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www.mortimervillages.co.uk

Issue Dec '16

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



Photograph courtesy of Michael Fieldsend

A very happy Christmas to all our residents

MORTIMER Village News

We gave our village a bit of a dusting.....!

Well quite a few of you came along and in just over two hours we managed to scour the village and collect a total of 3 full black bin bags of rubbish. This was very significantly better than the previous occasion some 6 years ago when we collected over 12 full black bin bags!!!

The message must be getting through to everyone!

Many thanks to all who turned out and we will endeavour to make this a regular annual event!



Wigmore Group Parish Council

Wigmore Group Parish Council

Quite a bit of discussion recently on how to resolve the difficulties between traffic and pedestrians adjacent to the Oak pub.

There does not appear to be a simple economic solution but we would welcome ideas from our residents.

All ideas are welcome but please take the cost into account—remember much of any cost will come back to you in your council tax!

At the moment the parish gets a grant towards looking after verges, drainage, overhanging trees etc. Our lengthsman undertakes much of this work and is part funded by Hereford. Remember though in a few years time the majority of the cost will fall to our residents.

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 Draft Wigmore Group Parish Neighbourhood plan goes out to community consultation on the 12th December 2016 and runs through to the 30 January 2017.

Responses must be received by 5pm on the 30th January 2017.

*Full details are shown in the Neighbourhood Plan which may be accessed on
www.mortimervillages.co.uk*

or

seen in hard copy at one of the following places:

Wigmore village shop

Wigmore village hall

St James' church

The Oak

The Castle

Responses may be returned to:

clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com

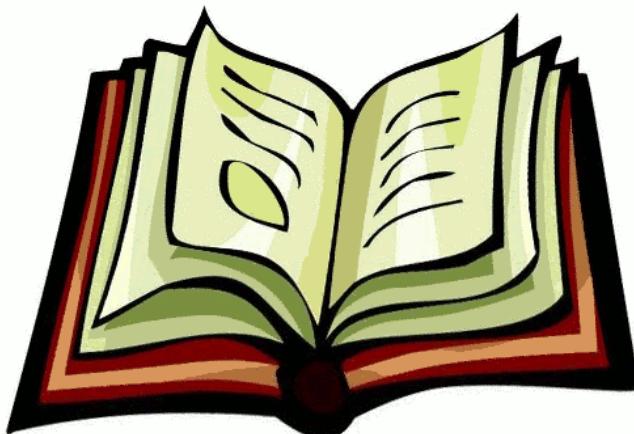
or delivered to

6 Bury Court Park

Wigmore

HR6 9US

*Anyone having difficulties in viewing the plan or making comments,
may contact our parish clerk, Jano Rochefort, on 01568 770282.*



MORTIMER Village News

Wigmore Village Hall

A reminder that Wigmore village hall is home to broadband access, a couple of laptops, a projector and screen, plus a range of display boards. These may be used by local residents for both personal and community meeting use. If you would like to make use of this equipment and access the broadband, please contact Jano Rochefort, our parish clerk, in the first instance. You will find contact details on page 2.



Wigmore and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has had an excellent summer and autumn, with some really interesting trips out. June took us to Wyndcliffe Sculpture Garden and the utterly stunning Veddw gardens near Chepstow, created on an ancient, steeply sloping site with wonderful undulating hedges. In October, we were off to Batsford Arboretum for the autumn colour and a guided tour by the most eccentric pair of elderly twins in Peruvian hats. We've also been on several group car trips, the stand-out events being our evening visit to Brobury with its lovely water gardens and our afternoon at the new and developing Wildgoose Nursery near Munslow, which saw several of us filling our boots with their unusual plants.

We have fewer speakers over the summer, but Nathalie Mignotte gave us a passionate description of Versailles with some stunning photos and our September meeting took the form of a social with other local gardening groups and it was good to get together with other like-minded gardeners.

We would all like to offer our thanks to Ian and Theresa Barlow for opening their garden to us for our annual garden party. We were blessed with blue skies and vast quantities of gorgeous food from all our members. We are obviously a very talented bunch in the kitchen as well as in the garden! Our love of food has also been shown in the sell-out of places for our Christmas dinner at The Riverside.

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.

Our next meeting is on Thurs 17th Jan, our AGM, when we will be further discussing our exciting away trip next July. Do come and join us.

News from our county councillor—Carole Gandy

I expect many of you are starting to think about Christmas and involved in organising village activities leading up to it. I have been invited to a number of events at Wigmore School and am looking forward to them. I visited the school recently to pass on my congratulations on their very good exam results.

It is a testing time of year, particularly for those living in very rural areas. Many roads are in need of resurfacing and I have submitted to Balfour Beatty a list of 6 roads which are particularly bad in Mortimer ward, stressing that rural roads are the motorists' life line for many who have no access to public transport. During this financial year no roads in Mortimer ward were resurfaced and with continuing financial restraints I am not optimistic about the coming year.

You will have heard about the recent Amey judgement which is good news in respect of £9.5 m being awarded to Herefordshire by the high court. This payment however is subject to any stay pending appeal and even then will need to be held in a special reserve until any appeal process is exhausted. This is one of a number of actions ongoing against Amey. Once this has been completed I will be urging the Cabinet to use a significant amount of that money on road maintenance.

I have discussed with officers the issue of faster broadband in Mortimer ward, the vast majority of the ward should be able to connect to this by the end of March at the latest but there will be some 350 properties which are not covered by the present BT contract. A new contract provider has been approved and it is hoped that the final 350 properties will, if they choose, be able to connect by the end of 2017. I recognise that this has been a slow process but I believe that BT under estimated how difficult it would be to provide connectivity in such a rural county.

Herefordshire is now preparing with some certainty for the arrival of up to 30 Syrian refugees on 29 November. We expect to receive a further similar number of Syrian refugees around early March 2017. The council and our partners are working to ensure we are prepared and confident in meeting the needs of the refugee families when they arrive.

As always, if you wish to contact me about a particular matter, or just for a general chat, please do not hesitate to do so either on 01568 780583 or email carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk. I am also always happy to come out to see you.

Cllr Carole Gandy

THE LATEST ON ST JAMES' CHURCH PROJECT

As everyone will (or should!) know by now, our revised application for the funding to transform St James' Church was accepted and a Heritage Lottery Fund development grant awarded in September. This is very exciting for the village and gives us an opportunity to revive this very special building and put a top quality community resource at the heart of the village.

The grant was publicised at the beginning of October and since then the Board of the Community Interest Company (CIC) have been working very hard to obtain a Permission to Start and send out tenders to architects and specialists to get this show on the road.

The paperwork and licences are incredibly detailed and complicated but we are gradually getting there and will be holding a meeting in Wigmore Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday December 14th to go through the timetable and progress to date – so please do come along to find out more and offer up suggestions.



A bit of background ... St James is a very important Grade I listed building and as such caring for the 'bricks and mortar' will always be the responsibility of The Diocese. The monies we have been allocated are to adapt the building so that it can be useful to the wider community and return to the thriving space it would have been in the Middle Ages.

None of this money is going towards supporting church costs and so you will still see church fund-raising events advertised to support the religious aspects of the building – please support them. Of course, once the building is warm, has loos and a café it will be much more attractive and accessible to everyone and it is hoped will attract larger congregations. So, in effect, we are borrowing the building at a peppercorn rent from the Church to keep it open, install community facilities, and provide a useful space for everyone to enjoy.

As those of you who have attended previous public meetings will know, we have lots of ideas regarding activities for the church. It will become an Interpretive and Heritage Centre for the area, providing information to the many visitors and tourists who come up to the church and castle; it will be important as an educational resource for people of all ages and be linked with Wigmore School, it will be a wonderful space for concerts, talks and exhibitions as well as offering live streaming from National Theatres, and importantly it will offer the space and facilities for everyone to learn about and share the important heritage of this area.



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Accessible pathways up to and around the building will be built with disabled parking spaces, and parking for evening and weekend events will be provided in the school, village hall and community land car parks.

The working title for the project is The Wigmore Centre – but can you come up with a better name? It does need to be clear and obvious – in other words it needs to ‘do exactly what it says on the tin’.

We need a logo for the venue and all of the publicity material that will go with it - can you come up with an idea? Don’t worry if you can’t draw, it is the concept that is important. So send us an idea and we can get a professional designer to work it up. No prizes other than the kudos of seeing your design up there and credited to you.

So come along on the 14th and bring your ideas with you – or if you can’t make the date, post your ideas in the box in the shop and make sure you leave your name and number so we can get back to you.

Once the project is up and running, there will be four part time jobs on offer (Centre Manager, Assistant Manager, Café Manager and Cleaner), but for now we are looking for an Administrative Project Manager to work with the CIC to deliver the Round Two HLF Submission. See the job ad below. We will also be looking for an Interpretation Designer to assist during the development stage. Both of these posts will be advertised through relevant national websites. We look forward to seeing you on the 14th.

Bryan, Bridget, Fran and Jill.

The Wigmore Centre CIC
is seeking an
Administrative Project Manager
to manage the HLF Round 2 Submission for
the adaptation of St James' Church, Wigmore.

Previous experience of project management is essential
together with excellent IT and writing skills.

This is a part-time post and will be offered on a 12 month fixed-term
contract commencing early 2017. The post is based in Wigmore.

To obtain further information and request an application
form please contact:
wigmorecentre@btinternet.com



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through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Neighbourhood Watch

As most residents will be aware Wigmore Village Neighbourhood Watch has been amalgamated with Kings/Queens Meadow NHW and now represents the whole area. We continue to urge residents to be fully alert when strangers knock their door, you receive unexpected telephone calls or email messages, or requests to confirm bank or other account details.

With the dark nights upon us there is a marked increase in dogs being allowed to foul public areas. If you keep your dog on a lead, you can see where they foul and can then clean it up.

Despite several years of pressure and involvement with various official organisations, the ongoing problem of the stream flooding after heavy rain is still with us. We continue to work with our Parish Council and others to find a solution. This particular issue is our current priority.

Our committee would like to ask for your continued support and we wish you all a very

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kevan Perkins

Chairman/Main Coordinator Wigmore NHW



**Join us for
An evening of
Christmas Cheer**
all proceeds to Leinthall Starkes church

**Saturday December 10th
Doors open 7.15 for 7.30pm
At Wigmore High School
With The Ludlow
Male Voice Choir +
Ticket £10 to include a**

Mulled drink & Christmas nibbles

School children £5 Family ticket £25

Tickets from Wigmore shop or Phone 01568 770239

Wigmore School Carol Concerts



The Carol Concert at the High School is on 7th December at 7.00 p.m.



The Primary School Carol Concert is at the church on Mon 12th December at 6.00 p.m.

Both the Primary School and the High School held fund raising days for charity. The High School have raised over £500.00 which will be split between two charities that we are supporting this year; Children in Need and Anti-Bullying. The Primary School raised over £280 for Children in Need.

Many congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed.

Village Hall

Following a recent meeting to discuss the future of the village hall, a grant request to the Lottery Fund was submitted to enable work on design and plans for possible renovation work to be commissioned. The village hall committee are pleased to report that their Lottery request was accepted.

The committee will now commission designs and plans based on the ideas that were put forward at the earlier meeting.

Once these have been received a further meeting will be held to agree on the way forward and to then seek funding to implement the new ideas.

Funding for the parish

The parish has received an initial grant of some £160,000 towards development work for St James, and £2600 for design plans for the village hall.

Mortimer Village News is published by Wigmore Group Parish Council. The next edition is February 2017 with a copy date end of January 2017
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

Wigmore Flower Show

The second Wigmore Flower Show, building on our initial show of last year, was supported in style this year with The Big Lottery Fund and of course our generous local sponsors. Once again Ken Wade put together a team of fellow enthusiasts and with the generous help of Wigmore School, who made the Leisure Centre available to the village, we were able to put on a display of garden produce and associated art to gladden the eyes. We were joined this year by a wide range of other exhibitors who brought their skills and displayed them in the greater area that the Leisure Centre provided. As last year, supporters of Wigmore Church were able to join in the day's events and in the evening, after a Harvest Service at St James Church, the Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall saw over 80 people celebrating village life – to the resonant tunes from the splendid "Mice in a Matchbox" duo.



With an overriding wish to make sure this was a shared and fun event we had over a hundred classes of garden and home produce from youngsters to adults. Entries were judged to encourage the less experienced but still identify the best. This year the Show had two raffles, the first, the main one for Show goers which was drawn for at the supper and had some super prizes for the garden. The second raffle was for the



Cancer Research charity and raised £352. The prize was a wonderful collection of first class vegetables donated by a number of growers that were displayed upon a vegetable costermonger's trolley. The trolley had been made for the event by Brian Pridie. Steven Price, winner of the Teme Valley Tractors Trophy, made a very generous donation to the organisers for it and then donated the trolley to the Wigmore Show and ensured that the trolley will remain a feature of the Show for the coming years.



The Committee wish to thank the Big Lottery Fund, our sponsors, Wigmore School, and the ladies of the village for all their assistance without which the show could not be put on.

Winners at the Wigmore Show included:

Steven Price, Dani Williams, Joy Ardy, Leah Dartnell, Gill Harnett Emily Gurney, Anna Dabek, Sebastian Dabek, Dominic Dabek, A Boulton, Iago Beeton, and Cherry Class at Wigmore School



The committee would also like to thank our sponsors and these included:

The Big Lottery Fund, Teme Valley Tractors, Castle Garage, Russell Baldwin Bright, Nock Deighton, Lyonshall Nurseries, Two Wests and Elliot, Masons of Lower House Farm, Gill Clements and Gill Harnett, Lawson Morris, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Owl Rescue, Lane Cottage, Echo Weavers, Kelso Ice Cream, St James Church group,

The magnificent scarecrow from Wigmore School Cherry Class

Should Wigmore turn off the street lights?

Did you know that Wigmore Group Parish Council own and pay for ten street lights in Wigmore? Do you know where they are? They're easy to spot as they are the orange sodium lights – 3 on Broad Street (A4110), 2 up Castle Street and 5 along Ford Street. The street lights on Kings Meadow are LED lights and are maintained by Herefordshire Council

Unfortunately 2 of the Ford Street lights are not working and one of those faulty lights needs serious repairs. The parish council have been quoted about £2000 to test and make repairs and change all the lamps to LEDs. A three yearly check would be approx £600. The annual electricity bill is approx £590.

Is Leintwardine responsible for its street lights? No. Nor is Orleton nor is Kingsland. So why is Wigmore incurring this cost? Well, in the 1970s Wigmore Parish Council were given to understand that if the parish council paid for the street light installation then the County Council would take over the maintenance and running costs. Unsurprisingly this did not happen. The County Council frequently stating that there was no money available for this. And over the decades maintenance has been a rather haphazard affair resulting in the present situation.

So, should Wigmore Group Parish Council continue to pay for the upkeep of the street lights or should the lights be turned off. Your parish council want to hear from you. Please send your comments to the parish clerk by email to Clerk.wigmoregpc@outlook.com or by writing to The Old Rectory, Leinthall Starkes, Ludlow, SY8 2HP. Comments should be received by Friday 6 January 2017.

Wigmore Community Shop

A scene from the recent Wigmore Flower show but the same team is waiting for you in the shop every day – and we are gearing up for a special Christmas welcome to you! We thoroughly enjoyed meeting friends new and old at the Show and want to remind you that we now have our Christmas stock and are especially ready to help you and yours enjoy yourselves at this time of the year.



We have access to some wonderfully looked after bronze turkeys raised locally and we can source all the trimmings as well – come in and order your bird and discuss your needs with Alison.

We are now carrying our specially chosen stock just for you – and though we have to be careful due to the size of the shop - we think we make up for the size by the quality and often the prices we can offer. We want to surprise you, so do come in and see us. Some of our seasonal stock is shown below.



Absolutely scrumptious!
as is the pudding.....!



we have something for
everyone!



OMG—nothing but
choices—maybe I'll
have this one!



Do it yourself
hamper kits

Look to your
Laurels BEQI!

This year Alison has introduced a “hamper kit” which provides all the trimmings to make up your own hamper—all you need then is to select from our Christmas range of wonderful goodies to complete your hamper gift. You can see a sample hamper in the shop just to give you a few ideas!

