

Aymestrey Matters



Summer 2023

Parish Notice Board



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Thursday 29th June 2.00pm - Don Griffiths's Celebratory Service

Saturday 15th July- Annual Aymestrey Fete

Saturday 29th July - Produce & Flower Show

“Tea/Coffee in the Hall”

Come and join us for the weekly social event.

Meet new people, have a chat, all parishioners welcome.

Every Tuesday in the Parish Hall

10.30am to 11.30ish

Dog Show @ Aymestrey Fete

NEW SCHEDULE THIS YEAR

*New Classes including Fancy Dress
for Dogs and maybe Handlers*

Please see schedule

**Dog Owners
Please Note**

**Parish Council
Meetings**

held in the Parish Hall

7.00pm

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

*ALL Parishioners are welcome to
attend*

FUN QUIZ

2nd Friday in the Month

In the Parish Hall

7.30pm

*New season starts
September*

*Teams of up to 4
or come along and join in
anyway*

Carpet Bowls

Monday

Evenings

@ Parish Hall

7pm

All Welcome

Film Night

3rd Friday

in the month

restarts September

Supper @ 7.00pm

Film @ 7.30pm

EDITORS' PAGE

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of Don Griffiths, a staunch supporter of the Parish. Don will be fondly remembered by many, not only as a friend, a skilled builder, the great handyman to the Hall but also Footpaths Officer to the Parish. Our thoughts are with his wife Marion and family at this time, Marion was editor of this magazine for 10 years. Details of the service in celebration of Don's life are below.

Building work on the new development in Aymestrey is now complete and we look forward to welcoming new residents into the Parish along with other recent arrivals. This quarterly magazine is distributed free to all homes in the Parish, we welcome contributions, letters etc.

It's Summertime and that means the Fete is upon us, Saturday 15th July. A great day out with lots to do and see, a traditional village fete so please come along and join in. This year the Dog Show has a fancy dress class for your four-legged-friend with the chance to dress up yourself. Don't forget the Produce & Flower Show on 29th July.

Support for events, for the Hall and for the whole Parish is vital; in the past we have seen the sad loss of the shop and the school! A Quiz, an organised Walk, a Meeting of the Parish, the Coffee Morning etc. all great for socialising and meeting people.

Denise & Martyn

Next Copy Date 8th September 2023

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

Front cover design by Imogen Davis

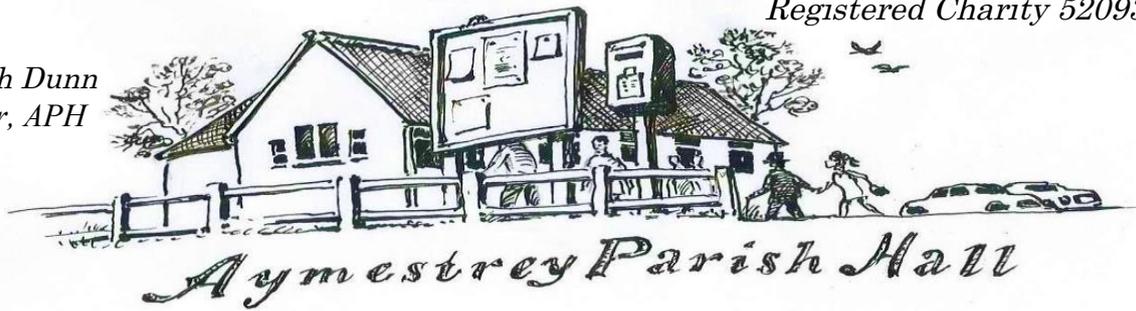
A Celebration of the Life of Don Griffiths

Following a private family cremation there will be a service at Aymestrey Church at 2.00pm on Thursday 29th June.

Followed by an Afternoon Tea at the Parish Hall.

Donations given in Don's memory will go to the Salvation Army, an organisation close to Don's heart.

Steph Dunn
Chair, APH



Hello Everyone - here is the latest News from your Parish Hall.

As always there is usually a reason to visit the Hall at any time of the year with events to tempt you along, whether it's a Film & Food Evening, Tuesday Tea & Coffee Morning, the Annual Meeting of the Parish, Bowling, Dancing, Pilates, a Quiz or a Plant Sale. Do let us know if there is anything you can think of that would tempt you along. We value your support for the events that we arrange.



A successful Coronation Tea took place on Sunday 7th May and there was an amazing assortment of sandwiches, savouries and cakes enjoyed by everyone to celebrate the ascension of King Charles to the throne.



Very heavy rain overnight on 7th May (in fact the last time we had rain, to time of writing) meant that reluctantly the Bluebell Walk on 8th May was cancelled due to slippery conditions. Five intrepid all weather walkers and two dogs did however decide to do the walk – see item elsewhere in this edition.

You will have noticed that the bench provided by Balfour Beatty via Aymestrey Parish Council has now been sited outside the Hall and a new notice board has appeared as well. Thanks go to Martyn Booth and Richard Hammond for installing both the bench and board.

The Plant Sale on 3rd June raised over £135 towards the Hall funds. A wide variety of plants were for sale and refreshments were available too. Thanks to Denise, Pauline and Rosemary for their efforts.

We would like to pay tribute here to Don Griffiths a long-standing member of the Hall Committee who gave his time and energy readily to help maintain the Hall over many years. He will be missed by all of us and many others besides. Our condolences go out to Marion and family at a difficult time.

The hall is available to book for your party, meeting, workshop etc – any enquiries by text/ph to 07496 180332.

With best wishes **Steph** on behalf of the Parish Hall Committee

Date for the Diary: Aymestrey Fete on Saturday 15th July 12 – 4.30pm

Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme



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 changing a light bulb or hanging a picture
- 🕒 Help with forms or letters
- 🕒 Help with a computer
- 🕒 Calling for a chat

If you need a volunteer then please call us on 07942 257541.

Leave a message if there is no reply and one of our volunteers will call you back.

Aymestrey History Group

Following on from the World War I History Group and the publication of their booklet 'Aymestrey & Leinthall Earles in the First World War' the group has reformed, with the intention of delving further into the abundant stories and archives of this parish.

Any interesting old stories or individuals please contact

Chrissie Lawson - clawson@yahoo.com

Copies of the First World War booklet are available from Dee & Martyn Booth
now priced £3

Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls Churches

Rev. Julie Read

One of the things I have been noticing is the trees that were planted last year, springing up and looking healthy, a legacy for our children, in the same way that hundreds of years ago our forbears built a church in Aymestrey and Leinthall, their legacy for their children.



We had a lovely rogation service at Hall Farm, Leinthall to prayer for the land and those who farm and as well as marvelling at the bulls, all ready for action, we walked to a field with a 6 metre margin left for the wildlife and walked and talked and blessed the farm. It always humbles me to be aware of all the hard work that goes into the food we consume, that we take for granted and also all the issues facing farmers today. They do carry a weight of responsibility and I do come away with gratitude in my heart for our farmers and for our God.

Our curate Katie Smith has completed her curacy and was signed off by the Bishop at the beginning of June. We will be celebrating her time of curacy with us at an evening service on Wednesday 28th June at 6.30pm at Kingsland Church. She will now be an assistant priest and is exploring where she might exercise that ministry. A new curate will be joining us on 1st July for a 3 year period. Her name is Rosie Roberts and she trained at Queen's College in Birmingham. She has two primary school age children and is married to the Rural Dean Paul Roberts who ministers at Bodenham. She will be travelling here to minister and will work 3 days during the week and the weekend of course. Queen's is known for social justice and I think she might be bringing some outward facing challenges for us.

I look forward to catching up with you as we journey on over the coming months.

Every blessing

Julie

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 26th August

SUMMER CONCERT

@

Aymestrey Church

HARVEST FESTIVAL

@

St Andrew's

Leinthall Earls

Sunday 17th September

3.30pm

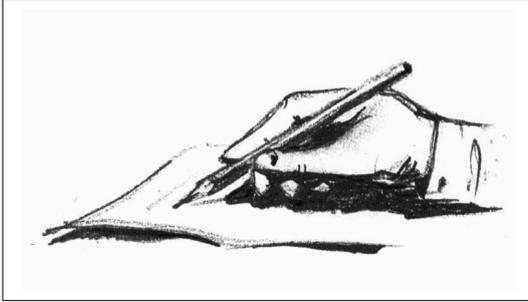
HARVEST FESTIVAL

St John the Baptist &

**St Alkmund,
Aymestrey**

Friday 6th October

6.30pm



Parish Council

Chairman, Ian Goddard, reflects on Parish Council doings and extracts from the Clerk's postbag.

Elections

There were local elections on 4th May. All Parish Councillors stood and were returned unopposed, there being fewer nominations than appointments. Congratulations to Nicola Luscott, returned as a Parish Councillor for the first time and to Carole Gandy, who won a contested election as Herefordshire Councillor for Mortimer Ward.

Meetings

The **Annual Meeting of the Parish** on 17th May had a new format. The loose theme was 'Local Organisations' and after formal business and discussion there was plenty to see and talk about at the displays; the Traffic Calming Group (very busy); Commons Association (flora and fauna photographs); Parish Hall and its many activities; Parish Council itself (display comprised a map of the parish, which attracted much attention!); Aymestrey Matters; Good Neighbour Scheme and the Footpaths officer (who on his own does the work of a group!). I hope that those attending were able to find out more about the range of what is going on in the Parish and were even encouraged to get involved.

The **Traffic Calming Group** presented its proposals at a well-attended meeting on 9th May. Some details are still being researched after comments made. When finalised the plan will be posted on aymestrey.org. The proposals are both radical and extensive and will not be achieved overnight but the Parish Council will endeavour to cause them to be implemented at every opportunity, until all the proposals are adopted. It may take a decade, but every journey has a first step, which in this case is to present them to the County Safety Officer (not his title but it is one of his roles) and the Police and Crime Commissioner, whose approval will be important to funding. Indeed funding will be the next hurdle.

The **Commons Association** has adopted its constitution and is beginning to look like an established organisation – important to achieve a bank account and funding from third parties. Membership is open to all Parishioners, simply by contacting the Secretary – me! – and that will get you on to the information circulation list.

Telephone Box

The phone box has been de-fenestrated, blasted to bare metal and painted, much to the relief of all concerned! Volunteers will rebuild it. Ideas on use are still welcome – please contact Parish Hall committee.

Verges

The Parish Council has again decided that verges on our unclassified roads will be cut just once, later in the year, to encourage wild flowers and biodiversity.

Defibrillators

Currently the defibrillators in Upper and Lower Lye are maintained by the fundraising efforts of the Williams family – great work and huge thanks! The other defibrillators in the Parish (Parish Hall, Leinthall Earls) will be maintained by the Parish Council. There is a proposal to locate one in Yatton.

I hope you never need one, but it's good to know they are there.

Ian

Notes From The Marsh

4th March- 3rd June 2023

Flaming June!

- what a pleasure, warm sunny days –

The Cuckoo has been calling near Croft Ambrey in the early morning, the Hobby is cruising high and elegant (think miniature Peregrine) and the Ladysmocks are going over. Birdsfoot Trefoil is just coming into flower; it was slightly disconcerting to find some seed labelled POISON. Is this why the Common Blue butterflies are so fond of it?

It looks like being a good year for the Scarlet Tiger moth: caterpillars (two lines of broken yellow patterning with white dots between lower yellow strip, divided by a black strip with fine star-like lines; tufts of hair along back) are on nettles throughout the garden. However, so far a poor year for butterflies; apart

from early fliers – Orange-Tips, Green-Veined Whites and Brimstones, all reasonably frequent – just one or two



Commas, Small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirables (the original name seems less nautical and more complimentary), and the usual Speckled Woods in semi-shade, plus a few Blues. These skittered too fast to be identified, but they say ‘Holly Blues fly high, Common Blues fly low’, so probably Hollies.



Moths? - yes, the Moth-ers are at it again. New entrants for my list in late May were the Scalloped Hazel and the Pebble Prominent, both ‘common’ and both tree-huggers. Round a cherry tree, a group of tiny moths with extra-long antennae were floating up and down in the sunshine. These rejoiced in the name of *Adela reamurella* and have been called ‘Green Longhorn’ moths – though they seemed more shimmering silver. Most enjoyable (if possibly sexist) was their description in the Manley photographic guide – *Males fly in swarms in sunshine around tops of trees, females rest in shade*. Having come across another group of *Adelidae* several years running *Nemophora degeerella*, more copper and gold, I think of them as ‘the Dancers’.

Bloody-nosed Beetle larvae are a regular sight; adults can spit red liquid when alarmed. The larvae, like the beetles, are black – slow-moving, round and creased. In my paddock they favour Goosegrass, also known as cleavers and more questionably as Sticky Willie. The Cardinal Beetle is another common resident; usually Red-headed, in the past the more local Black-headed variety has been spotted. A Lily Beetle encounter has also taken place – a pretty red, but pretty devastating if you like any sort of lily flower – the two discovered are now ex-beetles. The prize for the most enterprising beetle goes to the Rufus-shouldered Longhorn. In mid-March one was discovered – in a whisky tumbler! No, they are not normally found propping up a bar (I understand that those are bar-flies). They prefer dead wood. All the wood coming into my cottage is my own, so this one arrived with logs from the

stable. Not a large Longhorn, but a pretty one – reddish shoulders and what almost looks like the shape of an old-fashioned black pen-nib on a whitish background, with a black stripe towards the end of the body.

As I seem to have beetled through this piece, just a note re bolshie blackbirds; my kind driver for a cataract op stopped outside and said “There was a blackbird standing in the road – and it wouldn’t move!!” Have our birds got dinosaur delusions?? What a good thing that they’ve shrunk since the Mesozoic!

Susanna Checketts

Grass Verges – the Parish Council's arrangement for 2023.

The Parish Council has again welcomed the opportunity to have verges on U roads cut once in late summer, at the end of this growing season. A single cut will allow wildflowers to bloom and set seed and encourage greater biodiversity.

Road safety is also a concern, so Balfour Beatty confirms visibility splays and junctions will continue to receive regular cuts throughout the growing season and all verges will be cut at the end of the season. Teams will make reactive visits to sites identified through feedback to the customer service team. To provide feedback, please telephone 01432 261800 or visit herefordshire.gov.uk/roads. The Parish Council has also agreed that it may arrange for certain verges to be cut at its own expense.

Road verges are a vital haven for wild flowers, providing food for pollinators and other insect life, which in turn feeds species along the food chain to birds, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. With 22.9 km of U roads in the parish Aymestrey's verges create a network of wildlife corridors which add up to a substantial area of land. Sensitively managed, it is hoped this approach to mowing will make a difference.

If you are interested in this subject, further information is available.

Plantlife - <https://roadverges.plantlife.org.uk/resources/> -including The Good Verge Guide and Managing Grassland Road Verges.

Verging on Wild - <https://www.herefordshirewt.org/vergingonwild> -a group working with Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Their aim is to see a change in verge management and to protect the best verges by listing them as Roadside Verge Nature Reserves.

Information from Herefordshire Council on grass, verge and safety cutting is available at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/grass-cutting>.

Maggie Brown. Clerk to the Parish Council

Mortimer Medical Practice

News from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)



Dr Baxter has now left the practice but we are pleased to say that he has been replaced with Dr Dora Hemson. She has previously worked in Ludlow and Leominster and had already done some locum shifts at our practice.

There is a new practice nurse and receptionist starting soon.

Non attendance of appointments has fallen to 2.5% which equates to around 100 missed appointments a month and whilst a fall in missed appointments is good, *please remember to attend your appointment or cancel if not needed.*

Although your doctor may ask to see you again in 3 months or so it is currently not possible to book that far in advance. The surgery realises that this a problem to some patients, but at present you can only book approx 6 weeks in advance. This reduces the need for appointments to be cancelled due to unavailability of the GP; the rotas are not done that far in advance and GP's move between surgeries as required.

You may have heard on the news that the government is giving money to surgeries to help with patient access. Unfortunately this practice does not expect to see any of this money as we have already invested in a new telephone call handling system, which hopefully patients are finding better than previously.

The government have announced that only over 65's and the clinically vulnerable will be offered a flu vaccine this winter; invites will be sent to those eligible later in the year.

Reminder: the surgery no longer provides hay fever medicines on prescription and patients are advised to go to the chemist for advice and purchase items there or at a supermarket.

Date for your diary:

There is a coffee morning run by the Friends of Mortimer Practice at Kingsland Surgery on 4th July between 10 and 12am, all welcome.

PH

Mortimer Ward

Carole Gandy

As I write this article, we are experiencing a period of really dry weather which although appreciated by many as the spring was so wet, is not good news for gardeners and farmers. Our wildlife must be totally confused by the changes in our climate.



May has been a month of training, both for returning councillors and those who are brand new. We have 26 out of 53 new councillors and 2 returning after a 4-year break so a lot of new faces to get to know. The make up of the new Council was 21 Conservatives, 12 Lib Dems, 9 Greens, 8 Independents, 2 It's Our County and 1 Labour and therefore a lot of talking had to take place as no one party had an overall majority. As no coalition could be agreed the Conservatives are the minority administration but will require at least 6 members of the opposition in order to get any major policies agreed by Council. This is not the most satisfactory situation to be in and tends to lead to only minor changes in direction being possible. Since the election unfortunately one of the Independent Councillor's has died and therefore at sometime in the future there will be a by-election.

I was returned with a 53% majority and I was honoured to be asked to take up the Cabinet position of Portfolio Holder for Adults, Health & Well-being an area which I have some knowledge of, having worked in the NHS for over 20 years. I am really looking forward to this new role.

As promised in my manifesto, the state of the roads is still my main priority and we are working hard with officers to find ways to fund some extra road resurfacing. We will not be able to do it all. The Dept for Transport estimate that the cost of getting all Herefordshire roads up to an acceptable standard would be in the region of £200 million and we certainly cannot afford that, but we do intend to spend more on resurfacing than in the previous 4 years.

I continue whenever I can to attend the weekly coffee mornings at the Aymestrey Parish Hall and would encourage those of you who don't, to do so. It is a really good opportunity to make new friends. Barry and I also attend the monthly Quiz despite our performance being pitiful. The plant sale was very successful and I must congratulate all those involved with its organisation.

The village hall is vitally important to the parish and for many their only source of entertainment and pleasure and a reason to get out of the house. The committee works hard to organise events but at present all village halls are struggling due to high energy costs. Please support the events they put on because as they say "Use It or Lose It".

If you wish to contact me about a particular issue or just have a chat, please email carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk, telephone either 01568 780583 or 07792882133. I am always happy to come out and visit you at your home if you feel that would be helpful.

Carole

Sue and Pete at Hillside Cottage Aymestrey.

How time flies! We moved into Hillside Cottage about 20 months ago, having lived on the Isle of Wight for the previous 32 years. The move coincided with Pete retiring from the hi-tech world of Aerospace, so now we are enjoying a more relaxed pace of life (not that life on the IOW was particularly stressful, as any of you who have visited it will know it has a reputation for being laid back; the Island also has a reputation for its numerous pot holes, something common to the Herefordshire roads!).

From when we first arrived, we have been made to feel most welcome by many of the parishioners, and thanks to their kindness we quickly felt at home here in this lovely village. We love the local landscape and our view over to Pokes Wood and watching the birds that visit the garden or fly overhead. The view over the fields to the wood is ever changing and the colours provide inspiration. We've enjoyed seeing the garden change through the seasons from heat waves to snowy spells (although we're told we can expect more snow in the winters than we've experienced so far!). And we love being able to grow our own fruit & veg.

We also enjoy the occasional RAF flybys, we think of them flying over and giving Pete a nod, as most of these planes include products Pete was involved with.

Since moving to Hillside we have been working to make it more "green" with regards to our energy usage; so with some help for the Council's "Keep Herefordshire Warm" initiative, we have had Solar Panels fitted and replaced the old Oil-fired heating system with an Air Sourced Heat Pump system. Now this work is complete we can start on some of the many decorating jobs in and around the house!

We converted one of outbuildings into a workshop for Sue; Sue is a hand spinner, weaver, knitter and dyer. As well as her workshop, Sue has set up an area in the garden for growing plants specifically for use in hand dyeing of yarn (and we've tried to try to make this area rabbit-proof!).

Sue takes on commission work and sells through our on-line shop, as well as selling at local fayres.

Earlier this year Sue recommenced running workshops for those wishing to learn to weave or providing tuition to those wishing to advance their skills. We have also just built an additional log cabin style studio specifically for Sue to run her workshops in.

We converted the large garage into a workshop for Pete; Pete is a wood turner who also makes items to commission or for sale through our on-line shop and fayres. Pete is grateful to those of you who have kindly donated unwanted timber for him to use, and while he makes traditional items and accessories to compliment Sue's weaving, he also likes to make items that include unique features of the wood whenever possible. Since fitting the solar panels its very satisfying to run the lathe using "free" energy.

Herefordshire's "H.Art Event 2nd - 10th September

This September Sue is opening her studios at Hillside Cottage to host her very first H.Art open studio event, this will run daily from 11am through to 5pm. Throughout the day Sue will be doing some spinning and weaving demos on her wheel and looms.

We welcome you all to pop along during this event and have a peep into the studios and enjoy the garden; bring along this copy of Aymestrey Matters for a 10% discount to use on any purchases.

Parking at Hillside is limited, so please consider the Parish Hall Car Park if needed (note: parking fee by donation in the Hall's letter box – thanks)



Below are details to our on-line shops, blog and You Tube

- Castonandcastoff.blogspot.com
- Woollen Tree – You Tube



Saturday 15th July
From 12 noon

With the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hurcomb the Fete will, once again, be held at Yatton Court, in the Fete field, just to the side of the lodge. As last year the starting time is 12noon and the **entrance to the car park, is again at the lay-by, near Bath Cottage**. A pedestrian entrance will be by the lodge, NO CARS THIS WAY (except exhibitors and disabled parking).

There will be the usual stalls including produce, tombola and plants along with games including coconut shy, duck race, frog in the bog and bowling for a pig, also a variety of craft stalls and demonstrations; the Teme Valley Young Farmers; a Raffle with the usual fantastic prizes and a Vintage Tractor Display alongside the MG classics.

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 6 from villages, clubs, etc.



Vintage Tractors will drive round the arena from 12.30pm followed by the Classic MGs, with Children's Games starting at 1.30pm with the Fun Dog Show starting about 2.30pm. The Duck Race at 3.30pm followed by the Tug of War. The Raffle will be held at 4.30pm

Entries for the art and craft competitions (schedule overleaf) will be accepted from 10am to 11.00am and will be judged by the start of the Fete.

Donations / Contributions needed/gratefully received for any of the stalls -

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

**on Tuesdays 27th June; 4th/11th July, to Parish Hall 10.00am -12noon
please**

OR

to stall Saturday 10-11am (bottles to Lower Yatton Farm – week before if poss)

*Fete Preparations -Volunteers most welcome
Please meet @ Fete Field 11.00am on Friday 14th July*



Saturday 15th July

Arts & Crafts Schedule

Food and drinks

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 sandwich cake made with 3 eggs and jam filling.

Class 2 - A loaf of bread (any recipe)

Class 3- three Welsh Cakes on a plate

Class 4 - a savoury pie or flan

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 - three eggs on a plate (judged on uniformity and yolk appearance)



Handicrafts

Class 9 - a handmade item, any material/s

Class 10 - an item of knitting or crochet

Class 11 - a piece of cross-stitch or embroidery

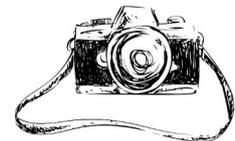
Class 12 - a piece of up-cycled furniture or other object

Class 13 - a piece of art work, any medium, themed on the Coronation

Photography

Class 14 - Aymestrey Calendar competition - the winning entry to be featured on the cover of the 2024 Aymestrey Calendar. Entries must be a digital photograph in portrait format, taken in Aymestrey Parish. Please email entries to - photocomp@aymestrey.org by 7th July 2023

Class 15 - a photograph of my garden. A printed photograph in full colour



Junior Section

Please state age on all exhibits

Class 16 - decorated Gingerbread Man picture

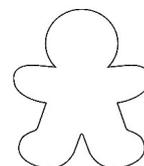
Use our design (available on aymestrey.org and from Parish Hall) or create your own and decorate with colour and/or craft materials

Class 17 - an animal made from fruit and/or vegetables

Class 18 - a drawing or painting of my pet

Class 19 - 3 home baked biscuits on a plate, decorated or plain

Class 20 - a poem about the Coronation





15th July 2023
Fun Dog Show
Starts at approx 2.30pm



Rules

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

Classes

1. Fancy Dress ****NEW CLASS**** (Dog must be in fancy dress, but bonus points may be awarded if handler is also fancily dressed)
2. Best Looking dog or bitch
3. Best young handler (under 12 years)
4. Best biscuit catcher
5. 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 at all times .

Old Pictures of Aymestrey Parish



Picture - Courtesy of The Leintwardine Historical Society

The Village Shop late 19th and early 20th century

(From the Aymestrey Website)

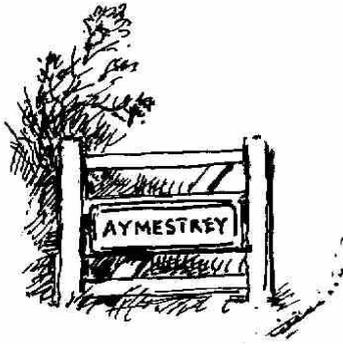
In the early part of the 20th century, the village shop and Post Office was situated at what is now "Roman Way" to the south of the Crown Inn (the Riverside Inn). Kevin Williams (aged 98 and now living in Shobdon), remembers it was run by Arthur Cole and his sister – almost certainly the same Arthur Cole who was clerk to the Parish Council for many years, being paid £5 a year for his services. Mr Cole is likely to have been born at the shop, which was run by his parents James and Sarah Cole, according to census taken in 1891 when Arthur was three years old.

Arthur Cole left Aymestrey to join His Majesty's forces in 1913, but his job as parish clerk was kept open and it is known that he returned safely from the First World War because the Parish Council minutes record that he resigned in 1921.

The shop made deliveries to households all around the parish and Mr Coles stabled his horse at what is now the Willmetts House further down the road. The shop stocked a wide range of goods and Kevin Williams recalled that a half hundredweight bag of "sharps" to feed the pig could be bought for one shilling!

This article was taken from Aymestrey Matters, Summer 2011

In a future edition we will look at the village shop in the latter part of the 20th century up to its closure in 2007.



AYMESTREY



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS
YOU

As part of the traffic calming proposals, we need volunteers to help tidy Aymestrey Village. The more the merrier.

If you are interested in joining in and want more information, please contact Rob via email: rob@bestfoxcall.co.uk or telephone: 07780 663632



Traffic Calming in Aymestrey Parish

Thank you to everyone who came to the public meeting in Aymestrey Parish Hall back in April. Your feedback was most welcome and we have amended and incorporated a lot of what you suggested into the Traffic Calming Proposals.

The next stage is an informal meeting with one or two members of Herefordshire Council. We want to seek their advice about our plans prior to submitting a formal application. Similar to pre-planning advice, it'd be useful to know if anything is unworkable so we can amend it accordingly before we make an official application. This approach will give us a greater chance of our whole Traffic Calming project being passed by the council (or at least that's the hope, anyway).

In the meantime, we have two groups who will soon begin work on Aymestrey Village. The Floral Display Group will be doing exactly what it says on the tin, so expect to see their hard work in the village over the coming months. The second is the Tidy Village Group and they, also, hope to start work soon. However, we do need more volunteers for the Tidy Village Group. If you are keen to join in, please see below for further information.

I'll keep you posted of progress on all fronts.

*Alison Archer
June 2023*

Thoughts from a Retired Gardener

Jim Logan

May and Kek

It's the third week of May and the Hawthorn (May) blossom is at its best. Outside my bedroom window the hedge, that was sixty years ago, is now taller than the cottage, unruly, unkempt and gloriously in flower.

From my bed I can enjoy the display and passively watch the birds socialising, feeding, chirruping; the House Sparrows congregate noisily to catch the morning sun before dispersing to be noisy elsewhere. Always there are Wood Pigeons winter and summer, clattering in and out of the hedge, sometimes landing with a thump on the roof tiles. Their crooning a welcome and soporific accompaniment to life. They particularly favour the tree nearest to the cottage because it is host to Ivy where they nest and can also gorge on the Ivy berries in winter.

I saw my first Chiff Chaff this year from my bed.

On one occasion a flock of Redwings fed on Hawthorn berries outside my window in early March, usually all the Haws are stripped in the autumn well before Christmas.

Goldfinches come and go, Blackbirds, a Song Thrush, Robin and Wren, Hedge Sparrows Long tailed Tits, Blue Tits,

Great Tits; all there and more. Blackcaps sing morning and evening in the spring.



This Hawthorn 'hedge' is now a gappy row of unruly trees, the ultimate

fate of an unmanaged hedge and it gives me great pleasure. Unruly is an apt epithet for Hawthorn, left to their own devices they are usually straggly and asymmetric, moulded by the prevailing winds. But of course stubbornly tolerant of pleaching, shearing and abuse by tractor mounted flails.

My trees are safe from such and so are cascading mounds and swags of deliciously aromatic blossom. The flowers are in clusters, each tiny flower has at its centre a green stigma and ovary surrounded by many brown anthers on filaments as though in orbit above the ovary.



These flecks of green and brown tone down the colour of the blossom when viewed from a distance, off white in bright sunlight, to limestone grey in lower light. Flowers hanging in shade reflect the surrounding leaves and become pastel green.

Some Hawthorn trees bear pink flushed flowers and in my garden I have a selected cultivar 'Red Cloud', known in this household as the Laura Ashley tree, fashion copying nature.

In certain conditions of low light May blossom is luminescent.

I travelled after sunset on quiet lanes into rural Leicestershire past overgrown Hawthorn hedges in full bloom, they seeming larger than life in the dusk and all in a froth of Kek as Cow parsley is known disparagingly in the East Midlands.

The image endures.

Jim



Produce and Flower Show Saturday 29th July

Held at the Parish Hall, 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, between 10.30am and 12noon.
4. Judging will start at 12noon and the Hall opened for viewing shortly after 2pm.
5. The judges' decision is final.
6. No exhibit may be removed before 4pm. Items not collected by 5pm will be disposed of.



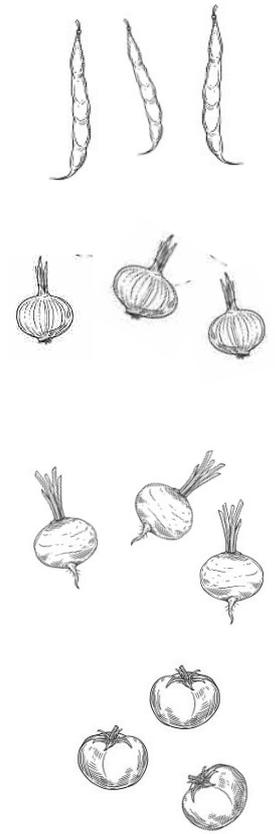
Could the Winners of the Cups for Best in Show, Rose Cup and Steven Price cup from last year please return to the Hall on the day or before if possible

Produce & Flower Schedule

29th July 2023

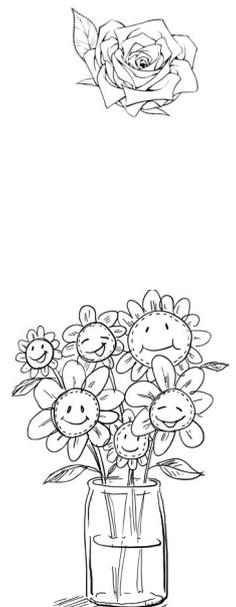
Vegetables and Fruit

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



Flowers

14	A single rose in a vase (The winner will be presented with the Rose Cup)
15	A vase of my garden perennials, mixed
16	A flowering house plant
17	A jug of flowers from my garden
18	Vase of 5 sweet peas (any colour)
19	Vase of 3 dahlias (any variety)
20	A hand tied bunch of fresh herbs (in water)
21	The best cut flower in my garden (in a vase)
22	The best scented flower in my garden (in a vase)
23	Vase of foliage (up to 5 varieties)
24	Aymestrey Matters mystery seeds



Margaret Probert

...taken from the Eulogy given by Rev J Read,
at her funeral 18th April 2023.



Margaret was born at Highgate Farm, New Radnor on 1st October 1940. The eldest child of Geoff and Ethel Phillips. She later was joined by a younger brother Edward and a sister Joy. Throughout her whole life she was incredibly fond of the Radnor Valley, at an early age she mastered the art of tickling trout in the brook that flowed down off Harley Hill through the yard, she even used to dam the brook to catch more.

She attended New Radnor School from the tender age of four and a half, being taken to school on the back of her Dad's bike. She enjoyed school life and made many life long friends but times were hard, it was the end of World War II, food was still scarce, she often remarked how lucky they were to have been on a farm, there was always something to put on the table, her mother could make a tasty meal from very little, as could Margaret.

Margaret progressed to Prestiegne Grammar School, enjoying all aspects of school life but most of all sport, particularly Hockey and Athletics. She held the Discus record at Prestiegne for a considerable amount of time until her niece broke it some years later. In 1957 she represented Wales, in the Discus, at the 3 AAA's Empire Games in Cardiff. In 1956, '57 and '58 Margaret won the Victor Ludorum, she was incredibly proud to receive a Replica Trophy in her final assembly at school. Although she was pressed quite hard to become a sports teacher, the determination to farm was too strong; saying she didn't try too hard in her exams allowing her to come home and farm.

It was Kington Ladies Hockey Club that was her real sporting love, head hunted by Mary Whittal who had witnessed Margaret score all 11 goals in an 11-0 victory in the final match at school. One weekend she did her post round on Saturday morning on push bike, then cycled to Knighton to score the winning goal and win the league. On the Sunday morning she cycled to Kington only to win two cup matches scoring the winning goal in both!
And they think they are fit today!

She had musical and artistic talent as any of you who have visited Covenhope know, but perhaps kept it to herself or maybe just had no time. Margaret along with a group of ladies, all from Radnor mastered the art of hand bell ringing, good enough to be invited to play at the Royal Albert Hall.

Margaret was the secretary of the Radnor YFC, it was during this time she was able to spend time with Eion, whom she had first met at a Welsh Halfbred sheep sale at the age of sixteen. They were married at Llanvihangel Nant Melan Church just 1 mile from Highgate, she always laughed at being kidnapped by her friends for 2 hours on her wedding day, to be returned later, to a very concerned Eion. So at 23 years old everything was loaded into the trusty A35 Van and they set off to Cefn-Coed Farm, Babel, Llandovery to farm an upland beef and sheep farm that had been purchased just before their wedding in July 1963. The commitment to get on the farming ladder was huge, the farm was very run down and the house had just one cold tap, no bathroom and one open fire. These were hard but happy times. With wonderful neighbours Margaret fondly recalled the day she had got a tractor stuck in a bog when Eion was at market but within 30 minutes four other tractors had arrived, they all chained together and before they knew it, all 5 tractors were stuck in the bog but slowly and surely they dug each other out.

It was at Cefn-Coed that Gethin and John arrived in quick succession and then Philippa 4 years later, all safely delivered at the cottage hospital in Llandovery.

By 1968 Cefn-Coed had trebled in value and they were in a position to move on, Granny from Highgate said how Uncle Ernie and Auntie Freda's farm at Covenhope was going to auction. All prepared they set off to the auction, only to be let down by the "trustworthy" A35 van and they missed the auction. However the farm did not sell and a deal was done in the following days. For Einon and Margaret a lifelong dream of dairy farming was underway. It was a massive undertaking leaving so many good friends and memories at Cefn-Coed.

In 1972 a fourth child arrived, the only Englishman in the family Geoffrey. With four children life was busy, when time allowed she enjoyed Willey WI, Wigmore School P.T.A., where she provided whole fresh milk for years, later Aymestrey WI, Lingen Fete, but most of all it was Teme Valley YFC. For 20 years it is fair to say Teme Valley YFC revolved around the kitchen table and workshop at Covenhope. Proud of not only her own children's achievements in YFC but her grandchildren's as well. Always offering support and wanting a full report of their results.

Her service to the Parish of Aymestrey has been immense, Margaret had been a valued member of Aymestrey PCC for many years and her wise words, sense of humour and loyal help with church affairs and fund raising events will be sorely missed. She always arrived in church prior to Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festivals and special services, armed with an array of wonderful flowers from her garden ready for decorating. She organised the cake and produce stall at the church Autumn Fayre, for longer than we can remember and the same stall at the Village Fete, her excellent cake baking skills were legendary! Margaret was a true 'country lady' who worked tirelessly towards all church and village functions. She loved her church, was a regular member of the congregation and was respected for her strong traditional faith.

This service to church and community was recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester who took Margaret and Einon to Buckingham Palace to a garden party with the Queen. She had fond memories of having tea with the Queen Mother's longest serving gamekeeper at Sandringham.

Margaret was a very good cook, no-one left Covenhope hungry, she was passionate about her garden and produced a fantastic vegetable patch every year. Joy and Margaret had so many trips through those Mid-Wales Hills to get to Aberystwyth, knowing every whimberry hot-spot along the way, but her favourite spot was always Whimble Hill above Radnor. Not just easy picking but she was back in those hills where she could see home. She had such a passion for all things involved in country-life.

Margaret was very proud of her 4 children and 7 grandchildren, always wanting to know to about their academic, sporting and YFC achievements. But her life was not without tragedy, at the age of 37 both of her parents died within 10 weeks of each other. She was close with her sister Joy and throughout her whole life they regularly had phone calls and helped each other out in any way possible. Particularly during Margaret's illness Joy was her rock, offering help and advice in every way she could until her sudden death on November 30th 2022, a huge shock and something Margaret never really recovered from.

The 16th of March is a day the family will never forget, not only is it Geoffrey's birthday, at 2am Winnie Alice Probert was born in Hereford Hospital, daughter to Adam and Alice, Granddaughter to Gethin and Janet, Great Granddaughter to Margaret who sadly passed at 10:30 in Hereford Hospital.

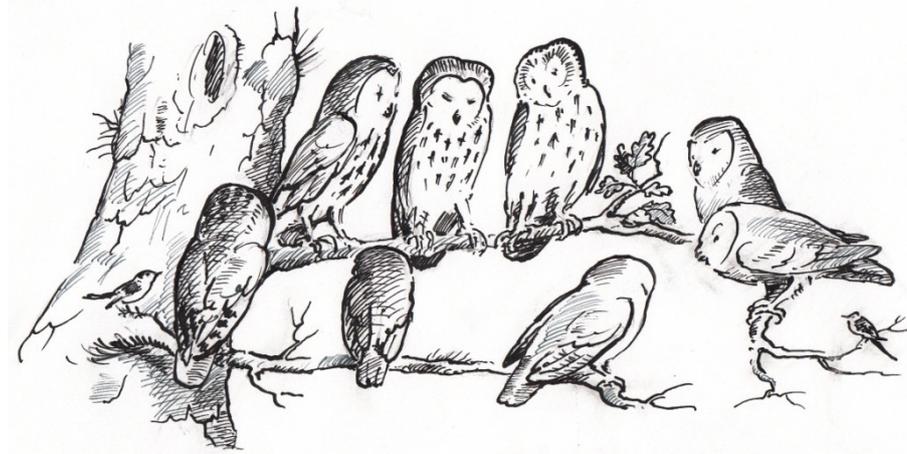
Margaret will be greatly missed by family, friends and the local community.

She was very proud of her roots, very proud of her farming, very proud of her family and the life she made for them in this Parish of Aymestrey.

Rest in Peace Margaret

PARISH PEOPLE

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



PARISH COUNCIL

Chair

Ian Goddard
770251

Vice-chair

Helen Hamilton
709155

Clerk

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

Members

John Probert 708484 - Domenica Dunne 07966103698
Eleanor Waldron - Mike Snoswell (both via Clerk)
Dan Hurcomb hurcombdc@gmail.com - Nicola Luscott nicolaluscott@live.co.uk

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: Steph Dunn 770224
Bookings & Tickets: Steph Dunn

CHURCH

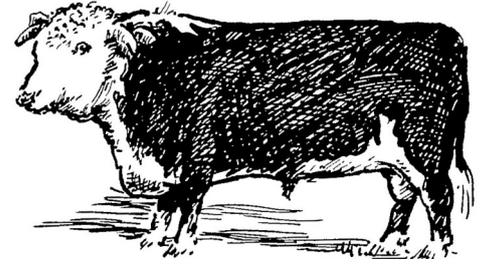
Reverend Julie Read 708255.
Churchwardens: Meg Thorpe 780384 Stuart Hutchings 01547540511, 07961117050

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Hereford Cattle and Aymestrey



Go almost anywhere in the world and tell people you are from Herefordshire and they understand immediately; they realise you come from the County where the Cattle hail from. Over ten years ago a life-size bronze sculpture of a Hereford Bull was placed on a stone plinth in Hereford High Town next to the Old House to celebrate the local breed.

Their very distinctive red bodies and white faces and docile temperament and ability to feed on grass - plus their flexibility to thrive in hardy conditions were their hallmark. In the 19th century they were exported from England all over the world and were the universal beef producer. Mention Hereford to an American, and he will immediately say “Oh you mean a Herford” (referring to a cow!) which establishes your home ground and connection with their Country.

Do locals realise that the female Hereford Cattle line that probably exerted more influence than any other was bred at Aymestrey Court by a James Turner, who started breeding in Aymestrey in 1780. In fact there is a possibility that descendants from this stock still exist at The Leen Farm in Pembridge.

The history of the breed dates back to the time of the Domesday records. Apparently a group of people known as Ox-man on the Welsh Borders herded small red cattle who fed on grass probably descended from Cattle bred in Roman Britain.

In the early 18th century a Richard Tompkin, a prosperous Yeoman Farmer who owned land at Kings Pyon, at a time when most farms were tenanted, bred these Oxen with an aptitude for putting on weight when their ploughing days were over. He was a stickler for keeping records (unusual for the time). He bequeathed his estate to his son Benjamin Tompkin including three cows called Silver, Pigeon and Mottle. Benjamin Tompkin moved to Wellington Court and is credited with founding the Hereford breed from these cattle.

The first Hereford herd book was published in 1846 when breeders agreed they should only have white faces and red bodies. In the 19th century, in the USA the cowboys crossed the Hereford with the Long Horn breed creating even hardier cattle able to roam across the prairies and thrive in difficult conditions.

In 1880 the Duke of Bedford visited Hereford, at the time of the Easter Fair and invited 100 Hereford breeders for a dinner at the Green Dragon Hotel. He wanted the Herefords at Woburn Abbey.

The Hereford Cattle Society is based on the corner of Offa and East Street in Hereford. More than five million herds now exist in over 50 countries and Hereford Cattle represent both Herefordshire and Aymestrey all over the world.

DATES FOR DIARIES

2023

When	What	Where
Monday 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls	PH
Tuesday 10.30am to 11.30 am	Tea/Coffee in the Hall	PH
Thursday 8.00pm (excepting last Thursday of the month Sept to April)	Sequence Dancing	PH
Thursday 7.30pm (last Thursday of the month) from Sept to April	Aymestrey Branch Herefordshire Wildlife Trust	PH
Thursday 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.45am to 11.45am	Pilates	PH

July

Sunday 2nd 11.00am	Benefice Service.	Kingsland
Sunday 19th 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP.	Aymestrey
Saturday 15th 12 noon	Annual Aymestrey Fete	Fete Field
Sunday 16th 3.30pm.	Evensong CW	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 23rd 11.00am.	Benefice Confirmation Service	Kingsland
Wednesday 26th 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Saturday 29th 2.00pm	Produce & Flower Show	PH
Sunday 30th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Earsland

August

Sunday 6th 10.30am.	Benefice Service.	Aymestrey
Sunday 13th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Eardisland
Sunday 20th 10.30am	Benefice Lammas Day Service	Leinthall Earls
Wednesday 23rd	No Scheduled Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 26th	Summer Concert	Aymestrey Church
Sunday 27th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Kingsland

September

Sunday 3rd 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 8th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Sunday 10th 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 15th 7.00 for 7.30pm	Film Night	PH
Sunday 17th 3.30pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 24th 9.30am	Open the Book Children's Service	Aymestrey
Wednesday 27th 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH

October

Sunday 1st 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 6th 6.30pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Aymestrey
Friday 13th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH

Coronation Weekend Bluebell Walk

The weather over the Coronation Weekend was decidedly mixed. On the Saturday for the actual Coronation it had been consistently wet, though apparently not as bad as the rain of the last Coronation 70 years previously in 1953. The Sunday had a fortuitous break in the wet weather for the concert at Windsor but here in Herefordshire the wet weather resumed and it was pouring through the night and into Monday morning. As a consequence, the decision was taken to abandon the planned Bluebell Walk in such miserable conditions.

Five of us turned up at the Parish Hall on the morning of Monday 8th May, not having read the latest notices to say the walk was cancelled but Steph Dunn was at the Hall to explain the situation. However, the five of us were kitted out in wet weather gear and feeling intrepid decided to do the walk anyway, complete with two four-legged friends.

Meg Thorpe and Mary Young were there with their dogs and Ian Gardner as an enthusiastic walker representing Yatton. Sally and Ian were keen walkers from Kingsland so not parish residents but actively involved in our church bell ringing.

We set out with the sketch route map, provided by Steph, initially it was along the A4110 passing the Riverside Inn and over the bridge, then turning left into Lingen Lane just to the north of the River Lugg. As the lane and river swung round to the left we went right, up the incline past Ballsgate Common. Even in the wet, the rolling countryside looked splendid with sweeping fields of yellow rape crops. Negotiating a few stiles, some of which were not dog-friendly, we circled round Pyon Wood to descend back to the A4110. Crossing straight over we took the lane into Yatton passing the Park Farm and then turning right and following the lane until we started to climb up the rough Deepwood track road to reach Yatton Hill Common. Continuing at the top, following the contours below Ladyacre Plantation, the woodland path took us through areas of bluebells, where 2-3 months earlier it had been white with a carpet of snowdrops. Often there are deer moving around, within the forest plantation but with the two dogs they were keeping out of sight.

From views upon the hill above Aymestrey, we started our descent down towards Yatton Court. This proved to be the most tricky and treacherous part of the walk. The steep path down was very wet and muddy, becoming progressively more slippery as we each followed the person in front. It was a good thing there were only 5 of us and not more all in single file, so probably sensible the walk had officially been cancelled. Once back on the terra firma of sheep fields and returning through the 'Fete field' to the road, it was left to the Parish Hall for most; Ian Gardner headed right to get to Yatton up the lane past Bath Cottage.

All in all a really nice 4½ mile walk, a couple of hours to experience the great views from different vantage points in the parish. If you haven't tried it, the walk is well worth doing on a nice sunny day; with a possible pit-stop at the Riverside on your return.

IG



Coronation Celebrations

Aymestrey's Bell-ringers joined the nation in Ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla at Aymestrey Church on Saturday 6th May 2023



Ringers included Meg, Chris, Henry & Vida Thorpe, Stuart Hutchings, Ian Johnson and Alexia Phillips.

Join us for a
'Summer Spectacular'
part of FlowerFest
A concert of popular musical hits and
toe-tapping songs performed by
VOCALISE
an award winning Herefordshire choir
Saturday 8 July 7 pm
Kingsland Church
Tickets £10 OTD with a glass of wine
Children free



7 / 8 / 9 July 2023
10am - 4pm
FlowerFest
a celebration of floral displays
Concert (8th @7pm)
Kids' activity
Plant stalls
Teas
Kingsland Church
Free entry

