

# Living History

## NEWSLETTER June 2013

With this Issue we have 2 Articles; “Tree Planting in the Parish” by Rhianon Turrell & “The Domesday Boundary” by Ian Mortimer.

### **30 MPH Reaches Bircher Village**



All we need now is commonsense from drivers & enforcement from the authorities

After many years of campaigning and numerous accidents & incidents Bircher Village has become a 30mph zone.



### **Nature Notes**

Due to the very cold & wet spring many birds are still nesting & very few cuckoos have been heard in the Parish.

Due to the recent wet weather Roses , Laburnum & Wisteria displaying wonderful flowers.

## Parish Fete

Despite the most appalling weather on Friday night & Saturday morning the Parish Fete was again at its brilliant best on Saturday the 22nd of June. Our grateful thanks to the Fete C'tee, especially their chair David Minton, who organised another wonderful show.

Thanks must also be given to Ernest Coverley and his gazebo team for keeping the displays in the field.



Photo taken by Julian Stokes

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## Date of Next Meeting

Will be on Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm in the C'tee Room of the Village Hall.

# Parish History

## *Living History*

### The Domesday Boundary:

In the Domesday Survey of 1086, 'Yarpole' is recorded as two Manors, described in a previous Article, 'A Domesday Anomaly' (published in June 2006) as the Greater and Lesser Manors of Yarpole.

On reflection, it is to be assumed that 'Yarpole', as a whole, was included in the land with which, in 660, Merewalh endowed Leominster Minster (see 'The Anglo-Saxons' published in June 2004) and that the division into the two Manors occurred when Edward (The Confessor, 1042 - 1066), having returned from Normandy, gave land in the Welsh Marches, to certain Norman Knights to strengthen the frontier against the marauding Welsh.



Included in their number was a Richard de Scrobe who was given the land on which he built his castle, now known as Richards Castle, Orleton and the Greater Manor of Yarpole; the Lesser Manor continued to be held by Leominster Priory. At the time of this division, 'Yarpole' was surrounded by Luston, (to the south), which was held by Leominster Priory and Kingsland (on the west), Croft (on the north) and Orleton (on the east) which were not.

The line of the boundary between the Greater and Lesser Manors of Yarpole has never, to our knowledge, been described. And so, in an attempt to resolve this, it would seem reasonable to presume that the boundary between the two Manors would follow a line from west to east across the Parish and that the simplest method of defining such an 'administrative' boundary would be for it to follow the route of a recognisable track. There are, in fact, only two obvious routes across the Parish, (1) from

Mortimers Cross to Orleton (the Old Drovers' Road - today's B4362) and (2) from Kingsland to Orleton via Yarpole village. To help us visualise how these tracks would have looked in 1086, we can study the present-day network of footpaths.

The original footpaths would have been created by early travellers seeking-out the most convenient way of getting from place to place by finding the easiest contour around a hill and the shallowest point to ford a stream. Although these old tracks have evolved over the intervening centuries, constantly being modified to meet, the needs of the age, the routes of these ancient tracks can still be discerned in our present-day network of footpaths.



Recognising that the Lesser Manor was much smaller than the Greater Manor (see detailed comparison in 'The Domesday Anomaly'), the obvious choice for the line of the boundary, we would suggest, would have been from Oaker Wood, in the south-west corner, where the Kingsland Road crosses the Yarpole Parish boundary, and then for the route to follow the Kingsland Road towards Yarpole Village; then along the line of the footpath to the east of the village, round Pound House and up to Bircher.

Prior to the building of The Knoll, the line of the footpath would have

curved round to the right to follow the old green lane down to join today's B4361 along which the line of the boundary would have run to meet the Orleton border just past Rosebank Farm. Such a route for the boundary would have placed Yarpole Village within the Greater Manor which would be in accord with subsequent historical records.



Compiled by Ian Mortimer (June 2013)