

PRESS RELEASE

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History of lost Herefordshire village to be revealed!

The Rural Media Company and the communities of **Bredwardine, Brobury, Staunton** and **Letton** are embarking on a remarkable year-long community film project to uncover the mystery of the lost hamlet of **Crafta Webb**.

Crafta Webb owed its origins to the people who flocked to Bredwardine in the early 1800's to claim resident status to profit from the benefactions of the George Jarvis Charity. Home to dozens of families, **Crafta Webb** sprang up overnight, when, it is said, an erect chimney-stack with smoke meant you could claim land rights.

The settlement had its own grocer, tailor and shoemaker and Kilvert reports visiting it in his diaries to hold cottage lectures. Nothing now remains on the hill and county records refer only to a "shrunk village", although the name **Crafta Webb** still appears on Ordnance Survey maps today! No one knows what happened to the people who once resided there, how they lived and what it was that eventually made them leave.

"This really is one of the most fascinating and exciting projects I have worked on," explains Adrian Lambert, the films producer "The story of **Crafta Webb** is an incredibly important part of Herefordshire's history, its story isn't only dramatically enthralling it also sheds light on the social, political and cultural landscape of our county, yet virtually nothing is known about it."

Residents of the communities have formed a steering group to research the history of the hamlet and will help devise, write, perform and produce the finished film with The Rural Media Company. "We've already had an amazing response to the project," says Graham Middleton, resident of what was part of **Crafta Webb**, "Someone has been in touch with a detailed family tree of one of the residents and forgotten memories and stories about the hamlet are already beginning to be dug up; it's very exciting."

As well as helping shape and perform in the drama planned about the hamlet, locals will also have the opportunity to train in digital film making and create, shoot and edit their own documentary about the settlement.

A meeting has been arranged for **Thursday March 23rd at Bredwardine and Brobury Village Hall from 7.30—9.30pm** for all those who are interested in finding out more about the project. It's also a chance to bring along some of your old photographs and swap stories about life in this historic part of Herefordshire. All ages are very welcome.

The **Crafta Webb** project has been part financed by the European Union (EAGGF) and DEFRA through the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ programme

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Release ends

Note to Editors

- LEADER+ is a UK and EU-wide rural venture, there are 25 L+ programmes running in England. Herefordshire Rivers is the only one in the West Midlands.
- Based in Herefordshire and established in 1992 **The Rural Media Company** uses media and communications - film, video, photography, journalism, graphic design and the Internet - to produce high-impact moving image and new media work. We are a key client of the regional screen agency Screen West Midlands and have won numerous awards nationally and internationally and are renowned for our expertise in this field of work.
- **The Rural Media Company** is a registered charity.

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