Roundabout our communities

DEC 26/JAN 27

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



Landlord Harry Tyler and his team ready to welcome everyone to carol singing on 16th December, as well as for Christmas Day drinks, as they celebrate a year at The Stockton Cross.

In this issue...

GOOD NEWS

MORE LOCAL WINNERS

FABULOUS FUNDRAISING

EVENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

PLUS ALL YOUR PARISH AND CHURCH NEWS

Bi-monthly magazine free to residents, dependent on donations



THE WINNING TEAM FROM KIMBOLTON WI (full story on page7)
From left to right: Rebecca Joisce, Jo Colville, Diane Murray-Shirreff, Cherry-Anne Osborne, Denise Burston and June Edwards



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WELCOME

Welcome to our Christmas and New Year edition!

It's been a busy year in our villages and in this edition we are focussing on good news!

It's easy to become addicted to bad news...there's lots of it on offer, but we should not forget there is community spirit, fundraising, and both organisations and individuals making our communities safer and happier than they might otherwise be.

So that's worth a spotlight.

We have a 'good news' Christmas message from Rev.d Mark Long and at the Stockton Cross pub Harry Tyler is celebrating a year at the helm, and there will be a chance to celebrate with him and the team over the festive period.

We also remember all those volunteers who have helped us to keep Roundabout circulating in our villages as well as the loyal advertisers who underpin the costs of printing. But first....

ONE YEAR ON FOR HARRY AND THE TEAM....

At the end of his first year at The Stockton Cross, Harry Tyler is getting ready to welcome everyone for a Christmas drink, mince pies and carol singing on Wednesday 16th December from 6.30pm.

"We really appreciate the local support that we've enjoyed in our first year, as well as the hard work of the staff ", he said. "It's been harder than I thought, but much more rewarding".

"It's a bad time for pubs, but whilst we have been establishing ourselves the locals have been onside. We are continuing to develop our menu with regular changes, trying out new dishes and listening to feedback".

"Particular thanks to Bo and Graham for running our ever-popular quizzes, (second Wednesday of the month), and of course to regular Ken Bemand for his lovely smile".

"It's been a lot of fun and there will be lots more on offer in 2027."

As well as the carol singing evening on December 16th there will be Christmas Day drinks from 11.30 - 1.30.

And you can follow Harry and the team on facebook and instagram

Our front cover picture shows:

L-R Ruben Mills, Ed Cook, Immy Carvell-Crook, Harry Tyler, Izzy Carvell-Crook, Jasmine Hill , Izzy Shuck.



To view Roundabout online visit kimboltonhamnish.co.uk or Middleton & Leysters Parish Website

www.middletonandleysters groupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Input your email address on the website to receive news on forthcoming events and local issues

REFLECTING ON SUMMER SUCCESS AT HAMNISH

"Despite our fears, and a weather forecast that changed every day, it was a perfect summer evening for our 'Summer Sounds' event this summer. The Orchard was mown, the tent was up, the drinks were cold and the barbeque was ready."

"David's iconic music floated over the Orchard as friends, relations and neighbours gathered to spend a few happy hours together. People stayed on to chat as the evening drew on – a real community event."

"Many thanks to everyone who came along and helped (especially Willy Cornwallis), we raised a goodly sum to help with the upkeep of our little Village Hall."

Gill Parker

TREMENDOUS DAY FOR CRICKETERS IN THRILLING CONTEST

On Sunday 23rd August, the annual charity cricket match between Kimbolton and Hamnish took place at Mortimer Park, the home of Luctonians. This has now become a firm favourite in the calendar and once again was blessed with dry, warm weather as, cheered on by families and friends, the two sides battled out for the right to become annual champions.

Those hoping that Hamnish would finally reverse the trend of being vanquished by Kimbolton, were sadly once again disappointed. However, only just.... as a thrilling contest came down to the penultimate ball, with Kimbolton's Nick Davies scoring the winning run with one ball to spare. It was very close, and at one stage it certainly looked as if Hamnish would finally triumph and be declared the 2026 champions..... but thanks to a combination of some lusty blows and dogged determination, especially from the youngest ever "player of the match", Lewis Mears, Kimbolton finally prevailed.

As well as being blessed by good weather, the match was supplemented by a wonderful traditional cricket tea made up as ever of delicious sandwiches and cakes laid out in the pavilion.

The contest on the pitch is, of course, only part of the picture.

As many of you will know, the main purpose of the day is to raise funds for charity, which this year was the Longtown Mountain Rescue team, for whom a grand total of over £2000 was raised. This was largely on the back of the raffle draw (huge thanks once again to all of those who kindly donated such wonderful prizes) and a pub quiz night held in the Stockton Cross the previous Wednesday evening.



The winning trophy being presented to Kimbolton's captain Will Mears by Umpire and England Test Centurion, Bill Athy.

KIMBOLTON WI CONTINUES TO BRING HOME THE SILVER!

Kimbolton WI had a wonderful result at the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes Autumn Show, winning a first for their group exhibit, 'Five WI-ers Go Picnicking'. The theme was The Picnic, and included a craft, floral arrangement and baked item.

We also had success across individual classes gaining:

- A first, second, third and highly commended for entries in a gift for a pet lover class.
- Third in the embroidery class.
- First and second in the knitted item class.
- Joint first, third and highly commended in recycled container class
- Third in the floral arrangement class.

We were delighted to have the combined talents of Kimbolton WI recognised, huge congratulations to all involved!

Crafting and baking isn't all we do!

Kimbolton WI is a friendly group, meeting every second Thursday of the month at Kimbolton Village Hall at 7.30pm. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in our varied and interesting activities and meetings. Please contact Alison Alderson on 07929179042 or at kimbolton_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk to find out more.

Our picture (inside front cover) shows:
From left to right: Rebecca Joisce, Jo Colville, Diane Murray-Shirreff, Cherry-Anne Osborne, Denise Burston and June Edwards.

KIMBOLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FAYRE 4th December
Another fundraising event being held again is the Christmas Fayre at Kimbolton Primary School, organised by their very active Parents' Committee.

It starts at 3.15 - 5.30 and everyone is welcome.

KIMBOLTON COFFEE MORNINGS
Liz Davies and her team of helpers have had another great year of fundraising with £930 raised for local charities.

From 10.30 - 12 these social gatherings welcome everyone:
December 9th Raffle for the local branch of the British Legion
January 13th Raffle for Sight Savers

A LIGHT IN THE DEEP MIDWINTER: A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

As we light our Advent candles and prepare to gather around our cribs in the lengthening shadows of this winter, we do so in a world that feels deeply unsettled. Our Christian heritage teaches us that remembering the birth of the Christ-child, Jesus, is never a sentimental escape from reality; rather, it is God's radical, sacred entry into the very heart of our human struggle. When we proclaim that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, we affirm that God in Jesus pitches his tent right here—amidst our anxieties, our fractured politics, and our daily struggles to make ends meet.

Across our own parishes, the relentless weight of the rising cost of living continues to press heavily on household budgets. With stubborn inflation, climbing interest rates, and energy bills still bearing the scars of global instability, too many families in our communities are quietly agonising over how to heat their homes or put festive food on the table. In this season of goodwill, our Village Halls and Churches must remain tangible signs of Christ's table—places where no one is left out, and where solidarity triumphs over scarcity.

At the same time, we hold in our hearts our global family experiencing the deep sorrow of conflict. As winter arrives, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine as they face another cold season amidst ongoing hardship and uncertain paths to peace. We also remember all those affected by rising tensions in the Middle East and Iran, praying for calm and reconciliation across the region. Seeing such distress from afar can easily leave us feeling overwhelmed or uncertain of how to help. Our Christian values gently remind us that we belong to one another across every border; we carry one another's burdens in prayer, and we express our solidarity through simple, faithful acts of kindness—welcoming the stranger and standing alongside those in need.

Christmas remains a season of quiet, enduring hope. The Holy Family themselves knew the challenges of financial hardship, uncertain times, and being far from home. Jesus was not born into the comfort of a palace, but into the simplicity of a borrowed stable, surrounded by ordinary working shepherds and watched over by stars.

As we look toward 2027, our hope is neither naive nor passive. It is the stubborn, sacred hope that grace is already at work in the world, transforming darkness from within. Every act of generosity toward a struggling neighbour, every prayer offered for peace in Kyiv and Tehran, and every step we take toward justice becomes a vessel of God's kingdom breaking through.

May the peace of the Christ Child—who enters our brokenness to make all things new—bless you, your loved ones, and our wider community this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

With every blessing,

The Rev'd Mark Long, Team Vicar

QUIZZERS IN FINE FORM



The Leysters and Middleton on the Hill Quiz Night on the 13th November was well attended with over fifty quizzers in ten teams competing to be top. A hot curry was enjoyed during the evening as teams took a well-earned break to re-focus on the final deciding rounds of questions.

It was a closely contested competition with regular team 'Simple Minds' captained by Jackie Duggan winning for the first time by a margin of five hard won points.

At the other end of the scoreboard a new team 'Chapel Crew' after a valiant effort, took home the wooden spoon. Their captain Judy Price was philosophical in defeat saying "It's not the winning it's the taking part and we will take it on the chin"

However, they are fired up for a return match.

The total profit for the two quizzes held this year is just over £800, which goes towards the running costs of the Hall and helps keep our hourly hire rate one of the lowest in the area.



HAMNISH GARDENING CLUB

One of the most successful community groups we have is the Hamnish Gardening Club which brings members from all over the region. With changes in our climate an essential way to spend winter evenings and summer afternoons.

HAMNISH GARDENING CLUB NEWS

Season's greetings to all readers. There isn't a meeting in December

January 19th 2027 a speaker from F.P. Matthews will show how to prune trained and standard fruit trees. The competition is 'A craft tree - DIY!

We meet in Hamnish Village Hall from 7pm for refreshments before the talk at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5.

Please note members' subs (£20) are due in January. Please pay by bacs if possible to save bank charges.
Hamnish gardening club
30-91-91 A/C 51421160 ref surname
Thank you.

Contact details hamnishgardeningclub@yahoo.com

MIDDLETON ON THE HILL PARISH CHARITY

The above charity is managed by a small group of local trustees. It is their duty to manage the charity's assets and to distribute the income from those assets annually. In accordance with the original aims of the charity the income is to be used for three purposes: the Church, Advancement of Education and Relief in Need. It has been the practice of recent years for the trustees to issue grants to Middleton Church, students in secondary education, senior citizens over the age of seventy and occasional individual cases of need.

The charity owns three small parcels of land, two of which are occasionally available by tender. If anyone is interested, please enquire details from the secretary.

The trustees met recently to distribute last year's income. If you live in the Middleton on the Hill parish and feel you might qualify and have not received a grant, please contact Mrs C Halls at Highlands HR6 0HP or 01568 750257

DIGITAL CHANGEOVER: OUR LANDLINE IS CHANGING — PREPARE NOW

With thanks to Bockleton residents for sharing this information from their Parish Council.

'Concerns have been raised across my ward and at Parish Councils in relation to the digital telephone changeover, particularly for older or vulnerable residents in outlying parts of the community. This advice is relevant to residents in every part of our rural communities and even towns where there are vulnerable persons.

The traditional telephone network is due to retire on 31 January 2027, and your household may be moved before then. Most existing phones can still be used, usually through a router or an adapter supplied by your provider. However, digital landlines depend on electricity. Without suitable backup, a power cut could prevent you calling for help. This matters particularly where mobile reception is poor.

Please contact your telephone provider now, using the number on your bill. BT customers can call 0330 1234 150. Your provider handles your account and changeover arrangements, even where Openreach carries out installation work. Tell them if you live alone, have additional health or support needs, rely on your landline, have poor mobile reception or use a pendant alarm. Ask them to record these circumstances and explain:

When will my telephone change over?
What free backup will you provide so I can call 999 during a power cut?
How long will it last, and what happens during a longer outage?
Can you arrange a free engineer visit if I need help?

Providers should offer a suitable emergency calling solution free to people who depend on their landline during power cuts. The minimum protection is one hour; this may be insufficient for a prolonged winter outage. Explain your local circumstances clearly. A mobile-backed phone needs a usable signal, while a battery must support all the necessary equipment, including any powered telephone base.

If you have a pendant or care alarm, contact both your telephone company and your alarm provider before the change. Ask them to confirm compatibility and arrange testing, including the alarm's power-cut arrangements.

If you do not have broadband, ask about a telephone-only solution and any costs before agreeing to a package.

Please help an older relative or neighbour make these enquiries. Keep a written record of the advice and arrange who will check on them during a lengthy power cut.'
Cllr Duane Hubbard
Tenbury Ward
Malvern Hills District Council

ESSENTIAL ROLE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND ADVERTISERS THIS YEAR

No 'good news' roundup would be complete without us thanking all those who have enabled us to produce and deliver Roundabout for you again this year.

Our advertisers are key, and include local trades and services that we hope are useful to everyone. One or two, have been with us from the outset, and their loyalty has been key to our sustainable development, whilst others continue to fill spaces as they occur. We are ever mindful that the economic climate is affecting these small businesses and thank them all for their support.

Our volunteer delivery team is now over thirty people, some of whom are acting as central distribution points, and between them around 600 copies of Roundabout are delivered to homes throughout our parishes, free of charge.

Special mention to Lyn at the Duke of York who is one of the central distributors, saving time and fuel for the team. And, of course Rachel Palmer who organises the drop offs. We are also grateful to Rachel Wood for all the extra local events she posts on the Parish Council website, in addition to those in Roundabout.

We are delighted that from this month we are able to fund an extra one hundred copies to ensure that community points like churches, schools and pubs have plenty available throughout the two months.

Don't forget you can also find Roundabout on kimboltonhamnish.co.uk and https://middletonandleystersgroupparishcouncil.gov.uk
Leysters even has a QRcode.

AND FINALLY.....

Once again thank you all for your news and your views and to all of you who deliver our magazines each time. If you could help to deliver please ring Rachel Palmer on 07968 233387. If you are already delivering and could do with help or if you aren't receiving your copy, please ring her too.

As ever we love to hear from you. Our addresses are:
edteamkimbolton@gmail.com (contributions) Judie Welsh
advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com (advertising) Rachel Evason

Or, if you would like to contribute directly to our costs our bank details are:
Sort code 53-50-41 Account 62513761

Cheques should be made payable to Roundabout our Communities, and can be given to any member of the team.

KIMBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL ROUNDUP

'The Parish Council successfully applied to get the Stockton Cross Inn listed as an Asset of Community Value until 2031. |This means if the listed asset is put up for sale, the community will have time to consider bidding to take over the asset themselves as a community enterprise.

The Council has put Herefordshire Council's grant money to good use on drainage and Public Right of Way projects around the parishes.
We have also seen a push to tidy up the villages. With thanks to Harry Mears for renewing the bus stop; Jeff and Gareth Jones and Tony Bailey for redecorating the front of Kimbolton Village Hall.

The Parish Council has a plan in place to replace all the noticeboards in Kimbolton and Hamnish. The first, for the school entrance, has arrived and is awaiting installation. The other two,in Hamnish and at the Stockton Cross pub, will follow on.

Kimbolton Village Hall has seen an increase in use over the year, with regular use from the Air Gun Club, Pilates,Yoga, Dog classes, WI and the Coffee Mornings. Users of the village hall will be pleased to know that further acoustics panels are going to be installed in the roof before the end of the year. This should significantly improve noise issues that have been a problem.'

Ed Rollings Chair

Chair: Ed Rollings
Vice Chair: Will Mears
Clerk: Annabel Beaumont kimboltonclerk@gmail.com

Meetings: Kimbolton Village Hall
Monday 4th January 2027 - Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday 1st March - Ordinary Council Meeting

https://kimboltonhamnish.co.uk/parish
Herefordshire County Councillor john.stone@herefordshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament (Green Party) ellie.chowns.mp@parliament.uk

EASTERN PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027

Sunday 6 December Advent I	09:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Toy Service	St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore
Sunday 13 December Advent II	09:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Carol Service 16:00 Evening Prayer	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Andrew, Leysters
Wednesday 16 December	19:00 Carols in the Pub	The Stockton Cross, Kimbolton
Thursday 17 December	13:30 School Christmas Service 19:00 Carol Service	St James the Great, Kimbolton St Bartholomew, Docklow
Friday 18 December	19:00 Carol Service 19:00 Village Christmas	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Luke, Stoke Prior
Saturday 19 December	16:00 Carol Service	St Leonard, Hatfield
Sunday 20 December Advent III	09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Carol Service 15:00 Carol Service 16:00 Christingle Service	St John of Jerusalem, Ford Bridge St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston-cum-Whyle St Michael, Bockleton
Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve	15:00 Crib Service 18:00 Carol Service 18:00 Carol Service 23:15 Midnight Mass 23:15 Midnight Mass	St Peter, Pudleston-cum-Whyler St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore St Andrew, Leysters St Dubricius, Hamnish St Luke, Stoke Prior
Friday 25 December Christmas Day	10:00 Christmas Holy Communion 10:00 Christmas Holy Communion	St Bartholomew, Docklow St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill
Sunday 27 December Christmas I	10:00 Holy Communion	St James the Great, Kimbolton
Sunday 3 January Epiphany	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston-cum-Whyle St Luke, Stoke Prior
Sunday 10 January Plough Sunday	10:00 Plough Sunday Service 10:00 Plough Sunday Service	St Michael, Bockleton St Bartholomew, Docklow
Sunday 17 January Epiphany II	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Morning Prayer 11:15 Holy Communion	St Michael, Bockleton St John of Jerusalem, Ford Bridge St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston-cum-Whyle
Sunday 24 January Epiphany III	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St James the Great, Kimbolton St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Andrew, Leysters St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore
Sunday 31 January Candlemas	10:00 Holy Communion	St Leonard, Hatfield

A midweek Holy Communion Service is hosted at Hennor House every Tuesday at 09:30
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Team Vicar | Eastern Parishes
Mark R D Long
New Vicarage, Kimbolton, HR6 OEJ
Home 01568 605054
Mobile 07754 588478
teamvicareast@leominsterteam.org.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY

All telephone numbers are 01568 unless shown otherwise.

Parish Councils

Bockleton	Chair:	VACANT	
	Clerk:	Carole Hirst	07903 377066
Kimbolton	Chair:	Ed Rollings	07796 272007
	Clerk:	Annabel Beaumont	kimboltonclerk@gmail.com
Leysters & Middleton on the Hill:			
	Chair:	Edward Chandler	750433 chandler.leysters@gmail.com
	Clerk:	Clare Halls	750257

Local Councillor (Upton Ward): John Stone 01584 711227

Vicar and Churchwardens

Reverend Mark Long Rural Dean and Team Vicar

Email: teamvicareast@leominsterteam.org.uk 07754 588478

Bockleton	VACANT	
Hamnish	Des Hall	760665
Kimbolton	Joyce Marston	615988
Leysters	Heather Shield	750040
Middleton	Robin Moseley	750226
	Gerlinde Atkins-Child	750674

Village/Parish Hall Bookings

Bockleton	Laura Armishaw	07903 912079
	Email: bockletonparishhall@gmail.com	
Hamnish	David Cornwallis	760243
Kimbolton	Denise Burston	07868 349136
Leysters	Linda Jones	750255
	Email: lindmarg18@googlemail.com	

Schools

St James C of E Primary School Kimbolton	612691
Nursery School:	614743
Bredenbury Primary	01885 483253

Clubs & Societies

Kimbolton WI:	Alison Alderson	07929 179042 kimbolton_wi@herefordshirewi.org.uk
Hamnish Gardening Club:	Wendy Pridie	hamnishgardeningclub@yahoo.com
Kimbolton Air Rifle Club:	Des Hall	760665
Leysters Reading Group:	Linda Jones	750255
Woolpack Knitters and Dabblers	Heather Shield	750040

Doctors;

Ryland (Leominster)	614141
Bromyard	01885 483253
Tenbury	01584 810343

Roundabout magazine news: edteamkimbolton@gmail.com
Roundabout advertising: advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

4	Kimbolton Primary School Fayre 3.15-5.30
4	Christmas Bingo Hamnish Village Hall 7pm
9	Kimbolton Coffee Morning VH 10.30-12
10	Dabblers Art Group Leysters' and Middleton VH 7-8.30
7	Kimbolton/Hamnish Parish Council Meeting K. Village Hall
16	Carols at The Stockton Cross Pub Kimbolton
25	Christmas drinks Stockton Cross 11.30-1.30

JANUARY

4	Kimbolton/Hamnish Parish Council Meeting K. Village Hall
13	Kimbolton Coffee Morning VH 10.30-12
19	Hamnish Gardening Club 7.30 Hamnish Village Hall

KIMBOLTON CHURCH SPECIAL OPENING
Saturday 19 December
Kimbolton church will be open for welcome, coffee and biscuits.
This is to provide for families tending graves of loved ones pre-Christmas.

Please be sure to note our contributions' deadline (on the back cover) in your diary as latecomers are sometimes disappointed!

Contact us: edteamkimbolton@gmail.com (contributions) Judie Welsh advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com (advertising) Rachel Evason

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team. We are not responsible for goods and services advertised. All contributions may be edited at the discretion of the editor.

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Contributions for the next (February/March) edition by Friday 8th January please edteamkimbolton@gmail.com