



# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

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



## ANNUAL REPORT

This year Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council said a fond farewell to Joanne Gosden who resigned from her position of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to extend her family. Hayley Roberts continues to be our Parish Clerk and has taken on the additional responsibilities of the RFO.

## Social Media

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

## What else has the Parish Council been doing?

- Installation of replacement multiplay unit in the play area.
- Installation of a disabled swing in the play area.
- Organisation of a fortnightly shopping bus service to Maidstone.
- Upgrade of The Sports Field Height Barrier.
- Purchase and placement of extra salt bins around the village.
- Organisation of Tom Hoy Award 2022.
- 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.
- Updating and improvement of the Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish.
- Action as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils on anything related to the local community.
- Production of the Parish News three times a year.
- Purchase and placement of wreath at Broomfield Church on behalf of the Parish for Remembrance Sunday and purchase of lamp post poppies in aid of The RBL.
- Liaison with our local PCSO re issues within the Parish.
- Helping to resolve residents' issues and concerns.
- Progressing of a community building or Village Hall extension in the Parish including the holding of a Public Consultation.
- Attendance at the Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of an afternoon for local clubs and groups to promote themselves.
- Coordination of the Teddies for Ukraine collection.
- Provided assistance and support for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- Creation and submission of a bus petition for local residents in relation to the bus service.

## Budget 2021/22

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

# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Annual Finance Report 2021/2022

## Statement of Account

|                                   |          |                         |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| <b>Opening balance 31/03/2021</b> |          | <b>£103,353</b>         |          |
| <b>Income</b>                     | <b>£</b> | <b>Expenditure</b>      | <b>£</b> |
| Precept                           | 54,696   | Administration Expenses | 5,883    |
| Parish Service Scheme             | 3,205    | S137                    | 4,666    |
| Rent                              | 313      | Publicity               | 1,756    |
| VAT Refund                        | 13,051   | Parish Costs            | 1,129    |
| Advertising                       | 1,065    | Sports Field            | 8,540    |
| Bank Interest                     | 267      | Staff Costs             | 25,001   |
| Additional Income                 | 1,719    | Subscriptions           | 1,213    |
|                                   |          | Miscellaneous Expenses  | 53,960   |
|                                   |          | VAT Paid                | 13,831   |
| <b>Closing balance 31/03/2022</b> |          | <b>£61,690</b>          |          |

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2021/2022.

The Internal Audit will be took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the audited accounts will be published shortly. The complete figures will then be audited by the government appointed external auditor PKF Littlejohn and will be available upon request to the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

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

## Donations and Grants 2019/20

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2021/22:

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Royal British Legion  | £50  |
| Air Ambulance         | £500 |
| Heart of Kent Hospice | £500 |

## **Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2022**

This year has been quite a busy one for the Parish Council as life gets back to as normal as possible. Things in the village have started happening again with the various Clubs and groups all starting to open again. The Parish Council tried to help there by organising an afternoon at the Village Hall for the Clubs to introduce themselves and maybe enroll new members. It went well and I even found a new club to join in the Birdwatching Group which is new to Kingswood.

The Pop-Up Café was back and extremely popular and it is a shame that they can only come during the summer months. It is a chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones so if you get the chance and have not been along yet do try to make it, the company is good and the cake even better. The dates are posted at the Post Office, on the PC website and in the Parish Magazine, which I know you all read avidly.

Some of you may have noticed the new equipment in the Play Area at the Sports Field, the old equipment had reached the end of its safe life and we took the opportunity to upgrade the multi-play set and to install a swing for our less able children to enjoy. From reports we have heard these have been extremely popular over the last few months and will without doubt be very well used during the school summer holidays to come.

Local firm Petron Welding installed a new height barrier at the Sports Field, the old one was damaged and difficult to open and close when needed. Martin Worrall, who lives in the village refurbished the Broomfield Noticeboard which had been showing its age but now looks as good as new.

Of course, there have been the usual irritants of dog fouling and litter. The dog-fouling gets worse in the winter when it is dark, and the culprits feel they can get away with it without being seen. Just because you cannot be seen does not make it ok.

As for litter, well that is not happening within the village to any great extent, although you still get some people who do not recognise what a litter bin is for. The main problem is those passing through our lanes who seem to think that once they have finished their snack or drink the appropriate place for the rubbish is our beautiful countryside. I must say I am a bit surprised at the amount of wine bottles that turn up on Gravelly Bottom Road, obviously some quite well-off litter louts.

We have arranged three litter-picks over the last year. One was very successful with quite a few turning up to help, one had to be cancelled because of the appalling weather and the latest one only had two volunteers, Alison, and Bruce, but we still managed to collect 10 bags of rubbish between the four of us, so not a bad day really. Unfortunately, this is going to be an ongoing problem and we will be arranging more litter-picks in the coming year.

As you know the Arriva bus service got less and less reliable so the PC decided that we would try to help those who could not access their own transport to get to Maidstone by providing a 16-seater shopping bus once a week, this was eventually changed to once every two weeks, but was and is regularly used by several villagers. Nu-venture have now taken over the regular bus service and users tell me that it is running very well, with friendly, efficient drivers who turn up on time and are extremely helpful. Unfortunately, there is a chance that we might lose our bus service altogether as KCC are having to make cuts in their budget and are targeting the less commercial bus routes, those they subsidise. The Parish Council organised a petition that was signed by a lot of villagers, we also contacted our local MP and wrote to KCC expressing our concerns and putting forward as many arguments as we could think of for maintaining the service which is essential for quite a few of our villagers. We wait in hope that they will see sense.

The new salt-bins were installed in October 2021 and have already proved how useful they are by keeping the snow away totally this year, let us hope they keep on being as efficient in the future. Every year Broomfield and Kingswood Parish donate to the Poppy Appeal by buying a wreath to be laid at the Broomfield Church during the Remembrance Day Ceremony. This year the PC decided that we would, like other villages, start to put Poppies up around the village. It is a little

more difficult for us as we do not have streetlights, so no lampposts, to attach them to. But we did put up a few and hopefully over the years we will build on this, and they will spread.

As you know the additional houses being built in the borough have meant an increase in the traffic that passes by and through our Parish, quite a few of those vehicles do not appreciate that people live here and drive through without lowering their speed which makes it dangerous for those of us who live here. A group of Parishioners were so concerned about this that they decided to set up a Speedwatch group to help the police monitor the number and speed of vehicles in the hope that we can achieve some kind of traffic calming measures before someone is seriously hurt or killed. These are all volunteers who are giving up their time to help the Parish and help make it safe for all of us, so if you see them about, please do not abuse them, give them a friendly wave, they are trying to help you.

Our Village Hall is so popular that it is over-subscribed most of the time and therefore it is difficult to open new Clubs or Groups that need space. We held a public consultation in September to discuss viable solutions to the problem which was quite productive. Unfortunately, Covid then reared its ugly head again and progress was stalled. Hopefully now that things are getting back to normal, we can once again focus on the project and with your approval find a solution that will please the majority of people.

We had hoped to have a Christmas get-together so that people could meet us and each other over a seasonal beverage and mince-pie but Covid put an end to that too as it did to so many other things. But now it seems that we have decided that life must go on and with due care we can live with Covid so this year we will be able to do all those Christmassy things we enjoy (fingers crossed).

I would also like to say a word about how caring the people of Broomfield and Kingswood are, whether it be donating to a food bank, sending treats to our troops oversea, knitting teddies for the traumatised children of Ukraine, helping a neighbour keep their independence or any of a hundred ways both big and small you can be sure that at any one time there is someone making a difference.

We have been able to hold our meetings in person again and for me it is a much better way of getting business done. We have even on occasion had Parishioners come along to a meeting and talk to us about issues that concern them, and we have tried to do our best to help within the limits of our powers.

I would like to take this opportunity again to thank my fellow councillors, both current and past, for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. We had some changeover in councillors this year, Ron Kemp, Ken Patterson, Laura Hubbard, and Katherine Ross left us for family or health reasons but we are lucky enough to have been joined by Malcolm Clarke and Steve Lakin.

Jo Gosden's growing family meant that she had to leave us too. She will be missed, and we wish her all the best for the future.

I also must thank Alison and Paul Beany for all their hard work around the village and for their care of our planters which, despite being vandalised quite often by someone who is obviously not a plant lover, look beautiful.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank Hayley Roberts, our fantastic Parish Clerk, for being the caring, efficient, approachable, and friendly person who makes being Chair of the Parish Council a real pleasure.

Being a Councillor, can be challenging, sometimes a little frustrating but ultimately enjoyable and fulfilling. We bring a diverse mix of talents to the council, and we all wish to contribute to making life in Broomfield and Kingswood a pleasure. We have vacancies so if you feel you have something to contribute why not come along to a meeting, see how we work and what a nice bunch we are and join in.

Take care, Tina Clark, Chair May 2022.



## **Shellina Prendergast – Kent County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East Annual Report May 2022**

Dear Residents,

This time last year we were all, Parish, Borough and County Councils, meeting virtually and recognising how important those restrictions still were despite the successful first few months of the vaccination programme roll out and continuation of the very comprehensive testing programme put in place by Kent County Council. As many of you will know, support for residents and businesses impacted by Covid and lockdowns continued throughout the pandemic with schemes such as Kent Together and Helping Hands designed to support the most vulnerable amongst us.

The May 2021 elections for the County Council took place under some very challenging circumstances due to the restrictions, and I am immensely privileged to have been re-elected as the County Member for Maidstone Rural East – as a local resident myself, I know first hand that not only are we so fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful rural areas of the County but that we are a resilient community who can support each other through the most difficult times – something that fills me with great pride and for which I thank each and every one of you. Following the election, I was delighted to be asked by the Leader of Kent County Council to take up the post of Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – an immense responsibility for the education of our children and young people in Kent and for those post 16 and beyond in acquiring the skills which will be needed for the future to rebuild the economy after some turbulent times.

Looking ahead, there is much work being done at County Hall – far too much to detail in this report but I have highlighted below the areas that many of you have raised with me in the past and those that might be of interest:

### **UKRAINE**

KCC continues to work closely and effectively with our District and Borough colleagues to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme. As of 20 May there were 3,062 matched applications of Ukrainian nationals to 1,235 sponsors in Kent; so far 1,281 have arrived in Kent. Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Maidstone have the largest numbers of applications. DBS checks, home checks, welfare visits are all going ahead though there is significant pressure on the capacity of both KCC and of Districts and Boroughs. Whilst a huge amount of progress has been made in the last couple of months, there are major concerns (across the Country) concerning the interaction of the Family Scheme with the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the scope for rematching when placements break down, funding arrangements and more; and we continue to raise these with the government minister. There is growing interest in the need for school places for Ukrainian children - 331 school age children have been notified to our in-year admissions team, of whom 226 are known to have arrived in the county and 90 have accepted places. Places are generally being found within 2-3 weeks, but one of the biggest challenges is that the Schools Admissions Code still operates and so a place has to be found in the nearest school with a vacancy. Over time, numbers may well increase substantially, which will present very different challenges.

### **COST OF LIVING**

With many of our residents experiencing severe pressures from the rising cost of living, KCC received a further grant (announced by the Chancellor in his Spring Statement in March) of just over £11m from the Household Support Fund Extension, which we are allocating to Free School Meals for the May half term, as well as a £50 flat rate assistance for the summer holidays, along with support for vulnerable residents' energy and water bills and other help to those experiencing financial hardship.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Queen's Speech - on 10 May included a number of Bills of importance to KCC, most notably the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and the Schools Bill (which I will address further down). Provisions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill give substance to February's Levelling Up White Paper, through the scope to create Combined County Authorities (CCA - bringing together one or more counties and/ or unitary councils).

The Bill also sets out proposals for an Infrastructure Levy to supersede CIL and (except in the largest and most complex developments) S.106 agreements. Proper funding of infrastructure where development takes place is of vital importance to us and there is a lot still to play regarding the Levy, since the vital detail will be established, after consultation, through regulations rather than primary legislation.

## **EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CHILDRENS SERVICES**

The Schools Bill - continues the drive for all schools to become academies and encourages them to join MultiAcademy Trusts - but also strengthens the regulatory framework for academy trusts and enables local authorities to establish Multi Academy Trusts. As the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and knowing how important our small rural schools are to us, I have worked closely and effectively with the DfE and ministers and we have expressed an interest in piloting work concerning a local authority MAT.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care - The report highlights problems of the sector across the country, and it is welcome to see that many elements of its programme for change reflect KCC's existing focus and priorities, such as early help and development of a family hubs model. Sticking with children's services, over the last few weeks, Ofsted have been conducting a routine inspection of our Children's Services under the ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) framework. When we were last inspected, in 2017 (under a different framework), we were rated Good. The outcome of the inspection will be announced on 5 July.

We continue to develop longer-term plans in key policy areas. On 28 April, we launched our 16-19 review and action plan, developed in close collaboration with schools, colleges, training providers and others to enhance opportunities for our young people. This complements the work of our Employment Task Force and reinforces the council's focus on skills and on building partnerships that can deliver in this area.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

People at the Heart of Care White Paper - On the adult social care reforms set out in the white paper, KCC continue to have concerns, in particular in relation to the adequacy (or otherwise) of the government financial support for the proposed scope for self funders to access care on council buying terms. Both the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care are working tirelessly to address these issues with government and I hope to be able to report progress in the near future.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

Operation Brock - The Kent Resilience Forum confirmed recently that Operation Brock will remain in place until the end of the Platinum Jubilee weekend. I and my colleagues at KCC have long argued that current arrangements are a sticking plaster at best and that much more significant changes are needed and are working with local partners - including our Kent MPs - on proposals for change.

At its meeting on 19 May, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (ETCC) endorsed the recommendation to the Cabinet Member for a three year pothole blitz programme of £7 million per year. The same meeting considered the feedback on the bus subsidy reduction consultation. A fuller, more route-specific paper will go to ETCC's meeting in July. Without knowing the outcome of this decision, I want to assure residents that I am fully sympathetic to the need for adequate transport infrastructure for our rural communities and will continue to work with you, the parish councils and the Council on this matter.

## **WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The new Household Waste Recycling Centre at Allington opened on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Less than a fortnight later, Allington – a state of the art facility - won the Best Use of Design & Technology in a Waste Management Facility award from Letsrecycle Awards for Excellence.

Finally, the Platinum Jubilee holiday is approaching fast, and KCC has been vigorous in supporting the celebrations across Kent. We were one of the first authorities in the country to waive fees for road closures to facilitate street parties; we have received 595 applications and have approved 575 of them. There are many other ways in which KCC are supporting the Jubilee, including the 70 hours of volunteering by Members. I have a number of volunteering activities in the pipeline but please do let me know if there is anything within your local area that I can help with.

I hope this report has been of some help in identifying some of the key issues facing Kent residents and how they are being addressed. Please do let me know if there is anything else I can help with – I am always happy to hear from you.

All the best wishes

Shellina Prendergast  
Maidstone Rural East  
[Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk)  
07970 461160

## **Annual Ward Members Report 2022 - Gill Fort, MBC councillor for Leeds**

### **Annual Report for 2021/22**

During covid Maidstone Borough Council, MBC, set up and administered various funds that helped businesses and vulnerable people. The past 2 years have been very difficult for so many however we are grateful to be returning to some sort of normality.

**Local Plan Review.** During the autumn the Local Plan Review draft went out to public consultation. Following on from that the plan was submitted on 31/3/22 to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

**Whole Council Elections.** Currently MBC hold elections “by thirds “meaning that in 3 out of 4 years one third of the seats will be up for election. Residents were asked for feedback on the current situation and a proposal to have 4 yearly elections. 4 yearly elections were supported overwhelmingly, and this has now been formally adopted. This will start in 2024 however before then there will be one more election in 2023, this includes Leeds ward. Whoever gets elected will be borough councillor for a year and then the new system will start.

**New Political Map for Maidstone.** A new pattern of wards is being developed for MBC. The boundary commission is reviewing this and has already reduced the number of councillors from the current 55 to 48. Public consultation ended in April 22. Under the new proposals submitted to the boundary commission Leeds ward will consist of Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood and Otham.

**The Town Centre.** MBC is proposing to embark on a transformation of the town centre. Focus will be on the arts, retail, shopping culture and leisure. We need to breathe life back into the town following the pandemic.

**Archbishops Palace.** KCC have been leasing Archbishops Palace from MBC, that lease is coming to an end. The owners of Hush Heath Winery in Staplehurst have been given permission to develop plans to convert the palace into a boutique hotel, wedding venue, restaurant etc, subject to formal approvals.

**Maidstone Bus Station.** The bus station underwent a major refurbishment and reopened in October 2021. It is more welcoming, brighter and safer.

**Mote Park.** The construction of a new café started in June 2021 and this should be completed by this summer.

Gill Fort, MBC councillor for Leeds. 11/5/22





# Shukokai Karate Academy England

## Shukokai Karate Academy Kingswood Karate Club

Since returning to full time training in 2021, the Kingswood Dojo of the Shukokai Karate Academy, which runs classes on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings from the Village Hall, has continued to go from strength to strength. Now in its 17th year of running classes for both children and adults in the Kingswood village hall, the club has welcomed many new students during the year. The classes now take place on a fully matted area which enables more difficult techniques involving sweeps, throws and take downs to be taught to a larger group.

The “Little Ninjas” for 4-6 year olds, class has proved to be really popular, providing a basic grounding in karate, whilst engaging the children in games and physical exercise. During the year some of the Little Ninjas have progressed to the next class up, after passing their gradings for yellow belt, where they continue to gain in confidence and ability.

The club also now runs its Saturday morning, “Fight Club”, from the Village Hall which allows both junior and senior students to practice their kumite (sparring) with students from all the Academy’s dojo.

The Academy has introduced Development and Elite squads to train together for forthcoming competitions and have been lucky enough to receive some sponsorship from Paul Carpenter of Cutter Profilers Ltd for their tracksuits and Church Dwight Ltd for their kitbags.

During the year we have been able to take students once again to various competitions both locally and nationally, including the Central England Open, British 4 Nations Open, Meopham Open, UK International Open and the Shito Ryu National Championships, where many medals have been won by students of all ages. We are also immensely proud that one of our students, Harishan Pirapakaran, has been selected to join the Full England National squad and is working hard to try and gain selection to the team for international events. Jake Worton also won a silver medal in the British Championships, one of the highest accolades of 2022.

The Academy also hosted its first major competition, “The Southern England Karate Open” during April 2022, which attracted over 250 competitors from all over the country. This was a resounding success and will be repeated in 2023 at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

During September some students hope to participate in the Karate Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham and Sensei Chris Simpson, Sensei Katie Simpson and Sensei Steve Pereira will be officiating at the Championships.

Classes continue to be held on Tuesdays 5.30-6.15 – Little Ninjas: 6.30-7.30 Primary School children and 7.30-8.30 Secondary school children and adults. Thursdays 6-7pm – Open Family Class and 7-8pm Senior Kata Class and Saturdays 10-11am Fight Club.

Full details of classes can be found at [www.shukokaikarateacademy.com](http://www.shukokaikarateacademy.com) or by calling 07801 639052 or emailing [kentkarate@gmail.com](mailto:kentkarate@gmail.com). New students of all ages are always welcome.

Sensei Chris and Sensei Katie Simpson



## Leeds & Kingswood Scout Group

Well now spring is here and the group are looking forward to outdoor events.

At the moment we looking for a new leader to run the scouts. This would be a good chance for anyone who has worked with young children. This would be ideal for any person who is a teacher or been in the military and used to arranging activities. If you think this is for you call Alan 843019 and I will pass your details on to our GSL (Group scout leader)

The group had their quiz night in March, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

### **BEAVERS**

We currently have 14 beavers, four have already moved on to cubs. We will cap our numbers to 18, with 8 on the waiting list.

Beavers have been busy with their badge work. They had Steve Still from Animal Encounters who brought all kinds of animals, one was a Python, and the beavers were stroking it, also were the leaders. Now the evenings are getting lighter they will be having more activities outside.

Claire the beaver leader is stepping down from beavers but will help out when needed.. Mandy will be the new beaver leader with Aimee as her assistant.

### **CUBS**

We have 20 cubs. They have been doing badges consisting of photography and artist badges they also celebrated the Chinese New Year.. they had fun making pancakes on the night. Mark Price the acting cub leader has agreed to run a nights away or a camp prior to him moving completely away from cubs. Hazel will be our new cub leader.

### **SCOUTS**

At the moment scouts is being run alongside cubs. After summer Mark Price said he would run it until we can find a permanent leader.

### **QUARTER MASTER**

Simon is now our quarter master after Philip stepped down after 30 years. He will be arranging the maintenance of the hut.

### **100 CLUB**

We run a 100 club as a fund raiser, we have four prizes a month and costs £12 for a full year. Call 843019 if would like to join.

#### January winners

Mr Parks £20, Mr Jenkins £10, Mrs Hobson £10, Mrs Davis £5

#### February winners

Mrs Bailey £20, Mr Dixon £10, Mrs Castle £10, Mrs Copping £5

#### March winners

Mrs Walton £20, Mrs Saunders £10, Mrs French £10, Mrs Prior £5

Best wishes,

Alan Poulton, Chairman 01622 843019

## **KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP**

The Group continues to go from strength to strength.

We now have 30 members, having attracted several new players since the end of lockdown. Whilst the vast majority are from our village we are very pleased that we now have several new players from neighbouring villages.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm until 4.30pm. We enjoy 24 games of partner/progressive whist. At half-time we have tea, coffee, cakes and chat!

We welcome new players of any vintage so come along for a really enjoyable sociable afternoon - all for just £2.50!! 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 just turn up any Tuesday afternoon. You will be very welcome.

Mike Bean

## **KENT CYNOPHOBIA ASSISTANCE GROUP**

### **Monday evenings at 5.30**

Cynophobia is a Greek word, Cyno is dog, Phobia is fear, so it simply means the 'fear of dogs' We are now in our 7<sup>th</sup> year, having helped so many children overcome their fear of dogs. We have 12 dogs on our list, we have a rota of seven dogs each Monday, helping on average each week 18 children.

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

Over the seven years, we are proud to say that we have changed so many families lives for the better. We are all volunteers and it is a free group, we only ask for donations of sweets.

We are always on the lookout for nice dogs for assessment, and even if you do not have a suitable dog we always need helpers just for an hour.

We have our own Facebook page 'Kent Cynophobia Assistance Group'.

## **LEAD THE WAY DOG TRAINING**

### **Wednesday evenings**

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

The trainers are Janet Tandy, who is a Kennel Club Accredited Instructor, City & Guilds and affiliated to the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers, and Marion Street who is a very experienced dog trainer having a lot of understanding of rescue dogs. Together we run very popular dog training classes throughout the evening.

Many of the dogs have gone on to become Cynophobia dogs helping the children overcome their fear.

## **KINGSWOOD SHORT MAT BOWLS**

We meet every Wednesday at the Kingswood Village Hall, 2 – 4pm with a break halfway for tea and cake. We are a friendly group and welcome new members, even if you have never played before. We have spare bowls for anyone to try their hand. If you decide you would like to join us there is a one off joining fee of £5, and a weekly charge for playing and afternoon tea of £2.50.

Please either come along or give Mike Tandy a call for more information on 01622 842209.

## **KINGSWOOD AND BROOMFIELD BIRDWATCHING GROUP**

The Kingswood and Broomfield Birdwatching group has continued post-pandemic, although finding a regular meeting place has been a challenge. As I write this, this appears to have been resolved I am pleased to say.

In January, members took part in the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch, and I was able, with their kind help, to collate results for our parish, plus members in Headcorn and Boughton Malherbe, as follows:

| <b>Species</b>           | <b>Aggregate total</b> | <b>Number of returns species recorded in</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Goldfinch                | 30                     | 2  |
| Starling                 | 29                     | 3  |
| Blue tit                 | 27                     | 6  |
| Chaffinch                | 24                     | 4  |
| House sparrow            | 21                     | 4  |
| Blackbird                | 18                     | 6  |
| Woodpigeon               | 12                     | 5  |
| Magpie                   | 10                     | 3  |
| Robin                    | 9                      | 5  |
| Great tit                | 8                      | 3  |
| Carrion crow             | 8                      | 5  |
| Dunnock                  | 7                      | 3  |
| Town/feral pigeon        | 7                      | 3  |
| Collared dove            | 7                      | 4  |
| Greenfinch               | 2                      | 4  |
| Wren                     | 4                      | 4  |
| Great spotted woodpecker | 3                      | 2  |
| Nuthatch                 | 3                      | 1  |
| Coal tit                 | 3                      | 3  |
| Pied wagtail             | 2                      | 1  |
| Song thrush              | 1                      | 1  |
| Rook                     | 1                      | 1  |
| Bullfinch                | 1                      | 1  |
| Long-tailed tit          | 1                      | 1  |
| <b>Birds of prey*:</b>   |                        |  |
| Buzzard                  | 1                      | 1  |
| Sparrowhawk              | 1                      | 1  |
| Kestrel                  | 1                      | 1  |

\*I have listed birds of prey separately as some of these were recorded overhead rather than actually in gardens as I understand it.

More recently, we had a lovely morning spent at our member Elizabeth's farm near Ulcombe to identify birdsong and celebrate the recent arrival of swifts. Elizabeth has so many nesting there that the property is probably of importance to the Kent population – this species is in the midst of a worrying decline.

More generally in the area, it is clear that goldfinches, bullfinches and yellowhammers seem to be in good number. We are also able to enjoy almost daily displays from buzzards, and there are reports of red kites gradually getting nearer to the parish too. We are also kept entertained by stories and videos of hedgehogs and mallard ducks in Kingswood.

Further afield, I made a visit to RSPB Cliffe Pools in North Kent, and was delighted to report to the RSPB, BTO and Kent Wildlife Trust, a clear sighting of a cattle egret, which are increasing and breeding in the UK now.

Further trips are planned for later in the year, and the next meeting is scheduled for 8pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Ulcombe Village Hall.

If anyone is interested in joining or for more info on the group, please email me on [mattmeek72@outlook.com](mailto:mattmeek72@outlook.com)



## **KINGSWOOD CHURCH**

North Kent Methodist Circuit

Maidstone Baptist Church

**NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY**

### **KINGSWOOD CHURCH**

I am pleased to tell you that 'WE ARE BACK', we have restarted all our Church groups, services and face to face meetings (details below) while we continue to be mindful of Covid and take measures accordingly.

#### **Services: -**

**We run a monthly service pattern at the village hall:**

**On the first Sunday of the month we hold our Family Café Service where we offer a continental style breakfast from 10.30am with an informal style service commencing at 11am. The service aims to encourage the children to take an active part in our worship.**

**On the second and third Sundays of the month our services start at 11am. They are led by our very own Reader/Licensed Lay Minister Peter Roberts or by a visiting preacher.**

**On the fourth Sunday we offer Holy Communion at 11am. This service is led by Reverend Mark Pavey our local C of E Vicar.**

**If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we run a Messy Church for our children's group Climbers and the congregation attend one of the local churches in our Benefice for a joint service.**

#### **Climbers (village hall):**

**Climbers are our Children's Group run by Tracey Brunton and they meet every Sunday during term time. Tracey offers a wide range of craft and other activities plus teaching of stories from the Bible. They are actively involved during our Café Service and Show & Tell what they have been doing and learning to the congregation at the end of all our services.**

#### **Crusaders Yr.3 to 6 (Kingswood Primary School)**

**Crusaders are run by Sonya Roberts after school on Friday's during term time at Kingswood Primary School. Sonya teaches stories from the Bible in a fun way and is very grateful for the assistance of Claire Jones.**

#### **Friday Group (7 Laurel Grove)**

**Our ladies meet together on a Friday for coffee, prayers and fellowship.**

#### **Lunch Club (village hall):**

**Lunch Club meet every Tuesday at the village hall 12.30pm-1.45pm. Take your own lunch and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea or coffee for just over an hour. This is a totally informal gathering with just a small charge of £1 towards costs.**

**CANS Yr. 5 to 9 (village hall):**

**CANS is our Youth Group run by Tracey & Ryan Brunton and Vicky & Adrian Hollamby, Each week the children meet for activities including table tennis, video games, table football etc.**

**Once a month CANS hold a family night where everyone is welcome to events such as a Movie Nights on the big screen and Prize Bingo.**

**Kingswood Church offers a mix of traditional and modern worship and we hold special services for Easter, Christmas and Harvest etc. We also offer pastoral care to those in need. We would really like you to come and see for yourself and join in our worship. I would recommend a visit to one of our Café Services on the first Sunday of the month which includes a free continental style breakfast.**

**Finally, the Church would like to thank the Parish Council for delivering our Easter and Christmas cards around the village with the Parish News.**

**Mike King (Chair. Kingswood Church).**

**Kingswood Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership.**

**If you would like any more information please contact:**

**Peter Roberts on 01622 843625 or**

**Mike King on 01622 842274**