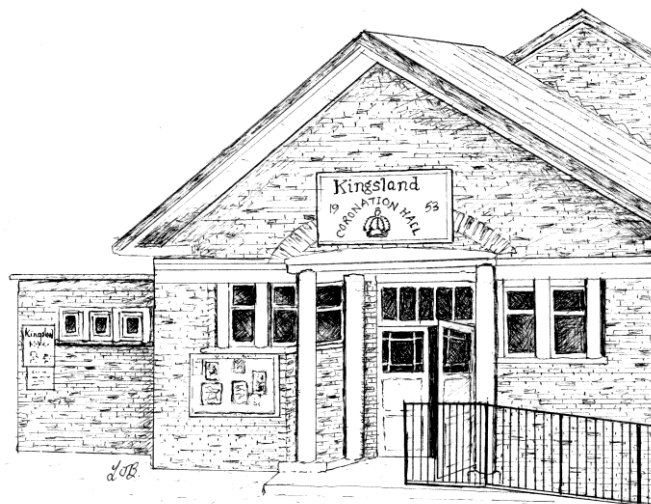


# *Kingsland News*

## *January 2023*



A Very Happy New Year to all our readers!

Dear Parishioners,

Follow the Star has been the theme of our Christmas this year and as we enter 2023 we come to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. As well as time to put away your Christmas Decorations, it is a time to remember those wise men from the East (Persia – modern day Iran) who saw a star that they followed out of the land they were familiar with, to find somebody worth making the effort for. They found Jesus and after paying him homage and worshipping him, they returned home to carry the Good News to the world outside Bethlehem.

Wow – don't we need good news. Everywhere we look there is difficulty and pain, and the news on television is rarely good. We have seen a renewed interest in the Christian Faith this year – from families attending Messy Church, I Sing Pop services and Open the Book, to fresh faces at our Bible Study Group, Craft and Chat. Choir, Steel Pans and weekly services. I hope this desire to seek for good news leads us on journeys of finding treasure on the way. There is treasure to be found in the

Year of Prayer that is being run by the diocese, which has many speakers to help you develop your prayer life. I commend to you a week of guided prayer where you sign up to discuss your prayers with someone outside this parish, who will accompany you and aid you on your journey. Go onto the Hereford Diocesan Website and look for week of guided prayer, be brave and sign up.

Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. He will lead me beside still waters; He shall refresh my soul...

I will be on a journey myself this Spring, a sabbatical journey for 3 months, on leave from duties in the parish. I will immerse myself in my first love of music and seek out both old and new music used in worship and its ability to take us on a journey towards God. I am to travel but also re-engage with playing the oboe and hope that there will be a concert as a result of this time.

In the meantime please contact Peter King (churchwarden) to access help and support on 01568 782399. His will

be the central number to phone during this time, and he will give you the right person to help. Rev Katie Smith works Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays and will cover funerals, and Rev Michael Denny will help with pastoral work along with Canon Janet Russell who will come and take some Sunday services. Wendy Maddocks will oversee children's work and between them and the other wardens (Jean after mid Feb, Christina Harris and Pam Morgan) and church PCC, you will be well looked after.

January holds two events to entertain you. Firstly on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm there will be a concert run by all the parishes in our group. It is my husband and 3 friends of his who will sing à Capella a mix of folk and well known music to delight and entertain. Tickets cost £10, including light refreshments in the interval, and are available from your churchwardens. Please come! It will be my last event before signing off. Secondly there is a quiz night on 21<sup>st</sup> January in the Coronation Hall and there will be more details in this magazine.

I will be back on 16<sup>th</sup> April and look forward to hearing what you have all been up to and I pray for God's blessing on you all. With love,

**Julie**

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## St Michael and All Angels and “Eco Church”



Eco Church is a project run in partnership with Christian Aid, The Church of England, The Methodist Church,

Tearfund, The United Reformed Church and Allchurches Trust Limited.

The project is designed to enable us to express how we care for God's World in worship and teaching; in how we look after the church and its land; in how we engage with our local community, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation and community.

In 2021 St Michael and All Angels Church completed the unique online Eco Survey describing how we are caring for different areas of life and work. The answers we provided collected points towards an Eco Church Award; the more we were able to demonstrate that we do, the more points we got! We submitted the results of our survey, and we were awarded an Eco Church Bronze Award.

Not satisfied with a bronze award we decided in 2022 to update the answers we gave in 2021 to reflect changes we have made at the Church following Covid and completion of the restoration project. We submitted the results of our updated survey in November and have gained a Silver Award!

The PCC at St Michael and All Angels would like to encourage the Kingsland community to help us care for God's World in the following ways:

- Where possible walking or cycling to church services and events promoted by Church,

- Reducing their personal energy consumption, not difficult in today's world!
- Limiting waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle,
- Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods,
- Use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade),
- Where possible ethical investment of personal savings.
- Protecting flora and fauna in the Churchyard, cemetery, our gardens, farmland, and the countryside.

*Richard Harris* (Eco Church Coordinator)

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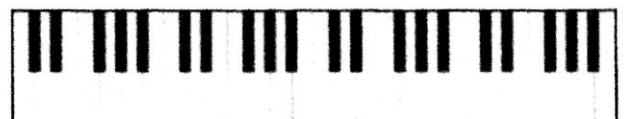
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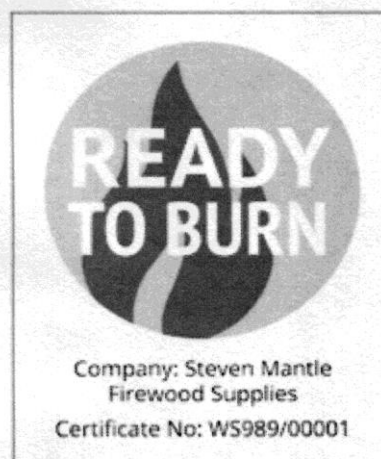
We're open from 9.45am to 6pm Wednesday to Saturday and 9.45am to 4pm Sunday. Come down and have a look! For senior citizens - a 10% discount off the full café menu!

Please contact us on 01568709212 or [mortimersgrange@outlook.com](mailto:mortimersgrange@outlook.com)  
Check out our Facebook page at The Grange at Mortimers Cross.

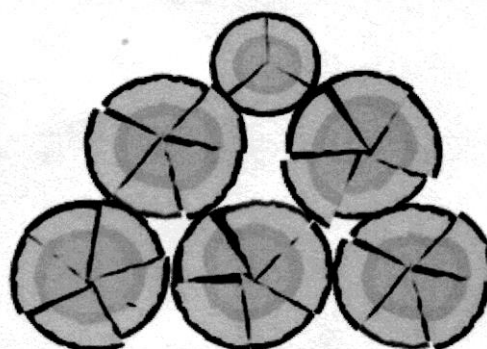
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## **Kingsland Flower Show AGM**

This is a notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Kingsland Flower Show will be held in the Tea Room of Kingsland Village Shop at 7.00pm on Monday 16 January 2023.

New and active members are constantly being sought, so if you think you fit the bill, please come along to the AGM. Also, if you have suggestions for the format of the Show, come and air your views.

***Kingsland Flower Show Committee***

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## Kingsland Royal British Legion Branch

December has seen two events take place. Firstly, the reinstated Annual Dinner which was well supported by members and local supporters. Thank you to all who came along, we hope you enjoyed the talk by Sebastian Bowen on his life experiences. Unfortunately, the weather and illness took its toll on the attendance at the second event, the annual widow and widower's lunch but thank you to Corners Inn staff and friends who delivered meals to those housebound and for excellent meals at both events.

There is no meeting in January but the next meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at The Corners Inn at 7.30 pm will be a talk by Joe Seeney on The Dinedor Secret Army. I have been informed that this will be about Defence of the UK, Herefordshire Auxiliary Units and Home Guard of Herefordshire, The Dinedor Patrol and other Herefordshire Secret Organisations. Check the posters for more details and do come along and join us. You do not have to be a member although new members are always welcome.

**Val Davis** (Secretary 01568 708681)

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### Ask the Question *by Rick*

I first met Andy in a City Infants School, when I was five! He seemed fitter and more athletic than most of us, and was good at games of all sorts at a very young age. Despite the fact that he was somewhat shorter than the average boys of his age, his energetic and confident approach to life... and his willingness to attempt any task or challenge, made him very popular. He thoroughly enjoyed playing football in the school playground or on the nearby common.

It was natural that he and I got together, as Andy lived just a few hundred yards away from me, in an adjacent street. He had to be self-sufficient from an early age as both his parents were working, and he often had to prepare his own lunchtime 'feast'...alternatively, he would come round to scrounge a 'bite to eat' at my house!

In school, he lounged at his desk – ignoring his teacher's clear instructions to 'Sit-up straight and pay attention!'

Andy continued his wayward path all through our time in the Infants School and up into the Junior School, where, far from settling down to his studies, he became even more confident and continued to do 'his own thing'. In class, he took to questioning the teacher on the very clear instruction that we were being given. More frequently, he put his hand up to say 'Why?' At first, the rest of the class thought that he was just being awkward.. or 'showing off'. Then it began to become clear to us all that the teacher's response to his questioning helped us all to understand that particular topic much better. Others tended to follow his example.

It was at this stage that my family left City life to come to the 'rural idyll' that is Kingsland! I lost touch with all my school mates.

Many years later, by chance, I found out about Andy's subsequent life. Not quite what I expected! Andy not only completed his way through Senior School... and then through University. He married, and eventually progressed to be headmaster of a prestigious grammar school! In his leisure time and retirement, he became an eminent Chess champion, respected by all!

I am proud to have known him in his formative years. It's surprising what status you can achieve by saying 'Why!'

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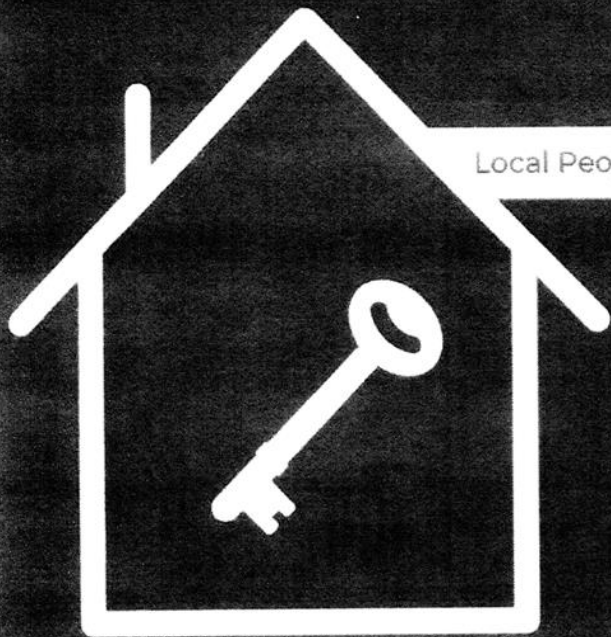


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### Church Services in the Benefice for January

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January		Christmas 2
10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January		Epiphany & Plough Sunday
9.30 am	I Sing Pop Service	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
11.00 am	BCP Holy Communion	Aymestrey
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January		Epiphany 2
8.00am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
3.30 pm	Evensong	Leinthall Earls
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January		Epiphany 3
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
9.30 am	'Open the Book' Service	Aymestrey
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> January		Epiphany 4
10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Kingsland

And at 9.30 am each Thursday Morning a 'said' Holy Communion. The venue changes regularly. Ring Rev. Katie Smith (07775486521) for details

### The Parish Diary, 2023

*(Editor's note: Events for this item need to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> of preceding month with clear instructions on the entry – **place, time, date & title** are essential information. Where more than one month's notice is given, items will automatically be repeated unless contrary instructions are received.)*

#### January

Note: No RBL meeting in January

14 <sup>th</sup>	Concert by Nick Read and friends (see Pg. 15)	Aymestrey Village Hall	7.00 pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Show AGM	Village Shop & Tea Room	7.00pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	SMAAAK event: Quiz Night	Coronation Hall	7.00 for 7.30 pm

#### February

6 <sup>th</sup> RBL	Talk: By Joe Seeney (see page )	Corners Inn	7.30 pm
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#### March

6 <sup>th</sup> RBL	Talk by Fran Kilby. The History of Military Bands	Corners Inn	7.30 pm
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#### April

3 <sup>rd</sup>	RBL Quiz	Corners inn	7.30 pm
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## News from the Chapels.

**This month's John Wesley:** Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

**Christmas Card competition** The Exhibition of cards in the chapel on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December was impressive. Obviously many people had taken a lot of trouble over their entries. There was a mixture of media including collage, watercolour, felt pen, coloured pencil and needlework.

Unfortunately there were no entries in the 16 and under class.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

**7 years and under** 1<sup>st</sup>: Talia McLaurin Darby, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rosette Crick, Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hadley Hallam Wilf Higgs, Highly Commended: James Traynor

**11 years and under** 1<sup>st</sup>: Eleanor Hallam, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jacob Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Louise Tomkins, Highly Commended: Perry Edwards, Sophie Davies

**Adults** 1<sup>st</sup>: Sharon O'Connell, Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>: Melinda Crook, Mrs. K. A. Traynor.

This event will take place again next year so start planning.

**Smile train:** Just over £600 has been raised for this charity through the coffee morning, 'Bring and buy' and additional sales.

**Fair Trade sale:** This took £355 which was a good start after Covid and 3 years absence.

**Collections:** We are still collecting used stamps and spectacles. The stamps are sold for the benefit of the Leprosy Mission, which treats the disease and helps families affected to access education and set up small businesses.

**Advance Notice:** The World Day of Prayer service will take place in Kingsland Chapel on Friday, 3rd March 2023

### Regular activities in the Chapel

Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings: Yoga

Tuesday evening: Kingsland Knitters

Wednesday Morning: Village Art Clubs

Wednesday Afternoon: Writers' Group (fortnightly)

Wednesday Evening: Bridge

Thursday Morning: Craft Group

8 <sup>th</sup> January	Leintwardine	Sharon O'Connell	
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Kingsland	Sharon O'Connell	
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Shobdon	Mrs S Jones	
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Lingen	Mrs V Thomas	Covenant Service & Holy Communion

All services are at 10.30 am unless indicated otherwise. Please contact me on 708992 if you need a lift to services or anything else.

*Lesley Pitchford*

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## Nature Notes

As I write these notes in Mid-December we are experiencing an unusually early start to winter ,with a fair covering of snow and plunging temperatures down to - 10 °C! Will this mark, as it did back in 1947, 1963, and again in 1982 an exceptionally long and hard winter in the UK? Time will no doubt tell!

An early casualty of the cold spell in the village was a visit to a villager's fish pond by an adventurous otter ,on its travels from the River Lugg and taking out half a dozen or so of their prize Golden Orfe fish in their garden fish pond!

Mind otters, like other mammals, will travel long distances to secure tasty morsels ,if they can find them and seem to know just where to look.

The snow of course provides for the detectives amongst us a chance to examine all the animal tracks and you can then see just how populated your garden is, with an array of rabbit, squirrel, Badger , and fox foot prints, together with all manner of birds from the odd pheasant down to our resident robins, blackbirds , & blue tits. Don't forget to fill up your bird tables with an assortment of seeds to help sustain them through the winter and at the same time give you a chance to watch their antics as they compete for what is on the table. But always protect this from another thief, the grey squirrel who is a pretty efficient burglar when it comes to it and can break into most bird feeders !

Just before the snow arrived, I noticed the snowdrops and other bulbs were just starting to push their heads up out of the ground but this cold spell may have curtailed that for now. With the turn of the year and the shortest day now behind us , hopefully spring will start to get under way and Mr Mole. who was starting to have a

go at digging up part of the lawn whilst foraging for tasty earth worms is starting to get very active !.

Well where would we be in Herefordshire at this time of year, if we didn't have our lovely cider apple and other fruit orchards. The good old annual appearance, on either New Year's Eve or Twelfth Night, of the Wassailers and the Morris men, who dance around the trees, tie toast, soaked in last year's cider, to hang up in the trees, and pour some, but not all, of the cider around the tree roots. (drink the rest of it, such a shame to throw it away!) and finally fire a few shotguns off into the branches to scare off evil spirits. The objective in all seriousness is to promote a good crop next year. This past years fruit harvest, despite the drought, was, I think due to the high and late warm temperatures, of exceptional quality ,

Listen out also at this time of year. You can often hear the scream of a Vixen calling to attract a male suitor as with the lengthening days they enter their breeding season. At night, working our hedgerows for its supper the dear old Barn Owl appears, providing a bright flash of white against the night, as it seeks out its prey.

On the migratory Salmon front it is not looking good news this year. Reports of salmon cutting their redds on Arrow or Lugg this time are few and far between. Why remains a mystery. They are an important barometer to climate change and an indicator of just how healthy our rivers are. Citizen scientists are busy helping the Environmental Agency by sampling our rivers and streams to test, check and report levels of Nitrate, Phosphate and other pollutants, water temperatures etc. to try and identify the causes.

**Jackdaw**

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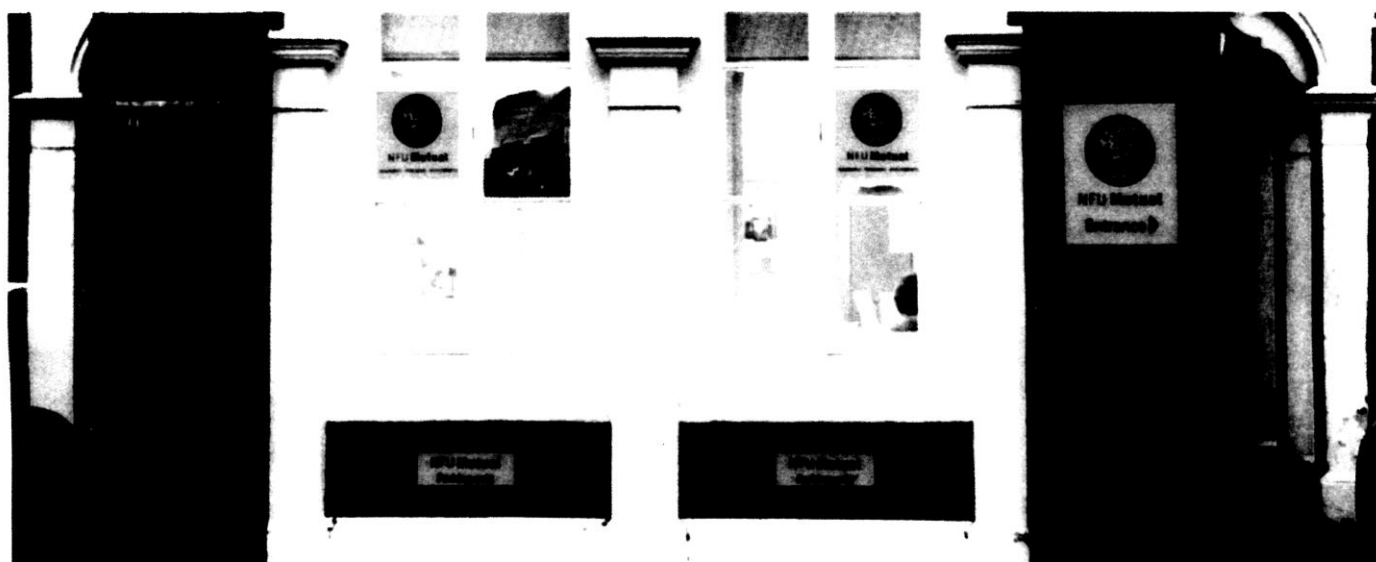
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## Luctonians Sports Club

Since my last report our firsts have lost one match narrowly and won the other two. The loss was at Hinckley where we went down by 24 points to 20. I did not see the game but several of our supporters whose opinions I respect told me the referee awarded them a try that should have been disallowed, the try that won them the match. Upon reflection the ref must have realised he had erred because afterwards he apologized to our head coach Ryan Watkins for his mistake. C'est la vie.

Our next game was against Newport, a side who are struggling this season. We won 27 – 7 but two yellow cards in the final quarter underpowered us and we failed to add the fourth try and a bonus point. On the same afternoon our seconds beat Tamworth 20 – 12 and our thirds came away from Clee Hill with a 19 – 0 victory, - happens occasionally and always sweet.

The penultimate match before Christmas promised to be our sternest test of the season, a match against Clifton a club with a pedigree and ambitions. They were averaging 40 points per match, were second in the league, were undefeated at home and the previous Saturday had travelled down to Cornwall to come away with the scalp of Redruth, no mean feat, and scoring 44 points in the process. Even the most ardent of Luctonian supporters must have travelled to Bristol with slight flutters of apprehension. But we turned in a barn storming performance. Leading by seven points at half time we racked up 34 points and five more tries to win 41 – 7. Sheer doggedness and determination and scarcely a missed tackle saw us defeat much larger opponents as convincingly as the score line suggests. Harry Whiteman was deservedly man of the match but in truth there were fifteen men of the match because this was

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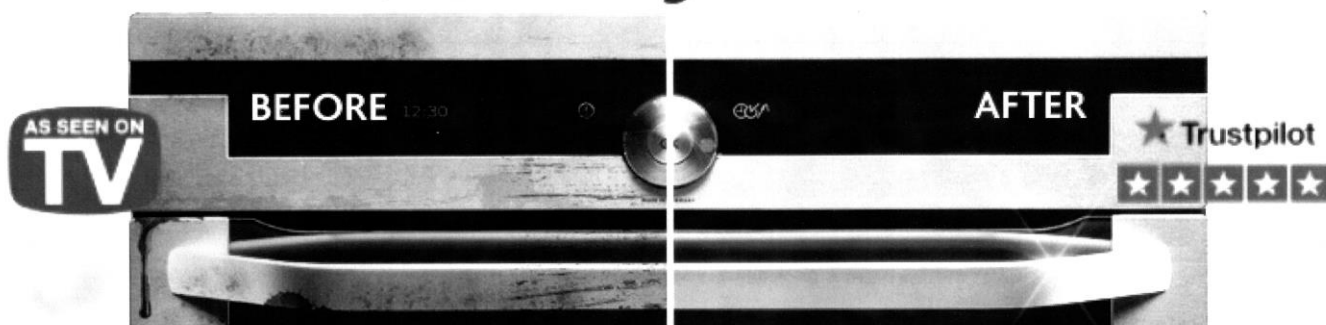
very much a team effort.

Other snippets of news in no particular order. We now have 340 registered youth players, our seconds and Colts are top of their respective leagues with our ladies sitting 5<sup>th</sup> out of 15 in theirs. For the first time we laid on a pre-match lunch before our 2nds match against Telford. Unfortunately an overnight frost scuppered that but the lunch, that had been sold out, still went ahead.

And finally, evidence that the road to hell can indeed be paved with good intentions. Our seconds had just beaten Stafford 38-0 and I spied the Stafford coach in the clubhouse afterwards looking somewhat disconsolate. Not wishing to mention his team's demise I opened with , “ What sort of a season are your firsts having ?” “ Those were our firsts “ he replied” Ooops

*Huw Davies.*

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### **Hedgehog News from Pippin Cottage**

November was a difficult time for baby hedgehogs in our garden. The second week of the month we saw one out in the day light hours, so I donned my gardening gloves and carefully took it to our weighing scales. It weighed 235g, far less than the 600g plus required for hibernation, so we took it to 'Help for Hogs' in Shobdon where it was put into an incubator. A couple of days later we saw another baby, again out in the daytime, so I weighed it and again it was very underweight, so it, to, went off to Shobdon. Some nights later I was a little late putting food into the three feeding stations, and I nearly fell over another baby who had just been for a feed and was having a good drink of water. I weighed it and it was just under 600g, it looked healthy and so I put it back into the feeding station where it was safe and left it.

At the end of November, I decided that I should clean out the four hog hibernation boxes and replace the bedding material with new. I always get very nervous doing this just in-case I disturb a mother with babies or a hibernating hedgehog. In the summer Richard had made a hibernation box to put in the churchyard but when we went to take it over to the Church at the beginning of November, it was full of hay and leaves. A hedgehog had decided it was making that box its home and it had dragged hay from another of our hibernation boxes into it so now that will stay in our garden. I opened one box and there were lots of flies in it which I knew was a bad sign, as I lifted the hay, I found a dear baby hedgehog curled up with quite a few maggots on it. I asked Richard to fill a water bottle with warm water from the kettle, I put a clean towel over the water bottle, then I tucked the little hog into the fold and covered it lightly with fresh straw, Richard phoned to warn the couple at Help for Hogs of the impending

new arrival and off we went to Shobdon. Three out of four baby hedgehogs that were taken to the hedgehog sanctuary had ring worm, lung worm and another illness from drinking dirty water and they very sadly died. One is still struggling; he is eating but not gaining weight.

Next to our now five hog hibernation boxes, I always leave a pile of hay so that hedgehogs can add the finishing touches to their homes and sure enough during the first week of December, our night camera showed a juvenile hedgehog pulling hay into the tunnel and collecting leaves to make its home more comfortable. What a joy! Last night, the night camera showed the same hedgehog going into the feeding station to have some food. This is causing some concern because it is out and about in the snow and freezing temperatures, I will go out if this hedgehog does not hibernate and weigh it. I am hoping it is the one that was just under 600g and healthy but, I have a dilemma, if it is the one from the hibernation box. I don't want to scare it off, so I will seek advice on this one from Help for Hogs. What a worry these little creatures are!

We are so pleased because there is evidence that four out of five of our hibernation boxes are occupied. If you find baby hedgehogs out in the winter, please, if you can, weigh them and if they are under 600g they won't survive the winter, so get them to 'Help for Hogs' Shobdon immediately. The telephone number is: 01568 708059. It is very important to put some food and plenty of water out even in the winter just in case the hedgehogs get hungry. Hedgehogs are up against so much as they struggle for survival, so please do what you can to help. Thank you.

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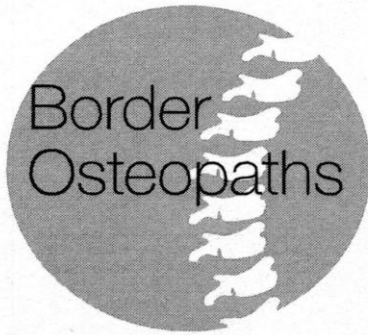
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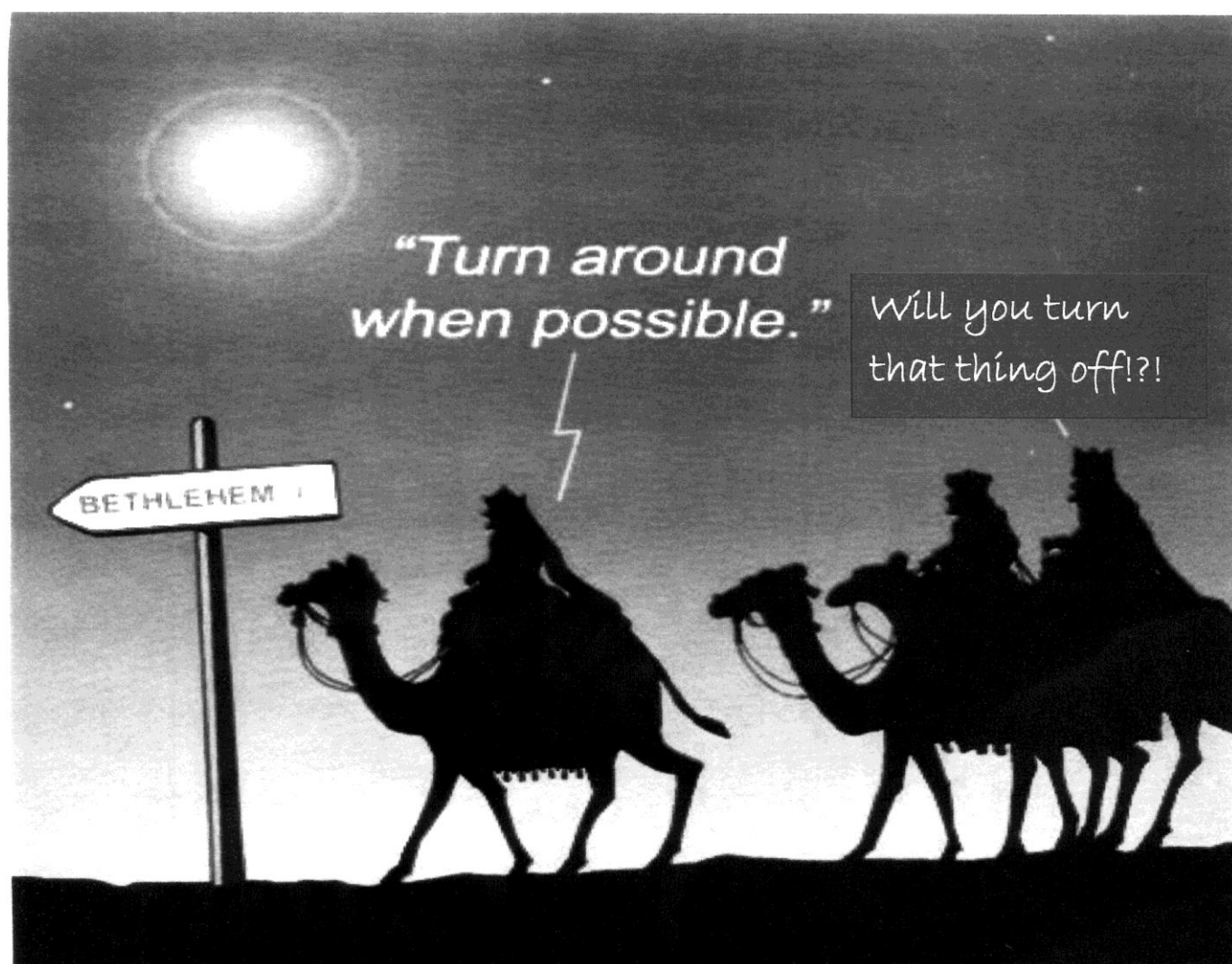
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