

*The
Gazette
view*



All aspects of life and death

IT IS always difficult to predict just what will happen during the course of a week at a local newspaper. Last week was a prime example. In addition to covering a number of schools who were sending their choir members to perform in front of an audience of thousands, I also visited a bleak country church to see the bones of villagers who had died hundreds of years before.

Meeting some of the children who were so excited about their chance to take part in Young Voices was really life affirming. Seeing the final resting place of a group of residents who had possibly lost their lives due to disease and are now not remembered evoked very different emotions.

At least now their story will be told, research may continue and perhaps there will be more information about the lives of those people to come.

The discovery of bones in a churchyard may not seem that surprising but the discovery of a large number of previously unknown skeletons in a church in Sellack has sparked interest across the county.

The bodies were buried in shrouds as this would have been the period before coffins came into regular use. These bodies appear to have been buried quite quickly, as they were placed in a very shallow grave, and also very close together.

Sellack has always been a small settlement of about 200 so it was probably a close knit community. Some of the skeletons discovered were children and it is possible that due to the way they were placed several of them

MoD oppose Hildersley plans

THE Secretary of State for Defence has backed the MoD's objection to the planning application for more than 200 new houses in Hildersley.

The proposal is an application for approximately 212 houses to be built at Hildersley Farm, including affordable housing, public open space and associated works.

The site is near to land owned by the Ministry of Defence but the MoD said that this statement is slightly misleading. They said: "The MoD firing range is not just within close proximity of the application site, it immediately adjoins the western boundaries of the application site."

The MoD published full details of its concerns on January 24th, mainly regarding how noise will affect new residents and questioning the agent's record of the frequency the firing range is used. They request that the Local Planning Authority refuse planning permission for the proposed development.

Ross Town Council has reiterated its request for a roundabout to be installed to allow access to the site and to ensure that traffic approaching Ross along the A40 slows down.

In their comment submitted to Herefordshire Council on January 18th, 2017 the members of the Planning Committee at Ross Town Council said: "Members reiterate again their concerns about

access to and from the A40 and are of the opinion that a roundabout would be the safest means of access and would ensure that traffic approaching Ross slows down. Having made this request twice before, the council would like to know whether this has been considered or if and why it has been rejected."

NHS England asked for a contribution of £54,256 in capital contribution to enable the delivery of services to the new residents, when the application was for 250 houses in 2015.

The consultation ends on Thursday, February 9th. There have already been many responses from interested parties and many local residents.

Before the original application was submitted the project team from RPS Planning and Development held a public consultation event at the Larrupz Centre in November 2015, which more than 80 people attended.

Many visitors welcomed new homes being built but the main issues raised were the potential impact on local services such as schools and GP surgeries. The site is identified in Herefordshire's draft core strategy as a strategic urban extension to Ross-on-Wye and suitable for development.

If you would like to comment visit the Council's website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk and search for the planning application 150930.

New clinic to help with winter illness

WINTER is a busy time for the NHS, mainly due to the additional burden of viral illnesses causing sore throats, coughs and colds. These symptoms are almost always due to the same groups of viruses, which change over time to get past your immune system.

Alton Street Surgery recognises that people get worried about these symptoms and are trialling a new Minor Illness clinic each afternoon, run by a GP and a nurse, so they can see patients quickly if they are concerned. Patients can still ring to speak with a GP for advice as before, but they will also be offering extra appointments for winter illnesses.

If you have a sore throat or runny nose, then a cough is likely to be part of the same viral illness. Luckily, complications are rare, though symptoms can go on for an annoyingly long time – a cough can last for up to three weeks. Children are more susceptible, and can catch up to 12 colds a year, getting less frequent with age, as the immune system builds up resistance to the viruses.

The best advice for coughs and colds is to treat the symptoms. Paracetamol and/or ibuprofen help to reduce pain and fever, but there is little evidence to support the use of decongestants, cough medicines, vitamin C or herbal products such as Echinacea. Unfortunately modern medicine still does not have a cure for coughs and colds, as antibiotics do not work, and are more likely to cause side effects than help. A pharmacist will be able to provide advice about treating symptoms.

The excellent website; whenshouldiworry.com explains which symptoms in children may need medical attention. You should seek advice if you become more short of breath, or a cough persists more than three weeks or so.

A false alarm

A CREW from Whitchurch Fire Station was called out on January 28th. The caller thought it was a car fire, but instead the crews discovered that it was controlled burning outside a workshop. The crew said it was a false alarm with good inten-

Twist in the tale nets £800 for charity

LOCAL author, Hilary Orme was thrilled to be able to present a cheque for £500 to Macmillan Cancer Support at the Alma Inn, Linton, on Thursday, January 26th.

This represents the amount raised in royalties from the sale of her book, 'Twisted Tales: A Collection'. Since then Hilary has received another £50 and a further £254 was raised by Linton Village Hall, which held a book

