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PARISH COUNCIL

GARDENING CLUB

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VILLAGE HALL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN**

**QUEENS AWARD FOR
VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

Mortimer Village News

www.mortimervillages.co.uk

Issue June '17

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



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups



Yet another award for our village—the community shop volunteers have been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Services 2017. This is one award of just two within Herefordshire and certainly something the whole of our parish can be justly proud! The Wigmore community shop was started in 2008 by local residents, it continues to be managed by local residents and has made a huge difference to life in our village—not just for the convenience of a pint of milk but as a hub, a place where you can have a chat, a coffee and a moan about the heavy traffic rushing through our high street! The shop opens every day and since 2008 it has only ever had to close on just one half day due to lack of staff—a great record!

Next year the shop will celebrate its 10th birthday and the committee will be planning some community events during 2018 so keep your eyes open!

As always we are looking for additional volunteers—its great fun and we train you on all the necessary details. You can choose when and how long you can help and it does not have to be every week. So why not come along and meet everyone and have a go.....!

MORTIMER *Village News*

Snippits from your parish council

We are giving our village another bit of a dust.....!

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



We would like our village to shine in readiness for the Open Gardens on the 17th Sept and the Wigmore Show on the 23rd Sept. 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.

Vodaphone have been granted permission to erect a 20 m mast on the water treatment works on the Community Field. The parish council objected to this mast and suggested the existing mast on Gately could be utilised. Unfortunately this was not accepted and the Vodaphone mast goes ahead. This is also coupled with OpenReach digging a trench along the pathway to the treatment works to carry the necessary cables.

Interesting that the village hall received a written apology from two lads at Wigmore school for trashing the toilets in the village hall. Not the best way to spend an evening but at least they came forward and did the right thing.....! !

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 – Chair
Jenny Johnson – 770162
Helena Leclezio – 770679
Kevan Perkins - 770060

Leinthall Starkes

Alan Dowdy – 770121
Graham Probert – 770543

Elton

Gill Bilbrough – 770654

Pipe Aston

Clare Major – 770588

County Councillor

Carol Gandy – 780583

Parish Clerk

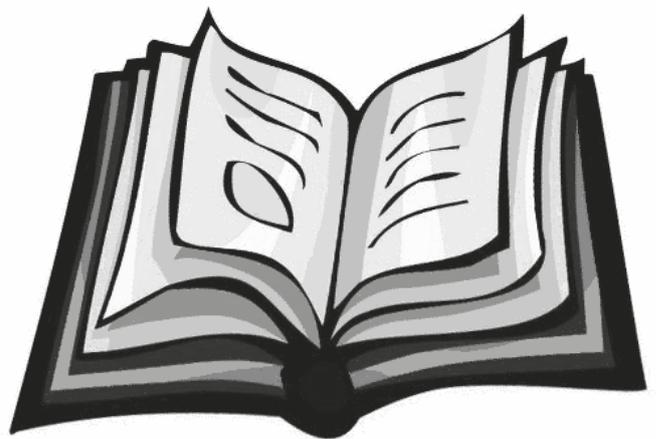
Jano Rochefort - 770282

clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com

Draft Wigmore Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Over the past few weeks we have acquired information from Herefordshire Council and other local parish councils regarding some aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan that have been criticised by the independent examiner. The WGPC sub committee have looked at these comments and decided to review our Neighbourhood Plan and make any amendments as necessary. The WGPC sub committee will be meeting shortly and following subsequent approval by the WGPC, a consultancy period will be arranged giving residents and interested parties a further opportunity to raise comments

In the mean time you can contact our parish clerk Jano Rochefort on 01568 770282 or email at clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com if you have any immediate queries.



Wigmore Times—the sequel.....!

You heard it here first! And no, it has nothing to do with elections or Brexit or malarkey of any sort – if it affects Wigmore it must be serious – and it is!

There is (hopefully) going to be a follow-up book to '**Wigmore Times – Then and Now**'. It is tentatively called '**Wigmore Times – Wigmore Stories**' and is planned to include many of the stories and photos we couldn't fit in last time. We also hope to tell the story of the St James Church Project with photos and plans to show everyone how it all came together – assuming, by then, that it did. And of course, the Mortimer Country Stores is fast approaching its tenth year and has won that fantastic Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. What a story that is!

We are just in the process of applying for the grant to do the book and will let you all know when it does (or doesn't) come through. In the meantime have a think about those family stories, dig out those old photos, the newer ones too and sort through nick-knacks and artefacts that might be interesting. We'll let you know who to contact when we have got the grant. Can't wait!

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 has been 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.



From our county councillor—Carole Gandy

I love this time of year a time which I believe shows Mortimer ward at its best. However potholes and poor road surfaces continue to cause problems for road users across the ward and county. This financial year a few roads in the ward will be surface dressed but there are no scheduled resurfacing works programmed, therefore please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns about a particular road and I will do my best to get the potholes repaired.

As mentioned previously there are still a number of residents unable to access faster broadband. The latest phase will be carried out by Gigaclear and should be completed by the end of 2018. If you are unsure as to whether your property is included, either access the Fastershire website or contact myself.

I was delighted to hear that the community shop and its volunteers had been awarded the Queens Award for Volunteers. The Wigmore shop is the only community shop in Mortimer ward and I believe the service it provides is invaluable and that this award is well deserved. Herefordshire Council has set up a website WISH where residents, carers, GPs and voluntary organisations can find information on services and support, both statutory and voluntary provided for adults and children within Herefordshire. If you are a provider of a service and would like your organisation to be included or are seeking information or assistance, please visit the website.

Wigmore has over the past few months been suffering from a small number of extremely thoughtless and uncaring, dog owners who happily allow their dog to foul the footpaths around the village and the school. This practice not only damages the reputation of Wigmore but it is a real health hazard to children through the parasite Toxocariasis that can in extreme cases cause blindness. Please ensure that you put your dog poo in the bins provided by the parish council or take it home.

The last few months have seen some dreadful terrorist attacks in both Britain and across the world and although it is unlikely that Herefordshire would be a target, going forward with more emphasis on ensuring major cities have increased security it is impossible to forecast what may happen in the future. Therefore for your information I thought it important to share advice from West Mercia Police that we should all be vigilant, and report any suspicious behaviour or activity on 0800 789 321.

The EnviRecover Energy-from-Waste facility which is a joint Herefordshire and Worcestershire project based on the Hartlebury Trading Estate is now fully operational. The handover follows 33 months construction programme and is the largest single piece of capital infrastructure in the two counties. It marks the virtual elimination of landfill in these two counties and will turn 200,000 tonnes per year of waste into electricity, exporting 15.5 MW of electricity to the grid which is sufficient to power all the homes in Kidderminster.

Finally for those of you planning community events during the summer I hope the weather is kind to you and thank you in advance for all your hard work.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a problem, or just want a chat. I am also always happy to visit you if that would be easier. Just telephone 01568 780583 or email carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk

C A M E O (Come And Meet Each Other)

Future activities:- Garden Party at Bridge Cottage, Burrington
on Tuesday 4th July

Visit to Berrington Hall on Tuesday 1st August

To Hampton Court on Tuesday 5th September

On Tuesday 3rd October - Surprise meeting TBA

Trip to Hop Pocket on Tuesday 7th November

We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm at Wigmore Village Hall to share cars. Very informal, all welcome. Also notices are placed in Wigmore shop each month as reminders. For further info call Margaret or Les. on 01568 770618.

Wigmore and District Gardening Club

We have had some interesting car trips this spring. In March, we went to Little Malvern Court. The heavens opened just as we arrived and so the head gardener and his team invited us into their tearoom where we were served plates of scrumptious home-made biscuits and treated to a detailed and humorous talk about the history and development of the garden, which kept us going until the rain stopped and we were able to wander around their beautiful beds and ponds. We had a complete contrast in April, when a ranger took us on a guided tour of Queenswood and explained how the arboretum is managed to maintain the trees and the understory. June took us to the fascinating Bryans Ground, with its theatrical design and development – a favourite garden for many of us.

Members at Hidcote



Our coach trip to Hidcote in May was blessed with good weather and although this stunning and famous garden is always busy, its succession of garden 'rooms' prevented it from seeming too crowded. Our next coach trip is our exciting overnight visit in July to Plas Cadnant and Bodnant gardens. We're all looking forward to this and are grateful to Ian Barlow for organising it. Please contact him if you are interested.

Our evening speakers have included a beautifully illustrated talk on irises, and another on Structure in the Garden which offered some unusual ideas for partitions.



Our annual plant sale

Gardening Club cont'd:

Our biggest news this month, however, was yet another extremely successful plant sale in May. We didn't have the usual crush to start with, but customers kept up a steady and busy flow throughout the afternoon resulting in yet another record-breaking sales figure, which means we will be able to continue supporting the club and give an increased amount to local charities. Thanks go to our members for the wonderful plants they supplied and for the record numbers who came to help on the day. Quality plants are still available to buy at Bury Court farmhouse – do go and have a look.

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. Our next evening meeting is our social at Rhodds Farm, meeting at the village hall at 6.00pm. 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.

Sunday Sept 10th is our next car trip to Stocktonbury Gardens, meet at WVH at 1.30pm and our next normal evening meeting is a Members evening on 21st

CHARITY EVENTS IN WIGMORE

On Sunday 17th September from 2 to 5 two gardens will be open in support of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), a charity celebrating its 90th anniversary. During this time NGS has made total donations of over £50 million to numerous nursing and caring charities. Cathy and Ivan Jones' garden at 2 Bury Court Park will open to coincide with the last day of this year's HArt, in which Ivan will be exhibiting a selection of his fine pastel work. At the same time Bury Court Farmhouse (Margaret and Les. Barclay) will open their garden - also in support of the NGS - where there will be plants as well as teas available.

Combined entrance £7, children free. In addition on Sunday 20th August Bury Court Farmhouse will be hosting a "tea party" in aid of the charity Overcoming Multiple Sclerosis (OMS). This will be from 2 to 4 and visitors are welcome to look around the garden, buy

plants and of course have tea and cake. Entrance £4, children free. All proceeds to the OMS charity. This event will form part of an NGS venture for 2017 "Gardens and Health" from 12 - 20 August, during which time it is hoped that Bury Court Farmhouse will be able to host visits from other caring charities. Details when finalised will be advertised in the Wigmore shop.



Cathy and Ivan Jones

Margaret and Les. Barclay 770618

The St James project

Since our last report in May quite a lot has happened at the project—not that you would have necessarily noticed anything if you just walked by!

We have appointed most of the professionals including our architect, interpretive designer (that's the one that produces a concept of how we tell the fascinating story about our heritage and the Mortimers), a mechanical and electrical engineer, archaeologists, structural engineer, surveyors and an arboriculturalist.

We have had meetings with the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) to discuss our plans and seek their agreements on what we wish to do inside the church.

We have had visits from the Victorian Society, Mortimer History Society, Historic England, Herefordshire Mammal Group, a Traffic specialist, and many other interest groups who are really fascinated by some of our findings. For example—we uncovered an early form of underfloor heating in the church, and we have uncovered a crypt entrance under the north chapel—not sure what is inside though—may just be rubble!

In addition to all this we have been working on various documents in support of the project including an activity sheet. This identifies a wide range of possible activities at the church ranging from simple meetings, afternoon films, live streaming of concerts, live performances, art exhibitions, craft demonstrations, talks, lectures and many others.

We are now getting ready to present our proposals to the Heritage Lottery Fund in Sept/Oct in support of the phase 2 round of funding necessary to undertake the work.

One key feature of our proposal is that we are not altering or building on to the internal structure of the church. Most of what we are planning is readily reversible. All structures will be self supporting and may connect with the existing fabric of the building for stability. Externally we will be replacing the demolished north chapel and replacing the existing "shed" which houses the defunct heating system.

Once we have agreement from all necessary authorities the CIC will be holding an open meeting in the village to explain the detailed proposals and invite suggestions for additional community uses.

Keep an eye on our website: thewigmorecentre.org

PS—if you would like to read some of the reports from the professionals commissioned for the project, we have left a copy for you to read in St James' church.

Please leave the copy in the church.



Surveying one of the Lime trees in the churchyard to check on its health. This Lime tree, close to the steps, is circa 250 years old.

Some of the fascinating structures uncovered during the recent investigations in St James church

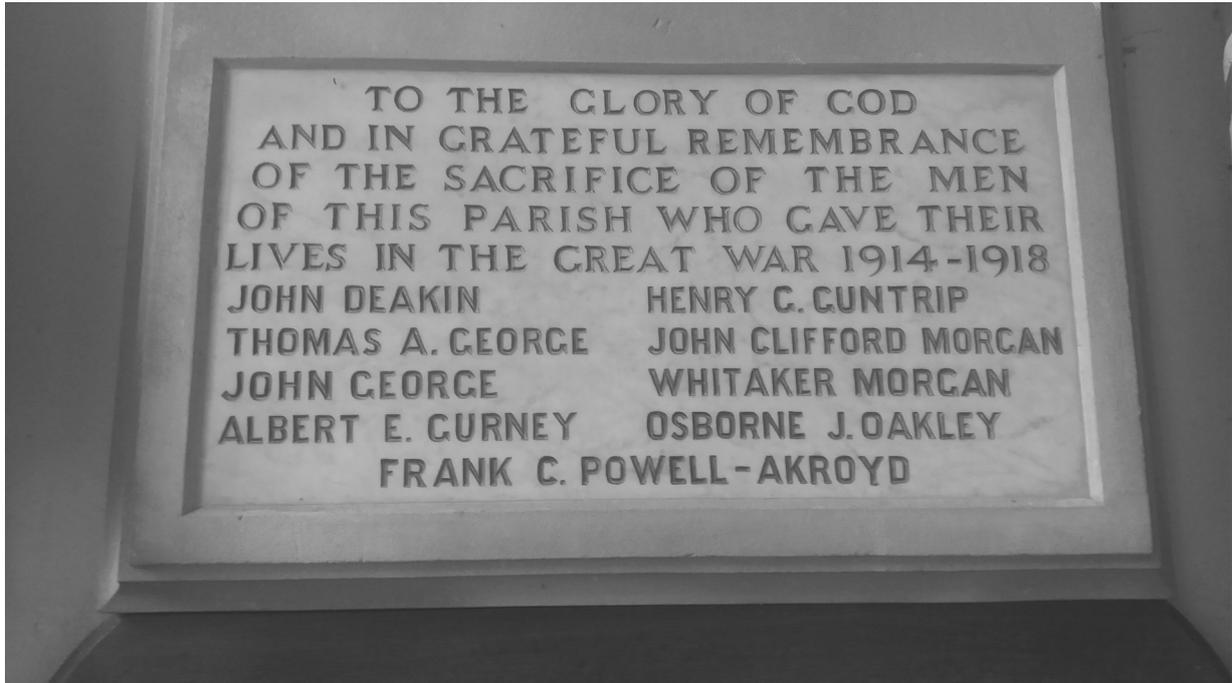


Showing a fire pit under the rectangular covers and the underfloor ducting to carry the heated and fume laden air under the floor of the nave in St James. One of the very few examples of a hypercaust in the county.



Showing the top of a crypt entrance under the north chapel in St James. Further digs required to determine whether there is anything inside!

*St James Church—WW1 memorabilia display
Saturday 29th July*



Are you related to or do you know anything about the young WWI soldiers who are commemorated in St James' Church? If you have any information, photos or mementos that we can share at our commemoration event on 29th July please contact Fran or Jill – see the notice on page opposite.

Community Field

A few years ago the parish council registered our community land as a Field in Trust. This means that the land cannot be used for any purposes other than those set out in the agreement.

We have had many adverse comments about the field, we have had attempts to introduce a football pitch and team to the village, and we even tried to get a grant a few years ago to landscape the field and make it more attractive.

It may now be the time to have another go at getting a grant to upgrade and update this community asset and make it far more attractive and less likely to be misused.

So this is your chance to let us have your views on what you would like to see on the field that will benefit the whole community.



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

An afternoon to celebrate our local fallen, with readings from the 'Soldier Poets', an illustrated talk about William Storr Barber, the WWI soldier from Leominster who sculpted our rare war memorial, a tribute to 'Woodbine Willie' & organ music played by Igor Kennaway.
Browse our display of WW1 memories accompanied by tea and a bun.



**A FUNDRAISER
FOR ST JAMES' CHURCH**

If you have any WWI stories, photographs or memorabilia that you can bring along to share with the audience please call Fran 01568 770150 or Jill 01568 770140
Tickets **£7.50/£3.50** on the door including refreshments.
Tin hats and gas masks not compulsory.



Street lights Wigmore

Back in the dim and distant past a number of street lights in Wigmore were not transferred to Herefordshire Council. These lights, for what ever reason, are still maintained and paid for by residents of Wigmore. The remaining lights are the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

The parish council have tried to pass these lights back but the answer has always been a "no thanks".

A few months ago the parish council reviewed the lighting situation in Wigmore, sought the views of residents, and obtained various quotes for repairing and maintaining the lights including an option to remove the lights completely.

Recently further discussions have been held in connection with replacing the existing lamps with low energy lamps—similar to those on Kings Meadow. One particular lamp post adjacent to the Castle pub was removed due to its dangerous physical condition.

At a prior parish council meeting it was decided to accept an offer to replace the lamps with low energy ones and carry out safety checks on the lamps at regular intervals.

Funding for the parish

Quiet month for funding—nothing additional although there are several applications awaiting decisions including one to modernise the village hall.

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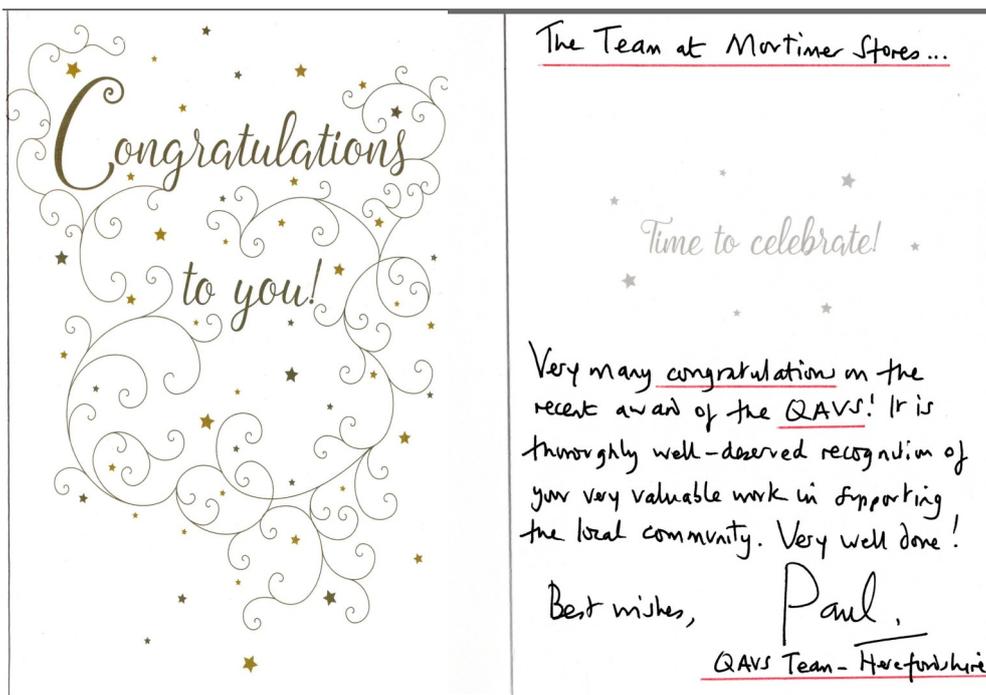
Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors concerned and not necessarily those of the Wigmore Group Parish Council

**Mobile Post Office
@ Wigmore**



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

Congratulations card received from Paul Deneem OBE JP DL who is a member of the Herefordshire Queens Award for Voluntary Service Team.



Dog Fouling Wigmore School

We would like to remind the community that the walking of dogs on the school fields at Wigmore School is causing great concern to both the health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff at the school. There has been an increase to the number of incidents of dog fouling on the school premises in recent months.

Our staff and pupils are now having to ensure that the field is cleared of dog faeces before lessons can take place on the school grounds. The school grounds are incredibly important to the teaching of our pupils at both the primary and high schools.

Dogs should be kept on a lead if the general public use the public footpath on the school grounds and any dog faeces must be removed from the site.

We would also like to remind users that the public footpath route (shown in bold on map) is restricted to the perimeter of the field and not across the middle of the school pitches.

