

THE LYPMPSTONE HERALD



GOODBYE!

After seven years this is our final issue editing the Lypmpstone Herald. Thank you to all the fantastic contributors who make the job much easier, the Telfers and their distribution team, Steve for his help with adverts and David Hawes for agreeing to take over when we leave. We hope to keep in touch with everyone, Rob and Claire.

Editors: Claire and Rob Hilton - lympstoneherald@hotmail.com | 07739969311

Advertising: Steve Morgan sjmorgan222@gmail.com | 01395 276020

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Village website: www.lympstone.org | webmaster@lympstone.org

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

JULY 2023

LPC held their monthly public meeting on Monday 3rd July in the Meeting Room.

Casual Vacancy – The PC successfully co-opted two new members, welcome and congratulations to Cllr Andrew Minter and Cllr Susie Culhane! There is still one remaining vacancy if anyone else is interested in joining, please contact me at lympstonepc@gmail.com for further information.

Clerk's Report - The Clerk presented the reviewed financial regulations which was approved.

Reports from the Chairman, East Devon District Councillors and Devon County

Councillors - The Chairman read his report:

Thanks, and well done to Lucy for ordering and arranging the fitting of the new noticeboards under the railway arch. They have massively improved the area, and importantly lock as we recently had an incident at the noticeboard opposite School Hill. Someone opened the noticeboard and threw the notices across the road, our thanks to the parishioner who tidied them up. This weekend Cliff Field hosts the Hospiscare charity walk and picnic. I hope all partaking have a good day.

As we head into the summer, we look forward to the regular summer events, school sports day, Shakespeare in the garden, sailing club regatta, Garden Club summer show and the Furry Dance (if I've missed any I apologise in advance) I hope they go well and the sun shines on you. Congratulations to our two new councillors and thank you for volunteering. A big thanks to all Councillors for the work so far this year. We head into our summer break, but undoubtedly, we will be meeting at either committee meetings or full Council meetings to discuss planning applications. Have a good summer.

District Cllr Jung reported on the delicate balancing act between biodiversity and housing need demands. He talked about boosting and working with nature through flood resilience, fish passage, increase Biodiversity, reduce invasive species, and increase native species, carbon offsetting, woodland creation, increase public access (which benefits Habitat Mitigation), reduce hard engineering, reduce Soil Erosion, cleaner rivers and coastal waters.

County Cllr Trail, on behalf of himself and County Cllr Scott, welcomed the two new members to the PC. He explained the new camera at Courtlands Cross had been installed. Two cameras monitored traffic speed; the other two cameras had been installed at the request of the police. He explained that all revenue raised went straight to the Treasury.

Memorial planting - Cllr Lewis reported that in his experience there was issues with planting individual trees for a particular cause eg if the tree died or was diseased etc it was a very emotive area to deal with. He suggested that the PC should receive donations towards tree planting and create a memorial wall of plaques instead. The Chairman proposed a location for this initiative be discussed at the next Assets Committee meeting.

Assets and amenities committee – Lympstone Parish Council is looking for two appointments:

Grounds Maintenance contractor – to quote for grass cutting, hedge trimming and strimming around the Parish.

Play equipment inspector – to view equipment on a weekly basis with a more detailed monthly inspection.

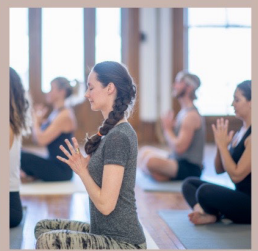
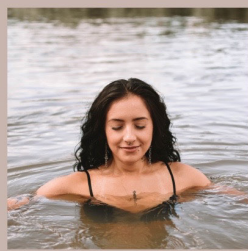
If anyone is interested in either of these positions, please contact me, the Clerk for more details at lympstonepc@gmail.com

Planning and transport committee – Cllr Francis had attended EDDCs webinar on their Local Plan review and she reported, in full, to the PC. In brief, it must be noted: 'The purpose and content of the webinar was to explain how the numbers and housing requirements for the district are calculated and are necessary to achieve Central Government dictated policies... It did become clear if any challenge

to the expected numbers or any development site was mounted then there must be clear, strong, **verifiable** supporting evidence to do so. A strong case for any **exceptional circumstance** has to be made. Strong really means **unique** because other areas also have concerns about infrastructure, coastline or biodiversity. The officers were at pains to point out challenging the numbers from Central Government came with risks. East Devon is very focused on demonstrating they have a robust plan will stand up to Inspectors scrutinizing the evidence provided to illustrate they have fulfilled the brief of meeting the required need of housing numbers locally. As a consequence of this, it seems, they are continuing with their concept of Principle Centres and Local Centres for Development. Unfortunately, Lympstone is still counted as a Local Centre and the number of houses expected of us remains high.... The next steps in the process are more planned webinars and a Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled in July 2023. It is likely that it will take another 2 to 3 years before the new plan for East Devon is adopted...'

Community committee - Cllr Payne updated all on creating a history box in the newly adopted BT telephone box (outside the Swan). It was agreed to convert the box.

Cllr Payne reported that an initial public consultation for immediate neighbours



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and user groups had been held on 20th June for the proposed rebuild of the Hub building. Many residents came and everyone was very positive about the proposals. It was agreed that for future wider public consultations, full drawings and a set of plans was necessary.

The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 4th September in the Meeting Room, Lymestone Village Hall.

The PC wish you all a lovely summer break and let's hope the sun continues to shine!

Clerk to the Council:

Lucy Tyrrell c/o Minnows, Longmeadow Road, Lymestone EX8 5LF

Tel: 07890717081

Email: lympstonepc@gmail.com

LYMPSTONE OPEN GARDENS

A group of village garden owners are proposing to hold an Open Gardens event in June 2024 to help raise funds for our local Exmouth & Lymestone Hospiscare.

Plans are at an early stage but we are looking for village support for this event. The last Lymestone Open Gardens in 2017 raised over £15,000.

As well as having Open Gardens, we would like to include Front Gardens where visitors would only look on from the outside.

If you are interested in helping us to put on this event by showing off your garden, helping with the organizing or volunteering with refreshments etc on the day, please get in touch at the email address below.

Linda Lyon will be at the Garden Show at the Village Hall on Saturday 19th August and will be happy to provide more information and answer any queries.

Many thanks,

Linda Lyon

malcandlinda@aol.com

Liz Griffiths

Julie Heptonstall



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PARISH CHURCH

Fifth Sundays. Whenever there is a fifth Sunday the three church congregations of the Mission Community, Holy trinity Exmouth, Littleham and Lymptstone meet together and take turns to hold the service. On those days there is only the one 9.30 service although the 8 am service continues as normal. On the 30th July Lymptstone will host the service and welcome members of the congregations of the other two parishes and everyone else who wishes to attend.

Food Bank. The church is the venue of the Lymptstone offshoot from the Exmouth food bank. Just inside the church there is a table of food and nappies for anyone who needs them to call and collect with no questions asked. Please come and help yourselves.

‘Ride and Stride’ Saturday 9th September

The annual ‘Ride & Stride’ event provides the opportunity for walkers and cyclists to visit local churches - and to raise money for the preservation of church buildings throughout Devon. Many churches have refreshments available to welcome the travellers! Routes can be as short or as long as you like and maps will be available in the Parish Church so that you can define your preferred route in Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton or Topsham. This

is an enjoyable day out for families of all ages - combined with as much, or as little, exercise as you choose! This year’s event will be on Saturday 9th September, please book the date in your diaries now! If you want more information in the meantime please contact Basil Strickland on 2266735 or Basil.Strickland@gmail.com

Church Car Park News. The land to be used as a Church car park is still formally managed by the Parish Council and we await the approval of legal documents between Diocesan Church authorities and the Parish Council. (All things involving legal documents seem to move exceedingly slowly!) So whilst we look forward to having a car park dedicated for Church attendees, we await the completion of legal processes.

Stained Glass Windows.

The recent talk about the church’s fine stained glass windows was so popular that it is hoped to be repeated in maybe September for those who could not attend last time. Please look in future Heralds for the date of this talk by Brian Ridge who has written a book about the Lymptstone glass.

Brian Mather.



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Victoria Laney

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LYMPSTONE SEA SCOUTS

We run Beavers for boys and girls aged 6-8, Cubs for boys and girls aged 8-10 and Scouts for boys and girls aged 10-14. Each group meets on a weekday evening during term time in the Scout hut in Cliff Field and children are welcome to come along and give it a go - let me know if you're interested and I'll put you in touch with the appropriate leader. If your son or daughter would like to join, membership costs £35 per term.

We've had a great year with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all learning lots of new activities, earning badges and having fun. Our Scouts have also enjoyed camping on Dartmoor with other Scouts from all over Devon.

From September there will be some changes to the leadership: Phil will be away for much of the year so Spiller will run Scouts and Adam will run Cubs. We will have no leader for Beavers, so if you would like to do it, we can help get you set up and DBS checked, otherwise unfortunately we won't be able to run it from September. Volunteers would be very welcome, no experience necessary.

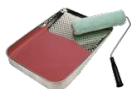
We have been more "Scouts" than "Sea Scouts" lately but the good news is we are training leaders and we hope to get out on the water in the coming months!

Would anyone be happy to donate a buoyancy aid which is less than 10 years old? They should be suitable for children aged 6 upwards. Any donated will help us get out on the water and would be really appreciated.

Adrian Culley, Group Secretary
adrianculley@yahoo.com

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EXE ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSURE

Good morning,

I am writing to advise that Devon County Council have appointed a contractor to carry out works to Courtlands Boardwalk – the raised timber boardwalk on the Exe Estuary Trail between Lymptstone and Exmouth.

After a routine inspection, the timber elements of the boardwalk were found to have deteriorated and rotted. Minor repairs have been ongoing for a couple of years to replace individual deck planks etc, but it is now time to carry out major works to completely replace all the timber elements with fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) elements. FRP is a durable material that will not deteriorate in the damp environment that the boardwalk is situated in.

Unfortunately due to the extensive nature of the work, there is no alternative but to close this section of the Exe Estuary Trail for the duration of the work. A diversion route will be in place as shown in the attached plan.

The works are scheduled to start towards the end of September (after the school summer holidays) and is expected to last for about 3 months.

Information boards are going to be put up along the trail soon to advise users

of the upcoming closure, closure dates, and more information about the works and why we are doing it. We would like to try and reach as many interested parties as possible (local residents, businesses and other stakeholders) so please do forward this email on as necessary.

Kind regards,

James Leigh

Engineer (Bridges & Structures)

Engineering Design Group

Devon County Council

FUNERAL - JOHN HENNESSY

John Hennessy, died recently. John and his wife Catherine (RIP) lived at Southerleigh for over 20 years – dad moved out a few of years ago. He remembered many people from the village very fondly after he moved to Yorkshire, and had a great love for the village and foreshore.

We'll be having his funeral at St Boniface in Cullompton on the 29th August at 11am and I'd like to let people in Lymptstone know.

Jane Wardle

jane.wardle321@gmail.com

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MONTHLY COMMUNITY HUB LUNCHES

We continue to provide a monthly 2-course hot Sunday Lunch to home addresses in the village and at the Village Hall.

After a successful afternoon cream tea for the Coronation, we will be repeating this event in August.

The next meals will be :-

2.45pm Sunday 20 August Afternoon
Cream Tea

1.00pm Sunday 17 Sept Cottage Pie
& Veg and Apple Crumble & Custard

Future Dates :-

Sunday 22 October


Sunday 19 November

Save the Date :-

The Christmas Turkey Dinner will be at
1pm on Sunday 17 December

These lunches are provided for anyone who wishes to join us, either having a meal delivered or to eat socially together at the Hall. A small donation is welcome but not essential. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact Linda Lyon at malcandlinda@aol.com

Many thanks
Linda Lyon



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290218

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WHAT'S GOING ON WITH WOTTON BROOK?

Following on from my article in last month's Herald about Wotton Brook, here is my description of how the South West Water (SWW) wastewater (sewage) system works in Lympstone and how it affects the brook. I've borrowed heavily from the SWW Code of Practice, Wastewater Services and checked with the Lympstone Flood Relief Group to try and write a fair description. But remember, I'm no expert.

The SWW sewerage system in Lympstone is a network of sewer pipes used to collect and take wastewater and rainwater from properties for treatment and disposal. The sewers are likely to be one of the following three types:

- A foul sewer takes only wastewater from kitchens and bathrooms.
- A surface water sewer takes domestic rain water from roofs and some hardstanding areas (including some highway drainage) with probably between 20 and 50 outlets between the A376 and the harbour draining directly into Wotton Brook .
- A combined sewer takes both wastewater and surface water, mainly pre 1960.

There is always the risk of a 'misconnection' where a foul sewer has been incorrectly connected to a surface water sewer resulting in sewage running directly into the brook. This can

happen when, for example, a kitchen or bathroom extension is built and pipes are incorrectly connected.

Our sewers aren't intended to drain floodwater from run-off from agricultural land or deal with highway drainage. DCC has responsibility for highway drainage even in locations where much of it's connected to one of our surface water sewers.

Our wastewater flows down to a pumping station in the village car park where it is pumped to the wastewater treatment works at Foxholes in Exmouth where it is treated.

Wastewater treatment at Foxholes is the process of removing contaminants from wastewater. It includes physical, chemical and biological processes to remove contaminants and produce environmentally safe treated wastewater and biosolids. The wastewater effluent is discharged through a pipe which runs across the Maer into the sea opposite the new RNLI station. It must comply with statutory standards set by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency undertakes checks to ensure that it meets their standards, and records showing the results of samples are held in a public register. Whilst SWW tries to ensure that all biosolids from their wastewater treatment works are recycled in accordance with

statutory requirements and Government licences, when there is 'excess rain' and the system is overloaded, wastewater will lift drain covers and flood sewage across the Maer as well as discharging sewage out into the bay and onto the beach.

So what?

- We need to be confident that by doing the right thing and having our Lympstone domestic wastewater connected to the mains that we're not just shifting our Lympstone wastewater (sewage) onto the Maer and beach.
- We need to make sure that we're only using the foul sewer to take away pee, poo and paper and not things that shouldn't be there (sanitary towels, wet wipes and worse) which will then reappear on the Maer or the beach.
- We mustn't dispose of fats down the drain or kitchen sink as these will clog sewer pipes, forming 'fatbergs'.
- We need to know that we're not overloading the surface water sewer when it rains by, for example, tarmacking over grass. The effect of overloading the surface water sewer which drains directly into the Wotton Brook is that it will quickly and artificially raise the water level when it rains heavily.

- We must support work to discourage run off from fields.
- We must better understand how water from the A376 affects the brook.
- We mustn't put chemicals down the surface water sewer which runs directly into the brook when, for example, we wash our cars. Take a look at the tiny print on the back of a washing up liquid bottle: "Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects". Pretty clear I reckon.

• To conclude, our SWW provided sewerage system, which we pay for, should work well if we do our bit and get it right at the input end and SWW do their job at their end. It takes our foul wastewater away from Lympstone and protects Wotton Brook. Sadly, when there's 'excess rain' this doesn't work and our Lympstone sewage ends up on the Maer, in the sea and on the beach; cue Fergal Sharkey, Surfers Against Sewage, KCIII.

Overloading and polluting the surface water system, which flows directly into the brook, contributes to its poor water quality and may kill aquatic life.

Next month I'm going to look at septic tanks and domestic sewage treatment plants and how they might affect Wotton Brook.

Justin Smallwood

WG Wilkinson Grant & Co

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FIND OUT ABOUT LYPSTONE FLOOD RISK

Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) is holding this drop-in event in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd September between 10am and 5 pm

It will explain the nature of the risk both from the Wotton Brook and the Estuary

The Brook catchment is very steep , rising by about 85m over a distance of around 3km . This makes the Brook very ‘flashy ‘ with rainwater running off quickly and moving fast down it.

The significant factors in the flooding of the lower village are the coincidence of high tides and heavy rainfall, where the outlet from the Wotton Brook and the walled channel into the estuary is blocked by the tide, and the waters from the swollen Brook can’t be discharged and hence back up in the walled channel and the floodplain. At the same time, many of the road gullies which would normally discharge into the Brook may become blocked and similarly back up and overflow.

The village is well protected in many respects with the work that has been carried out since the major flood in 1960, the walled channel and the estuary wall and flood gates. It has resources to address many everyday risks from rainfall and tide, including our volunteer group of flood wardens, but much less protection against an

adverse combination of the two

The impact of current climate effects of more frequent extreme weather, such as very localised intense rainfall and rising sea levels, and growing residential development combine to increase the risk of a major flood event.

There will be a section about the work of LFRG and how we are currently prepared for a flood event.

We will outline what further steps are being taken to improve the flood defences in the lower village.

There will also be details of how to protect your own property with a display of flood defence products.

LFRG has worked with the Environment Agency on a catchment model to better understand what measures would help to mitigate flood risk. A selection of the outputs from this model will be displayed .

To find out more about the work that has been undertaken, how a ‘perfect storm’ would affect the village and what further measures are proposed to mitigate flood risk come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd September between 10am and 5pm (with free refreshments).

Helen Dimond for Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

“US IS GRATEFUL!”

Inside the Village Hall is a stone plaque with an inscription etched on it :

The villagers of Lymptone hereby record their gratitude to
Robert Garmondsway Wrightson
through whose zeal and charity
the erection of this hall was made possible

Who was this zealous, charitable villager?

Robert Wrightson founded a family firm of insurance brokers. He served in the Great War as a Major and Lt Colonel, and came to live in Lymptone in 1923. He was single, having separated from his wife after just a few years, but he bought a large house, Lymptone Grange, so that he and two of his sisters could bring up the five orphaned children of his late brother Harry and his wife Helen, who had died within a year of each other.

Robert's speech at the opening of the Hall in July 1933 explained the need. “Try and imagine,” he began, “what the accommodation in Lymptone was a few years ago. The Mission Room was only a fisherman's sail loft; enlarging the Lord Robert's Institute was impossible; and the Drill Hall would soon disappear.”

A Village Hall Council was set up, with

Robert Wrightson as its chairman. “It will be a centre for our village life,” he proclaimed.

The Exmouth Chronicle of July 8th 1933 told the story of how the village raised the money:

“The hall represents the fruits of a united effort on the part of nearly all branches of Lymptone's social activity, with many contributions from the village societies. Apparently everyone in the village has had a share in the building of the hall,” said the Chronicle admiringly.

Since then, Lymptone has continued to fund its hall. When it was twice enlarged, and whenever it needed money, it was the villagers themselves and their societies who raised it. Lymptone Players and Entertainments, the Garden Club, Film Soc, Art Group, Tennis Club have all made major donations, and several of them have given significant equipment. Individual villagers have contributed: Nick Millington climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds, and Hazel Eaton-Terry's legendary sponsored swimming raised £5,000 for the hall in 2010. Astonishing!

The whole village feels that it has a share of its hall. It doesn't just belong to a management committee, to a COI (in the most recent anonymous acronym). It's held in trust for the village, as its name suggests. It's our Village Hall. It has a history.

The hall was opened by Lady Clinton, who told of her husband's special link with Lymptstone. Lord Clinton's great-grandmother, Lady Williamina, had come from Scotland to Lymptstone many years ago to recuperate from an illness in the mild Devon climate. For two years she rented the Old Manor House, where she passed away. Wilhelmina had been the great novelist Sir Walter Scott's first love, Lady Clinton confided, and "the relations between these two had been prominent in the daily Press quite recently!" (The full story of this thwarted love affair, and Lady Williamina's stay in Lymptstone, is told by Ralph Rochester in his book 'For Love of Williamina'.)

"I hope also," concluded Lady Clinton, "that in this hall you decide to have nothing but harmony, loyalty and good fellowship."

The village doctor, Dr Bellamy, then proposed a vote of thanks to Robert Wrightson, who, he said, had not only given the site on which the hall was built, but had paid for an extension as a club room for all villagers. He had worked indefatigably to achieve his object – a Village Hall. "In the picturesque dialect of our county," said the Doctor, "Us is grateful".

After the Opening Ceremony, tea was served, and 'The Happy Man' was performed in the grounds of Lymptstone House. Acted by people from the

village, it is described as a Pastoral Play, set at Carnival time, and its characters are Kings and Princesses and villagers. The Doctor was played by Dr Bellamy, a Republican General by Sir Robert Christison (Hon. Secretary of the Village Hall Council), and Robert Wrightson himself played Lord Granthosom (very rich). There was a cast of 15, a choir of 21 (including many well-known Lymptstone names – Norton, Shears, Vanstone, Hawkins, Searle, Vinicombe, Venus), 8 Country Dancers and 6 Morris Dancers. An Orchestra of 10 strings included a Litton and a Perry.

The new village hall received its baptism that evening as the venue for "a popular Dance". We don't know what music was played, but songs of 1933 by Gracie Fields included 'My Lucky Day' and 'Happy Ending'.

What we do know is the debt that Lymptstone owes to Robert Garmondsway Wrightson.

Harland Walshaw

Robert Wrightson's great-niece Priscilla is a friend of Nigel and Gillie Goodwin. When she found out that they had moved to Lymptstone, she sent them the papers and cuttings which tell this story. Us is grateful.

THE HERALD HISTORY SPOT

Do You Have a Memory of A la Ronde?

Over the last few days I have been involved in an archaeological excavation at A la Ronde (late July, early August 2023). The project is focussed on the grounds of the house, not the house itself. The house was built in the late 1700s by two cousins, Jane and Mary Parminster. As well as the unusual 16 sided house, there were some lovely features in the grounds. Mary died in 1840 and in her will made reference to a number of these features and said that they should be retained. The grounds subsequently underwent a number of changes with new owners which gradually erased the original visions – and the features disappeared. The aim of the current archaeological project is to locate and / or detect any remnants of the features. The features included obelisks, a fountain, ornamental seats and a shell grotto. Another feature in the garden that is being examined in the current project is some strange arches in a low wall near to the barn. The wall was probably the support for a glasshouse. There are a few records of the house and garden over the years but many were lost when they were stored in buildings in Exeter that were bombed. The house has only been in the care of The National Trust over the last few years.

It is possible that some of the features

were in existence until quite recently. One find, for example, has been around 15 foreign coins that have been burnt. The coins might have been thrown into a wishing well – and any coins of value in Britain might have been extracted. The most recent of the coins found is 1972 – so was there a fountain or a grotto as recently as that?

The archaeology is part of an ongoing project at A la Ronde which aims to build up more knowledge or history of the house and the grounds. While the house is technically in Exmouth, it is possible that people in Lymptstone may have visited those who were living at the house before it was gifted to The National Trust. Does anyone have any memories of this sort? Please contact me if you can help or know of others who might be able to help. (Jennyamoon@gmail.com) or 01395-708850

Jenny Moon, Lymptstone History Society

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

The winner of the recent lottery draw was

July – John Carr

Thank you for all your continued support.

Penny Lupton; Treasurer

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Copies of the Lympstone Herald are delivered free to every household in Lympstone (approx 1100) every month with further copies being sold through the village shops. Please send your enquiries to Steve Morgan : sjmorgan222@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER This news letter is compiled from emails sent to the editors by numerous people and very little of the information is checked before publishing which is done in good faith.
Rob and Claire Hilton, Editors.

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Find out about Lympstone Flood Risk



Drop-in Event
at Village Hall

Saturday 2 September
Between 10am & 5pm

Free refreshments