



Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council
www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk



Broomfield & Kingswood News

Summer 2023



BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Hayley Roberts
PARISH CLERK/RFO

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THE SPORTS FIELD

Councillors would like to remind residents that the Sports Field is there for the enjoyment and use of everyone. A lot of Parish Council funds are spent to ensure that it attracts people of all ages and maintaining the area. Councillors kindly ask that users respect The Sports Field and its equipment.

A quick reminder of the following...

- ◇ BBQs (including disposable BBQs) should not be used at the Sport Field. Councillors are deeply saddened to learn of damage to one of the newly installed picnic benches due to a user putting and leaving five disposable BBQs on top of the new picnic benches. The picnic bench has now had to be removed and it will be a huge expensive to either repair or replace this!
- ◇ Motorised vehicles (for example quad bikes and e-scooters) should not be ridden on the The Sports Field. The grass is being damaged and we even had an incident whereby these vehicles were being used on the playground equipment which again costs a great deal to repair.
- ◇ Dogs—all dog owners need to be responsible and pick up after their dogs, there are bins around The Sports Field that you can dispose of dog faeces in. A reminder that dogs should not be in the fenced off playground area, even if on a lead. Dogs should also be kept under control and if necessary remain on a lead at the Sports Field.
- ◇ Antisocial behaviour—please ensure you are kind and respectful to other users. We do have CCTV at The Sports Field and this can and is passed onto the police.



MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE GRANT

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Councils application has been approved and the Parish Council have been awarded £400 towards bee and bird boxes, wild flower seeds and improving the village.

Do you have any ideas of where these can be located? We would love to hear from you!
Please contact Hayley, Parish Clerk.

**DO YOU HAVE A LOCAL CHARITY THAT YOU
WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE TO RECEIVE
DONATIONS?**

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council regularly hold Pop Up Cafes and events whereby we donate the proceeds to local charities.

Councillors want you to have a say in where this money is donated. We would like to nominate charity that can be supported each year by our Parish.

Please contact Hayley, Parish Clerk with details of any local charities that might be close to your hearts that we can donate to.

**INCIDENTS AND ISSUES MUST BE
REPORTED**

If issues/crimes are not reported the Police cannot respond and the Parish Council has no enforcement capabilities.

You must report things on the reporting section of the Kent Police website which can be accessed via the following link or ring 101:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>

Highways issues including potholes, broken signs, damaged signs, blocked gullies, pathway issues

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>



Kent Police – New Community Interactive 2 Way Messaging Service

My Community Voice is a new and exciting two-way messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice allows you to comment by clicking the 'reply' link within a message. This will be sent back to the person that posted the alert. All emails are read and actioned. This service should not be used as a crime reporting tool. Please use www.kent.police.uk/report or in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999.

To find out more please visit www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Six Month Leeds Road Closure Information

South East Water in partnership with KCC have now finalised the information for the six month road closure which starts on the 24th of July 2023. Please see information below.

Background re works

South East Water (SEW) will be returning to Leeds, Kent, for phase two of a more than £1 million project to improve the water network in the area as the community grows.

The entire project forms part of SEW's commitment to invest more than £489 million into upgrading and improving our infrastructure. Phase one of the project in Leeds involved laying a secondary pipeline in the area to support the growing community.

Phase two of this project is due to begin on Monday 24th of July. This vital scheme replaces approximately 535 metres of ageing burst-prone pipe with a new, wider water main. This will enable SEW to feed more water into the village and surrounding areas. The new main will protect supplies of top quality drinking water and reduce the number of occasions SEW have to disrupt the community by closing the road to repair a leaking main.

This investment will require the closure of Upper Street to through traffic for six months. Work within the closure will be phased to limit disruption and maintain access for residents and businesses, which will be open as usual.

Road closure and diversion information

SEW appreciate road closures are disruptive, and they are a last resort. However, for the safety of village residents, motorists and the workforce, Upper Street will be closed to through traffic between Burberry Lane and Forge Lane for the duration of the project.

This means there will be no through access between the A20 and Sutton Road via Leeds for the duration of the scheme.

For the safety of residents and motorists, and to prevent traffic congestion in the surrounding rural roads, SEW will also be closing a number of lanes in the area to through traffic.

SEW advise all traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles, to follow the diversion route at all times. The diversion, agreed with Kent Highways, is suitable for all traffic that would have travelled via Leeds and is the safest route.

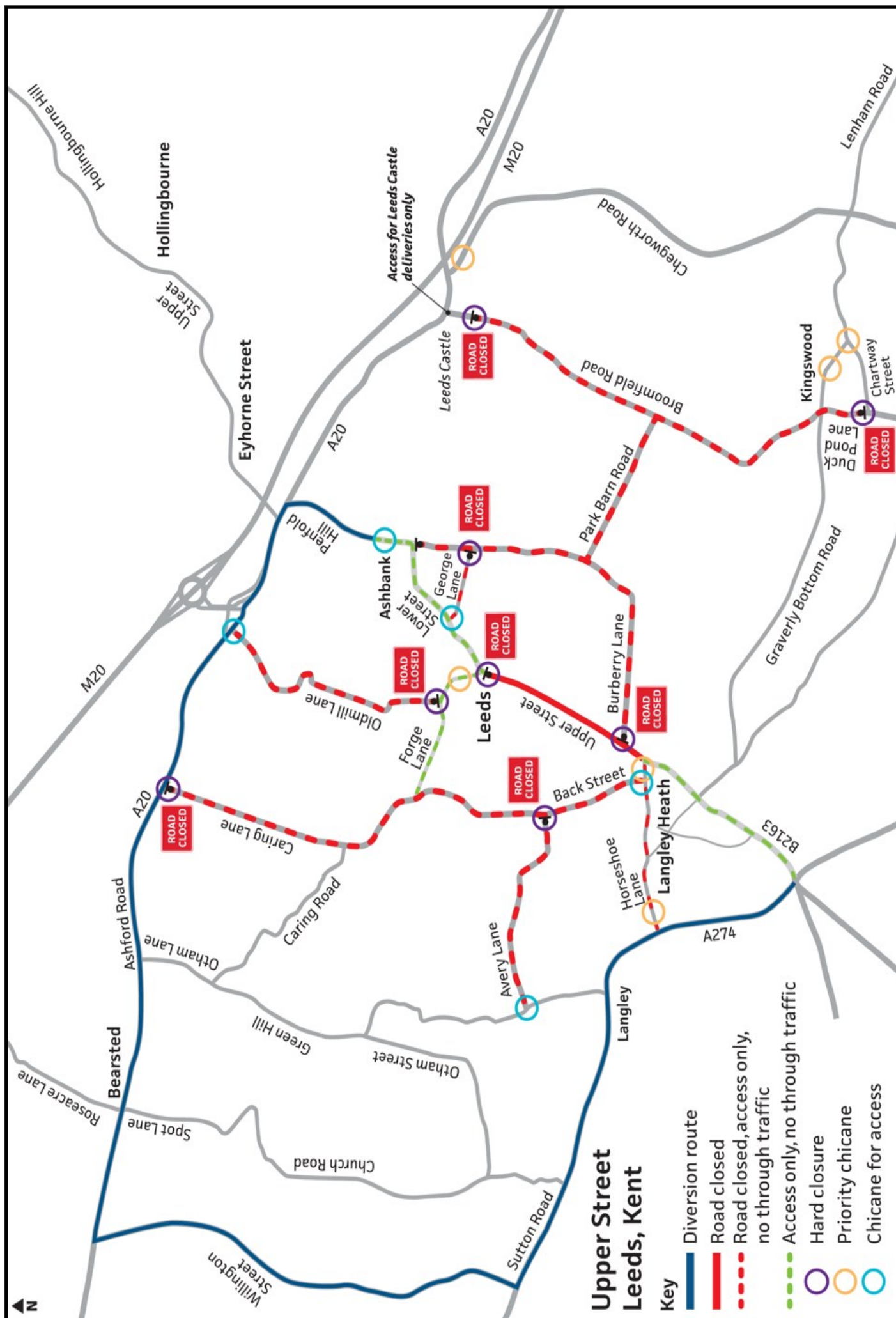
Road signs will be placed in advance, including electronic signage, to reinforce this message and advise of the diversion route.

Please see map on the opposite page.

Updates, map and information can also be found on the dedicated webpage;

southeastwater.co.uk/leeds

There will be two public review meetings to discuss the traffic management – what's working and what can be improved. These will be held at St Nicholas Church, Leeds at 6pm on Tuesday 8th August and Thursday 14th September



Kingswood Speedwatch Group

The local Speedwatch group is a mix of people all from our local community, volunteering their time to undertake sessions around local roads and has support from the Parish council. 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. It has enabled people in the group to get to know more people from within our own village.

The group operates on various approved sites around the village, its aim is to try to educate road users of the importance of respecting the speed limits.

This is particularly relevant with the proposed road closure in Leeds village over the next 6 months. More vehicles will be using our local roads as an alternative route to enable them to get to their destination. It is estimated that we will see at least a doubling of traffic on some of our roads, based on experience of doing sessions when previous closures of that road has occurred.

In the last month we have recorded speeds of up to 46mph in a 30mph limit. It has been shown that the risk of injury increases by nearly five times at speeds over 30mph, this combined with increased traffic means our local roads are likely to become less safe for our residents.



You can help us try to keep speeds under control, by joining our group to enable us to carry out more sessions, during the road closure in Leeds. We would like more volunteers to join our group.

One of our volunteers says 'I feel I am making a difference to road safety in my community'.

You can make a difference as well, training is provided and you can get to meet other people from the local community.

If you are interested please email kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk or you can email or speak to the Parish Clerk who can put you in touch with one of our co-ordinators, we would really welcome your support.



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 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 and placement of an extra salt bin in the parish.
- Purchase of replacement picnic benches at The Sports Field.
- Repair of old stone wall at Broomfield Green.
- Organisation of regular litter picks around the Parish.
- Organisation of a fortnightly shopping bus service to Maidstone.
- Applying for a grant to cover cost of and arranging repair of white fingerpost sign.
- 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.
- 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 PCSO 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.
- Attendance at the Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of a regular Parish Council Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of a Queens Jubilee Event for the community.
- Provided assistance and support for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- The implementation of a once a week bus service with the help of local Parishes and Nu-Venture.

Budget 2022/23

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 2022/2023

Statement of Account

Opening balance 31/03/2022		£61,689.88	
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	55,452	Administration Expenses	3,841
Parish Service Scheme	3,287	S137	6,176
Rent	338	Publicity	1,485
VAT Refund	5,671	Parish Costs	1,573
Advertising	1,395	Sports Field	6,567
Bank Interest	753	Staff Costs	24,010
Additional Income	5,956	Subscriptions	729
		Miscellaneous Expenses	8,010
		VAT Paid	4,049
Closing balance 31/03/2023		£77,470.12	

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2022/2023.

The Internal Audit will be taking place on Tuesday 23rd of May 2023 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 2022/23

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2022/23:

Royal British Legion	£50
Air Ambulance	£500
Friends of Kingswood School	£500
Three Suttons Helpline	£250
Heart of Kent Hospice	£750
The Maidstone Mediation and Reparation Scheme	£200
Marie Curie	£200

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2023

Another year and quite a busy one too. We have had highs and lows, we have had some successes, some partial successes and a few disappointments.

The year, which for the Council runs from AGM to AGM so from May to May, started with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations which, from the feedback we received, was a success with everyone who came along having a great time.

Unfortunately, due to loss of funding, we lost the Rural Kent Coffee Bus that used to come once a month during the warmer months. The Parish Council has tried to fill the gap by holding coffee mornings at the Village Hall during the school holidays and these have proved popular and have a growing attendance, please come along to the next one, they are open to all, and you get free cake too. Which reminds me that I must thank all the fantastic cake bakers in the village who kindly donate the cake.

We have been busy at the Sports Field, we have replaced some of the picnic tables and benches that were past their best with new multi-coloured table and benches that I think are great, they really bring a smile to your face when you see them. The plan is to gradually replace all the benches as needed.

Maintenance at the Sports Field is an ongoing project and this year we have repaired potholes in the car park and of course replaced or repaired any items in the play area as there was a need.

We lost our bus service this year due to Kent County Council cuts which was a major blow for some of our residents who relied on the bus to get about. With the cooperation of several of the surrounding parishes, chiefly led by Boughton Malherbe, we managed to secure funding from the KCC for a shopping bus service one day a week that goes direct to Maidstone on a Wednesday morning returning at lunch time. We have had very good reports about the service run by Nu-Venture, and I know that several residents are using it regularly. I would urge as many people as possible to continue to do so because if we lose the bus service altogether then it will be very hard to get it back and because if we can prove there is a need then maybe we can grow the service.

We have of course had the perennial problems of litter, traffic speeding and dog poo.

The litter in our lanes, which seems to have got worse since Covid, we have tried to tackle with litter picks. We have had five this year and will continue to do so, again with the help of some fantastic volunteers who turn up to help clean up.

We are also very happy to help support the Speedwatch volunteers who are doing a great job to help make our parish safer for us all.

The dog poo issue leaves me speechless, really how hard is it to just pick up after your dog???

The closure of Ulcombe Hill for months caused problems in our lanes and seems to be an ongoing problem with road closures on an almost weekly basis. The closure of the road through Leeds is going to be a major disruption and while it is understood that the works are necessary, we, together with the other surrounding parishes, are doing all we can to get the companies and Local Authorities involved to consider all the options for keeping disruptions to a minimum.

September brought the death of Queen Elizabeth II, for quite a few of us it was a real sadness as she had been Queen for most, if not all, of our lives and signified stability of what can seem to be a very unstable world at times. It will take a while before we can sing God Save the King without having to concentrate.

We obtained a grant for repairs to the finger post for which we have to thank Shellina Prendergast our local Kent County Council member.

Then came November and we were very proud to be able to support the Poppy Project, led by Ceridwen Clarke. What a triumph, all those beautiful poppies created by our local crafters, adults and children, who crocheted, knitted, cut out and painted, thousands of poppies to create an avalanche of poppies to decorate the Village sign. What a sight it was too, and the final touch was the cards of memorium to lost loved ones and I know that I shed a tear when reading the poem written by one of our own youngsters.

The Parish Council, at the Remembrance Sunday service, are proud to provide and lay a wreath on behalf of the parish. As part of our ongoing support for the Royal British Legion poppy day appeal we are buying a few large poppies each year to display around the parish.

The winter seemed to go on for a very long time this year, but then I say that every year. We have provided another salt bin on Broomfield Road at the corner of Park Barn in an effort to help when it does snow. All the existing salt bins proved very useful when the snow finally came, and we have made sure that they have been refilled for next year.

Christmas gave us another excuse for a get together and I know we are planning to hold another one this year so make sure you come along, there will probably be more cake.

Then came the Coronation, which was yet another excuse for a party. I had a great time and from what others have been saying so did they, in fact we have had requests to do it again.

I must take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes towards making Broomfield and Kingswood such a good place to live. Firstly, to Hayley Roberts, our Parish Clerk, who makes a hard job look so easy. To everyone who gives up their time willingly, the other Councillors who try and keep things running smoothly and to make sure our voice is heard by the powers that be. To all the volunteers whether they be cake bakers, poppy makers or litter pickers. To all those who run the various Clubs and youth organisations and last but by no means least to all those who quietly and unobtrusively help make their neighbours lives just that little bit better by those acts of kindness that so often go unnoticed.

It looks as though the coming year is going to be another tough one (that seems to be becoming the "new normal"). Our powers are not great, but what we can do, we will do and if we cannot help, we may be able to point you in the right direction to get the help you need. So, remember we are your Parish Council and here to support you.

Tina Clark

Chair

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council.

Annual Ward Members Report 2023 - Gill Fort, MBC Councillor for Leeds

Annual Report for 2022/23

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

It is with deep sadness the Queens death was announced on 8th September. Maidstone as the county town of Kent lead the proclamation of the new King on Sunday 11th September in Jubilee Square. The proclamation was delivered by the High Sheriff of Kent, Russell Race. In attendance were many dignitaries, other Kent boroughs and large number of members of the public.

Cost of Living Crisis

Many residents are struggling with rising energy costs and inflation. We have seen rises in essential food which means some families cannot afford to put a meal on the table. MBC have set up a web page which has help and guidance. It can be found at

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/cost-of-living-advice>

Maidstone has helped 53 households from becoming homeless due to the Covid 19 pandemic by using a government grant to help clear mortgage, rent, council tax and utility bills arrears.

1000 Affordable Homes

It is MBC strategy to build 1000 affordable homes. MBC recognises the need for more affordable housing in the area and is determined that those in the local community who may not be able to afford to buy or rent privately have the opportunity to live in one of these new affordable homes.

Local Plan Review

MBC has received confirmation that the first stage of the Local Plan Review examination has been successful and will proceed to stage 2. The main impact for our area is that the Leeds Langley safeguarding area which will not now feature in the plan. Work will continue with KCC and other stakeholders so that any plan for a relief road will be in the next plan.

Bins and Rubbish

Mid Kent Partnership, which MBC is part, have awarded an eight-year contract to SUEZ. The new contract will begin in March 2024 and will introduce new technology and industry improvements. Existing employees of Biffa will transfer to the new contractor. If anyone has any concerns with the service being provided, they should report it.

Ukraine

Maidstone has housed a number of Ukrainian Refugees and more than 60 attended a gathering with the Mayor to commemorate Ukrainian Independent Day. The Town Hall was lit with the national colours of blue and yellow.

Town Centre Strategy

This strategy will aim to create a range of new retail, leisure and employment opportunities for people, businesses and communities in the town centre and across the borough. It will identify a variety of new education, health and other infrastructure projects all to reinforce Maidstone as the county town of Kent and the business capital of Kent.

Mote Park

A new café opened in Mote Park. This is the second phase of the council's investment into the redevelopment of Mote Park. Further plans include renovation the toilet block.

Gill Fort, MBC Councillor for Leeds.

Kingswood Speedwatch Group

The Speedwatch group was formed early in 2022 to try and eradicate speeding within our village and surrounding area. Initially the group consisted of 7 volunteers and formal training was completed on 10th February last year.

Since formation the group has grown to 12 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.

Speedwatch is a county wide group and data is collated across the county and last year they identified 30,673 people speeding. It is fully supported by Kent Police and has support of county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.

Key information gathered over the last year...

Local residents in the ME17 3, ME17 2 and ME17 1 postcodes are the biggest offenders.

Lenham Road and Broomfield Road attract the highest speeds – highest speed recorded so far being 55mph in the village built up area of Broomfield Road!

Average speed is 37.4mph.

17,000 cars have been recorded

710 of these were travelling at over 35mph

150 sessions with over 500 volunteer hours have been completed in 15 months.

**We want to say a big thank you to all of our volunteers
for their hard work and commitment.**

The group would really benefit from more volunteers to help with the sessions, which would enable us to do them more regularly throughout the week.

If you are interested please email kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk or you can email or speak to the Parish Clerk, we would really welcome your support.



KINGSWOOD CHURCH

North Kent Methodist Circuit

Maidstone Baptist Church

NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

KINGSWOOD CHURCH Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)

Annual report for Kingswood Parish Council 2023

Our supporting churches are: Baptist, Methodist and the Church of England

Kingswood Church meets each Sunday at Kingswood & Broomfield Village Hall our services commence at 11am. We welcome anybody who would like to attend, our style of worship is less formal but follows the traditions of our supporting church. During the service we run a children's group 'Climbers' they join the congregation at the start of the service then leave after the first hymn for their own activities which includes many types of craft and even cooking, together with their Bible studies, they return at the end of the service to show and tell what they have made and learnt.

We run a Café Service on the first Sunday of each month, the service starts at 11 am. A free continental breakfast is served from 10.30 am.

Kingswood Church is not just for Sunday's we offer many groups and activities across the week together with pastoral support where needed.

On Tuesdays we run a lunch club, we each take our own lunch, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and we gather round the table for a chat on any subject.

On Friday's Sonya runs a Lady's Group at her home, tea, coffee and cake together with a chat and prayers are offered.

Friday afternoon we run an after-school group called 'Crusaders' at Kingswood School the children learn about stories from the Bible and play quizzes and games etc.

Friday Evenings we run a church youth club called 'CANS' the children have a chance to unwind playing games and crafts, once a month they hold a family activity, Prize Bingo and Film-Nights are very popular.

This year we have continued to support many charities and a local Foodbank through the donations of our congregation.

Throughout the year we also run special services e.g., Easter, Harvest and Christingle.

We support the Well Blessing each year at St Margaret's Church, Broomfield and our children provide floral decorations for the service.

All in all, we have had a solid year having recovered from the Covid Pandemic, we look forward to the warmer weather, and the continued life of our church.

Contacts: Peter Roberts 01622 843625, Mike King 01622 842274.

Mike King Chairman Kingswood Church.

*******END OF BROOMFIELD AND KINGSWOOD PARISH ANNUAL REPORT*******

Kingswood and Broomfield Birdwatching Group July 2023

Dear Fellow Residents

KABBS was formed during lockdown in 2021 so we are very much a fledgling group, seeking to expand and grow our knowledge. We are a very friendly group who love a good natter and the occasional gentle trip to a reserve or local site. Please don't pay too much attention to our title as we have members from surrounding areas such as Lenham, Ulcombe and Headcorn – geography is no restriction on membership! Please also be aware that mobility is no issue either – we aim to be as inclusive as possible; anyone can enjoy watching the birds!

Our aims are broadly (but not restricted to):

- To record species in the parish
- To arrange group walks
- To share knowledge
- To hold regular meetings
- To note other forms of wildlife in the area



New members most welcome.

I can be contacted on mattmeek72@outlook.com for more information.

In terms of trips, we mix occasional reserve visits with more local stuff too. A group of us visited Sevenoaks Nature Reserve in April with some interesting sightings to be had. We have planned visits for Rye Harbour and Wildwood Trust in the coming months.

Currently we meet regularly at Ulcombe Village Hall. Our last meeting was on 26th June, and our next meetings will be:

Monday 25th September (TBC)

Monday 11th December (TBC)

At a meeting last year at the hall, we were lucky enough to observe a pair of little owls busy hunting in the adjacent playing field. They have also seen them perched on telegraph poles along the Ulcombe Hill/Headcorn Road.

As regards recent sightings and patterns locally, the skylarks remain present in good numbers up on the large crop field between Broomfield Road and Park Barn Farm Road, although on a recent visit in May, they were absent. A few yellowhammers can also be found there if you are lucky and have been sighted visiting gardens in Kingswood. Siskins, goldcrests, nuthatches, bullfinches and great spotted woodpeckers appear to be in healthy numbers round the parish still. More excitingly, a pair of tawny owls successfully raised at least 3 young in the woods behind Kingswood village post office. Also, red kites are being spotted more frequently in the skies above the parish, along with the usual buzzards. A member located in Broomfield reported that ravens have also been spotted in the area.

I hope we can welcome many more new members in the coming weeks and months. Meantime, enjoy the nature around us – we are so lucky to have such wonderful diverse countryside still, especially given the ever-encroaching development going on nearby.

Best wishes to all. Matthew Meek



On St Georges day. the group met at Week Street and paraded past the Mayor in Maidstone towards All Saints Church for the service with other troops.

SCOUTS—meet on Wednesday evenings

We have 16 scouts, lots of activities have been under taken, astronomy, cooking and making bird feeders.

The scouts were asked what they would like to do in the following term, they are keen to go hiking and camping, so that is on the agenda.

CUBS—meet on Thursday evenings

There are 18 cubs, 2 have moved up to scouts and 2 have come up from beavers.

The new system for Sixes is having points for uniform and behaviour and it is going very well. We will continue this as they enjoy getting points for their Six.

We have a parent rota, which is going very well, and a lot of positive feedback from the parents.

BEAVERS—meet on Tuesday evenings

Glad to say we have 16 beavers,! Beavers have enjoyed lots of craft activities during the winter decorating the scout hut Christmas tree and making decorations for Mothers Day, they have also been baking and looking at all the different country's of the world.

If your child would like to join any of the sections above (all the meetings are in the scout hut) call Alan 01622 843019.

100 CLUB

April winners

Mrs Parkes £20, Mrs V Clarke £10, Mrs A Bowman £10, Mrs Jenkins £5

May winners

Mrs Claire Jones 320, Mrs B Turner £10, Mrs E Davis £12, Mrs Archer £5

June winners

Mr Jury £20, Mrs Archer £10, Mr S Archer £10, Miss raffle £5

If you are interested in joining we have four prizes a month and costs £12 for a full year, call 01622 843019

Alan Poulton, Chairman

KINGSWOOD AND BROOMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Following an historic weekend of pomp and pageantry, King Charles Coronation, the Village Hall Committee would like to thank all the people that helped to organise and run the two celebration events at the Hall. We hope that everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves.

Just a reminder that the Hall grounds are private and only for the use of people renting the Hall. Likewise the parking is for Hall users only and as most local groups continue to meet during the Summer Holidays please do not leave cars parked in the grounds. Even the local police are welcome to call in and use the Hall kitchen and facilities as they often do.

We have just agreed that the Hall car park can be used as a Water Pick Up Point if necessary, but let us hope it is not needed !!

If you have a child's birthday coming up why not think about renting the Hall for the celebration? For more information please ring Val Clarke on 01622 843110.

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy Summer.

Village Hall Committee

KENT CYNOPHOBIA ASSISTANCE GROUP

Monday evenings at 5.30

Cynophobia is a Greek word, Cyno is dog, Phobia is fear, so it simply means the 'fear of dogs' We are now in our 8th year, having helped so many children overcome their fear of dogs. We have 14 dogs on our list, we have a rota of seven dogs each Monday, helping on average each week 20 children. We are always on the lookout for new dogs, they do have to have some basic training and are off sound temperament.

Our success rate is that 90% of children stroke a dog within the first hourly session, often to the amazement of parents. These children having had a lot of encouragement to even get out of their car.

Over the years, we are proud to say that we have changed so many families lives for the

Lead the Way Dog Training. Wednesday evenings.

We run Puppy training classes following the Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Course, after which you can continue with us and gain the KC Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We are also experienced with rescue dogs too. We run very popular dog training classes throughout the evening.

Our senior trainer is a Kennel Club Accredited Instructor, City & Guilds and affiliated to the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers. Last year we lost Marion Street who has moved from the area and so is unable to come along to take some of the classes, although she is still helping on a Monday where many of the dogs we have trained have gone on to become assistance dogs or cynophobia dogs helping the children overcome their fear. For further information please contact Janet on 01622 842209.

Shukokai Karate Academy



This year has seen some remarkable performances from many Kingswood students in local, national, and international competitions. Students have travelled to Spain, Turkey, France and shortly to Croatia, to compete in international competitions and to Glasgow for the British Championships. At the same time our grass roots, traditional karate classes have continued to provide a conduit for adults and children of all ages, to develop their martial art skills, confidence and coordination. This year is the eighteenth that karate has been taking place in the village and it is amazing to see some of those that started with us now engaged as doctors, engineers, estate agents, academics, and many other careers.

April saw a milestone in the Shukokai Karate Academy's history when it hosted its largest tournament to date, the Southern England Karate Open, which attracted 450 competitors representing clubs from all over the country. The event took place in the main sports hall at the University of Kent at Canterbury and included both kata (forms), kumite (fighting) and Kickmaster categories for students aged 4 to veterans, as well as events for visually and physically impaired. World, European and Nationally qualified referees and judges officiated over the five areas that were in operation for 11 hours of the day. Members from the Kingswood club were part of the SKA team who finished top of the medals table with 8 gold, 10 silver and 25 bronze medals.

Away from competitions we have held several grading classes where students progress through our established belt system. In October we will be holding our annual course and senior grade grading where several students hope to attempt their black belt test after training with us for in excess of 5 years.

Classes run in the Kingswood village hall on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with clubs also running at Lenham, Downswood, Marden, Sutton Valence and Maidstone YMCA, with a new club opening in September in Dartford. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Chris on 07801 639052 or Katie on 07763 780006 or email us at kentkarate@gmail.com or visit us at shukokaikarateacademy.com

Are your children in beavers, cubs or scouts, why not join them by being a leader or helper. Learn new skills, you will be able to pass them on to them and many others. and get involved in helping with games and activities.

Uniform and training is provided free of charge.

If you think this is for you call Alan 843019



LUNCH CLUB

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE HALL



TUESDAY 12.30-1.45

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT; PAT LYNE 01622 843672

HELP NEEDED!

Hobbyist who has recently moved to the area is looking for a workshop, studio, shed, porta-cabin, small unit or room available with electric?

Would only be accessed around 2-3 times a week on average.

References can be supplied.

Locality of Kingswood, Lenham Harrietsham, Hollingbourne, Headcorn and other surrounding areas near Maidstone.

Appreciate any assistance that can be given.

Please contact Daz on 07894640801 if you are able to help!

THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE

The Three Suttons Helpline , after a pause during the worst of the pandemic, is now active again. The Helpline volunteer drivers give lifts to people to medical appointments, when friends or family are unavailable – and can occasionally help with other things, such as essential shopping or collecting prescriptions. The scheme is available to people who live in Kingswood, Broomfield, Langley, East Sutton, Chart Sutton and Sutton Valence – and to patients of the Orchard Surgery in Langley and Sutton Valence Surgery.

If this service may be helpful for you, please do telephone one of the numbers below. (Please do not contact any other numbers which you may have used in the past.) and, hopefully, the person who answers your call will be able to arrange for someone to take you to and from your appointment. Obviously, if you can give a reasonable amount of notice, the more likely it is that we can find someone to help you.

07425 582534. OR. 01622 844301

Please note that we are not part of the NHS or Social Services and that the drivers use their own cars and give their time for free; but that donations towards the cost of petrol are much appreciated, so that the volunteers are not left out-of-pocket. (Please do speak to the person organising your lift or to the person driving you if you are unable to offer a donation.)

We are very grateful to Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council for their support and their recent donation to the scheme, which will be used for insurance, leaflets, telephone calls, paying petrol costs if people are unable to afford a donation etc.)

If you have any other queries about the scheme – or if you think you may be able to consider being a driver, please do contact the coordinator, Christine Parkes (Tel. – 01622 842217 or email christineparkes@hotmail.co.uk)

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or email manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk



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01622 842857

Mobile: 07711 795582



www.kingswoodfencing.co.uk

We have had a wonderful summer term, where we have had several religious experience trips, a number of cricket tournaments and enjoyed sports day... not to mention, launch our first ever Kingswood podcast! Our cricket team was successful and are now going on to represent Kingswood and ASPIRE at the County Championships! Keeping in with our values of resilience, boldness and having a love of learning - to name but three - we have welcomed gold medalist gymnast Courtney Tulloch to our school, where our children have learnt a lot about what it takes to be a successful athlete. We have also experienced our Enrichment Week and have engaged in an array of active learning activities, including a paralympic day where we learnt about disabilities and impairments - like using braille and learning British Sign Language, as well as celebrated Sports Day! Our Year 5 and 6s have participated in our ASPIRE Swimming Gala at Sutton Valence, as well as performed to gain our Arts Mark. Year 6 are also performing their end of year show and we are planning for our leavers assembly and summer fair. FOKs have gone above and beyond this year to help raise funds and put on parent/carers events as well as school discos - we thank them for all their hard work and time supporting us. And finally, Year 6 are preparing for their next chapter to secondary school with brushing up on their Bikeability skills and transition sessions. We are very proud of all of our children, across all year groups, for their hard work and love of learning this year and we wish our Year 6s an amazing start to secondary school; go and be fabulous... we'll miss you!

Mrs Sanchez Daviu





Kingswood Church article for the Summer Edition of the Parish News



At a recent Service we wished Captain Graham Bibby a very happy retirement and thanked him for his ministry to us at Kingswood Church and the other churches in our area. Graham has been a great encouragement to us in our Christian life. A recent article by Graham in the Leeds & Broomfield Church and Village News, imagined praying and hearing this response:

'Thank you for calling the Kingdom of heaven. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for requests; Press 2 for thanksgiving; Press 3 for complaints; Press 4 for all other enquiries.

I'm sorry, all our angels are busy helping others right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to Gabriel, Press 1; Michael, Press 2; For a directory of other angels, Press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, please Press 4. For reservations at the Kingdom of heaven, please enter your date of birth and national insurance number.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow so that others may have a chance to get through.

The office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again Monday after 9:30am. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local minister.'

Do we sometimes feel our prayers are like this and getting nowhere? In the bible, David often brought his complaint before the Lord. He began Psalm 13 with the words, 'How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?' and ended with the words, 'But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.' What made the difference? David trusted in the Lord and recalled his goodness in his life. May God give us the strength to do the same.

Church Services at **Kingswood & Broomfield Village Hall** and **St Margaret's Church, Broomfield**, for **August 2023**, are as follows:

**13th Aug 15:30 Afternoon Celebration,
Broomfield Church**



**20th Aug 11:00 Morning Worship
Neil Sherry (Baptist)**

**27th Aug 11:00 Communion Service
Rev Mark Pavey (Anglican)**



On behalf of the Church, may I wish you all a very blessed and pleasant Summer!

Peter Roberts, Kingswood Church.

The Kingswood Bluebells

We are a group for Ladies that meets on the second Monday in the month at the Village Hall. Our programme has been varied as we try to involve every members' interests and enjoy each others company with trips out as well.

We have learned Flower Arranging, made Valentine chocolates, created a natural Christmas Wreath, watched movies, celebrated Summer with a Strawberry Tea and Winter with a Christmas Lunch.

If you could see yourself as a Bluebell too, you are welcome to come and join us.
Just give me a ring on 01622 843431



KINGSWOOD BADMINTON CLUB

We meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Village Hall.

We are very much social players, ranging in ability from fairly average to very average.

We only play doubles as none of us are good enough to play singles!

The session is punctuated by a well-earned cuppa and banter.

We are always looking for new players of any ability.

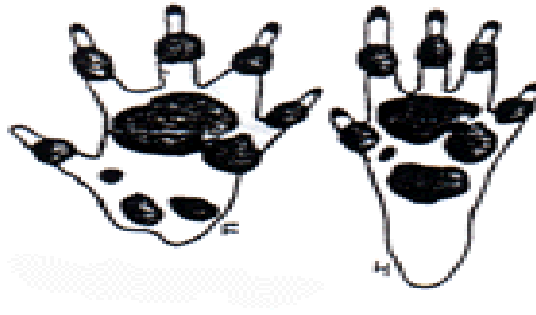
So do come along any Thursday or phone Sue on 843626 for further information.

You won't be disappointed.

Hedgehogs in Kingswood by Ceridwen Clarke



Photo by [Dušan veverkolog](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Hedgehog footprints Front and Rear





Q. What's got over 6,000 spines, a cute nose and can run really fast? A. A hedgehog!

The spines are for protection and hedgehogs roll into a spikey ball when they are frightened. The cute little nose gives them a terrific sense of smell to find food. And their little legs really go like the clappers, so when they have to, they can run at almost 3 metres a second, for short distances (almost 5 mph!).

British hedgehogs need our help, because we've taken away their habitats and food. We've built roads and buildings where there was open land and we use pesticides to kill the insects, slugs and snails they usually munch. Because of this they are a threatened species in the UK, but we can help them. They are secret to most of us, because they only come out at night, they freeze when they see us, and they hide in winter. We've been lucky to have 3 hedgehogs visiting our garden in Kingswood, we have a feeding station in everyday use and a house ready for them for the winter, when they sleep through the cold.

Our kind neighbour allowed us to make a Hedgehog Tunnel through her fence, so that the hogs could go between our gardens, they often roam 2 to 3 kilometres each night, so they need access through walls or under fences. She even made them a step in case the tunnel was too high for their little legs, and we also use the tunnel to pass things between us! We have a trail camera to watch "our" hoggies and we put out food (kitten biscuits) and fresh water and because they have a very keen sense of smell, they arrive most nights at about 9.30, it's such a delight to see them and observe their behaviour. Which isn't always good, the males are bullies, they barge and shove one another around and the mating courtship is very noisy and prolonged. The male will circle around and around the female, and she backs away until she is ready to accept a mate, squealing and squeaking all the time. And, they pee and poo everywhere!

If you'd like to help hedgehogs and maybe encourage them to your garden, here's what you can do:

-  Leave an untidy corner of the garden and make hedgehog highways with holes in fences and tunnels in walls
-  Put large shallow dishes of water out, especially during hot weather
-  Try not to use chemicals in the garden
-  Check before you strim or burn the undergrowth

If you see a hedgehog out in daylight, that's not right and it needs urgent help. Call for rescue help and to keep it safe, if you can, wearing thick gloves, pick it up and put it in a high sided box, with old towels to hide in and a hot-water bottle wrapped in a towel to keep it warm. Add a dish of water, but no food.

Out in the Day is Not Okay - Call Rescue

Hedgehog Rescues	
Kent Wildlife Rescue Services	07824 893399
Thorne Hedgehog Rescue	07825 952201

There is a holiday that I would recommend that is advertised today at the same price as it was in 2017. £499 for seven nights all inclusive stay in Hurgada including seven nights full board Nile cruise from Luxor to Abu Simbel.

The only beware is the cost of the trips to various temples etcetera of which you are only advised when you get to Hurgada. A big extra cost, but all very worth it - you only do it once! Ahmed was our brilliant guide.

M.S. Kahilla – Nile cruise 1st to 8th December 2017

Dear Ahmed, in our thoughts you'll stay
Your narrative illuminates our way
From Luxor, Karnak temple, East Bank
We'll remember our cruise - to you we thank!

Via West Bank, to Valley of the Kings
In tombs where the hieroglyph sings
M.S. Kahilla sails on down the Nile
Through locks where boats go single file!

We've witnessed brilliant papyrus designs
And carved alabaster, all shapes and kinds
We've been massaged with healing scent
May not have bought, but so glad we went!

Via the Temple at Esna we survived the bazaar
Where smile and 'No thank you' form a ritual - bizarre
To our halfway point - the metropolis Aswan
To marvel at the world's third largest dam!

And so to an early start and long drive
To Abu Simbel upon which tourists thrive
Breathtaking carving, so immense
A king and Queen, glorified to all intents!

Imagine its move from under Nasser Lake
A project so massive to undertake
The façade so spectacular but inside so much more
The hieroglyph tales within - a colourful store!

Our journey ends back in Luxor
Via choppy waters and chilled to the core
We look forward to the Karnak light show
Before back to hotels in Hurghada we go!

With special holiday friendships formed
Your 'Royals' group - to each other have warmed
Dear Ahmed, you have played your part
And we all hope to remain in your heart!

Ken Pattison- December 2017

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Mobile: - 07732 468047

Email: - paulalisonbeaney@gmail.com

POSTCARD CORNER

SUSSEX TOWNS and VILLAGES - RYE



The small town of Rye is well known as a tourist centre, combining a fine heritage of historic buildings with a unique hilltop setting. As one of the Cinque Ports Confederation, Rye at one time provided ships for the king in return for privileges. In 1377 it suffered a disastrous raid by the French, and much of the rebuilt medieval town survives to the present day.



St. Mary's Parish Church from Lion Street in the 1950's. The church tower with its squat spire forms the summit of the hilltop town. The 18th Century Quarter Boys strike the quarter hours only - not the hours.

Simon the Pieman Tea Room is still open for business today, and is thought to be the oldest Tea Room in Rye.





After the war, the pier was removed.



Ypres Castle and Steps, Rye.



The Land Gate, Rye.



The Mill, Rye, Sussex.



The Ferry, Rye, Sussex.

Ypres Tower was built in the 13th Century and functioned as the town's jail from 1494 to 1891.

The Rye Harbour Ferry served the crews of fishing and trading vessels moored on both banks of the Rother, in addition to visitors to Camber.

The ferryman ran two boats, one having a keel for use at high tides, the other being flat-bottomed for low tides.

Article by
Ron Kemp

Sutton Valence Gardeners Association

Parents, grandparents: with the summer holidays fast approaching are you looking for ideas to keep your children/ grandchildren busy? Then why not their imagination go wild and encourage them to enter our Autumn Show??

They do not have to be members and their parents do not have to be members.

Please bring their exhibits along between 9am and 11am to the Village Hall on the Show Day. The Hall closes at 11am for Judging to take place. The Show then opens to the public at 2.15pm so parents and friends can come along to admire the Show and have a tea and cake. Prizegiving is around 3.45pm. **Those who enter could win a prize.** Exhibits can be collected after prizegiving has taken place.

AUTUMN SHOW

In the Sutton Valence Village Hall Sunday 10th September 2.15pm. Presentation of prizes at 3.45pm

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

AGED 8 YEARS AND UNDER

class 83 a Christmas star (any medium)

class 84 A picture/collage/drawing 'Firework night'

AGED 9-15 years

class 85 Christmas Wreath- any medium

class 86 5 biscuits/cookies made by the exhibitor- principal ingredient to be named

Hope to see you there !

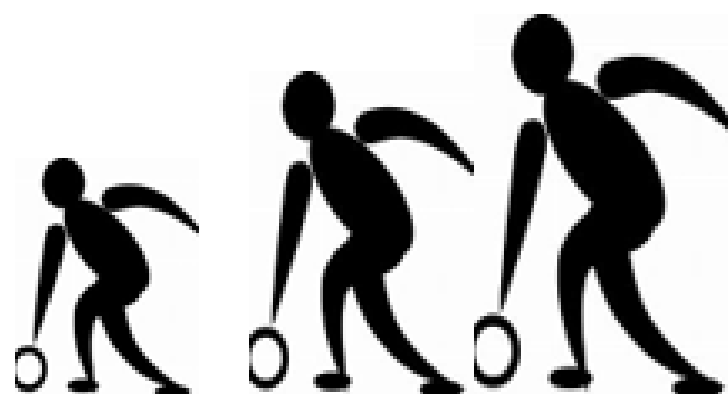
Adults: Do you know that Sutton Valence has a Gardener's Association?

Our membership fee is £5 per year and this offers 10% discount at Rumwoods, Coolings the Potted Garden at Bearsted and other local Nurseries (T&Cs Apply)

Want to find out more? email me suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com



Kingswood Short Mat Bowls Club



Wednesdays at 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Kingswood Village Hall

£3:50 for an afternoon of fun!

Tea and cake included.

All abilities and ages are welcome (including
beginners).

Bowls are available.

For more information contact
Kay Kilgallon
01622 842080

We are in the final month of summer already and I am not sure how the season has gone by so quickly. The gardens remain in full bloom, with stunning hollyhocks, thistles and roses everywhere. Let's hope the good weather lasts for the rest of summer.

Lots going on over the summer and included in your annual ticket, access to the Beach, new slides in the Knights Stronghold Playground, UV Torch trail in the Castle, as well as new Multi Media Castle Guide.

Look out for events on the Beach over the summer, including Magic on the Beach on 29/30th July, Music on the Beach on 5/6th August, Sand Sculpture workshops on 12/13th August and Punch and Judy on 19/20th August. All of these are included in your ticket price.

We are also pleased to announce that we have now made the change to a new Caterer ahead of summer holidays. Our new catering partner, Graysons, is bringing a welcome injection of creativity and better food and drink offer across the site, with new menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Castle View Restaurant. You can come for dinner at Castle View without having a ticket, so give it a try over the summer!

We plan to carry out an interior refurbishment of the Castle View Restaurant over the winter to give an even better experience. We are aiming to use much more local, seasonal and British produce in our menus.

Coming up fast after summer is our September Design Month, which will include a new Sculpture Trail throughout the month, as well as the launch of a new Artisan & Food Fair on the weekend of 8th-10th September. The Cedar Lawn will host 80 artisan stalls, street food and artists workshops. These are included in your ticket price.

After securing planning permission recently, we are now underway with work to install foundations for the new Lakeside Lodges. These stunning new holiday lodges located on the Great Water feature star gazing roofs & external baths. We plan to welcome our first guests in Autumn.

Tickets are now on sale for the Fireworks Spectacular on 4th/5th November and the Christmas Lights Trail which runs from 24th November to 1st January. The trail features 80% completely new installations and a new route. We will also be doubling the size of our catering area, setting up a large covered stretch tent to provide seating as you sip a hot chocolate and watch the stunning light show on the Castle.

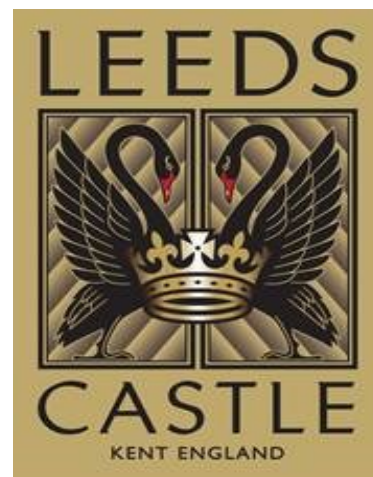
The daytime Christmas experience will be open for a much longer day than last year, with the Castle themed around the story of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. This day time experience is included in your annual ticket and you can even book a Lion, Witch & Wardrobe Afternoon Tea!

Ancient buildings require constant maintenance and repair. Like most heritage charities, we are still running at only 80% of pre-COVID business levels. This, along with eyewatering cost increases, such as 450% increase in energy costs, makes it extremely challenging to generate enough income to address all of the conservation and repair work that is needed.

To help tackle the ever-growing list of urgent conservation work, we are also working on a number of external funding bids. Fingers crossed for securing funding so we can move forward the next stages of Castle stonework repair, amongst many other urgent projects.

Hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive



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Denise W

"Highlight of the week."

Janet B

"Lonely, want to new make friends? Come to whist."

Marian M

"Great people, great game and tea & cakes at half-time."

Jo R

"Very social afternoon, playing whist plus a cuppa and cake".

Sue S

Fed up, bored, want to meet new friends?

Why not come along Tuesday afternoon and join us for a fun-filled, sociable session of partner whist?

It's from 2.00pm to 4.30pm

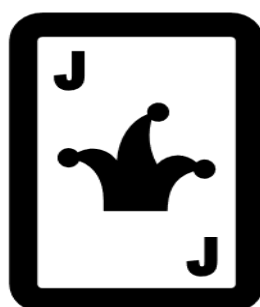
24 hands of cards with tea, coffee, cakes and loads
of chat at half-time, all for just £2.50!!

We even have pretty modest prizes.

Our annual awards lunch, usually at The Ridge Golf Club, is enjoyed by all,
Including several "significant others". The Group contributes to the cost.

Don't just sit there staring at wallpaper. Give us try – you won't be disappointed.

Further information from Mike on 844272 or just turn up next Tuesday.



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Tea Party

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Our monthly Tea Parties have been running since 1999.
We have entertainment, delicious teas & offer a safe environment where
Carer & Cared For can enjoy each others company together with others.
We also have quarterly lunch parties & various outings during the summer.

Please contact Denise on 01622 749539 for more information.

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Pop-Up Café

Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall

Thursday 27th July 2023

10.30 – 12.30 pm

Our new Neighbourhood Policing Beat Sergeant
will be present for part of the morning!

Come and get together with old friends and new!

Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake in the warm.

Everyone welcome!



USEFUL CONTACTS

Kingswood Church	Peter Roberts	01622 843625
KCC Councillor	Shellina Prendergast	shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	Helen Whately	helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk
MBC Councillor	Gill Fort	gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Watch	VACANCY	
Mitch Hunt	Maidstone Neighbourhood Policing Team	
Primary School	Lynsey Sanchez Daviu	01622 842674
Kingswood Pre-School	Aimee Springett	07729 499 508/01622 844334
Village Hall	Val Clarke	01622 843110

Village Clubs

Badminton	Sue Orchin	01622 843626
Bluebells	Beryl Andrews	01622 843431
CANS	Sonya Roberts	01622 843625
Dog Training & Cynophobia	Janet Tandy	01622 842209
Karate	Chris Simpson	07801 639052
Tuesday Lunch Club	Pat Lyne	01622 843672
Kingswood Whist Group	Mike Bean	01622 844272
Short Mat Bowls	Mike Tandy	01622 842209
Purple Yoga	Helen	07762 761905
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Birdwatching Group	Matthew Meek	mattmeek72@hotmail.com

Other

Three Suttons Helpline	07425 582534 OR 01622 844301
Involve	03000 810005
Kent Karrier	03000 41 35 67

Your Parish Council

Parish Clerk/RFO: Hayley Roberts; Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org Tel: 07719 317702/01622 474190

Councillors:

Tina Clark (Chair)	tinaclark@bandkpc.uk
Gareth Davies (Vice Chair)	garethdavies@bandkpc.uk
Chris Pink	chriskpink@bandkpc.uk
Simon Pearce	simonpearce@bandkpc.uk
Malcolm Clarke	malcolmclarke@bandkpc.uk
Daren Moss	dmoss@bandkpc.uk
Jonathan Whitcombe	jonathanwhitcombe@bandkpc.uk
VACANCY	
VACANCY	

Published by Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council

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