

The Cidder Press

December 2020



**STOKE
LACY
PARISH**

**Neighbourhood
Development
Plan**

UPDATE

Given that Covid restrictions forced the postponement of the November public meetings and the new dates in January are yet to be released, you may be forgiven for thinking the whole project is on hold. This is far from the case.

By the time you read this many parishioners will have completed the first questionnaire on Stoke Lacy's Issues and Options for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The 30th November deadline for comments on the draft document will also have passed but the steering group always appreciate comments and thoughts from residents and so you are welcome to attend meetings which are advertised on the website or communicate with the group using the telephone and email contacts below.

By the end of November the steering group will have received the draft report from AECOM, who are undertaking a technical planning review to establish the suitability for development of the twelve sites within the parish which have been offered by landowners. These sites—four at Stoke Cross, three near the church and the rest spread throughout the parish more rurally, will be allocated a red, amber or green status. It will then be up to the parish council and finally the parish as a whole to decide which of them, if any, will be included in expanded settlement boundaries.

The settlement boundaries at Stoke Cross and Stoke Lacy as well as the call for sites maps have generated most interest amongst those who have already submitted their comments on the NDP document. The steering group has been busy collating the responses which will form part of the final document along with other public participation in the forthcoming public meetings.

The advantage of postponing the public meetings until January will mean that the final AECOM document on the call for sites conclusions will be available and it will give the opportunity for residents to make comments in person regarding these sites and the settlement boundaries. Other important elements of the NDP to be considered will be provision and preservation of public spaces, open footpaths, support for commercial and tourist developments in the area and other issues raised by parishioners in their responses to date.

Please look out for posters, around the village and notifications on the website, social media and the local press for details of the January dates for public meetings.

Email: comments@stokelacy.co.uk Website: www.stokelacy.co.uk

Telephone: 01885 448102

Jo Davies

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Stoke Lacy Parish Council - Meeting 14th October

Present: Councillors Janet Ivison (Chairman); Anne Reece, Helen Bufton, Bill Morgan and James Wilson. In attendance: Alma Westwood (Clerk); 5 members of the public

Apologies received from Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester and PCSO Susan Berrett:

The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2020 were approved

Ward Councillor's and Police reports received

Public Participation: Two members of the public raised concerns regarding speeding through the 30mph zone by Newlands; dog waste bins were discussed; accessibility of public footpaths.

Finance: the Current Account balance as at 1st September: £12,680.94. Draft accounts to 1st October as distributed were approved; Parish Council agreed to join CPRE; various accounts were approved for payment. Quotation of £4000 for surveying for possible installation of double white lines in Crick's Green was considered not viable. Agreed to purchase 3 No Dog Fouling signs; internet banking to be set up for the Parish Council; Budget and Precept for 2021/22 were discussed: Precept to be set at the next Parish Council meeting on 11th November .

Public Footpath report received: Landowners' Responsibilities leaflets to be obtained and distributed to all landowners in the area.

NDP meeting minutes of 2nd, 6th and 30th September were approved. The Issues & Options document was approved.

Stokes Hill Planning Appeal: the Parish Council Agreed to send representation against the appeal.

Update on A465 road matters and Clerk's Report were received.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Dates of next Parish Council meetings – provisionally set, Covid 19 restrictions permitting, to take place in the Village Hall with social distancing and other regulations in place . **11th Nov (set Precept);NB: This has been postponed until 9th December;** 2021: 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 10th March. Annual meetings: to be arranged.

The full draft Minutes of this meeting are available
www.stokelacyparishcouncil.org.uk

Letter from the parish clerk

Dear Residents,

At the Parish Council meeting held on 14th October the Parish Council was asked to investigate the possible installation of dog waste bins.

The Parish Council has been informed by Herefordshire Council that they do not supply or empty such bins and it is the responsibility of all dog owners to clean up after their dog and take the waste home with them for disposal there. Accordingly the Parish Council will not be providing dog waste bins anywhere in the Parish. The Parish Council is not, and cannot be, responsible for emptying bins and disposing of people's dog waste.

If you have a dog you are required by law to clean up after it and dispose of the waste in a responsible manner. Anyone found not doing so is liable to be prosecuted and fined. Please do not use the litter bin by the bus stop. This bin is for general litter only. Please be a responsible dog owner and dispose of its waste appropriately. Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Alma Westwood—Clerk, SLPC

Flood Prevention:- Riparian Responsibilities

Who is a Riparian Owner? The owner of land or property that adjoins a watercourse, such as a roadside ditch, is known as the Riparian Owner. Although the Highways Authority is responsible for the highway, we do not own the 'sub-soil' of the highway. The owner of the land or property adjoining the highway is normally the sole Riparian Owner.

What happens if a Riparian Owner fails to look after a watercourse?

- ◆ Deterioration in the condition of the highway
- ◆ Potential flooding of properties, the highway and surrounding land
- ◆ Possible enforcement action / liability in the event of an incident / prosecution.

◆ **For further details please see https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/16062/guidance_on_landowner_responsibilities.pdf**



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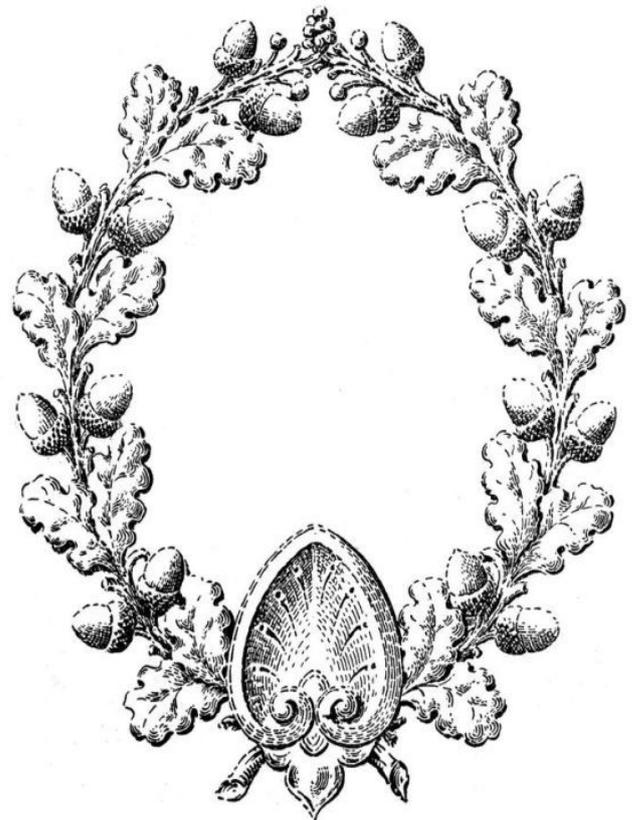
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St Peter's and St Paul's Church

The last few months have been very strange for everyone, including our church members. When the first lockdown was announced in March all churches had to be locked; no-one was allowed to enter, not even the minister, which was a very odd ruling and felt wrong to many of us.

Fortunately, in June we were allowed to unlock the church for private prayer, but we could not hold services until July. We held PM Praise services on the first Sundays in July and August, outside where everyone felt safe – and it was still warm! –though sadly we could not offer the afternoon tea as we usually do, but come September it was too chilly to be outside and people still did not feel comfortable coming into church, so we did not have a service. Happily on 11th October we had a really well-attended Harvest Festival Service, our first service inside since the end of February, with the congregation suitably distanced and wearing masks, but we weren't (and still aren't) allowed to sing, so we had a couple of harvest hymns courtesy of Spotify and Betty played the organ for the third hymn, which a few of us hummed to. Wonderful. You can't beat Betty on the organ. The church looked really beautiful, with displays in all the windows and on the altar. Margaret, Betty D, Janet, Sally, Kate, Laura and Angela - Ladies, you did us proud, as always; thank you so much. (I hope I haven't left anyone out). Thank you, also, to everyone who brought produce, both fresh and packaged, all of which was donated to Bromyard & District Food Bank.

We had planned a service for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November but Lockdown 2 came in on Thursday 5th so this could not happen. But you will all have seen the moving display of poppies by the lych-gate: our thanks go to Nigel, Daphne, Colin and John for erecting this, and to Betty D for the lovely display on the windowsill in the church porch. We DID remember them, as we always will, Covid or anything else notwithstanding.

Our next service – lockdown permitting – is planned for 13th December at 10.30am, our Carol Service. Do come and join us, you will be very welcome. We may also hold a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 10am; these two services may be by Zoom if current restrictions are still in place, but let's hope and pray they are not. We will keep you informed. We look forward to welcoming you all to our lovely church soon.

Alma Westwood—Church Warden

Churchyard maintenance

Stoke Lacy PCC and the Church Wardens extend a heartfelt thanks to the 15 people from across the parish who transformed the hedgerows around the church on Saturday 17th October bringing them back under control. This was a mammoth task completed in a morning with a first class team effort.

The church yard is an attractive haven of tranquility, community life and wildlife – it is an important and popular facility for the parish. In addition to its traditional role where a day does not go by without several visitors for quiet contemplation of loved ones passed, throughout this difficult year people have also been gathering under the marquee, with ample room for distancing, in “ones & twos” and small groups for meetings and a range of social activities. Over recent times a plan has been unfolding to make it a more attractive place for wildlife with reduced mowing and the planting of native trees on the boundaries, plus the introduction of more wild flowers whilst regularly maintaining smart areas (thanks to Geoff Ivison) for people activities – sharing our spaces with nature. Come and take a short stroll occasionally.

Without those willing and able to help in its maintenance this vital community asset would be lost.

John Davies

STOKE LACY PCC RESULTS

OCTOBER 2020

1st David Boddington £20

2nd Helen Bufton £10

3rd Charlie Barrett £5

NOVEMBER 2020

1st Neil Parker £20

2nd Betty Arnett £10

3rd Chris Leverington £5

Please contact Tina Lifely for enquiries and to renew your membership for 2021.

Tina Lifely 01432 820154

Lieutenant Colonel John Jeffery Caiger MBE

1936—2020

Tributes and memories



Churchwardens Alma Westwood and Richard Combe and chair of the Parish Council and Village Hall, Janet Ivison pay tribute.

It was with great sadness that Stoke Lacy learned of the death of John Caiger on the 6th November after a short illness.

John was a great friend and benefactor of the Church. On retiring from the army he and his family returned to Stoke Lacy where he served on the PCC as Churchwarden for over 30 years and latterly as Vice chairman. Renowned for his hospitality many have fond memories of the fetes he and Mary hosted at The Old Rectory. His fund-raising abilities were legendary and by the founding of The Friends of Stoke Lacy Church John has left the church a lasting legacy.

John served the Community as a Parish Councillor and as Chairman from the late 1990's, after the late Henry Hodges, through to the early 20's. During his period of office John was one of the Councillors who secured the village speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph.

John also led a steering group over a period of two years to draw up a Parish Plan in conjunction with Herefordshire Council. He was involved with the Woodland Trust and others, in the purchase of the land and subsequent tree planting at Netherwood, there for all to enjoy for many years to come. John seemed to like nothing better than being on a Committee. He was always one of the first to come forward to help with organising functions and events for the village. His favourite saying was 'we must delegate', obviously this came from the Army training!

A fellow Councillor on the Parish Council described him as a 'very interesting character who had lots of ideas but sometimes quite an unconventional approach'. If ever funds were needed John seemed to know exactly where to go to extricate some money for the many projects he became involved with in the village.

John, the Reverend Michael Smith and a handful of residents had the vision of a new Village Hall on land gifted to

the village by the late Mr Bill Symonds to replace the cold and damp old school rented from the Church of England. After many meetings, they successfully purchased the property which was followed by much fundraising and a bid for a lottery grant. The “new” Village Hall celebrates its 21st Birthday next year, and rest assured a glass will be raised to you John and all involved in leaving this legacy for the village.

John was comfortable in being centre stage as seen in his appearances in the village Panto and the sketch he wrote for the Millennium Variety Show, always game for some fun. He was a bit of a colourful chap in his dress too, with his mustard jacket and red trousers worn at community functions. A loyal supporter of the Village Hall John attended most functions of which his favourite were the ‘Breakfasts’, always saying as he walked in “what a delightful smell of bacon”.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary, John, James, Charlie and the family at this sad time. Thank you, John. RIP.

A master of persuasion. Within two days of our moving into Nethercourt in 2002, John arrived on our doorstep to welcome us to the village. We had a delightful conversation and then, out of the blue, ‘ Now Christine, I wonder if you would like to join the Parish Council? ‘ Just like that. Looking back, I don’t know how he did it. I had no ambitions in that direction; I knew nothing of local politics and no one knew me nor I them. And yet, within a couple of weeks I was co-opted onto the PC and was still there 10 years later.

I came across this gift of persuasion many times. It was put to valuable use in his endless work for our village. As a fundraiser he was beyond compare. Woe betide any unsuspecting visitors to the church; their donations were far larger than they had ever intended.

A lovely man. We shall miss him. **Chris McNaught**

More recollections

John had many public virtues – and a few (not so) private passions too. He was a ferociously competitive card player and was generous with the odd dram as the evening wore on! He adored his ducks and chickens and was heartbroken when the great copper beech in the Old Rectory garden reached the end of its life. His most unlikely passion was contemporary dance, this, perhaps, inherited from a Victorian great, great uncle who ran a theatrical costumery business. John was indeed a most remarkable man! **Adrian Yeeles**

Ruth Hickmott John and Mary made us feel so welcome when we first moved to Stoke Lacy meeting over an excellent Christmas Dinner at The Plough. I was fortunate to be able to conduct a series of Oral History interviews with John focusing on his life in the army and his work in and around the county. I will miss our great conversations about politics and most of all his gleeful sense of fun.

Susan McKeeman remembers John’s enthusiasm and positivity -‘Come and see my vineyard’ he said when leading people to his newly planted vines at the bottom of the Rectory garden. Susan also hopes that John’s wish for the churchyard to be left to the wildlife will be respected and for it to become ‘God’s Green Acre’ would be a fitting legacy to his memory.

Carole Surman (former parish clerk) remembers John was always being asked to assist aid projects as part of his other charity work and on one occasion he’d been asked to gather some knitted winter clothing for people in a city in Eastern Europe . Instead of this he sourced and arranged transportation of knitting machines and wool so that the people could knit their own woollens and also sell them to earn a living. Carole also remembers when there was a protest in the village about a new mobile phone mast which was a controversial idea at the time. A group of about a dozen villagers gathered to protest and John was leading the proceedings - the only one brandishing a placard!

Limited space means the many other anecdotes people have sent in cannot be included here. It is hoped that new oral History recordings of these recollections can be made and preserved for the future and that the conversations with John that Ruth Hickmott recorded can be made available in full on the heritage website in due course.

John was a great ideas man, his energy and enthusiasm were a unique asset to this community. He will be missed.
Jo Davies

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Any contributions for the February edition of the Cider Press should be submitted by 15th January, please.

Letters, articles, advertisement of events should be sent by email to :

jjpw.davies@gmail.com or contact the editor, Jo Davies on 01432 820732.

Many thanks



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Village Hall News

The Hall Trustees were able to go ahead and hold the A.G.M. at the beginning of July by all sitting two meters apart! The Chairman gave a report and summary of the last twelve months works and events with particular mention to the cancelation of some of the events due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Treasurer presented detailed copies of the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the past year, which showed the Hall, thankfully, to be in a healthy position. All of the Trustees were willing to stand for another twelve months. An ordinary meeting then followed the A.G.M.

Information had been received from Community First with regard to measures we would need to take before opening the Hall again. To be able to adhere to the two meter rule a capacity of only twenty people would be allowed in the Hall at any one time. This would mean that Parish Council and NDP Meetings would be able to go ahead. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that a copy of a COVID-19 Risk Assessment and a Special Conditions of Hire during COVID-19 would be sent to anyone using the Hall. The Kitchen and Storage cupboards would be closed due to cross contamination of user groups. Tables and Chairs would be set out ready for meeting use. Hand Sanitiser, Cleaner and Hazard tape had already been purchased and put out ready for use. It was hoped that some of our users would feel that the measures we were taking would mean that they felt safe and able to attend the Hall.

With a capacity of only twenty people at any one time in the Hall it was obvious that we would not be able to go ahead with our 'Autumn Breakfast and Juicing'. Thanks to Gill Pinkerton and Pat Preece, two members of the Garden Club, undertook to use the Hall Car Park as a collection point, so that people could still bring along their apples for juicing with Simon Abiss. I understand they had a substantial amount bought along this year.

As we come out of this second lockdown, not quite like the first one though, we are looking forward to hosting something a bit different at the Hall.

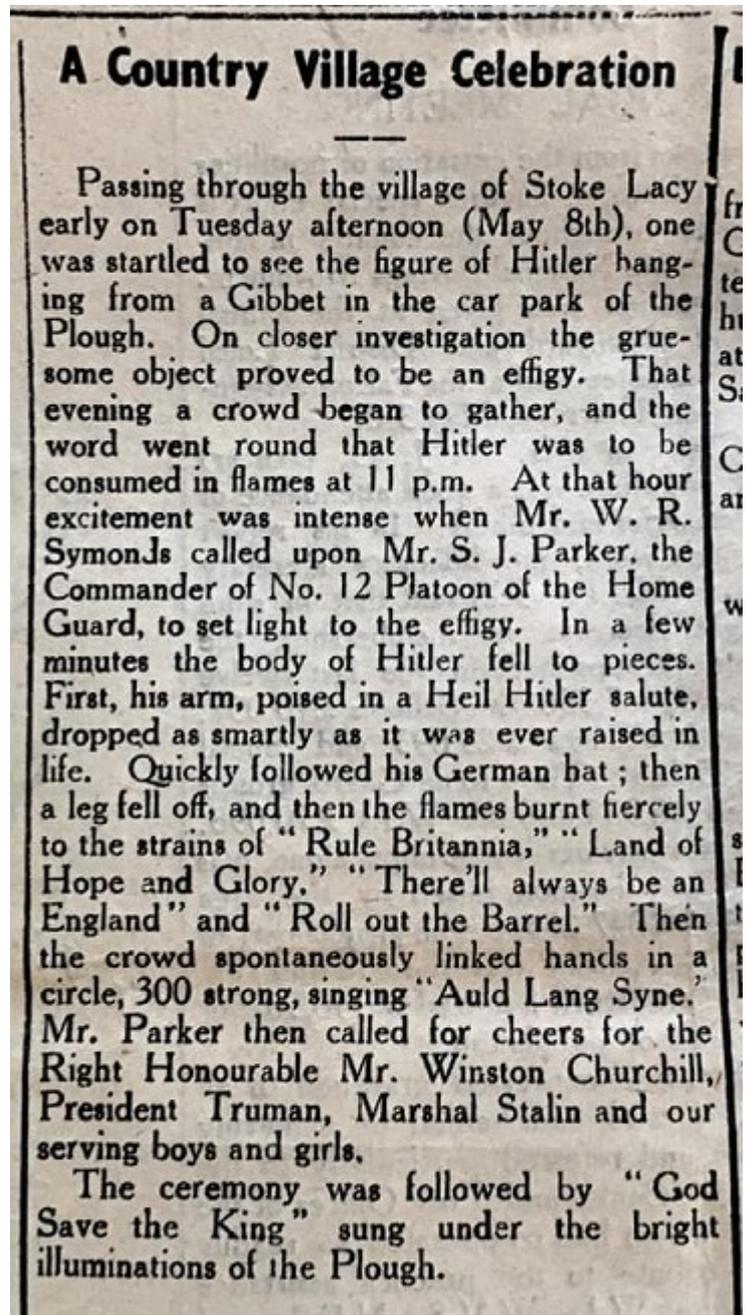
On Saturday 5th December we have 'TILLY'S FARMSHOP' on wheels at the hall from 9 am – 12 noon. Tilly is a local girl from Preston Wynne who in these strange times, has converted a horse box into a mobile farm shop selling all locally sourced products and gifts. She will also be doing Xmas Hampers so please come along and support a local business and maybe do some Xmas shopping as well. Hand sanitizer, gloves etc will be available.

Check out her website www.tillypharmshop.co.uk or her Facebook page for more details of the all the local products that she stocks.

The Trustees of the Hall would like to send everyone 'Christmas Greetings' and hope that you are able to spend it with some members of your family, as it seems there are going to be no large gatherings allowed this year. We will all hopefully look forward to getting back to some sort of normality in the not too distant future and can welcome people back in the Hall for some socialising.

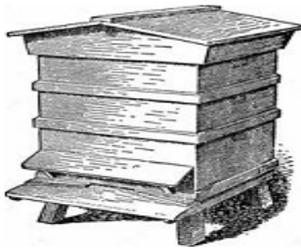
Janet Ivison—Chairman of the Hall Trustees

Excerpt from the Bromyard Record of May 1945





Beekeeping?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Senseless vandalism

As a longstanding resident of Stoke Lacy, it is with regret that I have been compelled to write with regard to the lack of community spirit I have unfortunately recently experienced.

Imagine my distress when I awoke on a recent Monday morning to find my beloved car, pelted with eggs with a blue egg carton tray strewn on the ground. This is both disappointing, hurtful and vindictive as it would appear it was a deliberate act of senseless vandalism.

To the individual who performed this act, rest assured the police have been informed and we have taken steps to ensure our property contents are protected and secure.

In the current Covid world, this is especially upsetting, as surely we all have enough to deal with already?

Name and address supplied

Thank you

A very BIG thank you to everyone in Stoke Lacy who contributed to this year's Harvest Festival donations.

The Bromyard Food Bank & Money Advice Centre provides emergency food parcels to anyone who is referred to them or self refers who are struggling to feed their families and pets. We send out both fresh and long-life items alongside seasonal recipe cards.

We also have a team of specialist money coaches who can help with managing debt and helping clients finding hope for the future, therefore reducing the dependency on the food bank

Please contact us if you or anyone you know needs our support: 07942 672077 www.bromyardfoodbank.co.uk

Allyson - Bromyard Food Bank & Money Advice Centre

Flowers and Cleaning Rota 2021

If anyone would like to join the flower and cleaning rota at the parish church. All volunteers will be most welcome and the commitment is only once or twice a year at most. Please contact: -

Margaret Woodley on 01432 820270

From the Editor

Clare Albert has been dealing with the advertising for the Cider Press for many years and she has decided to step back from these duties this year. Clare has a busy life running a business with her husband and with lots of family commitments too. We thank Clare for her stalwart commitment to the Cider Press and wish her well .

The Cider Press runs entirely on volunteers and so we will always welcome new recruits. If you can spare the time to devote to selling and invoicing for advertising or editing the Cider Press, please come forward. Don't be shy. You will be welcomed with open arms.

Wishing all our readers, advertisers, sponsors and volunteers a very happy Christmas and this year more than ever we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2021.

Contributions for the February 2021 Cider Press should be sent to me by 15th January, please.

Many thanks.

Jo Davies 01432 820732 jjpw.davies@gmail.com

"Tips and Wrinkles"

One of our readers sent us some snippets from 1970s womens magazines of various household hints associated with cleaning to gardening and sewing to cooking. This is small selection of amusing items from a Mrs Dorothy Barnicott who 'plays the church piano – with a flourish'.

Tip: When pyjama trousers wear thin, make the jacket short-sleeved and use the spare material for patching the trousers!

Tip: Slug traps. Half an inverted grapefruit or tin in a hole filled with milk and water (or beer). Slugs will crawl in and drown.

Tip: If you accidentally start a fire on the cooking stove or oven sprinkle lavishly with salt or bicarbonate of soda to subdue flames and smoke.

Tip: An alarm clock placed on a tin makes a lot more noise!

Do you have better household hints than this? Please let us know.....

Jo Davies

Pantodemic



A community theatre in Bromyard is determined not to let the arts die as it forges ahead with an ambitious project to bring pantomime to everyone during the coronavirus pandemic.

Talented artists within the media industry in Herefordshire have come together to create a unique piece of theatre in response to the national closure of theatres due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Not allowing the pandemic to put a halt to the performing arts, Rebecca Cook has produced, written, and directed *#Panto_Demic!* a 30-minute short film.

Knowing how difficult it has been for many within the creative arts industry, Rebecca set out to create a performance which would use and support media professionals while bringing the local community a slice of laughter and normality during a time of such uncertainty.

“The arts are imperative to society as they inspire, develop and bring communities together,” she said.

“The arts are inclusive and accessible for everyone, no matter of age, background or ability. It enriches our lives every day which is why we need to protect it and ensure its survival.”

“*#Panto_demic!* showcases the talent, determination and passion that Herefordshire has to offer – to lose our local artists would be devastating.”

#Panto_Demic! follows seven devious panto villains as they join a ‘Zoom’ call to plot just how they can carry out their cunning schemes during this strange and uncertain time.

Miss Cook was furloughed from her day job as an Education Officer and Youth Theatre Leader at The Courtyard in Hereford back in March. Although it has been a challenging time for every industry, she said it’s especially important to keep the arts alive.

This project is supporting media professionals following a difficult year for those in the creative arts industry. *#Panto_Demic!* is a 30-minute short film set to release on digital and DVD in early December for the general public. This film will be available upon release from www.conquest-theatre.co.uk. For more information visit www.conquest-theatre.co.uk or the [#Panto_Demic!'s Facebook page](#).