

John Lycett's blog – December 2025

It's that time of year when you have to go and split some logs, cut a Christmas tree and find some holly and mistletoe.

The sloe gin is probably ready for sampling so why wait?

Back to the farm, another field of energy beet has been lifted and the ground has been ploughed and sown with Crusoe milling wheat.

We seem to have been harvesting one crop or another every month of the year, but in some it's been up to four.

Yet again we have enjoyed an amazingly successful Whittington and Oswestry Illuminated Tractor Run which took place last weekend. They were flagged off from Oswestry Cattle Market by Jane Trowbridge, Shropshire's current High Sherriff and our local MP, Helen Morgan.

The turnout of enthusiastic supporters along the route was exceptional and a stonking £22,000 plus has been raised to date.



The contents of my Inbox this week will give me plenty to read. Someone has sent me Baroness Batters' farming report. I have also received Andersons' Outlook 2026.



Ploughing
Min-till
Combi-drilling
Spraying
Fertiliser spreading
Solid and liquid digestate
sometimes available
Combining and drying
Maize drilling
Forage harvesting

At the last farm staff meeting the way forward was discussed, so, as a result, if there is any farmer or landlord considering a change of policy or wanting to take life a bit easier with less strain, we'd like to hear from you.

Seasonal good wishes to you all!