

www.orletonvillage.co.uk

ORLETON VILLAGE MAGAZINE



March 2026

How to be included in Orleton Village Magazine

This magazine will be published on the first day of each month on the Village Website:

www.orletonvillage.co.uk.

Notification of publication, together with a link, will be given on Nextdoor and Orleton Village Chat (Facebook)

Articles of general interest, club or association reports and advertisements for community events may be included without charge. Commercial advertisements are charged, dependent on size. (Rates available on request from:

orletonmagazine@gmail.com)

Small private sale advertisements may be accepted without charge if space allows

All content is accepted at the discretion of the editorial team. Articles that are disrespectful or prejudicial will not be accepted.

Copy should be submitted as Word or PDF files. If hard copy is submitted there may be a charge for scanning and input.

All copy must be accompanied by the name, address and telephone number of the author, although this will not be included unless incorporated into the article.

Articles for publication should be emailed to:

orletonmagazine@gmail.com by

the 20th of the month prior to desired publication

Orleton Village Hall

Ideal venue for family events, parties, weddings, concerts, dances, training courses, drama performance, exhibitions, classes and craft fairs.

Large hall (160 seating capacity) with proscenium stage, theatre lighting and sound system, electric piano, video projector and radio mike.

Additional small hall (50 capacity)

Superb five star rated kitchen, cutlery and crockery. Large car park. Free Wi-Fi

Also tables, chairs and marquee available for hire for garden parties

For bookings /quotations: bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk

Tel 01568 780583

Editorial

The spike in hits on the Village Website when this magazine is published shows that we now have a significant and established readership.

We hope that we meet a local need in what we publish but if there are any gaps we would welcome your comments and suggestions for improving our magazine - Quizzes, short stories, the choice is yours!

We are still learning the publishing business. Apologies this month go to Derek Bufton whose monthly advert was inadvertently removed when an out-of-date advert, which shared the page, was removed in preparation for the February edition.

We will be publishing the following content:

- Reports of local activities
- Free adverts for events open to the community.
- Paid adverts from local businesses offering local services
- Free private for sale adverts

The last two categories will be limited as we do not want to swamp the magazine with advertising. Our production costs are low so only a few select adverts from local services or sale items will be accepted for publication.

Folk at the Boot

Not just folk but all genres
of music
Performers always welcome



It's always 2nd Thursday of the month
at 8.00pm

An advertisement for Caroline Edwards Foot Care. The top section features a blue curved header and the business logo, which consists of a stylized foot icon in purple and green. The text reads 'Caroline Edwards Foot Care' and 'Caroline Edwards MChS, MAFHP Foot Health Practitioner'. Below this, a green curved section lists services: 'Neuro Vascular Assessment', 'Diabetic Foot Health Checks', 'Nail Cut & File', 'Treatment of Corns and Calluses', and 'Verruca and Fungal Management'. It also states 'Appointments available now...' and lists locations: 'EP BEAUTY, VALENTINES WALK, LUDLOW' and 'HOME VISITS AVAILABLE'. A circular inset image shows a person's foot being examined. The bottom section has a pink curved background with contact information: 'For an appointment contact: 07990 104453' and 'caroline.ISH@outlook.com'. Two small logos for professional associations are visible in the bottom right corner, along with the text 'TRAINED BY IMAGE INSTITUTE, REGISTERED & INSURED BY THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS'.

Orleton Evergreens



The next five months see us out and about:

April 30th Outing to Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, Cheltenham: Heritage talk & lunch at The Ox Shed £40 (£42 non members)

May 28th Spring Lunch

June 25th Seaside Outing to Weston Super Mare £20 (£22 non members)

July 30th Outing to St Fagan's Museum of History, Cardiff £26 (£28 non members), maximum 30 people

August 27th Outing to Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway, Cheltenham £37 (£39 non members)

ALL WELCOME

Further details:

sue.a.turner@gmail.com 01584 831324

Our 2026 programme is well under way:

March 26th Kath Proctor, who runs Move It or Lose It, will get us moving with some seated exercises - all very gentle! £4 (£6 non members)

Contacts

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Allotments Assoc | Nick Ford | | 01584 875834 |
| Art Group | Geoff Trotter | Geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com | |
| Caring for God' Little Acre | Barbara Mark | | 01568 780842 |
| Church Wardens | Liz Mackay | | 07484 679671 |
| | John Berry | | 01568 780321 |
| Doctors | | | 01584 831300 |
| Evergreens | Sue Turner | sue.a.turner@gmail.com | 01584 831324 |
| Gardening Club | Nick Russel | | 01568 780678 |
| Good Neighbour Scheme | | | 07467 535503 |
| Herefordshire Councillor | Cllr. Dan Hurcomb | dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk | 07792 882147 |
| Land Drainage Group | David Lane | | 01568 78036 |
| Orleton Footpath Maintenance Volunteers | Matin Bradford | emimart@hotmail.com | 01568780151 |
| Orleton Relief in Need | Barry Rogers | | 01584 831514 |
| Orleton Junior Football Club | Mel Williams | cherry.brook@me.com | 07511 920515 |
| Orleton Toddlers | Bethan Jenkins | Bethan.l.edwards@hotmail.co.uk | 07534 726222 |
| Orleton Young Farmers Club | Bell Beaumont | orleyonyfc@hotmail.com | |
| Parish Council | | clerk@orleton-pc.gov.uk | |
| Pre-School | Tara Morris | | 01568 780143 |
| Primary School | | admin@orleton.hereford.sch.uk | 01568 780366 |
| Primary School PTA | Nicola Goodman | nicolagoodman1989@gmail.com | |
| Rainbows | Carly Morgan | | 07788 236628 |
| Recreation Association | Graham Shaw | | 01568 780783 |
| Village Hall | | bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk | 01568 780583 |
| WI | Sue Copson | | 01568 780956 |

Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday – Orleton Village Hall 10.30 – 12.00*

Pop along, meet your friends & make new ones too. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us, with toddlers. We have a small selection of toys for them to play with.

We have a good choice of freshly-baked homemade goodies including gluten & dairy free, all slices are currently only £1 each. Beverages including Fairtrade are £1 for a cuppa with a free refill.

*Please note that we do not open throughout August, and we have two weeks off during the Christmas holidays.



- Visiting Library – last Wednesday of the month
- A relaxed informal group with no membership fees
- Foodbank box for local foodbank
- We make charitable donations to local groups



Are you a local group who would like to run a fundraising coffee morning? Please Contact our Chair Cathy Hardwick via email at cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk

Orleton

Village

WHAT'S ON

Join in with
village life at
Orleton
Village Hall!

COMING UP... (All events are in Orleton Village Hall unless stated otherwise)

Saturday 7th March – Ludlow Concert Band

Tuesday 10th March – Charity Quiz Night

Dates for your diary...

Sunday 26th April – St George's Festival (St George's Church & The Boot – See separate poster)

The REGULARS Monday – Thursday ...

Orleton Toddlers Every Monday morning 10-11:45am

Contact: Bethan 07534 726222 or Charlotte 07964 981036

Orleton WI 2nd Monday of the month, October to March at 2:30pm

Contact: Sue Copson susancopson934@gmail.com

Rainbows Every Tuesday in term time 4:30-5:30pm

Contact Kaye Harrison kayemharrison@yahoo.co.uk

Orleton Ramblers 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month - Meet at Village Hall 9:50am, leaving at 10:00am

Contact: Jan Greatrex tandjgreatrex@gmail.com

Gardening Club Last Tuesday of the month 7:30-9:30pm

Contact: Monica 01568 613361 orletongc@hotmail.co.uk

Yoga Every Tuesday evening 6:30-7:30pm (Commences again in September)

Contact Rosie 07834 851656

Coffee Morning Every Wednesday at 10:30am-12:00 (Closed in August)

Contact: Cathy Hardwick cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk

Library Last Wednesday of the month at Coffee Morning 10:30-11:45am

Contact: Sue Rogers 01584 831514

Sequence Dancing 3rd Wednesday of the month – 2-3pm

Contact: Amy Whitby amyelwynwhitby@gmail.com

Evergreens Last Thursday of the month – 2-4pm

Contact: Sue Turner sue.a.turner@gmail.com

Craft Group 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month 1:30-4:30pm (No sessions in August)

Contact Sue Turner 01584 831324 sue.a.turner@gmail.com

Table Tennis Every Thursday at 7:30pm

Contact: Geoff Lewin geoffnlewin@gmail.com

Hall available for private bookings

Contact Barry Gandy 01568 780583 or bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk

To include your event or amend an entry in the Dairy,

Please Email orletonhandmade@gmail.com by the 12th of the month

All entries are, as far as we know, correct at the time of going to print.

Teme Valley Electrical Services Ltd

01568 782326 or 07989 838436

chris@temevalleyelectricalservices.co.uk



Call Outs & Repairs

Alterations & Rewires

Fuse board upgrades

Socket installs

Ventilation

Lighting

Emergency lighting

Security lighting

Security alarms

CCTV systems

EV Chargers

Solar panel installations

Battery installations

Periodic testing

PAT testing

Fire detection systems

Door access

Electrical Heating

Electric Showers

Domestic, Commercial and Industrial

We offer free quotations and design services

www.temevalleyelectricalservices.co.uk



Orleton Art Group

Are you artistic or do you fancy trying your hand at painting and drawing? If so come and join us. We meet Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 until 4.30pm at Yarpole Village Hall.



For more information please email Larry Turner, laurencepturner@gmail.com or Geoff Trotter, geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com Or telephone Larry on 01584 831324

Orleton WI

At our meeting on 9th February, we welcomed Amy Johnson from St Michael's Hospice; she talked about the wonderful work of the hospice for those with terminal illness. It is a place of love and life which has been in existence for 42 years. The Inpatient Unit, Day Services and Hospice at Home offer expert and compassionate care for local people when they need it most. The staff also support care homes, dementia patients and the bereaved. There are physio, occupational and complementary therapists on hand to help and advise as well.

Orleton WI's chosen charity is St Michael's; we have a collection box into which members donate their loose change each month. The hospice relies on financial support from the public, they have eighteen shops selling donated goods. The first

St Michael's Hospice Home & Living shop in Shropshire opened its doors at 10am on Thursday 26th February 2026 at Ludlow Business Park, Orleton Road, Ludlow, SY8 1XF.



Over nine hundred volunteers across the whole network help to ensure the on-going work of St Michael's; a lottery and a number of different events help to raise the £12 million needed each year.

Our next meeting is our AGM followed by a Wine & Cheese Social on Monday 9th March, 2:30pm at Orleton Village Small Hall.



Orleton Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme supports our community using a team of volunteers to help people who are experiencing difficulty in their own homes essentially, by just doing things that good neighbours do for each other.

Examples of how the scheme can help:

- Fetching prescriptions
- Occasional lifts to the surgery or hospital
- Shopping and running errands, such as posting a letter.
- Practical tasks around the home, such as changing a light bulb or hanging a picture

Contact Number 07467 535503

HOME CLEANING SERVICE

Standard house cleaning- mopping, hoovering, dusting, bathrooms, toilets, kitchen.
Deep cleaning- fridge, kitchen cupboards, drawers, inside windows

MY SERVICES

- House Cleaning
- Ironing
- Deep Cleaning
- Office Cleaning

CALL NOW

Please contact me on:
07548 023840



Advertising in this magazine

Club and association events and other activities open to local residents – FREE

Commercial advertisements
Half page £20 per year
Quarter page £15 per year

Orleton Church & Chapel News

As we move towards Easter, Lent started with a peaceful, reflective Ash Wednesday service on 18th February. It has continued with the Lent discussion groups, for which Orleton has twinned with Yarpole, so these are at 7.30pm on Monday evenings at St Leonard's, Yarpole.

Looking forward to Easter itself, all are welcome to:

Mothering Sunday preparatory service, 3pm 8th March, St George's Church, for a Family Service where our craft is focused on preparing a Mother's Day gift

Palm Sunday-themed Family Service drama, 3pm, 22nd March, St George's Church, where a real pony will make an appearance

Maundy Thursday fellowship meal, 6.30pm, 2nd April, St George's Church. Please let Marion Forrester know if you plan to attend to assist in catering – marion.r.forrester@gmail.com

Good Friday Family Service, 10am, 3rd April, St George's Church, based around drama

Good Friday Reflective Service, 2pm, 3rd April, St George's Church

March 2026 Services & Times at St George's & Chapel

All are invited to join us in the Chapel for a short time of prayer and meditation on Wednesday 11th and 25th Feb at 4.30pm. There will be a Prayer Workshop in Chapel at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th March.

| Date | Time | Location | Service | Readings |
|---|---------|-------------|---|---|
| Sunday 1st March 2 nd Sunday of Lent | 9.30am | St George's | BCP Holy Communion | Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 John 3.1-17 |
| Sunday 8th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent | 10.30am | Chapel | Holy Communion, led by Rev Denise Hargreaves | Exodus 17.1-7 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42 |
| | 3pm | St George's | Family Service, craft-focused, preparing for Mothering Sunday | |
| Sunday 15th March 4 th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday | 11am | St George's | Common Worship Holy Communion | 1 Samuel 16.1-13 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9.1-41 |
| Sunday 22nd March 5 th Sunday of Lent | 10.30am | Chapel | Chapel Service led by Rev Denise Hargreaves | Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45 |
| | 3pm | St George's | Family Service, drama-focused, with real pony in attendance! | |
| Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday | 10.30am | Chapel | Chapel Service, led by Joyce Evans | Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21.1-11 Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29 |
| | 10.30am | Yarpole | Anglican Group Service | |

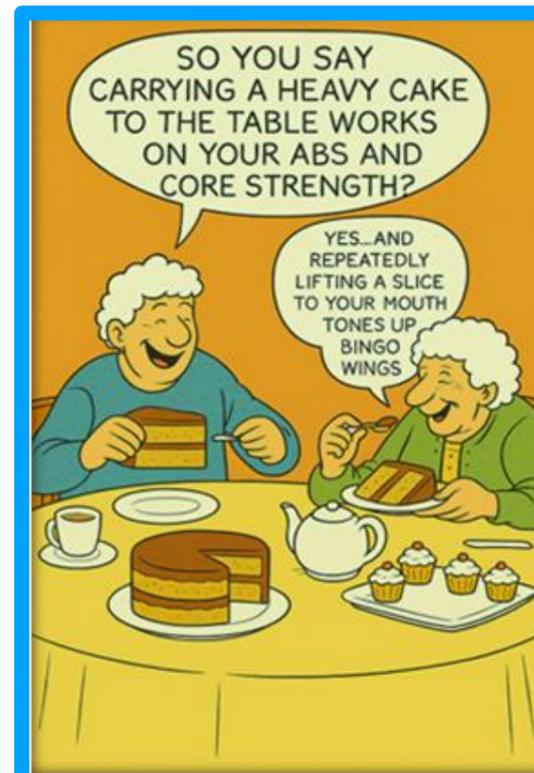
For further information about Church, Chapel, services or activities, or if you would like to get involved either socially or as a member of the congregation then please contact:
Matthew Burns (Vicar, St George's): 01568 614399,



Easter Day, 10am, 5th April, St George's: traditional Easter Service in its usual place in the church, with an informal time in the vestry; followed by an Easter egg hunt round the churchyard

Updates on our other activities, including an update on our Family Services, the Orleton History Group, Singing for Fun, Open the Book, food bank donations, and the 100 Club winners, can be found in our full newsletter, at: <https://stgeorgesorleton.org.uk/news/news>, and click on 'Church & Chapel News'.

teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk
Rev Denise Hargreaves (Methodist Minister): 01584 318628, dkah26@gmail.com, Ludlow Church
Office 01584 879233
Also, why not check out the St George's website: <https://stgeorgesorleton.org.uk>.



Orleton Coffee Morning needs you!

Orleton holds a weekly coffee morning at our village hall on a **Wednesday morning at 10.30am–12 noon**.

We offer homemade bakes, hot drinks, and a friendly informal place to meet and chat.

We would love to welcome a few more folk onto our team of helpers.

Do you have a favourite bake you may like to share with us?

Enjoy meeting and greeting folk, and maybe you would like to help at a session on an occasional basis?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please contact our Chair Cathy Hardwick via email at: cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk

Orleton Craft Group



We meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons in Orleton Village Small Hall, £4 per session.

Our Crafternoons run from 1:30 to 4:30, bring along whatever you are working on, enjoy friendship, chat, tea and cake!



PIZZA AND GAMES

FRIDAY

6 MARCH 6-8PM

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

For all those who enjoy traditional family games, card games, newer strategy games, or all three

Your Wedding Reception at Orleton Village Hall




LOCATED BETWEEN LUDLOW AND LEOMINSTER, ORLETON VILLAGE HALL OFFERS SUPERB FACILITIES FOR YOUR WEDDING. IDEAL FOR BOTH SMALL WEDDINGS AND WEDDING PARTIES OF UP TO 130 GUESTS, WITH AMPLE CAR PARKING.

****INCLUDED AMENITIES****

- CHAIRS, TABLES, CROCKERY, AND CUTLERY
- SMALLER HALL FOR USE AS A BAR AREA
- A SOUND SYSTEM WITH RADIO MICROPHONES (IDEAL FOR SPEECHES AND BACKGROUND MUSIC)
- AN AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM WITH PROJECTOR AND LARGE ELECTRONIC SCREEN
- PERFORMING RIGHTS LICENCE FOR MUSIC
- A TOP-OF-THE-RANGE ELECTRONIC PIANO
- A LARGE STAGE WITH THEATRE LIGHTING FOR POST RECEPTION MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

****HIGHLY PRAISED KITCHEN****

OUR KITCHEN HAS BEEN HIGHLY PRAISED BY WEDDING CATERERS FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL STANDARDS, FEATURING:

- SIX BURNER GAS CATERING RANGE WITH OVEN
- FOUR RING ELECTRIC COOKER WITH OVEN
- LARGE HOT CUPBOARD
- INSTANT BOILING WATER
- FREEZER
- LARGE CAPACITY REFRIGERATOR
- MICROWAVE
- COMMERCIAL DISHWASHER
- STAINLESS STEEL PREPARATION SURFACES

****PLANNING A WEDDING?***

- APPOINTMENTS FOR VIEWING WITHOUT OBLIGATION CAN BE ARRANGED TO SUIT YOUR COMMITMENTS.
- COSTS ARE VERY MODEST AND MUCH MORE REASONABLE THAN COMMERCIAL VENUES.
- YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR OWN CATERER TO USE OUR EXCEPTIONAL KITCHEN AND YOUR OWN BAR PROVIDER.

****TO ARRANGE A VIEWING****

EMAIL: BOOKINGS@ORLETONVILLAGE.CO.UK
TEL: 01568 780583





2027 CALENDAR

The theme is "A natural place to be"

The closing date for submission of your photos will be 3rd July 2026

Photographers, We will need your images for the 2027 Calendar, including winter shots, so get snapping now.

Ludlow Concert Band

Due to the sad loss of a long-serving band member and the virus outbreak in the early part of the year the rehearsal programme has been disrupted. The band therefore feels that it is not yet in a position to give the quality of performance for which they are renown.

The 7th March performance is therefore postponed. However, they will return to Orleton later in the Year and present an evening of excellent music featuring classics, popular music and tunes from musical theatre and films

Watch for further information



Orleton Village Shop & Post Office

| | Shop | Post Office |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Mon- Fri | 0745-1800 | 0745-1800 |
| Sat | 0830-1230 | 0830-1230 |
| Sun | 0830-1230 | Closed |

Whenever possible stock is sourced from local suppliers and below is a small selection;

- Tudge's bacon and sausages and hams (from Richard's Castle)
- Locally made cheeses, cakes and bread
- Variety of wines, beer and spirits
- Sweets, newspapers, magazines and local information
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Pet food
- Cards and stationery
- Amazon and Evri collection and drop-off
- Plants
- The shop also stocks all the household basics and a good range of Fairtrade and eco-friendly products.

Post office services include;

- Personal Banking
- Foreign Currency Exchange
- Pensions and Allowances and much more

Singing for Fun



Enjoy singing but want to just sing for fun? Why not join us at St George's 11am Friday mornings?

We sing old, well-known classics so no need to read music. All welcome, whether you want to hum, sing, or just listen.

Please just come along, or contact John Berry (jsberry47@gmail.com, 01568 782321) or Liz Mackay (e.e.mackay@gmail.com, or drop into Orleton shop)

Grafted Apple trees

2-3 year old named dessert, cookers, cider varieties

In pots - £20 (discount for bulk)

Trees in pots are easy to look after until you've decided where to plant them!

Discovery, Ashmead's Kernel, Russets, and many more...

Root stock: M25 vigorous; M111 & MM106 semi-vigorous

Advice on tree/orchard management also provided

Contact Chris, **07939 864732**

Waterloo Farm, SY8 4JG

applewoodcourses@yahoo.com

www.applewoodcourses.com

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Crime prevention advice top tip, Think like a Thief!

Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. And keep it locked at all times.

Alarm it

Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

Lock it, hide it or mark it

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain. Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Visit Sold Secure to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls. It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.

Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around. Keep the door closed between uses so that no one can see what's inside. Property mark your items and take photographs of them. Some tools can be painted with your name or postcode and forensic marking is also an option. You can also register any item that has a serial number with immobilize. A locksmith belonging to the Master Locksmith Association can advise you on the most secure shed and garage door security. They can also help you install it. Most also provide full home security surveys.

For further crime prevention advice visit our website www.westmercia.police.uk

Pcso Stephanie Harper 6440
Police Community Support Officer | SNT
Leominster | West Mercia Police
Enterprise Way, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0LZ
Mobile: 07773043483 Direct Dial: 01432 347217 Ext. 772301

Mortimer Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

Total Triage (Anima)

The new Total Triage system, accessed via the online tool Anima, has been in use across the Practice since October 1, 2025. The new system appears to be bedding in well though some challenges remain. The Practice Manager is planning to hold a number of follow up workshops in April and May when patients can raise any issues they are encountering.

Telephone and Online Requests

Telephone calls to the surgery may take longer than usual to be answered as the Reception team is working hard to support patients who do not have internet access, or who need help completing the Anima form. Patients are encouraged to fill in the form themselves if at all possible. Any emails received by Reception will be returned to sender with a link to Anima.

The Practice is also striving to make requesting a medication review as simple as possible. If you need a review, please use the 'Admin Request' option on Anima. Using an Admin Request (rather than a Medical Request) is the quickest and most effective way to let the surgery know what you need, and ensure that the request goes straight to the right team.

Good news for our local Practice.

The Practice Integrated Care Board (ICB) has reported that the Mortimer Medical Practice is now rated above the National Average when it comes to offering appointments, increasing

by 46 per cent since October 2025. What's more, the National Patient Satisfaction Survey placed Mortimer Medical Practice 23rd in the whole of the UK and 2nd in the Primary Care Network the Practice is part of. Good news indeed.

The Dispensary saw a number of changes in January, with Claire leaving to pursue a new adventure while Nicky, Julita and Angie all joined and have already made excellent additions to the team. Dr Kemp is on a four month sabbatical until April 2026.

Staff training will take place from 12noon on Thursday, April 16; Tuesday, July 14, and Wednesday, October 14. Kingsland Surgery and Dispensary will open again from 4pm. Anima requests can still be submitted, and Reception reached in an emergency on 01568 708214.

Did Not Attend (DNA)

In January, 100 appointments were missed without reason – that's 1.5 days of time wasted. Various ways of reducing DNAs are being investigated, with a review expected in the Spring.

The PPG is pleased to welcome Simon Davies (simon.mortimerppg@gmail.com) representing Richards Castle with Sue Plant (sue.mortimerppg@gmail.com). Orleton is represented by Kate Best (kate.mortimerppg@gmail.com). The next PPG meeting is on Wednesday, March 18.



March & Easter Family Services

All in St George's Church:
Sunday 8 March, 3pm
(craft-focused, preparing gifts for Mother's Day)

Sunday 22 March, 3pm
(drama-focused with real pony making an appearance!)

Good Friday 3 April, 10am
(drama-focused)

Easter Sunday, 5 April, 10am
(with an informal time in the vestry alongside traditional service in usual place in church; followed by Easter egg hunt in churchyard)



JOIN US FOR...

Orleton St George's Festival

A collaborative event involving...
St George's Church, Orleton Recreation Ground
and Orleton Village Hall Committees

ST GEORGE'S PARADE

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2:15PM

**STARTING AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
AND ENDING AT THE BOOT**

Jenny Pipes Morris Dancers
Raffle, Cake Stall, Children's Games
and St George's Play





All you want to know

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

On Tuesday 27th January we welcomed again Tamsin Westhorpe, author, and proprietor of Stockton Bury Gardens. She has been a judge at Chelsea for ten years.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show was founded in 1913 and occupies a 23 acre site. Described by Tamsin as the Paris catwalk fashion show of the plant world it exists to fulfill the following functions:- to promote cutting edge design, introduce new plants, products and innovations, promote the industry, create discussion, raise awareness of causes and encourage new gardeners. The Great Pavilion is large enough to accommodate 5100 red buses and 168000 visitors attend each year.

It is a great privilege to be asked to judge Chelsea and it is a voluntary role. The judge designate will do little during the first two years except watch and listen. Judges must possess a skill set comprising gardener, landscaper, designer and plant- person. There are judges for different categories – show gardens, small gardens, trade stands – and they are not permitted to cross over. Judging takes two days and takes place over the weekend. A maximum of 36 marks is awarded, a Gold medal requires 30 to 36 marks and surprisingly there is not a set number of medals for each category, Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze. Other categories include

Best in Show, People’s Choice and Construction Award. The judging panel is anxious that exhibitors should do as well as possible and feedback is always given.

Creating a Chelsea garden is not for first timers. It is a 15 month process and selection involves factors including design, budget, sponsorship and carbon footprint. Plant health is critical, some trees are quarantined for over a year and a list of proscribed plants is issued to designers. Show gardens are built in 19 days, remain on site for 30 days and are dismantled in 5 days. The judges must consider how well the brief is interpreted, overall impression and construction, hard landscaping must conform to building regulations and the planting design, association and implementation. The head must rule the heart, these gardens have to work as after the Show they will be dismantled to give pleasure elsewhere. The RHS checks that this is done.

Tamsin’s illuminating insight left us with renewed admiration, not only for those who create these amazing gardens, but for those who judge them with meticulous care. *Ghislaine Arundale*

Visitors welcome to all talks £2.50

Meetings take place at 8:00 pm on the last Tuesday of the month, mostly in **Orleton Village Hall**
Refreshments from 7:15pm

**email: orletongc@hotmail.co.uk
www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk**

CHARITY

QUIZ NIGHT

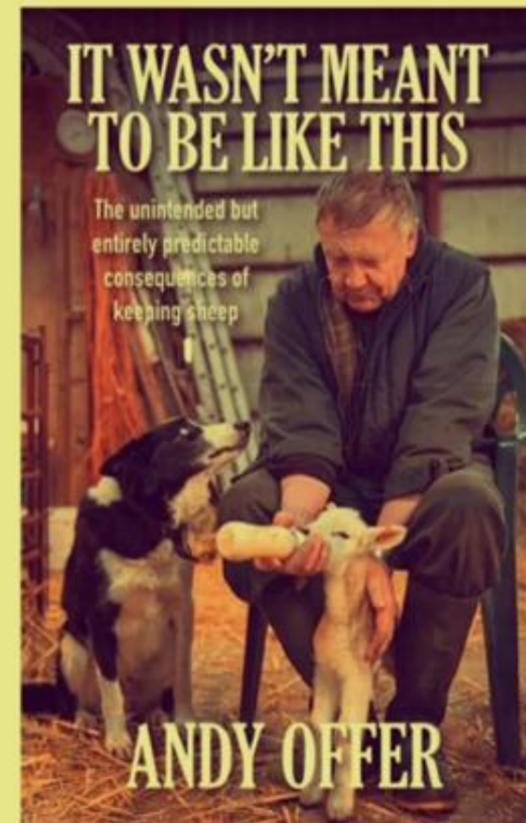
**TUESDAY 10TH MARCH
AT 8.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Hosted by

Dan Hurcomb

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE * ENTRY £2 PLUS RAFFLE

Bring your own drinks and nibbles



ANDY OFFER

will tell his sheep farming story

**Saturday 28th March
2-00pm**

**St George’s Church
Orleton**

Entry is free with donations helping
with the work of
St George’s Community Association

Gardening for Biodiversity by Chris Evans

To say we are on the verge of ecosystem collapse is an understatement. It's already happening in areas around our villages and in our gardens. Green deserts of closely mown, sprayed lawns, beds of hybrid flowers with little nectar for wildlife back onto similar monoculture farm deserts of highly tilled, engineered and sprayed crops. Small "islands" of biodiversity are refuges, but when they're too small, a tipping point is reached and populations collapse, having effects throughout the food chain. I remember in my youth in the village of Luston, many properties had "neglected" orchards behind them, havens for wildlife, teeming with insects, birds and mammals. One by one they have been "tidied up", cleared and usually built upon. In our comfy rural settlements, the story is of declining bio-diversity and wildlife populations.

But there are lots of things we can do, from small scale, easy interventions to more radical out-of-the box ideas, and bigger policies that parish, county and national councils need to take up.

1. Lots of websites tell you what you can do in "ten top tips for biodiversity", but rarely the first and most important action – **stop doing harmful things**: spraying pesticides, fungicides and herbicides; less tillage/bare soil (use mulching/min. till); less monocultures.
2. Mow long and less – not short, or often – leave islands of no/less mown
3. Provide habitat for **breeding** and **foraging** – think diversity, create microclimates: ponds (even washing up bowl-sized), rock piles, wild undisturbed areas; planks, sheets of tin on the ground; log piles, brash piles; leaf piles, compost piles, bug hotels, hedgehog hotels; bird boxes, bird baths, bird feeders.
4. Provide food sources (start at the base of the pyramid: plants with leaves, flowers & seeds) – rich soil and organic matter ->

food for bacteria & fungi -> food for insects
-> food for birds, mammals

5. Understand what you have (resources) – connect with nature; observe

Attracting insects involves planting wild flowers, herbs, fruit trees, and other useful species. Here are some examples:

Ground cover: clover, trefoil, yellow rattle, lawn chamomile, thyme, vetch, pansy, wild garlic, sedum, violets, crocus

Herb layer: coneflower, marjoram, oregano, hyssop, rosemary, lavender, zinnia, nasturtium (also a climber), comfrey, borage, cosmos, mints, lemon balm, ox-eye daisy, poppy, lupin, calendula, marigold, sage, mountain mint, fennel, hypericum, rose

Shrub layer: sunflower, buddleia, tansy, currants/soft fruit, nettle, Oregon grape (*Berberis*), *Cotoneasta*, foxglove, mullein, teasel

Tree layer: crab apple, serviceberry, *Eleagnus*, Buckthorn, hawthorn, Strawberry tree (*Arbutus*), elder, rowan, lime, wild cherry, birch, holly

Vines/climbers: passion flower, clematis, honeysuckle, ivy, wisteria, rambling rose

Plant borders, beds, corners, verges. Most pollinator/insect-friendly flowering plants are also going to give a WOW benefit of beautiful flowers. Don't just get hybrids bred for colour though – they often aren't good nectar sources like native wildflowers are.

It's no longer enough to think that "our" garden is OK as a haven. There needs to be extensive, wide corridors of wildlife-friendly habitat within and around cities, towns and villages. Everyone has a part to play.



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Orleton History Group

On 28th February, Rachel Sycamore gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the two medieval chests in the Church, and the process she has been through to restore them.

Our upcoming talks and events are:

Saturday 28th March, 2pm, St George's Church: A life in sheep farming: Andy Offer will give us an amusing and informative oral history of his life farming sheep.

Sunday 26th April, starting 2.15pm at St George's Church, and ending at The Boot: St George's Festival celebrations, with St George's parade, the traditional Mummers' play, morris dancing, games, and much more! Look out for publicity in future editions of Grapevine and round the village for more details.

Saturday 30th May, 2.30pm, St George's Church, Gisela Lehmann from Leominster History Group will use photographs to take us on a virtual tour of Leominster following the route she uses as a Leominster Heritage Guide for visitors to this historic town. She will introduce some of the characters in Leominster's history as well as showing the different architectural styles of the buildings and their stories.

You can read reports on previous talks at the history group page at: www.stgeorgesorleton.org.uk (and then click on 'Orleton History Group').

You can also find, at the same web address, the reports on the research undertaken so far into the lives of the men on the Orleton War Memorial.

If you would like further information about the group, please contact Liz Mackay on e.e.mackay@gmail.com, or 07484 679671.

Book Sale



You are warmly invited to a
Book sale, tea/coffee, cake and chat
Saturday 7th March
St George's Church
10am-midday



Choose Your Fillings

(All fillings can be mixed & matched)



● Grated Mature Cheddar



● Baked Beans



● Homemade Coleslaw

● Chilli Con Carne



● Chicken Curry

£6.50 EACH

Includes any combination of fillings

Janet's Jacket Potatoes
will be visiting Orleton Village Hall Car Park on
from 5.30 until 7.30 pm.
2nd, 16th and 30th of March
Select on the night or pre-order on the Facebook site

Orleton Charity Quiz Nights

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| March 10th | Village Hall | September 8th | Maidenhead |
| April 14th | Maidenhead | October 13th | Boot Inn |
| May 12th | Boot Inn | November 16th | Village Hall |
| June 9th | Village Hall | December 8th | Maidenhead |

All proceeds go to support local organisations in Orleton Village or recognised National Charities.

Special Event: John Robbins Memorial Quiz at Orleton Village Hall on a Saturday evening. Watch for the date!

Teams of up to six members. 7.30 for a 8.00pm start
Pre-booking of tables at:
the Boot (01568 780228) and the Maidenhead (01584 831686)

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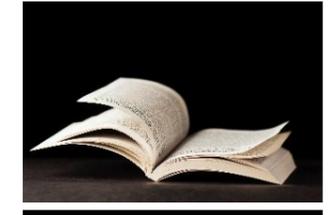
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Open the Book



Could you be a storyteller?

OtB is an exciting storytelling project where a group of people share Bible stories with the children in Orleton school on a Tuesday morning each fortnight. The stories are interactive and the children love to help deliver the 10–15-minute scripted Bible stories as part of Collective Worship. We are currently a small team made up of trained and safely recruited volunteers from our local churches and organisations who follow the Bible Society Open the Book Code of Practice.

A Bible story well told has the power to spark imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations. We would love to hear from you if you feel you could join our group. The children and staff make us SO welcome! Please contact the school directly. 01568 780366 or email at: admin@orleton.hereford.sch.uk Thank You.

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A Vacancy has arisen for the post of
Parish Clerk
to Orleton Parish Council

This is an interesting and rewarding part-time role and provides the opportunity for those with accounting and/or administrative experience to act as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Duties include (but are not limited to), general administration, the preparation of agenda and minutes, maintaining financial records, dealing with correspondence, preparing budgets and attending meetings.

This position will attract a salary commensurate with experience. Paid holiday and full training will also be provided. Hours are subject to confirmation at interview, but can be expected to be between 12-14 hours per week.

If you are interested in this position please contact the Vice-Chairman, David Lane on 01568 780925 or email: cldr-dlane@orleton-pc.gov.uk by no later than 5pm on Thursday 5th March 2026

Spring Soiree at Wigmore Abbey

Visit one of Herefordshire's hidden gems

Wigmore Abbey must be one of the most fascinating historical locations in Herefordshire. Founded in the 12th century, it's been a private residence since the dissolution of the monasteries, which has meant limited opportunities to visit. However, all of that changes for one day on 28 March, when you're invited to attend a splendid Spring Soiree in the Abbey's great hall and Abbot's Parlour, courtesy of the Mortimer History Society (MHS).

The medieval Mortimer family has strong connections to the abbey and many of its most famous members lie buried amongst its ruins. This special event will mark the 700th anniversary of Roger Mortimer's arrival in England, when he returned from exile as the ally of Queen Isabella. Together, they forced the abdication of Isabella's husband, Edward II, and salvaged the crown for Isabella and Edward's son, Edward III.

"It's hard to overestimate how important Wigmore was for a brief few years in the 14th century," says MHS Vice Chair, Annie Garthwaite. "For a time, during Edward III's minority, Isabella and Roger ruled England. This event really is an opportunity to touch a piece of history usually hidden from our sight."

The Soiree, (held indoors, so don't worry about the weather) will feature a festival of medieval music, much of which would have been familiar to Roger and Isabella in their day. There'll also be a buffet of delicious medieval-style food and drink.



12th century Wigmore Abbey, venue for the MHS Spring Soiree

Tickets are just £25 and can be reserved at www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events. All profits will go to this year's MHS Bursary Appeal.

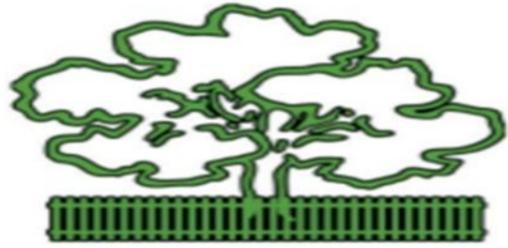
Every year, the society provides bursaries to research students studying the medieval Mortimer family and the Marches of Wales. So, by coming to the Soiree, you'll be doing your bit for history!

The Soiree will be held immediately after the MHS Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 2pm at Wigmore Village Hall and is free of charge.

You can come to either event or both, but, if you're attending the Soiree, you must reserve your ticket in advance.

(This is a very rare chance to visit this historical gem – not open to the public - Editor

)



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Why in the past ten years have:

Cellophane wrappers on packets of biscuits got stronger?

Ring pulls on beer cans got stiffer?

Bags of shopping got heavier?

Wheel nuts got tighter?

Feet got further away when putting on socks?

TV programmes become much quieter?

Small print on packets got even smaller?

Answers (in very Large Print) to the editor.



Report from your County Councillor Dan Hurcomb

As I write this the B4361 should be on day one of a three-week closure. However, following an emergency closure of the A4113 at Leintwardine due to a landslip, a good dose of common sense at Herefordshire Council resulted in the works being postponed to ensure traffic continued to flow smoothly in this corner of the council. Whilst I welcome the decision to postpone the work, I hope that it will be rescheduled as soon as possible given that its purpose is to address recommendations from the Coroner following the tragic accident in that location in June 2022.

Given the current state of our highways network it would be strange if I did not devote part of this column to it. Whilst I am appalled at the recent deterioration, the unprecedented volumes of rain at the start of this year have had a huge impact. It has clearly shown that more investment is needed in drainage to stop the water pooling on the roads and damaging the tarmac. I would also echo the calls of the residents I speak to who say that although they understand potholes will form, they can't understand why the repairs are so poor quality. Hopefully the replacement of Balfour Beatty by M Group Highways on the 1st June 2026 will mark a real turning point in the way repairs are conducted and our roads maintained. In the

meantime, please continue to log potholes where you can using the Herefordshire Council Reporting App which can be found by a quick google search.

Highways and flooding are not the only part of my job (although sometimes it does seem that way). I am also consulted on planning applications across Bircher Ward and I am sure you will all have seen that the planning application for a travellers site at Comberton has been re-tabled this month. The applicant has sought to address some of the objections from their previous application. Although the formal consultation date has passed, I would urge you to submit your comments (either for or against) as these will be considered by the planners in their final deliberations.

As always if you have any concerns, issues or would just like a chat then please do get in touch.

Dan Hurcomb
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07837726821