



# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

<http://www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk/>



## ANNUAL REPORT

### Social Media

The Clerk continues to maintain a private residents email distribution list and regularly forwards relevant emails such as road closure notifications, public consultations and useful local information to residents on that list. If you would like to receive these emails please email the clerk at [parishclerk@bandkpc.org](mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org) granting permission for the Clerk to add your email address to her list.

The clerk also posts relevant information on our Facebook page. Please search for 'Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council' on Facebook and follow or like our page.

### What else has the Parish Council been doing?

- Purchase of replacement bench at The Sports Field.
- Organisation of regular litter picks around the Parish.
- Applying for a grants to cover the Silent Tommy repair and bug, bee, bird and bat boxes
- Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.
- Management of repairs to the playground equipment.
- Updating and improvement of the Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Purchase of a new noticeboard at The Sports Field.
- Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish.
- Action as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils on anything related to the local community.
- Production of the Parish News three times a year.
- Purchase and placement of wreath at Broomfield Church on behalf of the Parish for Remembrance Sunday and purchase of lamp post poppies in aid of The RBL.
- Liaison with our local PC re issues within the Parish.
- Liaison with our MBC Community Warden re issues within the Parish.
- Helping to resolve residents' issues and concerns.
- Progressing of the Village Hall Project.
- Organisation of a regular Parish Council Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of a Coronation Event for the community.
- Provided assistance and support for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- The installation and maintenance of two Silent Tommy Statues in the Parish.
- The continuation of a once a week bus service with the help of local Parishes and Nu-Venture.

## Budget 2023/24

The Councils accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006). They are subject to external and internal audit (by an independent auditor).

# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Annual Finance Report 2023/2024

## Statement of Account

Opening balance 31/03/2023

£ 77,470.12

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	61,160.00	Administration Expenses	3,473.87
Parish Service Scheme	3,388.70	S137	6,060.80
Rent	1,233.06	Publicity	1,745.00
VAT Refund	4,093.24	Parish Costs	2,105.80
Advertising	1,170.00	Sports Field	9,912.95
Bank Interest	2,761.33	Staff Costs	22,738.63
Additional Income	2,114.55	Subscriptions	791.23
		Miscellaneous Expenses	8,569.96
		VAT Paid	3,610.29

Closing balance 31/03/2024

£ 90,331.68

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2023/2024.

The Internal Audit took place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 and the audited accounts will be published shortly. The complete figures will then be audited by the government appointed external auditor Mazars and will be available upon request to the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

Please remember to register on the electoral roll with each and every revision; MBC uses these numbers to decide how much to give the Parish Council each year through our annual Parish Service Scheme Grant, we need every penny to prevent further increases in our precept.

## Donations and Grants 2023/24

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2023/24:

Air Ambulance	£500
Friends of Kingswood School	£103
Royal British Legion	£125
Heart of Kent Hospice	£750

## **Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2024**

Once again it has been a year of highs and lows.

The lows started with the closure of the Leeds Road, from July to October and all its accompanying problems. The various road closures meant that there were lengthy delays on some roads, while other roads returned to the golden days when it was safe to walk. We can only hope that the contractor and the local authorities learnt from the project.

Road closures, both planned and emergency continue to be an ongoing problem and your Parish Council is doing whatever we can to try to ensure you have as much information as possible. We are talking with Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to try to get more enforcement of traffic regulations with regard to HGVs. A new Co-ordinated Parish Traffic Group has been set up to bring together several parishes in the hope that several voices will succeed where one fails. Please continue to let Hayley have any photographs you might have of inappropriate vehicles using our lanes.

The Sports Field continues to be well used by parishioners of all ages, and the Parish Council are pleased to be able to ensure that it is well maintained and a developing space. This year we have planted a further three new trees, two of which are heritage apples, and it will be interesting to see how they do. We replaced one of the wooden benches that was broken and, unfortunately, have also had to replace one of the picnic tables, when it was destroyed by someone using it as a BBQ stand.

New goal posts have been installed and Headcorn FC are making good use of them on a regular basis during the season. The club includes quite a few of our Kingswood boys and there is also a girls' team.

As part of our continuing programme to encourage biodiversity in our woodlands we obtained a grant for £400 from Maidstone Borough Council under their Love Where you Live scheme and used the funds to provide bird, bee, bat, and bug boxes around the Sports Field, all made by our talented Martin Worrall.

The First Aid Course in October was well attended, so well in fact that, with the aid of another grant, we are going to be putting on several more courses during the coming year. The course covers how to use the defibrillator and we are pleased to announce that a further defibrillator is being installed at the Sports Field, on the Scout Hut. There is also a new one installed by the Village Hall Committee at the Village Hall and of course the one on the side of the Village NISA Shop. Kingswood now has three defibrillators, and I will be very happy if they never get used.

Then we came to November and once again our local crafters pulled out all the stops for the Poppy Installation at the white finger post sign. We are also gradually buying more poppies to display both in Broomfield and Kingswood.

Two Silent Tommy's were installed, one in Broomfield and one in Kingswood. Unfortunately, the one in Kingswood was vandalised shortly after it was installed and had to be repaired, only for it to be vandalised once again, this time beyond repair. I must admit that the sheer stupid disrespect of the vandalism left me, for a while, almost speechless with rage. However, we are not going to let the vandals win, Tommy will be back, like the Allies on D Day, stronger and better prepared.

While we are on the subject of vandalism and crime, we have a new PC whose name is James Phillips and it's his job to help tackle these issues but if he doesn't know about them he can't do anything, so if you experience or see any sort of crime, or antisocial behaviour, report it either direct on 101 or via the internet.

While we are talking about antisocial behaviour we might as well mention those perennial problems of litter and dog poo. The litter has got worse since the pandemic and although we have a trustee band of volunteers who turn up for the litter picks, they, even with the help of the Scouts, this last time, can only do so much and it is up to us all to "take our litter home" or use the bins that have

been provided. There will be another litter pick shortly so watch out for the notices and come along, there is always free coffee and cake afterwards.

With regard to dog poo, what is there left to say, pick it up, drop it in the bin or take it home and put it in your dustbin. It's not rocket science, and I know that the majority of our lovely dog owners are responsible enough to do this.

The planters, which were installed several years ago, were starting to look a bit tired and shabby so once again we called on the services of Martin to spruce them up with new wooden covers and we recently installed the new "Welcome to Broomfield and Kingswood" signs, I think they look very classy. Our thanks to Cllr Shellina Prendergast for providing funds from her members allowance to help pay for the signs.

The Wednesday bus service is still being well used and funding for this has been obtained until May 2025.

The Coffee Mornings that are being held during school holidays (we have had seven this year), must be enjoyable because the attendance is going up each time. So come along, meet up with friends old and new and enjoy the cake, it is all free and open to everyone.

The Parish Council are not the only ones organising events for Kingswood, this year we have had a Kingswood Safari organised by Kat Aylward and her team, and I know that people came from far and wide, despite the rain, to try to find a bargain from one of the stalls outside people's homes. The Kingswood Crafting Group organised a Butterfly and Caterpillar hunt, with crocheted and knitted butterflies and caterpillars scattered around Kingswood and the surrounding woods with the idea that if you found one you made a donation at the post office, if you decided to keep it, or you put it back and let someone else find it. It was a lovely idea and raised £80.55 for The Three Suttons Helpline. Our thanks go to those anonymous ladies who I suspect are also responsible for the post box toppers that had brought a smile to so many faces.

Christmas came and with it the Reverse Santa, who despite thick fog, made a tour of the village and instead of giving presents, Santa collected donations for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Once again parishioners showed how generous they could be and gave an enormous amount of food that was much appreciated. The evening was rounded off with mulled wine and sausage rolls in the Village Hall. Thanks go to Terry and Ceridwen Clarke for their organisational skills, to Donna and Colin Rawlings for their cooking skills, and, of course, to all the elves and pixies who helped out on the evening. It was an enormous success as you could tell by the buzz in the Village Hall. Santa will be back this year!

The Scouts provided a delivery service within the village of Christmas Cards that were posted in a special box in the Post Office, a great idea. Thank you to all who took part.

It only remains for me to say thank you to Hayley Roberts, for her never ending patience and organisational skills and the fact that no matter what I ask she always seems to say that it is possible and finds a way.

Thanks also to my fellow Councillors for all their hard work and support over the past year.

Thanks go again to all those who run the various clubs, the crafters, the bakers, the organisers, the litter pickers. Thanks especially go again to all those who, by small acts of kindness, make someone's day just that little bit better.

Tina Clark  
Chair  
Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

## **Annual Ward Members Report 2024 - Gill Fort, MBC Councillor for Leeds**

### **Annual Report for 2023/24**

Maidstone and other councils across the UK have had to plan for significant growth. Work has been going on for a number of years to develop the new Local Plan and after the government inspector found the plan to sound it was adopted at Full Council in March of this year.

It is important that this was passed because without a Local Plan any site in the borough could be brought forward by an applicant for development and there would be little in the way of protection.

Aligned to growth the council administration has committed to providing affordable/social housing.

The first 400 out of a target of 1000 have been given approval. This initiative is important. Any young person growing up in the borough should have the opportunity to be housed here and not be forced to move away.

In the budget this year a principal sum of £1,000,000 has been allotted to carry out a feasibility study on the Leeds/Langley Relief Road. This is to look into the logistics, cost and external funding.

Last year there was a crackdown on fly tipping. MBC increased their penalty charges, and they are now some of the highest in England.

The refurbishment of the facilities at Maidstone Leisure Centre has been given the green light. £2.5m has been earmarked to make improvements.

The new refuse contract came into force on 25th March. Maidstone along with Ashford and Swale let the contract to Suez. It is clear that the service since then has not been acceptable. I understand that some residents have not had collection for weeks and this has been highlighted. I am not here to defend the poor service that many have experienced however just thought I should explain some of the issues over the last few weeks.

New routes were planned. The old Biffa routes needed to be rebalanced to take into account the new housing. Changes to the routes and the introduction of new electric vehicles have slowed down the collection process. Recycling is now at an all time high and therefore the recycling vehicles get full quicker and therefore the operative must make more trips to the recycling centres adding to the timeframe.

If residents are still having missed bin collection, please report via the MBC website. If you still have issues, please contact me as I am happy to help.



## **ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024 – SHELLINA PRENDERGAST**

Dear Residents,

As I enter the final year of my second term serving residents of Maidstone Rural East, I cannot help but look back over the years and the many challenges that you and our local businesses have faced over that time. Whilst we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful areas of rural Kent, we are also a resilient community who continue to support each other throughout the most difficult times – something that fills me with great pride and for which I thank all of you.

That previously well-run council across the UK are now facing serious financial difficulties has been well documented and Kent County Council is no exception – having started this year facing a budget gap of some £50m ahead of setting the 2024/25 budget.

The budget was approved by councillors in February, the books only being balanced by a range of measures which include a major review of frontline services, dipping into reserves and a council tax increase of nearly 5% - a decision that was very tough for all those present given the financial pressures residents are facing.

However, it remains an inescapable fact that the cost of and demand for key council services for adult social care, children in care and home to school transport will continue to increase at a much higher rate than the funding available from government and local taxes and some very careful consideration will need to be given to how KCC delivers services into the future – and we are all working hard to ensure that we continue to deliver the best services we can and at the best value to council tax payers here in Maidstone Rural East and across Kent.

Turning to more local matters, community protection continues to be a major contributor to my postbag – whether it be domestic abuse, substance abuse, scams, antisocial behaviour and supporting those who are most vulnerable and their families. It would be fair to say that there is a lot of joint work at KCC with partners – the police, the health service, parish and district councils – to ensure a safer environment for all of us to live and work in. However, the single biggest issue for me when it comes to community safety in our rural communities is that of highways safety – whether it be speeding, inconsiderate driving, accident hotspots, the impacts of works on our major road networks such as the A249 and A20, the chaos we face every time Operation Brock is implemented or some of the problems we are faced with what appears to be never ending roadworks. Working jointly with several parish councils, we have been successful in getting these issues right at the forefront in discussions with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, senior Officers from Kent Highways and Kent Police. I am delighted to say that all parties recognised the issues raised and are all committed to taking measures to improve safety

for all road users. There is too much to detail in this annual report, but it is also true that there is much work to be done and I will endeavour to keep you all updated as matters progress on local issues.

In the meantime, please do let me know if there is anything at all that I can assist you with. As ever, it is an honour to be representing residents of Maidstone Rural East at Kent County Council.

With my very best wishes

Shellina Prendergast  
Maidstone Rural East – Kent County Council

## **Kingswood Book Klub**

Following the success of our very own Little Library, and to share the love of reading, the Kingswood Book Klub meets in the Parker Room of the Village Hall, every 4 weeks. We nominate a book to read and then we share our views, understandings and opinions of the book. We started in February this year, we've read so far

- The Unspeakable Acts of Zina Pavlou - Eleni Kyriacou
- Artificial Wisdom – Thomas Weaver
- It All Started With A Lie - Denise Brown
- The Salt Path – Raynor Winn

We read on eReaders, with audio books, and tree (paper) books; we read in snatched moments, on train journeys and when no one is watching. We don't all finish the book of the month, and we find that we all take something different from the book. We pay a small sum to cover refreshments and the hall hire and we enjoy talking about the plot, the writing, the characters and the feelings they generate.

Contact Becky Godfrey (07940 726554)



## **Kingswood Crafting Group**

From our first meeting in May 2023, the Crafting Group has always had one objective: to come together and share our passions for crafting. We started with crochet, then together we've made cards, gift boxes and bags, Easter bunnies and pin cushions. We made Butterflies which we hid around the Village for children to find and raised more than £80 for a local charity. We made knitted boobies for the Maidstone Hospital Maternity Unit as teachings aids. We've tried needle felting, gazed in awe and wonder at lace making, decoupage and diamond art.

And, of course, we've made poppies, always poppies, always more poppies for the village Remembrance Display.

We meet in the Scout Hut every month, on a Thursday morning and we enjoy new crafts, new friendships, coffee and chat. What's not to love? Learning from each other, supporting one another and sharing resources, having a go at something new. Everyone is welcome, come along and spend some time getting creative.

Contact Ceridwen 07925 508050

# Kingswood Speedwatch Group

Our group has now been operating for just over two years, our aim is to try and eradicate speeding within our village and surrounding area.

We really appreciate the support given to us by our Parish council, by way of helping with provision of consumables and stationery etc. Without this support the group wouldn't be able to operate.

Our group consists of around 9 people, and it is a mix of people all from our local community, volunteering their time to undertake sessions around local roads. This can be from an hour a month to a couple of hours a week, there is no expectation to do sessions. It's just when people have available time. Some of our volunteers are retired, others fit it around work commitments, it is whatever suits the individual. One of our members said soon after they joined.

'It is very clear that even after only a few sessions, the presence of a Speedwatch Group at the roadside does have a noticeable effect on most drivers. Let's hope that with enough exposure that effect might be long lasting. Nevertheless, we are enjoying taking part and doing what little we can to help the village.'

Our group benefits from the support of Kent police and the details of the Speedwatch



The poster is orange with white and black text. It features two red octagonal 'STOP' signs and a circular '30' speed limit sign. A central photograph shows a driver's hands on a steering wheel. At the bottom, there is contact information for joining the group.

Kingswood Speedwatch Group  
2022/2024 Information

STOP 30 30mph Limit area STOP

Vehicles counted 36,865  
Number of Speeders 1361  
Multiple Speeders 147  
Police visit to speeders 37  
Highest speed 55mph

If you would like to join us please email:  
kingswoodspeedway@outlook.co.uk

scheme can be found at [Community Speedwatch | Kent Police](#). Speedwatch is a county wide group and data is collated across the county and last year Speedwatch groups identified 30,673 people speeding. It is fully supported by Kent Police and has support of county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.

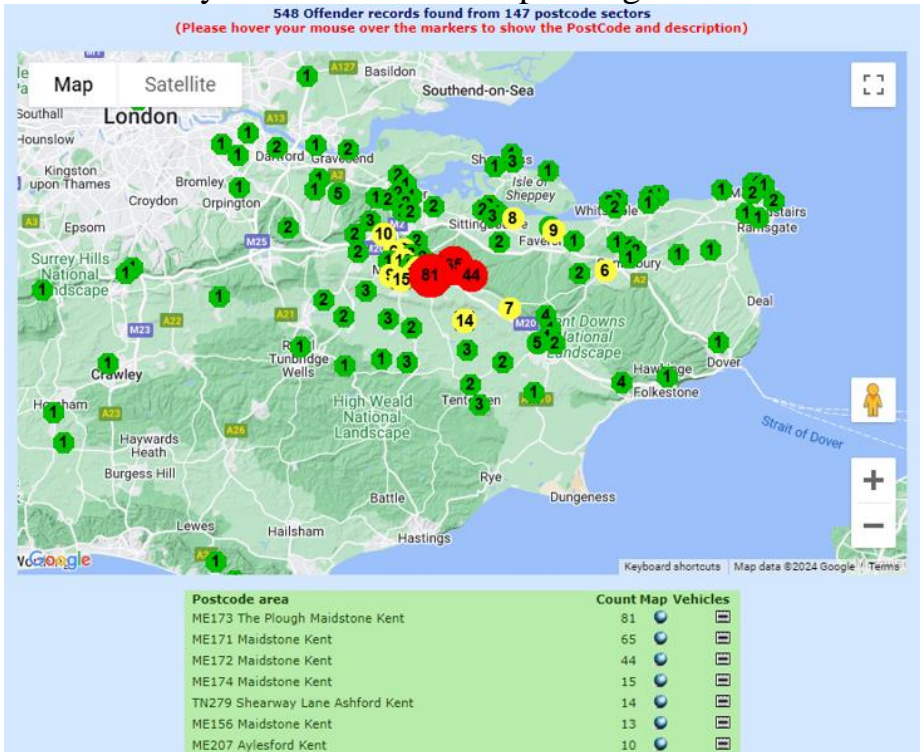
Over the period we have been operating our volunteers have given over 700 hours of their time and have undertaken just under 300 sessions. As the data shows, we have recorded over 1300 vehicles speeding through our village.

The fastest speed recorded is 55mph, which is over 80% over the speed limit. This isn't an isolated case with some others over 50mph and a significant number recorded over 40mph. This is on roads where the limit is 30mph. We have seen many near misses while doing our sessions and it can't be long before a serious accident happens due to this excess speed.

You may say, this isn't **ME**.

However you would be wrong, over 40% of those recorded as being over the limit in the last 12 months came either from our village or the immediate surrounding area, with postcodes of ME17 3., ME17 1., ME17 2., ME17 4... (A post code map is attached at the bottom for reference.)

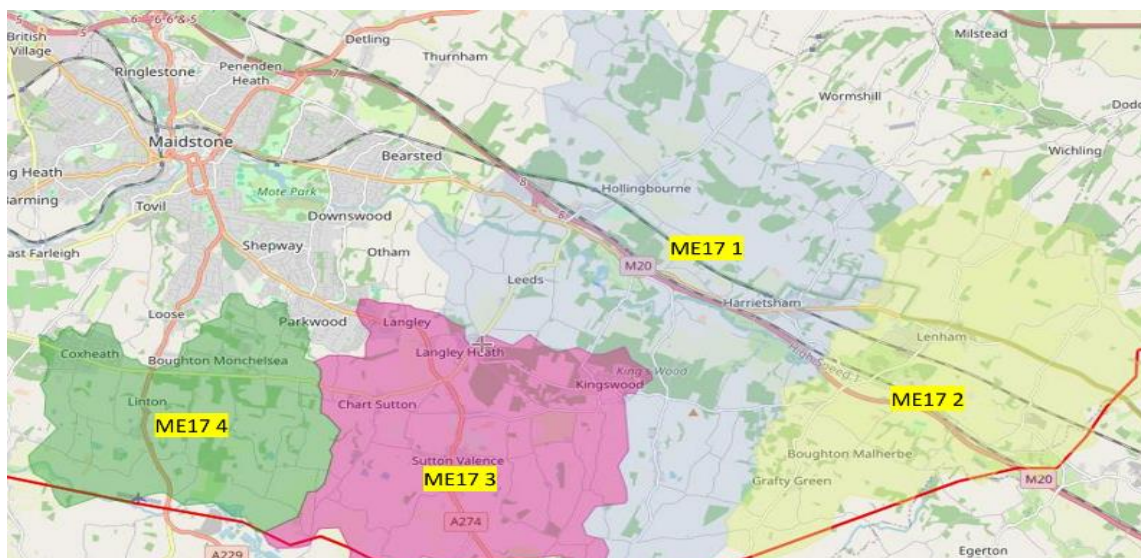
This data is for the last actual 12 months, and you see the same picture looking back over the two years we have been operating.



Our group would really benefit from more volunteers to help with the sessions and enable us to have a more regular presence on our roads, to ensure the drivers in our village respect our speed limits and we can help to keep everyone safer. It is not a big commitment, a few hours a week, of a few hours a month, you can do whatever suits you. Full training is provided, and you get to meet new people from the village.

**If you are interested in considering joining us or would like to discuss what is involved please email [kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk](mailto:kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk) or you can email or speak to the parish clerk, we would really welcome your support.**

The postcode areas are as shown in map below



## **WE HAVE SQUIRALS IN THE HUT**

But don't worry these are not the ones with the furry tails, these are 4-6 year old children.

We started the squirrels after Easter break, we have 14 squirrels and we try to encourage parents to come along to help out.

We have 16 beavers and 3 leaders running it. They went to a pantomime in February. At Easter they had a party and were encouraged to bring something to the party.

Ricky has taken over the running of the cubs at Christmas, they have 17 cubs. We need more leaders to help with the cubs as at the moment helpers have not committed their selves to come regular. At the moment cubs are working on their badges.

The scouts have 5 leaders. We have 15 scouts, 5 boys and 10 girls. They are going to hike from the hut to Leeds Castle in the lighter evenings.

The group attended the St Georges parade in Maidstone and had the service in All Saints church.

Recently the group and the villagers were on a Sunday morning litter picking around the village and down to Broomfield church.

We are all looking forward to our group camp, this will be the first time for some sleeping in tents.

We had our quiz night at Langley village hall, the group thought we would try a change of location. This went very well and the people who came are looking forward to the next one.

We are still running our 100 club, this is like a lottery, this is our main income, this helps to pay for the insurance and maintenance of the scout hut. We have four prizes a month and costs £12 for a full year. If you would like to join call 843019

Alan Poulton  
Chairman



**KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP**

Group continues to go from strength to strength and now has nearly 40 members.

The majority are, of course, Kingswood villagers but we are now drawing in a fair number from neighbouring villages. We all view our Tuesday afternoon sessions as primarily a social gathering where a lovely group of friends enjoy 24 hands of partner whist punctuated at half-time by tea, coffee, buns, cakes and a lot of chat.

At the end an assortment of very modest prizes are awarded for various achievements. Many of our members live alone so see Tuesday afternoons as a highlight of the week, enjoying the socialising, camaraderie and banter.

We are always looking for new members and ensure they are made very welcome.

Further information from Mike Bean on 844272.

### **KINGSWOOD BADMINTON CLUB**

The club continues to flourish and now has about a dozen members. Most live in the village plus one or two from the neighbouring area. The club is very much a social group with the standard being somewhere between fairly average and very average.

We always play as pairs as none of us good enough to play singles!

A timely cuppa is served up to give a well-earned breather. We always welcome new players of any ability, equipment can be provided all in return for a modest match fee.

Further information from Suzanne Orchin on 843626.

### **KINGSWOOD BOWLS CLUB**

Kingswood Short Mat Bowls Club meets at Kingswood Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons. Between 2:00 and 4:00pm. We are a thriving friendly non-league club, happy to welcome people interested in the game – beginners and experienced players alike.

We stop half way through the afternoon and enjoy a cuppa and a natter. There are bowls that you can borrow, but you would need to bring flat soled indoor shoes.

This is a sociable and fun afternoon all for just £3.50

If you would like more information please contact Kay Kilgallon on 01622 842080.

END



# Tom Hoy Award 2024 Nominees

## **Category One - Business/Organisation:**

Wents Service Station

NISA

Martin H Worrall (The Workshop)

Three Suttons Helpline

The Secret Sewing/Craft Group

Terry Ireland Plumbing

Cynophobia

Kingswood Speedwatch

## **Category One - Individual:**

Mike Bean

Tracy Golding

Hayley Roberts

Kay Kilgallon

Ceridwen Clarke

Peter Roberts

Terry Clarke

Mike Lawrence

James Clarke

Paul Beaney



Tom Hoy Award Winner  
2024

*Kingswood  
Speedwatch*





Tom Hoy Award Winner  
2024

*Ceridwen  
Clarke*