



Forthcoming Village Events

(In the Village Hall unless shown otherwise)

Monday morning	Pilates 10 am & 11am
Wednesday evening	Pilates 7pm & 8pm
1st & 3rd Thursday	Over 60's Club 2.30pm All welcome
3rd Tuesday every month	WI at 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall.
3rd Tues of month	Whist Drive —7.30pm Everyone Welcome
Thursday Morning	Yoga 10:30-12 noon (wyevalleyyoga.com)
Thursday 7-8pm	Circuit Training in Village Hall or Green All ages welcome

EVENTS TO NOTE:

Friday 7th December	Flick in the sticks "The Greatest Showman"
Friday 21st December	School closes for Christmas 3:15pm
Friday 18th January	Finding your feet
Friday 15th February	Maudie
Friday 22nd March	Widows
Friday 12th April	Mamma Mia 2

MULLED WINE & COFFEE MORNING

8th December 2018

Join us in the Village Hall 10:30-12 noon
 For coffee, tea, mulled wine and mince pies. Cake stall,
 raffle and a **"SPECIAL VISITOR"** for the children.
 Please contact Barbara Westhorp on 01432 840757
 to confirm the number of children attending



A Very warm Welcome to everyone who has moved into the village in the past few months - if you have not yet received a Welcome Pack giving you more information about the village please Contact us.

Diary Editors:

Brenda Poynton	07710022427
Tom Straker,	01432 840955
Barbara Westhorp	01432 840757
Ali Sherlock	01432 840428
Gareth Roberts	Front cover graphics
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Village Hall Enquiries/booking	01432 840845
St David's Church Team Office:	01432 353717

The Parish Council Website can be viewed at:
<http://www.littledewchurch.org.uk>

Facebook page:	Little Dewchurch Village Group
Facebook Selling page	Little Dewchurch Village freebie /Selling group

Parish Council Report - Winter 2018

Phil Williams, Chair, Little Dewchurch Parish Council.



There is only one place to start and that is with the sad loss of Derek Howells who was a stalwart of the Parish Council for many years. He served faithfully and conscientiously, through sometimes troubled times, and always did the best for the community, employing flexibility and a great sense of humour. He was Chair for a long period of time and he will be sadly missed.

Another person who will be missed, although for completely different reasons, is Revd. Peter Houghton who recently took his last service at St. David's and Derek's funeral. He involved himself fully in all aspects of village life, including a lot of hard work on the NDP. I hope his successor, whoever it may be, continues where he left off.

There have been a couple of events that have taken place since the last issue. Firstly, Jess Eames organised a Halloween event at The Plough for children in the day and adults later in the evening which raised close to £600.00 for Cystic Fibrosis. She did it almost single-handedly with no fuss or fanfare, a wonderful effort. Secondly there was the Bonfire and Firework Night which was another great success. Too many people involved to mention individually but everyone pulled together to make it a very enjoyable evening.

The Christmas Tree will be put up on the Village Green (if it isn't already). It was bought from Karen Tibbetts and as usual Andrew Bailey will be working on that and lighting the tree, a big thank you to him.

Also, nothing to do with the PC, Bob Mason and I are organising a Boxing Day walk from the Village Hall car park at 11.00 am. If anyone would like to join, all you need to do is turn up and blow away those Christmas cobwebs.

Work on putting up an outdoor gym on the playing field continues. It is now going to be placed on the lower level, next to the dog area, minimising disruption to residents.

We are applying for grant funding to bolster the £10,000.00 of 106 monies that we already have. If all goes to plan, then we should see it put in by the Spring.

There are quite a lot of other things going on such as the possibility of trees being planted in and around the village with various schemes being discussed. One tree which is going to be replaced by The Duchy is the Oak that died in the hedge opposite The Plough, good news. Also, we are looking in to trying to counter speeding through the village which does seem to be an issue, with Carol Marsh, our new PCSO trying to visit us with her speed gun. Related to that is the ongoing issue of parking in the village where there are a lot more cars than spaces. Because of this, residents do need to be mindful of others and park responsibly and legally.

We will try to inform parishioners of anything that is going on, or look for suggestions, and also the minutes of all meetings are on the new village website www.littledewchurch.org.uk.

The Parish Council does not meet in December, but if you have any concerns or suggestions then contact any member of the Parish Council whose updated contact details are on the back cover of this magazine.

Phil Williams (Chair)

A Very Sad Farewell to Penny Steele



Penny, a very active volunteer editor of our Diary and our thoughts are with her family .

The very sad news, at aged 74, Penny died on Tuesday 2nd October after being taken ill that morning at her home in Little Dewchurch.

Penelope Joan was born in Wigan in 1944, the daughter of John and Ursula Ard. She was educated and trained as a nurse in and around London, where she also worked for most of her life and started her family. Towards the end of her working life, Penny and her husband Barry decided to move away from London and chose Herefordshire for their retirement; after nearly settling in Dormington, they chose Little Dewchurch and from the start, Penny was determined to throw herself into village life. Initially she carried on working as a theatre nurse in Hereford County Hospital two days per week but found plenty of time to join the village choir, sewing group and gardening club as well as regularly attending St David's church and joining Hereford Choral Society. On her retirement proper, Penny decided to volunteer for the National Trust at Berrington Hall where she was a room steward every Tuesday during the summer months. She also joined another choir in Ross to make up for the end of the village choir. Penny was often seen in the village hall, helping out at many events including the Over 60s functions, Christian Aid coffee mornings and so on. She was a regular at Flicks in the Sticks and barely ever missed the Loop and Soup where she was accompanied at first by Bertie and later by Max and frequently by her extended family. She continued to be active right until the end of her life, even attending choir the evening before she died. She is survived by her husband of 46 years Barry, her two daughters, Juliet and Claire and four granddaughters Kim, Steffi, Izzy and Connie.

Book Swap kiosk—housed in what was the public telephone box, near the village centre (to replace the loss of the mobile library service) kindly manned by our Voluntary parish librarians ~ Meg Bailey (01432 840538) and Jan Jefferies (01432 840608) ~ simply choose books & return them when finished, or leave your unwanted books for others to enjoy!



LDSC Diary entry for Winter 2018

Winter is upon us once again, and so far it's been somewhat damp, but the rain just about managed to hold off for our village firework evening held on Saturday the 3rd of November in the Village Hall. Doors opened at 6 o'clock but such was the attendance I think I shall suggest an earlier start for next year. The early arrivals took advantage straightaway of the refreshments that were available in the form of hot pork rolls, cakes, toffee apples, beers, wines and soft drinks, not forgetting the very popular hot chocolate with squidgy cream and sprinkles!. I was really pleased to see so many of you using the "BOGOF" coupon that was printed in the last edition of the Diary, one way that we were able to ensure that you the villagers had some recompense for your loyal support of the LDSC events. Fortified, we turned to the main event of the evening, and went out up on to the school playing field, where we could observe the marvellously constructed bonfire and the superb fireworks which were let off from Keith Williams field by Bob Mason and Andy Mann. Great Job!

The LDSC is already looking forward to future events in 2019. I believe that the village football match may well be taking up "permanent residence" as more of a summer event as was done last year in conjunction with the LDSC Bring & Share lunch and of course you can look forward to our ever popular Village Fun Day on the 3rd of August.....don't plan your summer holiday then! That is a distant dream as we batten down the hatches for winter.

On that front may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for your continued support of our village social events.

Meg Bailey (Chair LDSC)

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

PLEASE KEEP A SPECIAL WATCH OUT FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY.

JUST SAYING HELLO, OFFERING TO GET SOME BASIC SUPPLIES, BRINGING SOME HOT SOUP, LIFTING IN THE COAL FOR THE FIRE, or PERHAPS CLEARING THE PATH FROM FROST.

THIS CAN TAKE A FEW MINUTES BUT CAN MEAN THE WORLD TO OTHERS.

Vicars view

.A big ‘Thank You’

Joan and I would like to thank everyone for their best wishes, thanks and gifts when I officially retired as the local priest in early November. We were very touched to receive so many tokens of appreciation.

As many of you might know, I had a health scare earlier in the year when a sore on my left shoulder was diagnosed as malignant melanoma. We were greatly relieved in mid-October when we found out that surgery to remove the malignant cells had been found to be successful and that exploratory tests could detect no remaining cancer cells. Thank God for His healing carried out through peoples’ prayers and the skills of the NHS!

It was good to see St David’s full for our special service on November 4th, and then to be able to feed and entertain so many for lunch in the Village Hall. Unfortunately space constraints meant that not everyone we would have liked to could come along, so we held a more informal Open House on the following Sunday (which also happened to be my birthday!) and enjoyed entertaining a wide range of people with whom we have built up friendships over the past 5 year or so.

It has been very stimulating to be part of a very neighbourly and thriving village community and to serve you all in various small ways. A part of what I said in the service at St David’s is very relevant at this time of year, when we think how God became a human being and made His home amongst us. I emphasised that I believe that a priest is there for the whole village and, as Jesus took the initiative to come and get his hands dirty with the messiness of everyday life, I have tried to get out to meet and be with people. Sadly too often Christians, (especially vicars!) have sat in church waiting for people to come to them, without having much clue about the struggles that many face in ‘ordinary’ life, so that they can help by praying for them and in practical ways.

As many of you know, we are not moving away so, like the proverbial bad penny, we will crop up again at one or more of the village social events! We also plan to continue to support you all in other ways, not least by continuing to pray for you.

Peter Houghton

Everyone is welcome to a
Family Carol Service
organised by



at Little Dewchurch

Wednesday December 12th
3:30-6pm

Meet 3:30pm at the Village Hall
For candlelight procession
to St David's Church for 4pm
service and activities then return to
the Village Hall for food.

Children **MUST** be accompanied by adults



Christmas Recipes

Yule Log

5 large eggs – separated

3oz [75g] ground hazelnuts or almonds

2 rounded tbls cocoa powder

¼ teasp cream of tartar

Apricot jam

5oz[125 g] caster sugar

11/2 teasp baking powder

2-3 tbls warm water

icing sugar

½ pint double cream

Heat oven to 180C [350F/gas 4]. Lightly oil and line a swiss roll tin. Whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until pale and thick, but not stiff. Stir in the hazelnuts, baking powder and cocoa powder and add the water to soften the mixture. Add the cream of tartar to the egg whites and whisk until stiff. Using a metal spoon, fold them gently but thoroughly into the yolk mixture. Pour into prepared tin and bake for about 20 -25 mins until springy to touch in the centre. Remove from oven and leave to cool. When cool cover with greaseproof paper and a cloth and leave in the fridge for 2-3 hours, then loosen edges with a knife.

Sprinkle a piece of greaseproof paper with sieved icing sugar. Turn the cake out onto the icing sugar and remove the oiled paper. Spread with apricot jam. Whip the cream until thick and spread on top of the jam. Roll up with the help of the greaseproof paper, carefully and loosely. It will probably crack a bit but the cracks make it look like a real snow covered log.

Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle more icing sugar all over, decorate with red-berried holly.

Leftover Turkey Pie

Cold Turkey

Sausages

Mushrooms

Gravy made up to approx.

Stuffing balls

Bacon rolls

onions

½ pint with stock

Chop and cook the onions lightly, slice the mushrooms cook lightly, place all ingredients into a pie dish and top with puff or flaky pastry. Brush with beaten egg and bake for about 20 mins at 220C [425F/gas7]. Serve with potatoes and vegetables.

St David's Church



Programme of services -

Sunday 2nd December	11.00am - Advent Special - Lay Lead
Sunday 9th December	11.00am - Holy Communion Tony Kelk
Sunday 16th December	3.00pm - Service of Lessons and Carols with Hereford Church Singers
Sunday 23rd December	11.00am - Holy Communion with Bishop Richard
Monday 24th December	11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion
Sunday 30th December	<i>No Service</i>
Sunday 6th January	11.00am-Epiphany Holy Communion
Sunday 13th January	11.00am-Morning Prayer - Lay Lead
Wednesday 16th January	3:30-6pm MESSY CHURCH Village Hall
Sunday 20th January	11.00am - BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 27th January	11.00am - Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Joint Service at St Andrews, Dinedor 10:am
Christmas Communion

Ballingham Carol Service

Friday December 14th 6:30pm
in the former Parish Church
followed by hot supper.

***NB All events at St David's at 11am
unless specified otherwise***

****BCP = Book of Common Prayer***

DEREK NORMAN HOWELLS

On 7th November a service to celebrate the life of Derek Howells, followed by internment, was held at St David's Church. Derek was one of the oldest residents in the village of Little Dewchurch and well known to many as the Landlord of The Plough Inn. Although Derek and Peggy retired from running the Pub in 2006 he remained the owner and lived in Ursa Major.



Derek Norman Howells was born on 2nd June 1928,

and grew up, in the Cottage at Fawley Court where his father was the cowman. He was the 4th child to Henry and Amy Gertrude Howells and was one of 8 children, 6 boys, Jack, Reg, Bert, Derek, Peter, Gerald and 2 girls. Marina and June. He went to Brockhampton school until the age of 14 and when he left he went to work as a live in handyman for Mr Blain of Brockhampton. At 18 Derek was conscripted into the RAF for his national service and served in Egypt and Aden. His Service record book records that he "was a hard worker and works well without supervision" traits that served him well in later life.

When he returned from national service he worked for George Mason, Grocers, in Ross as a delivery van driver and it was on his rounds in Little Dewchurch that he met Peggy Evans whose parents, Victor and Vera Evans, later became licensees of The Plough Inn. They lived in Church Cottage. In the early 1950's Derek moved to Little Dewchurch and in 1954 Derek and Peggy were married in St Davids church. Soon after they opened a Greengrocers and florist shop in Gloucester which also specialised in making wreaths, this soon expanded to 2 shops. To help supply the shops Derek rented a nursery in Newent where they grew chrysanthemums, geraniums Which Derek always insisted were zonal pelargonium's, other flowers, vegetables and salad items. Gardening was to remain a pleasure for Derek for the rest of his life.

In the early 1950's Derek and Peggy used to commute to Gloucester by train from Ballingham station and in the bad weather like the snows of 1962 they used to walk from Little Dewchurch each day to Ballingham to catch the train. Mari, Derek's sister, worked full time for Derek helping in the nursery and remembers being told by Derek that she had to speak to the plants, with words like "Good morning Cinerarias how are you today ?" this to keep them happy and encourage them to grow. I suspect that there was more than a little of his sense of humour involved here ! In 1985 after Peggy's parents had died Derek and Peggy took on the lease and became licensees of The Plough Inn. Derek was always a very shrewd business man and in 1986 he negotiated a deal with Whitbread's to buy the freehold of the pub, its associated land some 30 acres, with the only pre-condition being a 10 year beer tie on the pub. Of course he could see the potential and it wasn't long before he sold some of the land as building plots and the money realised from the sale more than paid for his initial outlay for the pub and its land. With the land Derek carried on his love of gardening and also raised livestock.

Being a landlord and never one to miss an opportunity Derek was soon into running outside bars and his sister Mari her husband Gordon, Iain Taylor and Mo Tomkins would be sent off in the long wheel base Landover towing a stock trailer to some Young Farmers event and would only see Derek at the end of the day when they handed over the cash box.

The Plough Inn became Derek's home and livelihood and using money from land sales The Plough continued to be developed. With David Taylors help the pub was expanded by building Ursa Major as an outdoor pursuits centre where school children from places like Mill Hill School in London would come. This venture eventually ended due to the Economic climate and increasing Government red tape. Ursa Major though continued as a restaurant and many people recall that Derek and Peggy's Sunday lunch couldn't be bettered anywhere. Many youngsters in the village had their first job waiting on tables and indeed serving behind the bar.

Derek, was a well loved and respected man and was known variously as Mr Howells, Uncle Derek, Brother, Son, Councillor Howells, The Reverend Howells, Richest Man in the Village, Mayor of Little Dewchurch and as he used to recall when in the RAF just Howells.

Derek had a great sense of humour and some of that, and perhaps a good sign of his business sense, can still be seen today in the sign above the entrance to the Plough, Derek Howells Licensee SPQR, SPQR not the initials of a degree but meaning "Small Profit Quick Return" something which perhaps many modern small businesses would do well to remember.

Derek was a great story teller and loved nothing better than to hold an audience while drinking a glass or two of his favourite tippie Port and Brandy, with that mischievous glint in his eye, and many customers will remember last orders being rung on the bell behind the bar, the one Derek always said came from the Marie Rose !!

Both Peggy and Derek were keen members of the Little Dewchurch Tennis and Social Club which played tennis at Cwm Craig Farm and organised musical social evenings in both Little Dewchurch and other local village halls. They were also very active in and supportive of social events in the village. He was also a very keen photographer. For many years Derek served as a parish councillor and as the treasurer to the Village Hall Committee he was a fountain of knowledge about the history of the village, its people, and able to dispense many kind words guidance and common sense.

Earlier this year Derek had celebrated his 90th birthday, sadly a few months after Peggy had died. He really didn't want a party but his friends decided otherwise and as usual Derek took centre stage and kept the party going until the early hours, in fact he was the last man standing !

Derek had been suffering failing health for some time and in September this year he moved to Highwell House Nursing home in Bromyard where after a short stay he sadly passed away on Friday 12th October.

There are many clichés that can be used for a man like Derek, a True Gentleman and a Character Larger than Life seems most appropriate.

Andrew Mann



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VILLAGE WHIST DRIVE

Whist Drives are held in the Village Hall
on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm

Everyone is welcome

(contact Pat Seaborne on 840651
for details)

FLICKS in the STICKS

Little Dewchurch

7 for 7:30pm movie start



If you haven't been along before, come and join us for a good night out, not just a film, but for a sociable evening.

We have held ticket prices at £4.50 per adult and £3.00 for children aged 12 and under. Doors open for all performances at 7.00 pm, with the screening starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments are available at the start and mid-way through the film

We're delighted to present our next Little Dewchurch Flicks in the Sticks film, taking place in the village hall on

Friday 7 December.

The Greatest Showman (Cert PG) stars Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams and Zac Efron and is based on the true story of Phineas Taylor Barnum. Including some wonderful songs, many of which are fast becoming modern day classics, the film celebrates the birth of show business. It tells the story of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. A perfect film for all ages, please come along and join us at this community event.

Further dates for the Diary

Finding your feet	January 18th
Maudie	February 15th
Widows	March 22nd
Mamma Mia 2	April 12th

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WI programme .

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December 18th Christmas Celebrations

Over 60's Club

The Club meets at 2.30pm in the Village Hall on
the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month .

There is a varied programme which includes speakers,
films and quizzes followed by afternoon tea .

We also go out for the occasional pub lunch .

New members are always welcome

Please contact **Pat Seaborne : 01432 840 651**

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ROAD SAFETY :

For obvious road safety reasons, the Parish Council are very concerned about the various vehicles which are parking opposite the entrance to Court Close. When parked in this area, the vehicles are contravening the Highway Code as they are "opposite/within 10 metres of a junction/on or near the brow of a hill" and also cause an obstruction which causes other drivers to have to drive on the wrong side of the road into the head-on path of any vehicles emerging from Court Close which, itself, is a fairly blind/unsafe junction. These parked cars also make it quite difficult for large farm/delivery vehicles to manoeuvre past them and the concern would be whether a fire engine for example could get through in an emergency. The police have visited several vehicle owners but have asked everyone to be vigilant and to report any vehicles still parking on the roadside in that area preferably by sending a photograph of the parked vehicle to the Parish Clerk at samoyedskye@aol.com and she will forward it to the relevant police officer.

FOR SALE
48" x 27" (690mm x 420mm)
Table desk for sale wood top
with metal legs and 2 small drawer—£20
 Ring Mrs Wilson on 01432 840559

Much Birch Doctors Surgery

Reception Tel: 01982 540310

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If you require urgent medical attention or advice outside normal surgery hours please call NHS111 This is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Call 111 if:

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- you think you need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service
- you don't know who to call or you don't have a GP to call
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Primary School Parking:

**THINK BEFORE YOU PARK -
DONT ENDANGER A
CHILD'S LIFE.**



Whilst parking at the school is never easy with only a small car park vs the large number of pupils now attending the school, please can parents respect the "No parking or stopping" yellow road markings adjacent to the school. Those who park there or on the pavement are endangering lives by causing people to have to walk into the narrow road around the parked vehicles and a small child may easily not be seen by a passing vehicle also trying to manoeuvre around the illegally parked vehicles.

Dean Cholmondeley has kindly said parents may park in the Plough car park for drop off and collection purposes.

Little Dewchurch Footpaths



*Each Sunday afternoon I wander,
Through the fields so green and lovely, I shall
never tire.
My heart gives a sigh of wonder,
How, in this troubled world, I come to be born in
Herefordshire.*

*It is so peaceful, just the wind in the tress,
My eyes look down to the Wye below,
Winding so lovely, as if to please,
So many townsfolk, sitting beneath the willow trees.*

*The apple orchards burst into bloom,
Their pink and white blossom a beauty to be seen,
The corn is still growing, the meadows so green,
With the cows grazing there, no wonder we get cream.*

*As the seasons come and go,
Herefordshire's beauty unspoilt by progress and time. From
the hilltops to the valleys below,
Thank God for the green belt we've all got to know.*

**Please help solve our Mystery: Did you write this poem?.
It was in the files of our Village Diary and we would love to
know who wrote it? Please contact us**

1. What kind of music do elves listen to? *Wrap.*
2. What is a snowman's favourite breakfast? *Ice Crispies.*
3. Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?
He had no-body to go with.
4. What says 'Oh Oh Oh'? *Santa walking backwards!*
5. What do you call a greedy elf? *Elfish.*

Doodles & Scribbles



Flutterbys

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Mrs A M Wright
Clerk to the Parish Council
Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire HR2 9NE
Tel. 01981 250860 samoyedskye@aol.com

LITTLE DEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Cllr Phil Williams	(Chair, Footpath Officer) Tel: 01432 840716 Mobile: 07813 722696 Email: philip.williams43@btopenworld.com
Cllr Jane Lisle	(Vice Chair, Highways, Website Editor & Lengths man Co-ordinator, Facebook Link) Tel: 01432 840585 E mail: janelisle@hotmail.com
Cllr Bob Mason	(Playing Field & Local farming) Tel: 01432 840845 Mobile: 07771 574490 Email: trebor141@hotmail.com
Cllr Tom Straker	(Tree Warden & Link to Primary School) Tel: 01432 840955 Mob: 07803723592 Email: tom.straker@myphone.coop
Cllr Dean Cholmondeley	Tel: 01432 840516 Mobile: 07868 391170 E mail: dcplumb@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Sue Daynes	Tel: 07496799436 Email: sue.daynes@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr James Murphy	(Press Officer) Mobile 07805641344 Email: jamesmurphu@yahoo.co.uk

The Parish Council Website can be viewed at:
<http://www.littledewchurch.org.uk>

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs Alison Wright, CiLCA, can be contacted at the address details at the head of this notice.