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Mortimer Villages News

www.mortimervillages.co.uk

Issue Mar '17

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

St James' Church update from the CIC

Those of you with dogs are the ones most likely to have kept up with mysterious goings on at St James' Church recently. Two young women have been scurrying about carrying strange equipment. The good news is that the Wigmore Centre CIC asked them to make a survey of the church and surrounding grounds, all because the work towards the transformation of the church into a heritage and interpretative centre has at last begun.



Scanning the interior of St James—this will provide a detailed and accurate map of everything within St James and greatly assist our architects in designing our new community and heritage hub.

Once the findings have been examined, the CIC board will be able to instruct Spirit Architects, who have been chosen to lead the changes, to create a detailed plan. But meanwhile there have been meetings galore to discuss everything from encouraging the bats to use the boxes now installed outside the church to musical events to be held once the changes have been completed. Alan Stewart has been taken on as our Project Manager, with an office in the Village Hall. He comes with engineering qualifications and building experience and has been investigating heating solutions for the church.

(cont'd on page 4)

MORTIMER *Village News*

Snippets from your parish council

Dog fouling remains a matter of concern to many residents. The free dog poo bags on the community field have been withdrawn as over 300 bags have been taken in just a few days! The cost of these bags goes onto residents council tax bills. It has been suggested by some that the council should re-instate these bags and not remove the dog waste bins. The cost of emptying these bins is approx. £35 per month and again all this cost appears in council tax bills. Send in your views on this matter particularly if you concerned that some folk help themselves to unlimited bags!

Road safety around the Oak pub also remains a discussion point—some signage will be in place shortly identifying this junction as one used by pedestrians as well as traffic. All the suggestions offered by residents have been discussed with the relevant authorities and, without exception, all the ideas, including bollards, traffic lights, road markings, change in camber, and change in colour have been rejected on the grounds of cost (traffic lights) or that they do not meet current safety standards from the Highways Authority.

So it is now down to individuals to ensure they are alert when using this junction and do not try to share the space with vehicles!

Parish Council meetings

Your group parish council meets every second Monday in the month (other than August) in the Wigmore Village Hall at 8pm.

The agenda is published prior to the meeting and may be seen on the village web site, on noticeboards throughout the parish and in the community shop.

Residents are welcome to attend the meetings and the first 15 minutes or so are available for residents to raise matters. The council will then consider these matters and residents may remain to listen but may not participate in such discussions.

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

Gill Bilbrough – 770654

Pipe Aston

Clare Major – 770588

County Councillor

Carol Gandy – 780583

Parish Clerk

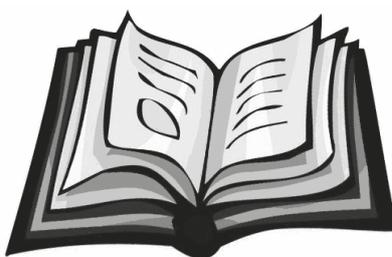
Jano Rochefort - 770282

clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com

Draft Wigmore Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation period for the Wigmore Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now closed and the group parish council are now considering the various comments raised by residents and other interested parties..

Once this review has been completed a revised plan will be reviewed and agreed by the group parish council and a copy forwarded to Herefordshire Council for their review. Following on this process an independent examiner will review the document together with all the comments raised by residents and other interested parties. Alongside these comments will be statements from the parish council as to how they have considered such comments and whether they have been accepted or rejected together with their reasons for doing so.



Defibrillator training

A recent session was held in the village hall on defibrillator training. A number of residents attended and found the training session very useful. This may well be repeated at some time in the future.

It is worth reiterating the process for getting access to the kit.

The defibrillator is located on the end wall of the village hall—adjacent to the telephone exchange. On the front of the locked case is a location code and when calling 999 for an ambulance this code is given to the emergency operator who in turn will give the access code to open the defibrillator case.

The indicator on the defibrillator pack should be showing green. This is checked at least every week to ensure the battery operated pack is operational. This battery has a life of some 4 years. Once the pack is opened the equipment uses voice instructions on how to use the machine. This equipment is not suitable for use on children under 8 years old. It is worth noting that the machine carries out a check on the patient's heart before attempting to deliver a shock to the heart. If the patient's heart does not have anything wrong then the machine will not deliver a shock.

Any queries on this equipment please contact Jano Rochefort on 10568 770282.

Wigmore Village Hall

The recent Awards for All grant is now being used to produce plans for updating the village hall—these will include new entrance doors, lighting systems, sound and visual systems, external notice/events board, and car park lighting. Overall this will bring our village hall in line with many other local halls and implement the various ideas put forward by users and residents.

The existing rear room has now been hired by the St James project team for 12 months as their base for all the planning work required on the church. The door at the rear of the village hall is being replaced and the St James project group will use this as access in order to avoid any disruption to other users of the hall.

There is also some evidence of movement in the back walls of the hall and some “tell tale” strips have now been attached to check whether this movement continues.



St James' project *(cont'd from page 1)*

The village is filled with experts of all kinds, and we are so lucky to be able to pick a good many brains so far, but if you have any to add (ideas and brains) do share them with us. The regeneration of St James' Church is a community project, by village members for the village and beyond. We will be having more open meetings to share our goings on, but shortly do take a look on our new web site (coming soon) to update yourself on the latest developments.

Scanning the area surrounding the church to get detailed measurements and the information gathered will be used in developing and designing the layout for the church as well as recording the first highly detailed “map” of the church and its surroundings. Once we have completed the first stage development during 2017 we will then be applying for the second round funding to implement the work agreed during this current phase.

In addition we hope to be able to construct a 3D model of the church and use it within the display area once our adaptations are completed.



The Rectory, Watling Street, Leintwardine, Craven Arms SY7 0LL

E: mikecat7@btinternet.com

T: 01547 540235

Dear Parishioner:

You are probably aware that the Wigmore Centre CIC has received a generous award from the Heritage Lottery Fund that is aimed at creating a community hub in the nave of the church building. However, it will be some time before work on the building begins and still longer before it begins to provide any revenue.

In the meantime the financial reserves of the Church Committee are dwindling fast as it continues to meet the cost of insurance, utility bills, ministerial expenses, minor repairs to the building and make its contribution to Diocesan funds.

I am therefore writing to you on behalf of the Church Committee of St James' Church, Wigmore and as Chairperson of that Committee to ask you to consider making a donation.

If the costs noted above were to be spread across the whole Wigmore community then only £1 per week from everyone (or an increase of £1 per week by those who already give to church funds) would cover that cost and help the Church Committee to begin to build up some small reserves for those inevitable 'rainy days' when the unexpected happens.

The church building is of exceptional historical value to both the local community and the nation as well as currently offering a place for Sunday worship twice a month and providing the option of baptisms, weddings and funerals for anyone connected to the locality. It offers the provision for concerts and school presentations on a large scale. However, without your support such opportunities may disappear if, for example, we cannot pay the insurance premium on the building in next few years.

I know that for a considerable number of people these are financially difficult times and that not everyone would wish to support the building because of religious conviction.

However, the church of St James both includes and exceeds its religious significance. The village has an historical treasure in its midst and I ask you to give serious consideration to this request.

If you would like to make a regular donation, increase your current giving or would just like more information, then please contact the Church Committee Treasurer, Fran Rhodes on 01568 770150. Anything you can offer financially will be gratefully received, and when appropriate, using a 'Gift Aid' envelope can make your donation stretch even further. To those of you who already contribute your time and effort to support the Church of St James, your generosity is much appreciated.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Catling'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Catling

February 2017

Bowlers Get Quizzical for Charity

North Herefordshire Carpet Bowlers had a testing time on February 25th when they took part in a quiz evening at Wigmore Village Hall. A magnificent £437 was collected to be shared between the Midlands Air Ambulance and the League of Friends of Leominster Hospital. Come and have a go at carpet bowls- we are open 8-10pm every Tuesday in Wigmore Village Hall. All welcome.

Wigmore Carpet Bowlers' Success

The league members enjoyed watching some skilful bowling at the League finals this year, hosted at Wigmore Village Hall. Making the most of the home advantage, the Wigmore pairs team Pip Probert and Kevin Davies (pictured) and singles player Brian Mason won their final matches to become this season's winners. The team winner of the league overall—Titley!



Your Community Shop

The shop is about to enter its 9th year of opening and serving our community. In those 9 years we have seen many changes as all involved better understand the needs and wants of our customers. In addition we are constantly looking at new products in response to customers ideas and our latest offerings are a selection of meats, chicken, smoked salmon, and marinated herrings - all pre packed for your convenience. Most folk will have seen the new blinds over the shop front which helps us by preventing the sun from affecting some of our goods and, importantly, enables the shop to be more readily seen by passing traffic.



Our new shop blinds



Selina and Sue training on our new till system

New produce from:

Loch Fynne—
smoked salmon

Silver Tide—
marinated herrings



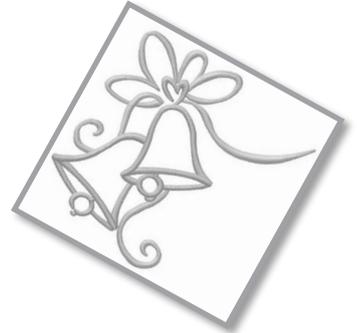
SPECIAL BIRTHDAY?

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?



why not book

WIGMORE VILLAGE HALL?



- ◆ **Only £15 per hour**
- ◆ **No charge for clear up time**
- ◆ **100 piece dinner service and cutlery**
- ◆ **Modern kitchen**

contact Jenny Johnson 01568 770162

jenny5johnson@gmail.com

or message us on our

Facebook Community page:

Wigmore Village Hall

Mortimer Country Stores Association—AGM

Members of the Association and our community are cordially invited to our 2017 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26 April at 7.00 pm at Wigmore Village Hall.

This will be at the beginning of our Ninth year and we are celebrating our great village shop and its band of volunteers who are still enthusiastically serving the local and passing through community with an astonishingly wide range of attractively priced everyday goods – and also some less everyday items for when a special purchase is needed.

The formal part of the meeting will be kept to about 20 minutes and the whole event is expected to last about an hour. The shop talk and discussion will be followed by a short talk by Jill Fieldhouse who will tell us about progress on, and hopes for, the St James' Church Project.

Do come along and enjoy a pie and pudding supper afterwards.

Any questions? Please contact Alison on 01568 770307



Wigmore and District Gardening Club

Once again, The Riverside Inn at Aymestrey gave us a superb Christmas lunch in December. In spite of filling their dining room with 45 ravenous gardeners, the three delicious courses were served swiftly and with great good humour as the young waitresses ran up and down those steep steps and dealt with men calling for more and yet more of their scrumptious roasties.

The AGM in January saw the return of the usual members' offers to take on jobs, but with two new faces offering to help Ken and Merilyn with the jobs of chairperson and meeter and greeter. Both Ken and Merilyn have coped exceptionally well in spite of continued ill health and we all expressed our enormous gratitude to them for all they do.

In February, we were treated to a delightfully entertaining talk from Tamsin Westhorpe of Stocktonbury Gardens on her life on various gardening magazines. Her experiences ranged from being abandoned on a roundabout in Bournemouth by men who resented 'lady' gardeners, to being the all-encompassing editor of several prestigious magazines. Who knew that yellow was just the colour to use on the covers of weekly mags, but was completely inappropriate for posh monthlies? Her talk was also accompanied by some super photos.

The club has lots of goodies lined up for us over the coming year. Our monthly car trips include Bryans Ground, Rhodds Farm and Stocktonbury, with the next one being on Weds 22nd March to Little Malvern Court, and we have a coach trip to Hidcote on Thurs 11th May to which non-members are warmly invited. Our evening meetings include talks on 'Structure in the Garden' and 'Attingham Park Walled Garden Restoration' with our next talk on Thurs 16th March on 'Iris: some history, some people, some plants.' However, our main and most exciting event this year is an overnight trip to north Wales with visits to Plas Cadnant and Bodnant gardens. Please contact Ian Barlow asap if you are interested.

We are particularly pleased to have welcomed lots of new members over the past 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.

Please put the following dates in your diaries:

Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Sunday May 21st this year and Margaret and Les Barclay are once again opening their garden, Bury Court Farm, for charity on Sunday 9th April.

AUCTIONEER NIGHT
Friday May 5th: 7.00pm Venue TBC



Philip Serrell, auctioneer, antiques expert, author and regular on The Antiques Road Trip and Bargain Hunt will be sharing his knowledge with us and discussing and valuing around 20 items provided by local residents.

Tickets: £12.50 each including a glass of wine and light buffet.
 Book via Fran 01568 770150 or Selena 01568 770642

PATRONAL DAY & WWI CENTENARY COMMEMORATION
Saturday July 29th : 2.00pm St James' Church

Dr Paul Norgate will present an illustrated talk about William Storr Barber, a sculptor and WWI soldier from Leominster, who sculpted our rare war memorial. The talk will be part of an afternoon of music and readings from the 'Soldier Poets'.



If you have any WWI stories, photographs memorabilia that you can bring along to share with the audience please call Fran 01568 770150 or Jill 01568 770140 to discuss.
 Tickets £7.50 on the door including refreshments

**BOTH EVENTS ARE FUNDRAISERS
 FOR ST JAMES' CHURCH**

Funding for the parish

Quiet month for funding—nothing additional although there are several applications awaiting decisions within the next couple of months.

**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

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Wigmore School

Wigmore pupils had the privilege of listening to and asking questions from Joanna Millan, a Holocaust survivor, who visited the area on Thursday 2nd March.

The visit was designed to provide a unique opportunity for young people to understand one of the most important eras in European history. Pupils were also challenged to reflect on the nature of humanity and our ability to commit horrific cruelty as well as profound, altruistic compassion for fellow human beings. It was an experience our young people will never forget.

About Joanna Millan

Joanna was born Bela Rosenthal in August 1942 in Berlin, Germany. In June 1943, Bela and her mother were taken from their home and sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto. In 1944 when Bela was two, her mother contracted TB, leaving Bela orphaned and alone in the camp. Some of the women working in the kitchens would take food to the orphans. On 3rd May 1945, the Red Cross took over control of the camp and Bela was liberated by the Russians.

After liberation Bela, along with five other surviving orphans, was flown to England. After living in a series of children's homes, Bela was adopted by a Jewish couple living in London. They decided it would be better for Bela to have a less German-sounding name so it was changed to Joanna. Joanna was told not to mention that she was Jewish or that she was born in Germany and to pretend that she was their natural daughter.

Growing up and hiding her identity was hard for Joanna, but she believes that the scale of antisemitism was such that Jews were discriminated against in all sections of society, even in England. Joanna went on to marry a Jewish man and has three children and eight grandchildren. She is a magistrate and today speaks regularly about her experiences during the Holocaust.

Wigmore Village Hall



Another very successful jumble sale at the village hall raising over £440.

Jenny (L) and Dottie (R) busy selling lovely items to the many customers who started queuing at midday long before the doors opened at 1pm!!

Some folk are so keen!

Thanks go to the many volunteers who helped out on the day.

