

# Kingsland News

## February 2023



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to Johnny Price for bringing down the Plough to the church for blessing on Plough Sunday. Prayers were said for all our local farmers at the beginning of a new year. Thank you to Nick and his friends for the concert at Aymestrey on 14<sup>th</sup> January amidst the rain and the floods. It is good to gather at the beginning of a new year and enjoy each other's company. Thank you to all those who have wished me well as I journey on sabbatical. I look forward to seeing you all after Easter.

Looking to the Summer there is a group planning a flower event at the beginning of July. It is not a flower festival, but a series of displays that include flowers and will be on the theme of Celebrations. More will follow on that, but for now, I wondered if you are able to grow some flowers in your garden that will be ready for early July and that could be used in Church. Kingsland Church is a large church to fill and if there were local flowers and greenery that could be used it would fulfil our eco-friendly aims and mean that the event is

truly LOCAL. How about buying a packet or two of seeds with that in aim and seeing what we can come up with. If you are able to grow some flowers for this event please could you let the church office know on [kingslandchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kingslandchurchoffice@gmail.com) or Peter King on 01568 782399

Peter is also the person to speak to about anything going on in church – the groups (Bible Study, Bell ringing, Choir, Craft and Chat, Messy Church, Steel Pans, Thursday Communion) so if in doubt give him a ring and find out where and when.

Since COVID we have been glad to welcome new people to church and we would be glad to welcome you on a Sunday. You will find a warm welcome as you come into Kingsland Church and I hope you might venture in whilst I am away, and I will come back to new faces.

See you in April. Love,

**Julie**

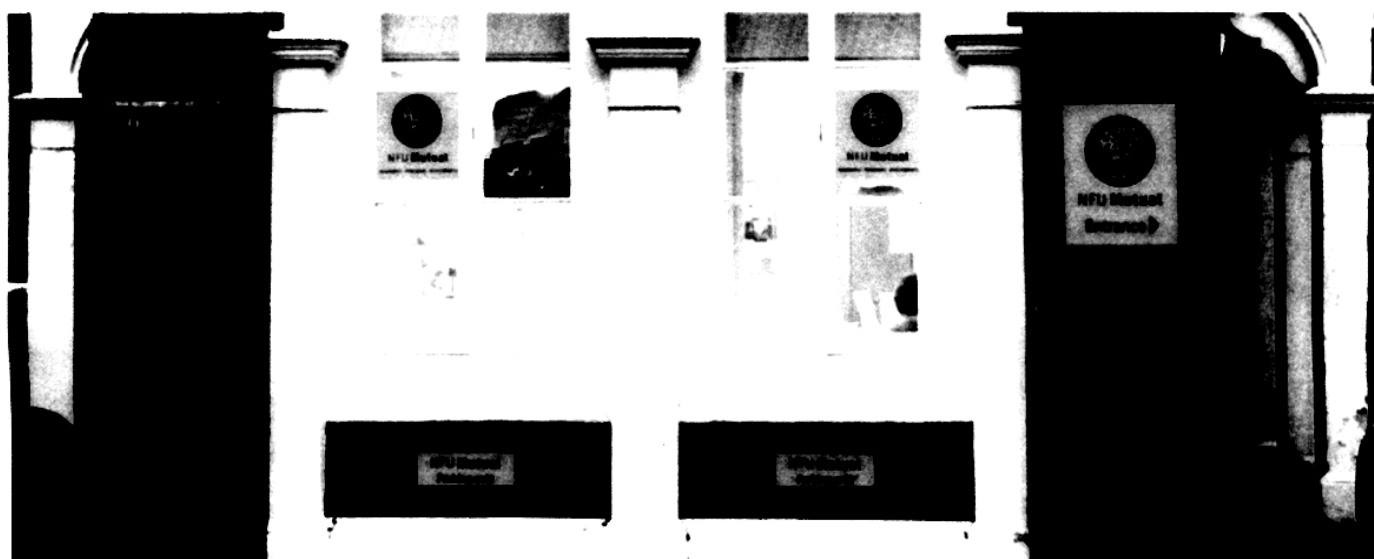
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## Nature Notes

The very heavy rains of the past weeks, along with dark nights and cold days, have persuaded our resident Jackdaw and his Jenny Wren, somewhat belatedly, to fly south for some sunshine and warmth. They are due to return just before our spring.

The recent heavy rains here have been caused by the "La Nina" effect, thousands of miles away from the UK. La Nina is a periodic climate pattern which cools the surface of the Pacific and affects weather around the Globe.

Spring is not too far off and we have noticed that a handsome buzzard has taken up residence in a paddock behind our house. He sits on a gate post or in a tree, no doubt hoping to attract a mate. Nature can be cruel, though, as he will be tormented by jackdaws and rooks whilst in flight and on the ground, because they take unkindly to his presence. Robins are very territorial and we have one in our garden who aggressively sees off any incomers.

Catkins or lambs' tails, the male flowers of the common hedgerow tree Hazel, are appearing around the village, along with some lambs that were born just after Christmas. There are many expectant ewes in the fields and we will soon be hearing the bleating of the young lambs and mothers as they call to each other.

Bulbs are shooting up and snowdrops and hellebores are flowering. Like it or not the lawn mowing season is fast approaching and we will soon hear the chorus of Flymos and Briggs and Strattons. We could even see one of the endangered species of Suffolk Swifts or Suffolk Colts.

I will be back again in a month's time.  
Best wishes,

**Robin**

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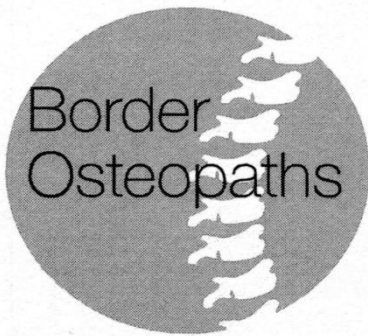
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## Wood frame "Christmas trees" with lights

The Kingsland Flower Show Committee would like to express thanks to John Morris and Chris Southgate for "planting" the trees and maintaining the lights throughout the festive period. We have received many positive comments about the trees and lights and we hope to be able to persuade John to make a few more for next Christmas, so that there is greater spread in the village. Thanks is also due to Peter and Janet Vaughan for storing the "Christmas trees" between festive seasons.

*KFS Committee*



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### **Kingsland Millennium Green Trust**

January's winner of the quarterly draw was Lyn Lewis and second prize went to Jane Goodwin. Congratulations to you both!

If you would like to take part in the draw, which raises funds for maintenance of the Millennium Green, please contact Helen Flook on 07790 273624 or me on 07927 226534 or email

[kmgtreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:kmgtreasurer@outlook.com).

The Easter Rabbit will be making an appearance on the Green on Easter Sunday, April 9th, following the Church 11 a.m. Service. In order to buy the eggs that he distributes we are again running a Grand National sweepstake. Tickets are now on sale and if you would like to buy or help to sell them please contact Helen or me as above.

***Jackie Markham.***



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## Parish Council Matters

*Information on Kingsland Parish Council can be found at: [kingsland-pc.gov.uk](https://kingsland-pc.gov.uk). The full minutes of parish council meetings are published on this website. What follows represents highlights of the most recent meeting(s) and should not be considered as an official record. The official record is the agreed minutes of the parish council.*

### Parish Traffic Management Plan

The parish council approached West Mercia Police's Road Safety team last autumn and subsequently held an on-site meeting on North Road with their traffic management advisor. Before this, West Mercia Police attended the annual parish meeting in May 2022 and took away a request to carry out speed enforcement in the parish, including North Road, and speeding has been communicated previously to the safer neighbourhood team, West Mercia Police as the top community priority. The outcome of the autumn meeting was for the road safety team to assess the speeding issue on North Road by taking accurate readings, and this was done in early December 2022.

The traffic management advisor has told the parish council that the data shows the speeds taken meet the criteria for enforcement (the average speed for 85 percent of vehicles was measured at 37mph). The traffic management advisor is to discuss next steps with the road safety team and will advise the parish council on what will happen next. At the time of writing, the parish council is waiting on the outcome of an internal site meeting held by the road safety team on 12 January 2023.

At the parish council meeting held on 11 January 2023, the speed data provided by the road safety team was reviewed by councillors. It was decided to ask a working group to help develop a long-term traffic plan for the parish, and to invite members of the public to participate in the working group, similar to participation by local people in the neighbourhood development plan.

The traffic plan, once completed, should be used by Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Police, in consultation with the parish council, to help inform highway improvements, including those using s106 developer contributions. For example, there is an outstanding developer contribution funded project requested by the parish council, and due for delivery by Herefordshire Council, the highway authority, for flashing lights and a 20mph zone by the school.

Another project funded by the parish council is to have a pair of village gates and new road markings to the south of Kingsland where the new 40mph zone meets the 30mph zone. There will be a new beige road surface by the village gates as well. This highway improvement project is expected to be constructed by Balfour Beatty soon (weather permitting).

If you are interested in participating in the traffic plan working group please contact the Clerk to the parish council via the website <https://kingsland-pc.gov.uk/>, by email [clerk@Kingsland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@Kingsland-pc.gov.uk) and/ or phone 07963 845358.

The next scheduled meeting of the parish council is on Wednesday 15 February 2023. The agenda will be published on [kingsland-pc.gov.uk](https://kingsland-pc.gov.uk), and on the noticeboard, a few days beforehand.

***Clerk, Kingsland Parish Council***





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## Luctonians Sports Club

A postponed match against Redcliffians and the holiday break means that our first fifteen has only played one match since my last report.

There was plenty of action at the club on Boxing Day however when two select sides provided the entertainment for a large crowd. Lucs has always been a focal point on Boxing Day when a kaleidoscopic assortment of Herefordians who have returned home for Christmas roll up to meet old friends and engage in some competitive reminiscing. This year there was a bumper crowd, so much so that our bar staff had to call on some willing volunteers to help cope with the rush, and dare I say it, we almost ran out of beer.

On the field The Fishing Ladz defeated The Bucknell Barbarians by 26 points to 19 as over fifty players attempted to run off the debilitating effects of too much turkey and Christmas pudding.

On the first Saturday in January our President, John Amos, hosted 380 vice Presidents and Sponsors to our annual President's Lunch. One of our sponsors, Thomas Carroll, provided the guest speaker, John Devereux a player with an outstanding rugby pedigree in both codes. He not only played rugby union for Wales and The British Lions but also rugby league for Great Britain, one of only a handful of players to have done so, Jonathon Davies, John Bentley and Jason Robinson are other illustrious names that come to mind. We then defeated Bournville that afternoon 52 – 0 with man of the match Louis Silver racking up 22 points with the conversion of all seven tries, scoring a try himself and kicking a penalty goal.

The weekend could not have gone much better as five teams registered four wins and a draw.

Luctonians 1sts 52 Bournville 0

Luctonians 2nds 50 Camp Hill 1sts 0

Bridgnorth 2nds 19 Luctonians 3rds 19

Luctonians 4ths 24 Greyhound 1sts 12

Banbury Colts 7 Luctonians Colts 74

That's 219 points for with 38 against and not only that, we had the largest crowd in the 39 National 2 games that were played that day and only one side in National 1 had more than us. I can feel myself getting pumped up with pride and importance as I write this not traits becoming for the best village newsletter sports correspondent this side of Aberystwyth, so I'll finish now. Enjoy 2023.

**Huw Davies**

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Here's an interesting fact: If a car hits a pedestrian at 27MPH then the impact is equivalent to a fall from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of a building (7.3metres).

The result isn't pretty (I've seen it) and is frequently terminal.

Here's the death rate for different impact speeds:

Impact Speed MPH	Death rate
20-30	2.5 to 20%
30-40	20 to 90%
40-50	90 to 100%
50-60	100%
60-70	100%

What is the point of these depressing figures?

Here's the result of one week's monitoring (commencing 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022) by West Mercia Police on all vehicle speeds on North Road, a 30 MPH zone, undertaken following a request by the Parish Council:

Recorded speed MPH	Number of vehicles
20-30	2718
30-40	3359
40-50	543
50-60	48
60-70	7

It's depressing, and clearly we have a dangerous problem with a substantial number of less capable drivers who travel through our village. On any given day, there are 85 vehicles travelling at a speed which, if they collide with a walker, child or cyclist will almost certainly kill them.

Seven an hour, during daylight.

The Parish Council have determined to tackle the issue and produce a traffic management plan to keep our community safe. This needs to progress at pace.

They also need our support and guidance, so please will you find time to come to the next parish council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February (7.30 pm start) at the Coronation hall?

We cannot afford to ignore this issue any longer.

**David Lloyd**



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## Kingsland WI

Members at the January meeting were given an interesting and enjoyable insight into the production of the Antiques Roadshow by Mr. Mike Jackson. Mr. Jackson has produced many Antique Road Show programmes the most local being from Eastnor Castle. Members heard how the show is recorded on a Thursday and then edited over the next 2-3 days ready for broadcasting. Mr Jackson related his most memorable moments as well as a disaster that have taken place. It was certainly an informative and interesting evening.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall when there will be a quiz, draw and table sale as well as an opportunity for members and non- members to come along and give the committee an idea of what they would like to do at the monthly meetings. The WI needs new members in order to keep going. Please come along and give us your input.

If you are a member of your local WI there is also an opportunity to take part in both County and National events. Herefordshire WI has zoom craft and chat meetings each Monday morning, monthly handicraft meetings, and craft competitions. Outings are organised, at present they are organising visits to Shrewsbury, Royal Welsh Show, National Conference at Cardiff, Three Choirs Festival, Museum and Gardens at Bath, Oxford, Westonbirt Arboretum, a Christmas Market and Christmas Lunch at Highgrove.

There is more to being a member of the WI than just attending the monthly meetings do come along and find out more.

*Val Davis*

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## **Kingsland Millennium Green Trust (KMGT)**

There is an open meeting of the Trustees of KMGT in Kingsland Church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 am. Please feel free to come along and let the trustees have your views on our wonderful Green.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by emailing [kmgsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:kmgsecretary@outlook.com) or calling the telephone number below.

It should be noted that the maintenance of the Green is totally funded by voluntary contributions received from within the Community. No funding is received from either the Parish Council or Herefordshire Council in respect of ongoing maintenance. The Trustees are extremely grateful for the continued support for the Green from the residents of Kingsland and the surrounding area.

*Andrew Parsons* (Hon Sec. Tel 708592)

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### The Prayer Tree and St Valentine

At the back of Kingsland Church we have a prayer tree. Its sister tree is in Kingsland Primary School. At the moment it has prayers hung on it for people we remembered at Christmas.

As February contains St Valentine's Day, I would like to cover our tree in prayers of love. These could be that our intended Valentine falls in love with us, or asking that we will meet Mr or Mrs Right, but equally for any stage in our life. Maybe thanks for a new baby that has brought love and joy to your family, maybe for our partner, husband, wife or best friend, maybe for a loved one who has died and the



prayer is for peace in our hearts as we mourn.

St Valentine is fabled to have sent love letters and in the fifteenth century love poems were sent in his honour. So let's write our love prayers and hang them on the tree. There are some plain wooden hearts at the base of the tree you can use, feel free to take them home and personalise them with colour, glitter, feathers or flowers or make your own in whatever shape or size you want! Just remember that it is a public place and you may choose to keep your prayers anonymous. And as a church community, we will join with you, offering your prayer of love to God.

*Wendy Maddocks*



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<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent</b>
9.30 am	Messy Church	Kingsland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Aymestrey
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</b>
9.30 am	'I Sing Pop' Service	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
11.00 am	Morning Service	Aymestrey
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Next before Lent</b>
8.00am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
3.30 pm	Holy Communion	Leinthall Earls
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
6 30 pm	Benefice Ash Wednesday Service	Kingsland
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Lent 1</b>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
9.30 am	'Open the Book' Service	Aymestrey
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland

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## **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.)*

### **February**

6 <sup>th</sup>	RBL	Talk: By Joe Seeney	Corners Inn	7.30 pm
15 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Council Meeting Re Speeding	Coronation Hall	7.30 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Heritage Heroes (Lucy Baxendale)	Children's Workshops	Venue and Time TBA	
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Women's Suffrage (Clare Wichbold)	Corners Inn	7.30 – 9.00 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Benefice Service for Ash Wednesday	Church	6.30 pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	KMG	Open Meeting of Trustees (all welcome)	Church	10.00 am

### **March**

3 <sup>rd</sup>		Service for the World Day of Prayer	Kingsland Methodist Church	2.00 pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	RBL	Talk by Fran Kilby. The History of Military Bands	Corners Inn	7.30 pm

### **April**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	RBL	Dr. B. Riley on History of War Surgery	Corners inn	7.30 pm
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## **Job vacancy: Café Manager**

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## News from the Chapels

**This month's John Wesley:** Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth.

**Collection of stamps:** The stamps we collect are at present sold for the benefit of the Leprosy Mission, which treats the disease and helps families affected to access education and set up small businesses. Unfortunately they will no longer taking stamps from the end of March so we can only accept stamps for this particular charity until 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Advance Notice:** The World Day of Prayer service will take place in Kingsland Chapel on Friday, 3rd March 2023 at 2 pm

**Lent Study Group:** Just before Covid we were studying the very challenging work of Dallas Willard, 'The Divine Conspiracy' which he described as 'Jesus' Master Class for Life'. I propose to resume – and try to complete this study – on Thursday afternoons, 2-3pm, starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Part of the course, tech permitting, is on a DVD containing a conversation between the author and John Ortberg. Everyone is welcome and we finish in time for collection from school.

**New email address:** To contact Sharon O'Connell or the chapels the new email address is: [middlemarchmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:middlemarchmethodist@gmail.com)

### 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

### Services in February

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Kingsland	Mr A Priestley	<b>All services are at 10.30 am</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Leintwardine	Sharon O'Connell	
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Shobdon	Sharon O'Connell	
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Lingen	Rev S Macinally	

Please contact me on 708992 if you need a lift to services or anything

*Lesley Pitchford*





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## **World Day of Prayer 2023.**

Be part of a huge wave of prayer which encircles the earth for at least 38 hours. It begins in Western Samoa and Tonga in the Pacific Ocean and will end at dusk in American Samoa. This is what makes the World Day of Prayer so special.

Each year the reflections are written by Christian women from a different country. This year it is the turn of Taiwan, a country that has been caught in a superpower struggle for many years and has been isolated internationally.

The service includes letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice. Their stories of

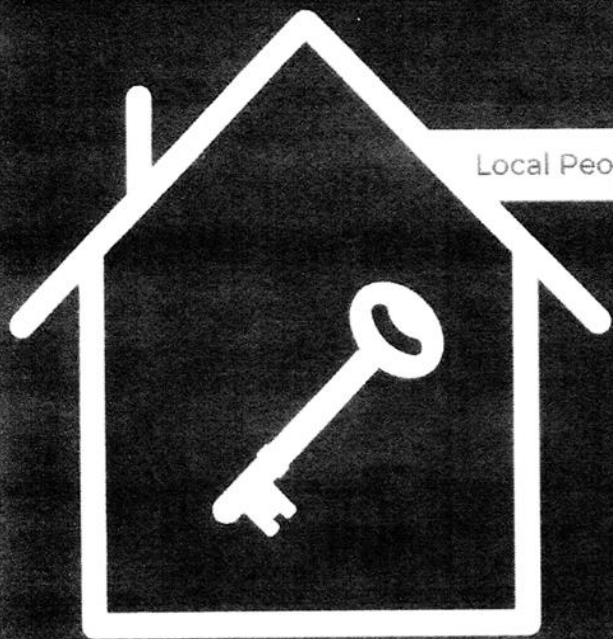
faith focus on issues that are shared by women and girls around the world.

The service is on Friday March 3rd, at the Methodist Chapel, North Road Kingsland, starting at 2.00 pm. The service lasts about 40 minutes. There are refreshments with a Taiwanese flavour after the service. Everyone is welcome.

The World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation, which enables us to hear the thoughts and prayers of women from all parts of the world. Please join us. We look forward to seeing you.

***Helen Webb and Lesley Pitchford***

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### **Messy Church**

Messy Church meets on Sunday 5th February at 9.30am in Kingsland Church. There will be our usual mix of games, crafts, worship and breakfast to join in. We will be looking at the story of Samuel this month, who heard the voice of God, and asking how we can hear God speaking to us.

Do join us as we get messy, come and meet new people and get together with old friends. We have a relaxed start and usually finish before 10.30am, depending how many sausages and cocoa pops you want to eat! It helps us to cater if you can let us know if you are coming, especially for any food preferences or intolerances. Email [kingslandchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kingslandchurchoffice@gmail.com) or for any other questions please ring me on 01568 708195.

**Wendy Maddocks**



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## Patients' Participation Group Latest News at The MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE

The following is the latest statement issued by the Practice in early January.

### Winter Pressures

We are no exception from the increase demand on services as reported nationwide. Our phone lines are being answered as quickly as they can, however with the increased volume of callers this has taken a little longer than normal. It has been a tough few weeks for General Practice. We do thank you for your patience.

Reception are doing their best to get you an appointment with the most appropriate clinician. They listen to your symptoms and navigate you to the best care. At times this could be A&E as your condition needs input that can't be dealt with by the Clinicians in the Surgery. They may also suggest visiting the pharmacist or booking in with our Lead Nurse or Physician Associate who are advance care practitioners. Please be assured you are not 'being fobbed off' they have the skill set to help you.

Our appointment system despite additional clinicians has been overwhelmed each day over the last 6 weeks. Mainly due to increased numbers of COVID, Flu and Strep A cases.

NHS website or 111 can also give you the advice you need from self-care to the most appropriate person to see. [The NHS website - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) Thank you for your understanding.

The good news is that Dr Marion Davies helped with two sessions in

December and has more booked in January. In addition, 30 – 40 sessions of extra appointments are being divided up between GPs; for example, on 2 January 3 GPs had full clinics and managed to fit in an extra 40 patients. Thank you for your understanding.

*In the current flu season many patients prefer to deal by telephone to avoid visiting the Surgery. Where, however, patients consider they need a Face to Face appointment the Practice does, where practicable, arrange one as soon as possible. If you should happen to find this is not the case, we, as the Patients' representatives, can raise the case anonymously if you wish.*

**Brian Taylor** (01568-780891 or at [bwebbertaylor@gmail.com](mailto:bwebbertaylor@gmail.com))

**Rosie Stanford** (at [rosie.stanford@btinternet.com](mailto:rosie.stanford@btinternet.com))

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Check out our Facebook page at The Grange at Mortimers Cross.

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It has been a couple of months now since our change from *A Familiar Treasure in our Midst* to *The Familiar Treasures Project*. The original title referred to Kingsland Church, as described in a beautiful poem Tricia Potheary wrote about the building. Now that all the restoration work is done, we wanted the title to reflect the other side of the project, where we celebrate Kingsland's other familiar treasures: its stories, buildings, natural environment, wildlife, and people.

If you haven't experienced the project yet, please take a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FamiliarTreasure](http://www.facebook.com/FamiliarTreasure) to see what we've been up to. Keep an eye out for our Familiar Friday Facts, posted every Friday to engage, enlighten and excite!

December's event **Those Were the Days: Christmases Past** attracted a wonderful cross-section of the community. Thanks so much to everyone who helped or came along. It was lovely to see familiar and new faces, and apologies to anyone who went home with icing sugar in their hair! Another big thank you to Kingsland School for allowing us to use the hall - a place of happy memories for many of us.

We're hoping to involve more children this year, so keep a lookout for the publicity for our events. The first of these will take place in the February half term with the wonderfully talented local artist and ceramicist Lucy Baxendale. **Heritage Heroes with Lucy Baxendale will take place on Wednesday 22 February (Time**

**and venue TBC, keep an eye on our social media for updates!)**

And for the grown-ups, we welcome celebrated, award-winning author and historian Clare Wichbold MBE to the village to talk about her research into women's suffrage in Herefordshire for her book **Hard Work but Glorious**. This talk will take place in The Corners Inn, advance booking of a table is highly advised if you'd like to eat beforehand (01568 708385) **Refreshment and Renewed Courage is at Wednesday 22 February**

Looking further ahead there are plans for further talks and an art exhibition in the late spring, so stay informed by signing up to our new email newsletter (see below on how to do this) or by following us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FamiliarTreasure](http://www.facebook.com/FamiliarTreasure).

All our talks have a small fee (£3.50) and everyone is welcome to attend. If you are interested in finding out more about the village and its heritage - including professional support and joining us on visits to the Herefordshire Archives and Research Centre and Leominster Museum - contact me on

[activities.familiartreasure@gmail.com](mailto:activities.familiartreasure@gmail.com) for more information.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive our email newsletter please email Nickie on [communications.familiartreasure\(a\)gmail.co.uk](mailto:communications.familiartreasure(a)gmail.co.uk). All information is held on a secure server and will never be shared with anyone outside of the Project.

**Jo Henshaw**, (Activities Coordinator, [activities.familiartreasure@gmail.com](mailto:activities.familiartreasure@gmail.com))

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## **Kingsland Royal British Legion Branch**

February's meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Corners Inn at 7.30 pm. We are very lucky to have Joe Seeney coming along to give a talk on The Dinedor Secret Army. This I believe will give us an insight to the Defence of the United Kingdom but more importantly the history of Herefordshire's defence. Do check posters for more information. There is no admission charge but donations are gratefully received. Do come along and join us.

Congratulations to Lindsey on banking £2003.42 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all who supported the appeal, by either purchasing a poppy, giving a donation or contributing to the church collection at the Remembrance Service.

**Val Davis** (Secretary 01568 708681)

## **Hedgehog News**

Not much news so far this month but there is some activity. 'Little One' as I call him, is still coming out of his hibernation box for food, he isn't eating much because he is quite sleepy, I expect, but he is still eating and growing, which is good. I have also had to put fresh hay in the container outside his box because he is still making his home cosy. The same applies to another box which is in the compost area.

I thought because there isn't much activity, I would share some moments with you from 2021/22. We had taken about four baby hedgehogs to the Shobdon hedgehog sanctuary because they were born too late in the year; three of them survived so gradually they came back to us. One male and two females.

One I remember very well, we called him 'Bully Boy' because being a male he was always picking a fight with other hogs in our garden. He lived in one of our boxes for quite a long time and then when he moved on, he came back to our garden nearly every night for a year. There was another hedgehog, which was not returned to us, but just appeared, and we named him 'One Eye' because as his name suggests, he only had one eye! I became so protective of him and worried about him, but he gave as good as he got from 'Bully Boy'. I was very sad when he finally disappeared from our garden.

It was so amusing watching them when they met up in the feeding stations, there was usually a tussle and then one would curl up and wait for its turn, or quickly disappear. One night there was a hog waiting to go into feed, when suddenly like a bolt of lightning, the hedgehog that had been eating, came charging down the tunnel and bowled the waiting hedgehog over, there was a fight and off he went. This sort of behavior only usually happens in the spring, in autumn they are a little more tolerant of each other.

Richard and I were sitting in the garden late one evening in the summer of 2021, when we heard hedgehog grunts and there was a male walking round and round a tiny female, we thought we would sit and watch as it could be interesting! After about forty-five minutes, by which time it was becoming a little tiresome, the noise made by this male was so loud that another male appeared, the female ran off and so did the two males and we were left thinking what a disappointment that was!! That year we had about eight different hedgehogs visiting our garden, all of them with different markings and we gave each one a name.

To finish for this month, I often think as I walk round the garden, especially when it is wet and windy, or I am extremely tired after a long day of gardening, why did I start this, every day removing dirty newspaper from the feeding stations and replacing with clean (hedgehogs are very messy in their feeding stations), then putting fresh food out, washing the eleven water bowls, scattered around the garden and replenishing with fresh water, but then, when I see these little creatures, I know why! Don't forget to keep putting food out and CLEAN water.

*Christina Harris.*

### Advertising in the Kingsland News

This monthly publication is circulated to every household in Kingsland Village (Print run 600) free of charge. Advertising is accepted on completion of a form available from me, (Tel: 01568 708672 or email: [noonr@aol.com](mailto:noonr@aol.com)), from Kingsland P.O., or from the table at the back of the church, and payment should preferably be by cheque to "Kingsland P.C.C. Bookstall Account" or by BACS. Bank details are printed on the form. Please return the completed form to The Editor at 5, Highfield Close, Kingsland, HR6 9RS, or place in the 'Hen Box' at West Mead, or email [noonr@aol.com](mailto:noonr@aol.com)

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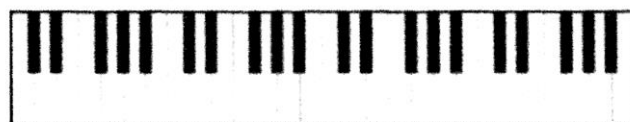
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### Caught Short..... By Rick

‘Why am I sitting in this overheated apartment, listening to the exploits of an eminent, globe-trotting, anthropologist,’ I thought idly, sipping my second large scotch.

The stylish Diana was engrossed in recounting her stay with a tribe on Borneo. I looked across at a fellow sufferer, Graham, whose eyes were already glazing over. Diana was now in full spate about the toilet habits of these natives. ‘They have a special section of beach for this purpose, she explained. ‘They crouch down in the surf, facing the shore. Unfortunately, several lives are lost each year, owing to deadly sea-snakes!

It was too much for me. I have a phobia about snakes.

Excusing myself, I went into a small bathroom. I was admiring some native art above the toilet, when, out of the corner of my eye,

I saw something in the bath next to me. Panic! Everything stopped. I didn’t dare breathe. Moving my head slightly to see....’Oh Hell! She’s brought one of those damned snakes back with her. It’s about to strike!’

It took me agonising seconds to realise that the snake was a very realistic plastic model.

Diana’s smile, as she said, ‘Got you!’ was wicked.

*( Yes, it really did happen to me!)*



Please don't ask me to remind you  
of something else for a while



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