



# Foxley News

*For the residents of Mansel Lacy, Brinsop, Moorhampton,  
Upperton, Wormsley, Yarsop & Yazor.*



*Published by CalMac/Community Association with financial  
support from a Foxley Group Parish Council grant.*

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**Editorial** It's a Very Merry Christmas to all our readers and a thank you to those who have contributed. Thanks also to Charlie Evans for donating two Rowan trees to the churchyard. Charlie is the one in the middle in the photograph. Included in the list of thank you's are David Starling for repairing the bench seat outside the church door. A very nice job of it Dave. Sad that Roy Eckley, heating engineer, died on 24th October His funeral took place on Thursday 14th November. His golfing handicap was 3.



The video of Foxley Remembered is now available at cost plus £2.00 either as a DVD or memory stick. Apply to the editor - Cal tel: 01981 590625

*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers from the editor*

*To clear up a misconception. My name is CALAN shortened to Cal, but derived from my birthday being on New Year's Day, which in Welsh is Dydd Calan.*

Editor Cal Edwards

Assistant Editor Joyce Potts

All articles, letters or other items may be subject to editorial discretion. The editors do not accept responsibility for articles printed in this magazine. Please send or deliver your copy to:-

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# Foxley News

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Winter	Monday Nov 25	Monday Nov 11
Spring	Monday Feb 24	Monday Feb 10
Summer	Monday May 25	Monday May 11

## Foxley Flyer

The supplement to the Foxley News will be published at the beginning of the months when the Foxley News is resting. Viz. January, February April, May, July, August, October, November. It is a single A5 sized sheet. - Brief items of interest should be sent to Joyce Potts, editor, within the copy deadlines. Tel: 01432 356392 e-mail - [joycemike06@gmail.com](mailto:joycemike06@gmail.com)

## Community Association News

Dear Members and friends,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support and involvement during the past 12 months, we have tried hard to make the association more open to the parish as a whole; with a view to achieve the objective of it being more community based. Although we have held many events; the major being The Foxley Remembered and The Foxley Revisited we should mention that we have held social get together evenings, which are proving popular; the skittle evening at Credenhill Social club with fish and chips is regularly attended by on average 20 members and friends. Similarly, the domino evenings held in the Community Centre and attended by both members and friends and I am sure that both these will continue to attract others to join in.

The first event after the A.G.M in October is the annual bonfire night; held on the Foxley Estate, which we must thank David and Jamie Davenport for allowing us the venue, sadly this year we had the most appalling weather; but that didn't dampen the hardly who made the event so a special thank you to those attending.

The Association Christmas Lunch is being held at Burghill Valley Golf Club this year on Sunday the 8th of December sitting at 2pm if you would wish to attend please let me know (contact number below). The calendar competition with photographs submitted by residents within the parish has proved popular if anyone wishes the purchase one please let me know (contact number below). Finally, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Dave Gwynne Chairman Tel: 01981 590532

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01544 318260

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send him flowers to congratulate him. They arrived at the new business site ... but the florist had sent the wrong flowers. They had the wrong message on the card! The card read: "Rest In Peace". The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. The florist replied: "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: Somewhere there is a funeral taking place and they have flowers with a note saying: 'Congratulations on your new location!'"

### Papers & Milk Deliveries

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Or e-mail: [suewest7762@gmail.com](mailto:suewest7762@gmail.com)

*This will be dependent on sufficient numbers*

## Mansel Garden Club

Garden of the Wind, Walterstone, 15 members traveled to this garden in the most beautiful setting, unfortunately the afternoon was rather wet so members could not take in the wonderful views due to mountain mist. We were welcomed by Rupert Otten who gave us a brief history of the garden prior to the guided tour. The garden had been totally redesigned over the previous 10 years. The patio garden surrounded by grasses led to roses galore and on to the trimmed hornbeam alley, formal parterre, water rill, and the sculpture garden, with grass paths leading to a woodland walk. Paths then led us to the vegetable gardens and the very modern courtyard garden, traditional water troughs filled with flowers. Members concluded with a very welcome warming cuppa and lemon drizzle in the barn, served by Rupert, and many thought they would revisit on a dry day when the setting could be very much appreciated

### Annual General Meeting

25 members attended, the following members agreed to stand on the committee.

Officers Chairman Cal Edwards, Vice Chairman Tom Fitch

Speaker's Secretary Sue Carpenter Visit's Secretary Sue Hallett

Treasurer Pat Astley Draw Organizer Jan Kersley

Social Secretary Pam Powell Drinks Organizer Peter Griffiths

A tea rota would be organized for future meetings as Tom and Paula Fitch wished to retire from Tea duties. Notification of meetings would hopefully be posted under Mansel Lacy in Hereford Times. New members are welcome, and for £3.00 can come along and give the Garden Club a try or join for 12 months for £8.50. Change of date Christmas Party 9th December should be noted, as usual at Mansel Community Hall 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

The meeting was followed with cheese and wine. Members were asked to chat to committee members and to offer comments if they wanted changes, or had ideas for speakers or visits. New ideas are always welcome.

Pam Powell

### Talk by Kevin Alviti "Preserving the Harvest from your Garden"

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November we were truly entertained with a lively talk from Kevin Alviti. Kevin grew up on a large farm and loved his upbringing and way of life so much that he was determined to give his own family the same opportunity. He certainly achieved this as he now has a 5 acre smallholding in Malvern, a wife and three children and they all seem to be living the dream!

Kevin is a stay at home dad who looks after his three children, runs a playgroup and a scout group as well as working part time as a carpenter to make ends meet. Of course he also gives garden club talks!

He is striving to be self reliant and believes in a traditional way of life and family values.

He grows fruit and vegetables, raises some of his own meat and makes his own wine.

He talked about how he preserves his harvest so that the food he grows can be used all year round. It is important to store the food in the correct conditions and the right temperature and we learned about all the many ways to preserve all types of food. Kevin talked about canning, bottling, dehydration, fermentation, pickling, freezing and drying as well as making jams and chutney not forgetting wine making using many different vegetables. We sampled a few of the interesting things he bought along in jars including dried fruit which his children eat instead of sweets.

We could also purchase wooden garden items he had made from reclaimed pine.

Kevin was so enthusiastic about his way of life and he has many more ideas that he would like to achieve. Mansel garden club wishes him luck in his future projects.

Sue Carpenter

## Lacy Ladies & Gentlemen talks

In July Maureen Williams gave a talk on Hedgehog rescue. As always she gave a lovely unscripted talk on her rescue in Tillington and general hog care. With some great tips for gardeners like leaving a wild area for them to feel safe and secure. They can then use this for nests or hibernating. Also leaving out cat biscuits at night but no meal worms, which can cause metabolic bone disease.

September we welcomed Jo Weightman who gave a great talk on Fungi of Herefordshire. Lots of brilliant photos showing interesting and rare fungi in the area. The talk included the thankfully now rare Ergot, which is also called St. Anthony's fire, which if consumed will cause madness and will progress to Gangrene and death.

Our last talk was Marsha O Mahony, the author of River Voices. She gave an illustrated talk on the life on the River Wye. From Ken Preedy the last of the ferrymen to Tommy Palmer who used to regularly jump off Holme Lacy bridge in flood to swim and was part of the SAS in the Iranian siege. An informative talk about life around our river.

Lacy Ladies would like to welcome anyone to its talks which are held every fourth Thursday of the month, in Mansel Lacy church at 7.30pm. If you have any idea of what you would like to hear or any information of speakers please contact Angela Starling on 07968 168461 Thanks.

### Garden Club Programme reminder

December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 Christmas Party" Community Hall 7 for 7.30pm

January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Leila Jackson "The show circuit & designing a Show Garden

February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Octavia Hopwood "Looking after your Soil"

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 Victoria Logue "Practical Propagation."

April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Rowan McConegal "Hedgerow Medicine"

All the above will be held in the Community Hall at 7.30pm





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A doctor that had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills. "Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?" "Yes, they help me sleep at night." "Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!" She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night." You gotta love Grandmas!

---

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk.' The question was worth 70 points or none at all. One student was hard put to think of seven advantages. He wrote: 1) It is perfect formula for the child. 2) It provides immunity against several diseases. 3) It is always the right temperature. 4) It is inexpensive. 5) It bonds the child to mother and vice versa. 6) It is always available as needed. And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test he wrote: 7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it. He got an A+.

---

*Three women and three men are traveling by train to the football game.*

*At the station, the three men each buy a ticket and watch as the three women buy just one ticket. "How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" Asks one of the men.*

*"Watch and learn," answers one of the women. They all board the train*

*The three men take their respective seats but all three women cram into a toilet together and close the door. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket, please. "The door opens just a crack, and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.*

*The men see this happen and agree it was quite a clever idea; so, after the game, they decide to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station they buy a single ticket for the return trip but see, to their astonishment, that the three women don't buy any ticket at all!! "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" asks one perplexed man.*

*"Watch and learn," answer the women. When they board the train, the three men cram themselves into a toilet, and the three women cram into a toilet just down the way. Shortly after the train is on its way, one of the women leaves her toilet and walks over to the toilet in which the men are hiding. She knocks on their door and says, "Ticket please."*

*I'm still trying to figure out why men think they are smarter than women.*

---

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would "hate" to have to live under the laws they have passed

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## Polecat.. *Mustela Putorius*

The first time I saw a Polecat was unfortunately a dead one on the road. Such a beautiful mammal with his mask round his eyes and quite a thick tail. Since then I've seen them a number of times around Hereford.. Usually at night jumping off the road into the hedge but I have seen them now and the during the day again seeking the safety and shelter of the hedgerow. We're very lucky that in Herefordshire we have a good population which



is hopefully now spreading throughout Britain

This mammal probably colonised mainland England from continent Europe at the end of the last ice age around 9,500 years ago. Although they reached the mainland they did not reach Ireland.

The Polecat is a member of the Mustelid family of which includes Stoat and Badgers. They live for around 5 years and are solitary in nature and require a square kilometre of home range. Mainly nocturnal you will mainly see them at night, but sometimes if the female is hunting for her kits she will be seen in the day. Radio tracking has shown they particularly favour hedgerows, woodland, riverbanks and in the winter farmland and buildings. They favour lowland countryside and generally will not go above 500m. If threatened they will emit a very pungent musky odour from scent glands at the base of their tails, they also use this to mark territory. Polecats are polygamous (males will have more than one mate). In May/June they will have one litter of around 5-10 kits. They will be weaned after weeks and fully grown in 3 months.

Polecats will interbreed with ferrets and the young tend to have lighter fur on their backs and whiter faces. Their diet mainly consists of rabbits, rats, frogs, birds and snakes. *Mustela Putorius* means foul smelling musk bearer. The old English name is Foulmart which distinguishes it from Sweetmart or Pine Martin that has no foul odour. The name Polecat comes from Poule-chat (chicken cat) for its perceived love for chicken. Unfortunately they were reviled as chicken killers and in the middle ages they were declared vermin and a bounty was paid by church wardens for each one killed. By 1915 these mammals had been eradicated from most of mainland Britain by gamekeepers. They were basically on the brink of extinction.

The only remaining areas where they were still established was Wales, Herefordshire and Shropshire. Reduced predator control after WW II led to a slow recovery and then the cessation of commercial rabbit trapping in 1950 further eased the pressure of so called accidental trapping.

The conservation status is now Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that prohibits the killing or taking of these animals. It is also an offence to trap them even accidentally.

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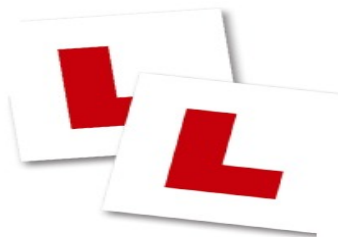
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Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house

- Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse
- The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
- At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
- When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
- When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
- I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared:
- The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
- The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
- And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."
- As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
- And prepared once again to do battle with dirt--
- I said to myself, as I only can
- "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
- So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
- Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
- Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
- "Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
- I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
- I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
- I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
- I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
- I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore--
- But isn't that what January is for?
- Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
- Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

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It's 7.30pm and you are going home, after a very hard day at work Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in the chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are alone— and you are within 5km of a hospital Can you make it that far.

How to survive a heart attack when alone and in such pain.

A person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint should help themselves survive by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough and the cough must be deep and prolonged as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain a normal rhythm. In this way heart attack victims can get to help or to a hospital.

This woman honked & screamed at him for stopping on a yellow light

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the line, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the crossing.. The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the crossing. As she was in mid rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered out of the car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the 'What would Jesus do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' plate holder, the 'Follow me to Sunday School' bumper sticker and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the bonnet, so naturally..... I assumed you had stolen the car!"

### **Poor mental health will affect all of us, at some time in our lives. It does not respect age, gender, creed or colour.**

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Signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant, we hold the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, Herefordshire Council's Community Champions Award for volunteering and Herefordshire Business Awards Charity of The Year 2019. We are a service without walls. We share food, stories, experiences and life's challenges. Being in a safe place where it's safe to laugh and safe to cry - enables participants to find a sense of inner peace. We are a community, a family which welcomes new faces each week and supports those who have been with us for a while to find a future; we walk alongside the vulnerable and the outcast and bring them back into the heart of our communities: Would you like to support us and make us your charity of the year 2020?





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### **Oil Consortium Community**

We continue to grow with both word of mouth and the Foxley News.

I try to organise a monthly order in which, even an order for the minimum quantity of 500 litres, gets the same price as larger orders, which in turn, helps out all members. If you would like to join our community or would like to order oil, please contact me, Michelle Sheers, on 01981 590765 or you can email on [shel.sheers@gmail.com](mailto:shel.sheers@gmail.com)

I had spent an hour in the bank with my dad, as he had to transfer some money. I couldn't resist and asked, "Dad, why don't we activate your internet banking?" "Why would I do that?" he asked.

"Well, then you won't have to spend an hour here for things like money transfer. You can even do your shopping online, everything will be so easy!" I was so excited about initiating him into the world of Net banking.

He asked "If I do that, I won't have to step out of the house?"

"Yes, yes!" I said. I told him how even groceries can be delivered at your door now and how Amazon delivers everything!

His answer left me tongue-tied. He said: "Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends, I have chatted a while with the staff who know me very well by now. You know I'm alone... this is the company that I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank, I have enough time and it is the physical touch that I crave. Two years back when I got sick, the store owner from whom I buy fruit, came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried. When your Mum fell down a few days back while on her morning walk, our local grocer saw her and immediately got his car to rush her home as he knows where I live. Would I have that 'human' touch if everything became online? Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer?"

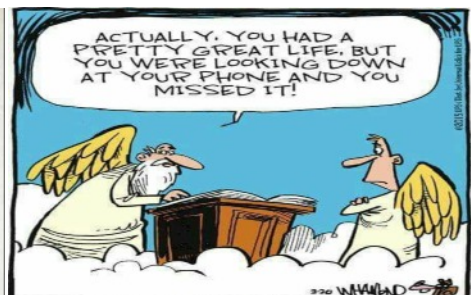
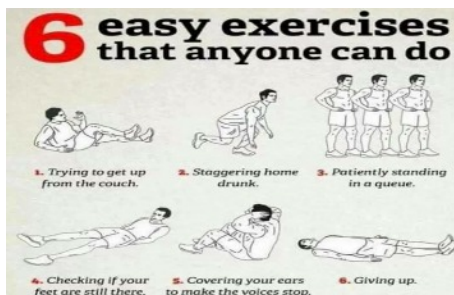
I like to know the person that I'm dealing with and not just the 'seller'. It creates bonds and adds to my circle of friends

### Think about this for a moment

If I happened to show up on your door would you care? If I called you and asked you to pick me up because something hurt, would you come? If I had one day left to live my life, would you be part of that last day? If I needed a shoulder to cry on, would you give me yours?

This is a test to see who your real friends are or if you are just someone to talk to you when they are bored. Do you know what the relationship is between your two eyes? They blink together, they move together, they cry together, they see things together, they sleep together, but they never see each other... that's what friendships is. Your aspiration is your motivation, your motivation is your belief, your belief is your peace, your peace is your target, your target is heaven, and life is like hard core torture without it..

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Stuart Deane, Joyce Lewis  
Rosa Williams, Rob Hallett  
Sue Rawlinson,  
Jacky Jones, Fiona Harwood,  
Ken King, David & Angela Starling,  
Kevin Baylis,*

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*Lacy Ladies & Gentlemen*

*Chair - Rosa Williams  
Vice Chair - Vera Cole  
Treas. & Social Sec. - Angela Starling*

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*Mansel Garden Club*

*Chairman - Cal Edwards  
Vice Chairman - Tom Fitch  
Secretary - Visits Sue Hallett  
Secretary - Speakers Sue Carpenter  
Treasurer - Pat Astley  
Social Secretary - Pam Powell  
Draw organiser Jan Kersley  
Supernumery Peter Griffiths*

*Foxley Group Parish Council*

*Chairman - David Davenport  
Vice Chairman - Cal Edwards  
Councillors - Andrew Davies,  
David Gwynne, Alan Powell,  
Sue Hallett, Mark Mangan,  
Clerk - Brian Barrett*

---

*Mansel Lacy PCC*

*Chair - Rev. Rana Davies-James  
Vice Chairman - Rev. A Deane  
Churchwarden: Stuart Deane  
Secretary Cal Edwards  
Treasurer - Stuart Deane  
Deanery Synod Rep. -  
Rev. Rana Davies-James  
PCC Members :-  
Joyce Lewis, Vera Cole,  
Rosa Williams, Sue Hallett.*

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*Brinsop with Wormsley P C C*

*Chair - Rev Rana Davies James  
Vice Chair - James Spreckley  
Secretary - Liz Hill  
Treasurer - Jane Simons  
Churchwarden:- Katrina Morris,  
PCC Members: Brenda Mills  
Connie Kingsland, D Filsell,  
David Williams,*

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*Mansel Lacy*

*Churchyard Grass Cutters  
Cal Edwards & Mike Jones  
Angela & David Starling*

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*Other information you might find useful as a welcome to the village*

*Nearest Doctors surgery is at Weobley 01544 318472*

*Next door is a Dentist 01544 318166*

*In emergencies dial 111 and ask for Taurus Health Care*

*And the Hereford Hospital number is 01243 355444*

*A vet's number 01432 272468 (Holmer Vets)*

*Your local County Councillor is called Mike Jones and you can contact  
him via the Herefordshire Council switchboard 01432 260000 or on  
[www.Herefordshire.org.uk](http://www.Herefordshire.org.uk)*

*Rubbish bins get emptied every week Black bins one week and Green bins  
alternate weeks*



For more information call  
the EventsTeam at  
St Michael's Hospice  
01432 851000 or

Visit

[www.st.michaelshospice.org.uk/events](http://www.st.michaelshospice.org.uk/events)

St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, Hereford HR14HA Can you help? If you enjoy gardening and are able to grow some extra plants to donate to us for our Plant Fair, please call Gaynor by telephone on 01432 851 000 or email [gwarren@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:gwarren@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk). Or have your own stall? See page 23 for further information about St. Michael's Hospice



**Herefordshire  
Headway**

Headway House  
Trenchard Avenue  
Credenhill

The next four Coffee Mornings  
Or Community Lunches

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January '20

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February '20

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March '20

Tween 10.30 and 12 noon.

join us for a chat. All Welcome



**Relate Worcestershire** is offering counselling to individuals and their families with service in the grocery industry, UK Banks, Civil Service, Chartered Accountancy, Air Force, Royal Navy/Marines or a child victim of or witness to a crime. For information, eligibility criteria and appointments call 01905 29051 (24hr) Open Monday to Thursdays 9-5, Fridays 9-6, Sats 9-1 [www.relate.org.uk/worcestershire](http://www.relate.org.uk/worcestershire)

*Can you help local people in  
your community!*

## Onside

is a registered charity providing independent advocacy to vulnerable adults, we provide our service across Herefordshire and we are currently looking to train more volunteers from your local area. If you are interested contact

Claire on 01905 27525 or e mail

[volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk)

Disability Equipment Service Herefordshire (DESH) is a local website which lists second-hand disability equipment no longer required which is being sold or given away by people who live locally. The site is administered and maintained by Herefordshire Carers Support.

It is **FREE** to advertise and simple to use

Visit [www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org/desh](http://www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org/desh) or call us on 01432 356068.

*'Marie Curie for Herefordshire.' Sarah Harris, the local Community Fundraiser is asking if people can spare just two hours to help support their biggest campaign the Great Daffodil Appeal. Marie Curie provides care and support for people living with a terminal illness, through their Hospices, Nursing Care, Information and Support Line and research. Contact Sarah on 0121 703 3741 / 07850 916414 / [sarah.harris@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:sarah.harris@mariecurie.org.uk)*

**ACSYL** Do you like people? Are you a good listener? Are you confident with people, well-organised and keen to learn? If so, you may be a good Community Connector for ACSYL (A Circle Supporting You For Life). The salary is £10.00 per hour and training will be given.

For an information pack, email [info@acsyl.co.uk](mailto:info@acsyl.co.uk) or

call Michelle Sheers on 01989 555006.



## Foxley Group Parish Council

The next Group parish meeting is scheduled for 18th November which is after the deadline for the Foxley News. There will be a report of the Autumn meeting in the next edition of this magazine. In the meantime there is a **General Election on Thursday 12th December**. The Polling station will again be in the Community Hall in the Mansel Lacy Church open from 7am until 10pm

**HOME  
START**

For parents when  
they need us most



**Home-Start Herefordshire**

Contact Alison Jones  
01432371212

[www.home-startherefordshire.co.uk](http://www.home-startherefordshire.co.uk)

is an independent charity which offers support, friendship and practical help to families who are experiencing stress and finding it hard to cope and have at least one child between 0-19. It offers a unique service. We recruit and train volunteers to visit families at home and offer them informal, friendly and confidential support. A local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times. There for parents when they need us the most

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a lion heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch. The old Doberman thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in trouble now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the lion is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly, "Boy that was one delicious lion, I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this the young lion halts his attack in mid-stride, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!" says the lion, "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!" Meanwhile a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the lion. So off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the lion, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the lion. The young lion is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now the old Doberman sees the lion coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says.....

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another lion!"

Moral of this story... Don't mess with old dogs... Old age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery! Wisdom comes with old age and experience.

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## PCC Breakfast Club

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs in the month  
Open from 0900 until 1030  
**Join us and have chat too!**

**There will not be a breakfast  
club on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> December**



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From the Rev. Rana Davies-James, The Vicarage,  
8 Hillside View, Credenhill HR4 7FD 01432 760443 E-mail: rana.james@virgin.net

Dear Friends,

*When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God... There was also a prophet, Anna... Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:27-28, 36, 38*

Every year the avalanche of cards betrays the mixed messages of the British Christmas. Beside the usual themes of winter, snow, holly, robins and stars, there are the innumerable ways of portraying the birth narratives of Jesus, loosely featuring stable, manger, assorted animals, shepherds and magi.

But Luke's carefully chosen and recorded stories of those who saw and worshipped this baby, who welcomed his coming into the world, include two elderly witnesses who are almost always left out. Simeon and Anna, unlike the shepherds and the astrologers, are simply not on the cards – they are the missing worshippers of the newborn king.

Jesus was still a tiny baby when he was taken to the temple by his parents to fulfil the requirements of the law. Simeon and Anna, prompted by the Holy Spirit, were there when he was carried in. Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. In all the bustle of the busy temple, full of families fulfilling their obligations, buying pigeons, going through the required rituals, these two elderly devout believers, waiting for the promise of a Messiah, saw one family with one small baby and knew he was the Christ. For most of the hundreds of others in the crowded temple, the idea that this newborn Galilean baby should be the Messiah was not on the cards – not what they expected and probably not what they would have wanted.

All around us the business and festive demands of Christmas, like the temple bustle, has God's promise of a Saviour hidden somewhere at its heart. May the Holy Spirit open our eyes to reveal once more the amazing truth of God incarnate as a small baby, and may he open the eyes of those around us for whom this is simply not on the cards.

Trevor joins me in wishing you all every blessing for a Joyful Christmas Season,  
Rana

Church	1st Sunday	2nd Sun	3rd Sun	4th Sun	5th Sun
Credenhill	11am Holy Communion	11am All age workshop	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion & Healing	10am Group Holy Communion
Brinsop & Wormsley	9.30am Holy Communion				July Brinsop
Man Lacy & Yazor		9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning svce	Sept Credenhill
Kenchester		6pm Evening Prayer		6pm Evening Prayer	Dec Brinsop
Br Sollars				9.30am Holy Communion	
Bishopstone	9.30am Family Svce		9.30am Holy Communion		



## *Genesis Contract Services*

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the moment you contact us.*

Please contact: **Bill Rowlatt (day or night)**  
6 Castle Close, Eardisley, Herefordshire. HR3 6NL  
**Tel: 01544 327829**

### St Michael's Hospice – Light up a Life

Remembering family, friends and colleagues and reflecting on the times we spent together. Light up a Life gives you the chance to celebrate their lives – by lighting a candle, placing a dedication in St Michael's 'Books of Remembrance' and, if you wish, attending one of the special events taking place throughout Herefordshire and the surrounding area.

*The full list of Light up a Life services is below. visit [st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://st-michaels-hospice.org.uk)*

Lyde Arundel, Lyde – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 2.30pm St Michael & All Angels Church,  
Kingstone – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 4pm St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Ross – Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> December – 6.30pm St Michael's Church, Brimfield – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 6.30pm St  
Francis Xavier Church, Hereford – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 7pm St Peter & St Paul's  
Church, Weobley – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm Café Morso, Colwall – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
December – 6pm St Mary the Virgin Church, Marden – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 11.15am Steiner  
School, Much Dewchurch – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 3.30pm Methodist Church, Bromyard –  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm St Andrew's Church, Hampton Bishop – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December –  
4pm St Mary's Church, Kington – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 5pm

### *Community Association Christmas Lunch at Burghill Valley Golf Club*

*On Sunday 8th December 2019 at 2pm*

*2 Courses Carvery with a choice of sweet*

*followed by Coffee and Mincepie £17.50*

*Tickets from Dave Gwynne 590532*

Church services at Mansel Lacy in December Sun. 8th Holy Communion  
Sun. 22nd Carol Service at 6.30pm. No service on Christmas day -  
please join Credenhill at 10am Sun. 29th Brinsop Group Holy Communion





# CANON MOTORS



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Mansel Lacy Community Hall and Church Cleaning/ Flower Rota  
*January - Angie Deane/Sue Rawlinson. February - Tammy Gwynne/Sue Hallett*  
*April - Lindy Davenport/Vera Cole May - Pam Powell/Marian Powell*  
*June - Jennifer Spinks/Angela Starling July - Tracey Lewis/Sue Rawlinson*  
*August - Ann Fairhurst/Jacky Jones September - Angie Deane/Sue Hallett*  
*October - Vera Cole / Kim Williams November - vacancy/Jennifer Spinks*  
*December - Christmas Décor All who can give time please*  
*If you cannot do your month for any reason, please contact: Sue Hallett 590980*