

Kimpton Parish Magazine

Spring 2022
Number 269



Photo: Andy Wright



Easter - a time for the start of a new life

We're all living through tough and treacherous times. We think Covid is beginning to melt away—and the fires of our fears are stoked up by soaring infection numbers! We think we're done with Brexit –only to discover even more red tape rules about travelling and trading with the EU than there were ever wonky bananas and cucumbers! We think we live in prosperous times—and we are shocked by the multitude of new and increased tax hikes! We believed we lived in peace—and we are stunned by the awful atrociousness of the atrocities of the Russian invasion of Ukraine!

Nevertheless, Easter is still worth celebrating because it is all about new life. Not about old life—how we used to be—what we used to put up with—but about new life and abundant life and fulfilled life. Suddenly we have looked up from our Covid, Brexit, increased costs of living woes and seen new life bursting out everywhere in nature. Spring has arrived. What is more the villages are daring to live life to the full again—May Festival is on. Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence Art Shows will be happening. Noise project will go ahead. No more cancelled holidays or weddings.

Easter brings the chance to start again. There are 2 million displaced persons and 3-4 million Ukrainian refugees at the moment. Their situation is tough and treacherous. They are stunned and horrified by the Russian invasion of their country. Mostly women and children, they are having to start life all over again. A new and shockingly different and changed life. By 20th March, 58,000 Ukrainians applied to enter the UK to go to family members. It is shaming and treacherous indeed that only 9,000 visas to enter the UK had been issued by 20th March—that's less than the number of illegal immigrants landing on the Kent coast in 4 months. It would be the least we could do to help these war refugees to have the chance to start again with their families.

At Kimpton & Ayot St Lawrence Churches we have considered what practical help we might realistically be able to give war refugees to help them have the chance to begin a new life again. We have no suitable house to house a Ukrainian family, have negligible or no public transport and shortly no primary healthcare as Bridge House satellite surgery in Kimpton closes. The Church council decided our most effective action was to continue to raise funds for the Disaster Emergency Committee Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine. We will build on the £600+ raised at the last Dacre Rooms Coffee morning hosted by Kimpton church and use all the events over the Easter Weekend to raise more money.

Come to the Good Friday Hot Cross Bun café and make a donation. If you don't come to church at any other time, come to church at Easter and make a donation. Please help give Ukrainian war refugees that chance to begin a new life.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Easter a week or so after the Church of England. This year that is 24th April. We pray with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Ukraine that Easter will bring the chance to start again for them. Let us all pray for a speedy declaration of a lasting peace with Russia. An end to loss of life. And pray that there will be the beginning of a new life that will be an abundant life filled with peace.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Easter.
God bless
Rev'd Linda Williams

Our 2022 May Queen and attendants are on the front cover. Pages 12 & 13 for May Festival news

Your guide to Services & Events in Holy Week and Easter 2022

Palm Sunday 10th April - Holy Week begins

9.30am The Service starts in Church House and includes: Blessing of Palm Crosses, Palm Procession, Dramatised Passion Gospel set within a simple Holy Communion Service.

Maundy Thursday 14th April

11am St Albans Abbey; Blessing of oils and Renewal of ordination vows.

7pm We share a very simple Last Supper meal in Church House (lamb casserole, bread, cheese & fruit. Vegetarian option available. Wine and soft drinks). We reflect on Jesus' last evening with his disciples. Symbolic foot washing & informal Breaking of Bread together after dinner. Then we 'walk in the garden with Jesus to church where Stripping the Altar' takes place. A silent Vigil in Church is held until midnight. All welcome to any part or all of the evening to remember and mark our Lord's Passion.

Good Friday 15th April

Some events take place at the same time

9am Meet at Peter's Green Chapel to raise the cross.

9.45am Set off to walk from Peter's Green to Kimpton.

9.30-11.30am. Hot Cross Bun Café and Easter Garden competition for children at the Dacre Rooms.

11.15am Walk of witness around Kimpton

12 noon Childrens' Activity Building the Easter Garden in Church

12.30pm Short service of prayer and worship for Good Friday in Church — suitable for everyone

Easter Day - 17th April

6.00am SUNRISE SERVICE

Kindling the Easter fire and the First Holy Communion of Easter Day (followed by breakfast in Church House)

9.30am Holy Communion Service for all ages
Lighting the Easter Candle, Renewing our Baptism Promises, Bringing the bare Cross into Bloom and..... Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Garden Competition (Please bring a flower to place in the Cross)

Funerals and Interments

Leslie 'Bill' Symonds

Bill Symonds of Commons Lane, was born in February 1930 and lived his long and contented life, mostly (with the exception of National Service) within 3 miles of Kimpton. Bill was one of twins—he was Leslie Allan and his twin Allan Leslie—which explains the name Bill. He worked at Vauxhalls on the night shifts for a while. He married June and their family was completed by their two girls. Bill passed away in the Lister Hospital on 5th January aged 91. His funeral was at Harwood Park Crematorium on 31st January 2022.

Margaret Kerr Loader

Originally from Glasgow, Margaret's parents and brother were moved to Wembley in 1940 for war work. Margaret retrained to be a teacher in 1970, becoming deputy headmistress before retirement. Her interests included badminton and she coached the England team. She ran cycling proficiency classes which she felt was very important. Margaret married John and they had 44 happy years together—26 of them spent in Lawn Avenue, Kimpton. Between them John and Margaret had six children, eight grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Margaret battled cancer for three years. She passed away on 18th January at home in Lawn Avenue aged 88 years. Her funeral was at Harwood Park Crematorium on 15th February 2022

Dennis Clarke

The interment of ashes for the late Dennis Clarke of Blackmore End, whose funeral was held in August 2021, took place on 15th February 2022 in Kimpton Churchyard.

Colin Ward

Colin was born in 1931 and grew up in Kimpton. His parents were Tom, the tailor, and Drusilla Ward and his grandfather Samuel Ward was baker and landlord of the White Horse in the early years of the 20th century. Tom was part of a large family who lived on and around The Green. Colin worked at ICI at Kimpton Hoo, but then did National Service during the Anti-British National Liberation War in Malaya. Colin spent much of his working life as a herdsman looking after the cattle at Norfolk College of Agriculture (now Easton College) near Norwich and to give on-the-job training to a new generation of herdsman and women. Later he became a landscape gardener. He was married to Anne Williamson, (who predeceased him in 2007), for 43 years. Colin died in 2021. He is survived by his three sons and daughter and five grandchildren who carried out his wish for his ashes to be interred at Kimpton with his parents on what would have been his 91st birthday-8th March 2022.

It's your Church—you don't want to lose it—so come along and use it!

I was talking to the man who came to spray the Vicarage carpets for moths and beetles the other day. He was astonished to learn that if you were christened (at whatever age—babe or grown up) in a church, that gave you the right to be married there. The moth man said--to quote Michael Caine 'not a lot of people know that.' So, I'm going to tell you about it. If you were christened, confirmed, went to Sunday school or even were in a Brownie or Guide pack that regularly attended Sunday church—you can get married in that church.

What am I saying is—plan for the future. Come and have your babes, children, godparents, adults christened at Kimpton or Ayot St Lawrence church. We can fit you into a Sunday morning service several times a year or on an afternoon (thought that's likely to be without music or singing).

It is your right as English citizens to be christened, married and have your funeral and be buried in their local C of E church. Everyone resident in Kimpton, Blackmore End, Peters Green, Ayot St Lawrence and anywhere in these parishes qualifies.

What's more, compared to civil services for weddings and funerals, it can be cheaper. Just ask me about costs. Christenings are free—what I like to call God's free gift.

I meet a lot of people in Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence who tell me how they used to come to church or used to attend Sunday school, were in the choir or rang bells. Let's be honest, a few voices may have broken, or you grew out of Sunday school or football got scheduled for Sunday morning, or you had a run in with the Vicar or just didn't like them much. (Well, this Vicar is not like that!). Lately Covid-19 has been the reason folks have stopped coming to church—in order to keep safe. But even so, like the Windmill Theatre during the 1940 Blitz – we never closed either Kimpton or Ayot St Lawrence churches in 2021. People stop going to church for all sorts of reasons.

This Vicar wants you to think again about coming to church. This time of the year is really good for giving church a go. For a start it's warmer weather! There's Easter time too—Palm Sunday, palm crosses for everyone and a dramatized version of the Easter story. Free hot cross buns at the Dacre Rooms, children's Easter gardens competition, a lovely walk from Peter's Green Cross raising ceremony to Kimpton church all on Good Friday. Easter Day's main 9.30am church is all about the good bits, the happy ending in Jesus' story—his coming back to life so that we can have eternal life. More Easter gardens, flowery crosses, an outdoor trail and songs you've heard of that are old favourites to sing.

All this is quickly followed by May Festival and Kimpton Church Art Show with outdoor songs of praise. You get to choose the songs we sing on the day. Ayot St Lawrence Church Art Show is in June. Pet blessing services at both churches in July. Oh! and there are weddings all through June and July at Kimpton this year—so get booked in quick if you are thinking of a church wedding or christening.. ...just ask me if you want to know what's possible. I aim to please!

Whilst we still have two beautiful, picturesque, (for the photos) historic, unique Grade one listed churches that folks rave about in our villages, church going has changed and the Vicar's mission is to make you smile as you give church another go. It's your church—you don't want to lose it—so come along and use it!

Call 01438 833348 and speak to Rev'd Linda Williams for a chat about what's on offer and how we can help you.

Visit the village website kimptonpc.org



How do we maintain our Parish Church?

Have you ever wondered how life would be in Kimpton without our beautiful church? A dilapidating ruin which greets you on the skyline as you drive in from Codicote. Hardly a fitting advertisement for our wonderful village though, happily, we do not envisage this happening in our lifetime! But how is the building maintained?

Our parish church is of course primarily used by many to worship God every Sunday. But what about those people and their families who have been baptised, married, and, sadly, buried there? Who would miss candlelit carols at Christmas, the joy of Easter services (and Easter egg hunts!) in the spring, and the Armistice parade in November? How else would you hear the sound of bells ringing out over our village? Or where would you go for somewhere quiet to pray, reflect or meditate? What about the other roles that our church building fulfils within our Kimpton community? The book stall / puzzle swap corner which provided such great comfort for many of us during lockdown. The terrific venue it provides for our annual art show, great acoustics for the folk festival, and a fitting location for the food table at the back of the church organised for the benefit of less fortunate villagers by the amazing people of "Kimpton Cares". And then there's the history and aesthetic beauty of the building itself which contributes to the character and architecture of our village.

And yet nearly 1,000 churches have been decommissioned within Britain over the past 30 years with the rate of closure accelerating. Over 420 churches were shut in the past decade and the same number is expected to close in the next 5 years. Could our parish church be one of them? Certainly, without the commitment of all those people who have served on the Kimpton Parish Church Restoration Trust ("KPCRT"), it is entirely possible that our church of St Peter and St Paul could have become another closure statistic.

A church has stood on the current site since the 12th century with the pillars and arches of the nave dating from c1200 AD. Now grade 1 listed and built largely of flint embedded in lime mortar, our church requires constant maintenance. Ancient buildings are expensive to maintain which is why KPCRT was set up in April 1984 as a registered charity with the sole aim of funding maintenance and restoration work on the church's fabric. The cost of essential work has historically been met from the Trust's own fundraising activities, donations from individuals, and grants from national organisations and locally organised events, notably the Kimpton May Festival and the Art Show for which we are hugely grateful. But with events unable to take place recently due to covid, and grants from national organisations (notably English Heritage) becoming ever more scarce, our income streams have dried up.

To put matters into context, the cost of maintaining the church since the Trust's formation has run into hundreds of thousands of pounds with much of that raised from English Heritage. But with that source of funding no longer available, KPCRT is now obliged to finance repairs from its own fund raising activities. The building needs constant attention in the form of extensive inspections every 5 years by a specialised architect with the cost of any maintenance work met by the Trust. The last architect's inspection took place in 2017 and resulted in KPCRT scheduling required work in two phases. Phase 1 was completed a couple of years ago when significant repairs were made to the main body of the church.

turn to next page

from page 5 Phase 2 should commence this September with the erection of scaffolding around the tower to undertake some necessary stone work and the repainting of the clock. Meanwhile the next architect's five yearly inspection is due imminently. We cannot know at this stage what that will reveal save that, in a constant cycle of required maintenance, it's likely that KPCRT will be presented with a further schedule of works to be completed over the next five years. And then there is always the risk of an unforeseen, urgent structural problem.

We remain hugely indebted to all those people and organisations who have donated to KPCRT in the past. But, to keep our church as a safe and important village asset, we remain reliant on the support of our local community. Could you help? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Jim Wade, Chair, KPCRT
kpcrtchair@outlook.com



Queen's Platinum Jubilee 70 Acts of Kimpton Kindness

You may have heard of this initiative for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee Year.

The idea is for communities to help each other with small jobs for people—and to try to achieve 70 jobs during the year of the Jubilee. So in Kimpton, we're going to try to achieve that in Kimpton between now and the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation June 2023. This is a collaboration between Kimpton Church including the Noise Project and the Village Bench Working Party.

The idea is to perform small acts of kindness that might make a big difference to someone's daily life. Those acts of kindness are to be doing jobs for people that they cannot do on their own for whatever reason. Such as: - facilitate access/safety to their home/garden for them.

The emphasis is on-

Small and specific, ie, not 'gardening' or 'decorating'

Realistic and achievable, ie, not complex/expensive & within skills set of people offering
Time bound tasks ie, to take not more than one session of 1- 2hours or a morning.

Here a few general examples of acts of kindness

Garden maintenance such as trim low short hedge, weed small border, trim few shrubs,

mow small lawn, clear small pond.

Minor DIY such as level rocky paving slab or two, creosoting short fence length/ bench/shed or similar. Small repairs.

There are some things which are outlawed for Health & Safety/Safeguarding reasons:

No working at height

No disposal of rubbish, garden cuttings etc.

No working with chemicals

Preferably out of doors acts of kindness

Nothing a professional tradesperson should be required for.

If you know of anyone (you yourself?) who might benefit from a Jubilee Act of Kimpton Kindness, please pass details to Rev'd Linda Williams.

Let's achieve 70 Acts of Kimpton Kindness together.

The Garden Club

Our Christmas celebration was held this year in the Boot Inn and was well received.

We did not have a meeting in January, but in February, Mr. Tom Cole, a lecturer at Capel Manor, who unfortunately had to cancel in November, finally came to speak to us. His subject was "Perennials, Traditional and Contemporary", a topic of considerable interest to all of us.

On March 2nd, we will be meeting in Church House because of the Music Hall in our usual venue. Our topic will be "Gardener's Question Time" with a panel of Ann Dyer, Hilary Gilbert, and myself.

In April, our speaker will be Mrs Anne Luder from Potter's Bar. She will be talking on the subject "Gardening with British Natives" with a particular slant towards chalky soils.

A visit to a garden is planned for May and in June we hope to be holding a plant sale on The "Middle Green" as we did last year.

As you will see, we are getting back to something like normality (with appropriate precautions).

We would love to see visitors at any of our meetings, which take place in the "Memorial Hall" at 8p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of the month. If you have found solace in your garden during lockdowns perhaps this will have kindled your interest in learning more about how to develop your garden's potential. Why not give "Garden Club a try? Between us, our members have many skills to offer.

A first visit is free. If you decide to become a member, this costs £15 for a year.

You would be most welcome at our April meeting, or ring me on 833309 to express your interest.
Audrey Fitzpatrick.

Grateful Thanks

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

Kimpton History Group 2022

Saturday 30th April & Sunday 1st May at Church House, Kimpton

May Festival Weekend – The History Group's Exhibition

Come and visit us to learn about historic happenings in and around Kimpton over the last century.

Wednesday 18th May at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall

Felicity Brimblecombe will be talking about **The History of Luton Hoo, before the walled garden was built.**

We are temporarily holding our evening meetings in the Main Hall of the Memorial Hall (as it is more Covid friendly) and not the Green Room.

Wednesday evening 15th June – Ware walking tour

Liz Eastwood will be our guide as she introduces us to the history and delights of Ware. Transport by members' cars leaving Kimpton at 6 pm. A contribution of £5 per head is requested. Visitors are welcome, please contact June Cardy 01438 832754 for more details.

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.

Councillors wanted!

It's election year in Kimpton, with Parish Council Election taking place on Thursday 5th May. I'd like to thank the councillors who are stepping down for their commitment in serving our local community, and for all the improvements to the parish we've made over the last four years. We're now actively looking for new volunteers to join the council, so if you're interested in finding out more, please contact our parish clerk, Carina, (clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk), myself or one of my fellow councillors. You need to be at least 18 years old to stand, and elections are for a four-year term.

All nomination papers need to be submitted to North Herts District Council (NHDC) by 4pm on Tuesday 5th April. If required, the council can also arrange delivery of your nomination form to NHDC to save you the trip.

Statutory Consultation now open on the proposed expansion of London Luton Airport

On Tuesday 8 February, Luton Rising, the owners of London Luton Airport, opened a new statutory consultation on its long-term proposals to expand the airport.

The consultation runs until 4 April. The proposal is to increase the capacity of the airport to 32 million passengers per year, by building a new terminal and making better use of the existing runway. Pre-pandemic, 18 million passengers used the terminal each year, so the proposed increase is significant.

At the time of writing, the council has yet to formally consider its response, as it will do so at the Parish Council Meeting on 23 March 2022. However, regardless of the council's view, I would urge all residents to learn about the proposals and have their say as part of the consultation.

Please visit <https://lutonrising.org.uk/> to find out more, including a virtual exhibition room.

There is also a community group called LADACAN which represents people affected by the noise from Luton Airport and concerned about its growing impacts on climate change and on local quality of life. It has provided some excellent guidance on the process and outlined how it plans to respond. Please visit <https://ladacan.org/> to find out more.

And remember, the consultation closes on 4 April 2022.



Hedge planting at Parkfield Sports Ground

As many of you will have seen, work on renewing the hedgerow at Parkfield Sports Ground has commenced. I'm delighted to report Kimpton has secured 1,000 trees through the NHDC free trees giveaway scheme, which will be planted as a new native hedgerow. These are mixed species of



hawthorn, hazel, downy birch, silver birch, field maple, whitebeam, lime, rowan, wild cherry and bird cherry.

to page 9

from page 8 We appreciate that the area looks a little sparse after the clearance works, but this renewed hedge will be a fantastic host to wildlife and create biodiversity in the coming years. In many ways, it is a community legacy project for the benefit of future generations.

On Friday 11 March we also planted seven crab apple trees, as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. This is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

We planted seven – to mark each decade of the Queen's service – and chose to do it on the 70th day of 2022. It was a true community project, with the Eco Team from Kimpton Primary School joining forces with the Bench Working Party and Kimpton Parish Council to plant the trees. We're pleased with the size of the saplings and hope that they will establish quickly.

New outdoor fitness equipment on order for the Recreation Ground

New outdoor fitness equipment is on order for the lower level of the Recreation Ground, following a request from some residents earlier this year. This will be installed week commencing 9th May, after this year's May Festival.

This follows hot on the heels of the recent upgrades to the play equipment, with the see-saw being replaced with a new Double Perch and a Tic Tac Toe panel.

The next phase will be to review the current usage and possible future plans for the Pavilion.

Allotment waiting list

All allotment plots are now full, but we are running a waiting list for anyone who wants to be notified should one become available. This might be of particular interest to any new residents.

Please contact Carina - clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk - if you're interested in putting your name on the waiting list.

Ian Corbett, Chairman, Kimpton Parish Council



On 12th March the village held a coffee morning to raise funds for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal



Thanks to an amazing show of support, with cakes, a raffle and tombola, we raised a phenomenal £2,800 which with Gift Aid brought the total to £3,500.

This included the collections by the Brownies and the Bowls Club

Cllr John Bishop

"I have represented the people of Kimpton at the District Council for 16 years as a member of the Conservative party. I have now resigned my membership of the Conservative party and accordingly at the local election on 5 May I will be standing for election as an Independent"

John Bishop





BLAST (Children's Church) (Bible Learning and Sharing Together) BLAST really have blasted back into Church. We finally returned in October all fired up and raring to go! Our first session was designing some gardens representing psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. We were inspired by the garden designed by Sarah Eberle's at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The children created some wonderful designs that consisted of green pastures and quiet waters. Rehearsals soon started for the production of - 'A King is Born', our 2021 Christmas Eve Crib Service. WOW! What a performance! We were all delighted to be back 'LIVE' in Church for this wonderful occasion. We had over 20 members of cast and some as young as 2 years old. All the children were truly fabulous and the service was an enormous success! We even had a last minute 'stand in' from a member of the audience as the 'Star' guiding the Wise Men to Jesus! The crib service is always such a special celebration to welcome the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is a HUGE team effort and many thanks go to each and everyone involved

There are more photos to be seen in Church on the BLAST notice board, please do take a look! The BLAST crew have continued to welcome more wonderful new families, who join us on fortnightly Sundays at Church House from 9.30am. So far this year, we have shared together the Bible story of 'Daniel and the Lion'. We spoke about the love that Daniel had for God and continued to pray to him everyday even when he was forbidden to. God protected Daniel when he was thrown into the lions den. We all enjoyed making lion heads and story boards. We learnt how 'Jesus fed the 5000' with only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. Jesus performed a miracle as he has done so many times before. The children found this story incredibly interesting and were amazed by Jesus. We discussed about sharing and how Jesus showed compassion to all the people who had followed Him and made sure they all ate. We spoke about what food we would like to make more of, if they could! We had many answers from pancakes to Thai food to sweets and even a curry! We threaded fish shaped sweets and pasta to make story necklaces, we coloured fish and bread platters and made twirly fishes. We are going to continue looking at more of the miracles Jesus performed. Lent was a topic we also covered and what it means. We made Lent bracelets and discussed what we would like to give up or even do more of! Of course, as a yearly tradition we ended the session with us all enjoying a stack of pancakes! Easter will be upon us very soon and we look forward to celebrating together.

The BLAST team will be running a Hot Cross Bun Café and Easter Garden workshop at The Dacre Rooms on Good Friday at 9.30am and some of the BLAST families will be hiding lots of chocolate eggs around Church ready for the Easter Sunday celebrations. We look forward to continuing to bring our church family together at BLAST sessions and welcoming any new families and sharing the love and word of God. Please contact Carly on 07740552643 or carly.tindle@sky.com for more information about BLAST.



KIMPTON ART SHOW

Kimpton Art Show - We are going to have a do in 2022!

Exhibiting art within the beauty of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church
Raising funds for the Parish Church Restoration Fund and May Festival Good Causes

Exhibiting over 600 pieces of original art work: paintings, glass, ceramics, textiles, photos and sculpture. Weekend Entry £1

Dates and Times 2022

Friday 29th April – Monday 2nd May

Open Night: Friday 29th April: 6 – 9pm (entry £5)

Saturday 30th April: 10 – 5pm

Sunday 1st May: 11 – 5pm

Monday 2nd May: 10 – 3pm

The Kimpton Art Show attracts visitors from far and wide but importantly this year we are so looking forward to welcoming back Kimpton residents who have always been at the heart of this community event. Please follow us in April on Kimpton Village Facebook where we hope to bring you images of our artists' forthcoming work.

Sue Burns, Chair, Kimpton Art Show



The first event of 2022 for Kimpton WI was our 103rd Birthday celebration lunch, held at the Boot in February - an occasion much enjoyed by everyone.

In anticipation of, hopefully, a full programme of events this year, the committee has meanwhile been busy planning speakers and activities for the coming months.

The first of these was our March meeting which began with a one minute silence in recognition of the devastating events and suffering in Ukraine.

Then one of our members, Barbie Edwards, talked to us about her husband's experiences during World War 2. Having joined the Navy aged 16, she told us all about the rigorous (and often quite brutal) training the recruits received before joining a ship. The talk was accompanied by photographs and artefacts.

Other activities we have in the pipeline are a talk by Karen Dixon (nee Holmes Walker) in April entitled "A Day In The Life of an Airline Pilot", a dance display, a possible trip to see "Evita" at the new Harpenden theatre and one or two fund raising projects.

Our monthly handicraft and book groups are ongoing and the Friday table tennis sessions have started again in the Memorial Hall. Non members are very welcome to join us for an hour and a half (2.00 - 3.30) of exercise (not too strenuous!) and a lot of laughs.

The WI quiz team recently came 3rd, out of 24, in the annual 3 Counties Quiz and are pleased to have qualified for the finals in June.

All in all, we are gradually getting back to WI "business as usual." Long may it continue!

If you would like more information about Kimpton WI, you can find details of our forthcoming meetings, where visitors are very welcome, on Kimpton Facebook or contact our Secretary, Liz Haynes (832500)

Chris Bichener

Friday April 29th to Monday 2nd May 2022

I am delighted to say that by the time you read this, we will be finalising the plans for the return of the Kimpton May Festival.

Due to the uncertainty at the end of last year / beginning of this as to whether or not we would actually be able to go ahead, we haven't gone to the expense of printing a programme booklet. Instead, you will need to check out our Facebook or Instagram pages or go to the website or look out for posters around the village to keep up to date with what's going on. It is still possible that some last minute changes may be required due to COVID. We do hope to produce a timetable of events and deliver a copy to every house in the village after Easter.

Most of the favourite and traditional events are back and include an open air cinema showing of 'Back to the Future', Wine Tasting, Procession of floats led by the May Queen & her attendants, the fete on the Recreation Ground, Maypole Dancing, History Group Exhibition, Kimpton Entertains, Junior Football Tournament, Dog Show, Cream Teas, Music Night, Fun Run, Hog Roast, Auction and Grand Draw. All this and the Kimpton Art Show in the church that will be open all weekend.

Whatever you plan to do, either taking part in one or more of the events or just coming along as a spectator, I hope you enjoy being out again and meeting people you may not have seen for a while.

May Festival weekend is a great opportunity to meet old friends while raising money for many good causes and having fun.

All we need now is some good weather. I can still picture the Harpenden Pipe Band playing in the arena in a hail storm in 2019 and after all we have all endured in the last 2 years, I think we deserve some sunshine for the weekend!

I look forward to seeing everyone out and about. You'll probably see me pushing 'the pram' and trying to sell Grand Draw tickets!

Barbara Kazwini 07484 355914

[facebook.com/KimptonMayFest](https://www.facebook.com/KimptonMayFest) www.kimptonmayfestival.co.uk



Trying to stride in
these times of strife.
tumbling along the
winding path of life.
Tumbling and
tripping as we go.
Humbled by others in
greater plight.
God, show us the
way to go.

Andrew Genever

Your 2022 May Queen and Attendants



Hello, my name is Hannah. I am thrilled to be May Queen. I go to Katherine Warington School in Harpenden. I have lived in the village all my life and love it here. I went to Kimpton Primary School and attended the village clubs when I was younger such as Guides. I enjoy my sport, playing the flute and creative things such as art and drama.

I really enjoy May Festival as it is one of the best times of the year for the village where it unites the whole of Kimpton and brings the community closer together, even better with the sun shining! The village never fails to put on a good show from the amazing floats and crazy costumes to the brilliant May Pole which is very difficult as I know from past experience of doing it.

I am very excited and honoured to have the role of May Queen and look forward to seeing everyone there.



Hi, my name is Abby, I am 13 years old and have the pleasure of being one of the attendants this year. Being part of this experience has always been one of my goals and I'm so happy to do this with two other lovely people. I attended Kimpton Primary school, and currently in Year 9 at St George's. I love living in the village as I get to take part in loads of experiences and meet amazing people. I think that the May Royals are a truly amazing part of May Festival and I love that now even guys could do this. The May Festival has always been part of the village traditions I enjoy most. I truly think that this festival is inspiring for many people and (hopefully) enjoyable for everyone. I can't wait to see everything come together and I hope to see you there!



Hi, I am Mollie, and I am 11 years old. I am honoured to have the role of May Attendant this year. I am currently attending Kimpton Primary school and I have been living in the village for five years now. At school, I am Year 6 Co-Leader and I am a member of the Pupil Parliament. Out of school, I really enjoy playing music and I have been working towards my grade four in flute and grade one in piano. I also enjoy playing and having cuddles with my dog, Daisy who is a black and white Shih Tzu. I love going to the May Festival every year and it will be great to see everyone there, after a strange few years. Fingers crossed for good weather.

Scouts

1st Kimpton Harpenden & Wheathampstead

Since the start of 2022 the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have certainly been busy. The Scouts enjoyed a trip to the new Eric Morecambe Centre in Harpenden to watch the 72nd Gang Show. The Beavers and Cubs have also been on trips to Harpenden to learn about road safety and a night hike, as well as bowling in Stevenage.

We currently have spaces in our Beaver Colony due to a large number of Beaver Scouts moving up to join our Cub Pack. Beavers meet at Kimpton Memorial Hall on a Thursday evening from 17.00 to 18.15, Cubs meet from 18.15 to 19.30 and Scouts meet from 19.30 to 21.00. If you are interested in helping or have a child that would like to join please contact the secretary at secretary@kimptonscouts.org.uk.



We would like to congratulate Bobby Shaughnessy for achieving the 'I did it and I did it good!' award for his efforts in each and every performance of the Gang Show. We are also very proud of the adult leaders from Kimpton that have achieved the following awards:

Award for Merit and Chief Scout's 20 years' Service Award to Scott Goodge,

Chief Scout's 25 Years' Service Award to John Bowers and Pete Desborough,

Chief Scout's 30 years' Service Award to Mark Hubbard.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Kimpton May Festival and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On Sunday 24th April all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be joining the rest of the district for the St George's Day Parade in Harpenden. Please follow the 1st Kimpton Scout Group Facebook page for all the latest information.

On Sunday 22nd May 1st Kimpton Scouts will be hosting a coffee morning at the Dacre rooms. Please come and support them as they fundraise for Ukraine.

Kate James 1st Kimpton GSL

Events at Ayot St Lawrence



13th May 2022: Cheese, Wine and Festival Church. Ayot St Lawrence Church is in the process of converting to Festival Church status: why not find out more and see if you can help us stay open? 19.00 at Old Hall Farm Cottage: contact us to find out more.

15th May 2022: 11.30: we will be exploring the theme of Ascension in Ayot, in an accessible way. Come and find out more about this lesser known (nowadays) Christian festival.

17th May 2022: Ayot St Lawrence Church Annual Church Meeting. We will probably do this via Zoom, and will be voting on the Festival Church model. Once again, let us know if you'd like to find out more.

17th - 20th June: Ayot Art Show. Please get in touch if you'd like to receive an invitation to our Preview Evening on Friday 17 June! More details on our Art Show at www.ayotartshow.co.uk

10th July: Kimpton Village Choir at the Palladian Church. Programme and timing to be confirmed

9th July, 19.30: League Of Harmony. A really interesting evening of baroque Scottish music played on C18 harp and cello. Details to follow.

17th July at 11.30: Pet Service. Why not bring your dogs and snakes along to be blessed by Vicar Linda? Horses welcome (probably best outside the church??).

For more details contact Christine at christine@ayotstlawrence.com or Vicar Linda

Informal Art Group

There is a small group who meet once a month on Monday afternoons. It is an opportunity to draw and paint with likeminded company. There is no structure but those who currently attend, do so because they are pleased to relax and be creative in a way they never take time for when at home. Anyone is welcome to just come for a free 'taster' session. There is a small fee normally to cover hall costs. We met in Church House at 2 p.m. Further details from Valerie Pollington on 01438 832249 or jandv@pollington10.plus.com

Kimpton Folk Festival Rides Again



Kimpton Folk Festival returns on Saturday, July 2 with an irresistible (we hope) line-up of music, dance and entertainment for all the family.

Anyone who has attended previous festivals knows what a great day out it is, offering something for everyone, with activities in all corners of the village, built around star-studded ticketed concerts in the Church and the Memorial Hall.



In past years, ticket-holders have had to make some tough choices between concerts in different venues. But this year we have staggered performance times so that afternoon and all-day ticketholders won't miss a single minute of the music. Of course they'll also be able to drop in on the free music and dance events on The Green or attend sessions in the Boot or music workshops in the Dacre Rooms.

And we're extending the list of attractions on both The Green and Garden Fields. As well as the usual range of food, drink and craft stalls, there will be story-tellers (for adults and children), face-painting, pottery, juggling and assorted games.



We're delighted that most of the artists booked for the cancelled festival in 2020 have agreed to stick with us and play at this year's event. In the ticketed concerts, the line-up so far, with one or two more acts to be announced is: **Fara, Megson, Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, Honey and the Bear, Granny's Attic, Brooks Williams, Lizzy Hardingham, Maddie Morris, Jon Doran and Ellie McCann.**

Many of the acts require no introduction of course. Not least folk royalty **Nancy Kerr and James Fagan** who headlined our very first festival back in 2016 and who are now our patrons. They'll be hosting a special patron's concert during which they'll introduce two exciting new artists on the folk scene, singer-songwriter **Maddie Morris** and singer-guitarist **Jon Doran**.

Among the newcomers to Kimpton are the wonderfully talented Scottish quartet **Fara**, who we are certain will blow people away, popular local duo **Megson**, featuring husband and wife Stu and Debbie Hanna, and **Granny's Attic**, showcasing the considerable talents of Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne (melodeon, concertina), George Sansome (guitar) and Lewis Wood (violin).

Folk and roots duo **Honey & the Bear** are another talented husband and wife team, Jon and Lucy Hart, who combine great musicianship with immaculate harmonies. They'll be joined on stage by percussionist Evan Carson and multi-instrumentalist Toby Shaer, whom regulars at Kimpton Folk Festival will recognise as members of Sam Kelly and the Lost Boys.

And a final note for those of you out there who may be not be familiar with folk music. Don't worry, if you like music, you'll like this. As Louis Armstrong so wisely said: "All music is folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song."
Brian King

We have had another fun term at Preschool, and more new little starters will be joining us after Easter.

Preschool AGM

On Thursday 17th February we held our AGM. We came together to discuss and review the Preschool and future plans. Following our very recent 2022 OFSTED inspection, we are pleased to share we were rated 'Good' under the latest, more strict criteria (the same as Kimpton Primary School). The 2022 OFSTED report is available for all to read, do let us know if you would like a copy. Well done and thank you to Beth, Tilly and Michelle (and the team) for their ongoing hard work. We also welcomed two new Committee Members, Tiffany and Nathan.

May Festival Float Help

We have been busy preparing for the upcoming Preschool May Festival float. Thank you to the lovely Mum's who have helped with the float decorations and artwork so far. Please get in touch if you would like to help out, all help very welcome!



Road Safety Fun

The children have loved spending time in the sunny Preschool garden and learning about the importance of road safety - making sure we *stop, look, and listen* before crossing the road. The children have had lots of fun using our Preschool crossing, playing in the cars and waiting for the traffic lights to turn green.

September Enrolment Now Open

With many of our older children moving on this Summer, we are delighted to let you know - we now have space to accept more children from September 2022.

Our 2022 OFSTED 'Good' village Preschool for 2-4yr olds, offers 15hrs or 30hrs for both funded and self-funded.

Our sessions: Morning 8:50 – 11:50, Lunch club 11:50 – 13:20, Afternoon session 13:20 – 14:50

Would you like a tour? Come and meet the team, find out what we do and see our fantastic facilities - including the purpose built building and large garden space. You can also try us out first and book in a settle in session for your child. Let us know if you would like a copy of our recent 2022 OFSTED report too.

To request a visit, please contact us: manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk or 01438 833936.

Call for Committee Members

Kimpton Preschool is a community-led organisation, which relies solely on volunteers to run the business. We currently have a wonderful team (covering fundraising, recruitment, marketing, finance, admin etc), but we are still urgently looking for more help please. If you would like to join our team (made up of current and past Preschool parents), or have

any spare time to help us out with one-off fundraising events/May Festival tasks/or even to come in to Preschool and help us out with *Reading Time* - then we would love to hear from you!

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





Heads up! As you may know, Mrs Clements, who has been our headteacher since 2016, is leaving at Easter to lead a school in Hitchin. Over the past six years, Mrs Clements has been a tremendous headteacher and has led our school through a global pandemic and secured a 'Good' rating from OFSTED. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Clements for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her new role. After a rigorous recruitment process, Governors were pleased to announce that Mr Ferguson has been

appointed to the role of Headteacher, starting after Easter. Mr Ferguson joined our school as Deputy headteacher in January 2019 and has been instrumental in the school's improvement journey. Mr Ferguson grew up in Welwyn and now lives in Welwyn Garden City with his wife and young son. Before joining Kimpton School, Mr Ferguson worked at the Grove Primary School in Harpenden and prior to that worked in several different schools including an international school in Beijing. During his time at Kimpton School Mr Ferguson has really embraced our community and emphasized, both in his application and during the interview process, how much he wants to continue to develop our school at the heart of the community.

Support our School Become a Governor! We currently have a vacancy for a school governor. These are unpaid voluntary roles. We are particularly looking for someone with the right skills to help our school with communications and marketing strategy. To help us meet our high standards and aspirations of a fully diverse and inclusive governing body, we strongly encourage people from all backgrounds to consider becoming a governor. To speak to a governor to find out more, please contact the school office by emailing: admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk.

If becoming a governor is not for you but you would like to help our school, please consider joining the Kimpton School Friends Register – see below.

Kimpton School Friends Register Kimpton Primary School is at the heart of your community. As well as teaching and taking care of Children, our School takes decisions every day to maintain the school premises and conduct related business to the highest standards.

We are creating a Friends Register of people we can call upon when we need advice, guidance, or practical assistance. We are looking for parents / carers and local community members to get involved by joining our register of friends.

To join our Friends Register you will need to give us your contact details, tell us a bit about your knowledge or skill, and about how you would be happy for us to use it. These details will be stored confidentially by the school, accessible only to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors and only to be used when the school has a need for that knowledge or skill. You might be a tradesperson, a technician, a sports person, or a professional. You may have a particular practical skill or passion that you are willing to volunteer. Uppermost you will want to help us give children the best learning experience possible.

To join our Friends Register please email admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk with Friends Register as the subject title.

The perfect space Whether for a one-off event such as party or an on-going club venue, Kimpton School could offer you the perfect place to host your activity. Indoor and outdoor spaces available for hire at very reasonable prices. Please enquire by emailing [ad-
min@kimpton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk)

78 years of Kimpton Horse Show

Sunday 31st July 2022

This year marks the Kimpton Horse Show's 78th year! So come and join us on the last Sunday in July to experience your friendly village horse show with a charity dog show alongside!

Once again, we've got a busy schedule planned with showing classes, show jumping competitions and gymkhana races! A couple of popular favourites are the Chase me Charlie, where the height of the jump keeps going up until the competitors knock it down, and a themed Fancy Dress - both just as much fun for the spectator as the competitor!

Our dog show will be back by popular demand so bring your four legged friends out for some great novelty classes for all ages!

We'll also have a number of trade stands for you to browse, as well as food stalls and a licensed bar.

As one of the few remaining village horse shows left in the region, the committee are proud to be able to continue contributing to worthwhile causes from the money raised at each show, both here in Kimpton and further afield. In the past this has included Macmillan Nurses, Kimpton Village Church and the Herts Air Ambulance.

To find out more visit www.kimptonhorseshow.co.uk, email secretary@kimptonhorseshow.co.uk or call 07951 381147. We look forward to seeing you on the day!

Kimpton Cricket Club

The 2022 season will mark a new era for Kimpton Cricket Club as we join the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League. Historically, like many southern clubs, we have just played friendly cricket and we will continue with our traditional Sunday friendly fixtures, with the league fixtures forming our Saturday cricket. There will be more games so, as always, we would welcome any new players. We are currently running indoor net sessions (8-9pm on Thursday evenings) at the Choice Cricket Centre in Redbourn. We encourage any and all potential players to come along.

We will also run the 'Kimpton 100' again this season. This Wednesday evening, 8 a side, 100 ball competition features 4 teams: Rugby Rockets, Tennis Thunder, Boot Bashers and Coaching Clubbers. Rugby Rockets won last year. The teams are always looking for players so do get in contact if you want a game. The idea is for very occasional cricketers to get a chance to play. For further details check out the website or contact the chairman Simon Thompson (simon@kimptonpark.co.uk).

Kimpton Bowls Club's 75th Anniversary

Kimpton Bowls Club are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year and we invite everyone to come and help us celebrate at some point this summer.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings are our Club nights which we hope to continue, like last year, with an emphasis on fun for everyone whether playing or relaxing. We are also increasing the number of weekend Club competitions and hope to introduce some Tuesday morning sessions of the Bowls Cafe that have proved popular over the Winter. It is an important year for the Club as we all return to normality. We have a lot going on in this special birthday year and hope that you can find the time to join us and Try the Bowls Club Experience. *Warren Phillips*

kimptonchurch.co.uk
www.kimptonpc.org.uk

Outdoor Circuit Training for all fitness levels in Kimpton

Photo: Pippa Robson



Circuit Training provides a full body workout incorporating cardiovascular, resistance (strength) and core training. Circuits is suitable for all fitness levels as the structure enables each participant to work at an intensity level appropriate to their own fitness level/ability. The classes are at Kimpton School Playground on Mondays at 6.30pm, Thursdays at 6.30pm and Saturdays at 8.30am. Kimpton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays at 6.15am . All classes will return to Kimpton Recreation Ground in May. For further information please contact Pippa at imPRovfit Coaching email: pippa@improvfit.com FB: @improvfitcoaching Instagram: [improvfit_coaching](https://www.instagram.com/improvfit_coaching)



10 Years of Kimpton Touch Rugby

Kimpton Rugby club will be celebrating 10 years of touch rugby in Kimpton on the afternoon of the Thursday 2nd June bank holiday at the Recreation Ground. There will be touch rugby games between various sports teams in the village.

The first touch rugby game in the village was played on 29th March 2012 with 18 people turning up. Since then there have been games every week, except when cancelled due to a wet pitch or Covid. In the winter there are usually 14-16 players and in the summer it is 20-24, split into two teams and either playing on the football pitch or on the bottom practice area.

After playing informally for 4 years, the club was formally established in 2016 to take over the lease of the ground and clubhouse. Since then we have been responsible for managing the facilities. The football pitch is used on Sunday mornings by the Kimpton Football club and now the youth teams from Wheathampstead Wanderers. Knebworth Women's team have had their first season based at the ground, playing on Sunday afternoons, and will be back next season.

We pool the resources of the clubs to invest in the facilities, and last summer the rugby club and women's team repainted the club house with paint provided by the council. Kimpton FC and Wheathampstead Wanderers also help maintain the facility for the use of all the village.

The club plays every Thursday evening at 7:30pm. The rules are simple and the games are not scored. However, they are still competitive and great exercise. It is a social group with many going onto The Boot after a game.

If you fancy giving touch rugby a go with us, you will be very welcome. The contact is Tim Randall on 07973 986856.



Firstly a good news story about Kimpton Neighbourhood Watch to inspire and encourage others to register.

We have a volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator who has an impressive 43 years' service and has now retired as the head of Kimpton Ward but remains an active member. Alan Smith was a founder member of the Kimpton NHW in 1977 as deputy Street Co-ordinator for Dacre Crescent. Jock White, his neighbour, was the Street Co-ordinator and the driving force behind the scheme assisted by Hitchin police who were generous with their support.

At that time, four deputies each liaised with 10 properties distributing information from Hitchin police about local crimes by telephone or by visiting their neighbours personally. A labour of love!

By 1980, three other street schemes were active and with Jock's persuasive powers, four years later, almost every street in the area was part of NHW.

Fast forward a few years to 2002, Alan became the Area Co-ordinator. Hitchin Rural PCSO Heather Burrows said: "I've known Alan Smith for 11 years. In that time, we have worked closely together. He is one of the most generous, kindest men I know. Always keen to help and always does it with a smile. He is, and hopefully will continue to be, one of my favourite tea stops."

Alan said: "I've really enjoyed being part of NHW and have seen the real benefits. The origins go back to the 70's and the initiative of a few community minded residents and police officers from Hitchin Police Station. The arrival of police crime and security messages from OWL has been a real boon. However, not all properties have registered on OWL so we also publish a NHW update in the quarterly parish magazine which is delivered to every property in the village."

From the Kimpton villagers and those in the surrounding wards we thank you Alan for your amazing service. You have set a very high bar! We are pleased to say we now have two new Ward Coordinators for Kimpton, John Bowers and Angus Davidson. You may have noticed that there are new and upgraded yellow NHW signs installed around the village.

The brilliant OWL (Online Watch Link) messaging service was launched in 2006 with now over 350 houses in Kimpton signed up. We would urge you, if not yet registered on OWL, to do so. The more of us that are aware of the system, the email updates it issues and the useful information on the system, the better for us all. Many of us receive too many emails each day but NHW are easily identifiable coming from OWL Messaging. The subject matter then gives you a summary of the contents that you can read if relevant or ignore. Here is a list of recent emails:

01 Mar 22	Further Warning over COVID scam texts and follow-up calls
22 Feb 22	Storm warning of rogue trading from Trading Standards
18 Feb 22	Scam NHS text messages re. Omicron contacts ; Trading Standards warn of Insulation Scams; Storm Eunice Warning
16 Feb 22	BikeSafe Scheme for Motorcyclists; Resurgence of keyless car theft; Theft of vehicle number plates; Thefts of catalytic converters
11 Feb 22	Rural Road Safety Campaign comes to Hitchin Town
10 Feb 22	Good News: 18 year old charged following investigation into drug supply
03 Feb 22	Whats app Scam currently affecting Herts Residents
01 Feb 22	Rural properties targeted for thefts; Police warning following distraction thefts involving parking

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

OWL (Online Watch Link) - Hertfordshire OWL membership is 162,000 but we want to increase so please tell your friends and neighbours and urge them to join. Joining is simple by contacting www.owl.co.uk, our Ward Coordinators (details below), or our Watch Liaison Officer Verity Soued on: wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Also, don't forget that you can anonymously report 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 www.herts.police.uk/report/report

Your Kimpton Ward Coordinators - If you have any questions relating to NHW 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



There are some weeks when there is only one thing to write about. This time it's Ukraine. The crimes being committed in eastern Europe now in 2022 remind me of scenes that we last saw in the era of the Cold War; I fear that we are returning to such a Cold War world in Europe, and we must adapt accordingly.

For the first time in generations, a foreign army has invaded a European sovereign state. Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, has sent in troops to topple the democratic regime and take control of the country. Many lives have been lost already, with shelling intensifying on urban centres and cities where millions of people nobly resist Russian ground forces.

I am grateful for the many messages I have received from constituents in support of Ukraine. This war will impact us here the UK in many ways – food and energy prices will undoubtedly rise. Local farmers that I have met recently are very concerned about grain supplies from Eastern Europe to feed our livestock and bake our bread.

The humanitarian crisis has begun to unfold. The images of people fleeing their homes to save their families are heart-breaking. Leaving home without knowing if or when there will be peace to return, is a harrowing reality. These refugees will need places to stay, possibly many miles from their own homes.

What can we do to help? Other than the military apparatus we are providing through our NATO partners, we must also enforce punitive sanctions against Russia. This means depriving Putin and his cronies of money stolen from the Russian people. Putin has taken the wealth of a great nation and ferreted it abroad hidden and disguised in off-shore shell companies and through property and business interests here in the UK. This money should be paying for the healthcare and education of Russian people, but it is now funding the very bombs dropping on hospitals and schools in cities across Ukraine. I welcome the Economic Crimes Bill that was speedily brought through the House of Commons in a single day to be given Royal Assent this week.

We must also play our full part in taking refugees from Ukraine. Last week I met with the Prime Minister and emphasised the feeling that has been expressed to me by constituents in Hitchin & Harpenden that the UK needs to do as much as possible to support Ukrainian refugees. These are people fleeing war – their homes and livelihoods destroyed by one man's neo-imperial ambitions – and we must stand by them.

The Minister for Safe and Legal Migration has updated Parliament on the measures the Government is taking to expedite applications. I am pleased to confirm that staff have been surged to key visa application centres across Europe, particularly Poland, and more biometric kit has been moved to support them. Supporting this work from the UK, the Home Office has put casework teams on standby to process applications to prevent delays. We have increased the capacity at those Centres to 13,000 appointments per week.

The situation is developing quickly, and so the Government must evolve its plans to adapt. I welcome the expansive Ukrainian Family Scheme which allows family members of British nationals, UK settled persons and certain others to come or stay in the UK. Furthermore, I warmly welcome the launch of the new 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme which will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety - including those with no family ties with the UK. I understand that individual sponsors will be asked to provide homes or a spare room rent-free for as long as they are able, with a minimum stay of six months. In return, they will receive £350 per month.

You can find out more about the Homes for Ukraine scheme and Hertfordshire's response here: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/information-regarding-ukraine>.

We cannot stand by and watch Putin succeed. Ukraine is a sovereign democratic state; it needs and deserves our support. What happens there will have a lasting impact on our lives here. We must do all we can.

Bim Afolami

Jigsaw swap and used postage stamps



Jigsaws

Both the adult and children's jigsaw swaps have been well supported over the winter and I hope everyone enjoyed puzzling. As I have a good stock here, I will be giving a few to the Scouts for their May Festival Book Stall.

Thank you for donating good quality, sealed and complete jigsaws but please no toys because of space restrictions.



Used postage stamps

I have been advised by British Heart Foundation, to whom I donate the stamps, that unless there is a complete 5mm border round the stamps, they are unable to accept them.

The jigsaws can be found in the book corner of our beautiful church and the stamp box close by. Thank you for your co-operation with both jigsaws and stamps.

Margaret Smith 01438 832749

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 summer 2022 edition must be in by
Sunday June 12th

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