

ISSUE SEPT. 2018

Mortimer Voices

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

www.mortimervillages.co.uk

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Times, they are a-changin'...

For many years this newsletter has been produced by Bryan Casbourne and our thanks go to him for all his efforts. But with Bryan standing down it makes sense for us to take this opportunity to review what we say and how we say it.

The cosmetic changes to the look and feel are most obvious. But more importantly, to broaden our input and to supplement the familiar articles on parish council activities and news in the community, we are adding features that we hope will be interesting and entertaining.

We really welcome feedback on our approach, so please see the back page for how to get in touch.

How We Spread the Word

There is an issue in the community about how information is distributed and there isn't much point of the information being available if people don't know how to get hold of it! So here is a quick summary:

Newsletter - delivered by hand to households in the parish, posted on the website and available in the community shop.

General Notices - all parish notice boards and on the web site.

Documents such as the Neighbourhood Plan - posted on the web site and available in The Oak pub, the Village Hall, St James' Church and the community shop.



Parish Council notices/agendas - all parish notice boards and posted on the web site.

The **web site** is:

www.mortimervillages.co.uk

Notice boards are located at:

Wigmore: Corner of Kings Meadow & A4110; the community shop; the Millennium Green; the Village Hall inside and outside

Leinthall Starkes: village green

Elton: beside Rose Cottage and in front of the church

Pipe Aston: beside the church

Your councillors:**Wigmore**

Bryan Casbourne -
770155

Nick Davidson -
771939

Vic Harnett (chair) -
770445

Helena Leclizio -
770679

Gwen Fraser -
770141

Leinthall Starkes

Alan Dowdy -
770121

Graham Probert -
770543

Elton

Gill Bilbrough -
770654

Pipe Aston

Nigel Rowley -
770523

County Councillor

Carole Gandy - 780583

Parish Clerk

Jano Rochefort - 770282
clerk.wigmoregpc@
outlook.com

Parish Council News...

Wigmore Group Neighbourhood Development Plan

In August our parish council submitted the Wigmore Group Neighbourhood Development Plan to Herefordshire Council for the final round of consultation.

This is the document that describes the parish council's recommended locations for new housing in the community until 2031. It is an important document that will have consequences for the community and its residents, so please have a look and let the council know your thoughts.

The document may be commented on until the **9th October**.

Hard copies of the plan are available to read at the locations listed in the article on the front page of this newsletter (under "documents").

You can view the document on-line at:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/

and choosing the "Neighbourhood Areas and Plans" option. On that page you need the "Neighbourhood Development Plan July 2018" link in the Regulation 16 Plan Stage section.

You can comment on the document online and by email to:

neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Neighbourhood Planning Team, Planning Services, PO Box 4,
Hereford, HR1 2ZB

Please have your say and take this opportunity to make the plan as strong as possible for a sustainable future for our community.

...and Meetings

Your group parish council meets usually on every second Monday each month (other than August) in the Wigmore Village Hall at 8pm. The agenda is published in advance and may be seen on the village website, on notice boards throughout the parish and in the community shop.

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

The Castle Inn... a Future or Not?

A walk down Ford Street should tell you the Castle Inn is in a bad way, the owning company having gone into administration. We contacted the administrators appointed by the court, a firm in Birmingham, to get a statement from them and they told us they have employed agents to secure the property (you may have seen the medieval-sized chains on the doors) while they assess and value the company's property portfolio, including the Castle Inn. Property agents will shortly be instructed to market and sell the property. It is unclear whether the intention is to sell the pub as a going concern or for redevelopment. We have been advised to get back in touch with them next month for an update which we will do and report on in the next newsletter. We also understand the issue of the Castle Inn is on the agenda for discussion by the Wigmore Group Parish Council.



A bit of determination goes a long way

Photo: Richard Pendlebury



The Society of Roving Ringers visited St. James' Church Wigmore in August for a spot of bell ringing, all 13 arriving by bicycle. The chap in the wheelchair is an ex-climber who was a ringer before becoming disabled

in a climbing accident. On arrival, he transferred to his wheelchair, which was man-handled up the steps into the church. Being unable to get it through the vestry door, and obviously not up the tower steps, the chair was again dismantled, and both the chair and the ringer carried up the stairs, whereupon the chair was reassembled and the ringer reinstated! After a few resounding peels of bell ringing, they then reversed the entire process on departure. A brilliant effort by a group who were not going to be put off by "access issues".

Get Involved and Make a Difference

After the demise of the Wigmore Church re-development effort, we are looking to alternative community led and managed projects that will be able to attract and secure funding and grants. There are a number in the pipeline and if you are interested in getting involved or have ideas for projects then please contact Bryan Casbourne in the first instance at : casbourne@btinternet.com

Message from Carole Gandy



Carole Gandy, our county councillor

"I am hoping we will see considerable improvements in the maintenance of our roads in the coming months."



Prize-giving at the Wigmore Show

This summer has been wonderful, particularly after such a bad winter and spring. But for some, particularly for our more elderly residents who find it difficult to keep cool, and for our farming community it must have been a particularly challenging time.

Wigmore show was once again very successful and Barry and myself thoroughly enjoyed the event and I was especially delighted to present the prizes. Such a lot of work goes into this event and those involved deserve our thanks.

Recently the 498 bus service to Hereford was under threat. This was as a result of too few residents using the 498 and the subsidy required by Herefordshire Council being quite high. I discussed this matter with all the parish councils whose residents would be affected by the removal of the 498 and did gain an agreement from them that if the service was to be lost then they would be prepared to provide some money towards the subsidy for which I was very grateful. Fortunately as a result of a retendering process by Herefordshire Council and my stressing the importance of the service to the residents of Mortimer ward the 498 will continue without the need for support from parish councils but I must stress that it is vital that this service is used otherwise it may well be lost. I am hopeful that with some new housing coming forward over the coming years that this may increase patronage. You may feel at this time that this issue does not concern you, but who knows what your situation may be in a few years time.

Another piece of good news is that Herefordshire Council has released a further £2,800,000 from reserves as a result of the Amey ongoing appeal to invest in public realm services. This will include £800k additional patching work on B & C roads, £450k on drainage works and £250k on innovation in pothole repair systems. A further £1,252,647 has been provided by the government to be used to repair potholes and to protect local roads from severe weather. This includes an additional £500k for pothole repairs on rural C & U roads, £252k on additional patching of B & C roads and £500k on additional drainage works. I recognise that there is still a long way to go but I am hoping we have turned the corner and that you will see considerable improvements in the maintenance of our roads in Mortimer ward over the coming months.

Wigmore Group Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing and a referendum should follow shortly afterwards. I hope all of you who had comments to make on the Plan have done so and I would urge you all to participate in the referendum when it is announced.

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

Our Local WI @ Brampton Bryan

Mortimer Voices is proud to support our local WI

At our August meeting the speaker was Duncan Fox from Haven Distillery, who took us on a journey of gin through time. We were talked through the process and shared our thoughts whilst we were given tasters and tips. An evening enjoyed by all, even the non gin drinkers!

Our next meetings are:

Thursday 13th September 7.30pm - Tales from the Laundry with Francesca Bingham

Thursday 11th October 7.30pm - Water Over My Wellies with Brian Draper

In November we hold our annual meeting to vote in the new committee

13th December 7:30pm one of our members will be showing us how to make a Christmas Decoration.

Not just for the ladies, all are welcome. There is a charge of £4 for visitors, which includes supper. Please contact Pauline Oliver on 01568 770044 if you would like to book your place, or for more information. Brampton Bryan WI meets at Brampton Bryan Parish Hall and new members are always welcome.



Happy 10th Birthday Wigmore Shop



In August about 60 people came together at the Wigmore Village Shop to celebrate

its 10th anniversary. Three of the original founders were there to cut a huge number 10-shaped cake to applause from friends, customers, suppliers and volunteers past and present.

In a brief speech, Bryan Casbourne noted



Mark Richards from the Rhythm Thieves played a great acoustic set

that also there in the party was Vanessa Spedding and he thanked



her for her initial enthusiasm in 2007 which started **Inspired Wigmore** – an initiative that led to the shop's development and from which it has never looked back.

Wigmore Shop always welcomes new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the manager, Alison (right), in the shop.



Photos: Nick Davidson

Wigmore Village Show

For more on this great event see our article on mortimervillages.co.uk



Harry Blackburne's winning entry



One of Philip Bright's overall winning entries



Our thanks go to the splendid organization by Hannah Mason



Puffer played live

The 4th Village Show, in August, was enjoyed by a near capacity audience who came to examine a wide range of garden and home produce. More than 30 adults and 40 children submitted exhibits which made for good competition and an entertaining afternoon for our visitors. We also had a number of stalls, live music and owls and sheep to look at: our thanks go to our 21 local sponsors for their help in running this now firmly fixed show.

We gave a thought to our founding chairman Ken Wade absent due to

recent surgery and wished him well. Ken's successor, Hannah Mason, was presented with a flower bouquet and a promissory note for a traditional shepherd's crook.

Our trophy winners were presented with their prizes by our County Councillor Carole Gandy.



And the winners were...

Class	Category	Winner	Prize
Veg & Fruit	Adult	Brian Priday	TVT Trophy
	Child	Henry Gurney	The Fix 'em Trophy
Flowers	Adult	Jenny Gurney	Senior's Flower Trophy
Floral Art	Adult	Bob Matthews	Supporter's Trophy
	Child	Harry Blackburne	Lyonshall Trophy
Bakery	Adult	Gill Clement	Sponsors' Trophy
	Child	Sophie Gurney	Castle Garage Trophy
Preserves	Adult	Joy Hardy	Ken Wade Trophy
Children's Art	Keystage1	Sophia Harris	The Show Committee will make a donation to Wigmore Primary School for artistic development for all school students
	Keystage2	Chloe-Ann Eusten -Saunders	
Children's Poetry	Keystage1	Wilbur Sheppard	
	Keystage2	Jake Clark	

Most Meritorious Child Entrant	Harry Blackburne	Markland Cup
Award for Overall Most Meritorious Entry	Jenny Gurney	Davies & Paviour Cup
Award for Most Points Across All Classes	Philip Bright	Lower House Farm Cup

Wigmore Village Hall

For bookings and info: jenny5johnson@gmail.com
Tel: 01568 770162 or Facebook: Wigmore Village Hall



By the time you read this, six new doors will have been put in as we work to improve your hall. Glass doors lead from the main hall, through the ante room, and out onto the space at the rear of the hall. Our chairman is trying to secure grants to turn the rear into a pleasant outdoor extension to the hall. The hall fees have not been increased for over three years,

so the committee has reluctantly agreed that they should now be:

- Whole hall £17 per hour / Committee room £11 per hour

Discounts may be available for community events and repeat bookings. Clean up time is free. We think this is still great value; no extra charges for heating or use of the kitchen (including 100 settings of china and cutlery).

Wigmore Village Hall is a registered charity. We would welcome any help with the running of the hall, which is all done by volunteers.

Lottie's thoughts... Mortimer Forest

By Lottie Stevens - Head Girl,
Wigmore High School

The forestry commission are planning to build 68 holiday cabins in Mortimer Forest, giving people the opportunity to stay in this part of the world and visit our iconic tourist attractions. The alleged advantages of this are that the economy in the vicinity will benefit, and there will be more job opportunities for the locals.

But there are, on the other hand, significant negatives to the building of holiday cabins in Mortimer Forest. Many people are unhappy with this proposition. I and many of my friends spend a lot of time in Mortimer Forest, whether it's walking the dog with the family, or going on a bike ride. The idea of having tourists constantly staying in an area where people that live on the Shropshire / Herefordshire border can spend peaceful time alone is unsettling for many local people. By everyone contributing with their opinions and their thoughts, hopefully we can get the council to see it our way.

Ed: a viewpoint in support of the Holiday Park will appear in the next issue of the newsletter

🌲 SAVE MORTIMER FOREST 🌲

**SAY
NO**

**to a holiday park
in our tranquil forest**

Support and follow us at:
www.save-mortimer-forest.co.uk

 @savemortimerforest

 @Mortimersfriend

🌲 SAVE MORTIMER FOREST 🌲

St. James' Church... end of the project



*The future of
the church
remains
uncertain*

In the last issue of the newsletter it was reported that the project to transform Wigmore church into a multi-functional community centre had come to an end due to lack of support from various bodies with a vested interest and direct obstruction from some. Enquiries have since been made

into continuing the project but it is now clear that funding will not be forthcoming so, despite many local expressions of support, there will be no re-initiation of the project. The chance to do this worthwhile thing for the community has sadly been lost for good.

...but keeping its doors open

While the long-term future of the church remains uncertain at least the doors will stay open next year. The local church committee has agreed to pay the public liability insurance for next year, which is a condition for the building to be open to the public. We understand the payment of the insurance premium will be subject to an annual review.

Venus I Feel Love...!

*Mortimer Voices is
proud to support*



St Michael's Hospice
HEREFORD

Step out under Hereford's night sky while decorated with colour, sparkle and a smile ready to walk together to remember our loved ones.



This Autumn, you won't wanna stop 'till you've got enough of "Venus – I Feel Love". Join up to 1,000 sparkling women who will be awash with Friday Night Fever on **21st September**.

As it enters its second decade, Venus takes us back to the 1970s – that glittering, boogie-filled period which brought us the tunes we still treasure today. With those beloved times in mind, you'll join the

sisterhood and experience the unforgettable razzmatazz that is the St Michael's Hospice Venus midnight walk.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Wigmore and District Gardening Club... comes with added cake!

The long hot summer drought caused stress for many of our gardens with browned lawns, dying plants and the anxiety over whether to water or not. The gardeners themselves, however, still seemed remarkably eager to have a good time.

A jolly coachload of members set off for Usk Open Gardens in June and enjoyed wandering around the 20+ gardens open to the public. We had such a good time that several members have asked if we could go again next year. In early July, we arranged a trip to Ashley Farm near Titley. Although the famous roses were suffering in the heat, the interesting lay-out of gardens within gardens round this 16th century house is intriguing and has been designed to reflect the house's Tudor origins. There was very good cake too!



We had an excellent turn-out for our evening visit to Trish and Trevor's stunning garden near Presteigne. There was obvious awe at what they have achieved in such a short time in this seven and a half acre garden, which they are restoring virtually single-handedly along with the house. How many of us have had to straighten a river? The gardens are already breathtaking and they are an

inspiration to us all. We are very grateful to them for making us so welcome and for providing us with a fascinating history of the house and its site. (And this time the members provided the cake, and very good it was too.)

On a less happy note, our speaker in June badly let us down. To our enormous relief, Jim Almond from Shrewsbury stepped in with only three days notice, gave us the talk on the all-year bulb garden we had booked him for next year, brought bulbs for us to buy and was so entertaining that we are definitely having him back next year to talk on a different topic – alpiners.

Our next open meeting is on Thurs 20th September, when members have been 'persuaded' into giving short talks on their favourite gardening tips and we have a car-share trip to Perrycroft Gardens in the Malvern Hills on Thursday 27th September. **Please note** that this trip leaves the village hall at **1.00pm**.

We normally meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Wigmore Village Hall and our car-share trips usually leave the village hall at 1.30pm but please check the programme as this year some leave at 1.00pm. 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.

The programme is on display in the window of the village shop and on the village website or contact Joy Ardy 01568 770023.

"this time the members provided the cake, and very good it was too"

By Joy Ardy

Rory's Recipe - Damson & Cinnamon Crème Brûlée



Rory Bunting, Head Chef at The Oak Wigmore



Rory is a regular demonstrator at our local food festivals

THE
OAK
WIGMORE

www.theoakwigmore.com

What to do with those Autumn damsons....

Ingredients (makes 4-6)

Damson & Cinnamon Purée

100g caster sugar
750g pitted fresh damsons
1 cinnamon stick

The brûlée

250g double cream
50g caster sugar
4 medium/large egg yolks
1/4 vanilla pod or essence to taste
200g of the damson purée

To make the Damson Purée

Put the sugar and cinnamon in a heavy-bottom saucepan and cook over a low heat (until a light caramel). Add the damsons and cook until soft, stirring occasionally. Cool and blitz until smooth.

To make the Brûlée

Pre-heat the oven to 160c (Gas Mark 3). Heat the cream and vanilla gently in a heavy-bottom saucepan. While this heats, gently mix the egg yolks with the sugar and the damson purée. Once the cream has infused for 10 mins or so stir in the sugar/damson mixture. Pour the mixture into ramekins (or small oven proof dishes). Place in a tray with 1/2 inch of boiling water in the bottom. Put the tray of ramekins in the oven and cook until set (about 25 mins) turning the tray by 180 degrees after every 10 minutes.

To finish, allow to cool, dust with caster sugar and blowtorch or place under a hot grill until the sugar caremelises.

To sample Rory's cooking first hand, The Oak is open for lunch and dinner Wednesday to Saturday and for lunch-only on Sunday.

For bookings: Tel 01568 770424

Prayer and a Pint... an invitation from Rev. Mike Catling

On 26 September join me for a **Prayer and a Pint** in The Oak Wigmore. The Prayer part lasting about 20 minutes will take place "upstairs" in the pub following a contemporary form of the traditional Night Prayer or Compline. The invitation will then extend to joining me in the bar for a drink and chat. I am very grateful to Lené Halliday for welcoming this initiative in The Oak. It is hoped that further gatherings will take place on 24 October and 21 November if even just a small number of people come along.

The 3rd Sunday Prayers & Readings at 10.00 will continue to take place in St James' Church until at least the end of this year and hopefully into 2019.

C.A.M.E.O. News

Contact CAMEO: Margaret & Les Barclay,
Bury Court Farmhouse 01568 770618

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) continues to meet each month. It is friendly, totally informal, no rules, no booking, no membership needed. Simply turn up. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us at Wigmore Village Hall for an afternoon get-together, usually meeting at 2pm on the first Tuesday of each month. If an outing has been arranged we share cars and non-drivers can always get a lift.

Coming up soon (see Wigmore Shop noticeboard for regular update):

- Oct. 2nd - Kenchester Garden, Lower Lyde
- Nov. 6th - "Tax, Care and Toy Boys" - a talk at Bury Court Farm house or Wigmore Village Hall
- Dec. 4th - Social gathering at Bury Court Farmhouse (2pm)
- Jan. 9th 2019 - New Year lunch at The Oak (Wed 12.30 for 1pm)

Tim's Nature Notes

By Tim Lee, resident of Wigmore

Although a chill can be felt in the evenings as the days get shorter, it's a busy time for the insects in our gardens, with the obvious show-offs still being the butterflies. Watch out for Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Commas and the various Whites, which will be about for a while yet if the weather holds. They like to visit nectar-rich plants, so if you have buddleia and lavenders growing nearby you may be lucky enough to attract them. Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks were once common in our countryside but seem to have suffered declines in recent years, so help them if you can by planting these rich food plants. I have recently observed a Comma, a rich orangey-brown speckled butterfly, distinguished by its ragged wing-edges, chasing the slightly larger Tortoiseshells in my garden. You may also see the brilliantly-coloured Red Admiral at this time of year, often feeding on windfall fruit, as well as the equally-stunning Painted Lady which has orange-pink wing patches in a

similar pattern to the Red Admirals. Interestingly, both of these butterflies migrate to our shores each year, across Europe, so the ones you see in your garden may have travelled up from North Africa. If you are out for a walk in the woods around Wigmore keep an eye out for the Silver-washed Fritillary, a very beautiful species which frequents woodland glades, along with the Speckled Wood. Both of these butterflies can be seen flying up and down woodland paths - and you may also be lucky enough to see the nationally very rare Wood White. This is a rather small and delicate looking butterfly and we are very lucky in Wigmore as our local woods are recognised as one of the best spots in the country to see them!



Speckled Wood spotted in Wigmore Rolls

A Few Reminders... support our local amenities



Mobile Post Office @ Wigmore

Monday 11.00 to 12.30
Thursday 13.30 to 15.00
Friday 10.30 to 12.00

Parked beside Wigmore Community Shop,
Broad Street, Wigmore

The services available include:

- All standard postal services
- Cash withdrawals
- Cash and cheque deposits into your bank accounts
- Payment of utility bills
- Taxing your vehicles
- Topping up Pay as You Go mobile phones
- Greeting cards and stationery

Wigmore Village Hall

Tuesday Night is Games Night

Every Tuesday 8-10pm join us for bowls, darts and pool in Wigmore Village Hall. The £2.50 entry fee includes light refreshments.



Wigmore Village Shop

Promoting local producers.

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 08.30 to 17.00
Saturday 09.00 to 13.00
Sunday 10.00 to 12.00

Tel: 01568 770307

Email: wigmoreshop@hotmail.co.uk

Baby and Toddler Group

A friendly baby and toddler group every:

Monday 9.00 to 11.00

Friday 9.00 to 11.00 (with a sing-along)

We have lots of toys to play with including a built-in ball pit, plus garden for outdoor play, paints, dressing up and much more. Only £1.50 per session which includes a drink and snack for the children and tea/coffee and biscuits for parents.

At Mortimer Enterprise Centre, Queens Meadow, Wigmore

Contact: ka.bowen@outlook.com or

Facebook: Wigmore baby and toddler group

Thanks to all our contributors this quarter:

Joy Ardy, Margaret & Les Barclay, Kelly Bowen, Rory Bunting, Bryan Casbourne, Mike Catling, Linda & Nick Davidson, Carole Gandy, Gill Harnett, Jenny Johnson, Tim Lee, Vinnie Martin, Hannah Mason, Richard Pendlebury, Fran Rhodes, Jano Rochefort, Alvin Smith, Lottie Stevens, David Swatton

And last, and very likely least...

The Small Print

This newsletter is financed by the Wigmore Group Parish Council on behalf of the community. Any opinions expressed in it are those of the authors concerned and not necessarily those of the Wigmore Group Parish Council.

Get in Touch...

If you have feedback on our approach, ideas for features or feel there is an issue that should be included in the newsletter please get in touch, using a feedback form available in the Wigmore Shop or by email to: info@mortimervillages.co.uk