



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



Broomfield & Kingswood Winter News

REVERSE SANTA DETAILS

Sunday 14th December

Procession starts at 4.45pm in Broomfield

Santa travels along to the various stops and at each stop instead of Santa giving out gifts (he needs to save his gifts for Christmas Eve!) residents give Santa a 'gift'. All items received will be donated to the Salvation Army to help those less fortunate this Christmas.

The items that the Salvation Army have advised they currently require donating are:

- Tinned products: Meat, Vegetables, Beans/spaghetti, Soups, Fruit
- Pasta/rice
- Pasta sauce
- Long-life Milk
- Cartons of orange/apple juice
- Crisps
- Cereal
- Biscuits
- Jams and spreads
- Tin openers
- Toilet Roll
- Toiletries - toothpaste, soap, male/female deodorants, shampoo/conditioner (no razors)



		Arrive	Leave
1	Broomfield Church Start Point	1645	1700
2	Broomfield Rd Lay-bye opp Hunters Moon	1705	1715
3	Charlesford Avenue outside No 3	1720	1730
4	Charlesford Avenue Shop	1735	1745
5	Junction of Charlesford Avenue & Cayser Drive	1750	1800
6	Wildwood Close	1805	1815
7	School Gates (Bushey Grove)	1820	1830
8	Chestnut Drive/Laurel Grove	1835	1845
9	Village sign/Silent Tommy Statue	1850	1900
10	Village Hall (Finish)	1910	



REVERSE SANTA

After you have seen Santa and made your donation please join us at Kingswood Village Hall for a hot drink and refreshments!

Arrive from 6.30pm.

Leeds and Kingswood Scout Group will be at the hall to spread some festive cheer with carols.

A photographer will be present to capture some festive memories.



Everyone welcome, no tickets required, this is a free event organised by your Parish Council so please do come along.

BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Hayley Roberts
PARISH CLERK/RFO

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

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Broomfield and Kingswood News!

Winter has arrived in the Parish, and those hats and gloves are definitely needed! Since our Summer edition, Councillors and the Clerk have attended a number of wonderful community events. The Remembrance ceremony at the Silent Tommy, where a wreath was laid by Cllr Clark, was very well attended by residents. Each year our community comes together in such a heartfelt way to honour those who fought for us, and this year was no exception. Thank you to everyone who played a part in organising and making the event so special once again.



Following the ceremony, a service was held at St Margaret's Church in Broomfield where we laid a second wreath. Leeds and Kingswood Scout Group beautifully decorated the church with handmade lanterns and festive displays, and Peter Roberts led a moving service. The church looked stunning, and the service provided a touching opportunity to remember local people who lost their lives. We will remember them.

St Margaret's Church is a truly beautiful place, and they will be holding a carol service on Sunday 14th December at 3.30pm. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible supporting our local church. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards, and Santa will be arriving at 4.45pm as the Reverse Santa makes its first stop outside the church—a lovely festive way to begin the Christmas celebrations!

As mentioned, Santa will once again be visiting Broomfield and Kingswood this year. Full details of the route can be found on the front cover. The Reverse Santa, started in 2023 by Ceridwyn and Terry Clark, has grown from strength to strength. In 2024, the Parish Council was delighted to be asked to get involved due to its success. Santa will be travelling around the village spreading festive cheer and meeting children at designated stops. Children (and adults!) can meet and chat with Santa and have photos taken, in return we ask for a donation of an item/items for the Salvation Army. The festivities continue at the Village Hall, where refreshments will be available and everyone can come together to enjoy some Christmas songs. It is always a truly lovely event, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there this year. Leeds and Kingswood Scouts will be joining us again as Santas helpers and will be singing carols at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council holds regular Pop-Up Cafés at the Village Hall, and this year they have been extremely well attended, with between 40 and 50 residents joining us each time. The cafés offer a warm, welcoming space for people to meet up, enjoy a hot drink, and sample some delicious homemade cakes! I would like to thank all those who kindly donate cakes, they are truly delicious.

There is no charge for refreshments. However, as many visitors have expressed a wish to contribute, we do collect optional donations for the Kent Air Ambulance. There is absolutely no obligation to donate—your company is what matters most.

Councillors and the Clerk always enjoy seeing everyone and catching up. If you haven't joined us before, we would love to welcome you to our Christmas Pop-Up Café on Monday 22nd December, 10.30am–12.30pm at Kingswood Village Hall.

The once-a-week bus service provided by our local Parish Councils continues to be a lifeline for many residents, and we are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure it remains available. When KCC withdrew the original service, Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council—alongside neighbouring Parish Councils—took swift action to secure grant funding so that our community would not be left without essential transport. Thanks to this joint effort, we are still able to offer a Wednesday service for everyone

who depends on it.

To keep this service running, we need your support. Every journey counts. By using the bus whenever you can, you help protect a vital link for our villages and strengthen the case for continued funding. Please do make full use of the service and encourage others to do the same—together, we can ensure it remains part of our community for years to come. Timetables can be found on noticeboards and our website.

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council is delighted to announce the launch of a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and we're inviting all residents to get involved. Neighbourhood Watch isn't about spying on neighbours or taking on extra work—it's about building a stronger, safer, more connected community. By joining, you'll receive useful updates, practical crime-prevention advice, and alerts about local issues. Most importantly, you'll be part of a network of residents who look out for one another.

Why join?

Help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Stay informed about what's happening in our area

Build closer links with neighbours and the Parish Council

Create a safer environment for families, homes, and property

Even a small amount of involvement makes a big difference. Whether you simply want to receive updates or you'd like to be more active, your participation counts.

If you're interested in joining or would like to learn more, please contact Hayley the Parish Clerk.

Together, we can make our villages safer, stronger, and better connected.

We encourage you to keep in touch with Hayley, our Parish Clerk, about any concerns or issues in our community. While the Parish Council may have limited powers in some areas, Hayley is here to listen, point you in the right direction, raise matters with Councillors, and help wherever she can.



Contacting Kent Police

Your guide to getting in touch

How to report a crime

In an emergency – call 999

An emergency is when crime is in progress, a suspected offender is nearby, someone is injured or being threatened, or there is a traffic collision involving injury or danger. Only call 999 when you need immediate help.

Report online

Report non-emergency crime 24/7 using online services kent.police.uk/report

- Report a theft including shed or garage break-ins, vehicle break-ins or pickpocketing.
- Report anti-social behaviour including graffiti, criminal damage or nuisance behaviour.
- Report traffic offences including speeding, mobile phone use or aggressive driving.

Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Contact your local council for nuisance & environmental issues such as noise complaints, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.

Non emergency – call 101

101 is the number to call to report crime and other police issues that do not require an emergency response. You don't need to dial any other number, just 101. You can also call 101 to speak to your local officer.

Each call costs 15 pence - no matter what time, how long your call lasts or if you call from a mobile. We do not receive any of the call cost.

Text service for the deaf or speech impaired

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

We are reliant on mobile phone networks. If you don't get a reply to your text quickly, try another way of contacting us, for example by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

What happens when you call us?

By calling 999 and requesting police, you will be transferred to our Force Control Room where we will ask you for your name and location. You will also be asked to give as much detail as possible about the incident so we can determine what police presence is required. Each call is judged on the circumstances and calls are prioritised.

If it is an emergency, we will let you know when officers are on their way. If it is not urgent you will be transferred to a non-emergency call handler who may ask for an appropriate time for an officer to call back or visit you to obtain more information.

Other ways to contact us

Email or write

For general police enquiries you can email us at enquiries@kent.police.uk

To contact us in writing please send your enquiry to: Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ.

Contact your local team

To raise concerns or enquire about policing where you live you can contact your local officers by calling 101 or by emailing them directly. Details can be found overleaf or simply enter your postcode on the homepage of our website: www.kent.police.uk

Social media

You can also contact us on our Twitter and Facebook sites as well as keep up-to-date with the latest news and access crime prevention advice.

- Follow us on Twitter at [@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) - view the lists tab to follow the local account for your district
- Search Facebook for Kent Police

Please do not report crime on Facebook or Twitter. Call 101 for non-urgent police issues and 999 if a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Email your local officers

- Ashford – csu.ashford@kent.police.uk
- Canterbury – csu.canterbury@kent.police.uk
- Dartford – csu.dartford@kent.police.uk
- Dover – csu.dover@kent.police.uk
- Gravesham – csu.gravesham@kent.police.uk
- Maidstone – csu.maidstone@kent.police.uk
- Medway – csu.medway@kent.police.uk
- Sevenoaks – csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk
- Shepway – csu.shepway@kent.police.uk
- Swale – csu.swale@kent.police.uk
- Thanet – csu.thanet@kent.police.uk
- Tonbridge and Malling – csu.tonbridgeandmalling@kent.police.uk
- Tunbridge Wells – csu.tunbridge.wells@kent.police.uk

Contact us

Report a crime

- Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
- Call 999 if a crime is in progress or life is in danger
- If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
- Visit your nearest police front counter to report non-urgent crime

News, information and advice:

- Speak to an officer – at a police surgery, at a front counter or by calling 101
- Visit our website – www.kent.police.uk
- Follow [@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) or your district account on Twitter
- Find us on Facebook

For other information guides in this series, visit www.kent.police.uk/yourguide



**Kent
Police**

**Protecting and serving
the people of Kent**

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in large print, another format or language, call us on 01622 652158 or email us at communications@kent.police.uk

Barking Mad!!

Somewhere down our way
There's a dog that barks night and day
It wakes the sleepers in their beds
And during the day gets in neighbour's heads.
It barks at the children who come out to play
Or another dog that barks further away.
Sometimes it barks for hours on end
Surely this noise you cannot defend?

We love our dogs...of course we do
Even when they dribble or eat your shoe!
We don't mind the bark as postie goes past,
Or the "Welcome home family, You're home at last"
But the ones that are left out to bark yelp and howl
Cause upset, frustration and

If such a dog belongs to you, and if you are caring and kind
Please find a way to stop the noise
So we can all enjoy peace of mind.



Kingswood Craft Group

The November meeting of the Craft Group was made even more special by a visit from Michala and Laura, on behalf of the Emily Ash Trust, a charity supporting young people undergoing cancer treatments. We were asked to help the Trust by making hats, scarves, gloves and blankets for them. We delivered a great many, including over 100 hats made by Rose, and Michala and Laura were very appreciative. They stayed for the session and joined us in making Christmas Wreaths, a new project for this group, which everyone enjoyed.



We meet on the third Thursday of the month, at the Scout Hut on the Sports Field, from 10.00am until noon. We pay £4.00 each to cover costs and we welcome all crafts and all abilities.

Sutton Valence Group Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Sutton Valence Group Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) marshalled at the recent flu clinic held at Sutton Valence Village Hall. The event was well organised so everything ran very smoothly and quickly. There were many compliments as a result. Where needed, some patients were given their jabs in their cars. The Three Suttons Helpline was geared up to take those without transport.

The surgery, supported by the PPG, participated in the MacMillan coffee morning and raised £250.

Our survey asking for thoughts on current services has been completed and the results are on the noticeboard at South Lane. We will hold another one next spring.

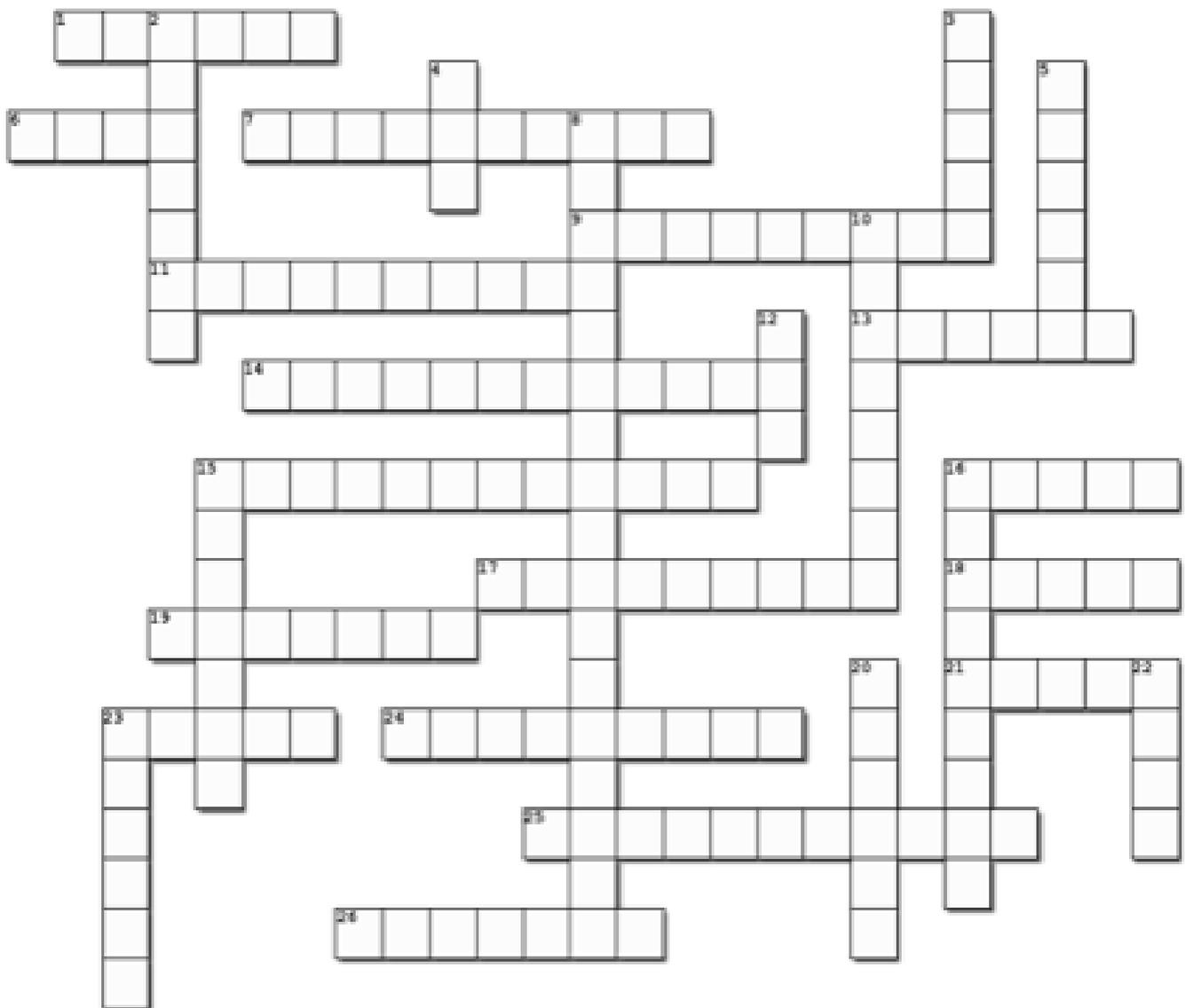
If you wish to join the PPG or have any suggestions/feedback which may help to improve services at the surgery, please post your thoughts in the surgery suggestion box.

We would like to thank all the people who attended and supported the Mcmillan/Cancer research Cream Tea at Kingswood Village Hall on 4th October. It was a great success and you helped to raise £1223 for these worth while charities.

Melanie Ford



The Broomfield & Kingswood Christmas Crossword



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. This traditional dish is often served at holiday dinners.
6. The winter season can also be called the _____ months.
7. On Christmas, many people participate in this activity of giving and receiving gifts.
9. Many families hang these on their chimneys for Santa to fill with gifts.
11. This festive flower is often associated with Christmas and is used as decoration.
13. A popular decoration made of twigs and evergreen used during Christmas is a _____.
14. People often drink this warm beverage made with cocoa during the winter.
15. This winter sport involves sliding down snow-covered hills on a board.
16. The chilly weather often leads to people wearing heavy _____.
17. This holiday celebrates the winter solstice and is associated with Yule.
18. You might find this winter bird pecking at the snow for food.
19. Special Christmas cake with marzipan
21. Pine trees are often used to create a fragrant _____ during winter.
23. Children eagerly await the arrival of _____, who brings gifts on Christmas morning.
24. This plant is often hung in doorways and is associated with kissing during Christmas.
25. This sweet treat, often made in various shapes, is a popular holiday cookie.
26. Children love to build these cold creations in the snow.

Down

2. This famous reindeer is known for his red nose.
3. A common festive song sung during the holiday season is 'Jingle _____.'
4. A common winter accessory worn on the head to keep warm is a _____.
5. These calendars countdown the days until Christmas Day.
8. Families often gather to watch this classic movie about an angel named Clarence during the holidays.
10. This winter event is celebrated with fireworks and parties on December 31st.
12. The traditional color of Santa's suit is primarily _____.
15. A common winter activity that involves sliding on ice is _____.
16. These festive lights are often strung on homes and trees during the holiday season.
20. On Christmas Eve, many people attend _____ services to celebrate the holiday.
22. The holiday season often features a decorated _____.
23. In many cultures, people exchange gifts during the Christmas _____.

Winter

C	L	X	F	I	J	F	R	O	S	T	F	X	V	U	F	G	V	S	S
H	A	T	A	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G	Y	N	Y	O	B	E	C	A
F	X	Z	T	J	W	H	T	R	H	Z	O	X	T	K	B	V	A	N	M
C	W	R	S	F	O	T	L	F	D	B	G	W	V	N	O	R	Z	E	T
S	H	S	I	E	W	F	A	V	J	W	L	D	B	L	F	T	K	J	S
A	A	C	T	Y	K	H	X	Z	I	B	I	Z	G	A	Q	A	H	F	I
A	T	B	V	I	C	E	D	N	G	P	W	Y	Q	A	L	E	L	J	R
I	M	L	M	W	K	E	T	N	F	N	Q	F	G	F	D	L	M	S	H
J	R	Q	B	I	C	E	I	A	A	E	Z	B	W	S	U	P	S	B	C
M	Y	F	O	E	R	I	G	L	E	Z	B	O	F	X	M	Q	H	B	L
S	A	B	M	S	K	O	X	Z	Q	M	N	R	K	G	Y	I	O	B	H
D	O	B	Q	S	J	N	Z	B	J	S	S	U	U	M	P	C	V	B	U
I	E	X	T	O	A	F	W	W	H	N	W	C	O	A	T	J	E	H	B
R	P	J	R	J	G	Y	O	B	O	V	N	R	M	D	R	E	L	W	E
J	R	K	A	R	B	T	X	W	A	B	T	B	W	G	H	Y	M	B	Y
A	Z	P	V	N	X	R	M	Q	I	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	P	H
U	G	G	G	H	U	A	U	D	P	B	O	F	C	F	O	D	K	K	S
N	N	L	E	G	N	A	W	O	N	S	T	O	O	B	D	E	D	S	P
Z	M	J	P	K	U	K	R	U	A	W	L	C	W	A	S	V	L	C	Q
Q	A	G	X	X	D	V	F	Y	G	D	R	X	V	U	J	B	M	N	B

WINTER
FREEZING
FEBRUARY
SNOWFLAKE
COAT
SHOVEL
SKIING

COLD
DECEMBER
ICE
GLOVES
BOOTS
SNOWANGEL
CHRISTMAS

SNOWMAN
JANUARY
FROST
HAT
SCARF
SLEDDING
SNOWBALLS

Kingswood Wildlife Group Summer 2025 Report

The Kingswood Wildlife Group meets monthly with presentations from guest speakers over the winter months, and visits to local wildlife spots over the spring and summer.

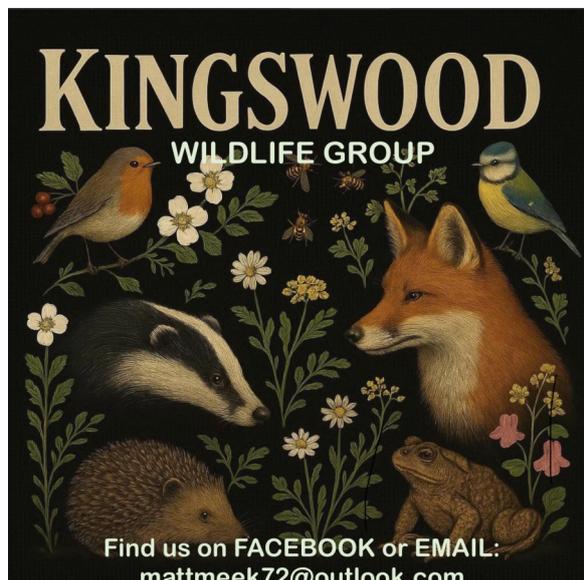
This Spring, we had an amazing experience at the Leeds Castle Falconry Centre, where we met the staff and the majestic birds of prey. In May, we had a lovely walk in the local woods, and on a June evening we followed Ulcombe stream for part of its route seeing the bats, swifts, kestrels, and hearing whitethroats and blackcap birds. We had a fabulous visit to the Wildwood Wildlife Park, there was so much to see and our group had special access to some areas. In September, we went on the River Stour to see the beavers and kingfishers – it was a magical evening.

In terms of local bird sightings, it was a disappointing year for some of the finch species, with siskins seemingly absent after recent good showings and fewer greenfinches and chaffinches, perhaps due to the ongoing trichomonosis disease. In better news, yellowhammers are being seen in gardens in greater numbers. Rare turtle doves have been seen and there was even a pair of exotic mandarin ducks. The resident starling flock appears as large as ever and jackdaws appear to be increasing. Birds of prey continue to do well, with resident buzzards and sparrowhawks. Kestrels were also frequently seen, and, increasingly, red kites with the distinctive tails. Tawny owls remain in our woods, and a pair of little owls was spotted in the Leeds playing field area and a barn owl nearby. Warblers also seem quite happy with blackcaps and chiffchaffs prominent. A pair of rarer garden warblers was also spotted in the woods. Finally, and most unusually, a pair of ravens were seen performing a characteristic acrobatic display over the village once in the summer.

Hummingbird hawkmoths were seen again in the village, emperor dragonflies and butterflies had a very good year. And, a common toad was spotted in the woods on a particularly damp late summer evening! We know that there are glow worms in Kingswood and we plan to search and survey them next year. Please contact us if you know of any or see them? You can also help by letting us know if you spot the Wasp Spider around our Village (see info on our Facebook page).

September was a quiz and since then we've been informed and entertained by guest speakers on therephosids (tarantulas) and bees! For 2026, we'll have talks on badgers, insects and beavers; we'll survey moths and glow worms, take another river trip and visit local nature reserves.

Find us on Facebook, and on the first Monday of each month, at 7.30 in the Kingswood Village Hall. There's a small charge and we offer a warm welcome to everyone with an interest in wildlife and the environment.





Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE, Platts Heath
and Ulcombe CE Primary Schools.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

to become School Governors for
The ASPIRE Federation

We value energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the role and would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in all the Federation children's education and the performance of our schools.

The ideal Governor has time, an enquiring mind, the confidence to ask questions and debate issues affecting the schools in the Federation and the ability to consider matters objectively and make informed judgements.

Governors need a variety of transferable skills and experience, as well as an everyday knowledge of internet and modern technology as much of our work is done virtually. We also use a bespoke online Governance system.

Governors need to commit to visiting the school regularly for monitoring, attend 6 Full Governing Board Meetings per year both in person &/or virtually plus initial New Governor training and at least three further training sessions every year, some of which can be done virtually.

If you would like a chance to make a difference to all the children in our Federation by ensuring they all reach their full potential.

Please contact Sam Branchett, Office Manager, for further information or an application form

Email: office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk or **call:** 01622 850316



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Call us on 07711 795582
or 07961778935

What is 159?



The **159** number enables people to connect with their bank safely and securely when they receive an unexpected, suspicious or fraudulent call.

If you think that you may have been a victim of fraud, then contact your bank immediately, which you can do by calling **159**.

Stop, Hang Up,
Ensure that your phone is available for dialling, or alternatively, use another phone. call your bank on **159**.

Call **159** if you experience the following:

- Someone contacts you claiming to be from your bank – even if they do not seem suspicious.
- You are contacted by someone claiming to be an authority figure such as the police or HMRC and told to transfer money – even if the request seems genuine.
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it appears suspicious.

Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam report it immediately to Action Fraud online actionfraud.police.uk or over the phone **0300 123 2040**.

For more information and advice visit kent.police.uk/fraud or email KFAS@ecis.police.uk



Together, let's stop scammers

Remember, ABC:

 **never Assume**

 **never Believe**

 **always Confirm**

Fraud Prevention Advice

- Do not answer unexpected calls, even if it looks like a trusted number. Genuine callers can leave a message or contact you by other means.
- Do not click on links in unexpected emails or messages.
- To protect yourself from identity fraud, regularly check your credit report and report any unrecognised applications to the organisation concerned.
- Have a strong different password on every account.

If you are suspicious of a text, email or website – Ask Silver – To use Ask Silver, start by signing up at www.ask-silver.com

Check if your email address or phone number has been part of a data breach; haveibeenpwned.com

Reporting Fraud

- Report 'Phishing' (Email scams): report@phishing.gov.uk
- Report 'Smishing' (Text scams): Forward the message to **7726**
- Check if your email address or phone number has been part of a data breach: haveibeenpwned.com

Together, let's stop scammers

Remember, ABC:

 **never ASSUME**

Never assume a call, text or email is genuine. Criminals can easily obtain basic information about you.

 **never BELIEVE**

Never believe a call, text or email is genuine – Criminals can 'spoo' official telephone numbers and can impersonate anyone.

 **always CONFIRM**

Always confirm if the call, text or email is genuine – hang up calls and do not respond to messages. Contact organisations directly to confirm, do not use numbers supplied by the call, text or email.

Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam report it immediately to Action Fraud online actionfraud.police.uk or over the phone **0300 123 2040**

For more information and advice visit kent.police.uk/fraud or email KFAS@ecis.police.uk



Call 159

If you have paid money or shared bank details, contact your bank's fraud team straight away.

Call **159** for the bank hotline. This number connects you directly to your bank.



Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
www.kent.police.uk   



Kent Police

Get the latest fraud advice and updates

- Sign up to My Community Voice mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk
- Giving you the knowledge and tools you need to stay ahead of scams – stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk
- Find Kent Police on Facebook.

The group had their Autumn quiz night at the beginning of November, this was well attended as we had to change the date at the very last moment as Carol our caller had to go in to hospital a few days later.

Preparations were made up the Scout Hut for the Poppy Appeal. They were painting glass jam jars and putting torch type candles inside that were used at Broomfield church.

The service was held at Broomfield church for Remembrance Sunday. The Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all took part.

One leader has left our group and moved up North, but has continued as a leader.

The group are thriving in numbers, we have;

Squirrels with 16

Beavers with 19

Cubs with 20

Scouts with 17

If your child would like to join any of the sections call 01622 843019.

100 Club

We run a 100 club, this is like a small lottery, we have four prizes a month and it costs £12 per year.

The October winners are;

Mrs Carol Jones £20

Mrs Davis £10 Mrs Edmed £5

The November winners are;

Mrs Neeves £20 Mrs Tomlinson £10

Miss Brown £10 Mrs Dann £5

The December winners are;

Mrs Archer £20 Mrs Everden £10

Mr R Kemp £10 Mrs Golding £5

The group all wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Alan Poulton

Chair



Remembering my First Kingswood Christmas in 1974

Janet Broomfield

On Friday 13th of December 1974, my husband Roy and I moved into our new house on Charlesford Avenue with a horse box and a van to carry our possessions from Yalding. The street didn't have house numbers then, there weren't enough houses to have numbers, so we called our house Ash Mount, because there was an ash tree. There were 4 houses on the development by Starkey builders, ours was the last of the one to be built and we had all the rubbish in our front garden, as you can see in the photo. The house had oil-fired warm air heating, which was supposed to blow warm air gently around the building, but it didn't work well, it was a cold winter, and the house was so cold. We didn't have mains sewer drainage or gas then, those came later. Our neighbours were Rosemarie and Martin on one side and Barbara on the other side.



We'd only been married since September 1973, and we were so excited to be in our new home, Roy's 11-year-old son, David, was with us and in our first Christmas we had a silver Christmas tree, not much furniture and a lot of hope. We were standing in our kitchen, no blinds or curtains yet, with the bright orange Hygena kitchen cupboards, when we heard a noise outside and saw Carol Singers in the road. There was a good crowd of singers, a man with a piano accordion, and a lady called Eve collecting money. We were so pleased to see them because it was a joyful sign of life and showed us that there was a community here. We stayed with a relative for Christmas, it was warmer in her house, but Roy didn't get to enjoy the festivities, my poor man had a three day moving-stress induced migraine.

Roy enjoyed making special indoor fireworks for celebrations, they were exciting, but I was always more worried about the new curtains catching fire.

Roy was an engineer and worked at the ICI plant at Yalding, and I worked as a laboratory technician at the East Malling Research Station, which is still there and now forms part of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, researching horticulture and agriculture.

I'd been to Kingswood on a visit in 1966, and at that time I thought "what a godforsaken place to live", I never dreamt that I'd be living here, married and called Broomfield but we had good friends who lived there, Rob and Hazel Formaggia, who lived in Ashford Drive (18), and although there weren't a lot of amenities, we made friends and had fun.

There were a lot of selling parties, part of the pyramid-selling trend of the 1970's, kitchenware, pottery, books, wool, wigs and make-up was sold to and by friends. Many of the roads we know now weren't there; Chestnut Drive was just a track with a wire barrier across it, until the emergency services had that removed. The Battle of Britain wasn't our favourite pub, it was so cold at home, we regularly went to the Harrow on Ulcombe Hill to sit beside their big open fire. There was a small wooden Village Hall on Gravelly Bottom Road then, and the Women's Institute met there. When our daughter Emma was born, we used the baby-sitting group, which worked on a points system - one point for each hour before midnight and two points for each hour after midnight. The row of shops on Cayser Drive went through lots of changes, there was a butchers, a DIY shop, a wool shop and a general store, even a hairdressers. The shop on Charlesford Avenue didn't have the Post Office, but it did have Vivienne with her spectacular nails!

Roy worked hard to improve our house, making it safer and warmer, he installed microbore central heating himself, using a second-hand boiler, which lasted a good 40 years! And we made a good family home, because Kingswood is a good place to raise a family.

For context in 1974, Top of The Pops was Kung Fu Fighting by Carl Douglas, the Top Movie was Towering Inferno. A pint of milk was 5 pence, a gallon of petrol 50 pence, a loaf of bread 14 pence, a pint of beer 23 pence, an average house cost £10,000, a new Ford Cortina £1520. A full-time male manual worker earned £48 per week, a full-time female manual worker earned £27 per week. In the news, the three day week, IRA bombings in London, Harold Wilson's labour government, Richard Nixon & Watergate, Mohammed Ali & George Foreman. We wore flared trousers, patterned shirts, maxi dresses, big hats. We bought skateboards and mood rings.

Editor's Note: These are Janet's memories; others may have different recollections. It would be lovely to read them too.

The Village Hall

The Autumn season has been a time for the Village to get together.

Melanie Ford and her team from Ulcombe served an Afternoon Cream Tea in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support to a packed Hall, and thanks are due to everyone who supported them, helping to raise over one thousand pounds for the charity. Put Saturday 3rd October in next year's diary to enjoy a repeat of this popular event!

This was followed by the Village Hall Committee running a Quiz Evening with a fish and chip supper, with Quiz masters Sarah and Mike Moore. The evening proved very popular as tickets sold out in 10 days, and thanks to everyone who attended £540 was raised towards Hall funds.

Just three weeks later the Hall Committee ran a Christmas Craft Fayre which was enjoyed by all, with sausage and bacon rolls, and homemade cakes to tempt whilst selecting Christmas gifts. Thanks to all who supported this as £375 was raised towards funds for the Hall.

Plans are in place for more events for the village at the Hall in the New Year, so 'watch this space '!

If you would like to use the facilities we offer for your child's birthday party or celebration, please contact Letting Officer Val Clarke (01622 843110) who will be able to help.

The Village Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the village a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Val Clarke

Chairman

Thank you!

I would like to say a big 'Thank You ' to everyone for cutting back their vegetation growing out over the pavement so that the way is clear and safe for pedestrians struggling to see their way, it has been a great help!

Val and Skye.

The Kent Cynophobia Assistance Group

The group meet every Monday evening helping children overcome their phobia of dogs.

We have 14 dogs with their handlers and have approximately 20 children in the hall.

We have over 90% success rate of a child touching a dog within the first hour.

All of us are volunteers.

We are always looking for dogs to help. They do have to have a level of obedience and of course have to be sound in nature.

If you want further information ring Janet on 01622 842209.

CALIFORNIA CHICKEN by Peter B.

Serves 4

Ingredients:-

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 skinless boneless chicken breasts, about 10g each
- 1 red onion, peeled and sliced
- 1 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 4 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 teaspoon finely grated lime rind
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 2 teaspoon clear honey
- Black pepper
- 120ml hot chicken stock

- 1 Heat oil in a large frying pan. Add chicken breasts. Cook for 5 minutes, or until evenly browned turning once during cooking. Transfer to a warmed plate. Cover chicken with foil to keep warm.
2. Add onion, yellow pepper, lime juice, lime rind, garlic, honey, black pepper and half the stock to the frying pan. Cook over medium heat for five minutes stirring constantly.
3. Return chicken to pan. Add remaining stock. Cook gently for 10 minutes, or just until chicken is no longer pink in centre.
4. Transfer chicken, cooking liquid and vegetables to a serving dish.

Kingswood Bluebells

The Bluebells are a group of ladies of a certain age who enjoy variety being the spice of life.

During this past year we have enjoyed history in the form of old postcards (and messages on the back!), a Quiz for 2025, memories of a life spent making Films and an evening watching a British Classic one. This was interspersed with an Easter celebration, a Strawberry Cream Tea, and an Autumn Lunch together.

We will round off the year with our Annual Christmas Dinner enjoying each others' company.

If you would like to join us please ring Beryl Andrew On 01622 843431 for more details.....

Happy Christmas!!

Beryl Andrew

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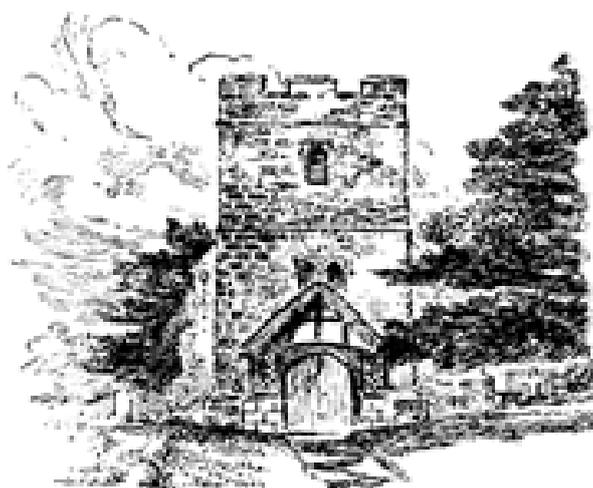
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Please come along and bring the children

Mulled wine and mince pies after the service



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.

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Kingswood Village Hall

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All abilities and ages are welcome (including beginners).
Bowls are available.

For more information contact
Bev Beale
01622 843768

History of the Pub.—D Lyne

During the 1930s the building was a Post Office, General Stores with half taken over as an Off Licence and also a Petrol Pump outside and a bus Stop which you could catch the 12A M&D bus to Maidstone .During the 1950s it was known as the Battle of Britain Inn a Free House , fully licensed still a Post Office , General Stores selling Wall's ice-cream, petrol & oils. The proprietor was E . J. Belton.

In the 1960s Fremlims Brewery took the pub over with the loss of the Post Office and General stores.

On the other side of the road in the 1930s was Jenney's Tea Rooms which when it became vacant then became the Post Office and General stores.

In 1997 we saw them both close.





Christmas 2025
Leeds, Broomfield & Kingswood (LBK) Churches



I wonder what is your favourite carol? Hark the Herald Angels Sing; Away in a Manger, Joy to the World or maybe another one. Apparently, Silent Night is often cited as the most popular carol being translated into over 100 languages.

What is it about carols that gets us singing at this time of year? Is it that the words and music are familiar, and remind us of Christmas times in the past. It can be comforting that in this changing world, there is something that is constant. Or is that they encapsulate the very essence of Christmas, that amongst the business of buying cards and presents they remind us of what Christmas is really about - the birth of a baby, but no ordinary baby, the Son of God!

My favourite carol is more of a popular song Mary, Did You Know? written by Mark Lowry in 1984 with the music written in 1991. It has apparently become a treasured Christmas classic. The words are particularly evocative in reflecting what Jesus would accomplish during his earthly ministry including walking on water, calming a storm and giving sight to a blind man. Perhaps the most poignant are the words, 'Mary, did you know, that your baby boy, would save our sons and daughters.'

Yes, Jesus was born to save us from our sins, which is why there is 'Joy to the World' and we can have hope that there will be 'Peace on the earth and goodwill towards all people.'

Luke's gospel details the birth of Jesus and the appearance of an angel that appeared to some shepherds and said, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2:10/11)

The period before Christmas is called Advent and starts with Advent Sunday on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which this year is on 30th November, so by now you have hopefully put up your Advent calendars. It is a time of preparation as we look forward to the birth our Saviour. Each Sunday in our Churches we will be lighting a candle on an Advent wreath and focusing our thoughts on the **hope** (1st Sunday), **peace** (2nd Sunday), **joy** (3rd Sunday) and **love** (4th Sunday) that is brought to this earth by our Lord Jesus Christ. On Christmas Day we light the candle in the middle of the Advent wreath which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and comes to bring light into our darkness.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Church services during December and sharing with you the hope, peace, joy and love of the Saviour.

May I wish you on behalf of Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood (LBK) Churches a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

Our Christmas Services at **St Margaret's Church, Broomfield** and **Kingswood Church** during December include the following:

14th December **11:00 The Christmas Story with Carols**
(Advent 3) **Kingswood Church, K&B Village Hall**

15:30 **Carol Service**

St Margaret's Church, Broomfield

21st December 18:00 Christingle Service
(Advent 4) **In aid of the Children's Society**

25th December 9:30 Christmas Day Service
St Margaret's Church, Broomfield

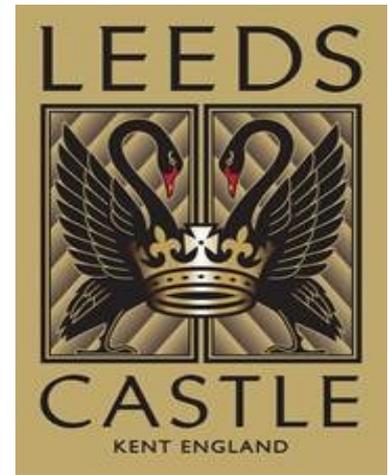
11:00 Christmas Day Service
Kingswood Church, K&B Village Hall



Parish Magazine – December 2025

As Helen is away on a well-earned holiday in India, I'm pleased to step in this month with an update from the Castle.

October Half Term sadly proved a little damp this year, and despite everyone's best efforts, the weather put something of a cloud over the Guardians of the Grounds trail. Thankfully, the skies turned in our favour for the Fireworks Spectacular, which was a tremendous success. Both evenings sold out, and we were treated to calm, unseasonably warm weather that made for a truly memorable weekend. The theme of Love was beautifully brought to life through the music, projections and fireworks, and it was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the show.



From there, it's been straight into preparations for the festive season. The Castle has now been transformed for our Neverland Christmas, which runs until 4th January and is included with your annual admission. Visitors can step into the magical world of Peter Pan, with Mermaid Lagoon, the Lost Boys' hideout and Captain Hook's ship all brought to life inside the Castle. We're delighted to be working once again with Great Ormond Street Hospital, which owns the rights to Peter Pan, and to be supporting their important work.

Outside, the Christmas Lights Trail opened in late November and is already drawing large crowds. This year's trail features around 90% brand new installations, including spectacular illuminated fountains on the Great Water. Early evening and pre-Christmas dates sold out quickly, but there is still some availability for visits between Christmas and New Year. If you haven't yet been, it's well worth a visit for the atmosphere alone.

Elsewhere on the Estate, we're hosting Christmas Party Nights in Fairfax Hall throughout December, alongside smaller festive dining events and afternoon teas. Our Santa's Grotto has returned for the first time since 2019 and has proven every bit as popular as we expected, with many dates selling out within days of going on sale.

In the gardens, our team are now clearing undergrowth and planting thousands of bulbs ready for spring. It's a quieter time for the grounds but an important one, setting the stage for the next season. Work also continues on the Castle Stonework and Roof Repairs Project, led by PAYE Stonework, alongside the ongoing programme of public and schools' heritage skills workshops.

The replacement platform lift in the Castle View Restaurant is now complete, and the next phase of accessibility work inside the Castle will take place over the winter months, improving access to the Gloriette for wheelchair users.

As 2025 draws to a close, we're incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported Leeds Castle this year, whether by visiting, attending an event, or simply walking through the grounds. The Estate looks magical at this time of year, and we hope you'll find time to enjoy it over the festive period.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

<i>"Best two and a half hours of the week."</i>	Jacqui M
<i>"Great afternoon with great company."</i>	Denise W
<i>"Highlight of the week."</i>	Janet B
<i>"Lonely, want to new make friends? Come to whist."</i>	Marian M
<i>"Great people, great game and tea & cakes at half-time."</i>	Jo R
<i>"Very social afternoon, playing whist plus a cuppa and cake".</i>	Sue S

Fed up, bored, want to meet new friends?

Why not come along Tuesday afternoon and join us for a fun-filled, sociable session of partner whist?

It's from 2.00pm to 4.30pm

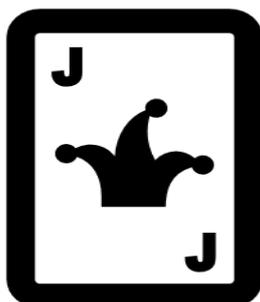
24 hands of cards with tea, coffee, cakes and loads of chat at half-time, all for just £2.50!!

We even have pretty modest prizes.

Our annual awards lunch, usually at The Ridge Golf Club, is enjoyed by all, including several "significant others". The Group contributes to the cost.

Don't just sit there staring at wallpaper. Give us try – you won't be disappointed.

Further information from Sue Smith on 01622 843960 or just turn up next Tuesday.



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Spring 2025 Crossword solution



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Back, Neck and Shoulder Massage 1 hour	£40
Sports Massage Full Body 1 hour	£40

Eyelash Treatments

Eyelash Tint	£10
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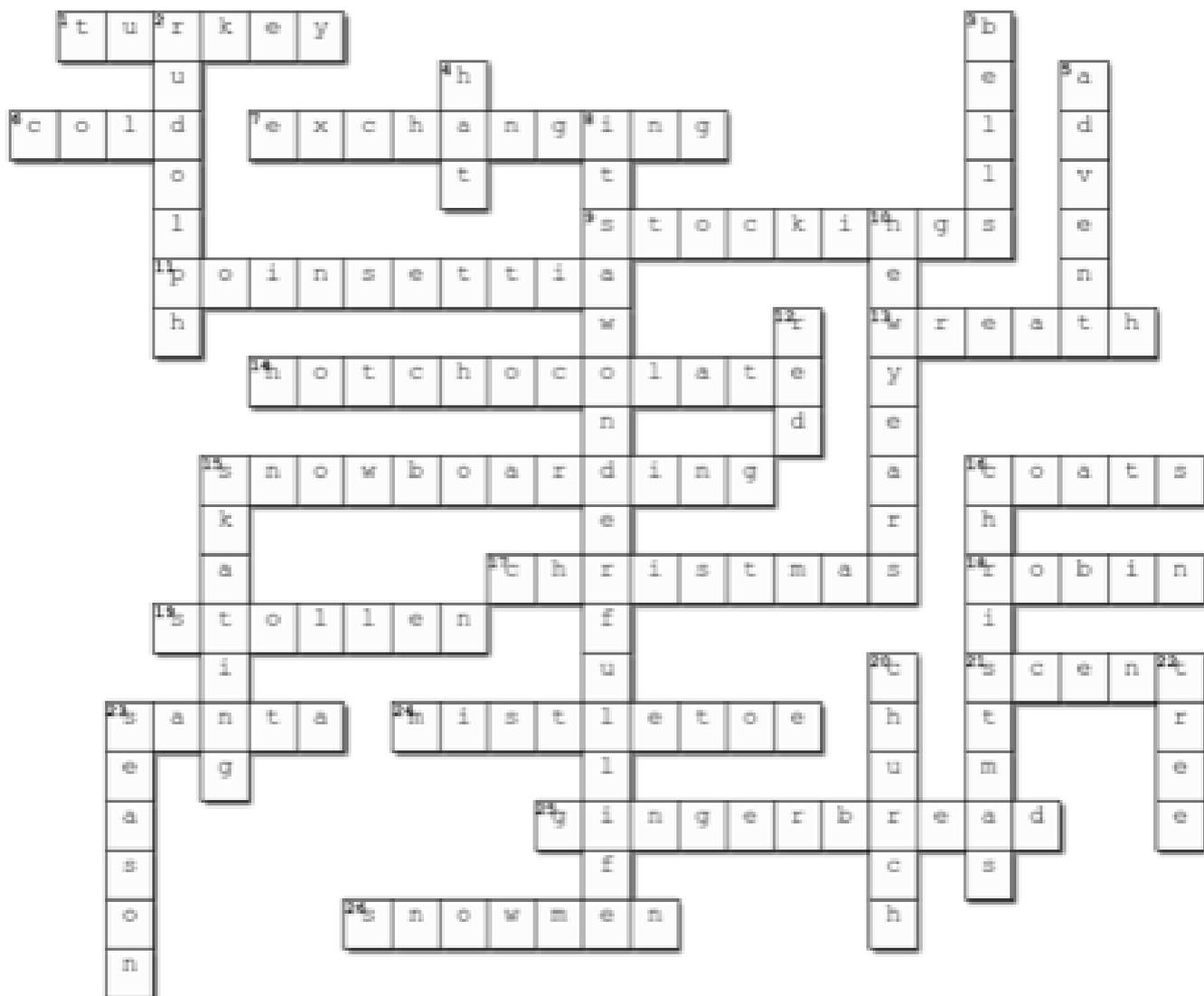
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Half Arm	£10	Chin	£7
Under Arm	£10		

The Broomfield & Kingswood Christmas Crossword



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. This traditional dish is often served at holiday dinners. (**turkey**)
6. The winter season can also be called the _____ months. (**cold**)
7. On Christmas, many people participate in this activity of giving and receiving gifts. (**exchanging**)
9. Many families hang these on their chimneys for Santa to fill with gifts. (**stockings**)
11. This festive flower is often associated with Christmas and is used as decoration. (**poinsettia**)
13. A popular decoration made of twigs and evergreen used during Christmas is a _____. (**wreath**)
14. People often drink this warm beverage made with cocoa during the winter. (**hotchocolate**)
15. This winter sport involves sliding down snow-covered hills on a board. (**snowboarding**)
16. The chilly weather often leads to people wearing heavy _____. (**coats**)
17. This holiday celebrates the winter solstice and is associated with Yule. (**christmas**)
18. You might find this winter bird pecking at the snow for food. (**robin**)
19. Special Christmas cake with marzipan (**stollen**)
21. Pine trees are often used to create a fragrant _____ during winter. (**scent**)
23. Children eagerly await the arrival of _____, who brings gifts on Christmas morning. (**santa**)
24. This plant is often hung in doorways and is associated with kissing during Christmas. (**mistletoe**)
25. This sweet treat, often made in various shapes, is a popular holiday cookie. (**gingerbread**)
26. Children love to build these cold creations in the snow. (**snowmen**)

Down

2. This famous reindeer is known for his red nose. (**rudolph**)
3. A common festive song sung during the holiday season is "Jingle _____." (**bells**)
4. A common winter accessory worn on the head to keep warm is a _____. (**hat**)
5. These calendars countdown the days until Christmas Day. (**advent**)
8. Families often gather to watch this classic movie about an angel named Clarence during the holidays. (**itsawonderfullife**)
10. This winter event is celebrated with fireworks and parties on December 31st. (**newyears**)
12. The traditional color of Santa's suit is primarily _____. (**red**)
15. A common winter activity that involves sliding on ice is _____. (**skating**)
16. These festive lights are often strung on homes and trees during the holiday season. (**christmas**)
20. On Christmas Eve, many people attend _____ services to celebrate the holiday. (**church**)
22. The holiday season often features a decorated _____. (**tree**)
23. In many cultures, people exchange gifts during the Christmas _____. (**season**)

Winter

C	L	X	F	I	J	F	R	O	S	T	F	X	V	U	F	G	V	S	S
H	A	T	A	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G	Y	N	Y	O	B	E	C	A
F	X	Z	T	J	W	H	T	R	H	Z	O	X	T	K	B	V	A	N	M
C	W	R	S	F	O	T	L	F	D	B	G	W	V	N	O	R	Z	E	T
S	H	S	I	E	W	F	A	V	J	W	L	D	B	L	F	T	K	J	S
A	A	C	T	Y	K	H	X	Z	I	B	I	Z	G	A	Q	A	H	F	I
A	T	B	V	I	C	E	D	N	G	P	W	Y	Q	A	L	E	L	J	R
I	M	L	M	W	K	E	T	N	F	N	Q	F	G	F	D	L	M	S	H
J	R	Q	B	I	C	E	I	A	A	E	Z	B	W	S	U	P	S	B	C
M	Y	F	O	E	R	I	G	L	E	Z	B	O	F	X	M	Q	H	B	L
S	A	B	M	S	K	O	X	Z	Q	M	N	R	K	G	Y	I	O	B	H
D	O	B	Q	S	J	N	Z	B	J	S	S	U	U	M	P	C	V	B	U
I	E	X	T	O	A	F	W	W	H	N	W	C	O	A	T	J	E	H	B
R	P	J	R	J	G	Y	O	B	O	V	N	R	M	D	R	E	L	W	E
J	R	K	A	R	B	T	X	W	A	B	T	B	W	G	H	Y	M	B	Y
A	Z	P	V	N	X	R	M	Q	I	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	P	H
U	G	G	G	H	U	A	U	D	P	B	O	F	C	F	O	D	K	K	S
N	N	L	E	G	N	A	W	O	N	S	T	O	O	B	D	E	D	S	P
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 SNOWFLAKE
 COAT
 SHOVEL
 SKIING

COLD
 DECEMBER
 ICE
 GLOVES
 BOOTS
 SNOWANGEL
 CHRISTMAS

SNOWMAN
 JANUARY
 FROST
 HAT
 SCARF
 SLEDDING
 SNOWBALLS

USEFUL CONTACTS

KCC Councillor	Sarah Emberson	sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	Helen Whately	helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk
MBC Councillor	Gill Fort	gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Watch	VACANCY	
PC James Phillips	Maidstone Neighbourhood Policing Team	101
Primary School	Lynsey Sanchez Daviu	01622 842674
Kingswood Pre-School	Aimee Springett	07729 499 508/01622 844334
Village Hall	Val Clarke	01622 843110
Kingswood Church	Peter Roberts	01622 843625

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
Short Mat Bowls	Bev Beale	01622 843768
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Kingswood Whist Group	Sue Smith	01622 843960
Birdwatching Group	Matthew Meek	mattmeek72@hotmail.com
Kingswood Book Klub	Becky Godfrey	07940 726554
Kingswood's Little Library	Becky Godfrey	07940 726554
Kingswood Crafting Group	Ceridwen Clarke	07925 508050

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.uk Tel: 07719 317702/01622 474190

Councillors:

Tina Clark (Chair)	tinaclark@bandkpc.uk
Gareth Davies (Vice Chair)	garethdavies@bandkpc.uk
Chris Pink	chrispink@bandkpc.uk
Malcolm Clarke	malcolmclarke@bandkpc.uk
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Linda Blainey	lindablainey@bandkpc.uk
Robert Mercer	robertmercer@bandkpc.uk
VACANCY x2	

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events@theridge.co.uk

THE
RIDGE
7



This Christmas



NEVERLAND

AT
LEEDS  CASTLE
EDMONTON ENGLAND

Second to the right, and straight
on till morning

22nd November 2025 - 4th January 2026


GREAT ORMOND STREET
HOSPITAL CHARITY