



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



Broomfield & Kingswood News

Spring 2023

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Useful Contact Details

BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Hayley Roberts
PARISH CLERK/RFO

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

COLD CALLING

Currently the village is not a no cold calling zone however one can be set up but would require volunteers. If you are interested please contact Hayley, Parish Clerk.

Even with a no cold calling zone in place it is not illegal to cold call and no cold calling zone areas are not enforceable.

Remember: keep the chain on the door; ask for their identity card; if you are not sure, do not let them in and NEVER hand over cash or your bank details to people who turn up on your doorstep.

If you do feel threatened dial 999 and for non-urgent calls call 101.

I do have a limited number of no cold calling stickers available, please feel free to contact me and I can provide you with one.

INCIDENTS AND ISSUES MUST BE REPORTED

If issues/crimes are not reported the Police cannot respond and the Parish Council has no enforcement capabilities.

You must report things on the reporting section of the Kent Police website which can be accessed via the following link or ring 101:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>

Please remember that our PCSO is not contactable by phone and ALL incidences must be reported to 101 not to our PCSO.

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

Did you know we have a defibrillator in the village? Do you know where it is located?

Below is a photo of the location on the NISA shop forecourt on Charlesford Avenue.



There are instructions on the box, including how to obtain the access code.

The defibrillator will speak to you and advise you of what to do.

The defibrillator is maintained by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish, please report any issues to Hayley, Parish Clerk.

Becoming a Parish Councillor

Have you ever wanted to contribute more to your community? Want to know what's actually involved with regards to being a Parish Councillor?

Please read on

To appreciate what is involved in being a Parish Councillor you need to know what a Parish Council is, and what it can and cannot do. We have to get the image of the Vicar of Dibley out of our mind and understand that the Parish Council is nothing to do with the Church or the Diocese; nor is it a voluntary and community sector body.

"Your Parish Council is the local authority closest to the electorate"

A Parish Council is a separate legal, corporate entity. First created by the Local Government Act of 1894.

A Parish Council also provides services for the local people. These can range from recreation grounds, play areas, allotments, nature reserves, and a cemetery. What can be provided is down to the Parish Council. There is a list of the activities that a Parish Council has the power to provide. Like any statutory body it can only do the things for which the law or any governing body document gives a power.

The Parish Council has one particular asset that is extremely valuable – it has the ability to set a Precept (sum of money), which is collected from all residents through the Community Charge system.

With the right to levy a form of taxation come some duties. In particular a duty to behave in an ethical manner according to a Code of Conduct (declaring interests and leaving the room when likely to be prejudiced) and a duty to have the annual accounts subjected to audit under the aegis of the Audit Commission.

Training is available and support will be found from colleagues, the Parish Clerk, as well as from the Kent Association of Local Councils.

You may feel uncertain about the knowledge required to be a Councillor and may feel overawed by those who have done the job for years. Rather like the story of the Emperor's New Clothes – the simple question was the key to what was going on. All good Councillors should use the keyword – "Why?" on a regular basis. Remember training and support is available.

So, if you want to do more for your community, if you want to spend your time productively, and if you can think, listen and act locally – **why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor? Speak to Hayley, Parish Clerk NOW!**

POSTCARD CORNER - Comic Postcards by Donald McGill

Ma'am, I've looked after 'em so long that
treat 'em same as if they were alive!"



It was seaside humour at its most wicked. The jokes sent holidaymaker's rolling around in fits of giggles, and induced similar explosive laughter when they duly fell on to the doormat of those back home. For years even decades those naughty comic postcards were celebrated by holidaying Brits until eventually their risqué greetings were curiously removed from seaside stands.

Donald McGill (1875 to 1962) was a prolific cartoonist and artist at the turn of the century and his work became very popular in the 20's and 30's. He is credited as being the person who popularised the humorous seaside postcard, and he produced hundreds of designs during his career.



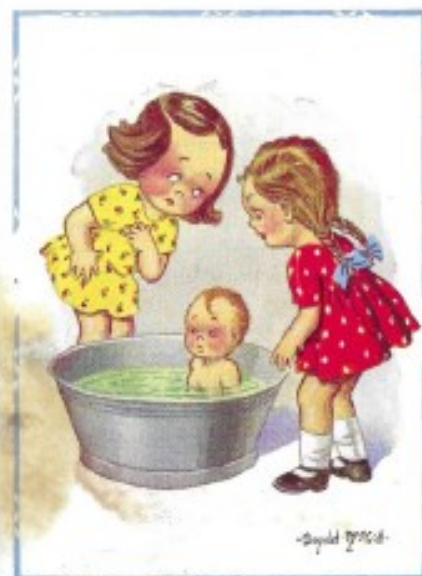
"Lummy! My missis will
think I've been made a
sergeant!"

"And it's very rude, when you're
talking to a lady to keep your
hands in your pockets."

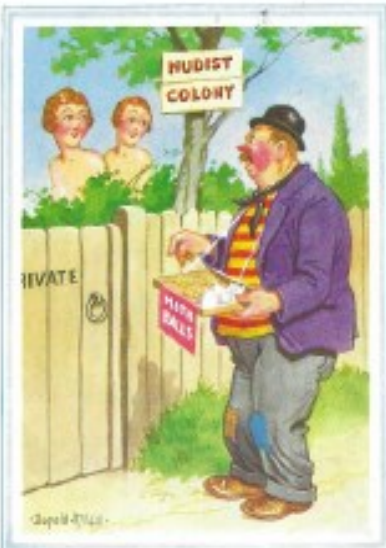
"It'd be ruder if I didn't—'cos I
ain't got no braces!"



"It isn't a whistle. I've tried!"



The optimist: "any moth halls today, Ladies?"



"Nobody knows where the wind comes from
When o'er the glens it's blowing;
You don't know and I don't know—
But I know where it's going!"



"You know all about stuffing birds, Mister?"
"I certainly do, Son!"
"Well then, you know where you can stuff this one!"



"I'm getting it for Father to put on the Rhubarb!"
"Oh, Mother always puts Custard on ours!"

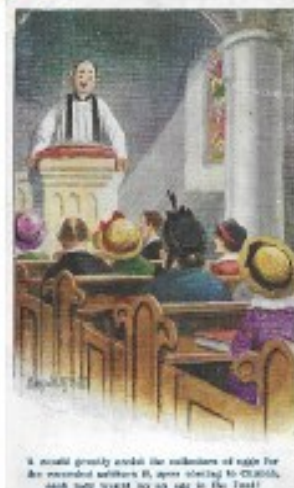


Ron Kemp

"Yes dear, an' she's a clever woman — she can eat Macaroni without lifting her veil!"



"GIE ME SAXPENN'ORTH
O' WHATEVER THAT GENTLEMAN HAD, PLEASE!"



A would greatly assist the collection of eggs for
An excellent edition of, open starting to 1910, 1911
and 1912. Write to the Editor.

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. Come along for a couple of weeks and then 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 £3.50. Please either come along or give Mike Tandy a call for more information on 01622 842209.

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 8th year, having helped so many children overcome their fear of dogs. We have 14 dogs on our list, we have a rota of seven dogs each Monday, helping on average each week 20 children. We are always on the lookout for new dogs, they do have to have some basic training and are of sound temperament.

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 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 if you can, for donations.

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

Lead the Way Dog Training. Wednesday evenings.

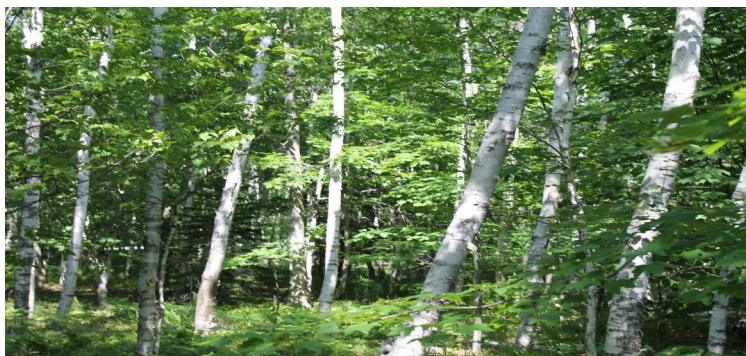
We run Puppy training classes following the Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Course, after which you can continue with us and gain the KC Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We are also experienced with rescue dogs too. We run very popular dog training classes throughout the evening.

Our senior trainer is a Kennel Club Accredited Instructor, City & Guilds and affiliated to the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers. Last year we lost Marion Street who has moved from the area and so is unable to come along to take some of the classes, although she is still helping on a Monday where many of the dogs we have trained have gone on to become assistance dogs or cynophobia dogs helping the children overcome their fear. For further information please contact Janet on 01622 842209.

Wood Crop

When I hear the chainsaws start up in the autumn and winter months, I feel all is right with the world, as the trees are being looked after and our local wood crop is being brought in.

If you look closely at our trees in Kingswood and adjacent Abbey Wood, you will notice that the sweet chestnuts are arranged in a grid pattern, with occasional mature oaks, and scrub birch on the edges. This is an ancient wood, with the associated flora and fauna, but the majority of our current trees were planted centuries ago by the local big estates as what we would now refer to as a 'sustainable crop'. While the woodland itself was owned by landowners such as those of Leeds Castle and East Sutton, the wood (the standing timber) was auctioned off every 14 years or so to woodcutters for coppicing. Each 'cant' (area) of wood sold was demarcated by the oaks.



The woodsmen (and yes, the physical nature of the job meant that it was almost exclusively males that undertook the work) would then coppice and process the wood.

Coppicing involves cutting the tree to about a foot or so from the ground. It must take place between September and end of March (or rather, before the sap rises), in the dormant phase of the trees' year. This then promotes new tree growth, and coincidentally provides a period of sunlight on the woodland floor in which the bluebells thrive. For the health of the tree, once coppiced they must continue to be coppiced throughout their long lives, otherwise there comes a point when the branch-trunks which are angled out from the base, fall, splitting into the root base which in turn can rot, preventing regrowth. Equally problematic, if the trees are cut during spring and summer they are effectively being felled rather than coppiced, as they are also very unlikely to be able to regrow.

Coppiced wood has been used in a number of ways, including charcoal, and as fuel for smelting ore in the bell pits of the area, but commonly it was, and is, used for fencing. Mid century, this was simple 4" stakes with split rails nailed to them and possibly pig wire added, or stock fencing (stakes with pig wire and barbed wire across the top).

The 1987 gales created a hiccup in the traditional pattern, though, as so many trees came down (including the marker oaks) that the wood couldn't be processed. Simultaneously there was a fencing shortage caused by gale damage. This resulted in an increase in imported fencing. Meanwhile changes in banking and housing meant that potential upcoming woodsmen couldn't obtain mortgages on the traditional pattern of buying, processing and selling on. For several decades many trees failed to be coppiced. While there were and are a few individual wood cutters still working, they are few and far between, and larger firms have come into their own. When coppicing recommenced landowners often had to pay firms to cut their trees, somewhat affecting the traditional economic pattern. The firms often use much larger machinery and their employees are better able to obtain housing in the more modern market.

The resulting bigger coppiced timber is now commonly processed and sold as the picturesque 'Sussex' type post and rail (as seen near the golf course beside Chartway Street; in this case grown and hand processed less than half a mile away) which uses longer-grown chestnut. Smaller timber is still used for stock fencing stakes, but it is rare to see split rails. It remains to be seen as to whether or not the old 14 year cycle returns.

Article by AmB



LUNCH CLUB

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE HALL



TUESDAY 12.30-1.45

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT; PAT LYNE 01622 843672

Remember,
I need
photo ID
to vote

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

Local elections
Police and Crime Commissioner elections
UK parliamentary by-elections
Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information visit:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE

The Three Suttons Helpline, after a pause during the worst of the pandemic, is now active again. The Helpline volunteer drivers give lifts to people to medical appointments, when friends or family are unavailable – and can occasionally help with other things, such as essential shopping or collecting prescriptions. The scheme is available to people who live in Kingswood, Broomfield, Langley, East Sutton, Chart Sutton and Sutton Valence – and to patients of the Orchard Surgery in Langley and Sutton Valence Surgery.

If this service may be helpful for you, please do telephone one of the numbers below. (Please do not contact any other numbers which you may have used in the past.) and, hopefully, the person who answers your call will be able to arrange for someone to take you to and from your appointment. Obviously, if you can give a reasonable amount of notice, the more likely it is that we can find someone to help you.

07425 582534. OR. 01622 844301

Please note that we are not part of the NHS or Social Services and that the drivers use their own cars and give their time for free; but that donations towards the cost of petrol are much appreciated, so that the volunteers are not left out-of-pocket. (Please do speak to the person organising your lift or to the person driving you if you are unable to offer a donation.)

We are very grateful to Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council for their support and their recent donation to the scheme, which will be used for insurance, leaflets, telephone calls, paying petrol costs if people are unable to afford a donation etc.)

If you have any other queries about the scheme – or if you think you may be able to consider being a driver, please do contact the coordinator, Christine Parkes (Tel. – 01622 842217 or email christineparkes@hotmail.co.uk)



The Coronation of King Charles III
Saturday 6th May 2023
at
Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall

Kingswood Church invites everyone to
join us watching the Coronation
on a big screen

Doors open at 10:00 am

Bring and share lunch
(bring what you like to eat and share it)
Tea/coffee and soft drinks will be provided

Tickets required to reserve your place

Contact Sonya Roberts 01622 843625/07766 228868
sonyaroberts@icloud.com

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The daffodils look lovely
The weather's on the turn.
I'm looking at the bits of clutter
Spring cleaning times returned.
I found that piece of jigsaw
Retrieved from behind the couch.
I did a lunge and didn't bend
And my poor back said ouch.
The gardens budding, birds are nesting
And I've finished dusting hubby.
So I'll slow down, make him cake
But not for me as I looked down and saw my tummy.

By Pat Pocock



In search of spring at Leeds Castle by Lynn Chapman

One of my favourite places to visit is Leeds Castle. I feel very fortunate to have this wonderful place on my doorstep.

Being a keen photographer, my most recent visit was to seek out and photograph evidence that spring is almost upon us and after a cold, dark winter, the sight of daffodils and snow-drops would surely bring a smile to my face and a warmth to my heart.

I met my friend Maggie in the car park and off we went with our cameras in search of all things spring.

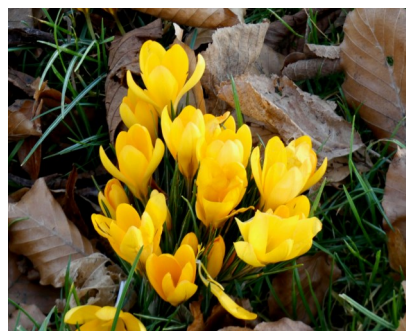
As usual, we were followed at the entrance by plenty of Ducks, excited by the prospect of being fed, but they soon left us when they realised we had nothing for them.

Our first picture stop was for a majestic swan, gliding across the lake towards us, also looking for food. I love these birds but haven't seen that many of them around the grounds over the past few months. But then again, it is a 500-acre site, so plenty of places to hide from public view!



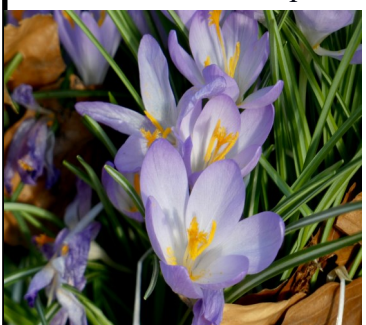
It wasn't long before we spotted the snowdrops, and plenty of them too, clumped together. The white, bell-like flowers standing out amongst the vast greenery in the background.

As we continued our walk towards the courtyard restaurant for the obligatory hot drink, there were plenty of opportunities to photograph the thousands of daffodils in bloom, looking delightful against the stunning backdrop of the castle itself. With the winter sun glistening on the mote and the bright blue skies, this was a photographer's dream.



After comparing our pics over a well-earned cuppa, we continued our walk and came across some beautiful lilac and yellow crocuses scattered around a tree opposite the castle. These are small flowers, but so pretty and definitely add to the spring-like feel of the place.

We saw a couple more swans and a cygnet on the great water, plus lots of Geese, Ducks, Magpies



and Seagulls. Most were enjoying the sunshine, whilst some were more interested in searching the path for any crumbs of food that may have been dropped by visitors.

As we neared the exit, we heard rustling in a nearby bush. Cameras poised, we waited patiently for the squirrel to come into full view. He spotted us but stood brazenly on the path in front of us munching away on what looked like a plant stem, almost as if he was posing for us. But he soon made himself scarce, climbed up the nearest tree and settled on a branch.

He stayed on that branch long enough for us to get some fantastic photos and we left feeling that spring was finally in the air.



The Kingswood Bluebells

The Bluebells is a ladies group who meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We have a varied programme of events during the year as well as trips out, including China Painting, Afternoon Tea, Film night and of course Christmas Lunch.

We are very friendly and welcoming, so do phone for more details.

Beryl Andrew (843431)

KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 until 4.30pm. 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! Of course we all try to win but the main objective is to have a really sociable afternoon with the opportunity to meet lots of new people.

We welcome new players of any vintage or ability and are delighted that several have now joined since the end of the lockdown. So do come along for some fun - 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 have an excellent Christmas lunch, last year it was at The Ridge Golf Club. Club. The Group contributes to the cost. Several "significant other halves" also join us.

So don't sit at home watching *four in a bargain doctors hunt 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.



KINGSWOOD BADMINTON CLUB



We meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Village Hall.

We are very much social players, ranging in ability from fairly average to very average.

We only play doubles as none of us are good enough to play singles!

The session is punctuated by a well-earned cuppa and banter.

We are always looking for new players of any ability.

So do come along any Thursday or phone Sue on 843626 for further information.

You won't be disappointed.

Kingswood Speedwatch Group

The Speedwatch group was formed early in 2022 to try and eradicate speeding within our village and surrounding area. Initially the group consisted of 7 volunteers and our formal training was completed on 10th February last year.

Since formation the group has grown to 12 people and it is a mix of people all from our local community, volunteering their time to undertake sessions around local roads. This can be from an hour a month to a couple of hours a week, there is no expectation to do sessions it's just when people have available time. It has enabled people to get to know more people from within our village.

This is what one of our new volunteers said recently about joining our Speedwatch group.

'As long-time residents of Kingswood we have become only too aware of the increase in both the numbers and the speeds of vehicles passing through the village. So, we are pleased to have joined the Group to do what we can to try to alleviate some of the problem. We have met several other members so far, some known, some not. All nice friendly people so the sessions have been very enjoyable. Good chat and plenty of banter, despite the sometimes-freezing conditions. It is very clear that even after only a few sessions, the presence of a Speedwatch Group at the roadside does have a noticeable effect on most drivers. Let's hope that with enough exposure that effect might be long lasting. Nevertheless, we are enjoying taking part and doing what little we can to help the village.'

KINGSWOOD SPEEDWATCH GROUP

2022 INFORMATION:

30MPH LIMIT

VEHICLES COUNTED: 12,074

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS: 438

FIRST OFFENDERS: 379

MULTIPLE OFFENDERS: 33

POLICE VISIT TO OFFENDER: 5

HIGH SPEED (OVER 45MPH): 8

TOP SPEED RECORDED: 49MPH



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US PLEASE EMAIL:
KINGSWOODSPEEDWATCH@OUTLOOK.CO.UK

Our first year was really successful, this information to the side shows the results of the sessions we held during 2022, this came from 110 sessions and from over 250 volunteer hours during the year. This can best be summarised by what one of our very first volunteer has said about Speedwatch.

'I love being involved with Speedwatch as I feel I am making a difference to road safety in my community. You are only asked to give what time you want; I usually give an hour or two a week to sessions as there is a group of about ten of us that share the sessions each week and for me it can be fitted around my work hours. It is very rewarding, and the majority of residents are very supportive. We are very grateful for the parish council and Kent Police support.'

Speedwatch is a county wide group and data is collated across the county and last year they identified 30,673 people speeding. It is fully supported by Kent Police and has support of county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.

Our group would really benefit from more volunteers to help with the sessions, which would enable us to do them more regularly throughout the week.

If you are interested please email kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk or you can email or speak to the Parish Clerk, we would really welcome your support.



Kent Police – New Community Interactive 2 Way Messaging Service

My Community Voice is a new and exciting two-way messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts sent by Kent Police, share information and most importantly, it allows you to tell the police about issues that are affecting you.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as being kept up to date with what is happening in your local area.

Unlike social media, My Community Voice is a secure and personal messaging system that allows you to determine what type of alerts you receive and how.

If you are passionate about your neighbourhood and want to have your voice heard, then sign up to My Community Voice via the QR code below.



My Community Voice allows you to comment by clicking the 'reply' link within a message. This will be sent back to the person that posted the alert. All emails are read and actioned. This service should not be used as a crime reporting tool. Please use www.kent.police.uk/report or in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999.

Sign up today to start getting alerts about the matters that mean the most to you such as community safety, anti-social behaviour, including speeding and many others. Kent Police

are committed to engaging with communities, **understanding what's important to them**, increasing trust and confidence and helping to protect people from harm. Police, partners, and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime. Sign up to My Community Voice now to keep up to date with what is really happening in your area.

www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk



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Tele: - (01622) 844805

Mobile: - 07732 468047

Email: - paulalisonbeaney@gmail.com

Sutton Valence Gardeners Association

With the lighter evenings and warmer days our thoughts are turning to our gardens now .Lovely to see the snowdrops and crocuses and the daffodils making a 'brave entrance 'in the cold !

Our Talk in February was entitled ' Gardening in a changing climate ' by Maureen Rainey - from Kent Wildlife Trust . It was very informative and there was lots of audience participation sharing experiences and hints and tips . Lots of discussions around conserving water and reusing water and how to encourage wildlife to your garden. The Flower of the month cup was won by Angela - congratulations Angela !

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our next Talk in March -' How I grow my Sweet peas' by Darren Everest. Let's hope that the snow which is forecast doesn't spoil our plans

Our Spring Show is 2nd April at Sutton Valence Village hall. Hall opens for viewing 2.15pm . Do come along and admire the talents of our members. Why not enter the Show yourself if you are a member ? Members: Please bring your exhibits along between 9am and 11am on Show day.

There will be further events during the year

For further information contact Ross 01622 693837 or email

suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com

Membership is £5.00 per year and also gives you discounts at local named retail outlets

VILLAGE LITTER PICK—MARCH 2023

Thank you SO much to everyone who volunteered their time on the 12th of March 2023 and came along to the Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council litter pick. Volunteers spent two hours collecting rubbish around Kingswood and Broomfield. The amount collected was incredible!

An extra special thank you to Karen and Claire who picked up over 30 bags of dog poo along Charlesford Avenue! That bag in the photo is full of dog poo bags!!

Well done everyone and keep an eye on emails, Facebook and the noticeboards for further dates!

Can Councillors remind residents that dog poo should be picked up and placed in a bin or taken home and placed in your bin. The amount of dog poo in the village at the moment is unacceptable!

If you come across any dog poo you can report it using the following website and MBC will come along and clear up the mess; https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_dog_mess



Kingswood and Broomfield Birdwatching Group March 2023

Dear Fellow Residents

KABBS was formed during lockdown in 2021 so we are very much a fledgling group, seeking to expand and grow our knowledge. We are a very friendly group who love a good natter and the occasional gentle trip to a reserve or local site. Please don't pay too much attention to our title as we have members from surrounding areas such as Lenham, Ulcombe and Headcorn – geography is no restriction on membership! Please also be aware that mobility is no issue either – we aim to be as inclusive as possible; anyone can enjoy watching the birds!

Our aims are broadly (but not restricted to):

- To record species in the parish
- To arrange group walks
- To share knowledge
- To hold regular meetings

To note other forms of wildlife in the area

New members most welcome. I can be contacted on mattmeek72@outlook.com for more information.

In terms of trips, we mix occasional reserve visits with more local stuff too.

With the roadworks on the Headcorn Road/Ulcombe Hill now finished, we will have had our first meeting of the year on Monday 20th March at Ulcombe Village Hall by the time this article is published.

At the last meeting we had at Ulcombe Village Hall, we were lucky enough to observe a pair of little owls busy hunting in the adjacent playing field. I have also seen them perched on telegraph poles by the road. It will probably be too dark to spot them on the above date but we can dream.



As regards recent sightings and patterns locally, it is pleasing to note that the skylarks remain present in good numbers up on the large crop field between Broomfield Road and Park Barn Farm Road. A few yellowhammers can also be found there if you are lucky. In fact, during some recent cold weather, a yellowhammer was observed poking around under a member's bird feeders in February. Redpolls, siskins, a brambling and a grey wagtail have also been observed in Kingswood. Another member reported good numbers of overwintering bramblings in fields in the Lenham area. In terms of more "ordinary" birds, goldcrests, nuthatches and finches continue to be seen in good numbers round the village. Goldfinches are particularly numerous these days as captured by Ceridwen Clarke in this lovely picture opposite:

Happily, buzzards remain a frequent sight overhead over most of Kent, including our parish – best seen on sunny days with not much wind. So far, we have had one reported sighting of red kites over Kingswood.

I hope we can welcome many more new members in the coming weeks and months. Meantime, enjoy the nature around us – we are so lucky to have such wonderful diverse countryside still, especially given the ever-encroaching development going on nearby.

Best wishes to all.

Matthew Meek



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH WELL BLESSING

You may be curious to know the history of the "Well Dressing" at St. Margaret's Church (or, as it is now known "Well Blessing").

It all came about in 1989 when the late Alan Jackson who lived in Barrack Cottages told me that there used to be a dip in the ground that filled up with water, which horses drank out of. At the time there was no sign of a well, drain, or anything resembling either as the ground was thickly covered over by grass. The Late Jim Martin (who lived in the village at the time) and I happened to mention it to The Late Captain Bill Waters. Bill jumped at the chance to tell us about the annual well dressing ceremonies in Derbyshire. He wondered if it would be possible for us to produce something similar in Broomfield.

Jim who being a wild life expert and liked, in his spare time, nothing more than digging out ponds when he wasn't bird watching was more than keen when I suggested excavating the site.

A weekend was set aside and Jim and I set to with pick axes, spades and forks and got down to digging. We were the navvies and Derek Hadlow was the Overseer. Thankfully he did not wield a whip, but sometimes it felt as though he was. Everything was going well (not meant to be a pun) when suddenly my fork pierced a canister contains CS gas, which exploded and I ended up out of action for about an hour due to my mouth frothing up and for a while they thought I was blinded. I was duly carted off to Casualty in Derek's kitchen. Well when I was more or less recovered Jim and I continued digging with Derek still overseeing proceedings. EUREKA! Our quest for WATER was finally over. Alan always swore it wasn't a well, but a dip. However, there is a possibility that there is a well at Bank Cottages further down the road. Also recorded a well just above Rose's Farm which served all cottages nearby, which apparently was capped after WW2 (well your guess is as good as mine - is the well a well or not?)

In 1990 the first Well Dressing took place where local children put baskets of flowers round the well. 1991 saw the first large floral display designed and worked on by Derek and several helpers. Each year there is a different theme.

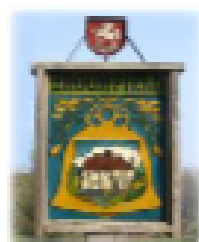
Will 2023 be 'The Coronation' Inside the porch at St. Margaret's there is a display of photographs taken over most of the years that the "Well Dressing" now known as "Well Blessing" has taken place. Without Derek and those who help him, this annual event would possibly cease.

There was one local would be entrepreneur (or joker) who suggested that we could bottle our own St. Margaret's spring water, especially as bottled water is much more expensive and supposedly much better for one's health than tap water and of course this one would also have the added advantage of being holy!

If you look on the Web site it is named as a Holy Well or Sacred Spring and it was documented in 1507.

DAVID LYNE





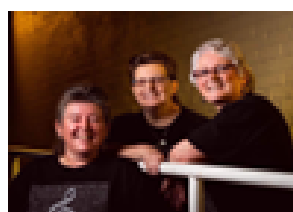
Come along and join
Broomfield and Kingwood
Parish Council to celebrate



The King's Coronation

Monday 8th of May 2023

Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall



FOOD VAN, BAR AND TEA/COFFEE

2pm - 3pm - Legacy



3pm - 4pm - Family dance lesson



4pm - 5.30pm - Samuel Ashton

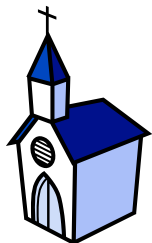


5.30pm - 6pm - Dance performance

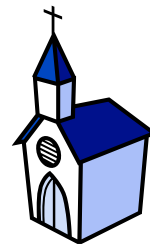
6pm - 8pm - The Real Deal Band

2pm-8pm

Bring your picnic blanket and come along with
friends and family and enjoy an afternoon of
music, food, drinks and entertainment!



Kingswood Church article - March 2023



We were reminded in Church recently that it was three years ago that we went into lockdown and all our Services were on-line. One of the many casualties of lockdown was a trip that my wife and I were going to make in June 2020 to Oberammergau, a town in the Bavarian Alps in Germany, to see the Passion Play. We finally went to see the play in June 2022, the organisers sensibly putting it back two years.

The play originated with a vow that was taken by the local people in 1633 when the plague was raging throughout Europe including Oberammergau. 'People sought refuge in prayer and vowed: If the dying stops, every ten years we will stage the "play of the passion, death and resurrection of the our Lord Jesus Christ" and in fact, no one died of the plague from that day on' (*extract from the 2022 Passion Play Oberammergau text book*).

The Passion Play has been performed every ten years since 1634 so it was rather ironic that in 2020 it had to be postponed due to, another plague, covid-19! The play is an enormous undertaking given that the wonderful cast of adults and children are all from Oberammergau. The orchestra and choir are also amazing and include people from outside the town.

The play commences on Palm Sunday with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the crowd shouting, 'Blessed be the Anointed One! Hosanna! Children rush onto the stage trying to get a glimpse of Jesus and be the first one to touch him. The expulsion by Jesus of the merchants from the temple is also vividly portrayed as pigeons fly away, sheep escape and money is scattered everywhere in the chaos.

The tension mounts with the portrayal of the Last Supper, the betrayal of Jesus by Judas and Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane. The way to the cross and the crucifixion are punctuated by the famous words spoken by Jesus ending with, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me'.

The play ends with an empty cross, witnessing to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the women on seeing the empty tomb are told by the angel, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, he has risen from the dead'.

Although the play is in German (I wish I had paid more attention to German lessons in school) the text can be followed in English. Of course, we cannot all see the Passion Play at Oberammergau, the next one is in 2030, but we can all experience the love of God and be thankful for what Jesus has done for us in dying on the cross and live with the hope of the resurrection from the dead.

I would thoroughly recommend a visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2030!



Jesus' entry into Jerusalem



The expulsion of the merchants from the temple

Our **Easter Egg Hunt** this year will be at 12 noon after the **Café Service** on 2nd April, which is **Palm Sunday**, and starts at 11am with refreshments at 10:30am. Our other services over Easter include a **Good Friday Reflection** on 7th April at 10:30am, followed by hot cross buns, and an **Easter Sunday Family Celebration** at 11am on 9th April.

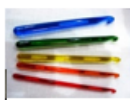
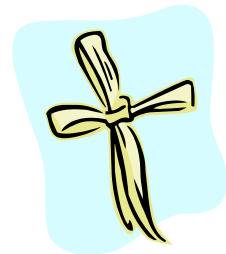
You are most welcome to join us at any of our services which are held in the village hall every Sunday at 11am followed by refreshments except for the first Sunday of the month when we have refreshments at 10:30am before the **Cafe Service** at 11am.

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

Peter Roberts,

Kingswood Church

peterjohnroberts@hotmail.com



? New Crafting Group in Kingswood ?



Would you be interested in a new Crafting Group in Kingswood?
Learning from each other, sharing ideas and equipment, developing and improving crafting skills,
and possibly (probably) cake and company?

Meeting every 6 weeks or so, in the Village Hall, in the afternoon or during the evening?

This message is to see if there is enough interest to make it work,
so please get in touch and let me know

Thanks for reading
Ceridwen 07925 508050

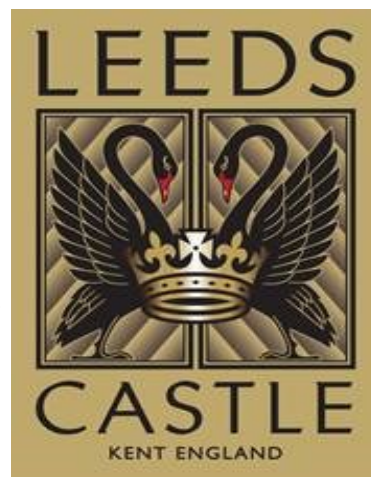
Parish Magazine – April 2023

The gardens are coming to life with snowdrops, daffodils and hellebores out all over the estate. It is always lovely to feel that spring is coming, albeit the recent freezing rain and dusting of snow indicates otherwise!!

We are nearing delivery of a number of new experiences for 2023, which will launch from April 2023.

For Easter holidays, we will be running a new design led trail with the ever-popular chocolate prize, at a small extra charge to cover costs.

We will also be launching a new Castle trail, featuring the characters of Boots and Danny, Lady Baillie's Great Danes. Families will be loaned UV torches, so children can search for the UV dog bones hidden around the castle, receiving a pawprint stamp at the end. This is included in your 12 month ticket price.



Also ahead of Easter, we are changing the presentation in two of the Lower Gloriette rooms. The Private Dining Room will be re-dressed to show an intimate dining space, based on the Country Life photographs of the room during the 1930's and using items from the collection, including the Battel Hall Retable and three recently conserved 16th century tapestries, to create ambience. This will be presented as a dynamic space, where the guests have just left the lunch table, leaving crumbs, leftovers and lipstick stained wine glasses behind them.

Meanwhile the Private Writing Room will also be re-presented, showing Lady Baillie as an eclectic collector, with a scene of Miss Lemon, the private secretary instructing two workmen on unpacking the latest delivery of antiques from the auction house.

During April we will also be introducing a new multimedia guide, featuring audio, soundscapes, video and photos. This will be included within your ticket price. The first tour to be launched is a Castle History Tour, based in the 1930's since most of the Castle interiors date from this time, but exploring the different phases of Castle history, from medieval Queens to King Henry VIII, touching on the histories of the multiple owners of the Castle. This will be available in eight different languages.

From June, we will introduce another multimedia tour, focussed on the 1930's in more depth, so you can take a different tour when you re-visit the castle. This is also included in your 12-month ticket price.

For the family audience, we have two more new experiences. In the Knights Stronghold playground, we will be introducing three new slides, including a tall tunnel slide from the highest area of the playground. We are hoping these will be installed ahead of May Half Term.

Our Events Programme gets going again shortly and features a number of major events & experiences, all included in your ticket price.

At the beginning of May, we will launch a pop-up beach at the Maze family area, which will be in place until mid-September. Featuring umbrellas, deckchairs, beach huts and a seaside soundscape, we hope this will provide a great new experience for you to visit with the family or grandchildren over the spring and summer.

At the end of May the popular Queens Joust returns for three days and, as a former Royal Castle, we will also be celebrating the Coronation Weekend in early May, with some daytime activities, as well as a Coronation Dine and Sleep event.

Design Month returns in September, with a new sculpture trail and a stunning artistic installation in the Castle, as well as a Food & Drink Fair.

Hope you enjoy your walks round the estate this spring.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive

THE NUMBER 59 BUS

After various meetings and applications Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council are pleased to report that we, along with neighbouring parishes, have been able to secure a grant which will fund the number 59 bus service until March 2024. This scheme has been provided using Community Transport Funding provided by Kent County Council.

Although the service is not every day we hope that the one day a week service, see timetable opposite, will enable residents to access services and appointments and continue to social with friends outside of the parish.

Councillors continue to work with neighbouring parishes, bus companies and KCC to ensure this service remains. We ask that residents use the service regularly or there is the danger we will lose the bus service altogether!

Please note the following:

Nu-Venture bus 59 serves all fixed bus stops on line of route and on request will stop at any safe point in rural areas and villages. As the bus approaches, please give a clear hand-signal to the bus driver.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares are available for all journeys for adults and for children aged 5 to 16.

The English National Concessionary Travel Pass and Kent Travel Saver can be used on this service.

Buy or use a DISCOVERY day ticket for unlimited travel on these services and on buses throughout Kent/Sussex.

Nu-Venture Bus 59	
Grafty Green - Ulcombe - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Boughton Monchelsea - Maidstone	
Bus 59 is provided with Community Transport funding from Kent County Council, in conjunction with support from local Parish Councils.	
Wednesdays only	
GRAFTY GREEN Kings Head	0937
Ulcombe near Chestnut Close	0944
KINGSWOOD Village Hall	0952
Kingswood Chestnut Drive	0954
Warmlake Corner	0959
Chart Sutton opp Chart Corner	1002
Boughton Monchelsea opp The Cock Inn	1006
Boughton Monchelsea Albion	1008
Linton Corner	1013
Old Loose Hill	1017
The Wheatsheaf	1023
MAIDSTONE King Street	1033
MAIDSTONE King St BUS STOP L2	1300
Boughton Monchelsea Albion	1322
Boughton Monchelsea The Cock Inn	1325
Chart Sutton Chart Corner	1328
Warmlake Corner Chartway Street	1331
Kingswood opp Chestnut Drive	1338
KINGSWOOD opp Village Hall	1340
Ulcombe opp School	R
GRAFTY GREEN	R
Code R = Sets down only beyond Kingswood for passengers boarding at or before Kingswood.	
Nu-Venture bus 59 serves all fixed bus stops on line of route, and on request at any safe point in rural areas and villages. As the bus approaches, please give a clear hand-signal to the bus driver.	
Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares are available for all journeys for adults and for children aged 5th to 16th birthday.	
We welcome the English National Concessionary Travel Pass and Kent Travel Saver	
Buy or use a DISCOVERY day ticket for unlimited travel on these services and on buses throughout Kent/Sussex.	
Operated by Nu-Venture Coaches Ltd. 01622 882288 www.nu-venture.co.uk	
Please contact ARRIVA (03448 004411) for current details of schooldays bus 89 (am) and 59 (pm)	

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Please contact Denise on 01622 749539 for more information.



Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Pop-Up Café

Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall

Thursday 13th April 2023

10.30 – 12.30 pm

Come and get together with old friends and new!
Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake in the warm.

Everyone welcome!



USEFUL CONTACTS

Kingswood Church	Peter Roberts	01622 843625
KCC Councillor	Shellina Prendergast	shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	Helen Whately	helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk
MBC Councillor	Gill Fort	gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Watch	VACANCY	
PCSO	Shivon De Rose	101
Primary School	Lynsey Sanchez Daviu	01622 842674
Kingswood Pre-School	Aimee Springett	07729 499 508/01622 844334
Village Hall	Val Clarke	01622 843110

Village Clubs

Badminton	Sue Orchin	01622 843626
Bluebells	Beryl Andrews	01622 843431
CANS	Sonya Roberts	01622 843625
Dog Training & Cynophobia	Janet Tandy	01622 842209
Karate	Chris Simpson	07801 639052
Tuesday Lunch Club	Pat Lyne	01622 843672
Kingswood Whist Group	Mike Bean	01622 844272
Short Mat Bowls	Mike Tandy	01622 842209
Purple Yoga	Helen	07762 761905
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Birdwatching Group	Matthew Meek	mattmeek72@hotmail.com

Other

Three Suttons Helpline	07425 582534 OR 01622 844301
Involve	03000 810005
Kent Karrier	03000 41 35 67

Your Parish Council

Parish Clerk/RFO: Hayley Roberts; Email: parishclerk@bandkpc.org Tel: 07719 317702/01622 474190

Councillors:

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Chris Pink	chriskpink@bandkpc.uk
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VACANCY	
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