

Living History

NEWSLETTER October 2014

Living History – The Way Forward

At the meeting on September 11th those present agreed that the format of the Living History needed to change as meetings are poorly attended and input from most members is limited. The present active members have all been doing the job for a considerable number of years.

We are still intending to produce articles in some form but the timing may change.

The immediate problem we have is that the Newsletter editor is unable to do his sterling work for 4 months so there will be no December or March newsletter. After that there will be a resumption of newsletters in some form.

In addition the present Chairman feels that she is no longer prepared to chair the type of meeting that normally takes place at present and that perhaps a fresh approach is needed.

(Despite the fact that the September 11th meeting was stimulating and productive!)

Looking forward it is proposed that instead of having meetings which mainly consist of discussion about articles for the newsletter and displays there should be a variety of activities which anyone in the parish would be invited to take part in with the newsletter and articles still being available to paying members if this was wanted. There would still be an annual A.G.M. to report on each group etc.

The type of activities proposed would be:-

1. 1 or 2 talks a year by speakers on history related themes, either about the local area or of more general interest.

2. Small groups or individuals, working on specific projects in which they have a particular interest, (which could be supported by experienced researchers), similar to groups we have at present for WW1 research and transcribing parish and other records, but could be extended to any topic of local interest.

3. A specific group working on recording & publishing recordings of flora & fauna carrying on from recording already done by individuals.

4. A group working on family history both for village families and/or their own.

These activities would all be publicised in the Parishioner.

There is also a need for specific help:-

1. A group producing the newsletter and/or displays.

2. Someone to take charge of putting the newsletter and articles on the parish website which is a very popular part of the parish website, but does have a time commitment/need for computer skills to get all the articles into suitable format.

This makes it very important that all members, that are able, attend the A.G.M on Thursday October 9th at 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Hall to discuss and finalise the changes.

Rhianon Turrell
12th Sept 2014

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Date of Next Meeting

Will be the AGM on Thursday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, all members & visitors welcome.

Tawny Owlet

While locking up the Bell Tower one evening Iris Lawson spotted a Tawny Owlet in the Remembrance Garden, taking the view that nature is best left undisturbed she let the owlet continue to hop around. Next morning the owlet was not to be seen, however a quick look into the Bell Tower revealed it had hopped through an aperture and was sat on the floor. It was decided to lock up the Tower and see if the owlet would return to the nest, however next day the owlet was still on the floor.

The Hereford Owl Rescue were contacted and they arrived next day, a quick examination of the bird showed that it had not eaten for 48 hours and would not be taken back by its parents. After an intense photo session the orphan was placed into a cage on its way to the rescue centre.



Talking to the rescue lady, Baroness Sasa von Barth und Kippenrue, she said our owlet was the second of three to be rescued that day, it seems at this time of year Tawny & Barn Owlets are good at hopping & climbing out of the nest but poor at returning. The parent birds tend to ignore and reject the owlets. In fact this is not the first stranded owlet in the Bell Tower, in 2008 a stranded owlet was returned to the nest but still died.

The Rescue Centre feeds the orphans on chicken & pheasant pieces until they are fully fit, when they have a number of young birds in good health they are transported to France. Here they are released into a netted coppice and allowed to live a semi-wild life; but as they have been hand reared they do not know how to hunt so are fed for the rest of their lives. If any of these orphans breed their owlets are released into the wild as they have learnt to hunt in the coppice.

Our owlet has been named Leonard by the Rescue Centre

Parish History

Living History

War Grave in the Burial Ground, Yarpole

Recently a plaque has been erected by The War Graves Commission to record the fact that Yarpole Burial Ground has an official War Grave.

This caused the Living History Group to revisit the records relating to it.

The grave is of Sapper Cecil John Collett, of the Royal Engineers, who died on 4th November 1918, as a result of gas poisoning.



photo by IM

The "war grave" can be identified by its white stone cross directly ahead as you enter the burial ground.

The separate graves of his parents and grandparents are nearby. Cecil's family had lived in Gloucestershire for much of his life but had connections in Herefordshire as his mother Anna Phillipine (nee Cross) was born in Kimbolton and his grandparents had a farm on Bircher Common. Cecil's father Hubert was a Telegraphist for the Post Office and Cecil is recorded in 1911 as a Post Office Assistant in Gloucestershire.



On the War Memorial in Welshman's Lane it appears to record a C.T. Collett but after very close photographic work it is clear that there is in fact a curl to the 'T' which has lost its definition over the years which is not visible to the naked eye. This has resulted in it being wrongly recorded and researched in the past as a separate soldier called Charles Collett.

photo by IM

We are in the process of checking all our research on WW1 casualties as part of our research on the war and its local consequences, and will be publishing all our findings at a later date.

If anyone knows more about this family, or any other WW1 stories of the parish would you please contact Ian on (01568) 780788.