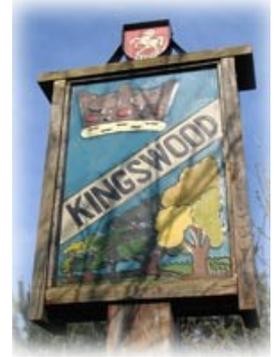




Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council
www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk



Parish News

Winter 2020

Competition

Win £25.00

Calling all children under 11
Create an anti-litter poster

We all know that dropping litter is a bad thing, but it still happens.
We also know that most litter posters are boring and easy to ignore.

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council would like your help to create a poster
that is so eye-catching that it cannot be ignored.

You can make it funny or serious, but it must be bold and colourful.

There will be two cash prizes of £25.00 each,
one for those under 7 and one for those 7 to 11 years old.

The winning posters will be displayed throughout the Parish.

Entries to the Parish Clerk, Aldiana Broomfield Road
by 31 December 2020, prize awarded by 31 January 2021



Pam Bower
PARISH CLERK

Telephone: 07719 317702/01622 843741
Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

BOXING HAS COME TO KINGSWOOD

The Boxing & Multi Sport Youth programme has started at The Finches Caravan Park in Kingswood and it is going well.

The young people in attendance have enjoyed the sessions so far which includes all boxing techniques, self defences and multi sport activities.

Over the coming weeks it is hoped to build this programme within the community.

There are still some spaces available, so if your children would like to join the programme for some fun, engaging sport in a safe non contact covid secure environment, then please email info@olympiaboxing.co.uk to register a place.

DOG FOULING IN THE VILLAGE AND THE SPORTS FIELD

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

Not only is this an unpleasant sight, but it is also a health hazard and is associated with various diseases including Toxocara Canis which causes stomach upsets, sore throats and asthma.

Kids regularly play in the sports field and would you really like your children stepping on or slipping on dog mess!

Information on dog foul offences you witness can be forwarded directly to Jack Orwell, Waste Crime Team Officer so that he can investigate and take enforcement action.



Jack can be contacted via email at jackorwell@maidstone.gov.uk or by phone 01622-602232

ALSO

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR POO BAGS IN THE PLANTERS OR DISCARD THEM ON THE STREETS OR HANG

THEM FROM A TREE.

MORE BINS HAVE BEEN PLACED AROUND THE VILLAGE



HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds



FACE - Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.



SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place

Pam Bower
PARISH CLERK

Telephone: 07719 317702/01622 843741

Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org

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

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/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting>

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

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

OVERHANGING VEGETATION

Does your house have a lovely hedge around it but is that hedge blocking the pavement?

Overhanging hedges mean that elderly people, people in wheelchairs and mothers with buggies find it difficult to walk along the pavement.

Please trim your hedge regularly so that all villagers can walk safely along the pavements



DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR VILLAGE?

There have been reports of some antisocial behaviour within the village recently. We would ask that everyone is extra vigilant and report anything to the Police. It is very disturbing and frustrating for everyone involved, especially during these challenging times.

PUZZLE CORNER

	7	4						
5		8		7			3	
2	3				4	7		
7			5		9	1		
6	2						7	5
		5	7		3			6
		7	6				4	8
	5			4		6		3
						2	1	

SAINTLY GOINGS ON

Can you name the Saints below?

1. Royal and Ancient golf course.
2. Association caring for blind servicemen.
3. Island in the West Indies.
4. Annual horse race for 3-year-olds.
5. First English martyr.
6. Patron saint of children.
7. Patron saint of doctors.
8. Patron saint of England.
9. Patron saint of fishermen.
10. Patron saint of France.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

It seems that the speed of some of the traffic has increased and in some cases to well in excess of 30mph. This has become even more noticeable over lockdown when we have all been home. In the time I have lived in the village, the Lenham Road has seen three significant accidents where cars have ended up on people's drives having crashed through fences and gardens. It is only by luck that no-one has been hurt so far. I have also had to retrieve neighbours pets from the road that have been run over and sadly not survived.

It is only a matter of time before someone is hurt. This is a particular concern with a primary school in the village and the more elderly part of our community .

Can you help?

If you have similar concerns can you please let me know by email with the name of the roads that you are worried about?

I have spoken with the Parish Clerk and have been advised that as a community we need to set up a Community Speedwatch group. Details on this can be found at:

<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>

The Parish Clerk has kindly offered to help take notes at meetings of this group.

She has also advised that Sutton Valence Parish Council have the monitoring equipment that we would need and are happy to lend it to us.

I am happy to lead the group but cannot do this on my own. A provisional meeting will need to be held to find out what we need to do and have in order to start the ball rolling.

If you also have concerns and want to give your views and possibly some time then please let me know on becksmith79@yahoo.co.uk



The Team at Kingswood Baby & Toddler group have been met with many challenges and changes which have led to our current closure during these times.

This has come with great sadness but we haven't given up hope to reopen and welcome all back within the future. We very much

look forward to this day.

We have loved being a part of the Kingswood & Broomfield village community and feel that this group has given a lot to the immediate and extended community from building friendships, helping children transition to preschool and primary school settings. Encouraging learning through play with other children as well as their adults.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kingswood Primary School for housing us on site from previous months. We are very grateful for the support the school and staff have shown, thank you!

Thank you to the Team that help support the group each week, clearing up, setting up and to all those who attend. You all make the group run smoothly and make it so enjoyable. We look forward to re opening in what ever safe way we can , but until then please follow our Facebook group for updates or request to be on our mailing list.

Contact details are 07857121160 or kingswoodbabytoddlergroup@aol.com

Keep safe and we will see you soon. Best Wishes Aimee & Team.

Kingswood Church



Those of you with sporting interests, particularly football, will be used to the terminology of half-time and extra time. I heard a minister comment recently that he thought we were at half time in the fight against Coronavirus, hopefully there will be no need for extra time! It reminded me when the disciples asked Jesus when the 'end times' were going to be. Jesus replies, 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father' (Matthew 24:36). Our part is to believe in God and to trust in the Jesus Christ who remains 'the same yesterday and today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

The message of Advent and Christmas is one of hope, Jesus Christ coming into the world to save us from our wrong doings. This message is especially pertinent this year as our lives continue to be uncertain as we are unable to plan for the future. The message of the angel is as relevant for us today as it was for the shepherds two thousand years ago, 'Do not be afraid; I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10-11). Such joy can today be found on a 24 hour free line (0800 804 8044) called Daily Hope for Christian worship and prayer, for those who have no or limited access to the internet.

For those with access to the internet, our supporting Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches continue to provide on-line worship through YouTube, Facebook and Zoom. Rev Mark Pavey's Sunday Worship on YouTube and Facebook, for the North Downs Churches, continues to be watched by an average of 450 people.

At Kingswood Church we recommenced our services in the Village Hall on 23rd August and have been holding Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays subsequently. These are subject to the UK Government restrictions of maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks and limiting numbers to 30 people. We are currently discussing what Services to hold during the Advent and Christmas period, both on-line and in person.

Our services for the remainder of the Autumn and leading up to Advent and Christmas are as follows:

22nd Nov 11:00 **Communion Service**
Rev Mark Pavey (Anglican)



We are currently discussing what Services to hold during the Advent and Christmas period, both on-line and in person, and are current plan is as follows:

13th Dec 11:00 **Morning Worship**
Peter Roberts

20th Dec 18:00 **Christingle Service**
On-line

25th Dec 10:30 **Christmas Day (need to book)**
Peter Roberts

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

Finally, you may have heard the song called the UK Blessing. May 'the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace' (Numbers 6:24-26).

Peter Roberts
Kingswood Church
October 2020

Team Vicar, Otham with Langley

A couple of weeks ago on the online service I caused a bit of a stir by asking the question, when making Tea, whether you put the milk or the water in the cup first? Well this caused quite the debate online as it turns out my wife thinks that she can taste the difference and that milk first is the way to go. It's something that gets spoken about quite often in our house as I grew up with my dad who never put the milk in first, we have to agree to disagree on this one, maybe opposites really do attract!

Although the example above is trivial, it's amazing how often these trivial things can become big things in our own minds. We like to think that we are right and we like to think that what is important to us is important to others. The challenge in scripture is often about putting others first or humbling ourselves to listen and hear the views of others, maybe even to learn from them. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, talks about 'selflessness'. He sees it as something that is divisive and even goes as far as encouraging followers of Jesus "as far as it depends on you, to live peaceably with others". There are of course some issues that we need to take a stand on, e.g. if you try and justify murder or any other crime, I will probably disagree with you and may need to report you!! But that's not what Paul is speaking about. He's challenging us to put the needs of others first, to honour them above ourselves, to really embrace some of our differences and see it as an opportunity to share new experiences with them as we weep when they weep and rejoice when they rejoice.

About a year and a half ago my eldest mentioned for the first time that she wanted to become a vegetarian... I think there's this moment when you begin to question... what is this lamb that we eat? Oh... its actually a lamb. So when she mentioned it we initially humoured her thinking she'll forget about it after a while... then she'd mention it again and after a couple of months we decided that if she wanted to be vegetarian and it was important to her that we would support it,... in fact I decided that I would support her by being vegetarian too. Now I'll be honest I wanted to be the hero dad thinking this is probably a phase.... Well we're over a year now. And I'm super proud of her for it. For taking a stand on something that's important to her and because it's important to her, it's important to me, and what's interesting is I'm closer to her as a result.

God Bless you in your uniqueness and may you find joy in the uniqueness of others.

Mark

Team Vicar, Otham with Langley , www.lbkchurches.co.uk

Pumpkin and Hazelnut Bars

INGREDIENTS

Base

- 4oz or 115g butter, softened
- 2 ½ oz or 70g caster sugar
- 14oz or 400g plain flour

Filling

- 8oz or 225g caster sugar
- 2 medium eggs
- 15oz or 425g canned pure pumpkin
or cooked fresh pumpkin flesh
- 16oz or 440g cream cheese softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping

- 16oz or 450g chopped hazelnuts
- 1oz or 25g butter softened
- 4oz or 115g brown sugar
- 2 tbsps plain flour
- 1 tsp powdered cinnamon

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180OC, 160OC fan or gas mark 4
2. Combine the ingredients for the base in a bowl until well blended. Press lightly into a greased 9"- 13" baking dish and set aside.
3. In a separate bowl blend the filling ingredients with a mixer or whisk until smooth. Spoon evenly over the base.
4. In a medium bowl, combine the topping ingredients and mix with your hands until well blended. Sprinkle over the pumpkin mix.
5. Bake for an hour. Cool completely before cutting.



Maidstone Sewing Group for NHS & Keyworkers.

Some of you may already know of this group created by a friend of mine Caroline Barton. Her mission with many others was to help the NHS & Keyworkers during the first lockdown, providing much needed PPE. These included laundry bags, headbands, ear savers and full sets of scrubs.



I became a sub coordinator for Kingswood and Broomfield to help create and distribute these items across Maidstone. We managed to donate 23,000 items to places such as care homes, schools, hospitals, doctors surgeries and Testing hubs. They were greatly appreciated by all.

Kingswood & Broomfield residents were amazing with donations of materials, their time and expertise, we are ever so grateful to you all for your support.

I would like to take this time to thank some of those involved, Mandy my neighbour for letting me use her sewing machine, to Sylvia, Ceridwen, Ann, Lesley, Su, Claire & Nicky for sewing the endless scrubs sets, hearts for care homes, headbands, ear savers and so much more. You took the time to help, advice and create these much needed items. Thank you!

Without everyone's efforts, willingness and community spirit to help this wouldn't have been possible, it's amazing what a community can achieve together.



Thank you, stay safe and be kind. Best Wishes Aimee.

PUZZLE CORNER cont.

WELL DID YOU EVER?

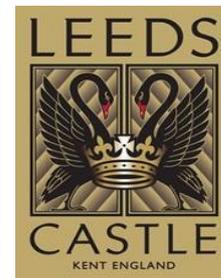
1. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J Fox has a short one. Madonna doesn't use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his, but never the Pope. What is it?
2. What has a mouth, but cannot eat; moves, but has no legs; and has a bank, but cannot put money in it?
3. I left my tent and hiked South for 3 miles, then turned East and hiked for 3 miles. Then turned North and hiked for 3 miles; at which time I came upon a bear in my tent eating my food! What colour was the bear?

UNITED KINGDOM SEASIDE RESORTS *can you unscramble these?*

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. TSRYBTHWEAY | 2. BOLKPALOC | 3. BGORON RISGE |
| 4. BDUE | 5. LTNCCOA ON SAE | 6. AIDLSWH |
| 7. AELD | 8. TSUNBEAREO | 9. OUEHXMT |
| 10. HOLUFAMT | 11. OSLKFNTEO | 12. EGTAR TAMYRHOU |
| 13. CEROEPLSHET | 14. TNAGSISH | 15. COIAEBMRFL |
| 16. LMEY IGSER | 17. GTAEMAR | 18. HANDEEMI |
| 19. YUWQNAE | 20. ONAB | 21. LOOPE |
| 22. SMRATEGA | 23. SKGEESSN | 24. HGARCOBRSOU |



September has been such a beautiful month in terms of weather that I am certain many of you have decided to give Great Britain a try this year for your holidays? I know that here at Leeds Castle we are certainly seeing visitors coming from all parts of the country, and locally from towns within Kent, to spend time in the fresh air and enjoy the peace of our 500 acre estate.



It is at this time last year we held our very popular Festival of Flowers, which saw 120 coaches over 5 days visit the castle to marvel at the displays carefully constructed by designers from across the globe. It's not hard to see how times have changed with 17,000 visitors in 5 days last year compared to 16,000 visiting over the first 17 days of September this year.

Stories about a possible second lockdown, local curfews and more COVID-19 outbreaks brings more uncertainty to the tourism industry and that results in the Foundation having to make hard decisions. One of those decisions has been taken recently as we have decided to cancel the Christmas Market this year. That's a huge loss of income for the charity but we simply could not guarantee the investment in this event being covered by ticket income – especially if it had to be cancelled due to government guidelines.

But here's the good news! Christmas will be coming to Leeds Castle and I urge you to keep looking at our website (or read next month's article) for further news.

Next weekend on Saturday 26 September, the Castle hosts an NHS Wellbeing Day. In partnership with the Kent & Medway NHS, organisations have held ballots with their staff to win these tickets. Supported by many local businesses and suppliers, the Castle will welcome staff and their families for a well-deserved wellbeing day. It should prove to be a successful day and will be catalyst to launch a new discount scheme for these key workers.

Elsewhere around the estate it's business as usual. This week the greenkeepers have been doing the annual 'green and tee renovations'. I am told that they are *renovations* but to me it seems like they are punching a load of holes in the ground and filling them with sand! But apparently that's good for them and will help produce consistent greens and tees for our 375 members and the loyal pay & play golfers.

Tree work begins in early October as well. The surveys that the grounds team have completed every year gives them a long list of trees that either need a little trim or, sadly, to be removed completely. I will stress that we do not remove trees lightly and there is always a very good reason. Unfortunately a couple of willows have recently succumbed to age and wind damage around the Pavilion Lawn and the had to be removed. Long-term, the tree work will bring extended life to the aging trees around the estate and protect them from some of the high winds and wet weather we can get during the winter months.

I started this article speaking about the staycation market and the virus gripping this country. But my senior management colleagues and I must now start to turn our attentions to 2021 and look forward to planning for the future. The staff have done so much hard work this year to get us reopen, so we must now be positive and put together a business plan to kickstart a recovery. Leeds Castle is a big attraction for many visitors to the county and we want to make sure that we are the best we can be for when they visit – hopefully making visitors stay in the neighbouring area and bring a much needed boost to the local coffers.

Once again, I would like to end by saying thank you for taking the time to read my ramblings. I hope that you and yours are safe and well.

Take great care.

Shane Guy, Head of Operations & Tourism

KINGSWOOD AND BROOMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

After a long, hot, lock-down Summer we began to look forward to a partial opening of the Village Hall. Much work had been done behind the scenes to put basics into place over the Summer period so that in September we could begin to welcome back some of the village groups. Unfortunately due to Government restrictions we are limited in the hiring out of the Hall, with cleaning between bookings and a professional cleaning company coming in every day, to keep everyone as safe as possible. We have also put in our own measures and trust that gradually we will be able to welcome the whole village back.

In December the Christmas Tree will be lit up in the Hall grounds as a beacon looking to a bright future ahead, when we can all meet up together once more.

Have a safe Christmas and we look forward to a better 2021.

Beryl Andrew (Hall Secretary)

Kingswood remained open for the entirety of the Summer, offering an essential provision to our federation parents who suddenly found themselves being asked back into work after lockdown and unable to take the holiday time they had originally planned for those weeks. A heartfelt thanks to all staff who volunteered their time. The children had a fun time, where they created works of art, made use of the sunny days outside and made new friends within their bubbles. We were so grateful for the well wishes from the village during this time.

September is now here, and we have been able to invite back all pupils. It was lovely seeing everyone - albeit following one-way systems, socially distancing and learning/playing in KS bubbles. The smiles on the children's faces over the last two weeks always reminds us of the reasons why we do what we do. We look forward to the Winter months and continuing with our learning, whilst celebrating our seasonal festivities as they arise.

We would like to take this opportunity from all the staff and pupils at Kingswood to thank the village for all their support during these unprecedented times.

Mrs Sanchez Daviu
Headteacher



I hate this rotten virus, so many people hurting, so many people sad.
It's made us all so miserable and feeling really bad.
I've learnt to find a different way of things that I can learn.
My bread went flat, I've lost my keys and the milk is on the turn.
I paint and draw, read lovely books, my piano is a find
The keys are in the wrong place, but windows shut, the cats run off, so who is there to mind.
I've had enough of what can't be done, I've found another self,
I've found a long lost phrase book, so now I'm trying Welsh.
I'm fed up with the negative and all that gloom and doom
So stay safe, look up, be kind and go find that brand new broom.

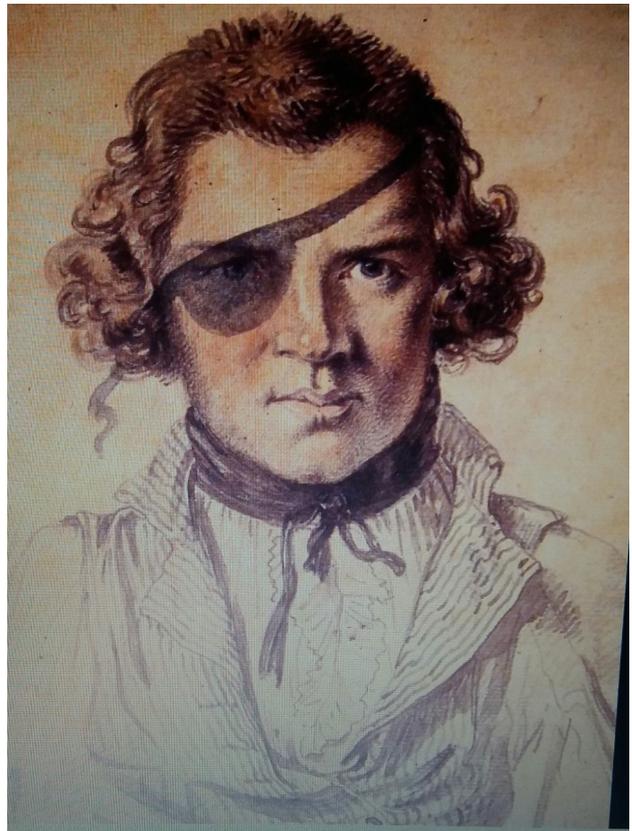
Pat Pocock

PEOPLE AND PLACES IN PROFILE

The Len Valley and Beyond

Few people today are aware that the son of a Maidstone coachmaker became the artist who re-shaped the Western view of life in eighteenth century China. But this is exactly what happened when William Alexander held an exhibition of watercolours at the Royal Academy in 1795, after his return from a two-year expedition to mainland China.

Born in April 1767, William Alexander was one of three brothers; they were the children of Harry Alexander, a successful coachbuilder who was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Maidstone. Harry educated his sons at Maidstone Grammar School where William showed early talent as an artist. Shortly after his fifteenth birthday he was sent to London to study drawing under Henry Pars at Shipley's School, The Strand; then later with landscape and watercolour painter Julius Ibbetson. In February 1784 Alexander was admitted to the Royal Academy School where his work received approbation from the Academy's Founder President, Sir Joshua Reynolds.



Alexander's first major commission came in 1792 when, at the age of twenty-five, he was appointed official draughtsman to accompany Earl Macartney on a government trade mission to Peking (Beijing) which became known as the Macartney Embassy. Lord Macartney was assigned the role of Envoy to China in support of the East India Company, the powerful organisation which controlled most British trade at that time. The company's commercial activities were severely restricted by Chinese Emperor Qianlong's legislation, called the Canton System, under which he authorised a guild of merchants – or *Cohong* – to tightly regulate foreign trade. British merchants considered the system obstructive in the need to satisfy huge demand in Britain for tea and chinoiserie, such as ceramics, furniture and lacquerware.

Macartney's mission was to place an agent in Canton to oversee national interests, establish an embassy in Peking and to acquire an island off the coast of China to facilitate British trading. To achieve these aims it was necessary to circumvent the Cohong and conduct direct negotiations with the Emperor to revoke his legislation. A series of orchestrated ceremonial and diplomatic meetings were arranged; William Alexander was charged with recording each stage, enabling him to witness events which led to significant change in Britain's relationship with imperial China.

The Embassy set sail in three ships from Portsmouth on 26th September 1792. The delegation on board constituted experts in the fields of engineering, botany, science and medicine. Their cargo of British manufactured goods representing these disciplines included a mechanical model of the Solar System. All were gifts from King George III to the Emperor, intended to flatter and emphasise British superiority in modern invention – thus persuading him to grant the proposed improved trading conditions. The delegation also hoped to gain knowledge of Chinese techniques in the production of silk and porcelain.

After a voyage hampered and delayed by bad weather the Embassy arrived at Macau, South China in June 1793. Transferring to junks they journeyed up the Pei-Ho river to Peking, entering the city on horseback. Of this experience Alexander wrote in his journal "...I had no stirrups and my horse lagging, received a lash from the attendant. The plunge made me lose my seat and my fall was an exhibition which offered much entertainment on a public street in Peking."

Alexander sketched scenes along the route, later described by Embassy administrator Sir John Barrow: "...the houses are of mean appearance, generally consisting of mud walls, one storey in

height with thatched straw...everything wore an air of poverty and meanness...the appearance of the people was such as not to indicate any degree of comfort or happiness." A complete annulment of the romanticised images of China exported to Britain by chinoiserie and cultural plays.

And still the Emperor remained elusive. The Embassy was obliged to travel north to Jehol (Chengde) where Qianlong waited to receive in lavish ceremony the gifts designed to secure political ends. But they were received with indifference and Macartney's proposals simply politely acknowledged. Lengthy discussions ended with a pointed demonstration of Chinese scientific expertise, equal to anything presented by the British. The Emperor was unimpressed, intransigent and determined to protect Chinese economic interests; he rejected the proposals and the mission failed, marking an adverse turning point in Britain's diplomatic approach to China. Emperor and Embassy returned to Peking where they parted amidst further spectacular ceremony – faithfully represented in William Alexander's sketchbook.

Throughout the expedition Alexander recorded landscapes, events and customs. On the homeward journey he depicted the Chinese preparing food, smoking pipes, driving rickshaws; he drew them working as ironmongers, fishmongers and fruit-sellers. Sketches of rice mills, forges and boats portrayed labour in manufacturing and on the waterways; he detailed life in the towns with studies of architecture. Alexander's work captured the stark contrast between imperial splendour and peasant poverty, indelibly influencing the British view of the Chinese Empire.

On returning to England in 1794, the artist developed his drawings into watercolours which were exhibited at the Royal Academy. Some were published as aquatints, others presented to the East India Company and now held at the British Library. He produced over two thousand drawings of the Macartney Embassy, many surviving in private collections around the world. After working for a while as a Professor of Drawing, he became Assistant Keeper of Antiquities at the British Museum. In 1815 images published in his book *The Costumes of China* were reproduced to decorate the North staircase and Music Room at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.

At the height of his distinguished career, William Alexander died aged forty-nine from a brain disease at his uncle's house in Maidstone; he was buried in Boxley churchyard. An obituary dated July 1816 defined him as "A man of mild, unassuming manners, rich in the knowledge of art and of unsullied integrity." As an artist Alexander was granted unprecedented access to China's interior – his legacy is a unique, intriguing glimpse into the reality of Chinese life and culture at the time.

Christina Wight

Ride and Stride Success

Representatives from all three churches in our parish took part in the Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride Saturday in September, and all three churches were open to walkers and riders that day. Kingswood had an open-air reception as usual and as the weather was fine – couldn't have been better in fact – virus restrictions didn't stop Sonia from meeting and greeting the visitors. Broomfield and Leeds had indoor reception areas, so this year had to leave the walkers and riders to book themselves in, which fortunately they did, apparently without problem.

Alison and Paul cycled up hill and down dale for Broomfield in spite of Alison's bad back; Peter cycled round 30 churches in a Maidstone area tour for Kingswood; Belinda and Brian made a 6 ¼ mile hike for Leeds, visiting 5 churches on the way. Between them they raised the amazing total of £2,016.35, and it is right to pick out Alison and Paul for particular praise as they beat the £1k level and contributed £1006.35 to that total. And these figures are before gift aid is recovered on some of the sponsorships. Half of this will immediately come back to our churches; the other half goes into a



common pot for Kent church buildings and is distributed as structural needs arise. It is not long ago that Broomfield received £10,000 from this central fund, to help with the tower repairs, so we owe the fund everything it gets.

Hearty thanks and congratulations are due to our three teams and thanks too to their many generous sponsors. Next year why don't we have even more people taking part? It's open to everyone, you can walk, cycle or horse-ride, the route and distance is up to you and the exercise is very good for you!

POSTCARD CORNER

The Postcards of Marine Artist Kenneth Shoemith by Ron Kemp

Kenneth Denton Shoemith (born 11th June 1890 in Halifax, West Yorkshire and died in 1939 aged 48) joined the training ship Conway as a cadet, finally signing indentures with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) in 1908. During his time with the company, he continued his passion to draw the ships and sights of transatlantic journeys to far-away places.



RMS Almazora in Sierra Leone



An atmospheric study of the West Indies at sunset

He rose to the position of Chief Officer, and in 1918 he left a career at sea to take up painting as a full time self-employed commercial maritime artist, the vast majority of his work being for the RMSP or Royal Mail Lines (RML). It is said that his greatest commission was (in 1936) to paint the canvases which panelled the public rooms of the Cunard vessel Queen Mary.

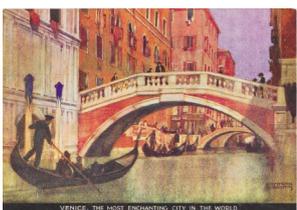


This commission from Cunard was a panel for the Queen Mary which was launched in 1936

Many of his water colours were converted into postcards, and they are eagerly sought by modern collectors. Shoemith collaborated with the publicity department of RML for more than 20 years, in the preparation of designs for publicity material, and must have produced hundreds of sketches during that time for illustrated maps, dance cards, itineraries, whist and bridges, sports day, passenger lists, booklets, folders, posters, menu cards, calendars etc. specifically for the cruise ships.



Royal Mail Cruising Steamer Atlantis in West Africa. Previously named Andes, she was sent to Liverpool for an extensive refit in 1929, and renamed Atlantis, becoming the most successful 1st class only cruise liner, accommodating just 450 passengers to the high standard they expected.



A striking image of gondolas and bridges in Venice - the most enchanting city in the world

Shoemith is little known today, yet his maritime art perfectly captures the romance and adventure of ocean liner travel in the early 20th century. He was a respected member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours and of the British Society of Poster Designers.



Lancastria shown on Cunard's Transatlantic Service in 1927. On Monday 17th June 1940 while off Saint Nazaire embarking British troops and civilians during the evacuation of France, Lancastria came under attack from enemy aircraft, and within 20 minutes, the 16,243 ton luxury liner sank, taking with her an estimated 4,000 victims. The largest single loss of life for British forces in the whole of the second World War



Another stunning maritime image of Royal Mail Steamer Alcantara anchored at Buenos Aires harbour



Atlantis on a Norwegian fjord cruise near Spitzbergen]

The works of Kenneth Shoesmith are held in the Ulster Museum in Belfast. Well worth a visit!

KEEN COLLECTOR SEEKS PRE-1950's POSTCARDS

Always looking for postcards from around the world, single cards or collections sought, new or used. Please contact Ron on 843536 or ron@ronkemp.co.uk

My lockdown pony project

Just before we went into lockdown I agreed to take on an abandoned pony as a companion for my retired horse. In May he finally arrived at our yard.

Horses and ponies are herd animals this pony had been left in a field on his own before being picked up by the rescue centre. His feet were very long when they picked him up as his hooves had not been trimmed for a long time – if at all (he is 3 years old, still a baby). He was lame as a result. The rescue centre’s farrier had started to address this problem.

He also had feather mites up most of his legs. Sadly the rescue centre had not sorted this problem out and when he came to me he was really not keen to have his legs touched. These mites would have made his legs itch badly and he had them up most of his legs as he was heavily feathered. So he had been left in a field on his own with very painful legs for two reasons.

He was also very reactive to movement and sound. He had not been handled well by humans.

Horses are very forgiving creatures and thankfully after several months of patient work (and asking myself what on earth have I done) he is now pain free and proving to be a fabulous little pony. He is very cheeky and still has some of the stallion attitude in him (the rescue centre gelded him). We still have a long way to go –

he will still react in a panic mode to things he is not sure about but he is getting calmer and more confident the more he does. Our farrier has done a fantastic job in getting his feet right and I am now getting fit taking him for long walks to build up his muscles.

Horses and animals are sent to teach us, it is up to us to work out what the lesson is.

Chris Lockhart



Autumn

The equinox is here, Autumn has begun
I like to watch the leaves as they fall;
the reds, greens and browns come down
different sizes from big to small.

The days get shorter as the nights grow longer
We close our curtains, have cosy nights in;
we say goodbye to the hedgehogs
until we see them again next spring.

Morning dew drops begin to appear
at the start of a crisp new day;
as the autumnal sun peeps through the clouds
the birds come out to play.

Robins, blackbirds, starlings and sparrows
the wood pigeon, blue tit, collard dove;
I watch as they drink from the birdbath
and hear them sing in the trees high above.

Our beautiful woods become an array of
colour
everywhere you care to look;
Children go in search of conkers
before they are crunched under many a foot.
Picking pumpkins and apples for Halloween
preparing for trick or treat;
little ghosts and ghouls ringing doorbells
eyes lighting up when they are given sweets.

November tells us fireworks are near
bonfires crackling and burning so bright;
Excited faces looking up to the sky
explosions of colour light up the night.

Cold misty mornings, scraping ice from the car
Can't wait to get home and all cosy;
In front of the fire, cat on my lap
With a bowl of soup and cheeks all rosy.

The heating is on, the wood burner too
The stew is bubbling away;
There's an apple pie in the oven
"Is that with custard?" did I hear you say.

The summer shorts are packed away
winter woollies and scarves are in;
As we snuggle down in our little nests
waiting for winter to begin.

Lynn Chapman



The new normal at Leeds Castle Estate

We reopened back in June with Covid restrictions in tow
One way systems, our barriers and the new signage yellow!
We've welcomed thousands of guests, socially distanced, anew.
We give our welcome steward and ticket office staff their due!

With new systems in place, change has had the required effect;
For to enter the car park, a time slot you have had to preselect.
When visiting the castle too, you also choose your time of entry
So you turn up at the gate tower and give your time to the sentry!

Having walked through Princess Alexandra gardens (renamed last year)

Your one-way route continues past Whistle Stop and doughnuts we hear.

Up through Stable Courtyard kiosks and Mediterranean gardens you go,

Ending at the children's play areas and the adventure golf you love so!

We've apologised to many visitors that our maze has remained shut

But social distancing to exploring mazes enjoyably is anything but!

You've still enjoyed our birds of prey and two demonstrations a day

In the old vineyard, a new arena and a chance to witness a new way!

Back out via formal gardens the one way continues its trend
To keep everyone separate and safe our one way system will send.

Time to view the dog collar museum at stable courtyard: a must.

If you've viewed all the above, well we must say you've got it sussed!

Management, volunteers and paid stewards have all played their part:

Bed and breakfast accommodation and wedding planning a new start.

From retail to catering we're all trying not to just give but to excel

To make a visit to Leeds Castle something your friends you will tell!

We've had an NHS Welcome day to say what you've all been thinking.

We're doing whatever we can to stop our precious Leeds Castle from sinking.

As a not for profit charity, we can only strive to sustain our head above water

To maintain this beautiful destination for the future, we'll not give any quarter!

Ken Pattison

6th October 2020



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FLYING THE CARIBBEAN

A few years ago a letter was published in *Pilot* magazine inviting passers-by and fellow aviators to drop in on the Barbados Light Aeroplane Club (BLAC) when in the area!!

That time of year arrived when we wanted to book a holiday. We wanted somewhere different, sunshine, friendly locals who spoke English. Aviating featured on our 'wanted' list. A letter was faxed to the BLAC which brought an immediate response confirming they were very much still in business. So, Barbados it was.

On arrival I phoned the Club to arrange a visit and check ride. There we met Lisa Yearwood, the Chief Flying Instructor, 22 years old, and over 800 hours already logged. After enrolling as a visiting club member for \$50 Bajan (about £20), I had to get a local validation from the Barbados Civil Aviation Authority offices which were on the opposite of the airport. After producing logbook, British licence and medical certificate and another \$50, I had a Barbados Civil Aviation Licence 20 minutes later.

Back to the South Ramp for the check flight in a Cessna 152. Lisa did the radio. Bajan English over the radio can be a tad testing! I concentrated on the flying bit. Normal stuff, a couple of touch and goes, some steep turns but I'm sure with the wind blowing in from the Atlantic, we were virtually hovering before I could get it to stall!! Having satisfied Lisa(!), we set off round the island for some sight-seeing, most of it at 500 feet along the coastline. Grantley Adams Approach then told us to climb to 1500 feet to pass over the deep water harbour and over Bridgetown. We requested rejoin and were authorised for a straight-in for runway 09. We did a couple of circuits and a glide approach, then back to the club and the thrill of writing "8P-LAB, Adams, Bridgetown, Barbados" in the logbook. Having accomplished the first mission, we then planned something more adventurous. A trip to some of the other islands in the Lesser Antilles chain. There was quite a choice. My wife, Jean, fancied St Lucia and St Vincent. Lisa was happy for us to go alone but cautioned about paperwork, procedures and local accents. She was free a few days later so came along for the ride (and the technical stuff). We booked the Cessna 172K with a variable pitch prop and fuel injection. So quite a quick bit of kit.

E.T. Joshua Airport on St Vincent was the first destination, just over 100 miles away. Flight plan filed for the one hour leg at a flight level 085 (8,500 feet). When travelling over large expanses of water you get as high as you can. Just in case the donkey upfront decides to play up you then get as much glide distance as you can. Met briefing showed there were some Cb's (nasty storm clouds that planes don't like) in the area of St Vincent but our course looked good. Airborne at 1450 U.T.C. or, as I still call it Greenwich Mean Time (they are five hours behind us) we were given a left turnout from runway 09 on a heading of 315 degrees (roughly North West) which took us over the middle of the island before being cleared to gain the 286 degrees radial which, all being well, should take us straight to St Vincent. FL085 was rather a novelty. Vis was fine both ahead and below, although we did skirt a few largish Cu's. Track was good, but the DME (distance measuring equipment) then then started fluttering about 70 miles out and then disappeared. The VOR (a navigation aid) held good until we picked up a positive ident from Arnos Vale NDB (yet another navaid) at Joshua which enabled us track inbound. ATC gave us a straight-in for runway 07 which entailed flying up the bay and touching down as we crossed the coastline. We were immediately followed in by a LIAT Dash 8 on its 'bus route' up through the islands, then a Bajan Seneca doing an island hop with the daily FedEx deliveries.

The benefit of having Lisa with us had already been demonstrated in taking care of the radio. What with the local dialects and the 172 only having a mike and speaker her assistance was most welcome. However this was confirmed by the extraordinary amount of paperwork involved in inter-island flights. Outbound and inbound both require 5 different documents. Fortunately, we had obtained some East Caribbean Dollars as Bajan currency was not accepted elsewhere. Out came the wallet, EC\$20 (£6) emigration tax, EC\$10 customs fee and EC\$37.50 nav charge and landing fee. Whilst having a well-needed drink in the airport bar a tremendous roar came from outside, announcing the arrival of an Amerijet 727. All other planes, regardless of weather, have to take off on 25 out over the sea as there is a 200 foot hill at the end of 1500 metre runway on 07. However this is the only jet that visits the island and has to use 07 as the hill behind the threshold of runway 25 is littered with typical Caribbean shacks, home for many of the islanders. The jet blast would blow most of them away. Whilst in the bar, the First Officer from the 727 dropped in and said they were due to depart about ten minutes later. He said we could enjoy the take-off best from the ramp. As they taxied out dozens of people appeared to witness the take-off. N5607 was being held on its brakes with the throttles being opened up. Then he let it go, about half way along he raised the nose, continued the roll and then, when it looked as though he was going to make an uninvited call on some of the inhabitants, leaped into the air, zig-zagged up through the hills and away. Now that's what I call a short field take off!

Our next flight plan was for the 60 mile leg to Castries on St Lucia. We intended tracking up the east coast of St Vincent at 1500 feet, hop the 25 miles over the St Vincent Passage and

follow the west coast round St Lucia to Castries. However once airborne we found that those Cb's we had been warned about were still menacingly close so we diverted into Vieux Fort/Hewanorra, tracking in on their NDB, past the two famous volcanic Pitons on the south coast of St Lucia. Another arrival across the bay and straight in for runway 06, just 40 minutes for this leg. Our arrival caused an American Airlines 757 to hold whilst we landed. A polite little wave as we cleared the active runway. Out came more forms and another EC\$50 in fees. Night arrives very quickly in the Caribbean and Barbadian air law does not allow for over-water flights by single engine planes at night, although the British night rating is recognised for jaunts round the island. We had to get home in time. Vieux Fort is also just over 100 miles from Bridgetown so the flight plan again showed an hour's flight but this time at FL075 (7,500 feet). We lined up at 1945 zulu or GMT. Tracking 129°, the Adams VOR came up 15 minutes later, soon followed by the DME. The return flight was uneventful although we were warned to look out for an Avro passing down our left side en route to St Lucia. We requested rejoin and were given another straight-in if we could maintain speed as there was a "heavy" (i.e. big plane) closing behind us. Going for it, we routed in over Bridgetown. This took us directly over Kensington Oval cricket ground and the Garrison Savannah racecourse. A fairly rapid long finals, touch down and first left exit, to be chased in by a BWIA DC9. Back to the North ramp for more forms. Customs made a cursory check. Our plane did look rather tiny parked alongside a BA 747 and a Caledonian DC-10. Formalities over, back to the club for a welcome drink. The time of reckoning had arrived. Total cost came to just under £300.

It was a great adventure. I would love to have gone to many of the other islands, some of which have rather interesting runways! The Flying Club made us most welcome. Most of the airspace around the islands is controlled because of all the inter-island flights and the big boys coming in from U.S. and Europe. ATC instructions and paperwork are challenging. Apart from the sheer thrill of the flying, to have two '8P' registrations in the logbook and exotic places such as Adams, Bridgetown; ET Joshua, St Vincent and Vieux Fort, St Lucia does give you quite a satisfying feeling. I've also flown in the USA, South Africa, Cyprus, Australia and New Zealand besides several European countries - but they're different tales. Flying is a fantastic hobby but becoming very expensive and not helped by the ever increasing bureaucracy coming out of both the CAA and EASA, the European authority.

Barbados is a beautiful island. In fact, my elder daughter was married there but, again, that's a different tale! I've been lucky enough to visit over 20 Caribbean islands. They are all incredible, the people so welcoming and the climate amazing. I must say I think St Lucia is my favourite.
Mike Bean



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 2. A River
 3. White.
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KCC Councillor	Shellina Prendergast	shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk
KCC Community Warden	Dawn Riach-Brown	07773 397125
Member of Parliament	Helen Whately	020 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
Baby & Toddle Group	Aimee Parker	07857 121160
Twinning Group	Sue Chambers	01622 843622
Village Hall	Val Clarke	01622 843110

Village Clubs

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Kingswood Pre-School	Katherine Ross	07729 499 508
Tuesday Lunch Club	Pat Lyne	01622 843672
Dance 4 Kent	Stephanie Wood	07898207973
Kingswood Whist Group	Mike Bean	01622 844272
Short Mat Bowls	Mike Tandy	01622 842209
Purple Yoga	Helen	07762 761905
Scouts	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Parish Council	Pam Bower	07719 317702 / 01622 843741

Your Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Pam Bower, Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org Tel: 07719 317702/01622 843741

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

Councillors:

Tina Clark (Chair)	tinaclark@bandkpc.uk
Gareth Davies (Vice Chair)	garethd1@hotmail.co.uk
Tom Hoy	tomhoy@bandkpc.uk
Laura Hubbard	laurahubbard@bandkpc.uk
Aimee Parker	aimeeparker@bandkpc.uk
Chris Pink	chriskpink@bandkpc.uk
Ken Pattison	kenpattison@bandkpc.uk
Katherine Ross	katherineross@bandkpc.uk
VACANCY	

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