make him smile, 'as,' says Ian, 'they did look very similar.'

Ian seems to have enjoyed himself on the farm and the nearby countryside, but there was, of course, school to attend, and we will include Ian's schooldays, as well as his description of Christmas on the estate in a future article.

Paul Humphrey

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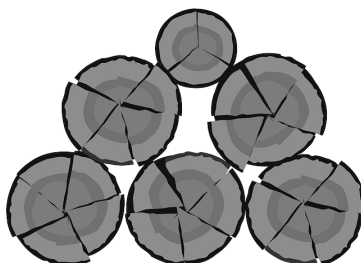


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# YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

July/August 2026



## Moorcourt Farm Produce

Moorcourt Farm is once again providing us with their beautiful strawberries.

For those new to the area Moorcourt Farm is in Northwest Herefordshire where they grow the fruit which they nurture from blossom to berry. It is fruit as it is meant to taste and a world away from the supermarket offerings.

Bursting with flavour the fruit season begins in mid-May with strawberries, then raspberries and blueberries begin in mid-June, and cherries are available from early July until late August.



We have deliveries from them every Monday, Wednesday and Friday - and if you would like to reserve some then do drop us a line or give us a ring as their produce sells fast! [yarpoleshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpoleshop@mail.com) or 01568 780148. We also stock their apple, apple and raspberry, pear and sparkling apple juice.

We sell their fruit at a more competitive price than our nearby competitors, so as ever do pop down to the shop and see what else we can tempt you with!

PS. Food miles are also dramatically reduced over supermarket strawberries which are often grown in the county, then trucked to a distribution centre somewhere, before being trucked back to Herefordshire for sale.

Jon & Rowena

### SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

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

Tel: 01568 780148 Email: [yarpoleshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpoleshop@mail.com)

Website: [www.yarpole.com](http://www.yarpole.com)



# GALLERY CAFÉ

July/August 2026



Tasty Tuesday will be on TUESDAY 14 JULY at 1.00pm

**Chilled Chicken and Sausage meat Pie with Salads**

**Summer Crumble**

Please book by 3.00 pm on Friday 10 July.

Please inform us of any allergies; we are happy to cater for individual needs where possible. To book please email: [gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com](mailto: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

We are now looking forward to trying our new coffee machine!

**Thank you for your support while Jackie is away. Please check website, Facebook or posters for updates to opening hours .**

Meet friends, old and new, and enjoy our excellent cakes, scones and lunches.

**The café needs volunteers!**

**We need your help to open every day.**

**Please get in touch: [gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com](mailto: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



**Our normal opening hours are below but please check [www.yarpole.org](http://www.yarpole.org), [www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/](https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/) or posters for updated opening information.**

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, email [gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com](mailto:gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com), or phone 01568 780594 (opening hours only)



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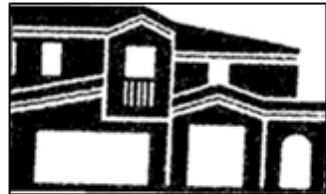
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It is that time of the year when you have probably been on holiday recently or are about to escape to a different corner of the British Isles or even further afield. To use the word 'escape' in this context is quite common in the travel industry and our French friends use the verb 'evader' or 'evasion' in the same way. Interestingly, 'evader' in our French dictionary is used in the context of escaping from prison. When I look out over our garden and see the beautiful Herefordshire countryside and the Shropshire Hills of Titterstone Clee and Brown Clee there seems little need to escape. But 'a change of scenery' is a term often used as a reason to travel. Wherever your travels take you, rest assured, there is a very good reason to return home. On that subject, if you have travelled abroad and have some foreign currency weighing down your purse or wallet, please hand it to Rowena in the village Post Office as this small change can make a big difference. As in previous years, the foreign currency collected will be passed to British Airways for their Better World Community Fund which distributes the donations to five national and international charities including the Alzheimer's Society and the British Red Cross. The next delivery to BA will be in early September.

Earlier this year, a long-serving member of our community, Jim Ainsworth, sadly passed away. I fondly remember reading Jim's various articles in this magazine about his travels to different parts of the world as a writer and food critic. One of my particular favourites was his article about tripe. When Sandy and I met up with Val and Jim in a delightful corner of the south of France, he shared his evident love of a particular garlic that he bought in the local market and brought back to Bicton. He also loved a good espresso coffee, and it is with enormous gratitude that Jim's legacy will carry on in our Gallery Café as, in Jim's honour, Val has kindly presented a top of the range 'bean to cup' coffee machine. We can all now share Jim's love for coffee, whether it be an espresso, a macchiato, caffè latte or cappuccino. Why not pop into the café and enjoy a delicious freshly ground coffee in fond memory of Jim: local resident, writer, restaurateur and thoroughly good bloke. Getting our hands on his favourite French garlic, however, is a different kettle of fish.

Continue to have a great summer wherever you escape to.

Gordon Ewing – Trustee

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### The Path to Forgiveness

Today has been a trying day for me. I met someone today, that I don't know and may never meet again. They made a very rude, and hurtful comment to me, which left me both shocked and angry. If I am honest my immediate thoughts towards him were not very Christian.

Even now, 6 hours later, I am still feeling angry about how this person behaved towards me, but at the same time as a Christian I am feeling bad about the fact that I have not yet reached the point where I can forgive him, even though I know that I should.

I recently bought a copy of a Celtic Daily Prayer book, and this evening, I looked up the reading by St. Aiden for 12 June (today's date) and it was about humility and said the following:-

One of the Elders was asked: *"What is humility?"* He answered: *"If you forgive a brother who has injured you before he himself asks pardon."*

A brother asked another of the Elders: *"What is humility?"* The Elder answered him: *"To do good to those who do evil to you."*

The brother asked: *"Supposing a man can't go that far, what should he do?"* The Elder replied: *"Let him get away from them and keep his mouth shut."*

At the time of this incident, I was in the latter state, but thankfully (although I did not know it at the time) did what the Elder advised and took myself out of the situation.

Reflecting on the reading above makes me realise the importance of forgiveness as a means of being humble before God. Letting go of anger and resentment towards someone who has harmed us and turning that anger into good thoughts and deeds towards that person, is a way of sacrificing our own needs and putting others, and more importantly God first. However, right now I am painfully aware of how difficult that can be. We may all strive for the ability to have the humility to forgive, but it is not something that comes easily for many of us. In searching for an answer to this problem, I realise that asking for God's help through prayer is the best solution. If we acknowledge our weakness and our struggle to forgive others before God, He will listen and hopefully in time we will learn to forgive.

*Lord, I ask your forgiveness for my weakness and my inability to forgive others. I ask that you give me the strength and humility to forgive and to learn to love those who do me harm. Just as your Son forgave those who harmed Him and just as you love us no matter how much we hurt you.*

*Amen*

Jane Higgins Local Minister

## Croft with Yarpole and Lucton

### Parish Church Services for July and August 2026



| Date  | Service  | Church  | Time  |
|---|--|---------|-------|
| <b>July 2026</b>  |  |         |       |
| Wednesday 1 July  | Be Still   | Yarpole | 17.30 |
| Sunday 5 July   | Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer                   | Croft   | 09.30 |
| Sunday 12 July  | Holy Communion Common Worship                          | Yarpole | 09.30 |
| Monday 13 July  | Café Church  | Yarpole | 19.30 |
| Sunday 19 July  | Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer<br>Celtic Worship | Yarpole | 08.30 |
|   |  | Yarpole | 16.30 |
| Sunday 26 July  | Lay-led service  | Yarpole | 09.30 |
| <b>August 2026</b>  |  |         |       |
| Sunday 2 August   | Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer                   | Croft   | 09.30 |
| Wednesday 5 Aug   | Be Still   | Yarpole | 17.30 |
| Sunday 9 August   | Holy Communion Common Worship                          | Yarpole | 09.30 |
| Sunday 16 August  | Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer<br>Celtic Worship | Yarpole | 08:30 |
|   |  | Yarpole | 16.30 |
| Sunday 23 August  | Lay-led service  | Yarpole | 09.30 |
| Sunday 30 August  | Group Service  | TBC     | 10.30 |
| <p>Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:<br/> <b>Rev. Matthew Burns</b> on 01568 614399, <a href="mailto:teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk">teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk</a></p> <p>To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other information please phone:<br/> <b>Priory Office 01568 612124</b><br/> <b>Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00</b></p> <p><b>Churchwardens: Jane Higgins (01568 708390) Anna Morley (01568 780321)</b></p> |  |         |       |

**Thank you** It's true what they say, 'one man's trash is another man's treasure'. A total of £100 was donated to the PCC from the recent table top sale in the church. Thank you to Challis for organising it all.

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/>

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Hello everyone. Welcome to another edition of 'Lisa's Book Nook.' Can you believe it is June already?! The only problem is that no-one seems to have told the weather! With that out of the way, let us get on to what you are all here for, which is books. I have really been enjoying my reading recently, and have picked up some real gems, but one book stood out more than most, so I have decided to a full-length review of that for you this month. As always, I hope you enjoy it. Have a good summer, and I will see you all in the autumn.



### **Self-Help From the Middle Ages: A Journey into the Medieval Mind by Peter Jones**

I am going to start this review with a confession: I had not actually heard of this book until a few months ago when a historian I like and respect mentioned during a Substack Live that he was currently reading it and finding it really interesting. His comments piqued my curiosity, and I decided I needed to check it out for myself. Having recently read it, I can safely say it is one of the most fascinating books on medieval history that I have read in a while.

Medievalist Peter Jones does something few historians have done before by taking the reader on a journey into the medieval mind through an exploration of the Seven Deadly Sins. He examines what each of the sins meant to medieval people, which was often quite different to how we think of them in our modern society, and the roles they played in their day-to-day lives. He then asks how we might take some of the lessons and advice from the past and apply them to our own lives to better understand ourselves and the world around us, whilst also improving our emotional wellbeing.

This book pulled me in from the very first page. It is beautifully written and packed full of interesting facts and information about the medieval world that I personally found to be quite eye-opening. It is always a pleasure to read a book and come away far better informed than you were before you started it. I also really enjoyed how the author's personal journey was woven throughout the narrative. Peter Jones penned this book after struggling with his mental health whilst lecturing at a university in Siberia in the depths of winter, and it is incredibly interesting to see the journey of self-discovery he goes, and how his love of medieval history helps him when he is at his lowest. It is a fresh and exciting way of looking at the past, and I am always happy to see things from a new or unusual perspective.

If this book sounds interesting to you, please pick it up and give it a go. I am glad I read it and have absolutely no hesitation in recommending it to you here. I can now only hope that Peter Jones will write more books like this in the future. He is a talented writer and historian, whose work deserves to be appreciated by as many people as possible.

Lisa North



# PARISH HALL

July/August 2026

Thank you to those who attended the AGM last month, We now have a new Secretary. Julia Marshall has kindly taken on this role from Janet Owen, who has stepped down after many years. Joan Waters has also stepped down. The Committee now comprises Amanda Hordern (Chair), Jeremy Gray (Treasurer) Julia Marshall (Secretary), Lynn Ashton, Tony Kinsey and David Rackham.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their continuing support and hard work to ensure the smooth running of the Hall and a particular thanks to Joan and Janet.

Amanda Hordern

Parish Hall activities are listed on the events calendar (on page 9 this month).

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern on 01568 701996 or email [parishhall@yarpole.org](mailto:parishhall@yarpole.org) or to book online go to [www.yarpole.org](http://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.

## 200 Club

The winning numbers for June were: **36: £50 124: £20 75: £10**

This is a final reminder for you to renew your subscriptions for 2026/27 to support our Parish Hall. Subscriptions remain at just £12 for the year, with a prize draw each month.

You can pay by BACS (sort code 40-28-13, acc. No. 81438298, name Yarpole Village Hall Or by cheque (payable to Yarpole Village Hall) or by cash to one of the collection points:

- Yarpole Community Shop
- Jan Tandy, 3 Mulberry Meadow, Yarpole
- Janet Owen, 5 Farm Court, Lucton
- Julia Marshall, Stonehouse, Bircher Common

Please enclose a slip with your name and contact details including email address.

Thank you for your ongoing support - Yarpole Parish Hall Management Committee

**Future dates: 3 October and 21 November Flicks & Food**



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.

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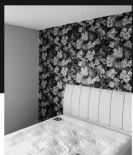
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## Yarpole Group Parish Council

A short meeting took place on 2 June. Highlights included:

Two vacancies, which remain on the Parish Council. Applications are invited.

Information from residents installing solar panels and air source heat pump under permitted development.

The Traffic Regulation Order at Cockgate (to reduce the speed limit) is being followed up. No objection was raised to planning application P261146/FH for a single-storey side extension at Brookhouse Farm, Brook Lane, Yarpole, HR6 0BB.

An objection will be submitted, in response to consultation from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England about transferring Richards Castle parish from Bircher Ward to Mortimer Ward. The alteration is based on population rather than the geographic and structural realities of the area. Richards Castle is deeply integrated with Orleton within the Bircher Ward, sharing vital community ties, the same road network, and bus routes. Conversely, access from Richards Castle to settlements within Mortimer Ward is significantly restricted, relying on minor, unclassified (U) roads or lengthy detours. Prioritising mathematical voter parity over these established community structures will isolate Richards Castle, making it difficult for a councillor stationed in Mortimer to provide meaningful or realistic representation.

The next Parish Council meetings are scheduled for **7 July 2026 at 7pm and 1 September**, at Yarpole Parish Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend. There is no *scheduled* meeting in August. To receive a copy of the agenda, subscribe for updates on the website [www.yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Maggie Brown, Clerk. [clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Yarpole Group Parish Council Vacancies

Applications for **co-option** are invited,

for a Parish Councillor to represent Croft & Yarpole Parish.

For further information or an informal chat please contact the clerk,

Mrs Maggie Brown.

Email [clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk) Phone 07398 222 310

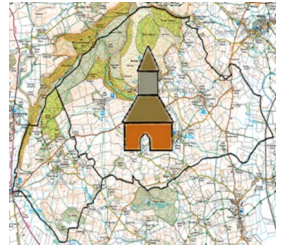
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## The Role of the Parish Council

It has become apparent recently that the role of the Parish Council is not widely understood. I hope you find this useful and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Parish Councils are the first tier of local government in England. Elected corporate bodies, with variable tax raising powers, they represent the interests of the local community and work to improve the parish through local projects and services. Yarpole Group incorporates two parishes, Croft & Yarpole with 514 registered electors and Lucton with 137. Source: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/#statistics>



The parish council may:

- Represent residents' views to Herefordshire Council and national authorities.
- Comment on planning applications and local development proposals.
- Maintain or support facilities such as playgrounds, open spaces, allotments, benches, bus shelters and community buildings.
- Award grants to local groups and organisations.
- Support community events and initiatives.
- Raise concerns with the authorities responsible for local services.

The Parish Council is **not** responsible for:

- Road repairs/potholes. Use [Report a road problem](#), or if urgent, ring 01432 261800
- Waste and recycling collections
- Housing services
- Education
- Social care
- Most highways and traffic management functions.

## Neighbour Disputes and Complaints

A misconception is that a Parish Council can intervene in disputes between neighbours. The Parish Council has no authority to investigate or determine private disputes.

Where concerns involve anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, criminal activity, harassment or other matters requiring enforcement, residents should contact the appropriate authority, such as the police, local authority or relevant agency.

The clerk and councillors may listen to concerns, provide information and help direct residents to the organisation responsible for dealing with a particular issue. However, to remain fair and impartial, the Parish Council does not become involved in disputes between individual residents.

The Parish Council's role is to represent the interests of the community as a whole.

Maggie Brown. Clerk to the Parish Council.

## **News from our County Councillor**

I would like to start this month's column by welcoming Blaine and Michelle to Yarpole and wishing them every success at The Bell in the months and years to come. Our local pubs provide a vital community hub and Yarpole is very fortunate to have one as lovely and as well rooted as The Bell. On the subject of community, we are now into the summer months and there will be a whole host of local events planned by groups either within Yarpole Parish or neighbouring parishes. Please support these where you can as they are often hugely important sources of revenue for local organisations.

Monday 1 June saw the official end of Balfour Beatty Living Places as Herefordshire Council's public realm service provider and the start of our new contract with M Group Highways. I have been heavily involved in this process as the lead Cabinet Member and although I am a cynic by nature, I am very excited about the changes this will bring to how we inspect, maintain and improve our highway network. On 10 June I went around the ward with the Council's senior Highways Engineer to highlight longstanding issues and put forward projects for consideration. We drove the length of the A4110, B4361, B4362 and the C1040 in the ward and I have formerly requested either patching or resurfacing in a number of areas. In addition to this, we took a look at the cattle grid at the end of Leys Lane which is showing signs of deterioration and requires work to clear and repair it. All of the issues we discussed will be logged and inspections arranged.

At the start of the year I said that one of my priorities would be seeking to raise (and improve) the mobile phone signal in Yarpole and the surrounding area. I am pleased to report that the Council is looking to hire a digital officer whose remit will include work in this area. I will update you further as and when the role is advertised.

Last month I wrote about litter and rubbish being left in the B4362 lay-by at Cockgate. I am disappointed to say that whilst the rubbish was removed by Herefordshire Council, further rubbish has appeared in the form of large bags of insulation which look like they may have been fly-tipped. This rubbish has been reported by the Parish Council and me and hopefully it will be collected by the Council soon. Alongside this I have also received a report of a vehicle spotted parked up whilst its owner was attempting to fly-tip. Please be vigilant and if you see any suspicious activity then do report it via Herefordshire Council's website or me.

At County level, our current chief executive (Paul Walker) departs at the end of this month, and his replacement (Paul Satoor) will be starting. I am meeting with him on the 18 June to raise a few local issues.

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

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## Hello from The Bell!

First an apology: we never intended to be closed for that long, moving house and settling into a new business was not supposed to be met with so many delays. The last few weeks have flown by as we paint, sand, varnish, clean, re-organise, and re-decorate but for you, it must have felt like the pub had been closed forever.



We haven't got out and about much, but we are so thankful to have met so many villagers who have stopped by and wished us success and assistance. It is wonderful to be so well-looked after by the community even though we have just moved here.

We did push to open the bar, and food had to follow along, but at least with the bar open we could meet the locals as a pub without customers was a very sad affair.

And now to thank you for all the support as we start our new life at The Bell, a pub is only as good as its customers, and it is shaping up to be amazing!

Michelle & Blaine



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## Yarpole Men's Shed



**Electrifying News!** We're well on the way to getting an electrical connection to the Men's Shed. Trenches have been dug and cables have now been laid so that electrical connections can be made from The Bell to their barn and then across to the Shed. The connections will, of course, have to be fitted and signed off by a qualified electrician, although we are hoping to achieve this by the end of June. We're very grateful to MCBS and Michelle and Blaine at The Bell for their help and support; also, to The Croft Trust whose donations to YMS enable us to meet the costs.

Although we won't consume a lot of power at the shed, having our own connections will make it much easier for our members to meet and work together on our projects. We're currently only opening the shed for meetings on Wednesday mornings, although when the electricity is connected we're hoping to open more often and spend more time fitting out the shed and improving its workshop facility.

**We welcome new members.** If you would like to join Yarpole Men's Shed or want to get more information, then please do get in touch. As we take on new community projects, we are happy to welcome new members who want to bring, or learn, DIY skills or perhaps get involved in the administration of the club. Our contact details are:

**On email:** [yarpolshed@gmail.com](mailto:yarpolshed@gmail.com)

**At our Shed:** Our Shed, located behind The Bell, is open every Wednesday from 10.00 to 11.30am. 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



## 6-legged Safari

When we think about wildlife our thoughts are often directed towards flowers, birds, bees and butterflies. However there are so many other insect species actually making up over 80% of all known animal species.

The six-legged creatures drive ecosystems as primary pollinators, waste decomposers, and an essential food source for birds, bats, and amphibians. In the garden or on our walks we often neglect to look at busy beetles or spot masters of camouflage such as stick insects or leaf insects. Dragonflies have been flying for 300 million years long before the dinosaurs.

We have organised an insect walk on the Grange in Leominster led by Martha and other experts on **Sunday 26 July at 2pm**. This is a family-friendly free event although donations are always welcome. Please meet in front of the Pavilion Café but bring your own refreshments for the end of walk gathering and summary.

Please register your interest by emailing: [leominsterbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:leominsterbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk)

Diana Emes, Communication Secretary

## Names in Yarpole Burial Registers, May 1813 – February 1981

We recently photographed the two Yarpole burial registers at Herefordshire Archives and Records Centre and indexed all 1,600 entries. Ring binders, red for the first, green for the second, each with an A-Z index, are now on the bier in St. Leonard's for anyone to look up any individual instantly by name. The current burial register from 1981 is kept in the vestry, providing a continuous record. The hundreds of names reveal a fascinating story.



### Surnames

Convention divides English surnames into four simple groups; many examples of all four are in the registers e.g.

- Locational – Acton, Bodenham, Clee, Kington, Hill, Stafford, Wood
- Relational – Wilson, Robinson, Preece [ap Rees], Beavan [ab Evan] with ap/ab meaning 'son of', or just adding an 's', Edwards, Philips, Roberts
- Occupational – Arrowsmith, Draper, Cooper, Farmer, Mason, Potter, Sherriff, Tanner
- Nicknames – Ballard (bald-headed), Brown, Dunne, Gray, Goodman, Wylde, Young.

Most common surnames in these registers are Price (62), Griffiths (36), Preece (33), Davies (31), Williams (31) and Powell (30). Smith, ubiquitous elsewhere, only has 18.

Notable local surnames rarely seen elsewhere include Bengree, Connop, Heapey and Pinches. Spectacularly rare is Heapey, estimated to have only 36 bearers and to be the 3,274,477th most common name worldwide. Estimates for Bengree are 64 and 2,394,033, Connop 632 and 516,587, Pinches 1836 and 222,049. Other unusual surnames include Armitstead, a couple who lived at Bircher Hall, Breeze (Old English Breosa, gadfly), Cartrick (a cart-maker) and of course Kevill Davies, owners of Croft Castle. My favourite, Pyefinch, is of medieval English origin, a regional name for the chaffinch or bullfinch. Very rare, 1,484,726th, with 142 people worldwide, it seems to be rooted in Herefordshire.

### Given names

A 2017 Living History article identified 135 names from Yarpole baptismal records. The most common were William, John, James and Thomas, Mary, Alice and Annie. No fewer than 238 given names appear in the burial registers, many only once or twice. The most common largely coincide with the commonest baptismal names, plus Elizabeth but excluding Alice.

*Continued on next page*

Very unusual given names include Milborough (Milbrough, Millbro) derived from a local saint, St. Milburga, an Anglo-Saxon princess, abbess of Wenlock Priory in Shropshire, known for her kindness and miracles. Used more commonly in the past, it is found on monuments in local churches e.g. Richards Castle. Only five people are thought to bear this name now, making it one of the rarest in the world, the 5,493,085<sup>th</sup>. Favella, appearing twice, is also extremely rare, held by 26 people and the 2,084,397<sup>th</sup> most common. Kezia, biblical Hebrew name for a spice like cinnamon, appears once; she was the second daughter of Job.

Many given names in the registers would have been surnames originally. One, belonging to two people, is Ravenhill, which my reference book traces from Hrafnhildr in Old Norse. Another thought to be Scandinavian is Shelton; a third, Longville, derives from Longueville-sur-Scie in Normandy, France.

Yarpole burial registers provide a fascinating source for people interested in names, demonstrating historical connections both hyper-local and international.

Helen & Mike Norris, Carol Clare

## Elderwood Books - A new venture in an old barn

We are Polly Shepherd and Rachel Buchanan and on 29 April 2026 we opened for the first time as Elderwood Books. We have taken on the old Aardvark premises on the Harley Estate in Brampton Bryan, along with a proportion of the books, and are slowly embracing the new lifestyle of running a **café**, selling books, planning events and also, watching the red kites circle above the barn and saying hello to the cows.



It has been a dramatic career change for us both. Polly is transitioning from a teaching career, and Rachel, whose background is in arts and events, has been juggling lots of part-time work during the handover. Both of us have lived and worked in the area for a long time and are happy to be taking this much-loved institution into a new era. Polly has a deep love of fiction, and we both love to cook, so we have been enjoying curating the books and trying out cake recipes in the café. Our new coffee machine has proved very popular, and people have been surprised at how beautiful and light the space is. We are both interested particularly in community and are looking forward to building our shop into a space that lots of people come to.

Our first book group kicks off on Wednesday 17 June, and we have book events, children's events, exhibitions, a supper club and film screenings all in the pipeline, as well as experimenting with the much-loved flea markets that Aardvark were running before us. Come and see us, say hello, try the coffee and browse the books.

The Bookery, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, Shropshire SY7, [Elderwood Books](#)



## YARPOLE PARISH GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME



Yarpole Talk  
Community

*Our mission: to provide the kind of practical assistance and support that a good neighbour would offer.*

**If you need help with anything, give us a call.  
We are at the end of the phone: 07885 525776  
If you - or someone you know - could benefit from the  
Good Neighbour Scheme, please get in touch.**

**\*\*MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. COULD YOU DO THIS?\*\***

### PRESCRIPTIONS UPDATE

Yarpole Good Neighbours Scheme can no longer collect prescriptions on behalf of the community for the foreseeable future. You can arrange for your prescriptions to be collected by a friend or neighbour, but this must be independent of the YPGNS. If you are expecting prescriptions and are unable to collect them, then please see Rowena (9 - 12 Monday to Friday is best) or e-mail: [yarpolshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpolshop@mail.com)

### The 4Cs and MOVE IT OR LOSE IT (MIOLI)

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

What are 4Cs activities for summer?

On **Friday 24 July** Murdo White will entertain us with a demonstration and talk about bagpipes, which should be quite an extraordinary event!

Join us at 11.00 in the Parish Hall. The usual Coffee (or tea) Cake, Company and Chat will be available to all comers. Lift available if you need one.

Then, on **Friday 21 August** we will host our Garden Party by special invitation. Look out for yours.

Need a lift? Phone Val on 01568 780807 a few days before each event.  
More to follow in the September newsletter.

MIOLI continues to flourish under our leader, Kath, who always brings fun as well as enabling us all to MOVE IT, not to LOSE IT!

**Join us , Tuesdays at 11.00 until noon in the Parish Hall.**

Val Ainsworth

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Timothy Sparrow ,BSc(Hons) Ost.Med, MGOsC



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# ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



## Scent in the Garden

On 26 May we were delighted to welcome Timothy Walker, botanist and former Director of Oxford Botanic Garden.

Timothy first became interested in scent 25 years ago when Oxford Botanic Garden created an exhibit for Chelsea Flower show using plants with 'smelly' flowers, including the Voodoo lily, a member of the arum family which stinks of rotting flesh to attract its pollinators, carrion flies.

Plants produce scent to communicate, to attract pollinators and as a warning. Petals, sepals, anthers and pollen all produce a cocktail of scents in a flower. Sunflowers have 150 different molecules to attract bees. The bee orchid has a modified petal resembling a bee and produces a pheromone to attract them. Scent is not restricted to flowers; many plants have scented leaves, pelargoniums, lemon verbena and eucalyptus. Schisandra has scented stems, the variegated horseradish a scented root and the bark of cinnamon is aromatic. It is thought that the evaporation of oil from the leaves of cistus aids heat reduction.

Accompanied by a beautiful slideshow Timothy showed how we can enjoy scent in the garden throughout the year. In winter this can be provided by Chimonanthus, Sarcococca, Hamamelis, Viburnum bodnantense "Dawn" and the vanilla scented Petasites. Spring brings azaleas, Philadelphus, Daphne bholua and Magnolia sinensis giving way to numerous scented summer plants, roses, honeysuckle, pineapple scented Cytisus battandieri and in late season the tiny primrose scented bells of Clematis rhederiana.

Timothy reminded us that scented plants do not just provide a perfumed haven for gardeners but are also of economic importance. Vanilla pods hail from Madagascar where the flowers have to be hand pollinated. Frankincense and myrrh are used in perfume production and lavender in aromatherapy. Scented leaved Artemisia annua grows in China, it is used to treat malaria and is responsible for saving 17000 lives annually.

Ghislaine Arundale

On 17 May ODGC held a very successful plant sale at Orleton Village Hall. The club would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day, those who donated plants, helped man the stalls, provided refreshments and of course our thanks to our loyal customers.

**On Tuesday 28 July we hold our AGM and Bring and Share Supper**

Orleton Village Hall. 7.30pm.

**[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)**

# THE CURIOUS GARDENER

## Oysters in the garden

Oyster root is the alternative name for salsify, an unusual vegetable. It's so-called because the roots are supposed to taste like oysters, but it doesn't make a regular appearance in the shops, and even restaurants don't often feature it on the menu. This might be because it's a real faff to prepare, and you don't get many mouthfuls for all your effort. Having tried growing it in the veg garden once I never bothered again. But if you forget it's a vegetable and treat it as a biennial flower, it will prove itself to be a really charming addition to the garden.

It seems to thrive in sunny, dryish places. We've got it self-seeding around our gravel car turning area, and each year it pops up in different places. It produces a very slim, upright stem with narrow leaves, taking up no space at all, and will reach between one and three feet in height, depending on how much depth of soil it finds. The first year it will concentrate on growing, but the in the second year it branches into numerous flower stems. One by one the long, pointed buds will open into extraordinary, star-shaped flowers with the slim green sepals forming an outer star behind the purple petals – hence another of its common names, Jerusalem Star. The flowers open in the morning and close at lunchtime, which is why it's also known as Jack-go-to-Bed, and each flower lasts for just two or three days. Then the bud shuts again while the seeds form and finally opens once more to reveal a most stunningly constructed seed-head. The outer star of the sepals is still present, but instead of the purple petals there is a soft, fluffy globe, two or three inches in diameter, beautifully divided into little pockets. It only lasts a day or so, because as soon as there's a dry, sunny morning it releases its seeds, each suspended from a light-as-air parachute.

All you need to do to start a colony off is to scatter a pinch of seed into the place you'd like it to grow. After that it will look after itself, and unless you accidentally weed out the seedlings you'll never be without it. It needs absolutely no time or effort: what other recommendation do you need?!

Sue Russell





Thanks to the following for the photos on this page:

Tim Ware - clouds ;

Keith Smith - female and male house sparrows, Mrs Tiggywinkle;

Kim Le Cornu - fox at Lowermead, Yarpole;

Julia Morris - resident robin at White Owl Barn, Bircher.