

Aymestrey Matters



pring 2025

Parish Notice Board



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 12th April 10am - Coffee Morning, Leinthall Church
Thursday 8th May 6.30pm - VE Day Church Bells
Saturday 10th May 2.00pm - VE Day Afternoon Tea
Sunday 11th May 6.00pm - Broad Band Bounce - a VE Day celebration
Wednesday 14th May 7.00pm - Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 26th May 12.00pm - Plant and Produce Sale

“Tea/Coffee in the Hall”
Every Tuesday in the Parish Hall
10.30am to 11.30ish

Carpet Bowls
Monday Evenings
@ Parish Hall
7pm
All Welcome

Parish Council
Meetings
held in the Parish Hall
7.00pm
4th Wednesday in the month

ALL Parishioners are welcome to attend



Meeting of the Parish

Wednesday 14th May
7.00pm in The Parish Hall

Come and have a say in what you would like to be done locally

Plant and Produce Sale

Bank Holiday Monday
26th May

12.00pm at the Hall
Bring your spare
plants and produce to
sell. From £5 per table
Come along and buy
from local people
Book a table.
Dee ~ 07434 621260



VE Day
Celebratory
Afternoon Tea
Saturday 10th May
@
2pm

In the Parish Hall
A War themed Community Event.
Includes part of 'Aymestrey in
WWII' display,
1940's dress optional

FUN QUIZ

2nd Friday in the Month
In the Parish Hall
8.00pm
Season runs until June
With the last quiz on
13th June hopefully an
outdoor event
Teams of up to 4
or come along and join
in anyway



EDITORS' PAGE

Last week whilst taking part in the monthly Fun Quiz, held at the Parish Hall, we were in the midst of the 'music through the decades round' when 'Universal Soldier' a single from 1965, sung by Donovan was played. Listening to the lyrics, our first reaction was "Nothing has changed" and whilst those words and sentiments, during the uncertain times in the sixties, still echo today, we have thankfully moved on.

May 8th this year, sees the 80th anniversary of VE Day, Victory in Europe Day; and we can celebrate the end of those dark years. The nation and Aymestrey Parish are going to celebrate and below is a message from Pageantmaster for VE80.....

*On 8 May 2025, we mark the historic **80th anniversary of VE Day**, with the peoples, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of Word War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrificed to achieve it. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.*

At 9am Town Criers will undertake the VE Day Proclamation as the VE Day 80 flags are raised, and at 12noon, Pipers will play a unique tune especially written for the occasion entitled 'Celebratum' from the top of the UK's four highest Peaks and at 6.30pm, Cathedrals and Churches will ring out in united celebration throughout the nation, and at 9.30pm over one thousand of beacons and hundreds of Lamp Lights of Peace will shine throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, with the flames from them both, representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war, along with the nation coming together in city and town squares to village greens, and all other manner of locations at this special and unique one moment in time, and sing the great British Hymn 'I Vow To Thee My Country', standing side by side in gratitude, honouring the many sacrifices that secured our freedom.

We encourage everyone to take part and gather in the streets, gardens, town and city halls, clubs and pubs, and at home too, and be part of this anniversary providing a day of joy, reflection, and celebration, as part of the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people, reaffirming our commitment to world peace, ensuring future generations understand and cherish its value.

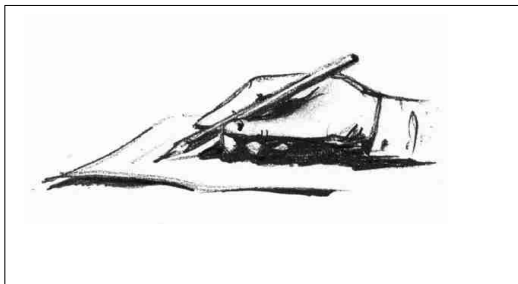
"Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace".

Please come along to the various events organised in the Parish and if you would like to help or get involved in any way, please contact us.

Thanks, as usual, to all contributors and distributors, regular and occasional, not forgetting Imogen Davis for her lovely front covers.

Denise & Martyn

Please forward all articles, photos, notices and letters to editor@aymestrey.org



Parish Council

Parish Council doings and extracts from the Clerk's postbag.

Date for your Diary! Annual Parish Meeting; 7pm on Wednesday 14th May.

Although chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, this is a meeting of the Parish, for members of the electorate to express their concerns on local matters. Members of the parish council will be on hand to answer questions. This year, the meeting will be followed by an informal session, providing the opportunity to meet members of Parish groups and associations and find out what has been happening. Refreshments will be provided!

Biodiversity. Aymestrey Parish Council is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the rich natural environment of the parish. Under national law, including the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the Environment Act 2021, it has a duty to consider biodiversity when taking decisions and take positive action to support it.

Aymestrey is home to diverse landscapes, including ancient woodlands, rivers, farmland, and flower-rich verges. The River Lugg, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, runs through our parish and is particularly vulnerable to pollution and environmental changes. Although not solely responsible for the management of any areas in the Parish, the Parish Council is able to reference biodiversity when responding to planning applications, in its Neighbourhood Development Plan, supporting and encouraging tree planting with the help of the Tree Warden, taking a keen interest in the health of the River Lugg and supporting The Aymestrey Parish Commons Association, which aims to promote conservation and biodiversity of and facilitate access to Yatton Hill, Yatton Marsh and Ballsgate commons while supporting management and safeguarding the rights and interests of owners and commoners. In adopting the Policy, the Parish Council has committed to the following actions.

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in all Parish Council decisions, especially when reviewing planning applications.
- Promote biodiversity initiatives and information through the Parish Council website.
- Request that road verges (22.9km of U roads), except for safety cuts for visibility reasons, are mown once a year (in late summer) to enhance the species richness of these grassland verges.
- Encourage the cutting of hedges only outside the bird nesting season, which is from March to August.
- Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity considerations in the Aymestrey Neighbourhood Development Plan in its 2025/26 update.
- Actively support the Commons Association.

Drainage, Trees and Public Rights of Way.

The Lengthsman, Yatton Farm Services (YFS), continues work to improve drainage in the parish. On 30th January, approval was received from Herefordshire Council for

£11,428.30 funding for Minor Drainage Schemes. Once landowner permissions are secured, these projects will be completed.

A fallen tree at Aymestrey Bridge on 21st February blocked the A4110 and was removed by YFS, clearing the road by 10:30 am.

Public Rights of Way continue to be ably looked after by the Footpaths Officer, who is thanked for many hours of voluntary work. A grant from Herefordshire Council will fund the refurbishment of steps leading to Pokehouse Wood, with additional materials generously donated by The National Trust. More accessible routes are a high priority, improving access for older adults, families, and those with mobility challenges.

Potential routes were identified; despite Aymestrey being in a valley and these were in mind when a grant for nine self-closing gates, to replace old stiles, was applied for. Landowner permission for three (out of the nine) has been given, but six will not be replaced, and an accessible route will not be achieved this time. A further grant is likely to be available in 2025/26.

Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Residents are encouraged to review and comment on the accuracy of the Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy map, suggesting any necessary alterations. The [map and consultation details](#) can be found on the Herefordshire Council website.

Mortimers Cross Noticeboard. The noticeboard was destroyed, in a fire, on 28th November 2024. The replacement remains under review by insurers, and a quote for a timber replacement has been submitted.

River Lugg Erosion. Google Earth evidence spanning several decades, showing the progression of erosion near Lyepole Bridge (U92411), has been sent to the Head of Highways. It is hoped a site visit will be arranged.

Yatton Defibrillator. The volunteer responsible for checking the defibrillator has successfully been added as a Guardian on The Circuit website. Reports indicate that someone has been repeatedly removing and replacing the defibrillator cover for unknown reasons.

Finance. The Precept for 2025/26 has been set at £14,070.00, equating to approximately £80.36 per annum for a Band D property. This represents a 5% increase from the 2024/25 Precept of £13,400.00. Without this increase, the estimated charge for a Band D property would have been £76.53, making the annual increase approximately £3.83 per household.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Photographs of the recently installed Speed Indicator Device have been shared with the Police and Crime Commissioner following a request for an update regarding the grant.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Meetings take place at 7 pm at the Parish Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except August and December). Upcoming meetings: 26th March, 23rd April, 28th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and 25th June).

Your input is valued, and you are welcome to attend meetings. For updates, please subscribe on the Parish website www.aymestrey.org.

Mrs. Maggie Brown, Clerk
Email: clerk@aymestrey.org

Mortimer Ward

Carol Gandy

As I write this article, the sun is shining, the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are smiling away and buds are forming on the shrubs in my garden.

As you will be aware The Lugg Valley Travel dropped all its services as from the middle of January. We managed to arrange for Sargeants Bros. to take over many of the services but not without problems. Hopefully things are beginning to settle down.

I am also concerned that there have been a few utility repairs carried out since the main road was resurfaced and they have resulted in a black patchwork. I will ensure that all work carried out which affects the road surface matches the new colouring.

You will be aware that Herefordshire has been mandated to build 27,260 homes by 2040. This is an impossible situation and despite representation to government the number was only reduced by about 250. The effect of this is that, as from mid December 2024, all Neighbourhood Plans carry little or no weight. In the case of Aymestrey there is still a restriction on house building, due to the pollution of the river Lugg, but in other parts of the Ward this is not the case. Finding land for that number of housing is not just challenging but impossible without a bypass, which I know is unpopular with many, but it is only way that land will be opened up to build such a vast number of homes.

Barry and I continue to attend the monthly quiz nights at the Village Hall, and if you don't already come along then give it a try as it is a really enjoyable evening.

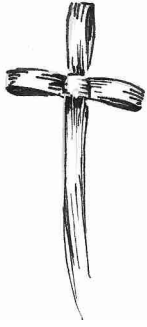
We are keen that our most vulnerable residents have a regular Home Fire Check, and this is a service provided free to households. It will check smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms if fitted and offer advice. The contact is either safeandwell@hwfire.org.uk or 0800 032 1155.

The Rough Sleeper accommodation opened for the winter in Hereford and houses a significant number of our rough sleepers. If you happen to see a rough sleeper please do not assume we know about them, and if possible go onto Street Link and register the details that are requested. This information will then be forwarded to our outreach team who will check on the individual.

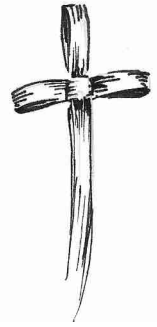
We recently agreed the Council budget for 25/26, which will see, on top of the money allocated to Balfour Beatty for road maintenance, a further £5 million towards road surfacing across the county. The budget also includes extra money for drainage schemes and public rights of way. We were disappointed that we could not fix the council tax at 3.99% as was always our plan but unfortunately when the rural services grant, of approximately £7m, was removed by the government, a grant which previously recognised that services are more difficult to provide in rural areas this was no longer possible. We are now awaiting the multi-year settlement figure for 26 – 29 to see whether we will fare better or as a rural county be penalised again.

As ever; if you wish to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so on carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk. 07792 882 133 or 01568 780583





Church Notice Board



EASTER 2025

PALM SUNDAY - Aymestrey

13th April at 10.30am

Benefice Service. Join the procession around the churchyard and into church behind the Donkey



MAUNDY THURSDAY

17th April.

Benefice service 7pm
at Kingsland

GOOD FRIDAY

18th April at 10am

meet at Leinthall Church and

'Walk with the Cross'

Followed by warming hot
chocolate and hot cross buns

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

SATURDAY 19th April

Meet at 10am at

AYMESTREY CHURCH

All donations of daffodils, spring flowers
and greenery most welcome! Either bring
with you or leave in the church porch -

Thank you.

EASTER SUNDAY

Services at: Aymestrey 11am Holy Communion BCP

Leinthall 3.30pm Holy Communion CW



Sunday 11th May
Aymestrey Church
at 11am

**A SPECIAL SERVICE TO
COMMEMORATE THE 80th
ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY**

Thursday 8th May 6.30pm
Aymestrey Bells ring out.

SPECIAL WORLD WAR II EXHIBITION

To commemorate VE DAY

'Our Parish during the War'

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May 2025

and other times as available (see notices)

in

AYMESTREY CHURCH & PARISH HALL

Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls Churches

Rev. Julie Read

Rev. Rosie Roberts, Curate

Dear friends

Many people have asked me over the years about the death of Jesus..... the cross is a form of torture and we have that as our symbol of faith, Jesus died a painful death, it was the men of faith who condemned him. It is one of the main reasons people look at the Christian Faith and wonder.

I have sat with many people who are dying and have been with them when they die, I have been with grieving families sitting with their loved ones who have gone on, and I have done hundreds of funerals in my time. Many people die a long and drawn out death, but due to our modern pain medication, not many of them are in pain, for which we give thanks. Death is like that – it is a special time for families and for those who are journeying there for the first time – worrying about entering into a journey they have little experience of. Many people are tortured in this world. We have the SAS barracks in our county – it is not my area of expertise, but many there who would tell you about that.

Yes Jesus died, like all of us will do one day, hopefully not due to torture. Jesus needn't have died I think, if he'd taken the advice of many people including his disciples and walked away and shut up. He could have saved his own life. But he CHOSE not to. He had seen the plight of many people, and he had done what he could, he cured the sick and brought sight to the blind, but he would not put up with the religious leaders making things difficult for people, asking them to jump through more hoops.



So he faced them. He confronted them and their questions. Pilate even asked him "What is truth?" (I'd like to ask that of our many world leaders today because I'm having great trouble with that) and Pilate washed his hands of the decision that was made to put Jesus to death. I think they thought out of sight, out of mind.

But no, something happened on the third day – Easter Sunday. Come along and hear some amazing things that ultimately led to their being a world wide Christian Church some 2000 years later – and its not going away.

Easter blessings

Julie

Dear friends.

My latest musical obsession is the soundtrack to Matilda the musical. One of my favourite songs is *Naughty*; it's a brilliant song, along with many others in this soundtrack, but two lines from the song have stuck with me and made me ponder.

The first is, in relation to Cinderella: "her Godmother was two thirds fairy / suddenly her lot was a lot less scary / but what if you haven't got a fairy to fix it?" Knowing that Tim Minchin, who wrote this soundtrack, is an atheist, I might be being a bit overly sensitive, but this sounds to me like a veiled dig at faith. Certainly, it's a common trope used against people of faith, that we

believe in some sort of 'sky fairy' that we rely on to sort everything out rather than take responsibility ourselves.

It's interesting because a similar idea has come up in the book we're reading in the church this Lent; *Women of Holy Week* by Paula Gooder. The first story is written from the perspective of an imagined woman called Miriam who travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover and glimpsed Jesus riding into town on a donkey on the first Palm Sunday. Miriam wonders whether this man could be the Messiah everyone's waiting for, but her impression (which reflects the views of many at the time) was that the Messiah would be like a conquering hero, who would kick out the Romans and put everything right – a "fairy to fix it", perhaps? Instead, what they got was Jesus, who preached about peace and loving your enemies, didn't resist when faced with institutional violence, and died a shameful, criminal's death. Not exactly the hero people had been waiting for! But what Jesus came – and lived and died – to do, was not to fix everything for us, but to show us that there's nothing so bad we experience that it can't be transformed by the love of God, that we can live through it all and come out the other side, resurrected with him.

The other line from *Naughty* that makes me think is at the very end of the song: "nobody else is gonna put it right for me / nobody but me is gonna change my story" – it strikes an appropriate note of defiance for this amazing character, but it's not completely true in the story and nor is it completely true in our own lives. In Matilda's story, her relationship with Miss Honey helps them both to find a better life in the end. And in our lives, none of us is an island; we all need others, not necessarily to "put it right" for us, but to help and support us as we find a way forward together. We're blessed to have a strong and active community in Aymestrey Parish, and I give thanks for the ways in which we support each other and travel through life together. This Holy Week and Easter, I invite you to come along to church and find out a bit more about Jesus who isn't a fairy who will fix it all for us, but a companion on the journey of life who will show us a way through to the other side, to the place of joy and resurrection.

With every blessing,

Rosie

In aid of Aymestrey Village Church

'Broad Band Bounce'

Sunday 11th May

a 80th VE Day Celebration

Come and hear the full Big Band Sounds of the 1940's

Adult Tickets £10 on the door

at Aymestrey Parish Hall

Doors open 6.00pm, drinks & snacks available, for 7.00pm start.



Aymestrey Fete 19th July 2025

Arts and crafts competition at the Fete.

The Aymestrey Village Fete will soon be with us and we are hoping to see a bumper selection of entries and celebrate the creativity and skill of our local residents. of all ages.

The schedule for the classes for 2025 (see opposite) cover a wide range of crafts, from baking to crochet and floral art.

The Junior Section is always popular with entrants and judges alike. More this year will include a Lego model, baking and a flower arrangement.

Call for Judges

To anyone who is interested in helping out as a Judge. You do not need to be an expert and the judging takes only an hour or so at the Fete from about mid-day. Anyone interested should contact Dan Hurcomb- hurcombdc@gmail.com

Ideas for events and stalls.

If you have any ideas for new stalls or events; it is your village fete; again, please contact Dan Hurcomb- as above

Would you like to have a stand at the Fete?

We always welcome new stands covering what's happening in and around the parish, including promoting your business and also welcome those who wish to return. Please contact Dan Hurcomb as above.

Calling Tug 'o' War Teams

There will be the usual end of day Tug 'O' War Competition. Teams of 8. Cash prize to the winners. Get training now!

***If you would be willing to help in any way please contact [Dan](mailto:Dan~hurcombdc@gmail.com)
~hurcombdc@gmail.com***

Produce & Flower Show 2nd August 2025

The Produce & Flower Show is to be held again in the Parish Hall on 2nd August and following last years great entries, despite the terrible growing season, we are hoping for an even bigger show. The schedule for the classes for 2025 (see over) again cover vegetable, fruit and flower/plant classes, so now is the time to get started.

The Aymestrey Matters Mystery Seeds will again be available to collect from the Parish Hall and the Church during April.

Ed: The next edition of Aymestrey Matters will, of course have the full schedules and running order for a fun filled main ring with displays, children's games and not forgetting, the fun dog show.

Aymestrey Village Fete 19th July 2025

Arts and Crafts Competition Classes

Food and drinks

The winner of Class 1 will win the Margaret Probert Cup

The entrant with the most points accumulated from Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 will win the Joyce Pugh Cup for cookery

Class 1 – A Victoria sponge cake, any filling

Class 2 - 3 bread rolls on a plate, any recipe

Class 3 - 3 scones on a plate, any recipe

Class 4 – A savoury pastry item

Class 5 - A home-made fruit or alcoholic beverage

Class 6 - A jar of sweet preserve

Class 7 - A jar of savoury preserve

Class 8 - An item of homemade confectionery

Class 9 - Three eggs on a plate



Handicrafts

Class 10 - A handmade item using any materials

Class 11 - An item of knitting or crochet

Class 12 - A piece of cross-stitch or embroidery

Class 13 - My best photograph “in the wild”

Class 14 - A drawing or painting on a subject of your choice



Floral Art

Class 15 – A single rose in a vase

Class 16 - An arrangement of 3 fresh flowers and foliage

Class 17 - A miniature arrangement of fresh or dried flowers (max 6 inches x 6 inches excluding base)

Class 18 - Sweet peas in a vase

Class 19 - A vase of lilies



Junior Section

Please state age on all exhibits

Class 20 - A Lego model, not from a kit

Class 21 - An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables

Class 22 - A drawing or painting of flowers

Class 23 - 3 home baked and decorated biscuits on a plate

Class 24 - A poem about a River

Class 25 - A miniature garden or flower arrangement displayed in a teacup.



All Exhibits MUST be the work of the Exhibitor and any items previously entered will not be eligible.

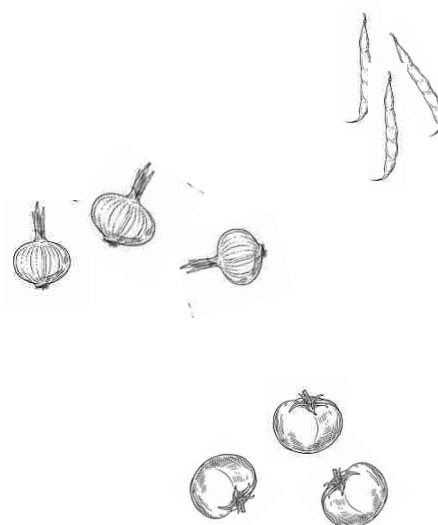


Produce and Flower Show Schedule

Saturday 2nd August, 2025

Vegetables and Fruit

- Class 1 - 3 white or red potatoes (washed) on a plate
- Class 2 - 2 courgettes on a plate
- Class 3 - 3 runner beans on a plate
- Class 4 - 5 dwarf or French beans on a plate
- Class 5 - 3 onions on a plate
- Class 6 - 3 beetroots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 7 - 3 carrots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 8 - 1 cucumber on a plate
- Class 9 - 3 tomatoes on a plate
- Class 10 - a selection of salad items (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 11 - 3 stems of rhubarb
- Class 12 - a selection of soft fruit (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 13 - an unusual or exotic vegetable of your choice



Flowers

- Class 14 - a single rose in a vase
- Class 15 - a vase of my garden perennials, mixed
- Class 16 - a flowering house plant
- Class 17 - a jug of flowers from my garden
- Class 18 - a vase of 5 sweet peas (any colour)
- Class 19 - a vase of 3 dahlias (any variety)
- Class 20 - a hand tied bunch of fresh herbs
- Class 21 - the best cut flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 22 - the best scented flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 23 - a vase of foliage (up to 5 varieties)
- Class 24 - Aymestrey Matters Mystery Seeds (packets of seeds will be available to collect from the Parish Hall and the Church during April).



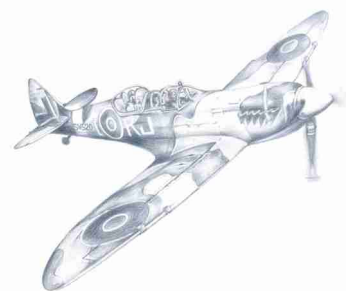
All Exhibits – MUST be the property of the exhibitor
and grown on their land.

Aymestrey and the Second World War 1939 – 1945

by Chrissie Lawson

Aymestrey played its part in contributing to the War Effort. And 80 years on celebrations are taking place this year to mark 'Victory in Europe Day' in May.

The parish of Aymestrey was in the for front as there was a compulsory purchase, by the Ministry, of a Quarry just behind Bath Cottage, stretching up towards Yatton to enable Shobdon Aerodrome to be built, which was to train young men to fly Spitfires during the War. Some newcomers to the village will be unaware this quarry even existed because as part of the arrangement there was an agreement to restore it, and during the early 1990s this was achieved.

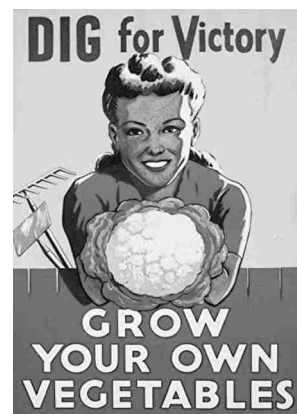


On the outskirts of Leominster at Barons Cross there was an American Army Camp (now being developed for a new Housing Scheme). The American's needed to prepare for D Day landings and Aymestrey Valley west of the Riverside Inn was used as a Training Area.

Apparently they were using live ammunition and it was reported to Mrs Owen who lived at Aymestrey Mill that a soldier had been shot by mistake. Such was her concern that she sent her two young sons Peter and Edwin to live with her sister for safety in Coventry. Within weeks of their arrival, Coventry was bombed by German Aircraft to destruction. Luckily the Owen's boys were outside the immediate area.

Beresford House School was evacuated from Eastbourne to Yatton Court with apparently, nearly 100 girls living there for the duration of the War. One morning, several years ago, Meg was in Aymestrey Church and two elderly ladies came in and told her about their stay at Yatton Court, which included Church every Sunday. They checked one of the front Pews, and said "Oh Yes – this still wobbles after all these years"!

There were a number of Evacuees placed in homes in the Village. One Evacuee returned to Aymestrey Mill in the 1970s with tales of being caught up in the mill wheel. Aymestrey Mill itself was commissioned by the War Effort and there was a 24 Hour shift running, with the Mill grinding flour, to feed the local population because food was in short supply.





Pilates in the Hall

FITNESS PILATES classes are held in Aymestrey Parish Hall and Eardisland Village Hall and are open to males and females. As the title suggests, the workouts have a Pilates base but also incorporate a non-impact fitness element. Each class starts with standing exercises to warm and mobilise the body and then we move onto mat work. Here we work in many different ways covering sitting, lying down on tummies, backs and sides and also kneeling. A weekly Fitness Pilates class will take you through strengthening, stretching, postural correction, abdominal and spinal work, range of movement in the joints and flexibility, all with alternatives to help everyone exercise to the best of their ability. To maintain an exercise regime, it must be enjoyable so background music is played and we strive to create a relaxed and friendly environment for all who come.

Your instructor, Barbara Kay, started her teaching career in the world of ballet, owning her own school in Lancashire and after moving to Spain and taking up golf with her husband, they returned to England and she eventually qualified as an aerobic instructor. However, after a car accident, involving a drunken nurse, which injured her back, she qualified in Fitness Pilates and has never looked back and absolutely enjoys seeing her members improve in technique and ability.

The classes are a perfect way to meet other people and make new friends. If this inspires you to try Fitness Pilates, contact Barbara 01544 388697, fitcats@btinternet.com

WANTED.....!

To help commemorate the anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe, Aymestrey History Group are seeking items of interest for our planned Exhibition in Aymestrey Church and Parish Hall.

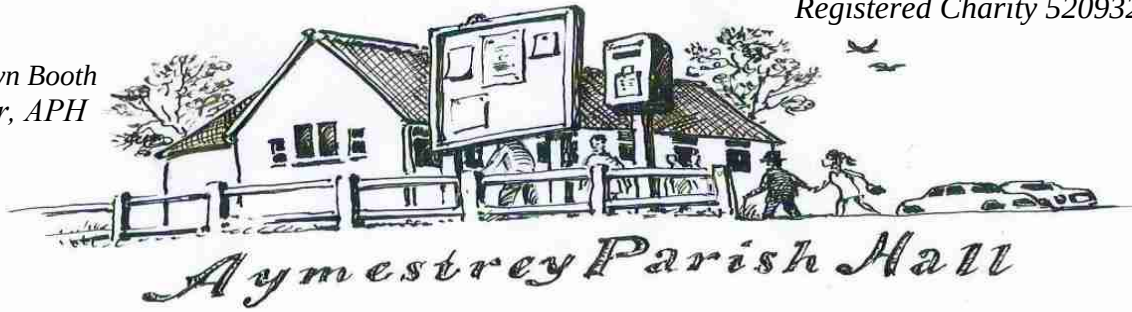
What was life like in Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls during the war years?

Do you have any photographs, memories passed down, stories or memorabilia relating to our parish, those who lived here or served in the forces during the war? Our village schools (yes, there were two!....AND a third at Yatton Court during the war!), churches, armed forces, farming, war effort, evacuees, village characters, buildings....

If you have anything that might be of interest and you would be happy to lend (or perhaps we could take a copy), do please contact either...Meg Thorpe 07943 046450 or Dee Booth 07434 621260

Many thanks.

Martyn Booth
Chair, APH



As Spring arrives we see changes to the activities at the Hall, the Whist Drive has now finished until September and shortly the Film and Food Nights and Quizzes will take their well earned break for the Summer. We will still be running our weekly Coffee Mornings, every Tuesday at 10.30am, where you can pop in and enjoy a cuppa have a chat with friends and hear what's 'happening' in your parish.

The Annual Curry Competition has now become a firm favourite on the calendar, with this years, the third one, being held in February. As always it was very well attended with about sixty people sampling and then voting for the eleven curries produced by various residents. The standard was higher than ever, with this years winner being Dan Hurcomb with his Chicken Bhuna. Well done Dan! We also must thank Ian Banks and his team, for all the hard work organising this event. After the tasting and voting, is complete the evening is rounded off with the showing of a film, this year it was 'The Fall Guy', which one critic described as 'a classic popcorn movie'.

Our attention now turns to more seasonal events such as the Plant Sale in May, the Village Fete in July, with the Plant and Produce Show following on in August.

This May sees the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and to mark the event the Church and the Parish Hall are planning events around the weekend of the 10th/11th of May, see elsewhere in this magazine for details.

Maintenance at the hall is always ongoing, both inside and out. The tree at the bottom of the car-park needed some serious pruning, to prevent interfering with electrical supply cables, thanks to Richard and Pauline Hammond for attending to this.

Also we'd like to give a big thank you to Nick Willmet for trimming the Beech hedge around the back of the hall for us, this help is greatly appreciated.

We've now had new electronic timer switch controls fitted to the wall-heaters in the main hall, these allow individual heaters to be turned on for a set period of time, ranging from 15 minutes to 2 hours, they will then turn themselves off automatically. This should prevent them being left on when not required, or indeed being left on accidentally overnight or longer, which is both wasteful and a potential fire risk.

It recently came to our attention that three of the most important documents concerning the hall, i.e. The Constitution, The Charity Commission registration and our Insurance Policy all bore different names, Aymestrey Parish Hall, The Village Hall Aymestrey and Aymestrey Village Hall, respectively. Therefore it has been agreed, at committee, that we needed to standardise our name to 'Aymestrey Parish Hall', and moving forward, we encourage everyone to use this name.

MB



Sir Thomas Dunne

SIR Thomas Dunne, who died 6th January 2025, aged 91, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester 1977-2008. He was a member of Herefordshire County Council and twice President of the Three Counties Show and Patron of Worcestershire County Cricket Club. He was born 1933 in Herefordshire and lived with his wife Henrietta at Gatley Park from 1959-2008 where he farmed with, in his words, “the help of others”. He retired and they moved from Gatley and Aymestrey Parish in 2008 to nearby Leintwardine.

He was very well liked and respected locally and had a playful sense of humour. He took a great interest in local events, news and gossip. To obtain the latter, he would visit Hilda Sharp, at our much-missed Aymestrey shop and post office, who was a mine of information and up to date with everyone and everything that was going on.

The Captain, as he was known locally, until he was knighted in 1995, was an active member of our parish and was the Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. He told me a while back that “I also chaired The Aymestrey Rabbit Clearance Society a long defunct, but useful committee. At one AGM in 1963, the door of the village hall burst open and a wild-eyed Henrietta announced President Kennedy has been assassinated.! This was duly noted and we returned to our agenda of rabbit control in Aymestrey!”

In 2012, he wrote a very evocative and reflective piece for Aymestrey Matters which I believe, illustrates his love of the local history and the great fondness he had for where he lived and grew up.....

*“I was seven years old in November 1940 when the glow of the fires engulfing Coventry were visible from the tops at Gatley, as Coventry was blitzed by the **Blitzkrieg** of the German **Luftwaffe** which lit the sky with a false dawn. Mr Albert Jones, at the Barns, was the farm bailiff when Coventry Cathedral, a giant cinder, subsided on the horizon. One night a lonely German Bomber dumped its bomb load into the little valley below Dyon’s Court as it fled home across the Midlands.*

Later a solitary Italian prisoner of war, Atosh Vertuani lodged with the Jones's at the Barns for the duration of the war. He worked on the farm and flirted with Mrs Jones and my sister, and remained in Aymestrey and died there 50 years later.

When finally, peace was declared in Japan, another Beacon was lit on top of the hill, and a barrel of cider was drunk, mainly by the habitués of the Crown Inn at Aymestrey [now the Riverside]. Jack Gale kept his other arm snuggled around the waist of my aunt Griselda. He worked the quarry at Leinthall, where having first laid and lit a charge, he would bolt into the barn at the Court farm, to avoid the inevitable shower of stones following him.

Distant twinkles of flickering fires on the hills have long heralded national warnings of invasion or celebration. The beacons, fired afresh last week by the Diamond Jubilee beacons to announce the 60th Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign, once signalled the approach of the Spanish Armada.

Across the valley from below the Barns, about 600.BC until 50.AD, the noises of an Iron Age camp at Croft Ambrey would have echoed down to the River Lugg.

The chatter of women, the whistles and cries of herdsmen grazing their flocks, the constant barking of dogs, and children shouting would have revealed local news from the teeming life at Croft Ambrey.

Iron Age camps prominent on the highest points of Wapley Hill, the twin Clee Hills and the Wrekin would probably have communicated by beacons when danger threatened until the ultimate danger arrived with the Romans, leading to the tribes abandoning their hill forts and silence descending upon the hills

On Monday a fresh beacon blazed. Little has changed except everybody drove in cars up to the Barns, whilst 64 years ago we all walked. Beer flowed and the roast pork tasted delicious, but I miss the old sozzlers. They would have enjoyed the boisterous ballads, and the Lemonade Lady's serenade to beacons twinkling on distant hills. It was chilly until our beacon roared but the celebration of Her Majesty's Reign was very warm and joyful and we were proud to share it together with the ghosts of our past. God Save the Queen."

I am sure that all the members of our Parish will join me in offering Henrietta and her children and grandchildren our most sincere condolences for their loss.

May he rest in peace

In 2008, Sir Thomas was made a Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter by the late Queen Elizabeth II, England's highest order of chivalry.

MH



What is your earliest childhood memory?

Trying to fly in my parent's garden, beside Richmond Park where I spent my childhood. I made wings and got a safety pin and fastened them to my jumper and kept trying to 'take off' from a garden seat to no avail!

What impelled you and Ian to come and live in Herefordshire?

Ian my late husband, who was a Fine Art Printer, wanted to move his Studio from London out to the Countryside. Initially he tried to buy near Bath Academy of Art where he was teaching, to be near a group of Artists known as 'The Ruralists' but the M4 had been driven down to the South West so he was priced out. By chance he noticed an Advertisement in The Times and we drove down from London one Saturday morning and decided Aymestrey Mill was perfect.

What are the most noticeable changes to Aymestrey village since you came here?

Not a lot thank goodness, we have retained the perfect village. The Riverside Inn has been transformed from a Pub called The Crown where if you were lucky, you could get a bag of Crisps when you went there, and it was full of local villagers every night drinking and playing drafts/darts/cards etc.

Where in the World have you most enjoyed travelling?

The Greek Islands

Where would you like to travel to next?

I love Rye in Kent because my very best friends live there

What are you passionate about?

Our Village, Our Mill, Our River and Our Church

Chrissie Lawson has Lived at Aymestrey Mill for 50 years. She spent over 40 years as a Child Protection Social Worker initially in the London Borough of Wandsworth, followed by Herefordshire Local Authority. She then taught Social Work Practice for 10 years in Universities in the Midlands. She is now retired but busy playing the Organ in Aymestrey Church and working as a Guide for Hereford Guild of Guides.

What is your most memorable moment?

Sailing out of Valetta (Malta) Harbour in a Start Clipper Tall Ship en route to Monte Carlo, hoisting the sails to catch the wind to the music of 'Sail Away' By Vangelis, with not a building in sight other than the original medieval harbour.

Who is your favourite artist?

Howard Hodgkin

What is your favourite Film?

All the Ken Loach films because of his ability to capture the inequalities in our society and bring about social change via this medium. (Cathy Come Home, I Daniel Blake, Sorry I missed You)

What piece of advice would you give new grandparents?

Be supportive, but be careful not to interfere, because they are the parents and it is up to them to decide the future of their children.

What is your greatest extravagance?

My new puppy Dottie who I spoil but she's worth it!

What book are you reading at the moment?

'Politics On the Edge' by Rory Stewart (My hero along with Alistair Campbell)

What word or phrase do you most overuse?

Wow!

What living person do you most admire?

Ellie Chowns our new Green Party MP

What is your favourite piece of music?

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No III

How would you like to be remembered?

For all the work I achieved with children in my role as Child Protection Social Worker

What is your most treasured possession? My piano and my wonderful family.

Do you have motto or proverb that you live by?

Try your best and learn from your mistakes

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Apple picking in Aymestrey Mill Orchard with all my grandchildren and sons to enable us to make apple juice that usually lasts us all for a year.

MH

Our volunteers are ready to support you by helping with everyday tasks such as:

- Fetching prescriptions
- Occasional lifts to the doctors or hospital
- Shopping and running errands, such as posting a letter
- Practical tasks around the house such as hanging a picture or changing a light bulb
- Help with forms or letters
- Help with a computer
- Calling for a chat

If you need a volunteer then please call us

07942 257541



Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner,
And someone saw me grin,
When he smiled I realised,
I'd passed it on to him.

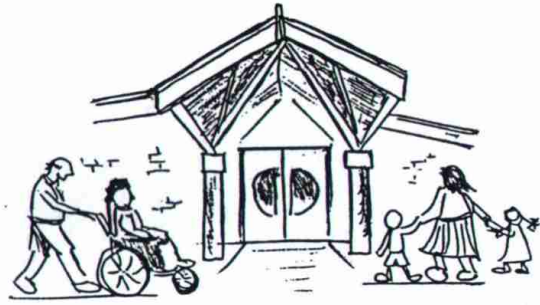
I thought about that smile,
Then realised it's worth,
A single smile just like mine,
Could travel round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected.

Spike Milligan

Mortimer Medical Practice

News from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)



Staffing at our surgeries seem to have settled for now. The new GP's have settled in and say they are enjoying working in our community. There are still a few movements within the dispensary.

There has been a lot of building maintenance which is still on going at Kingsland surgery; apologies from the surgery for any inconvenience.

Repeat prescriptions

If you have regular repeat prescriptions there is a facility to have them done automatically saving you the problem of remembering to order 72 hours in advance. Just ask the receptionist.

Orleton surgery will now close at 5pm due to a reduced demand after this time. This does not affect GP appointments but just availability of prescription collections. It was found that very few people came after this time and they can use the extra dispensary time at the other surgeries, which are busier.

Change of e-mail. There is now only one e-mail address for all 3 surgeries

Mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net

Upcoming training days when the surgeries and dispensaries are closed after midday are 3rd April and 10th July.

Reception will still take calls on urgent matters, please avoid ringing for non urgent matters.

Forthcoming Bank Holiday closures

18th and 21st April, 5th May and 26th May

Finally a reminder to inform the surgery of any change of telephone number or address that the surgery holds for you. Having the correct contact details proved very useful when Lentwardine surgery was cut off due to flooding. Staff were able to contact patients to rearrange appointments either to a telephone consultation, a change of surgery or change of date.

PH

* * * * *

CAN YOU PLAY THE PIANO?

If so can you come and help occasionally, to play a few hymns on the organ in Aymestrey Church. There are no pedals to deal with and we just need someone to help with our lovely little village church services.

I am by no means a professional organist, but its just good to keep the long established music in Aymestrey Church going.

Please ring Chrissie on 07805 155645 for more info

Thoughts from a Retired Gardener

Jim Logan

I'm in my garden, my sanctuary my safe place, away from National and International news for a while. I do keep abreast of things in the wider world and I need to know what's happening to be able to try and understand why it's happening. But I'm lucky and fortunate in being able to walk away from it, to immerse myself in mundane tasks outdoors, tasks that aren't onerous but take time and concentration. After a few hours pruning or weeding or perhaps repairing time-worn poultry sheds and fencing or as a change of scenery tinkering with my Land Rover engine, I may then amble around surveying what's done and what's still to be done. The end result is that I'm satisfied with my day, tired but not weary and have got my hands dirty.

Our plot is not neat and manicured, my gardening nowadays is quite slipshod but the end result pleases us. I produce some fruit and vegetables there are lots of roses and flowers for cutting. I've heeded my one time mentor Mirabel Osler and her "Gentle Plea for Chaos". We live always in a state of happy anticipation for the next event in the garden, the Swallows arriving back to nest in the garage, the first forced rhubarb, ditto Strawberries, the first rose to bloom. Will the Apricot set fruit this year?

From my garden I've been watching a pair of Kites building a new nest, in the poplars 50yds away, they will entertain us raising their young into the summer.



This evening I will watch the news on television at 6.00pm and then to put things into perspective; take my torch into the garden and watch the newts that are congregating in my pond to breed,

they, oblivious to the stupidity of my species. The world might be a safer place if the blustering belligerent old men, that so often seem to become our leaders, took an interest in their local amphibians.

Last week with particularly shocking news from the 'land of the free'; here sanity prevailed, the Bumblebees put in their first appearance of the year on my crocus and Hellebores, sharing pollen with honey bees from my hives. And as I passed beside a tall 'Skyrocket' juniper on my way to feed the hens there was the muted twittering of small bird contact calls, the source of the twittering drifted overhead from the juniper to a 'Winter Beauty' Lonicera and I expected to see the Goldcrests that I occasionally spot in the garden. But was very pleased to see two male Firecrests their white eyestripes distinguishing them. In the bright sunshine their orange 'Mohawk' head feathers glowed fluorescently and initially distracted my sight of a third bird a female with pale yellow head stripe. All three moved constantly and methodically through the Lonicera twigs seeking tiny insects and spiders I presume, they were unconcerned about my presence a few feet away. Tiny birds, smaller than a Wren, were they winter migrants? I don't know but they made my day. That same day Siskins came to my nyger seed feeder for the first time this year to feed alongside the Goldfinches. The latter having stripped the teasels of seed by now.



Our resident House Sparrows are flitting about with nest building materials, small feathers and wisps of Pampas grass seed heads.

And the Kites sail overhead with the keen eyes of superior beings quietly calling to each other, they sound so wistful. Is it their dismay at the state of my garden or maybe at the state of the world as a whole. Probably not.

Jim



PARISH NATTERS



Congratulations to Andy, George and the Team at The Riverside which was the voted the '2025 Winner of The Taste of Herefordshire Award' recently for outstanding cuisine, innovative service and excellence throughout the business; also the 'Sustainable Ethical Business Award' and the 'Herefordshire Business of the Year Award'. Fantastic achievements.

#

On a sad note, Aymestrey Parish recently lost a popular resident with the passing of Barry Wright who lived at Mortimers Cross. A member of Aymestrey Bowlers and a regular at Tuesday Coffee Morning. He will be sorely missed. Heartfelt condolences to Marj and all his family.

Congratulations

to

Ben and Izzy at The Furlongs, Aymestrey on the arrival of their son Freddie.

* * * *

Welcome to Rob and Carole who have recently moved into Aymestrey. Lovely to see them at the 'Coffee Morning'.

Wishing you well in your new home.

* * * *

April Big Birthday
A huge Happy Birthday
to
Mavis Rothschild
100 years old.

*Letters, notices and events are most welcome, please send to
editor@aymestrey.org*

AYMESTREY PARISH HALL

Provides excellent facilities for all your events



**Children's Parties, Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Wedding, Christening & Wake Receptions,
Meetings & Workshops**

Large, welcoming main hall with stage & screen.

Comfortably seats 90 + people at tables.

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ample preparation space and serving hatch*

Separate side room

Free Wi-Fi

Very reasonable rates – Tel: 07496 180332

Yatton Loses a Landmark



On the 27th of December last year, storm Darragh swept across the Nation, with 90mph gusts and heavy rain. In the process it took down a large lime tree at the bottom of Yatton common blocking off access to a handful of us residing on the hill. What then ensued was three days of hard work and community spirit coming together to allow us access back out into the world.

Ten sets of hands (and a few chainsaws) set to work on the old girl to clear up the foliage and the track where she fell. We rapidly came to realise that it would take more than a couple of chainsaws to remove the majority of the trunk and a contingency plan put into place due to her size. With much perseverance (and a little luck) we discovered that she was in fact hollow because of a fungus, thus making it much more manageable to chop her in half and manoeuvre the sections of trunk onto the verge.

Everyone agreed that it best to leave those alone to give something back to our local wildlife and keep the ecosystems as balanced as possible, it's also lovely to see her continuing her usefulness in a more... horizontal position, providing a potential home for little critters.

That being said, a major part of our landscape has been forever changed and I for one am saddened to see her no longer a part of our glorious vista.

A huge well done and big Thank You to those who took precious time out of their day(s) to help us folks out on the hill; it truly was a memorable experience to have been a part of.

Imogen Davis



Immy & Amelie investigate



CROFT AMBREY RUNNING CLUB



Formed in 1982, Croft Ambrey Running Club is one of the longest-established running clubs in Herefordshire. The club's first President was Lord Croft and Croft Castle has been the club's spiritual home ever since.

Club members take part in every type of running you can think of from parkrun to trail and fell running, road, short distances and ultra, multi-day and endurance events.

For many years we held an annual race at Shobdon Wood. Our new race, The Hillfort Hustle, gives us an opportunity to offer two distances and races for Juniors. The route also takes in The Ambrey in the grounds of Croft Castle from where the club took its name.

By partnering with Aymestrey Fete, it's hoped that the fete and The Hillfort Hustle can help attract people to each other's event.

Training on Tuesday and Thursday Evenings

We pride ourselves in being genuinely inclusive. We know that's easy to say but come along to any of our Tuesday or Thursday evening training sessions and you'll see just how true it is.

We like to give runners as much variety as possible and hold training sessions at different locations across North Herefordshire each week including Mortimer Forest, Shobdon, Wigmore, Bampton Bryan and, of course, Croft Castle. We meet at 6:45pm and training sessions finish at around 8pm.

The location of training sessions are published each Sunday evening on the club website, Facebook page and in the weekly Email Newsletter sent to all club members.

For young runners

Croft Juniors meet at 5:30pm most term-time Monday evenings at Wigmore High School. For youngsters aged from 8 to 16, the focus is on running for fun with a mix of age appropriate short and long- distance intervals, dynamic sessions and games. Many of our Juniors take part in Herefordshire Cross Country races.

Fancy giving Croft a Go?

We welcome all abilities of runners at our training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We're happy for anyone to come along for up to 3 training sessions without joining. A full year's membership is just £32 which includes membership to England Athletics.

For more information Email Huw Williams, Chairman at Croft Ambrey Running Club:
chair@croftambreyrunningclub.co.uk
or go to the club web site:
www.croftambreyrunningclub.co.uk



CROFT AMBREY RUNNING CLUB PRESENTS



**10am 20th July,
Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
Conquer the fort
and return to tell the tale!**



**10 and 5 mile trail races
through beautiful
Herefordshire countryside
with a challenging ascent
to the Iron Age
Croft Ambrey Hillfort**

- Chip timing
- Hillfort Hustle medal for all finishers
- Age group prizes

 **Entry Central** Enter at:
<https://www.entrycentral.com/hustle>

- 10 Mile Hustle**
- £17 (£15 for affiliated runners). Min age 17
- 5 Mile Half Hustle**
- £14 (£12 for affiliated runners). Min age 16

The Hillfort Hustle is run with the kind permission of Croft Castle and the Dunne and Hurcombe families. This is a rare opportunity to run in parts of the Herefordshire countryside that are not normally accessible to the general public.

20th Century Pictures of Aymestrey Parish



Now called Bath Cottage, this view from the main road is very different, as it is now obscured by trees. You can now pass by without appreciating its presence.



On the road to Ballsgate you pass the Garden House, very recognisable with its high brick wall which enclosed the walled garden.

Both of these properties belonged to the Yatton Court Estate and would have provided fresh produce and fish, from the pools, for the kitchens.

Notes From The Marsh

Late November 2024 – March 2025

The Egrets have Landed!

At least, the Little Egrets have landed - it was rumoured in autumn that a flock of about 20 had been seen in Leintwardine. I'd seen them in Southern Europe, North Wales, Somerset and Norfolk, but never in this neck of the woods, so took the views of angelic little white heron-y things with a pinch of sea-salt. However – hooray, they've spread their wings.

Viewings in 2025 so far; first of all on 5th February, in a muddy field of sheep just south of Mortimer's

Cross, there were at least 6 pottering about. Then, much closer to home and Yatton Marsh, one flew across me in the lane,

with two more sightings in mid-February including a leisurely cruise (the Little Egret, not me, I play bowls, not deck quoits!) down to the temporary lake in the field opposite.

Why am I so pleased? Of course, there's my local bird-list; some have accused me of being a Twitcher (ie only interested in adding another species to my count) – but I'm a Birder when not a Mother, honest!

There's the historical bit; Little Egrets were with us in Britain for hundreds of years, but started to decline from about the 15th century. The usual suspects include climate change; a medieval 'Little Ice Age' peaking in the



17th century didn't help. In the 15th century, a thousand egrets were eaten at a banquet for the new Archbishop of York; fast forward to the 19th century, and records show a London dealer selling two million egret skins for hat decoration – the Plume Trade. So we went for birds of a feather when we weren't roasting the odd heron; the plume trade did finally trigger the creation of the RSPB.

Next question – do pelicans get avian flu? Egrets, as well as herons and bitterns, belong to the wider order Pelicaniformes. Sadly, yes, at least in the USA recently - avian flu affects most waterbirds as well as domestic poultry, so they're vulnerable. Lifestyle: early to bed and early to rise? Little Egrets, though smaller than Grey Herons, behave in a similar way - they are diurnal, fishing and hunting for small prey in shallow water and nesting colonially in trees. As a bright white addition to our landscape, they're gorgeous on a sunny morning against green fields.

On to other flyers: the local Tawny Owl is still hooting close to the house - he seems to be a fly-by-day rather than a fly-by-night. The glorious late February sunshine has brought out a number of Queen Bumblebees, in spite of night frosts; they are very keen on the scented Mahonia flowers – mostly Buff-tails, the earliest hibernated Queens to appear in the garden, with a rich golden band below the head and a wider one above a buff-white tail. Honey-bees are also starting to dance round the back chimney and forage in the heather. The Rosebed Robins have been dashing in almost under my hands as clearing of winter debris commences; one even

warbles severely at me from a rose-bush
– sorry, Robin not spoken here!

Snippets from the marsh in winter:
some wretched rodent had a go at
the white Hyacinths in the greenhouse.
Snow fell all morning on 19th November
and the water trugs froze solid on the
20th – traditional winter
weather at last, and the
poor old damson right
down across the paddock
entrance. A glorious starry
Christmas Eve; Orion
glittering and striding in the south, the
eerie shriek of a Barn Owl – winter
magic!



Things are lightening up -
meteorologically (based on average
temperatures) we are now in Spring,
beginning with March the first; if you
prefer to wait a little longer,
astronomically spring will start when
day and night are roughly equal at the
equinox, always on or near 20th March.
For me, one of the earliest signs of spring
must be hazels gilded with catkins, now
glowing in my garden - so here's a pixie
charm - "Bless you if you sneeze, may the
year be as bright as the trees!"
And a flying visit on 6th March: a
dazzling Brimstone butterfly – promise of
a golden summer?

Susanna Checketts



Welcome to Spring

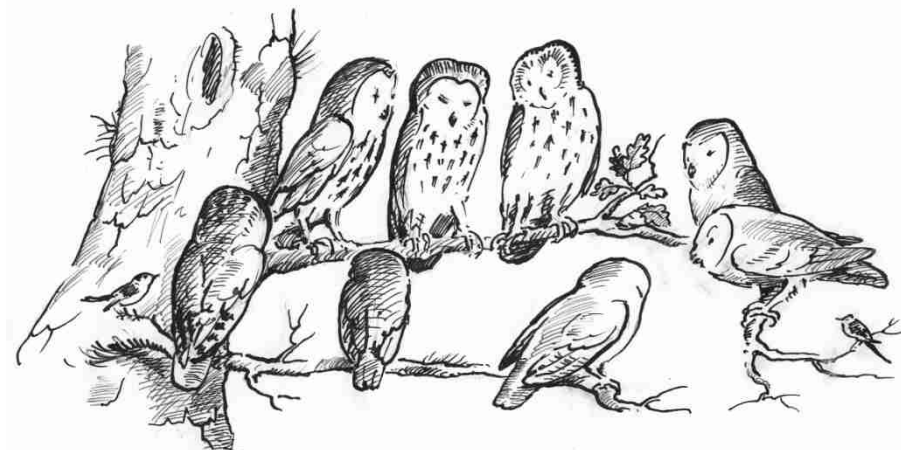
The sun is shining brightly; there are violets down the lane.
The wild garlic flowers are bringing us the scent of Spring again.
Buzzards 'kee' above with the sun still shining through.
Puff up Yatton Hill and gasp at the view.
Walk around the Ambrey, the Iron Agers home.
New fern fronds unfolding and the wild deer roam.
Wander down the Hill; pick up pine cones on the way.
So much to enjoy in March, April and May.



Anon

PARISH PEOPLE

Here are some details for people in the parish you might need to contact



PARISH COUNCIL

Chair

Eleanor Waldron
contact via clerk

Clerk

Maggie Brown
clerk@aymestrey.org
Tel: 07398 222 310

Members

Ian Goddard 770251 - Helen Hamilton 709155
John Probert 708484 - Domenica Dunne 07966103698
Alison Archer hello@alisonarcher.co.uk - Nicola Luscott nicolaluscott@live.co.uk
Mike Snoswell (contact via Clerk)

Special Responsibilities

Lengthsman: Yatton Farm Services Footpaths: Dave Dunn 770224
Tree Warden: Richard Hammond rjhammond500@btinternet.com
MMP Patient Rep: Pauline Hammond pauline.hammond500@btinternet.com 708044.

Ward Councillor

Carole Gandy 01568 780583 carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk

PARISH HALL

Chair: Martyn Booth 07748604215
Bookings Secretary: Pauline Hammond 708044 or 07796590266

CHURCH

Reverend Julie Read 708255. & Reverend Rosie Roberts revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk 07720 333383
Churchwardens: Meg Thorpe 07943046450. Stuart Hutchings 01547540511, 07961117050

AYMESTREY MATTERS

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DATES FOR DIARIES 2025

When	What	Where
Mondays 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls	PH
Tuesdays 10.30am to 11.30 am	Tea/Coffee in the Hall	PH
Thursdays 8.00pm	Sequence Dancing	PH
Thursdays 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.45am to 11.45am	Pilates	PH

March

Sunday 23rd 9.30am.	Forest Church.	Aymestrey
Wednesday 26th 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 30th 10.30am.	Benefice Mothering Sunday Service.	Kingsland

April

Sunday 6th 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 11th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Saturday 12th 10am. – 11.30am	Coffee Morning @ St Andrews	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 13th 10.30am	Benefice PALM SUNDAY service	Aymestrey
Thursday 17th 7.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY service.	Kingsland
Friday 18th 10am.	GOOD FRIDAY walk with the cross.	Leinthall Earls
Friday 18th 7 for 7.30pm	Film Night	PH
Saturday 19th 10am.	Decorate the church for Easter.	Aymestrey
EASTER SUNDAY 20th 11am. 3.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy communion CW.	Aymestrey Leinthall Earls
Easter Monday 21st 10 for 10.30am	‘Walk into Spring’	Meet PH
Wednesday 23rd 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 27th 10.30am.	Benefice Service.	Aymestrey

May

Sunday 4th 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Thursday 8th	VE Day	
Thursday 8th 6.30pm	Church Bells will ring out	Aymestrey
Friday 9th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Saturday 10 th afternoon	VE Day Celebrations	PH
Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th	Aymestrey in WW2 Exhibition.	Aymestrey
Sunday 11th 11.00am	VE Day Commemoration Service.	Aymestrey
Sunday 11th 6pm for 7.00pm	Broad Band Bounce -a VE Day celebration	PH
Wednesday 14th 7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	PH
Sunday 18th 3.00pm	Evensong	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 25th 10.30am	Benefice Rogation Sunday ‘On Farm’ service.	TBA
Bank Hol Monday 26th 12pm	Plant & Produce Sale	PH
Wednesday 28th 7.00pm	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	PH

June

Sunday 1st 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Sunday 8th 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 13th	Fun Quiz Night	TBC
Sunday 15th 3.30pm	Holy communion CW	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 22nd 9.30am	Forest Church	Aymestrey
Wednesday 25th 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 29th 10.30am	Benefice Service	TBA

Aymestrey Carpet Bowls



Aymestrey Carpet Bowls Spring Report

Aymestrey Carpet Bowls NEED YOU!

More on that after a brief overview of recent events.

We have just finished the League for 2024/25 (ie the North Herefordshire Indoor Carpet League which is held between Aymestrey, Wigmore, Lingen and Titley); and we have just WON the League!

Furthermore, the League teams hold an annual Finals' Night to find the League's Singles and Doubles Champions, players from Aymestrey have just WON both these Championships; so Aymestrey achieved a clean sweep. Not bad for my first year as Captain, but in all honesty these results had little to do with me. So well done to Kiwi for again winning the Singles and also to Val Holloway and Kris Johnston for the Doubles.

A big thank you and well done to all the players.

We continue to meet at 7pm on Monday evenings, for what I think, we all agree is a fun-filled night of bowling, and now that the League matches are out of the way, we'll look to find our own internal pairs and singles champions for 2025.

Now, most of you (and that included me) would think of bowls as a pastime for retirees, but it is really is a game suitable for all ages and all abilities; my sons and my grandchildren really enjoy playing when they visit (and even after only a few ends they can play a pretty decent game).

It is a facility we are lucky to have in the Parish, but we need a consistent attendance of at least a dozen players in order to make meeting each week financially feasible, we're not in 'dire straits' yet (now, there's a proper band) but we're keen to welcome new players, young or old, to join us.

**SO, WE NEED YOU! WHY NOT COME ALONG ON A MONDAY EVENING AND
GIVE CARPET BOWLS A GO.**

Carpet Bowls is fun and easy to learn, you'll make new friends in a relaxed atmosphere and get a little gentle exercise and a cuppa. All the equipment needed is provided, and there is no dress code to adhere too. On your first visit/ taster session we'll get you introduced to the game for free, and if you want to come along regularly then we charge just £3 per evening to cover costs for the hall hire and refreshments. If you are interested in being part of this village activity (and joining a WINNING team), then pop along on a Monday or contact me at wrightturned@gmail.com or tel 07759980090.

Finally, in the past few months, two former players have sadly passed away; Alan Holloway and Barry Wright. I didn't know Alan, as his illness ended his playing days before I arrived at Aymestrey. Barry was playing regularly up until about a year ago and he continued to come along to watch and encourage (and tell us his corny jokes during the tea break). We are thankful for the contribution they both made and our thoughts and best wishes continue to go to Val and Marge.

Peter



Aymestrey receiving the NHICB League Championship Trophy from Joe Scamp (NHICB League Chairman)



Kiwi receiving his NHICB Singles Trophy



Kris & Val receiving their NHICB Doubles Trophy

COFFEE MORNING



Cake
Tea & coffee
Easter-themed
activities



St Andrew's Church, Leinthall Earls
Saturday 12 April, 10-11:30am

Film and Food at Aymestrey Parish Hall



Friday – 18th - April

Food £6 at 7 pm / Film £6 at 7:30 pm

Please let us know if you are coming for food at
www.aymestrey.org/food-film or phone 01568 770816

Spaghetti Bolognese, Vegetarian option

Ice cream also available, £1

Please bring your own drinks. Cash only please

Walk into Spring from Aymestrey Parish Hall HR6 9SU

Easter Monday

21st April

10.30 am

(Reg from 10am)



Circular Walk Approx 4 miles

Refreshments on return

Well behaved dogs on leads welcome

Weather permitting

Contact Steph 07496 180332

Plant and Produce Sale

Bank Holiday

Monday 26th May

12.00-3.00pm

in the Parish Hall

All proceeds to Hall Funds

Bring your spare plants and produce to sell.

From £5 per table

or Donate you surplus plants

Come along and buy from local people

Refreshments available

Book a table.

Dee ~ 07434 621260

