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Make a note of this date:

**Saturday 12th December in
the village hall**

Your opportunity to identify what
you would like to include in the
St James project.
See page 7 for details

Issue Nov '15

www.mortimervillages.co.uk

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

The Wigmore Group Parish Council would like to wish all our residents a very enjoyable Christmas. We all hope that 2016 will be a successful year for everyone.



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

Following on the article in the last Mortimer Village News we have managed to move on despite an initial setback. We submitted a request to the Heritage Lottery Fund for start up funds to assist in putting various documents together. Unfortunately the Heritage Lottery Fund were not able to give us a grant! We know that the grant giving sector is having to cut back in many ways similar to the general economic climate but we had thought.....but now we move on!

The CIC subsequently decided to submit a full application for the Heritage aspects of the proposed work. This was in two parts—a grant towards all the surveys and plans needed to write a full bid and a follow on grant to install some key features such as heating and toilets.

In between times we submitted a bid to Awards for All for some start up money and in this case we were awarded £6000 towards this work.....at last a success!!!!

The full bid left our care and crossed into Heritage Lottery Fund territory at the beginning of November. We have since received an acknowledgement that our submission contains all the correct documents and will go forwards to an assessment during December.

We now have to wait until around February/March to hear whether our bid was successful.

The CIC team

Watch this space!

The Wigmore Community Interest Company (CIC)

The latest information is that Wigmore School has agreed to join the organisation. This is really good news and will bring a strong sense of educational expertise to the project and will assist us with technologies such as interactive displays and self guided tours in the Heritage Interpretive Centre.

Dean Curtis, Head Teacher and Alison MacArthur, Business Manager, will be part of the CIC board and will have a strong influence on how we can involve students at Wigmore School in the many aspects of the project.

Activities at the Lion Ball Room, Leominster

A new class in Leominster gives us all a chance to dance in the elegant setting of the Lion Ballroom. Professional dancer, choreographer and teacher, Deborah Greenfield starts with thirty minutes of Pilates, working on strength and flexibility. The next hour and a half adds some ballet training. It is excellent exercise for the brain as well and that, I find, quickly makes a busy day at work seem a million miles away. As I triumphantly managed a wobbly arabesque underneath the glittering chandeliers, anything seemed possible!



More information email Rachel Nelson: mike@whym.freeseve.co.uk

Wigmore and District Gardening Club

Our Gardening Club members are a sociable and talented bunch. The club's summer garden party at Clive and Judith's house was very well attended and much enjoyed. Our members' meeting in September, 'Plants and Recipes' produced a wide selection of offerings, both edible and entertaining, and in Clive's case barely legal! Several members also produced some much appreciated samples. This was followed by an excellent outing to Powis Castle, whose gardens are possibly at their best at this time of year. We were given a fascinating tour by one of the gardeners, which was full of helpful tips and information. He even took us into their propagation houses, not normally open to the public, and many members' fingers were itching at the sight of all the beautiful and unusual plants sitting there.

In October, our speaker was the young Jack Willgoss of Wildegoose Nursery. He has spent some time renovating the glasshouses and walled kitchen garden at Millichope Park in Corvedale, which he will be opening to the public in May. It looked stunning in his photos and will be well worth a visit. He is an excellent plantsman and his talk was scandalously entertaining. We followed this meeting with a car trip to Hergest Croft and another amazing guided tour from the youthful Rowan. His enthusiasm for and knowledge of even the rarest of trees, their history, stories of the plant hunters who collected them in the wild and how to grow them is astounding. This was a fascinating afternoon, rounded off nicely by Bara Brith in the tearoom.

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 Marilyn Wade 01568 770605

MORTIMER *Village News*

Wigmore Village Hall News

The hall has been busy with various parties, harvest supper, Arts Alive play, garden club, a wedding and CAMEO.

The match season has started for the **carpet bowls** players, everyone welcome on a Tuesday 8-10pm. (Playing for team members only on match nights: 15/12, 19/1, 26/1, 9/2. Spectators welcome.)

The **Seven Stars Dancers** (Monday afternoons) are busy preparing for their Christmas performance, which is on 7th December at 5.30pm

The hall looked amazing when Glyn, Kelly, their friends and family decorated it for their wedding. Congratulations and best wishes to you both.



Don't forget we have a lovely white 100 settings dinner service plus cutlery and seating for 100, all included in the hourly price of only £15.

The hall was busy with stalls and activities for the **Wigmore Village Show** on October 3rd, the cafe raised £52 for hall funds. (If you left behind some glasses in a brown case please contact me, see below)

Much fun was had at the **Apple Pressing and Hallowe'en** party fundraiser, held at 'Lakelands', courtesy of Ken and Marilyn Wade.

To help keep the hire charges affordable, please make use of your village hall and support the fundraising events.

Any ideas for social events are most welcome. If you would like to be on the village hall committee, we have about 3 meetings a year, we could really do with younger members to generate some fresh and new ideas!

Please contact Jenny Johnson on 01568 770162, email: jenny5johnson@gmail.com

St Michael's Hospice

Santa Run

Saturday 12th December, 2-5pm

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Hampton Dene Road

Hereford HR1 1UU

5K Santa Run

Anyone over the age of 11 is welcome to dress up in a complimentary Santa suit (free with entry) and enjoy a run with hundreds of others around the quiet roads of Hampton Dene in Hereford.

Registration from 1.30pm – Run starts at 2.15pm

Entry: £10 per person aged 18 or older and £7 per person aged 11 to 17.

Entry fee includes your Santa Suit (adult/child), bottle of water and race certificate.

Wigmore Group Parish Council

At a recent meeting of the group parish council, the question as to whether additional car parking space was needed on Kings Meadow was on the agenda. A questionnaire had been circulated on Kings Meadow to gather residents views and the results of this were made available to the parish council.

The council meeting was attended by over a dozen Kings Meadow residents who had an opportunity to put their views forward.

Following discussions with our county councillor and residents, the parish council decided that there was insufficient support and evidence for any encroachment onto the existing grassed areas for additional parking bays. No further action would be taken on this matter.

Your parish councillors are:

Wigmore

Bryan Casbourne – 770155

Vic Harnett – 770445

Jenny Johnson – 770162

Helena.Leclezio- 770679

Kevan Perkins - 770060

Leinthall Starks

Graham Probert – 770543 – chair

Alan Dowdy – 770121

Elton

Vacancy for 1 councillor

Pipe Aston

Clare Major – 770588

County Councillor

Carol Gandy – 780583

Parish Clerk

Jano Rochefort - 770282

2015 WIGMORE FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW AND HARVEST FESTIVAL

Alvin Smith

The vision and enthusiasm of one man, Ken Wade, helped the village of Wigmore to bloom this October. Together with an initial small group of fellow enthusiasts and eventually with a good part of the village, Ken's love of gardening and that community spirit produced a harvest time to be remembered for a long time in the village.

With over a hundred classes of garden produce and associated art work there was plenty to keep green fingers active during the year –particularly so as Ken never let up on his advertising! Classes included the under-8-year-olds right through to experienced “produce show” competitors. There were all sorts and all standards of exhibits amongst the poems, photographs, handiwork, plants and cooked items, all home grown! The judges, hand picked by Ken, were advised that competitors' entries were to be judged with the aim of encouraging the less experienced and leading them onto greater things!

Over 250 entries were received from over sixty competitors so it was an exciting and somewhat anxious time setting up the exhibition in the church. Its fixed pews had had to be covered up by impromptu exhibit tables but the building had of course been dressed up with its own floral adornment for the occasion –one part of which duly won a First Class award from the Floral Art judge! Outside the church was a splendid array of scarecrow people made by the eight classes of Wigmore Primary School. There was much covert enjoyment of one portrayal of a senior member of staff instructing a scarecrow pupil from the churchyard bench.

In the evening just over seventy young and not so young folk dined in the Village Hall to the accompaniment of a local jazz band. The catering was organised by the ladies of St James Church support group ably led by Joan Markland. After a splendid repast Bryan Casbourne gave a short speech of thanks to all involved in making it such a memorable day and especially thanked Ken for his drive and energy in getting this first Wigmore Show off the ground. The event has raised well over £1000 for the Church, the School's grounds and the Village Hall improvement funds.

Alvin Smith

Ed's note—a selection of pictures from the show are on the back page—in full colour!

The St James project

On Saturday the 12th December we are holding an open meeting in the village hall for residents and interested parties to come along and see what is being proposed for St James and how we have put together the funding application form.

This will be your chance to influence what is included in the project. The bid submission will be available for all to read together with details of the capital associated with this project.

Venues: St James 12.00 midday to 1.00pm and Village Hall 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Invitations will be going out to everyone who has expressed an interest in the project.

If you are not on our list and would like to come along then please

RSVP to: wigmorecentre@btinternet.com



As part of the occasion we will be offering you a glass of fizz and a selection of canapes—courtesy of the CIC.

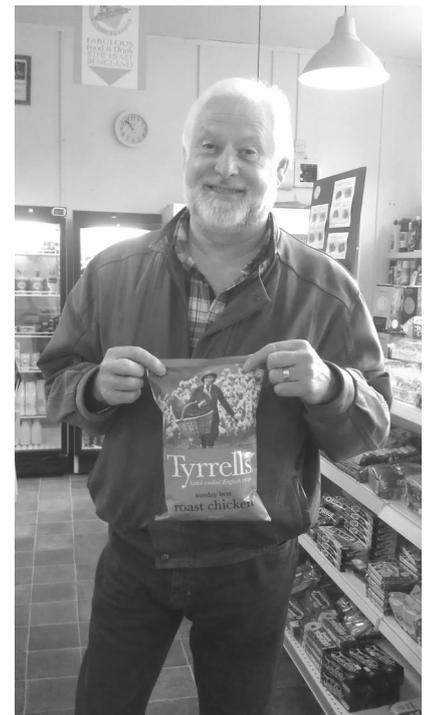
Wigmore Community Shop

A Merry Christmas from everyone at your community shop

If you're a crisp eater and have treated yourself to a bag of Tyrrells crisps you might have wondered who the folks are on the front of each packet. Tyrrells have cleverly adapted old black and white photos from a bygone age and made each one appropriate to the flavour crisp of the bag they are on.

It's often been a topic of conversation amongst volunteers in Wigmore Shop to speculate on who these people might be. Well, the volunteers at Wigmore Shop now know the history behind one of these quirky photos.

A few weeks ago a couple came into the shop to buy snacks and drinks for their journey. They had a wander round the shop and commented on how nice it is and what lovely things there are to buy. The man, Phil, went over to crisp section picked up a packet of Tyrrells Sunday Best Roast Chicken, pointed to the picture on the front and said "That's my mum". At first the volunteer on duty thought he was joking but it turned out he wasn't. His mum, Peggy, was in the Land Army and the photo shows her with a big basket, which in the original photo had eggs in, and a big flock of chickens in the background. Of course the volunteers wanted him to have the crisps but he politely declined explaining that he is in fact a vegetarian!



Ploughing Competition success for Wigmore young farmer.

Wigmore farmer Hannah Mason has received this magnificent trophy for coming first over all classes for age 21 and under in the annual ploughing match at Trumpet. "I really enjoy match ploughing as it is much more technical than ordinary ploughing, with points awarded for straightness, consistent depth etc".



It is also fun to see the surprise on some people's faces when I turn up at the matches in my tractor!

It is the second time Hannah has won the age 21 and under cup, it will be her last chance in this age group next year.

Castle footpath

Work continues on the footpath up to the Castle. Both volunteers and professionals have been involved in this work.

The footpath sides have been protected with wood barriers to retain the gravel base, a porous membrane is being laid ready for a gravel finish, and a handrail has been erected in places.

Money for this project has come from a number of sources including Herefordshire Council, Wigmore Group Parish Council, and English Heritage. Breedon Aggregates at Leinthall Earls have very generously donated three truck loads of gravel enabling the complete footpath to be completed.

Much of the initial work on the path and adjacent areas was undertaken by the Ramblers Association. More information is available from David Gardner (who has been overseeing this project) on 770446.



Wigmore Community Shop

Christmas really isn't that many weeks away and Wigmore Shop is well prepared and stocked for the festive season. A whole array of delicious products are now available in the shop.

If you have a sweet tooth there are chocolates and biscuits aplenty. Either treat yourself or maybe someone else to sumptuously packaged biscuits, festive chocolates and tasty jams. The savoury fans can tingle their taste buds with luxury pickles, mustards and even lavender jelly.

For the bakers of Wigmore and surrounding areas the shop is well stocked with everything you need for Christmas cakes, puddings and minced pies. This year there are also two cookery books on sale in the shop. **Made in Hereford** and **Made in Shropshire** recipe books with beautiful photos and contributions from local producers and chefs would make a unique gift for someone this year.

Meat, turkey, bacons and pies can be order through the shop. Quarry Farm and Tudges meats and produce are available to order. So pop along and have a chat about your Christmas requirements.

A **hamper of local produce** makes a lovely gift for someone and the volunteers at the shop are happy to put one together for you depending on your requirements.

Christmas is not only food and drink so you can find cards and wrapping paper in the shop too.

Pop in regularly and you'll also find some unique gifts and crafts made by local people.

Come along to the shop and have a look for yourself.

The new opening hours are:
Monday to Friday 8.30 to 5.30
Saturday 9 to 1
Sunday 10 to 12.

Alison Benwell - 01568 770307



Funding for the parish

The St James project has received a grant of £6000 towards some initial work on business plans and other preparatory work for the project.

Mortimer Village News is published by Wigmore Group Parish Council.

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

Mobile Post Office @ Wigmore



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

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Iolo Williams: The Wildlife of Wales and the Marches - successes and challenges

Thursday 3rd December 2015

Talk by Iolo Williams, regular presenter on SpringWatch and S4C and one of the UK's foremost naturalists.

A strong voice in the Wildlife Trust federation, Iolo's passion and energy is infectious and this talk will be an opportunity to pose questions to Iolo and colleagues from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust following the presentation.

Doors open at 6.45pm. Orchard Origins will be running a bar throughout the evening, from 6.45pm onwards, serving local ciders and apple juice, with all profits invested in wildlife conservation and the sustainable management of traditional orchards in Herefordshire

Venue: Shire Hall, Hereford - Cost: £10

Booking is essential. Book online at www.herefordshirewt.org or call 01432 356872

Tremendous Trees—a tree walk as part of National Tree Week

Sat 5 December 10am – 3pm

Join Reserves Officer Doug Lloyd on a guided walk taking in the veteran, rare and notable trees on our Doward Reserves. Beginning at 10am, there will be an option to finish at 1pm when the walk will pause at the car park or you may continue for the afternoon. The day will finish at around 3pm.

Venue: Doward Carpark (Forestry Commission)

Cost: For the all-day walk, £10 (£8 HWT members); for morning only, £5 (£4 HWT members)

Booking is essential as places are limited. Book at www.herefordshirewt.org or call 01432 356872

Make Christmas decorations with Wild Play

Sat 5th December 10 to 3pm

Christmas Decoration Make and Take at Queenswood

Venue: Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum, Dinmore Hill, Leominster, HR6 0PY

Cost: £5 per child—no booking necessary. No booking required

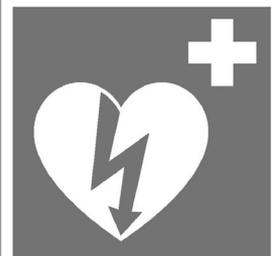
Defibrillator

As many will know the village defibrillator is in the Wigmore Community Shop and therefore only accessible during opening hours of 8.30 to 17.30.

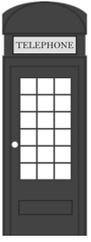
The parish council has now agreed to purchase a metal protective cabinet for the defibrillator and mount it outside the community shop,

Many residents will have received training on the use of a defibrillator and we would be grateful if they will contact Jano, our parish clerk, such that we can update our records. Additional training will be organised in the near future.

The equipment we have can be readily used by untrained people and the equipment itself determines whether to administer shocks in order to restart the heart, so it is not possible to shock someone who doesn't need it.



Bits and bobs in and around our parish.....



The parish now owns the telephone box situated at the Cross of the Tree.

As it had not been used for over 12 months BT offered it to the village for £1.

And now its over to you—we would like some ideas as to how we use this treasure—uses from around the UK include a library, a coffee shop complete with all equipment, a picture gallery, housing for a defibrillator and many others. So what can you suggest.....? Ideas to the editor please (and yes we can move the box to a different location).



At what you probably know as the Mortimer Leisure Centre on Ford Street, there will be football training for residents 15 years +, on Tuesdays between 7pm and 8pm . No booking just turn up and join in. This is all part of the initiative to get our football pitch back into active use. You will no doubt have seen work taking place on the pitch in order to bring it up to playing standards.



A reminder to dog owners and dog walkers—will you please ensure that all dog fouling is cleared by yourselves if you are out walking with your dog. This is particularly important if you are crossing the school playing fields—we know of at least one case in which a youngster fell over into dog faeces on the playing fields. The school does not wish to restrict access to the playing fields but has this power within its remit.



And whilst we are on the topic of clearing up will everyone please remove any debris from the community field if you have been celebrating in some way—we had quite a few spent fireworks left on the football pitch. The money we spend on clearing up could well be used on something worthwhile such as maintaining paths in the village in good order!



Car parking on Kings Meadow can be tight in some places and there have been a few instances when emergency services would not have been able to access Kings Meadow from Bury Lane. Cars are parked on both sides of the access roadway and because of a bend and access to some houses the width of road is very restricted. Residents are asked to take this into consideration when parking overnight.



The parish council has equipped the village hall with both broadband and wifi. Local groups are welcome to access this facility when using the village hall. Two laptops, a projector and screen are also available. If your group wishes to make use of this equipment please contact our parish clerk—details on page 8.

MORTIMER *Village News*



Ken Wade -
our Festival organiser



Scarecrow people!



Prizes and apples galore!



A very small selection of images from the Wigmore Flower and Vegetable Show in St James last month.