

Kimpton Parish Magazine

Winter 2021

Number 268



The editor, production and delivery teams
wish everyone a very Happy Christmas



What are we waiting for??

***'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord' Psalm 27***

I have wandered through 2021 waiting patiently..... how about you? Waiting for big decisions to be made, waiting for small events to come, waiting for future plans to crystallize: waiting for the gas man, waiting for the parcel delivery, and of course waiting for the end to lockdowns, for the 'all-clear' from Covid-19. I'm sure we have all been waiting hopefully and expectantly for that good news. Yet as I write, the world faces a new virulent strain of Coronavirus. Dark times beckon again. The disappointment runs deep and the fearful worry among people is palpable. We'll simply have to patiently wait this one out...again.

Advent is the supreme time of waiting, especially for Christians. In the northern hemisphere it arrives at the darkest time of the year in late Autumn and Winter. So, we mark the weeks of waiting using light. We light candles on the Advent Wreath, we light candles on our Christingles, we candle-light our Church Services, we light up our homes, we light up Kimpton.

Candlelight gives that warm, gentle, glowing, safe feeling as it keeps darkness at bay. Candle light gives a small pool of light, just enough to move a few steps forward at a time in the darkness. Waiting for the Lord Jesus is a bit like that. As we wait together in Advent, we can find new insights, not only into our faith, our God, but from helping each other. And so, we move a few paces forward in our journey...just as far as that new enlightenment illuminates ...and then we are called to be strong, take heart and wait some more.

But what are we waiting for? Why the Christ child of course! God waits patiently, endlessly, eternally for us to make a new relationship with him. Then in love God sends us his Son Jesus Christ as the most vulnerable example of humankind: a new-born baby. Then God waits some more. God never forgets us... *'we are engraved upon the palms of his hands'*. Give new meaning to the waiting by not worrying about getting Christmas *'right or perfect'* but by being strong, taking heart and waiting for the Lord God to break again into human history this Christmas.

Being strong, taking heart and waiting is very tough when the darkness closes in. Waiting for good news this December may be tough. Even so, don't give up hope. Stop and light a candle this Advent. Let that candle shed a small pool of light to guide your steps a few at a time so that you slow down, wait and appreciate the people and the scenery (and the Services) on the way. Pray to your God for one another, your family and friends and neighbours and even those you don't know. And will be praying for you.

With all blessings to you and yours for a happy Christmas and I hope and pray for a better 2022 for us all.

Revd. Linda Williams

Christmas Church Services

All our special traditional Christmas Church events
are back

and we'd love to have you visit Church
over Christmas

At St Lawrence's, Ayot St Lawrence, you are warmly invited on
Sunday 19th December 4.00pm to
Christmas Carols & Readings for Christmas with all your favourites
Kimpton Church Choir and Christina Raven from the Eden Consort
Mulled wine and mince pies are served at this service

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve
11.00pm *Midnight Mass*

At St Peter & St Paul, Kimpton, you are warmly invited on
Sunday 12th December 4pm to
Christingle Service, that's the one with the oranges and candles!

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm
Christmas Carols & Readings for Christmas
Join in with all your favourite carols
After the service members of the choir will serve
German style Glühwein and Marzipan Stollen

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve
3pm *Children's Crib Service*
11.30pm *Midnight Mass*

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December
10am *Fun Family Communion Service*

Boxing Day Sunday 26th December
9.30am *'said' Holy Communion Service*

From the registers

Baptisms

Hugo Alan Donal Andrew Anglin was christened by the Rev'd Linda on Sunday 3rd October at St Peter & St Paul, Kimpton. Hugo's Mum and Dad are Holly and Dan of Parkfield Crescent, and one set of grandparents are Patricia and Alan Burrows—who many in the village will know. Holly and Dan were married at St Peter & St Paul. Hugo has a three-year old big sister Phoebe. His christening was a fabulous ceremony with lots of laughter – Hugo smiled throughout—and especially at the end of the service when we were all invited to sing along to Bill Withers, 'Lovely Day' performed by Melissa O'Donnell.

Caleb James Brett and his sister Rosabella were both christened by the Archdeacon of St Albans, the Venerable Jane Mainwaring on Sunday 17th October after the Sunday service at St Peter & St Paul Kimpton. Caleb's christening had been postponed several times due to the Covid-19 pandemic—during which he's gained a sister. So, when the Vicar couldn't take the service that day due to illness, it was great to have the Archdeacon Jane step in. Caleb and Rosabella's parents are Tamsin and Martin Brett who live in Luton, but have very strong links to Kimpton.

Weddings

Grace Gulliford and James Peacock were married at St Peter & St Paul on 24th September. This lovely couple live in the village so it was almost simply a short walk to church for them. James had popped the question on Grace's birthday earlier in 2021 and Grace hadn't hesitated for one minute to say yes and was then on the 'phone to the Vicar and planning the big day. Scene stealer during the ceremony was Monty, their three-legged dog who had the vital role of ring bearer. Grace chose a couple of great songs for the wedding—she had us all sing that lovely Harvest song from Primary school assembly days, 'Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green.' To leave church we enjoyed, and sang along to Pharrell Williams' hit song 'Happy' played by the Hedley Trio.

Burials, Interments and Cremations

Stuart Marshall McConachie's ashes were interred on 12th October. Stuart's family, Bonnie, son David and daughter Rachel, (who was home from America) attended the short intimate ceremony.



Tea, Toys & Tots is Kimpton's Carer, Baby and Toddler Group.

Apart from lockdowns over 2020, the group has been meeting on Wednesday mornings 9.30-11.30am in the Dacre Rooms since November 2019. There is coffee, tea and 'naughty' cake for adults and a healthy snack & drink for the children. There are plenty of toys, a craft activity and we end the time with a song or two.

Entirely non-profit making, we try to keep the cost low to £2.50 for

adult and one child, 50p for each extra child. This covers refreshments, snacks and activities.

Come along and meet new friends and let your tots enjoy a safe space to play for a couple of hours on a Wednesday morning. Find us on Facebook to find out more and get in touch.

The Garden Club

In spite of prevailing problems, the Garden Club had a busy Summer and Autumn. After a very successful plant sale in June we decided to return to a programme which was as normal as possible.

This meant that in July we visited the garden of Waterend Hoase in Wheathampstead. We each travelled in our own car for safety and were surprised and delighted to find ourselves at a handsome Jacobean manor - house tucked down a little lane. Our hostess Mrs. Nail-Cain, was most hospitable providing us with tea and cake after showing us around her large and beautiful garden.

Our August meeting, again outdoors, was a 'Bring and Share' supper in the lovely garden of our Chairman, Mrs. Mary Guenier and her husband Robin. We were blessed with a balmy evening, so thoroughly enjoyed the excellent food and company.

September saw the first of our indoor meetings, so, precautions taken, we welcomed our first speaker, Mrs. Margaret Easter, whose brilliant slides and comprehensive knowledge of her subject 'Plants for Autumn and Winter' were much appreciated.

October is the month for our A.G.M. which was followed by a short talk and demonstration by me, and our now traditional 'cheese and wine' repast.

Our intended speaker for November e mailed us the day before the due date to say that he was ill so we were forced to improvise.

Members of the committee led an evening of quizzes and games, many relating to gardening. This was well received.

Audrey Fitzpatrick



Kimpton History Group 2022

To satisfy Covid-19 recommendations, we are temporarily holding our evening meetings in the Main Hall of the Memorial Hall and not the Green Room.

Wednesday 19th January at 8 pm **"The Bells of Kimpton"**

Illustrated talk by Juliet Morton (supported by Sue Newman and Mike Cox) on the history of Kimpton Church tower & the bells hung in it.

Wednesday 16th February at 8 pm **"Kimpton in the 18th Century"**

Illustrated talk by John Pollington from the resources in our own Archives.

Wednesday 16th March at 8 pm **Short AGM then "Puritans, Pilgrims & Presidents"**

Illustrated talk by Liz Eastwood on the Hertfordshire connection with one of the pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower, 400 years ago.

The usual reminder email, giving full details of the meeting and any last minute changes will be sent to members a few days before the event. Visitors or guests are welcome to attend any of our talks for a small charge of £3, which includes tea/coffee.

For more information about the Group, please contact Juliet Morton 01438 832427.

Regular Services at St Peter & St Paul Church

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month 9.30am Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 9.30am
Worship Service

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 8am Said Holy Communion in the Millennium Room
5th Sunday varies.

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks, a donation received from the Kimpton Parish Council. Now that we are back to the printed magazine, we would welcome donations again from Kimpton clubs



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We lost one of our longstanding members in the summer. Dennis Clarke sadly passed away. Our sympathies to his wife and family, Dennis was our treasurer for many years and despite his advancing illness, was still very interested in the work of the Legion. He is sadly missed.

We have had a busy few months - what a contrast to last year. It began with the build up to the Poppy Appeal - thank you to our Poppy organiser Sue Burns and her amazing group of volunteers.



It was wonderful to be able to hold the Remembrance Day Parade. Thank you to Donna Bigg who put so much effort into making it happen. We had a short service of rededication at the war memorial before the laying of wreaths. The memorial has been cleaned. Thank you to the parish council for funding that, the Tommy

statues are in place- thank you to Matt Henderson for his generous contribution that enabled us to buy the Tommies and thank you to Keith Dollin for his work placing the Memorial stones in their permanent positions. *Kim Hills, Chairman RBL (Kimpton Branch)*



Procession photographs by Juliet Morton



Kimpton Poppy Appeal 2021

Once again POP-UP POPPIES at the War Memorial and The Corner Stores has broadened the opportunity for donations to the appeal. Our contactless device ensured that new means of payment were also an option.

In total, Kimpton raised £3,400.

The appeal commenced with a buoyant coffee morning at The Dacre Rooms which raised £540 – our thanks to everyone who supplied the raffle prizes and homemade cakes.

Poppies were sold throughout the Parish via Kimpton Parish Church, Kimpton Primary School and community businesses. We received a generous donation from The Bright Star, and The Boot hosted a very welcome curry lunch for RBL members on Remembrance Sunday.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who has donated to this year's appeal. This would not have been possible without the Poppy Volunteers who staffed Pop-up-Poppies throughout Remembrance fortnight.

Thank you: Barbara, Donna, Eileen, Elaine, Jane, Jenny, Liz, Mike, Nick, Pam, Pat, Robin, Tiffany and Val.
Sue Burns, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kimpton



We were really delighted to see so many Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attending the Kimpton Remembrance Parade. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had been learning about Remembrance as well as finding out about those lost in World War I that had also been members of 1st Kimpton Scout troop. They have been learning the essential life skill of ironing and they all looked very smart in their uniforms.

We would like to thank everyone for attending the recent AGM. The committee and leaders were pleased to update the parents on how the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are organised. As well as informing them that 1st Kimpton is run entirely by volunteers. We currently do have vacancies and would welcome anyone interested in becoming a parent representative or an assistant leader.

We are really looking forward to the build up to Christmas. We will be selling refreshments at the Kimpton Christmas Market on Saturday 4th December 2pm to 6pm to help raise funds for the group. We will be attending the Kimpton Players pantomime on Thursday 2nd December as well as attending the Harpenden and Wheathampstead Gang Show in January.

The Beavers have been completing their World challenge by cooking and creating Japanese kites. This term the Cubs are making puppets and performing a puppet show as well as cooking Christmas treats. The Scouts are cooking Christmas cakes as well as completing night bases outdoors. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet on Thursday evenings at Kimpton Memorial Hall. Please contact the secretary if you have a child that would like to join either Beaver, Cubs, or Scouts at secretary@kimptonscouts.org.com. 1st Kimpton Scouts and leaders would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



A Smile for the Day

A week or so ago, I passed someone in the High Street with my usual 'Good morning!' And she said 'Oh, my goodness! That smile has made my day!'

It got me thinking. So I did my own informal survey over the next week.

You know, we pride ourselves in Kimpton on living in a really friendly village, but, as I passed people, fewer than 50% returned my greeting, smiled or even made eye contact!

I would expect that in London, but not in Kimpton! Maybe it's me! Quite possibly!

But, if it is Covid or the gloom of winter, then a greeting and a smile dispel those clouds, at least for a time.

Have a HAPPY Christmas! *Andy Morton*



New play equipment on order for the Recreation Ground

It's fair to say the popularity of the see-saw at Kimpton Recreation Ground has always been a bit up and down, so at November's meeting the council approved its replacement with two new items.

Firstly, a Double Perch, which is a "springer" product that encourages teamwork and group play. It's suitable for use by both younger (4yrs+) and older users. There's also a Tic Tac Toe Panel, a classic game which is still surprisingly addictive! There are pictures of both items shown.



The council's attention now turns to considering the relative merits of installing some outdoor fitness equipment on the lower level of the Recreation Ground, following a request from some residents earlier this year. We will of course consult with the community as part of this process. Finally, if anyone is interested in giving the see-saw a new home in return for a charitable donation, then please contact Carina, the parish clerk, to discuss further.



It's now even greener in Peters Green

The council recently funded the planting of some new trees on the village green in Peters Green, and the project is now complete following the installation of a new circular bench around the silver birch. The bench was made possible due to fundraising donations from Peters Green Village Hall Trust and The Bright Star, so our thanks to them for supporting this initiative. (see more on page 15)

Talking of trees, we also have over 1000 whips on order, which will need to be planted in the Parish over the winter/spring. With the help of the Bench Working Party, the council is looking to organise a community planting day and hope many children in the village will look to get involved. More details will follow, but please contact Carina, our parish clerk, if you would like more information or to volunteer.

James Marshall Foundation now covers Kimpton

James Marshall Foundation is a charity based in Harpenden that has been operating since 1722. When he left his gift in his will, I'm sure James Marshall could have never imagined that, in the last six years alone, the Trustees would have awarded grants of more than £1 million.

The foundation provides grants for educational and career-related items/activities to young people aged under 25 years, although priority is given to those aged 16 years and over. Previously they could only support applicants living in Harpenden and Wheathampstead but have recently extended their catchment area to also cover Kimpton, Redbourn, Markyate and Flamstead. This is a very positive development for our community, and I'd like to thank the foundation for extending their generous support of young people. Applications from Kimpton residents are encouraged so please spread the word. For more details, please visit <https://www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk>

A reminder to report fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the term used to describe waste illegally dumped on land and can range from a single black rubbish bag to multiple loads of construction waste. As I'm sure you've seen, this is sadly increasingly common on the lanes around Kimpton.

to next page



From previous page We all have a role to play in trying to stamp it out.

The best way to stop organised fly tipping is to make sure that only authorised waste carriers take your waste away. But if you do witness fly-tipping, then please report it. It's quick and easy to do online, and locations can be identified using What3Words. North Hertfordshire District Council treat fly tipping very seriously and will prosecute anyone caught. For more information visit

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/fly-tipping>

Reflecting on an important month for the environment

This month saw two momentous environmental landmarks – the United Nations COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow and the passage of the Environment Act 2021 into law.

As the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Renewable and Sustainable Energy it was a great privilege to attend COP26. It was as inspiring as it was sobering. I had a packed schedule: observing diplomatic negotiations, meeting with NGOs and renewable energy companies, hosting roundtable discussions with climate policy experts and colleagues from different political parties and Parliaments, and – the big event for me - chairing a cross-party panel event on Parliamentary consensus-building as part of the Green Zone's official programme.



COP has made some huge progress – more than 90% of the global economy is now signed up to Net Zero; action to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 has been agreed; and we now have commitments to cut methane, make clean technology cheaper, accelerate the transition to clean energy, protect nature, improve the sustainability of agriculture, and more.

The Glasgow Climate Pact, which – with all the will in the world – should be enough to keep 1.5 degrees alive, delivers on a wide range of binding new measures and, crucially, identifies funding for a number of vitally important projects to advance Net Zero. It is a great tribute to the personal dedication and hard work of COP President Rt Hon Alok

Sharma MP that we have been able to achieve these outcomes. In the months ahead, we will continue to rapidly implement the UK's green industrial revolution, helping vulnerable communities, decarbonising our economy, eliminating coal, shifting to renewables, mobilising green finance and investing in irreplaceable natural capital.

This month the Environment Act also passed into law, giving our local environment stronger, lasting protections. Having sat on the Bill Committee for this important piece of legislation, I have been working hard to ensure that it delivers in a way that is realistic and pragmatic. The Act delivers on improved air and water quality, reduced waste and support for biodiversity. It also gives our police greater ability to tackle fly-tipping, which is something I have been pushing for.

The Act also ensures there is a legal duty on water companies to progressively reduce the adverse impact of sewage discharges on the environment and public health, something that I know local residents care deeply about. Regrettably, we cannot fix decades of under-investment overnight with a blanket ban on sewage discharges - however much we might wish to do so. I believe that these new measures will provide protection for our natural environment and chalk streams in a way that is feasible, and does not create the undesirable risk of sewage being discharged into the street instead during extreme rain.

Bim Afolami, MP

Opening Up

It is wonderful to see the world (and Kimpton especially!) opening up again after such a long time of being shut down.

It seemed like forever that we couldn't go outside, couldn't socialise, couldn't hug or even shake hands, and so it is a huge relief to be able to meet up once more.

Of course, we still need to be careful and I am very concerned when I hear of people who have been to concerts or football matches and coming home again with Covid. There is still a long way to go and we can't afford to be complacent.

However, in three of the groups that are close to my heart, things have started to loosen up again;

The CHURCH is fully up and operational – indeed, it never really closed, with the Book Swap, Food Bank and regular services running since June 2020! It's lovely to see people coming back and thanking God for the very many blessings we receive.

LOAVES AND FISHES has been running again since June. I thought that the numbers would be low at first, but clearly everyone was so keen to meet up again that everyone turned up as soon as it was possible!

KIMPTON YACHT CLUB has taken to the water once more and we had a very exciting weekend down on the Solent in October, amid very strong (Gale Force!) winds. There were 27 of us in four boats! It was great to be back!



Let's hope this trend towards a freer society will continue and that we can all enjoy Christmas without the nausea of last year!

Have a great time and be safe!

Andy Morton

Kimpton Village Choir Come and sing!

The last year or so has been really tricky for us all. We've kept the choir going on-line and are delighted to be back in person now. We're currently working towards our Christmas concert on 5th December in the church. It's our first concert for two years and we'll be joined by lots of local talent, fresh and established!

Singing in a choir is incredibly good for you in so many ways, physical and mental. We meet every Monday night during term time in the school hall from 8pm until 9.30pm.



We sing a wide range of songs from simple part songs to arrangements of pop songs and songs from musical theatre, rock, folk and the occasional bit of classical music.

You don't need to be able to read music or have sung in a choir. All music will be supplied and a fun time is guaranteed.

Each year we have a number of opportunities to perform around the village, at the Art Fair, Folk Festival, at Christmas and during Mayfest.

Come and give us a try - you won't regret it!
For further information please contact me, Tim Armstrong-Taylor by email at kvc@armstrong-taylor.co.uk
See our website www.kimptonvillagechoir.co.uk

A Christmas Tale

by Andrew GENEVER

The days are shorting and nights are lengthening.

Winter approaching , new year in reach.

The golden red ,yellow leaves are falling.

Confetti celebrating another year.

Holly berries decorating trees a Christmas celebration.

New shoots appearing on branches.

New life branching out .

The yew trees trimmed line the path to the church.

Grave stones marked with Christmas garlands.

Christmas music & carols sung.

The Christmas tree standing in the old well bucket.

Welcoming people in the church

The white Horse is still bolted.

The Boot carries on .

Sing around songs of yuletide & New year.

Filled of good cheer.

Festive food & drink a plenty

The Corner Stores are full of Christmas goodies

Celebrate their great support to one & all.

Looking forward to the new year.

Ring in the new year.

Cheers to one & all.



Can we help you with something?

07745 903539

KimptonCares@gmail.com



Back with a bang

Friday April 29th to Monday 2nd May 2022

We're back!!!! Or rather we sincerely hope to be back in 2022 with the 56th May Festival, after an enforced 2 year break because of the pandemic and our theme will be "Back with a bang" – interpret that in any way you like but no fireworks please!

I am aware that many people have moved into the village during the last 2 years who will have no idea as to what this village can do when it comes to having fun and raising money for a variety of good causes. As a result of the last May Festival in 2019 and despite the bad weather, we still managed to donate in excess of £12,000 to a variety of good causes; in 2018 it was £17,000.

The May Festival began in 1965 as a one day event on the first Saturday in May to raise money towards repairs to the church roof and over the decades has grown to an event that starts on Friday evening and ends on Monday afternoon over the early May Bank Holiday weekend. The events include (but are not limited to) a procession of floats along the High Street to the Recreation Ground, a fete with a variety of events in an arena including maypole dancing; cream teas, a junior football tournament, dog show, wine tasting, fun run for both juniors and adults, an auction, grand draw, car boot sale, variety show, open air cinema and much more. There is also the Kimpton Art Show in the church over the weekend (run by a separate committee) and the Parish Church Restoration Trust benefits from both the Art Show and May Festival.

However, for the May Festival to be a success and enjoyable for all, we need volunteers to help organise and run the myriad of events. Some of the former committee members and volunteers have decided that they have done their bit and it's time for some new blood and some new ideas so if you would like to get involved in any way or find out a bit more, please get in touch.

Areas where we are particularly in need of help are with the organising of the May Monarch, the Fun Run, the Variety Show, the Auction and all the mundane but very necessary tasks of writing risk assessments, getting a road closure for the procession, organising the insurance, waste collection, First Aid and so on; all things that go on in the background that are needed to put on a safe and successful event.

Please give some thought to how you could help either in advance or over the weekend because without some more volunteers, some of the events just won't happen next year as the existing committee also want to enjoy the weekend and not run themselves ragged.

May Festival Needs You



Thank you. Barbara Kazwini, Chairman

07484 355914

barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com



***Public call for
inspiration! Anything
goes...well almost***

The Memorial Hall has served the village as a great community asset since it was opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 10th July 1983. The hall has proved an ideal venue for meetings, parties, plays, music events, wedding receptions as well as regularly hosting fitness classes and clubs such as Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides.

Over the last few years the hall committee has worked hard not only to maintain the hall but to significantly improve its facilities and continues to do so with further plans for enhancement, so it is wonderful to see the hall coming back to life. Recently we have been the recipient of a number of government grants offered during the pandemic which will help us to further improve the hall and thus enrichen our community through its use.

Thinking about this and how the hall is currently used (and will continue to be so) the Hall Trustees would like to invite you to put forward your ideas for how else the hall might be used. Do you have an idea for how you might use the hall, whether for a club or an event?

Whether you wish to do something for charity, for the benefit of the local community or if you have an idea for a commercial activity and you aren't sure quite how to go about things don't fret - just get in touch. We welcome all ideas! We are happy to consider all proposals for use of the hall and look at ways in which we could support creative ideas for its use.

So please don't be backwards in coming forwards! If you've got a fully formed idea or just a seed of an idea - we'd love to hear it. We have a great asset in the hall and look forward to sharing it with everyone.

Please email kmh@armstrong-taylor.co.uk
Tim Armstrong-Taylor, Vice-Chairman
The Hall Trustees



There continue to be issues below affecting personal, vehicle and property safety so do please take time to read them.

Local Crime and Safer Neighbourhood Policing

During the last few months it has continued to be a relatively quiet time but there have been incidents relating to scams, motor vehicle theft, theft of property from motor vehicles and some drug possession.

In terms of locally generated crime if you are a victim of, or a witness to, an incident which you feel is serious enough, do report it immediately to Hitchin Police Station using 101 and ask for a Crime Number.

We remind you that our Hitchin Rural officers are Ward Constable Gary Pugsley and PCSO Heather Burrows who can be contacted via the automated control at County HQ on 01707 354192 or use the e-mail addresses inside the back cover of this magazine.

OWL (Online Watch Link)

We particularly want more of you to join the growing numbers of residents benefitting from the receipt of police crime alerts direct by e-mail or telephone. Hertfordshire OWL membership is currently 162,000 but we want to increase that so please tell your friends and neighbours about it and urge them to join. Joining is simple by contacting www.owl.co.uk, our Ward Coordinators (listed below), or our Watch Liaison Officer Verity Soued on wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

It is important that we maintain the records as up to date as possible to maximise the benefit of NHW within the community. We are always looking for Street Coordinators to each cover a small number of houses. They will maintain the details of new households and amendments as well as keeping an eye on any vulnerable people who also may not have access to OWL on the internet.

Scams continue to be a big problem. Typical ones in circulation today are :

1. Scammers posing as Police Officers/Staff/ Banking Officials.
2. HMRC monies owing or refunds
3. Post office/ courier texts demanding payment for wrong postage. - This is a double

scam whereby payment is demanded to redeliver a parcel. Then a few days later the victim is called by a scammer purporting to be from their bank, and they are told they were victim of a scam (which they were), but because this is the truth the victim believes them and then potentially parts with further money via a Push Payment.

4. Amazon prime accounts

5. Courier Fraud - when a victim (often elderly or MH concerns) will be contacted and told they need to move their money out of their account as they have been subject to a scam/ investigation. They then arrange to meet with that individual to collect the money they take out of the account. With large unusual payments or requests to take money out of a branch, the Banking Protocol will be enacted by banking staff whom inform the Police of potentially fraudulent activity

6. Phone calls from Visa card fraud department continue to be a feature, Involving cash transfers from your account.

The caller asks you to call them if you have not made the transaction. This is a scam, just end the call immediately.

Please report all scams to Action Fraud on the following link: www.actionfraud.police.uk

Vehicle and Contents Theft

Countywide there continues to be prevalence of these crimes so always lock your car and set the alarm and don't leave any valuables, Satnavs or Dash Cams on display.

There is an outbreak of theft of catalytic converters particularly from Hybrid cars, even in daylight, where the thieves profit from the sale of the precious metal content. Take special precautions such as parking in a garage or close to a wall, fit CCTV to your home, have fixing bolts welded or fit a dealer supplied security cover. It is also possible to etch or forensically mark the converter and use a windscreen sticker to advertise this.

Hertfordshire Constabulary has teamed up with garages around the county to offer free catalytic converter security marking. Security marking can help to deter thieves. Details of the garages taking part in the security marking scheme can be found at <http://www.herts.police.uk/operationfeline/>. The marking takes around two hours. *to page 15*

from page 14

Festive Season Security Reminders

Should you leave your property unoccupied for any length of time, please secure all windows, doors, garages and sheds. Make the property look 'lived in' by parking a vehicle on the drive if possible and installing timer operated security lights and do please give a neighbour your contact details. Never leave any keys within sight of the letter box. Christmas presents should not be left on open view

Making Kimpton a better place to live

Don't forget that you can report anonymously if you witness any incidents of fly-tipping, dog fouling, unruly behaviour, excessive noise and nuisance neighbours on Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. Please use 101 for non-emergencies or you can go online to:

<http://www.herts.police.uk/report/report>

Your Ward Coordinators

If you have any questions relating to NHW then please get in touch and we will be pleased to help

John Bowers, 07833 301 268 bowers984@btinternet.com

Angus Davidson, 07789 502 057 angussdavidson@btinternet.com

Kimpton Ward Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators



Trees for Peters Green

In March this year, prompted by the sorry sight of yet another stump where a tree had once stood in our village, I contacted our Parish Council and asked how I should go about getting some new trees planted. The first step was to ask all residents whether they wanted to see more trees. The response to my questionnaire was a resounding: 'Yes we do!'



Working with the Parish Council, I was delighted to learn that they would consider funding the project. Eventually, I got the go ahead and the result is now here for all to see: two silver birches, two maples, one specimen maple and two cherry trees.

For years I had looked at the green area in the centre of our village and wished it had a focal point; a painted wooden sign like the one in Wheathampstead perhaps - or a well constructed of flint stones. In order to create the focal point I had always envisaged, I was pleased to learn that The Trustees of Peters Green Village Hall were willing to contribute towards a circular teak bench to surround the silver birch on the middle of the green. Recently the bench was delivered and secured into place by our Bench Working Party.

In the years to come, I hope you will enjoy sitting on the bench under the tree, perhaps with a glass of something from The Bright Star.

My thanks for all their help and support go to: Carina Helmn and Kimpton Parish Council, The Trustees of Peters Green Village Hall, Majestic Trees who supplied and planted the trees and The Kimpton Bench Working Party (Bob, Murph, Angus, Mick and Gordon). *Sharon Torres*

Preschool News



This term, the children have been busy exploring new foods and healthy eating, by making fruit kebabs and squeezing fresh orange juice. We have had great fun learning about how vegetables grow, with a fun sing-along on the big screen. We also joined in with Remembrance Day through Poppy making crafts, and learning about the special day.

Kimpton Preschool Eco-Warriors... have been helping the environment with a welly swap - by bringing in old wellies (in return for a new £1 pair). It has been *all hands on deck* to keep our wonderful Preschool garden looking fab (with the help of Beth's Father-in-Law, thanks Tony), and the children have loved getting involved by clearing up the leaves and grass.



Thank You For Your Votes In November, Beth & Michelle attended the long awaited (covid postponed) Little Ankle Biters Awards at Harpenden Rugby Club. With over 12,000 nominations across 500 local businesses and 17 categories, we were delighted to reach the finals of BOTH 'Best Community Spirit' and 'Best Charity/Not-for-profit', especially as it was so competitive.

Unfortunately, we did not win on the night, but the judge gave us a special mention for the vast number of votes we received (particularly as one of the much smaller and community-led organisations), thanks to all of your generous Kimpton village votes. Thank you so much for all your support and time spent voting for us, we REALLY appreciate it and it was very exciting to get so far. We are extremely proud, and it has given us such a positive boost after a funny old (pandemic) year. Thank you.

Festive Fun With Christmas fast approaching - we are getting into the Kimpton festive spirit by taking part in the fantastic village Advent Calendar. Look out for our Kimpton Preschool window No. 24/Christmas eve spot! Kimpton Preschool will also be helping to run the Christmas bar at the Dacre Rooms on Saturday 4th December, so please come and join us for a festive drink or chat. 🎄

2022 New Starters We are excited to welcome eight new little ones in January 2022. Please get in touch if you or anyone you know, is looking for an OFSTED Outstanding village Preschool, for 2-4yr olds. IMMEDIATE SPACES AVAILABLE for 15hrs or 30hrs, for both funded and self-funded.

Contact manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk or call 01438 833936.

Great news, we recently welcomed a new Committee Member to the group! We are always looking to add new skills and experience to support the Management Committee - a voluntary group made up of past and present parents, that manage all the business aspects of Preschool from recruitment to fundraising, marketing and finance.

If you are interested in learning more about being part of the Management Committee, please email Mike Newman at chairman@kimptonpreschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Kimpton village Day.

Festive wishes from all of us at Kimpton Preschool.

Visit kimptonpreschool.co.uk Follow us on twitter @KimptonPre_Sch

Join us on [Facebook.com/KimptonPreschool](https://www.facebook.com/KimptonPreschool)

The Kimpton Players proudly present their 57th Annual Old Time Music Hall

This fun packed sing-along evening runs from February 24th until March 5th
See posters around the village and social media for box office details

Here are some images from previous years



Christmas Lantern Making in Church House

Photos: Juliet Morton



Prayer Corner

If you would like to have a few moments of prayer or contemplation, please feel free to come to our Prayer Corner in the Church. There is an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one and sit for a while to think about them and perhaps offer a prayer.

Instead of the Prayer Board, we have a book, where you are invited to write your prayer requests, this will be dated monthly so that there is a permanent record. The Church is open every day and all are welcome to come and experience the peace of our Prayer Corner and beautiful Church.



Starting on 19th July 2021
come along for a

Crafty Cuppa

in the
Dacre Rooms
on
3rd Monday of every month
from 1-3pm

*Bring along a craft or project,
share ideas and skills,
help each other out
or
just pop along for tea or coffee
and a friendly chat....*

Costs £3 per session

Just turn up or contact:
Angela Dyke 07788651563
Julie Brown 01438 833714

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Linda Williams

01438 833348 *with voicemail*
lindalpwilliams@hotmail.co.uk

Lay Reader

Andy Morton

01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Church Wardens

Jenny Kelly

07818 613143
genkel@btinternet.com

Lynda Harvey

07487 413901
lynda.a.harvey@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Liz Jamieson

01438 832858
liz@jamieson21.plus.com

Baptist Church

Perry Green at Peters Green

Minister

Rev Andrew Gale

01582 422635

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non urgent 101

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team

Guy Westwood

guy.westwood@herts.police.uk

Ward Constable Gary Pugsley

gary.pugsley@herts.police.uk

PCSO Heather Burrows

heather.burrows@herts.police.uk

Hitchin rural general email

SNTHitchinRural@herts.police.uk

Police and Crime Commissioner

David Lloyd

commissioner@herts.police.uk

Parish Magazine

Editor: Andy Wright

email: **kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**

Typed or written copy to John Pollington, 10 Canham Close
Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

Deadline

Copy for the spring 2022 edition must be in by
Sunday March 20th

Parish Council

Cllr Ian Corbett (Chairman)

Cllr Neil Burns

Cllr Alex Firth

Cllr Ben Purple

Cllr Jon Marsh

Cllr Sue O'Brien

Cllr Carly Procter

Cllr David Reavell

Parish Clerk

Carina Helm

Memorial Hall

clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

Cllr John Bishop

john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk

County Councillor

Cllr Richard Thake

richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Bim Afolami

www.bimafolami.co.uk

Helping Hand

North Herts Community Volunteer Services

Can provide transport to hospitals. For details ring *01462 689400*

The Samaritans

If you would like to talk to the Samaritans or find out more about becoming a volunteer, please ring *01582 720666* or freephone *116 123* anytime day or night or email jo@samaritans.org

North Herts & District Citizens Advice Bureau

To contact the CAB phone *0344 411 1444* www.northhertscab.org.uk

Kimpton Preschool

Our OFSTED Outstanding Preschool and friendly team are based at Linden Lodge (on the grounds of Kimpton Primary School), offering sessional care for 2-4yr olds.

We are open Monday-Friday (term time), with morning/lunch club/afternoon sessions available. We accept 15-30 hrs, funded and self-funded.

For more information, please contact the team on manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk or 01438 833936. Visit www.kimptonpreschool.co.uk

The Dacre Rooms

To book The Dacre Rooms please email our bookings secretary Wendy Dollin bookings@dacrerooms.info

Kimpton Memorial Hall

For bookings contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini. 6 The Wick, Kimpton. *01438 832620*
barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

Useful Links

kimptonvillage.com

herts.police.uk

stalbans.anglican.org

kimpton.herts.sch.uk

kimptonchurch.co.uk

 [Kimpton Church Hertfordshire](#)