

The Chimes

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December 2025/January 2026 No 374

Your magazine for local news and services



Copy deadline for February edition: Saturday 10th January

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EDITORIAL

This issue covers the whole Christmas period and shows what a wide range of social and celebratory activities take place in our villages. It is a time when people who would not otherwise do so venture into churches for that taste of Christmas tradition that carols and services provide. It is also a time for families to enjoy together and there is no doubt that village organisations are mindful of the needs of younger family members in the variety of events which they produce at this time of year

As a bit of a film buff, I am particularly pleased to see the arrival of our very own film festival, organised by local people who recognise the changing social needs of the villages and have taken the time and trouble to stitch together a very fine mini-festival at an affordable price. It will also be a chance to meet students from the University of Gloucestershire who are studying film and TV production and are producing their own work for us to see. I well remember the 2022 film *Inland*, made by a very young film-maker from Gloucester and set in the Forest of Dean and the city, which featured award-winning actor Mark Rylance. Perhaps one of these students will turn out to be as talented as Fridtjof Ryder.

Local talent is very much in demand by us at the moment — we at *The Chimes* are in desperate need of editorial help, both on the print version and the website. Please ask around for someone to step forward and make my Christmas happy — as I hope yours will be!

Cover: Christmas pictures from Years 3 and 4 at Lea Primary School

The Saturday of the first week of each month, prior to publication is our deadline for submitting copy, and is confirmed on the front cover. If in doubt, please contact your sub-editor — their details are in the heading of each section. PHOTOGRAPHS are very welcome to illustrate news reports and should be a minimum of 300 dpi for the magazine or less for the website. Events included in *The Chimes* will be limited to a 2-month in advance cut-off. If beyond this please resend. Thank you

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

Owls

For a month or so, owls have been making their calls during the early evening — even earlier now the clocks have changed. For the most part these seem to be Little and Tawny owls. I am not an expert in bird calls, but what wonderful sounds they make, just as the sky darkens, the air chills and all else is quiet and still.

It is amazing to be living within the bounds of this free display from nature.

I like to think I help the owls by encouraging small mammals to live in certain areas through creating a good habitat for them. It is difficult to know how helpful I am to the owls, but I do know a cat likes to hunt in the same area.

Owls are mostly nocturnal in their habits so are not often viewable. If you do see an owl, it is likely to be a Little Owl. They can be seen perched on top of posts, where they stay absolutely still and so not easy to spot.

Peter Lockwood



Little Owl on a post

COMBINED VILLAGE NEWS

Community Equipment Service – Important Update

The Community Equipment Service, previously run by NRS Healthcare on behalf of Herefordshire Council, is now provided by Hoople.

If you, or your family members, have assistive equipment such as shower stools, toilet frames, chairs and beds labelled *NRS Healthcare* that need to be returned or repaired, please contact the Community Equipment Service on 01432 261 818 or email communityequipmentservice@hoopleltd.co.uk.

Please note that crutches and Zimmer frames should be returned to the hospital or local authority after use.

Linton & District History Society — upcoming talks

3rd December – John Putley - *A Gloucestershire Christmas*

January – *No talk this month*

4th February – Gillian White - *Mary, Queen of Scots*

4th March – Roger Davies - *Korea and the Glorious Glosters* (Chairman's Lecture)

1st April – AGM and Teresa Squires - *National Trust Pot Pourri*

The Society meets at 7 for 7:30pm at Linton Village Hall. All are welcome - Guest fee is £5 per talk. For further information please contact the Chairman - Roger Davies (rogerdavies1@sky.com) or the Secretary - Teresa Squires (sec.lintonhistosoc@gmail.com)

The Ashbourne Family Saga

The season of good cheer has arrived, and George is in a benevolent mood, much to the relief of his sister Annabel. However care has to be taken, the period of mourning for a spouse is twelve months, but nevertheless the demands of business must be attended to. There is much to be done.

Read the whole story only in *The Chimes Online* at www.thechimes.org.uk, then select Extras, Info & Blogs, then Historical Blog. It's all there.

Dorian Osborne

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ROB THE RAINMAN

RAINFALL REPORT

October's total was 56.6mm which was 30% below the average. The first 18 days were largely dry with a decent amount (9.1mm) on the 3rd and small amounts on the 2nd, 12th and 13th.

The first named storm of the season, Amy, was on the 4th, so we had a very windy day. Despite the dry weather, sunshine was in short supply: in fact I noted only the 5th and 6th as lovely days with most of the rest covered by the comment "dull, lots of cloud and misty at times." This was down to a prolonged period of anti-cyclonic gloom.

From the 19th onward only the 21st and 27th were totally dry. The 19th saw 8.5mm and the 28th 10.6mm. Daylight time for the 22nd and 24th was noted as nice. And in fact the month was the third dullest October since records began, with about 30% less sunshine than normal. That was a shame as the autumn colours were pretty good this year, when the sun did make an appearance.

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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS



Sub-editor:
Mike Clayton

07803 975398

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Church News

Remembrance Service

We were delighted to welcome a full Church including representatives from Aston Ingham Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers. Union flag & Scout flags paraded, before they were placed on the altar. Wreaths were laid by the Parochial Church Council, Scouts and Beavers at the memorial and the names of the fallen from the Aston Ingham Parish were read out. The collection was for the Royal British Legion.

Coming Up

Carol Service	Wednesday December 17th at 6.30pm. A traditional service of favourite carols and readings. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas Day	Thursday 25th December. Parish Communion 10.30am

Church Information

Vicar Reverend David Howell 07903 790049 revdavidhowell@icloud.com
Reverend Ewan Gillings 07568 515628 revgillings@gmail.com
Churchwarden James Harding 07749 188185 daffodil.rose1968@gmail.com

Village News & Events

W.I. Competition

Our recent W.I. competition has wrapped up, and what a wonderful celebration of creativity it was! This season's theme, "Autumn," inspired a stunning array of entries, each capturing the beauty and warmth of the season in unique ways.

A big thank you to Dr. Gillian White, who kindly served as our judge. After much deliberation, Mary Wheller's exquisite sugar-paste flower scene (see *above right*) bloomed its way to first place!

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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

Lindy Lathan took second, and June Green came in third — congratulations to both, and to everyone who took part. Your talent and effort made this competition truly special!

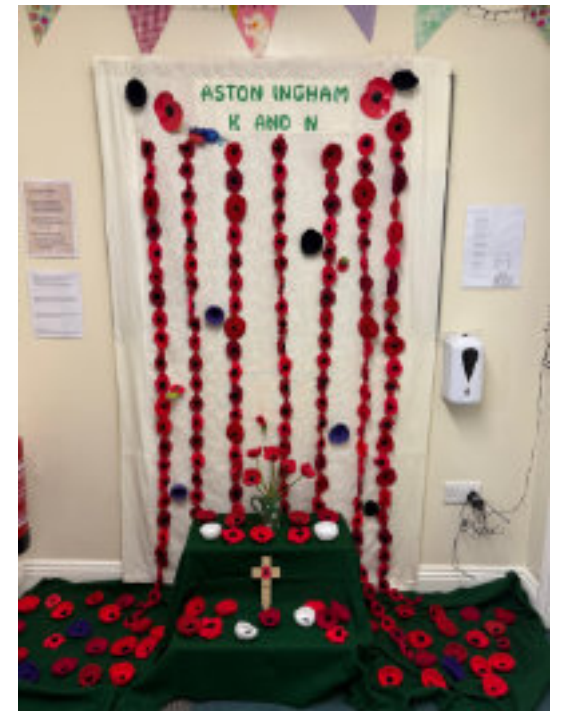
Knit and Natter poppies

Since 2018, the Knit and Natter group has been knitting beautiful poppies — originally crafted as pins to wear in remembrance. Over the past seven years, our display in the Village Hall foyer has continued to grow, each year blossoming with more handmade poppies created with care and community spirit.

This year, we introduced purple poppies to our display (right), honouring the horses that served and were lost during the Great War — a heartfelt tribute to all who sacrificed, both human and animal alike.

Paul Evans returns as the W.I. speaker

On 11th November, Paul returned to our Village Hall with a brand-new talk filled with festive anecdotes and charming Christmas-themed poems. Despite the (very necessary!) road closures, more than 20 W.I. members made it through to enjoy an afternoon of laughter and lively storytelling. Paul's quick wit and sharp observations kept everyone thoroughly entertained from start to finish.



ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

Forthcoming events at the Village Hall

What's On	When	Details	Information & Booking
Village Hall Committee Meeting	Tuesday 2 nd December at 7pm and Tuesday 6 th January at 11:30 am	December is the AGM January is the monthly meeting of the Village Hall Committee.	Sue Harding 01989 720528
Country Dancing	Friday 5 th December and Friday 2 nd January at 7 pm	If you'd like to join us, you'd be most welcome. Any age, ability, or gender. No partner needed. £3 per person	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Aston Ingham W.I.	Tuesday 9 th December and Tuesday 13 th January both at 1:45 am	December will be our Christmas meeting which takes on more of a party atmosphere, in January our speaker will be Keith Ray 'Stop thinking - start living'	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Crochet Club	Tuesday 11 th December and Thursday 8 th January, both at 2 pm	This group meets in the committee room at the Village Hall. All are welcome; you don't have to crochet, but we have a teacher on hand if you would like to learn. Come and join a great group! £2.50 per person includes refreshments.	Tania Clayton 01989 720229 or 07796 955424
Christmas Coffee Morning	Friday 12 th December at 10.30 am	There will be sausage rolls & mince pies & mulled wine & cards, books & puzzles & 2 giant Christmas hampers to be raffled.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Short Mat Bowls	Friday 12 th December and Friday 9 th January both at 2 pm	If you'd like to join us, please come along, you'd be very welcome. We are a very friendly group, and our bowling is non-competitive. £3 per person	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Pop Up Pub	Saturday 20 th December and Saturday 10 th January, both 7 pm.	Fabulous to see more people popping in for a drink and a chat. Give it a try!	Tania Clayton 01989 720229 or 07796 955424
Knit and Natter	Tuesday 20 th January at 2 pm	All welcome, you don't have to knit just come along & join in the natter. £2.50 per person includes refreshments.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Burns Night	Saturday 24 th January at 7 pm	A fabulous haggis supper plus amazing puddings followed by (optional) country dancing to finish off the evening	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Book Club and Coffee Morning	Friday 30 th January at 10:30 am	There will be the usual selection of cakes. Puzzles & books can be borrowed & Cobalt Charity cards are available to purchase.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Aston Ingham Reading Group	First Saturday of every month 09:30 – 11:00 am	No book in December. January 2026 <i>Where Angels Fear to Tread</i> by E.M.Foster	Jan Falkiner 07899 728346

ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

Dates for your diary

The Village Hall AGM will be held on **Tuesday 2nd December**. Please come along with your ideas & support. As you will have read in last month's Chimes the hall needs to raise £30,000 to repair the floor. We are a small committee & work hard to maintain the hall for everyone, please help us in any way you can, it will be much appreciated

There will now be a bar at all Village Hall Events & we take cards as well as cash.

To book Village Hall Events, please get in touch with Janet on 01452 830556 or 07340 078520

General Village Information

To hire Aston Ingham Village Hall, contact Sue Harding 01989 720528 or email suejharding1948@gmail.com

Wheelchair availability

We have a wheelchair stored in the Village Hall for communal use. Contact Janet Potter



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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

100 Club

We have room for more players. If you have not yet joined and would like to, please get in touch at treasurer-AIVH@hotmail.com

October winners: 1st H Hobbs - £18, 2nd June and Rob Green - £13, 3rd Yvette Roberts - £7.

June and Rob kindly donated their win to the Village Hall.

Cards wanted

Wanted: Christmas and greeting cards to recycle into new cards. We now have our own group of ladies making cards for the Cobalt Unit. We have a box in the hall lobby for your old cards & stamps & a card stand with cards for sale.

For more details, please get in touch with Janet 01452 830556 or 07340 078520.

Church Cleaning

If anyone would like to join our cleaning rota, please get in touch with Janet 01452 830556. We split the Church into sections to make it easier and to ensure that no one person has too much to do. The more helpers, the less work for everyone



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ASTON INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Below are the headlines of our work. We advise you to regularly check the Parish Council website www.astoningham-pc.gov.uk for up-to-the-minute news and information.

Welcome to SID

If you've driven through the village recently, you've probably noticed a new addition keeping a watchful eye on our roads — SID the Speed Indicator Device.

Flashing up your speed as you pass, this clever bit of kit is here to remind everyone to take it steady through the village and keep our community safe.

SIDs installation has been a true team effort, and our thanks go to Councillors Nigel Smith, John Whatley, and Chris Yates, who have worked hand in hand with our ever reliable lengthsman Terry Griffiths to bring the project to life. Their effort means we now have not only a visible deterrent to speeding but also a powerful tool for understanding traffic trends in our area.

But the story doesn't end here. SID will record valuable data on vehicle speeds and traffic flow, helping us identify patterns and problem times. This information will inform ongoing discussions with the Speedwatch Group and West Mercia Police, ensuring any necessary action is well-informed and backed by real data.

We'll be sharing updates and findings in future Briefing Notes, and there will be opportunities to discuss them at upcoming Parish Council meetings. So, keep an eye out — both on the road and online — as we continue working together to make our village a safer place for everyone.

Annual Budget

We've already started preparing for the year ahead and look forward to talking with you all about the exciting projects planned to keep improving our Parish!

As we head into the festive season, the Parish Council sends warm wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a bright, successful New Year. Thank you to our amazing Councillors and Clerk — your hard work and dedication make all the difference.

Maggie Pettit, Chair



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GORSLEY NEWS




Sub-editor:
Laura Carroll

07837 485929

laurajones13@hotmail.com

If you have any special news, events or ideas about what you would like to see in the Gorsley section of the magazine, please get in touch!

Gorsley Village Hall

Winter Quiz - Friday 5th December at 7.30pm £5.00 with teams up to 5 and with soup and roll supper. Please ring 07969 030809 if interested.

100 Club - winners for November are: £25.00 - Anne Course, £10.00 - Dorothy Hillier and £5.00 - Mark Yates. Funds raised by the 100 Club are for improvements to the village hall, including lighting and heating.

New for 2026 – 5 Villages Film Festival

Thursday 19th February

'Mrs Lowry & Son' at Gorsley Village Hall - Doors open 6.15 for 7pm.

Gorsley Village Hall is delighted to be taking part in the first 5 Villages Film Festival. We will be showing *Mrs Lowry & Son*, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Spall, the story of the painter L.S. Lowry and his relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him from pursuing painting.

There will also be a short film (or two) from students of the BA(Hons) Film & TV Production course at the University of Gloucestershire, and we hope they will be there to talk about their work and meet the audience. There will be a bar, sweet treats and snacks, quite possibly ice-cream and we're hoping for freshly made popcorn too! So please come and support the festival and emerging film makers at the beginning of their careers.

To be certain of a ticket, please book in advance online using TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival, £5 (plus 42p fee). Tickets may also be available at Gorsley Post Office. Any unsold tickets will be available on the door.

Our committee meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We always welcome new people to help us put on a programme of activities to involve the village and to raise money for the hall's maintenance.

For more information please contact: gorsleyvh@gmail.com
Hall Secretary, Anne Course: oldmole@btinternet.com
Hall Bookings Secretary, Margaret Evans: margaretaevans@yahoo.com

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GORSLEY NEWS

Family Christmas Fun at Gorsley Village Hall

Saturday 20th December at 7pm
Santa will be attending in his grotto. There'll also be a disco, raffle and cash bar. Lots of fun for everyone! All profits to local charities. Please text or call Jo for tickets on 07910 745730. £5 per adult, £10 for all the family. (Event arranged by the Linton Road Fundraising Group, AKA Gorsley Aviation Society - GAS)



Gorsley Community Shop & Post Office Christmas Hampers Now Available

Give the gift of festive flavour this year with our beautifully wrapped Christmas hampers, filled with delicious seasonal treats, biscuits, chocolates, chutneys, and more!

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★ Available now at your Community Shop – but hurry, they're selling fast! A message from Post Office staff... **Sending parcels** abroad this Christmas? Changes in customs requirements mean that we will need to ask where the item inside was made, the value and description. Please help us to have this information to hand when you come in to post your parcels. Don't forget to post early for Christmas.

If you need to contact the shop, please telephone 01989 721233 or email manager@gorsleycommunityshop.co.uk

A Message from Jacky

As I stand down from my Manager role at the shop and post office at the end of December, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the wonderful volunteers and staff who have supported me during my time at the shop; and to all the lovely customers that I have grown to know both personally and professionally. I will miss seeing you all, but will hopefully still see you out and about around the village. Happy Christmas.

Dear Jacky,

From all your colleagues, volunteers and customers here in Gorsley and further afield - thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to our wonderful Gorsley Community Shop and Post Office. You will be hugely missed.



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GORSLEY NEWS

Christmas Events at Gorsley Baptist Church

Through December we have a number of events leading up to Christmas for all ages. We would love to see you, including at our regular Sunday services at 10.30am:

- **Christmas Community Lunch**, Wednesday 3rd December 12.00: for those 55 years and over**
- **Let's Explore Christmas**, Sunday 7th December 10.30-12.30: an all-age interactive morning to explore the Christmas story. There will be crafts, activity stations and refreshments.
- **Christmas Cake Decorating**, Monday 8th December 19.00: decorating your own ready iced cake, including supper**
- **Christmas Ceilidh**, Saturday 13th December, 16.00: a fun family evening, including a light supper**
- **Christmas Movie Night**, Sunday 14th December, 17.00: a chill out family evening with large screen movie
- **Community Carol Service** (with brass band), Sunday 21st December, 17.00
- **Christmas Eve Christingle Service**, Wednesday 24th December, 17.00
- **Christmas Day Family Service**, Thursday 25th December, 10.30

**Please book for marked events with Gorsley Baptist Church Office

01989 720312 office@gorsleybaptist.church

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2026.

Christ Church Gorsley

Carols and mince pies!

As cold December winds blow and the special time of Advent begins, we warmly welcome you to our December services which are usually held on each Sunday morning at 10.30am.

But please note that our Carol Service is on **Saturday 20th December** at 4pm. It is always a lovely traditional time of music, carols and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies! (On Sunday 28th the benefice service is at St. Mary's, Newent so no service at Christ Church that day). From everyone here at church we wish you all a very good and peaceful Christmas.

For further details of any of our services, please contact gorsleychurch@btinternet.com

Gorsley and District Garden Club

Our next meeting is on **Monday 19th January 2026** at 7.30pm in Gorsley Village Hall. This is our annual Seed Swap and Quiz followed by complimentary tea / coffee and biscuits. There is an entry charge of £3 for visitors and non-members.

Seed swap - please bring along any seeds that you have to share. These can be seeds that you or your friends have harvested over the past year or any excess or unwanted commercial seeds. Don't worry if you don't have any seeds to swap, there are usually plenty to go round.

Quiz - taking part is a fun way to share or pick up gardening knowledge. The room will be set up into tables of four, just come along and sit at a table and have a go. There will be prizes!

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GORSLEY NEWS

Newent & District Probus Club

If you're a retired or semi-retired man looking for something enjoyable and social to fill your winter months, why not come along and see what we're all about? We meet at 10.00 am on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Gorsley Village Hall, where meetings begin with tea and coffee followed by a guest speaker presenting on a wide variety of interesting subjects. Upcoming talks include Miscarriages of Justice, Antarctica – Life on the Ice, and The Arcane, Bizarre & Witchy.

Beyond our twice-monthly meetings, members and their partners enjoy a lively social calendar that includes monthly pub lunches, a summer garden party, quiz and skittles evenings, and visits to local places of interest.

We're a welcoming and sociable group, and there's no obligation to join – just come along to a meeting and see if it's for you.

For more information, please visit our website: www.newentprobus.com or contact our Club Secretary: newentprobus23@gmail.com

Kilcot & Gorsley WI

Visitors are welcome, we are very informal and don't sing Jerusalem except on special occasions! For more information, call Anne Course on 07951 819051

Community Library

The library is located in the shed next to Gorsley Village Hall – mind your head as you go in! There is a good selection of books, DVDs, video games and jigsaws to borrow on a 'trust-based' system.

Karate

Karate classes take place at Gorsley Village Hall on Friday evenings from 6.30pm. For further details, please contact Pam Bennett: farimonds@gmail.com

Bingo

Bingo is held at Gorsley Village Hall on every 4th Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The cost is £5 for 6 games with a break halfway through.

Pilates

6-week classes are held on Wednesday evenings at Gorsley Village Hall. Please contact Alex Hall for upcoming dates/further details: alexhallphysiopilates@outlook.com or the website: <https://alexhallphysiopilate.wixsite.com/website>

Yoga

Thursday mornings at Gorsley Village Hall: Mat Yoga 9.30-10.30am and Chair Yoga 10.45-11.30am.

Contact Jeni: jeni@jenihowland.com for more details and to book a place.

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LEA NEWS



Sub-editor:
Angela Kirton

07474 378806

kirtona150@gmail.com

When I moved to this part of South Herefordshire three years ago, I was told by a friend who was born in Much Marcle that the locally accepted name for our village is 'The Lea', rather than simply 'Lea', which is the formal name used in maps and road signage.

Since then, I have adopted this rather quaint local usage myself and have noticed that 'The Lea' is frequently used by people I come across. I also discovered that even Lea village's *Wikipedia* page refers to 'The Lea' as an alternative name. But I have always wanted to know when, in the history of the village, the 'The' started being applied to 'Lea'. Our local historian, David Mullin, explains all on the centre pages of this issue.

Angela Kirton

News from Lea Church

Hello everyone and I hope this finds you all well and getting ready for Christmas! At the church we have had our last fundraiser of the year with the Craft Fayre and Soup Bar. Now it's all downhill to the big day!

Christmas services:

Sunday 30th November at 6pm, Advent Carol service with refreshments served afterwards.

Sunday 21st December at 4.30pm, Carols by Torchlight at Lea Village Hall (unless weather is uncooperative, then in Lea Church!!) Mulled wine and mince pies.

Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm, Midnight Communion Service.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at one or all of our Christmas services!

After all this Christmas activity, we at the church can then put our feet up for a while! I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank-you to all of you who have supported our events, by either taking part, donating, sponsoring or advertising our programme, we couldn't do it without you all!!

We start fundraising again in the New Year and if you have any ideas for events, or there is something you think we could put on, please do let us know,

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LEA NEWS

we are always looking for new ideas. Just give me a ring on 01989 750808 or email me at cornagefarm1@btinternet.com with any suggestions - clean ones only please!

The PCC would like to say thank you again to Bob Taylor and his wife Anne, the churchyard looks fantastic and Bob is getting his teeth into the necessary repairs and maintenance we need to undertake (so more fundraising then!)

On a less fun note - if you are leaving, or clearing flowers on a grave, please can you take your rubbish home with you. We no longer have facilities for rubbish bins in the churchyard and it is such a shame when people leave their rubbish for someone else to pick up. It also makes our now beautifully kept churchyard look unnecessarily untidy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this.

Our 'Warm Space' area is now up and running with timer switches for heating and lighting. If you want somewhere warm to go, or just need a warm space to yourself for a while, please do use this facility, it is for everyone!

I think all that remains now is for me to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year! See you all in 2026!!

God bless all,

Marion Martin, Churchwarden

News from Lea CE Primary

Autumn Term in Rowan Class (Years 3 & 4) – A Journey Back to the Stone Age! It has been an incredible term in Rowan Class, as we have travelled thousands of years back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Stone Age! Our young historians have been captivated by discovering how people lived and worked during this remarkable period of history.

We have explored the different stages of the Stone Age, learning about how early humans made their tools, hunted for food, and fashioned their clothing from what nature provided. One of our favourite activities was creating beautiful cave art, using handprints and natural colours to bring ancient stories to life – just as people did all those years ago!

The highlight of our learning journey was a fantastic trip to the Museum in the Park in Stroud, where the children had the chance to explore real Stone Age tools and fossils. They took part in hands-on activities that truly brought history off the page and made it come alive. The excitement and wonder on the children's faces said it all – it really was an unforgettable experience!

At Lea CE Primary School and Gateway Lodge Nursery, every day is an adventure in learning, discovery, and joy. We would love to welcome you to come and see our amazing school community in action. To arrange a visit, please contact Rachel in the school office on 01989 750296 or email admin@lea-primary.hereford.sch.uk We can't wait to meet you and show you why, at Lea, "Everyone counts!"

Lea Play and Chat

Play and Chat are well into Christmas now, lots of glitter, sticking and Christmas songs. Our last session for 2025 will be on **December 12th**. We are starting

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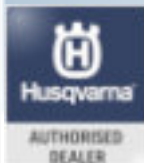
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LEA NEWS

again on **January 9th** and are looking forward to meeting with everyone. We would like to thank Mrs Vines and all the staff and kitchen staff at school for the continued support they give the group.

A date for the diary for the 2026: **Wednesday April 1st** we will be holding an Animal Interactive session in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm; £6.00 a child. A big thank you to the Nourse Charity for the kind donation towards this activity.

We meet every Friday (Term time only) in Lea Primary School Hall, 9.00-10.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome. For any queries contact Carolyn 07765 555588.

We would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Lea Village Hall

As we move into 2026, I wonder how many of you will be considering New Year Resolutions? Maybe to socialise more, or to get fitter and healthier! With that in mind, here is a reminder of what is going on at Lea Village Hall on a weekly regular basis, for residents of Lea, or from other local villages who might like to attend.

Monday - Yoga 9.10 – 10.10am. Brownies in term time 5.45 – 7.15pm

Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls 7.30 – 9.30pm. Beginners welcome too

Thursday - Keep Fit (older people but anyone welcomed) 11.30 – 1.00pm. Let's talk Spanish 3.00 – 4.00 pm (led by a native Spanish speaker). Yoga 6.30 – 7.30pm

Friday - Painting Group 9.30am – 12 noon (newcomers welcome)

Saturday - Breathwork class 9.00 – 10.30am

Monthly Coffee Morning the first Wednesday of each month from 10.00 - 11.30am

Monthly Lunch Club, the last Wednesday of each month from 12.00 - 2.00pm. Reservation and bookings to Nicky Keef 07718 065946 (waiting list).

Monthly LRA Bingo, Wednesdays 17th December, 21st January and 11th February 7.00 for 7.30pm

Parish Council bi-monthly meetings, next one on 28th January 7.00 – 9.00pm

All contact details are on the "Events page" of our website www.leavillagehall.com

We would also welcome residents to join other volunteers helping maintain the village hall. It is a valuable asset to Lea, run by a small group of local friendly people. For more information, please contact me at: sylvia.nicholls@btinternet.com 07817 473813

Sylvia Nicholls (Chair)

Lea Café Christmas Coffee Morning

All Lea residents are welcome - please do come along. It's on **Wednesday 3rd December** from 10am at the village hall. As it's our nearest meeting to Christmas, there will be mince pies and mulled wine alongside the usual cake and coffee. We also hope to have the children from the school join us to sing a few Christmassy songs. Of course, the books, sales table and raffle will be going on too. We look forward to you dropping in for a bit of Christmas Spirit.

LEA NEWS

The first coffee morning of 2026 will be on **Wednesday 7th January**, same place, same time.

If you have any questions or need a lift, contact Gill Davis on 01981 750442 or email: gilldavis55@hotmail.com

Lea Lunch Club

The Christmas lunch club event was enjoyed by over 70 guests who all enjoyed mulled wine, a traditional festive feast and live entertainment provided by Mark Bowyer. Thank you to everyone for once again making this such a special event. We meet again in January and look forward to seeing everyone again. We have a waiting list for the lunch, so if you're interested in coming along, please speak to Nicky on 07718 065946. Priority is always given to Lea residents.

Lea Friday Painters

Join us at our regular Friday morning meetings at the village hall, starting at 9.00am. Hope to see you there. For any queries contact Di Brice: 01989 750403.

Lea Village Hall 100 Club winners for October

1st Prize £25 - Gwynneth Beard
2nd Prize £10 - Rosie Parks
3rd Prize £5 - Sally Watkins

Christmas festivities at The Crown Inn

It is the first Christmas since our local pub re-opened and the staff are looking forward to celebrating with the following activities:

Monday 8th Dec - Festive quiz at 8pm

Sunday 14th Dec - Carol Singers from 3pm-4pm

Sunday 14th Dec - Santa's Grotto from 12noon -4pm

Sunday 21st Dec - Santa's Grotto from 12noon - 4pm

Please look out for posters and more details on the above events as well as for Christmas opening hours.

The Lea Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 28th January 2026** at 7.00-9.00pm in the Village Hall. Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on Lea Parish Council webpage www.theleaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Questions to the council can be sent via the Clerk to clerk@theleaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please come along to the next meeting, meet the new Chairperson, Martin, and be involved in decisions for the village.

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in defibrillator and bleed kit training. This will be planned for the new year.

G Richards



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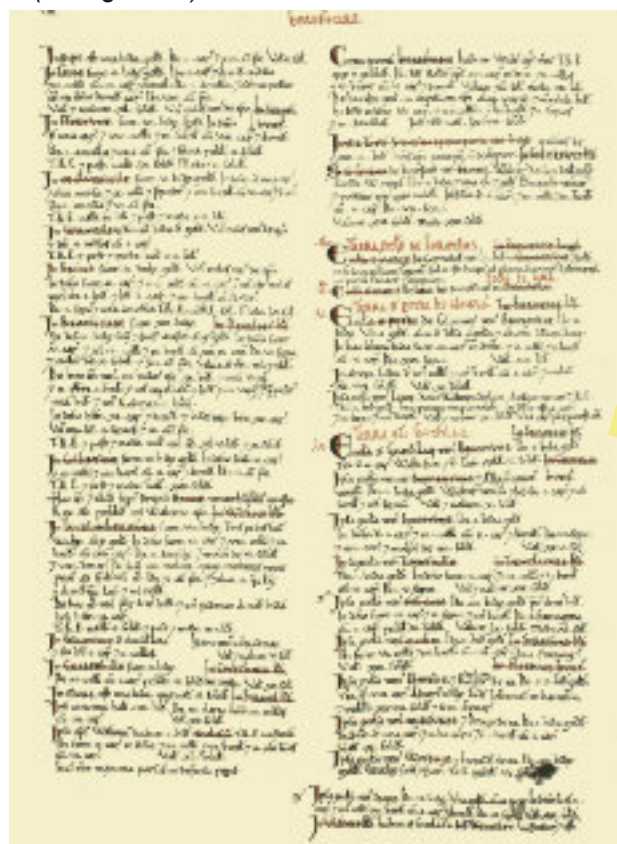
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LEA – WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Toponymy, the study of place names, is a search for origins. Many names are old, given by the first settlers and they mean, or meant, something. They have been described as 'linguistic fossils'. Language changes over time. Meanings get lost.

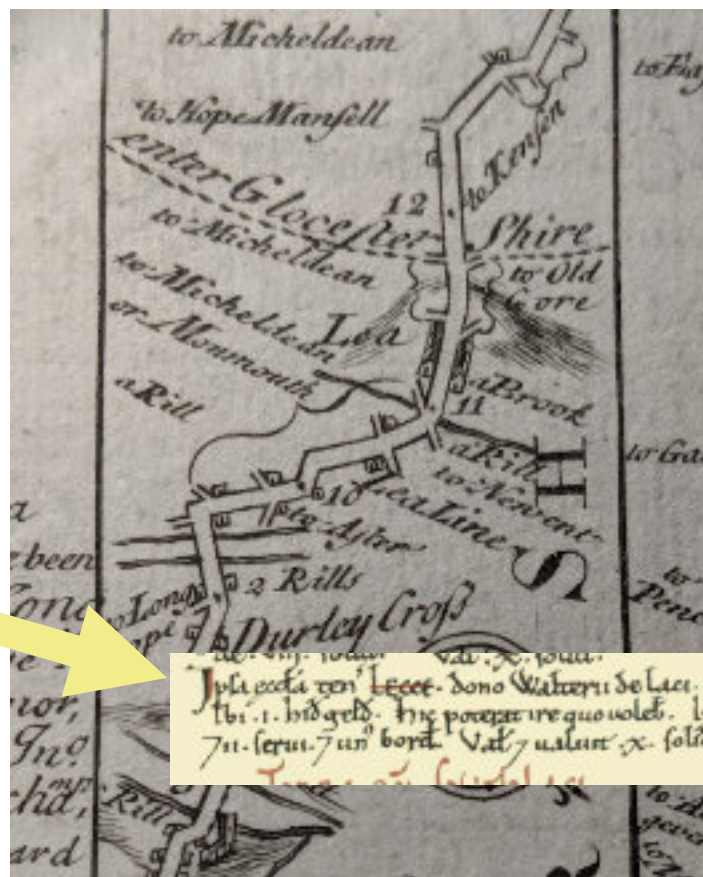
English place names have been studied since the eighteenth century, when antiquarians first became interested in local history. The task requires skills which

Main illustration: a road map from 1753 showing Lea and Lea Lines; below, a page from the Domesday Book showing the reference to 'Lecce' (enlargement)



few possess, not least the ability to read medieval manuscripts and knowledge of the older languages that Norman scribes rendered into Latin.

In 1866 Judge W H Cooke proposed two alternative meanings for Herefordshire 'ley' place names: 'untilled ground' or 'a manor'. In 1916 the Reverend A T Bannister suggested 'a meadow'. Today, neither is thought to be correct.



Place name studies were put on a more secure footing with the foundation of the English Place-Name Society, in 1923. The society has, so far, published ninety-six volumes explaining the origin and meaning of place names. Gloucestershire is covered by four volumes but, as yet, there are none for Herefordshire. In the meantime, we have

the benefit of the 'Dictionary of English Place Names' by A D Mills and 'Herefordshire Place Names' by Bruce Coplestone-Crow.

Many places are first recorded in the Domesday Book, compiled in 1086 by order of William the Conqueror. So it is with The Lea, which appears as **Lecce**.

It has long been known that the Norman scribes had difficulty with those Old English words, which used sounds not present in Norman French. Perhaps this is an example. Mills suggests that 'Lecce' can be identified with the Old English 'leah', a clearing (in woodland). So too does Coplestone-Crow, who finds parallels elsewhere. It is written as 'Leche' in the mid-twelfth century and as 'La Le(e)' in several thirteenth century documents, from which it comes down to us as 'The Lea'.

So far, so good, but The Lea is named 'Lacu' in a document dated 1201. Bruce Coplestone-Crow writes that this is 'erratic and presumably erroneous'. Mistake or not, it does recur, mainly in documents relating to the Forest of Dean, throughout the thirteenth century. Lacu is an Old English word for a stream. This has led to the suggestion that The Lea might be named not for a clearing in the woods but for the Rudhall Brook, which flows through the village. But, if the identification of Lecce with Leah is correct, then Lacu must be scribal error.

There is no castle at The Lea, so how did Castle End get its name? There was a castle at Eccleswall, less than a mile to the north, held by the Talbot family, lords of one of the two medieval manors of Lea. This was the end of The Lea nearest to the castle. Perhaps the explanation is as simple as that.

And what of Lea Line? The name has nothing to do with ley lines (discovered or invented in 1921) or the Gloucester to Hereford railway (completed in 1855), which ran through a tunnel beneath. It is much older than either. The 'Line' element is probably derived from 'hlinc', an Old English word for a ridge, so the name means something like 'the place on the ridge at Lea' and it may have been in use for a thousand years or more.

David Mullin

5 VILLAGES FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing emerging filmmakers from BA Film & TV Production at the University of Gloucestershire alongside thought-provoking feature films

Sat 31st January

A Private Function (18)
A darkly comic tale of class struggle, ambition, and one very important pig in the austere aftermath of World War II.
Pauntley Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm

Sat 7th February

Isle Of Dogs (PG)
Wes Anderson's visually stunning animated story of loyalty and friendship between a boy and his lost dog set in a dystopian Japan of the future.
Linton Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm

Sat 14th February

The Way We Were (PG)
Against the backdrop of political turmoil, a fiery activist and a privileged writer forge a complex, enduring romance that defies societal expectations.
Huntley Village Hall
Doors 2:15pm for 3pm

Thur 19th February

Mrs Lowry & Son (PG)
Trapped between artistic passion and maternal disapproval, a painter fights to validate his unique vision against his mother's relentless criticism.
Gorsley Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm

Fri 27th February

Shoplifters (15)
In the margins of Tokyo, a found family navigates survival, love, and moral ambiguity through an unconventional journey of human resilience.
Clifford's Mesne Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm

Tickets available on the door, at all usual village outlets and online
[TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival)

Tickets £5*
*plus 42p booking fee when using ticketsource.co.uk

A new venture for the villages

The **5 Villages Film Festival** is a new month-long event, beginning on 31 January 2026, which brings award-winning feature films and thought-provoking shorts by student filmmakers to rural communities across the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire borders, May Hill and Forest of Dean. It's a chance for audiences to enjoy the best international cinema and hear powerful voices from a new generation of talented, local filmmakers, all in their nearby village hall.

During the festival, each village hall will have its own characterful take on the total cinematic experience, be that freshly made popcorn, farm-made ice cream, home-made cake, locally produced beer, wine and cider and a warm welcome. Whatever it is, it will be good quality and great value for money.

Just as important is the festival's showcasing of powerful new work by filmmakers at the start of their careers. Each feature film will be preceded by a short film (or two) by students from the BA (Hons) Film and TV Production course at the University of Gloucestershire. To be able to offer emerging film and TV makers a platform to show their award-winning work to an audience who might not otherwise get to see new contemporary filmmaking is an incredibly enriching element of the festival, giving audiences opportunities to engage in Q&As with the students.

To be certain of a ticket, book in advance online using [TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival) (plus 42p booking fee), and usual village outlets. Unsold tickets will be available on the door.

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS



Sub-editor:
John Lancaster

01989 720642

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THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

Laurence Binyon - For the Fallen



The Annual Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 9th November. Members of our community congregated at the Churchyard Cross in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Linton to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This was followed by a service inside the church.

News from St Mary's Church

Christmas tree blessing and light switch on

Get your Christmas Season off to a great start with the Blessing of the Christmas Tree & Light Switch On at 5.30 pm on **Saturday 6th December**, finishing with a few carols outside around the brazier. The event will also include refreshments and a chance to buy your Cobalt Christmas Cards. The church will be candlelit and decorated ready for the season so do come along.

Bible Book Club

We will be holding the first **Bible Book Club** on **Sunday 14th December** at Wrens Nest. The idea is much the same as a secular book club. We choose a book of the Bible to read over the month and then meet and discuss it.

December's book is **Ruth**, a book which seems on the surface to be a simple love story but has a lot to say on how we treat strangers and aliens, kindness, faithfulness and redemption. All are very welcome; each month will be stand-alone so please drop in. We will choose the book for the Book Club meeting on **Sunday January 11th** at the December meeting.

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

Carol Service

The Linton Village Carol Service is at **5.30 pm** on **Sunday 21st December**. This year we are basing the service on the Nine Lessons and Carols, a service which started just over 100 years ago as a response to the devastation of the First World War. I'm not sure we will rival King's College, Cambridge but it promises to be a lovely event, singing carols in a candlelit church. Mince pies and refreshments afterwards.

Crib Service

For many the Crib Service marks the start of Christmas. It will be at **4pm** on **Christmas Eve**. There will be a rehearsal earlier in the week for narrators and main parts but you can just turn up. Please feel free to come dressed as your favourite character from the Christmas Story. At the event you can also receive details of the **12 Days of Christmas Treasure Hunt**.

Christmas Day

The Christmas Communion Service will be at **11am** on Christmas Day. Even if you are not able to come to a service over Christmas, please try to visit St Mary's. It is open during daylight hours and is sure to be beautifully decorated for Christmas, as we are blessed with many talented flower arrangers.

Christingle Service

The Morning Worship on **18th January** will take the form of a **Christingle Service**. **Christingle Services** began in the Moravian church in 1747 but have more recently been used by the Children's Society as an opportunity to focus on their work. It involves sweets, candles and oranges so what's not to love! Everyone welcome. Start at **11:00 am**. Collection in aid of the Children's Society.

Thefts

Please be vigilant of any suspicious activity around or in the church. We have had a number of incidences of minor thefts and damage, including breaking the padlock to the shed. Most recently a fold-up table has disappeared from the church. We would very much like to continue to have the building open during daylight hours but will have to review this if things keep going missing. For up-to-date news on St Mary's Church please go to the website: www.lintonvillage.com/st-marys-church

7th Alma Santa Run

Sunday 7th December starts at 12.30pm

Are you ready for the festive season? Kickstart your Christmas with this scenic fun run for the whole family with truly wonderful views over the local area. The course will again follow a circular 1.8-mile route around Linton and Linton Hill. The car park, start and finish are all at the *Alma Inn* (HR9 7RY). **FREE ENTRY**- just turn up in seasonal attire & jog!!! The event will not be timed and runners



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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

can proceed at their own speed. A jug of ale for the first Santa home and a mince pie for all finishers! Spectators and dogs on a lead are most welcome. Any donations will be in favour of the Ross Community Larder.

Marshals needed!

Can you spare an hour at lunchtime on Sunday 7th December to help marshal the route of this year's **Alma Santa Run**? Volunteers will be greatly appreciated and rewarded with a pint (or equivalent) at the *Alma* after the run.

For more information please contact Gemma Evans at the *Alma* (01989 720355) or Roger Davies on 0777 1812 793.

Linton Village Hall What's Coming up at LVH?

Christmas Coffee Morning

Our festive **Christmas Coffee Morning** will be held this year on **Saturday 6th December from 10.30am** - Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy toasted crumpets, delicious cakes, lashings of fresh coffee and tea, raffle, Christmas cards etc. The hall will be decked with festive decorations and Christmas music will be playing, so come and join us. To be sure of a seat/table please email: carol849@btinternet.com

5 Villages Film Festival: 'Isle of Dogs'

Saturday 7th February at LVH. Doors 6.15 for 7pm.

Linton Village Hall is delighted to be taking part in the first **5 Villages Film Festival**. We will be showing Wes Anderson's visually stunning animated story of loyalty and friendship between a boy and his lost dog, set in a dystopian Japan of the future.

There will also be a short (or two) from students of the BA(Hons) Film & TV Production course at the University of Gloucestershire, and we hope they will be there to talk about their work and meet the audience.

There will be a bar, fresh homemade popcorn, cake and quite possibly ice-cream or some other sweet treats and snacks. So please come and support the festival and emerging film makers at the beginning of their careers.

To be certain of a ticket, please book in advance online using TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival Price is £5 (plus 42p fee). Tickets may also be available at Gorsley Post Office. Any unsold tickets will be available on the door. Please check Linton Village Hall website nearer the day for availability

Our Christmas Message

And lastly, a **Christmas message** from the trustees: We would like to wish *Chimes* readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year, and to thank everyone who has helped and supported the committee and the hall by contributing their enthusiasm, time and energy to help in so many ways. It is much appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at the hall next year! Happy Christmas!

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

Linton Village Hall 100 Club Winners

September

£5 Catherine Riley, £10 Lesley James, £25 Hannah Cresswell

October

£5 Mark Ashton, £10 Suzanne Hemmingway, £25 Alice Casson

November

£5 Ernst Zillekens, £10 Nicola Smith, £25 Richard Haines

Carol singing

Come and join the fun - everyone is welcome, the more the merrier!

Carol sheets are provided. Bring your own lantern/torch, hi-viz/bright coats are advised. All donations received will go to the Ross Community Larder.

Monday 15th The Ridge 6.30pm, meet at the church steps

Tuesday 16th Centre of the village 6.30pm, meet at the same place. Both will be weather permitting, of course!

VOLT – Village of Linton Trust New Year Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd January 2026 at Linton Village Hall 10.00am-12.30pm

Come and enjoy fresh coffee and cakes with friends and neighbours. A lovely social start to the New Year!

Volt Trustees would like to thank everyone for their continued support; a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Linton Summer Sessions donates £1200 to charity

On Tuesday 21st October the Linton Summer Sessions team invited the festival sponsors and local charity representatives to *The Alma* for a brief presentation ahead of the monthly Open Mic Night. Mike Bertenshaw, with help from the main sponsors, John Burton (Moat Contracting) and Adam Davis (Naylor Powell), presented donations to the following charities:

• **Big Space Cancer Appeal £200** - this is a project to raise funds for a much-needed new cancer centre in Cheltenham that will offer local patients (including from Herefordshire) the very best environment for treatment, healing and recovery.

• **Hereford & Worcester Community First Responder Charity (Ross on Wye) £200** - This team of dedicated volunteers responds to medical emergencies and provides support to our community, through awareness training. They also provide a first aid service for community events such as ours, without which many would not be able to go ahead.

• **St Michaels Hospice £200** - Its mission is to help people in Herefordshire and the surrounding areas, benefit from palliative and end-of-life care when needed. This includes supporting loved ones throughout bereavement and beyond.

• **Parkinson's UK (£200) and Alzheimer's Research UK (£200)** - both very worthy national charities personally chosen by the organising team and sponsors.

• **Local charities Linton Village Hall (£100) and Linton Brownies (£100)** who benefit hugely from charitable donations to continue to provide their valuable

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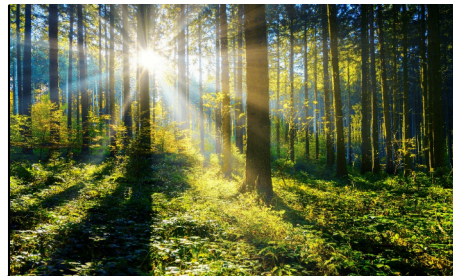
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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

service to our local communities.

Thanks again to everyone who came along and supported the event - despite the weather! Linton Summer Sessions will be back next year!

PARISH COUNCIL

There is a vacancy on the parish council following the sad death recently of Councillor Andy Price. If you are interested, please contact Rich Hunt via e-mail: pcclerk@lintonpc-herefordshire.gov.uk or telephone: 07763 793695.

Herefordshire Council have approved the parish council's request to place two village gateways at the western end of Gorsley in front of the existing speed limit terminals. Gateways have proven effective in other locations in curbing road user speed.

The parish council will agree its precept application to Herefordshire Council for fiscal year 2026-27 at its meeting on Monday 10 November. A precept is the amount of money that parish councils require to conduct their essential functions and services within the community. It is collected through the Council Tax system.

Linton Pound News

The dressed stone that composed the outer skin of the Linton Pound which had been promised to the village by Herefordshire Council has disappeared. Attempts to track it down and have it brought back to Linton have so far proved unfruitful. In the meantime, an official complaint about the total destruction of the pound and the disappearance of the stone has been submitted to the council. The Ross Gazette is helpfully keeping this issue in the public eye.

In addition, Defra - the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the local Commons Registration Office have been approached under the auspices of the 2006 Commons Act to discuss the custodianship of the pound for the future.

Below are two photographs that show the pound in its recent state and the rubble that was left after demolition, in which scarcely a trace of the dressed stone can be seen.



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UPTON BISHOP NEWS



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UPTON BISHOP WEBSITE ADDRESS: <https://uptonbishop.gov.uk>

WHAT'S ON IN UPTON BISHOP AT THE CHURCH:

Church Warden - Jane Ayres 07989 572356 jane.e.ayres@me.com
The Church is open every day, a quiet space for all to enjoy.
The Churchyard also offers a peaceful spot to walk or sit and enjoy nature.
Dogs are welcome in the churchyard on a lead, but please clear up after them.

Services for December and January are shown on pages 58 and 59
All Services at 10.30 unless shown otherwise

EVENSONG every Tuesday, 5.30pm at Graham and Ann Fowler's House
PLEASE NOTE - there will be no service on Dec 23th Ring 01989 780600 for details.

BCP Communion: Wednesday December 10th 9.30 am and Wednesday January 7th 9.30 am, both followed by Prayer Group.

If you require gluten free communion bread, please let us know before the start of the service.

THE CHURCH:

May we wish everyone in Upton Bishop a happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year from all at St John the Baptist's Church.

Traditional Carol service by Candlelight 14th December at the slightly later time of 5pm.

Come and hear the Christmas story and your favourite carols in our beautifully decorated church. Mulled wine and mince pies served after the service.

Carol Singing

There will be carol singers around the village on: **Tuesday, December 16th 6pm** at Phocle Green; **Wednesday, December 17th 6pm** at The Crews;

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UPTON BISHOP NEWS

Sunday, December 21st 4pm at Crow Hill. All welcome. Look out for the posters advertising where we will be meeting.

Midnight Mass 24th December at 11.30pm

The candles will be lit again as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in the first service of Christmas.

There is no service at Upton Bishop on Christmas Day. Communion will be celebrated in Hope Mansell at 9.30, Aston Ingham at 10.30 and Linton at 11am.

Sunday 4th January An interactive service for all ages in the Millennium Hall at 10.30 am

Celebrate the Epiphany. Meet the three kings. Craft and cake for all.

AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL:

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 6th December from 10am

All the fun of the Fayre with our great Christmas Hamper Raffle. Get your tickets in advance. Father Christmas will be along at 11am so make sure you are there to put on your face jewellery, pick up a cake, a tombola prize and find some great bargains among the bric-a-brac as well as enjoying a mince pie and a natter.

Contributions will be gratefully received for the Tombola (Tracy 07803 756508), Hamper Draw (Lindsey 07885 388663), Bric-a-Brac (Di 780400), Cakes and Produce (Jane 780383) and mince pies for teas (please bring them on the day). For more information call Olivia 07496 685960.

FOR THE YOUNG: LEGO@UB CLUB

The Lego Club/Coffee morning The hall is not available now until after Christmas. Please look out for further news on social media and in *The Chimes*. It is held on the first Saturday of each month at 10.30am.

BABY SENSORY Monday mornings during term time. Call Annabel 07341 956056 or hereford@babysensory.co.uk

LITTLE SWALLOWS Friday mornings. Activities for under 5s. Call Nicky 01989 780211

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KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10-11am. Call Jane Fray 01989 780383 or Michaela Johnson 07706 101164. The class is designed to help improve your fitness, strength, balance and co-ordination to some great music! You work at your own pace. The first session is free; after that, the cost is £6 per session for a block monthly booking and £8.00 per session pay as you go.

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UPTON BISHOP NEWS

INDOOR SHORT-MAT BOWLS Tuesday 16th December 7-9pm £3 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits. All abilities very welcome. Call Dave Powell 07794 429090 or just come along!

BADMINTON CLUB: Thursdays 8-10pm all ages and skills. Call Steve Cracknell 01989 720577.

TANGO: Fridays but not every Friday. Check with Beryl Kirk 07743 778799 or bakirk@live.co.uk.

SOCIAL:

COFFEE MORNING First Saturday in the month, cancelled till after Christmas

SOCIAL AFTERNOON No meeting in December, next will be January 19th 2.30pm - 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all for cake and chat

QUILTERS: 3rd Thursday of the month, 2-4pm. Call Sue Jones 07505 977 944

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: Offering a safe, non-judgemental space for women to connect, heal and learn from each other. Open to all women. Please contact Amy to enquire: 07867 761108.

UPTON BISHOP WI

November Meeting: We had the most wonderful evening on the 11th. We welcomed Fiona Morison for the most captivating talk on Remembrance, and the VAD Nurses, The Roses of No-man's Land. Many members had entered the Pruddah cup cookery competition by cooking a dish from a World War II ration book, remarkably very tasty, considering the restrictive ingredients.

Next month our meeting is on **Tuesday, 9th December 7pm** where we are block printing, shared table and secret Santa. We do not meet in January but will back with a Silversmithing demo on February 10th. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month, 7pm - 9pm** at The Hub, St Mary's Garden Village, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7WP. New members are always welcome, entry donation of £5, cake and raffle. We look forward to seeing you. For details and to find out more about the numerous activities organised by the National and Herefordshire Federations of WIs contact 01989 569881 or e-mail Upton_Bishop_wi@herefordshirewi.org.uk

UPTON BISHOP NEWS:

200 CLUB DRAW FOR November

Alan Davis £100, Lesley Summer £20, Colin Sampson £10, Margaret Farr £5.

SYMPATHY Sadly, Valerie Fellows passed away last month. Heartfelt condolences to her husband Cliff, son and daughter-in-law Mark and Sue.

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UPTON BISHOP NEWS

BEST WISHES to everyone who is not too well, or who is undergoing or waiting for treatment.

WELCOME WISHES to Mr and Mrs Tresadern-Jones who have moved to Crow Hill, and Mr and Mrs Jack who have also moved to Crow Hill.

Murder Mystery Evening on Friday 7th November in the Millennium Hall raised around £900 which will go towards fixing the heating in the church. Congratulations to everyone who acted in, catered for and supported. It was a fabulous evening with a sell-out audience, delicious food and a murder to solve.

The Christmas tractor run will be coming through Upton Bishop and Phocle Green on **Sunday, December 21st**. Leaves Ross at 6pm. Check the village website and Facebook page for timings.

THE MILLENNIUM HALL

If you are interested in joining the Millennium Hall team, please get in touch: 07496 685960.

HIRING THE HALL There is space in the diary for new events so please go on line to book a date: visit uptonbishop.gov.uk and click on 'Millennium Hall' for booking info, or contact pollyannakay@gmail.com

UPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL (UBPC)

Any parishioner can contact the UBPC at clerk@uptonbishop.gov.uk
 Parish Council meeting minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

Six councillors, the clerk and 12 members of the public attended the Parish Council meeting on November 4th. The minutes of the PC meeting held on September 2nd were approved. Vicky Eldridge has resigned and there is a vacancy for a councillor. No issues were raised by members of the public. Councillors supported the application to change agricultural land at Upton Court to equestrian use. They also supported the application for a butchery unit on land next to Burnt House in Foy Parish with comments that it is a new build in open countryside and querying the sufficiency of the existing splay.

Planning permission for three houses on land adjacent to Redlands has been approved by Herefordshire Council.

The lengthman tidied up the War Memorial prior to Remembrance Sunday. The Council will apply to the Public Rights of Way Grant Funding Scheme for support for new finger posts, stiles and other footpath improvements and repairs. A replacement salt bin is needed in Tanhouse.

The Council has £31,553.10 in the bank and all invoices were approved for payment. The draft 25/26 budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is on **Tuesday December 2nd**.

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RECTOR'S LETTER



I'm sure that many of you will have noticed that Christmas seems to hit the shelves on 1st November, as soon as the Halloween chocolates, pumpkins, and costumes have had their day. As someone who ends up doing their present buying at about 3.30pm on the 23rd December, I get a slight shiver up my spine when Christmas services are being planned and organised before the clocks have gone back. Of course, it pays to be organised – I tell myself this every year about 10 minutes in to my very late present shopping, as I realise that everyone else who has left it to the last minute has got there before me – but sometimes we can get so caught up in what the future holds that we forget to focus on the present.

This week, I was reminded of the line by the poet Robert Burns that 'the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray.' I think that's even more so the case with church mice – the overwhelming majority of the work that clergy do on a day-to-day basis is responding and reacting to whatever comes your way, whether that's in person, or through an email. A lot of the time, that makes it very difficult to actually focus properly on the thing in front of you – church mice, it seems, are constantly chasing their tails.

Christmas is a time of the year where most of us are afforded the rare ability to stop much of the business of our lives, and to enjoy time spent with family and friends. It is a time of relaxation, procrastination, and probably a fair bit of intoxication. And even though Christmas is a very busy time for our churches, it is the sort of busyness that doesn't seem daunting – the carol services, midnight masses, and Christmas morning gatherings which will take place in all of our churches across this festive period are a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together, in those traditional and familiar settings, and take the chance to enjoy the here and now, rather than worry about what might be to come.

The ability and invitation to live in a state of peace, free from worry, is at the heart of the Christian message – 'do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself', Jesus tell us in Matthew's gospel. In a world that is so busy and complicated, where our attention is always drawn this way and that, and we are endlessly encouraged to compare ourselves and our lives to others, it is Jesus Christ who tells us that 'my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

So, as we prepare for a time of celebration, gathering with friends and family, of feasting and of living off turkey leftovers until New Year, I would encourage you to try to take the time to appreciate the restful and calmer parts of what can be a busy time of year. All of our churches are open during the day for you to come in and enjoy a time of peace and quiet, and details of our services and events taking place this month are printed overleaf. May I wish you all a very merry Christmas, full of peace, joy, and goodwill.

David Howell

CHURCH SERVICES FOR

Date	Aston Ingham	Lea	Linton	Upton Bishop
6th December	5.30 p.m.	Blessing of Christmas Tree @ LINTON		
07th December	Evensong	Family Communion	Communion Service	Mattins
2nd Sunday of Advent	4.30 pm	9.30 am	11.00 am	10.30am
Readings	Isaiah 11. 1-10.	Romans 15. 4-13.	Matthew 3. 1-12.	
14th December	Parish Communion	Mattins	Bible Book Club	Carol Service
3rd Sunday of Advent	10.50 am	8.00 am	10.30 am	5.00 pm
Readings	Isaiah 35. 5-10.	James 5. 7-10.	Matthew 11. 2-11.	
17th December	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service	@ ASTON INGHAM	
21st December	Village Praise	Torchlight Carol Service @ Village Hall	Carol Service	Parish Communion
4th Sunday of Advent	10.30 am	4.30 pm	5.30 pm	10.30 am
Readings	Isaiah 7. 10-16.	Romans 1. 1-7.	Matthew 1. 18-end.	
24th December		Midnight Mass	Crib Service	Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve		11.30 pm	4.00 pm	11.30 pm
Readings		Isaiah 9. 2-7.	Titus 2. 11-14.	Luke 2. 5-14.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Date	Aston Ingham	Lea	Linton	Upton Bishop
25 th December	Parish Communion		Communion Service	
Christmas Day	10.30 am		11.00 am	
Readings	Isaiah 52. 7-10.	Hebrews 1. 1-4.		John 1. 1-14.
28 th December	BENEFICE SERVICE - WESTON UNDER PENYARD			
1 st Sunday of Christmas	10.30 A.M.			
Readings	Isaiah 63. 7-9.	Hebrews 2 10-end.		Matthew 2. 13-end.
04 th January	Evensong	Family Communion	Communion Service	Mattins
Epiphany	4.30 pm	9.30 am	11.00 am	10.30am
Readings	Isaiah 60. 1-6.	Ephesians 3. 1-12.		Matthew 2 1-12.
11 th January	Parish Communion	Holy Communion	Bible Book Club	Communion Service
Baptism of Christ	10.30 am	8.00 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Readings	Isaiah 42. 1-9.	Acts 10. 34-43.		Matthew 3. 13-end.
18 th January	Village Praise	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	Parish Communion
2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.30 am	9.30 am	11.00 am	10.30 am
Readings	Isaiah 49. 1-7.	1 Corinthians 1. 1-9.		John 1. 29-42.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE RECTOR: REV. DAVID HOWELL
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The Chimes

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