

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

# Parish News Summer 2021

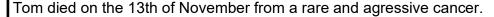


#### The Tom Hoy Award

Tom Hoy moved to Broomfield 21 yrs ago, firstly becoming a school govenor, then 15 yrs ago a Parish Councillor, he liked to make sure Broomfield was represented on the council and at one point was Chairman for a few years.

Tom came up with many ideas, always read the minutes at meetings to make sure there were no mistakes and tried his best for the community.

A few years ago he started a campaign for better Broadband in Broomfield, when he became ill Roy Royer took it over and thanks to both of them Superfast Broad band has now arrived.



Thank you Tom for being quietly caring, you will be sadly missed.

The Tom Hoy award was established by the Parish Council this year to honour Tom's memory and to acknowledge and give recognition to a resident of Broomfield and Kingswood who has made a significant contribution to this community.

Thank you to all those residents who took the time to vote and massive congratulation to our first Tom Hoy Award winners 2021 Kingswood Local Convenience Store, NISA.





#### **BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **NEW PARISH CLERK!**

My name is Hayley Roberts and I took over the role of Parish Clerk from Pam in April. I am really enjoying being Parish Clerk and want to thank everyone for their kind words and support.

Please do contact me should you have any questions or concerns and I look forward to meeting more of you soon.

#### A quick round up of some of the things that have been happening since the last issue

A return to face to face meetings.

The return of the Pop Up Café.

New Shopping Bus Service to Morrisons and Maidstone Town Centre.

New Facebook and Twitter pages—please search Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and like/follow our page for news and updates.

Updating and Replacement of Play Equipment—this is ongoing and we thank everyone for their patience whilst we replace this large item of play equipment.

A village litter pick will be arranged shortly, please keep your eyes on your emails and social media for more information.

Refurbishment of the Broomfield Green noticeboard—a big thank you to Martin Worral for this.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting were both held in May - please see the annual report on pages 4 to 12 for more details.

The Shopping Bus Service is proving very popular. We have received a lot of positive comments. The driver is the same driver each week and is called Mick, he is very friendly and happy to help with shopping bags.

If you would like to book a place please contact Hayley Roberts, Parish Clerk. More details regarding journeys are on page 12.





The Pop Up Café made a return on the 10th of June and proved very very popular. It was lovely to see so many people in attendance whilst still adhering to COVID restrictions.

The next Pop Up Café will be on Thursday the 8th of July and we hope to meet some more of you then!

### Hayley Roberts PARISH CLERK

Telephone: 07719 317702 or 01622 474190

Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org

Website: www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk

#### DOG FOULING IN THE VILLAGE AND THE SPORTS FIELD

Sadly many dog owners are still not picking up their dog mess around the village and the sports field.

Information on dog foul offences you witness can be reported to Maidstone Borough Council using the following link:

https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/campaigns-andprojects/tier-2-primary-areas/rk9

Or forwarded directly to

Jack Orwell, Maidstone Borough Council's Waste Crime Team Officer so that he can investigate and take enforcement action.

Jack can be contacted via email at <a href="mailto:jackorwell@maidstone.gov.uk">jackorwell@maidstone.gov.uk</a> or by phone 01622-602232

Would you like to promote your business in the Parish News?

Do you have a poem or article that you would like to include in the next issue?

Contact

Hayley Roberts
Parish Clerk
parishclerk@bandkpc.org
01622 474190
07719 317702

#### INCIDENTS AND ISSUES MUST BE REPORTED

It is really important any issues are reported on-line. The Police, including our PCSO, **can only respond** to incidents and issues if they are reported to 101 or on-line

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/

Please **do not** post any evidence that could be used in a criminal prosecution on the Facebook site as it could also cause residents distress and worry and it could be scaremongering

Please remember that our PCSO is not contactable by phone.

**Highways issues** including potholes, broken signs, damaged signs, blocked gullies, pathway issues <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>

#### MESSAGE FROM KCC HIGHWAY DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT

KCC's highway drainage team are currently receiving a high number of enquiries due to significant above average rainfall over the last few months. On average we receive 300-500 new enquiries every week, on top of existing enquiries and programmed work. Some enquiries are being sent directly to the engineers and managers within the team by email which means these may not be formally logged nor actioned if staff are unavailable. All Highway Drainage issues must be reported through the correct formal channels. Less urgent issues can be reported quickly and easily via our website via <a href="www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults">www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults</a>. This form of reporting will provide a unique reference number to enable tracking of our progress. However, if the issue is urgent due to it causing a highway safety issue or where there is an imminent risk of internal flooding occurring, it must be called through to us via 03000 41 81 81 (or 03000 41 91 91 out of office hours). At times of high demand, we can't always deal with flooding issues immediately. However, we do collect information to plan future works. If you've previously reported this issue, please do report it again so we can build up a record of the most seriously affected areas. These records are used to support the future works programmes and assist in future bids for funding. Please note we receive many enquiries relating to highway drainage or a flooding event which are often caused by extreme weather conditions beyond the reasonable capacity of the drainage system and in these circumstances, where there is no threat to public safety, we are unfortunately unable to intervene.



#### **Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council**



#### ANNUAL REPORT

This year Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council said a fond farewell to Pamela Bower who retired as Parish Clerk. Hayley Roberts has taken over as our new Parish Clerk.

#### **Social Media**

The Clerk maintains a private residents email distribution list and regularly forwards relevant emails such as road closure notifications, scam advice and relevant consultations to residents on that list. If you would like to receive information like this please email the clerk at <a href="mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org">parishclerk@bandkpc.org</a> granting permission for the Clerk to add your email address to her list.

The clerk also sets up and 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 Parish litter picking competition.

Co-ordinated support during pandemic for vulnerable residents.

Purchase and placement of extra litter bins.

Organisation of Tom Hoy Award 2020.

Organisation of litter picks around the Parish.

Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.

Management of repairs to the playground equipment.

Creation of Parish Council website.

On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.

Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish.

#### **Budget 2020/21**

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).

The Internal Audit took place on the 12th May 2021. Therefore, the audited accounts were published after the internal audit had taken place and were available at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The complete figures will then be audited by the government appointed external auditor PKF Littlejohn and will be available upon request to the Clerk or 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 us each year through our annual Parish Service Scheme Grant, we need every penny to prevent further increases in our precept.

### Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Annual Finance Report 2020/2021

Statement of Account

Balance b/fwd £8	4,151		
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	56,006	Administration Expenses	5,413
Parish Service Scheme	3,110	Sports Field	8,182
Rent	310	Staff Costs	23,697
VAT Refund	2,610	VAT Paid	2,266
Advertising	258	Donations	4,700
Bank Interest	296	Publicity	1,090
Additional Income	5,962	Parish Costs	2,906
		Miscellaneous Expenses	1,147

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2020/2021.

#### **Donations and Grants 2019/20**

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2020/21:

British Red Cross	£50
Air Ambulance	£250
Marie Curie	£50
Royal British Legion	£50
Kingswood Preschool Group	£3,300
Heart of Kent Hospice	£500
Samaritans	£500

#### Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman's Statement – May 2021

Well, what can I say, this has been a bit of a year; who would have believed that we would just be coming out of another lock down more than a year after we entered the first?

The fact that we have not been able to spend time with loved-ones and friends, particularly during those times of gladness and sorrow that are such a big part of our lives, has been hard for everyone. I know that there have been times when if I heard the phrase "this too will pass" one more time I would have screamed. But it is true, and it looks like we are finally seeing a way out, maybe not back to how life was before, but at least to one that we can recognise.

It has been a frustrating year for everyone, with so many events having to be cancelled and, who would have thought that just being able to have a cup of coffee with a friend would become so important.

The Parish Council have still been meeting monthly and have tried to keep things running as close to normal as possible.

We have of course had the perennial problems of litter and dog fouling.

This year we have provided more litter bins around the village and of course there was the junior Design a Litter Poster competition. You will have seen the winning entries posted around the village and some of the surrounding area. Thank you to all those who entered and particularly to our winners Anya and Brooke.

As you have probably noticed on your walks, the lanes around the village are being fouled by the litter being dropped by those passing through. In the Autumn, the Parish Council did organise a litter pick and there were lots of people who were keen to volunteer but unfortunately the torrential rain meant that too had to be postponed, although once restrictions are lifted, we will organise another. In the meantime, I would really like to thank all those people who pick up litter as a matter of course.

As for dog fouling, I know that Kingswood is a very dog friendly village, and most of our owners are responsible and clear up after their pets. However, there are still a few who think it is OK to leave dog poo lying in the middle of the pavement, on the grass of the sports field or even in the children's playground.

Two of your Councillors spent an afternoon walking the streets of Kingswood spraying "Pick it Up" warnings on the pavements. Unfortunately, regulations say that these cannot be permanent and must be able to fade, but we will be doing it again and again until hopefully the message gets through. There is a £1,000 fine for anyone caught allowing this to happen and there is a place on the KCC website for reporting incidents.

The snow and ice this winter was for some of us a major problem, making leaving home a treacherous business. The Parish Council, for insurance and financial reasons, cannot grit the roads or pavements but we will be providing more salt bins around the Parish that will hopefully help if the situation ever arises again.

Broomfield and Kingswood is a parish full of people who care about others and their environment and are more than willing to do that bit extra to help others. One of these was Tom Hoy who was a Parish Councillor for several years, including a spell as Chair. He was an enthusiastic and vocal member of the council who was the driving force on many a project. The Parish Council was therefore honored to organise a Community Award scheme in his memory.

The response was amazing and there were many nominees but the winners this year, by quite a long way, were of course the team at the Village Store who provide the kind of service and care that makes us the envy of other villages. This year particularly they have provided a lifeline for many of our residents, including making home deliveries.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for the way they enthusiastically give their time freely and willingly for the Parish.

Thanks also go to Paul and Alison Beaney who once again this year have kept our planters looking beautiful.

I would like to welcome Hayley Roberts, our new Parish Clerk, has taken over from Pam Bower who has left us for the beauties of Derbyshire. Hayley is your first contact point for anything Parish Council related.

Also, welcome back Jo Gosden who re-joins us after maternity leave.

Our monthly meetings have all been held via Zoom over the last year and this works well most of the time (the naked dancing Santa who hacked one of the meetings was a little startling). They have, of course, still been open to the public and several residents have joined us to discuss issues important to them. That is how it works, if the Parish Council can help, they will, but they can only try to do so if they are aware of the issue. So come to the meetings, talk to us, get involved.

Take care and stay safe.

Tina Clark

Chair

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council



#### Shellina Prendergast - Kent County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

#### **Annual Report May 2021**

Dear Resident,

The last year has been an incredibly tough period for all our communities and businesses. As we take our first steps to get the country out of the restrictions, I want to thank all of you for having played your part, showing much resilience, patience and resolve in helping to get the virus under control and supporting each other through the difficult times.

Uniquely in the country, Kent has confronted not one but two – or three – huge challenges: Covid-19, the end of the Brexit transition and the arrival of large numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children last spring and summer. Kent County Council has been there with residents and businesses throughout this – supporting the vulnerable through the "Kent Together" scheme, securing millions of items of PPE, rolling out community testing and supporting families, businesses, and the many voluntary and community organisations on the road to recovery. Below are some examples of the work in key areas led by Kent County Council during this time:

#### Kent's Children, Young People and Families

HeadStart Kent, a programme that has enhanced the mental health and well-being of young people in the county since 2016, has been awarded extra funding to continue its vital work for an additional year-https://kccmediahub.net/headstart-kent-awarded-additional-years-funding745

Supporting families under financial pressure in the crisis, supporting the voluntary sector in working to tackle financial distress, Free School Meals in the October half term and since, and the £10m Helping Hands scheme to support individuals, families and businesses.

Kent County Council has protected tax payers from the cost of the arrival of large numbers of young asylum seeking children though a new and increased funding deal agreed with Government last summer. We continue to press the Government to establish a sustainable National Transfer Scheme which will ease the pressure on border authorities like Kent.

Reconnect – a universal community-based programme of activities currently being developed to help children and young people reconnect with their pre-Covid-19 lives. <a href="https://kccmediahub.net/ambitious-kcc-led-community-programme-will-help-children-and-young-people-reconnect-with-their-pre-covid-19-lives745">https://kccmediahub.net/ambitious-kcc-led-community-programme-will-help-children-and-young-people-reconnect-with-their-pre-covid-19-lives745</a>

91% of Kent schools are rated as good or outstanding. The challenge of a rising school population has been met by building out places for an additional 25,000 students over the last ten years.

#### **Supporting Communities and the Voluntary Sector**

The Library Service introduced the popular Select and Collect and digital services while maintaining the important Home Library Service – a vital link for many vulnerable residents.

Support for the cultural and sports sectors facing the considerable challenges as a result of Covid-19.

- Investing in communities and the voluntary sector, most recently through the Crowdfunding Kent initiative where Kent County Council committed £500,000 to co-fund community projects that help recovery from the pandemic.
- Launched the Kent Together initiative working with communities and borough councils to provide 24/7 help and support to those who were vulnerable and isolated due to the pandemic and in need of essential supplies including food and medication.
- Delivered over 1000 carephone devices to vulnerable and isolated residents, enabling them to connect with friends, families and carers during lockdown.

#### **Brexit Transition**

- Along with local and national partners, Kent County Council made huge preparations for the end of the Brexit transition to ensure that roads and services remained open for residents and businesses.
- When the French Government shut the borders just before Christmas, KCC staff, Members and partners worked tirelessly to resolve the crisis. Transition plans were adapted, testing centres were set up and welfare measures were put in place for those stranded by the closure.

#### **Backing Kent's Businesses**

- Helping businesses during the pandemic has been the at the core of our work investing in the Kent and Medway Covid Help Line, assisting more than 14,000 businesses and making millions of pounds available in affordable loans to help businesses survive and prosper as we come out of the current crisis.
- No Use Empty scheme, supported by £12m of support last year, provides interest free loans to small, local builders to bring empty properties back into use. The scheme has delivered almost 6500 homes on brownfield land, safeguarded hundreds of local jobs, created new homes and improved derelict areas of land.

#### **Broadband for Businesses and Homes**

- Kent County Council has worked with the government agency BDUK to deliver better broadband across the county and several communities within Maidstone Rural East have benefitted from this. This has included:
  - Delivered faster broadband connections to over 140,000 homes and businesses across Kent that would otherwise have been left with no or slow broadband.
  - Provided funding to over 2,000 rural homes and businesses (without superfast broadband connections) though the Kent Top-Up Voucher programme.
  - Enabled access to superfast broadband of at least 30mbps to over 95% of homes and businesses in Kent.

#### **Roads and Rail**

- Committed another £10m to this year's pothole blitz after a year in which Kent Highways filled in almost 50,000 potholes and patched the equivalent of 50 full size football pitches.
- Invested £11m in a road resurfacing programme and five-year maintenance plan.
- Kent County Council launched the Vision Zero Strategy for road safety which not only has an ambitious aim for reducing or eliminating road accident deaths by 2050 but represents a new way to engage with communities and address local road safety concerns.
- The Kent Rail Strategy 2021 positions KCC to influence future plans for Kent's rail services.

#### **Protecting our Environment**

Commitment to reach Net Zero for our own services and buildings by 2030 together with projects and funding in place to deliver this target along with a plan for Kent as a whole to achieve this by 2050.

Launched an innovative Plan Bee for pollinators, ambitious work on biodiversity and plans, already underway, to plant a tree for every resident in Kent.

Less than 1% of waste collected in Kent goes to landfill; the rest is recycled or turned into energy.

The above is just a flavour of the work at Kent County Council. As we emerge from Covid and lockdown, we are working to build a better future for Kent: standing up against national targets for housebuilding in the county while securing the services and infrastructure we need so that they come with, not after, any development; supporting both young and older people after this toughest of years; and costed plans in place to protect our environment and achieve net zero.

This is a time to feel optimistic. My thanks again to all of you for the part you have played in helping and supporting our communities and for taking the steps and following guidance to reduce the spread of Covid 19. I am very proud to represent residents of Maidstone Rural East – together we make a great community!

All the best

Shellina Prendergast

KCC Councillor, Maidstone Rural East

#### **Annual Ward Members Report 2021**

#### Maidstone Borough Council - Ward Councillor - Gill Fort

This has been an extraordinary year. Who would have imagined what was to come in February last year when we first witnessed the lockdown of Wuhan.

Since then many of us have lost loved one, lost our job, have had to adopt a new working environment, suffered anxiety, mental and financial hardship. One thing that I have noticed is people's resilience and the sense of community. We have all stood on our doorsteps to clap our wonderful NSH and key workers. MBC have also done their bit. They set up the community hub, which reached out to those, shielding and most vulnerable. In our borough, there were around 2,600 registered vulnerable. Urgent food and medical supplies were provided throughout lockdown.

The elections last year were postponed. They will take place this year on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. We have throughout the year held meeting virtually however they may come of an end next month.

The Local Plan Review is underway. Sites have been put forward by landowners and developers. These sites have been evaluated and preferred spatial strategy for future development between 2022 and 2037 has been out to public consultation. The main concerns centre of increased housing numbers with a lack of infrastructure. It should be noted that within the document, there is an area around Leeds and Langley which will be safeguarded to enable the delivery of a relief road at a later date if there is a justifiable argument to be made.

There has been an increase in litter and fly tipping over the last year. The rural lanes are particularly bad. MBC have just launched a Pilot Scheme to Combat Litter – this Pilot Scheme began in April and MBC are the first council in the country to pilot the scheme. MBC will focus on the worst areas, such as major junctions and roundabouts. If the pilot is a success, MBC may roll it out to other areas.



### **Shukokai Karate Academy England**

We are proud to confirm that the Academy's karate classes have continued throughout 2020 and into 2021. As soon as the first Lockdown in March 2020 was announced, classes immediately transferred onto the Zoom platform with up to twelve classes a week, all well attended. Students adapted very quickly to the new method of training and it gave them the opportunity to hone their basic techniques, combinations and kata. Once it was permitted to train in limited groups outside again, we were lucky enough to start classes up in Kingswood, Hollingbourne and Sutton Valence. This gave students the opportunity to continue with their training and work towards their next grading belts. We only had one occasion during the whole Summer where our classes were interrupted by bad weather and even then, students returned to continue as soon as the rain passed. Once we were able to return to indoor training, we did so at all of our dojos, including Kingswood Village Hall, where we had strict COVID safe protocols in place. Whilst this limited the numbers allowed in classes, it did not deter students from putting all their energy into their training and new students also joined the club. Sadly, once Lockdown 2 started, we had no option other than to go back onto Zoom but again student numbers were maintained and considerable progress was made by everyone. We returned briefly to some indoor training just before Christmas at one of our venues but since the beginning of the year we have again maintained a significant number of classes on Zoom. We have also had the opportunity to hold online seminars with nine time World Champion and Norwegian National Coach Wayne Otto, World Champion Jordan Thomas and Portuguese National Kata Coach Ema Fernandes.

We are also very proud to announce that Sensei Katie Simpson has been appointed by the English Karate Federation as an Assistant Regional Kata coach for the Southern Region. Sensei Chris is currently undertaking a virtual 1,083 mile walk from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for Diabetes UK, MIND, Great Ormond Street Hospital and our own SKA Fundraising Group. He is currently 375 miles into the walk, details of which can be found at <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chris-simpson-lejog">www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chris-simpson-lejog</a>.

We are hopeful that in late March we will be able to return to outdoor training and then in April indoor training for the under 18s and in May indoor training to include adults. We are extremely grateful to the Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and The Village Hall Committee for all their support during then last twelve months.

As well as Kingswood the Academy will be resuming classes at five other different venues, Downswood, Lenham, Sutton Valence, Marden and Maidstone YMCA, and once a member of the Academy students can train at any of the venues in an appropriate class – beginners are always welcome.

Full details and booking pages can be found at our website <a href="www.shukokaikarateacademy.com">www.shukokaikarateacademy.com</a> or via <a href="www.kentkarate.co.uk">www.kentkarate.co.uk</a> or be contacting us on 07801 639052 or email <a href="mailto:kentkarate@gmail.com">kentkarate@gmail.com</a>.

Sensei Chris and Sensei Katie Simpson.

Joint Chief Instructors - Shukokai Karate Academy England.







### Leeds & Kingswood Scout Group

Hope you are all well and not too bored.

With the pandemic we are not being able to have face to face contact, so the leaders have arranged meetings via Zoom. This has let the individual sections keep in touch with each other.

Not having the meetings at the hut has given us the opportunity to decorate the hut and freshen it up.

You may see in the magazine we are seeking for leaders and helpers for beavers, cubs and scouts. If you like working with children, this will give them your expertise in helping them. If you are interested please give me a ring at the telephone number at the bottom.

For our funds to keep the group running we run a 100 club, we have four prizes a month comprising of £20, 2 x £10 prizes and a £5.

This is £12 a year (£1 a month) If you are interested in joining please call me on the number below.

In the mean time stay safe and well and look after yourselves

Alan Poulton Chairman 01622 843019



We have had a strange year this year but we are now gearing to start back up once social distancing is over! Hooray!

Beavers are aged between 6-8 years, all of our Beavers who were with us just before the pandemic will be invited back before the Summer so we can prepare them for moving on to Cubs.

In September we will essentially be starting a whole new group. If your child is between 6-8 and would like to try Scouting at Leeds and Kingswood Beavers, please get in touch, we will put your name down on our waiting list.

We also need volunteers and leaders for the new group to stay running. There are so many fantastic opportunities in scouting; sleepovers, camps, activity days to name a few!

All our activities are run by volunteers, would you like to:

- Try something new?
- Make friends?
- Spend time with their children or gain experience with young people?
- Do something good for your community and yourselves?
- Keep your bodies and brains active and happy? whether that's by scaling mountains, sharing skills or serving tea!

These all end up making a huge difference to young people's lives – gifting them with skills for life, and learning a whole lot about themselves along the way.

No previous experience with young people? No problem. Whether you'd like to help out week-afterweek or whenever-you-can, we provide training, learning opportunities and cups of tea – every step of the way.

If you would like more information on volunteering or to add your child to our waiting list, please contact:

Claire Jones, Leeds and Kingswood Beavers Leader- 07732056139, cdrylie@hotmail.com



Dance4Kent have a lovely Dance School running from Kingswood Village Hall on Fridays during Term Time. The classes are Ballet & Jazz for children aged 2 1/2 years upwards & we also offer performing opportunities.

The past year has been so tough but a lot of students supported us via Zoom classes & we can't thank them enough! We are now back in the hall with our wonderful students having lots of fun & we hope these classes will continue to grow!

Kindest Regards, Stephanie Wood, Owner of Dance4Kent, 07898207973 www.dance4kent.co.uk

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*END OF ANNUAL REPORT\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



#### Pop-Up Café and Information Hub

### Coming to Kingswood Village Shop Forecourt, Charleswood Ave

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September

10.30 - 12.30

Come and get together with old friends and new. Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We'll have all sorts of local information available or you can just come for a chat.

Please help us to spread the word. Everyone welcome ... see you soon!

We will be operating under Government Guidance to ensure Covid-19 measures are in place if necessary, to ensure that you are able to relax in a safe environment.





Charity Number: 212796

### Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council www.broomfieldandkingswoodpc.kentparishes.gov.uk Kingswood Shopping Bus

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council are pleased to announce that from the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 they will be

providing a new shopping bus service two days a week.

This is a 16-seater bus so it will be on a first come first served basis at a cost of £4.00 return.

A place can be reserved by calling Hayley the Parish Clerk on 07719 317702 or 01622 474190.

#### Wednesday

#### Kingswood to Morrison's

Pick-up at Village Stores - 10.30 am Pick-up at Village Hall -10.40 am Return from Morrison's – 1.00 pm

#### **Friday**

#### Kingswood to Maidstone, Boots.

Pick-up at Village Stores – 10.30 am Pick-up at Village Hall – 10.40 am Return from Boots – 2.15 pm



#### KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

We are all pretty fed up with the awful pandemic!!

If Boris's Roadmap goes to plan we should be back to some sort of normality by the end of June. With that in mind we intend to restart our weekly sessions on Tuesday, 6th July - fingers crossed!!

We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm in the Village Hall. The Group is ever expanding and we attract players from neighbouring villages. Over 20 players usually come along and enjoy 24 games of partner/progressive whist. half-time we have tea, coffee, cakes and chat!

JOKE R WENDOR

Αt

We welcome new players of any vintage or ability so please come along for a really enjoyable sociable afternoon - all for just £2.50!! The members take it in turns to provide the cakes and modest prizes.

No card sharps allowed, just folk who want a fun afternoon!!

For further information please ring Mike on 844272 or email me at <a href="mailto:mbean58@btinternet.com">mbean58@btinternet.com</a> to register your interest.

You will be very welcome.

#### Indiana Jones An Introduction

Indiana Jones or 'Indie' as he is known lives in Kingswood and is a very special dog. Indie belongs to Evan aged 7 who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes just over two years ago. Indie is training to be Evans alert dog with Hypo Hounds who are a charity based in Smarden and rely solely on donations and fundraising events. You may have seen their collection box in the Post Office.

To raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes we will be following the adventures of Indiana Jones in our Parish News issues. I hope you enjoy reading them.



#### HYPO HOUND IN TRAINING! NEWSLETTER 2



Indie has absolutely
loved the snow! What
a surprise and
something fun for us all
to enjoy during this 3rd
Lockdown. Lots of
playing hide the treats
in the snow, all good
scent training getting
him using his nose!

### \* Thank-you\*

Thank-you very much for all of your support for Indie! This lockdown we have been concentrating on the bond that Evan will have with Indie. Lots of treat training and cuddles. Please follow Hypo Hounds online and on Facebook they are an amazing charity. Indie is on Instagram!

#Indianajoneshypohoundintraining

#### LOCKDOWN 2020/21

Lockdown 3 is almost over and we are still so far behind with all of Indie's training. We

are very
grateful to
Janet Tandy
from 'Lead the
Way Dog
Training' who
has helped us
with Indie
when we were
allowed.

There is still no word on when Kennel Club will be back up and running, but Hypo Hounds are now able to run their own tests in alignment with the Kennel club so we know that Indie will be at the required standard. As soon as Lockdown is over, we will start

> home visits for Indie's scent work. All very exciting and we can't wait for the next step in his

training!

At Christmas Evan started Insulin Pump Therapy, he is now on an 'Omnipod Dash' pump! We are so grateful to

Hypo Hounds

Hypo Hounds are an amazing charity and are based in Smarden. 'Training pet dogs to develop life saving skills' www.hypohounds.co.uk Quarters of Sussex

Quarters of Sussex have sponsored Indie and have provided him with wonderful leads and collars. We are so grateful:) Thank-you! www.quartersofsussexparacor d.co.uk

#### **REQUEST FOR HELP!**

**SPORTS FIELD GATES**—The Sports Field Gates need to be opening at dawn and closed at dusk and the Parish Council wondered if there might be a willing volunteer or volunteers who would perform this duty. Councillors looked into hiring a security firm to undertake this task however it would be too costly.

**SPEEDWATCH**—Are you concerned about the speed of vehicles in our village? Would you like to do something about it? Resident Becky Smith is in the process of setting up a Community Speedwatch Group, if you are interested in helping please contact Becky via email on beckysmith79@me.com

It has been lovely being able to invite the children back to school since March, where we have enjoyed settling back into our learning and are now enjoying the super weather; we hope it continues.

Even though we are sad that we still cannot invite our parents/carers and visitors onto site, we are still aiming to enjoy an array of Summer Term activities over the next six weeks which will incorporate sports, theatre and celebrate our Year 6 leavers.

We have been lucky enough to secure a small amount of funding from KCC to develop our outside woodland area for our Year 6 Pay it Forward Project. Our hope is that we are able to invite our

community of Kingswood to share this area with us in the future, where children can read to members of the village or just sit and enjoy nature to support all of our health and wellbeing. We look forward to keeping you updated.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Mrs Sanchez Daviu

#### **DINGBATS**

QƠƠƠE2	Lang4uage	i√i		
1	2	3		
ACRIML	roforkad	Pot00000000		
4	5	6		
Reawithson	ABCDEFGHJMO PQRSTUVWXYZ	Mail Male		
7	8	9		
KNOW it NO	BREN Jr	GMADEB		
10	11	12		
THYME PLAICE	R©B®ERS	Polmomice		
13	14	15		
GOOD	$\mathrm{ALL}_{\mathrm{world}}$	XQQME		
16	17	18		

#### Card Games

E	Р	- 1	Q	U	Е	Т	Z	В	R	1	D	G	E
М	R	W	Н	1	S	Т	1	Р	S	F	В	В	L
Н	Α	Н	Ε	Α	R	Т	S	G	0	F	1	S	Н
R	Κ	С	С	Ε	S	Κ	Α	Т	S	Α	Ν	Α	С
W	Р	Ν	Ν	U	Ε	Р	0	Κ	Ε	R	D	R	0
Α	Υ	Α	F	R	Ε	Ε	С	Ε	L	L	1	S	Ν
Т	R	Т	Т	Α	R	Α	С	С	Α	В	Α	Ε	- 1
Т	Α	Ν	Κ	ı	J	U	Α	Υ	В	L	М	D	Р
E	М	Α	W	Р	Е	S	М	Α	L	1	D	Α	Κ
N	1	F	Α	Α	1	Ν	G	М	Α	Т	L	Р	0
L	D	L	В	Ν	Q	Ε	С	S	Υ	Z	0	S	0
V	S	F	0	S	0	Н	Н	Ε	L	L	0	Р	R

<b>BACCARAT</b>	HEARTS	ROOK
BLITZ	MAO	RUMMY
BRIDGE	NERTZ	SKAT
CANASTA	OH HELL	SLAP JACK
CASINO	OLD MAID	SNAP
CRIBBAGE	PATIENCE	SPADES
EUCHRE	PINOCHLE	SPIT
FAN TAN	PIQUET	WAR
FREE CELL	POKER	WATTEN
GO FISH	PYRAMID	WHIST

#### PUZZLE CORNER







#### Leeds & Kingswood Scout Group

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LEADER OR HELPER?

Did you know YOU could become a Beaver, cubs or scout volunteer and help us to improve the lives of local boys and girls and help them to develop and fulfil their future ambitions.

Leeds & Kingswood Scout Group is run from the Scout Hut located alongside the playing field on the Lenham Road Kingswood. Each section meets one evening a week and carries out a variety of activities both in the hut and outside.

After many years our two cub leaders are retiring and our two scout leaders are moving away having successfully joined the RAF.

We urgently need volunteers, both as leaders and helpers, to ensure the continued success of the group. All training and uniforms are provided and it is an ideal opportunity to develop your own skills and ambitions whilst giving something back to the local community.

I would be delighted to provide any more information you may need to make your decision to join us.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Alan Poulton Chairman 01622 843019

#### What a year (and a bit) it has been – an accountant's view

The impact of the pandemic has been far reaching. By the time this goes out, let us hope that the restricted businesses waiting for the final lifting of restrictions together with their supply chains have had the good news they wanted. The way forward is crucially poised on the ability of the vaccines to stem hospitalisations and deaths in the face of new variants.

Just a little over a year ago few of us would have heard of the terms "furlough" and "SEISS". Yet significant sums have now been paid to businesses to support them and thus increasing UK borrowings to eye watering levels. This additional borrowing is fine whilst interest rates remain at a record low so let us hope the UK economy does bounce back with a vengeance. The Chancellor will not make any changes to taxation straight away – he needs to encourage spending. It has been mooted that the capital taxes (capital gains tax and inheritance tax) will be first in line to be raised when the time comes.

Bounce back loans were made available – with little or no checking by the lenders for new businesses as the government would pick up the cost. An ideal scenario to encourage fraudulent claims. HMRC are now looking at furlough claims paid out and are busy trying to recoup amounts "erroneously" claimed.

A national "Test and Trace" organisation was set up from scratch, flying in the face of what all new businesses should do – start small, learn from it and build up. The vaccination programme is a shining example of getting this right.

The Chancellor announced in the May budget extensions to most of the Coronavirus support schemes with the addition of grants to support the longest closed sectors, such as sport and culture, to re-open again. If you are still affected by your business closing or operating at reduced activity it might be worth checking if you are still entitled to make a claim for the tapered existing support packages.

#### 2020/21 Tax Returns

We are now into the new tax year and what better time to start looking at your self-assessment tax return, rather than leaving it to the Christmas period and having to fit it in around the Christmas festivities? HMRC are very happy to help taxpayers who want to deal with their own tax affairs and provide lots of advice and guidance on the GOV.UK website. They have telephone helplines to talk you through problems you might have and helpsheets to guide you through completion of your tax return. Even if you have never done your own tax return before it is being made more accessible for the non-accountant. Yes, there are tax traps for the unwary but most people's tax affairs are very straightforward. Sometimes all that is needed is the right support at the right time.

**Chris Lockhart FCA** 



We have been very busy since April welcoming new children and their families into our Preschool community. We have been very lucky to have a new black board put up to replace the old tired one. Also new anchor points for us to put up our sun shades now that the weather is finally getting warmer.

Our children continue to enjoy a range of learning experiences which include, arts, crafts, messy play, varied construction, water play, and other sensory experiences.

Our small group activities consist of yoga, dough disco, action songs, number rhymes, story time and getting ready for school which helps to promote independence and confidence building.

In this term we hope to have sports activities for the children to take part in during the final few weeks of this term. Unfortunately, we are unable to have a full sports day with spectators like in previous years but hope we will be able to have them next summer.

We must take this opportunity to thank the wider community for their kind donations of toys, books and games. Should anyone have any plastic funnels, small jugs, measuring scoops or colanders (that haven't been used for chemicals or detergents) they no longer want we would love to have them for our sand and water play. Additionally, any large garden umbrellas with stands would also be greatly received to add more shade to our outside play area.

Our waiting list for September continues to grow but we still have spaces available please contact **Katherine (Manager)** via email on <a href="manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk">manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk</a> or alternatively on <a href="manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk">01622589222</a> for any enquires. We hope to be providing tours of our preschool from September by appointment only. The Kingswood Preschool virtual tour is available to view on our website <a href="http://www.kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk/the-pre-school/parents-page">http://www.kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk/the-pre-school/parents-page</a> or our Facebook page.

## Kingswood Fencing

Domestic • Industrial • Security

All Fencing Supplied and Erected



The Oaks, Lenham Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 1LU

01622 842857 Mobile: 07711 795582



www.kingswoodfencing.co.uk

#### **Broomfield and Kingswood Birdwatching Group**



Dear Fellow Residents

In optimistic anticipation of an easing of lockdown in 2021, subject to the vaccine of course, I am taking the first steps to set up a parish birdwatching group. Having moved to the area a few years ago now, I have come to realise how lucky we are to have such a rich diversity of habitat on our doorstep. I have also noticed from social media, a keen interest in nature from many local residents.

The aims as I see it are (but not restricted to) as follows:

To map (as far as possible) the breeding/migrating/wintering species in the parish

To arrange group walks

To share knowledge

To hold regular meetings

To note other forms of wildlife in the area

To be honest, the exact model can be fleshed out as we go; these are just initial thoughts.

So, with that in mind I am simply seeking expressions of interest at this stage and will take it from there.

If you are interested, please email me as below:

#### Mattmeek72@hotmail.com

Best wishes for a happier 2021 to you all.



Independent Financial Advisers

01233 722999

www.talisifa.com

Hannah Mitchell DipFA, an Independent Financial Adviser, based in Kingswood Maidstone.

Here to help you with a wide range of financial planning topics, involving pre- and post- retirement advice, investment strategies and tax efficiency. I can also help you protect yourself and your loved ones from the consequences of ill health or death.

#### **My Contact Details**

**Tel:** 07856204192

Email: HJM@talisifa.com

#### **HEAD OFFICE**

Stoke House, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1RD



#### Kingswood Church article for the Summer Edition of the Parish News



How good it feels for the lockdown to be gradually easing, as the weather gets warmer, and we can start to enjoy the Summer with family and friends and watch Euro 2020!

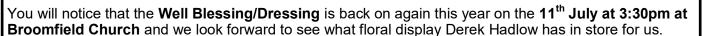
Over 2,000 years ago, the disciples were also in lockdown having been told to stay in Jerusalem, and await the coming of the Holy Spirit, when they would receive power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:4-8). Just like us, how difficult that waiting must have been and what a relief and celebration when the Holy Spirit came.

We celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost on 23<sup>rd</sup> May by having a Church Service both inside and outside the Village Hall to accommodate our congregation as some wanted to be outside to sing whilst others preferred to be inside in the warm and dry. Just like Pentecost we were all were blessed by the Holy Spirit!

We are operating a hybrid Church model until at least September 2021 with two in-person Services a month and the other two Sundays on-line. Our supporting Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches continue to provide great online worship through YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.

Our in-person Services in the Village Hall (unless otherwise stated) for July and August 2021, with Covid-19 restrictions, are as follows:

4th July	11:00 12:00	Celebration Service & Prizegiving BBQ	
11th July	15:30	Well Blessing/Dressing, Broomfield Church	
25th July	11:00	Communion Service Rev Mark Pavey	<b>X</b>
8th Aug	11:00	Morning Worship Peter Roberts	
	15:30	Communion, Broomfield Church	<u> </u>
22nd Aug	11:00	Communion Service Rev Mark Pavey	



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

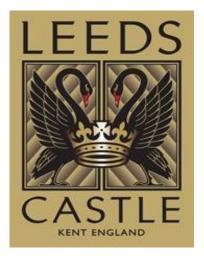
Peter Roberts

peterjohnroberts@hotmail.com

Kingswood Church 10 June 2021

Spring has sprung at the Castle and I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful ribbons of bluebells that are now lining the verges all over the estate. The multi-coloured tulips in the formal gardens are still looking wonderful, astonishingly, they have survived the recent gale force winds well.

Since I wrote last, we have opened up more attractions, with the COVID restrictions loosening on 12<sup>th</sup> April. You can now visit the shops (where we have been doing a brisk trade in Knights' swords, bows and shields), the Maze & Grotto and the Birds of Prey Centre. The Maze is on a one-way system to manage social distancing, so it is the perfect time to 'cheat' before the usual route is re-instated in mid-May! The Black Swan Ferry has been very popular, and if you are lucky, you will see a kingfisher skimming over the Great Water.



At the Birds of Prey Centre, the owls and hawks are out on their posts, very much enjoying the public admiration they missed so acutely during lockdown. We can reinstate bird displays from 17<sup>th</sup> May and are looking forward to them thrilling visitors with their stunts again soon.

We also have exciting baby news, with our Harris Hawks welcoming a chick a couple of weeks ago. Named Gallo, he/she (not clear which yet) is extremely vocal and eating well.

We are now welcoming holiday cottages guests to the estate and much work is underway to prepare bed and breakfast rooms and glamping for customers from 17<sup>th</sup> May. We hope for a positive staycation summer, to enable the Castle to start rebuilding finances after COVID.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May we can also welcome customers into catering outlets again. If you are looking for a lovely dinner with a great Castle view, do book a table at the Castle View Restaurant. We will shortly enter wedding season too, with many celebrations postponed from last year and lots of showrounds for potential weddings customers. Zoom tours have filled the gap, but there is nothing like seeing the real thing.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May, we also re-open the Castle. After six months closed, with staff furloughed, there is an immense spring cleaning job to be done, to ensure that the castle and the objects are looking at their sparkling best. We are also planning for the next phase of external stonework repair to start in October 2021.

The observant amongst you may have noticed that we recently introduced new robot lawnmowers to the verges around the castle. Named Bert and Ernie, these clever little contraptions self-drive around the lawns, mowing neatly without falling into the moat.

We have recently had to fell the much loved cherry trees that frame the view of the Castle on the causeway. They have developed honey fungus, which kills trees and cannot be treated. We were all very sad to see them go and will have to wait a number of years for the ground to recover from the fungus before any new planting can be considered.

There is a busy spring and summer of events coming up, with a 'Garden Wildlife Week' planned for May Half Term. Children can plant sunflower seeds & go on a Bug Safari amongst other wildlife themed activities.

The famous Leeds Castle concert takes place on 10<sup>th</sup> July, with music from the London Philharmonic and a stunning fireworks display. We are also hosting Luna Outdoor Cinema for 3 nights at the end of July, showing 'When a Star is Born', 'Dirty Dancing' and 'Star Wars; A New Hope'. Family theatre takes place on 13/14<sup>th</sup> August, featuring 'The Jungle Book'. You can book your tickets on the Leeds Castle website.

Over the summer we are creating a 'Summer of Play', with new play equipment for the school holidays and a programme of fun, active things for families to do across the estate. More details follow soon.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive

#### **POSTCARD CORNER**

#### **Woven and Embroidered Silk Postcards**



The earliest Silk Postcards were woven (made by machine) and originated in Germany in 1898 and were of a uniform finish. The Coventry based firm of Thomas Stevens and W H Grant began making similar cards in 1903. Embroidered silks (made on hand looms) first appeared 1900 and left a raised surface where the threads can be clearly seen, with often irregular variations in design from card to card. It was not until the First World War that they reached the height of their popularity, as many thousands were sent from France by the English soldiers to their loved ones back home.

The postcards shown here are all Embroidered Silks, and many designs were of the Armed Forces, the top card is an example from the Royal Navy.



A colourful embroidered silk postcard "from your Soldier Boy" used during WW1 and sent to England to the soldiers' family.



The role of the Royal Army Service Corps (ASC) in the field falls into two main parts, supply and transport.

Supply embraces the provision of food, petrol and lubricants, fuel and light, hospital supplies and disinfectants. Transport is concerned with the conveyance of the above supplies to all units of a field force.

Under the flap on the card is an insert where a message can be written



An attractive embroidered silk postcard passing on Best Wishes for Christmas, a very popular theme for silk cards.





An embroidered silk postcard containing the years of the First World War, 1914 to 1918.





Another embroidered card showing the town crest for Bootle

And one for the Canadian soldiers on duty in France, with a colourful card showing the emblem of Canada, the Maple Leaf.

**Ron Kemp** 



#### Hello!!!

We hope everyone is keeping safe, well and enjoying the sunshine that summer that has finally brought!

We are working tirelessly behind the scenes to try and open our group again soon, whilst making sure everyone is kept as safe as possible within the current government guidelines.

We have loved speaking to many of our regulars whom attended as well as speaking with new members of the community who would like to come along, meet some new faces and enjoy safe face to face play and socialisation. For the care givers too as well as the children!

Please keep in touch as we will be sharing updates very soon, we can't wait to see you all, familiar and new faces.

Keep safe and we will be in touch soon, Aimee and team x

kingswoodbabytoddlergroup@aol.com

07857121160



#### **PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS**

#### Dingbats

QđđđE2	Lang4uage	i√i		
1 Three men in a boat	2 Foreign language	3 Right between the eyes		
ACRIML	roforkad	Pot00000000		
4 Criminal	5 Fork in the road	6 Potatoes		
Reawithson	ABCDEFGHJMO PQRSTUVWXYZ	Mail Male		
7 Within reason	8 Missing link	9 Postman		
KNOW it NO	BREN Jr	GMADEB		
10 No two ways about it	11 Son of a gun	12 Made in Great Britain		
THYME PLAICE	ROBBERS	Polmomice		
13 Another time, another place	14 Honour among thieves	15 Mother-in-law		
GOOD	$\mathrm{ALL}_{\mathrm{world}}$	XQQME		
16 Good looking	17 It's a small world after all	18 Excuse me		



#### **HOLLAND & HOLLAND ROOFING LTD**

**Flat Roofing Specialists** 

"Installers of high performance flat roofing systems"

Our quotes are free of charge and arranged at a time that's convenient for you

Contact

T: 01622 842 069

**E:** office@hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk **W:** www.hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk

Members of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC)



### **Pest Purge Ltd**



#### For all your pest problems

Rats, Mice, Squirrels, Bedbugs, Fleas, Wasps, Rabbits, Fox, Birds, Cockroaches and Moles No job too small, same day support

Talk to your local, friendly Pest Control business

Call

01622 842481

or

07758 615101

richard@pestpurge.co.uk





### K.W.J.

### GENTLEMENS HAIRDRESSER 50 CHARLESFORD AVENUE KINGSWOOD ME17 3PH

**OPEN** 

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM SATURDAY 9AM - 1PM

PLEASE RING FOR APPOINTMENT 07521289406 01622843430

# PILATES®

Qualified and insured instructors

#### **Christine Williams & Cheryl Stubbs**

Improve Posture Increase flexibility Develop core strength Adaptable to all fitness levels



Tuesdays 9.30 am, Grafty Green Village Hall Fridays 9.30, Headcorn Scout Hut Saturdays 9am, Headcorn Village Hall

Would you like a different day/evening or time? Let either of us know and we'll try to help Christine:

christinewilliamspilates@gmail.com

07552 101842

Cheryl:

c.stubbs8@btinternet.com

07852 602369

Small groups, max 12 and private classes available. £10 per group class payable in advance

#### **PEOPLE AND PLACES IN PROFILE**

#### The Len Valley and Beyond

When Elizabeth Robinson's mother, Lady Rokeby, inherited a substantial estate at Monks Horton near Hythe in Kent, the family's re-location from Yorkshire precipitated one of the most influential friendships in feminist history.



Lord and Lady Rokeby with their seven children took up residence at Mount Morris, the estate's Queen Anne House, in 1730. Elizabeth, who was their eldest daughter, spent extended periods in the company of her maternal step-grandfather, Dr Conyers Middleton, a respected Cambridge academic. Through him she developed a lifelong love of English literature and became proficient in French, Italian and Latin. When she struck up an acquaintance with the daughter of a clergyman, whose astonishing linguistic skills had gained the girl an admired reputation, Elizabeth asked her newfound friend to help her acquire a knowledge of Greek.

The clergyman's daughter, christened Elizabeth but known as Eliza, was born at Deal, Kent in December 1717, ten months before Elizabeth Robinson's birth in October 1718. Eliza's mother Margaret Swayne Carter (an heiress who lost her fortune in the financial collapse known as the South Sea Bubble) died in 1727 when her daughter was aged just ten. Educated at home by her father Dr Nicholas Carter, Perpetual Curate at St George's church, Deal and a preacher at Canterbury Cathedral, Eliza Carter achieved the status of Polymath by her early twenties. Forward thinking Dr Carter believed in equal education for both his sons and daughters. However, as a child Eliza struggled to learn, causing her father to suggest she might abandon academic subjects.

Determined to keep up with her siblings, Eliza eventually emulated and surpassed them. It was not a smooth ride: applying harsh measures in order to achieve her ambition to excel, she studied long into the night, arranging for her father's Sexton to pull a string tied to a bell she attached to her bed, waking her for early morning study. To keep awake she wrapped damp towels round her head, took snuff and chewed green tea and coffee. In later life Eliza suffered from severe headaches which she attributed to those drastic methods she had devised to prevent sleep.

"He understands Greek better than anyone I have ever known, except Elizabeth Carter", so remarked Dr Samuel Johnson, when talking of a celebrated scholar. The dedicated Eliza Carter mastered not just Greek but also Latin and Hebrew. To perfect her French, she lived temporarily in Canterbury with a Huguenot minister's family, who had fled persecution in France. At last encouraged by her father, she added Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese and Arabic to her linguistic skills. A profound appreciation of English literature led her to become a successful poet, first published aged seventeen in *The Gentleman's Magazine*. Wishing to broaden her knowledge she diligently studied history, geography, astronomy, mathematics and botany – the latter inspiring a sustained pleasure in gardening.

At the age of twenty-one in 1738, wealthy aristocrat Elizabeth Robinson persuaded her brilliant contemporary Eliza Carter to accompany her to London. Elizabeth was eager to introduce Eliza to her world of well-born intellectuals, writers and artists. Neither was seeking a husband, as expected by their families; for them it was more important to be a stand-alone woman, accepted and respected for her intellect in an overtly patriarchal society. They intended to pursue careers as writers, reformers and literary critics, Eliza supporting herself as a translator and Elizabeth investing money in social reforms to alleviate the plight of London's poor.

Through Elizabeth's connections, these two attractive women were sought after guests at society events. Declining three proposals of marriage, Eliza appeared to view prospective husbands as inhibitors to her literary ambitions; Elizabeth Robinson finally succumbed to the seduction of exceedingly rich Edward Montagu, twenty-eight years her senior. A year after their wedding in 1742, a son John was born. When the baby died in infancy, his devastated parents drifted apart, agreeing to lead separate lives within their marriage. Elizabeth Montagu and Eliza Carter were now free to pursue their goals.

Returning each year to Deal throughout the 1740s, Eliza saw the town frequently at the forefront of looming war with France and threat of Jacobite invasion, headed by the Catholic Young Pretender. The Mayor of Deal declared the town's allegiance to King George II, soldiers fortified Deal Castle, and Eliza witnessed increased naval activity out on the English Channel. By now recognised in her birth-town as a woman of letters, Eliza commented wryly on one of these regular visits, "I am told the locals consider me half-witch for my learning".

Immediate danger of war passed and in 1750 Elizabeth and Eliza embarked on the two ventures that would firmly establish their names. "In a woman's education little but outward accomplishment is regarded..." so began Elizabeth's address when she, Eliza and other likeminded women, launched an informal group advocating female education, mutual co-operation and intellectual pursuits with an emphasis on literature and the arts. Discussion meetings were held to which they invited male guests, including Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, Horace Walpole and novelist Samuel Richardson. Elizabeth stood by her declaration "I never invite idiots to my house." Dubbed The Blue Stockings after distinguished botanist Ben Stillingfleet arrived wearing blue worsted stockings, insisting he could not afford fashionable white silk, the circle became London's most famous women's only society. Blue Stocking philosophies opened the way for change in prevailing attitudes.

At the same time Eliza Carter began her epic translation of Epictetus, Greek Philosopher of Stoicism. The work took seven years to complete, resulting in universal praise and financial independence. She received accolades from Queen Charlotte, with whom she often discussed German literature in the Queen's native language, and Russia's Catherine the Great, an admirer of Eliza's poetry. In the twentieth century, Virginia Woolf described Carter and Montagu as feminist pre-cursors, referring to Eliza as "that valiant woman who tied a bell to her bedstead in order to wake early and study Greek".

Christina Wight

### A.C. AUTOS

Motor Vehicle Repairs & Servicing
Air Conditioning Specialist
MOTS arranged or fix your MOT
failure

Adam Wise 07958 620684

Trust / Quality / Expertise / 35 Years

Experience

Give me a call to discuss how I might help

Established in 2004. Fully insured.
Only new parts with warranty used
Family home in Charlesford Avenue, Kingswood



For all your

Car & Van servicing & Repair

We can service all new cars

under EEC Laws,

and still maintain your warranties.

MOT Class 4,5L & 7
Loan cars & vans available

Open Monday to Friday
8:00 – 18:00
01622 842445 or 01622 844844
www.wents.co.uk info@wents.co.uk

# ALAN POULTON CARPETS

SUPPLY & FITTING SERVICE

OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

HOME SELECTION SERVICE

01622 843019



#### **Chris Lockhart FCA**

**ICAEW Chartered Accountant** 

Kingswood based accountant providing services to small businesses and tax-payers.

If you need help with or advice on:

I also provide accountancy and bookkeeping training for those keen to do more themselves.

T: 01622 844328 M: 07557 401433

E: <a href="mailto:chris@claccounting.com">chris@claccounting.com</a>
You can find out more about me from my website
<a href="mailto:www.claccounting.com">www.claccounting.com</a>









Beautiful 18 Hole Parkland Golf Course

Covered Driving Range & Extensive Practice Areas

Memberships Available & Visitors Welcome

Now Serving Costa Coffee

Range of Hot & Cold Snacks Available

To Book Please Call 01622 391000 Book online at www.theridge.co.uk

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

Kingswood Church Peter Roberts 01622 843625

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk

KCC Community WardenDawn Riach-Brown07773 397125Member of ParliamentHelen Whately020 7219 6472

MBC Councillor Gill Fort gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch VACANCY

PCSO Shivon De Rose 101

Primary School Lynsey Sanchez Daviu 01622 842674
Kingswood Pre-School Katherine Ross 07729 499 508
Baby & Toddler Group Aimee Parker 07857 121160
Twinning Group Sue Chambers 01622 843622
Village Hall Val Clarke 01622 843110

**Village Clubs** 

**Badminton** Sue Orchin 01622 843626 Bluebells Beryl Andrews 01622 843431 **CANS** Sonya Roberts 01622 843625 Choir **Sue Chambers** 01622 843622 Coffee Shop **Beryl Andrews** 01622 843431 Dog Training & Cynophobia 01622 842209 Janet Tandy Karate Chris Simpson 07801 639052 Tuesday Lunch Club Pat Lyne 01622 843672 Dance 4 Kent 07898207973 Stephanie Wood Kingswood Whist Group Mike Bean 01622 844272 **Short Mat Bowls** Mike Tandy 01622 842209 Purple Yoga Helen 07762 761905 Scouts Alan Poulton 01622 843019 Claire Jones 07732056139 **Beavers** 

#### **Your Parish Council**

Parish Clerk: Hayley Roberts, Email: <a href="mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org">parishclerk@bandkpc.org</a> Tel: 07719 317702/01622 474190

RFO: Jo Gosden, Email: rfo@bandkpc.org Tel: 07761 800693

**Councillors:** 

Tina Clark (Chair) tinaclark@bandkpc.uk Gareth Davies (Vice Chair) garethdavies@bandkpc.uk Laura Hubbard laurahubbard@bandkpc.uk Aimee Parker aimeeparker@bandkpc.uk Chris Pink chrispink@bandkpc.uk kenpattison@bandkpc.uk Ken Pattison **Katherine Ross** katherineross@bandkpc.uk ronkemp@bandkpc.uk Ron Kemp Simon Pearce simonpearce@bandkpc.uk

#### **Published by Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council**

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the production team; publication of adverts/articles does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit. Every care is taken to present articles impartially and neither the Editor nor the Parish Council are responsible for opinions either stated or implied.