The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

November 2026

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And all our regular features







Thanks to Martin Bott for the photos on the front cover and this page which were taken by his father, Harry Bott, husband of Audrey, in the 1980s.
Front cover - Croft Fun Day, June 1989
This page - Yarpole Pancake Race, February 1980

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

The newsletter team is very grateful to the Parish Council for the generous financial assistance for The Parishioner which was agreed at their last meeting. We still rely on advertising income and donations to meet all our costs and are also grateful for the continuing support of our readers.

We were delighted to receive the photos on the front cover and previous page from Martin and Helen Bott, Audrey's son and daughter-in-law. They have also passed on five commemorative millennium mugs that were in Audrey's possession. These were made by local potter, Katie Eastaugh, for distribution to all the children in the parish. They are decorated with images of the bell tower, trees and the names of villages in the parish. If anyone has broken their mug and would like a replacement, or would just particularly like to own a beautiful piece of parish history, please get in touch with the newsletter at the email address below. There are photos of the five mugs on page 39.

There are also more photos taken by Harry Bott in the 1980s depicting the pancake race, fun day, and various scenes around Yarpole. These will be uploaded to the Yarpole website www.yarpole.org so do look out for them there. Those of individual houses I have been passing on to the present-day owners. I should point out that as the photos are old, the colours are quite subdued; those printed in the newsletter have been digitally enhanced to sharpen the images and bring out the colour.

Hetty

To send in articles and news items, please email 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 ⅛ 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.

STOP PRESS

Julie Archer has taken over administration of the community Whatsapp group. There is also a new parallel group, Yarpole Give and Take, for advertising unwanted items. All existing members should have been sent an invitation to join this group, but if you have not, please contact Julie on 07769 970385. Many thanks to Katie for setting up the original group and for all her hard work over the last few years.

Audio version of The Parishioner

The Parishioner is also available by email in audio files for parish residents with sight problems. If you'd like to receive it in this format, or know someone who would, please let us know at newsletter@yarpole.org.

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Share local information & news, relevant to our community, via the Yarpole WhatsApp group. Use the sister group 'Yarpole Give and Take' for advertising unwanted items.
To join either group, send a message with your mobile number to:
Julie Archer 07769 970385.

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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Police Community Support Officer meetings



Our local (Leominster) PCSO, Steph Harper, aims to visit the Gallery Café every five weeks on a Friday at 11.00. Her next visit, all being well, will be on 13 November. Join her in the café for coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd

COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting:

Monday 16 November 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Making gift bags
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 information



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





Village Quiz

Wednesday 11 November
7.00pm, Parish Hall



Hopefully this will become a monthly event.

There will be no bar, so feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Entry cost: £2.50 per person with any proceeds going to Blind Veterans UK.

Please contact Lesley Bradford on 07950 725882 to book a place.

WHAT'S ON

2S Birchpoles

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

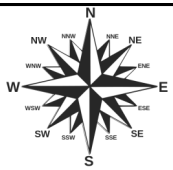
7:15-9:15pm (Adult Choir)

Refreshments included

St Leonard's Church, YARPOLE

£5/ session Contact details

07915886265 or fb page



Walking Group

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

November walks: Friday 13, Sunday 22

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

Contact: **Viv 01568 782271** or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



New Pilates class



There are now two classes each week at the parish hall

Tuesdays at 1pm and Thursdays at 10.45am

Both classes cost £8 per session and are still 'pay as you go'

So now you have the flexibility of 2 sessions to choose from

Or alternatively you can come to both!

Jane Lawrence

Tabletop Sale

At the Parish Hall, 14 November, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

To book a table at £10.00, please contact Anna on robanna.morley@btinternet.com

An Act of Remembrance

Lucton Memorial

Sunday 8 November at 10.55 am

All Welcome



WHAT'S ON



Kay Hutchinson, Tom Hutchinson, Esme Hutchinson, Jack Hutchinson, Hetty Hutchinson

PG

Addicted to Sheep

"Addicted to Sheep" is a documentary film that follows the Hutchinson family, tenant hill farmers in the North Pennines, as they navigate the challenges and rewards of breeding Swaledale sheep, offering an intimate look at their lives and the harsh realities of farming.

Yarpole Parish Hall
HR6 0BL

Saturday 21 November
7.30 pm

Tickets
Standard: £5.00
Under 18s: £4.00

Enquiries: 07788 547255 or 01568 701996
This is a Flicks And Food event. Food at 6.30. Film at 7.30. Food £10. Film £5. Food must be booked in advance: ring 07788 547255 or 01568 701996. Film only does not require booking.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

arts alive

Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

Arts Society Lectures

Illustrated lectures on arts-related topics at Ludlow Assembly Rooms
Next meeting on **Wed 18 November 2026, 2.00-2.30 pm**
The Bayeux Tapestry (on show at the British Museum, Sep 26-July 27)
Imogen Corrigan
Visitors welcome, £8.00 on the door. Membership £45.
More information: https://www.theartssocietytemevalley.org.uk
For help with transport contact Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**

Repair Café

Bin it? No way!

First Saturday of the month 10.00 - 12.00 (last repairs).
Next session: **7 November 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

Kington Choral Society with the Marches Camerata

Handel's *Joshua*

Friday 20 November, 7.30 pm at Presteigne St Andrew's church.
Tickets £18 (<18s free) from: kingtonchoral.org.uk; trybooking.com; Salty Dog (Presteigne); Border Bean (Kington); and Tower House Gallery (Knighton). Information on FB and kingtonchoral.org.uk



Orleton Village Stars & Angels Festival



Saturday 5 December 11am - 4pm
This year's theme is Christmas carols

Join us to celebrate creative displays from organisations and individuals in Orleton

- Visit St George's Church
- View the beautiful decorations and the Lego Village
- Enjoy refreshments - mulled wine, hot chocolate, baked potatoes, pizza, mince pies
- Visit Santa in his grotto
- Take part in a craft activity or two

FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS WELCOME

EVENTS DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Events this month

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 3	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00 - 9.00 pm
Wed 4	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6.00 pm
Sun 8	Lucton	Remembrance at the Memorial	10.55 am
Tues 10	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00 pm
Wed 11	Parish Hall	Village quiz	7.00 pm
Fri 13	Various	Walking Group	10.30 am
Fri 13	Gallery Café	Police Community Support Officer meeting	11.00 am
Sat 14	Parish Hall	Tabletop sale	10.00am - 1.00pm
Sat 14	Parish Hall	Private event	6.00 pm
Mon 16	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30 - 3.30 pm
Sat 21	Parish Hall	Flicks & Food - Addicted to Sheep	6.30 / 7.30 pm
Sun 22	Various	Walking Group	10.30 am
Fri 27	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00 - 12 noon

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
Tuesdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	1.00 - 2.00 pm
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00 - 11.30 am
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	Art Group	2.00 - 4.30 pm
Wednesdays	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

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

A little plea from the PCC

What a season we have had, and I know that the churchyard and burial ground have maybe not looked their best, but whose garden has in the excessive heat that we had to cope with?

For the last two seasons, we have paid for maintenance of the churchyard in addition to the maintenance of the burial ground. This in no way lessens the valuable contribution made by volunteers. Weather permitting, they will have had their big push to get the churchyard in prime condition for the winter months ahead. And not forgetting the Adopt a Grave initiative, the burial ground really does benefit from the work done and again we have volunteers to thank for this. Thank you, thank you.

So here is the little plea…. Could you, would you, make a donation specifically to help us meet these additional maintenance costs?

The PCC will allocate all donations on the contactless device in the church during the month of November to the churchyard maintenance, along with any cash donations in the left-hand side of the wall box at the bottom of the stairs. If you would like to make a donation directly into our bank account, the details are CAF Bank. A/C number 00013394. Sort code 40-52-40, using reference CM. Cheques should be made payable to Croft with Yarpole and Lucton PCC and can be left in the letterbox to the right of the vestry door.

Thank you

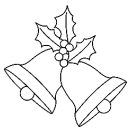
St. Leonard's Church and Community Hub

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

Christmas Advent Windows



Would you like to decorate an advent window for Christmas? 2026 will be our 6th year doing this where 24 households make a Christmas-themed window display, one for each day of advent. We would like to encourage new villagers to take part this year as well as regulars. Windows should be able to be seen from a footpath. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join in. The more volunteers, the less arm-twisting I need to do.

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

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Concert by the Love to Sing Choir (including the Birchpoles)

The concert by the above on 27 September was joyful, to say the very least! For the Birchpoles, their new leader has a wonderful informal approach and is a breath of fresh air and has combined them with her Love to Sing Choir seamlessly. We, the audience, were even invited to chat to them during the interval! None of this deterred from the hard work and dedication that was so very obvious and for those of you who missed it, I would look out for what I hope will be the next one because you missed a real treat! In appreciation of a very enjoyable afternoon.

Jennie Martin

NB There is a photo of the concert on page 40 - Ed

Community Crafters Charity Project



This year, the Community Crafters' charity has been SANDS, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society. We have been knitting and crocheting blankets for their memory boxes.

These boxes are given by hospitals to bereaved parents to help them create a lasting connection to their baby. The blanket is an important part of the box, and parents report finding it very comforting to have a home-made blanket to wrap their baby in during their brief time together, and to have a precious keepsake for the future.

18 blankets have just been sent off to SANDS.

Sue Beagley

The Cart Shed
Transforming Lives

The Cart Shed Charity works with adults and children experiencing mental health difficulties. Based in a woodland on a farm at Norton Canon, we use the principles of Occupational Therapy [finding meaning and purpose] alongside activities such as green woodworking and coppice craft, horticulture and creative crafts to transform lives.

We are currently recruiting volunteer minibus drivers. For more information please contact Richard at info@thecartshed.co.uk or give us a call on 01544 318231. More information is available at www.thecartshed.co.uk. We would love to hear from you.



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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

November 2026

A very nice afternoon was spent ….

Back in September we organised a very pleasant afternoon in the church for our wonderful volunteers.

It was very well attended and served as part social (tea and scones involved) as well as a training & information sharing afternoon on a wide range of subjects from alcohol to fire (a combination usually not recommended) to help keep all of us up to date.

Just a reminder that we do take support for our volunteers seriously at the same time as enjoying the (very important) social nature of the roles.

A timely festive reminder

Well, it isn't so far away now, so something to cut out and stick on the fridge:

Posting deadlines

General International Guidelines for Christmas 2026:

Late November / Early December**:** Start posting to distant non-European regions (such as Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and parts of Asia/South America).

Mid-December (Dec 9–Dec 16)**:** Standard deadlines for the USA, Canada, and much of Europe.

British Forces Post Office (BFPO)**:** The last recommended posting date for overseas service personnel and families is **30 October 2026**

General UK Domestic Deadlines (For Reference):

2nd Class / 2nd Class Signed For**:** Friday 18 December 2026

Royal Mail Tracked 48**:** Saturday 19 December 2026

1st Class / 1st Class Signed For**:** Monday 21 December 2026

Royal Mail Tracked 24**:** Monday 21 December 2026

Special Delivery Guaranteed**:** Wednesday 23 December 2026

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: yarpoleshop@mail.com
Website: www.yarpole.com

GALLERY CAFÉ

November 2026

Tasty Tuesday will be on <u>TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER at 1.00pm</u>

Look out for the menu – something warming!

Please book by 3.00pm on Friday 6 November

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. Booking sheet will be on the tall cupboard.

November at the Café

We are well into Autumn and it is a great time to join us for a hot drink or lunch - there is plenty to enjoy and all home-made and delicious

Please check yarpole.org, Facebook and posters for updated opening information

Meet friends, old and new, and enjoy our excellent cakes, scones and lunches – and the famous Saturday bacon rolls!

The Gallery Café supports the work of St. Leonard's Management in caring for the church and keeping it open

Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining our team
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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St. Leonard's
MANAGEMENT
PRESERVING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE
CHARITY NUMBER 1196963

Last month we reported on the receipt of a grant from the Benefact Trust, towards the extension of the gallery café kitchen. This month we have been fortunate enough to receive a very generous grant from the National Lottery, meaning that it is realistic to start planning for the development in earnest. Again, huge thanks to Gordon Ewing and Helen Norris in making these grant applications. No work will be able to start until all permissions are granted, and so it will be a little while until the changes take place.

The café is still going well – although it is always in need of volunteers and has not been able to serve Thursday lunches for much of this year. If anyone is available to help out, please let us know.

The floor in the shop has been repaired, and using the same technique, we hope to be able to mend the holes in the floor around the church. This work will take place gradually over the coming weeks and months and we hope to be able to minimise disruption as we do so.

We are still in the market for having a list of people who are able to carry out day to day maintenance tasks; please let one of the trustees know if you are available to work either employed or as a volunteer. Similarly, we are keen to increase the number of trustees for the charity; please contact one of the trustees to find out more.

The bollard lights leading up to the church are becoming increasingly unreliable – so we are looking to replace these over the coming weeks.

William Talbot Ponsonby - Trustee

A little glimpse of the Tyrol in Yarpole from the 1970s!

See page 38 for further elucidation!



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CROFT WITH YARPOLE AND LUCTON PCC

CHURCH MATTERS

November 2026

You may have recently been following the case of Christa Pike, the American death-row prisoner, who was recently given two sets of lethal injections which failed to kill her. It has made me reflect on how we judge others who have done wrong and how we punish them. As a Christian I believe in the idea of forgiveness and not being judgemental of others. But I am also aware of how hard that can be, especially for the family members who have lost a loved one as a result of murder.

In considering the use of the death penalty I have asked myself, what is its purpose? I have come to the conclusion that apart from it being a form of deterrent, it is largely an act of vengeance. In the book of Deuteronomy 32:35 it says:-

'Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip'

What God is telling us is that it is not our place to judge others and decide how to punish them, if they do wrong. It is God alone who will be the final judge of our sins and it is God who will decide our punishment. It is only right that God should be our judge as it is only God who known the full extent of our weakness, our sinfulness and our repentance. Only God knows what is truly in our hearts.

In St John's gospel we are reminded that we are all guilty of sin and therefore have no right to judge and punish others. When people are about to stone a woman who has committed adultery Jesus says:

'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her' (John 8:7)

So what should we do if others sin against us? We should show compassion and forgiveness towards others, because if not, what right do we have to expect compassion and forgiveness from God. In The Sermon on the Mount Jesus says:

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' (Matthew 7:12).

I can't help thinking if we lived our lives by these words the world would be a better and happier place. The kindness, forgiveness and non-judgemental compassion we show to others is likely to be reflected back to us, rather than anger and vengeance.

Dear Lord, we pray for all those facing execution around the world. Help us to feel compassion for them and to learn to forgive them, as we would wish to be forgiven by you. Help us to remember that we are all your children no matter what we have done, and that you will love us always. May we come to realise that our redemption and forgiveness for our sins is for us to accept from you, through our repentance and our compassion for others.

Jane Higgins - Local Minister

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services
November and December 2026



Date	Service	Church	Time
Nov 2026			
Sun 1	**Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer** **All Souls' Service**	Croft Yarpole	09.30 15.00
Wed 4	**Be Still**	Yarpole	17.30
Sun 8	**Holy Communion Common Worship**	Yarpole	09.30
Mon 9	**Café Church**	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 15	**Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer** **Celtic Worship**	Yarpole Yarpole	08.30 15.00
Sun 22	**Lay led service**	Yarpole	09.30
Mon 23	**Café Church**	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 29	**Group Service** **Christingle**	Eyeton Yarpole	10.30 15.00
Dec 2026			
Wed 2	**Be Still**	Yarpole	17.30
Sun 6	**Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer**	Croft	09.30
Sun 13	**Holy Communion Common Worship** **Nine Lessons and Carols**	Yarpole Croft	09.30 15.00
Mon 14	**Café Church**	Yarpole	19.30
Sun 20	**Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer** **Celtic Worship**	Yarpole Yarpole	08.30 15.00
Thurs 24	**Carols Around the Tree** **Midnight Service**	Yarpole Yarpole	15.00 23.30
Sun 27	**Group Service**	Orleton	10.30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:

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

To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other information please phone: Priory Office 01568 612124

Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

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

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/



PARISH HALL

November 2026

Help keep our hall welcoming and at the heart of the community

We are a very friendly Committee who keep the hall and its grounds running and ready for the clubs, classes, celebrations and gatherings which bring us all together. We know the local community values and enjoys the events we organise such as Flicks & Food and Ceilidhs. These events simply would not happen without the committee and the friends who help to organise them.

Could you help us? Whether you can give time for running events, ideas, or practical help with cooking, building and garden maintenance, your support will make a real difference and be much appreciated.

If you can support us, please contact Amanda or one of the Hall Committee
parishhall@yarpole.org or 01568 701996

Adam Scott has run the Arts Alive Flicks for many years now and would like to retire at the end of the Winter Season. Do you enjoy cinema? Would you like to take over organising Flicks? There are 4 films a year over Autumn/Winter in conjunction with the Parish Hall, which organises the food. If you would like to find out more, please contact Adam direct on 01568 780556.

Parish Hall Committee

200 Club winning numbers for October

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PARISH HALL

November 2026

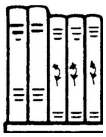
Parish Hall future dates

21 November: Flicks & Food - Addicted to Sheep 6.30/7.30*

12 December: Christmas Ceilidh. More information nearer the date.

*REMEMBER PLEASE **BOOK YOUR FOOD IN ADVANCE**
by end of Wednesday prior to the event .

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
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.



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.



The library is full, so we suggest that any donations go to the National Trust bookstores at Berrington or Croft Castle.

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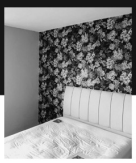
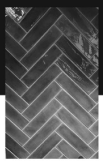
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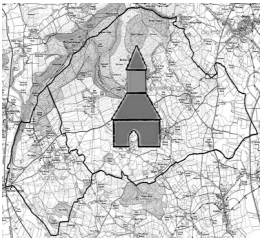
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Yarpole Group Parish Council

The Parish Council recorded its sincere thanks to Cllr Geoff Trotter following his resignation. Members expressed appreciation for his dedication and valuable contribution during his time on the Council. His departure creates a vacancy, which will be advertised shortly. Residents interested in serving their community are encouraged to consider applying for co-option and joining the team working on behalf of the Group Parish.

Three residents attended the October meeting. Requests were made for kerbstones along part of the B4362 in Bircher and for police speed enforcement measures to help reduce traffic speeds through the village.

Finance featured prominently as members reviewed accounts from Quarter 2 (April to September 2026) and considered the first draft of the 2027/28 budget. The budget, which determines the Parish Precept collected through Council Tax, includes provision for the possible review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, day-to-day council administration, grants, burial ground contributions, Lengthsman work, maintenance of the Community Meadow, and upkeep of land at Parish War Memorials. The importance of maintaining appropriate reserve levels while balancing future spending needs was emphasised. The budget will be reviewed further in November before final approval in December.

A grant of £750 was approved towards the printing costs of *The Parishioner*. Councillors highlighted the value of this publication, which is delivered by volunteers to every household in the Parish.

The Lengthsman has completed drainage work on Stocking Lane, Lucton, and repairs to the footbridge on Public Right of Way LK11. These costs will be reimbursed through Herefordshire Council grants.

The Council considered planning application P262820/K for tree works at Lower House Farm, Yarpole. Members raised no objection to the proposed removal of a fir tree but expressed concern that a proposed two-metre crown reduction to a prominent hornbeam tree could have a significant visual impact. A site visit by the Case Officer has been requested.

Discussion took place on moss removal from pavements on Croft Crescent; Alternative and more cost-effective methods are to be investigated. The Council also agreed to purchase two bleed control kits for installation alongside defibrillators at the Parish Hall and St Leonard's Church. A third kit has already been installed in Lucton, supplied by a First Responder from the Arrive Alive Charity.

Support for the potential adult exercise equipment project was limited; however, Cllr Di Hill has kindly agreed to coordinate a working group to investigate further. Volunteer help would be welcomed.

Ward Cllr Dan Hurcomb offered to follow up the damaged concrete post beside the stream on the C1039. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Hill and two residents for cleaning the Welshman's Lane War Memorial in Bircher, and members noted that the verge on Welshman's Lane has now been cut.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Parish Hall. The next meetings are on 3 November and 1 December. Residents are warmly invited to attend.

Maggie Brown, Clerk.

Email clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk Phone 07398 222 310.

News from our County Councillor

Herefordshire Council

This year is flying by and I can not believe that I am already writing my November article for the Parishioner. Nor can I believe that I have now been your Ward Councillor for 3 years and 5 months and there are less than 7 months left of my four year term! Over that time, I have dealt with many local issues and one constant theme has been concern over the state of our local road network. Things have improved dramatically locally but there is still more work to be done so please let me know if you have a stretch of road you think needs to be put forward for consideration in future resurfacing programmes.

This article will be my last one before Bonfire Night on 5 November so I would echo my annual plea that if you are to have fireworks please let your neighbours know so they can make any necessary arrangements for their animals. If you prefer to go and watch a display instead, the Orleton Young Farmers will be doing their annual fireworks and bonfire event on Thursday 5 November and Aymestrey will be doing theirs on Saturday 7 November. Both are excellent events and raise much needed funds for local charities.

By the time you read this the patching work will have taken place in Bircher and this will be followed by surface dressing next year. In addition, Highways have confirmed that the kerbing of a section of the highway and a drain on the B4362 in Bircher Village are being planned for next year.

Since my last article I have visited Yarpole with Herefordshire Council's Highways Tree Officer to examine a number of trees reported to me by concerned local residents. The officer has assured me all of them are healthy and safe trees but that if they deteriorate then we should get back in touch for a further inspection. In addition, the Drainage Engineer has been in touch to discuss the cattle grids on Leys Lane and Welshmans Lane, both of which are causing concern to local residents. This concern comes from the fact that both are full of sediment and have visible cracks to their structure. I have re-emphasised the need for urgent works in the short term and the need for an annual maintenance schedule for both assets – I am disappointed on the lack of action but will keep you all posted on the outcome.

At a County level, the Council has begun the process of considering its 2027/28 budget. The next financial year looks to be incredibly challenging given the disappointing three-year settlement from the Government we received last year. I will do my best to fight for maintaining funding for those services we depend on locally but as always the pressures of funding adult and children's services continues to weigh heavily on the Council. I will provide a more comprehensive update in due course.

The Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council has delayed his visit to Bircher until early November so if you have a place you would like him to visit or something you would like me to raise with him then please do 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

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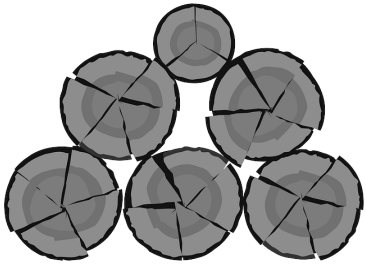
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So autumn has arrived and with that, a new menu at the Bell! Platters are lovely, enjoyed outside in the sunshine, so the change in the weather brings a more winter warmer menu, the comfort food needed for the long cold nights. We have the supper menu available Monday and Thursday evening, available lunch Friday and Saturday as well.

Our Dinner menu is still served Friday and Saturday evening, and our Sunday roast available until 3pm. Why not call to book to avoid disappointment? Just remember the pub is closed on a Wednesday and the kitchen is closed on a Tuesday evening.

Our Festive Menu is now available and bookings are being taken for December.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Michelle and Blaine

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Yarpole Talk Community

Advance notice of our Big Quiz – 13th March 2027

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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?

4Cs continues its programme of speakers and other activities as follows:

November 27: a representative from the local ECHO group will tell us of living with disabilities. It should be a fascinating insight into day-to-day life of someone who faces challenges every day - and how she overcomes them.

December 11: Our Christmas-themed activity when we celebrate with mince pies, plus something which we have made to take home.

January 22: Helen and Mike Norris, along with Carol Clare, will tell us of their work in identifying and researching those departed and in our Burial Ground.

Usual time, 11.00, in the Parish Hall, with Coffee (or tea), Cake, Company and Chat.

Need a lift? Ring Avis on 780874 a few days beforehand.

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Yarpole Men's Shed

Preparing for the winter months

The months of September and October seem to have flown by and, by the time this article is published, we will be making the transition from our summer and autumn activities and focussing more on winter projects. We will continue to support St. Leonard's Management and the Parish Hall Committee through regular weekly maintenance checks and also to carry on work at The Bell. It is possible, though, that we may have to scale back on other community projects, partly because the weather may not be on our side and partly because we are still a small group with limited manpower.

Fitting out the Shed

Getting electricity to the Shed has proved more of a challenge than originally planned although we are hoping it can be completed soon, so that we can utilise it as a meeting place and workshop during the winter months.

Interested in joining?

We still need more men to strengthen our numbers. Although the Men's Shed is recognised locally for its work on community projects, our real purpose is to provide a companionable space for men to get together, chat, socialise and support each other. Sometimes friendly banter in good company with tea, biscuits and maybe even fruit cake is just what we need. We also have a social get-together at The Bell on the 3rd Tuesday in the month and potential new members are welcome to join us.

Get in touch with us on email: yarpoleshed@gmail.com

Visit us at our Shed: Our Shed, located behind The Bell, is currently open every Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



The Herefordshire Pomona

In September we welcomed Bill Laws, author and historian.

Published in seven sections between 1878 and 1884, the Herefordshire Pomona was designed to restore Herefordshire to its fruit growing supremacy by providing a catalogue of its apples, the names of which were in danger of being lost. It is a classic of late Victorian natural history and an important tool in assessing apple genotypes from old forgotten orchards.

In the C17 the Reverend John Beale described Herefordshire as 'The Orchard of England' and Herefordshire orchards as 'A Pattern for All England'. However by the C18 there was concern that although Herefordshire was famed for its orchards very few of its best apple varieties found their way to market or fruit shop. In 1851 The Woolhope Club was founded to study the natural history of Herefordshire. The Agricultural Society of Herefordshire was persuaded that a Pomona was needed to describe and illustrate local fruit and its cultivation. A local doctor and former president of the Woolhope Club, Dr Henry Graves Bull, and Dr Robert Hogg, vice president of the RHS and author of 'The Fruit Journal' were tasked with cataloguing and describing the fruit displayed in annual shows held by the Woolhope Club's Pomona Committee.

The Pomona was beautifully illustrated in 441 watercolours by a commercial artist, Alice Blanche Ellis and Edith Elizabeth Bull, Henry's daughter. These were painstakingly accurate, featuring not only blossom and fruit but the diseases and blemishes to which they were prone.

The Pomona was not only useful for dessert and cooking apples but it was considered to be an important tool in advancing the knowledge of cider - 'a beverage not only healthful but grateful to the palates of all ranks'.

In 1880, Herefordshire boasted 25000 acres of orchards, more 'fruit lands' than Devon, Somerset or Kent.

Ghislaine Arundale

On Tuesday 24 November **James Pearson** will present a talk entitled

The History of Burford House and gardens.

The attractive gardens and grounds surrounding the house have an early history which James will tell us about. He will also cover John Treasure and what he grew and talk about the existing garden and its challenges going forwards.

Orleton Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start. Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person which includes tea or coffee. Raffle and Plant Stall. Annual Membership £15.00

www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk.

News from the Leominster Area Branch

Moth Hunt

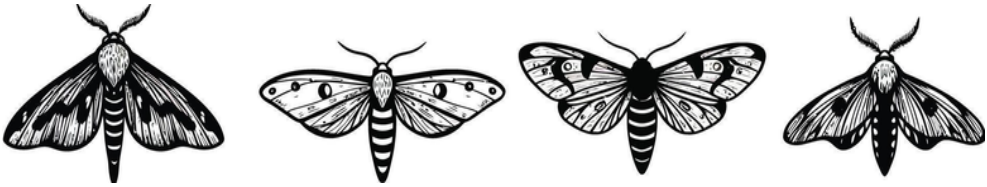
A good number of people, including children, met outside Grange Court on an early September evening. We set up two moth traps but sadly it turned colder and windy; not the best conditions for attracting moths although we did manage to collect a small number including lesser yellow underwings and a pretty yellow brimstone moth.

However, members Rupert and Sandra had set up the traps in their garden the evening before which had been far warmer. They brought along the insects which had been caught and we tried to identify them. Some people had brought along helpful books, while others used apps such as Google Eye or iNaturalist. We managed to identify some.

The children were delighted to see the moths up close, and some had brought along magnifying lenses, which made it more fun. They enjoyed having the job of releasing the moths from their special containers.

It was great to meet up with members and non-members, and now we have the equipment we intend to repeat the event next summer. In the meantime, the branch is looking to organise a couple of talks and some wildlife walks. These will be announced on our Facebook page, and of course you can contact us by emailing leominsterbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk

Diana Emes
Communication Secretary



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City & Guilds LEVEL 3 QUALIFIED

Drama on Green Lane or Calling all Thespians

As well as our most excellent 'Flicks in the Sticks' film showings every autumn and winter, there has long been a tradition of amateur dramatic productions in Yarpole. As far back as 1920, the year the Yarpole WI was founded, the ladies put on a production of *The Umbrella Duologue*, a 'vintage comedic theatrical short script written by E Dora Battiscombe and designed for two players.'

In the 1960s, the indomitable WI 'Gaiety Girls' burst onto the Yarpole stage, with doubtless stunning performances of *Tyrolean Tapestry* (see photo on page 17) and *London by Lamplight*, featuring the WI choir (see photo below).

Since I first arrived in Yarpole, in 2013, there have been at least half a dozen, probably more, productions. Sue Russell's full-length dramas, including *Wind in the Willows* and *Cold Comfort Farm,* amused and entertained, while Christine and David Cheshire's 'Parish the Thought' sketch shows had audiences in stitches. (See photos opposite).

First Covid, and then the passing of time meant that there have been no new productions since, I believe, 2023. Meanwhile, sitting in storage in the village hall, we have some fantastic staging and lighting equipment going to waste. So, if there are villagers out there who fancy themselves as actors or directors, contact, in the first instance, the editors of the Newsletter on newsletter@yarpole.org, or put out a post on the Yarpole WhatsApp Group, and, if there are enough of us, maybe we can put something together for a spring performance.

Paul Humphrey



Gladys Bennett Kath ..... Roberta Barker Mrs Holder's Mother Kate Ward Mrs Riblett Mrs Owen Joan Morgan Vi Gibbons Lucy Pugh
Edith Binkley Alice Morris Mrs Price Mrs Ada Probert Mrs Pritchard





Left - Paul Humphrey and Rob Morley as Ada and Cissie, Parish the Thought, produced by Christine Cheshire, 2017

Right - Motorists Rupert & Monica played by Carol Clare and B Brooks in Sue Russell's production of The Wind in the Willows, 2019





These photos show the two sides of the commemorative mugs, made by local potter Katie Eastaugh, for all children in the parish at the time of the millennium. You will notice that Yarpole is misspelt on one of the mugs! If you would like one of these mugs, please email The Parishioner at newsletter@yarpole.org - Ed.

Thanks to the following for the photos on the back cover:

Laney Lane - Yarpole Walking Group on the 'FLOW bridge' at Craven Arms, the UK's first lightweight, low-carbon railway footbridge made off-site from fibre-reinforced polymer

David Cheshire - Fungi on Bircher Common

Carol Clare - 'Beyond Broadway' with Birchpoles, Pembridge Adult and Pembridge Juniors Love to Sing choirs in St. Leonard's on September 27th

Louise Hodgetts - Juvenile robin at Mulberry Meadow

Keith Smith - Weather cane and jackdaw at St. Leonard's

Helen Norris - Last Lucton Fuchsias






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