

WITHINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2024



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Hereford Food Bank

Hereford Food Bank update

Hereford Food Bank continues to be busy. During May, June, and July we provided 1,085 people, including 284 children, with seven-day parcels of food and household /toiletries items. The estimated number of meals given was 23,127.

Currently typical recipients are employed, but sudden additional financial outlays or changing employment can mean a significant short fall in cash. Recently we have established a referral mechanism with Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) to assist individuals with financial issues. It is great to get positive feedback from people we have assisted at a difficult time.

We envisage getting busier in the autumn when the Household support fund is expected to finish.

Donations - During the summer months we have had successful supermarket drives at Morrison's, Waitrose, Asda and Sainsbury's, where volunteers chat about the Food Bank and ask shoppers to consider purchasing an additional food item to donate on their way out. We have also been able to answer queries raised.

Harvest is a busy time for donations as many schools, churches and other organisations collect items. This harvest, our wish list is tinned meat to serve hot such a minced meat and onions, stewed steak, chicken in white sauce, cold meat e.g. chicken roll, cooked ham, corned beef, tinned pulses e.g. chick peas, red kidney beans, UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables e.g. peas, sweetcorn, carrots, rice pudding.

June Wynter

Hereford Food Bank, Donations Team leader

REMINDER - YOU CAN NOW READ THE MAGAZINE 'ONLINE'.

If you are unable to obtain paper copies of the magazine please go to the Group Parish Website to read it. You will find the magazine under the 'Newsletter' section
<https://withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk>

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024 EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH OCTOBER 2024

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

Withington Book Club

We recently read 'The Lollipop Shoes' by Joanne Harris. Sequel to the probably better known 'Chocolat', which was made into a film starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. Set in Montmartre, Paris, the book further developed the characters from Chocolat, while introducing aspects of 'magic' from around the world. For me, most books set in Paris are worth a read!

We also read 'Mad Honey' by Jodi Picoult. This book dealt with a lot of very current issues, including domestic violence, transgender, suicide and self harm. Tricky subjects which we felt explored tolerance, forgiveness and resilience. We learned a lot about bees and bee keeping too.

Our next two books will be, Brother of the more famous Jack by Barbara Trapido and The clown of God by Morris West.

Best wishes, Sue

Withington Tree Warden

Herefordshire Apple Trees in Autumn

Herefordshire has over 15,000 acres of orchards producing 150,000 tonnes of apples and pears each year. Our region has the perfect soils and weather conditions to grow the finest fruit in the world not to mention centuries of experience in crafting fine apple juice, cider and perry.

September and October are traditionally the harvest months for apples. October 21st is 'Apple Day' and is celebrated up and down the country.

Herefordshire has a variety of apple types including:

- Herefordshire Russet – old style apple which is at its best from October.
- Meridian – a newer variety but proving to be a big hit, juicy and crunchy.
- Sunset – unusual blush colour to the skin and flesh with a floral flavour.
- Kidd's Orange Red – balanced tangy flavour with loads of crunch and juice.
- Gennet Moyle.

As well as eating apples, our County has a long history of producing cider apples. Cider apple varieties cannot be eaten or used for cooking, their only use is to be turned into a superbly refreshing drink, perfect for a summer's evening.

Modern cider fruit varieties used in Herefordshire and the West of England can be traced back to the pioneering work of Viscount Scudamore of Holme Lacy in the 17th century. Scudamore was ambassador to the court of Louis XIII during the reign of Charles II and returned from France with a collection of cider fruit from Normandy.

Cider apples are divided into four groups, according to their flavour:

- Sweets - low in acidity and tannins.
- Bittersweets - low in acidity, high in tannins.
- Bittersharps - high in acidity and tannins.
- Sharps - high in acidity, low in tannins.

The tannins give the fruit its "bite" and act as the preservative, whilst the acid prevents the taste from appearing flat. Most cider is a blend of all four types of apples, with added sugar to give it the desired sweetness.

For centuries cider has been a popular drink as well as a wage substitute, and although the latter is no longer the case its popularity as a drink is certainly on the up. A summer evening in Herefordshire wouldn't be the same without a glass of local cider - providing you are over 18 and please drink sensibly!

Whitestone Baptist Chapel

Summer will soon be over but hopefully we can look forward to an Indian summer in September with darker evenings and settling into autumn routines. **All Services each Sunday at 11.00 a. m.**

Sunday September 1st. and Communion. Wendy Davidson.

Sunday September 8th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

Sunday September 15th. Rev. Ken Morey.

Sunday September 22nd. Jerry Tiffin.

Sunday September 29th. Harvest with Peter Jennings. Fellowship lunch to follow.

Sunday October 6th. and Communion Wendy Davidson.

Sunday October 13th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

Sunday October 20th. Rev. Ken Morey.

Sunday October 27th. Tony Bailey.

The Courtyard

Free drama workshops for visually impaired adults at The Courtyard

Tel: 01432 340555

The Courtyard is delighted to announce it will be hosting Extant to deliver free drama workshops for visually impaired adults.

No Dramas sessions are led by visually impaired facilitators and are full of accessible drama exercises and fun games; they are a great opportunity to build confidence, develop new social connections and have a brilliant time. The No Dramas workshops are for all levels of experience, everyone is welcome.

A previous No Dramas participant described the sessions as “Extremely useful for socialising, inclusiveness and mental well-being. These sessions also help combat isolation and loneliness and build self-confidence.”

Extant, who will be leading the sessions, are the UK’s leading performing arts company that explores visual impairment to create unique and innovative artistic experiences. The company places visually impaired (VI) people at the centre of all they do: from the productions they create, to the artists they support, to the audiences they perform to and the participants they work with.

The Courtyard is proud to be committed to being an inclusive and accessible venue to all. Audio Description is available for most cinema screenings and in-house productions have a dedicated Audio Described performance with an accompanying Touch Tour. Large print and braille materials are available upon request and all permanent signage around the building is tactile. For more information about The Courtyard’s commitment to accessibility visit courtyard.org.uk/access.

Extant’s No Dramas sessions will be held on the first Tuesday of the month from October 2024 – February 2025 from 2pm – 4pm at The Courtyard.

Access support is offered throughout the No Dramas sessions, and a meet and greet for those who need it is available. The meet and greet service can take place at Hereford train station, Hereford Country Bus station or the Hereford Zipper bus stop on Edgar Street, if requested beforehand.

For more information or to book a place visit courtyard.org.uk/events/no-dramas. Booking must be completed by Monday 30 September.

No Dramas workshops are supported by Vision Foundation and Arts Council England.

St Peter's Church News

Services in Withington:

8 September 9:30 Holy Communion
15 September 9:30 Holy Communion
22 September 4pm 4th @ 4 Harvest Preparation
29 September 10:30am Benefice Harvest Service follow by a bring and share lunch
13 October 9:30 Holy Communion
20 October 9:30 Holy Communion
27th 4pm 4th @ 4 Family Service

Services in Westhide:

8 September 5pm Evening Service
Wednesday 18 September 6pm Harvest Service
22 September 11am Holy Communion
13 October 5pm Evening Service
27 October 11am Holy Communion

Children's and Youth Events:

Pizza Club- for ages 7-11 @ Sutton Village Hall. Join us for a time of pizza, games, and short teaching!
Third Thursday of each month. Beginning again 19 September, 4:30-6pm.

Emerge- for year 6 and above. Join us for games, food, and discussion. 4th Sunday of every month @ St. Peter's Withington, 5:30-6:30pm. Beginning 22 September.

Other notices: New Book Club starting! First Tuesday of each month, meeting at 7pm @ St. Peter's Withington. Starts September 3rd with the book *Island of the Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak. RSVP to Tiffany (07871 222793), revtiffjackson@gmail.com or Marisa marisa@breretonbailey.co.uk

Vicars note: In September, my friend Marisa and I are starting a book club, and our first book is going to be *Island of the Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak. I've only just begun reading it myself, but I was struck by a tradition mentioned in the book about burying fig trees in winter. The tradition seems to come from Italy and is predominantly to protect the trees and make sure that they can produce fruit come summer. In order to do this, apparently, they dig a trench in front of the tree and then cut down one side of the tree's roots so that it can lay down in the trench and then cover it up. In the process the old or weaker roots break off but the stronger ones get stronger. I thought it was such a good analogy for life and different seasons. There are times when we just need to lay down for a bit, have a break! Maybe it's just because it is a seasonally logical such as summer or winter. Maybe it's because we are facing some real challenges in life. During those seasons of lying down and even hiding, there's real value in seeing what isn't working, what needs to be broken off, what do we need to let go of...this is both to protect ourselves but also so that we can produce fruit that then blesses others. You know, there are quite a few stories about Jesus and fig trees. Isn't it wonderful how God reminds us of his truths not just through the Bible but also nature? As we enter the autumn season, I pray that you are able to let go of the things that need letting go of, take up the things that are right, and enjoy that changing season. Blessings, Tiffany 07871 222793



Macmillan Coffee/Tea Afternoon!

At Withington Village Hall

Friday 27th September 2 – 3.30pm

Come and join us for a cuppa, lots of chat and loads of cake! Meet old friends and make new ones!

And help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care!

Join us there – everyone is welcome! + BRING & BUY + CAKE ORDERS

More Info - Ruth Hewison 01432 850074

Reader's Comment

Right of way confusion on Vine Tree Close

After a number of experiences, could residents on Vine Tree Close Numbers 36 to 66....
please

remember to give way at the junction, as per road markings, before turning onto the older part of Vine Tree Close.

Let us avoid an accident.

Thankyou.

Withington Group Parish Council

Update from Withington Group Parish Council –

Withington Group Parish Council represents Withington, Westhide and Preston Wynne and meets every two months, usually at Withington village hall, but the venue is always promoted along with the agenda on the parish notice boards and on the web site at least 3 working days prior to a meeting. All meetings are open to the public who are welcome to attend. Councillors are volunteers who are elected every four years. Currently, your

Withington Councillors are:-

Kevin Hewison (Chair), Barclay Rogers, Tom Nellist, Jonathan Beech, Howard Mansell, Ingrid Heatly, Hilary Holden, Paul Andrews (Vice Chair) and Kevin Powders who is the footpaths officer. We currently have one vacancy for a Withington Councillor, if you want to know more about this role, please feel free to contact the clerk.

Your Westhide Councillors are :-

Judith Howe, Ralph Barber and Steve Scotcher with Steve being the footpaths officer.

Your Preston Wynne Councillors are:-

Simon Dent, Sue Rudd and Bob Rudd – Bob Rudd is the Parish footpaths officer. You can contact them via the parish clerk on : clerk@withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Over the last months, the Parish Council have commissioned work to replace the fencing around Withington Field to make it a dog proof area. Please ensure that no dogs are allowed onto the football pitch or in to the play area – let's keep this clean for our children to play safely. We have also created a safer space for toddlers in the play area and updated a number of the play items, which we hope that you and your families enjoy. We are confident that you will enjoy the smart looking, refurbished areas of Withington Field, but if you do spot a problem on the Field or on any of the parish footpaths or, do please report it through the clerk and we can try and get the matter resolved.

Sophie Glover. Withington Group Parish Council Clerk August 2024

Email: clerk@withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

website: www.withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hello Everyone,

So here we are more than half way through 2024 in the blink of an eye! An Indian Summer would be nice, considering how long it took Summer to get going this year. The long cold wet Spring is difficult to remember now, but let's hope that the Summer will be as tardy to give way to Autumn.

Church News

September Saturday 7th 4.00 pm Pizza Service

Sunday 22nd “ **HARVEST FESTIVAL 11.15 AM**

October Saturday 12th 4.00 pm Family Service

Sunday 27th 11.15 am H.C.

The Concert held on the 29th June in the Church was a lovely event. Georgian Music on Georgian instruments in a Georgian Church on a lovely Summer afternoon, followed by bubbly and canapes, what a delight! Thanks are due to Patsy and Andrew who organised this, and especially to their friends from Windsor who are professional musicians and great exponents on these wonderful old instruments for giving us the chance to enjoy a really entertaining programme whilst raising funds for our church. The 100 Club draw took place after the Concert, lucky winners were:

1st prize £50 No.25 Charles Edwards

2nd £25 No.14 Janet and Michael Edwards

3rd £12.50 No. 78 Paula Wilson

HARVEST SUPPER WILL BE ON 28TH SEPTEMBER IN THE HALL 7 FOR 7.30 P.M Please book in with Tricia on 820650. Thank you.

Several parishioners made the journey to Gloucestershire in order to attend Natalie's inauguration service, as previously stated we shall really miss her and wish her well in her new living.

Hall News: The Pimms and Pudding Evening on July 27th was great. Lots of gorgeous home made puds, thanks to everyone who brought them along, we were really spoilt for choice. A rather chaotic beetle drive followed, great fun!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH 7.30 PM. PUB NIGHT WITH CURRY SUPPER

Chef Michael ably assisted by daughter Sophie will produce a culinary delight for our delectation. There will be a vegetarian version and for those not keen on curry there will be an alternative supper available. Please book in with Tricia and also let any dietary preferences be known.

W.I. News: A team of 4 from our W.I. entered the County Quiz and having qualified to go forward to the finals finished in 2nd place out of the 22 W.I.'s who entered from all over the County. Well done, quite an achievement!

There is always an interesting and varied programme on offer with Preston Wynne meetings, not to mention great refreshments following the meeting. So if you fancy coming for a taster one evening meetings are held usually in the Hall on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Finally, it is with much sorrow we send our condolences to Paula and family for the sudden and tragic loss of James. Our thoughts are with the family and friends at this sad time.

With love, Hilary and Tricia x

Neighbourhood Matters



West Mercia Police have received reports from residents in North Herefordshire of a white male aged mid 20's, he spoke with a Middlesburgh accent and was wearing a blue top and shorts, carrying a large black holdall calling door to door attempting to sell household goods. He has been located by Police and told to leave the area.

Traders who sell goods door to door must possess a Pedlar's Certificate issued by the Police, except for cold callers offering services like home maintenance work. Please note that a Pedlar's Certificate does not guarantee legitimacy.

Our advice is to always politely decline by saying "No thank you – please leave" and promptly close the door. If the trader refuses to leave, inform them that you will contact Police and Trading Standards. If you feel genuinely threatened or in danger, contact the Police via telephone 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.

In short 'if you're not sure, don't open the door'!

'Nottingham Knockers' are targeting homes in your area.

Be vigilant.

Stay Safe.

Do not buy or sell anything at the door.

Not sure?

Don't open the door

Who are the Nottingham Knockers?

Nottingham Knockers are usually young men who go door to door, selling household products. They are often dropped off early in the morning in a particular location by a large van and are then transported around that area throughout the day. What is the scam? They may offer to show you a fake company I.D for a company that does not exist. They may also be carrying a large holdall style bag which contains various household items at high prices and will try and hard sell to make money. They will also tell you about how they are trying to make a better life.

When you decline their advances, you may be subject to verbal abuse and threats to cause criminal damage.

Not sure? Don't open the door!

If you get an unexpected knock on the door, please check to see who is on the other side of your door before opening it. Either look through a side window, look through a spy hole, or simply ask out loud who it is. If you do not know them, establish who they are and what they are there for before you open the door. Please remember if the cold caller sales are unsuccessful, they are unlikely to return in future. If you do experience any verbal abuse and feel intimidated, please call 101 and tell us what was said, and a description of the person.

Neighbourhood Matters

In recent weeks, several homes have been broken into in an attempt to steal car keys and vehicles from properties.

We encourage people to be vigilant with their vehicle security and follow the below crime prevention measures in an effort to deter potential thieves:

- Keep your keys/fobs and valuables out of sight
- Lock your car away safely in the garage, if possible
- Fit a high quality alarm to your vehicle
- Use extra security systems; immobilisers and visible security locks
- Lock gates, where possible.
- Keep keys on your person when leaving the vehicle unattended
- Secure all doors, windows, the boot and sunroof when leaving your vehicle
- Add additional motion sensor lighting to areas where your vehicles are parked
- Consider using signal blocking bags such as Faraday bags to store keys in.
- For houses with multiple vehicles, make it harder for the car to be taken; park the lesser valued vehicle behind the more expensive one on the driveway

Could you spot a loan shark lurking in your community?

Have you ever come across someone in the community who is known to lend money?

They may be a well-known character, offering to help people out when they need a bit of extra cash. But behind that friendly façade, they could be a loan shark – a criminal who lends money and demands repayments without authorisation from the Financial Conduct Authority. Without that authorisation, they are not bound by rules that protect borrowers. They can make up their own rates of interest and can use threats, intimidation and violence when someone struggles to pay.

The signs of an illegal lender include:

Being given no paperwork or details about the loan

Not being sure about what you have to repay, and ending up paying more than you thought

Being intimidated or threatened if you struggle to pay

Being told to hand over items like bank cards or a passport until you can pay

The lender may appear to be a friend when they first approach, but can change when you miss a payment. If you do come across someone like this, there is help available from the England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) – also known as Stop Loan Sharks. The IMLT is made up of specialist officers who are experts in investigating and prosecuting loan sharks and supporting borrowers. The IMLT was created 20 years ago and since then has supported over 31,700 people, written off over £91.3 million worth of illegal debt, and secured over 420 prosecutions for illegal money lending, leading to more than 600 years in jail.

You can contact Stop Loan Sharks by calling the 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222 or joining the live chat available on www.stoploansharks.co.uk from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Neighbourhood Matters

Officers are reminding members of the public over the laws around trespassing on private property and burglary in response to the growing trend of urban exploring on social media.

While the trend of visiting abandoned sites and sharing footage from there is a national one, there have been some instances of this reported in the West Mercia Police force area. This has prompted officers to warn those influencers filming and posting content from such locations that their actions may be in breach of the law. Urban exploration – sometimes referred to as ‘UE’ or ‘urbex’ - is the exploration of manmade structures, usually abandoned ruins or hidden elements of the manmade environment. While this social media ‘hobby’ can provide interesting video footage of historical interest, it can sometimes involve trespassing onto private property, invasion of privacy, intimidation or, in some cases it could even be classed as burglary.

Members of the public are further advised this activity presents various risks, including physical danger from climbing on to buildings or over fences, or from derelict sites that have missing or crumbling structures or may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos. They are being warned that, under Section 68 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, a person committing the offence of aggravated trespass could face a prison sentence of up to three months and/or a fine of up to £2,500.

Anyone found guilty of burglary – defined under Section 9 of the Theft Act 1968 as entering any building or part of a building as a trespasser and with intent to commit theft or unlawful damage to a building or anything therein – could face up to 14 years in prison. Detective Sergeant Kelle Westwood, of North Worcestershire Proactive CID, said: “The rising trend of ‘urban explorers’ on social media brings with it the risk of prosecution to those caught entering private premises illegally and/or without permission. We are keen to warn anyone wanting to create this content in the West Mercia force area we will investigate accordingly if we believe they are in breach of the law, such as those around trespassing and burglary. Our advice to content creators filming here is to check the law, always have permission from property owners or landowners to visit sites, not to endanger their own lives, or those of others, and to be responsible for the videos they share in the public domain as they could in turn be fuelling crime.”

MOBILE PHONE THEFT

Criminals used to steal mobile phones for the value of selling the handsets on, however nowadays they are much more likely to be stolen for the value of the contents and the access they can get to your personal and financial information, and so we see a rise in mobile phone thefts.

For example, many users have their Banking Apps or banking card details in a “Wallet” on the phone, and if they are not securely protected then the criminal has a rich source of information to use, and can empty your bank account very quickly. Also remember never to keep any physical bank cards with your mobile phone.

So how can you protect yourself?

- Never leave your phone. iPad or Tablet unattended, out of your sight or visible in a public place
- Make sure your phone is not visibly protruding from your pocket where the opportunist can grab it
- Only use your phone in public places and try and keep your back to a wall when using the phone
- On busy city streets watch out for anyone on bikes or mopeds following you
- Never store Passwords on your phone
- Secure your phone by making best use of its security features with a strong PIN, Passcode or Password
- Get your IMEI number which is unique to your phone and can help to locate it if lost or stolen – dial *#06# on your keypad then keep a note of it in a secure place
- Use a Tracking app – so you can then see where it is on another device
- Turn off message previews so thieves will not be able see any messages with reset or login codes when your phone is locked

Reader's Corner

Withington Primary school End of year KS2 Play.

I had the privilege of seeing this year's End of year Play and what hit me was the joy in all the children.

The local primary school has been through a lot these past several months as at times it looked like a builder's yard with the whole roof being retiled. I think Mrs Houchen and her brilliant team are amazingly resilient and deserve their well earned summer break.

The summer break came after the brilliant play with the catchy songs Alice in Wonderland

All the children acted and sang well. It was an energetic performance. The Caucas race left me breathless just watching the children running laps around us, the audience; some at quite a speed and singing as well. They were like Olympic athletes.

The joyous production was very well supported by parents who provided most of the costumes.

This is the second school show I have seen. Last year's Peter Pan was brilliant but this beat it in my opinion. I cannot wait to see what they do at Christmas

Withington School personal recollections from G Perkins ex-pupil -1901

"My name is Gilbert Perkins an old boy of this school at the turn of the century.

As a child I lived at Cross Keys post office. At seven years old the first date I remember putting in my school copy book was 1901.

My father was a blacksmith and wheelwright, he performed many tasks: repairing farm implements and old wooden pumps etc., he also acted as local undertaker. With 6 children and a wife to support he was quite happy to try his hand at anything.

We all attended Withington Primary and Mr Mauven was School Master. I remember he had a badly deformed leg. This did not stop him patrolling the playground and keeping us in order. Despite being very strict, I remember him as kind and fair. He would let me do little jobs like chopping up old faggot wood for the old tortoise stoves; no central heating then of course.

We did not wear school uniforms as most families were very poor. This was reflected in the way we dressed. At that time all boys and girls wore boots as there were no shoes around. Boys wore caps and girls hats.

My other memories were writing on slate with a slate pencil. So easy to rub out mistakes. The packed lunches we took to school were a sort of Ploughman's lunch sandwiches washed down with a bottle of cider carried in an old medicine bottle.

At playtime, I remember playing marbles, conkers and hoops. I'll never forget the day a car pulled up into the playground in 1905. We were all thrilled and gathered around it. It was the first time I had ever seen a car.

On leaving Withington school at the age of fourteen. I started work on a local farm owned by Mr Yeoman's. My wages "2 shillings and sixpence (2s 6d) per week for 61 hours.

I shall always remember when the 1914-1918 war ended. I came to Hereford wearing my uniform. Walking along in High Town, I recognised my old School Master Mr Mauven. We greeted each other and he openly cried when he told me several of his boys had paid the price.

I am 90 years old now but the names of my school companions pass through my mind as if it were only yesterday.

Contact Details

Byworth Trust Clerk:	Tim Dutton	07730652209
Police:	Safer Neighbourhood Team PC Josh Kitchen	07773053436
St. Peters Church:	Rector Rev'd Tiffany Jackson	07871222793
	Church Warden Kevin Hewison	850074
	Bell Ringing Kevin Hewison	850074
	Secretary June Wynter	851677
Village Hall:	Chairman Kevin Hewison	850074
	Booking Secretary Nicki Powders	07840777046
WG Parish Council:	Clerk Sophie Glover	617306
	Chairman Kevin Hewison	850074
	Vice-Chair Judith Howe	850117
Whitestone Chapel	Ian Porter	01981 540388
Withington Book Club	Susan Patmore	851710
Withington Post Office:		850356
Withington Primary School:	Sarah Houchen	850289
Withington Parish Magazine:	Editor Margaret Thompson	850182

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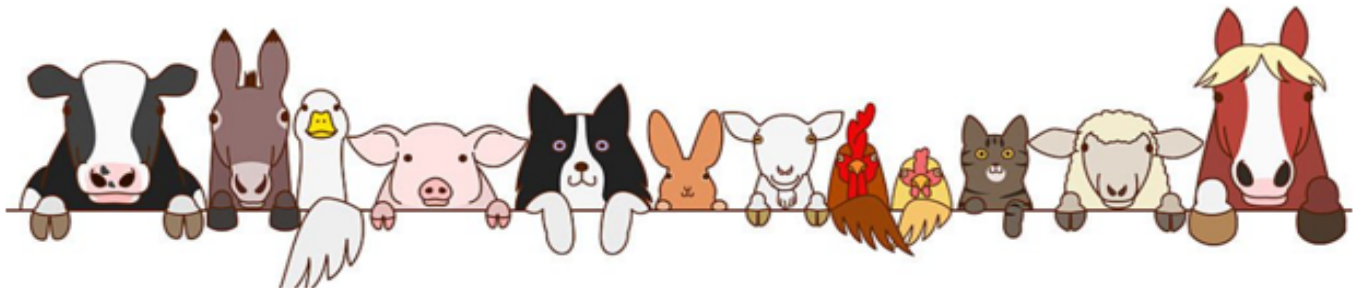
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