

The Cidder Press

December 2018 Edition



A special brew of classic cars, heritage, good friends and great crisps!

A great time was had by all at the Stoke Lacy Heritage Project Grand Draw at the Morgan Motor Company. Morgans opened their doors and welcomed us in to celebrate the Morgan Stoke Lacy relationship, a relationship which started back in 1871 when Harry Morgan's grandfather became the Rector of St Peter's and St Paul's Church. All proceeds from the evening – a staggering £2,400 – were donated to the Heritage Project.

The evening commenced with our own John Davies as Master of Ceremonies introducing Steve Morris, Morgan's very enthusiastic Managing Director. Steve took us on a whistle stop tour of the company's plans and the current impact of Brexit, before introducing Morgan archivist, Martyn Webb. Martyn, in a very flashy red jacket, entertained and educated us with an informative history of the Morgan family in Stoke Lacy. The talk was illustrated with a wonderful set of period photographs taken by Harry's father, George Morgan, who was our village's Rector for 50 years.

The Grand Draw, ably run by John and Martyn, produced 4 worthy winners none of whom were present! The winning tickets were as follows:

First prize	07321
Second prize	05057
Third prize	03335
Fourth prize	07417

All winners have been contacted. The raffle has raised over £3,000 for the project so thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

This was the first time Morgans had opened their factory for evening tours and is now something they plan to do regularly. Visitors said 'it was quite eerie looking round the factory when it was quiet' and that, 'the enthusiastic tour guides did a wonderful job telling us all about it'. Also that, 'it is so lovely to see workers so proud of what they do' and 'great to see such skilled professionals at work'.

Mention must be made of our generous village sponsors; Wye Valley Brewery who created a special "Heritage 109" beer especially for the event (a brew which seemed particularly popular with the tour guides), of NSA Events Bars who kindly provided the bar drinks, and of Tyrrells who kept us fortified with a wonderful selection of crisps. I can heartily recommend the Aberdeen Angus Beef!

Work now commences on the next stage of the Morgan Stoke Lacy relationship with the development of a Morgan Heritage Trail from Bromyard to Moreton Jeffries. It is hoped that the launch of the trail will coincide with the first MogFest in the village on 6th July 2018. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact John Davies on cottageold@gmail.com.

Wye Valley Brewery's limited edition 'Heritage 109'



Words and pictures : Ruth Hickmott

J.D.POYNER

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Photograph Ruth Hickmott

On Sunday 11th November the church was packed with old and young for this special service which commemorated both 100 years since the end of the First World War and Remembrance Sunday. The church looked suitably solemn and lovely. The service was led by Rev Kina Robertshaw, who gave a thoughtful and poignant address on the theme of 'Reconciliation and Forgiveness' which moved all present. Neil Parker read out the names from the War Memorial and laid the wreath, Annabel read the lines after the Silence beautifully and Harriett gave a splendid sounding of The Last Post and Reveille. The lusty singing of the hymns, ably chosen and played by Betty, and the moving prayers by Helen, all contributed to this most memorable service, which was rounded off by Adrian and Gill reading short biographies of the Stoke Lacy men killed in battle or who died as a result of the war. During the service Rev. David McKeeman, who died recently, was also remembered; he had been involved with Kina in its planning.

A large number of the congregation, which numbered 73, stayed behind for reflection and refreshments: it was a pleasure to welcome so many people, from both the village and from elsewhere. Thank you, Tina, for your lovely biscuits with the rice-paper poppies on them, and thank you to Kina, Harriett, Neil, Annabel, Geoff, Helen, Christine, Gill, Adrian, the Flower Fairies and everyone involved in making this a unique event. We Will Remember Them.

Alma Westwood—Church warden

Poppies

Shame, shame, shame, shame on you.

Live, Kill, Die, Repeat.

Lessons learned: Nil.

Only how to kill.

Live, kill, Die, Repeat.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on us.

All we can offer in payment,

Is to remember,

The long past,

The long dead,

The little known.

But, we can remember,

We should remember.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on us.

It is said, for evil to prosper

All it needs is for good men

To stand and watch.

It seems we are better at watching than remembering.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on us.

When the glazed eyes of the church,

Cry forth the red tears of remembrance.

We should rejoice in the memory

O those long and near past.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on us.

To take those tears from

Their righteous place

Then nail them to a

Simple post: Like God's only son.

Shame on us.

To be in the position,

To have power,

To have knowledge,

To stand idly by.

When so much could have been done,

This is surely evil.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on you.

You who knew.

And said, nil.

Shame, shame, shame, shame on you.

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When David McKeeman was planning the events around the centenary of the 1914 armistice he asked, through the pages of the Cider Press, for some stories of families of villagers whose ancestors may have fought in the First World War.

PERCY HILL PARKER and WILLIAM HENRY ADAMS

(1895-1984)

(1895 – 1916)

This is the story of two great friends and neighbours, both farmer's sons – Percy Hill Parker from Little Frome Farm and William Henry Adams (Bill) from Avenbury Court, Bromyard, who volunteered for duty in The First World War and how their lives changed forever.

They joined the Sportsman's Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers and had six weeks drill practice in The Savoy Ballroom before sailing from Southampton to France in 1915 where as farmers they were put to run the threshing machines as there was a shortage of food for the horses. They went to the Somme in 1916.

The Somme was the most brutal period of The First World War.

On 28th July 1916 it was Percy's turn to fill the water bottles, so he missed the shell that fell on the squad who were marching to the front. Several were killed including Bill. Percy would have been marching next to him.

Eventually Percy was injured and sent to Tipperary to convalesce, where he stitched the embroidery below. When recovered he became a Physical Training Instructor, helping others to get fit until the end of the war. Consequently, Percy survived the war, came back to farm at Lower Hopton and Newton, Stoke Lacy, married and had seven children. W H Adams (Bill) is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial facing the front. 9pier and Face 8C 9A and 16A). He is one of over 72,000 unrecovered soldiers.

The wonderful Thiepval Memorial to the missing of The Somme designed by Sir Edward Lutyens was unveiled by The Prince of Wales in the company of the President of France on July 31st 1932..

Janet Parker

The Reverend David McKeeman by J Caiger

After David's retirement in 2001, he and Susan moved to Woodend Lane, Stoke Lacy. As a priest he soon became involved in our local deanery and parish church. He will be missed for his thoughtful and well researched sermons delivered with humility and humour.

David studied at King's London. He was awarded a world council of churches scholarship to study Greek orthodoxy and Iconography at the University of Thessaloniki and on Mount Athos. Greece, religious art and international dialogue remained an important part of David's ministry.

During the 1960's, Bishop John Robinson directed David's first job in south London which was to build a church and youth centre. An offshoot of this developed into 'Action Housing Association' which now has 35,000 low cost residences around London.

Youth work took him to Dorset for ten years working as youth training officer. He returned to full time ministry in the diocese of Winchester as Rector of Silchester and responsible for in-service training within the diocese. Susan, David, Zoe and Christopher were there for twenty years and that is where David is buried within the churchyard and beside the Roman walls of Calleva Atribatum.

During eighteen years of retirement David worked for the Diocese of Europe, in Florence, Bucharest, Kiev, and Crete, and several times in Sicily and Spain and the Netherlands. Here he had wonderful opportunities to work with small groups of Christians with diverse cultural expectations. Above all a chance to walk, paint and climb. (Susan says "hours of walking in hot sun up remote hillsides to find the key of a small church to study frescos and icons. For hours!)

As a great walker and lover of maps, he thought little of walking from the village to Malvern to visit family there. David's last long pilgrimage was from Southwark cathedral, where he was ordained, to Canterbury cathedral in June 2017. David's writing, reflections and paintings during this walk will be an inspiration for many.

In 2009 he became a founding Trustee of the local Church charity 'The Friends of Stoke Lacy Church'. Here his ideas and enthusiasm were much appreciated. In 2012 he was an important member of the team who arranged the reading of The King James Bible from start to finish over a two week period. It was David who calculated how much had to be read each day so that we finished on time. It worked and the last few chapters were read at 3pm on the final day! He was also deeply involved in planning the Remembrance Service for the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WW1 when he was struck down with the cancer which took his life.

A service of remembrance to celebrate David's life will take place on Monday 3rd December at 11.30am at the church.



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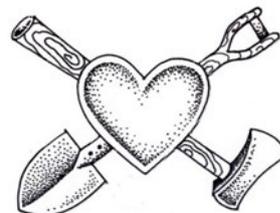
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Stoke Lacy Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Janet Ivison (Chairman); Helen Bufton; Anne Reece; John Westwood

Alma Westwood, Clerk; Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester and CSO Susan Berrett

Apologies were received from Mr Bill Morgan, Mrs Jo Davies and Mr John Davies.

* Mr Davies sent an update on the HLF project: Slow progress of the building works, with scaffolding being erected and drainage works underway. The event at Morgan Motor Company raised over £3500 but there is still a shortfall of some £20,000 to complete all aspects. Major events planned for 2019 include a lunch; Black-Tie dinner & Auction; Morgan 110th Anniversary Festival, Flower Show & Open Garden. Local History research training at Bromyard & District Local History Society, all welcome, and oral history recordings are proceeding. Application for permission for the churchyard Herb Garden has been made. More volunteers required to co-ordinate the Bell Ringing project and Churchyard Environment Conservation project. Help requested.

* Ward Councillor Lester reported on Herefordshire Council matters and he and CSO Susan Berrett discussed police numbers in relation to catching and recording young offenders.

* Finance: Current account balance £7085.29. A cheque for £213.99 was drawn for SLCC, £90 for clerk's course fees and £123.29 for two Parish Council books.

Councillors agreed to hold over a decision on setting the Precept until the Clerk had attended a meeting next Thursday, when it was hoped election costs would be clearer. At the moment it would seem that there could be up to £16000 fee for a contested election to Stoke Lacy Parish Council. Date for the Precept meeting t.b.a. for late November/early December.

* Road safety issues, including speeding through Crick's Green and the right turn to Little Cowarne on Stoke Hill were discussed. A Community Concern initiative is to take place in Crick's Green.

* Planning applications: the Parish Council had no objection to the application for Ivy Cottage or Woodend Business Park.

* The Clerk reported that it was hoped to resolve the drainage issues at Newlands shortly and hoped work would commence in December; works at The Orchard would commence next year.

Dates for next meetings: 2019: Wednesday 9th January; 12th March at 7.30pm in Village Hall

Parish Council elections: 2nd May 2019

Annual Parish meeting followed by Annual Parish Council meeting (welcome new Councillors): Wednesday 8th May 2019

at 7.30 and 8pm in the Village Hall

Members of the public are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings Alma Westwood, Clerk, Stoke Lacy Parish Council

Defibrillator: Parish Councillors would like to thank the anonymous village benefactor who has so kindly paid for the new defibrillator pads which have just had to be renewed. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Village Hall News

Autumn Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came to support our 'Autumn Breakfast' on Saturday 20th October. We served a total of 59 Breakfasts and with Raffle Tickets and Quiz Sheets sold, we made a profit of £402.00 for Hall funds. The winner of the Hamper was Bill Morgan from Cricks Green and the winners of the Quiz were Mary and Neil Parker from Newton. Thank you to all the helpers, front of house and kitchen staff, we couldn't do it without you. Once again it was nice to see so many of our regulars and some new faces too. Simon Abiss went away a very happy chappie with a trailer load of apples to turn into juice for collection at a later date. **The Burns Night Supper** will be held on Saturday 26th January at 7.30 pm. We will be serving our usual Haggis, Tatties and Neeps followed by a selection of Desserts and Cheese and Biscuits all for £15 per person, B.Y.O.D. We have 'Sheila's Reels' Ceilidh Band and a Caller to entertain you afterwards. To Book your Ticket or a Table ring Janet on 01885 400601.

The Village Hall Trustees would like to thank you for your support over the last twelve months and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Janet Ivison—Chairman of Village Hall Trustees

Report on Village Breakfast Autumn Quiz

Nine people tried the Quiz on Autumn, scoring an impressive average of 76%.

People were strong on the date of Remembrance Day, and what we were remembering on it, Guy Fawkes' religion, the date and target of the Gunpowder Plot, on all of which 100% of the answers were correct, except on Guy Fawkes' religion, on which Alma Westwood was awarded a bonus for spotting that Guy Fawkes was a Christian— a better answer to what his religion was than 'Catholic' which I had offered. I was a bit smug about the 90% failure rate on the 'Double Tenth', the anniversary of the end of the last Chinese Dynasty, because it confirms my opinion that teaching only British History leaves important gaps. A few more people knew about the change of calendars in the Russian Revolution.

I would have come well down the class, as my ignorance of all but one of the leaf shapes, and films, restricted me to 73%. Congratulations to the winners, team Parker, with 85%, and to team Cox, Alma Westwood and Helen Rees who were equal second with 77%. Team Cox may consider themselves first among equals because of the excellence of their scary drawing!

Hugh Nicklin—Treasurer

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Stoke Lacy Parish Church

Christmas A'Fayre

at

The Village Hall

on Saturday 8th December.

12 noon - 3pm

All donations for the stalls are gratefully received and can be delivered to the Old Coach House, Nether Court or Old Rectory Cottage, preferably before the event, or brought to the Village Hall on the day.

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Stoke Lacy PCC 100 Club Results

OCTOBER 2018

- 1st Jacob Lewis £20
- 2nd Margaret Woodley £10
- 3rd Glynis Harding £5

NOVEMBER 2018

- 1st Tom Lifely £20
- 2nd Charlie Barrett £10
- 3rd Janet Ivison £5

Any enquiries, please ring

Tina Lifely 01432 820154

Who Dunnit ?

Sadly the village hall had to postpone its recent 'Mystery Evening', however a real life minor mystery has emerged as we hear below from John Caiger— deputy church warden.

On the 9th of November I hoisted the Union Flag on the flagpole at our Church.

I was away for the weekend of 10/11 November attending a Service of Remembrance at Lichfield Cathedral. On the morning of 12 November I woke to find a blue flag inscribed with the word 'Peace' on the flagpole. The Union Flag had been neatly folded and put in the Church porch.

Whilst I have no objections to the word Peace I would have preferred that the person who hoisted the flag to

to have asked permission first. I now have the blue flag and ask that the person who hoisted it to contact me so that I can return their flag.

I can be contacted on (01432) 820272.

"Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it Superman?"

No, it's a Drone!.....maybe you need your eyes checking?!

Some of you may have already seen a large Drone hovering in the skies over Stoke Lacy. Just to say, there is nothing to be worried about, it's not a snooper! Bill Morgan from SkyCamera has been asked to take pictures of the renovation work happening on the church roof over the coming months and also take pictures of Stoke Lacy through the seasons.

Bill does this work professionally and is certified to take commercial drone photography by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority). He is a member of DroneSafe, ARPAS (professional organisations) and holds £2m insurance. If you have any questions or would like pictures of your own house taking (at a special local rate) please contact him on bill@skycamera.co.uk or 07770 522529. Website www.skycamera.co.uk.



One of Bill's drone photographs of the church in October.

Chat and Craft

Do you like to 'Chat'? Are you a 'Crafty Person'? Would you be interested in joining a group of like minded people?

Do you knit, sew, crochet, paint, fold paper, in fact any type of craft and would be happy to share your skill with others, with the ultimate aim of producing items for the stalls at the Church Fete and 'Christmas A Fayre'. If so please get in touch with Janet on 01885 400601 to learn more about the setting up of a Chat and Craft Group.

Stoke Lacy & District Garden Club

Garden visit Tuesday 25 September

On our arrival at Astley Towne House, we were greeted by owner Tim Smith who introduced us to the garden by explaining that it has been made entirely from scratch over the last 20 plus years. The 16th century house is a beautiful timber framed property which sits surrounded by the garden and has undergone significant renovation and development at the same time.

Once we had received the introduction we proceeded into a bamboo forest and were then completely enveloped by the garden until we ended our journey at the tea room. Tim told us that as most of the plants are tender sub-tropical they are lifted and taken under cover for protection at the end of the year and re-planted every year in early summer once the risk of frost has passed; a huge undertaking for a garden which is around 2 and a half acres. One exception to this is the bananas which are left in situ and given protection where they stand, and these have become huge, multi-stemmed specimens which you wouldn't normally see in this country. The plants create their own micro climate being so close together and protected by the tall bananas and palms.

The other plants which you would expect to find in such a garden are there in plenty including gingers, cannas and huge palms, as well as other rare and exotic plants such as begonias and even hardy impatiens which don't mind the shade caused by the larger plants. This delightful garden has many other unusual and quirky features and Tim has many entertaining stories to tell about how some of them made their way into the garden. The woodland temple, a treetop safari lodge complete with sound effects provided by exotic birds such as guinea fowl and golden pheasant wandering in the area, a beautiful shell decorated subterranean grotto and other sculptures including Hercules – who had tumbled from the lofty heights of a sandstone column – not once but twice!

The garden has also featured in television programmes, most recently for a Channel 4 series 'All Gardens Great and Small' with comedian Miranda Hart and her mother Dee Hart-Dyke.

Our afternoon ended in the garden at the tea room with tea and cakes freshly made by Tim's wife Lesley.

Stoke Lacy and District Gardening club

Visit to Hergest Croft Garden – 23rd. October 2018

We gathered by the house to be met by Robert Price who gave us a brief but detailed history of the family, house and grounds. To describe this as a garden is an understatement, it is a park overlooking open countryside. As Robin led us through the trees it became apparent that he knew the

botanical name, place of origin and who and when each tree had been planted. He displayed a combination of historical and botanical knowledge combined with the practical feelings of a hands-on plantsman. We were lucky to have a sunny afternoon for our visit which showed the autumn colour at its best, not just the leaves, contrasting in shape and colour but the variety of bark forms. Following a really interesting tour we retired to the tea room to enjoy tea and delicious cake and the freedom to visit the kitchen garden.

For more information visit their website : www.hergest.co.uk

The November Garden Club meeting will be the **AGM**. A bring and share supper, discussion of success and failure in our gardens 2018 and Club Programme for 2019. With an update by Adrian Yeeles on Stoke Lacy's 'Harvesting our Heritage' Project.

2018 has been a very successful year for the Gardening Club with an exciting and varied programme of talks and visits and an increase in our membership.

Thanks must go to Dave and Pat Preece for all their hard work.

Fingers crossed for good gardening weather for 2019.

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

News from the Friendship Club

Christmas is nearly here so I thought I would remind you of our Christmas Luncheon Party on **Tuesday 11th December**, usual time of 10.30 am at The Plough Inn. I'm sure we shall have an excellent meal which will be followed by musical entertainment.

In the New Year we shall be meeting at the Village Hall on **15th January** at 10.30. am. Hopefully, by then the Programme for 2019 will be complete.

We are looking for new members so if you know anyone who might like to join us please bring them along in January.

For further information please contact:

Margaret Woodley 01432 820270 or Daphne Montandon 01432 820605 email: n.d.montandon@gmail.com

From the Vicar: *Lots to mention*

Harvest Festival

On Sunday 14th October we held our annual Harvest Festival, when we gave thanks to God for all he has given us and remembered those less fortunate than ourselves. The service was very well supported and it was so good to welcome several people from outside Stoke Lacy, who had come to join in with a traditional Harvest Festival. The church looked (and smelled) truly magnificent, with the wonderful colours in the displays of flowers, vegetables and fruit: our thanks go to Margaret Woodley and the Flower Fairies.

This was followed by a most enjoyable Harvest Lunch, which was provided free of charge to all. This special Harvest celebration was organised as part of the 'Harvesting our Heritage' project. Thanks to Wye Valley Brewery and Neville Symonds Associates for providing drinks. The afternoon ended with the produce auction, ably conducted as usual by Neil Parker.

Many from the congregation, which numbered 73, stayed behind for reflection and refreshments: it was a pleasure to welcome so many people, from both the village and from elsewhere.

Christmas!

There are the usual events planned for ensuing weeks, starting with the **Christmas A'Fayre** held in the Village Hall from 12 noon on Saturday, 8th December. Please come along, sell your stuff, spend your pennies (well, pounds!) and sample my extensive collection of fine wine. And much more.

Our popular **Carol Service** will take place at 7.00pm, Sunday, 16th December, with mince pies and refreshments served afterwards as usual. On Sunday, 23rd December, at 3.00pm, there will be a **Crib Service** held at Moreton Jeffries followed by mulled cider and mince pies. And on Christmas Day itself, there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at 10am.

Harvesting our Heritage

Although actual church building works have been slow (unavoidably, we are told) to start, a great deal has been happening with this significant project. In addition to the re-shingling of the steeple and re-slating of the church roofs, the plan is to create a herb garden in the churchyard and improve drainage around the building in general. Alongside these works, we're going to be developing several other projects: conservation, bell ringing, local history and interpretative materials for visitors. We are making significant progress with fundraising too, thanks to a tireless campaign led by John Davies and Ruth Hickmott. One recent highlight of which has been a very successful evening social, talk and tour of the Morgan Motor Company, Malvern culminating in a Grand Draw. We'll keep you posted with further developments in the coming months.

Clive Evans.

From our County Councillor

I hosted a Parish Council Summit on Wednesday 17 October. The event was an opportunity to share experiences and discuss how Herefordshire Council and parish and town councils can better work together to provide the best services for residents. With around 100 attendees, we collected a wealth of thoughts and ideas about how to work more closely together. What clearly stood out is that parish councillors welcomed information on the demographics of their local population to assist them in making decisions. We plan to hold the next summit in early 2019. When it is understood that approximately 75% of the council tax is spent on roughly 3500 vulnerable adults and children, it becomes apparent that better ways of working and securing more community resilience is necessary. These steps can do much to improve the wellbeing of our citizens whilst reduce costs at the same time. At my last cabinet meeting I received the annual progress update on the corporate parenting strategy. The term 'corporate parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees and partner agencies for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for every child in council care. Currently Herefordshire Council has 335 children in its care and provides support for 180 care leavers. I attended a service at the Cathedral to witness the inauguration of the new University known as NMiTE. The development of a new University for Herefordshire is very exciting and has the potential to transform our county in terms of growth and future investment as well as provide an exciting new opportunity to create the engineers of the future. Herefordshire Council is supporting NMiTE in many ways and I look forward to them going from strength to strength. I am currently focused on preparing the Council's budget for 2019/2020. This is a challenging task, however, Herefordshire Council, unlike some councils, has been very responsible in the way it has addressed the need to make savings whilst still maintaining key services. One important fact to have in mind is that when I first became a Herefordshire Councillor in 2011, the council received £60 Million from central government. That figure decreased year on year and in 2019 we will only receive £620,000. That is the scale of the challenge that has been met. Meanwhile, I remain busy with attending parish councils and meeting residents in the Three Crosses Ward as I always make myself available to meet to discuss any issues that I can help with. Jonathan Lester – Leader of Herefordshire Council, jlester@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Much Cowarne WI

Coffee Morning

Friday January 11th

10 am to 12 noon

Stoke Lacy Village Hall

'Bring and Buy'

All welcome



Caring for children aged 2 to 5
Morning, Afternoon and All-Day sessions

Plus

Breakfast Club each day from 8am

For a free taster session please call

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POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

West Mercia Police non emergency

number: 101

Bromyard Town Local Police Team:

PC John Meek 01905 744219

CSOs Sue Berrett & Steph Annette 01905
744219 or 07970 546064 (mobile number not
to be used to report incidents).

In an emergency always dial 999.

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.



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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.

Behind the scenes at the Cider Press

There is quite a number of people behind the production and distribution of your bi-monthly newsletter. Here they are:

Editor Jo Davies
Advertising Claire Albert
Distribution Chris McNaught

Local Delivery Carol Sandhu, Mark Staples, Neil Walters, Hugh Nicklin, Alma Weswood, Janet Ivison, Elizabeth Hibbins, Bridget Mackereth, Christine Leverington, Jo and John Davies, Glynis Harding.

All this work is voluntary and hence Cider Press is mostly financially self-supporting at a cost of around £500 per year. I say 'mostly' as this year, for the first time in about six years, we have needed a small grant from the Parish Council as advertising revenue fell a little. Should you know of anyone who might be interested in advertising with us we'd be glad to hear. The cost is low in comparison with our competitors, and every little counts. At some point soon the cost of printing may have to go up so the more revenue we gather in the better.

What I'd really like to say, though, is that it is all thanks to our volunteers that we can keep going. Many of the team have worked for you since the Cider Press began some 15 years ago and the rest, for very many of those years.

Some in the team are needing to step down so, please if you are able to take on a small role - or bigger - you can be sure we would be very happy to hear from you.

Chris McNaught

From the editor: Recently I fell foul of the speeding regulations and got caught—by the speed gun! Last week I attended a 'speed awareness course'. I thought this would be an easy way of avoiding the points and was resolved to 'do the crime, do the time' - so to speak. What a revelation the course was, though. It really made me think about the way I drive and the course gave a very common sense approach to every day driving with some sobering thoughts about some of the facts we should all be aware of. I came away having learnt a great deal, and what it made me think was that we probably should all have to undertake these courses every so often to continue to have the privilege of driving and to assess the consequences of speed. Speeding through our village is a big issue.

Jo Davies

Update from Cricks Green from Bill Morgan

Following the Cricks Green Racetrack article in the last Cider Press, the Stoke Lacy Parish Council debated the issue and agreed that it should be raised with the Herefordshire County Council. Alma kindly took the

action to follow up with Ian Connolly from the Safer Roads Partnership and also raise with Paul Hunter from Balfour Beattie (Herefordshire Council roads agents).

Like 'turning an oil tanker at full speed', getting things reviewed or changed can take some time, but the more support for holding a review of the speed limit through Cricks Green, the more likely Herefordshire Council are to take notice. So if you have strong views (either for or against) please drop me an email and I will add this to the debate. Email me on morgg@aol.com.

Letter to the editor from a newcomer to the village

Firstly as a newcomer to the village (18 months ago) I would like to say that it was pleasant to see this local paper.

I do hear people mention issues that are raised in the Cider Press so can confirm that whilst not many are sending droves of emails to you, most do read it through.

You are welcome to put this small piece about morality in one of the editions if you get some space.

Morality is a personal construct. Typically, the seeds are sown during childhood with our parents instilling us with many rights and wrongs. We mould it as time goes by, adding and taking bits away. Morality goes hand in hand with opinion and preferences. In some houses the owners prefer you to keep your elbows off the table at dinner. Some people insist that all meals are eaten in total silence throughout. The more you travel the more you see. The greater exposure we have to other people's ideas the more receptive we are to believe that the line between good and bad is very blurred.

Whilst morality is a personal construct, we are reluctant to keep it to ourselves. We think our opinion is the only one that should prevail. We forget that each person has a different set of preferences and hence a vastly different list of moral codes as a result. We are prone to express a moral view thereby labelling other people as being immoral. Many will not even consider let alone accept that solid arguments can be made for and against any standpoint.

When it comes to gaming and gambling people will have different views, none of which appear to be truly right or wrong. Some may say that gambling is categorically wrong no matter how small the stake. Others differentiate large amounts wagered on fruit machines and roulette tables from a tiny sum spent once a week on the national lottery. Can you condemn those that are just buying into a dream? Most know they have a far bigger chance of having a nasty accident in a given week than becoming a lottery millionaire.

I suspect there are a number of parents up and down the country who thought they were doing the right thing by coercing their children to go to church every week. In most

(continued)

cases it will be to the church of their parent’s preference. Some decide to wait until a child is old enough to explore religion for themselves. People may feel even more justified by this approach when the horrors became apparent regarding sexually abusive church members. In my opinion, evangelism is a sin. I prefer to see churches open to those that want to enter on their own accord. How many are made to feel guilty for irregular attendance? As if showing up makes you a more decent individual.

I asked some people at the Plough Inn what they thought people should or should not do. One said that people ought to refrain from lying. Another stated that you should not cheat. The landlady proclaimed, “you shouldn’t lick the carpet”. When we tell people what they should do we can add “in my opinion” or change the sentence to something with “I prefer”. For example, “I prefer people to put their phone away at the dinner table” rather than “people should put their phone away at the dinner table”. This is of course evangelism too, for I am suggesting how we should be careful with the ‘ should’ word.

H Smith, Stoke Lacy

Thank you for all contributions received for this edition of the Cider Press. Any opinions expressed are those views of the individual contributors. Please send all contributions for the December edition to jjpw.davies@gmail.com by 15th of January 2019. Thank you and best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019.

**Plant your seeds now for
The Revival of the Stoke Lacy Flower and Produce
Show
Saturday 7th September 2019.**

As part of our successful Heritage Lottery Fund application we are reviving the former Stoke Lacy Flower Show which will be staged in the church and churchyard. Time to plan and dig for victory! The following is an initial outline of the classes planned.

Horticulture Section:

- Vase of specimen rose flowers (6)
- Vase of cut flowers (6)
- Vase of stems of flowering shrub (3)
- Flowering pot plant (25cms internal diameter)
- Flowering pot pelargonium (25cms internal diameter)
- Hosta in pot (25cms internal diameter)
- Vase of pansies (6)
- Runner beans (5) on a plate
- Beetroot (3) on a plate
- Carrots (4) on a plate

- Onions (5) on a plate
- Tomatoes (6) on a plate
- Raspberries (7) on a plate
- Marrow
- Cabbage
- Cucumber
- Collection of herbs
- Tallest sunflower in the parish
- Longest runner bean
- Flower arrangement (60 x 60 cms)
- Country garden (60 x 60 cms)
- Petite Jewel Box (25cms H x W x D)

Cookery Section:

- Chutney
- Jam
- Cakes
- Jam Tarts

Other sections such as photography may also be included.

Classes will be divided in to children of “16 and under” and “17 and over”.

There will be a range of relevant interesting stalls and by kind permission of Adrian and Gill the exceptional gardens of Dovecote Barn will be open.

Full details will follow in the next edition of the Cider Press.

What’s On

Sunday 2nd December 3.30pm Stoke Lacy Church : Christingle Service.

Monday 3rd December 11.30am Stoke Lacy Church: Memorial Service David McKeeman.

Tuesday 11th December Friendship Club Christmas Lunch Plough Inn.

Sunday 16th December 7pm Stoke Lacy Church : Carol Service.

Sunday 23rd December 3 pm : Crib Service Moreton Jefferies.

Tuesday 25th December 10am : Christmas Day Eucharist Service.

Sunday 6th January 3.30pm Stoke Lacy Church : Songs of Praise with afternoon tea.

Friday January 11th 10.30am Village Hall: Friendship Club.

Tuesday 15th January Village Hall: Friendship Club.

Saturday 26th January Stoke Lacy Village Hall: Burns Night Supper.

Further ahead

Saturday 6th July 2019 Stoke Lacy Church : Fete and Morgan Fest.

Saturday 7th September 2019 : Stoke Lacy Flower Show and Open Garden at Dovecote Barn.

Hugh Nicklin concludes his 'A History of Bromyard of the top of my head'.

The people of Bromyard hardly understood that Britain had been bankrupted by both world wars, and had lost the empire which had paid for its clean water, street lamps, new schools and benefits. There were still many receipts flowing into the country from former imperial territories and from overseas sales of British goods, which still had the reputation of being 'the best'. Though the small economy of Bromyard was not much affected by change, the great industries which had powered Britain's former greatness were now in trouble. Coal, iron, shipbuilding and steel suffered from competition. Railways were less in demand, and Bromyard lost its railway station to the Beeching Axe, but private cars and buses meant that it did not return to its pre-railway isolation. British motorbikes suddenly turned out to be significantly slower, more expensive and more unreliable than Japanese ones. Coalmines, ironworks and utilities were denationalised and closed or privatised. In Bromyard the names on some of the shops changed. The effects of this were masked by the bonanza of North Sea Oil, and the people of Bromyard, along with all the other people in Britain, remained in the top 20% of the world's wealthy.

The Labour Government of 1945 inaugurated a period of experimentation in social policy. For 5000 years it had generally been assumed that if you did not work you would starve. Housing had been a private matter, but now Bromyard saw council houses. The Labour government abolished the workhouses, Bromyard's workhouse closed.

Believing that the British Empire had been an engine of monstrous injustice, the Labour government gave away India. Given the bankruptcy which the Labour government inherited and its expensive programme of nationalisation and reform, the cost of continuing to rule India against its will would have forced the abandonment of India anyway. The bloodbath of Indian independence was caused by ethnic and religious conflict. It was announced that all former commonwealth citizens had the right to come to Britain. Conservative governments continued the policy. Britain absorbed many immigrants. A belief in the trading advantages, led to Bromyard voting in favour of the entry to the Common Market in 1975.

Meanwhile state secondary education had had a false start with the building of separate secondary schools and grammar schools. No one had thought out what a

suitable curriculum for secondary moderns should be. It was generally assumed that it would be a summary of human knowledge simplified and bowdlerised for children, the same as in the grammar schools. The results were quite shocking. Children did not learn much, and were often mutinous and hostile where it had been supposed that they would be grateful and civilised. This was wrongly interpreted by the government, which decided that it was the stigma of having been rejected that was causing the problem. Bromyard's Grammar school, which had like the others worked in a rough and ready way, went comprehensive. However, no-one had still any idea whether a summary of human knowledge was a good preparation for children.

In 1990 the Tory government decided that the schools were failing because they were beginning to modify their courses to meet the needs of the less able. The less able were being cheated of their chance to learn the simplified and bowdlerised summary of human knowledge, and so being deprived of the chance to become colonial administrators, quiz contestants or university lecturers. The National Curriculum of that year compelled all children to learn the summary of knowledge. Children in Bromyard and elsewhere had now to be bored, annoyed and humiliated learning eleven years of trivia before they could begin to think about employment or, even worse unemployment.

For 5000 years societies had generally condemned the use of hallucinogenic drugs and homosexuality. In the 1960s Bromyard had to deal with the new orthodoxy that these things were fine.

In the 1990s Bromyard's relative isolation, as a result of the replacement of railway by motor car access, suddenly began to disappear as computers made their appearance and with them the internet. A new inter-generational isolation began to appear as Bromyard's youth quickly mastered access to its own world of interests, whilst the older folks struggled with the new technology.

Britain's old industries were dying, and Bromyard responded with an imaginative plan to make itself the capital of festivals. Its calendar filled up with festivals of speed and scarecrows. Not having grown too fast it was slow to attract big supermarkets, and retained many small shops. The growth in the UK population saw Bromyard called upon to find space for 500 new houses. Bromyard's population was aging, and immigration, the rising cost of wonderful new treatments and the aging population impacted on the National Health Service. Bromyard was evenly divided on #Brexit, having neither major trading links with the European Union nor massive Muslim or Eastern European immigration. Resolutely middle English, it faced the future.



Live on Stage

- Dec 6th Oddsocks - Robin Hood and the Revolting Peasants 7.30 pm
- Dec 14th Folk in the Foyer - Dan Walsh and Alistair Anderson 7.30 pm
- Dec 21st Bromyard Wind Band Concert 7.30 pm
- Jan 11th Folk in the Foyer Granny's Attic 7.30 pm
- Feb 14th- 23rd Conquest Panto - Beauty & The Beast

Broadcasts

- Dec 9th ROH - The Nutcracker 2 pm
- Dec 15th NY Met - La Traviata 5.55 pm
- Dec 31st Berlin Philharmonic Concert 4 pm
- Jan 6th Andre Rieu Concert 3 pm
- Jan 13th The King and I 3 pm
- Jan 15th NT Live - The Tragedy of King Richard the Second 7 pm
- Jan 10th NT Live - Antony & Cleopatra 7 pm
- Jan 12th NY Met Adriana Lecouvreur
- Jan 22th ROH The Queen of Spades 7pm
- Jan 30th ROH La Traviata 7 pm
- Jan 31st NT Live - I'm Not Running 7 pm

Films 7.30 pm

- Dec 7th Mamma Mia - Here we Go Again
- Jan 4th Book Club
- Jan 18th The Happy Prince
- Jan 25th Monty Python & the Holy Grail

For full details of these and other events go to www.conquest-theatre.co.uk or call 01885 488575

