

Aymestrey Matters



Summer 2026

Parish Notice Board



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Saturday 18th July ~ Annual Aymestrey Fete ~ starts 12noon
Friday 31st July ~ Illyria presents The Three Musketeers @ Yatton Court
8th August ~ Produce & Flower Show ~ see schedule

"Tea/Coffee in the Hall"

Come and join us for the weekly social event.

Every Tuesday in the Parish Hall

10.30am to 11.45ish

Parish Council Meetings

*held in the Parish Hall
7.00pm*

*4th Wednesday in the month
(not August)*

ALL Parishioners are welcome to attend

*Dog Show @
Aymestrey Fete
NEW SCHEDULE
THIS YEAR
with New Classes
Please see schedule*

**Dog Owners
Please Note**

 Aymestrey village
FETE
12 pm
Saturday 18th July
Games
Tug of war
Plant stall
Tombola
Duck race
Raffle
Food & drink
Flower & craft
Competition


 **ILLYRIA**
CHARTERED OUTDOOR THEATRE
The **THREE MUSKETEERS**
ALEXANDRE DUMAS
open air theatre

YATTON COURT, AYMESTREY, HR6 9SU
Friday 31st July 2026 at 7.00pm
Tickets: illyria.co.uk | 0333 666 3366
Gates open: 6.00pm. Running time approx. 135 mins (inc 20 min interval).
Cancellation in dangerous weather only, when performance will be rescheduled. Tickets are non-refundable.
BRING YOUR OWN SEATING/RUG, SUITABLE CLOTHING & PICNIC

EDITORS' PAGE

We write this on the longest day of the year, the start of astronomical summer and the start of a forecasted heatwave but by the time this edition hits your doormat it will probably be raining again!

Summer in Aymestrey means the Fete, less than a month away and preparations are in full swing. The organising is a phenomenal undertaking and we are grateful to Dan for steering the ship.

Volunteers are essential and although we have an established band to help organise and run the fete and more to help move the gazebos, furniture and other equipment to the field we always need more.

Whist looking through a local newspaper from 1980, when researching the WI article, the heading "Aymestrey-Where Everybody Belongs" jumped out from the page. An article about Aymestrey; not just the village, but the wider parish.

The feeling then, 46 years ago, amongst the parishioners was one of joining in, that's what keeps a community together they said.

We like to think that is still the case today.

Dee & Martyn

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

FUN QUIZ

2nd Friday in the Month
In the Parish Hall
8.00pm

New season starts
September

Teams of up to 4
or come along and join in
anyway. Refreshments
available or bring your own.

**Carpet Bowls
Monday
Evenings
@ Parish Hall
7pm
All Welcome**

Film Night

3rd Friday
in the month
restarts
September

Supper @ 7.00pm

Film @ 7.30pm

Church Notice Board

FOREST CHURCH AT AYMESTREY

Sunday 26th July, 9.30 am
Sunday 27th September 9.30 am



Informal outdoor worship for all ages. Starting with hot drinks and croissants, we hear a Bible story, explore an activity and spend time outdoors together.



PILGRIM PLACES, HOLY LIVES

- During August, there will be only one service in the benefice on each Sunday at 10.30am.
- We will journey round all our churches in turn, gathering for communion together and hearing about the patron saint of each church building:
- 2nd August, Kingsland: St Michael & All Angels
- 9th August, Leinthall Earls: St Andrew
- 16th August, Eardisland: St Mary
- 23rd August, Aymestrey: St John the Baptist & St Alkmund

DECORATION OF AYMESTREY CHURCH FOR HARVEST

St John the Baptist and
St Alkmund, Aymestrey

Friday 2nd October at 10am

All contributions of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables gratefully received.



Lammas is the annual festival of bread and beer, traditionally celebrated at the start of August and marking the start of the church's season of harvest thanksgivings.

Come and join in the ancient LAMMAS DAY communion at St Andrew's, Leinthall Earls at 10.30am on Sunday 9th August

All ages very welcome.

We hope to follow this with a lunch or picnic together - bring a chair, bring & share!

SUMMER SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 30th August, 10.30am
at Kingsland Church.

A benefice service of favourite hymns.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

St John the Baptist and

St Alkmund, Aymestrey

Friday 2nd October

at 6.30pm

followed by Supper in the Hall

PARISH HARVEST SUPPER

In the Parish Hall after the Harvest service

Friday 2nd October

**Three course sit down traditional supper
All welcome**

For tickets: Meg 07943 046450 or
Bronwyn 01547 540511 Please do book tickets to
give us an idea of numbers for catering purposes

Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls Churches

Rev. Maggie Tait-Druiff

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage? Thinking of friends and colleagues who have braved the 10-day pilgrimage walk of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, or significant journeys that people undertake for a whole variety of personal reasons – religious, spiritual and otherwise – my initial answer to this question was “no”. However, after listening to recent daily reflections on the Church of England’s *Everyday Faith* app, exploring the theme of pilgrimage, I realise that, actually, I have.



Several years ago, when exploring my feelings and thoughts that I might be called to ordination, I took myself off for a week to Iona, a small island in the Scottish Hebrides, described as a ‘thin place’ where the gap between heaven and earth seems to be paper-thin. While the island itself was beautiful, it was the journey that stayed with me. I travelled first by plane to Glasgow, then stayed overnight with a family friend before taking a 3-hour train to the port of Oban. From here, I took a 1-hour ferry to the isle of Mull, and then a 2-hour bus from the eastern to the western edge of Mull, where the isle of Iona was visible from the shore. A short pedestrian ferry ride later, and I arrived at my shared accommodation – tired, sweaty and ready for a week of thinking and praying about the small matter of my future life and calling.

Closer to home, I find the church buildings that I am now responsible for to be ‘thin places’. These buildings have witnessed the prayers, hopes, disappointments, grief, and celebrations of generations past and present. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, they are still opened each day for locals and tourists to find peace and solace when they need it. Each Sunday, we welcome ordinary pilgrims – parishioners and visitors – to worship with us, whether you have travelled near or far to get to church that morning.

Just like pilgrimages are not only for those who want to walk for days at a time, worship services are not just for those who feel they belong in church. We live in a frantic and busy world, with competing attentions for our time and energy. Some activities drain us; others fill us up and help us to refocus our perspective. Whether we see you often or not at all at our Sunday worship, my hope is, that the church – both the buildings and the people – will be here for you at times when you need a space to hold your prayers, hopes, disappointments, grief, and celebrations, and that time spent with God in thought or prayer will be something that fills you up and helps you to refocus your perspective at times when you need it.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Walk with me and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” [paraphrase, Matthew 11:28-31]

Rev’d Maggie Tate-Druiff is Rector of The Mortimer’s Cross Benefice, encompassing the churches and parishes of Aymestrey with Leinthall Earls, Kingsland & Eardisland.

Illyria Presents Open Air Theatre

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

at Yatton Court, Aymestrey
Friday 31st July 2026 at 7.00pm

This summer, Illyria Outdoor Theatre will be performing The Three Musketeers at Yatton Court, Aymestrey on Friday 31st July at 7pm. Yatton Court is an 18th Century manor house and the performance, befitting the occasion, will take place in its grounds.

Set against a sweeping panorama of 17th century France at war, the Three Musketeers is a whirlwind of excitement, comedy and ingenious storytelling. Romance! Intrigue! Murder! Betrayal! Revenge! It's got the lot!

Young D'Artagnan is desperate to join Athos, Porthos and Aramis as an elite Musketeer of the King's Guard. To prove himself he plunges headlong into a thrilling adventure to retrieve the Queen's jewels, race the clock to restore Her Majesty's honour, survive the machinations of scheming Cardinal Richelieu, and cross swords with the deadly Milady de Winter.

With a reputation for staging some of the finest swordplay in the business, Illyria's The Three Musketeers promises to be more dazzling than ever! So, bring a picnic and a seat and immerse yourself in this electrifying experience. The proceeds will go to Aymestrey Church and Aymestrey Parish Hall. The show will run for approximately 135 minutes, including a 20-minute interval and is recommended for ages 8+ as the Play contains scenes of peril, politics and passion! Younger children are welcome, if they're brave enough...

Bring your own seating/rug, suitable clothing & picnic. Only assistance dogs are permitted. Venue is wheelchair accessible by prior arrangement - email hello@alisonarcher.co.uk. Car parking is 200m from performance area. The doors will open at 6pm and the performance starts at 7pm

Tickets: www.illyria.co.uk | 0333 666 3366

**Bring your own seating/rug,
suitable clothing and a picnic**

Proceeds to Aymestrey Church and Parish Hall



Aymestrey Parish Commons Association



After a quiet winter, things have started to pick up on the Commons. The winter thrushes have left to their northern breeding grounds to be replaced by a multitude of summer migrants, we now have Linnets, Tree Pipits, Yellowhammer and Stonechat along with half a dozen or so different warblers all singing in the woodland and scrub area. Other avian residents are present with butterflies, day-time moths and the occasional dragonfly.

So that's some of the wildlife, what are the humans doing?

On Yatton Marsh (East), we have just planted two female Black Poplar trees to keep the two male trees, planted in 2023, company, we have also replaced the dead Red Oak sapling, which succumbed to last summer's drought, with a Horse Chestnut although we may have wait a year or two for some conkers!.

The path at Ballsgate Common is disappearing again under the Bracken and other undergrowth so a work party is being planned, and weather permitting by the time you read this it should be easier to navigate.

Following the great results achieved last year on Yatton Hill Common using the beast of a machine called a 'Robocut', we have managed to secure funding, with the aid of our Parish Council, from Herefordshire Council. We are hoping this will improve further some of the paths across the common.

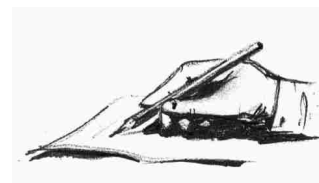
We recently had the benefit of a day with Toby Fountain, an ecologist who works for Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Toby, along with Richard Hammond and myself had a very interesting day exploring the flora and fauna of Yatton Hill and Yatton Marsh commons, with lots of species found including quite a few red-listed birds, and in the Wood White a rare species of butterfly. We look forward to Toby's report and management suggestions, a big thanks to Richard for organising this.

On the subject of wildlife surveys, we have recently signed up to the 'Herefordshire Citizen Bat Project', who will now loan us some Bat detecting equipment. All records gathered are forwarded to the Herefordshire Biological Record Centre, and then will become part of the Herefordshire Bat Atlas.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who supports the commons, and those who turn out on the work parties, remember they are fantastic resource for the parish and yours to visit and enjoy. If you would like find out more about our commons, please visit our stand at the village fete on the 18th July.

Martyn

Parish Council



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

I last updated residents in March this year. Since then, Councillor Alison Archer's resignation has been accepted with regret and a new chairman elected. Councillor Archer is thanked for her work on the council and her chairmanship over the last year. Councillor Pauline Hammond was co-opted in February and welcomed to the Council – a fact regrettably omitted from the March report.

Two vacancies exist. Please consider putting yourself forward for co-option. Serving as a parish councillor offers a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing of the community and help shape local priorities and services. Scheduled meetings take place ten times a year (none in August and December) on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Contact the clerk for more information or download an application form from the website www.aymestrey.org. The link is on the home page!

Four residents attended the Annual Parish Meeting, and several issues were raised including speeding, use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and the Mortimers Cross Road Safety Group. Four sets of village gates were suggested for Mortimer Cross and The Parish Council has approached Traffic Management at Herefordshire Council to ask whether locations can be agreed.

Data/evidence of the success of the SIDSs was requested. Combined data (north and southbound) for 2024 and 2025 is copied below. Further detail is available from the clerk. Pneumatic tubes were placed in three locations. Herefordshire Council's Traffic Management noted that *"Positively, the speeds have generally decreased since the previous data collection."*

Site 1 - A4110 southern end of village near entrance to Village Hall carpark			
	September 2024	September 2025	
Total recorded volume	26,145	17,092	
Avg (24hr) daily volume (based on 7 days)	3,735	3,870	
Avg (24hr) daily mean speed (7 days)	32.0mph	31.5mph	0.5 mph slower (-1.6%)
Avg (24hr) daily 85%ile (7 days)	37.0mph	36.7mph	0.3 mph slower (-0.8%)

Site 2 - A4110 central area near entrance to Church			
	September 2024	September 2025	
Total recorded volume	24,956	25,640	
Avg (24hr) daily volume (based on 7 days)	3,565	3,663	
Avg (24hr) daily mean speed (7 days)	31.0mph	29.9mph	0.1 mph slower (-3.6%)
Avg (24hr) daily 85%ile (7 days)	35.0mph	33.6mph	1.4 mph slower (-4.0%)

Site 3 - A4110 Northern end of village near Mortimer Trail			
	September 2024	September 2025	
Total recorded volume	23,427	24,731	
Avg (24hr) daily volume (based on 7 days)	3,347	3,533	
Avg (24hr) daily mean speed (7 days)	32.0mph	32.2mph	0.2 mph faster (+0.6%)
Avg (24hr) daily 85%ile (7 days)	39.0mph	37.9mph	1.1 mph slower (-2.8%)

Councillor Eleanor Waldron was elected Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Councillor Doug Murrie as vice-chairman.

It was agreed that the Aymestrey Traffic Calming Group be disbanded, it having completed its work. The Group co-ordinator was thanked, and this is extended to all members.

Responsibility for Speed Indicator Devices has been transferred to Councillor Murrie, with the assistance of two volunteers. The former *SID Squad Leader* is thanked for looking after them for the last couple of years.

You will have seen the new Parish Council notice board outside the Parish Hall. Thanks go to the Hall Committee for allowing its installation and to those who installed it. Copies of the agenda, notices of vacancy and other important information are available there for you to read. These documents are always on the website too – you can subscribe for updates – again, on the home page. There are also boards in Leinthall Earls, Yatton, Mortimers Cross, and Covenhope.

The Parish Footpaths Officer (PFO) updates residents/councillors at each meeting, highlighting problems on the network. Work has been completed improving steps on the Mortimer Trail below Pokehouse Wood, helped by the Orleton Footpath Maintenance Volunteers. The PFO is thanked for his efforts.

Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme continues to offer support to the community. A free service, run by volunteers, help is offered for a variety of tasks, including lifts to medical appointments, errands, small tasks around the home, help with forms or letters, or calling for a chat. Call on 07942 257 541. Volunteers to help run this most worthwhile scheme are encouraged to apply.

Defibrillators in Yatton and at the Parish Hall are monitored by a volunteer, and The Circuit, a National Defibrillator Network, kept updated. See www.defibfinder.uk The defibrillator at Leinthall Earls is looked after by Gatley Farms and those at Lye monitored independently. The model at the Parish Hall will soon be discontinued, and consideration will be given to its replacement on behalf of the Parish.

The Parish Council made objections to re-consultation P240980/M regarding the proposed western extension of the existing quarry at Leinthall Earls. This can be read with the May 2026 Minutes, on the website. A copy can be provided by email if preferred. No objections were raised to application P261111/F, for the conversion of a barn to one dwelling at Ballsgate Common.

A prototype new website for the Parish is being developed – more on this next time...

Scheduled meetings take place at 7pm at the Parish Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except August and December). Dates for the coming year are 22 July, August – no scheduled meeting, 23 September, 28 October, 25 November, December – no scheduled meeting, 27 January 2027, 24 February, 24 March, 28 April, 26 May 2027. Mark them in your calendar and come along!

Your input is valued, and you are welcome to attend meetings at the Parish Hall.

Whether you have lived here five minutes or fifty years, your input matters.

For updates, please subscribe on the Parish website: www.aymestrey.org

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

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled by co-option.

Applications are invited.

If you have an active interest in the well-being of your community, and would like to be considered,

contact Maggie Brown, Parish Clerk Tel: 07398 222 310 Email: clerk@aymestrey.org.

Ring or email to find out more!

WILDLIFE IN THE MARCHES

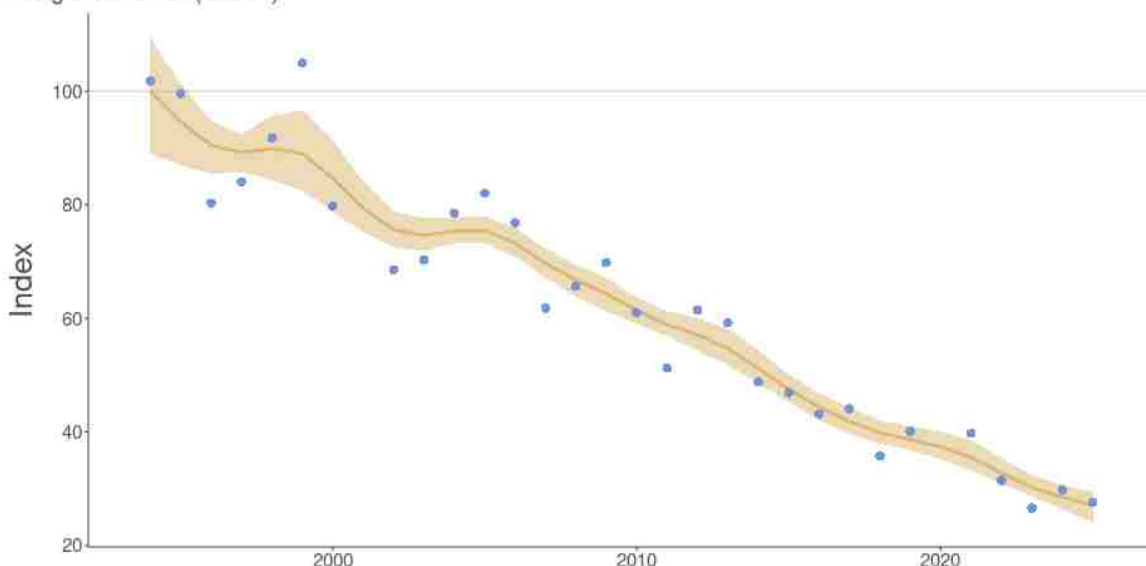


The Return of the Swifts

I'm sitting down to write this after having just fixed two swift boxes to the side of the house in Watling Street. Since moving here, I've missed having my own swifts. My last house had lots of loose brickwork under the eaves, and we had three or four pairs nest in the house each year. I would spend time sitting in the garden watching them in and out of their nest-holes and relish seeing their 'screaming parties' in late summer. I remember rescuing a couple of young swifts that had made the mistake of 'landing', releasing them with an upward move of my arm till the wind took them from the palm of my hand. I even once witnessed the ultimate, two swifts mating in mid-air, coming together for a second and twisting and falling until release let them both be carried upwards again. Just stunning.

While swifts are still here in North Herefordshire, I'm constantly told that there used to be many more. It's the same story all over. They have declined everywhere across the UK in recent years and around 72% of our swifts have gone since the mid-1990s (BTO – see graph below). Why the decline? It's twofold. Like everything else they are suffering from the decline in flying insects that we have seen over the past few years (too many pesticides, too little nature) but doubly they have been hit by the relentless tidying up of our housing stock. There are fewer gaps in the brickwork, fewer loose tiles and new houses are built with little thought for the birds that have made their homes with us for hundreds of years.

Swift population abundance in United Kingdom
Long-term trend (1994–)



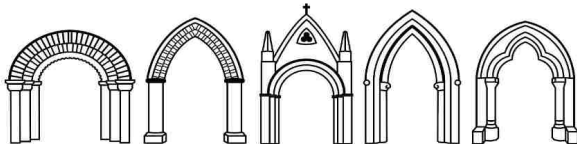
So, what can we do to help? 'Swift Bricks' would be good to have on any new builds and though all new builds in Scotland have been mandated to have swift bricks, we are still waiting for the same commitment from politicians in England and Wales. In the meantime, we can all help by installing swift nest boxes on our existing houses.

I bought a couple and even someone like me who is a DIY dunce managed to put them together and fit them to the wall (north or east facing – birds find it easier to keep their nestlings warm when it is cold than they do to cool their nestlings down when it is too hot). You'll have to invest in a swift caller as well. You'll need to play swift calls in the early morning from the beginning of June when unpaired birds return from Africa because swifts like to nest where other swifts are already. These younger birds are on the lookout for mates – and nesting sites. They'll often bang up against potential nesting sites, checking if they are already occupied, giving them the wonderful nickname 'bangers'. It may take a few years for us to increase the population, but who wouldn't want to have these glorious, airborne wonders around. Something we cannot afford to lose. I'd also recommend a great book if you want to know more about these astounding birds – try reading 'Vesper Flights' by the wonderfully talented Helen Macdonald. I hope you will be as spellbound by these glorious animals as I am.

Mike Wheeler, Leintwardine Wildlife Group

Ed: Mike runs the Leintwardine Wildlife Group, they have regular talks and events throughout the year; their Facebook group gives details plus sightings in the area.

HEREFORDSHIRE Historic Churches Trust



Following on from our earlier summer events we have the following upcoming in August

The return of Carlo Fierens, the professional Italian Classical Guitarist at a local venue. Carlo has just finished a series of masterclasses followed by a concert in Manilla.

Weobley HR4 8SD – Sat 29th Aug 2026 7.00 pm

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/2181046>

All events sponsored by Tanners Wines. www.hhct.co.uk

FIT STRONG MEN and WOMEN

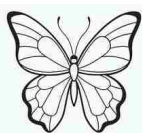


YOUR FETE NEEDS YOU

(Wimps also required)



*The Fete needs volunteers for setting up on Thursday 16th July (meet at Fete Field 6.00pm) and on the Saturday morning. If you are willing and able please come along.
Volunteers also required after the fete to help clear and tidy up.*



Big Butterfly Count 2026

First launched in 2010 the Big Butterfly Count will take place from **17th July to 9th August** this year.

Butterflies and moths are an important part of our ecosystem helping to pollinate flowers and plants, helping to control pests as well as providing food for other animals like birds and bats.

There are 59 species of butterflies in the UK but over the last 150 years FIVE species have become extinct and today butterfly numbers are decreasing at a drastic rate.

To take part in the Butterfly Count this year you can find out all the details online at <http://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org> including signing up for a newsletter, downloading an identification chart and recording your butterfly sightings.



Take 15 mins out of your day to sit in a garden, park or other green space and record how many butterflies you see during that time.



Save the Date

**AYMESTREY PARISH BONFIRE &
FIREWORKS**

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER



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.

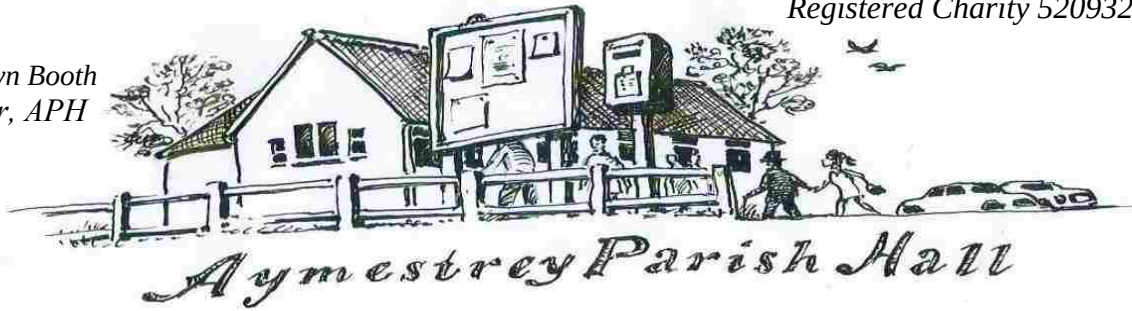
*Well equipped kitchen with large cooker, two sinks, dishwasher, fridge, freezer,
ample preparation space and serving hatch*

Separate side room

Free Wi-Fi

Very reasonable rates – Tel: 07796 590266

Martyn Booth
Chair, APH



I usually find the Summer hall write-up a bit tricky due to events at the hall starting to reduce, so in order to make things easier, - I'll keep it short!

The usual 'Bluebell Walk' was changed this year due to the difficulty of accurately predicting the emergence of Bluebells, therefore, we had a 'Walk in the Woods'. This was kindly organised by Richard & Pauline Hammond, beginning with a walk around Shobdon Woods, taking in the sights and sounds of Spring, and then calling in at Shobdon Arches before ending up back at Covenhope Cottage for well earned tea and cakes.

Now a regular event on the Hall calendar, the 'Plant and Produce Sale', was held this year on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, and it was a great success. The quality and variety of the plants for sale was to say the least, superb, comments to this effect were made by the many buyers that attended. Business was brisk for both the plants and the teas and cakes, also for sale. This was our most successful Plant Sale yet making nearly £600 for hall funds. A big thank you to everyone who donated plants and cakes, with a special mention for Pauline and Steph, also not forgetting Rosemary on refreshments.

Coming soon we have our Village Fête, Produce and Flower Show, and a visit by 'The Three Musketeers'; there's plenty of information about these events elsewhere in this magazine, and I'm sure you will find them all very entertaining.

Some of our regular events take a well earned rest until September, however others continue; for the more active we have Monday night bowling, Thursday morning Pilates and Sequence Dancing on Thursday evenings. However if you just like to sit around chatting and drinking tea and coffee then our Tuesday Coffee Mornings are for you ... 10.30 – 11.45 (ish), everyone welcome.

Martyn

The Produce and Flower Show

will be held on

Saturday 8th August

at the Parish Hall, viewing from 2pm

Aymestrey Beaker Burial - a rare Bronze Age find

Aymestrey Parish is home to one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Herefordshire. That discovery can be seen in Leominster Museum.

In June 1987, gravel excavations were being undertaken by ARC Ltd at its Aymestrey site. Bulldozer driver Edward Blatchford noticed some flagstones and a hole appear as he stripped the overburden (soil over the gravel). At first Edward thought that he saw the remains of a field drain. Looking more closely, he noticed part of a skull and other bones. He stopped work and advised site manager Fred Marston, who contacted local archaeology services.

Archaeological excavations revealed roughly shaped flagstones forming the coffin (or cist). The stones were of a local limestone, probably quarried from the nearby hillsides. The cist was constructed in a small pit. The body was laid in a crouched position, on its side. There was no extant evidence of a mound (barrow) covering the burial.

The body was that of a child, between seven and eight years of age. It was not then possible to say whether it was male or female. There were no clues to indicate how the child died.

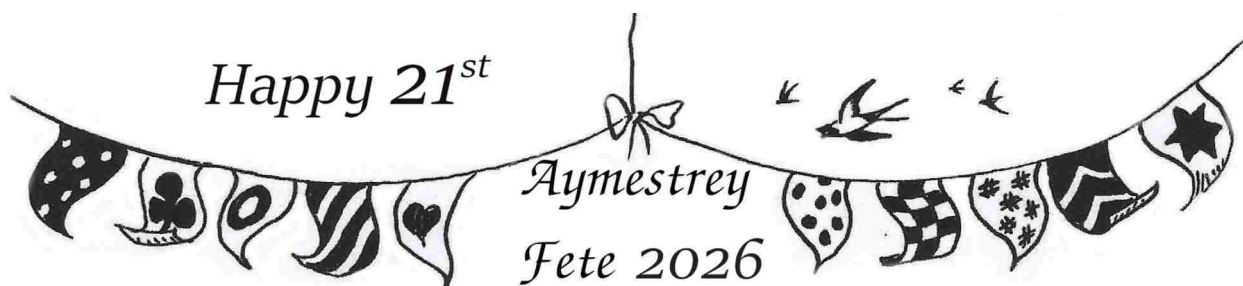
The child was buried with a beaker at its feet and a small flint knife beneath its head. Such beakers were used between 2,000 and 1,300 BC (about 3,300 to 4,000 years ago) in the period termed the early Bronze Age. That gave a dating for the burial.

Beakers were well made (without using a potters wheel). They were usually very elaborately decorated using a notched tool (probably made of bone) to push the design into the clay before firing. The Aymestrey beaker is decorated in this way. Evidence of other Beaker Burials suggests that beakers may have contained something like mead to accompany the deceased into the afterlife.

Bronze Age burials are rare of children accompanied by prestigious objects. Furthermore, there are only a handful of Beaker Burials in Herefordshire, so the find is a rare one indeed.

KJ





Saturday 18th July

From 12 noon

Aymestrey Village Fete – Turning 21 In Style

Now in its 21st year, the Aymestrey Village Fete is a cherished fixture of the local calendar — a day when we all come together to celebrate village life with stalls, games, food, and good old-fashioned fun. This year marks a special milestone: our 21st year and our 20th Fete having seen one cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Fete, in its current form, began in 2005 with the very first one held at the Old Vicarage. In subsequent years it found its home in the Orchard of Aymestrey Court, (next to the Church) where it remained until 2012. In 2012 it moved to the field below Garden House and then in 2013 it came back home to Yatton Court where the village fetes of yesteryear were held for decades.

What began two decades ago as a modest gathering has grown into a much-loved tradition, bringing together residents, visitors, and friends from the wider area for an afternoon of entertainment and togetherness in the heart of Aymestrey. All the funds raised at the Fete are used to support the Parish Hall and the Church and since 2005 it has raised a staggering £38,657.25.

This year's fete promises something for everyone, with a wonderful line-up of stalls and attractions including the Tea Tent, Produce Competition, Produce Stall, Bar, Duck Race, Dog Show, Children's Games, Tombola, Bottle Stall, Plant Stall, Coconut Shy, Raffle and so much more.

Whether you're a long-time attendee, who perhaps remembers the very first fete or a newcomer discovering it for the first time, this milestone year is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate two decades of community spirit and look forward to many more years to come.

Come along from 12pm on Saturday 18th July to the Fete Field by Yatton Court and join the celebration!

Held by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hurcomb. Gates open at 12noon with the entrance by the lodge, NO EARLY ENTRY (*except exhibitors*).

Refreshments in the form of a Bar, the famous Tea Tent as well as a Burger Stand. Arena events will include Children's Games, Fun Dog Show (see schedule) and the Tug of War competition (with prize money), open to teams of 8 from villages, clubs, etc.



Vintage Tractors will display in the arena around 1.00pm followed by the Classic MGs, with Children's Games starting approximately 1.30pm with the Fun Dog Show starting about 2.30pm. The Duck Race at approx. 3.45pm then the Tug of War. The Raffle to be held around 4.30pm.

*Entries for the art and craft competitions (schedule overleaf) will be accepted
only from 10am until 11am and will be judged by the start of the Fete.*

*Prize-giving for the Art & Craft competition will take place after the judging
alongside the official fete opening*



Arts & Crafts Schedule

Entries will be accepted only from 10am until 11am

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, 4 and 5 will win the Joyce Pugh Cup for baking

Class 1 - A Victoria sponge cake, any filling

Class 2 - A cake using fruit or vegetable as a main ingredient

Class 3 - Loaf of bread, any recipe

Class 4 - 3 shortbread biscuits on a plate

Class 5 - 6 cheese straws on a plate

Class 6 - 6 sweets or other home made confectionery

Class 7 - A home-made fruit or alcoholic beverage

Class 8 - A jar of sweet preserve

Class 9 - A jar of savoury preserve

Class 10 - Three eggs on a plate



Handicrafts

The Aymestrey Fete Handicrafts Cup will be awarded for judges' choice from 1st prize winners

Class 11 - A handmade item using any materials

Class 12 - An item of knitting or crochet

Class 13 - A piece of cross-stitch or embroidery

Class 14 - My best photograph "in the Garden"

Class 15 - A drawing or painting on a subject of your choice



Floral Art

Class 16 - A single rose in a vase

Class 17 - A Floral arrangement of fresh flowers and foliage

Class 18 - A miniature arrangement of fresh or dried flowers (max 6 inches x 6 inches excluding base)

Class 19 - Sweet peas in a vase



Junior Section

Please state age on all exhibits. Best of the Best Rosette to be awarded to Judges' choice from first prize winners

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 Trees

Class 23 - 3 home baked and decorated fancy cakes on a plate

Class 24 - A poem about Wild Animals

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



A Best in Show Trophy will be awarded to the best entry ~ chosen by the judges.



Rules for Exhibitors of Arts and Crafts

1. All Exhibits **MUST** be the work of the Exhibitor. *Items entered previously will not be eligible.*
2. Entrance fee by donation please.
3. All exhibits to be staged on the day of the show, 10.00 to 11.00am. **ONLY**
4. Judging will start at 11.15am. The marquee will reopen shortly after 12 noon.
5. The judges' decision is final.
6. Trophies where awarded must be returned by next years competition.
7. No exhibit may be removed before 4pm. Items not collected will be disposed of after 4.45pm.

Donations/Contributions are needed and gratefully received for the-

Produce Stall - cakes, preserves, garden produce etc.

Plant Stall - plants of all kinds please

Bottle Stall - all your spare bottles

Bric-a-brac Stall - books, puzzles etc.

Tombola Stall -miscellaneous gifts

***please take to Parish Hall 10.00am to 12noon please
on Tuesdays 7th and 14th July, and on Friday 17th July 5.00-
6.30pm***

OR

to the stall on fete morning 10-11am

The Produce and Flower Show

will be held on

Saturday 8th August

at the Parish Hall, from 2pm

To enter please see schedule on page 25



18th July 2026

Fun Dog Show Rules

Starts at approx 2.30pm

1. This is a fun show first and foremost
2. The Judges' decisions are final
3. The competition is judged under local rules as determined by the judges (Not Kennel Club!)
4. All dogs to remain on a lead
5. Owners are responsible for their dogs at all times.

Classes

1. Most adorable puppy (12 months and under)
2. Handsomest Male dog
3. Prettiest Female dog
4. Best veteran dog (age 8 and over)
5. Dog That Looks Most Like Its Owner
6. Musical Sits - Dogs must sit on command when the music stops
7. Best in Show (chosen from winners of the above classes)



Polite and Important Notice

Out of consideration to other visitors to the Fete and to the livestock that will graze the field later PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG.



What is your earliest childhood memory?

Eating Wagon Wheels at school - they were twice the size they are now! Probably why I ended up with so many fillings.

What difference do you notice about Aymestrey and where you used to live?

Less diversity - and the love of potatoes!

Do you enjoy travelling and if so, where?

Yes, I enjoy travelling. One of my favourite places is Far North Queensland in Australia. There's a real mix of coast, rainforest, and Outback. The climate suits 'peely wallys' like me, and the wildlife is fantastic - especially the morning chorus. It's a place where the outdoors is never far away.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Taking the dog out for a walk in the morning... I'm retired.

When and where were you happiest?

Always grumpy, so hard to tell! My wife, Lorri, can vouch for that!

What do you enjoy watching on T.V.?

A good crime drama. I invariably get it wrong, despite being convinced I've worked it out.

Doug Murrie has lived in Aymestrey for three years. Born in England, he grew up in Scotland before returning in his twenties. He spent 30 years in IT, in roles ranging from technical to sales and marketing. Volunteering has always been central to him, including supporting children, assisting the NHS during COVID, and serving on Aymestrey Parish Council. His interests include gardening, wildlife, photography, and bell ringing.

What are you passionate about?

I do have a bit of a penchant for hoverflies - they're remarkable for their role in the garden, and there are so many different varieties.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Buying compost for the veg patch every year!

How do you best relax?

Walking in Beechenbank Wood. Every season has a different thing to observe or listen to.

What living person do you most admire?

David Attenborough, for his lifelong work in natural history and his talent for inspiring people to care about and understand the natural world.

What would be your last meal on earth?

Fish and chips from Wells-next-the-Sea. Nothing fancy, just done properly.

Do you have a motto or proverb that you live by?

Carpe diem - seize the day and make the most of each opportunity.

How would you like to be remembered?

Not bothered. After you're gone, you're gone!

Mortimer Ward

Carole Gandy

Time goes so fast and it seems only a few weeks ago that I was writing the Spring report. The weather has been generally good and has given us all a chance to visit some of the wonderful gardens in Herefordshire.

I recently visited the opening of the new ECHO centre in West Street Leominster. It is a fantastic building catering for adults with learning disabilities. They have a radio station, a craft area, weaving, catering, gardening, theatre and leisure and social activities. If you have someone in your family who would benefit from this then give it a try. It will also provide some respite for the carer. I also visited a centre in Leominster comprising of two bungalows which provides permanent residence for adults with learning difficulties. It is a wonderful place and on the day of my visit they were organising a BBQ.



The UK Digital Switchover

Landline telephone services in the UK are switching to a fully-digital network. This means phone calls will be made over the internet (instead of analogue landlines). This is what's known as the digital switchover.

The switchover is happening because analogue telephone lines are becoming more difficult and expensive to maintain. The UK needs a modern digital system that can handle communications via mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices.

The digital switchover is planned to be completed by January 2027.

How will it affect me; what do I need to do?

For most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward:

If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router, rather than the socket on the wall.

- If you need to upgrade your phone system, your provider may need to arrange for a telephone engineer to come to your home to install a new system.
- If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as an alarm and digital / tele-healthcare system (including Technology Enabled Care (TEC)), your alarm or healthcare system provider might need to upgrade your alarm device to make sure it's compatible. If you're unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will still work on a digital phone line.

More information and support

Your telecoms provider (eg Virgin Media, O2 or BT) will contact you ahead of the switchover to let you know what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. You do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly.

If have any concerns or issues regarding the digital switchover please do not hesitate to contact me or Cllr Peter Stoddard. Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and Herefordshire Digital Champion:

peter.stoddart@herefordshire.gov.uk

Empty Properties. If you are aware of any empty properties which have been empty for some time please do not hesitate to let me know as we are doing our best to trace owners and ascertain why the property is empty when it could be if necessary brought back into good repair and used for housing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a problem and I will try to solve it.
carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk 01568 780583 07792882133



PARISH NATTERS & POST BOX



**Congratulations to Melissa & Tim
Clarke of Aymestrey Patisserie
on the arrival of Elsie, a sister for
George**

To Pastures New

Sadly we must say farewell to Ian & Angela of Yatton who shortly will be leaving the parish to be closer to their family in Northern Ireland.

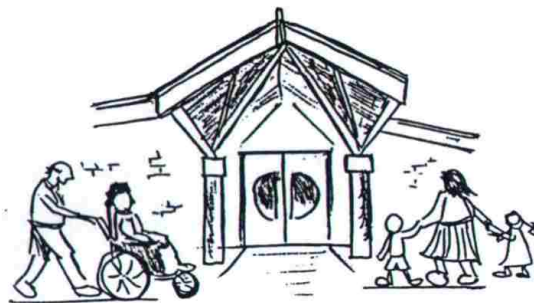
They have both become an integral part of village life and big supporters of the Hall.

They will be sorely missed.

To Aymestrey Gardeners from the village of Yarpole. Thank you very much for all the plants you kindly left for us, all were sold and money raised for the church. GL

(Ed. Having had a very successful plant sale to raise funds for our Hall some of the remaining plants were donated to other churches/villages.)

Mortimer Medical Practice



News from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Staffing

You may have noticed quite a few changes in the staff recently.

Anita has retired and Ivonne moved away both from the nursing team.

2 receptionists have left.

Fiona the practice manager left in May and Dr Debra Corbett will be retiring in August. At this point the surgery will continue with only 2 partners.

Recruitment is underway, Alison (the deputy manager has increased her duties) and we have a temporary part time manager. She is very experienced (but unfortunately living in Worcester does not want the job permanently) she is however helping to restructure the staff in the practice to help things work better.

Anima

Please continue to try and book appointments through the Anima system. All requests (even admin ones) are seen by a GP so that they can be triaged to make sure they get to the relevant person as quickly as possible.

Waiting times for non-urgent appointments are approx. 2-3 weeks.

The use of the Anima system is definitely reducing wasted appointments, by earlier flagging up the need for tests first or by direct referral to a member of the team other than a GP, when appropriate

Staff on reception will still help with completing the forms, when needed, but this does mean waiting times on the phone are longer.

Due to staffing changes the proposed Anima workshops have been shelved but a member of the PPG alongside a member of the team are preparing a leaflet to help patients navigate the Anima site.

Any nurse appointments can still be booked direct at reception or by phone.

Facts and Figures

At present the 3 surgeries have 8,912 patients registered.

In May 26 there were 128 appointments where the patient did not attend this equates to 21 lost hours of appointments that could have been reallocated.

Closures

The surgery and dispensary will be closed on the afternoon (from 12pm) on

14th July

14th October

This is for staff training, the surgery will reopen at 4pm. The reception telephone will be manned for emergencies all day and Anima will still be available.

31st August is a bank holiday and the surgery will be closed all day,

Thoughts from a Retired Gardener

Jim Logan

PESTS

1st of June, 5.30 in the morning I'm half asleep listening to the dawn chorus through the open bedroom window, when there is a thump on the roof adjacent to the window followed by a tap on the window pane and a loud "CAW". I roll over to see the Carrion Crow in profile, the glint in its beady black eye as it checks me out, its huge dagger of a beak. Whoosh and it was gone.

It's quite intimidating to have a normally cautious creature peering at you from 10 feet away when you are barely awake. I can understand why the police favour dawn raids to arrest criminals. The crow calls again from a more respectable distance as much as to say, "gave him a fright".

I know why the crow visits my bedroom window, there was a Blue Tits nest in an alcove next to the window in the eaves; they've fledged and gone now, successfully I hope but clearly the crow had its predatory eye on them.

It is a pair of crows of course and like all corvids they are clever and observant, I've no doubt that they study my routine movements outside and converse with each other. One watching whilst the other pilfers, poultry food or unattended duck eggs.

There is a semi domesticated Mallard duck here that hatched 8 ducklings in May and lost them all over a period of 10 days almost certainly to the crows.

There is a Kites nest overlooking the garden and earlier when the Kites were incubating eggs and feeding small chicks the crows were not welcome and regularly seen off, the Kites are less vigilant now that their young are adult sized and almost fledged. I am a definite 'not in my backyard' when it comes to crows they are a nuisance.



I wish they would up their game and perhaps take out some of the Grey Squirrels that are plaguing my garden, fat chance of that.

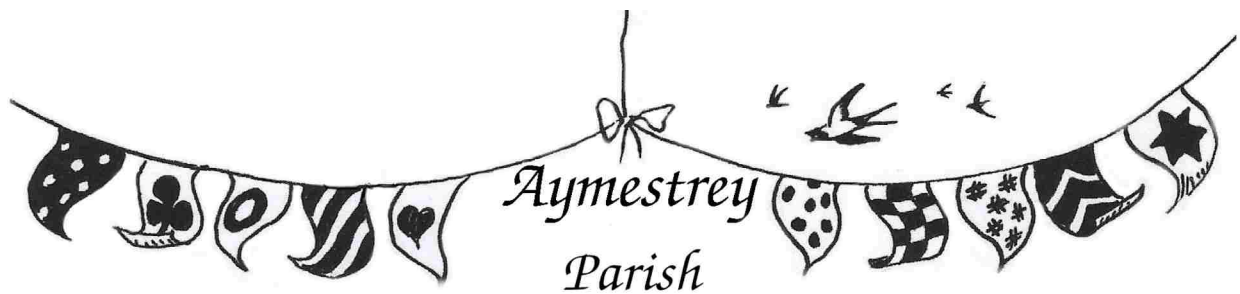
They, the squirrels were quite numerous over the winter, but doing no harm scurrying about burying or digging up acorns. Come the spring however they suddenly had a craving for blossom specifically my sweet cherry, destroying the potential crop within a few days. They then started on the Walnut and Horse chestnut trees almost defoliating them, and still now in June they have few leaves.

Their latest target is my Strawberry row, annihilated despite my efforts prowling around with the air rifle, every time I turn my back they are there.

I've created a wildlife friendly garden which these thugs and plunderers are taking advantage of, it's in their nature to do so. Reluctantly I have become the top predator here and it does cause me some anguish.

Jim

*Fete Preparations -Volunteers most welcome
Please meet @ Fete Field 6.00pm on Thursday 15th July*



Produce and Flower Show

Saturday 8th August 2026

Held at the Parish Hall, open for viewing from 2pm



Rules

1. All Exhibits – MUST be the property of the exhibitor and grown on their land.
2. Entrance fee by donation please.
3. All exhibits to be staged on the day of the show, from 11.15am until 12.45pm.
4. Judging will start at 1.00pm and opened for viewing at 2pm.
5. The judges' decision is final.
6. No exhibit may be removed before 3.00pm. Items not collected by 3.30pm will be disposed of.

Refreshments available from 11.30am.



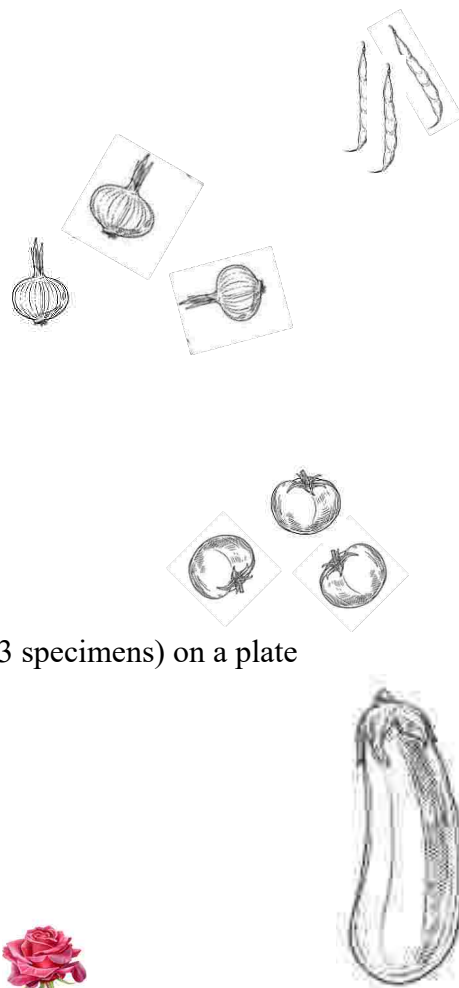
Could the Winners of the Cups for 'Best in Show', 'Rose Cup' and 'Steven Price Cup' from last year please return to the Hall on the day or before if possible



Produce and Flower Show Schedule Saturday 8th August, 2026

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 - 6 shallots on a plate
- Class 7 - 3 bulbs of garlic
- Class 8 - 3 beetroots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 9 - 3 carrots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 10 - 1 cucumber on a plate
- Class 11 - 3 tomatoes on a plate
- Class 12 - a selection of salad items (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 13 - 3 stems of rhubarb
- Class 14 - a selection of soft fruit (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 15 - an unusual or exotic vegetable of your choice (max 3 specimens) on a plate
- Class 16 - heaviest marrow
- Class 17 - longest runner bean
- Class 18 - trug/box/basket display of four types of vegetables



Flowers

- Class 19 - a single rose in a vase
- Class 20 - a vase of my garden perennials, mixed
- Class 21 - a flowering house plant
- Class 22 - a jug of flowers from my garden
- Class 23 - a vase of 5 sweet peas (any colour)
- Class 24 - a vase of 3 dahlias (any variety)
- Class 25 - a vase of 3 gladioli (any variety)
- Class 26 - a single sunflower bloom
- Class 27 - a hand tied bunch of fresh herbs
- Class 28 - the best cut flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 29 - the best scented flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 30 - a vase of foliage (up to 5 varieties)
- Class 31 - Aymestrey Matters Mystery Seeds



**Points are awarded in each class: 3pts~First, 2pts~Second and 1pt~Third
The Steven Price cup will be awarded to the exhibitor accumulating the
most points overall. Only one set of points will be awarded to an exhibitor
regardless of the number of their entries in any one class.**

Notes From The Marsh

March – early June 2026

Deer, dear - what's in a Name?

Look out, Muntjacs on the march! It was about 9 on a grey drizzly April morning; the cat was asleep on the windowsill, so it was a stretch to look out into the soggy landscape. And what did I spy? A Muntjac mum with a teenager, half-grown; like many teenagers, he was reluctant – she was nudging him along – in my garden.

Needless to say, I was reluctant too. Was it a living nightmare or did I dream it?

Afraid not – since then, they have trimmed my new Corkscrew Willow, pruned the lower rose stems, eaten flower-buds in my mini-wildflower meadow – and nipped off a lot of the perennial poppy buds. Let's hope they've had bad dreams as well!

More objectively, facts about Muntjacs: think Cocker Spaniel for similar size and weight of the male – a Roe Deer buck is typically taller and straighter standing, with 3-point horns, and roughly a third heavier. Muntjacs have been around for about 20 million years, but not down our way recently; their 14 species exist mainly in South- East Asia – the ones in my garden are Reeves Muntjacs from China. They have a russet coat and – by human aesthetic standards - a rather squashed and striped ugly face.



The buck has small horns and downward-pointing outer teeth.

Crucially, these are tropical deer which can breed throughout the year, with birth of fawns after 7 months and the possibility of mating again after a few days. At least, unlike our other deer, they are fairly solitary, so herds of munching muntjacs are not likely in your back-garden; however, they are small and agile and they love flowers as much as I do. They have no native predators, and can therefore wreak havoc not only on your roses, but on ancient woodland and its flora.

How did they get here then? As with other invasive species, the recent past has seen decorative introductions of non-native and destructive wildlife. Woburn Abbey seems to have had escapees in the 1920's. Of course, it's technically true to say that Fallow Deer have been re-introduced; they died out during the Ice age, but the Romans and Normans kindly brought them back. Our long-term native species are the Red and the Roe; sadly, while they are also decorative, the Red tends to damage the forestry while the Roe goes for our crops.

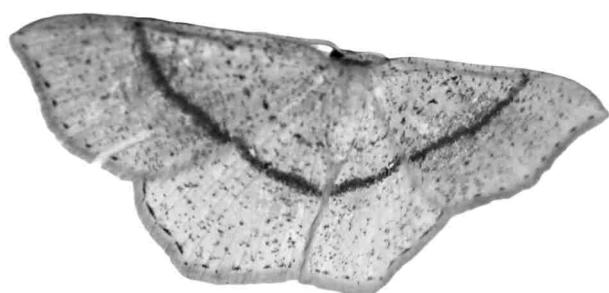
Where are the wolves of yesteryear? On Wall Street, perhaps...

For those of us with a little (gun) licence, the Muntjac is legally an 'invasive foreign species'; they can be shot through the year - if you manage to spot a little red-brown shape legging it through your flowerbed at dawn or dusk. Moreover, venison from most deer is healthy for humans, if not for the cervids. Let's raise the steaks...

As for the names: Anglo-Saxon 'deor' meant any wild animal, while 'roe' stood for 'deer', possibly from a proto-Germanic root - 'striped or streaked.'

Not very specific, you may feel - were all animals potential deer, or were deer the most abundant animals seen? Muntjac is a Dutch spelling apparently from Sundanese 'mencek', pronounced 'menchek' - no, I disclaim any relationship! Still, the possible meaning of mencek makes me ponder (after all, I am a water sign - and I lived in Malaysia.) Did it really just mean 'deer'? In Malay, the prefix 'men' means it's a 'doing' verb; but in modern Malay (Indonesian or Malaysian) 'cek' means a cheque. Go figure! Were they 'gambolling' on the Stock Market? - Deer, dear!

Meanwhile, it's about time for the spring performances of the Moth Trap, now mobile - well, a wheelbarrow is mobile, isn't it?! - and yet more fanciful names. Sometimes the Latin name may commemorate the first finder of a species; who invents the English name is rather a mystery.



Of course, many of these names are fairly straightforward descriptions of patterns or lifestyle. My first moth of the year came to my door rather than to the trap - an Early Thorn (really, I'd love to call it Early Doors) - don't panic, it doesn't hurt! The Thorn bit refers to Hawthorn and Blackthorn, caterpillar food-plants. Towards the end of May, a new entrant, a Common Lutestring; was it a musician's choice? It was a discreet silver-grey and white; not being a lutenist or an Elizabethan courtier, I couldn't make out the string, supposedly a wing pattern. Aha, I spy a Scorched Carpet. This local has singed brown wing edges, as if someone was burning secret documents; obviously named by a moth-fancier from MI5.

Moths do fire my imagination...so the first mention of a Maiden's Blush (not mine, I'm slightly last-year for that sort of thing) makes me imagine a simpering Victorian miss with her face in her gloves. This lovely local is fond of oaks and hedges - a splendid warm pink, shading to delicate orange. Moths can be shifty about publicity, but this one posed like a pro - here's my sighting from 29th May.

Susanna Checketts

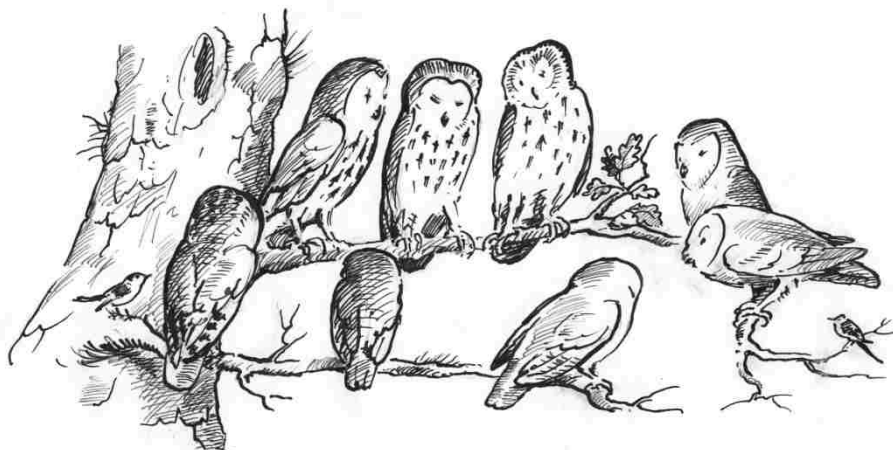
Where are all the Butterflies?

We are in a butterfly emergency, you can help by taking part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count

see page 12

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

John Probert 01568 708484 - Dan Hurcomb hurcombdc@gmail.com
Domenica Dunne 07966103698 - Pauline Hammond 01568 708044
Doug Murrie (contact via clerk)

Special Responsibilities

Lengthsman: Yatton Farm Services Footpaths: Dave Dunn 01568 770224
Tree Warden: Richard Hammond rjhammond500@btinternet.com
MMP Patient Rep: Pauline Hammond pauline.hammond500@btinternet.com 01568 708044.

Ward Councillor

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

PARISH HALL

Chair: Martyn Booth 07748604215
Bookings Secretary: Pauline Hammond 01568 708044 or 07796590266

CHURCH

Reverend Maggie Tate-Druiff rector@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk
01568 701245, 07514 785 568
Churchwardens: Meg Thorpe 07943046450. Philip Dunne 01568 770432

AYMESTREY MATTERS

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DATES FOR DIARIES

2026

When	What	Where
Mondays 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls	PH
Tuesdays 10.30am to 12.00 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

July

Sunday 5 th 11am	Holy Communion	Aymestrey
Sunday 12 th 11am	Morning Prayer	Aymestrey
Saturday 18 th 12noon	Aymestrey Fete	Fete Field Aymestrey
Sunday 19 th 10.00am	The Hillfort Hustle ~ 5 and 10 mile races	Via Ambrey Running Club
Sunday 19 th 3.30pm	Evensong	Leinthall Earls
Wednesday 22 nd 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 26 th 9.30am	Forest Church	Aymestrey
Friday 31 st 7.00pm	Illyria presents The Three Musketeers	Yatton Court

August

Sunday 2 nd 10.30am.	Benefice Service	Kingsland
Saturday 8 th	Produce and Flower Show	PH
Sunday 9 th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 16 th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Eardisland
Sunday 23 rd 10.30 am	Benefice Service	Aymestrey
Sunday 30 th 10.30 am	Benefice Songs of Praise	Kingsland

September

Sunday 6 th 11.00 am	Holy Communion	Aymestrey
Friday 11 th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Sunday 13 th 11.00am	Morning Prayer	Aymestrey
Friday 18 th 7.00pm(Food) for 7.30pm	Film Night	PH
Wednesday 23 rd 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 20 th 3.30pm	Holy Communion	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 27 th 9.30am	Forest Church	Aymestrey

October

Friday 2 nd 10.00am	Decorating church for Harvest Festival	Aymestrey
Friday 2 nd 6.30pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL followed by HARVEST SUPPER	Aymestrey PH
Sunday 4 th	No Church Service	
Friday 9 th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Sunday 11 th 11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Aymestrey
Friday 16 th 7.00pm(Food) for 7.30pm	Film Night	PH

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Email: theonestopprintshoposps@gmail.com

A Memoir of Aymestrey & Leinthall Earls Women's Institute

Mrs Henrietta Dunne recounts her memories of the local WI, prompted by this recently discovered watercolour by Mrs Valdez Gardner of Yatton Court.

“The watercolour opposite shows a meeting of the Aymestrey & Leinthall Earls WI in the Village Hall at which there was a demonstration of ‘preparing and dissecting a chicken’ with all its entrails etc.! The girl with the hanky to her nose is me, the other is Joyce Pugh, who was married to Ira Pugh and lived at The Farm, Aymestrey.

I think it was about the early 1960's; I was 21 when I came to live at Gatley Park, Leinthall Earls and joined the WI. It was a wonderful experience, apart from learning to cane chairs and make lampshades we had great fun, with lots of laughter and jokes.

We met monthly and always started by singing ‘Jerusalem’. We all took it turns to fill the various officers, the worst being the Secretary, as the President would constantly say “will you just see to this or that”. Everything of course written in longhand.

I have such happy memories of winter afternoons spent in the Vicarage by courtesy of Mrs Tavenor, Meg's mother, and being taught all sorts of crafts by a Miss Klein and later Miss Davidson, who arrived on a motorbike in full black leathers. Each were paid for by the County Council for which were very grateful.”
Henrietta.

Ed: Thanks to Chrissie Lawson for preparing the above memoir and for providing a picture of ‘Counted Thread-work’ done by Henrietta (also shown opposite).

Like a number of resources available to Aymestrey Village and the surrounding parish; the WI along with the Shop, Post Office, School and visiting Library, to name a few, have all been lost, possibly the main reason being lack of demand.

But it got us thinking about the local WI and prompted a bit of research.

Probably started in the 1920s with a membership of between 20 and 30 members at any one time running until the late 2000s; during those 80 plus years covering a multitude of crafts, hobbies, outings and pastimes. Possibly each cohort had their own interests so developing the WI in different directions. We understand there was often an annual outing to further afield venues and theatre visits were arranged. In its later years the Aymestrey & Leinthall Earls WI used to compete at County level and being very competitive used to come home with many prizes and trophies.

We believe during the late 1970s and 80s there were about 25 members, and we have some of their names on the WI Banner opposite. The banner may have started life as a table cover for meetings, displays etc. and we are so glad it ended up at the Parish Hall. It would be fantastic to display it in some way but due to its size and the need to have it under glass the cost would be prohibitive. Unless anyone as any good ideas or deep pockets.

So having set the research ball rolling We would like to do a future, more detailed, look at the local WI, its members etc. please if you have any pictures, cuttings, mémoires or snippets of information about any of those eighty plus years then we would love to get them together. Please send to editor@aymestrey.org or give to Dee or Martyn.

ALL PICTURES etc. WOULD BE RETURNED.

Thanks to Meg and Marion for their help into the research above.

Ed.



Watercolour of Henrietta Dunne (with handkerchief) by Mrs Valdez Gardner.

Counted Thread Work by Henrietta Dunne.



WI Banner, created by the members from about 1979 onwards



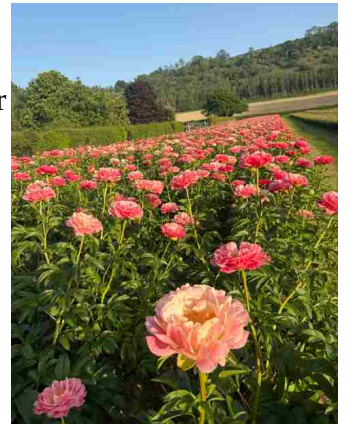
Border Peonies – Open Days

I write to thank all who participated in the Peony Open Days in May at Border Peonies, our attempt at diversification at Gatley Farms.

After cold nights for a couple of weeks in May, which held back early varieties, we were blessed by warm weather for the last ten days of the month, which brought almost all our peonies into bloom on the Display Site at more or less the right time for our Open Days. We had decided to hold them only a week apart this year, which, as it turned out, suited the warm blast we had and beat the rain and wind which followed in the first week of June.

We were blown away by the interest we received and the sheer number of people who came from far and wide - from Manchester to Machynlleth, from Birmingham to Bristol - as well as loads from more local places. We apologise for the traffic this led to on the lanes leading to Leinthall Earls and will make sure this is managed better in future.

We would like to thank everyone who managed to join us - and especially all those who helped prepare and serve Tea and Cakes, which made a tidy sum for the Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls churches. Big thanks also to the Parish Hall for the gazebos, as well as to Young Farmers for the tables and chairs.



We trialled a Peony Evening Walk in early June, which went well enough for us to be thinking of doing so again next year.

We have also been very pleased by the support from local residents helping with the picking and packing of peonies. As the crop grows each year we are likely to be looking for more part-time help to assist in getting the peony harvest from field to bride or florist. So while this season started in early May, it ended in mid-June, do get in touch next year if you or a friend/relative would like to join our team.

Tea & Cakes gazebo catered by the Aymestrey & Leinthall Earls PCC team:



Philip Dunne