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Mortimer Village News

Editor for this edition
was **Bridget Thomas**
who lives at
Brinshope

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www.mortimervillages.co.uk

THE NEWSLETTER FOR WIGMORE, LEINTHALL STARKES, ELTON AND PIPE ASTON

From Wigmore Castle to Windsor Castle

Bryan received his MBE from Her Majesty the Queen at an Investiture Ceremony on Friday 17th July in Windsor Castle. The sun shone and there was LOL as Bryan celebrated the occasion with his very proud family and friends.

He was in very good company as John Hurt was knighted on the same day and several military medals of honour were also awarded.

Bryan received the award for his services to the community. Since he took early retirement some 20 years ago he has spent his time helping charities in Liverpool and Hereford that work with people with learning disabilities. He has helped to improve the lives of many vulnerable people and continues to do so.

Bryan is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees for Aspire Living in Hereford. They have recently taken over a day centre which is hugely successful and provides respite and a wide range of activities for service users and families.

Well done Bryan, an accolade much deserved and thank goodness there are people like you around.

Bryan did not have much chance to tell HM about Royal Wigmore but I'm sure she knows all about it! -
EDITOR



St James and our efforts to enable this 1000 year old church survive the coming decades.

If anyone thought the process of putting together a plan, applying for funding, and then getting the work done was simple—well welcome to the Wigmore world of endless meetings, hurdles to jump, on-line forms, consultants desperate to be involved in surveying everything from newts, bats, birds, plants, Victoriana, buildings, roads, archaeology, heritage, history, boreholes, trees, footpaths, lighting, sound systems, butterflies as well as a plethora of conservationists, ecologists, architects, historians, and of course the lesser chronologist occasionally seen attempting to ascend the tower always looking for time pieces on which to deliver its rotary practices, particularly as dusk falls!

You don't really need any qualifications to undertake such work other than having the hide of a rhinoceros, the memory of an elephant, and the longevity of a turtle!

The CIC team

PS - and a quirky sense of humour!

Watch this space!



VACANCY

**There is a vacancy for a
Clerk to Wigmore Group Parish Council.
8 hours per week.**

**If you would like further information and/or an application
form, please contact the present Clerk,**

**Linda Henry
on 01584 878865**

Ten reasons to call at Wigmore Shop this week...



- ◆ Need a birthday card? We have local, humorous and occasion cards, we even sell stamps
- ◆ Something for supper...Quarry Farm pies...steak & ale, chicken & ham, fruit crumble
- ◆ Get your five a day...fruit and veg fresh from Court Farm, Tillington
- ◆ Seasonal treats...local strawberries, cider and Clive's apple and pear juices
- ◆ Stop by for your packed lunch ...sandwiches every day, crisps, drinks, chocolate, fruit and cake
- ◆ Need a pick-up on the go? New this month – Costa style coffee to take away
- ◆ Visitors for tea? Delicious cakes and biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar and fresh milk
- ◆ All your traditional favourites...breakfast cereals, store cupboard ingredients, cat/dog and wild bird food, licensed to sell wine, beer and spirits
- ◆ For your daily bread...fresh from Swifts at Clee Hill who delivery to Wigmore Shop 6 days a week
- ◆ Anything else you need...just call in and ask!

You'll find us in Wigmore...you can't miss us!

telephone 01568 770307

Our Church in the Field

by Jenny Lyon

As with many small country churches, maintenance and repair of the fabric of these old buildings proves quite a difficult task. Leinthall Starkes applied for and was granted help from English Heritage and work was begun in 2013. Amongst other repairs needed, the bellcote was most urgent and the bells were in great danger of tumbling down. A number of very generous donations and a grant provided the funds for the bells to be restored.

The Treble bell had a crack so had to be sent off to Newmarket to be welded and it then joined the Tenor bell in Dorset for restoration to both. Originally, both bells were thought to be 14th century, so imagine our surprise and delight to receive the report back from the restorers that the Tenor bell dated from about 1275 and the Treble from about 1260, so were some of the oldest pairs of bells in the country. This makes them of national importance and an exciting discovery. The bells, together with new hanging fittings and 2 new clappers, are safely back in the restored bellcote and can now from time to time be heard ringing out over Leinthall Moor, just as they were all those centuries ago.

Please come and visit our 12th century 'Church in the Field' and admire its beautiful setting. It is open between 11 am and 5 pm every Saturday and Sunday in July, August and September and every Sunday in April, May, June and October. There are lots of other interesting little historical gems to discover and everyone is welcome. But 'where is the Church?' I am often asked. Drive through Leinthall Starkes towards Ludlow, keep an eye open for a wrought iron gate on the left hand side of the road by a rather wistful tree growing out of the hedge, walk down the grassy path, and there you are!



Janet Gaunt on Butterflies

In 2014 Wigmore was famous for having the greatest number of woodwhite butterflies in the United Kingdom. They had died out in most of England, and Herefordshire and Shropshire Wildlife Trusts have been conducting a survey of Wigmore Rolls for a number of years. This is the third year that I have carried out the survey.

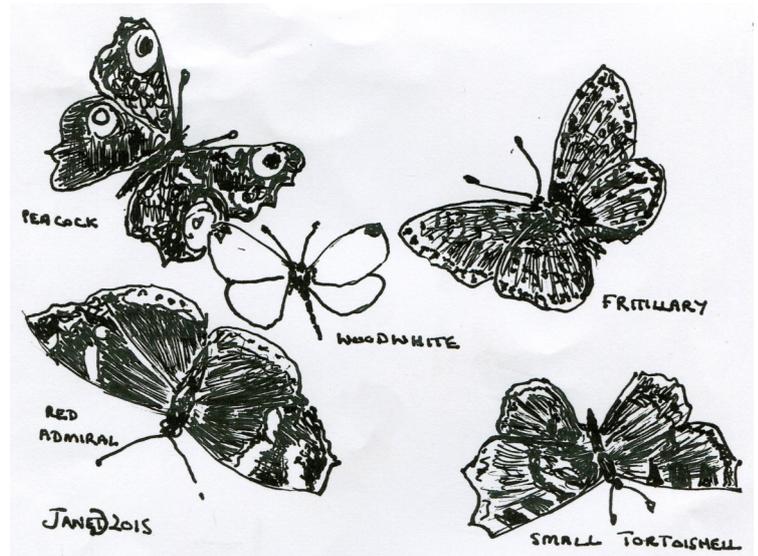
The circuit is about a mile in length and is divided into sections. All butterflies found in each sector are identified and recorded.

Records are kept weekly from April to September; other conditions recorded are the weather, rain or sun, wind direction and speed, and the condition of the vegetation - also the condition of the ground. These circuits are important to record butterfly numbers, weather conditions, times of arrival and variation in seasons. Walks are taken over mid-day.

Findings on the survey vary according to the season and weather. Early spring brings out the hibernators, tortoiseshells, peacocks, and some high flying brimstone. Later on, in May and early June, the woodwhites appear. Summer brings out the peacocks, commas, painted ladies, red admirals, and also the little brown butterflies: the ringlets, meadow browns, speckled woods, skippers, and little blues as well. The fritillary butterflies also appear at this time. They are large butterflies who appear at the height of summer. They fly high and bask with open wings on flowers or on the ground in the sunlight. They are very flamboyant and outshine their smaller rivals. Towards the autumn the breeding season may be over, but plenty of butterflies appear on warm Indian summer days.

The woodwhite butterfly is plentiful on the Wigmore Rolls. It appears fairly early in the season; it is a small butterfly who flies rather close to the ground up and down the rides in a rapid movement, fluttering, stopping to feed on flowers with wings closed. The male attracts the attention of the female feeding on a flower by flashing its wings. Were these flashes of white the original fairy at the bottom of the garden?

Is it worth the effort of a weekly survey? The area is of great interest to wildlife bodies in both the County and the Country. Areas unaffected by chemicals and sprays are becoming rarer, and we should not forget that bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and dragonflies are vital for the future health of all species.





2015 WIGMORE FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW AND HARVEST FESTIVAL



St James' Church, Wigmore Saturday 3 October 2015

If you haven't already decided what to enter for the show get growing now!

On 3rd October entries must be in place by 11.30 am as the judging will begin at 11.45!

Categories are to be found in your programme (there are plenty left in the shop).

The doors will open to everyone not later than 2.00 pm.

Prize giving and the raffle draw will take place at 3.30 pm.

The church will close at 4.00 pm so you can go home and celebrate your success,

**and get ready to go out to the VILLAGE HALL (not the church) for
a wonderful harvest supper. This will begin at 7.30 pm**

and includes

a home cooked two course supper with a glass of wine or juice.

COST: £8.00 per head or

£20.00 for a family (maximum 2 adults and maximum 2 children)

Tickets will be sold in the shop in September.

(Oh, if you would like to drink a bit more than one glass, you can bring your own bottle).

An afternoon with Phil Rickman

The best selling author of the popular Merrily Watkins thriller series,
will be in St James' Church, Wigmore

on Saturday 12th September at 3:00 p.m.

"Where is Ledwardine?"

"Where is the Shewstone of Wigmore now?"

"What was going on in Weobley?"

"Who is the Deliverance minister for Wigmore"

It's your opportunity to ask Phil about his latest books,

his famous characters, including the Elizabethan magician Dr. Dee,

and the forthcoming TV dramatisation of 'Midwinter of the Spirit'.

Come prepared with your questions for Phil.

A selection of Phil's books will be for sale before and after the event,
or bring your own favourite books for signing.

Admission: £7 Refreshments available

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME IN WIGMORE

Opening Bury Court Farmhouse garden has so far this year raised over £1,000 for charity. We open specially for a small group on 10 August, and then again have a general open day on Sunday 13 September from 2 to 5 pm. Teas, cakes and plants will be on sale.

All proceeds go to NGS to support numerous nursing and caring charities. In 2014, £2.4 million was donated by participating gardens, £58,000 of which was raised in Herefordshire.

CAMEO

Over the next few months CAMEO, which meets at 2pm in Wigmore Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month (unless we have an arranged outing), has agreed the following programme:-

Tuesday 1 September Visit to Burford House near Tenbury Wells. Meet at WVH at 2pm to share cars.

Tuesday 10 October Talk on Jet Jewellery by Joy Ardy at 2pm at WVH.

Tuesday 3 November Visit to Dunkertons Cider. Meet at 2pm to share cars.

Bats in St James

As a result of a bat survey taken in and around St James we now know there are some 4 different bat species occupying/using the church. These are the common pipistrelle, the soprano pipistrelle,

Natterer's bats, and long eared bats.

They share the space with some swifts!

Funding for the parish

The parish council has successfully applied for a grant towards the regeneration of the Millennium Gardens. It is proposed to repair the benches and the tree seat and to plant a range of herbs in raised beds such that villagers can take a sprig or two when needed.

Our parish council have also agreed to provide funds to the village hall as a contribution to the repair of the rear roof which leaks and has little or no insulation. This is in addition to the grant recently obtained for the hall.

Castle footpath

Our footpaths officer, David Gardiner, is currently organising the repair and improvement to the footpath leading to the Castle.

This involves cutting back on the overgrown vegetation, laying appropriate pervious membrane and then a compacted layer of gravel. In the past repairs have just laid new gravel which itself becomes compacted and is then partially washed away by rainfall.

It is possible that English Heritage, who have guardianship of the Castle and its immediate surrounding land, may be able to make a donation towards this path.

Other funding is coming from Hereford Council. The path is a Public Right of Way and is not affected by the actual owner of the land it crosses.

We also understand that material for the footpath may well be donated by our local quarry.

Our Village Shop

Along with a new road surface we now have a delightful display fronting the shop. Many thanks to Jean who arranged the whole display—it just makes life much more enjoyable and the shop front looks a treat!

Bryan along with many of our volunteers and customers celebrating his award in the shop.



Wigmore Group Parish Council

The council is now seeking two councillors who are willing to be co-opted onto the Wigmore Group Parish Council.

Following a public notification of the vacancies and without any responses, the council is now able to co-opt residents. The council is therefore seeking residents who would be willing to represent Elton and a further representative for Wigmore.

If you are interested and would like more information then please contact Linda Henry, our parish clerk, on 01584 878865



Your parish councillors are:

Wigmore

Bryan Casbourne – 770155

Kevan Perkins – 770060

Vic Harnett – 770445

Jenny Johnson – 770162

Vacancy for 1 councillor

Leinthall Starks

Graham Probert – 770543

Alan Dowdy – 770121

Elton

Vacancy for 1 councillor

Pipe Aston

Clare Major – 770588

County Councillor

Carol Gandy – 780583

Parish Clerk

Linda Henry – 01584 878865

Email: linda-henry@live.co.uk

Wigmore and District Gardening Club

In spite of a lack of summer weather this year, the Gardening Club has, as always, been very busy. Our annual plant sale was as well-attended as usual, with a long queue waiting to come in and tables loaded with plants. Customers had come from a distance, having heard about the sale on the radio, and locals knew to get in early for the best plants. Runner beans and tomatoes were sold out in the first fifteen minutes and we had far fewer plants left at end. We will be able to make a good contribution to our chosen charity this year.

Our evening meeting in June was held at Aulden Farm near Ivington. This is a favourite garden for many of our members. The owners have made a beautiful and peaceful series of garden rooms on the three bare acres that they bought in 1996. We were served excellent cakes and coffee after our wander round and many of us bought lovely and unusual plants from their nursery.

We have had two further and extremely different trips out. In June, we were given a most interesting guided tour of the kitchen garden at The Riverside Inn, Aymestrey, by chef Andy, followed by complementary tea and cakes in the dining room. July saw us on a long coach trip to the highly unusual gardens of Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, whose Victorian owner created a 'Round the World' series of gardens and garden buildings, which contain many secret surprises.

Our speaker in July was Jenny Steel, who illustrated her talk on 'Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators' with photographs of her own garden. This was an informative and educational session which gave us much practical good advice. Our next session on Thursday 17th September will be 'Plants and Recipes'. Members are asked to bring along a recipe for a food item using produce from their own gardens. Samples will be much appreciated!

New members are always welcome. We normally meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 in Wigmore Village Hall and our car-trips usually leave the village hall at 1.30. We are a very friendly bunch of locals, of all stages of expertise, from the utter beginner to those who open their gardens for charity! Just come along and join in or phone Ken and Meryl Wade 01568 770605



Don't forget
the Wigmore Show on
Sat 3rd October in St
James church and the
village hall.
You can get more infor-
mation from Ken Wade
on 01568 770605

Mobile Post Office @ Wigmore

Now adjacent to the community shop

Monday	11.00 to 12.30
Tuesday	15.00 to 16.00
Wednesday	no attendance
Thursday	14.00 to 15.30
Friday	10.30 to 12.00
Saturday	10.30 to 11.30

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Guest editor for the August edition was Bridget Thomas
Email: casbourne@btinternet.com

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors concerned and not necessarily those of the Wigmore Group Parish Council

BIRDSONG

David Gardiner tweets.....

While I walk through Wigmore village, or indeed any part of the British countryside, I listen constantly to and identify birds from their calls or songs. I may not see the bird, but I usually know the species from its sound and happily record its presence in my mind. Listening to and identifying birdsong is incredibly therapeutic and also fun, and I encourage anyone to take it up. During the summer months it is difficult to see small birds when the tree canopy has grown and the hedges are also in full leaf, and there is also the question of eyesight deterioration! That is when your skill in identifying birdsong comes into its own.

How do you acquire this skill? Obviously bird guides and CDs can help. For myself I learnt a great deal through joining a bird group quite a few years ago, led by a professional, both in Cambridgeshire and the New Forest. I believe that the smaller the group the more you get out of it. I am no more than an enthusiastic amateur bird-watcher and without doubt there are gaps in my knowledge to which I readily admit. However, I do have a particular skill in sound recognition.

I will describe in this article a small sample of birds which are common in this area. They represent a tiny fragment of Britain's song birds. From this I hope you will begin to appreciate the variety and complexity of birdsong. Birds sing mainly for territorial reasons, also for the desire to attract a mate, and recent studies have suggested that birds can sing for pleasure. This is likely when pressure to attract a mate or defend territories is off. Regrettably space does not allow me to go into this subject in further detail. My special interest in small birds stems from the wonderment of their daily fight for survival, and not only during winter months. I also marvel at the miraculous ability of small migratory birds which navigate across oceans, deserts and mountains to reach their destination.

I start with the smallest bird of all, the goldcrest, a delightful ball of feathers, which spends much of its time flitting through conifer trees. Its voice is of such high pitch that it is beyond many people's ear range. Its song from February is also a high pitched 'tee-lee-dee' sound. The bird is a UK resident but in the autumn numbers are swelled by populations from the Continent, mainly Scandinavia. The woodcock, that brown long-billed bird which spends its winter in British forests, arrives simultaneously with the continental goldcrests and many people seriously believe that many goldcrests are carried across the North Sea on woodcocks' backs. Although I have seen no evidence to support this I don't believe it to be so far fetched. The first sound of spring to my mind is the arrival of the chiffchaffs in mid March. I hear the first calls of these small brown birds on Greenhill Common off Castle Street. There they will sing constantly, as they do in any part of the countryside, until July. The chiffchaffing call is also followed by a short metallic 'terric' sound. This bird also has an alternative call which sounds like 'huitt'. In fact this particular call takes over from the chiffchaffing later in the summer until the chiffchaffing call returns in September and early October shortly before the bird returns south to its Mediterranean quarters. However it is interesting to note that some chiffchaffs do actually winter in the UK but remain silent and away from predators. You would do well to spot them. Following the chiffchaff, April is the month when the majority of our small migrant songsters reach these shores. The blackcap arrives soon after the chiffchaff and is so-called by its appearance. The bird has a short high-pitched wolf whistle type song and sings from scrubby trees and bushes.

trees and bushes. To my mind it has one of the most beautiful songs. The garden warbler, another small brown bird, also arrives in April, and its song is very similar to the blackcap's except that it tends to sing from a low bush and has a more extended and bubbly song from a lower height than the blackcap. The next bird to arrive in April is the willow warbler, yet another small brown bird, but it can be identified by a beautiful descending liquid song. There is also a 'hooee' a call similar to the chiffchaff but with a more questioning and softer end. As you can see from trying to distinguish these different warblers in the field it greatly helps if you can recognise the songs as their appearances can appear superficially very similar. All these birds can be seen around Castle Street, Greenhill Farm and the confines of Wigmore Castle grounds.

By the time the cuckoo makes its first call in mid-April (and how many have you heard this year?) the swallows and house martins have arrived. They are not song birds and just chatter and bubble away in flight or perched on telegraph wires. The real sound comes from the swifts arriving in early May. Their screaming calls are one of the sounds of the summer and heard throughout continental Europe in towns, cities and villages. In Wigmore they frequent St James' Church and some other buildings and barns in the village. Swifts pair for life and can signal bad weather when they disappear, sometimes for days, to fly to the other side of weather fronts.

Further away from Wigmore village there is another species of warbler called the wood warbler. This bird, of a greenish colour, can be seen in Wigmore Rolls and Whitcliffe Common. The bird likes sparse oak plantations and perches on boughs while singing. The song is similar to the sound of a spinning coin on a stone slab floor followed by an attractive descending 'peew-peew'.

The songs of both the blackbird and song thrush are seen in our gardens during the months March to June. They are probably two of the best British songbirds. Later in the summer the birds go quiet for their annual moult. One of the best ways to distinguish between these two birdsongs is that the song thrush repeats its notes three or four times. I should also mention the scratchy call of the whitethroat, another migratory bird from West Africa which is seen on the tops of hedges throughout the area, including the community playing field and the scrub land to the north and east of Wigmore Castle. It is quite an ordinary looking bird but its song is so common that you almost take it for granted in the summer, but I miss it when it has departed for Africa.

I finish my ramblings through the songbird calls with the mention of our recently appointed national bird, the robin. Its beautiful song, often heard in gardens and woodlands, becomes more melancholy in the autumn as if to bemoan the onset of winter. We should not be too despondent, as there are plenty of winter visitors to hear. Also, many birds do not migrate and one of note is the resident brightly coloured yellow hammer which will offer you 'a little bit of bread and no cheese'. The robin's song will also be heard throughout winter.

I hope I have given you a taster of birdsong and you may want to listen more as you step outside your front door, while from your bed you can hear the dawn chorus, a magical cacophony of sound in the spring and early summer. Try and distinguish different birds in this chorus such as, for example, the blackbird, song thrush, robin and wood pigeon.

Please do feel free to contact me if you wish to learn more about birdsong. I will be happy to assist and walk with you in our local area.

Good listening! David Gardiner (01568 770446)

Defibrillator

The defibrillator is currently held in the village shop and is accessible from 8.30 am to 5.30pm on weekdays, 9 am to 1pm on Saturdays and 10am to 12 noon on Sundays.

Importantly at other times it is accessible by ringing 01568 770155 to get access to the shop and the machine.

This is very much a temporary matter—we are having problems with the case holding the machine when out side. This is a heated case and is currently not working. We are endeavouring to get the supplier to replace it. If this is not possible then we will buy a new, more robust one which will be installed outside the village shop.

There will be a sign in the

Wigmore Parochial Charities Update.

In the last issue of this magazine an appeal was made for ideas as to how to use the money in this charity.

There were only 3 replies:

- ◆ The village hall roof - this will hopefully now be paid for by grants and money in the village hall funds.
- ◆ A memorial bench for Mrs Pam Williams - a plaque is to be paid for from council funds.
- ◆ To give money to food banks for Wigmore people.

The practicality of this latter idea will have to be looked into, as the money must be used specifically by Wigmore residents. Without intrusive enquires the trustees would not know how the money was used. If anyone has any further ideas on how to use this money, please email jenny5johnson@gmail.com or write to me at: Osbourne House, Ford St, Wigmore.

The Kevill-Davies charity is now closed and the money has gone towards the defibrillator upkeep.

New Dance Class for Young Children

Seven Stars Dance School is launching a new Mini Movers class for pre school children who just love to move to music and have fun! The new term of dance classes starts at Wigmore Village Hall on Monday 7th September.

Please call Sophie on 01568 770 383 for further details or visit www.sevenstarsdance.co.uk

The new term of dance classes starts at:

Wigmore Village Hall on
Monday 7th September.

New Timetable

- 3.45 - 4.15 - Mini Movers (Pre-schoolers)
- 4.15 - 4.45 - Jnr Dance Club (Reception/Yr 1)
- 4.45 - 5.30 - Grade 2 Ballet
- 5.30 - 6.00 - Tap

