

Living History

NEWSLETTER April 2015

Film Show

A reminder that the showing of 'Chewing the Cud' – a film of memories of Hereford's old livestock market will be shown at the Parish Hall on Thursday April 23rd at 7.30pm along with films of parish events from the past.

Living History Research Groups

The following research or event groups are already operating:

- Parish Register Transcription Group – transcribing and indexing Yarpole Parish Registers (Coordinator Rhianon Turrell - 01568 790677 or rhianonturrell@btinternet.com)
- Family History Group Coordinator Rhianon Turrell - 01568 790677 or rhianonturrell@btinternet.com)
- WW1 and WW2 – Yarpole survivors, casualties, stories and the Home Guard (Coordinator: Pete Weston p.weston96@yahoo.com)
- WW1 Memorial oak tree and memorial arch Coordinating group (Coordinator: Audrey Bott – 01568 780489 or audrey.bott@btinternet.com)

All groups would welcome new members. Please contact the group coordinator if you would like to join in with their work.

The following proposed groups have yet to begin their work:

- Flora and Fauna of the parish
- Recording the memories of living residents

If you would like to help get them off the ground or would like to propose a new group to work on another area of parish research please contact the Chair of the Yarpole Living History Group, Rhianon Turrell on 01568 790677 or rhianonturrell@btinternet.com

There is also an urgent need for a volunteer to continue putting Living History articles on the Parish website. Anyone volunteering would be given the necessary training and support.

Family History Group

The first meeting of the Family History Group will be on Thursday April 30th at 10.30 at the Café. This will be an informal meeting about what the group would like to do and is open to anyone with an interest in family history research, local or national. Please let me know if you are coming so I can book our coffee and cakes! If you can't make this date/time let me know so we can fix more convenient times if needed. Contact: Rhianon Turrell on 01568 780677 or rhianonturrell@btinternet.com

Home Guard Anniversary

May 14th 2015 marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers which later became better known as the Home Guard. There can be few who have not looked forward to and enjoyed an episode of *Dad's Army* and the antics of characters such as Corporal Jones and Private Pike, but the true reality is that the Home Guard was in most cases far different to the comedy show on TV.

In 1944, when the Home Guard was finally stood down, over 1.5 million men and women swelled its ranks. 1065 lost their lives in the defence of this country and many received recognition in the form of awards for brave and gallant acts in the performance of their duties.

Many of the original men who served had previously fought in WW1 and the age range of volunteers was from 17 to 65, but just as in WW1 many lied and boys as young as fifteen to seasoned campaigners as old as seventy-two rushed to do their bit.

As part of the ongoing research we are looking for your memories of this point in history, maybe you had a relative who joined the HG or one of the many other organisations which saw service like the Air Raid Precautions or National Fire Service.

You may be able to help by telling their story and piecing together a permanent archive dedicated to the memory of those who truly did their bit for King and Country.

If you have any information or photographs please contact Pete Weston 01568-610603 p.weston96@yahoo.com

Articles

The following articles accompany this edition of the *Newsletter*:

- *Phillips Acre* by Ian Mortimer
- *World War 1 Commemorations*

We always welcome proposals for articles. Please contact the *Newsletter* editor - John Turrell on 01568 780677 if you would like to discuss possible articles or if you have contributions for the Newsletter.

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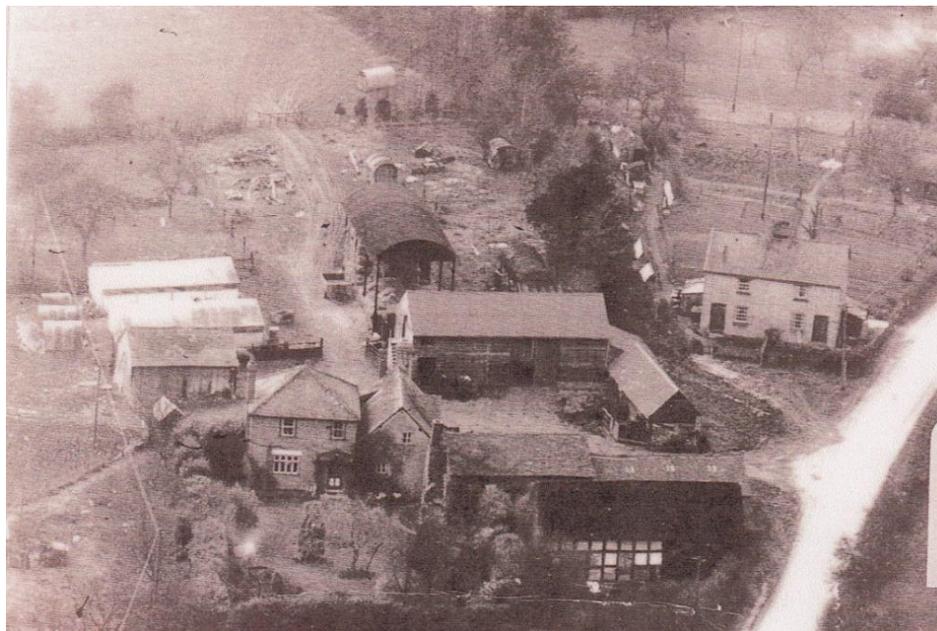
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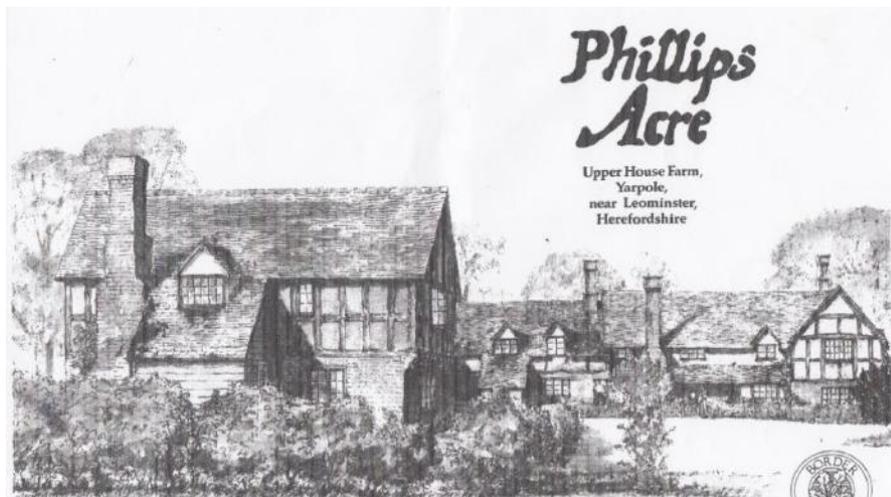
Subscriptions for 2015 are now **overdue**. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the village shop addressed to her or sending them to Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489) Cheques should be made out to "Living History" for £7.50

Phillips Acre

It was in 1970 that *Border Oak* bought Upper House Farm in Yarpole together with its farmyard. The farmyard was to be re-developed as 'Phillips Acre' (named after Charles Phillips, a former owner of Upper House Farm.)



The original marketing brochure from *Border Oak* describes the development:



"Herefordshire is a county well known for its timeless beauty and serenity with its delightful half-timbered villages occupying the most favoured locations within the county, The village of Yarpole situated within a Conservation Area to the north west of Leominster, must surely number amongst the most favoured; it is here in this lovely setting that the renowned firm of Border Oak,

working with the John Needham Partnership (Architects), are undertaking a unique and attractive development, using all their skill and understanding of vernacular architecture, local craftsmanship and materials, they are combining all the efficiency and requirements of modern living with the character and charm of a bygone era.

Seven delightful properties keeping faith with 16th and 17th century architecture are being built around a landscaped courtyard, skilled craftsmen will be fashioning these highly individual houses from massive English oak frames having steeply pitched roofs, deep overhanging eaves and dominant ornamental chimney stacks. The units themselves enjoy panoramic views to open countryside."



The development is comprised of seven, distinctly different, terraced, cottage-style properties set round a courtyard. Notable features include traditional oak framing, particularly in units 1, 2 and 7 (Note the jettied detail on Unit 1); Victorian re-claimed tiles and welsh slates on individual properties; ornate chimney stacks with inglenook fireplaces and quarry tiled hearths; period mouldings to skirtings and architraves; bees-waxed oak beams throughout.

Garages are located behind the development. Landscaping included the planting of indigenous trees and the use of antique brick paviors and kerbstones in the courtyard.



Compiled by Ian Mortimer (April 2015)

World War 1 Commemoration November 2014

The fortnight around November 11th saw several activities in the village to remember the dead of WW1. This article summarises them and includes contributions from some of the organisers of individual events.

Hand-made poppies lined the path to the church.



The Living History group saw the culmination of two years of research on the men named on the local war memorials in a display incorporating this research, with a booklet about each of the men, tablets inscribed with each man's details and other items relating to life in the area in WW1. This included records of the egg collection for wounded soldiers, various appeals to which the community responded and posters and items about everyday life.





Rita Shaw did a stunning flower arrangement on the bier. The plaques to remember the men who died are behind the bier.



'Parish the Thought', with help from the 'Hoarse Whisperers', performed a touching and thought-provoking collection of stories, poems and music, mostly with local or personal connections on November 8th & 9th in the Parish Hall, entitled '*Remember Them*'. There was also a supper based on food rations of the time.

From little acorns mighty oaks do grow

Back in March 2014 Hilary Baker a member of the Croft Castle WW1 project team suggested to Pete Weston the idea of planting trees to commemorate the twenty-one fallen men of the parish of Croft and Yarpole who died in the Great War that was supposed to end all wars.

Quite by chance plans were underway to return some of the non native woodland of Croft into a Woodland pasture much as it would have been before WW1. This was too good an opportunity to miss and following discussions between the National Trust Rangers and Pete Weston it was decided to plant out twenty-one English oaks as part of the ongoing program in tribute to the fallen men.

On Remembrance Sunday a small group of locals, including John Panks and his family (who are related to Jack Tomlinson, one of the twenty-one local men) took part in helping plant out several of the trees and this was followed by the reading out of all the names of the fallen and a short service of dedication before returning to Croft for a well deserved cup of tea. [Pete Weston]



WW1 CENTENARY PANEL

Early in 2014 the Yarpole Sewing Group received information about a nation-wide project to make a quilt to commemorate the WW1 Centenary. The organisers were asking people to stitch on to a square of fabric, the names of members of their family or of their community. The square would then be put together as one large commemorative quilt. Packs of instructions and materials were sold for £3.50 per name. Proceeds from the sales went to *Help for Heroes* and *Quilts for Injured Servicemen*.

The members of the sewing group - Pam Blythe, Pat Bloomer, Audrey Bott, Avis Denny, Sue Harrison, Rita Shaw & Hazel Whitwell - decided to work a square for each of the twenty-one men named on the memorial in St Leonard's church.

The completed squares, formed part of The Living History group's WW1 Exhibition. They have now been sent to be added to the national quilt.

We then turned our attention to our own panel. After some discussion and idea swapping with Brenda Cooper we decided to make a stained glass panel using silk threads and fabric. The panel colours are based on the green and gold window in the church porch, with the twenty-one names stitched onto the fabric representing the panes of glass.



The panel has been framed by Colin Knight and hung on the wall beside the original memorial as a permanent tribute to the men who were lost one hundred years ago. [Pam Blythe]