

Living History.

NEWSLETTER October 2010.

New doors for Community Building



The initial cost of the doors is approximately £5,500. The principal grants were from "The Croft Trust" and "The Landfill Tax" through "Welcome to Our Future" which is managed by Severn Waste.

Historic Map Available

We can now offer copies of the 1923 Croft Estate Sale Map to those who are interested. Copies of this fascinating document have been reproduced in the full original colours and are available at the following prices:

- A4£2.00 each
- A3£4.00 each
- A2£12.50 each
- A1£18.00 each
- CD £2.00 each

If you are interested please contact Ron Shaw on 01568 780770.

Articles

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

A Summary of the Yarpole Community Project by Ian Mortimer
The History of Croft 1923-1956 by Ian Mortimer

We always welcome proposals for future 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.

Hearth Tax Article – Errata

Please note the following errors in the article ‘The 1665 Hearth Tax Assessment’ by Robert Hatton which was published with the March 2010 edition of the *Newsletter*.

- 1) In the Introduction – the last sentence in the second paragraph should read ‘...at the nearby Eyton...’ not ‘...Lucton...’
- 2) In the preceding sentence Silvanus Taylor was at Lucton not Bircher. His entry in the list portion is correct.
- 3) In the list, under Yarpole, both Thomas and Robert Bedford have their surnames misspelt. Also, the number of hearths for Thomas Bedford was omitted, it should read ‘...2...’

Finally, if anyone was curious as to why Croft Castle was in the possession of the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop at the time was Herbert Croft so it was his family home!

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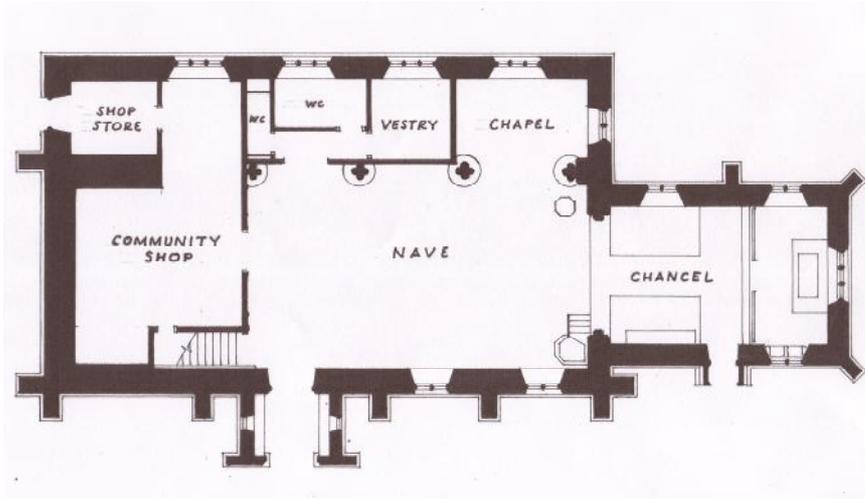
Date of next meeting

The next meeting, which is also the **AGM** will be held in the Committee room of the Village Hall on **Thursday 18th November 2010 at 7.30pm.**

Parish History:

Living History

The Yarpole Community Project:



The story begins at the Village Fete in the summer of 2002 when we were asked if we, as a parish, should draw-up our own Parish 10-Year Plan. In 2005 the Plan was completed; amongst its conclusions were, the need to maintain the village shop and post office and greater use of the church for community purposes.

The findings of the Parish Plan were immediately tested by the closure of the privately-owned village shop at the end of 2004. The response of the parish was to set up a community shop constituted as a non-profit-making cooperative, with over 300 shareholders. Planning permission was granted for two years for the use of a Portacabin on a vacant site to the rear of the Bell Public House.



In October 2005, a Christian Stewardship Initiative concluded that the church of St Leonard needed modification to fit it for worship in the 21st century, and that it was capable of adaptation to accommodate a wide range of community uses.

As a result of these two separate inquiries, the possibility of accommodating the shop and other community uses within the church began to be examined.



The church's working group, which was studying the possible adaptation of the church, was therefore expanded at the beginning of 2007 to form the Yarpole Community Project Group embracing the spectrum of community interests. The objectives and feasibility of the project were explored and consolidated by a sequence of steps. A presentation in the church to the Hereford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (the DAC), including the first sketch drawings, secured the Committee's support in principle and identified particular areas of sensitivity to be resolved.

So what did we wish to achieve? The first essential would be to improve the environmental conditions within the church building itself and that would require a completely new, fully-insulated floor for the whole building, incorporating an efficient hot water heating system using a low carbon emitting heat source together with the insulation of the full expanse of the roof.

Within this prepared shell we could now plan the layout of the accommodation to be provided within the church: an improved and more flexible setting for worship allowing for different sizes of congregation ranging from early morning services for about 10-15 to family services for about 25-40 and occasional larger scale services (weddings, funerals) for over 80-160. As part of this re-ordering there would also be a nave suitable for a range of community uses.

The shop unit, located at the west end of the nave, would be built within the mediaeval fabric as a separate structure; to be accessed directly from the nave, but also have a door formed in the existing west window of what was the north aisle. The shop roof would be designed as a public gallery, with a stair (provided with a stair-lift) near the main church entrance, with an open balustrade towards the nave and have modest kitchen facilities.

The two central bays of the north aisle to be partitioned off to provide for a lobby entered from the nave and leading to the vestry and toilet facilities, one of which is wheelchair-accessible. The roof over the vestry, having limited headroom, is designed for storage.

Funding for the Project was to be divided into two parts - external and local. Local fund-raising began formally in July 2007 with an initial target of £35,000; actually, the total amount raised by the local community stands at £37,756; add to that £2,900 provided by the Parish Council, £6,000 by the PCC and £5,000 by the Pierpoint Trust - we have the sum of £51,656 - raised locally.

The balance of funding was to be sought from external grant-aiding bodies and the total thus raised was £182,550; the full list of Funders is displayed on page four.



Construction began on 14th January 2009 when ‘the bulldozers moved in’ to excavate the old concrete and rubble floor, to be replaced by a multi-layered insulated limecrete raft, on which the water heating pipework was incorporate within the finished floor. The scaffolding could now be erected for the whole expanse of the roof of the nave to be insulated and re-plastered. The framework of the shop, vestry and new toilet facilities, which had been pre-formed off-site, could now be installed. Once laced with the electrical services, the partitioning could be clad and insulated for sound and fire; the staircase was installed; the walls were colour lime-washed and the limecrete floor was tiled. *This work has been recorded photographically and commemorated in ‘The Three Banners’.*



So, after a closure of nine months, the ‘re-ordered’ church held its first service, - Harvest Festival, on Sunday 20th September and the new Shop and Post Office opened on Thursday 1st October 2009.



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List of external Funders - as of October 2009	Grant (£)
Advantage West Midlands	49,000
Association for Conservation of Rural England (Quarries)	20,000
Landfill Tax Fund (Severn Waste)	20,000
ViRSA (Plunkett Foundation)	20,000
Herefordshire Council Community Building Fund	15,000
Church Urban Fund	13,000
W A Cadbury	10,000
Hereford Historic Churches Trust	10,000
Eveson Trust	5,000
National Churches Trust	5,000
Church and Community Fund (CCF)	3,000
Diocesan Partnership Fund	2,000
All Churches Trust	500
Sir John Sumner Trust	50
Impetus Loan	10,000
Subtotal	182,550

Major Contractors	Contracts awarded for
Hitrees	Removing the old floor, inserting new floor and associated works.
Green Energy Supplies Ltd	Removing old heating system and supplying and installing a new wood-pellet fired heating system.
Iconoco	Inserting partitions within the building to construct the new spaces.
P H Postons and Son Ltd	Joinery and other work: principal contractors.
Royston Davies	Stonework: convert existing window into door.

Compiled by Ian Mortimer (June 2010)