

'THE HISTORY OF KINGSLAND' By Jobling circa. 1960?

Introduction

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(white volume)

The British Isles had a well developed river system before the oncoming of the Great Ice Age, and the effect of glaciation was to modify rather than change completely the existing valleys and land forms.

This bears out the contention of archaeologists that originally (the) Lugg was a much bigger river, and that it then ran in a more or less straight line from Leintwardine to Aymestrey, quite near Wigmore. In the Ice Age a huge glacier travelled across country through Shobdon, and when it reached Mortimer's Cross an enormous tongue of ice curled round up the Aymestrey Valley, forming a large lake at Wigmore, and completely damming (the) Lugg there when the thaw eventually came. This changed the course of the river higher up, and caused it to split in two, when half of it came down as it does now through Presteigne, Kinsham and Lyepole, the other half being diverted through the Downton Valley to Ludlow, forming what is now known as the river Teme. That glaciers were here cannot be disputed, for higher up on the sides of the Tarrs stones could be seen a few years ago, bearing undoubted glacier striations, marks deeply scored on their surface as other stones were dragged across them by the movement of the upper part of the ice, as pressure compelled the glacier to move forward.

There is then an enormous gap in history, while the receding ice and snow were replaced by warmer conditions and life became possible. The period of the first colonisation of this district would probably be about 2000 years before the birth of Christ, when the Celts began to invade England from the Rhinelands, or what is known today as Germany.

Many animal and bird call-words came over with them, after travelling across France, where they are still in use. These call-words were widely used by the Saxons, and many of them are quite common in Kingsland today.

There is now a lapse in local history of another 2000 years, when traces of the inhabitants, the early Britons, can be found everywhere around here.. Ambresius and Caractacus left fortifications behind them, Croft ambury being named after the former leader. The one at Wapley, near Shobdon must have been particularly strong, as the camp lay upon the top of a hill, flattened there with an area of about 25 acres, much too steep to be attacked on the Presteigne side, and defended on the Shobdon side by triple high ramparts and deep ditches, the only entrance being through one narrow gateway. Water was of course the chief requisite, and although the camp lay at an elevation of 1,000 feet, springs supplied a deep well which can be seen and used to-day.

The Romans next occupied Herefordshire, and had military stations at Kenchester and Leintwardine. The former, till then under a corn field, was laid bare some years ago, the whole site exposed, and the many objects of interest unearthed were deposited in the Hereford Museum. The small amount of money needed to purchase the field was not forthcoming, and eventually the site was ploughed over and corn grown there again.

The Romans evidently made considerable use of this district, as their road, Watling Street, ran through Stretford, Street court, over Pinsley (where the remains of their Ford can still be seen), along Hereford Lane, and up through Aymestrey to Leintwardine. Civilians, foot soldiers and chariots must often have passed along Hereford Lane in order to link up with the military road to Shrewsbury and the North. Street Court is undoubtedly built upon Roman foundations, and at one time the remains of a hypocaust could be seen in the cellars, the early central heating system.

After another big gap in history, one comes to Saxon times, when there was certainly a church in Kingsland, practically upon the same spot as the one to-day. As there was a church, so there must have been a village round it, most of the dwellings being made of daub and wattle, and thatched with reeds. The district here was then much more wooded, and there was a good deal of bog and marsh. A glance at some of the old field names in use to-day gives evidence of this, and the whole of the adjoining Wegnalls was just a morass; the word 'Leominster' itself is derived from pure Saxon, meaning the town in the marshes.

Merowald, King of West Mercia, was so keenly interested in Kingsland that when he endowed the Abbey of Nuns at Leominster upon its first foundation, he granted it with charges upon most of the surrounding parishes, with the specific exclusion however of Kingsland. It was very doubtful however if he ever built a castle upon the mound in front of the Rectory, and he certainly was no buried there as this took place in Wohlock Abbey, which he had also founded.

Wenlock

There is little doubt that this mound is the site of a strong Saxon stockade. When danger threatened, as often happened being so near to the Welsh border, the able bodied defenders, after driving their stock into the outer enclosure, themselves retired to the inner one which probably contained earth works. The two moats, at that time being much broader and deeper, were flooded from the adjacent Prill, and the villagers armed with bows and arrows would be in a quite defensive position. Probably the women and children shut themselves up in the church until the invaders had been driven off, as this was the usual custom at that time.

Fifty years ago many of the dialect words used locally were pure Saxon, but the tendency to-day unfortunately is to replace these with words which have a Latin derivation, and in another 50 years the old-fashioned colourful expressions will have completely vanished.

It is worth mentioning here that a few years ago a curiously hollowed-out stone was found amongst shingle under the Tarrs, and submitted to the British Museum for identification. They reported that it was a miniature Saxon mortar for grinding corn, and it was eventually offered to and accepted by the museum in Hereford.

NS. *

Another item of Saxon interest was that on the topmost ridge of the Tarrs, there used to stand a tall upright stone called locally "The Warrior's Grave", which tradition ascribed to be the resting place of one of the important leaders at that time. No more of it than this was ever discovered, and later, when oak trees were being felled up there, a saw pit was dug near the stone, and when the work was completed the men finally amused themselves by uprooting it, and throwing it into the pit. Even then it still projected three feet from the surrounding turf, but as the whole area has now been ploughed over, it is completely buried out of sight.

A further long unfilled gap brings us to the year 1461, probably the most eventful period in the history of this parish and district. Before entering upon the battle of Mortimer's Cross, it may be helpful here to throw some light upon local conditions.

The houses, just as in Saxon times, had timber frameworks, the squares being filled with osiers, willows or nut rods, the whole then being plastered over both inside and outside, pretty much as one can see still in Wigmore Abbey. Black Hall at Aston is a good example of the architecture at that date, and is particularly interesting in that it is the only house in the parish that was standing when the battle was fought. The country round was still heavily wooded, and there was still a good deal of marsh which probably would not be drained for another 200 or 300 years. If one doubts this, consider how it took a major war in 1914 to cause the draining and cultivation of hundreds of acres of marsh land between Brock Bridge and Pembridge land which from Saxon times had produced nothing but sedges and bog weeds, and now produces good crops of wheat!

for Dr. Paul Stumpe. re Mortimer's Cross.
from Rev. George Jobling MS History of Kingsland
circa 1966

It is probable that even in this village there was much more timber around than there is now, and this seems to be borne out by the name of "Boar Field", or the field where swine were turned out to fatten on adjacent acorns.

The rivers ran pretty much as they do to-day, and it is interesting to note that in Domesday Book it is recorded that there was a mill above Lugg Bridge where the present one now stands.

* One other fact, and an important one, is that from the end of the Aymestrey Valley nearly to Kingsland was one large plain called the Great West Field, and it was mainly up and down this plain that the battle of Mortimer's Cross was fought out one winter day in the February of 1461.

Many of the descriptions of the battle are rather confusing, as they wander over events outside local interest, and contain names of the attendant Earls, barons and knights which do not affect the main issue from our point of view. It is perhaps better therefore to give a more straightforward account, and to cut out everything that is not absolutely essential.

One may fix in mind only three persons therefore, Henry VI, who was governing the country, and governing it very badly; the Duke of York who lived in Ludlow Castle; and his son Edward of March who lived in Wigmore Castle.

The cause in the beginning of all the trouble was that the King was very ill, and for a time was quite insane. The Duke of York therefore was appointed Protector of the Realm, and ruled the country from London. Both he and his son at Wigmore are interesting to us, because they were descendants of the Mortimers, who rebuilt Kingsland Church. Many of the able bodied men in the village too must have been enrolled amongst the troops at Wigmore Castle.

The Duke had only been in London 12 months when the king recovered his sanity, or anyhow, his supporters who hated the Duke said he had, so the Protector was dismissed from his office, and returned to Ludlow Castle.

The Duke was annoyed at this, still more so at the way in which the country became mismanaged, and as he had a very strong claim to the crown through his mother, two years later he got together an army, largely composed of Herefordshire troops, fought against the King's forces at St. Albans, and drove them off the field in rout.

The Duke guessed that it would not be necessary to follow this up, and in this he was quite right, for the King, or perhaps one should say the court around him, re-appointed the Duke as Protector, and for the next 12 months all was well.

Court intrigues then culminated in further trouble, and again the Duke was dismissed. So once more he retired to Ludlow, and filled up the next three years with tournaments and pageants, both there and at Wigmore.

During this time the country was frightfully mismanaged, and there was so much dissatisfaction at the state of things that the Duke marched an army into Staffordshire, and again defeated the Royalists.

This however was only a temporary success, for the King's advisers decided upon a counter-attack, gathered another army together, and marched to Ludlow.

The tide was now setting against the Duke, for one of his chief leaders, being heavily bribed, deserted to the army with a large number of troops. With the loss of such a large body of trained men, the Duke's forces retreated, his main leaders escaped abroad in panic, and their men were disbanded and returned to their homes.

The Royalists struck while the iron was hot, called Parliament together, and the whole of the Duke's leaders, including of course himself, were attainted.

Up to now the struggle had only been for the control of the government, but after the issue of this attainder it became a matter of life and death. Gradually the leaders returned from abroad, gathered more forces round them, and fought battles at various places with varying success. This culminated with a defeat in Yorkshire, where the Duke of York was killed, and in derision his head, surmounted by a paper crown, was nailed above the main gate in York.

The Royalist success was so great that it now only remained for them to crush the Duke's son Edward of March, who was still living in Wigmore Castle, in order to achieve a final victory; and any chances of rebellion would then be at an end.

Orders were then given to the royalist leaders to march into Herefordshire, to link up there with their allies from Wales, and for a combined army of about 12,000 men to march upon Wigmore and destroy the castle, after defeating and routing its defenders.

Things began to look very black for the Yorkists, as Edward of March had got together an army of 8,000 men, and knowing nothing of the impending trouble from Wales, had started to go north, to avenge the death of his father.

Luckily, he was warned just in time, turned back through Orleton and Lucton, forded (the) Lugg, which was in full flood from melting snow, and pitched his camp directly his men had crossed the river. All along the flooded bank wet and weary soldiers built their fires and, fortunately, had two days' rest before Edward was informed that the enemy had reached Presteigne.

Edward, though only 20 years of age, was already a skilful leader and when his Royalists and Welshmen began to make their appearances over the hill in a line with Shobdon Rock, they found instead of an empty plain, no fewer than 8,000 trained troops to meet them. These troops were gathered entirely from the counties of Hereford, Gloucester, Radnor and Shropshire, and had long been inured to war.

The knights and their squires fought with sword, lance, mace and battle axe; but the foot soldiers depended entirely upon the pike and the popular brown bill. This latter was a horrible weapon, something like a modern hedge-slasher, but with a sharp point, and with double razor edges from which projected two or three sharp spikes. The archers, of course, mainly used the long bow, and though the knights were replacing chain mail with armour of tempered steel, yet the long bow at 250 yards could pierce a mailed knight through breast and back, or nail both his thighs to his horse at one shot.

Early on the morning of Candlemass Day 1461, the young Earl split his army into three groups. His right wing was in front of the valley running up to Covenhope; his centre occupied the ground defending the Aymestrey Valley; and his left wing was in front of and parallel with the river Lugg.

So the sun rose over Kingsland on that fateful morning, shining dimly through a mist over ground covered with snow, soon to be turned from white to red. As sometimes does appear under these conditions, a mirage of three suns shone through the mist, finally merging into one, and Edward seized upon this as a good omen to hearten his troops, and it was passed from rank to rank that the Duke's three sons would be victorious on the battlefield, and that the combination foreshadowed the crowning of Edward of March as the future King of England.

Having disposed of his forces as already explained, Edward pitched his tent near Bluemantle Cottages, which afterwards obtained their name from the fact that from that spot Edward sent a Bluemantle Herald to offer to decide the battle by single combat with the Royalist leader, as he was anxious to spare his troops the slaughter which he knew could not otherwise be avoided. The offer was scornfully rejected and at 9 o'clock in the morning the Royalists attacked all along the line.

An interesting thing then happened which it is quite possible historians may have misunderstood. We are told that the Royalists attacked Edward's centre so furiously that they drove his forces up the valley to Aymestrey, and then nearly to Wigmore, and explain that as this took a considerable time to accomplish, they overshot the mark, exhausted themselves in the pursuit, and were badly cut up when they tried to rejoin the main army below.

But consider the matter from another angle: Edward was, as has already been explained, trained and skilful leader, and it is much more likely that he laid a trap for the Royalists, retiring slowly up the Aymestrey Valley to lead his enemies to destruction! Anyhow, that was what happened, for forcing their way back to Bluemantle again, they not only had Edward's troops harrying their rear, but found that he had posted archers behind and all along the banks of (the) Lugg and also along the high ground parallel with the present road; the thousands of arrows streaking across the valley from both sides must have done a fearful amount of damage.

When this disorganised force at last emerged upon the plain below, they found to their dismay that their own troops there were in full retreat, and they had great difficulty in linking up with them again, and in inducing them to attack once more. For a time they succeeded, but about an hour before sunset broke once more, this time finally, and Edward's forces drove the enemy right off the field. There is little doubt that the over-impetuous charge of the Royalists up the Aymestrey Valley contributed very largely to the final result, for in the beginning they had heavily out-numbered the Yorkists.

The leader of the Welsh troops had retreated long before and was chased into Kingsland, where to complete his misfortunes he ran into an armed party of Yorkists from Leominster, and was compelled to surrender.

It is worth stopping for a moment to contrast the morning and evening scenes.

The sun rose over Bluemantle with thousands of troops facing each other, with the colour and glitter from pennons and weapons, with the fanfare of trumpets and everything that made war romantic. Then the sun sets over Shobdon hills, and its failing light shines upon a stricken field; small bodies of Royalists still being attacked and killed or taken prisoner; and the ground strewn with dead and dying men.

A good many of the Royalists were driven into the Shobdon marshes and perished there, others gained temporary security in the woods round Kington and Presteigne, but 4,000 Royalists were known to have been slain, and the total number left dead on the field can not have been fewer than 6,000.

They were probably buried in long deep pits where they lay, and if the plough could delve deep enough, it would even now turn up all sorts of implements of war and strange objects.

The gates of London were now opened to Edward as the result of this victory and within a month he was proclaimed King and crowned as Edward IV.

Quite naturally, he always had a great affection for Herefordshire, and his banners bearing the devices of three golden suns on a blue field waved above his troops in battle. The badge of his retainers too was a rose-en-soleil, a white rose surrounding a golden sun, thus perpetuating the conditions when the battle opened.

Edward had still one more battle to fight, but that of Mortimer's Cross – and it must always be remembered that Edward was a Mortimer – was the deciding factor in the long struggle between the adherents of the white rose and the red, and peace at last descended upon a country which had been torn asunder by civil strife over a period of 30 years.

An appropriate requiem may still be read in Dinmore Church: "The knights are dust, their swords are rust, Their souls are with the saints we trust".

Nothing more is known of Kingsland until the year 1553, when they supported the interests of Princess Mary against those of Lady Jane Grey.

The Catholic party had collected a formidable army round Leominster, and the Kingsland and Pembridge troops were commanded by Streete of Streete Court. In the end the protestant party all capitulated, amongst them being Sir James Croft of Croft Castle, and John Harley, bishop of Hereford.

Mary thought that this had been of such vast importance to her cause that she granted extensive privileges to Leominster, and conferred the honour of Knighthood upon Streete.

In later reigns the only known item of interest is that after the battle of Worcester in 1651, Charles II got as far as Leominster, slept there, and then passed through Kingsland on his way to Presteigne. On his way there, however, he discovered that he was being pursued, changed his route and eventually crossed the Shropshire border.

The next gap in Kingsland history brings us to somewhere around 1700, when things of interest had been passed on to children and grand children, enabling us to give to-day many authentic customs of the past.

The worst feature of this district at that time was the state of the roads. The old coaching road from London to Aberystwyth, which passed through Kingsland, was kept in rough repair, but elsewhere the surfaces were just deep ruts, filled with water all through winter. From time to time these ruts were filled with mud and rubble, while the worst places actually had faggots trampled into them. It is on record that the Lord of the Manor, travelling from Shobdon to Leominster in his coach drawn by four or six horses, often had to be extricated by a team hastily borrowed from a neighbouring farm.

In 1827 however, Macadam succeeded in bringing into general use a system of mending roads with broken stone and of making their surfaces convex instead of concave.

In order to pay for this enormous expense, toll gates were installed at about two-mile intervals. These with a cottage at one side completely barred the way, and beasts or vehicles had to pay a fee to the man who controlled the gates, before he opened them and allowed them to pass. The toll gate in Kingsland was on a waste piece of ground some 200 yards north of the railway station, the next one to the south being at Arrow Green, and to the west near Mortimer's Cross. Fortunately there is a record of a tablet which was affixed to the front of the toll gate here, and it bore the following inscription:

TOLLS PAYABLE AT THIS GATE

For every horse or other beast drawing any coach, landau, chaise, chariot, chair or hearse	3d
For ditto drawing any carriage with narrower wheels than 6 Inches, (except as above).	4d
For ditto drawing any carriage with 6 inch wheels	3d

For ditto drawing any carriage with 9 inch wheels (not rolling a surface of 16 inches each side)	2d
For ditto drawing any carriage with 16 inch wheels, or 9 inch wheels rolling a surface of 16 inches on both sides.	1 1/2d
For every pair of mill stones	2/6
For every horse, mare, mule or ass, not drawing	1d
For every cow, bull or ox	1/2d
For every calf, sheep or hog	1/4d

NB Double Toll on Sunday.

The old coaching road, after leaving Leominster, came through Cobnash, over Pinsley at the railway station, and along Hereford Lane to Mortimer's Cross. There was a regular service from Aberystwyth to London through Leominster, the distance being about 214 miles; after leaving the latter town the journey took about 24 hours.

Later still, when turnpikes were done away with, heaps of stone from Clee Hill used to be distributed along the side of the road at short intervals. These were broken up with light hammers and spread over the road in wheel barrows. This happened every autumn, and the stone lay there until the traffic rolled it in, and nobody travelled without an implement for picking out the loose stones that so constantly got lodged in a horse's shoe.

As far back as the reign of Charles II attempts had been made to make the navigation of the river Lugg (possible), and further attempts were made in the reign of William III and again in 1774, but for various reasons each scheme fell through. In 1791 an Act of Parliament was passed, empowering the raising of £150,000, and this sum was actually subscribed publicly.

The idea was to run a canal from Kington to Staunton-on-Arrow, Kingsland, Leominster, Putnal Field near Orleton, and eventually joining the Severn near Stourport, as this would have opened up a route by which the Midlands could have sent coal easily and cheaply to the whole of this County.

Work was started in Kingsland from Dry Bridge nearly to the Boar Field, and the excavations must have taken quite a long time. Another gang of men prepared the stone foundation which may still be seen at low water about 400 yards below Lugg Bridge.

At the same time the Orleton excavations were also being dug, and the chief trouble arose there. The unforeseen difficulties at that end were so serious that the whole scheme was finally abandoned after no less than £70,000 had been expended, with the whole scheme not nearly half completed.

From the top of the Tarrs one could have seen all this work in progress, and as it has now been ploughed over, it is worth noting that quite near the Warrior's Grave, which has already been described, there used to be a bastion about 30 yards long, with side wings protecting it for about the same

distance. Tradition says nothing about this, and there was no means of ascertaining either its purpose or its date.

Tradition does however state that Kingsland Church was built from stone quarried on the Tarrs. There certainly were extensive quarries from which quantities of stone must have been taken, and at one time the road to the necessary ford could clearly be seen. Vehicles carrying stone through the river then passed along an old road which still exists, and which joins the main road to the village by the side of the Bone Mill.

This house has been standing in its present condition about 200 years, but is probably standing upon the site of a still older one. About 50 years ago a curious thing happened in connection with it.

In the living room there was an old oak mantelpiece, in the middle of which was a carved dog's head. One day a slip of paper could be seen protruding from the dog's mouth, (possibly an extra hot fire had warped the woodwork slightly), and when this was pulled out, with it there came half a dozen copper coins. Upon inspection the whole of the interior of the head was found to be packed with copper coins, all of them dated between the years 1750 and 1790.

For more than 300 years Kingsland had a weekly market and an annual fair, and evidently occupied an important position in connection with the surrounding villages, none of which enjoyed a similar right.

This originally was granted by Margaret the widow of Lord Mortimer in a charter, the weekly market being every Saturday, and the fair being held upon the Feast of St Michael in a large meadow to the east of the Church, and which to this day is still called Fairfield.

All animals sent to the fair were liable for tolls to the Lord of the Manor, and wardens were appointed to collect these tolls. These wardens occupied cottages at the principal approaches to the village on the north and south, one being called the Upper Warden and the other the Lower Wardens. The Upper Wardens was enlarged many years ago and is still known by that name. The lower cottage is probably still standing, but its name as such has long vanished.

When popular people were married the village shewed its approval in an uncertain manner. Upon leaving the Church porch they were greeted with showers of rice, and this anyhow did have a meaning, and was quickly disposed of by the birds afterwards; which is more than can be said of the modern custom of throwing confetti, which makes a horrid mess in the churchyard until the rain washes it away.

The bells used to peel merrily, and a special salute used to take place called Firing the Anvil. At that time, opposite the entrance to the school, was situated an old-standing carpenter's shop, which for some years specialised in turning

out farm waggons, these were very solid and handsome pieces of work, and were eagerly sought for all over the County.

On these festive occasions a heavy anvil used to be dragged out from the smithy department, and planted on the ground at the entrance to the main road. The next procedure was to fill the large hole in the centre of the anvil with gunpowder, and plug this in with a piece of wood which had a hole drilled through its centre. The master now appeared carrying a long iron red heated red-hot, and upon the being applied to the wooden plug, primed of course with more gunpowder, a most satisfying bang was procured, and these salutes went on at intervals all the afternoon.

Farming a century ago was carried on without much machinery. Corn was reaped sickles and hooks, and much of it threshed afterwards by flails. One of the stock amusements was to hand a flail to someone who had never used one, and to ask him to lend a hand for a few minutes. Practically always the result was that within a matter of seconds he caught himself a terrific blow on the side of his head.

Workmen were paid small wages, but allowed a free cottage, and generally kept a pig, much of its food being obtained from the farm itself. The wife too put in useful time gleaning after the corn was cut, and she and the children made pocket money picking hops in the autumn, every sizable farm in the neighbourhood being compelled under agreement with the landlord to grow hops upon a proportion of its acreage: in fact there was not a farm in Kingsland that did not grow them.

A popular custom and amusement was to fine any stranger who entered the hop-yard, and this was used to provide more cider. If the stranger objected, as often happened, he was deposited in one of the cribs after the hops had been emptied out, and was promptly kissed by the oldest and ugliest woman there. This always brought them to their senses, and they never made the same mistake again.

All the farms, and many other houses too, used to make their own cider, and this was one of the perquisites of the farm-hand. The cider was carried in little oak barrels, called locally 'bottles', and these generally held about 1 gallon; but they varied in size, and for some unknown reason a woman's bottle was much smaller, and rarely held more than one-third of the quantity allowed for a man. Most of these were made in Kingsland, for in the middle of the village was a cooper, who made barrels of all sizes for farmers in the neighbourhood.

In order to produce cider, the apples were first of all thrown into a deep circular stone trough, and a heavy mill-stone was revolved round this by means of a horse harnessed to the framework of the stone. The crushed fruit was then spread thickly between what they called 'hairs', and layers of these thick blankets were placed on top of each other in a large press; this arrangement not only produced the necessary juice, but also kept back the solid matter, and filtered it at the same time. The refuse was then thrown out, and fermented, the result being that when the pigs began to feed upon it they

became quite drunk, and staggered about until they could sleep it off. On one occasion at Cobnash still worse happened, for the ducks discovered some of this heavily fermenting refuse, (called locally 'must'), and greedily gobbling down quantities of their fortunate find, soon became so badly affected that they one and all collapsed in the snow. When the good housewife discovered this she thought some unknown cause had killed off the whole flock, and being a careful soul decided to take them in to the kitchen fire, pluck them, and prepare them in readiness for the next Leominster market.

The hard frost outside had been partly responsible for the birds' collapse, and they soon began to struggle when they felt warmth begin to permeate their chilled bodies. That placed the housewife in an awkward position, for she had already completely plucked several of the ducks, and they would not survive if they were turned out in that condition, so she set to work with her needle, and provided all the unfortunate ones with scarlet flannel coats, and these remained on them until the thaw came and their feathers began to grow again. It proved a new amusement for the village to wander down to Cobnash, and watch a flock of scarlet-jacketed ducks solemnly parading about the farm yard.

The popular over-garment for the far worker was the smock frock. This was mostly made of flax, and was both warm and rain proof. Many of them were elaborately hand worked, the shoulder pieces shewing hours of labour producing designs in feather stitching. As in most things in these days, great pride was taken in work that was turned out, mass production being fortunately a thing of the future.

Most cottages kept bees in the old-fashioned straw skeps, and some of them still made mead from the honey, just as their Saxon ancestors had done. In case of a death in the family, someone had to go to the hives and tell the bees what had happened; it was firmly believed that if this was not done, the whole of the bees would promptly leave the hive. It was a common belief too that in the event of a swarm emerging, they would soon settle if they heard what used to be called 'rough music', and that then, no matter where they alighted, the owner had a right to follow them up, and to capture the swarm. Constantly in summer one would hear a frightful din in the distance, and presently would appear the owner of the bees with all the available family, beating upon pots and pans with pokers or any other thing that would produce a noise, and the neighbouring cottagers all intensely interested in all that was happening.

On the glebe land adjoining the Rectory used to stand the old Tithe Barn, though it is not known exactly where it was, neither is it known why or when it was taken down. The padlock used by the Rector came to light some years ago: one of the first Brahmas ever made, and dated 1717. It was made of brass and weighed no less than 21/2 lbs, and with its curiously constructed key was quite un-pickable. Two unusual features were that after it was locked and the key withdrawn, there was a special place for the Rector to affix his seal, to prevent any tampering with it, and at the bottom was an outlet provided for any rain that might collect in the lock. This padlock was

presented to the Hereford Museum a short time ago, and this is still on view in one of their glass cases.

On the sward close by the village pound, the remains of which can still be seen as the church is approached from the main road, stood the stocks. Unfortunately these were destroyed many years ago, and old offenders must have been very delighted to see rooted up the instruments where he had so often been encased, and if an unpopular man pelted with all kinds of unsavoury objects.

Like most villages in the County, Kingsland possessed its Preaching Cross, the damaged shaft of which is still standing on the south side of the church. In the year 1641 a wave of extreme Puritanism culminated in an order by Parliament for the destruction of all church crosses. The responsibility for the execution of this order was given to Sir Robert Harley of Brampton Bryan, and as he was the chief commissioner appointed for the carrying out of this work over the whole country, it is hardly surprising that in his own County every cross except two were badly mutilated; those two may still be seen intact at the churchyards of Bosbury and Sellack, quite intact. The former was allowed to remain because the Rector agreed to have a special inscription cut on the cross which satisfied the religious scruples of the Puritans; and at Sellack the Vicar entertained with such hospitality – most of it probably liquid – that the soldiers sent to mutilate went away, and forgot all about it.

Many of these crosses were replaced long afterwards, but those are the only two original ones in the County.

A custom that has died out in recent years was the giving of information to the village in general when the bell was tolled for a death. The sexton first of all gave information as to the sex of the person who had died, three strokes for a child, four for a woman and five for a man. The age was then rung out, and this enabled the inhabitants to realise for whom the bell was being tolled. With a smaller self-contained population the neighbours took a greater interest in their fellows than they do to-day.

Until recent years the annual event was when the Oddfellows met to go to church, parade the village, and afterwards have a dinner used to be much looked forward to by members, and indeed by all the parishioners too. They assembled in the centre of the village, most dressed in sober black; but when they reappeared from their dressing room each man wore a large gaudy sash, nearly a foot in breadth, draped over one shoulder, with its fringed and reaching far below the waist. A tall white wand was carried too, and when they went in to dine, these were raised to make an imposing archway under which they all marched in turn, until the whole gathering had dispersed.

At the head of the procession formed to go to the church was a huge silk banner on two poles, occupying nearly the width of the road; this, painted in oils, depicted the Good Samaritan, and behind it they marched two deep to the annual service.

As the normal meal at that time consisted of bread and cheese and cider, quaint things sometimes happened when the men found such a feast of unusual dishes of different kinds on the table before them. In the meat course one old fellow helped himself liberally to calves foot jelly, and smothered his hot roast beef with it; and later on, another one asked for 'some of that ere pudden with the pegs en it', and though he thoroughly appreciated the trifle and the sherry with which it was saturated, he took no chances with what he thought were wooden pegs, but carefully laid all the almonds on one side of his plate!

Speeches and drinks filled up the rest of the day, and then the regalia was laid away for another twelve months.

Until fairly recent years thatching was still an active trade, and a skilled man was always assured of plenty of work. Thatch of course had its advantages, in that it was a warm covering in winter and a cool one in summer; but it had its drawbacks if anything set it on fire. On one occasion about 1850 a fire broke out in the centre of the village, and the curious sight of men seated on the ridge of a nearby range of buildings, each man with a wet sack in his hands, and by this means as each spark flew across it was promptly extinguished and the building saved.

Kingsland has always been fortunate in its water supply, for with the rivers Lugg and Pinsley actually in the village, and the Arrow little more than a mile away, water appeared at a depth of only nine or ten feet, and the quantity of sand through which it had passed acted as a perfect filter bed.

Originally all three rivers bore names bestowed upon them by the early Britons: Lugg was called the Lug-ury, meaning bright clear water; Arrow was Aarwy, a stream subject to floods; and Pinsley was the Pensilley, the meaning of which has been lost.

In one old book of reference the theory was put forward that the early Britons called this little stream Pen-syllyr, meaning a confined river in a wide open space, and there may be something in this, but the derivation is not as easy to trace as it is in the case of Lugg and Arrow.

Pinsley rises in Shobdon Marshes, part of which are in this parish, and at the edge of a wood which is called Marsh Cover. Considerable springs bubble up there into two small ponds called Lady Pools. These are not more than 20 feet across, and are filled with clear water resting on what almost looks like a silvery-white sand, but of incredible depth, tradition saying that they are bottomless, as a matter of fact this sand is really very thin peat held in suspension, and although apparently solid, is frightfully treacherous.

As men were at work near-by it was one day decided to try to ascertain its depth. The result being that a heavy stone attached to a waggon rope disappeared out of sight, and when a second rope was bent on to the first one, that disappeared too. As each of these ropes was 60 feet in length, one

can imagine the plight of man or beast happening to blunder into one of these little pools in the dark.

There was one further thin of interest in connection with this marsh, as there was always a tradition that a man and his wife used to live there, his hovel being in the middle of the bog, which was quite impenetrable in winter. He went by the name of Dick of the Delf, and maintained his family by keeping a cow and one or two sheep and pigs on the edge of the marsh, and probably very extensive poaching. The shack itself was supposed to be approached by a narrow path very difficult for anyone to find.

After the experiment had been made with the Lady Pools, it was decided, as it had been a dry season and the marsh was partly drained, to find out if there was any truth in this tradition. At last, in the very worst part of the once boggy portion, the remains were discovered of what had been a solidly built hovel, for a quantity of stones were lying all around, and here and there a path could still be discerned, with stones paving it embedded in the mud.

This seemed to confirm the almost forgotten legend, and it was evidently all that was left of Dick's hut that now lay scattered on the peat.

Much of this land belonged to Street Court, and an old resident recalled the fact that about 100 years ago it was for a time a flourishing school, and by all accounts a very rough one, as indeed many schools were.

A popular amusement for the bigger boys was to procure a large old-fashioned door key and to bore a small hole into the barrel from the top, thus turning it into a miniature cannon. Having done this, a small charge of gunpowder was rammed home, and a few ears of corn or poppy seeds which would sting, but not cause any real damage. The weapon was then tied to a gate or railings, an unfortunate youth attracted within range, and a lighted match did the rest.

Amongst the other old customs that have completely died out are visits from house to house of Morris Dancers and the village hand-bells, the carrying round of a maypole on May 1st, and the observation of Oak Apple Day.

Morris dancing has been revived of late years, the only difference being that all the men taking part used to go round the villages with black faces, and this always seemed to put a final touch to the performance, in addition to scaring the younger children.

Generally at Christmas too, a small picked team of men used to go round from house to house playing tunes on a very melodious set of hand-bells. These were lost sight of for some years, but it is understood that lately they have been presented to the village, so it is hoped that this custom may also be revived in the near future.

The carrying round of Maypoles on May 1st has quite died out. This was no mere bush, as was often used in other Counties, but a good sized young birch

tree, with its branches covered in all kinds of silks and ribbons to make a brave show. This was taken from house to house, people roused from their beds upon hearing the little may-song under their windows, and the youngsters going happily away with the coppers flung out in response.

Kingsland has always been a village that sided with the Royalists (with the one exception of their having favoured the cause of Edward of March, in the battle of Mortimer's cross), and on May 29th, the birthday of Charles II, every man, woman and child used to wear a sprig of oak in remembrance. He had not only been saved by hiding in an oak tree at Boscobol after the battle of Worcester, but eventually he returned to England on his birthday. Until quite recent times a sprig of oak was still commonly worn, and if possible, one with an oak-apple attached to it.

A custom that has for more than 200 years been of great value to the village, has been its right to send a small proportion of boys from the local school to Lucton School to finish their education. At that time each boy was provided with uniform consisting of cord trousers, a strong brown jacket faced with the necessary buttons in brass, and embossed with the school coat of arms, and a cap with similar buttons on its flaps.

These Lucton scholarships carried other privileges too, for upon leaving there, each boy was apprenticed to a trade, and the required fee paid over to the master man who was going to teach him. The privilege in part anyhow, still remains, but the uniforms were abolished about 70 years ago.

Tradition says that John Pierrepont, who founded and endowed Lucton School in 1708, was thrown from his gig and killed when coming down Shobdon Rock. It is said too that after this had happened the slope of the hill was considerably lessened and certainly if one walks up the Rock, near the top can be seen a definite split in the strata which bears out the legend. If the bed of the road really was lowered, it must have been a very steep and dangerous hill before this was done.

One of the bad old customs in the previous century was the prevalence of poaching. There was always a certain amount of sympathy with poachers, for it was often felt that there was little harm in taking the wild animals and birds for the pot, and that the men taking part were, to some extent anyhow, sportsmen. It used to be a quite common thing to see a field spaced all over with small bushes; this was to prevent the dragging along the ground of nets to trap the sleeping partridges. The rivers too were staked in places to prevent netting for trout.

There used to be three trees which were pointed out to visitors. The oldest of these was the Battle Oak, a pollarded tree near Bluemantle Cottage, and undoubtedly standing when the battle of Martimer's Cross was fought. Tradition says that Edward of March pitched his tent near it, and that it was from there that he sent a herald to offer to decide the issue of the battle by single combat.

In a garden in the middle of the village there used to be an unusually tall tree, sixty or seventy feet in height, resembling the Stone Pine of Italy. The branches had all been lopped off until the top was reached, and there the smooth slender stem bore aloft a huge head of thick dark foliage. It went by the name of the Village Mop, and was a landmark for miles around. It was eventually blown down in a strong westerly gale, cutting in half a range of buildings near-by, and as it so happened, the greater part of the tree landing in an adjoining carpenter's yard.

The third tree, the Holgate Oak, is still standing, and is such a curiosity that the history is worth recording. These oak trees, and this of course applies to the Battle Oak too, are not mature until they reach the age of about 300 years, and from them their life is indefinite, anything from 900 to 1200 years.

Standing on the edge of the road it is now the actual entrance gate to the farm 200 yards away behind it. Somewhere about 1760 it was apparently a dying tree, the trunk a mere shell hollow to the ground, and the walls nowhere more than three inches in thickness. It was decided to cut openings at front and back, and use the framework as a support for a wicket gate, although the tree was so top-heavy that it did not seem possible that it could stand up to many more gales.

It has been in its present condition for 200 years, and is no more decrepit now than it was when the gate was first fitted.

Amongst the local superstitions (some of them being decidedly unsavoury, such as the eating of a roasted mouse as a cure for whooping cough), was a curious one that was quite common fifty years ago.

The popular belief was that if some of the hair of a person suffering from a disease of the throat was affixed to an oak tree from which an ash was growing, a cure would inevitably follow.

As late even as 1907 there was such a tree growing in Oaker Wood, and quite a large surface of the bark was covered with human hair nailed to it. Not only were local people responsible for this, but upon enquiry it was discovered that many old inhabitants who had emigrated to the Colonies were in the habit of sending hair to the gamekeeper with an appropriate fee for his help in curing their disease.

In Scandinavian Mythology under certain circumstances the spreading roots of an ash tree possessed curative properties, and it is possible that the link between belief and practice arises here.

A still more interesting superstition arose from cock fighting, a common sport 100 years ago, but fortunately now abolished.

The belief was that if eggs taken from a game hen, carried up to the nest of a crow or other bird of prey, and were there hatched out, the game cocks would be much better fighters. Such eggs were therefore artificially coloured to

deceive the prospective foster parents, and these were exchanged for any already in the nest.

The old saying about 'shewing the white feather' arises from cock fighting, for they were always supposed to be deficient in courage if there was the slightest tinge of white on their bodies.

Until about the year 1877 a peculiar custom was observed at many of the farms in the village. On January 1st, in order to usher in the New Year, the farm workmen and boys used to meet together in one of the ploughed fields between 5 and six o'clock in the morning, or even sooner. They then tied some bundles of straw together on a high pole and having set the straw on fire, whilst it was in full blaze, the man carrying the pole used to run over 12 ridges of growing wheat, and then stop on the thirteenth.

Should the straw cease to burn before the thirteenth ridge had been reached, it was considered a bad omen for the final harvesting of the crop.

This custom, like the one about an ash tree growing from an oak, is probably derived from Scandinavian Mythology, when the number 13 was always considered unlucky. The idea was confirmed by the Last Supper of Christ, but the superstition itself is much anterior to Christianity.

It is believed that Wassaling also took place in Kingsland, and as it was a common custom in Eardisland, it was almost certainly practised here also.

In the early part of 1700 oxen were widely used for ploughing, and during the 12 days of Christmas yokes were never put upon their necks; this was in commemoration of our Saviour's birth in an ox stall. Then upon the twelfth evening the farm workmen and the boys repaired to the stalls provided with a large cake and ale. In the centre of the cake was a hole, through which was placed the horn of one of the favourite oxen. If the beast became restive and dislodged it, provided it fell behind him the cake was said to belong to the boys; but if the cake was thrown to the ground in front of the ox, it then belonged to the bailiff. But in any case, whether thrown off or not, it was shared among all of them. Everybody's health was then drunk, and stanzas then recited and sung for the welfare of master, mistress and the family, and also for a fruitful harvest of corn and apples.

A foot-note describing this ancient custom, makes it quite clear that if the ox upon whose horn the cake was impaled did not speedily become restive, he was gently pricked with the tines of a hay fork to make him so!

Many of the one-time industries of Kingsland are with us no longer, and a short account of those that have vanished is well worth recording, for they all contributed to the former importance of the village.

Two millers used to grind corn for people who baked their own bread, a universal custom in practically every household until fairly recent years. A

fore-runner of the mill above Lugg Bridge was doing the same thing for our Saxon ancestors in the eleventh century.

A shoe maker made and mended for miles around, and incidentally this man was the village constable, and his truncheon and handcuffs were always proudly hanging on the wall in his cottage.

A coal merchant had a regular office at the railway station, and this has only recently been done away with.

Near the same place was a cabinet maker, who turned out finished articles that are household treasures to-day in many parts of the County. One constantly comes across his furniture in elm, a wood that has a lovely grain when finished and polished.

The cooper has already been mentioned, and some of the little cider bottles that he used to make may still be seen hanging up in cottages. They were all made of oak, and with ordinary care were practically everlasting.

The tailor was a busy man who made all the clothing for the scholarship boys who went from the village to Lucton School.

There were three or four thatchers, who were never short of work, some of which was most elaborately done, and a treat to look at, as the best thatching always is.

Our saddler did repair work for all the farms in the district, and often got orders for sets of harness.

In the saddler's later days he varied his work by making footballs, and many of the leading league teams played matches with footballs that had been made in Kingsland. At one time he also became a postman, and one often heard his little post horn in the distance, as he gave notice to people that he was on his rounds and would shortly be passing their door.

And last, but not least, was an expert near Lugg Bridge who used to make trout and grayling flies. He constantly got orders from over-seas, and local fisherman were always keen to order from him and to find out what was most suitable for that month and for each type of weather. A keen entomologist, he used to study the flies actually flying above the river, and then make up artificial ones to match them.

One relic of the past that has not been touched upon was the Amateur Dramatic Society. This was started in 1884, and for 25 years was a source of entertainment to people over a wide spread area.

Originally it was brought into being to provide funds for various local charities, but finally for several years it concentrated upon acquiring capital for the purchase of a fire engine.

A very large granary in a central position was lent permanently, and this was fitted up with stage, foot lights and seating accommodation for between 300 and 400 people. Dressing rooms were provided and a quantity of scenery gradually obtained, the drop scene actually being painted by a friend who had exhibited pictures in the Royal Academy.

This old granary was for many years a centre of social activity in the village, as it was always gladly lent for concerts, dances and lectures, or any gathering likely to be useful or beneficial.

No account of parish life would be complete without touching upon humour, for in these simpler days a good joke would last a very long time for the villagers. As for instance the occasion when a good lady had decided that grey hair would be much more attractive if it became golden. Unfortunately, her young nephews found and secured the precious bottle of dye, and next morning the large white barn-door cock belonging to the house was seen proudly parading the road, white no longer, but of burnished gold from head to tail.

But the three outstanding tales that are worth repeating go back very much further than that, and two of them serve as illustrations of old-time customs.

Shooting parties more than 100 years ago used to have elaborate picnic lunches, and drinks were very much more freely consumed than they are to-day. On the occasion in question some of the young bloods had done themselves pretty well, and on their way to the stubble where they hoped to find more coveys or partridges, they passed a large hornets' nest hanging from a willow tree, and one of the guns promptly put a charge of shot into the nest.

The result can be imagined, but as it happened they were not far from the river, and dropping their equipment they were shortly to be seen up to their necks in water, and there they remained until the hornets had all drifted away. The pointers however did not get off so easily, and in spite of their thick coats they were so badly stung that they had to be taken home.

Guns in those days were all muzzle loaded, and it was quite an undertaking to carry about the necessary powder flask, (made of copper), leather shot flask, wads and percussion caps: a much more complicated process than just carrying along a pocket full of cartridges.

The following incidents also took place on the banks of the river Lugg, some 150 years ago, and passed down from father to son the joke never failed to raise appreciative grins whenever the tale was related.

In a field quite near Lugg Bridge the owner of a large farm was putting up a quantity of oak posts and rails, but after a time the workmen reported that these were steadily disappearing. Notices were put up about the thefts, and it is known that the matter was being discussed in the village, but each evening a few more posts and rails vanished.

This was an annoyance as well as an expense, so one day the farmer decided that he must take drastic measures to put an end to the thefts.

Accordingly he went down to the river early one morning, taking with him a large auger and a bag of gunpowder. Getting quickly to work he bored several holes in each post, inserted a good charge of powder, fitted and drove home a neat plug in each hole, and then departed home chuckling at the thoughts of what would probably happen in the near future.

Work was suspended for a time, but the posts still went on vanishing, and shortly afterwards the village had an unusual excitement: two cottage ovens were blown up, a kitchen copper was displaced, and a three-legged iron pot blown clean through a window. Everyone except the sufferers was highly delighted, and the culprits of course soon guessed what had happened, but they were quite helpless; and needless to say the fencing was completed without the loss of any more material.

The last incident is authentic also, and has the added value of being descriptive of the times.

At one time there was no bridge over Pinsley after the road passes the present railway station, only a broad shallow ford, through which wayfarers had to splash. Traffic tended to deepen the river bed, and after heavy rains there would be a considerable amount of water in the brook.

On the occasion in question a farmer from the Bone Mill had set off on the Friday to Leominster market, with his wife on the pillion behind. This was quite an event for both of them, and while the wife spent most of the time shopping and gossiping with friends and neighbours, he spent most of his time in 'The Oak', (called in those days 'The Royal Oak & Unicorn'), yarning with old cronies, and drinking quarts of cider.

When they decided to set out for home he was, as local dialect then had it, a 'bit bomboly like', or in other words market-piert; but at last he managed to mount his steed, and when his wife had settled herself behind him, hanging on to all the pots and pans that she had bought in the market, off they cantered.

All went well until they came to the ford over Pinsley, which a heavy thunderstorm had made deeper than usual. The extra flood of water, added to the increased clattering of kitchen ware thumping against its ribs upset the horse, and it bucketed about a good deal, and nearly threw the man off. However, he managed to quieten it down, got through safely, and eventually arrived home, and called out for the maid to lend a hand with the various purchases.

She soon appears, looking very puzzled indeed, and presently calls out "wy maister, were be the missus?". The farmer turned round in the saddle,

scratches his head, tries to recover his wits, and then blurts out "wy, dang my buttons, I thowt as I a heerd summut go gob I' the bruk".

'THE HISTORY OF KINGSLAND' (Green volume)

Kingsland Church

The most precious of these memories has been left till last, for the history of our Church not only lies in the past, but it here with us to-day. For 650 years it has been the most important influence in the lives of Kingsland people, and will be so in years to come for generation upon generation still unborn.

Our Church, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, was erected by Edmund Lord Mortimer about 1290, doubtless replacing a Saxon edifice. It certainly replaced an earlier and probably smaller building, for the two windows facing east, long single-light early English lancets still exist. These belonged to what were evidently narrow nave aisles, but are now blocked up on the inside by the responds of the present nave arcade.

The north porch and Volca Chamber were erected a few years after the main building had been completed, as the masonry is different to that of the north wall, and is not properly bonded in with it. Probably these were added when the tower was being finished, the tracery in both being smaller and exceptional.

The walls are of local sandstone rubble.

The chancel was built first, but the nave north and south aisles, and the north vestry were completed between 1290 and 1300.

The south porch was added, together with the upper part of the tower, in the 15th century.

In the vestry an upper storey was added in the 16th century, and tradition states that this was used as a school.

The chancel was restored and its ceiling decorated in 1864, and the remainder of the church rather later.

The organ chamber was added in 1882, replacing the use of a harmonium.

The bells were re-tuned in 1890, and the tower restored in 1924.

On the gable of the 14th century chancel-arch is a sanctus bell-cote with a gable-cross.

On the south of the church is a mutilated churchyard ... (illegible) ..jamb of the south doorway of the chancel is a scratch-dial.

The Parish Registers date from 1548. The two special features of the church are the Volca Chamber and the Glass. The former is dealt with separately, and it is interesting to record that during the 2nd world war the east window was taken out and stowed away for safety, only being replaced after the cessation of hostilities.

The description of this 14th century glass is as follows:-

In tracery lights (a) seated figure of Christ on rainbow and holding cross. In two lights (b) coronation of the Virgin. In main lights of window (a) shield-of-arms, probably Bruce or Braose of Brecon, (b) panel with Tobias and Raphael, Tobias holds the fish, (c) panel of Annunciation with Gabriel; (d) panel of Michael and the dragon; (e) arms of the see of Hereford; (f) panel with Esdras, holding a scroll with his name, and Uriel. The panels represent the four great Archangels. In north window, trefoil with leopard's face and foliage. In south east window fragments of foliage etc., incorporated in modern glass. In middle of south window, figure of archbishop with cross-staff and pall, rounded with head, perhaps of St. Helena.

The subjects portrayed are in reference to the dedication of the church to St. Michael the Archangel, with the other Archangels around him. This is the only instance known of the Archangels subjectively depicted together in ancient glass or tempera paintings.

The Volca Chamber

This subject is being treated separately, for as far back as Thomas Blount's M.S. in 1660 nothing definite is known about the Volca Chamber, and that was the earliest reference to it, as far as is known at present.

In 1826 articles appeared in a London magazine to attempt to clear the matter up, But it is at once assumed that it was a Sepulchre Chamber, and there is a long argument to try to prove the point. Unfortunately it is mentioned that although there are the remains of a Holy Sepulchre in at least 50 different parish churches, these are in every case in the north wall, and in the chancel, but in one only outside the church, as at Kingsland. This rather destroys the remainder of the lengthy argument, but it is interesting to know that our church is the only one in England to possess such a curious feature.

A further reason why it could not have been used as an Altar of Repose or as a Sepulchre Chapel at the Easter celebrations, as the Host is never carried outside the Church, and any Altar of Repose would be inside the sacred edifice. In Roman use and also in the pre-Reformation use of Hereford, the Host was never carried outside the Church, except on the festival of Corpus Christi, and for the Viaticum and Communion of the Sick.

It could not have been a place for penitents, as it was shut off from the interior of the church, and a sight of the altar could not have been obtained; and it could not have been the cell of a recluse, as in that case the orientation was always such that the rays of the rising sun on the morning of St. Michael's Day were the guide in fixing the altar.

Having destroyed all the previous theories as to the use of this chamber, perhaps tradition will be helpful in an attempt to explain what it really is.

Going back to the year 1290, Kingsland Church was erected on the site of a former Saxon edifice by Edmund, Lord Mortimer, who placed his brother Walter, who was a priest, in charge. It is known that he, the first Rector, died about 20 years later, and archaeologists all state that the north porch was built about the same time, and that it is of a little later date than the main body.

This falls into line with the theory that Walter de Mortimer was buried in the stone coffin, that the little altar on the east and was used for saying Masses, and that on all four sides the privileged public could witness the ceremony.

Colour is given to this by the fact that in 1826 the air-tight lid of the coffin was removed, and inside were the remains of a man and a small child. On exposure to the air this immediately crumbled to dust, and the Rector incurred much resentment because he had the dust swept out and thrown into the churchyard.

The founder of the church was buried in Wigmore Abbey, and it is very likely indeed that his wife Matilda, who was largely responsible for the re-building of the church, should decide not to bury the first Rector in the chancel, as was usual, but to build a special chapel for him as a perpetual tomb.

The fact that the remains of a child were also in the coffin, possibly those of the rector's own son, does not in any way interfere with the theory, as secular clergy were allowed to marry as late as the 14th century. Many such instances were recorded even in Italy.

A final proof seems to be that the Walter Chapel could be very easily corrupted to the Volca Chapel. There is a distinct similarity in the spoken words, and many names that have come down to us through the ages, shew far greater differences than this.

Special Notes

The Manor of Kingsland

Kingsland is said to have been the chief residence of the ruler of the Saxon tribe of Hecanas, who held the greater part of Herefordshire, and to have been named Kingslene by him, afterwards changed as it appears now. A similar word-ending appeared at the same time with regard to Monklene and Eardislene, and at the latter place there is still a property known as The Leen.

The manor of Kingsland, (valued then in the King's books at £31:3:61/2), was granted in 1271 by Henry III to his son, Edmund Earl of Lancaster, and regranted in 1281 either to Edmund de Mortimer, or more probably to his father, Sir Roger de Mortimer (who died in 1282), as the manor was one of those which was held in dower by Sir Roger's widow, Matilda. It was almost

certain that it is due to her that the Church was rebuilt in 1290, and that accounts for her coat of arms, (she was a de Braose of Hay), which occupies a premier place in the east window.

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Street Court

It has already been explained that this house stands upon Roman foundations, but the late owner once related that the vaults in one place lead to a large underground passage, which ran in the direction of Brook Bridge. This was penetrated for about 200 yards, but then a fall of earth and rubble formed a complete blockage, and the aperture leading to the tunnel was eventually bricked up.

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Burial of a Suicide

We read in the article on the Volca Chamber how the Rector incurred the resentment of the parishioners by throwing out from the stone coffin what had for a matter of centuries been considered as sacred dust.

About 150 years later village feeling again ran high, when an unfortunate suicide was buried in unconsecrated ground without any rites at all. There was a back-ground to this, which it is not necessary to go into here, but it was considered that very harsh treatment had helped to bring about the disaster, and one bold old lady decided to show her feeling in the matter anyhow. She was very crippled with rheumatism, but painfully climbed the stone stairs up into the belfry, and there hammered out the usual message to the village with the head of her crutch. When her time came to be carried to the church yard popular feeling was able to express at last sympathy with her kindly action.

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The Organ Chamber

Before this was added a harmonium had replaced either a note given from a tuning fork, or more probably the use of a few stringed instruments.

Whether mechanical music is better than the old-time little orchestra is a matter of taste, but in a village anyhow, it must have been an added encouragement to friends and relations to hear and see people, whom they were in contact with every day, trying to express their religious feeling in church in terms of music.

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Local Words and Expressions

The etymology of local dialect is an absorbing subject, much too long and difficult to discuss at length here, but well worth just a glance at some of its leading features.

An apt description of the very large drops of rain, often accompanying the sudden storms we sometimes get in summer was 'thunder berries', a thunderstorm on the other hand always being spoken of as a 'tempest'.

Equally appropriate too were 'dumb-saucy' for a sulky person; a 'gallus' lad for someone who had misbehaved, and therefore ripe for the gallows; and 'big-sorted' for the person who aimed at what used to be styled social climbing.

In a different category we get someone rather useless called a 'nisgel', a corruption of 'nest gull', or the weakest and most difficult to rear, in nest or litter.

To 'poon' or pound a person was commonly used for the word 'beat', as also was the expression 'tansilooning', the root word being in the latter case 'tang', another local word used when pots and pans were beaten in the mistaken idea that a swarm of bees was thereby induced to settle quickly.

A 'pankin-pole' was evidently a 'spanking pole', and to 'dowt' the light, was the country request to put it out, otherwise to 'do-out' the light.

Two words in use were particularly interesting, as they are of foreign origin, in the one case Dutch, and in the other Norman-French. The latter gave the Saxons the word 'patten', the wooden shoe raised by supports upon an iron ring, to keep the wearer from the mud. The other local word is 'sklem' a thievish animal or person. The Dutch word 'schelm' has practically the same meaning, and undoubtedly both spring from the same root.

And finally 'doglogarum' expressing 'nonsense'. How could one better invent a nonsensical word than this.

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The following pages have been copied from the really excellent and comprehensive 'Village History KINGSLAND 1854 – 1954', subtitled 'Our Village Within Living Memory', which was hand typed and bound in two volumes. With probably only the master copy ever produced, it is too valuable a document to lose or circulate, so I have reproduced it here in its entirety for everyone in Kingsland to access and enjoy.

Volume 1.

OUR VILLAGE WITHIN LIVING MEMORY
KINGSLAND 1854 – 1954.

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 " R.H. Evans
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Mrs. G. Davies
 " C.T. Jones
 " Newman

Works consulted:

Cassey's, Kelly's and Littlebury's Directories.
 Transactions of the Woolhope Club.
 Ancient Monuments of Herefordshire.
 Arthur Mee's Herefordshire.
 The Jubilee of Herefordshire County Council.
 Folk-Lore of Herefordshire (Mrs. Leather).
 Bateman Correspondence (Reference Library).
 Parish Magazines.
 'Leominster News' – 1888-1894.

KINGSLAND

INTRODUCTION

THE WRITTEN HISTORY OF KINGSLAND goes back to the Domesday Book, the survey of England ordered by William the Conqueror in 1085. In it particulars are given of the numbers of people in the different classes – freemen, villeins, cotters and serfs – the area sown with corn, how much left fallow, the number of ploughs and oxen for ploughing, and much other information that helped to establish what payments were due to the King.

The amount of detail thus assembled in the Domesday Book shows that the central plain of Herefordshire, in the North of which lies Kingsland, was well settled in the Eleventh Century. The whole of this central plain was, and is now, extremely fertile. The spread of gravel gives Kingsland a reliable water supply, a dry settlement site, and a light and easily worked soil.

Kingsland was one of the larger manors – 15 hides. Says Domesday Book, "The Royal Manor of Kingsland is farmed for £13 and 3 shillings." At Kingsland the wood and pasture rendered 8/-. There was a render of 500 eels from a mill at Kingsland.

To the present day traces of strip farming remain in the "slangs"; one on the Great West field, and two others near Aston (East Town) and West Town come to us from the Twelfth Century. Street is an older name than either as it

is a Roman word. The township of Street was so named from the Roman Road which passed through it.

Kingsland was a Royal Manor in the reign of Edward I (1272 – 1307). In the 34th year of his reign his Queen granted it a charter to hold a weekly market and an annual fair.

The Manor of Kingsland was then given to the Mortimers but was again a Royal Manor in the reign of Edward IV (1461 – 1483). It was part of the dowry of Katherine of Braganza, the Consort of Charles II (m. 1662). William III (1689 – 1702) gave the Manor to the Coningsbys of Hampton Court, whose descendant, Viscount Malden, sold it to the family of Evans, for generations at Eyton.

The following have been Lords of the Manor during the period now under study – 1854 – 1954:

1846 The Revd. Richard Davies Evans

1871 Lord Bateman

1900 G. Dennison Faber.

1919 Capt. Charles Stanhope Bateman-Hanbury

1922 William George Prior

1922 William Laver, Esq., of Leominster, agent of Lord Bateman, and
Sir John Wood.

The Manor then passed to Mrs. Frances Mary Gregory of Leominster,
who sold the Lordship to

1952 Mr. Edwin Gordon Mackie of Sheffield.

The present Lord of the Manor writes that he has in his possession the Manorial Rolls and account books of the Manor of Kingsland dating from 1780.

The following letter, copied from the original kindly lent by Mr. J.H. Cooper of Leominster is of great interest, showing as it does the amount of fines and Heriots, and the generosity of the Lord of the Manor of that date, the Revd. R.D. Evans, who never enforced his just rights:

“Leominster,
July 30th 1858,

Manor of Kingsland

Dear Sir,

I have received yours of yesterday. The Manor is co-extensive with the Parish and a considerable portion of it is copyhold of (intra?) but I have no terrier of the copyhold part, and cannot therefore say what the extent of it is. There are upwards of 60 copyhold tenants; the rents are small, amounting to little more than £14 a year. The fines on alienation and admittance are small, such as 8/7d., 3/3d., 11d., and produce but a small sum per annum. The Heriots are on death only and not on alienation. The

Heriot, according to the custom of the Manor, is "A yoke of the best Beasts, or the best Jewell, which he (the tenant) dieth possessed of" but the lord has usually compounded for 10 guineas for Heriot. In some cases, however, when the property is small and the parties poor, he has taken a less sum. But there is no custom to compound.

The lord has received for Heriots since the year 1846 £270 but being resident Rector of the Parish he has never enforced his just rights. As far as I can ascertain the number of Heriots payable within the Manor is 68. My fees as steward average £20 a year clear. The price asked is £1,000.

Please to let hear from you as soon as possible as we have a Bidding which will be accepted in case Lord Bateman should not purchase.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas Sale.
Solicitor to the Revd. R.D. Evans.

Philip Row, Esq.,
6, Victoria Street,
Westminster,
S.W. 1

The Forbury,
Leominster.

THE MANOR

The words of the old letter – 1858 – Heriot, fines, copyhold, etc., seem to belong to a page of history of long ago; yet it was only in 1926 that such words ceased to be of very great interest in this country, including Kingsland. 68 properties in the Parish were copyhold, the tenant having nothing to prove his right of occupation but is name in the Court Rolls, which were made by the Steward of the Lord of the Manor.

On the death of a tenant, the Lord of the Manor could claim as "Heriot" either the two best beasts, or the best jewel. Often before the claim for the Heriot was made, the cattle would be driven off the farm by the dead man's relatives, and the best jewel would not be forthcoming. So difficult did it become for the Steward to collect such Heriots that it became a custom for him to accept a sum of money in lieu of the best beasts or jewel.

In 1890 Lord Bateman accepted £20 instead of the best beasts. In 1895 Miss E. Wall died; she owned 3 roods 23 perches of land near Kingsland Station, copyhold property. Her brother paid a Heriot of £7.10.0. In 1897 a Heriot was claimed from the occupier of Maycroft, of the name of Martin. Martin said he had no beasts or jewels but offered his best wearing apparel. This Lord Bateman refused, and took his claim to Court. The verdict was in his favour, but having established his rights he forebore to press the claim.

This was not an isolated case of consideration on his part. The Heriot owed on the death of George Weaver of Lugg Green was excused. On the

death of Mrs. Marshall of Kingsland in 1894, some of her property being copyhold her solicitor, Mr. C.D. Andrews of Leominster, sent to Mr. Moore, the Steward, a list of her jewellery, which consisted of a gold watch, a silver watch, various brooches, 2 hairbrooches, a pebble brooch, rings and bracelets. Mr. Moore decided that the best jewel was not of sufficient value to be acceptable, and advised Lord Bateman to press for the Heriot to be paid in money.

Copyhold property could be freed from such dues, or, as the term was, enfranchised, for a sum of money, and be free of them for ever. Dr. Hamlen-Williams enfranchised all the copyhold property he bought in 1898. Mr. R.O. Smith, of Yew Tree Villa. Owned a small portion of copyhold property, "on which is a stable standing"; Lord Bateman accepted £2.10.0 for its enfranchisement. About this time several properties were thus enfranchised in Kingsland (1895), and when in 1922 all copyhold land was enfranchised by Act of Parliament, to take place by June 1st, 1926, there could not have been many properties left in Kingsland subject to this ancient form of Death Duty.

The four years, 1922 – 1926, allowed time for compensation to be paid to the Lords of the Manor for their loss.

THE VILLAGE

THE OLD DIRECTORIES, Kelly, Cassey, and Slater of 100 years ago, or nearly, all agree that Kingsland was a remarkably neat and pretty village. "The houses for the most part are tastefully decorated with Jasmine and grape vines and other climbing plants, and the gardens neatly laid out".

The vines have gone, but two houses remind us of them: Vine House and Vine Cottage. Within living memory there was a handsome grape vine on the old black-and-white house opposite the School; this has given place to a pear.

The village is remarkably neat and pretty still – one would think neater than it is shown to be in the old photographs, where the grass verges straggle across the roads. Now there are concrete edges to side-walks, and certain corners have been cleared of their hedges and made neat (also safer for motorists) by white iron railings.

There are many half-timbered houses, but their thatch has been replaced by tiles or slates; in the whole parish only three thatched houses remain. The Croase, Corners Inn and Angel House have been re-fronted with brick, and the Red House entirely re-faced.

The Old Workhouse, now three dwellings, is 16th or early 17th Century. The Old House was once two cottages; Jenny Ingram lived in one, a dressmaker of about 50 years ago. The oldest houses are Must Mill, Black

Hall (partly 14th Century), Angel House and Croft Mead. St. Mary's has a central mediaeval block.

Half way down the village is The Stores, a very great asset for a number of years.

Street Court is an ancient house, standing on the high ground to the South-West. In 1867 it was restored and additions made to it. In 1858 it was "an extensive and excellent boarding school for boys, which is kept by Mr. Scriven".

When owned by the Sanders family it was quite a large estate, with several farms. When circumstances were much reduced they opened Street Court as an inebriate's Home. This not proving successful the estate was sold. Mrs. Sanders is remembered for her generosity at Christmas; her son James driving her round the village in the smartest of turn-outs and the groom delivering the Christmas presents.

Following the Sanders were Mr. And Mrs. John Paton. Mrs. Paton planted the original corms of the lilies-of-the-valley found in such quantities in the woods. Arthur Speer, Esq., followed: remembered for much interest in the Social Club, and his wife as having started a District Nursing scheme in Kingsland in 1910.

Major and Mrs. Ward Jackson, the next occupants, did a great deal to beautify the grounds and woods. These woods, over 100 acres in extent, are beautiful in Spring, with drifts of bluebells and carpets of primroses. Major Ward Jackson was Conservative Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire. Mrs Ward Jackson was the first President of Kingsland's Women's Institute, formed in 1920.

Major Jones, M.F.H., lived at Street for a short time.

In 1934 it was bought by Gerald Courtney Phillips, Esq. Mrs. Phillips has continued to live there since his death. She has wide interests: the Church, the Mother's Union, the Village Hall and Women's Institute, and during the War in all the organisations for help to those serving.

Many of the farms and residences in Kingsland are now individually owned, and have changed owners many times in the last 100 years. To give one example: The Showers since 1858 has been occupied by Russell, Taylor, Edwards, Colebatch, Price and Morgan.

The shop-keepers changed frequently; Jones, Davies in 1858, and others until we come to Mrs. Brindley about 1863. She came to Kingsland when her son James was only a few months old, and started business at Wentworth. In 1881 the business had grown enormously, and her advertisement reads:

"Mrs. Mary Brindley, family grocer, tea dealer,
provision merchant.

James Brindley, baker and grocer.

William Brindley, grocer and ironmonger and sub-postmaster."

The architect of the fine new buildings of the Stores was John Gethin. In 1937 it was sold to Messrs. Beales & Son, grocers, and during the War to Mr. Gibson, from a bombed district in Brighton. Now it is in the hands of two sons of Albert Davies, the landlord of the Angel Inn.

In 1881, Miss Stephens at the Bell was draper and grocer and advertised good accommodation for Commercial travellers. Longford, an old coaching inn, makes two picturesque houses. Markham's Garage is further down the street on the same side. Mr. Markham and his family live in the house adjoining, once occupied by T.Dunn.

The Stonehouse, on the other side of the road, opposite the School House, is now a Guest House. It is a very old house with modern additions. Here was born Susannah Ball, one of Queen Anne's women of the Bedchamber, and here in later times the parents of Dr. Robert Williams ended their days.

A new Police Station was built in 1953, and two bungalows have been built in recent years, as well as the School House. Next to the Corners Inn, where Charles Sankey worked at his saddlery and footballs, Sergeant Preece has his cycle shop.

Walking along Lugg Lane, we come to the Council Houses, once the residence of Mrs. and the Misses Weyman, and of R.H.George, auctioneer and antiquarian, is now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Nicholson. Above that is the Wardens, now a Nursing Home and much enlarged since the days of Dr. Marris. Opposite is the Old Hall, a modern house but so called because it is built on the site of a very old house dismantled about 50 years ago. This house had a great deal of black oak; what looked like Gothic arches were formed of it. Twenty-five tons of this oak (the pieces carefully numbered) were sent to America. The old house was thatched and so were the farm buildings belonging to it, now roofed with corrugated iron. There are some very old black-and-white houses at West Town, and also at Shirlheath.

Aston extends from Gilbert Farm to Baskets Gate and Kingsland Mill. Four houses have fallen down in the last 100 years, and no new ones have been built. It has a 'bus service on market days only. In the year of the heavy snow (1947) the people of Aston were really cut off, and bread was delivered on an American gun-carriage.

About 26 years ago dancing classes were held in the kitchen of the White House to help the young people, and a lady aged 70, then living at Aston Villa, took them to the Lugg in the Summer and taught them to swim.

Population.

There has been a marked decline in the population of Kingsland since 1851, as is shown by the following table:

In 1851	population	1197	houses	243
1861		1158		263
1871		1138		263
1881	population	1063	houses	249
1891		975		249
1911		944		249
1921		901		249
1931		914		239
1951		875		290

This can be accounted for partly by

- (i) decline in the size of families,
- (ii) dissatisfaction with agricultural wages,
- (iii) the poor state of cottages – no water, no electricity, and until about 1926, no 'bus services.

Though the wages of farm workers have increased enormously, farming has become mechanised to a large extent, and fewer men are required on the land.

Some of the cottages have been modernised, but there are still very many with no conveniences. Some time after the last twelve Council houses were built a man who lived in an old and inconvenient cottage made the following remarks:

"I went to see So-and-So in the new Council houses the other night – grumbling at the rent he was" (It was 14/6d. including rates). "My word, if I could see my missus with a proper sink and water over it, I wouldn't grumble at the rent."

Principal Landowners.

With the selling of all the great Bateman estates the title "Lord of the Manor of Kingsland" was a title in name only. Much of the property was bought by Dr. Theophilus Hamlen-Williams in 1898, and is still owned by his family. by Dr. Hamlen-Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., lived for many years at Fairfield, Pontypridd. As a District Councillor, and in other public affairs, he took a great interest in the welfare of the neighbourhood. He settled in Kingsland in 1898 and did a very great deal for the property he bought – e.g., the wonderful farm buildings at St. Mary's.

The Parish Magazines record the gifts of coal made by Dr. Hamlen-Williams to the Church, continued after his death by Mrs. Hamlen-Williams, and also the Christmas beef distributed among the poor. He had "noble ambitions for the development of his farm, for the welfare of his workpeople, and the improvement of their homes." (The Revd. James Jobling) He is remembered as driving a four-in-hand when he first came to Kingsland, and as always having beautiful horses. His widow had one of the first motor-cars; "I well

remember Mr. Roam, the chauffeur, putting carbide in the lamps for night driving."

Capt. D.W. Hamlen-Williams follows the tradition of his family in giving his time to public service. In the 1914 – 18 War he was on active service in Gallipoli and France with the Herefordshire Regt. and the Monmouths. In the 1939 – 45 War he served with the Gloucesters and the Air Force Regt. He has been Churchwarden for 34 years, a County Councillor for 27 years, an alderman since 1952, and is now Vice-chairman of the County Council. More need not be said!

The family of Gethin were landowners in Kingsland for generations, most of their remaining property being sold just before the First World War. Such property included the Red House, Brick House, Old House, Lavender Cottage, and a farm at Cobnash. The then owner, Mrs. Frowde the great-grand-daughter of John Gethin, bridge builder, sold it, but retained four cottages, in one of which lives her niece, Miss Ruth Lewis, to whom we are indebted for information about this family.

At a meeting of the Woolhope Club in May, 1931, Mr. G.H. Jack, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., F.G.S., the County Surveyor, read a paper on John Gethin, bridge builder of Kingsland, Herefordshire, 1757 –1831, "a famous if obscure man". To-day the bridges he built, at Eardisland in 1800, Aymestrey, Mortimer's Cross, Leintwardine, Hampton Court, still exist. Between 1825 and 1831 he was associated in the building of 55 bridges. "I have endeavoured," said Mr. Jack, "to find out some details of the life and work of this capable man, so that his name may be recorded, not only as a matter of interest to us and to those who come after, but in recognition of the principle that in every department of life good work, honestly done, is worthy of emulation and commendation."

His son married Miss Weyman, and his grandson is the John Gethin, the bridegroom, whose marriage is now described:

Marriage Festivities at Kingsland. June 11th, 1864.

The marriage of Mr. John Gethin Jnr. to Miss Ann Lewis, only daughter of John Lewis, Esq., was celebrated in the Parish Church by the Revd. R.D.Evans. The two families which are now united were so respected in the parish by rich and poor alike that the gentlemen farmers formed a committee, at the head of which was W. Connop, Esq. and E. Russell, Esq., and quickly they had a large fund in hand for the purpose of celebrating the event with proper eclat. There were many triumphal arches erected, one at Mr.Lewis's house, another in Church road, bearing appropriate mottoes.

Mr. Wall and Mr.Luggar were the moving spirits in the construction of the arches; the poetical effusions were furnished by Mr. Scrimshaw, an old man of 80 who was able very neatly to execute the lettering of the verses and decorative work. Mrs. Stephens made the favours, of which there were a great number, and the Church was decorated by Mrs. Chattaway, the Misses Connop and Miss Strangward. The porch was entwined with green boughs

and depending from the roof was a shield of blue silk bearing the initials of the bride – "A.L." A shield of corresponding design depended from the gaily-dressed chandelier in the nave of the Church, with the bridegroom's initials, "J.G."

Heralded by cannon-firing (there was a battery in the meadow by the Church), bell-ringing and the music of the Leominster Volunteer band, the bridal party arrived in a carriage and pair of prancing grays. The bride wore a rich white silk dress with veil and wreath of orange blossom. The bridesmaids (Miss Harriet Connop, Miss Weyman, and Miss Williams of Holgate) wore white tarlatan dresses ornamented handsomely with pink. Mr. Tudge of the Ox House was best man.

After the return of the bridal party from Church Mr. Lewis gave an elegant champagne breakfast at his house; the company included the Rector, bride and groom and parents, the Misses Connor, Miss Weyman, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Williams (Holgate), Dr. and Mrs. Chattaway, Mr. and Mrs. Weyman, Mr. Tudge, Mr. J. Lewis and Mr. W. Lewis.

In the afternoon, soon after 2 o'clock the happy pair, amidst the warmest congratulations and best wishes of their friends, the firing of cannon, and shouts of the people, started for Leominster enroute for the Isle of Wight. A procession was then formed as follows:

- Band of the Leominster Volunteers,
- Gentlemen on horseback, among whom were Mr. W. Connop, Snr, Mr. E. Russell, Mr. Hull, Mr. Smith, Mr. h. Thomas, Mr. Connop, Jnr., Mr. Meacham, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Jenkins.
- Wagon with the ox, drawn by a fine team.
- Cart with the sheep (presented by Mr. Jenkins)
- Two carts laden with bread
- Wagon with three hogsheads of cider and perry.

They proceeded to Mr. Gethin's house where three cheers were given for the "old squire", then to Mr. Davies's, Cobnash, and to the residences of the following gentlemen who were cheered to the echo: Mr. Marsh, Kingsland Station, Mr. Greenhouse, Mr. Russell, Snr., Mr. Fowler, Dr. Marris, Mr. J. Anley, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Williams. The procession then proceeded to a large meadow opposite the Red Lion, where the ox and sheep were cut up into suitable pieces under the superintendence of Mr. Connop, Mr. Russell and Mr. Jenkins. There were about 200 eligible poor who received joints varying from 3lbs. to 5lbs, according to the number in family, with a corresponding allowance of bread.

Various rustic sports followed, including donkey races for a whip, the riders having had very smart jackets and caps prepared for them at the establishment of Mr. Stephens, running for a crinoline, waistbands, gowns, ribbons, etc. by women, climbing the greasy pole. The band was stationed on the ground and played throughout the afternoon and evening.

The only matter for regret was that the too bountiful supply of cider produced in some of the recipients a quarrelsome and pugilistic frame of mind. We may also note that a piece of one of the cannons was blown away, but fortunately no-one was injured.

Mr. Lewis provided tea for all the schoolchildren, including those of the National and the Dame's School, and the youngsters thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

(Extracts from a much longer account in the 'Hereford Times').

The bridegroom, John Gethin, died in 1880, aged 45. "He took an active part in all the business of Kingsland; was waywarden for many years and churchwarden until his death. He had endeared himself to everyone by many acts of kindness, never turning a deaf ear to anyone in distress, distributing liberally of the bounty with which he had been blessed. He was one of the best of landlords and a thorough man of business. Full directions were left for his funeral, the coffin boards even having been provided by him." ('Hereford Times'). He left a widow, two sons and a daughter. The latter is the only surviving member of this family. She married Mr. J.C.W. Frowde and lives in Wiltshire.

Mrs. Frowde has lent her scrap-book, a record of extreme interest, and has given the following extracts from one of John Gethin's ledgers:

1868 Mr. J. Williams, at St. Mary's, finished carrying all his wheat, the last being on large field, on Wigmore Fair Day, Aug. 5th. How very early.

1870 Income Tax 4d. in the £.

1871 Two gallons of brandy 28/- per gallon.

1862 May. I engage H.R. as a servant of all work for 12 months, wages £7. H.R. left me on the 8th June in consequence of not being allowed to go and kick up her heels at the Club feast all night.

The son of John Gethin and Ann Lewis was lost at sea in the wreck of the Drummond Castle.

Among families of 1854 who are still represented in the Parish are those of

Dr. Robert Williams,
Barrar,
Crump,
Davies (Corn Hill),
Davies (Arrow Mill),
Davies (Cobnash),
Stephens,
J.T.Lewis,
Rawlings,
Wall.

INNS

The CORNERS INN is the one that has been a great centre of the village life. Here the Oddfellows had their Headquarters and celebrated the anniversaries. Here, too, Lord Bateman held his Courts baron and Mr. Sanders of Street Court his rent audits, when roast goose and Christmas pudding was provided for his tenants.

In 1856 William Phillips was landlord, followed by John Allen whose daughter married J.W.T. Mitchell, the landlord for over 60 years. Mrs. Mitchell is still living, and was interested in giving some details of the inn. There is a table of prices of about 60 years ago on the wall of one of the rooms:

Beer, 1/6d. per gallon; bitter, 1/4d per gallon; mild porter 1/2d. Whisky at the same time was 3/6d. a bottle.

The ANGEL in 1858 was kept by Mrs. Burden and was a Public House only. It was kept in turn by Mrs. Miles, Albert Reynolds, and now by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Davies, who have changed it into a comfortable hotel much patronised by those who have fishing on the Lugg.

The THREE HORSE-SHOES, more often called the MONUMENT, as it is near the 'Monument' to the Battle of Mortimer's Cross. Mrs. Ann Price kept it for many years, and her daughter, who married Albert Dickens Wall, is still there – over 80 years of age.

The RED LION. In 1856 Mrs. Elizabeth Crump was landlady; her husband spade tree maker, etc., and also clerk to the Friendly Society. The Lion has changed hands from Crump to Elizabeth Preece (carrier), then to Evans and Norman.

The BELL was a licensed house at one time, but is now the centre of a News Agency and the home of Mrs. Perry.

The CROWN at Shirlheath is no longer licensed.

Besides the inns, in the old days there were several beer and cider retailers. In 1856 George Stephens and James Bray were retailers of beer, and Richard Harris of cider.

There are two guest houses in the village; Vartry House and the Stone House.

It was in the "homely front garden" of the Stone House that R. Thornhill Timmins in 1892 noticed "an unusually tall tree, resembling the stone-pine of Italy, shooting up a smooth slender stem and bearing aloft a head of thick dark foliage."

This tree was called the "Mop", and a mop was what it looked like, high above the houses. About 1910, in a great storm, it snapped and the head went whirling over into Mr. W. Lewis's yard.

KINGSLAND CORONATION HALL

A committee was formed in 1922 to provide the village with a Hall. About £200 was subscribed and then for various reasons the scheme fell through. In 1946 the idea of a Hall was revived and another committee formed. This energetic and persevering body at last succeeded in getting plans passed and a license to build. Building began on June 22nd. 1952 and after many delays the Hall was opened on Nov. 12th. 1953.

The main hall is 50ft. X 31ft. with a fine floor for dancing. There is a kitchen, a good stage with dressing and cloakrooms adjoining.

The site, "Pope's Orchard", was the generous gift of D.W. Hamlen-Williams Esq.

KINGSLAND CHURCH ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

FOR NEARLY eight centuries a Church has stood on the present site – on the South side of the village. The present building of an experimental Transitional style (early decorated), dates from 1296. It replaced a smaller Early English Church. The building was begun by Edmund Mortimer – d.1304. His son Walter was the first Rector. The walls are of local sandstone rubble with dressings of the same, and the roofs of slate. Nearly all of it is Fourteenth Century, though the building of the Chancel began earlier.

The Volka Chapel. An unusual feature is the stone cell opening out of the North Porch. It is called the Volka Chapel, and has the floor raised below its four-light East window, as if for an altar. Against another wall a stone coffin lies in a canopied recess, which has a window cut in the back of it to give a view into the Church. It is probable that this miniature Chapel was built as a Chantry, where a priest might pray for the inhabitant of this stone coffin.

The Tower was heightened in the Fifteenth Century when the South Porch was added.

The Font is the one that was made for the Church 600 years ago.

The East Window contains some ancient and valuable stained glass. One portion shows Christ seated on a rainbow, and others show a rare group of four archangels – Gabriel with the Madonna, Raphael guarding Tobias and his fish, Michael fighting the dragon, the Uriel with Esdras. Early in the Second World War this treasure of the Church was removed for safety to an underground cellar at the house of Col. Coates, O.B.E., of Eyton. After the War considerable repairs were done to the East wall and buttresses and the stone-work of the East window was rebuilt. Messrs. Pearce & Cutler replaced the glass on a modern frame of bronze alloy instead of on the old wire frame. The cost of these repairs and improvements amounted to approximately £800. Towards which the Pilgrim Trust made a grant of £300. Worshippers, early on a Sunday morning, when the sun lights up the wonderful colours of

this old glass, know how beautiful it is, and must be grateful that it was so cared for.

The Chancel was restored in 1864, and the rest of the Church later.

Littlebury's Directory of Herefordshire for 1867 reads: 'The Church is being restored by G.F. Bodley Esq. of 109 Harley Street, London. The whole of the restoration is being carried out in a conservative spirit, care being taken not to destroy any ancient features of the building. The nave and aisles will be fitted with oak benches and the chancel with stalls.' The Church was re-opened on September 3rd 1868. The cost of the restoration (£2,000) was araised (sic) mainly by the exertions of the Revd. R.D. Evans, Patron and Rector.

In 1924 the upper portion of the Tower was re-built and the bell-cage re-inforced. Considerable other improvements were made at the same time. Including the substantial new water spouts, at a cost of £1,100 approximately.

There are several very old Memorial tablets in the Church. The following are the memorials to the dead placed in the Church during the last 100 years:

A memorial window in the South wall of the Chancel to the Revd. R.D. Evans, 30 years Rector, who died in 1871.

In 1875 a brass was placed in the Chancel, which with the Alter rails forms a Memorial to Allen George Chattaway, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., "near the place where he reverently worshipped".

1877. A brass and Church clock was given by Miss Mary Roberts in memory of her brother, Thomas Roberts of Lawtonbury. The clock is the one still in the Tower, and has the initials of B.L. Saunders and John Gethin on its face. They were the Churchwardens at that date. A reminiscence: "We used to say 'It's gone four by Miss Roberts'. Or 'Miss Roberts says it's gone ten' ".

1882 . An organ-chamber was built in the North side of the Church, and an organ placed there, the gift of Mrs. Ann Chattaway and her relatives, in memory of Miss Mary Roberts of Lawtonbury. Before this date there was a harmonium in the Chancel – at one time played by Miss Deane, daughter of the schoolmaster, Walter Deane. There is a Memorial window in the Tower placed there by Edwin Russell, Jnr., in memory of his wife and infant child; another given by Miss Weyman of Stagbatch, and one at the end of the North aisle placed there by the patron of the living, W.H. Bradley, Esq., in memory of his eldest daughter.

A tablet in the Chancel commemorates John Gethin and his wife Emily, aged 30 and 25 respectively, their children, Lorna aged 4 and John aged 2, and also their devoted friend Jemima Peace and faithful nurse Eliza Preston. They were returning from South Africa on the S.S Drummond Castle, but the vessel struck on rocks off Cape Ushant at midnight on June 16th, 1896, with a loss of 244 lives.

1906. A beautiful stained-glass window was erected on the South side of the nave, in memory of Theophilus Hamlen-Willias, by his widow.

1902. Mr E. Jenkins gave two Hymn Index Boards.

1911. Mrs. Bowen of Bristol, daughter of Mr. Walter Greenhouse, who was for 30 years Rector's Warden, gave a fair linen cloth for the Altar. The beautiful crotchet on the cloth was done by Sister Monica, a daughter of Mrs. Bowen.

1924. Alterations and additions to the Choir Stalls were a gift of the Misses Blackmore in memory of their parents.
A handsome frontal case in the North aisle was given by Mr. Gerald Phillips.

1936. The very beautiful concealed electric lighting was put in the Church with a commemorative tablet, as a memorial to Capt. Basil Jobling, by members of his family and his Regiment, the London Scottish. Capt. Jobling died in 1933 as a result of wounds received in the First World War.

1940. A stone tablet was placed on the North wall of the nave, to commemorate the life and work of Robert Williams, M.B. He died in 1936 at the age of 88 at the Croase House where he was born.

1953. A gift was made to the Church by his relatives in memory of Frank Garbett, which has provided an oak chair and credence table for the Sanctuary. Mr Garbett had kept the Parochial Roll for the Church.
The latest gift to the Church is a fine oak table used for a Visitor's Book and Leaflets – presented by Mrs. J.C. Price and the Misses Blanche and Edith Williams.

THE INCUMBENTS

1841 – 1871. The Revd., R.D Evans, M.A., was the last of five generations of his family to hold the living of Kingsland. He was also Lord of the Manor until his death, when the rights were sold to Lord Bateman. It was said of him that he never exacted his just dues. During his incumbency the Church was restored. On the cover of the Register of Burials, 1813-1866, are notes in his handwriting, signed by him:

“A new roof was put on the Chancel, and the walls scraped and repaired, and the ceiling opened, in the year 1864 by me” – R.D.Evans.
And also the following, so that such great wonders might not be forgotten:

“The first truck load of coal was brought to Kingsland by the Leominster & Kington Railway on Monday, the 24th day of December, 1855.” R.D. Evans.

“The first locomotive passed along the line to Pembridge on Friday the 18th day of January 1856.”

There were several Curates in his 30 years as Rector – the Revds. Wellings, Brough, Hamilton, Lloyd-Jones, Davidson, Jones, HH.T.

Mogridge. Their names exist in the Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, as having conducted such services.

1871. The Revd. W.M. Goss became Rector. He is noted in the School log book as often visiting, and once caned a boy for "truanting". A tragic happening, the suicide of a sister at the Rectory, decided him to leave Kingsland.

1876. The living was bought from the Evans family by W.H. Bradley, Esq., for his son, William Henry Bradley, M.A. This young man is remembered by several in the Parish for his fine preaching. On Sunday evenings in Summer a number of people would walk out from Leominster to hear him, and he would slightly shorten the service to allow the visitors to catch the 8p.m. train back to Leominster. "Some of us young ones would rush from the Church across the fields to the station to see this train come and go."

In his time, Harvest Festival was always a whole holiday for the Schoolchildren. Dressed in their best and carrying banners, they paraded through the village to Church and afterwards to tea at the Rectory. Men going home from work would stop at the Church for the Thanksgiving Service – in their smock frocks, putting their frails down in the aisle. On a Sunday there would be several men so dressed in the congregation.

Mr. Bradley was married after coming to Kingsland. When he brought his bride home the carriage was met at Cobnash by many welcoming parishioners. The horses were taken out and the carriage drawn to the Rectory. "James Aston lead them – he was on horseback wearing a soldier's red coat".

A photograph in the possession of Mr. Will Davies shows Mr. Bradley with his choir. One of the boys is Mr. Davies himself, who joined the choir in 1878, and standing by him is his friend, Chris Lewis, who joined a year or two later. Both remember Mr. Bradley and speak of him with great admiration.

He left Kingsland in 1884. "It was a pity he left." "I remember his farewell sermon – beautiful it was."

His Curates were the Revd. Sellon and, later, the Revd. Alison, who had rooms at Lorne House. B.L. Sanders Esq., was Rector's Warden, Mr. Gethin for the Parish.

1884. The Revd. T.G. Baillie became Rector. He had an expensive family (12 children) and could not make his income sufficient. It became necessary in 1896 to sequestrate the living and the Rectory was let.

1896. The patron of the living, Theophilus Richard Hamlen-Williams, appointed the Revd. James Jobling to be curate-in-charge during the absence of the Rector. He and his family formed strong ties of friendship in Kingsland.

1911. The Revd. T.G. Baillie's financial difficulties having been straightened out, he returned to the Rectory and Mr. Jobling went to Bredwardine as Rector. Mr. Baillie took a great interest in the School; Mrs. Baillie got up two concerts (1889) to help the School Library when the Rector is reported as having "brought the house down" with his inimitable rendering of 'The Whistling Coon'. Two sons and two daughters also took part.

The oak reredos, once behind the Altar, was carved by him. He died in 1917, aged 75. The name of one of his sons is on our War Memorial.

1917. The Revd. James Jobling returned to Kingsland as Rector. He is always spoken of with affection. He died in 1927.

1925. The Revd. George Henzel Jobling was appointed Rector. Before coming to Kingsland he had been Curate at Grimsby and later Precentor of Liverpool Cathedral. Mr. Jobling is a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral.

Ill-health forced him to resign in 1953. At a meeting in the Coronation Hall in August of that year, the Rector was presented with a cheque, and a book with the names of subscribers beautifully inscribed by Mr. E. Dommer, as a token of the affectionate regard and good wishes for his retirement. References were also made to Mrs. Jobling who was as much a part of Kingsland as the Rector. Prebendary and Mrs. Jobling retired to Lucton.

In 1950 the Trustees of the Hamlen-Williams Estate offered the Advowson of the living for sale. It was bought anonymously and presented to the Diocesan Board of Patronage by the purchaser. The name of the benefactor was not revealed until after her death in 1952; it was Miss Florence Redgrave, who for a number of years had made her home with Miss Blackmore at Crossways, Kingsland.

1953. The Revd. G.H.S Worsley was inducted to the living on Whit-Sunday 1954. He and his family live in their own house "Fairfield". The Rectory, built in 1710, and a fine example of the Queen Ann period of architecture, is too large a house for a Rector to keep up in the present times.

It was sold by the Diocesan Board of Finance, a matter of necessity but also one of regret. The house and garden had been for so long the centre of all the work connected with the Church. The selling of it marks the end of a picture in Kingsland and the breaking of a long tradition.

THE ORGAN

THE ORGAN given by Mrs. Chattaway in 1882 was dedicated the following year; Dr. Bartholomew of St. Lawrence's, Ludlow, played for the Service and gave a recital afterwards. Mr. Will Davies who was present says he never saw the Church so crowded as it was on that day – even the space below the Tower was crammed with people.

A photograph Mr. Davies treasures, taken after the Service, shows the Revd. T.G. Bradley with his choir, and three of them are with us to-day – W. Davies, C.Lewis and J. Brindley (aged 92). Others who have passed on are Mr. Bugden, Mr.Wall (Brook End) and his father, E. Parkes, J.Parry and W. Lewis. The boys were carrying hard round hats.

When Rector of the Parish, the Revd. T.G.Baillie wished one of his daughters to learn the organ. The organist of the Priory Church, Leominster, would only come out to Kingsland for two pupils, and Mr. Will Davies became the second.

Miss Baillie gave up her lessons, but Mr. Davies persevered though he had now to go into Leominster. He has loved music all his life. For 6 years he was organist at Kingsland, and was presented with a marble clock when he left the Parish for some years. For 40 years he was organist at Monkland and played the organ for service on 59 consecutive Christmas Days.

THE CHOIR

"ON FEBRUARY 17th 1874 a concert was held in the schoolroom in aid of the Fund for the payment of the Choir. The room had been freshly whitewashed owing to the kindness of Mr. Gethin, and very prettily decorated by Mrs. and Miss Chattaway and the Misses Morris. "To crown all there was a large and appreciative audience principally in evening dress". So wrote the Revd. W.H. Goss in the Parish Magazine for that year, and goes on to explain that the choir ought to consist of 16 choristers, 12 trained and 4 probationers. Each chorister on the staff was promised £2 a year, often somewhat reduced by fines for non-attendance in Church. In spite of the proceeds of the concert (£7.12s.3d) and of offertories in Church (£9.12s.3d.) more money was needed, and subscriptions were invited, to make up the deficit.

In more recent times the Choir has not received any payment for their services, but we read of concerts arranged by Dr. Hamlen-Williams (1903) and again in 1904 and in some years following by Mrs. Hamlen-Williams, the proceeds of which gave the Choir most exciting outings.

In August 1903 the Choir went to Blackpool, walking into Leominster through pouring rain, starting at 1.30 a.m. All members voted it the palm for an excursion.

In 1906 they had a perfect day – August 4th – when they went to Llandudno. "Messrs. Reynolds brought us safely home in the early hours of Friday morning ... the boys seemed to enjoy this best of all .." (From the Revd. J. Jobling's notes in the Parish Magazine, and also the following):

"August 2nd 1910. The Choir trip to Blackpool. We left Kingsland at 2.30 a.m., driving to Leominster in brakes, arriving at Blackpool at 8.30 where they did ample justice to a good breakfast. The morning was spent in sight-seeing, the boys revelling in water-chutes and scenic railways. In the afternoon most of them went by tram to the aeroplane ground, hoping to see some flying, but unfortunately an adverse wind prevented any after all. After

tea at the 'Bee' and more sight-seeing we caught our train at 8 and arrived home merry and bright at 1 a.m. Our best thanks are due to the kind friends who subscribed the necessary funds."

There were also Choir Suppers, as there are to-day.

To-day there are several men in the Choir who have given their service over many years. A scarcity of boys of the right age has been compensated for by the addition of women's voices, and at the recent broadcast service at Rogationtide we had reason to feel proud of Choir and organist.

(Written addition in margin – Women's gowns were made by Mrs J Preece. Worn 1st time Aug 22nd 1954).

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

JOHN LEWIS of Waterloo Mill had eleven children. He died in 1883, and his family left Kingsland. His daughter Jessie became Mrs. Edwards and lived at Monkland; her daughter married William Lewis of Kingsland, and it is from her that we get news of the Sunday School in Kingsland.

Mrs. Lewis relates how her mother taught in Kingsland Sunday School for many years, and treasures two small books of devotion, one given by the Revd. William Goss in 1874 and the other in 1882 by the Revd. W.H. Bradley. Both inscribed to Miss Jessie Lewis and both express grateful thanks for her work.

In those days there was Catechism in the Church every Sunday afternoon. The children stood in the aisle with their backs to the ends of the pews, while the Rector questioned them, the teacher going hot and cold for fear they might not know all the answers.

The good work has continued ever since, though possibly with less terrifying formality. There are now several teachers under a superintendent.

BELLS and BELL-RINGERS

KINGSLAND CHURCH has a peal of six bells. The second one has an inscription "William Bubb, son of Henry Bubb, aged 3, March 1692."

Some time prior to 1877 the fifth bell fell, and on the day of the funeral of Walter Greenhouse, in 1877, the third bell fell. No-one was injured. From this time until May 12th 1887, when the two bells were replaced, only four bells were rung. The two new bells, cast by Warner of Cripplegate, were hung in time to ring out merry peals for the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The following notice of the Memorial Service for Queen Victoria (The notice was preserved by Mr. F. Colebatch), gives the names of bell-ringers in 1901:

"In Ever Blessed and Glorious Memory
of

Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Born May 24th 1819

Died Jan. 22nd 1901

'Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all ...'

Prov. Xxxi., 29.

A Memorial service was held in Kingsland Parish Church on Feb. 2nd 1901.

At the close of the service the Bell Ringers (members of the Hereford Diocesan Guild) rang out the Age of the Deceased Monarch on half muffled bells. The Changes took seven hours and fifty-three minutes.

Rev. J. Jobling, Incumbent.

W. M. Oliver Churchwardens

F. Colebatch “

Ringers –

G. Reynolds, Treble

H.G.Reynolds, Second

H, Wynde, Third

J. Allen, Fourth

G. Jobling, Fifth

W.M. Davies Tenors

W.M Postans “

R. Dunn, Time. “

In 1902 St. Michaels Guild of Bell ringers elected Charles Lewis as Captain and W. Davies Vice-Captain. The bells were missed early on Christmas Day 1904, the bell-ringers, members of the Fire Brigade, having to go to a fire at the Bateman Arms, Shobdon.

In 1911 c. Lewis was still Captain. A Fund for the bell-ringers at Christmas was divided according to marks for attendance. Eleven members belonged to the Diocesan Guild of Bell-ringers. That Easter, the Revd. James Jobling remarks, a cracked bell hampered the ringers. There had been a terrible thunderstorm just before, which had sent the weathervane flying across the Churchyard and cracked a bell.

The Passing Bell.

In Kingsland a bell is tolled for a few moments to attract attention. After 15 seconds, the sex of the deceased is announced – 5 strokes for a male, 4 for a female, and 3 for a child. After another 15 seconds silence, the age is announced by a stroke of the bell for each year. The whole of the Parish is thus acquainted with the identity of the deceased person.

Belfrey Verse

The following verse is recorded by Mrs. Leather as painted on the wall of the Belfrey. This wall has been frequently colour-washed since her day, and no sign of the words remains.

“If that to ring you do come here,
You must ring true with hand and ear:
And if you've either spur or hat,

Sixpence you must pay down for that.
And if you either curse or swear
Sixpence you must pay down for beer.
To curse and swear it is a sin,
This is not a place to quarrel in."

The Hand-Bells

A set of hand-bells, "enough to ring two octaves", was once owned jointly by C.Lewis, Arnold Stephens, and W.G.Lewis. With other companions they walked all round the Parish and sometimes further afield, ringing the hand-bells and carol singing. The bells at last became the property of Arnold Stephens, whose son Denis a few years ago presented them to Kingsland Church.

These bells have given great pleasure at Carol Services in the Church, and at the Nativity Play in the Coronation Hall at Christmas, 1954.

The Registers.

THE REGISTERS date back to 1654.

The Register of Burials from 1854 to about 1900 shows a remarkable number of children and young people; more deaths occur under 50 than over that age. It is most noticeable that in the last few years the burials have been almost all of old people.

There have been three centenarians in the past 100 years: -

1862. Jane Turner – Lugg Green – 102.

1840. Mary Sankey – Lavender Cottage – 101 and 9 months.

1944. Thomas Hopley – Wentworth – 101 and 8 months.

A great many other people lived to 90 years and more.

In these registers the incumbents have made an occasional note of any particularly noteworthy circumstance, e.g.

1858. Thomas Nicholls – Cobnash – Served through the Peninsular War in 14th Light Dragoons. He had medals and four clasps.

1912. John Gregg – 30 years Sexton in this Church.

1926. David Hammond – Churchwarden and Verger – aged 90.

1937. Thomas Simonson – sometime organist.

1953. John Winders – 50 years a member of the Choir.

In a Parish this size it is impossible to do more than give a brief mention of such as the above, when so many have given years of their lives to the service of the church and Parish.

THE WHEEL-BIER

THE WHEEL-BIER was provided by the Parish Council, Mr. Goodman being Chairman at the time (1907). His daughters and others remember what great

opposition there was in the Parish to this innovation. The dead had been carried shoulder-high from all ends of the Parish on the great heavy carrying-bier, still to be seen in the Tower. Was there a feeling that to carry the dead to their last resting-place was a more dignified mode of transport than to wheel them? Eight bearers were necessary to carry the old bier, and each one received 2/6d. for his labour.

The wheel-bier was made in the village by Timothy at The Laurels, Mr. G. Davies of Cobnash doing the ironwork. The price contracted for was twelve guineas, but as Timothy said he had not made anything on the job, he was given another guinea. The use of the bier was free to all the Parish except for 1/- to the Sexton for cleaning. Other Parishes might hire it, paying 5/-; 4/- going to the Parish Council and 1/- to the Sexton for cleaning.

The first man to be wheeled to his grave in Kingsland was James Jervis of Shirlheath.

CHURCH EXPENSES.

Church Expenses were defrayed by Collections in Church and gifts from the more wealthy Parishioners.

1896 - Christmas Day – Offertory for Church Expenses £2.18.0.
1897 - Jan.3rd - Sick and Needy, 15/11d.
Apr.4th - Poor and Needy, 12/1¹/₂d.
Easter Day - £5.0.3. Church Expenses.

The total collections for many years amounted to about £44, and the expenses the same. The institution of collections on each Sunday raised the income to £100.8.5d. (1911).

But gifts were received and house-to-house collections made for many causes:

The Band of Hope.
The Bell-ringers,
Choir outings,
Sunday School Prizes,
Sunday School Treats,
Subscriptions invited for Clothing Club.

Loads of coal were frequently given by Mrs. Hamlen-Williams for the Church. Co. Coates sent £5 for the provision of coal for the poor one severe winter.

A parishioner having had a serious accident, Mr. F.J. Colebatch, "always a friend in need", has taken round a subscription list to raise sufficient to pay his Doctor's bill (1898).

THE CHURCHYARD

THE CHURCHYARD surrounds the Church, but lies chiefly to the South and East. An addition, on the south, was consecrated on June 1st 1919, and on

this ground stands the War Memorial, and almost all burials since that date have taken place here.

Having been in use for centuries, the graves in the older part of the Churchyard are crowded together, and time and weather have defaced the names on the head-stones. Many of the people who once cared for these graves have themselves departed this life, others have left the neighbourhood and either cannot or do not maintain the graves at all. The task and cost of keeping all in order is beyond the power of the Churchwardens, be they never so willing.

There is a scheme afoot to level the graves, remove the broken and defaced stones, fill in the empty vaults – in and out of which the children play – and lay out the ground as lawns with flower beds and blossoming trees. Seeing into what a state of ruin and decay so many of the graves and tombs have fallen, one realises that this general tidying up is necessary.

But how the spirit of the past surrounds us here! The more remote past is with us as we look at the dial on the South wall and remember that it has been there since before the Reformation. One of the head-stones commemorates Anne Susannah Ball, 2nd daughter of John Ball of the Stonehouse, “woman of the bed-chamber to the Princess Anne, afterwards Queen of Great Britain”. There are many other stones of equal or greater antiquity, but it is impossible to read the inscriptions.

Almost more touching are the reminders of the less remote past. Here are familiar names re-curing frequently; here too is a great space “where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap”, the graves UN-named and the occupants long forgotten. Here too “the storied urn” is crumbling away and the verses and names are half obliterated.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS WOODHOUSE, by will in 1810 bequeathed the sum of £200, now producing £9 yearly (1929) of which £4 is given in bread to the poor at Christmas, and £5 to the Church Day School.

MRS. MORGAN of Herbals, Anglesey, left the sum of £100 with which a piece of land called Kingdom Croft was purchased. The land is arable, about 5 ½ acres, and realises about £8.10.0. yearly. With this is amalgamated BARRAR'S GIFT, consisting of a sum of £54 with which 1 ½ acres was purchased called Hays, situated at Aston Township, and 2 ½ acres of pasture land, called the Paddock and Croft Meadow in the same township. The proceeds of the above are given to the poor in coal at Christmas.

MISS MARY ROBERTS, in 1882 bequeathed the sum of £100, the interest to be expended in coals for the poor.

The charities amount to about £22 yearly.

On the tomb of Thomas Woodhouse in Kingsland Churchyard is inscribed, on one of the square panels, the following: "His integrity seems shown by his long service in the same family: His frugality by the store he was enabled to leave behind him, His gratitude by acknowledging the sources whence it arose, His Charity by the liberal benefactions he made to the poor."

He died in 1810 at the age of 60, having been in the service of the Rector of the Parish for 34 years.

To-day the Church Day School thankfully receives his legacy.

The Charities were distributed each year on St. Thomas' Day.

In 1874, 300 4lb. Loaves cost £10.

In 1897, about 220 loaves cost £4.14.0., and the Revd. James Jobling notes in the Deanery Magazine how he, with the Churchwardens, Chairman and representatives of the Parish Council, spent several hours beforehand in discussing the claims of each individual case.

In 1905, 218 large loaves cost 4 3/4d. each.

In 1908, 229 1/2 large loaves at 4 3/4d. each were divided among 125 recipients.

In 1910, 193 1/2 large loaves at 5/4d. per dozen were distributed to 120 recipients.

THEFT OF COMMUNION PLATE FROM KINGSLAND CHURCH.
(Contributed by Mr. Charles Lewis)

About 65 years ago on one Sunday morning the Church was broken into by means of removing portions of a leaded glass window in the South-west wall of the Church, but nothing was missing.

On the following Sunday night the Church was again disturbed and the thieves got away with their booty – the Sacramental Silver which was over 200 years old. They broke into the iron safe which contained the silver by means of a ratchet drill, and drilled seven or eight holes by the locks and cracked the cast iron through the weak places between the holes.

Several Police Officers were in the locality for some days making enquiries, and although one officer was well on the trail, having traced the thieves to Woofferton Station, the Superintendent unfortunately took him off the chase.

I may say that at that time I myself was employed as a blacksmith in the village, and owing to the thieves having used iron rods which had recently been through the fire, they had a very strong suspicion that I was the thief. Furthermore, a few weeks later I was engaged in repairing the spouting and roof guttering right over the Church window where the thieves had got in.

When clearing up any mess afterwards I saw a mustard tin lying in the ditch among the ferns underneath the window, and on examining it I found it was an improvised lamp or torch used during the burglary. Two Coleman's mustard tins had been used to clip each other with the top tin perforated. In the bottom tin was just an ordinary brass knob of a door secured in with wire, with soft string for the wick. In the front of the tins was cut a square hole, which gave enough light to shine on their work, keeping all else in darkness. Having handed this to the Rector, it was passed on to the Police.

A few weeks later Boxing day came along, when there was a cheap trip to Birmingham which I took advantage of, to go to see a cousin in Edgbaston. I was waiting for the train to arrive at Leominster and was carrying rather a large carpet bag; inside it were apples and pig meat and a portion of roast goose and other such-like Christmas fare. It seems the Police, with the Superintendent, were on the alert; I was talking to the Sergeant whom I knew well, and he afterwards moved toward the crowd which was waiting for the train. The Super asked the Sergeant who he was talking to, and he said a young man from Kingsland he knew well. Said the Super, "What has he got in that bag?" "Send him down to me so that I can see the contents." I objected, but the Sergeant advised me to do what the Super asked, otherwise there would be detectives awaiting my train at Snow Hill. So reluctantly I gave the bag to the Super, who opened it, strewing the apples all about and searching the lining very carefully. He was satisfied that I was not carrying away the Communion Plate, and I was allowed to continue my journey.

The plate stolen was a Silver Chalice and a Silver bowl. The Chalice was inscribed "Robert Chelwick and James Bubb Churchwardens of Kingsland Parish 1698". (Church Plate of Herefordshire).

Mr. Edwards, then of the Showers, collected £100, with which the plate now in use was purchased.

Mr. Lewis's estimate "about 65 years ago" is almost correct. Notes in one of the old Registers are as follows:

"On Tuesday 22nd September 1891, found the Church safe broken open and Church plate stolen. T.G. Baillie, Rector".

"On Easter Sunday 1892, used the new Church plate first time. Bought by subscription. Also a new safe was put in the Vestry." T.G. Baillie, Rector; E. Parke, J. Parry Churchwardens."

NONCONFORMIST PLACES OF WORSHIP.

THE BAPTISTS first held services in Kingsland in the kitchen at the Laurels; then a small chapel was built in the orchard behind the house.

A Minister remembered by a few was Mr. Purchase, who came out from Leominster. In his time two ladies were publicly baptised in the Lugg at Lugg Green. Dressed in white, they walked down into the river from the house now occupied by Mr. Passey. One old lady remembered it very well, and how

beautiful the hymns sounded from the river; it was a lovely sunny day and she wished she could have stayed for all the service, but she had work to do. Mr. Purchase left Leominster in 1888.

1903 . A larger Chapel was built not far from Kingsland Station, and Ministers still come out from Leominster for the Services.

Mr. Pugh of Stoneleigh was a Deacon.

THE METHODIST CHAPEL has existed in Kingsland for many years. The present building, erected by Mrs. Holloway of the Day House in 1857, is on the site of an earlier one.

In 1887 a school was started in the Chapel, the Master being a Mr. Yates, the father of Mr. Yates of Kington. There were about 20 pupils.

This Chapel is well maintained by the Leominster circuit. There are three Ministers and several lay preachers.

The property includes a caretaker's cottage. The building was very kindly lent to a boys' School, evacuated here from Harwich during the Second World War, when the Club Room, containing all their equipment, was burnt down in 1941.

THERE WAS ALSO a small Chapel at Cobnash, built by the Moravians. In 1889 about 40 children attended Sunday School there. It is not known when it closed.

KINGSLAND SCHOOL.

THE FOUNDATION STONE of the School was laid by Mrs. Evans, mother of the Rector of the Parish, on May 31st, 1845, and the new school was opened on Monday, October 26th, 1846. The building was of red and yellow sandstone from the quarries at Street, and consisted of one classroom with Schoolhouse attached. Before the erection of the school, children were taught by the Curate in a room above the Church Vestry.

The porch of the new school was used as a Post Office, the Schoolmaster acting as Postmaster, and one can imagine that the teaching of the children must have suffered from the interruptions which the running of the Post Office must have caused.

In 1874 a second classroom was erected, at a cost, with fittings, of £600, and from this time onwards log books were kept. The Headmaster at this time was Mr. Walter Dean, and his work was not very favourably reported on by the Inspector of the day, Mr. Colt Williams. His report of August 6th, 1874, reads, "The irregularity of attendance at this school is unequalled in any district. Out of a population of 1,100, there are 125 on the books, and of

these only 30 are infants. The average attendance is 59. The state of things here is extremely unsatisfactory."

The Rector, Mr. Goss, tried to improve the attendance. On October 19th he visited the School, and "sent George Mason after absentees, and caned W. Brown for playing truant." The behaviour of the girls was not always that of the prim Victorian Miss, as the record of November 5th of the same year shows: "Complaint laid against Ada Addis for stepping on Ada Weaver's bonnet."

The following year's report by the Inspector regrets the decrease of numbers on the books, and that Mr. Dean should have been left to teach an average of 72 children without any help except that of children from the First Class, and "The Schoolroom would look more tidy if it were plastered." This recommendation has never been carried out.

The report of the attainments, discipline and needlework for 1876 is so unfavourable that the Grant is reduced by two-tenths. At this time attention is drawn to the Master having charge of a Money Order and Postal Telegraph Office, and the Managers are to be asked if they are satisfied with these conditions.

In January 1879, School was closed for one month for an outbreak of malignant fever, and in the same year Mr. Dean became very ill and resigned his post. He was succeeded by Mr. Latham, with Miss Baker who taught the infants and needlework, and an improvement in attendance and attainments soon became evident.

Unfortunately, Mr. Latham resigned at the end of 1880, and was succeeded in January of the following year by Mr. Edward Wall. The weather in this January was very severe, with heavy falls of snow, 20 degrees of frost, and the children were unable to attend school because the roads were blocked. There was trouble at this time about parents not paying the school fees. In August, the report of H.M. Inspector Colt Williams regrets decrease in numbers, and that the general condition, discipline excepted, has seriously deteriorated. The School Managers met, and decided to give the Master and Mistress notice to leave.

In January, 1882, the school opens under Mr. and Mrs. Budgen, and by July, when the school was examined by Mr. Colt Williams, the Revd. Bradley, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Parker, a great improvement had been accomplished, and by the following year "An excellent report on all subjects", but one gathers that the discipline was repressive, with canings for carelessness, copying, insolence, idleness and talking.

1884 sees the first reference to "Maying", when many children were absent on May 1st, and by the Summer of 1886 it became the custom to give holidays for such events as the Oddfellows' Club walk, Oddfellows' Tea Party, School Treat at Street Court, Tea-parties at Shirlheath, the Baptist Chapel and at Cholstrey.

In the following year Mr. Budgen resigned, and two Masters were successively in charge before Mr. W.J. Pritchard began duties as Headmaster on October 3rd, at once producing a general improvement in the work of the school.

On December 22nd a School Concert took place, the proceeds being for the forming of a School Library, and two years later, in November 1889, the first library books were distributed to the children.

Meanwhile, in October of 1888, so few children attended school that an additional week's holiday was given, "this being the week in which the Fair occurs". Many times the school was closed, or attendance very poor owing to illness. From May 28th to July 1st, 1889, "Measles prevalent," the school was closed and thoroughly cleaned, walls limed and painted, floors and desks scrubbed. In January and February of the following year there was "Much sickness"; in June, "many children with bloodshot eyes, and an epidemic of some other nature, a kind of throat disease". In July "much sickness, average attendance 58.2 out of 106", and in August "many children away with whooping cough".

The latest reference to collecting fees is in November 1890, "Prepared list of children attending school with their rates of payment of school fees"; and, "Notices from the Managers have to-day been sent to all children who do not regularly pay their school fees". Then on October 13th, 1891, "This is the first day for the children to have free schooling, the Managers having accepted Fee Grant from the commencement of the Free Education Act."

Improvements to the school included suitable offices for the girls and a convenient porch for the infants in 1892. Good reports are made of the work of Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard throughout their term of service, though the Managers were recommended to provide a Coal House and Ash Pit for the exclusive use of the school, and complaints were made by the Inspector of the premises being untidy, and the offices not clean. The Sanitary Inspector was called in to inspect offices and drains, also a cesspool and stables near the school. Perhaps not unconnected with these conditions was an outbreak of Scarlet Fever later in the same year, resulting in the closing of the school from November 1893 to January 1894.

Mr. Pritchard finished his term of service on August 17th, 1894, when the school closed for the summer holidays. On October 15th, 1894, the school reopened under Mr. Nock, with Mrs. Nock teaching the Infants and Needlework. By 1896 the entries in the log book showed the growing efficiency of the school work. Entries in copper-plate writing gave the names of boys and girls who year by year won Pierrepont Scholarships to Lucton School, or Leominster Grammar School (after its opening in 19??).

From now onwards there was an atmosphere of achievement and progress in the school, and the years were marked by the increased variety of interests and activities which were made available to the children. The Diocesan Examination invariably resulted in a good report, that for 1907 being

particularly good, with a First and Second Class obtained by two girls in the Bible and Prayer Book Examination, and they were invited to the Bishop's Palace at Hereford; while from the Diocesan Inspector's report for this year "The excellent tone, discipline and behaviour are special features of this school".

On July 25th, 1896, a Penny Bank was opened, and 25 pupils joined.

January, 1897, saw the first visit to the school of the Revd. James Jobling, and the records show his continued interest in the children; and in 1901 he showed stereoscopic views of scenes in the Holy Land.

Holidays were given for a variety of reasons, and mark the events of the time. On June 2nd, 1902, "Holiday this afternoon on account of the good news concerning peace". June 25th and 26th, Holidays for Coronation Festivities. April 6th, 1903, school required for District Council Election; and again three years later, and in January the same year the school was closed for a day for a Parliamentary Election.

A highlight of this year, 1906, must have been on December 13th, when a tea-party was given by Mrs. Price of Stanley Villa, and after tea a splendid entertainment was provided by Mr. Cockerton's phonograph, which delighted the children for two hours. May 24th, 1907, saw the first mention of Empire Day, and an afternoon holiday was given.

In the following January Mr. Basil Jobing gave a Magic Lantern Lecture on British Guiana, and Mr. Nock showed 60 slides of "The Wonders of the World", both events providing great interest. In May of this year the first Gardening Classes were given, for an hour on two days a week by Mr. Charles Sankey. In July, "5 children passed Labour Examination, thus being permitted to leave school at 13".

At about this period, an old pupil recollects that when Mr. Nock wished to commend a boy for good work, he would say, "There is a boy who will earn his £1 a week".

In 1909, on November 23rd and 24th came the first Medical Inspection. A week's holiday from June 19th to 26th, was given in 1911 for the Coronation of King George V. The Inspector's report for this year was very favourable, but called the attention of the Managers to the need for a new Classroom.

The Revd. James Jobling visited the school to say goodbye on taking up his appointment as Rector of Bredwardine. His successor, the Revd. Baillie, and Mrs. Baillie called frequently, and gave Religious Instruction.

By November 1913 the Schoolhouse had been built, and Mr. and Mrs. Nock were able to move in, and the new Classroom was opened. The following year saw the outbreak of War, and soon the girls were knitting socks, scarves and mittens, often from wool towards the cost of which the scholars

subscribed. Eggs were sent to various hospitals, and money collected for War charities.

With the end of the War came the serious epidemic of influenza, and the school was closed from November 19th, 1918, to January 6th, 1919, and again on February 24th for three weeks. In July an extra week's holiday was taken to celebrate peace. In October, 1920, the first cookery lessons were given to 14 of the girls by Miss Griffiths, in a room at St. Mary's provided by Mr. J.C. Price. In the following year came the first Dental Inspections, and the work of form-filling was now becoming part of the Headmaster's job.

In June, 1923, a presentation was made to Mrs. Nock, on her retirement from the Staff after 29 years; and the Rector, in making the presentation, spoke in glowing terms of the work of Mrs. Nock for the good of the children and the benefit of the Parish. The good reports of the School continued yearly, both from Government and Diocesan Inspectors, while many pupils gained scholarships to Lucton and Leominster.

Holidays were given for Kingsland Colt Show on October 11th, Leominster May Fair on May 2nd, and a half-holiday on Empire Day, while at Election times the school was used as a polling station. An unofficial half-holiday was decorated maypoles and collecting money. Severe cold weather caused the closing of the school in February, 1929. In July of this year 18 boys travelled by 'bus to Leominster one morning a week for Manual Training.

In January, 1931, Mr. Nock retired after 36 years as Headmaster, and a presentation was made to him on behalf of the scholars. The Rector, Mr. Jobling, spoke very highly of all the excellent work done by Mr. and Mrs. Nock. He called for Three Cheers, which were given "Loud and long".

On February 2nd the duties of Headmaster were taken over by Mr. C.T.Jones, with three assistants who had ably supported Mr.Nock for a number of years. Each year, since the Revd. G.H.Jobling became Rector, the children attended special Children's Services on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, Patronal and Harvest Festivals. Reports of the school were always excellent. Games were now played regularly, with cricket and football matches against neighbouring schools.

In December 1932 a Tea and Breaking-up Party took place, with a cinema show by Mr. Ross. The girls were now playing hockey, and played their first match at Leominster in March, 1933. Holidays were now taken during the Summer for a fortnight from mid-June, and for hop-picking for a month from the end of August.

A three weeks' course of Dairying and Poultry Keeping was given in February of 1934, to 12 senior girls. April of this year saw the entry of the first 15 children from Shobdon, who were brought daily by car. In the following year the new milk scheme was started, by which the children had 1/3 pint of milk daily. May 6th brought a general holiday, with Sports and Tea, for the Jubilee of King George V. A letter from the Rector in October, on behalf of the

Managers, congratulated all concerned in H.M. Inspector's and the Diocesan Inspector's excellent reports, splendid scholarship results, and "much improved demeanour, manners and conduct of the children".

When King George V. died, in January 1936, a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for his life and work was held in the main schoolroom. In March began the installation of the school wireless set, and a cheque for the wireless and lighting fund of £1, was received from the jockey, Fred Fox, who had been a pupil here in his early days. In May, all lessons were suspended for the children to listen to the broadcast of the departure of the Queen Mary on her maiden voyage. The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May, 1937, brought three days' holiday.

Many children were now cycling to school, and a Concert in January 1939 raised sufficient money to provide a cycle shelter. September brought War once again, and its impact on the school was this time much more disturbing to routine. Many children were evacuated to the district from Liverpool. At first the Kingsland children were at school in the mornings, and those from Liverpool in the afternoons, but soon the upper classes were all moved into the big schoolroom, with the Infants and lower classes in the middle room, leaving the Infants' room for the Liverpool children, and so the teaching was carried on in very difficult circumstances. Gradually, many of the Liverpool children returned home, though several remained with their foster parents and became "village children".

Immunisation against diphtheria was first begun early in 1940, and a small room of the school was used by the Medical Officer as a clinic.

On an evening in April, a very pleasing event took place, in the form of a presentation to Miss Margaret James, who had been a pupil and student teacher here. In January she had rescued two children from the frozen River Wye at Hereford. With great regret, in May came the news that Mr. Nock had died suddenly at Bournemouth. The staff and Choir attended a Memorial Service at the Church.

In June, following the fall of France and the Low Countries, children were being evacuated from the Eastern Counties, and evacuees were sent to the village from Harwich. With the help of equipment from the school, they were accommodated at the Bungalow, formerly used for billiards, and air gun shooting. On a Saturday in the following April this Bungalow was destroyed by fire, and all the books, desks, etc. lost. The children from Harwich were then allowed to use the Methodist Chapel for their lessons.

In this year two extra weeks' holiday were added in Autumn for potato lifting. One of the boys from Harwich, who had made his home in Shobdon and attended school with the children from there, was knocked down and killed while crossing the road, after leaving the School 'bus. Children from the school formed a guard at the Church at his funeral in February, 1942, and boys of the School formed the Choir.

In 1943, a Young Farmers' Club was formed at a well-attended evening meeting, and many senior boys enrolled. The first School dinners were served in July, the meals being brought in containers in a van from a central kitchen.

Canon Hall of London, watched by some 25 Diocesan Inspectors, the Bishop of Hereford, and archdeacon Winnington Ingram, examined the children in 1944, and commented highly on the intelligence of the children and the excellent tone of the school. In July, Mrs. Wheelock brought a captured Nazi flag to show to the children. A party in December was managed by the help of a permit from the Food Office and eatables sent by parents, so that the children were not denied a happy time. By May of the following year came the end of the War in Europe, with holidays and a children's party.

After the War came regular visits in January each year to a Pantomime at Hereford, with Tea provided when the children returned, while in the Summer an outing was usually made to the sea. Exciting as these outings are to the present day child, they cannot give more enjoyment than did the much more local treats of earlier days, when "The farmer would send a couple of wagons, each drawn by two horses, to the School, and the children would clamber on board, and with all the provisions safely stored, be taken to such places as Street, Bircher Common, and Wigmore Castle. "Oh, weren't we happy, weren't we happy!"

Education visits were made by the Seniors to Liverpool, for a tour of the docks, where they saw the launching of a Tanker; to the Festival of Britain in London; and by Senior girls to a garment factory in Cardiff.

During the years of War, and those after, the results obtained by the school in scholarships and reports have been excellent, while a number of talks and educational films have been given, and with the wireless lessons and practical work done, the knowledge gained by the pupils has become much wider than in earlier years.

April, 1949, saw the opening of a new Classroom, built in the recreation ground, for pupils over 14, with an additional master in charge, and the school numbers were augmented by children over 11 years of age from Orleton, Eardisland and Shobdon, travelling daily by 'bus. The Senior children attended weekly handicraft and domestic science classes at the Centre at Leintwardine.

All the changes have brought much additional work to that undertaken by the Headmaster, in the form of visits from doctors, dentists and nurses, with the clerical work also involved in Savings, dinners, and the Library.

From a time several years before the War, and particularly during and since the War period, the School was used for an increasing number of functions; Meetings, Socials, Dances, Suppers, Teas, etc. Every organisation in the village made use of the school in the evenings and holidays; and there must often have been considerable inconvenience to the running of the School, as the log book entry for November, 1953, shows: "New Village Hall opened with

special pleasure and best wishes from Staff and Scholars who have endured the use of the School for all functions for so long."

In concluding the history of the School, a reference to the distinctions gained by some of its former pupils may be made. Within recent years, one boy has gained his B.Sc. and Ph.D., four boys B.Sc.'s, and one girl her B.A. Each of them was at Kingsland School from the age of 5 to 10 years old, and their success provides a fitting tribute to the sound and thorough early training which the Staff of this School gives so tirelessly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THE VESTRY.

KINGSLAND has a book containing Minutes of the Vestry Meetings from 1942 to 1880.

The Vestry managed all the affairs of the Parish, it levied the rate, was responsible for the roads, the administration of Charities – the Poor Law and the School.

A Vestry Meeting was held each year "after due notice given" about March 25th in the Vestry Room at the Church. At this meeting appointments to office were made; those for 1854 are given below in full. The offices remained the same until 1880, except that in 1863 two "Waywardens" took the place of the four Road surveyors as in 1854.

To serve the Office of Guardians: Mr. John Williams
Mr. William Crump

To serve the Office of Overseers: Mr. William Taylor (The Showers)
Edward Stevens
Thomas Bowen
William Jones
Edward Davies (Cobnash)
Thomas Davies (Arrow Mill)

To serve the Office of Road Surveyors for the different Townships:

Aston Township -	The Revd. R.D.Evans
Longford	John Gethin
Lawton	Edward Davies
West Town	William Taylor

To serve the Office of Office of Constables:
John Jay (Longford) Carpenter.
James Bassett, Cordwainer.
John Rawlings, Mason.

The appointments having been made, another Vestry followed shortly after for the examination of all accounts and the levying of the Rate. In this year it was 1 ½d. in the £.

Other business before the Meeting was the consideration of an application by William Mayox for an outfit for himself, his wife and three children, to emigrate to Australia. This was granted, and one hopes that he and his wife were able to make good in that very new British possession. At the same Meeting William wood was to be allowed £1.5.0 for ringing the morning bell for the ensuing year.

It was also resolved to have the Parish re-valued for an equitable rate. It was nine years later that the Rate was made from a new assessment.

In 1857 Mr. John Crump was appointed assistant Overseer at a salary of £20 per annum, he to find surety in £200 for the "due performance of his office". He resigned at the end of the year and William Parry took his place.

The rate continued to be 1 ½d., 1d, or 2d. until 1864, when the Tower of the Church was reported to be in a dangerous condition. The estimated cost of repair was £160 or £170, and a rate of 6d. was levied to meet the bill. Mr. E.Stevens of Kingsland repaired it for £107.10.0

On two occasions when a Vestry had been duly called the Chairman, the Revd. R.D.Evans, was the only one to attend. He recorded this in the Minute book, saying that after waiting half-an-hour, he took upon himself to adjourn the Meeting. In recent times the Parish Council business has had to be postponed, there not being a Quorum present.

In 1866 and following years there are several entries about the duties of the Waywardens: e.g. "they are to place the road from Brook Bridge over Shirlheath to the end of Volka in proper repair; to stop up as a public road the road leading from the Flying Gates on the Street Court Estate towards the village of Eardisland; the road to be repaired from Benjamin Plevy's to the turnpike road." (A Plevy still occupies this house.)

The repairs when carried out are said to have been of a very rough and ready kind. Stones collected from the fields were often put on the roads when the ruts had been levelled and filled in. Sometimes faggots were put in the ruts. A great deal of timber hauling was carried on, and roads were soon so bad as if no repairs had been done. In 1889 a man leaving his employ at Street and taking his furniture on a cart to Kingsland Station feared that the deep ruts would cause the furniture to be shaken to bits. To avoid this dreadful road he went through a gate and down a field, and was summoned for trespass. In Court he said he was not the only person to make use of the field in that way, and Mr. Sanders' timber hauling had so cut up the road as to make it impassable. The case was dismissed ('Leominster News').

In 1870 a Vestry Meeting resolved to build additional School buildings, and Mr. B.L. Sanders, Mr. Gethin and Mr. Roberts were appointed to obtain

subscriptions for this work from the landowners. This was the last Meeting presided over by Mr. Evans.

The Revd. W.M.Goss followed him as Chairman, but in 1874 Dr. Chattaway was in the Chair. This Meeting considered the Charities account. There had been no distribution for three years owing to the difficulty of getting dividends from the Court of Chancery. £9.12s.11d. had gone in law charges and £1.2s.6d. in Land Tax. School expenditure benefited by £13.2s.3d. and 310 was spent on 300 four-pound loaves. When wages were only 10/- or 11/- per week and families large, and a four-pound loaf cost 8d., how grateful the recipients of this Charity must have been.

It was resolved at the same meeting to raise Mrs. Bray's wages (cleaner of Church and School) from £2.10.0. to £4 per annum.

In 1876 the Revd.W.H.Bradley, the Rector, was in the Chair, and the next year the Vestry seems notable as the accounts exactly balanced, the amount being £31.0.9d. The Tower had been repaired again at a cost of £40, and subscriptions were to be solicited from the principal inhabitants to meet the same. In 1880 the accounts showed a deficit to Mr. Gethin of £21.3s.4 ½d. but the Charities had a small balance in hand.

The following items from a bill to Mr. Bradley from Mrs. Brindley show some of the expenses of the Church and School:

- Oil .. 1/3d. per gallon
- Faggot of wood .. 2 ½d.
- 2 Hearth stones .. 1d. each.
- 1 ½ yards flannel .. 9d.
- 1 Lb. Candles .. 1/-
- Broom .. 3/3d.

Many of the names recur year after year as having office under the Vestry. Thomas Davies, of Arrow Mill, was a Guardian of the Parish for 30 years, as his headstone in the Churchyard reminds us; and in the old account books of the Leominster Board of Guardians for 1853 onwards, his name appears with the Rector's, the Revd. R.D.Evans, as attending the Meetings regularly. Walter Greenhouse was Rector's Warden for 30 years, and other names recorded as often serving are Scandrett, Preece, Willias, Price, Gethin and Taylor. R.O. Smith, who was a Relieving Officer under the Board of Guardians for very many years, lived at Yew Tree Villa, Kingsland, and retired in 1897. Every member of the Board spoke in praise of his work during his long service. His salary at the date of his retirement was £90 per annum.

In 1888 County Councils were established, and in 1894 Parish Councils were formed. By slow degrees "the King's Highway and the Bridges which carried it" passed into the jurisdiction of the County Councils, as also the village constables. All the duties of the Vestry were taken over by the Parish Councils, except those relating to Church affairs and Ecclesiastical charities.

In 1894 Rural Districts were formed. Kingsland sent two representatives to Leominster rural Council – W. Oliver and G.F. Colebatch acted for several years, and Mr. Colebatch was Vice-chairman in 1897.

The first elections of Parish Councillors caused great excitement. The following rhymed account shows what a number of candidates here were for the eleven seats:

THE RACE OF KINGSLAND COUNCILLORS.

'Twas on the fourth of April this race of gallant men
Took place at two o'clock so prompt, and finished at eight-ten.

The competition was so great, it made the poll look tall;
No matter how much room was left, some couldn't climb at all.
The racers round the Parish went and canvassed very hard,
But when it came the final race, some canvassed with a card.
While others with their horse and trap paraded up and down
Would send their Jock to fetch a lot of voters from around.
Without the traps or printed cards one scrambled to the top,
'Twas Davies Will, all full of skill, I wish him all good luck.

A stroke behind came Jenkins, quite marvellous how he climbed;
He got five score but expected more, so we'll watch his points next time.

Webster Fred and Bassett Charles were betting very near
But the Robin passed the roadman, so they settled down to beer.
Reynolds George and Williams too kept working steady on
And the Butcher passed the Farmer 'cause he knew the bird was gone.

Lewis Will and Davies George, well known to Parish Polling,
The Wheelwright started up in haste and passed the Blacksmith bowling.

So Lewis Charles and Williams Dick were accustomed to this journey,
But the latter traced the sexton like a dog behind a coney.
The last to win was Johnny Miles who astounded very many;
He'll keep the gates and stiles erect and see to all the money.

Then comes the nine to our surprise, we find they were defeated,
And good old servants some have been, so I think they were ill-treated.

The bailiff and the Station boss were close upon their track.
They would climb better if they had their calves put out to tack.

Then came the tinsmith very bold, and struggled rather hard
But was thrown back with fifty-eight to keep his own accord.
The grocer whom we all know well, he tried his best to do
For when a voter came he'd spout "Hi Shall I tell you".
Up came the dealers with disgust and whispered "we're behind,
But time will come again to run if 'tis in three years' time".

Then love-a-duck and the Maltster came, taking things too cool,
 But the duck said "Quack, I don't care a rap for the best man in the School."
 We've come at last to the lowest Price, they classed him as their shafter,
 He drove his comrades all in front, and he came tumbling after.

ELECTED: -

Williams Davies	..	Stonehouse, Cobnash
E. Jenkins	..	Old Hall
Fred Webster	..	Yew Tree Villa (The "Robin")
Charles Bassett	..	Roadman. (d. 1835, aged 81)
Henry Williams	..	Farmer
George Reynolds	..	Butcher (d. 1905)
G. Lewis	..	Wheelwright
G. Davies	..	Blacksmith
C. Lewis	..	Sexton
Dick Williams	..	Arbour Farm
Johnny Miles		

In March, 1897, there was a Meeting in the School to elect the Parish Council. There were 19 candidates for the 11 seats. Mr. Proctor of Aston wanted the outer circle of the Parish represented; there were too many candidates from the village. A rowdy meeting followed, and the election could not take place. A poll was demanded, and the following were duly elected in April, in order of their names:

John Edwards	- Chairman
George Lewis	- Vice-chairman
James Brindley	
Samuel Small	
Thomas Goodman	
George Reynolds	
E.L. Jenkins	
Henry Hellaby	
Albert Dickens Wall	
David Hammond	
James Spencer.	

This was the Parish Council which first provided Kingsland with a Recreation ground. The field between the Church and the Rectory – glebe land – was rented from the Rector; a fence was put up, the members of the Council standing the expense (about £1 each).

On this ground football and cricket matches were played. The school managers contributed 30/- for the use of it for the Schoolchildren (1900). The Church Army van was stationed there; it was let to circuses, and the grazing was also let, so the Parish Council were at no loss. To-day it has come to be known as "The Greens", the schoolchildren still play and drill there, and the Carnival takes place there every August Bank Holiday.

In 1897, a letter from George Reynolds appeared in March in the 'Leominster News'; this extract explains it: "The ½ d. rate which is being collected is for the

working expenses of the Parish Council and not for the Recreation ground, and I am sure that while we have such a generous and kind-hearted gentleman as Chairman we have no fear of any extra expense put upon the working men of Kingsland." Always there was great anxiety about money, and not surprisingly when wages were low.

In January, 1909, the Parish Council had a most successful concert in the School, to obtain funds for the upkeep of the Recreation ground. A.E. Wrigley, Esq., of Street Court was in the Chair.

1910. On Easter Monday the Parish Council had a football match "just for fun". James Brindley, the Captain, is now 92.

1911. February 10th: the Concert of the Kingsland Parish Council in aid of the village lighting fund took place in the School. The Chairman gave high praise to the Council for raising money in such a pleasant way for public objects. The first Whist Drive ever to take place in Kingsland was held in the same year and for the same cause. The Parish Council provided six oil lamps.

Four years ago these were replaced with electric lights – a great boon for all, and a charge on the rate of the Parish.

The R. D. C.

In 1894 the Rural District Councils were formed. Leominster had a Rural Council, and so had Wigmore. On April 1st, 1930, these were amalgamated under the title 'Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council'. The Leominster Council had a Highway Board, and Rural Sanitary Authority on which representatives from Kingsland sat.

Since 1930 the combined Rural Councils have consisted of 41 members from the Parishes in its care. Large parishes like Kingsland sent two members.

Until 1946 no woman had served on the Parish Council, nor represented Kingsland on the R.D.C. But the Federation of Women's Institutes was always urging its members to take an active part in Local Government, and when a vacancy for a councillor for Kingsland occurred the then President of Kingsland W.I. allowed herself to be nominated. Opposition was expected, as one of the Parish councillors declared that he "would not have petticoat government for Kingsland". However, she was duly elected, and, having survived a contested election in 1951, has served ever since. In the same year two W.I. members became Parish councillors, and to-day there are three – one of whom has been Chairman for three years.

The County Council.

Mr. Nott of Wigmore was first County councillor for this district. He was Alderman in 1906, when Mr. John Edwards had a seat on the County Council. Mr. Morgan, the Showers, followed, and for many years Mr. H. Langford, also an Alderman. Captain D.W. Hamlen-Williams has been on the County

Council for 27 years, and Alderman for 3 years. Mr. G.H. Langford now represents Kingsland and district.

Mr. P.E.Pugh, of Stoneleigh, Kingsland, (d.1951), gave much of his time to local Government. He was Chairman of the Housing Committee of the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council, and for 25 years was Chairman of the Leominster Social Welfare Committee. He was appointed a County Magistrate in 1934, and served regularly until 1951.

Mr. Pugh was Secretary and Deacon of the Kingsland Baptist Church, and was a joint treasurer of the Village Hall Committee.

He was an exhibitor and breeder of Kerry Hill sheep, and was one of the judges at the Centenary Royal Show at Windsor in 1939.

R.D.C. The following have served or are serving:

G.F. Colebatch – Vice-chairman, 1897.
Revd. A.C. Auchmuty
W. Oliver
A.G. Reynolds
E.L.Jenkins
J.C. Price (for 17 years)
E. Jenkins
Mrs. E.N. Wheeler
G.H. Langford.

The following are Parish Councillors to-day:

Miss F.E.Wheeler – Chairman
Mr. J. Preece – Vice-chairman
Mrs. J.C. Price
Mrs. T.H. Wall
Messrs. H. Chamberlain
John James
W. Like
F. Davies
H. Lowe
T. Evans.

Kingsland Parish Council Point-To-Point
To be held on May 6th 1935 at 4pm

Handicappers: Messrs (C.T Jones) C. Teachum, (H.H. Langford) H.H. Quenchum.
Judges: (A.J. Harding), A. Roadking Esqr. & (Dr. Vaughan), D.G. Healthking Esqr.
Clerk of Scales: (F.G. Reynolds) F.C. Pigstabum Esqr.

Owing I suppose to it beings being Jubilee Year, this popular fixture has attracted even more attention than usual. During the whole of my experience of the turf I have never faced a more difficult problem than to suggest the placing of these most excellent horses. I am therefore foregoing my usual practice of advising you, and will content myself with giving a brief summary of their respective performances.

Chairman by Consultant.- A doubtful starter. Has run on foreign soil. His performance at home not known. (Dr. Nicholson).

Scored Pork by Butcher's Fame.- Has gone well on previous occasions, but slower on later performances owing to weight carried. (A. Reynolds).

Sawdust Willie by Planker.- Also a horse who has done well over sticks on previous occasions. Not known so well on the flat. Rather small for the distance. (W.Lewis).

Gin and It by Ironsides.- This horse is a good stayer and weight carrier. Having seen him going to smithy on several occasions recently his feet must be suitable for soft going. (A.Davies).

Seagull by Pewit.- This is a horse who will stay the distance and will carry a lot of money, but is inclined to go rather wide behind. Having been trained on Welsh hills he should go well. (Lewis Davies).

Goliath by Bentley.- A well-bred horse and very fast on the straight but apt to run wide on the bends, but will also be fancied. (Mr. Hamlen-Williams).

Brook Tulip by Sharpe's Express.- This horse has not run at these races before, therefore I can tell you nothing as regards form, but moves freely. (Hodges).

Firefighter by New Invention.- This horse has recently changed his training quarters. Is well known in previous races and carries weight. Probably with new quarters this horse will run well. (H.Williams).

Bull Tamer by Batchelor's Charm.- This horse has run on many courses and stays well. The dark horse of the race; will certainly carry most of the ladies' money, and has been backed to win approximately £10,000. (E.J.Jenkins).

Stone House Lad by Puppy's Walk.- This horse goes well over open country. Well bred, but may be a shy performer in public, but will carry little weight and should be well fancied. (Eddie Davies).

Lawton Hero by Farmer's Glory.- This horse is a young performer in public. Proved himself well in the last race and should win if going's good and should be fancied for a nap selection. (Tom Morris).

As I stated before this is no ordinary race. There are so many factors to take into consideration that I hesitate to offer any tips. At the time of going to press

the betting is very erratic. With such good horses all in the pink of condition and trained to a nicety I leave it to your own judgement. The only thing that seems certain is, that given a fine day, there will be a record attendance and the best race ever held in this district. May the best horse win.

Messrs Takit & Slipit, Commissioning Agents, will be in attendance.

ELECTIONS.

ELECTIONS, whether Parish Council, Rural District, or Parliamentary, caused great excitement in Kingsland. Party feeling entered into everything for weeks before the great day.

The Conservatives colour was blue, and the Liberal red – and there were no shades of opinion.

Favours were worn by all, and the pictures of candidates were in windows of all the houses. A little girl going out in a red frock was told that she was wearing the wrong colour, and she was to go home and tell her mother to change it; she cried ... She remembers, too, following the Liberal candidate, Mr. Lamb, with other little children and shouting "Baa-aa" with all her might.

Another recollection is of a white pony, that was to be used in the Liberal interest, being painted with blue stripes and so appearing a good Conservative. A story is told of a most bigoted Tory who was to paint a pump in an inn red. He hated to do this, but was urged to get on with the job by a friend, who sat himself down and went to sleep. On waking the friend found his tie had been painted red.

Tears were shed by one of his supporters on the defeat of Sir James Rankin. Such tales could be continued ad nauseum !

The following lines received a prize of one guinea at the 1910 Eisteddfodd. Three men in the Parish have quoted from them with the greatest pleasure, delighting in the shrewd allusions to the men they have known:-

Politics at Kingsland 1910.

You've all heard about the Lamb that is lame,
But he's very sure to come back again;
To listen to Perkey he has done the grand
But why he's not paid he can't understand;
Canvassing he found to him was no good
So he's feeding the "fowl" and chopping the wood.
Just a word Perkey while we are here
You spoke in your poem of Rum and of Beer;
If it wasn't for rum or perhaps we'll say whisky
You would have less men on your noble committee.
We also have Webster, his hopping and jumping,
He can't explain facts, so relies on his thumping.

When Sankey was wet, "and things and that there"
 He never lost hope or got in despair.
 Then comes the landlord – J.W.T. –
 Who says the Budget is as wrong as can be;
 Tax the cider or tax the jam,
 Leave out the beer – I don't care a d---.
 Frankey too of the Harbour fame
 Since the election started is not the same,
 He preached the story far and wide
 And drank Champagne with either side,
 Albert Dickens, well known to you
 Has spoken on Politics – red and blue;
 Tales he's told, both old and new,
 Have not convinced but very few.
 Harry too, of Radnor bold
 Has told the tale of young and old,
 While selling coal and getting cash,
 Filled their minds with Tory trash.
 Lamb's men fought the men of rank
 And coped with all the village swank.
 Ideas were this, though they didn't tell,
 Vote for Sir James or else go to "L".

The Tories at this great Election
 Spared neither cars I'm told
 Nor son nor wife, nor work nor strife
 To keep the Lamb out from the fold.

THE DOCTORS.

THE FIRST DOCTOR in the last 100 years to practice in Kingsland was Thomas Watling, Surgeon; he lived at Fairfield. In 1854 he was Medical Officer to the Board of Guardians, and was twice censured by that body for his neglect of his poorer patients.

In 1857 Dr. Watling was succeeded by George Allen Chattaway, who lived at Fairfield until his death at the age of 42 in 1875. He was followed by Dr. Hunt, who lived at the Red House, and also in practice was Dr. Marris at the Wardens. Dr. Hunt also died young.

During Dr. Hunt's period of practice Dr. Robert Williams established himself in practice at the Croase, and continued there for 60 years. He was affectionately known as "Dr. Bob", and he took an active part in the social life of the village – of which mention will be made later in our recordings.

It would be interesting to mention here the many difficulties of those far-off days. Dr. Bob used a pony and trap or gig for visiting his country patients, and when called out at night to a lonely house up a hill or down a rutted lane he had to carry the candle lamp from his open trap, or perhaps a hurricane lamp

to find his way. Possibly when he got to his patient he would find no-one to help, no fire, or any convenience of any sort for his work; in some cases not even water. Dr. Williams once asked an old man who lived on top of a hill in the Gatley district "Wherever do you get your water from, George?" "Water, Sir – I don't want no water, I allus drinks cider and I never washes."

There were no district nurses in those early days, and no registered midwives. Some of the women who used to officiate are still remembered. Mrs. Gatehouse, who died in 1913 at the age of 76, used to walk to Yarpole and back to register the births and deaths. She nursed for 15/- a fortnight, and even that was often unpaid. Others who used to help were Mrs. Greenhouse of Cobnash, and Mrs. Corbett. Another midwife of long ago is remembered for her love of a pipe. When the mother and baby were safely tucked up in bed she would say. "Now that you are all right and comfortable up here, I think I will go to the fire downstairs and have my pipe of baccy".

There were no rubber boots for Doctors or nurses, no electric torches which are a boon in the country to-day. Pattens were sometimes worn by women to keep their boots dry.

Some old-fashioned remedies used in Kingsland were:

Senna tea or castor oil in milk or brandy as a purgative.

Brimstone and treacle to purify the blood.

Parish's Chemical Food as a tonic.

Goose grease rubbed on the chest and feet in a mustard bath for bad colds and sore throats: also paint a sore throat with tannic acid and glycerine.

Mutton fat rubbed in before a fire for chapped hands.

To cure toothache, kill the nerve with a red-hot needle.

To whiten and preserve the teeth, clean with fresh soot or sage leaves.

To cure chilblains, thrash them with a holly bush and make them bleed.

To cure warts, rub the warts with a bean; bury the bean, and as it decays, the warts disappear.

Water from a spring at Kingsland House – once the Rectory – was considered good for the eyes. An old couple named Chapman lived in part of the Angel; the wife had very bad eyes, and her husband would not have a doctor but fetched water every morning from this spring that she might bathe her eyes with it. Unfortunately no cure ensued. The water from this spring (the Pryll) is considered the purest and best in the Parish.

Sen Green Cream was made from the juice of the crushed House-leek mixed with fresh cream. This was used for bad arms after vaccination and for rashes.

Another cure for toothache was a pepper and vinegar plaster – "we had to put up with the burn".

For boils – brown sugar or a plaster of soap.

For coughs – butter and brown sugar mixed with vinegar.

For scalds, burns and wasp stings – Bi-carbonate of soda mixed into a paste with a spot of water.

To bring our Medical Record up to date: Dr. Morton followed Dr. Bob, and was in practice at the Red House from 1926 to 1931, when Dr. D.C. Vaughan took over. Dr. Vaughan is Deputy Coroner for North Herefordshire, and has surgeries at Kingsland, Aymestrey and Orleton.

Kingsland has now a district nurse who drives a car and visits wherever needed. She lives in the Croase Cottage. She visits all children under 5 years of age.

What a long way we have travelled along the road of progress to the present day, with its Maternity benefits, child allowances, and the many clinics all over the county!

DR. ROBERT WILLIAMS.

ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON, a tablet placed on the North wall of the Church was unveiled and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert Williams. His widow, his sister Miss Mary Williams, other relatives and a few intimate friends were present.

For over 60 years no name has been more closely associated with Kingsland than that of Robert Williams. Born in 1848, he died in 1936 in his 88th year. He was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and qualified at Edinburgh. For over 50 years he was Medical Officer of Health for Leominster Borough, and glowing tributes were paid to his work on his retirement.

Dr. Williams was a prominent Freemason, and founded the Arrow Lodge, Kington. He was a Past Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Herefordshire.

His life in Kingsland was spent at The Croase, which his father had bought from the Revd. Richard Davies Evans, and where his son, Mr. E.R. Williams, now lives. He had many interests, and the Croase House became a centre of Dramatic Art for the village. With the help of Mrs. Williams he trained a band of players who for many years brightened life in North Herefordshire.

The Croase was also the headquarters of the Kingsland Fire Brigade, which Dr. Williams founded in 1894, and of which he was Captain for 35 years. He was keenly interested in all sports and athletics.

Another absorbing interest was Ornithology. Dr. Williams had 3,800 clutches – about 20,000 eggs – all of British birds, and of these 134 were cuckoo clutches. The most valuable clutch was that of the Golden Eagle. Dr. Williams never bought an egg, but used to exchange with other collectors. The cabinets containing the eggs took up a huge room and on his death the collection was dispersed.

ENTERTAINMENTS AT THE CROASE.

THE UPPER PART of a magnificent old barn at the Croase House made an excellent little theatre; with its thatched roof, uneven floor and difficult stairs it gave much anxiety to its owner on account of the possibility of fire, but throughout its career there was no untoward accident.

The old building still stands, but it is shorn of some of its glory. The massive covering of thatch has gone, and the old timbers are more effectively but less picturesquely covered with corrugated iron. Many of the old features remain; the stage is still in existence, with its proscenium, but the stacks of scenery, which used to make a corridor from the top of the stairs to the room, are no longer to be seen. The lighting was entirely by oil lamps.

How many entertainments were held in this room between 1880 and 1933, and how many funds were helped by the proceeds ! Some of these were: the Poor, the Organ Fund, new scenery, Church Bells, the Fire Brigade and Engine, G.W.R. Servants' and Orphans' Fund, Children's Treat, Farmers' Benevolent Institution, National British Schools, the Cricket Club, and many others. Plays and entertainments were given by these gifted amateurs in Kington and Leominster, and once they went to Malvern. The programmes are still to be seen, as they were pasted into an old Medical Record Book which is preserved in the Reference Department of Hereford City Library. The first one is dated Sept. 7th 1880, and the last one Jan. 13th 1933. By this date the floor was considered unsafe.

Mrs. Robert Williams was a talented pianist, and concerts opened with a duet which she played with Miss Winnall or Mrs. McPherson. The village Schoolmaster – Mr. Latham (1879 –81) – contributed such songs as "The Death of Nelson", "Nancy Lee" and "The Tar's Farewell". There were songs from Mr. Boulton, Miss Salway, Mr. D'Egville; a Comic Piece, "The Area Belle"; a negro song in character, "Hussie Bussie" by Mr. Sarson, to mention a few items from the earliest programmes. Tickets were 1/-, 6d. and 3d., and amounts taken were from £5 to £7.

It is impossible to say how sadly this room was missed.

Mrs. Robert Williams died a few months before her 100th birthday.

No record of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Williams would be complete without a mention of Sergeant Henry Williams and his wife, who for 50 years lived in the Croast Cottage and gave devoted service to the Doctor and his wife. The Sergeant, retired from the A.S.C., was groom and gardener, and a prominent member of the British Legion. Mrs. Henry was one of the first members of the Women's Institute formed in 1920. Their son was Postmaster of Kingsland until his death a few months ago.

TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.

THE JUBILEE WAGON WORKS for many years employed a number of men – blacksmiths, carpenters and wheelwrights. The works yard was behind the old black-and-white house opposite the School. Here the famous Jubilee

wagons were made, for which the Proprietor, George Lewis, was awarded a bronze medal by the Herefordshire Agricultural Society in 1881.

All kinds of agricultural implements were made here, and the houses known as the Jubilee Buildings were built by George Lewis. There were always three or four apprentices living in the house and getting their training.

George Lewis built the first Fire Station in Kingsland in 1894 for £14.10.0., and put two new boarded floors in 1897 in the School House for £10. His son William carried on until his death, and the businesses closed in June, 1951.

BLACKSMITHS & WHEELWRIGHTS.

John Crump in 1854 was a blacksmith and spade-tree maker at the Red Lion. Others at the same date were Leake, a blacksmith at Cobnash, Edward Brown at West Town, George Bray, wheelwright and John Griffiths at Lawton. Littlebury's Directory for 1867 gives the names of 8 smiths and wheelwrights.

Later, "Chris" Lewis established himself as blacksmith and wheelwright in North Road. His premises are now occupied by John Preece, builder, etc.

In succeeding years there were many changes, but the smithy at Cobnash, carried on by George Davies and after him by his sons and grandsons, is a very busy place still. Both the sons remember the days when on Fridays they were shoeing horses from 5.30 in the morning until dusk; four shoes on a horse 2/4d., a pony 2/-. The work done now is of a very different character; much more welding is required in the repairs of new machinery. Examples of the craftsmanship of this family may be seen in the ironwork of the great new West door of the Priory Church, Leominster, and in the altar rails of Monkland Church, and soon may be seen in the handsome iron gates to be erected at the entrance to the Coronation Hall (in honour of our Queen's Coronation).

There is still a wheelwright at Cobnash.

LATHCLEAVERS were William Groves, Kingsland, 1857, and George Weaver of Aston, 1859. So many walls in the Parish are lath and plaster and these men found a great need for their work.

SPADE-TREE MAKERS were (1854) James Broadhurst at Aston, who was also a farmer and timber merchant, and in 1867 James Bray at the Red Lion.

A COOPER was William Perks of Longford (d.1884), succeeded in the trade by his son. The small barrels called Kostrells carried by the farm labourers for their cider were made here.

A SADDLER, Charles Sankey, had his shop near the Corners Inn, where Sergt. Preece now carries on his cycle business. Besides doing excellent saddlery, Mr. Sankey was a noted football maker. The saddle used by Fred Fox in his first race was made by Charles Sankey.

TAILORS. Cassey's Directory of Herefordshire for 1858 gives James Scandrett, Brook Bridge, as tailor, draper, and farmer, and in 1867 he was still so occupied but was also Parish Clerk. In this year George Stephens is mentioned as grocer, beer retailer, tailor and general dealer, and Edward Butler, tailor.

Preece, of Prospect Cottage, and Edwards, of Drybridge, made the suits for the Lucton boys. Another tailor was Harris of Mousenatch.

CLOGGS used to be fashioned in Kingsland, cutters coming down from the river to cut the alders, shaping them and sending them North to be finished.

FLY-DRESSER. As long ago as 1858 Richard Thomas Williams carried on this work at Lugg Green Cottage. His flies were known in many countries where trout and grayling are found and angled for. He is remembered by many – a very nice old man. Boys would be paid ½ d. for a pair of starling's or jay's wings. The tiny pair of scissors he used for his delicate work is treasured by a great-niece.

"A river called the Lugg, in Winter fierce and wild,
But in the Summer murmuring soft as accents of a child,
Beneath whose banks the speckled trout and silver graylings lie,
Waiting with open mouth to catch the artificial fly."

(Hereford Journal, about 1880)

JOINERY AND CABINET MAKING. Thomas Wall at Lawton in 1858 later carried on this business at Brook End, near Kingsland Station, and also farmed the land there. His advertisement in 1881 ran:

"Wall & Sons, Coachbuilders – Dealers and restorers of old oak –
Chippendale furniture – Large stock on hand – Works near Kingsland
Station."

Thomas Wall was the maker of the fine piece of furniture in black oak to be seen at the Monument, and also of the oak table in the vestry, showing his name and that of the Rector, the Revd. W. Bradley, and the initials B.L.S. 1878. His two sons, Albert Dickens Wall and Arthur W. Wall, carried on business at Brook End after his death, until Albert went to the Monument where his widow is still the landlady. Arthur Wall remained at Brook End and carried on the business until 1931. (5 over-written).

CARPENTERS. Carpenters in 1858 are John Jay, William Jay, John Luggar and James Stevens. John Jay, whose photograph appears in this book, was sexton for 46 years. John Luggar came of a family whose antecedents were in Kingsland in the time of James II, and whose descendants are still here. James Stevens lived at Woodbine Cottage, and was also a builder.

SHOEMAKERS. Shoes were made in the village as well as repaired. In 1854 James Bassett at Longford, and in 1858 James Greenhouse and Joseph Williams, were all shoemakers. Much later than this people remember three or four carrying on business at the same time in the village and having plenty to do. The first shoemaker who made boots for the Lucton School boys was

named Lavender. His boots had straight sides and could be worn on either foot. The Dunns were also shoemakers. By 1937 only one remained in Kingsland – Mr. Dyke. Now a visiting boot-repairer comes to Kingsland once a week from Pembridge and works in a small building opposite the Stores.

CYCLE SHOP. In 1902 John Arthur Timothy had a cycle shop at the Laurels. He was also a photographer, and took many of the old photographs which appear in this history.

THE SAW MILLS.

Kingsland Saw Mills adjoined the Station, where there has been a timber yard for many years. The hand saws, the steam-driven saws, have now been replaced by electric power, and all the equipment is up-to-date.

About 1921 the only Aerial Railway in the country was erected for carrying pit-props from Lyepole to Kingsland (3 ½ miles). It was called locally "The Cradle Railway". The pit props were stacked in the "cradles" which swung along on an endless cable. The engine which drove this was in the field near the Saw Mills. "You could see them swinging along for miles away." Occasionally there was a spill and the props would be shed on to the fields. The Proprietor of the Saw Mills became bankrupt and the Aerial Railway was dismantled and sold to a continental firm.

In 1931 the owner, Mr. Taylor, died and the business was sold to W.H. Aston of Worcester. On his death in 1941 his three sons made the Saw Mills a Limited Company with Mr. W.F. Williams as Manager. His nephew is the present Manager.

The Saw Mills employ on an average from 18 – 20 men. For a time 4 girls worked there on cotton bobbins. A considerable amount of local timber is sawn into materials for railway wagons, and much despatched to Tyneside for ship-building. Boxes are made and sent to South Wales for packing tin-plate in, and to Thynnes at Holmer for packing tiles for export.

Wood is sawn here and despatched to the Midlands for the furniture trade, and also coffin boards. Field gates are made on the premises. Some of the large oak and walnut bought in the district is sent into France to be cut into Veneer.

THE BARK YARD.

The bark yard which was near Kingsland Saw Mills was an open shed, part timber. The bark was peeled from the trees in the woods at Oaker and Street and brought to the bark yard, usually by donkey carts. There was an old man named Mason at Lugg Green who is said to have had eleven donkeys. Three are remembered by name – Bonny, Rip and Scamp – "the best donkeys to work that could be found anywhere".

On arriving at the bark yard, the bark was piled into ricks. Men would carry it in baskets (made at Balls Gate) on their heads up ladders and build the rick. When high enough the ricks would be thatched with bark, "and very pretty they looked, done so evenly".

A number of men were employed chopping the bark into short lengths "using linseed oil to prevent their choppers sticking". When ready the bark was bagged and sent from Kingsland Station for tanning.

Mr. Allen, once landlord of the Corners Inn, had the bark yard for some years. He provided bread and cheese for the men at work there – a huge cheese, perhaps half-a-cwt., to last the season, and fresh bread every day. The cheese was kept on a table in the shed. Fred Reynolds says that his first paid job was to take Mr. Allen's own dinner to the bark yard every day, for doing which he got 1/- per week.

For 50 years or so there has been no bark yard. The old man with his team of donkeys used to take faggots, pea sticks, etc. round the village and he and his wife made besoms.

The TIMBER TRADE was an important one in Kingsland. Arnold Stephens and his sons engaged in it. They would buy acres of woods, cut and haul timber. Gunthorpe was another in the same trade. "There was timber everywhere in Kingsland in the old days." The great horses which hauled the big timber have disappeared almost as completely as the donkeys, the great tractors now do their work.

QUARRYING was carried out at two places in the Parish: at Street Court, where the stone for the School came from, and at Cobnash where now is the Rural District Council's tip for refuse.

BRICKS were made at Baskets Gate, where the clay pits can still be seen, and where a brick was recently uncovered, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$, which was a usual size in old brickyards. Bricks from this yard were used in the enlarging of Lucton School in 1880.

BONE MILL. Samuel Fowler, of Drybridge, advertises his genuine bone manure in Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire in 1867. He died in 1909.

ARROW MILL. This old mill on the Arrow, in Kingsland Parish, is more particularly described by Eardisland Women's Institute. A descendant of Thomas Davies, for 30 years a Guardian of Kingsland Parish, lives in the house near.

Thomas Davies, according to the books of the Leominster Board of Guardians, was most regular in his attendance at meetings (1854 and onwards) with his Rector, the Revd. R.D. Evans. He also represented Kingsland on the Highway Board.

LUGG MILL on the Lugg is the Kingsland mill mentioned in Domesday Book. It is still busy grinding corn, and has been throughout this 100 years. In 1856 Mrs. Elizabeth Caldecott was occupier, and later the family of Evans (two brothers, the backbone of the Choir, 1897 onwards). Mr. Griffiths, the present miller, points out that the mill wheels are of cast iron, and were cast at Merediths of Kington.

MORTIMER'S CROSS MILL, on the Lugg, has done no grinding for some years.

WATERLOO MILL (the old part of the mill was built in the year of the Battle of Waterloo, 1815) on the Pinsley no longer functions as a mill. Cider was made there until 1935 and corn was ground for a few years after that. It was found that the water-power was insufficient, and Mr. Hellaby moved to Mortimer's Cross mill on the Lugg.

The mill and the Elms were owned by the Gethin family. Occupiers of the Mill in the last 100 years were Lloyd, Lewis, Francis, Hellaby, and Langford.

The weir at Waterloo mill made a pretty picture in 1897 when a photograph appeared in the 'Leominster News', and the Pinsley widened out into a large pool where there were swans. The weir has gone, and the pool.

John Lewis, fruit grower, farmer and cider maker, was a very prosperous occupier of Waterloo Mill. At the sale, January 29th 1884, after his death, were advertised 1,000 gallons of choice Barland and Moorcroft Perry, and 1,200 gallons of prime cider. Most of it went to London and was highly thought of.

John Lewis had his desk in the Corn Exchange, Leominster where he showed his samples of corn and flour, etc. He rode there and back on a fine white horse, always returning about 4 o'clock, by Ginhall Lane.

One day in Leominster a woman happened to hear two men planning to attack Mr. Lewis on his way home. "He always goes that way – he'll have about £20 on him," etc., etc. She informed the police, who hid themselves in Ginhall Lane and captured the ruffians as they were about to attack Mr. Lewis. ('Leominster News')

Among items of furniture in the sale were a "stump" bedstead, and a "Bradford" washing machine, invented by a relative of Mr. Bradford of the Royal Oak, Leominster. Sad to say, it was of no use whatsoever!

W. BENGRY & SONS LTD. LONGMORE GARAGE KINGSLAND.

FROM HORSE AND CART HAULING – a one-man business - to a firm employing 50 men and doing work of national importance.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bengry lived at Longmore when it was a little cottage, and by degrees they added to it and have made it into a comfortable house. The following is his own story:

"When I was a boy – 12 years old – my father had horses and carts and did hauling for the Wigmore R.D.C. One day, when we were working on Deerfold, Mr. Fleming was discussing some Parish Council business with my father. Mr. Fleming said he had an interest in a firm building steam tractors, and, "Why don't you go in for it, Mr. Bengry, with your young sons coming on?" My father said he had no capital with which to start, on which Mr. Fleming said "I've known you a good many years and I'll lend you the money." After much discussion my father accepted his offer and borrowed £550, paying a £12 deposit. That money was all repaid in monthly instalments over 4 years.

The first steam tractor to run under the Motor Car Act of 1903 was purchased by Mr. Bengry Snr., and did good service until 1909, when he and his wife went to Lewis's of Basingstoke and bought another tractor and trailer secondhand for £150. It took two years to pay for it. We hauled anything and everything – coal, manure, stone, working for either the Wigmore R.D.C. or the Leominster R.D.C., and for anyone who wanted anything moved anywhere. We would be on the road at 6 o'clock in the morning, and there were no settled hours, and no half-day on Saturdays.

In 1917 we bought a new steam tractor, bigger and more up-to-date, with steel tyres. In 1921 we bought two tractors for £440 each, and in the following year a Clayton for £1,280. By 1925 we had five tractors on the road, but the motor was coming into its own and we could see that we should have to change to that method. In 1928 we had the expense of fitting all vehicles with solid rubber tyres.

In April, 1932, we bought the first motor lorry, a Ford 2-tonner, and in the following September a bigger one – a Bedford – in that year the cost being £250 new. Then in 1933 came the depression, and business was very bad; we could only buy secondhand vehicles. We got a good Thorneycroft with pneumatic tyres for £17.10.0. and a Sentinel Steam wagon for £25, and we continued to convert from steam to internal combustion engines.

By 1935 under the Road Traffic Act we had the largest claimed tonnage under an 'A' carriers' licence in the County. But the Government, trying to stop the drift of traffic from the railways to roads, raised the Road Fund Tax for all steam vehicles from £45 to £120. This obliged us to sell for scrap price our most modern steam vehicle. We replaced it with two Leylands with internal combustion engines costing £575 each. In 1937 we bought 4 new Bedfords, 3-tonners.

In 1938 there appeared to be a terrific competition between manufacturers to build the largest possible vehicle to operate at 30 m.p.h. Leylands produced a 6-ton vehicle and we purchased three at £850 each. In 1938 and 1939 aerodromes and Army barracks were being built and great improvements made at Rotherwas factories. We hauled thousands of tons of Clee Hill stone all over the country to produce dark surface runways.

When War broke out that September, a number of our vehicles were requisitioned by the War Department. We were given a written-down book

value, and permission to replace them with secondhand vehicles as and when available. During the Battle of Britain we had to evacuate school equipment from the South-east coast. One school we brought from that bombed area to Lingen Hall, and the night after they arrived bombs were dropped in the woods behind the Hall. At this time also some of our vehicles were in convoy taking ammunition from Royal Ordnance Factories direct to aerodromes, and the greater part of the driving was done at night with only a spot of light. We might have an S.O.S. one day, "muster so many vehicles to be at Southampton by 8 in the morning"; as soon as the boat docked vehicles were waiting to be loaded.

We had some vehicles on loan to the U.S. Army from 1943 until "D-day" handling war supplies. We often collected aircraft engines from the docks and took them to depots to be assembled.

In 1944 we had our first permit for a new vehicle. During the War our depot at Longmore had become a very important part of our business; we even made two complete lorries out of spare parts. "I don't know how we lived through it." No clerk was allowed us, and the paper work was dreadful. Returns for the U.S. Army were worse than our own. All this clerical work was done by Mr. A. Bengry and his son W.H., who would also be driving 1,500 or 1,600 miles every week, and many a night would have only three or four hours' sleep. The same applied to Albert Bengry, Jnr.

We had men of many nationalities working for us; some p.o.w.s on which we kept a watchful eye; a Polish blacksmith did excellent work while with us, and a Czech bodybuilder who made us a fine office chair out of an old body.

After "V.E.-day" in 1945 we had to adapt ourselves to peace-time conditions. The roads had been so badly damaged by the heavy vehicles that there was much hauling to be done to improve these. We also hauled sand and aggregates (concrete, etc.) to build the Artillery Range between Brecon and Builth.

In 1946 we bought the stock-hauling business of G.E. Morgan, rebuilt the vehicles and built new bodies from our own design. After the war all new vehicles were wanted for export, so we went to W.D. sales all over the country. At Byram Park, Yorkshire, there were 25,000 vehicles for sale; we bought 8 or 10 and adapted them for our purpose. Also a tank, which W.H. drove all the way to Kingsland, coming through Birmingham – we wanted that for the plating. We also bought other lorries, cars, boats, Bren gun carriers, tyres – anything that would give us useful materials.

In 1948 we were building timber trailers and vehicles suitable for entry into the heavy timber trade and also heavy indivisible traffic haulage. We built the trailer that took the "Skylon" from Hereford to the South Bank at Battersea, the only firm in the West of England that could do it.

So we continued to develop until we were nationalised on November 9th, 1949. (Mr.A.Bengry, Snr: "And I have given all these details so that it may be

understood what it meant to me when the business that I had worked so hard at, and had put so many hours in, was taken away from me.") The Government took 41 vehicles and trailers. Longmore, our home, listed as a farmhouse, they could not take; they paid rent for the premises and used them as a main repair depot. We had a staff of about 50 at the time, and 40 went over to the British Road Services, who continued to operate from our premises.

Not a penny was paid by the Government for the business for three-and-a-half years, when the settlement was at last made. It was a different matter in 1954, when we wanted to buy from the Government under the de-nationalisation scheme, when the money for a vehicle had to be produced at the time of purchase. Our first purchase, in March 1954, was a 13-ton Diesel; we continued buying vehicles during the following twelve months, and our present fleet is 10 'A'- licensed vehicles with a carrying capacity of 7 to 17 tons."

W. Bengry and Sons in 1937 took up Agricultural contracting work, and went on expanding that side of their business during the War. They have all the latest equipment; combines, balers, and threshing machines.

In 1949 they turned their attention to Civil engineering and plant-hire work, and have bull-dozers (American and British), excavators, compressors and Diesel road rollers.

In 1950 a modern oil-fired grain drier was built at Longmore; 4 tons of grain can be dried in an hour. They have silos which hold 1,000 tons of dried grain, and storage silos for wet grain; an automatic intake weigher, pneumatic and mechanical conveying equipment, and also an automatic weighing machine to weigh and sack dry grain.

Messrs. Bengry and Sons are now in process of opening their own road-stone quarry at Leinthall, installing modern crushing equipment.

The enterprise and capacity for work is continuing in the third generation of this family, which has built up this great business in Kingsland.

THE POST OFFICE.

THE POST OFFICE has been in several different houses in the village, but until 1870 the location is not known, though some think it was in the Bell.

In 1851 John Davies was postmaster, when "letters arrive from London and all parts every morning at 7 a.m. and are despatched at 20 minutes past 6.

In 1858 Thomas Morris was postmaster, and letters arrived from Leominster at a quarter past 9 a.m. and were despatched at a quarter to five p.m. by mail cart.

Mrs. Ann Baker was postmistress in 1867, and in 1873 Walter Deane the Schoolmaster had the Post Office in the School Porch. He died in 1879, and his wife took over the Post Office. Her son is remembered as taking out telegrams on a penny-farthing bicycle, the first man in Kingsland to ride one.

In 1881 William Brindley became sub-postmaster and was so for several years.

In 1885 the first wall letter box was placed at Brook Bridge. Ten years later there were two more of these, at Shirlheath and West Town. Mrs. Nock remembers driving with Mrs. Brindley in a pony cart to deliver telegrams.

By this time the Post Office was at the house known as Grey Cote, and the postmaster was Thomas Dunne. He carried on a business as shoemaker also. He died in 1906, and the Post Office went across the road to Mrs. Breakwell at Vartry House.

In 1926 Sidney Davies Williams became sub-postmaster, and the office was a hut in the Croase yard. This hut is now at the Angel and is occasionally used for meetings.

The Post Office was next at the Brick House, and moved to the Angel Cottage about 1939. S.D. Williams was postmaster until he died in 1955. He had a great fund of humour and was so kind in his dealings with all that his loss is very sincerely regretted. His work was far more arduous than that of previous postmasters; he saw the great increase in number of pensions payable – in children's allowances – in the use of the telephone.

Aston had no letter box until 1930; a telephone kiosk in 1952 was a great boon.

John Sankey was postman in 1865 and continued for several years; then Charles Sankey, his son, was postman, and the horn he carried and sounded to announce his arrival is still to be seen in the cottage of his descendants. Letters used to arrive from Leominster and be despatched from Kingsland by train, and Charles Sankey wheeling his truck with the mails to or from the Station was a familiar sight to many. He died in 1946, aged 80.

A postman remembered by the older generation was Fred Wooding. He always wore a "mother-cut-down" hat into which he put the letters. His son George was also a postman for 21 years; walking from Kingsland to Wigmore (about 5 ½ miles), delivering at the houses on the way, for 16/- per week. He said "Such loads as we had to carry, until they took to weighing them and it was stopped".

Mrs. Postans, who died in February 1955, aged 92, did a round for several years, including the period of the 1914-18 War.

Another postwoman was Mrs. E. Woodhouse. For 24 years she faithfully discharged her duties, and on her retirement (189?) from her office as

postwoman a testimonial, promoted by J. Edwards and H. Stevens, on her behalf, realised the substantial sum of £5,16.3d.

AGRICULTURE.

KINGSLAND IS A PARISH of mixed farming, and though fewer men are employed on the land than formerly, it has never been so well cultivated as at present. The farmers engage in cattle-rearing and milk production, there being excellent pastures.

The arable land produces fine crops of wheat, oats, hops, barley, beet (since about 1926) and other root crops.

Agriculture has been a depressed industry, but two great wars have had the effect of raising it to its proper status in the National economy.

The following figures show comparative scale of wages:

1875	9/- to 11/- per week; house rent free.
1909-1916	12/- to 17/- per week; house rent free.
1917	wages were controlled at 25/- per week, and rents might not be increased.
1923	48/- per week was the minimum.
1939	wages down to 34/- minimum. A bonus of about £2 for Harvest.

There have been many increases, until in 1955 to-day wages are £6.7.0. for general workers, and £7.0.0. per week for stockmen.

There was no control of hours until 1920. Men worked from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m., and waggoners and stockmen had some work on Sundays too. To-day the hours are 47 per week, with a fortnight's holiday each year in addition to Bank Holidays.

In the early days three quarts of cider was allowed to each man, and they also had help in kind – perhaps a row of potatoes in a field, skim milk, rabbits, help in the feeding of a pig – and the farmer's wife would give cast-off clothes, dripping, etc. It was a hard, hard life, though they are remembered here as happy and strong. Too many of their children died in infancy, and no-one wants to "put the clock back".

Few wagons now rumble along the hayfields with "crowds of happy children having a ride". The hay is cut and baled by machinery; a large field can be cleared in a day by a man and boy – sometimes the farmer alone – and "the headache has gone out of haymaking". An old type Fordson Major with steel wheels appeared in Kingsland in 1932, two more tractors in 1935, and by 1940 they had become general. In 1945 a combine corn-drill was used here for the first time; the combine harvester reaps and threshes in the field.

In 1916 the urgent need for corn meant a change from grass to arable farming. By 1923 the land went rapidly back to grass, until in 1940 the farmers were compelled to plough it.

(misc note from WI Scrap)

The Kingsland Stores are owned and run by Wing Commander James and his wife assisted by Mrs East, Mrs Nash, and Mrs Wall, and also by Mr George Wall who delivers by van all round the district. A large and varied stock of groceries, frozen foods and sweets is carried, also a selection of stationery, haberdashery, proprietary medicines, toilet goods and household wares – in the best traditions of the “village shop”

Walter Mitchell – butcher (pic in w I scrap)