



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



Broomfield & Kingswood Summer News



**SEE CENTRE PAGES FOR PHOTOS OF
THE VE DAY EVENT**

BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Hayley Roberts
PARISH CLERK/RFO

Telephone: 07719 317702 or 01622 474190
Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.uk
Website: www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Broomfield and Kingswood News!

Summer is now in full swing, and we've enjoyed many warm, sunny days since our Spring Edition.

Since the Spring edition, the Parish Council has held both its Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting provides a wonderful opportunity for local groups and clubs to showcase their activities and achievements from the past year. It's always a pleasure to hear about the great work being done in our parish. You can read more about these achievements later in this edition.

On Saturday, 10th May, the Parish Council hosted a VE Day 80 Celebration at the Village Hall — and what a wonderful afternoon it was! We were delighted to see so many residents join us to mark this important occasion.

The cocktails proved especially popular, adding a cheerful touch to the nostalgic atmosphere. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed — whether by sharing personal memories, bringing wartime-themed exhibits, or simply coming along to take part.

A special thank you goes to the volunteers whose time and effort made the event possible.

We've included some lovely photos from the day in the centre pages of this edition — do take a look!

The pirate ship at the Sports Field, which had been a much-loved fixture for nearly 20 years, has now been removed and replaced with an exciting new piece of play equipment called the Merry Meet. We were delighted to officially open it on Tuesday, 22nd July, just in time for the summer holidays!

Installation took slightly longer than expected due to an unexpected discovery—two active bumblebee nests beneath the old structure. Work was paused immediately, and the nests were carefully and successfully relocated to a more suitable habitat, allowing the bees to thrive safely without endangering the public or delaying construction further.

We hope all the children enjoy the new Merry Meet and create many happy memories on it!



Once again, roadworks and closures have caused significant disruption in and around our Parish. We understand the frustration this creates for residents and visitors alike. However, it's important to note that the Parish Council has no authority over road closures, as this responsibility lies with Kent County Council.

The situation becomes even more challenging when utility companies implement emergency road closures. Under current legislation, they are permitted to close roads without prior consultation with Kent County Council when emergency repairs are required. Only after the closure has taken place are Kent County Council—and subsequently the Parish Council—notified, often leaving us with little or no time to communicate with residents.

This is particularly frustrating when emergency closures coincide with planned works already affecting local routes, compounding traffic problems.

The Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council has requested a meeting with Kent County Council and the Highways Department to address these ongoing issues. We are still awaiting confirmation of this meeting and will report back with any developments as soon as possible.

Please be assured that Parish Councillors—who live in the community and experience these disruptions alongside you—will raise all concerns on behalf of residents. Your frustrations are shared, and we remain committed to advocating for better coordination and communication regarding roadworks in our area.

Dates to Remember!

Sunday, 7th September – Village Litter Pick

Join the Parish Council for our community Litter Pick, starting at 10:00am from the Scout Hut.

All equipment will be provided — just bring your enthusiasm!

There'll be cake and refreshments afterwards to thank all our wonderful volunteers.

Pop-Up Café at the Village Hall

Our Pop-Up Café continues to be a big hit, and we love seeing so many of you enjoying a warm drink, a slice of cake, and a friendly chat.

Upcoming café dates:

Thursday, 31st July

Thursday, 21st August

More dates will be announced soon — keep an eye on the village noticeboards for updates!

Save the date—The Reverse Santa event returns on Sunday, 14th December from approximately 5pm onwards!

More details will be shared closer to the time, so please keep an eye out for updates.

For those who are new to the Parish or unfamiliar with Reverse Santa (where have you been hiding?!), here's a quick introduction: Santa makes his rounds around Broomfield and Kingswood, stopping at designated locations where you can donate food and other essential items for the Salvation Army. In return, Santa spreads festive cheer and is happy to pose for photographs with everyone.

It's a heartwarming community event and definitely not one to miss!

Contacting Kent Police

Your guide to getting in touch

How to report a crime

In an emergency – call 999

An emergency is when crime is in progress, a suspected offender is nearby, someone is injured or being threatened, or there is a traffic collision involving injury or danger. Only call 999 when you need immediate help.

Report online

Report non-emergency crime 24/7 using online services kent.police.uk/report

- Report a theft including shed or garage break-ins, vehicle break-ins or pickpocketing.
- Report anti-social behaviour including graffiti, criminal damage or nuisance behaviour.
- Report traffic offences including speeding, mobile phone use or aggressive driving.

Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Contact your local council for nuisance & environmental issues such as noise complaints, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.

Non emergency – call 101

101 is the number to call to report crime and other police issues that do not require an emergency response. You don't need to dial any other number, just 101. You can also call 101 to speak to your local officer.

Each call costs 15 pence – no matter what time, how long your call lasts or if you call from a mobile. We do not receive any of the call cost.

Text service for the deaf or speech impaired

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

We are reliant on mobile phone networks. If you don't get a reply to your text quickly, try another way of contacting us, for example by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

What happens when you call us?

By calling 999 and requesting police, you will be transferred to our Force Control Room where we will ask you for your name and location. You will also be asked to give as much detail as possible about the incident so we can determine what police presence is required. Each call is judged on the circumstances and calls are prioritised.

If it is an emergency, we will let you know when officers are on their way. If it is not urgent you will be transferred to a non-emergency call handler who may ask for an appropriate time for an officer to call back or visit you to obtain more information.

Other ways to contact us

Email or write

For general police enquiries you can email us at enquiries@kent.police.uk

To contact us in writing please send your enquiry to Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ.

Contact your local team

To raise concerns or enquire about policing where you live you can contact your local officers by calling 101 or by emailing them directly. Details can be found overleaf or simply enter your postcode on the homepage of our website: www.kent.police.uk

Social media

You can also contact us on our Twitter and Facebook sites as well as keep up-to-date with the latest news and access crime prevention advice.

- Follow us on Twitter at @kent_police - view the lists tab to follow the local account for your district
- Search Facebook for Kent Police

Please do not report crime on Facebook or Twitter. Call 101 for non-urgent police issues and 999 if a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Email your local officers

- Ashford – csu.ashford@kent.police.uk
- Canterbury – csu.canterbury@kent.police.uk
- Dartford – csu.dartford@kent.police.uk
- Dover – csu.dover@kent.police.uk
- Gravesham – csu.gravesham@kent.police.uk
- Maidstone – csu.maidstone@kent.police.uk
- Medway – csu.medway@kent.police.uk
- Sevenoaks – csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk
- Shepway – csu.shapway@kent.police.uk
- Swale – csu.swale@kent.police.uk
- Thanet – csu.thanet@kent.police.uk
- Tonbridge and Malling – csu.tonbridgeandmall@kent.police.uk
- Tunbridge Wells – csu.tunbridge.wells@kent.police.uk

Contact us

Report a crime

- Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
- Call 999 if a crime is in progress or life is in danger
- If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
- Visit your nearest police front counter to report non-urgent crime

News, information and advice:

- Speak to an officer – at a police surgery, at a front counter or by calling 101
- Visit our website – www.kent.police.uk
- Follow @kent_police or your district account on Twitter
- Find us on Facebook

For other information guides in this series, visit www.kent.police.uk/yourguide



**Kent
Police**

**Protecting and serving
the people of Kent**

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in large print, another format or language, call us on 01622 652158 or email us at communications@kent.police.uk



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.uk 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?

- Organisation of regular litter picks around the Parish.
- Installation and maintenance of a new defibrillator at The Sports Field and maintaining the existing defibrillator at NISA.
- Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.
- Management of repairs to the playground equipment.
- Upgrading of the CCTV equipment at The Sports Field.
- Updating and improvement of the Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Commenting on planning applications in the Parish.
- Repair and reinstallation of the Silent Tommy Statue.
- Maintaining the village planters around the village.
- 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.
- 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 Village Fete for the community.
- Organisation of the Reverse Santa. Items collected for the Salvation Army.
- Provided assistance and support for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- The continuation of a once a week bus service with the help of local Parishes and Nu-Venture.

Budget 2024/25

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 2024/2025

Statement of Account

Opening balance 31/03/2024 **£ 90,331.68**

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	61,668.00	Administration Expenses	4,141.11
Parish Service Scheme	3,328.98	S137	4,137.26
Rent	1,225.90	Publicity	1,915.00
VAT Refund	1,486.07	Parish Costs	2,196.33
Advertising	1,335.00	Sports Field	10,718.80
Bank Interest	3,595.91	Staff Costs	25,804.31
Additional Income	2,333.59	Subscriptions	830.04
		Miscellaneous Expenses	5,690.68
		VAT Paid	2,977.55

Closing balance 31/03/2025 **£ 106,894.05**

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2024/2025.

The Internal Audit took place on Tuesday 10th of May 2025 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 2024/2025

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2024/2025:

Air Ambulance	£500
Marie Curie	£500
Royal British Legion	£100
Kingswood Church	£200

The Parish Council Pop Up Café donations raised an additional £544.73 for the Air Ambulance. This charity was voted for by attendees of the Pop Up Café.

The Parish Council Reverse Santa donations raised £54.43 for Leeds and Kingswood Scout Group and £54.43 for the Salvation Army.

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2025

I am convinced that time is going faster and faster, I really can't believe that it has been a whole year since I struggled to get my last Chairman's Statement started.

There has been quite a lot going on in the Parish this year, some good, some not so good.

Let's start with some of the good, the Pop-Up cafes held at the Village Hall during school holidays go from strength to strength, we even had to ask the Village Hall Committee for some more mugs to be provided, which they gladly did and for which we are grateful. It's always a great atmosphere and the cake is always good, so come along and meet old friends and make some new ones. The dates are always posted on the notice boards around the village or up at the Post Office.

The Village fete in September was blessed with amazingly good weather and, according to feedback, we received was a day enjoyed by many. The Kings Head pub from Sutton Valence did a great job with the bar and food. The Invicta Jazz Orchestra and Old School Samba Band provided some fantastic music and the fire eater, ate the fire with aplomb. The baking competition had some great entries and made quite a good contribution to go to the Kent Air Ambulance from their sale after the competition.

The new Defibrillator was installed at the Sports Field in July, hopefully it, together with the ones at the Village Hall and the Post Office, will never have to be used.

We have also updated the CCTV at the Sports Field to cover the whole area, as the old system was not giving us clear enough images.

We continue our ongoing battle against litter, with regular litter picks throughout the year. We are very grateful to have a band of volunteers who regularly turn out and to those of you who, I know take the time to pick up the litter around our lanes. The dates of the litter picks are also posted on the notice boards and at the Post Office, so come along and join us, the cake at the end is usually very good.

The not so good includes the new SUEZ bin contract that caused a lot of issues for several weeks, with residents not knowing when or if their bin was going to be collected. Hopefully that has all been resolved now.

Road closures are still causing problems, with delays and uncertainty around journeys. Notifications come late or not at all, and some "urgent" road closures turn out not to be "urgent" at all, with diversions obviously planned by someone who has never seen the route. The Parish Council is doing all we can to get some common sense included in the mix but

The Broomfield Road water leak finally got repaired after it was reported multiple times by residents of Broomfield and Kingswood and the Parish Council.

And now dog poo (you knew it was going to be mentioned somewhere!), which I am sad to say is still an ongoing issue. I know most of our dog loving owners are responsible and clear up after their dogs but there are a few who think it is OK to leave it. Our amazing Scout Troop have provided poo bag dispensers around the village so there is really no excuse for such anti-social behaviour.

Back to the good stuff, the Silent Tommy has been reinstated better than ever, with his back against a solid wooden wall that, hopefully, will protect him from further mindless vandalism. Our thanks go to Councillor Shellina Prendergast who contributed towards the cost of the repairs from her KCC members grant.

Our wonderful village crafters created a waterfall of poppies for both the Broomfield and Kingwood Village signs, which made a beautiful back drop for Tommy on Remembrance Sunday when a ceremony was held at 11.00am attended by the Scouts and residents. Hopefully, this will become something that we can hold regularly so that we never forget.

Santa paid us another visit in December for the Reverse Santa evening, and once again the people of the Parish proved how generous they can be, giving several carloads of food to the Salvation Army food bank. The atmosphere in the Village Hall afterwards was amazing and I am sure the mulled wine and mince pies contributed to the happy buzz. Santa will be coming again this year so make a note of December 14th, 2025, in your diary.

The Wednesday shopping bus is still being well used, and we are happy to report that we have funding for another year.

Speedwatch are still doing their best to make our roads safer and are always looking for volunteers to help out. New road safety signs, designed by the children of Kingswood Primary School, will be going up around the village shortly.

The Parish News is published three times a year and we welcome articles from Parishioners, so if you have a story or hobby you want to share, then get in touch with Hayley.

If you are reading this then you probably already read the Parish News, but can I ask you to encourage your neighbours to do so too. It is full of information about what goes on in the village, the various clubs and events that happen throughout the year together with contact details. I don't know how many times I get told by people that they didn't know an event was happening. We put information on the notice boards, normally up in the Post Office and Hayley sends out regular email updates and posts information on Facebook. If you are not on Hayley's list and would like to be just email her at the address in the magazine and you will always know what is going on.

Our most recent village event was the VE Day 80th Anniversary held at the Village Hall; it was a lovely afternoon with people of all ages enjoying each other's company. There was a display of memorabilia from residents and a table showing the rations allowed for an adult for one week during WW2. I think most of us were amazed at how little there was compared to what we all eat today. It was also really good to see the children playing the games from that era and thoroughly enjoying themselves. The 1940s cocktails seemed to go down quite well too.

There have been some changes at Kent County Council which means that Shellina Prendergast, who has been our councillor for as long as I have been Chair will no longer represent us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her years of service to the Kent people. I also need to welcome Sarah Emberson who is our new councillor.

We have had some changes in the Parish Council this year, one of our councillors, Simon Pearce, resigned due to personal reasons, he will be missed. We have however, been fortunate to enlist two new councillors, Linda Blainey and Bob Mercer, who are already proving to be valuable members of the team.

The only thing left for me is to once again thank all the volunteers who give up their time to organise and run the various clubs and all those crafters, litter pickers and cake bakers, without whom Broomfield and Kingswood would be a sadder place to live. I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work during the past year and especially to thank Hayley, who makes the job look easy even though it really isn't.

At the moment the world can be a sad and worrying place, but I know there are more good people in the world than bad, it's just that the bad get all the publicity. So, let's remember that and be kind to one another, even a smile can make a difference to someone's day and really doesn't cost anything.

Tina Clark
Chair
Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

Annual Ward Members Report 2025 - Gill Fort and Gary Cooke, MBC Councillors for Leeds

In May 2024 the council elections took place and no party had an overall majority. A coalition of Lib Dems, Greens and Independent formed the leadership and administration of the council.

A further five housing development projects have been started by Maidstone Borough Council to deliver 94 affordable homes. This is part of the ambitious target to build 1,000 affordable homes in Maidstone under MBC ownership and management that formed part of the current local plan.

The five sites acquired by the Council are: Bathstore, Corben's Yard, Land at Granville Road, Britannia House and the Royal British Legion/Heather House site in Parkwood.

The Chartway Group has been appointed to deliver the Royal British Legion/ Heather House site, with Skillcrown delivering the remaining four.

The comedian, actor and presenter Hugh Dennis, officially opened the new archaeology gallery 'Lives In Our Landscape' at the Maidstone Museum on Wednesday 5 June.

Hugh hosts The Great British Dig on More 4 and has developed a strong interest in archaeology and heritage issues after filming three series and investigating nearly thirty sites. The pilot episode excavated a Roman site in Lower Fant, Maidstone in 2019. The show involves residents exploring the archaeology beneath their back gardens, often uncovering a previously forgotten past.

The exciting new family-friendly Lives In Our Landscape gallery tells the story of how people have lived in the area over a vast span of time. Objects dating back more than 600,000 years will be on show, from the earliest type of humans hunting animals with stone tools in a forested landscape, up to the medieval period, when Maidstone became a bustling market town.

Maidstone Borough Council announced that four of its parks have been presented with a Green Flag Award and have officially been recognised as some of the country's best.

Clare Park, Cobtree Manor Park, Mote Park and Whatman (Millennium River) Park have achieved the coveted Green Flag Award, the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee approved plans for the redevelopment of the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office site, at Maidstone East, for mixed-use development which is predominantly residential.

The development will include 180 apartments, 1,863 square metres of commercial and/or community space and around one acre of open green space town centre park which will be owned and managed by the Council.

Deputy Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Martin Round officially launched the Maidstone Borough Council 2024 Eco Hub.

Located in The Mall shopping centre, Unit 101 on the lower level, next to Timpson's and close by the exit onto Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone's Eco Hub was open to the public from Saturday 26 October to 9 November, and everyone is invited to drop in for advice to help them become more sustainable. Now in its third year, the pop-up community information centre will support people to live more sustainably, save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Mayor of Maidstone was amongst 250 dignitaries who attended the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the County Courts on Thursday 14 November.

Officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 31 October 1984, the Maidstone Combined Court Centre was relocated from County Hall to the Barker Road site in 1983.

Supported by Maidstone Borough Council, the 40 years celebrations was arranged by the Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Maidstone, HHJ Julian Smith and his colleagues at the Courts.

The history of law in Maidstone dates back to the first recorded trial in England being held on Penenden Heath in 1076. By the 1600s Maidstone High Street boasted a town goal, which was a cage for rogues and vagabonds with the original court initially being a wooden structure on stilts situated in what is now Jubilee Square.

The old Court House was replaced by the current Town Hall in 1763 and originally retained an open arcaded ground floor for market traders. The cell was used until 1811 and still shows today graffiti created by prisoners awaiting trial then.

The Council is in the process of creating a Development Plan Document (DPD) which will include a suitable spatial strategy, sites, and a set of policies to assess future planning applications for accommodating Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The consultation is the second stage of this process to gather views on the Council's emerging direction of travel and preferred policy approaches. This consultation is a formal stage in the planning process, known as a Regulation 18 consultation and will help to inform the next stage - the Regulation 19 proposed submission Plan, which the Council expect to consult on in Spring 2025.

Maidstone Leisure Centre won National Water Leisure Venue of the Year. The centre was refurbished following a Council investment of £2m where works to the centre has included the addition of an Aztec-themed Splash Pad, featuring a variety of interactive water elements including slides and water cannons.

A new Amazon Adventure Soft Play has also opened at the centre, a purpose-built three-storey attraction, designed for children aged 12 years and under.

A further grant of £512,000 from Sport England for environmental enhancements is also being made into the centre.

The leisure centre benefitted from the multimillion-pound upgrade project during 2024, following the contract extension with Maidstone Leisure Trust and Serco Leisure.

Maidstone Borough Council has joined forces with Kent Police to tackle nuisance bikes as part of The Safer Maidstone Partnership. By pooling resources, targeted operations are being planned where illegal bikes, quadbikes, and similar vehicles will be seized.

Kent Police, who tested the operation model in Shepway and Parkwood during the summer of 2024, had resounding success, seizing 10 nuisance bikes in one month and issuing several formal and informal warnings to known or suspected anti-social riders.

Operation Deplete is now being enhanced with more technology and collaboration with MBC to help stop irresponsible riders. Alongside the technology and resources, community support has been identified as a key part of this effort to improve safety and wellbeing across the Borough.

Things that have affected the parishes.

New waste contract. After a couple of months of poor service Suez finally overcame the teething problems and the contact seems to be working well.

Flytipping is still an issue. MBC increased their fines and can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £1,000, with a reduced amount of £520 if paid within 14 days. Fines can increase to £2,500 if the case goes to court. For hazardous waste, a £1,000 fine with no early payment discount applies. You will have to pay £250 if you are caught littering but it will be reduced to £200 if you pay within 14 days. If you do not pay within 28 days, you could be taken to court. A Maidstone resident has been threatened with jail if he does not pay £100,000 in fines and costs for turning a 14-hectare beauty spot into a landfill site.

We are still experiencing traffic chaos following local road closures. In many cases more than one road closed at the same time. Once the KKC elections are over we will seek to get the local parishes together with their councillors. KCC and utilities see if a better strategy can be adopted.



Kent Police

Kent Police – PC James Phillips

I want to start by adding a brief apology, I have done my utmost and am continuing to do my utmost to attend as many Parish Council meetings as I can when my shifts and personal commitments allow me to. I am sorry that I am not in attendance tonight for the APM, I do hope it has been a successful evening for everyone! In the following report I want to highlight some of the work which I have done in 2024 but also to mention some of my aims for 2025.

2024 was a hectic year for myself and my colleagues in the Maidstone Neighbourhood Team. There has been a huge amount of work undertaken by all of us from “whole team operations” to localised, Ward based problem solving.

Kingswood has presented me with multiple issues but I feel that we are working towards some positive outcomes. I have made my best efforts to spend as much time in the area as possible both on foot and in a car.

I have seized two vehicles in the Kingswood area as of recent, one suspected to have been stolen and the other a suspected “mission vehicle” with links to poaching and rural crime.

I am aware that off road bikes are an issue in Kingswood and there are plans to pay more attention to the area and utilise our powers to enforce the culprits who are riding and driving nuisance vehicles. I have identified some of the persons involved and have also ascertained that few are local to Kingswood and generally they are coming from different parts of Maidstone.

I and a few of my colleagues have had the great pleasure of doing a “show-and-tell” talk to the Year 1 and Year 2 group at Kingswood Primary which was brilliant. I am hoping to doing more of these in 2025.

I am also going to be making a concerted effort in 2025 to conduct more foot patrols in my wards. This is something which I currently do on a frequent basis as it is however I believe that it is the cornerstone of my role as a Beat Officer and the foot patrols I have conducted has been overwhelmingly well received.

I have quite a few projects ongoing and in mind for 2025. Towards the end of 2024 I devised a concept for my own Policing Operation revolving around community engagement and public outreach with a goal of improving Police and public relations. I have named the Operation Op Service and am running it as a trial in the Maidstone area. The Operation has had a slower start than anticipated due to other commitments requiring the whole of the Neighbourhood team however I am looking to keep this Op going and engage with as much of the public as possible.

Following a productive meeting with Police Staff member Sam Brooks here at Maidstone I will hope to work closely with him and Parish Councils to re-invigorate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. This project is in it's early stages and with all things may take some time to "bed in" and find the best way to work but I am really keen on progressing this in 2025.

I want to give my thanks to Hayley and the Kingswood Parish Council for their continued support. My consistent message has been to report, report, report and I know that this has been echoed by them. I do feel that the residents are taking this on board and I am receiving many more reports for the area which I am grateful of. I look forward to continuing to work in the area and meeting more local residents in 2025.

PC Phillips

Police Constable 30079

Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU) Neighbourhood Beat Team

KINGSWOOD CHURCH LEP 2025

Our supporting churches are: Baptist, Methodist and the Church of England
Kingwood Church meets every Sunday at Kingswood Village Hall our services commence at 11am.

For our full range of services please see the Church notice board at the Village Hall.

Kingswood Church is a friendly welcoming Church which follows the traditions of 'The Church' in a slightly less formal manner. During our service the children meet in the hall's Parker Room but join the congregation at the beginning of our service for a welcome and then again at the end to 'Show & Tell' what they have been doing, they enjoy all sorts of activities including junk model making, cooking and crafting as well as their Bible studies.

As a Church we offer various activities during the week :

Tuesday: Lunch Club

Wednesday: Study Groups

Friday: Ladies Group

Friday: Crusaders (at Kingswood Primary School)

Friday: CANS Youth Club

Sunday: Church Service and Climbers (children's group)

We offer pastoral care to our members and support a local foodbank, we make regular charitable donations each month to support local and international organisations, we hold special services throughout the year to celebrate Easter, Christmas and Harvest etc. We invite everyone to come along on a Sunday and give us a try, experience our friendly style of worship, I would recommend trying our Café Service which is held on the first Sunday of each month, a free continental breakfast is offered from 10.30am with the service starting at 11am. The service is led by Peter and Sonya Roberts and the children take an active part in the service, we would particularly love to see more young persons and families come and join us.

If you need any further information, please contact Peter Roberts on 01622 843625 or myself on 01622 842274. The church email address is: kingswoodchurch@outlook.com

Mike King Chairman Kingswood Church.

Kingswood Bowls Club Annual Report for Kingswood Parish Council AGM 19th May 2025

During the past year Kingswood Bowls Club has thrived. We have welcomed new members and are now at capacity. We have a waiting list for prospective new members who are welcome to come along for a free trial to see if it could be for them. All that is needed is a pair of flat soled indoor shoes.

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

We stop at 3:00pm for tea, cake and a good chat. All this for just £3.50.

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

April 2025

Kingswood Book Klub

The Kingswood Book Klub continues to thrive, bringing together readers who share more than just a love of books. With 12 members and growing, we meet every 4th Thursday of the month – no pressure to attend every time, and no expectation to finish a book if it's not your thing! We're relaxed, friendly, and always up for a good story (and a good natter).

What starts with opening a book has led to friendship, discussion, and plenty of laughter. Through the books we've read together, we've learned a lot about each other – sharing ideas, experiences, and perspectives. That's really what a community club is all about. (Well, that and the snacks and fizz – which we always have plenty of!) In fact, some say we're the best book klub in Kent 😊 – and we think they might be onto something.

Books We've Explored Together This Year:

- * The Unspeakable Acts of Zina Pavlou by Eleni Kyriacou
- * Artificial Wisdom by Thomas R Weaver
- * It started with a lie by Denise Brown
- * The Salt Path by Raynor Winn
- * Sankofa by Chibundu Onuzo
- * The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett
- * The Bee Sting by Paul Murray
- * Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- * Paper Aeroplanes by Dawn O'Porter
- * Death in the English Countryside by Sara Rosett
- * The House of My Mother by Rukhsana Ahmad
- * The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
- * The Three of Us by Ore Agbaje-Williams
- * Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
- * The Ivy by Tasmina Perry
- * To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Each of us has found something personal in the pages – whether it's a thought-provoking plot, a laugh-out-loud moment, or a character who felt like an old friend. So we thought we'd share a few of our top recommendations with you.

Our Top Recommendations:

Lady Tan's Circle of Women

Recommended by Tina, Rachael, Ceridwen, Claire Anita and Charlotte "This book showed me a culture I knew very little about and also that women have always found a way to survive and thrive." – Tina

"Beautifully written and rich in historical detail. We all learned something new and provoked such discussion amongst the group." – Rachael

"I loved the way it was written, mirroring different times in a woman's life as well as the historical context. Also led to really interesting discussions with differing opinions and thoughts." – Charlotte

"Because it gave real insights into a very different culture, women's role in the society and helped me think about our role today." – Ceridwen

The Salt path

Recommend by Anita

"Really well written and amazing strength humans find in adversity"

The Pillars of the Earth

Recommended by Becky, Gemma, Claire and Rachael (all listened to the audiobook)

"The narration was amazing and brought it to life." – Becky

"This book gave real insights into a very different culture, women's role in the society and helped me think about our role today." – Gemma

"I couldn't put this book down. It was so well written, I just wanted to know what was happening next. Steeped in history and..." – Rachael

Whether you're an avid reader or just curious, we'd love to see you.

Come for the books, stay for the company – new members are always welcome at the Kingswood Book Klub.

If your interested in coming along please contact Becky on 07940 726554.

It's been an exciting 12 months. Last summer the group went to camp near Borough Green. We celebrated 20 years of Leeds and Kingswood Scout Group. This was when Kingswood and Ulcombe Scout Group merged with Leeds and Hollingbourne Scout Group.

At camp we were taught how to handle an axe for chopping wood for kindling. In one tent they were practising first aid and in another area they were being taught how to light fires without matches.

This camp was a good opportunity for the children to be away from their parents for the first time.

At Christmas we all got involved with Reverse Santa. Father Christmas rode around the village collecting gifts for the Salvation Army, and the group were collecting from residents to put in his truck.

The group have helped with the litter collecting around Kingswood village, it is surprising how many bags of rubbish there were.

Scouts have been concentrating on their Chief Gold Award

The group are thriving in numbers;

We have 16 squirrels, this is the 4-6 year olds.

In the beavers we have 19, they are the 6-8 year olds

With the cubs there are 20, their ages are 8 - 10 1/2 year olds

We also have 17 scouts, these are 10 1/2 - 14 1/2.

As some of you know we have our own Scout Hut. We try to keep it in good order, but recently we had condensation in the hut. This is because we had to block the windows off owing to vandalism.

We have now had vents and extractor fans installed. This has cost us nearly £4000. This has been paid for from our reserves.

We have two quizzes a year and also run the 100 club. We need these to pay for any expenses that that are needed.

The group attended the St Georges Parade in Maidstone, we had the service in All Saint's church and the Mayor was there.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the scout group

Alan Poulton Chair





Headcorn FC

Established 1886

Headcorn Football Club 24/25 season report for Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

We would like to thank Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council for the use of the Sports Field again this season.

We have used the Sports Field to host home games for our U9, U10 and U11 teams and all have had successful and enjoyable seasons.

Our popularity with the children of Kingswood continues to grow and we very much hope this trend continues, and that we become the club of choice for the young footballers from the village.

We would also like to thank the community of Kingswood who are very supportive of our use of the Sports Field and are always very positive when we speak to them.

Thank you again.

Matthew Botley
Chairman
Headcorn Football Club

KINGSWOOD AND BROOMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Reg Charity no. 264838

SPRING REPORT 2025

We have just completed the installation of the new windows and doors at the Hall. This combined with the installation of the solar panels makes us much more energy efficient, and thanks are due to our Treasurer for his work in organising and overseeing this project. We are also grateful to the companies and user groups in the Hall working together to get the job done without having to close the Hall at any point.

We would however like to apologise for the ongoing problems with the Toilets and can assure you that we are doing all we can to rectify the situation.

We have also been working in the garden in front of the Hall and will be putting in some new butterfly and bee-friendly plants. We trust that the bulbs planted around the grounds last year are helping to improve the look of the Hall, particularly as you enter the car park. On the Chartway Street boundary the new hedge is just beginning to grow. These plants were donated to us by the Woodland Trust.

If you would like to book the Hall for a Party or Celebration please ring Val Clarke (Booking Officer) on 01622 843110 for more information and to be shown around the Hall. Similarly if you wish to put up a poster in the Hall, please speak to Val and she will do her best to help.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Hall for the various events due this year.

The Village Hall Committee

CYNOPHOBIA

We had quite a few children leave at Christmas, which is good in that it means we have been successful in changing their lives and that of their families.

We had a quiet couple of months but we are now building up the numbers. Averaging 14-15 children every Monday. We have also had several new handlers with their dogs join us, together with two new helpers on the floor. Two of our adult helpers joined the group as they both were very frightened of dogs. They now help every Monday. Just recently we had a little girl who had come to us so frightened, she has sent photos of her and her new puppy. The last day of the school term we are celebrating 10 years that the group has been running helping hundreds of children to be able to walk to school, play and holiday without fear.

LEAD THE WAY,

We continue to be busy with an average of 6 to 8 new puppies every eight weeks. We have success in our Good Citizen tests. There are 4 classes from puppy to our top class, and as the handlers gain more experience they can move up a class. We have seen a rise in out of control dogs since covid. We cannot stress the importance of getting your dog, from a puppy, trained. Average life of a dog is 12 years, which if well trained, can be such a pleasure.

Kingswood Speedwatch Group May 2025

Our group has now been operating for over 3 years. Community Speedwatch aim is to educate road users and encourage them to be more aware of the speed limits on our roads. Ultimately the aim is to try and eradicate speeding within our village and surrounding area.

Parish Council are very supportive of our scheme, with funding for consumables etc, the schemes are also supported by Kent police, [Community Speedwatch | Kent Police](#), and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

Our group consists of around 6 people, it was originally 12, but has reduced due to people mainly moving away. We are 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 just as and when it suits the individual, when they have available time. Some of our volunteers are retired, others fit it around work commitments, it is whatever suits them.

We struggle sometimes to get timings of session to suit at least two members which is required to undertake a session, due to availability not coinciding. That is where would benefit from some additional help. With more volunteers we could undertake more sessions and make our presence more noticeable and with that hopefully reduce speed further.

Over the period we have been operating our volunteers have given over 900 hours of their time and have undertaken over 400 sessions in 12 different locations. We have recorded over 1200 vehicles speeding through our village, with fastest speed recorded of 55mph, which is over 80% over the speed limit.

This unfortunately isn't an isolated case with three others over 50mph and over 100 vehicles doing over 40mph, and over 1000 over 35mph. We continue to see situations where pedestrians or other vehicles have been lucky to not be hit by other cars.

This is on our roads within the village where we all drive regularly, the maximum limit on these roads is 30mph, its not a target it's a limit.

Everyone we speak to all say, its not ME, but over 40% of those recorded as being over the limit come from within our village or from our surrounding area.

Since starting Speedwatch we have seen the number of people recorded reducing, between 2022 and 2024, but with fewer volunteers and sessions, there has been a slight increase this year, but it is still lower than in 2022

More volunteers mean a greater roadside presence and in other parishes this has been shown to reduce the % of people over the limit.

If you would like to help and could spare an hour a week or a month, we would like more people to join us. It will ensure the drivers in our village respect our speed limits and we can help to keep everyone safer whether in a car or walking. It is not a big commitment and you will be made to feel welcome. 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 or you can email or speak to the Parish clerk, we would really welcome your support.

*****END OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT*****



There's certainly been a lot of learning going on at Kingswood Primary School over the last academic year! We are delighted at how hard ALL the children at Kingswood work towards achieving. We have a school motto ... 'to try is to achieve'.

We're excited about the new school year ahead of us and also looking forward to welcoming our new children joining us in Reception Class.

As we all know, each child is unique and will achieve their own individual successes - this is nurtured and encouraged by all our staff. Not only by supporting the children to develop a love for lifelong learning, but by working closely with families to enable each child to achieve their potential.

You might be interested to know about the Character Coin Rewards that the children are given when they show us with their actions and interactions with others that they demonstrate our school values.

Our school values, that everyone within the school practices, are Kindness, Love, Boldness, Patience, Honesty, Understanding and Resilience. The children receive their awards and work hard towards their certificates of achievement – being Bronze, Silver and Gold. Every Friday afternoon we have a special school assembly to celebrate the achievements of everyone.

The children enjoy their school lessons and also all the additional activities that take place during the school week. This includes swimming lessons at Sutton Valence School and a range of after school clubs within Kingswood – film club, football club, book club and drawing club to name a few. Our teachers give their time to run these clubs for the children, for which we are all extremely grateful. Once a week we have a trumpet teacher in to teach ... and we all know when it's trumpet lesson time!

During the summer terms we were able to spend more time outdoors again. You might have noticed we've had tree work completed in the grounds during the last year. We do maintain the grounds for the safety of all our children, staff and visitors and regular inspections take place.

We know that parking at pick up and drop off times is sometimes raised as a concern by our neighbours. Please be assured that we do remind our parents on a regular basis that parking carefully is essential.

Our hard-working pupils are supported by a dedicated team of staff, governors and parents who work together to provide a community environment which promotes our key values. As well as educating our children and looking after their welfare, their sense of community spirit is a vital part of their early year's education.

If you ever have any comments or concerns regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Sanchez Daviu

Head of School



AMBITIONS ACHIEVED

From childhood two places I really wanted to visit were Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon, both in Arizona.

In May 1993 Maggie and I flew to Phoenix, arriving at dusk where the temperature was 100 degrees. For most of our stay I had booked accommodation and for the first night it was in Flagstaff. We then drove across the Mojave desert to Kayenta adjacent Monument Valley, where some of the John Wayne westerns were filmed. I had booked a tour of the Valley which was in an open topped vehicle with about six others. The driver provided some lunch, going round. The views were fantastic.

We then went to Tusayan, the main town on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, where we stayed for a few days. It is ten miles across and a mile deep. Even when you see it you can't believe it. One day I joined a group going down but only for a short distance. I couldn't resist a ride on the Grand Canyon Railway with a steam train. We drove to Williams, which is on Route 66, where the journey started. On the way the train was held up by bandits, who came into the carriage wielding guns! Turning round at the canyon the train returned to Williams and we drove back to Tusayan. Whilst there we learnt about the native tribes in that area.

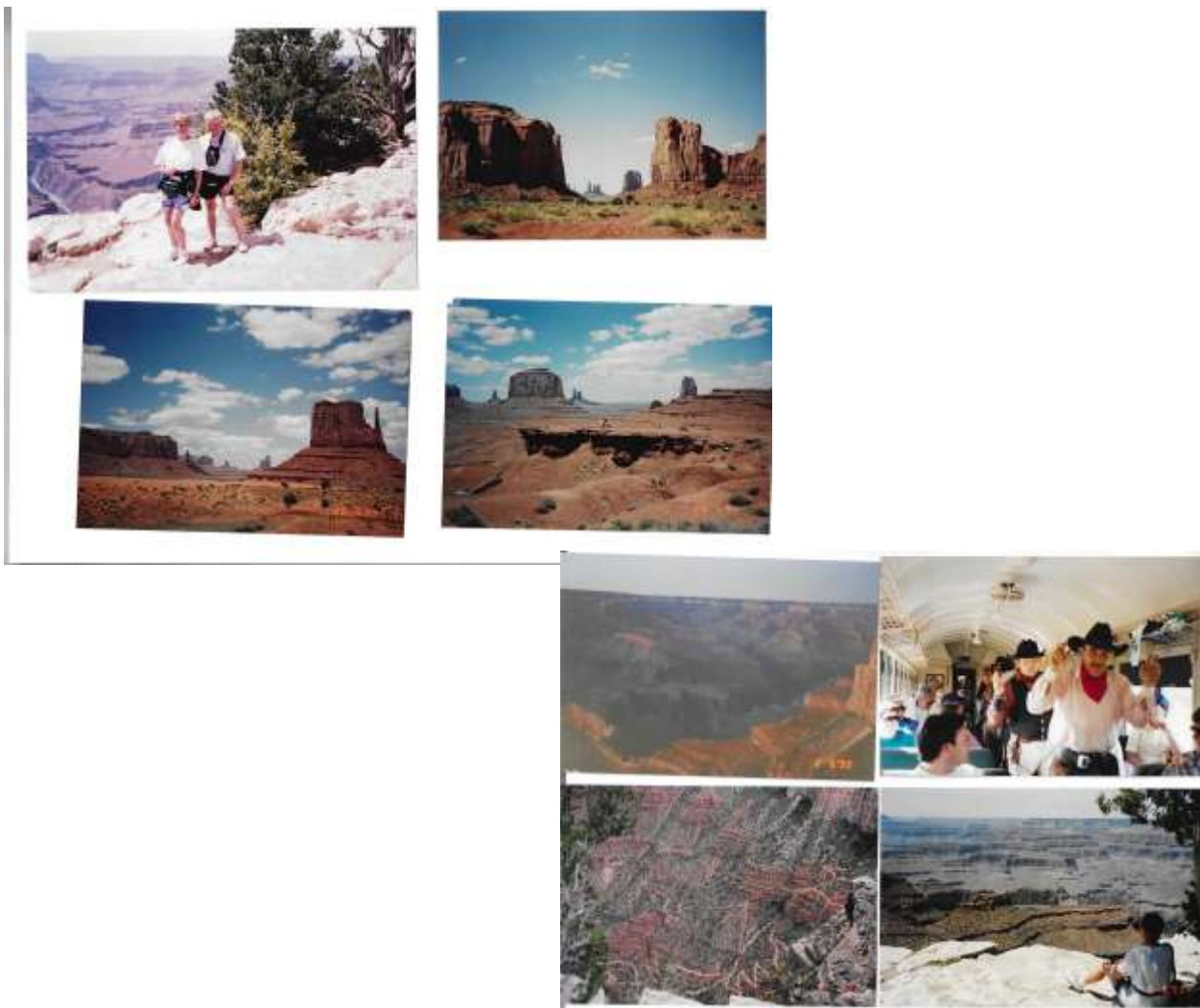
Using motels we made our way to California, going to the Sequoia National Forest, staying in a log cabin, and enjoying the wondrous sights of the enormous trees.

We also stayed in a hotel for a couple of nights alongside Yosemite National Park and enjoyed the wonderful mountain and waterfall views there.

Finally we made our way to San Francisco, staying for a few days, taking rides on the cable cars and we just had to drive across the Golden Gate Bridge. Taking the car to the airport I then had to pay extra as I had changed states.

All in all an unforgettable holiday.

Peter & Maggie Bainbridge







Barking Mad!!

Somewhere down our way
There's a dog that barks night and day
It wakes the sleepers in their beds
And during the day gets in neighbour's heads.
It barks at the children who come out to play
Or another dog that barks further away.
Sometimes it barks for hours on end
Surely this noise you cannot defend?

We love our dogs...of course we do
Even when they dribble or eat your shoe!
We don't mind the bark as postie goes past,
Or the "Welcome home family, You're home at last"
But the ones that are left out to bark yelp and howl
Cause upset, frustration and

If such a dog belongs to you, and if you are caring and kind
Please find a way to stop the noise
So we can all enjoy peace of mind.



KINGSWOOD BLUEBELLS

The Bluebells meet at the Village Hall on the second Monday in the month at 7.30pm. In July we are welcoming a speaker on My Life in Film, for all the film buffs among us. We take a short break in August, ready to meet again in September with a planned lunch outing.

October takes us back to the Silver Screen complete with pink lemonade and popcorn ! In November we begin the build-up to Christmas, making a beautiful centrepiece for the Christmas Table.

We celebrate the festive period with our Traditional Christmas Lunch at Weald of Kent Golf Club, a fitting way to complete another successful year of Bluebell friendship.

If you would like to join us, please ring me on 01622 843431 for details.

Beryl Andrew

Sutton Valence Group Practice Patients' Group has recently donated money towards a Doppler machine which detects blood flow in the body, as well as for an emergency trolley for the surgery. Money was raised through fundraising events. The surgery has installed a new phone system which should make it easier for patients to make appointments.

These days, we are all expected to be much more digitally aware but we also are aware that there are people who cannot access all this new technology for whatever reason. As a group, we highlight this when we feedback to NHS bodies and the like, along with all the other groups in West Kent with whom we link up. The reception staff will help anyone who has difficulties.

Our Group was at the recent Sutton Valence Parish Assembly where we were able to meet with other residents, groups and societies. It was a good evening and we thank the Parish Council for organising it.

There is a suggestion box in the surgery for any constructive feedback and ideas which may be helpful to improve/compliment services. The Patients' Group has also just undertaken a survey asking for thoughts on current services, with several of us in the waiting room speaking to patients. When all the comments have been collated, you will see the outcome on the PPG Noticeboard in the surgery.

Thank you everyone for your support in all the changes that are occurring nowadays.

Check your smoke alarms are in date!

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging people to check the expiry date on their smoke alarms, as they only have a lifespan of up to ten years.

Between 2022-2024, approximately 6,600 expired smoke alarms were discovered at properties in Kent and Medway during Home Fire Safety Visits carried out by KFRS with some residents unaware that they expire or how to check them.

The service has now launched its own campaign to raise awareness that smoke alarms expire, how to check their date and how to replace them.

Having an in-date smoke alarm is important in helping keep homes safe, as once they expire the sensors in the alarms become less reliable. This means that they might fail to sound in an emergency or could go off for no reason and could impact how effectively they work if there was a fire.

Rachael Spencer, Safe and Well Manager at KFRS, said: "Whilst many residents in Kent and Medway are great at checking their smoke alarms work, which we recommend testing once a week, we found an increase in the amount of expired smoke alarms on our checks as people don't realise, they have an expiry date.

"Making sure your smoke alarm is in-date is so simple to do and provides an extra level of safety in your home that could make a real difference in case there is ever a fire."

How to check your smoke alarms

The expiry dates for smoke alarms, whether battery-powered or wired-in, should be on the back or side.

To check it, you might need to remove the alarm from the ceiling. Depending on the type of alarm you have, here's the most common ways how:

- twist it counterclockwise to remove from the base; or
- use a screwdriver to unscrew it from the base; or

(for some wired alarms) push a screwdriver into the slot to release it.

If there's no expiry date, it means you'll need to replace the alarm and even if the smoke alarm still sounds, if it has expired then it needs replacing as soon as possible.

If your smoke alarm is out of date, you can buy a new one on any reputable website or in a hardware shop.

If you can't change the smoke alarm safely, we recommend asking a friend or family member for help. But if that's not possible, give us a call us on **0800 923 7000** for advice and to book a free [Home Fire Safety Visit](#).

For more information visit: www.kent.fire-uk.org/smoke-alarms-10-year-lifespan



Have you ever read a book that you just NEED to talk to someone about? Ever experienced that sudden joy when you have found another person who has read a book that you've been desperate to discuss?

I have always been this person.

And as much as I appreciate my husband's dedication to listening to me re-tell a story I've been reading, not wanting to miss a crucial detail, it usually results in gradually seeing his eyes glaze over while I slowly lose grip on his attention and well-natured enthusiasm. Especially since he's "not really a book person".

Enter the Kingswood Book Klub.

It's simple! We sit, we sip and we natter. Of course, our topic each month is about the book we have chosen but it's the stories we read that invoke interesting debates, multiple outlooks and insights into people and places we may not have thought to discover.

I, for one, have read (and listened to) books I would never have chosen since joining this group and even if I have disliked our latest choice, it is still a point of discussion encouraged to share with the group.

The Kingswood Book Klub meets on the 4th Thursday of every month and, in case you were curious, is named as such because there is already an informal book club in the village so the **'K' was a cheeky suggestion from one of our members!**

It is worth mentioning that each of us choose to read differently each month. I love an audio book, others read an e-book or reading app while some stick to the good old fashioned "book" book. We aim to read one book a month but have once given ourselves two months to get through a particularly lengthy read!

This group can be whatever you need it to be, whether you're open, introverted, opinionated, observant, curious, looking to make friends or even just peckish! Or if you just require the obvious..... to anticipate the next book you'll discover.

For me, I have found a small group of people who have hopefully gained what I have; a place of comfort and laughter, human connection and acceptance in our small community.

Reviews;

"The book we've just read is not my normal fare, but that's the joy of Book Klub, being taken to different places, and sharing the journey with friends and fizz. " Ceridwen, feigning retiree

"I joined this book club when I was at a low point in my life. Meeting all these ladies, who have become friends and uniting over our love of books (and Prosecco) helped me more than they know. I look forward to it every month and love the topics we cover and the variety of books we get to read" Gemma

"Since joining Kingswood Book Klub I have met some wonderful neighbours, enjoyed getting out of my reading comfort zone and sharing great conversations, not only about the books we read together, but about village life and our lives in general. To feel connected to a group of fellow readers has been a lifeline." Charlotte, age 48

"Joining the book club has not only expanded my reading horizons but also provided an opportunity to connect with people in our community. Sharing stories and experiences with these wonderful individuals is thoroughly enjoyable." Rachie

"I joined the book club because I wanted to meet my neighbours in the village as I didn't know many people. I've always loved reading but always stuck to the same type of books. The club has broadened my reading and I have made some lovely new friends. I look forward to our meet up every month." Claire, aged 64

Meeting details:
Fourth Thursday of every month
8:15-9:45pm
£5 per person



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KINGSWOOD AND BROOMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

In the past few months we have had many childrens' party bookings and it has been so nice to receive compliments about the Hall and grounds, giving the Hall committee and those who work with us a real boost.

Hopefully the major work that has been going on this year will be finished by the end of the summer holiday when we will be able to continue working on the garden.

Thanks must go to our Treasurer for his time spent organising the contractors to undertake this work.

We plan to plant some new butterfly and bee-friendly plants in the area either side of the new path to the front door. The new hedge on the boundary with Chartway Street is growing well. This was planted last year, the plants having been donated by the Woodland Trust. This hedge was a mix of plants that are particularly wildlife-friendly.

If you would like to book the Hall, please telephone our Booking Officer Val Clarke on 01622 843110 and she will do her best to help.

THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Leeds and Kingswood scout group had their quiz in the spring. This was very well attended. We had one table who was full on when they got an answer correct, but this did not deter the others from enjoying them selves.

Many of the people said they are looking forward to our next one in the Autumn

The group had . their St Georges Day Parade in Maidstone, they marched past the Mayor on their way to All Saints church for the service with groups from all over Maidstone.

We have had to fit extractor fans in our scout hut, the reason for this is that we had a lot of condensation due to the windows removed, this was owing to vandalism up there.

The squirrels met for the day at the cubs weekend camp in Bearsted. They had an enjoyable time and for Saturday supper they enjoyed fish and chips.

SQUIRRELS

We have 16 young people, this is for the ages of 4-6 year olds. They meet at the hut on Tuesdays before beavers start.

BEAVERS

There are 19 beavers, this is for the ages of 6-8 year olds. They have been working on their badge work

CUBS

The cub numbers have risen to 20, this is for the ages of 8-10 1/2, The cubs have gone in to gardening, They were sorting out seeds and plants for their plant sale.in the hut and also been planting seeds in the wooden planters.

The cubs went to Chessington and camped over night; They went on all the attractions and rides. this was enjoyed by all.

Looking ahead the cubs are now preparing an exciting Pirate themed district camp at Hamlet Wood. We will be joined by the beavers and cubs from across Maidstone East for a weekend filled with pirate themed activities and adventures

.SCOUTS

We have 17 scouts, their ages range from 10 1/2 to 14 1/2. years. All leaders have been given the opportunity to run their own sessions through out the term. They are preparing for a winter camp.

All the parents and guardians are kept up to date with news letters about the scout program.

If your child wants to join any of the above sections, I will put you in touch with the appropriate leader Call 843019

100 CLUB

We run a 100 club with proceeds that go to group funds. This costs £12 per year, If you are interested in joining, we have four prizes a month You can call me on 843019

APRIL

Mr Murton £20, £20, Mrs Gausdon £10, Mrs Archer £10, Mrs Monk £5

MAY

Mrs Leandro £29, Mrs Barwick £10, Mrs Excell £10, Mrs Bacon £5.

JUNE

Mrs A Bowman £20, Mr Robins £10, Mrs Newton £10, Mr R Smith £5

Alan Poulton Chair





We're all going on a summer holiday! **Broomfield & Kingswood Churches Summer 2025**



If you are of a certain vintage, you will remember the song 'We're all going on a summer holiday' by Cliff Richard from the film Summer Holiday which was released in 1963. I understand that some people enjoyed it so much that they have seen it many times. There are, however, hundreds of more recent movies about summer holidays, vacations and beaches.

Having rest is important but this is sadly confused in our modern world with having a holiday, which is not always restful, especially if you're the adventurous type and decide that mountain climbing, abseiling or white-water rafting is for you! Also, if travelling with children, it's important to keep them happy and entertained, at places like Centre Parks, Alton Towers and Chessington World of Adventures.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus speaks about the importance of having rest, when he says, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.' (11:28) Jesus here recognises that life can get us down at times and offers rest for our weary souls.

Rest can be defined as, 'to stop doing a particular activity or stop being active for a period of time in order to relax and get back your strength.' I like this definition, as it speaks of stopping and regaining or getting back our strength. How we need that in our busy lives where it seems to be a badge of honour to state how busy we are.

We read in Genesis, that after God created the world in six days, 'he rested on the seventh day from all his work and God blessed the seventh day and made it holy' (2:2-3) Thus, a pattern was set of rest on the seventh or sabbath day. I personally find that if I don't have a day of rest in a busy week that I start to forget what day of the week it is and become less efficient.

So where do we find rest? Perhaps by going on a retreat, at places like Lee Abbey, or visiting a Christian festival like Spring Harvest or New Wine (called by the Telegraph 'Glastonbury on God'). There are also 'thin places' where heaven seems closer to the earth which make it easier to be in touch with our heavenly Father. These places include Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Iona and St Michael's Mount. I always find mountains to be inspiring and places of rest unless doing the three peaks challenge of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon!

But we don't have to go that far to find rest. We can take a walk in one of our local parks, woodlands, Leeds Castle or Sissinghurst Castle to name but a few of our local attractions. Also, our local churches provide the opportunity to reflect and pray as well as worship.

Perhaps that's the point, we don't have to go to the ends of the earth to find rest for our weary souls but rather try and find a time of rest in our daily routines, like having a lunch break, or going for a walk.

David, in Psalm 23, talks of 'lying down in green pastures' and being 'led beside quiet waters' and having his soul refreshed by the Lord. Thankfully there are plenty of green pastures and quiet waters around where we live.

May I wish you all a very happy summer holiday and please remember there are Sunday services in Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood (LBK) Churches throughout the summer where you can find a warm welcome and rest for your soul.

Our Services during August include the following:

10th August 15:30 Afternoon Worship St Margaret's Church, Broomfield

24th August 11:00 Communion Kingswood Church, K&B Village Hall



With every blessing

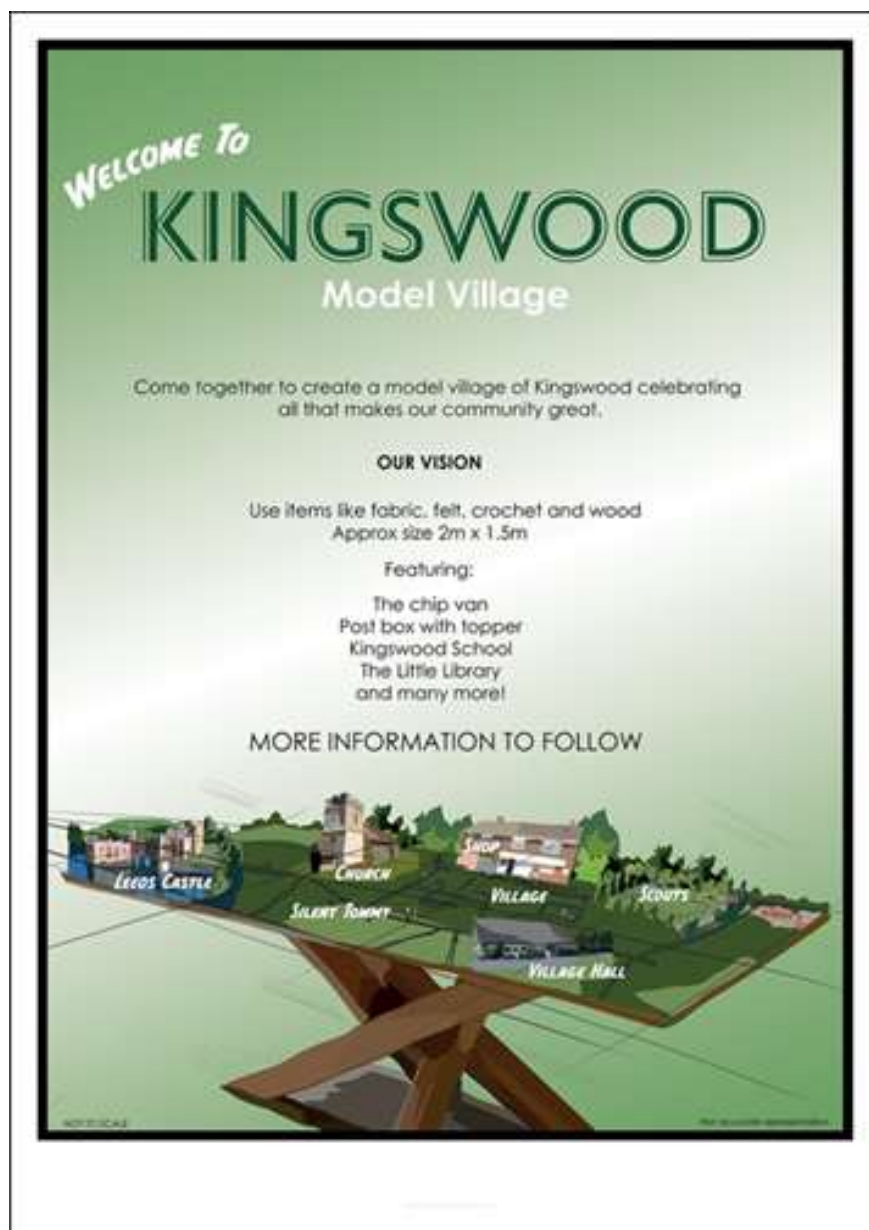
Peter Roberts – kingswoodchurch@outlook.com
Reader/Licensed Lay Minister

Kingswood Model Village Project

Please join this exciting and ambitious new Project! We need your skills and enthusiasm, your ideas and your talents.

Contact Matt 07866 931010, Ceridwen 07925 508050

Come along to our next meeting on Fri 25 July 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, you'll be very welcome.



HELP !!

Please could I make an appeal to all Kingswood Residents.

I have lived in the village for more than 43 years and have now developed a sight problem.

With the excessive growth of planting this time of year and warmer weather, I would ask all homeowners to check that their front garden vegetation does not grow over the pavement and if it does, to please trim it back.

This will enable Skye and I to walk around the village without the risk of tripping over or getting scratched.

Thank you so much to everyone.
Val Clarke

The Kent Cynophobia Assistance Group

The group meet every Monday evening helping children overcome their phobia of dogs.

We have 14 dogs with their handlers and have approximately 20 children in the hall.

We have over 90% success rate of a child touching a dog within the first hour.

All of us are volunteers.

We are always looking for dogs to help. They do have to have a level of obedience and of course have to be sound in nature.

If you want further information ring Janet on 01622 842209.

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)

Summer Wordsearch 2025

J Z Q I R V V U S I G C G L Y C Y Q Q B
 L W P W K U L W R N B R C E R K X H Z G
 A X P Z V C N T K G X D S J C N Z W Q C
 G K V Q K D W G O U W C D N D I F I U S
 S O R L D M N R B Q Z N L Q A T N B I L
 H O T S J I K D D S E E J D S E C C Q R
 C A C A M P I N G P I G M L G L X F I K
 R C V M M Y S X R R V N P U O C Y Y J P
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 I O N E D I S T U O M R Q N C N P H G T
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SUMMER
 POOL
 ICECREAM
 FRIENDS
 HOTDOGS
 VACATION

HOT
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KEY LIME PIE – science on a plate



This delicious dessert is very easy, no cooking and is science on a plate. The chemical reaction between the acid of the lime juice and the cream makes the mixture thicken and set, it's amazing to watch it happen. And then you eat the scrummy result!

You need

For the case:

500g biscuits (digestives, oaty, even ginger nuts if you like, but not rich tea - too soft).

150g melted butter

For the filling:

490g tin of sweetened condensed milk

500g double cream

Juice and zest of 8 limes (zest the limes, then roll them on a board to soften before you juice them).

If you have to use bottled lime juice, use about 230mls, but the taste isn't as intense as there's no zest.

An extra lime for decoration if you like

A flan tin or cake tin about 20cms

Do this

Crush the biscuits to fine crumbs (rolling pin and plastic bag or a food processor), mix in the melted butter and pack into the base of the tin. Chill it well while making the filling.

In a big bowl, put the cream and all the condensed milk, the lime juice and zest and mix well with a hand whisk or an electric whisk. It will start to thicken immediately, pour it onto the base and smooth it over.

Decorate then chill well, at least 2 hours or overnight! Enjoy!



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.

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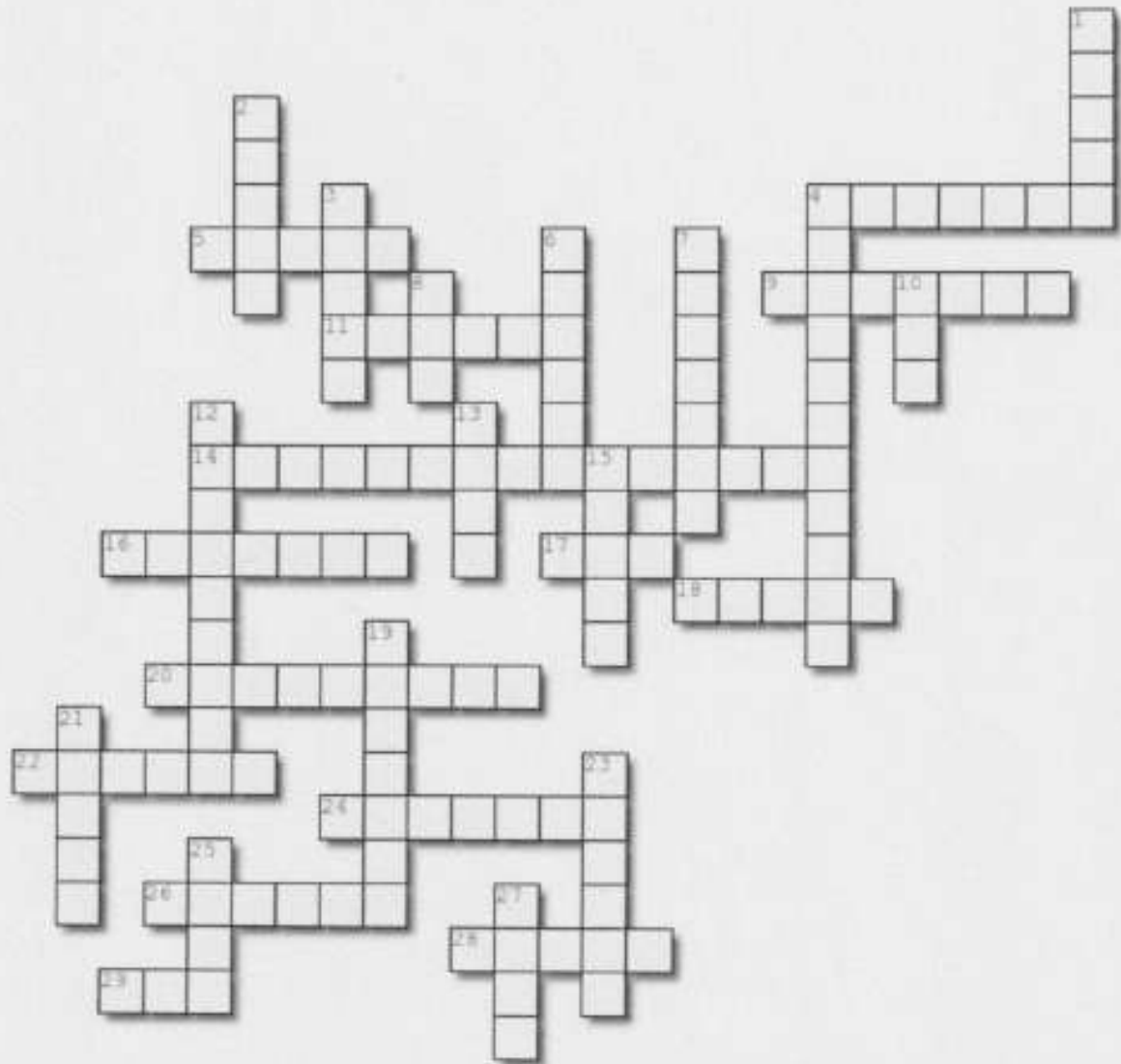
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Summer 2025 Crossword



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. This large, domesticated bird is often associated with farms
5. The sound made by sheep, often heard in the countryside
9. An English country sport involving dogs and foxes
11. A rural English structure for housing horses
14. The activity of raising animals for food commonly practiced in the countryside
16. A popular rural pastime involving the use of a rod to catch fish
17. This animal is often found on English farms and in the countryside
18. An English countryside walking path, often used for hiking
20. A famous English countryside area known for its beauty and hills
22. A traditional English country garden feature, often filled with flowers
24. A common feature of the English countryside, often used for grazing
26. A historic English structure often seen in the countryside, used for defense
28. A type of English countryside home often associated with wealth
29. A type of popular English pastry often enjoyed in the countryside

Down

1. Commonly used for transportation in rural areas, especially in history
2. A rolling landscape typical of the English countryside
3. This flower symbolizes the English countryside, often seen in meadows
4. Famous English countryside event featuring livestock
6. Large open areas often found in the English countryside
7. A popular countryside activity involving the cultivation of crops
8. This tree is commonly associated with the English countryside
10. Traditional English beverage often enjoyed in gardens
12. A traditional English dish made with meat and vegetables
13. An English countryside event featuring livestock competitions
15. A small river or stream often found in rural settings
19. A common type of rural dwelling, often made of stone or brick
21. An iconic English bird often spotted in rural areas
23. A type of landscape often characterized by hedgerows and wildflowers
25. A body of water often found in the countryside, great for picnics
27. A common sight in the English countryside, often used for leisure walks

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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
0744591 7438

Parish Magazine – August 2025

As I write, summer has resumed with a vengeance! It is lovely to have so much sun this year, but the gardens need a little more water, not least with the hosepipe ban now in force. There are lots of lovely roses and dahlias now in bloom, as well as a lovely show from the Wildflower Meadow in front of the Castle.

We have just completed a successful Leeds Castle Concert, with thousands of happy concert goers having a wonderful time. We are now moving quickly towards school summer holidays and will be running a Woodland Themed Family Trail, as well as the spectacular *Motors by the Moat* event on 9th and 10th August, featuring even more Classic Cars than last year, (including rare vintage Jaguars), car and motorbike stunt driving. Entry is included in Annual Ticket.



By the time you read this, we will have gone live with our new Knights Retreat Lodges at the Maze end of the Estate, which are replacing the seasonal glamping offer. This entry level accommodation offer represents a significant upgrade from Glamping Tents, with each lodge including a small kitchenette and bathroom. Two of the Lodges are fully accessible, providing accommodation for people with disabilities and each lodge sleeps between 4 and 5 people. These Lodges are themed around Mythical Medieval Creatures and will provide a wonderful immersive experience!

We will shortly also be launching our Christmas Programme, which will be *Neverland (Peter Pan)* in the Castle for the daytime offer. We are working with Great Ormond Street who own the rights to this popular multigenerational story and looking forward to bringing the Castle to Life with this popular and traditional story.

We will also be running the popular Christmas Lights Trail, which promises to be even bigger and better with 90% new light installations for 2025.

I am also delighted to confirm that we are bringing back Santa's Grotto for the first time since 2019. This pre-bookable experience will sell out very quickly, so do book quickly if you want to attend with the little ones!

Planning continues for the Stonework and Roof Repair Project that starts on site in October. We have appointed our contractor (PAYE Stonework) after a competitive tender and the stone order is placed with the quarry. We continue to apply for external grants to offset the £1m cost of this crucial conservation work for our charity.

There will be a programme of engagement activity associated with this work, including Schools' Heritage Skills Workshops, raising the profile of conservation as a career.

In Falconry, our baby blue winged Kookaburra and baby Laughing Kookaburra are growing up fast and are now full size and flying proficiently. We will start training with them soon and they will eventually take part in our daily Bird Show.

Wishing you a very enjoyable and happy summer.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive

KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

<i>"Best two and a half hours of the week."</i>	Jacqui M
<i>"Great afternoon with great company."</i>	Denise W
<i>"Highlight of the week."</i>	Janet B
<i>"Lonely, want to new make friends? Come to whist."</i>	Marian M
<i>"Great people, great game and tea & cakes at half-time."</i>	Jo R
<i>"Very social afternoon, playing whist plus a cuppa and cake".</i>	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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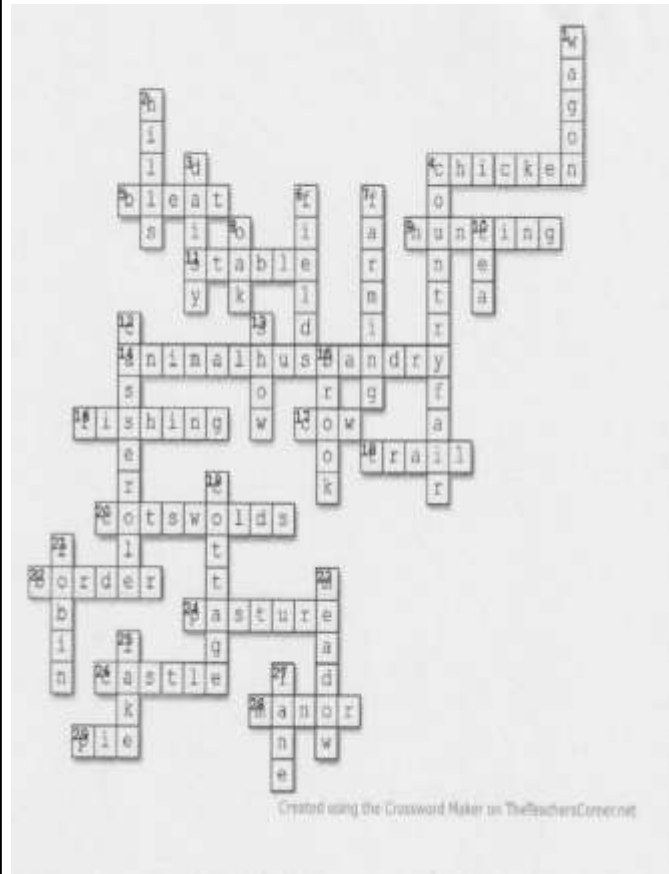
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Spring 2025 Crossword solution



Afternoon Tea!

Join us at Kingswood Village Hall
Saturday, 4th October | 2:00–4:00 PM

Come along for a lovely afternoon of
cream tea and cake
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Cake Stall Donations Welcome!

If you enjoy baking, we'd be grateful for homemade
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Let's raise funds and awareness together — every
slice helps!

Call Melanie on 01622 858925
if you have any queries.

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KINGSWOOD VILLAGE HALL



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Gel Design/ French Manicure	£30	Swedish Relaxing Full Body Massage 2 hours	£70
Gel Nail Extension	£40	Indian Head Massage 1 hour	£40
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		Chin	£7

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	
PC James Phillips	Maidstone Neighbourhood Policing Team	101
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	Kay Kilgallon	01622 842080
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Birdwatching Group	Matthew Meek	mattmeek72@hotmail.com
Kingswood Book Klub	Becky Godfrey	07940 726554
Kingswood's Little Library	Becky Godfrey	07940 726554
Kingswood Crafting Group	Ceridwen Clarke	07925 508050

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.uk Tel: 07719 317702/01622 474190

Councillors:

Tina Clark (Chair)	tinaclark@bandkpc.uk
Gareth Davies (Vice Chair)	garethdavies@bandkpc.uk
Chris Pink	chrispink@bandkpc.uk
Malcolm Clarke	malcolmclarke@bandkpc.uk
Daren Moss	dmoss@bandkpc.uk
Linda Blainey	lindablainey@bandkpc.uk
Robert Mercer	robertmercer@bandkpc.uk
VACANCY x2	

Published by Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council

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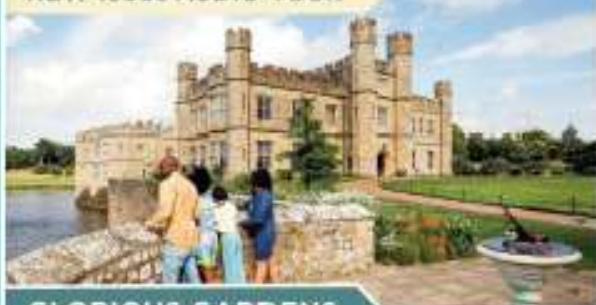
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