

# The Parishioner

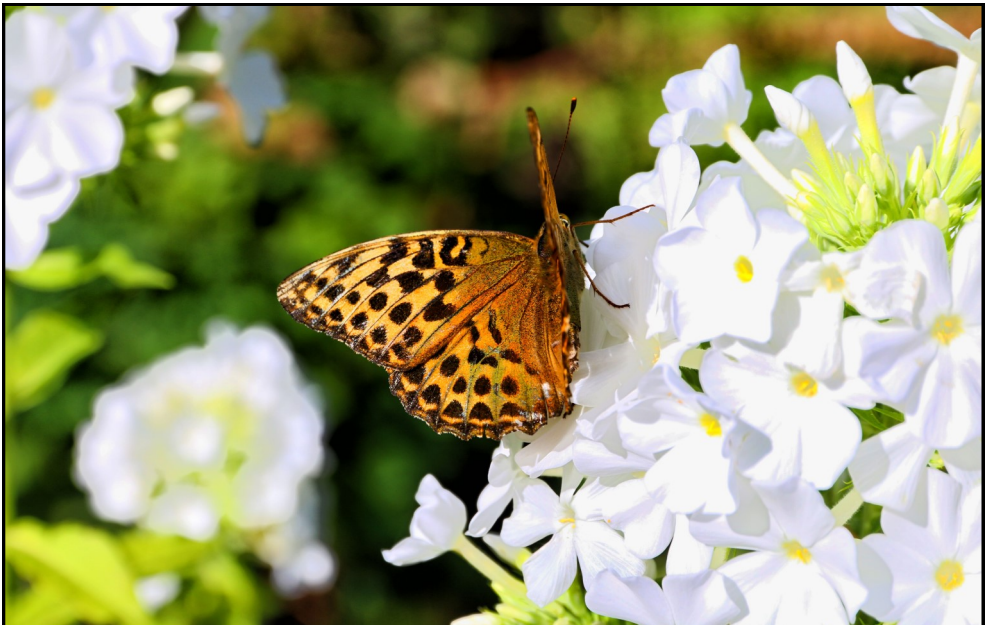
YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

September 2024

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And all our regular features





Thanks to the following for their photos:

Front page: Keith Smith – Silver-Washed Fritillary, Bircher.

This page: Maura Bowden – Janet Knight and Linda Finney with flower arrangements made by all the group at the 4 Cs session, which they led.

Kate Griffiths – a sunflower in her garden. Bill Adamson – Large Tortoiseshell with Inula.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Welcome back to a bumper edition of The Parishioner after our summer break. The only time we have ever gone up to 44 pages before, there was a problem fitting everything onto the disks used for the audio version of the newsletter. I'm glad to say we hope we have now overcome this difficulty so we can occasionally increase the page numbers if necessary.

A new feature this month is the events diary on page 9. This has been combined with the parish hall bookings list so you can see all our local activities listed in one place. Church services are not included and they are still in their normal place on the back cover. Don't forget that if you want to comment on a new feature, or give us any other feedback, we are always pleased to hear from readers. Use the suggestion box in the church, or email us at the address below.

We are extremely grateful for an anonymous donation of £50 which we received recently and are sorry not to be able to acknowledge this generosity personally. Despite the generosity of many parishioners, 80% of residents have not contributed, and we would still be delighted to receive your donations. Contact us at the email address below for details of how to do this, or of course you can use the collection tin in the shop.

Thanks to everyone who has been sending in photos and I'm sorry we couldn't use them all. We have now set up a photo bank so we can store photos for future use. Please do keep on sending them in - we love the variety that we receive.

Don't forget that if you don't want to keep your newsletter, rather than putting it in your recycling bin, you can take it to the church for others to read. Visitors to the parish are often glad to be able to pick one up and we always run out of spare copies before the end of the month. Leave it on the chest by the shop door. Thank you.

Hetty

To send in articles and news **items, please e-mail us at:**  
***newsletter@yarpole.org***

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

**The deadline for all submissions is**  
**THE 10th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

***There is no newsletter in January or August***

### ADVERTISEMENTS

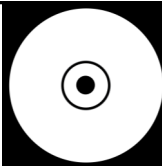
**To place a commercial advert in The Parishioner, please email**  
**newsletter@yarpole.org and we'll send you more information**

Prices start at £5 for a 1/8 page ad

We also print small ads for parishioners for which we suggest that a small donation is left in the yellow collection box in the shop.

## The Parishioner on audio disk

The Parishioner is also available as an audio disk 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).



Adverts are not read out in the audio version; here are contact details for some services:

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

**Builder:** Colin Vickress 07968 768011 / 01568 612699

**Plastering and damp proofing:** Daniel Newman 07701 097 897

**Handymen:** Simon 07846 259549; Andy 07855 813303

**Gardening:** Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 / 07876197770

**House cleaning:** Pristine Clean 07733194057

**Oven cleaning:** Oven Wizards 01885 400337 / 07817 477850

**Chimney sweep:** Phil Mundy 01568 780417 / 07837 935102

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

**AppleMac Mechanic:** Lee Jones 07875 267790

**Mobile hairdresser:** Dawn Goodwin 01568 770387

**Foot health:** Stacey Gardner 01568 368306 / 07540566871

**Osteopaths:** Leominster Osteopaths 01568 610610

**Homecare:** 07375 520646

**Solicitors:** Norris Miles 01584 810575

**Funeral services:** Victoria Allen 01584 879035; Oak Tree 01568 250030



WhatsApp

## Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group



WhatsApp

Enjoy chatting and sharing photos with members of our community via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have well over 100 members! To join this group, please message Katie Daniels on 07786 515922 with your mobile number.



## 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, don't forget to inform Sue Langley to be sure they receive a pack. Email [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).



## COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting

**Monday 16 September - 1.30-3.30pm**

In the GALLERY CAFÉ, ST LEONARD'S, YARPOLE, HR6 0BB

£3 per session

We are a friendly group of crafters of all abilities who meet once a month to craft/knit/stitch together and enjoy a lovely chat!

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME



## Come and Be Still



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

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

**St Leonard's Church, Yarpole.**

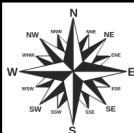
**All are welcome**

## Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks on a Wednesday at 11.00.

Her next visit, all being well, will be on 28 August, then 2 October. Join her in the café for a coffee and a chat.

Pete Lloyd



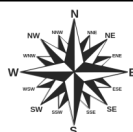
## Walking Group

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

September 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 782271** or **seiftonbatch@gmail.com**





# One Life

Cert: 12 - 109 mins |



**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sep – 7.30pm**  
**Yarpole Parish Hall**

Admission: Adults: £13    Child: £12

To book food: contact Jill on 01568 780250 or 07531 599700

This is Flicks With Food. Meal at 6.30. Film 7.30. Food £8,  
Film £5. You can just come for the film if you wish.

British stockbroker Nicholas Winton visits Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and forms plans to assist in the rescue of Jewish children before the onset of World War II, in an operation that came to be known as the Kindertransport.

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Johnny Flynn, Lena Olin, Romola Garai, Alex Sharp, Marthe Keller, Jonathan Pryce and Helena Bonham Carter



## Programme for 2024/25

23 Nov: A Man called Otto

Dates TBC: The Color Purple (2023), The Holdovers.

## WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S ON



### THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS

St. Leonard's Church

**Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30pm**



We are a friendly village choir who meet weekly for an eclectic mix of music, from Verdi to Les Misérables!

New members are always welcome and there are no auditions.

Do come and join us!

Contact: Steve Walter, [stevewltr7@gmail.com](mailto:stevewltr7@gmail.com) Tel: 07791 490439

## The Feast of St Leonard

An important date for your diary – eve of Wednesday 6 Nov

The Parish Hall Committee, the PCC and St Leonard's Management are hosting a cross-community fundraising evening of food (including a hog roast), drinks and musical entertainment in St Leonard's Church. Tickets will be limited - details to follow soon.



**Herefordshire  
Historic  
Churches  
Trust**

In April the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust awarded £72,500 in grants to PCCs for works from mundane, but essential repairs to church walls, to adding features to churches to make them more community friendly. We are very keen to support those churches that are working hard to maintain the church for future generations.

This could not happen without hard-working PCC members (have you thought about joining?) and the generosity of donations to the churches, the Trust and supporters of our events.

Dates for your diary (HCS is Hereford Cathedral School):

**Wednesday 2 October** HCS Concert at Dore Abbey

**Thursday 10 October** Coffee Morning at Lyde Arundel 10am to midday

**Saturday 19 October** Hannah Roper In concert 'Folk to Film' Lyonshall Church 7pm.

**Wednesday 20 November** Minims Musical Theatre Choir, Bishop's Frome Church 7pm.

**Monday 25 November** HCS Christmas concert St. Francis Xavier Church, Hereford.

**Saturday 7 December** Octavo Much Marcle Church 7pm.

See our website for more details: [www.hhct.co.uk](http://www.hhct.co.uk)

Tickets from: <https://buytickets.at/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/1351531>

## WHAT'S ON

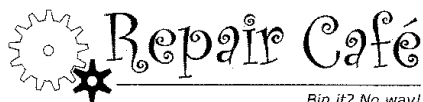
## WHAT'S ON



**Orleton Village  
Handmade & Gift Fair**  
AT ORLETON VILLAGE HALL  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**  
**FREE ENTRY 10AM - 3PM**  
**SHOP GIFTS & LOCAL PRODUCE**  
*Stalls Available!*

**Do you make beautiful  
handmade items?  
Are you looking to sell your  
makes locally?**

**For more details Stalls available.....  
Email Nicki & Sue at [orletonhandmade@gmail.com](mailto:orletonhandmade@gmail.com)**



*Bin it? No way!*

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

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

Leominster Community Centre, Church  
Street, Leominster, HR6 8NJ

Refreshments available

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

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

Or find us on Facebook.

## Arts Society Lectures

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



Next meeting on **Wed 18 September 2024**  
National Gallery 200 years: The Nation's Mantlepiece.  
Jonathan Conlin.

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

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

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**



## LEOMINSTER SHOPMOBILITY



Did you know that you can borrow disability equipment and medical supplies from Leominster Shopmobility?

**THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FREE TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT**

**Morris Mews, High Street, Leominster HR6 8LZ. TEL: 01568 616755**



# EVENTS DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

## Events this month

Date	Venue	Event	Time
28 Aug	Gallery Café	Police Community Support Officer meeting	11.00
3 Sept	Parish Hall	Yarpole Group Parish Council meeting	7.00-9.00pm
10 Sept	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
13 Sept	Various	Yarpole Walking Group	10.30
16 Sept	Gallery Café	Communal Crafters	1.30-3.30pm
22 Sept	Various	Yarpole Walking group	10.30
27 Sept	Parish Hall	4 Cs	11.00-12.00
28 Sept	Parish Hall	Flicks & Food	7.30pm
2 Oct	Gallery Café	Police Community Support Officer meeting	11.00

## Programme of Regular Weekly Activities

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Mondays	Parish Hall	Glyn Whiting's Art Class	10.00-12.00am
	Parish Hall	Zumba	6.00-7.00pm
	Parish Hall	Yoga	7.30-8.30pm
Tuesdays	Parish Hall	Glyn Whiting's Art Class	10.00am-12.00pm
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00-11.00am
	Parish Hall	Art Group - restarts 11/09/24	2.00-4.30pm
	St Leonard's	Birchpole Singers	7.10-9.30pm
1st Wed	St Leonard's	Be Still	5.30-6pm
Thursdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	10.45-11.45am
Fridays	Parish Hall	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm

See 'What's on' pages for more details of all events  
Check [yarpole.org](http://yarpole.org) for up to date information and any changes

## LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES



### Yarpole Parish Hall urgently needs a Treasurer – could this be you?

**Without a Treasurer the Parish Hall cannot function.** We urgently need someone to join our friendly committee to take on this role as soon as possible please.

You don't need lots of experience, just to have an interest in numbers, be happy with internet banking and be able to use a computer. Everything is all set up and ready for somebody to take it over and you will have lots of support.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact Jill, our Chair, on 01568 780250 or email: [jill13.grant@gmail.com](mailto:jill13.grant@gmail.com) for an informal chat, just to find out a little more about the role before making any decisions.

The Parish Hall is an important part of the community and is well used for regular classes and private functions, but cannot continue without a Treasurer. We meet approximately every three months, so nothing too onerous!

We thank Nigel Archer for being our treasurer over the last couple of years and for all the work he has done, and look forward to hearing from anyone who thinks they might be able to help us going forward in this role please.



### WHAT IS THIS 4Cs THING?

It started as an offshoot from the Yarpole Parish Good Neighbour scheme. A kind of "What else could we offer?" idea. So we thought we'd promote a daytime activity when people could meet to enjoy a chat, in good company, and just chill together for an hour or so. Time out from the daily round. Of course, a get-together has to be lubricated with coffee (or tea) and **copious** amounts of **cake**.

By my reckoning, that's actually 5Cs, if you count COPIOUS as well as the usual 4 - company, chat, coffee and cake - to which the 4Cs attributes its name.

Then it grew! What next? Speakers, topics, demonstrations (of the peaceful kind), story sharing, T'ai Chi, songs, massage... Suffice to say that we've never had a session without one or another of these activities alongside the 4 (or 5) Cs. Customer satisfaction? Well, the "regulars" turn up to every session; the helpers do the same, and the promises of the 4 (or 5) Cs are fulfilled each time we meet. Do you fancy joining us, either as an interested visitor, or as a helper? Give us a whirl! Just turn up, 11 till noon, 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month in the Parish Hall. Need a lift? Ring Val 01568 780807 or Avis 01568 780874 a few days before the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, and we'll make sure you get there.

See you there? We hope so!

Val Ainsworth

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## NEED ANY HELP WITH SMALL JOBS?

Army Veteran recently retired who is honest, hard working reliable and affordable.

Very happy to help with any small jobs inside and out including putting up pictures, shelving, curtains, redecorating, hedge cutting, mowing lawns etc.

**Please contact Simon  
on 07846 259549**

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Ring Nina 07375 520 646

**CERTASS** *let the sun shine in...*





# YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

**September 2024**



The wonderful fresh fruit and vegetables that the shop supplies have continued to be a key part of our goods provision. The sterling work of Paul Totney from Cherries and Berries to supply us with excellent quality (local as far as possible) produce is often admired with envy by our visitors. The ability to buy just the amount one needs rather than being committed to a supermarket pre-packed amount is also much appreciated by the villagers.

This year we have also been delighted to have our supplies supplemented by generous local gardeners as well. The mini-cucumbers from Mr Phillips, the runner beans from Mr Sheridan, the berries and apples from Mr and Mrs Russell, plums from Dr Stokes, both Mrs Duncan's and Mrs Shepherd's honey and of course the amazing wide range of vegetables that Mrs Mangnall has so kindly provided us with have been greatly appreciated - and devoured with gusto - by many!

Kate Mangnall's glorious bunches of flowers have been eagerly received by us to sell and have brightened the shop with their vibrant colours and beautiful fragrance - but the problem is they sell so fast we barely have time to appreciate them before they are snapped up!

To accompany these home-grown delights, shoppers have been delighted to find more unusual grocery supplies on our shelves - orzo, polenta, tahini, jars of rouille, roasted red peppers, capers and olives along with pastry cases and homemade meringue nests have flown off the shelves - and it has been wonderful hearing the recipes and ideas shared as meals are planned and considered.

Remember we are always happy to reserve and/or deliver anything you would like - so do call in or email [yarpoleshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpoleshop@mail.com) and see what we can tempt you with!

Rowena

## SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

	Shop	Post Office
<b>Monday - Friday</b>	9am - 5pm	9am - 12noon
<b>Saturday</b>	9am - 1pm	9am - 12noon
<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



We have welcomed Jackie Thomas to the café! She is our new Café Supervisor and has settled in very well. Jackie will be managing lunches on Thursdays and Fridays and will be around at other times too.

A huge 'thank you' to Sue Russell and Andrew Praill, the Trustees who looked after us so well. Sue had responsibility for the café and did a fantastic job; you might still see her up there!

We are really enjoying our Tasty Tuesday events with our customers who are so supportive. For September we are planning another treat! It will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 1pm. Places will be limited so please book early.

£12.95 for a main course and hot drink

£14.95 for both courses and a hot drink

Please inform us of any allergies, we are happy to cater for individual needs where possible. To book please email: [gallerycafe@yarpole.org](mailto:gallerycafe@yarpole.org), 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.

We do still need volunteers to help us so why don't you pop in and see what we do?

The café remains an important meeting place in the village and we need to be open every day!

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

### **Gallery Café Opening Hours**

Monday – Wednesday 10.30-12.30 for drinks & cakes

Thursday – Friday 10.30-3.30 serving lunch 12-2pm

Saturday 10.30 -12.30 for brunch

For enquiries/bookings:

Email - [gallerycafe@yarpole.org](mailto:gallerycafe@yarpole.org)

Phone (during opening hours only) - 01568 780594

Or drop in to see us in person.

Check [www.yarpole.org](http://www.yarpole.org)

Yarpole Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>

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**Farm Shop** – stockists of local and bespoke products of the finest quality and affordable prices. As well as many products home-cooked on site with any quantities able to be made for event/gatherings.

**Café** - Freshly prepared meals to order showcasing the amazing quality products our area and team produce.

**Cakes, traybakes and treats** available all day along with a vast array of drinks including freshly ground luxury coffee and our speciality thick milkshakes.

You don't need a main course to enjoy our **Deluxe Whippy ice-cream** in a classic cone or as a sundae pot.

We've also teamed up with a number of dealers bringing a great range of **salvage items** and **garden accessories** as well as a number of **artists** and **crafts professionals**.

**Open Wednesday to Sunday 9.30am to 5pm (Saturday and Sunday 4pm close)**

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### Troubling times can bring out the best in people

Over the last few weeks as a country we have been horrified by the unrest that has taken place on our streets. Many of us are distressed by the attitude of some people towards people of different ethnic backgrounds and faiths, their ignorance about migrants and lack of understanding that many of those they are targeting are just as British as they are. But amidst all this there have been many moments of positive behaviour, such as the stories of Muslims coming out of their mosques to offer food to rioters and others in communities helping those whose premises have been damaged to clear up the mess and make repairs.

In thinking about this it brings to mind the Parable of the Good Samaritan in St Luke's Gospel. In Judea, Samaritans and Jews did not get on well together and the Jewish people saw Samaritans as lesser individuals and were often hostile towards them. In spite of this, when the good Samaritan sees a Jewish man lying on the road, after being set on by thieves and left for dead, he tends to his wounds and takes him home and looks after him till he has recovered. In contrast a Jewish priest and a Levite do not stop to help the Jewish man. Instead they walk over the other side of the road to avoid him. In telling this story, Jesus is making the point that those that some may despise are capable of doing great good even to those who might be considered their enemies. In his act of kindness the Samaritan is showing that compassion for a fellow human being should transcend any differences that may exist between us. No matter what our race or background we are all children of God and need each other's love and support in times of distress.

*Dear Lord, help us to have compassion for all people no matter who they are, or where they come from. Help us to be like the Good Samaritan and offer help and support to others, even those who may be hostile towards us. Help us to show love towards those who feel hate, so that they may learn to understand the healing power of love and forgiveness.*

Jane Higgins



**Old St Peter's Church  
Lucton**



**St Leonard's Church  
Yarpole**



**St Michael  
& All Angels Church**





Whilst the summer has been rather indifferent, life in our village and locality continues to buzz with activity. We have noticed an increase in visitor numbers to our historic 12<sup>th</sup> century Bell Tower, the village community shop, the ever-popular Gallery Café and our beautiful church. This benefits us all as the funds raised help to keep our community hub, St Leonard's Church, in good condition for a broad range of community events as well as maintaining it as a place of sanctuary and worship. A really big thank you to everyone who plays a part in making our buildings and grounds look beautiful and welcoming. Naming everyone who has made a difference would fill every page of The Parishioner.

That said, there are three very important people who deserve special thanks. Barbara Nurse, Andrew Prail and Sue Russell have been hard working trustees of St Leonard's Management for three years. Our beloved Barbara passed away in June after a long valiant battle against illness. We send love to her husband, John and family. Andrew and Sue are standing down as trustees as of 1 September. Their invaluable contribution to village life, by playing key roles in keeping our church open as the central hub of the locality, can never be underestimated. Andrew and Jane are moving to Devon and we wish them the happiest of times in their next adventure. Sue and Peter are staying in the parish and are having some personal time finally! We thank them all for their dedication and service. Their efforts have given our church, community hub and café the resilience to continue protecting our past and building our future.

We have four new trustees now in place to carry on this good work. They are Sebastian Bowen (who has oversight of grant funding for special projects); Gordon Ewing (who has oversight of finances, communication and governance); Stefano Street (who has oversight of buildings and maintenance); and William Talbot-Ponsonby (who has oversight of the Gallery Café and events scheduling).

We also welcome Jackie Thomas, our new Café Supervisor. Jackie has already rolled her sleeves up and is working hard with all our café volunteers to build on the reputation of our highly regarded café. In 2023 the café surplus made a net contribution to SLM's finances of £9,150. This is about two fifths (40%) of the funds needed to keep St Leonard's community hub/church open. Forecasts for 2024 are looking even stronger so well done to everyone for a great effort in challenging times.

In the future we hope to improve accessibility to St Leonard's by having automatic main doors and to extending the Gallery Café kitchen area so that Jackie and her team of volunteers have more space to prepare, cook and serve lunches, teas and coffees and even more delicious cakes!

Gordon Ewing  
Trustee



# MARKHAMGARAGE<sup>LTD</sup>

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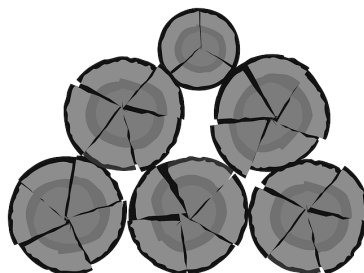
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# PARISH HALL

September 2024

Parish hall activities are now on our new events calendar (on page 9 this month)

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern

01568 701996 / [parishhall@yarpole.org](mailto:parishhall@yarpole.org). Or go to [www.yarpole.com](http://www.yarpole.com)

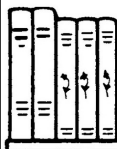
and click on 'Church & Parish Hall Bookings' to book online.

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

## Reminder of Future Dates For Your Diary

**23 November** – Flicks & Food

**14 December** – Christmas Party with a bring & share buffet



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

DVDs and blu-rays of recent Flicks films are also available to borrow.



## 200 Club

Here are the winning numbers for the July/August draws:-

July Draw: 121 £50, 150 £20, 44 £15, 28 £10

August Draw: 61 £50, 165 £20, 98 £15, 148 £10

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed/taken out subscriptions to our 200 club. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and make a big difference to the on-going running costs of our hall.

Unfortunately, we haven't 'sold' as many numbers as last year. Although we have kept the number of prizes the same for these first two months, we really need to 'sell' another 20 numbers to maintain the same number of monthly winners for the rest of the club year.

As there are 10 draws left for the year, the annual subscription is now £10. If you would like to purchase one of our remaining numbers, please contact Jill at [jill13.grant@gmail.com](mailto:jill13.grant@gmail.com) or Jan at [rwtandy@btinternet.com](mailto:rwtandy@btinternet.com) asap, before the September draw.

We look forward to more of you joining the club and remember you have the opportunity to **WIN £50** each month or smaller amounts.

Thank you.

Jan Tandy / Jill Grant

Lottery Administrator / Chair of Parish Hall

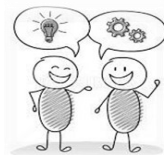




## YARPOLE PARISH GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

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**Yarpole Talk  
Community**

### **What do we do?**

We help with travel to shops, hair and medical appointments, small tasks, light gardening and DIY, admin, computer issues, company and pet care!

We collect the prescriptions each week to ensure your medicine is waiting for you.

We hold the 4Cs – Chat, Coffee, Company and Cake – all welcome.

**Your donations help us to pay our expenses, thank you clients and donors!**

**We would welcome new Committee members to the GNS. We meet approximately every six weeks and share coffee, croissants and common sense to keep the GNS running smoothly!**

Get in touch to find out more - Val Ainsworth, Dave Edwards, Anna Morley

The 4Cs continues to flourish with our guests and helpers having a lively session of Chat, Coffee, Company and Cake on the 4th Friday of each month, 11.00 till noon, Parish Hall.

### **Friday 27 September**

Sue Russell will let us into some of the secrets of her successful gardening experiences.

### **Friday 25 October**

Gordon Ewing will give us a look behind the scenes of the *Titanic* disaster of 1912, unfolding some of the personal tragedies behind the headlines.

### **Friday 22 November**

William Talbot-Ponsonby will talk about the Mappa Mundi, kept at Hereford Cathedral.

### **Friday 6 December**

A Christmas theme to today's meeting.

If you need a lift, ring Val 780807 or Avis 780874

All welcome!



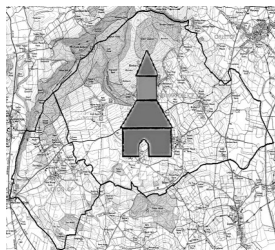
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## Yarpole Group Parish Council

A minute's silence was held at the July meeting of the Parish Council in memory of former councillor, Barbara Nurse.

**Parish Maintenance.** The programme of maintenance for this year was discussed. Information has been put on the website, under Council Business/Policies and Procedure.

**Local Drainage Fund.** This has been offered by Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council may apply for funding for certain ditching works; completion of a drainage survey (reviewing an existing drainage map of the Parish and logging any assets missing from the map); minor drainage schemes and gully clearing and cleansing. With 15.1km of C and U roads in the Parish, this will take some prioritising and organisation!

**Community Meadow.** Bollards to demarcate the car park are ready to be installed (9 August). Final touches following the planting event in February have taken place, and the wildflowers have bloomed!

**Junction at Cockgate.** The Clerk and Councillor Hurcomb agreed to follow up poor road markings at the junction, and the possibility of a *traffic emerging* sign. The Parish Council's Traffic Regulation Order request, asking for speed to be restricted to 40mph, was not agreed as substantial engineering works would be required. What these works would comprise has been queried.

### Planning:

Two applications were supported - P241100/F - Planning Permission Meadow Lea, Luston, Leominster HR6 0AS. Proposed change of use from agricultural tie to 3-year temporary use as holiday let; and P241563/K - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area Old Shop Cottage, Lucton, Leominster HR6 9PH. A mature ash tree in the northern boundary hedge half way down the garden needs to be pollarded down to the main unions to reduce leverage and risk of falling branches.

It was noted that Planning Application P233174/F - Planning Permission Land Adjacent Maund House has been approved with conditions, including one preventing further permitted development at the site.

P231083/F - Proposed change of use of an agricultural building - mixture of equine and agriculture - Bircher Common. Additional documents dated November 2023 including a statement from the Agent were noted. The Parish Council has responded further to the application, raising concerns about access, potential damage to the Common and information provided by the Agent.

The next scheduled Parish Council meetings are on Tuesday 3 September, 1 October and 5 November, 7.00pm at the Parish Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and may speak during the Public Session or at the Chairman's discretion.

Mrs Maggie Brown, clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk



## **News from our County Councillor**

August tends to be a quieter month in the Local Government calendar. There are no formal Cabinet or full Council meetings and many Parish Councils (including Yarpole Group) do not meet in August. Despite this, the usual activities of the Council continue apace.

Whilst driving around the local area you may have noticed quite a lot of activity on our roads. The summer weather, coupled with an extra £12 million investment in our highways this year, is the root cause of this, and I for one am glad we are finally seeing some much overdue improvements, even if there is quite a bit more to do. Locally we have benefited from patching and surface dressing work on the Lugg Green Road (by Oaker Wood Leisure), a resurfacing of the B4362 from Mortimers Cross towards Shobdon and resurfacing of a stretch of the A4110 from shortly after Mortimers Cross towards Kingsland. Work is also planned in early September for further resurfacing on a stretch of the A4110 between Kingsland and Shirlheath. Despite these roads not being in the Parish itself, many Yarpole residents travel these roads regularly and I hope you will notice the improvement.

Alongside this resurfacing work I have been making the case to senior officers at the council for relining of the B4362 between Mortimers Cross and Bircher, improvements around the Green Lane / Cockgate Junction and resurfacing of the B4361 at Eyecote, just outside Luston, to name but a few. If you have other areas you would like me to consider then please contact me as soon as possible.

Earlier in the year, Herefordshire Council ran a Public Rights of Way (PROW) grant for Parish Councils and the submission deadline for this was at the start of July. Parish Council responses have now been reviewed and I am told the Council is on track to deliver £170,000 worth of improvement with over 500 faulty assets (fingerposts, gates, stiles, etc) scheduled for replacement. This is a huge achievement and will see improvement to the PROW network in partnership with Parish Councils and without the huge cost of involving Balfour Beatty or other large contractors!

The Council have also launched a Local Drainage Fund from which Parish Councils can apply for funding and eligible areas include ditching, drainage schemes and gully clearing. The Parish Council will be considering this at their September meeting, so if you have any ideas then please do come along and share them.

As always, you can catch me at the monthly Parish Council meetings, (1st Tuesday of the month) where I am always happy to take questions or answer queries, or outside of the meeting via email, phone or letter. I am also happy to attend any meeting or event so please feel free to invite me along.

Cllr Dan Hurcomb

Email: [dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 07837726821  
Letters: Cllr Hurcomb c/o Democratic Services, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE



The Mortimer Community Benefit Society, owner of the Bell at Yarpole. Managed for the benefit of the community.



Those who have visited The Bell over the last month or will have probably heard that the MCBS has ended its working relationship with our bar manager Christina Andrews. Rest assured this was not taken lightly or without due consideration.

For the immediate future, The Bell will go back to being closed on Monday and Tuesdays and open on Wednesdays from 5pm. However, we will be open on August Bank Holiday Monday from 12-6pm. Full opening times are on the website, Facebook, Google pages etc. In the meantime, we continue to run with the kind help of our small band of volunteers and a few paid staff including our chef, but if you are able to help us in any way, please do get in touch.

Hopefully the summer will have arrived by now, so here is what we have in store coming up over the next month...

The midweek social continues to prove very popular, especially our £10 midweek meal which regularly sells out.

Thursday lunchtimes you can enjoy a small fish and chips and mushy peas for only £8.50, just perfect for those smaller appetites. Our full menus including our new sandwich selection are also available.

Bookings are strongly advised via [dine@thebellatyarpole.co.uk](mailto:dine@thebellatyarpole.co.uk) or 01568 601110. Takeaways are always available on every item we sell.

You may not read this in time, but we are also holding a short ceremony at 2.00pm on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August to unveil our legacy bench in the pub garden. This is to say thank you to the families of those shareholders who are sadly no longer with us but have kindly donated the value of their shares back to the society. It would be nice to see as many of you as possible on the day

The pub is seeing an upturn in visitors from outside the area along with holiday makers from both Home Farm and Middleton Farm sites, but, as ever, it is the locals and shareholders who are the lifeblood of The Bell at Yarpole and we hope to see you over the coming weeks.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please get in touch with us.  
Thank you for your kind support.

# MCBS Annual Members' Meeting

The Annual Members' Meeting of the Mortimer Community Benefit Society will be on **Thursday, 17 October**. The meeting will commence at 7.00pm at the Parish Hall.

We need as many members as possible to attend. It has been an eventful year for the MCBS and The Bell. Come and hear about our progress and future plans for your pub. The agenda and last year's minutes are available to view on the Mortimer Community Benefit Society website (<https://themortimercbs.org>) As always there will an opportunity for members to ask questions at the informal session at the end of the meeting.

Only shareholders may vote at the meeting. Shareholder application forms are available on the website. Do you fancy joining the committee and being part of the team directing the business? Application forms are on the website.



As always keep an eye out for events at The Bell. In case anyone has forgotten, our telephone number remains 01568 601110.

MCBS

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<h3>Nutritional Therapy</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Registered Nutritionist Specialising in Digestive, Hormonal &amp; Blood Sugar Issues, Weight Management and More</li> <li>✓ Lab Testing Available</li> <li>✓ FREE Nutrition Consultations</li> </ul>	<h3>Foot Health Clinic</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Experience Relief with Foot Treatments, Provided by Experienced and Dedicated Foot Health Experts</li> <li>✓ Expert Diabetic Foot Care</li> <li>✓ FREE Foot Examinations</li> </ul>	<h3>Spinal Decompression (IDD) Therapy</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Unlock Relief: Targeted Treatment for Persistent Sciatica, Back, Neck &amp; Leg Pain</li> <li>✓ Book Your FREE IDD Therapy Consultation Today</li> </ul>		
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## WATCH THIS ... SPACE

Visitors to 'The Bell at Yarpole' may have noticed some activity recently in a corner space of the car park at the back of the pub. No, it isn't a helipad for wealthy clientele! It's the base for a timber shed which is being constructed by the members of Yarpole Men's Shed Group.

We, the YMS Group, have entered into an Agreement with Mortimer Community Benefit Society, owners of The Bell, who have kindly agreed to let us locate our shed on the site. Being central to the village this will help us to connect with the community and be visible to the local population.

The Men's Shed concept started in Australia around 1999. It then spread to New Zealand, Ireland, The UK, Canada, Europe and The USA. Yarpole Men's Shed Group is registered with UK Men's Shed Association. We meet in order to, among other things:

- Share practical skills
- Learn new skills from other members
- Make and mend in the company of others
- Assist in local community projects

All these activities are for Shed members to connect socially, build lasting friendships, pursue practical interests at leisure and, of course, Shedders enjoy the laughter which ensues.

Connection, conversation and creation - that's what it's all about.

Currently, Yarpole Men's Shed is a small group. We would welcome new members to join us. If you are interested please email us at:

[yarpolshed@gmail.com](mailto:yarpolshed@gmail.com)

As for the space, keep watching! Over the next few weeks the walls and roof will be added to the base which is already there. When completed, we will have an open day at the Shed and all will be welcome to come and see what we're all about. And The Bell is there too for great food and drink. What more could you want?

Brian Dobson - Chair, Yarpole Men's Shed Group







THE CHURCH  
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**DIOCESE OF HEREFORD**

**September 2024**

Dear Friends

We're three-quarters of the way through our Year of Faith, which seems like a good point to pause and reflect. Building on last year's Year of Prayer, we've been encouraged throughout the year to develop our confidence in our faith, and in the fact that people are actually hungry to hear the stories of our faith and what it means to us.

Of course, by the grace of God we'll carry on growing in faith and confidence as we go into 2025, just as we've carried on growing in prayer in 2024.

But what is faith, really? I reflected on this with churchwardens at the Visitations in the Ludlow Archdeaconry in the summer. Faith isn't believing six impossible things before breakfast. Faith doesn't require us to remove our brains as we enter church, leaving them in a box ready to collect on our way out of church and back into our everyday lives. Faith isn't a vague nebulous matter - faith has to be in something or someone.

Faith is, according to the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." There's a paradoxical firmness in that. We can't physically see the outcome of the promises we receive by faith, but we can have an unshakeable conviction that they are true, and that what we now receive by faith we shall one day know by sight.

We can be so certain because we know and trust the one in whom our faith is placed. We know God's character and faithfulness. We know, as the well-loved hymn puts it, "As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be." God has proved it time and again in the pages of Scripture, in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, and in our own lives.

When we know the one in whom our faith is placed, we know our faith is not in vain. When my children were young, my very adventurous daughter climbed the tree in our back garden. She got stuck. She was only two, and she became scared. She called to me for help, but first on the scene was her older brother, aged four. "Don't worry," he soothed his frightened sister. "I'm here. I'll help get you down." My daughter paused momentarily from her crying and then resumed her loud pleas for help. Not because she didn't trust her brother, but because she knew he didn't have the height or the strength to deliver on his well-meaning promise. Only when I rushed down the garden did she begin to calm down, because she knew I could actually help.

Our faith is not in vain because we know the one in whom we have trusted. We know that He is at work in the seen and in the unseen, and that He is at work building His Church whether we shall ever live to see that time of growth and harvest or not.

So let's keep telling one another and those we meet day-by-day the stories of faith, and of the utter reliability and certainty of the gospel and of the God who makes it all possible. For faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not [yet] see.

Archdeacon Fiona



# ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

## AGM & Bring and Share Supper

At our July meeting Orleton and District Gardening Club held a short AGM at which our accounts were approved and the committee were re-elected and thanked for a very successful and enjoyable year.

This was followed by a bring and share meal with delicious food brought by members. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

On Tuesday 24 September Rowan Griffiths will be giving a talk entitled **Magnolias at Hergest Croft Gardens**. Hergest, near Kington, has a collection which he has been recording and labelling. He has worked there for 15 years and is very experienced and knowledgeable.

Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start. Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person including tea and coffee. Annual membership is very good value at £15 per year.

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk). Find us on facebook - **Orleton District Garden Club**

## The Riddle of the Sands

An Arab had 19 camels and three sons.

On his death, the following was found written in his will:

To my eldest son, I bequeath half of my camels.

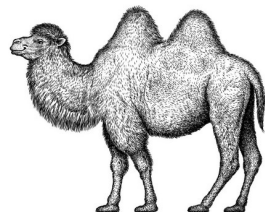
To my middle son, I bequeath a quarter of my camels.

To my youngest son, I bequeath a fifth of my camels.

How did they satisfy the terms of his will without slicing up any camels?

(Answer on page 39)

Thanks to Paul Humphrey for this riddle



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# THE CURIOUS GARDENER

## An understudy in the wings



Our garden really doesn't need more dandelions. The wretched things put their anchors down into clumps of irises, or insinuate themselves into the cracks of paving slabs from where they can't be removed without some serious work. You'd hardly spend money on buying a dandelion from a nursery. But there's one dandelion that we bought 35 years ago that quickly became one of our most precious plants: *Crepis incana*.

This Greek native is different from our English thuggish dandelions in many ways. First of all, it's not yellow: it's pink, a delicate shell-pink with deeper centres. Then, unlike its English cousin, it doesn't spread. It very rarely sets seed in this country. The fluffy heads that follow the flowers are packed with empty cases – we've never found a single viable seed in all the years we've grown it. You have to take cuttings, but it produces very little material that you can use, and the cuttings rot off at the earliest opportunity. And the third way in which it differs from English dandelions is that it won't grow just anywhere. Being a native of Greek mountains, it wants lots of sun and very good drainage. Hardly a good candidate for a Herefordshire garden, one might think, but for 15 years the two plants that we brought with us when we came here performed beautifully, flowering for six weeks every summer.

You'll notice that I'm writing in the past tense. Alas, they both succumbed to human error. A decorator put a plank down on top of one, and by the time he'd finished painting the window there wasn't much of it left. The other was pulled up by an energetic weeder – well, the leaves do look suspiciously dandelion-ish. Luckily, I'd got a couple of potential understudies. I'd taken some cuttings the previous year: most had rotted off without rooting, but two remained. They were too small to plant out immediately, so I coddled them for another year before planting them out in two different locations. One shuffled off its mortal coil in the wet winter, but the other survived and this year rewarded me with a fabulous display. The moral of the story? Whether it's actors in the village play or plants in the garden, keep an understudy in the wings!

Sue Russell

### *Grafted Apple trees*

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## News from the Leominster Area Branch

Some of you might have taken part in the 'Big Butterfly Count' this year and may be shocked to read in July that so far just over half the number of insects had been spotted compared to this time last year. Butterflies need warm and dry conditions to be able to fly around and mate, so we can blame the wet weather. However since the 1970s the numbers have plummeted by 80% and experts believe the main causes are habitat loss and pesticide use.

August saw branch members undertake their own butterfly survey on Bringsty Common to look at species and habitats with one of the reserve's officers. Unfortunately the results will not be ready in time for this edition but we hope to give you any highlights next month.

Following on from our July event, which concentrated on making gardens wildlife friendly and providing the right habitat for pollinating species, we will be looking at how some farms are doing their bit for nature. Local farmer, Ben Andrews will be hosting us for a visit to his regenerative farm on 21 September 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Booking will be essential so please get in touch for further details.

LeominsterAreaBranch@gmail.com

Diana Emes  
Communication Secretary

*NB Diana's article makes Keith Smith's photo of a silver-washed fritillary this month all the more special, which is why we chose it for the front cover. According to The Woodland Trust, silver-washed fritillary numbers declined during the 20th century. They are now stable, though still considered a species of conservation concern. We are also pleased to have Bill Adamson's large tortoiseshell butterfly photo on page 2. Ed.*



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# Barbara Ann Nurse

Barbara was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1944. We first went out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1965 - and almost didn't meet. We were supposed to meet under the clock at Victoria Station. We both waited for quite some time and...we each set out exploring. There are in fact two clocks at Victoria Station - one over the suburban terminus, the other over the booking office of the District Underground line - a long tunnel connects them both. We met by accident - I knew Victoria as the Southern Railway terminus. Barbara knew it as a stop on the Underground.

We have an engagement photo in our living room. We were young. I was balding. Barbara is beaming, a shock of red hair. We got married on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1966.



We had two children. Paul was born at East Dulwich hospital. I cried myself to sleep when I got home. Katie was born in Tiverton hospital in the early afternoon. A student nurse was assisting. She was in her late thirties, a farmer's wife, used to bringing lambs and calves into the world. Katie's arrival was too much for her. She was so far back against the wall – she was horror stricken.

## Houses

We lived in 14 houses in Croydon, Waddon, Bradninch (near Cullompton), a hospital house at Goosnargh, 2 houses in Fulwood, 3 houses in Caterham, 1 in Godstone, 1 in Bircher, a friend's annexe and the last property, here in Yarpole.

## Holidays

Eire 4, Cornwall 2, Norfolk 2, Isle of Wight 3, France 3, Canada 1, Outer Hebrides 2, Mull 1, Austria 1, Melos 1, Madeira 10, Leintwardine 8, Egypt 1, Rustington 1, Norway 1, Pompeii 1, Gomera 1, Devon 1, Scotland/Inverness 2. On one of our holidays in France the party was split in 2. We were in different groups. At one stage somebody pointed out to me a distant figure waving her arms. I immediately started sending a cod message back. It was Barbara and I re-enacting Wuthering Heights by semaphore.

## Jobs

Southwark, Lancashire, Bromley, Croydon x2, Sutton x2, Godalming, Gloucester and Hereford Mental Health Trust (as a Mental Health Act manager). From St Laurence's Croydon she was especially concerned with people with Learning Disabilities and Autism. She continued to work until 2022.

## Churches (and schools)

Waddon, Cullompton, Goosnargh, Fulwood, Caterham, Bletchingly, Yarpole. In the local church here she has been church warden, deanery secretary. A study group at the mother church which I joined in too.



## Cars

7 cars in total have been totalled. A Transit van, mini traveller, Jaguar, a London bus, a new Toyota, a BMW 4x4 and a MX5, all without serious injury

## Barbara

Friendly, intelligent, strong, always ready to have a chat, lovely, thoughtful, a joy to work with. Missed, missed, missed...a lovely colleague, a feisty contributor to discussions.

Her illness, 'fortitude' through 'such a rotten time', very brave.

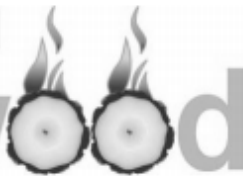
A friend of mine described her and I wish these words had been mine...

"A warm, caring, thoughtful, passionate and determined woman with a lovely sense of humour, who dedicated much of her life to helping others. She will be greatly missed not just by her family but by all who had the pleasure and privilege of sharing her company, her wisdom and her kindness"

John Nurse

*This is a slightly abridged version of John's reading at the funeral. Barbara and John moved to our parish in 2012 and, in addition to the church roles described above, Barbara was also a member of the PCC, the Parish Council, and started up the Good Neighbours' Scheme. She will be very much missed. Ed.*

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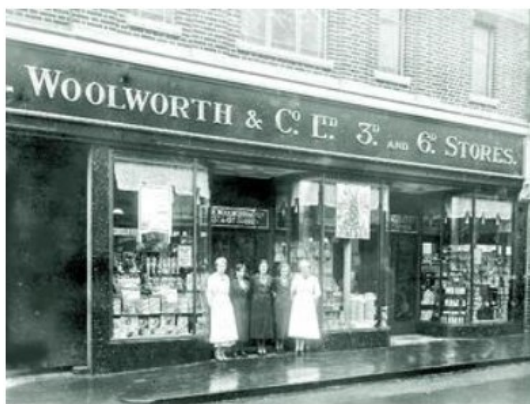
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## A Sticky Situation

As part of my brief as 'Commissioning Editor', I am detailed to collect interesting ancestral stories from members of the Yarpole Community.

My own father had a rather humdrum life as a clerk in the most unfashionable department of the civil service. However, a great character, he was very fond of telling jokes, riddles and stories and this is one of his favourites.



Still a teenager at the time, he wanted to buy his fiancé (later my mother) a birthday present. Being a class act, his first port of call was the now sadly missed local branch of Woolworth's. There, he alighted on a box of Black Magic chocolates. (You see, my Mum was a class act too.) He took the chocolates to the counter and handed over the 4 shillings and 6 pence.

"Do you want a receipt for that?" the sales assistant asked.

"No, it's all right," he replied, and, tucking the box of chocolates under his arm, he left the shop. He'd only made about ten yards or so, when he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder. Turning round, he was confronted by a burly chap in a suit, with a badge labelled 'Security' on his breast pocket.

"Have you paid for those chocolates, son?" he queried.

"Of course," Dad replied, confidently.

"Can you please show me the receipt then?" he asked.

"I'm afraid, I didn't get one," was Dad's answer. He was feeling less confident by then.

"But I've only just bought them. I'm sure the sales assistant will remember me." He was escorted back into the store and asked to point out the sales assistant.

"Do you recognize this lad?" the security guard asked her.

"Look love, I've served fifty customers in the last half an hour. You can't expect me to remember them all, can you?"

"You better come with me to the manager's office," said the guard sternly. He took Dad through a door marked 'Staff only' and up two flights of stairs to another door, marked 'Manager'. He knocked on the door. There was no reply, so he opened the door and took Dad inside.

"You stay here, son, I'll go and fetch the manager," he said, closing the door and locking it behind him.

Dad looked through the window. He was forty feet or so from the ground. He couldn't escape that way. But then he saw a skylight window in the ceiling. If he could get out of there and onto the roof, he might be able to hasten down a fire escape and away! He moved the manager's desk to under the skylight and placed a chair on it. Standing on the chair, he could easily reach the skylight. He shot the bolt, threw open the window and began climbing through. At that point the security guard arrived back in the room with the manager. He dashed over to Dad. Dad tried to hurry though the window, but the guard reached over and started pulling Dad's leg....Just like I'm pulling yours now!

That was one of my Dad's favourite stories, and he told it to anyone who cared to listen (and even to those that didn't).

So, please think back over your own family history. If your great-grandfather was in the Charge of the Light Brigade, or your grandmother was a suffragette who chained herself to the railings of No. 10 Downing Street, or if you have any other interesting, funny or poignant ancestral stories to tell us, do email them to the editors at the usual address.

Paul Humphrey

The photo shows the Leominster branch of Woolworth's in 1934



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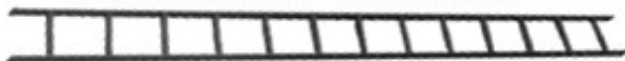
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# The Day I Met My First Deadline

I had just landed the job as Wine Correspondent at *Punch*, and was terribly pleased with myself. I'd been on a few wine trips with the *Sunday Times* Wine Club (affectionately known as alcoholidays) and written some bits and pieces for their in-house magazine, but never to a deadline, at least not one that mattered much. Nor had I written for a national publication before, especially one that was founded in the reign of Queen Victoria, had featured John Tenniel among its editors, and whose contributors had included William Makepeace Thackeray, Sir John Betjeman, and A A Milne. I know they had contributed because they had also carved their initials in the *Punch* table, around which staff and guests assembled for lunch after the magazine was put to bed on a Friday.

I began to feel the pressure as soon as I thought "What on earth am I going to write about?" The golden rule is "Write about what you know," and from a small pool of options – the half dozen wine trips I had been on – I settled on Champagne. I must be able to scrape a few words from all the glitz and glamour, the little train that takes you through the deep chalk caves dug by the Romans, even how it's made, if I'm stuck.

In those days, long before word processors and computers, I didn't have a typewriter, largely because I couldn't type, so I wrote it out longhand, on foolscap paper (remember that?). After a week of chopping, changing and fiddling I finally had what was the right length (crucially important) and would hopefully do the job, then borrowed a typewriter to give my fingers a workout: mistakes were not a good idea, involving loads of Tippex and umpteen sheets of fresh paper, but they were an incentive to improve quickly.

I took the precious manuscript down to London for the Editor, Alan Coren, to give it the once over. I wasn't expecting him to roll about laughing, which was a good job because he didn't, but I wouldn't have said no to a word of encouragement. Interrupting whatever he was doing, he scrawled on the paper, muttering about moving this paragraph, deleting a couple more, and suggesting replacements.

Well, I thought, if I take it back home I've got one more day before the actual deadline on Friday to make these sweeping changes. That should be just about enough time.

"There's a typewriter in the next office," he said. "Bring it back in half an hour."

"Crikey!" you're thinking. So was I.

I have no idea what I wrote, how I came up with new stuff, nor how I managed to type anything through the haze of panic, but I must have done because he gave it a title, asked if I minded being called James in print (not expecting a reply), threw it in a tray and bade me goodbye.

It was only on the train back home that I suddenly realised. "Stone me, I'll have to do it all again next week!"

Jim Ainsworth

# Limerick Competition September 2024

The limerick holiday is over. It's back to work for anyone who fancies a free bottle of wine. The first line is:

I once met a farmer called Mary

The rules are simple (for my benefit): amuse your fellow readers with something funny that rhymes, and scans, with stress in the right places (as for example in I **once** met a **farmer** called **Mary**) so that it rolls along effortlessly. Don't be afraid if it's a bit whacky.

We're allowing a whole extra month to accomplish this task, so please send your entries in to [newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org) (or leave in the shop, addressed to the Editor) by 30 September. They will be assessed anonymously, a winner declared, and wine despatched. The best will appear in the November issue, and you will become famous throughout Yarpole and district, possibly.

Jim Ainsworth

## Answer - The Riddle of the Sands

The answer is quite simple. They borrowed a camel from a neighbour. Then they had 20 camels. The eldest son inherited 10 camels. The middle son got 5 camels. The youngest son got 4 camels.  $10 + 5 + 4 = 19$ . They then returned their neighbour's camel!

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# News from Luston and Shobdon Schools

What an exciting school year it has been! Luston and Shobdon Primary Schools are such busy and energetic spaces with learning happening all the time.

A highlight of the year for both schools in the Federation is the affirmation from the Ofsted inspectors that both schools are graded as good. The inspections, Luston's in the autumn term and Shobdon's in the summer term, were both very positive experiences with the inspectors really understanding the ethos of each school.

The opening paragraph of Shobdon's report states, *"Pupils achieve well. It is a welcoming school which sits at the heart of the community. Pupils and adults build strong relationships. The school's vision lies at the heart of its work. Pupils value education and value each other"*.

Luston's report states, *"It is a very friendly, inclusive and good-humoured place in which to work and learn. This is a place where staff know the pupils well. Staff nurture and support pupils to do their best. This is because leaders and staff have high expectations for pupils' behaviour, safety and learning. Pupils respond very well to these."*

At this stage of the year, it is always amazing to recognise the progress that all the children have made, especially the Reception Year in terms of not just academic learning but social and emotional too. Likewise the preparation of our current Year 6 cohort, who are now 'high school ready' and looking forward to the adventures and challenges of their secondary education commencing in September.

Highlights of this year for the Year 5 and 6 children must include their three-day residential to Cardiff in the month of May. It was an action-packed three days including visits to St. Fagan's, the Principality Stadium, football training at Cardiff City, Cardiff castle, as well as bowling and a walk around Cardiff Bay. The same group of children also sang in Young Voices in Birmingham in the Spring term as part of a massed choir of over 5,000 primary children with a live band and famous artists .

The children always enjoy their physical activity achievements individually and as part of a team. Many children have represented the school in netball, hockey, tag-rugby, cricket, football events and multi-skills activities, working with local schools or within the county. Both Shobdon and Luston have been awarded the Gold Standard this term for being an Active School.

Learning outside in our wonderful school grounds is so important. Forest School sessions feature in the curriculum we offer the children as well as gardening opportunities.

We have also taken part this term in three community events. As part of the Threads from Creation project at Leominster Priory both schools worked hard on producing a banner depicting an aspect of creation. We also took part in the schools' concert celebrating creation where the children performed a number of songs and took part in a dance routine. Art work from both schools is displayed in Leominster as part of the Leominster in Bloom project. (See photo of Luston exhibit for Threads from Creation on opposite page.)

Luston and Shobdon Primary Schools are wonderful learning environments, the children are so curious, so keen to learn, and are taught by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic staff. If you would like to visit to see what life is like, please do not hesitate to contact the school offices. We love to welcome visitors and share our amazing learning.

Mary Freeman - Executive Head Teacher



Thanks to the following for the photos on this page:  
 David Cheshire – Village walking group at the toposcope on Coles Hill, Lingen  
 Avis Denny – Bog garden at her home  
 Carol Clare – Adopt a Grave summer clearance in the burial ground  
 The photo of Luston School's exhibit at Threads from Creation was taken by the editor

## Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services for September and October 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Celtic Evening Liturgy	Yarpole	16:30
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Non-liturgical service – with Eye church	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Group service	TBA	10:30
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Celtic Evening Liturgy	Yarpole	16:30
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-liturgical service – Marion Forrester	Yarpole	9:30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:  
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