

The Cider Press



April 2018 EDITION

Happy Easter

Trouble at T'Mill – are we nearly there yet?

Have we or have we not got Spring? It was starting to look like a potential White Easter, being starved of anything colourful at all, except for the occasional hungry robin or blackbird. Most of us will have been surprised by the very quantity and persistence of the white stuff we had recently when the sky emptied. Not something we are used to in Herefordshire, broadly speaking. Pretty indeed, but hugely disruptive.

The odd and random weather has not affected our big birds however. They don't mind it at all and still indulge in seasonal manly fighting. When separating ganders you have to watch the elbows as they can inflict some proper bruises – equally you must be fast and gentle and not cause any damage to them either!

Ralph and I finally managed to get to Bromyard on the Saturday afternoon after much digging to release the van and clear the drive, in search of emergency bananas and milk. If there is nothing else, we always have copious amounts of cat food and bird seed in stock. Some heroic Co-op lorry driver had managed to get through and there was a small crowd of stunned shoppers gazing at the wire cages containing *actual milk*, as if they had seen a unicorn.

As you may know we are currently on a mission to rescue a white cat which may or may not be a stray. Today we are waiting on a delivery of a new wildlife camera (having convinced ourselves we are replacing the one that got nicked), but by sheer coincidence and extreme good luck it will also be useful in getting some pictures of said cat. So far there seem to be two distinct possibilities as to its identity - Allensmore Cat Protection have a woman in Hereford who has reported a white cat missing; as have the National Pet

Register, the NPR one should be in Brum if it's the same cat.

It was my belief that all white cats could not hear, though the vet assures me this is only the case if they are blue-eyed. It wouldn't surprise me at all to discover it had stowed away in a delivery van.

When we have pictures we can send those to Cats' Protection and NPR and also Bromyard Vets, to see if anyone will claim him/her. Ideally we hope to catch him/her and then check for a microchip, and leaving food out in the Mill might just encourage some trust. We would love to adopt it but Poppet wouldn't hear of it, and its owner (if one can ever be such) would no doubt love to see it again. Hold the front page, as it were.

Fingers crossed for some proper seasonal weather and a happy ending.

Deb Banks

Pilgrimage to Stoke Lacy First World War Graves in the 100th Anniversary of the ending of the War.

Every year on Remembrance Sunday in our Church we remember the men from this village who gave their lives in this terrible War. The congregation say,

"We will remember them"

We are fortunate in that we have a booklet written by Adrian Yeeles in 2014 which tells us much about the men of this village who died in this War. Having this record allows us not just to remember their names but to know much about their families and background.

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM' is available in the Church.

During the period **7th to 11th May 2018** those listed below as representatives of the Parochial Church Council, plan to go to France and visit some of the graves and the memorials of those who have no

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known grave. They plan to visit The Thiepval Memorial and The Euston Road cemetery and to lay wreaths at these locations. These locations are within a reasonable driving distance from the City of Amiens.

If anyone from the village wishes to join this group in the pilgrimage they are asked to contact one of us when arrangements can be made so that we can all meet up for the wreath laying and indeed for accommodation refreshments as necessary.

Colin Simmonds, Chris McNaught and John and Mary Caiger—01432 820272

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

SPRING BREAKFAST

Our Spring Breakfast will be held on **Saturday 7th April** from 9.30 – 12 noon. We hope to see all our regular faces and hopefully some new ones too. No need to book just turn up and grab yourselves a seat and leave the rest to us. You won't be disappointed! We are also holding a Raffle for an Afternoon Tea Hamper, so as they say 'You have to be in it to win it'.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trustees will be held on **Wednesday 23rd May 2018** at 8 pm. All are welcome to attend. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a Trustee and become involved in helping to keep 'Your Village Hall' up and running for the use of the whole Community.

Unfortunately still no news on our Roasting Tins, any help to locate them would be appreciated. Contact Janet on 01885 400601

Janet Ivison

Chairman of the Hall Trustees.

Stoke Lacy PCC Hundred Club Results

February 2018

1st Alma Westwood £20

2nd Carole Lewis £10

3rd Sally Jones £5

March 2018

1st Freddie Lewis £20

2nd B M Mallalieu £10

3rd Beryl Lewis £5

Anyone wishing to join, please ring

Tina Lifely 01432 820154

CHURCH NEWS

Coffee Mornings and Plant Sale.

The next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 14 April** from 10.30 to 12 noon and will be sponsored by the Book Club. PCSO Sue Berrett from Bromyard Safer Neighbourhood Team (BSNT) will also be in attendance that morning for crime prevention advice and questions.

It was good to see such a good crowd on 10 February and it was great to hear all the village gossip! Many thanks to Susan McKeeman for the organisation and to all those who came to help. The photograph shows some of the 'chat' taking place!

Many may not know that we have a small Library of mainly paperback books in the Church. These books are available for anyone to take at anytime that the Church is open which is during daylight hours. If you take a book please leave one in return if you can.

At the Coffee Morning on **Saturday 12 May** there will also be a plant sale in the Churchyard. So please come and re-stock on some good plants. Donations of plants will be most welcome.

John Caiger



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Rogation Sunday

6th May 3.30pm at Stoke Lacy church

We are holding a special Rogationtide service at 3.30pm followed by afternoon tea.

This year we would like to pray for the village.

If you would like to bring pictures of your house with either a brief history of the house or why the house has a particular name or character, we will put these on frame boards around the church corresponding to the direction in which your house lies, then perhaps try to get people to locate them on a map of the village, to see how well we know the area.

We are hoping that you will enjoy this occasion and take part. There will, as always, be plenty to eat and drink!

From the Vicar

Happy Easter! So what's it all about? Easter is the day when Christians remember Jesus rising from the grave. He was cruelly treated and tortured and finally crucified: nailed to a cross. But three days later the Bible records that he was raised to new life. For us it was, and remains, the fundamental turning point of history.

But it didn't happen out of the blue. Jesus himself predicted that he was going to suffer and die and rise from the dead. At that time, no one understood what he could mean. How could they? It had never happened before. He also said the following famous words: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies.* Maybe you've heard them used at a funeral.

These are quite *extraordinary* words, said by Jesus to a woman called Martha as she grieved the death of her brother. They were, of course, spoken before his own death and however you read them, they are *unbelievable* words. Well, almost. She probably didn't have the faintest idea what he was talking about and yet, somehow, they struck a chord with her: she believed them! Or rather, she trusted in him.

Then Jesus, the man who outrageously claimed to be the resurrection and the life went on and did just that. He rose from death. It is still extraordinary, still

unbelievable! Can it be true? Yet ever since that first Easter morning, people have come to experience him as the One who still lives; and also to understand that, through his life, everything has changed. He who is The Life gives life. As we put our trust in the Living One, we find that inexplicably his life changes us. I've seen it in my own life and I'm seeing it around me in people today.

This is the best possible news to us as we experience so much of death and pain and failure. (I write this after the latest horrific mass shooting in America). It's emphatically not just about securing a place for ourselves 'in heaven' (though there is that). But as well it's all about the transformation of our lives – and our world - in the here and now. The power of God which raised Jesus from the grave is now at work in us as we open our lives to him.

Death, when all said and done, is always an ending: a life if over, and we can only come to terms with it, however slowly and painfully. But resurrection is about a new beginning, a second chance, the gift of what is ultimately most precious of all: simply life. Jesus' new life for us all is the good news we need to hear, experience and live.

I wish you a very happy and joyful Easter.

Clive Evans.

St Peter and St Paul Stoke Lacy Easter Services

30th March Good Friday

2.00pm Meditation on the Cross

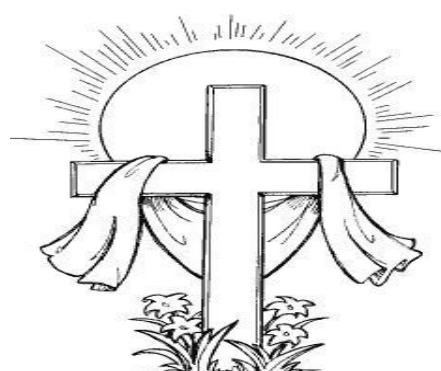
1st April Easter Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

8th April 10.30am Holy Communion

15th April 6.30pm Evensong

22nd April 10.30am Holy Communion

29th April No service



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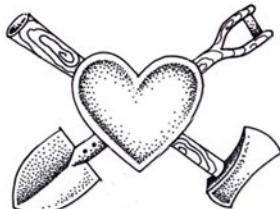
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STOKE LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 in Stoke Lacy Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Neil Walters (Chairman); Councillors Janet Ivison; Clifford Bufton and John Westwood.

In attendance

Mrs Alma Westwood (Clerk)

Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester; SCO Susan Berrett (arrived at 7.40pm)

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm.

18/14 To receive and accept APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Anne Reece; apology accepted.

18/15 To receive DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST on Agenda items and written dispensation requests for disclosable pecuniary interests

No interests or declarations were declared or made.

18/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th January 2018

These were approved and signed.

18/17 WARD COUNCILLOR'S AND POLICE REPORTS

18/17i Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester reported that he was now Leader of Herefordshire Council. He further reported on recent meetings of the Council. (see Herefordshire Council's website). There would be a public meeting on 15th March concerning provision of support for young carers, to assess their support needs

18/17ii CSO Berrett reported on changes taking place within Bromyard Police. A meeting between Stoke Lacy and Pencombe Parish Councillors, CSO Berrett and Ian Connolly, traffic management supervisor for the Safer Roads Partnership, was to be held on Thursday 2nd March to assess various road safety issues within Stoke Lacy

Following the successful meeting at the recent church Coffee Morning, CSO Berrett proposed holding as many surgeries as she was able at future Coffee Mornings, which are held every second Saturday in the month

18/18 There was no PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

18/20 FINANCE

Current Account balance as at 1st March 2018: £6848.90

18/20 i Draft accounts from 1st January to 28th February 2018 as distributed: **APPROVED.**

18/20 ii The following payments were approved:

- Lengthsman's account of £669.60. (inc. £116.60 VAT) for works along Stokes Lane, Little Cowarne Lane and Gravel Pit Lane
- HALC Subs for 2018/19: £374.41 (inc. £62.40 VAT)

- Second half of grant to Stoke Lacy Village Hall: £500
- A grant of £200 to The Cider Press as per their request
- Clerk's half-year salary and PAYE, and £5 expenses
- Following much discussion, it was **AGREED** that any ex gracia payment to any volunteers helping in the recent snow could establish a precedent, but the Parish Council expressed its sincere gratitude to Ryan Skyrme and Elliot Farmer of Stoke Lane for their sterling efforts and a gift of a crate of Wye Valley beer each would be given as a mark of appreciation
- Appointment of Auditor: Mr Ian Pardoe

The Clerk would purchase the laptop and scanner from the funds provided by central government to comply with GDPR

18/20 iii Costs for purchasing solar-powered SIDs: These would be obtained by Councillor Walters and forwarded to the Clerk, Councillors and Councillor Lester as soon as possible. It was hoped that SIDs would be provided by the developers of The Newlands under S106 provision.

18/21 Planning Applications

The following were dealt with under Minor Planning Applications Policy, with no objections:

180287 & 180288 The Hopkilns Woodend Lane: Solar panels; **180589** Bramble Cottage, Stoke Lacy: addition of 2nd storey to cottage; **174590** The Maltings, Woodend Lane: Solar panels

18/22 Hosting a Coffee Morning in church

Councillors **AGREED** to do this: 14th July

18/23 To note INFORMATION SHEET

18/23 i HALC courses and emails from Anthony Bush and others as already emailed

18/23 ii Clerk's course on compliance with new GDPR

13/17 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT AGENDA

SID purchase

Councillor Walters then handed in a letter of resignation from his post as Councillor as from 15th March 2018. The Parish Council paid tribute to him for his work over the years

DATES FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS to May 2017

(Wednesday in the Village Hall):

Annual Meetings:

9th May 2018 Parish Meeting at 7.30pm; Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm

Stoke Lacy Parish Council – Two new Councillors required!

Your Parish Council now has vacancies for two Parish Councillors, following the resignations of Councillors Walters and Bufton, who are stepping

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down after serving for many years. We are grateful to them both, for Councillor Walters' time as Chairman, and Councillor Bufton's wide knowledge of the local area giving important insight into many discussions.

The Parish Council is non-political and all are welcome to put their names forward to take up this vital role in the first tier of government. If you wish to affect the way your locality is run, NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY! Please contact me, the Clerk, in the first instance and I will be very pleased to give you further information as to what is involved (not onerous, I promise) and how to go about applying. I look forward to hearing from you. We would ideally like to have the new Councillors in place in time for the Annual Meetings on Wednesday 9th May.

Alma Westwood, 01885 490286; Lampacre Cottage, Stoke Lane, Stoke Lacy, HR7 4HD; westwoodja@hotmail.com

Thank you to the 'Snow Angels'

Stoke Lacy Parish Councillors would like to give their grateful appreciation to all the volunteers who helped in the recent snow, clearing lanes, making sure people were all right and generally showing a wonderful community spirit, particularly Elliot Farmer and Ryan Skyrme, without whose manful endeavours over many days a good few Stoke Lacy residents would have been snow-bound for much longer. Thank you so much, lads.

Alma Westwood

The recent snowy weather conditions caused much disruption but did allow some to enjoy the winter wonderland.

Pictured Chris McNaught (Photo: Ruth Hickmott)



Councillor Jonathan Lester has been elected Leader of Herefordshire Council

Councillor Jonathan Lester was elected the new Leader of Herefordshire Council at Full Council on Friday 9th March 2018.

Councillor Lester has served with the council since 2011. He is Ward Member for Three Crosses (which includes Stoke Lacy) and has been a Cabinet Member for Young People and Children's Wellbeing since 2015. More recently, Councillor Lester was Deputy Leader of the Council.



Pictured: Jonathan Lester

The new Leader of Herefordshire Council, Councillor Jonathan Lester, said:

"It is a great honour to be elected Leader of Herefordshire Council. These are challenging but exciting times and I am really focused on the tasks ahead, such as improving the health and wellbeing of our citizens, providing them with greater opportunities, and ensuring that we continue to invest in our economy."

"Herefordshire is a wonderful place to live, filled with innovation, creativity and a determination to succeed. I look forward to building on what has already been achieved so that everyone in Herefordshire can thrive and reach their full potential."

Thank you to the parish council for their recent grant to the Cider Press and to Chris McNaught for all the work she does for this publication.

Please send all contributions, letters, articles, news, and views - to The Editor of The Cider Press c/o Jo Davies, Old Rectory Cottage, Herb Lane, Stoke Lacy, HR7 4HJ.

E-mail to jjpw.davies@gmail.com

Community Matters

As some of you know, our family lost my six- year old nephew, Rupert, to cancer in January. I could tell you of his brave three-year battle against stage 4 high risk neuroblastoma or the enormous, devastating impact the disease had on his parents, his siblings and the rest of the family's ability to lead a normal life during those three years, or the implications for health service funding that his illness highlights.

But this was never one of those sob stories we are so used to on social media and the news, hi-jacked by politicians and vested interests to suit their own agenda. When treatment options in the NHS ran out for Rupert our family decided to launch an appeal to raise funds for treatment abroad. Within less than six months the total had reached over £250,000; tragically, Rupert died days before he was about to begin immunotherapy treatment in Spain, and these funds will eventually go to help other children like Rupert to access treatment.

But the legacy that Rupert has left goes far beyond mere money and involves, among many other things, a humbling and overwhelmingly positive sense of solidarity amongst the rural community in South Shropshire of which he was part. New friends for life were forged amongst fund raisers uniting young and old, rich and poor, Remainers and Brexiteers, the indigenous and the incomers. Choirs were formed which continue to meet, an annual family fun day will run each summer organised by volunteers. With society as divided as it is at present this outcome is a beacon of hope in a bleak landscape.

Bringing people together as a community can be a powerfully positive experience. In our own parish, fostering new friendships, groups and associations is the aim of 'Harvesting our Heritage' which has been developed to widen the appeal of restoring our Victorian church, a church which is part of all our heritage. In this way it is hoped that by drawing on the skills and interests of everyone in our parish, not just the small number of devoted hard-working churchgoers but also embracing the out and out atheists and all those in between, we will not only be able to strengthen our diverse community but also justify the tens of thousands of pounds needed to secure the church bell tower, steeple and roofs.

It is my hope that Stoke Lacy PCC is successful in harnessing the opportunity that this crisis in the church's fabric offers. I know they appreciate that by involving the community and stimulating interest in the heritage there is at least the chance of securing not only the long-term future of the building but also the cohesion of the community and a genuine future for this church which has served its flock since 1209.

Jo Davies

Words, Words, Words

A friend called Margaret gave me for Christmas the book "East West Street" by Philippe Sands. Margaret knew we had visited Lviv when we were working in Kiev two years ago.

During the twentieth century Lviv has been known as Lvov, Lvev and Lwow and Lemberg.

The town changed hands eight times in the twentieth century from being part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire then to Poland to Germany to Russia, back to Germany, the USSR, and now in Ukraine.

This brilliant and very readable book explores various characters for whom Lviv has been a significant place in their lives. In particular Lauterpacht and Lemkin who both studied law at Lviv university and both made major legal philosophical points which contributed to the Nuremberg trials of 1945 -46 and to the foundation of international law. Lauterpacht argued for the individual responsibility of government officials in crimes against humanity. Lemkin created the word "genocide". Particular words and phrases can frame the development of our thinking about law, politics and justice. There is the very dark shadow of Nazi pogroms throughout the book. Susan and I had visited a castle site of one massacre.

Another book I was given for Christmas also helps us to see what the crafting of words describes. "Landmarks" is written by Robert Macfarlane. He loves words. He loves words that make landscape.

With words to name nature we can be encouraged to see forms and structures, details, and characteristics of landscape that we might otherwise not notice.

He has several Place-words glossaries in his book. Many are Gaelic and come from other parts of Britain. However a surprising number of words in his lists come from Herefordshire or nearby.

I wonder if any of you readers are familiar with any of these or perhaps would like to test them out on friends and neighbours of longstanding in Hereford.

I particularly like:

wonty-tump = molehill;

may-blobs. = kingcups, marsh marigolds

Skith = thin layer of snow.

banks-piece = field on a steep slope

Let me know if you know any other local words. Or perhaps you could send in a short list for the next Cider Press?

David McKeeman

Editor's note

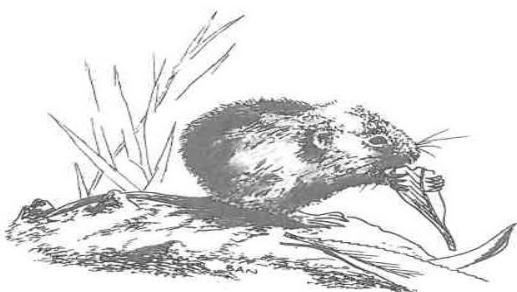
My father was from South Shropshire, so not so far away from here, two dialect words he used which seemed so descriptive and which I don't really know how to spell were:-

Crosslonkard : uneven or out of balance, as in a table cloth placed unevenly on a table.

Nizgel: the weakest one of a litter

Anyone else ever heard these?

Jo Davies



Drawing by Deb Banks

Stoke Lacy & District Garden Club

Meeting January 23rd

The first meeting for 2018 invited Harry Green, head gardener at Morton Hall Gardens to talk about the gardens through the seasons. Some members visited the gardens last July and were very impressed with the privately owned garden and wondered what it looked like during the rest of the year.

Harry gave us some background to the house, being built on the site of a medieval manor; the current house dates from 1780. It is surrounded by 8 acres of garden and a further 92 acres of parkland. The current owners Mr & Mrs Olivieri bought the house in 2007 and have carried out major restoration on the house and garden, the original layout of the garden being designed by Charles Cheshire. Many cherry laurel hedges were removed to open out the vistas, and the current garden is now a series of inter-connecting garden rooms, each linking into one another by the planting chosen, the owner likening the gardens to a pearl necklace.

The first part encountered as you drive up toward the house is a 4 acre meadow planted with bulbs, the season now being extended from spring into early summer. The numbers of bulbs that are planted are staggering, over the years some 60,000 bulbs have been added to improve and enhance the display. These now include fritillary, pseudo narcissus, crocus, cammasias and allium with buttercups to make a lovely contrast with the blues. Each autumn about 12,000 more bulbs are added. Once the bulbs have all finished and died back the grass is cut and kept mown until autumn planting starts again.

The next garden leading from the meadow is the New Garden which is also planted with many spring bulbs, starting with snowdrops, followed in succession by scilla, species tulips, and primula. Then species roses are in bloom through the summer and finish with silver birch and amelanchier trees for autumn and winter interest. Harry told us that he will be adding lilac trees to this part of the garden to add interest and fill gaps.



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Carers needed for Children with Disabilities for Family-based Overnight Stays

We are currently recruiting for Family Based Overnight Short Break Carers for Children with Disabilities. We are looking for people with relevant skills and experience to provide this much needed service for children and families. A short break could be between one and six nights per month.

Carers will be assessed as approved foster carers, receive £108 per overnight/24 hours and will be offered continuous training, development and ongoing support.

If you are interested in this rewarding work, please contact Stuart Barber or Sue Powell on 01432 383 240 or email : fosteringandadoptionbusinesssupport@herefordshire.gov.uk.

To see more information please go to www.herefordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-family-care/fostering/short-breaks-carers.

Following on from the New Garden is the Stroll Garden, which has elements of a Japanese garden including a tea house, ponds with paths and stepping stones. The planting reflects the terrain and aspect of the garden, lending itself to damp and water loving plants and therefore we see primula japonica and iris ensata around and in the water, white foxgloves and siberian iris with silver birch and acers take the colour into autumn. The path leading out of this garden follows the slope up a rockery and woodland garden having a blue and white colour scheme to give the impression of water flowing down a glacier and rocks, so there are viburnum and hellebores, followed by azalea, ferns and aquilegia, then campanula and asters to end the year.

Once you reach the top of the hill and pass by the enormous horse chestnut tree under planted with winter and spring bulbs (snowdrops, crocus, cyclamen), you enter the South Garden and East Terrace adjacent to the house which has the feel of a cottage garden and contains many of the plants you would expect to see, passing under an arbour covered with a white wisteria. The borders start the year with tulips (2,500 bulbs planted each year!), progressing to peonies, allium, iris and a variety of annuals. A really clever use of clematis has them trained through the roses to continue their interest between the first and second flush of flowering. Iris, geranium and penstemon are included, and asters and echinacea follow to late summer/autumn.

Entering the Kitchen Garden through a brick archway, the garden has been laid out in a potager to include herbs, vegetables, salads and ornamental flowers with the colour schemes cleverly designed to reflect the aspect of the garden which faces east/west.

The final garden to complete the pearl necklace is the West Garden which is right up to the house and softens the lines of the building by having climbing plants against the walls and fragrant herbs planted to be intentionally brushed against to release the scents of the lavender and thyme. Further into the

borders are bearded iris, followed by aster, sedum and penstemon.

Harry also allowed us in on his remedy for squirrels eating bulbs – chilli powder! This can be sprinkled directly on the bulbs as you plant them or on the ground where you've planted the bulbs, although this will of course wash away in the rain.

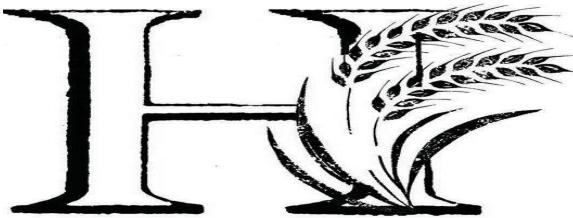
Harry works in the garden with one assistant and Mrs Olivieri who helps out for 2 or 3 days per week. Those of us who were fortunate to visit the garden could not fail to be impressed by the quality of planting and maintenance with such a small team of labour force. The garden will be open under the NGS on 21st April, 30th June, 11th August and 1st September. It is possible to visit on other days by contacting the gardens and asking to be added in to a group if numbers allow. For further information visit <http://mortonhallgardens.co.uk>.

February's meeting was cancelled due to poor weather.

The April meeting will be on **24th April at 7.30pm** with Paul Green of Greens Leaves at 7.30pm in the village hall.

For more information on the gardening club please contact David Preece: dj.reece@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01885 490604.





Heritage Project Update....

And we're in pole position

Next month St Peter and St Paul's Church, Stoke Lacy, becomes the Morgan Motor Company's Charity of the Year. That great team in Malvern are determined to help us raise funds to fix the steeple, tower and nave roof. So far they have offered us the first prize in our Grand Draw Raffle – that of a weekend hire of a Morgan!

Additionally the Company have offered us their facilities to organise an evening event with factory tour, speakers and vintage photographs from the family album in Stoke Lacy. More information to follow in the next copy of the Cider Press.

Winning Big!

While we're talking raffle prizes.....

1st Prize: Weekend Hire of a Morgan

**2nd Prize: A week's holiday in a cottage
in Scotland**

**3rd Prize: A weekend's holiday in a fish-
ing lodge in Herefordshire**

4th Prize: £100

We are very fortunate to have been donated such great prizes. Tickets will be available from the end of April. Please can we encourage you to sell as many as you can to friends and family?

Heritage Lottery Fund Application and the Next Steps

You may already know that the Steering Group submitted the HLF application last month despite the extra hurdle of having to prepare building specifications. We now wait the result with fingers and toes crossed. The decision will be made by the middle of May. If positive, building work could start in the summer.

Competition for HLF funds is severe with the odds stacked against applicants. As a result the Steering Group is now well into the next phase of the project by fund raising: through applications to other charitable organisations (we have a list of 40 to evaluate!); through organising fund raising events

through sponsorship from local businesses and through individual donations. We have already received a £3,000 sponsorship from Wye Valley Brewery plus the offer of practical assistance.

Funds raised in these ways will go towards the building restoration whilst the heritage aspects of the project will be largely self-funding or specifically sponsored by donors.

New volunteers

We are actively looking for new volunteers. We are so grateful that Glynis Harding, Charlotte Lewis and Hugh Nicklin have offered their help to the project. Both have joined the activities of the PCC and Steering Group in researching other charitable bodies and trust funds that we might approach.

If you would like to offer time to the project, in any way, we would be delighted to have you on board. We need you!

Currently we need help particularly with making applications to charitable bodies; by manning stands on a rota at the launch of the Heritage Trail in Bromyard on **22nd April** and at the Bromyard Gala; by creating and/or manning stands at an invigorated Church Fete on **17th June.....more news to follow.**

Just get in touch with John Davies on 01432 820732 or email on delacyconfidential@gmail.com.

The service of thanksgiving for the life
of Madge Hooper will take place at
Stoke Lacy Church on Wednesday 16th
May 2018 at 2.30pm

The History of Bromyard by Hugh Nicklin continued After Simon de Montford until 1485.....

What had upset the marcher lords about Simon de Montfort was his political and matrimonial flirtations with the Welsh. Many men from Bromyard went with Edward I's army to hunt down Llewelyn the Last and put an end to the independence of Wales in 1282. Life in Bromyard became less likely to be interrupted by Welsh raiders, and the town entered a period of prosperity lasting more than 40 years. Peace having broken out, some economic advantage would have been extracted from the passage of herds of Welsh cattle passing through on their way to areas where English people wanted to eat them.

These herds passed along ‘Drovers’ Roads’ from west to east. The cattle were often kept away from the main roads and towns because of the damage they did with their hooves. The drovers, however, soon proved to be men of substance who could be relied upon to pay for accommodation and other things as they passed. Despite their origins, they did not ‘Welsh’ on deals, and their probity led over time to success in banking. The road linking Leominster with Bromyard and Worcester was a main artery of this trade.

In the early years of the fourteenth century Bromyard was hit by climate change. This was the beginning of a decade or so of exceptionally cold and wet weather, during which harvests were difficult to collect and animals prone to disease. Land in less fertile places might well be abandoned. Inadequate supplies of food weakened the population, making it more susceptible to epidemic disease. As if on cue, in 1348 the Black Death arrived in Bromyard, killing about a third of the people in particularly horrible ways.

By this time the Hundred Years’ War was under way, and some Bromyard archers may have been recruited to fight in France, and stayed on to make money as highwaymen called ‘routiers’ during intervals when the war was officially suspended. After the Black Death had passed workers found themselves in short supply, so they were better placed to demand higher wages or a change in their status making them freer than before. Some English workers pushed this, and the government passed a ‘Statute of Labourers’ to keep them in their place. It was, however, fairly easy to play one lord off against another, and wages and conditions improved. The fortunes of war fluctuated, but being deep inland Bromyard did not suffer from seaborne raids whenever the French had got the upper hand in the Channel. The people of Bromyard did not find themselves being raped and pillaged while their lords and masters loitered at a

safe distance, as happened in Kent and Essex. They did not have quite the motivation which the people of Kent and Essex had to express their annoyance in the ‘Peasants’ Revolt’, which therefore did not affect Bromyard. The Revolt and subsequent repression passed the town by, but the slow movement away from ‘villeinage’ continued. This was a state where a poor man was forced to remain in one village and scratch a living once all the work on the Lord’s land had been done.

King Richard II was smart enough to outwit the peasants, but not the barons. He annoyed them and was deposed in 1399. Bromyard may have seen the odd Welsh raider associated with the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr, or other stresses arising from the deposition of Richard II. The best archers will have been recruited to go with Henry V to Agincourt. Sadly the king’s early death made his possession of the French crown a problem for his son Henry VI. In 1453 the English barons were already divided when news arrived that the French had not been idle since Agincourt, but had built up their skill with firearms. The longbow men were now yesterday’s men, and the English were crushed in two mighty battles in France that our historians have kept pretty quiet about. Not 1% of those who read this will have heard of the battles of Formigny or Castillon. If there were any men of Bromyard still trying to extort protection money from French peasants it was now time to come quickly home to the boring peace of Herefordshire. Deciding whose fault the defeat in France had been, and who should now rule England, gave rise to some excitement in the Wars of the Roses. Small towns like Bromyard had very little to do with these quarrels of the great and bad, although I shall not be surprised to find examples of old soldiers from the French wars unable to shake off the habit of pillage in England.

Hugh Nicklin



LODON VALLEY ART EXHIBITION

5th, 6th & 7th May 10.00am—5.00pm

***AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS, GARDEN ARTISTIC METALWORK,
SCULPTURES AND CERAMICS – DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS***



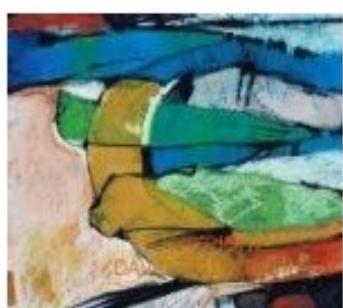
Shirley Bonas



Lesley Connelly



Nigel Montandon



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