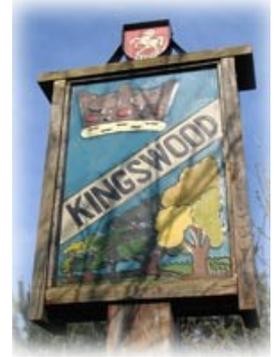




Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council  
[www.broomfieldandkingswood.pc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.broomfieldandkingswood.pc.kentparishes.gov.uk)



# Parish News

## Spring 2020

COME AND HEAR YOUR  
PARISH COUNCILLORS' THOUGHTS  
on  
AN EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE PARISH – A COMMUNITY BUILDING  
at  
a Consultation Morning  
in  
Kingswood Village Hall  
on  
Saturday 21 March  
10.00am



**HAPPY EASTER**



Your Parish Councillors  
wish you all a very Happy  
Easter



## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

### PARTY IN THE PARK

After the success of the SUMMER EVENT, held on the Sports Field last year, we are planning to repeat the PARTY IN THE PARK on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. JUNE.

Back, by popular request, is the SAMBA BAND and there will be a beer-tent, food stalls, games for children and music into this Mid-summer evening.

Details later.



SO...

SAVE THE DAY, SAVE THE DAY, SAVE THE DAY

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PARISH LITTER PICK SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2020 2.00 PM – 5.00 PM**

**MEET AT THE SPORTS FIELD CAR PARK  
TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE AFTERWARDS**

For more information or to confirm attendance  
Contact your Parish Clerk

via

[parishclerk@bandkpc.org](mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org)

or

01622 843741/

07719 317702



### **DOGS IN THE SPORTS FIELD**

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention by a number of concerned residents that dogs are running around the field off leads and not being observed whilst this is happening.

But what's more concerning they're posing aggressive behaviour towards other users of the facilities.

Can we please remind residents and others from surrounding areas that all dogs must be kept under control and supervised at all times during your visit.

### **DOG MESS IN THE VILLAGE**

**DON'T BE AN IRRESPONSIBLE OWNER—PICK UP YOUR DOG'S MESS AND TAKE IT HOME OR PUT IT IN ONE OF THE BINS AROUND THE VILLAGE - DOG MESS IS A HEALTH HAZARD!**

The Parish Council would like to thank those that already go around the village and woods picking up the litter that is dropped—thank you very much.



### **SPONSOR A BENCH OR PICNIC BENCH IN THE SPORTS FIELD**

Many of the benches and picnic benches in the Sports Field are beginning to rot and need replacing.

Would you or your company be willing to sponsor a bench or picnic bench?

For more information contact your Parish Clerk via email or phone

**Pam Bower  
PARISH CLERK**

Telephone: 07719 317702/01622 843741

Email: [parishclerk@bandkpc.org](mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org)

Facebook: Broomfield-Kingswood Parish Clerk

Website: [www.broomfieldandkingswoodpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.broomfieldandkingswoodpc.kentparishes.gov.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 as it could be scare-mongering

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>



## BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

For some reason it's been suggested I was the person best placed to write about what a reader of the Parish Magazine could expect were they to take the plunge and decide to be-

come part of Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council (I'm going to call it PC, as it's such a mouthful to type). When I thought about this, I was puzzled. What on earth could you expect? What's the average person's pre-conception of what our PC is all about? What immediately springs to mind of course is the Village of Dibley on the TV, somewhere in the countryside of England. Where the owner of the local manor tries to rule the council with a rod of iron as the Chair, and the other councillors have all sorts of strange and laughable ideas which they talk about. Be assured, we don't discuss the merits of orange cake with Branston pickle icing as we do our knitting at your PC! (I've always thought that the Dibley version was a cross between a PC, which looks after the village, and a Parochial Church Council, which looks after the Church – artistic licence by the writers there!).

Without going into all the responsibilities of a councillor, first I'd like to mention a big similarity with Dibley. The key word is 'laugh'. This doesn't mean that councillors here don't take their jobs seriously – they do. What I mean is that our PC isn't a sombre group of people who gather to control the village in some dark totalitarian way. Not at all. I come from meetings in a happy frame of mind. Councillors are friendly and welcoming. We are prepared to listen to each other, no matter whether we may disagree with what others say. Very often, such a positive feeling can come from hearing about a PC success – something which has been achieved that you know will help a lot of people in the village. Something that they will be happy with, and which will improve their quality of life.

Be under no illusions though. Being a councillor is about giving. Firstly, as a volunteer, you are giving your time, and earning nothing for doing so. But you are giving your time to help a worthwhile effort. Some people have a lot of time to give - those who are retired for example. But unlike 30 years or so ago, when the vast majority of councillors had reached pensionable age, we now actively seek out those who are younger, who have so much to offer.

As well as time, the other asset which we must be prepared to give is our life experience. I always think that with such experience comes a degree of wisdom. Older members usually have more of this because of all they have gone through in life. Or perhaps I'm saying this because I'm older! But what is even more useful to our PC is the experience of younger members – those who understand modern life, the needs of a young family, what we as a PC can do to help those whose needs may be totally unknown and indeed surprising to older members. Their usefulness as councillors is immeasurable.

The main thing which comes out of acting as a councillor is the sense of achievement which you feel when as a member of a diverse group, you know that because of what you have given - your time, your knowledge, your wisdom, all your strengths whatever they may be - people young and old in your community will be that much happier with their way of life.

Gareth Davies,  
Current Councillor and Vice Chair of the Council

**HOLD THE DATE!**

20th June  
at  
Round Oak Farm, Chart Sutton.  
Gates open at 5 pm.

Live music, hot food, speciality beers and a choice of Gin as well as soft drinks for the drivers and of course children!

For more information contact Jenny Hoy on 01622 861280

FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES



**Leeds and Broomfield Churches  
Church Services**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month – 11.00am communion at St. Nicholas, Leeds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month – 3.30pm communion at St. Margaret, Broomfield  
(This may not apply on Easter Sunday – look out for announcements)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month – 11.00am Communion at St. Nicholas, Leeds
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month – 11.00am family communion at Kingswood Church

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March , 2-4pm there will be "daffodil tea" and open church at St. Nicholas, Leeds

**St Nicholas Church  
Leeds Village**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Mar @ 3.30 – 4.30pm**

**In/spire**

**New informal worship for all ages**



**Café Magic Play Zone Youth Zone Arts & crafts  
Prayer Space Band led Worship**

## Kingswood Preschool Update

During this term at Preschool our new topics have been Ourselves and Winter. Over January we have been looking at the changes in our natural environment, talking about the months of the year & the seasons. We have dressed teddy for Winter and practised putting on wellies, gloves and hats.

Here at Kingswood preschool we embrace our differences and have been learning about what makes people different within our families and the wider community. We have focussed on things that make us special as individuals and the importance of our families.

We have been learning action songs about our bodies and playing ring games that help us be aware of our similarities. Following on after half-term we will continue to learn about how to stay and be healthy, keeping ourselves safe and preparing for Spring



Currently we have a waiting list for two year olds & limited availability for 3-4 year olds for the summer term. Please get in touch with Katherine Ross (Manager) for up to date session availability, come to have a look around & register your interest for September 2020.

Email: [manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk](mailto:manager@kingswoodpreschoolgroup.co.uk) call on 01622589222 or 07729499508

### Leeds and Kingswood Beavers

We have been busy beavers at Leeds and Kingswood!



Our Beaver Scouting programme is all about earning badges, becoming active and embracing a challenge for all abilities. We are the youngest section for 6-8 year olds. They have been working towards their badges and they have been having fun filled adventures at the scout hut as well as organised trips such as the Christmas party at Lower Grange Farm and the Adventure Kidz sleepover last year.

From the beginning of September our beavers have learned how to tie their own shoelaces, tie knots, read OS maps, do the green cross code, learn about stranger danger, make tarp shelters, forest caching, junk modelling and the phonetic alphabet!

We talk about our Beaver Promise every week and how we can use this every day. The next few terms we will be working towards their challenge badges, we have some great days out lined up too! All great fun.

We currently have 18 beavers invested and looking to be full after Easter but please get in touch with us if you would like your child to be on the waiting list.

Many thanks to Mr Martin Worrall who kindly made 20 shoe templates for our beavers to practice their shoelaces on! They absolutely loved this challenge and we really appreciate him taking the time to make the templates.

Claire Jones- Leeds and Kingswood Beavers Leader [cdrylie@hotmail.com](mailto:cdrylie@hotmail.com)

Cheryl Davis- Leeds and Kingswood Beavers Leader [cajequine1980@aol.com](mailto:cajequine1980@aol.com)

## HEADCORN BOWLS CLUB

**ROY HOOKER PAVILLION, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, TN27 9RL**

Come and join a friendly club, no experience necessary. Participate in playing bowls on the best green in Kent. Bowls a healthy, fun and affordable sport, which is quick and easy to learn.



Just bring flat shoes or trainers and learn the basics. Initially equipment is available.

Upon joining the club offers friendly and competitive matches and social events. Make new friends

**FREE COACHING FOR NEW MEMBERS-**

Contact the Secretary -Denise on 01622746081

## KENT CYNOPHOBIA ASSISTANCE GROUP

We are still full at the moment with a waiting list, although we now have some of the more confident children coming every other week which has made it much easier and reduced the waiting list by several months. We introduced two cuddly toy dogs recently and these have helped some of the very young children, a little less daunting for them to brush before coming onto the floor to touch a real dog. We have an average of 22 children each evening, and 8 handlers and their beautiful dogs and helpers. With a 98% success rate.

Unfortunately, we will be losing two of our older dogs in the summer who are retiring, so we will be looking for dogs to replace them. If you do have a very relaxed, happy dog who you think would be happy for the children to pet please let Janet know, once we have several, we will test them later in the year. They do have to have some obedience training, but the most important thing is that they are confident but gentle around people and other dogs.

We are always looking for help on the floor, so you do not have to have a dog of your own. But if you have a spare hour on a Monday evening at 5.30 and enjoy the company of children and dogs come and help. We all find it most rewarding.

## VILLAGE COFFEE SHOP

This year we will continue building on our tried and tested formula ---- big Breakfasts, bacon rolls, sausage rolls, homemade cakes and fresh tea and coffee.....mixed in with good friends from around the village, and you have our ethos.....good coffee and good company!

We also welcome a varied number of stalls selling crafts and produce, and will hold our Grand Easter Raffle in April. All profits from the Coffee Shop go towards Village Hall funds.

Do come and give our formula a try on the 1st Saturday of every month from 10am until 12 noon, you will be very welcome !

Beryl Andrew (01622 843431)



## PEOPLE AND PLACES IN PROFILE

### The Len Valley and Beyond

In eighteenth century England few counties across the country were free of the taint of slavery. Investment in the global slave trade was on a level with investment in stocks and shares – the human lives involved entirely disregarded. But one county began to hold its head above the contamination of this infamous trade, when a handful of prominent individuals gathered in Kent to launch a campaign towards abolition.

In 1777 The Reverend James Ramsay, a former Royal Naval surgeon who had taken holy orders, returned to England from the Caribbean island of St Kitts where he had personally witnessed the brutal treatment of slaves. When in the Navy, Ramsay had served under Admiral Sir Charles Middleton aboard HMS Arundel in the West Indies. On arrival in Kent he went for a short time to live with Sir Charles and Lady Middleton at Barham Court in the village of Teston, near Maidstone. The reverend's objections to the practice of slavery had a marked effect on Lady Middleton and when in 1784, as Vicar of Teston, he produced a pamphlet: *Essay on the Treatment and Conversion of African slaves in the British Sugar Colonies*, Lady Middleton urged her husband, by now a politician and 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Barham, to take up the cause in Parliament.



But Lord Barham claimed an inadequacy to fight for abolition; instead he suggested the young MP William Wilberforce, whose Evangelical Christianity had led him to develop a fervent concern for reform. Lord and Lady Barham invited Wilberforce to meet James Ramsay at Barham Court, together with the ardent abolitionist Thomas Clarkson; both Wilberforce and Clarkson were Cambridge educated and of the same student generation there as the Prime Minister of the day, William Pitt the Younger. This meeting proved a pivotal juncture in the convoluted negotiations towards emancipation. Those present went on to form the nucleus of a group resolved to abolish the trafficking and use of slaves – they became known as *The Testonites*. Barham Court was used for campaign meetings and strategy sessions, adding to a list of nationally significant events already related to the house: Sir Reginald FitzUrse owned the Barham estate when he took part in the murder of Thomas Beckett in 1170. During the Civil War, when occupied by Royalist Oliver Butler, the property was sacked by Cromwell's army, an affront which eventually led to the Battle of Maidstone in 1648. The battle to abolish slavery seems a fitting sequel in this turbulent history.

Once the Testonite group was established and their campaign for abolition launched, Wilberforce became a frequent visitor to Barham Court, where Lady Barham continued to influence and support his work. He loved the house and its location overlooking the Medway at Teston, and wrote: "for the charm and softness of elegance I never held superior to Barham Court."

Born in 1759 at Hayes near Bromley, William Pitt the Younger was a political ally of William Wilberforce and close friend from Cambridge days. Pitt had declared his willingness to recognise a need for reform when in 1783 his political rival, Whig MP Charles Edward Fox, introduced a bill supporting the British East India Company which transported slaves from Africa. Fox stated that the bill was "necessary to save the company from bankruptcy." Pitt responded with: "Necessity is the plea for every human infringement. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

The two friends met frequently at Pitt's country seat, Holwood House in the village of Keston near Bromley. The current house, completed in 1826, is in the Greek Revival style; it was built on the site of William Pitt's former home which was described in Thomas Wilson's *Accurate Description of Bromley in Kent* as "a small neat, white building, more simple than elegant, built on a rise which commands one of the most fertile, variegated and extensive inland prospects in the whole county." Wilson considered it architecturally inferior for the country mansion of a Prime Minister. Pitt reacted by commissioning the architect John Soane to enlarge the property and Humphrey Repton to landscape the grounds – during which the remains of an Iron Age Fort were levelled.

Meetings between Pitt and Wilberforce at Holwood House often followed sessions held at Barham Court, giving Wilberforce the opportunity to privately brief the Prime Minister on developments. A 1788 Wilberforce diary entry reads: *At length I well remember a conversation with Mr Pitt in the open air at the root of an old tree at*

*Holwood...I resolved to give notice on a fit occasion in the House of Commons of my intention to bring forward the abolition of the slave trade.*

It took twenty years for the campaigners to partly achieve their goal, when in 1807, a year after William Pitt's death, the Act to abolish the transporting and trading of slaves was passed into law by Parliament. William Wilberforce continued to campaign for the abolition of the use of slaves, even after his retirement from politics in 1826. The Slavery Abolition Act was finally assured passage through Parliament just three days before Wilberforce died in 1833.

The two Kent houses that provided the backdrop for these momentous events have survived in very different ways. Barham Court was badly damaged by fire in 1932. Its original façade was then restored, the interior converted to offices and residential apartments attached. John Soane's design for Pitt the Younger's prime-ministerial residence has disappeared – but is nostalgically represented by the oak tree under which Pitt and Wilberforce sat discussing slave emancipation. This ancient, hollow shell, known as the Wilberforce Oak, is now surrounded and protected by a third generation sapling, descended from an acorn of the original tree.

Both Barham Court's façade and Holwood's oak tree hollow, stand today as testament to the fortitude of a small, progressive group, whose determination to eliminate a profoundly shameful exploit in human history, initiated the beginnings of freedom for countless people across the world.

Christina Wight

## THE VILLAGE CHOIR

(Kingswood Community Singers)



The aim of the Choir, last December, was to sing Christmas carols around the streets of Kingswood. However, the weather had other ideas. Not only were various members struck down with colds and sore throats, but on the second evening of carolling, the rain hammered down.

We would like to thank everyone who stopped what they were doing to, come to their doors, look out their windows, or join us in the street. We do hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Add to that The Choir's appearance at the school Christmas fayre where our music was a backdrop the stalls in the hall. It was a little bit of traditional Christmas cheer and we loved it all!

We are now practicing for the summer and can't wait for the lighter nights. Some of the songs we are dusting down are, Take Me Home Country Road, The Sound of Silence and Tie a Yellow Ribbon.

Look out for us at the Village Summer Fete or come along to the Kingswood School Hall, any Monday night in term-time. 7pm -8pm where you can see what we get up to. If you would like to join, don't worry, we won't ask you to audition or sing a solo (unless you want to!) Everyone is welcome, and to sing with others, is better than medicine...Sing Yourself Happy.

Or call Sue Chambers 843622

## Kingswood Short Mat Bowls Club

We had our Christmas meal quite early in December at the Weald of Kent, and which was enjoyed by all. We were delighted to have a new member join us before Christmas.

We are a small friendly group who meet every Wednesday afternoon at the Village hall, we would welcome any new members. Do not worry if you have never bowled before, we have spare equipment and someone always willing to teach you. If you are interested ring Mike Tandy on 01622 842209.



Brexit and near beyond in 10 verses

The day has arrived but should we be concerned?  
Since that vote in '16, just what have we learned?  
Well two PMs and a lot of MPs have come and gone  
And our closest European ally says adieu, tres bon!

With our MEPs now packing their bags and flying back  
They'll be hoping of new work offers they'll not lack  
So, a new beginning all round with trade offers to make  
Our Boris still promises us icing on our brand new cake!

Many elephants in the room now there to try and be fixed  
Let's hope they can be, without many party political tricks  
Health, education and infrastructure all needing some work  
Together with many other issues beneath the surface lurk!

Tory fixer, Dominic seems to be creating quite a few stirs  
With some saying that his influence now misses some whirs!  
At the same time Labour's R.L-B and Sir K.S. lock horns anew  
Who can persuade party faithful to vote for old or new view!

Coronavirus now gathers momentum from epidemic to what?  
W.H.O. and China determined to downplay its infectious lot!  
Do we believe the data we are fed, do we ingest stories told?  
How many more lies is this world selling to unsuspecting sold?

The Donald has escaped the justice he surely deserves, really?  
Uncle Sam's political system taken to Yankee hearts so dearly  
The State of the Union Address and Pelosi tearing up the script  
Ever get the feeling the Trump dynasty will never be tripped?

Back home and HS2 gets the nod despite big financial concern  
Not just that but a Scotland/Northern Ireland bridge, we learn  
Is deemed essential to cement the Anglo/Northern Irish relation  
Perhaps the customs point is at the bridge's midpoint station?

Then there's Bercow whose peerage is blighted beyond sense  
What a shame his commons exploits are now in the past tense  
For his speaker role he cannot change for the better or good  
I wonder, looking back, if he would consider that he should?  
A ballot in Eire sees all three parties' counts very nearly level  
Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and surging Sinn Fain courting the devil  
Our Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar maybe just clinging to his post  
Taunting Boris from his European base really not now a boast!

Well there it is, a brief history of our immediate Brexit time  
In ten verses I have related very topical news in this rhyme  
Brevity has forced a microscopical, irreverent viewpoint here  
But in all of this irrational mumbo- jumbo I hold most dear!

Kingswood's Resident Poet

**Would you like to promote your business?**

**Then consider advertising in this Magazine**

**Contact**

**Dam Bower**

**Parish Clerk**

**parishclerk@bandkpc.org**

**01622 8435471**



Your Parish Council has recently made a donation to the Heart of Kent

Hospice. When they applied for the grant they advised that 12 out of the 1009 patients referred to their care last year were from this Parish.

The heart of Kent Hospice provides palliative and end of life care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in their Inpatient Unit. They also provide care in the community, a Dementia Service and a Living Well Programme.

### MAGIC SQUARES

**Fill in grids so that each column, row and diagonal adds up to 34**

		1	
	11	14	
3	10		
	5	9	4

If you have a poem or article you would like included in the next parish news, please let your parish clerk know.



## BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD TWINNING GROUP

An organisation called, History Denver, brought 21 visitors to Kingswood last year. History Denver had arranged for a group of Americans to visit their "Twins" in Europe, and the party was made up of visitors from various towns and cities in Colorado, USA. Their first stop was Portsmouth then Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, and then on to Kingswood. Unfortunately, there were no visitors from Broomfield, Colorado, OUR twin, but that did not stop the Twinning Group from welcoming the visitors and hosting a splendid afternoon tea and a meet & greet with our residents on a chilly November day. The tables were set out with an eclectic mix of china cups and saucers and plates of delicious cakes, baked by Twinning Group members or kindly donated by residents of & Broomfield & Kingswood. (Thank you to all those concerned.)

After a morning spent at Leeds Castle and a carvery lunch, they were ready for a cuppa and a chance to talk about all things Broomfield & Kingswood.

There was an exchange of email addresses and short speeches of thanks, on both sides, before they returned to their hotel. They had an early start the next day, before making their way to Belgium, later, the French Alps, and finally Geneva.

We hope that the members of the History Denver management team spread the word about the warm welcome they received. There have, already, been emails sent to various people on the tour and the replies have been full of praise for the hospitality shown to them.

### KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

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

Sadly we have lost a few members in the last year or so, therefore we are particularly keen to welcome new players of any vintage or ability. So do 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 for the winner and the wooden spooner!!

In December we all enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at The Ridge Golf Club. This was paid for entirely from the accumulated funds collected during the previous 12 months. Several "significant other halves" also joined us.

So don't sit at home watching *four in a bargain hunt doctors dine with me*. Do come along and enjoy a fun afternoon with ordinary folk who don't bite!! We will be delighted to see you.

For further information please ring Mike on 844272 or just turn up next Tuesday.



### SAVE THE DATE:

SOUTH LANE GROUP PRACTICE MUSIC FESTIVAL

28 June 2020

All monies raised go to improving the surgery and buying much needed equipment.

There will be more stalls this year. If you would like to have a stall or can donate a raffle prize, please contact Maggie via email: [ladyroberta12@gmail.com](mailto:ladyroberta12@gmail.com).

Maggie is happy to collect the raffle prizes from you or they can be left in the surgery.





There has been an exciting buzz around Kingswood this term on our return from the festive holidays. Children came back enthusiastic and ready to learn. Our football teams won their first games of the season against other local schools and the Glo Disco was well attended and enjoyed by all. Pupils have been learning about Dinosaurs, Frozen Planet and 1066, not to mention a visit from 'The Queen' herself (thank you to staff for the amazing costume)! This term has also seen the pupils learning about how to be safe on the internet, as well as launching our new slogan of a 'happy mind is a healthy mind'. Our Wellbeing Warriors are out on the playground to support this ready to talk and play with other pupils, or simply just hold hands with the little ones. We look forward to Term 4 where I know pupils will continue to shine with our school values and earn Golden Character Coins for their positive attitudes and actions towards each other. We wish all in our village a happy Spring time and we can't wait for the flowers to start to bloom!

### **What's Been Happening at Kingswood Primary School?**

#### **Terms 2 & 3:**

- We raised £186.21 for the Poppy appeal.
- We have played after-school football matches against several other local primary schools.
- We raised £176.27 for BBC's Children in Need.
- Children wore their onesies on Diabetes Awareness Day
- A theatre company came in during the last week of term to perform the pantomime "Cinderella" for the children as a Christmas treat.
- The Friends of Kingswood School raised funds for the school at the Christmas Fair, Christmas Performances and the Autumn Ball.

Our open mornings and afternoons were very well attended.

#### **Term 4.....so far!**

- The Lenham School have been coming in to do Football and Gymnastics with some of the children.
- A trip to Battle Abbey for Birch Class.
- The school choir are taking part in the Maidstone Primary Orchestra and Choir Day in the summer so they have been busy rehearsing.
- Year 4 went to the Lenham School for a PE Workshop.

The children will be coming dressed as their favourite book character for World Book Day.

We continue to offer guitar lessons to the children and other extra-curricular clubs including Dance, Football, Science, Film, Games Club and Crusaders.

#### **Future Events**

Year 5 & 6 are going on a Residential Trip in June.

Sports Day will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Storytime for Pre-School Children**

If you have a child aged between 3 and 5 years, and would like to visit our school for a story with our youngest children, we would be delighted to see you on a Thursday from 2.45pm-3.05pm.

No need to book – just turn up on the day.



#### **Thank You**

Thank you to Kingswood Christmas Trees who donated a Christmas Tree to the school.

Lynsey Sanchez Daviu  
Head of School

## Kingswood Bluebells Group



We are a group of ladies who meet once a month with a varied programme of activities throughout the year. This year's programme will include talks by various speakers, a film evening, afternoon tea, China painting and card making among other things. Some activities take place in the Hall on 2nd Monday of the month at 8pm and for others we go out during the day, so that everyone can participate and enjoy each other's company, which is so important to all of us in our small community.

If you are interested in joining us please ring Beryl Andrew on 01622 843431 for more details.

## LEAD THE WAY DOG TRAINING

It has certainly been a busy couple of sessions, both the November intake and the February intake have been full. We have 9 new puppies at the moment all doing very well.

We are pleased to announce that we had 8 dogs and handlers pass their Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze test, 3 passed their Silver Test and 2 passed their Gold Test. We are delighted with this as we know how much hard work goes into their training.

So, congratulations to: Bronze: Claire and Indie, Gus and Elsie, Jay and Zoe, Rod and Jess, Frank and Charlie, Leigh-ann and Harley, and Holly and Boots. Silver: Pat and Holly, Hayley and Odin, and Calvin and Nellie. Gold: Jon and Nobby and Chloe and Roxy.

We are very pleased to have a new assistant trainer, Megan. Megan has had dogs and horses of her own for years and is eager to learn how to train others.

Dog Owners please be aware that Alabama Rot, which is a killing disease of dogs has been reported as near as Paddock Wood. This disease lives in wet and muddy areas during the winter months. It is difficult to cure. It produces sores often found first in the feet and face but will quickly spread to the kidneys. So to avoid this, keep away from very muddy areas, and wash off your dog's paws and face when you return from your walk. If your dogs develop raw areas of skin do seek vet advice immediately.

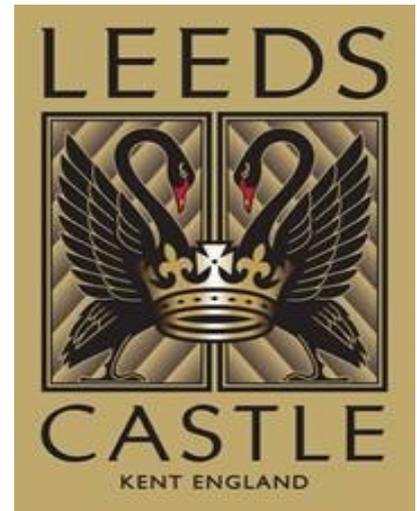
I hope that one day when I write this report that I will not have to mention dog mess on our village streets, but at the last coffee shop a lady told me that once again, someone had just allowed their dog to mess outside her home, how dreadful that there are still people that are happy that someone else should clear up their dogs mess, and in turn, giving us all a bad name. We do need to report these to the authorities, and I am happy to do that for anyone. So, if you do have the name of the person or photos on your mobile phone or CCTV, let me know.

Janet & Marion



Throughout England there are many great estates. Some are quite literally huge. They have enormous influence on the development of the land around them, quite simply because they own most of it! Many own the villages that used to or continue to support the estate, and large farms that provide an income for the maintenance of the 'big house'. The series and films about Downton Abbey captured this image relatively well.

When Lady Baillie created the Leeds Castle Foundation she left the Castle and five hundred or so acres of protected parkland to the new Charity. Much of the remainder of her land in the immediate area was bequeathed to her family and, of course, she protected the interests of some of her team by providing them with cottages in which they continue to live. Today, the Leeds Castle estate is, however, a very distinct entity and that is why in my last newsletter I wrote about how our visitors can almost wrap their arms around the estate. There are no villages within the boundary of the estate, no farms to ensure the protection of the landscape for generations to come, and no rights over neighbouring land to protect against development.



The pressure on the local and county councils to build new homes and businesses is as intensive as ever. The Leeds Castle Foundation will not stand in the way of much needed progressive economic development that might enhance the livelihoods of the local population, but will fight its corner if the future benefits of this heritage asset to the local and tourist community are threatened. We will always work in partnership with the local parish councils in objecting to development, and will always try to provide a balanced view.

Some years ago, we objected to potential commercial development at Waterside Park, just off the Junction 8 roundabout. We objected for two reasons; first because we truly believed that the development would have an adverse effect on the character of this great estate, and deter visitors in the future, thereby risking its long-term financial viability; and second because we saw this as the thin edge of the wedge in planning terms, likely to lead to the 'green' M20 Junction 8 becoming brown with intensive commercial development. Planning permission was at first granted but on appeal to an Inspector (after significant work by the local parishes and other authorities including Leeds Castle), was rejected. The Council's recent call for areas of land to be identified for development purposes has once again raised the spectre of development being approved at Junction 8, despite the fact that it is contrary to the Council's policy in the recent Local Plan and despite the earlier ruling by the Planning Inspector that such development would adversely affect the area.

You will not be surprised to learn therefore that I have recently written to the Council highlighting our concern that Junction 8 may once again be considered for intensive development – the so-called Waterside Park development. In my letter I have highlighted the continuing economic and social benefits to the community of Leeds Castle and the estate. I have once again mentioned that the estate contributes about £35M per annum to the local economy, provides work for over 350 people, and has business contacts with about 1,000 local suppliers who, in small or large part, depend on the good financial health of the Leeds Castle Foundation. I fully recognise that development at Junction 8 may indeed contribute to the local economy. My message to the Council, however, is that in deciding any development proposal, the benefits must be judged against the consequential disadvantages, not only to the environment and to increased congestion on already congested roads, but also the risk of a reduced contribution to the local economy by existing enterprises, such as Leeds Castle.

In one of the recent lifestyle magazines I saw a picture of Leeds Castle with the banner headline of "Leeds Castle is one of the jewels in the South East's Heritage areas". My feeling is that this jewel will not shine so brightly if the approach off Junction 8 becomes through a heavily developed commercial area, increasing hugely the number of vehicles on the roads that are already congested. The Leeds Castle Foundation is a charity and I firmly believe that such status demands that we rarely become involved in local or national politics. Only when necessary will we make our objections known and

only in concert with those authorities and interests which seek the Foundation's contribution to the debate. I believe that any development at Junction 8 needs very careful and balanced consideration but, for the reasons the Planning Inspector rejected earlier proposals, there is no basis for considering a similar planning application now.

As I write, the snowdrops are spectacular, the daffodils are showing their heads and the female swans are proving to be very attractive to their mates! Spring is on the way and there is no better place to be than in the Leeds Castle estate at this time of year. I hope that you will visit soon.

Sir David Steel  
Chief Executive

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### Your Parish Council

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**Councillors:**

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 VACANCY



## Kingswood Church article for the Parish News - 17 February 2020

I do hope you managed to survive Storm Dennis. According to the Metro news 'British storms started being named in 2015,' in alphabetical order to make it easier 'to distinguish between the different storms. Storm names alternate between male and female' so the next one will be Storm Ellen. If we get to Storm Willow we really have had a bad year!

All this made me think of the time when the disciples were in a boat and 'without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping' (Matthew 8:24). I wonder how many times we think that Jesus is asleep on the job when we are waiting for an answer to our prayers. Thinking they were going to drown, the disciples woke Jesus up and 'he got up rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm' (8:26). In the same way, when we call on him, Jesus can calm the troubled waters of our lives.

Last December our dear friend Pauline Moore suddenly and unexpectedly died. She had been active in village life and member of Kingswood Church for many years. During the service of celebration for her life at St Margaret's Church, Broomfield on 8<sup>th</sup> January we heard from the family how Pauline had loved living in Kingswood and made so many friends who she treasured. Although Pauline had suffered for many years with scleroderma her uncomplaining attitude on life was an example to us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Michael and children William, Alistair and Emily.

For our **Lent Course** this year we will be joining with the Churches in the Southern Area for a Back to Basics course entitled 'How and why do we - read the Bible' (4<sup>th</sup> March), 'pray' (11<sup>th</sup> March), 'share our faith' (18<sup>th</sup> March) and 'go to Church' (25<sup>th</sup> March). We meet every Wednesday at St Nicholas's Church, Otham at 7:30pm for refreshments for a 7:45pm start. All are welcome.

Our **Easter egg hunt** this year will be at 12 noon after the **Palm Sunday/Café Service** on 5<sup>th</sup> April which starts at 11am with refreshments at 10:30am. Our services over Easter are on 10th April at 10:30am for a **Good Friday Reflection** followed by hot cross buns and at 11am on 12th April for an **Easter Day Family Communion**.

You are also most welcome to join us at any of our services which are held in the village hall every Sunday at 11am followed by refreshments except for the first Sunday of the month when we have refreshments at 10:30am before the **Cafe Service** at 11am.

May I wish you all on behalf of the Church a very **Happy Easter!**

Peter Roberts,  
Kingswood Church

### WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY

Parish Council Meeting—3rd Monday each month

Kingswood Pre-school—Mon 9.00—3.30 (9.00 — 3.00 from Sept 2019)

Tues 9.00— 12.00

Wed 9.00-12.00 (Lunch club 12.00-12.30)

Thurs 9.00-12.00 (Lunch club 12.00-12.30)

Fri 9.00—12.00 (9.00—3.00 from Sept 2019)

Leeds & Kingswood Scouts - Beavers, Tuesday 6.00—7.15pm: Scouts Wednesday 7pm;

Explorers Thurs 7.15pm; Cubs Fri 6.30

Cynophobia Assistance Group Mon 5.30— 6.30—Village Hall

KCC Mobile Library Saturday (fortnightly on a Saturday) Holly Tree Close, 11.15 - 12.45

Pre-school story time— Thurs—2.45—3.05—Primary School

Village Coffee Shop—1st Sat each month—10— 12pm—Village Hall

Lunch Club—Tues—12.15—1.45—Village Hall

Whist—Tuesdays—2—4pm—Village Hall

Karate— Tues & Thurs—6.30pm—Village Hall

Short Mat Bowls—Weds— 2pm—Village Hall

Dog Training—Wed—6.45pm Village Hall

Badminton—Thurs—1.30pm—Village Hall

Purple Yoga—Thurs evening—Village Hall



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## USEFUL CONTACTS

Kingswood church	Peter Roberts	01622 843625
KCC Councillor	Shellina Prendergast	<a href="mailto:shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk">shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>
KCC Community Warden	Dawn Riach-Brown	07773 397125
Member of Parliament	Helen Whately	020 7219 6472
MBC Councillor	Gill Fort	<a href="mailto:gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk">gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk</a>
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

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	Janet Tandy	01622 842209
Karate	Chris Simpson	07801 639052
Kingswood Church	Peter Roberts	01622 843625
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
Parish Council	Pam Bower	07719 317702 / 01622 843741

### Published by Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council

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