# Roundabout our communities

DEC/JAN 2021/2

Kimbolton, Hamnish, Leysters, Middleton-on-the-Hill, Bockleton



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Bi-monthly magazine free to residents, dependent on donations





Hamnish Gardeners

Jenni Stuart-Anderson with basket of rags



Brynblodau Farm, Tregaron, Mid Wales

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Our Front Cover Picture shows children from Reception with their new Christingle candles

## WELCOME

**WELCOME** to the Christmas edition of our new community magazine, '*Roundabout our Communities*', so named because we are a circle of hamlets and villages to the East of the A49.

We have about 1000 residents, and, as before, we will publish bi-monthly, and deliver to every household in Kimbolton, Hamnish, Leysters, Middletonon- the-Hill and Bockleton. Copies will also be available in local public places and as a download on the Kimbolton with Hamnish Parish website.

You have sent us lots of news and ideas since last time, so no time to waste.

First up, must be our Christmas plans, and happily this year we have plenty of them to share, such a joy after last year's disappointments.

## CANDLES AT THE READY

Charlotte Hyde, Acting Head of our Primary School, Kimbolton St.James, gives all the details:

"On Thursday 21st October, the children enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Service at school, attended by Canon Andrew Teale from the Diocese. Every class took part in the service with songs and poems performed by the children. We were delighted by the generous donations of non-perishable goods for Leominster Food Bank and by the monetary donations for our link school in Tanzania, where even a small amount of money can help a large number of children to have a nutritious lunch each day."

"We are looking forward to our Christmas celebrations at the end of this term and to finally be able to share them with parents, COVID permitting!" "Classes One and Two will be performing a nativity play to parents in the last week of term. The final church service of our school year will also take place in the last week of term. The children always enjoy making a Christingle and practising Christmas carols for a service where the whole school community will be sharing in a Christingle Service at St. James' Church, one of our favourite services of the year. There will be performances by each class as well as a nativity tableau as the story of the first Christmas is retold by the oldest children in school."

"Christmas also means we will all be going to the pantomime in Hereford, oh yes we will! "This is a lively evening and, together with Orleton, we take over the lower floor of the theatre for a fun filled morning."

"To round off our Christmas celebrations we will be having a whole school Christmas lunch and on the final day a party."

"We can't wait to get started and it all begins with advent. Through our daily worships we are focussing on 'staying alert' as our value of the half term taken from 2 Corinthians Chapter 16 verse 13, 'stand first, stay alert', which is our school vision. We will look at how the shepherds, kings and even Mary and Joseph had to be alert before the birth of our Lord."

## CHRISTMAS ROAST IS IN THE BAG

The run up to Christmas can be super stressful, and this year, with the media hyping up the possibility of shortages, some have been anxious.

Luckily for us, we live in an area where good quality, fresh produce is all around, including in Howard Moseley's Leominster shop. He lives in Middleton-on-the Hill and has been a butcher all his life.

"We use the suppliers that we know and trust, in order to receive quality and consistency" he said.

"Our special Christmas Poultry is sourced from The Gibbons Family at Brynblodau Farm, Tregaron in Mid Wales. They have been rearing Free Range Turkeys for the last 30 years and have the most wonderful environment to do so!"



Howard Moseley

Howard comes from a farming family, and, after training in traditional butchery, first in Stourbridge and then Hereford, he came back home to Leominster and opened his own business in Drapers Lane in 2016.

"Quality and consistency are my top priorities and I get my satisfaction from putting customers first", he said.

Apart from turkeys, Howard has farm geese and ducks from Wigmore and seasonal game when available. Lamb and pork are sourced from A.H. Griffiths Ltd at Leintwardine, beef is from mid Wales and poultry from North Shropshire.

Happily, we welcome Howard (and his wife Pam) this month as advertisers in Roundabout, and next year we'll be bringing you news of more producers in our midst. Every £1 spent locally adds another helping to keep our communities alive.



Russell and Brynmor Gibbons

## FROM RAGS TO RUGS – AN ADDICTIVE WAY TO RECYCLE

During lockdown lots of people took up new hobbies and crafts, and the result was the revival of many ancient skills, including rag rug making.

Stuart-Anderson Jenni who lives at the Birches near Leysters, has for many years run workshops in this traditional craft, and she spent her lockdown writing a new book about it, commissioned by the publisher Pen and Sword books, who decided to diversify from military books to crafts.

"Writing this new book was the ideal lockdown project for me," she told us.



Wendy Wilson Goddard and Sue Byrne at the Rag-Rug making workshop

"The art of rag rug making goes back to the nineteenth century, when recycling was essential for poor families. Woven cloth was very expensive and so they reused worn clothes in this way to help keep their draughty homes warm".

"They were first placed in front of the fire, then demoted to the kitchen, then the scullery and eventually perhaps the kennel."

"There are loads of different styles and techniques," said Jenni, "some originated in the UK others in the US, but they are all easy to learn and quite addictive!"

Under her expert tuition, enthusiasts have gathered for workshops across Herefordshire Worcestershire and Shropshire, even Belgium. Last month neighbours Wendy Wilson Goddard and Sue Byrne travelled to Leysters Village Hall from Malvern, and soon became engrossed in making their first rag rugs.

Jenni's next workshop will be on 23 February 2022, which is half term week.

A full list of dates and venues appears on her website. www.jenniragrugs.com https://facebook.com/Jennis Rag-Rugs

She also takes commissions and gives talks. Her book is available from Rossiters in Leominster or from Jenni direct.

#### A Christmas gift maybe?



Jenni Stuart-Anderson with her basket of rags

## HAMNISH GARDENING CLUB

Hamnish must have one of the most successful gardening clubs in the country and at their November meeting a packed house listened to the most comprehensive talk on preserving imaginable.

Kev Alviti runs a smallholding and farmstead near Malvern and aspires to be self-sufficient in fruit, vegetables, meat and anything else he finds.

In the past Kev has shown us how to grow a huge range of fruit and vegetables, including many unusual varieties- so this talk was the next step.



Rowena Gale, Kev Alviti, Ann Jones Ian Wilson with the entries for the preserving competition

There will not be a meeting in December, but we are looking forward to Chris Beardshaw's talk in January, entitled *Mount Grace Priory Garden – Redesigning an Arts and Crafts Garden*. This will be a ticketed meeting held in Grange Court, Leominster, with a limited seating to conform with Covid 19 recommendations. The talk was originally planned for early 2019 but owing to Covid lockdowns it had to be postponed – so we are now keeping fingers crossed that it will go ahead.

The Gardening Club's meetings have been up and running again since September, strongly supported by enthusiastic members. The programme for 2022 runs from January until November and includes eight talks, three summer garden visits, monthly competitions and dinner at a local restaurant. Membership costs £15 (inclusive of coffee/tea and biscuits at meetings).

Visitors are always very welcome (adm. £4).

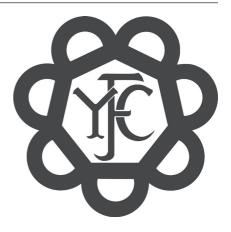
The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish our members a very enjoyable and relaxing Christmas, and lots of good gardening weather in the New Year.

For further information please contact Wendy Pridie (01568 611398) or Rowena Gale (01568 615855).

## **ORLETON YOUNG FARMERS CLUB**

We are a youth organisation with members between the ages of 10 to 28. Based in Orleton, we meet twice a month on a Wednesday at Cawley Hall, Eye. We held our AGM nominating Tom Crofts as our 2021–2022 Chairman. Tom is new to the role and is looking forward to helping the club continue to grow.

The County ploughing match was held in September at Pencombe. Orleton had great entries in the Domestic Section and even had 2 ploughers entered. We came away with some prize cards and a great day was had by all.



Our new members evening held at The Grove Golf and Bowl. Lots of new members came and the club almost doubled in size.

October brought our first stock judging competition of the year. We had excellent results of 2nd Place in Junior Beef, 3rd overall Beef Team, 3rd overall Lamb Team, 2nd overall Pig Team and finally 2nd overall team of the day.

Our annual bonfire and fireworks held in Orleton village on the 5th November was a great success, we had the biggest crowd yet! Massive well done to all the members!

In the coming months we will be competing in junior quiz, pub games and senior quiz. Lots of socials also with Chairman's Ball, Pantomime and Christmas Meal followed by Carol singing."

**Bel Beaumont** 

Tom Crofts (Chairman) - 07530 432 312 Bell Beaumont (secretary) - 07530 269 900

## REMEMBRANCE

**Remembrance** was celebrated in Kimbolton this year, with the church open for the first time since lockdown. Extensive works have been undertaken in this time and we will bring you more on that next time.

Remembrance can be a sombre service, but the history of the fallen, in Middleton-on-the Hill, gives the day a more positive twist.

## THE THANKFUL VILLAGE

In the churchyard at St. Mary the Virgin Middleton-on-the Hill stands a lamp that records that this parish was "doubly thankful", in that everyone returned home safely from both the First and Second World Wars.

The term 'Thankful Village' was first used after the First World War referring to fifty-three villages. In the Hereford Diocese there were two others, St. Michael Knill and Harley near Much Wenlock, but peace was shattered with the outbreak of the Second World War and only Middleton remained as a doubly 'Thankful Village', bringing all their soldiers home once more.

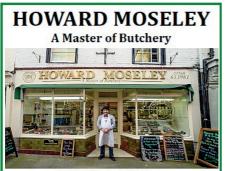
This parish is now just one of thirteen villages in England and Wales that can record being doubly 'thankful'. There are none in Scotland or Ireland.

In France such communities are referred to as 'Blessed Villages'.

During the summer of 2013 a 2,500 mile ride to all the English and Welsh villages was undertaken by vintage motorcyclists to raise funds for the British Legion and present each parish with a slate plaque, one of which is now mounted on the wall of the nave.



The inscription on the lamp reads; A THANK OFFERING TO ALMIGHTY GOD "AT EVENING TIME IT SHALL BE LIGHT" FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF ALL THE MEN FROM THIS PARISH WHO FOUGHT IN THE GREAT WAR 1914–1918 AND 1939–1945



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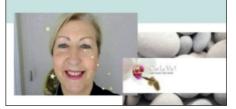
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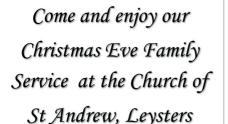
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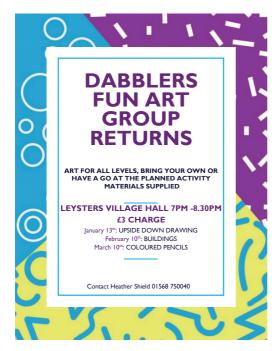
## AWESOME AUCTION

Auction of bottles, cakes, new and nearly new gifts! ~ Raffle ~

#### THURSDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2022 The Duke of York, Leysters

Bring items for sale from 6 p.m. when you can also view the goods to be auctioned

Auction starts 7.30 p.m. Proceeds in aid of Leysters church



## DABBLERS ART GROUP

More men wanted to join the ladies in the Dabblers Art group. If you enjoy/used to like doodling, sketching, technical drawing or painting, you may like the variety of art activities we do. The company is good too. Be brave and give us a go!

Leysters village hall 7-8.30, 2nd Thursday of each month.

## WELCOME TO FR. GUY

Hello! I'm Fr. Guy Cole the new Team Rector of the Leominster Team. I started on 11th October.

I've been ordained for 33 years. In those years I've enjoyed a variety of ministries and roles in the Church. Before I came to Leominster I was Rector of Easthampstead and Area Dean of Bracknell in the Diocese of Oxford.



For me becoming the new Team Rector brings me to a new county, a new diocese, to new communities, new church families and a new role.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the church family, both at the Priory and in the many churches that make up the Team Ministry. I'm also excited to meet the other local churches and the various town and village communities.

Hopefully you'll see me around Leominster and the villages in the next weeks and months. Please stop me and have a chat.

I've only just started to think about Christmas!

What's Christmas all about? Behind the stories of the angels and the shepherds, the star and the wise men, is a simple birth, God's 'Yes' to humanity. Christians believe that God, by entering the world in the birth of Jesus, has shown love and goodwill to humans and all creation. Jesus, by being born of Mary at Bethlehem, has shown that we are to seek God not in a stable or a manger but in our lives and our natures. Jesus may have been born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago but he continues to be born in us today in each act of love and kindness, each loving thought and deed.

The Christmas song of the angels "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all people" is both a statement and an invitation. Glory and peace can become a reality in the world through how we live our daily lives in the world. In the words of the 16th century mystic, Angelus Silesius, "Christ may be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but all in vain unless he is born in me".

#### A CHRISTMAS PRAYER BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake. Amen

Every + blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

## ST. DUBRICIUS AND ALL SAINTS' HAMNISH

Among the parishes in Leominster Deanery this little church is truly the 'Christmas' church. Exquisite stained glass fills every window.

"Translucent golden light dances through the glass of the Sub- Kempe windows on the south wall. Telling the story of the Visitation, the Nativity and the flight into Egypt Kempe's work has a unique charm. Colours shine out from jewels that cluster on crowns, the angels play instruments drawn with great delicacy, while their wings are peacock feathers and the donkey carrying the Virgin Mary and Child steps gently over foliage all in a yellow wash which reflects the setting winter sun through the glass."

Charles Kempe was born in 1837. He had a very severe stammer, which sadly prevented him following his vocation to the priesthood. He was later to write; "If I was not permitted to minister in the sanctuary, I would use my talents to adorn it".



"In 1866 he opened his glass studio in London, taking as his trademark the golden garb or wheatsheaf from his family coat of arms. After his death in1907 the studio continued for a short while until 1934 but always superimposed a small black tower above the wheatsheaf to identify the window as a Sub- Kempe. "

"The church historian Arthur Mee wrote, "He gave England some of the most glowing windows in our churches".

Joyce Marston

## Church Services in December 2021 and January 2022

December 5th December 12th December 16th	10am - Patronal Service St. Dubricius and All Saints,Hamnish 4pm - Christingle St.Michael, Bockleton 1.30pm - School Christmas Christingle
December 17th	St.James the Great, Kimbolton 7pm - Carol Service Hamnish
December 19th	10am - Carol Service St.Mary the Virgin, Middleton-on-the-Hill
December 24th	6.30.pm - Christmas Eve Carol Service . St Andrew , Leysters
December 25th	8.30am - Christmas Day Bockleton 9.45.am - Christmas Day Hamnish
December 26th	10am - St. Stephen's Day Middleton
January 2nd	10am - Epiphany Carol Service Kimbolton
January 9th	10am - Plough Sunday Bockleton
January 16th	10am - Eucharist Leysters
January 23rd	10am - Eucharist Hamnish
January 30th	10am - Matins (1662) Kimbolton

#### www.easternparishes.org

## PARISH DIRECTORY

All telephone numb	pers are O	1568 unles	ss shown otherwise.		
Parish Council Cha	airmen ar	d Clerks			
Bockleton:	Chair:	Burgess A	Adams		01584 811066
	Clerk:	Carole Hi	rst		07903 377066
Kimbolton:	Chair:	Ed Rolling	zs		750476
	Clerk:				
Leysters & Middle	ton-on-t				
	Chair:	Jane Cor	,		750205
	Clerk:	Clare Hal			750257
Local Councillor (U	pton Ward	d): John St	one		01584 711227
Church wardens					
Bockleton	Rosemar	y Adams			01584 811066
Hamnish	Des Hall				760665
Kimbolton			615988		
Leysters	Heather \$	Shield			750040
	Chris Ber				750461
Middleton	Robin Mo	seley			750226
	Gerlinde	Atkins-Ch	nild		750674
Village/Parish Hall	Bookings	;			
Bockleton	Carol Wa	ll			750463
	Email: bo	ckletonpa	rishhall@gmail.com		
Hamnish	David Co	rnwallis			760243
Kimbolton	Denise B	urston			611596
Leysters	Linda Jor	nes			750255
	Email: lin	dmarg18@	googlemail.com		
Schools					
St James C of E Pr	imary Scl	nool Kimb	olton		612691
Nursery School					614743
Kimbolton Playgro	up:		Elizabeth Oxenham		07772 045246
Clubs & Societies					
Bockleton WI:			Rosemary Adams		01584 811066
Kimbolton WI:			Rachel Palmer		61165
Hamnish Gardening Club:		Rowena Gale		61585	
			Wendy Pridie		611398
<b>Kimbolton Air Rifle</b>	e Club:		Des Hall		760665
Kimbolton Badminton Club:		:	Liz Davies		615367
Leysters Reading Group:			Linda Jones		750255
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Website informati	on:	www.east	ternparishes.org		

Leysters & Middleton village news, please visit our website: www.middleton-leysters.com

Kimbolton and Hamnish news, please visit: www.kimboltonhamnish.co.uk

### CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER

8	Coffee morning, Kimbolton VH.10.30 – 12 noon.
14	St Michael's Singers, 7.30pm. Kimbolton VH
28	Charity walk from Grove Farm, 2pm.

#### JANUARY

11	Kimbolton with Hamnish Parish Council meeting VH
11	Kimbolton VH AGM Kimbolton VH.
12	Coffee morning Kimbolton VH 10.30 – 12noon.
13	Dabblers Art Group Leysters VH. 7-8.30pm.

#### FEBRUARY

3	Awesome Auction, Duke of York from 6pm
10	Dabblers Art Group, Leysters VH. 7-8.30pm.
15	Hamnish Gardening Club

## PLOUGH SUNDAY 2022

This year our Plough Sunday Service is being held at Bockleton Church on January 9th 2022 at 10am.

Traditionally a plough was taken into the church on this day for the first agricultural festival of the year to celebrate the hours of tilling and preparing the land before seed can be sown.

In these days of modern furrow ploughs this would be impossible, the few remaining horse drawn ploughs in our parishes have long been retired. Instead small agricultural implements and garden tools are taken into church and placed around the altar to give thanks for all those who work on the land and to pray for the year ahead.

## NEW DATE FOR THE AGM OF KIMBOLTON VILLAGE HALL

This will now take place in January following the Parish Council Meeting at the Hall on Tuesday January 11th 2022. Not in December as previously advised. Please note that the new clerk is Annabel Beaumont kimboltonclerk@gmail.com

## KIMBOLTON WITH HAMNISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

11th January 2022 1st March 2022 3rd May 2022

*Roundabout our Communities* is available as a download on the Parish Council website. www.kimboltonhamnish.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"We would like to say a fond farewell to all the lovely people we have come to know during our five years at Lower Grantsfield. Thank you all for enriching our lives."

"Also to extend a warm welcome to newcomers Philip and Rachel Evason who, we feel sure, will enjoy living in this most beautiful part of the country, as much as we have."

**Bob and Pat Austin** 

## POSTSCRIPT

#### A postscript has just arrived, on that Christmassy little church in Hamnish.

"Arthur William Walker of Hennor House made the initial gift of  $\pm 1000$  towards the building of the church.

It took the parishioners a further ten years to raise the rest for the final build.

Arthur Walker died in 1914 and his widow Mary began to complete his vision of installing stained glass in every window in his memory.

The Kempe windows were only part of this project. There are three other studios that were also commissioned for the south nave and the east and west. Eventually the Kempe windows were probably finished in 1924. By then Mary Walker had married again and left Hennor to live in Much Marcle, but she continued to employ talented craftsmen to complete and beautify the church in Arthur's memory."

So now you know!

We welcome letters, comments and feedback. Ed.

## ANNUAL PLANT SALE – Saturday May 7th 2022



Tamsin Westhorpe dividing plants for the Annual Plant Sale

The Annual Plant Sale in aid of Kimbolton Church, will once again take place at the church on Saturday May 7th.

This is our main fund raiser for the year.

We have many local customers but folk from further afield come along too, knowing that there will be a good supply of quality plants including some unusual varieties.

As in previous years, now is the time to consider dividing plants in the herbaceous border, planting an extra tray of seeds, taking some cuttings or potting some perennials in preparation for next year.

We are always grateful for your generous support.

PCC St.James the Great Kimbolton.

# THE MYSTERIOUS STORY OF THE STABLE AND THE TRIANGLE

The side of the A4112 might seem a very strange place to find a Nativity Stable but last year on the road junction near the Stockton Cross there it was. Des Hall built the stable, Sally, his wife and their girls created the figures on Henry's traffic cones and over the days before Christmas, oxen, sheep, a donkey and a family of rabbits arrived mysteriously. The final touch was a string of lights and three kings.



Everyone joined in there one evening to sing carols and shelter in the marquee at the Cross Inn, led by the Reverend Rufus.

Will it reappear this year?

## **AND FINALLY**

#### **CHILDREN WANTED!**

Child volunteers to read aloud or to be part of our Christmas service. Service at the church of St Andrew, Leysters, on Christmas Eve at 6.30 p.m. It''s not too late to join in, all children are very welcome. Parents/carers please telephone the organiser, Chris Bemand, on 01568 750461.

Thank you so much.

#### WALK OFF THE CHRISTMAS EXCESS Tuesday 28th December

Walk from Grove Farm, meet at 14.00hrs Tuesday 28th December. Well behaved dogs, and children welcome. Tea/coffee and cake/mince pies afterwards – all for £5.00 per head, proceeds to be divided between Our Community Magazine and Cancer Research.

More information from Fiona Bunting on O1568 613425

#### **KIMBOLTON WI**

A full programme for next year is being planned. Details will be in the next edition.

## TREE MISSING

'We've had a theft of a small conifer from one of Kimbolton village planters. The planters are beautifully maintained by Brian Tonks, voluntarily. Please keep your eyes peeled for any suspicious behaviour.'

#### Ed Rollings - Chair Kimbolton with Hamnish Parish Council

### WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS IN KIMBOLTON VILLAGE HALL

December 8th Raffle will be for St. Peter's Shelter for the homeless in Hereford January 12th Raffle for the Woodland Trust 10.30 am – 12 noon

#### HAMNISH AND KIMBOLTON CHURCHES 100 CLUB

The 100 Club will not take place in 2022. The final draw for 2021 takes place in December. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative. Des Hall

## THANK YOU ALL

Thanks to our advertisers and our contributors and especially to those of you who sent donations.

If you would like to advertise, sponsor an edition or send a donation, please get in touch with the team at edteamkimbolton@gmail.com

And if you have a suggestion for new features in the coming months we would love to hear from you.

Next year we shall be including;

ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE – offering space for buying, selling or exchanging small items. So, if you have a little time in the Christmas holidays you might delve into the attic, garage or cellar and see what you can find?

## Happy Christmas and a very happy New Year from us all.



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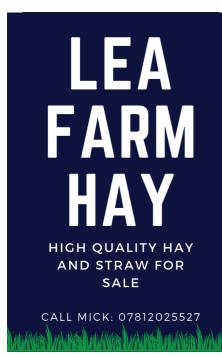
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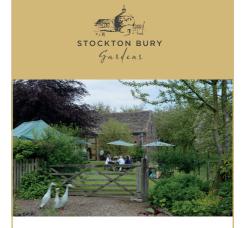
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Did you know that Kimbolton is home to a 4-acre open garden, plant sales and garden café? Stockton Bury is open from April until the end of September. To keep up to date with our events visit www.stocktonbury.co.uk or follow @tamsinwesthorpe on Instagram.



perrywood.farm 07796 272007

Perry Wood Farm, Kimbolton, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0HJ

Lamb, Hogget & Mutton At the farm gate, Ludlow Local Producers' Market and Leominster Farmers' Market. Traditional Hereford Beef Boxes to order



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Contributions for the next (February/March) edition by 10th January please.