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# Mortimer Village News



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

Issue Aug '16

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

## A reminder of the Wigmore Show on Saturday 24th September!

This year it's in the Leisure Centre adjacent to Wigmore School

The show will be followed by a Harvest Festival service in St James

The celebrations will conclude with a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Supper tickets £6 each or £15 per family, from Mortimer Stores or Joan Markland

More info on the back cover

With thanks to our sponsors: Russell Baldwin and Bright, Teme Valley Tractors, Castle Garage, Nock Deighton, Mr R. Griffiths, Masons of Lower House Farm Jersey Plants, David Austin Roses, Two Wests and Elliott Ltd, Lyonshall Nurseries and Mortimer Country Stores.



LOTTERY FUNDED



**\*News Flash\*  
St James  
Update!**

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

Following a meeting with the West Midlands Heritage Lottery Fund management team, the CIC were invited to resubmit the application taking the points identified by the HLF team into account. The CIC team have put in a huge amount of further effort into this update and the revised application has now been resubmitted. We now hope to hear about our grant application in early September this year.

We have produced a business plan, funded by Awards for All, to assure ourselves that we have a viable plan to cover the future years of the project. So all we can do now is wait!

***PS—Don't even think about asking what happens if we don't get this award.....!!!!***

## **Local artists exhibit in their homes for H-art - Herefordshire Art Week - Sept 10th to 18th**

H-art is a county wide open studio event, paid for by individual artisans and creative businesses. This is H-art's 15th art trail with 97 venues and over 250 artists scattered across the county and each venue can be found by following their pink H-art signs. In Wigmore you will see such signs taking you to the open house exhibition of Ivan Jones Pastel Artist in Bury Court Park.

Ivan is open every day during H-art

week between 10 am and 5 pm and entry is free. You are warmly welcome to pop in any-time to enjoy Ivan's detailed pastel artwork, as well as wander around his wife's beautiful garden which is open for the NGS on Sunday September 18th. Ivan's exhibition will also be open for visitors in the evenings by appointment only on 01568 770808. You can find out more at [www.h-art.org.uk](http://www.h-art.org.uk) or [www.ivanjonesart.co.uk](http://www.ivanjonesart.co.uk)



**VISIT**

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



Visit Herefordshire

**IVAN  
JONES  
PASTEL ARTIST**

OPEN HOUSE and GARDEN  
2 BURY COURT PARK  
WIGMORE HR6 9US

during

**h.Art**  
herefordshire art week

September 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>  
2016

ALL WELCOME 10am - 5pm DAILY  
or phone 017813 733240  
for an evening viewing.....

GARDEN ALSO OPEN FOR NGS SEPTEMBER 18TH



**VISIT**

[www.h-art.org.uk](http://www.h-art.org.uk)



Visit Herefordshire

## Talent within the community.....

Simon Vernon, who lives in Walford, creates synoptic images, which means he gathers together views of a country estate, and brings different elements into a single drawing or etching, or he combines several different aspects into a picture. He considers the architectural, the topographical, the cartographical points of view, then ensures the narrative aspect is given due reverence.

The picture shows him in his studio working on a view of a country house. Although he lives locally he has created maps of estates in different parts of the world, including Southern Europe and South Africa. Each project can take thousands of hours to complete, but Simon, who was trained as a chartered surveyor, found early in his career that the artist in him kept popping out and he has worked on his synoptic images now for over a decade. To see more, go to [www.simonvernon.com](http://www.simonvernon.com)



## Vandalism on the community field

Many communities have one and Wigmore is now proving that we too have one! Have what you ask?—idiots who decide to vandalise community owned trees for some selfish reason.

Sometime during Tuesday 21st June evening, someone took upon themselves to hack away at a tree on our community field. They left damaged branches all over the place including the roadway.

Despite police questioning in surrounding properties no new information has come forward.

The council acted immediately this was notified to them and as no further information on the possible culprit(s) has emerged, they have asked Balfour Beatty to clean up the area and trim the damaged tree.



You may be interested to know that this has cost the village quite a few pounds which all residents will be contributing to as part of their community charge.

Remember -

If anyone has a problem with similar matters then please contact the parish council—there are ways in which the council can help residents if the problem is affecting your home or your enjoyment of our historic village—but don't take things in your own hands—this is selfish and invariably will cost everyone money!

# MORTIMER *Village News*

## **We are giving our village a bit of a dust.....!**

Why not come and join us on Sunday Sept 11th at 10am in the Village Hall car park?

We would like our village to shine in readiness for the Open Gardens on the 18th Sept and the Wigmore Show on the 24th Sept. The last time we did this was in 2008 and you can see some of the then volunteers in this picture.

Recognise anyone?

We will provide all the equipment and bags, and no expense spared, treat you to some refreshments in the village hall after the clean up.

To help us with numbers please let Jano (contact details below) know or complete a card in the Wigmore community shop—everyone welcome irrespective of how young you are!



## **Wigmore Group Parish Council**

A few points from the June/July meetings.

✦ Repairs to the fences surrounding the Kings Meadow playgrounds have been completed. ✦ The play equipment on the Community land has been inspected and found to be satisfactory subject to minor work to be undertaken by the parish council.

✦ Solutions to Ford Street access by the Oak still being investigated and costed.

Wigmore  
Village Show  
Saturday 24th  
September

## **Your parish councillors are:**

### **Wigmore**

Bryan Casbourne – 770155

Vic Harnett – 770445 – vice chair

Jenny Johnson – 770162

Helena Leclezio – 770679

Kevan Perkins - 770060

### **Leinthall Starkes**

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

clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com

## BRUSH UP ON WIGMORE'S HISTORY

Wigmore, The Mortimers and Medieval England really seem to be news this spring. There is the launch of Philip Hume's new book 'On the Trail of the Mortimers' which is for sale in Mortimer Country Stores. This is a fascinating tour around the local Mortimer

Castles and is, of course, centred around Wigmore.

There's an quiz sheet in the back to keep the kids enthralled during the summer holidays.

Kathryn Warner's new book 'Isabella of France The Rebel Queen' has been recently released and of course covers the story of Roger Mortimer, Queen Isabella and Edward II. A great read written by an expert on Edward II – Kathryn runs a blog on Edward II and if you are interested just google it. Aardvark Books in Brampton Bryan or Castle Bookshop in Ludlow will order this book for you.

Then there's been the terrific BBC series 'The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses' – did you spot The Battle of Mortimers Cross and the reference to the parhelion (three sons not suns). So, have a good read and make sure you walk around the village and brush up on the wonderful history that we all live in.

To help you on this walk have a look at:

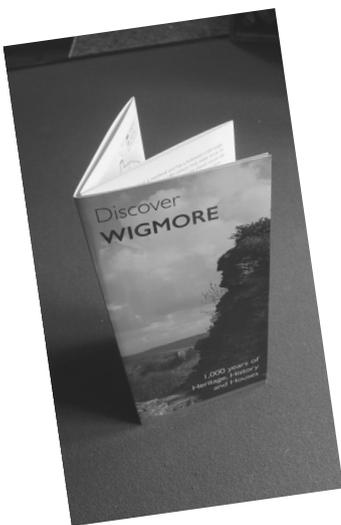
### ***Discover Wigmore***

*A new Wigmore booklet based on the original version by Jim Tonkin and with the permission of Muriel Tonkin.*

*This booklet highlights the significance of buildings within Wigmore and gives details of their age and construction together with other local information. The booklet is available from the Wigmore Community Shop and is priced at £2.50.*

*The booklet includes short histories of St James and Wigmore Castle together with a map showing the village layout and references to individual buildings.*

*This booklet was part funded by Awards for All*

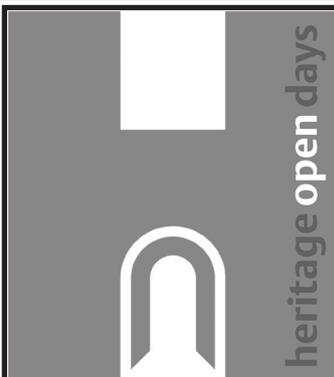


## **A note from your Parish Council**

It has become noticeable that the appearance of our village is becoming a little scruffy and could do with a tidy up. It is not just that there is litter lying around but hedges are appearing to be quite overgrown and weeds are growing in paths and road gutters. The tightening of public finances has resulted in council services being cut back and if

any work is needed then it is a case of 'do it yourself' as there is little to no chance that the cost can be borne by the public purse.

We are asking that households keep the paths adjacent to their properties clear of weeds and cut back hedges that are beginning to encroach on public footways and roads. If this were to happen the appearance of the area would be much improved at no cost to the public finances. See also page 4.



### **FREE Tower Tours:**

Thurs. Sept 8: 4pm & 5pm

Fri. Sept 9: 4pm & 5pm

*Numbers limited so you may need to wait. Children must be over 8 yrs old. Access via a steep stone spiral staircase. Church and Castle open all day.*

## **Challenge 500**

St James Wigmore



Challenge 500 is a quest to open up 500 of England's bell towers by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and Heritage Open Days.

Wigmore's 14th century tower will be open to explore and we will be part of a chorus of ringing bands simultaneously sounding out across the country between 6 & 7pm on Thursday September 8th.

This is a rare opportunity to explore the church tower and learn about the history of this magnificent church. Combine it with a walk up to Wigmore Castle.

*(Please wear stout shoes: free parking at Village Hall - no parking at the church.)*

## **Millennium Green**

You may have noticed some work has taken place in the Millennium Green—we have installed some raised beds and planted out a variety of herbs. Please feel free to take some herbs for your Sunday roast—just enough for your needs please.

*This has been funded by Herefordshire Council under its Public Green Spaces Community Grant.*

We will be trimming the Silver Birch shortly to reduce its excessive height and trim some of the overhanging branches.

**A celebration of our revitalised Millennium Green will take place on Sept 24th at 10.30am—just before the opening of the Village Show.**

Come along, share a glass of bubbly and some tasty nibbles with us and celebrate our own communal herb garden!

## THE JOYS OF VOLUNTEERING - A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE!

I moved to the Wigmore area in October 2014. What a ghastly business moving home is, especially when you are alone, apart from two lovely but rather useless spaniels. The area was totally new to me - I knew no-one and nothing and had left behind my friends and a busy lifestyle: I felt very alone and adrift.



My salvation was the Mortimer Country Store in Wigmore. I ventured in hoping they sold padlocks: they didn't - although they do stock an astonishing range of food and useful items for such a small shop.

Letsy was volunteering that day and was immensely kind and welcoming. I was introduced to the folder which contains details of all local trades people, doctors, transport and other useful information - vital help for newcomers. It truly is a community



shop - its function, purpose and rationale is to help people in the community and visitors, so they don't just sell things, but take in parcels and mail, offer travel directions and dispense advice. Every time I visited the shop the welcome was warm and friendly so in no time at all I became a volunteer.



Being a shop volunteer has given me the chance to meet loads of people and to open up social opportunities which are otherwise difficult for newcomers.

Plus I really enjoy it! As a child I loved "playing shops" and now I do it for real two or three times a week. The work is not onerous and skills such as working the till and stocking up are soon mastered and support is always available.



In order to serve the community with daily openings and a good level of service, a certain amount of commitment is needed from the volunteers who work with the committee and our wonderful part-time Manager, Alison Benwell. We can always use more volunteers. This need not involve you in a huge or even a very regular commitment, but obviously the more people Alison has to draw on, the easier it is to keep the shop open for its regular hours. Do call in and have an informal chat with Alison or any of the volunteers if you think you might enjoy playing shops for a few hours.

Come on - give it a go!

Jean de Rusett  
(Yes—that's me!)



## Wigmore and District Gardening Club



The Gardening Club has been very busy since the last bulletin. We have had excellent speakers on subjects as widely varied as plant collecting, the history of gardening, and friends and foes in the garden, all of them beautifully illustrated with highly professional photos. One highlight was an extremely entertaining talk on growing for showing by three local champions, which generated a lot of laughter whilst teaching us many of the tricks of the trade. We have been out and about on several car and coach trips, talked ourselves hoarse and consumed vast quantities of cake and tea.

The plant sale in May was a huge success, with so many beautiful plants grown by our members that we had to have an outdoor selling area too. We had record sales which puts the club in a strong position for the future and means we can make a greater contribution to charity.

We are particularly pleased to have welcomed lots of new members this year and more 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 Merilyn Wade 01568 770605.



### Book Exchange—now in our village hall



We now have a book loan facility in the village hall.

You bring a book and take a book—as simple as that!

The books are in the entrance lobby to the hall and is open from around 8am to 8pm.

In order to increase the number of available books, another book case is required so if anyone would like to donate an unwanted bookcase or suitable rack please contact

Jenny Johnson—contact details on page 4.

### To be or not to be—EU that is!

In keeping with our feeling of everything moving in the wrong direction, just have a look at this site:

**[www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info)**

Ignore the ads just have a look at the numbers.....almost unbelievable and scary!

## NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME IN WIGMORE

On Sunday 18 September two gardens in Wigmore will be open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. The NGS raises money



for numerous nursing and caring charities - Macmillan Cancer, Parkinsons,

Marie Curie, Hospice UK and many others.

Last year over £2.6 Million was raised simply by thousands of people around the UK opening their gardens for a small charge.

On Sunday 18 September from 2-5pm gardens at 2 Bury Court Park and Bury Court Farmhouse will be open for a combined charge of £6 per person (children free). Cathy and Ivan Jones at 2 Bury Court Park will feature not only their lovely garden but, as part of hArt week, an exhibition of Ivan's brilliant pastel artwork. The other garden to view will be Margaret and Les. Barclay's "rescued" garden at Bury Court Farmhouse, where there will be plants for sale and tea/coffee available. Parking by kind permission of Ron Griffiths in his field opposite. CONTACTS: Cathy/ Ivan on 01568 770808 and Margaret/Les. on 01568 770618.

### **PLANTS AT BURY COURT FARMHOUSE** Ford St., Wigmore

Following the Gardening Club's Plant Sale in May, plants are continuing to be available from Bury Court Farmhouse at "give-away" prices. Drop in to our courtyard and see what is on offer.

CONTACT: Margaret Barclay on 01568 770618.

### **Funding for the parish**

The parish has received a grant of some £3000 towards the finalisation of our Neighbourhood Plan and £1100 towards the annual Wigmore show.

Mortimer Village News is published by Wigmore Group Parish Council.  
The next edition is December 2016 with a copy date end of November  
Editor: Bryan Casbourne  
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

### **Mobile Post Office @ Wigmore**



|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Monday    | 11.00 to 12.30 |
| Tuesday   | 15.00 to 16.00 |
| Wednesday | no attendance  |
| Thursday  | 13.30 to 15.00 |
| Friday    | 10.30 to 12.00 |
| Saturday  | 10.30 to 11.30 |

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

### Brampton Bryan



The weekend 10th - 11th July may have been important for five British Wimbledon victories, plus another Lewis Hamilton success, not to mention British success in the Tour de France, but the newly formed Bravinium Batters and Bowlers Cricket Club had challenged the Rest of the World to a cricket match at Brampton Bryan Community Centre on that day, as according to the organisers "nothing much is happening then".

The only rules on the field were that the participants had to be over 70 in age (men) and over 50 (women). Several red cards were issued before the match to ladies who appeared to be much too young to take part, but were eventually allowed to play. Terms such as "silly mid on" were bandied about throughout the afternoon although not many people knew what they meant. The **Rest of the World** team came from as far away as yes Malvern, while the local team chose to reset the rules several times during the match thus encouraging them to win. It was enormous fun, and it didn't rain (much). Copper the Labrador proved to be supporting the home team and kept trying to trip up the ROTW batters as they valiantly ran towards the stumps. Several batters fell in their enthusiasm not to be caught out, but were administered to by a more than competent umpire. There was a huge tea, and in the evening a lavish dinner was held in Leintwardine Community Centre. About £1,250 was raised for the church and BBLCC received an additional £250. Look out for the next event, to be published when the participants have fully recovered. There are rumours of a triathlon....

*A Wigmore resident – but we know who it is!*

A cheery sight in these days  
of gloomy news.

New supplies arriving at the  
Community shop—maybe?





Igor Kennaway

### Praise for one of Wigmore's musicians.....

"It is not necessary to spend heavily on top priced tickets to hear outstandingly talented musicians ..... Sometimes they can produce magical moments of alchemy."

This is what The Observer wrote about the concert held recently in a Hampstead church by **Igor Kennaway**, Trish O'Brien and Paul Dean. Igor of course lives in Wigmore, and the reviewer wrote that they "*produced miraculous moments of alchemy.*"

If only Trish and Paul could visit Wigmore, we might share such moments locally. We are fortunate to be able to hear Igor's organ playing in some of the services in St James' Church.



Following on the decision to amalgamate the various schemes within the village, the Neighbourhood Watch committee is looking for residents willing to assist in this essential voluntary group. The group keeps an eye on what is going on in the village and reports any unusual behaviour to the NW committee.

If you would like to join this group please contact Kevan Perkins on 01569 770060 or email him at kevanandrita@hotmail.com

### CAMEO CLUB (Come and meet each other)



This informal group continues to meet regularly in Wigmore and we have recently agreed a programme for the next 12 months . Meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Wigmore Village Hall to share cars and visit a local place of interest. In September we plan to visit the Water Gardens and tea room near Pembridge. Meet at Wigmore Village Hall at 2pm on Tuesday 6 September to share cars. On 4 October we are off to Kenchester (fish, plants, lovely gardens and tea room).

Everyone welcome. Why not join us on one of our outings?

CONTACTS: Margaret/Les. Barclay on 01568 770618.

# WIGMORE SHOW

24th September

Leisure Centre and Field, Wigmore School

**Stalls** open 11am    **Exhibits** open 1 pm

FREE  
hands-on  
KIDS  
COOKING



Free Eco Shopping bags

Owl  
Rescue

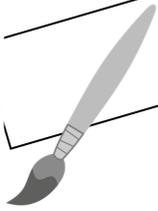


Hog roast  
Teas  
Home made cakes



Clothing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World display

Herefordshire  
Painting Club



Local Honey from Phil Evans



Lawson Morris hand crafted  
wood designs

Echo Weavers

Sue Squires Antiques and  
Collectables

Mortimer Stores present a  
range of local products



Pricklebums Hedgehog Sanctuary

Kelsmore  
Local Real  
Dairy Ice  
Cream



Music  
from  
Ragwort



Herefordshire Wildlife  
Trust

Lane Cottage  
Produce

9.30 am Hall opens for exhibitors only to enable drop off and set up

11am Stalls open and 1pm Hall opens to exhibits

4pm Prize giving

6.30 pm Harvest Festival at St James Church

7.30 pm Harvest Supper in Village Hall with the *Sea Shanty Singers*